



TAKE POST - THE ARTILLERY CLUB'S NEWSLETTER 1 /2022



INTRODUCTION

Following an assessment of the Covid-19 pandemic situation, prevailing Government advice, the Club's responsibilities for its members including serving personnel, and in partnership with the appropriate actors involved in the Field Trips, in 2020 the Club's Committee decided to defer the Field Trip to the Ordnance School and the National Stud, the Field Trip to Fort Shannon and Foynes Flying Boat Museum, the 2020 Decades' Reunion, the 2020 Golf Outing, the Foreign Field Trip to London (including the Royal Horse Artillery), and the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

With the exception of the Annual Golf Outing, the Committee also deferred all of the Club's activities in 2021, including the 2021 Annual General Meeting, because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Nevertheless, by means of postings on the Artillery Club's Website and emails, the Committee has endeavoured to maintain an effective communications link with the membership.

The issues covered in this Newsletter include: Governance, Club's Activities, News from the Artillery Corps, and Looking into the Past. Photographs are credited to the Defence Forces Press Office, 1 and 2 Brigade Artillery Regiments, and the Club Membership.

Looking into the Past recalls the 1941 training accident in Glen Imaal, which remains the single tragedy with the greatest casualties in the history of Óglaigh na Éireann.

The School Commandant and Regimental Commanders are requested to post this Newsletter on IKON, circulate it to all Permanent Defence Force and Army Reserve Gunner Officers under their command, and are encouraged to provide information for future Newsletters.

Likewise, serving and retired personnel are encouraged to provide information, news and photographs, for publication in the Club's Newsletters.

GOVERNANCE

2020 and 2021 Reflection

Mindful of the Club's objectives as prescribed in the Rules, and the prevailing coronavirus environment, the focus during 2020 and 2021, in addition to communications, was to provide appropriate material and social support to our retired comrades, and to the families of those serving personnel who required assistance in the prevailing Covid-19 challenging times.

Committee's Decisions

Communicating by means of collective emails, and on the basis of Government advice on Covid-19, the Committee, availing of "silence procedure", made appropriate decisions such as the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 Annual General Meetings, and the election of new members.

2020 and 2021 Annual General Meeting

As advised above, the Club's Committee, on account of the Covid-19 restrictions, regretfully cancelled the 2020 and 2021 Annual General Meetings, and the associated Annual Saint Barbara's Day Lunch in the Defence Forces Headquarters Officers' Mess. The 2022 Annual General Meeting and Saint Barbara's Lunch will take place in McKee Barracks, Dublin on Friday 02 December.

2020 and 2021 Audit of Accounts

On request, the Club's financial records for periods ended 31 October 2020 and 31 October 2021 are available to the membership.

2021 and 2022 Committee

Whereas the Club's Rules do not prescribe for the extension of the 12-month tour of duty for the Club's Officers, Committee Members and Auditor, under the exceptional Covid-19 situation, all such personnel have graciously agreed to remain in their appointments until the 2022 Annual General Meeting:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Retd)
Immediate Past President	Comdt Chris O'Flanagan (Retd)
Secretary	Comdt Lar Joye
Treasurer	Col Tom O'Callaghan
Membership Secretary	Col Seamus McDermott (Retd)
Committee Member	Lt Col Cormac Lalor (Retd)
Committee Member	Comdt Michael Flood (Retd)
Committee Member	Comdt Richard Armstrong (Retd)
Committee Member	Capt Peter Murray (Retd)
Committee Member	Col Michael Smyth (Retd)
Auditor	Col Tom Carter (Retd)

The Committee co-opted Colonel Brian O'Connor (Retd), Colonel Conor Fitzsimons (Retd) and Commandant Derek Coulter (Retd) to its forum for both 2021 and 2022.

Focus for 2022

Mindful of the Club's objectives as prescribed in the Rules, the focus for 2022 remains on: executing appropriate activities, enhancing the Website, extending its Membership base and participating in appropriate ceremonial and commemorative events. In addition, the Club's Committee will be examining potential activities in 2023 to mark the Centenary of the establishment of The Artillery Corps which occurred on 23 March 1923.

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.

Our first Newsletter 1/2015 was distributed by email to 122 individuals. The Club's Email Contact List for this particular Newsletter is 347 individuals from the wider Artillery Community, far exceeding the Membership strength of 184. Currently, 15 members are receiving Club information by means of normal post.

