



TAKE POST - THE ARTILLERY CLUB's NEWSLETTER 4/2019



INTRODUCTION

Newsletter 3/2019 promulgated on 13 September, 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 3/2019, through the medium of emails, members were provided specific details regarding activities such as the Foreign Field Trip to Athens, the Annual Mass for 2 Artillery Regiment and disbanded Eastern Command Artillery Units, and the Field Trip to Glen Imaal.

Particular issues within this Newsletter include: Promotion of a Gunner Officer to the rank of Brigadier-General; 75th Anniversary of the Cavalry Corps; Governance, Activity Reports; Planned Activities; and News from the Regiments.

In a special edition on An Cosantóir (July 1983), marking the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the 4 Field Artillery Regiment, an article titled “Four Plus Five” written by Colonel J.P. Kane includes a piece titled “9 FAR” written by Commandant M.P. Dunne. *Looking into the Past* section includes an extract from this article on these two units linked with Brigadier-General Ger Buckley’s service in Mullingar.

Photographs are credited to the Club’s Membership, including the above photographs at the Hellenic Artillery School, and to the Defence Forces Press Office,

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 Rededication of the Artillery School's St Barbara's Statue on 05 December, and the Artillery 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.

PROMOTION to GENERAL RANK



All members of the Artillery Club salute and congratulate Brigadier-General Ger Buckley on his recent promotion to General Rank, and on his appointment in Brussels as the Irish Military Representative to the European Union Military Committee and to NATO PfP. A native of Valentia Island, Co Kerry, he is a long-term resident in Mullingar.

Brigadier-General Buckley remains an active member of the Artillery Club, and was the Club's Treasurer from 2016 through 2017.

As a member of the 58 Cadet Class, on commissioning in 1983, he was appointed to the Artillery Corps, and posted to the 4 Field Artillery Regiment, garrisoned in Columb Barracks, Mullingar. He was Regimental Commander of both the 4 Field Artillery Regiment and the 9 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA).

Prior to his recent promotion, Brigadier-General Buckley served in Defence Forces Headquarters as Director of Combat Support & ISTAR (incorporating Director of Artillery), and Director of Reserve Forces. Previously, he served as the Director of Joint Logistics, supporting Defence Force operations, across all three components, both at home and overseas. He also held the appointment of Defence Forces J8 (Finance).

Brigadier-General Buckley has extensive experience in the arena of international relations, including a tour of duty as the Assistant Military Representative to the EU Military Committee in Brussels. On his return to Ireland, he served as an advisor to the Chief of Staff on European Security matters, while also working on multinational capability development with the European Defence Agency and the EU Headline Goal Task Force.

A graduate of The Military College and NUI Galway, he holds a Master's Degree in Leadership and Defence Studies from NUI Maynooth.

Brigadier-General Buckley deployed with UNIFIL on three tours of duty, including Chief of Special Staff to UNIFIL's Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major-General Michael Beary. He also served as an UNMO with UNPREDEP in Northern Macedonia, with the OSCE Mission HQ in Bosnia, with ISAF HQ in Kabul, and as Chief of Staff of the EU Training Mission Somalia, while it transitioned into Mogadishu.

We wish both Brigadier-General Buckley, his wife Emer and daughter Moya, continued success in the future.

CAVALRY CLUB – 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Established in 1944, the Cavalry Club has the honour of being the oldest Corps Club in the Defence Forces.

The Club was established from an original desire by a number of serving and retired Cavalry Officers to form a "Cavalry Officers' Association". The intent was to enable members of the Cavalry Corps who had retired, or would soon be de-mobbed after "The Emergency", to have contact with serving Cavalry Officers and, by extension, the Cavalry Corps.

The founding officers engaged with the military authorities, and, in 1946 received formal permission to proceed. The title was changed to "The Cavalry Club", on the suggestion of the then Director of Cavalry, Colonel A.T. Lawlor, who was fully supportive of the endeavour.



Marking its 75th Anniversary, the Cavalry Club's Annual Dinner was held in the Officers' Mess, Collins Barracks Cork, on November. The Club's President, Colonel Ray O'Léhan presided. Attendance included serving and retired officers of the Permanent Defence Force, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil, and the Army Reserve, with their respective spouses or partners. In his capacity as President of the Artillery Club, Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham (Retd), accompanied by Mrs Nancy Pakenham, were invited guests.

