

Irish Independent

IRISH OFFICER IS LAID TO REST IN U.N. PLOT

THE FUNERAL of Comdt. Thomas P. Wickham, the 48-year-old Irish Army officer, killed in Syria last Wednesday while serving with, the U.N. Truce Supervisory Organisation, took place yesterday to the U.N. Plot in Glasnevin Cemetery, after Requiem Mass in the Military Church of the Sacred Heart, Arbour Hill, Dublin.

The coffin, draped, in the Tricolour and U.N. flag and bearing his Army cap and sword, was drawn on a gun-carriage to the cemetery. Ten Commandants from Military College, Curragh Camp, Comdt. Wickham's home unit, acted as pall bearers during the one-and-half mile funeral route and a guard of honour and a Military Police unit escorted the cortege.

The Mass, which was attended try the Taoiseach, Mr. Lynch, members of the Government, the Army Chief of Staff, Lt-Gen. Sean MacEoin, and other high-ranking Army officers, was celebrated by Rev. Gregory Brophy, C.F., senior chaplain, Curragh Training Camp.

PRESIDENT REPRESENTED

President de Valera was represented by Comdt. B. O h-Uallachain, A.D.C., and the U.N. Secretary General, U Thant, was represented by Capt. V. R. Lynch, who accompanied the remains from Beirut to Dublin on Sunday.

At the cemetery, the route was lined by a guard of honour drawn from the Eastern Command and Curragh Training Camp, under Comdt. James P. Coyle. The Army No. 1 Band rendered funeral marches.

Prayers at the graveside were recited by Rev. G. B. Murphy, C. F., assisted by Rev. Ronald Neville, C.F. Collins Barracks, and Rev. S. Clarke, C.F. Full military honours were rendered by a firing squad from the 2nd. Motor Squadron, under Lieut. Christopher Leaney and a trumpeter sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

Senior cadets from the Curragh Training Camp, of which Comdt. Wickham's eldest son, 20-year-old Brian, is a member, were also present.

THE ATTENDANCE

The attendance also included the Tanaiste and Minister for External Affairs Mr. Aiken; the Minister for Defence. Mr. Hillard; the Minister for Education, Mr. O'Malley; the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Cosgrave; the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alderman Timmons; Major-General Sean Collins Powell, Adjutant-General; Col. J.P. Emphy Assistant Chief of Staff; Col. P. J. Hally O/C, Eastern Command; Col. W. H. Byrne. O/C. Western Command: Col W. Donagh, O/C, Southern Command: Col. J. K. Cogan, O/C, Curragh; Col. K. Curran, O/C, Air Corps; Mr. S. Kearney, Secretary, Department of Defence; and Mr. J. Abrahamson. Jewish Representative Council in Ireland.

Wreaths were received from the U.N. Secretary General; the Eight Infantry Group, Cyprus; the Syrian Defence Ministry; the Turkish Community in Cyprus; the U.N.T.S.O. group in the Middle East,' and the Leinster Football Association.

Irish Independent Wednesday, June 14th, 1967
Transcribed by Matt McNamara – December 2019.

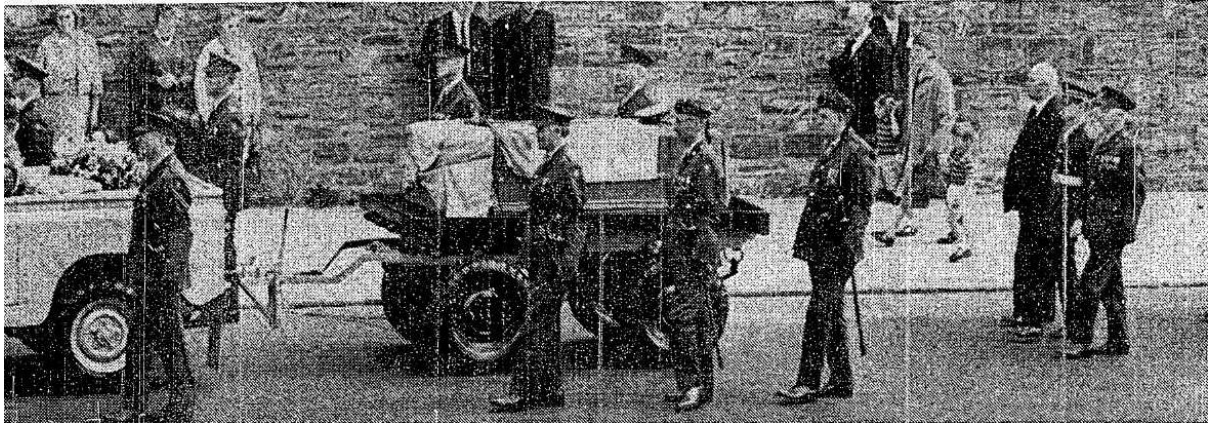


The UNTSO Mission Medal



Comdt. Thomas Wickham (RIP)
Killed 07/06/1967

A LAST TRIBUTE TO A BRAVE SOLDIER



Mrs. Wickham, widow of Comdt. T. Wickham, and her children at Glasnevin to-day.