Email Address

Members who have changed their email addresses (e.g. from an eircom account) are encouraged to advise the Club's Committee of their new email addresses. Likewise, serving officers, especially those serving overseas without access to the Defence Forces email platform, are invited to provide an alternative email address to the Club's Committee.

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.

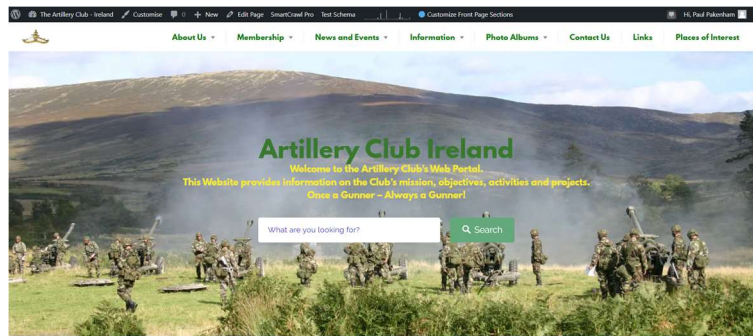
As of 31 July 2022, the membership is 184, compared with 96 in October 2014.

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 are due on 01 November, 2022. The preferred option of paying Membership Subscription (€10) is by Standing Order. The Committee is grateful of those members who are continue to pay 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.

On 07 July, 2022 the Club's Committee authorised the transfer of the Artillery Club's Website domain name artilleryclub.ie from Register 365 to Spiral Hosting. Once again, availing of the expertise of Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart McNamara (Retd) the domain name was successfully transferred, core web files were downloaded and prepared for the new hosting, and the SQL Data Base was prepared for download, migration and reconnection.

With 48,901 files, the account currently uses 86.57% (8.66 GB/10 GB) of its disk capacity. Accordingly, the service plan providing higher disk capacity was upgraded. Lieutenant-Colonel McNamara checked and tested the site on the new hosting, the old website was deleted. There was no interruption in service – another Target Round.

Since September 2021, the following postings were made on the Club's Website:

- **Posts – Homepage (15):** 80th Anniversary Glen Imaal Training Accident, Green Cap and Blue Beret: Commandant Joe Fallon DSM (Retd), Units' Annual Mass, 2021 AGM and St Barbara's Day Lunch, Covid Protection, Saint Barbara: Artillery School's Annual Prayer Service, Saint Barbara's Day Greetings, Christmas Greetings, New Year's Greetings, Report from the Commission on the Defence Forces, Field Trip to Defence Forces Training Centre, Veterans' Day, Annual Golf Outing, and Decades' Reunion, High Level Implementation Plan, and Newsletter 1 / 2022.
- **Photo Albums (3):** 2021 Golf Outing, St Barbara's Day Prayer Service, Field Trip to DFTC.

Currently, the Picture Gallery contains 32 albums reflecting the Artillery Corps, and 45 Albums covering the activities of the Artillery Club.

Only a small portion of the restructured Website requires text population including *Artillery Corps Disposition and History*, and *Corps Units' Disposition and History*.

Members are invited to provide material, including photographs and videos, for inclusion in the Website. In the interim, observations on the Website are always welcomed.

Artillery Wing: Curragh Military Museum



One of the Artillery Club's prescribed objectives is to support military and regimental museums, in the acquisition, preservation, maintenance and display of Artillery weapons, equipment, material and artefacts. In this regard, the Club remains proactive in its support to the Curragh Military Museum,

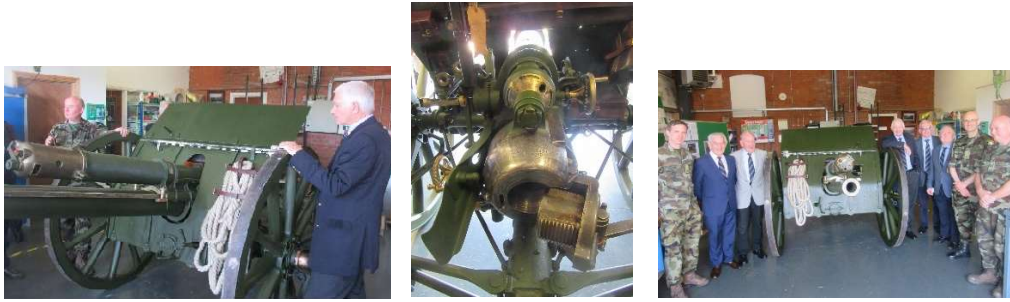
The Artillery Club has established a Working Group, under the leadership of Colonel Brian O'Connor (Retd), which engages with Lieutenant-Colonel Des Healy the museum's curator, providing technical and historical advice, and coordinates the required work to achieve identified objectives within the domain of the Artillery Display, including weapons and equipment.