GOVERNANCE

Outputs 2019

During 2019, the Club's Committee convened on five occasions: 24 January, 21 February, 25 April, 27 June and 26 September. The Committee will reconvene for a pre-AGM meeting on 06 December, in the Trophy Room, DFHQ Officers' Mess, McKee Barracks.



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, the Annual Golf Outing in Woodenbridge on 23 August, the Foreign Field Trip to Athens from 06 October through 10 October, and the Field Trip to Glen Imaal on 13 November.

Annual Audit

The Club's financial records for period ended 31 October 2019 have been provided to the Auditor, and will be distributed during the 2019 Annual General Meeting, taking place on Friday, 06 December in McKee Barracks.

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 313 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 26 September (date of the most recent Committee meeting), 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. In acknowledging the package, our most recent elected member, formally of the 4 Field Artillery Regiment and now residing in Liverpool, kindly provided the above picture in which he is featured.

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

Membership Subscriptions

The Club's Membership Subscription (€10) for 2020 was due on 01 November, 2019.

Members who are availing of the preferred option of paying their subscription by means of a Standing Order, are respectively requested to check that their Standing Order remains active.

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 3/2019, the following postings were made on the Website:

- **Posts – Homepage (3):** Newsletter 3/2019, Coordinating Instructions and Report for Foreign Field Trip to Athens.
- **News and Events (2):** Newsletter 3/2019, Revised Diary of Events 2019.
- **Photo Gallery**
 - **Artillery Corps (2):** 60th Anniversary of Establishment of the 2 Ack Ack Bty. Mass for Deceased Members
 - **Artillery Club (2):** Foreign Field Trip to Athens, Field Trip to Glen Imaal.
- **Information Section (0):**
 - **Artillery Equipment (0):**
 - **Artillery Corps (0):**
 - **Artillery Units (0):**
 - **Overseas (0):**

Currently, the Picture Gallery contains 26 albums reflecting the Artillery Corps, and 39 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 Healy 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 December.

The Club retains an over-watch posture regarding the restoration of the Civil War 18-pounder QF Field Gun. 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: Annual General Meeting & St Barbara's Lunch, and 2020 Events.

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.

Regarding the Foreign Field Trip to Athens, the Club’s Committee remains grateful of the permission received from the Hellenic National Defence General Staff to visit the Artillery Directorate and its Artillery School, and the reception and support received from its Commanding General, Brigadier-General Periklis Doukas, the Deputy Commander Colonel Georgios Toutouzas, our Liaison Officer Colonel Nikolaos J. Pentsas, supported by Lieutenant-Colonel Argyrios Pontikeas.

Finally, the Committee acknowledges the support provided by The Artillery School throughout 2019, including November’s Field Trip to Glen Imaal

Planning for 2020 Activities

The Committee would welcome any recommendations regarding the Club’s activities for 2020.

Reports and Information

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

Hall of Heroes Collins Barracks Cork



The Hall of Heroes was launched by GOC 1 Brigade, Brigadier-General Patrick Flynn in the Military Museum, Collins Barracks, Cork, on 20 September. The Hall honours personnel who served in the Southern Command, 1 Southern Brigade and 1 Brigade, who were awarded The Military Medal for Gallantry, The Distinguished Service Medal, The Military Star and The Jadotville Medal.

Recipients of The Military Star who are honoured in the Hall of Heroes are: Trooper Pat Mullens (35 Inf Bn ONUC, 15 September 1960); Private Stephan Griffin (46 Inf Bn UNIFIL, 16 April 1980); Private Thomas Barrett (46 Inf Bn UNIFIL, 18 April 1980); and Corporal Michael McCarthy (70 Inf Bn UNIFIL, 15 November 1991). *Lest We Forget, May They Rest in Peace.*

The following Gunner Officers are honoured in the Hall of Heroes: Commandant Adrian Ainsworth MMG; Lieutenant-General Noel Bergin DSM; and Lieutenant-General Conor O'Boyle DSM.

21st Anniversary – Magee Barracks Kildare



Marking the 21st Anniversary of the closure of Magee Barracks, a ceremony was held at the Educate Together School, the site of the old Radar Shed.