During 2017, under the auspices of the Artillery Club, the restored main gates of Magee Barracks were placed on permanent display in the museum. Likewise, the Artillery Club secured the loan of one of the surviving Morris Commercial CDSW Quad 6x6 Gun Towers, from the 19 original tractors which went into service in 1938, and paid for its transportation from England, for display in the museum, with its original registration plate ZC 5835.

In January 2022, the Club's Committee authorised an appropriate contribution from its museum suspense account, for the purchase and display of a 1930s Artillery Officer's Dress Uniform, including a shako and cross belt – uniform parts which are extremely rare and are of very high value. The Museum's Twitter account is highly recommended, and can be accessed: @CurraghMuseum.

Civil War 18-pounder QF Field Gun





Spot the Difference

Pursuant to its objectives, the Artillery Club conveys its appreciation to the Defence Forces for the acquisition, recovery, initial storage, followed by the professional conservation and restoration of the 18-pounder Mark II QF Field Gun, Serial Number 9168, with its distinctive type of recoil system, currently located in Ordnance Base Workshops, Defence Forces Training Centre, The Curragh.

Through contemporary research, efforts are being made to identify the actual Serial Numbers of all of the four Field Guns which were deployed at the Four Courts. Apparently, the Mark II 18-pounder that fired the first round on 28 June had the Serial Number 10756. Research conducted in recent weeks, indicates that it is highly likely that the irreplaceable Field Gun, Serial Number 9168, was one of the four Field Guns deployed at the Four Courts.

During its visit to Ordnance Base Workshops on 21 April, the Club's President availed of the opportunity of saluting the considerable research, and significant conservation and restoration work undertaken in the Workshops since 2017 by Captain Daithí O'Flynn, and Armament Artificers Sergeant Robert Delaney (i/c Project), Sergeant Cregan and Sergeant Sexton, under the guidance of Commandant Stephan Mac Eoin, Defence Forces Heritage Officer, Commandant Lar Joye (Army Reserve), and assisted by Mr Sven Habermann.

The QF Field Gun was deployed as a temporary display during a four-day national conference, hosted by University College Cork, from 15 to 18 June titled "The Irish Civil War.

Committee's Short Term Priorities: Q3 / Q4 2022

The Committee's short-term priorities are: Annual Golf Outing (01 September), Decades' Reunion 2022 (07 September), Annual General Meeting and Saint Barbara's Day Lunch (02 December), and the Artillery Corps Centenary Celebrations in 2023.

ACTIVITIES

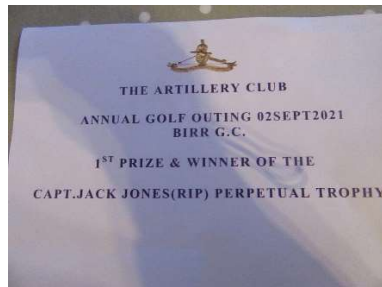
Diary of Events – 2020 and 2021: Operation Pause

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 in the Introduction, on account of COVID-19, an Operation Pause prevailed in Q3 and Q4 of 2020, and throughout 2021 with the exception of the Annual Golf

Outing. Nevertheless, planning files, including the Foreign Field Trip to London, have been retained for future use.

Reports on the Club's activities executed since September 2021, and information on future activities are outlined below.

Annual Golf Competition & Dinner: 02 September 2021 (Commandant Chris O'Flanagan (Retd) & Commandant Michael Flood (Retd))



Following the cancellation of the Artillery Club's Annual Golf Outing and Dinner in 2020 on account of Covid-19, the 2021 event took place on 02 September, at the Birr Golf Club, County Offaly. Club members, spouses, partners and guests participated in the golf competition, and later were joined by non-golfers for an enjoyable dinner in the Dooley's Hotel. 21 attended the event. Covid-19 protocols prevailed throughout.

Some of the attendees arrived on 01 September and having booked into Dooley's Hotel, attended dinner in The Thatch Restaurant.

Thankfully, the weather on 02 September was very conducive for enjoyable rounds of golf, and the golf course did not disappoint. Set in a rolling parkland of eskers and drumlins with wide fairways that gave tremendous run to the golf ball. The greens were fast and tricky but in beautiful condition. It is a tribute to the membership (450) of one of our oldest Irish Golf Clubs (Founded 1903) as to how well this course is maintained. A lot of members' voluntary efforts must contribute to its maintenance.