A Commemorative Plaque was unveiled by Mrs Betty Kelly widow of recently deceased Battery Sergeant Martin Kelly who had organised the event.

The MC was Sergeant Tom Leigh (Retd), ably assisted by Regimental Sergeant-Major John Ryan (Retd).

On 20 March, 1925, personnel, guns and horses of the Artillery Corps moved by train from Islandbridge to Kildare, and were garrisoned in Kildare Barracks. Due to accommodation issues, the ack-ack guns and crews were initially garrisoned in the Curragh Camp. A graduate of the US Artillery School at Fort Sill in June 1927, Captain Trodden (1904 – 1947) was appointed the first Commandant of the Artillery School in November, 1931. To facilitate the reconstruction of the Barracks, in 1931 the Artillery units moved to Plunkett Barracks, Curragh Camp. In 1939, the partly completed barracks was opened, with the full reconstruction completed in 1942. Kildare Barracks was the first Defence Forces purpose-built barracks.

Arising from his defiant stand in Ballinamuck, Gunner Magee received national recognition in 1954, when the Government formally named the Military Barracks in Kildare Dún Uí MacAoidh (Magee Barracks), which garrisoned the Depot and School Artillery, and the 1 AA Regiment.

As part of a consolidation process, Magee Barracks was closed on 24 September 1998. The consolidation process also saw the closure of Murphy Barracks Ballincollig which garrisoned the 1 Field Artillery Regiment.



The Artillery Club actively supported Regimental Sergeant-Major John Morris' notable initiative, in conjunction with likeminded individuals, of preserving, restoring and relocating the gates of the former Magee Barracks, Kildare which garrisoned numerous Corps units over the years and, in particular, The Depot and School, The Artillery School, the 1 Air Defence Regiment and 6 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA). Since 13 April 2017, the gates are on permanent display in The Curragh Military Museum.

60th Anniversary of the 2 AD Battery



Organised by Commandant Michael Flood (Retd), the 60th Anniversary of the 2 Air Defence Battery was marked by a reunion of its officers and training cadre, in the Defence Forces Headquarters Officer's Mess, on 27 September, 2019. The attendees included:

- The Artillery Club's President: Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Retd),
- Former Battery Commanders: Comdt John O'Brien, Comdt Michael Flood, Comdt Chris O'Flanagan, Comdt Michael Sutcliffe,
- Former members of the Battery: Comdt Joe Gallagher, Capt Larry Holmes, Capt Tony Brogan, Capt Donal Fox, Capt Tom Butler, Capt John Moriarty, Capt Barry Carey, Capt Ronan Flood, Lt Tom Mulrooney, Lt Mark Rasmussen,
- Training Cadre Officers: Lt Col Eamonn Fogarty, Capt Brendan O'Dea, Capt Conor Richardson, Capt Kieran Healy, and
- Comdt Vincent McCarthy from 3 AD Battery.

For photographs visit the Club's website: www.artilleryclub.ie.

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



The Artillery Club’s 2019 Foreign Field Trip took place in Athens, during the period 06 October through 10 October. Participation in the Field Trip was open to members of the Artillery Club and their spouses, or partners. 31 individuals, including 12 spouses, participated in the event.

As with the successful trips in 2015 to Madrid and Segovia, in 2016 to Granada and Malaga, in 2017 to Lisbon, and in 2018 to Vienna, Commandant Michael Flood (Retd) was the 2019 Foreign Field Trip’s Coordinator. On arrival in Athens, following the Coordinator’s verbal brief in the Polis Grand Hotel, the Group dined in the Hotel’s Rooftop Restaurant.

By kind permission of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, and availing of military transport, on 07 October, the Group travelled to Néa Péramos, Attikis, the location of the Hellenic Artillery Directorate and its Artillery School.



The Group was received by the Commanding General, Brigadier-General Periklis Doukas, who was accompanied by the Deputy Commander Colonel Georgios Toutouzas, our Liaison Officer Colonel Nikolaos J. Pentsas, supported by Lieutenant-Colonel Argyrios Pontikeas. During the reception, Brigadier-General Periklis Doukas presented the Club’s President with the Directorate’s plaque.



Following refreshments, Captain Ionnis Morfakidis provided a wide-ranging brief on the “*Historical Evolution of the Hellenic Artillery*”, and the activities of the Artillery School – “*Power through Knowledge*”. The Training Director, Colonel Georgios Kotas coordinated an impressive tour of the facilities which included the War Memorial, St Barbara’s Church, and the Artillery Museum. The Group observed impressive training demonstrations on various Artillery systems including *Dias (Zeus)*, *Iraklis (Hercules)* and *Keravnos*.



While the Gunner Officers were receiving the Artillery Brief and associated Demonstrations, Lieutenant-Colonel Argyrios Pontikeas escorted the spouses to Elefsina, where they received a conducted tour of the sacred and ancient site, which is the birthplace of the dramatist Aeschylus and the home of the Eleusinian Mysteries.



The visit to Néa Péramos concluded with an enjoyable lunch in the Officers’ Mess hosted by the Artillery School. On behalf of the Group, Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham (Retd) presented Colonel Pentsas with an engraved tankard and Colonel Georgios Toutouzas with the Club’s plaque.

On 08 October, members of the Group participated in a day long Saronic Gulf cruise, visiting the islands of Agistri and Aegina.



Availing of military transport, on 09 October the Group visited the Hellenic War Museum in Athens. On arrival, we were formally welcomed by Colonel Christos Kyratsakis, following which he provided us with an overview of the museum's building and its history, an insight into the numerous galleries, before conducting us on a comprehensive tour of focussed displays on Greek history from antiquity to the present.

<http://www.warmuseum.gr/en/node/6>



On 10 October, once again availing of military transport, the Group visited the Battleship *G.AVEROF*, was received by Lieutenant Georgios Kyrioctis (Hellenic Navy), and escorted on a comprehensive tour of the battleship. <http://averof.mil.gr> Constructed in 1911, the battleship armament included 2 twin towers Armstrong 234mm and 4 twin towers Armstrong 190mm. With a full speed of 23 knots, the battleship had a crew of 670 in peacetime and a wartime crew of 1,200 personnel. It was deployed during the Balkan Wars (1912 – 1930), and both the First and Second World Wars. Following the visit, the Group spent some time in the Flisvos Marina.

The Hail and Farewell took place in the Kouvelos Restaurant, marking the end of a most rewarding and enjoyable Foreign Field Trip, encompassing the Artillery School, the War Museum, a Mediterranean Cruise and the Battleship *G.AVEROF*, coupled with finding sufficient time to visit local attractions such as the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Temple of Hephaestus, the Arc of Hadrian, the Acropolis Museum, Syntagma Square (for the Changing of the Guard), the National Library, and Plaka.



The Artillery Club remains grateful to Commandant Michael Flood (Retd) who planned and executed the successful and memorable 2019 Foreign Field Trip to Athens.

For photographs visit the Club's website: www.artilleryclub.ie.

Units' Annual Mass and Wreath Laying – 09 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 Church of the Most Holy Rosary, McKee Barracks on Saturday, 09 November. Commandant Richard Armstrong, assisted by the 2 Field Artillery Regiment Association, planned, organised and coordinated the successful Remembrance Day.



The Director of Operations, Colonel Brian Cleary, welcomed the attendees. The celebrant was Rev Fr Bob McCabe. The organist Susan Keane was accompanied by her sisters Sally and Clare. The IUNVA Pipe Band, with Sergeant Anto Byrne (Retd) as the Pipe Major, and Instrumentalists from the Defence Forces School of Music rendered musical honours.

Following the Mass, a Wreath Laying Ceremony took place at the Flag Pole. Lieutenant Teresa Hudson was the Master of Ceremonies. Wreaths were laid by the Colonel 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, the Dublin Artillery Association, the 29 Infantry Battalion Association, PDFORRA, ONE and IUNVA.

RSM Joe Scally, assisted by BQMS Paul Glifford coordinated the ceremonial. Corporal Michael Maher (Retd) played a Piper's Lament, and the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Sergeant Liam O'Driscoll and Bands Woman Aoifa Garry. The ceremony concluded with the playing of the National Anthem by the IUNVA's Pipe Band.

Following the ceremony, attendees adjourned to the Catering Complex for refreshments.

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 from the Artillery Community.

For photographs visit the Club's website: www.artilleryclub.ie.