A total of 12 golfers took part in the Single Stapleford competition, including 2 lady visitors. Confined to serving and retired members of the Artillery Corps, the Captain Jack Jones Perpetual Trophy was won by Commandant Ger Gibson (Retd) with a score of 37 points. The 2019 winner Captain Barry Carey (Retd) was second with 32 points and Commandant Jack Burke was third with 31 points. Mrs Shiela O'Connor won the Ladies' Visitors 9 hole Competition with 21 points. Following an enjoyable dinner, the Club's President, Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham presented the prizes.

The Committee acknowledges the organisers of this very successful event Commandant Chris O'Flanagan (Retd) and Commandant Michael Flood (Retd), assisted by Commandant Derek Coulter (Retd), and the renowned hospitality and excellent support provided by Dooley's Hotel and Birr Golf Club.

Link to Website Posting: <http://artilleryclub.ie/annual-golf-outing-2021/>

Units' Annual Mass and Wreath Laying: 13 November 2021



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, 13 November 2021. Commandant Richard Armstrong (Retd), assisted by the 2 Field Artillery Regiment Association, planned, organised and coordinated the successful Remembrance Day.

The Second-in-Command and Executive Officer 2 Brigade, Colonel Patrick White was the ranking Gunner Officer in attendance. Commandant Richard Armstrong (Retd) welcomed the attendees which included Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Hanley Regimental Commander 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment and Lieutenant-Colonel Damien Power School Commandant The Artillery School. The celebrant was Rev Fr Robert McCabe. Regimental Sergeant-Major Martin Byrne (Retd) was i/c Colour Party. The organist Susan Keane was accompanied by her sisters Sally and Clare. The IUNVA Pipe Band, with Sergeant Michael Maher (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 (Army Reserve) was the Master of Ceremonies. Wreaths were laid by Colonel Patrick White on behalf of the Artillery Units, by Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham (Retd) on behalf of the Artillery Club, by the 2 Field Artillery Regiment Association, the 2 Air Defence Battery (FCA), the Dublin Artillery Association, and by families of Artillery Gunners who died in service.

Unfortunately, on account of Government restrictions associated with Covid-19, unlike previous years, attendees were unable to avail of refreshments in the Catering Complex.

Despite the prevailing Covid-19 environment, 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.

Finally, 13 November 2021 marked the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the 2 Field Artillery Regiment Association.

Link to Website Posting: <http://artilleryclub.ie/units-annual-mass-13-nov-21/>

Saint Barbara - Artillery School's Annual Prayer Service: 02 December 2021



As Saint Barbara's Day fell on a Saturday, The Artillery School's annual Prayer Service in honour of Saint Barbara, Patron Saint of The Artillery Corps and Gunners worldwide, took place on Thursday 02 December 2021. Personnel of The Artillery School, including members of the 56 Artillery Young Officers' Course were on parade.

Commandant Jamie Troy, Acting School Commandant welcomed all attendees which included Colonel Paul Whelan representing GOC Defence Forces Training Centre, Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver O'Dwyer (P) Director of Artillery and Combat Support, and numerous retired Gunners of all ranks. Members of the Artillery Club were also in attendance led by its President, Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham (Retd).

'Be at the bursting doors of doom and in the dark deliver us'

Rev Fr P.J. Somers CF conducted the Prayer Service at the St Barbara's Monument, which was followed by an overview of Saint Barbara presented by 2/Lieutenant Nathan Larkin. The ceremony concluded with the firing of the two Miniature Guns.

Both serving and retired Gunners of all ranks adjourned to the Gun Parks for an enjoyable reception hosted by The Artillery School.

Link to Website Posting: <http://artilleryclub.ie/saint-barbara-annual-prayer-service-02-dec-21/>

Presentation of QF 17 Pounder Mark IShell-Case



During the reception, Mr Paddy O’Carroll and his wife Stella presented a QF 17 Pounder Mk I brass shell-case to The Artillery School. Paddy is the third son of Battery-Sergeant Louis O’ Carroll who gave the shell case to Paddy for safe keeping. This particular shell-case is unique in that it is one of a set of four 17-pdr shell-cases, three of which are retained in the O’Carroll family. These four shell-cases are likely to be the only remaining QF 17 Pounder Mark I shell-cases existing in Ireland.

Field Trip to Defence Forces Training Centre: 21 April 2022 - Coordinator Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd)



On 21 April 2022, with the approval of Brigadier-General Brendan McGuinness, the Artillery Club visited the Ordnance Base Workshops and viewed the conservation and restoration of the Civil War 18pdr, availed of Ceannt Officers’ Mess for lunch, and thereafter visited the Curragh Military Museum. Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd) was the event coordinator on behalf of the Club’s Committee.

During its visit to Ordnance Base Workshops, Commandant Richard Piggot welcomed members of the Artillery Club and provided an overview of the Workshops’ outputs. Sergeant Robert Delaney provided the attendees with a compressive overview of the conservation and restoration of the Civil War 18-pounder.

On arrival at the Curragh Military Museum, the Artillery Club was welcomed by its Curator – Private Garry Rice, following which he provided an overview of the history of The Curragh, and thereafter he conducted the attendees on a comprehensive tour of the museum’s impressive galleries and vehicle displays, culminating with a visit to the Artillery Display.

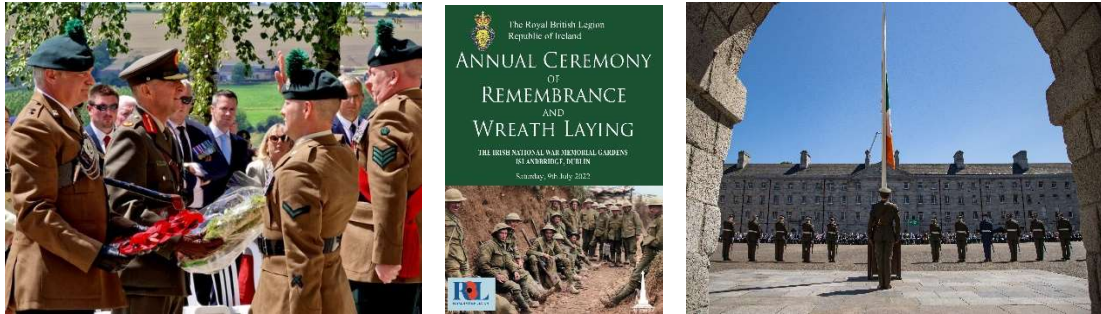
Link to Website Posting: <http://artilleryclub.ie/field-trip-dftc-22-apr-22/>

Defence Forces Veterans’ Day: 19 June 2022



McKee Barracks Dublin was the location of the Defence Forces Annual Veterans' Day which took place on Sunday, 19 June 2022. The ceremony was well attended by members of the Artillery Club. The event incorporated a Wreath Laying Ceremony, Veterans' Parade and a Reception in the Dining Complex.

Commemoration Ceremonies: 01, 09 and 10 July 2022

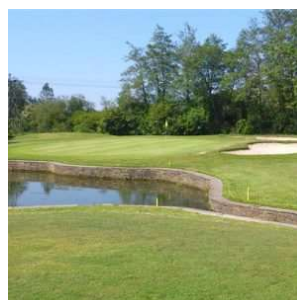


On Friday, 01 July, Brigadier-General Ger Buckley, Military Representative of Ireland to the European Union and NATO / PfP, Brussels, participated in ceremonial events at the Ulster Tower Memorial and at Guillemont, honouring the Officers and Men of the 16th Irish Division and the 36th (Ulster) Division who fought in the Battle of the Somme July 1916.

Members of the Club attended the Annual Remembrance Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony in the National War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge, on Saturday, 09 July, and the National Day of Commemoration in Collins Barracks Dublin, on Sunday, 09 July.

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

Annual Golf Outing: 01 September 2022 - Coordinators Lieutenant-Colonel Cormac Lalor (Retd) and Commandant Jack Burke (Retd)



The Artillery Club's Annual Golf Outing takes place on Thursday 01 September 2022, at the East Cork Golf Club, Gortacree, Midleton, Co Cork. Accommodation is booked at Midleton Park Hotel, Old Cork Road, Midleton, Co Cork. The Golf Competition will be followed by dinner in the Hotel at 2000hrs approx. Both the Golf Outing and Dinner are open to Members of the Artillery Club, their Spouses, Partners and Friends.

Singles Stableford – Ladies and Gentlemens competitions will take place. The competition for the Captain Jack Jones Perpetual Trophy is restricted to Artillery Officers serving and

retired. Prizes will include Visitors' prizes. Tees are reserved from 1330hrs to 1430hrs. Those who intend to travel, but have yet to advise the Event Coordinators, are requested to submit their booking form as soon as possible.