Artillery Shoot – Glen Imaal – 13 November – Coordinator: Col S. McDermott (Retd)

The Artillery School conducted Test and Acceptance Live Firing Practices on 12, 13 and 14 November, deploying I05 Guns and 120mm Mortars in Glen Imaal. Personnel were drawn from both the Permanent Defence Force and the Army Reserve, from the Artillery School,

1 Artillery Regiment and 2 Artillery Regiment. Key appointments were held by students on a Train the Trainers Course.

The School Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Dermot Hanifin extended an invitation to the Artillery Club to visit the Firing Practices on Wednesday, 13 November.



Assembling at Fentons, members of the Artillery Club participating in the Field Trip were formally welcomed by the Chief Instructor, Commandant Bernard Behan, and visited the 120mm Mortars deployment in Brennan's Farm. The Fire Support Teams were deployed in Stranahely.

Captain Sarah Donnelly provided a comprehensive brief on the Test and Acceptance programme, which was focussed on the Combat Next Generation (NG) Fire Control System, and the inaugural usage of wide band radio (Harris) for such systems. Fire Support Teams, the Fire Control Centre and the Detachment Commanders tested the equipment.

The Club's guests included the Galway historian Mr William Henry, Commandant Eamonn O'Regan (Retd) 25 Infantry Battalion (FCA), and Mr Jan Vanderpuit.

For photographs visit the Club's website: www.artilleryclub.ie.

Rededication of St Barbara's Statue – 05 December



The Artillery School has refurbished St Barbara's Statue and subsequently relocated from its position as seen in the above photograph to a position in front of the School's main entrance.

The School Commandant has invited members of the Artillery Club to attend a rededication of St Barbara's Statue, followed by a reception, on Thursday, 05 December at 1400hrs.

Annual General Meeting & Saint Barbara's Lunch – 06 December



The Club's Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday, 06 December in the Auditorium, School of Catering, McKee Barracks, Dublin, followed by the Annual Saint Barbara's Lunch in the Defence Forces Officers' Mess. As the Club's Guest of Honour, the Chief of Staff, Vice-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM will be invited to propose the toast to the Artillery Corps and Saint Barbara.

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, 30 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, 30 November, by post to the following address: Defence Forces Headquarters, McKee Barracks, Blackhorse Avenue, Dublin 7. Email address: tom_ocallaghan@hotmail.com

Alternatively, those attending the lunch can SEPA transfer the €35, NLT 30 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 06 Dec 19**".

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ARTILLERY CORPS

Regimental Commander

The Club's Committee and Members extend their sincere congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel Noel Maher on his recent posting as Regimental Commander 1 Artillery

Regiment & Collins Barracks, following his return from a successful tour of duty with UNIFIL.

As recorded in earlier Newsletters, Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Kane is Regimental Commander 2 Artillery Regiment, Custume Barracks Athlone.

Recent Promotions

The Club's Committee and Members extend their sincere congratulations to the following Gunner Officers who were promoted in recent months:

- Brigadier-General Ger Buckley: Military Representative EUMC and NATO / PfP,
- Colonel Pat White: Central Medical Unit, DFHQ,
- Lieutenant-Colonel Noel Maher, OC 1 Artillery Regiment,
- Lieutenant-Colonel Keohane, Mali,
- Commandant Ian O'Riordan, MINUNSO and
- Commandant Colm Hogan, UNIFIL.

Likewise, The Club's Committee and Members extend their sincere congratulations to the following Gunner Officers who were recently selected for promotion:

- Commandant Cathal English: MINUSCO, and
- Commandant Peadar Ó'Cátháin: 115 Infantry Battalion, UNIFIL.

We are also delighted to see Regimental Sergeant-Major Gerry Setright's return to the Artillery School following his recent well- deserved promotion.

Ministerial Reviews



The review of the 60 Infantry Group took place in Custume Barracks on 16 September. Personnel of the 2 Artillery Regiment provided the Colour Party and deployed a 120mm Mortar as part of the equipment display. Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver Dwyer, the unit is currently deployed in Camp Faouar, on the Golan Heights as UNDOF's Force Mobile Reserve. Personnel of both 1 Artillery Regiment and 2 Artillery Regiment are deployed with the unit. A total of 48 personnel are participating in their first overseas tour of duty, equating to 37% of the Group.