Link to Website Posting: <http://artilleryclub.ie/annual-golf-outing-01-sep-22/>

Decades' Reunion: 07 September 2022 - Coordinator Colonel Mick Smyth (Retd)



Following the Artillery Club's inaugural Decades' Reunion in 2016, this annual Reunion took place in 2017 and 2018 in The Military College. Unfortunately, on account of prevailing Covid-19 restrictions, the Artillery Club was unable to host Decades' Reunions in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

This year's Annual Artillery Club's Decades' Reunion, with the approval of Brigadier-General Brendan McGuinness, GOC Defence Forces Training Centre, will take place on Wednesday, 07 September in The Military College.

Subject to the exigencies of the service, the tentative programme will mirror previous reunions and will include: Assembly and Coffee in the Cadets' Mess, Formal Brief, culminating with a Reunion Lunch in Pearse Barracks Officers' Mess.

As in previous years, the main focus of the 2022 Decades' Reunion is to formally welcome Gunner Officers who were commissioned in 2022, in the company of Gunner Officers of the Permanent Defence Force, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil and the Army Reserve who were commissioned in 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992, and 2002 and 2012.

Accordingly, the 2022 Decades' Reunion is primarily open for all Gunner Officers (PDF, FCA and AR) commissioned in 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992, 2012, and 2022.

Nevertheless, as the Artillery Club was unable to host Decades Reunions in 2019, 2020, and 2021, subject to limitations on attendees and on a first come basis, Gunner Officers (PDF, FCA and AR) commissioned in the following years are also invited to participate in the 2022 Reunion:

- 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2009, and 2019,
- 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020,
- 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011, and 2021.

Those wishing to attend are requested to advise the Event Coordinator providing the year of commissioning, as soon as possible, but not later than COB on Monday 08 August.

Link to Website Posting: <http://artilleryclub.ie/annual-golf-outing-01-sep-22/>

ARTILLERY CORPS

Artillery Corps Appointments. Members may wish to note the following Artillery appointment holders:

- Director of Combat Support, Reserve Forces, ISTAR and Artillery: Colonel Dermot Hanifin,
- Executive Officer Combat Support Directorate: Lieutenant-Colonel Shane Bradley,
- School Commandant, The Artillery School: Lieutenant-Colonel Damien Power,
- OC 1 Brigade Artillery Regiment: Lieutenant-Colonel Adrian Keohane,
- OC 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment: Lieutenant-Colonel John Prendergast.

Overseas Appointments. Members may wish to note the following Gunner Officers who are currently serving overseas as Military Representatives, Military Advisors or on Military Staffs:

- Brigadier-General Ger Buckley: Military Representative of Ireland to the European Union and NATO / PfP, Brussels,
- Colonel Tom O’Callaghan: Military Advisor at Ireland’s Permanent Mission to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Vienna,
- Colonel John McCrann: Military Advisor at Ireland’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York,
- Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Kane, Deputy Military Advisor, Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York,
- Lieutenant-Colonel Karl O’Sullivan: MA to Chairman EU Military Committee,
- Lieutenant-Colonel Niall Verling: MA to Director-General EU Military Staff,
- Lieutenant-Colonel Peadar Ó Catháin: Public Affairs Officer, EU Military Staff,

Overseas Appointments. Members may like to note some of the Gunner Officers who are currently serving overseas with UNIFIL, UNDOF, UNTSO and KFOR:

- Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Hanley: OC 120 Infantry Battalion, UNIFIL,
- Comdt Cillian Browne: S2, 120 Infantry Battalion, UNIFIL,
- Lieutenant G. Smyth: Troop Commander, Heavy Mortar Troop, 120 Infantry Battalion, UNIFIL,
- Lieutenant Robert McCurtin, OP Officer, Heavy Mortar Troop, 120 Infantry Battalion, UNIFIL,
- Captain Brian Clarke: S2, 65 Infantry Group, UNDOF,
- Commandant Andrew Shinnick: Observer Group Golan – Damascus, UNTSO (w.e.f. 30 July 2022),
- Commandant Emmet Gallagher: Observer Group – Lebanon, UNTSO.
- Captain William Bastic: S4 HQ KFOR.

Commissioning Ceremony 97 Cadet Class: 05 April 2022

The Minister of Defence, Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., accompanied by the Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Seán Clancy, attended the Commissioning Ceremony of 36 Army Officers, 8 Air Corps Officers, and 6 Maltese Officers in Collins Barracks, Dublin Castle on 05 April 2022, drawn from the 97 Cadet Class.

Lieutenant-Colonel Daragh O'Brien is the Cadet Master. The newly commissioned Gunner Officers received their first salute from Regimental Sergeant-Major Stephan O'Neill.

The officers completed a demanding 18 months intensive training and have taken up appointments as junior leaders in Óglaigh na hÉireann and the Armed Forces of Malta.

The Artillery Club extends sincere congratulations to the following five officers who were commissioned in April 2022, and appointed by Lieutenant-General Seán Clancy to the Artillery Corps:

1 Brigade Artillery Regiment

- Lt Andrew Grey, FOO, No 2 Bty (STA).
- 2/Lt David Groome, FST Det Comd, No 2 Bty (STA).

2 Brigade Artillery Regiment

- Lt Pierce Hosey, Safety Officer, No 1 Bty.
- 2/Lt Aaron Dalton, FST Comd, No 2 Bty (STA).
- 2/Lt Oisín Bernard, FOO, OP Gp, No 2 Bty (STA).

Twenty-four members of the 11 Potential Officers' Course were also commissioned in April 2022. However, none were appointed to the Artillery Corps. A first for the Defence Forces was the commissioning of a husband and wife: Lieutenant Valerie Cole and Captain Philip Cole were students together on the 11 Potential Officers' Course.

The Artillery Club also extends sincere congratulations to the following seven officers from the 96 Cadet Class who were commissioned in April 2021, and appointed by Vice-Admiral Mark Mellett DSM to the Artillery Corps:

The Artillery School

- Lt Ian McCormack, Air Defence

1 Brigade Artillery Regiment

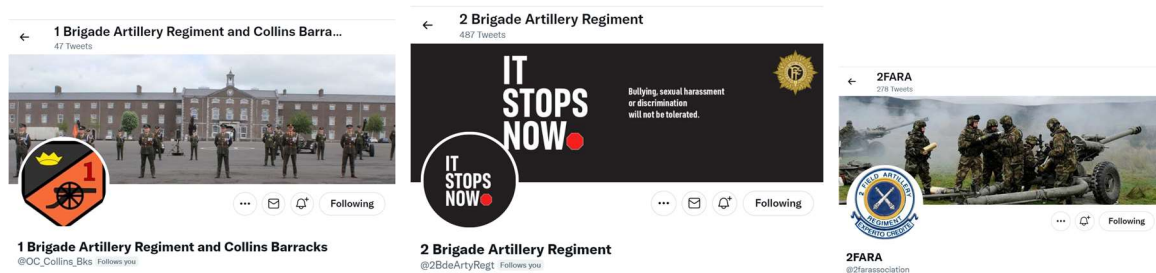
- Lt Jack Sheahan, CPO, Gun Gp, No 2 Bty (STA)
- 2/Lt Nathan Larkin, FOO, OP Gp, No 1 Bty
- 2/Lt Angela McGuigan, Safety Officer, Gun Gp, No 1 Bty

2 Brigade Artillery School

- Lt Robert McCurtin, FST Det Comdr, FST Tp, No 2 Bty (STA)
- 2/Lt Eimer Nolan, Survey Offr, Survey Tp, HQ Bty
- 2/Lt Ciaran Whelan, Tp Comdr, Bty HQ, HQ Bty

On the behalf of the Artillery Club, Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham wrote to the newly commissioned Gunner Officers (2021 and 2022), congratulating them on their appointment to the Artillery Corps, inviting them to become member of the Club, and inviting them to the Decades' Reunion, scheduled for Wednesday 07 September 2022, in The Military College.

Social Medium Platforms



Both of the Artillery Regiments now have official Twitter Accounts:

- **1 Brigade Artillery Regiment:** @OC_Collins_Bks
- **2 Brigade Artillery Regiment:** @2BdeArtyRegt

The 2 Field Artillery Regiment Association also has a Twitter Accounts: @2farassociation

1 Brigade Artillery Regiment

Centenary of Handover of Collins Barracks: 18 May 2022



Collins Barracks, Cork has played a major role in Ireland's military history. Marking the centenary of the handover of Collins Barracks from the British Army to the National Army, on 18th May 1922, units of Collins Barracks led by 1 Brigade Artillery Regiment marched in through the Barrack Gate.

NATO's Operational Capability Concept: 06 – 09 June 2022



The Regiment was exercised in a range of skills and capabilities associated with Artillery Deployments and Peace Support Operations in Kilworth Camp, under the supervision of NATO Joint Force Command Brunssum. Ireland participated in the exercise as a NATO partner nation through Partnership for Peace. The exercise involved 130 regimental personnel, and 30 personnel from DFHQ, NATO and the wider Defence Forces.