The review of the 115 Infantry Battalion UNIFIL took place in James Stephens Barracks on 25 October. Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Hurley, the unit, which also includes a Maltese component of 9 personnel, is the largest Defence Forces overseas contingent with a strength of 338 personnel. Commandant Pead Ó'Cátháin is the Second in Command, and is joined by other personnel of the 1 Artillery Regiment. 30% of the Battalion are participating in their first overseas tour of duty. There are 10 Family Friendly Appointments in the unit, allowing 10 personnel to serve either the first or second three months, with their spouse or civil partner deploying on the alternative three months.

LOOKING INTO THE PAST

9 Field Artillery Regiment

by Comdt M. Dunne 4 MPC Coy.

"The 15 and 20 Bty FCA, formed at integration in 1959 were a vital part of the 4 Regt organization for the following twenty years. There was probably no better integrated unit in the Army during this period as the Officers, NCOs and Men of the FCA played a major role in the administration and security tasks of their hard pressed PDF comrades.

Early in 1979 as a plan for reorganization of the FCA was being discussed at a high level, there was some doubt as to the particular future of the 15th and 20th Batteries. Were they to revert to an infantry role?

Was the twenty year link with the 4 FA Regt to be broken. The fears of the FCA gunners disappeared when it was announced that a new Regiment, the 9 Fd Arty Regt was to be set up in Columb Bks with a HQ and two batteries.

To quote from the initial routine order 1/79 dated 5/10/79:

"9 Fd Arty Regt (FCA) which was established in accordance with the provisions of PRI is raised with effect from 3/9/79 (Auth Adj. Gen). Headquarters is located at Columb Bks Mullingar".

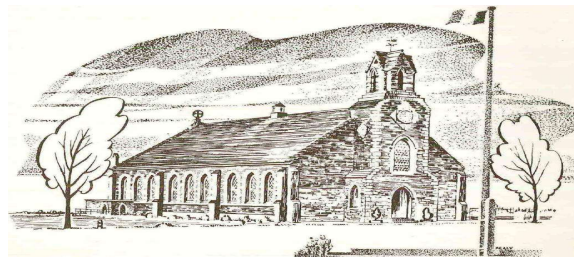
With Comdt M. Dunne as OC and Capt P. Keogh as S /O, the new unit then had the PDF personnel who had been with the 15 and 20 Bty as part of the 4 FAR posted. These were:

Bty QMS Crone, D., Sgt Molloy, C., Gnr Cunningham, T., Sgt Robinson, E. (as Bty QMS), Sgt Prendergast K., and Gnr Russell, R.

Of course, because of the new Regt HQ there was a lot of extra work to be done, without, for the time being, any extra staff. All of the PDF personnel worked extremely hard at this time but I'm sure I could be forgiven for giving special mention to BQMS Dave Crone who has since retired, for the part he played in the unit formation in those early days.

The two Battery Commanders, Comdt Dan O'Riordan (15 Bty) and Comdt Donal Byrne (20 Bty) then had the task of making their men aware of their new unit identity. The visit of Pope John Paul to Knock, where the 9 FA Regt had a big involvement, months of hard work at Regt HQ, a big involvement in Command and All Army Competitions as well as a local Westmeath involvement in St. Patrick's Day Parade, Guards of Honour and other community events helped to fix clearly the name of the 9 Fd Arty Regt in the minds of military and civilian alike.

The transfer from 4 FAR status to 9 FAR status was not as smooth or as simple as it looked in the initial Routine Order. One cannot forget the amount of assistance given by the OC and staff of the 4 Fd Arty Regt.



May the spirit and co-operation that has been evident over the years between the PDF personnel and the FCA in Mullingar ever remain."

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

November 2019

Annex A: Diary of Events (V 13 Nov 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 | Minutes Circulated |
| 06 – 11 Oct | Foreign Field Trip: Athens | Comdt M. Flood (Retd) | 31 Attendees, Report & Photos on Website |
| 09 Nov | Wreath Laying & Annual Mass: McKee Barracks | Secretary | Photos on Website |
| 13 November | Arty Shoot – Glen Imaal | Col S. McDermott (Retd) | Photos on Website |
| 05 November | Rededication St Barbara's Statue, Artillery School | | Calling Notice Issued |
| 06 December | AGM and St Barbara's Day Lunch: McKee Barracks | Secretary | |