2 Brigade Artillery Regiment

Centenary of Handover of Collins Barracks: 28 February 2022



The Regiment participated in the ceremony commemorating the handover of Custume Barracks Athlone from the British Army to the National Army.

Charity Event: 06 May 2022



The Regiment pulled a 105mm light gun through Ballymahon, Longford, Mullingar and Athlone, collecting funds on behalf of the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund and the Ukrainian Refugee Appeal.

MUAV Crewmember's Course: July 2022



The Course ended with flight testing in the Defence Forces Training Centre. This course qualifies gunners as technicians to assist in the launch and recovery of this sophisticated piece of surveillance and target acquisition equipment. The MUAV has seen service in ATCP roles at home, and as an STA asset overseas. It significantly amplifies situational awareness for commanders across the full spectrum of military operations.

Gaisce Awards: July 2022



The President's Award took on a series of robust challenges conducted by the Regiment, for transition year students, including confidence and adventure training, map reading and navigation, and a hike in the Slieve Blooms.

120 Infantry Battalion UNIFIL

Predeployment Shoot: 31 March 2022



The Heavy Mortar Troop, Reconnaissance Company, drawn from 1 and 2 Brigade Artillery Regiments, conducted Live Firing Exercises during the 120 Infantry Battalion's Mission Readiness Exercise in Glen Imaal.

Transfer of Authority Ceremony 21 May 2022



The ceremony was held in UNP 2-24 with Lieutenant-Colonel Fiachra Keys, OC 119 Infantry Battalion handing over to Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Hanley, OC 120 Infantry Battalion. A total of 39 gunners of commissioned officer and enlisted personnel rank are serving with the 120 Infantry Battalion. Regimental Sergeant-Major Eric Byrne is the Battalion Sergeant-Major and Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant Paul Gifford is the Battalion Quartermaster-Sergeant.

VIP Visit: 30 May 2022



The Battalion hosted An Taoiseach Mr. Michael Martin T.D., Minister for Defence Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Seán Clancy and Secretary-General Ms Jackie McCrum. A capability display was offered to the visitors by the Polish, Maltese, and Irish personnel of the battalion, showcasing the wide variety of equipment, weaponry and vehicles at the disposal of troops serving in UNP 2-45. The visiting delegation paid their respects to Irish peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the service of peace, laying wreaths at the Tibnine memorial.

LOOKING INTO THE PAST

80th Anniversary – Glen Imaal Training Exercise: 16 September 2021



During 1939, with the outbreak of the Second World War, the Defence Forces 1 Anti-Aircraft Battery was expanded to an Anti-Aircraft Brigade. This particular Brigade consisted of two Medium Batteries, two Light Batteries and a Searchlight Battery, with the Brigade Headquarters garrisoned in Portobello Barracks, Dublin. In 1940, the formation was designated as the 1 Anti-Aircraft Battalion.

In June 1941, some of the Battalion's personnel, garrisoned in Kildare Barracks (renamed Magee Barracks in 1952), were assigned to the newly established 12 pdr Battery. As with many units at the time, this Battery also trained in mines and explosives.

On 16 September 1941, fifteen personnel drawn from this Battery and the Depot and School Artillery Corps, (three Lieutenants, one Battery-Sergeant, two Sergeants, five Corporals and four Gunners), along with a Lieutenant Engineer Instructor, were accidentally killed when a training mine exploded in Glen Imaal. May they Rest in Peace.

In 1958, a stained-glass window was dedicated in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, McKee Barracks, and in 1986, the Minister for Environment Mr John Boland T.D. unveiled a Monument at Seskin Bridge, consisting of a 14-ton basalt monolith upon which is mounted on a polished granite plaque the names of the sixteen Defence Forces personnel who died on 16 September, 1941.

The 1941 accident remains the single tragedy with the greatest casualties in the history of Óglaigh na Éireann. John Caffery, the last known survivor of the accident, and who was also involved in the evacuation of Dunkirk, died on 03 October 2011, aged 94.



Marking the 75th Anniversary, a commemoration ceremony took place at the monument at Seskin Bridge on Thursday 16 September 2016 at 1200hrs. 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment provided the Honour Guard and the Minute Gun.

Unfortunately, on account of Covid-19 restrictions, the Defence Forces were unable to host a commemoration ceremony in Glen Imaal on 16 September 2021.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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

Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner

THE ARTILLERY CLUB

31 July 2022