



TAKE POST - THE ARTILLERY CLUB's NEWSLETTER 2 /2022



INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of Newsletter 1/2022 on 31 July, through the medium of emails, and website postings, members of the Artillery Club were provided specific details regarding activities including the Annual Golf Outing, the Decades' Reunion, the Annual Mass for the disbanded Eastern Brigade Artillery Units, and the Annual General Meeting and St Barbara's Day Lunch.

As in previous Newsletters, the subjects covered in this Newsletter include: Governance, Club's Activities, News from the Artillery Corps, and Looking into the Past. Any repetition is intentional. Photographs are credited to the Defence Forces Press Office, 1 and 2 Brigade Artillery Regiments, 120 Infantry Battalion (UNIFIL), Conor Hogarty and the Club's Membership.

Looking into the Past recalls the establishment of The Artillery Club as recorded on pages 281 and 282 in "*Kildare Barracks*" written by Mark McLoughlin, and first published by Merrion in 2014.

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

Outputs 2022

During 2022, in the prevailing Covid-19 environment, by means of collective emails and phone conversations, the Committee, availing of “silence procedure”, made sound decisions, such as planning Club’s activities, and the election of new members. In this context, the Club’s Committee convened only on one occasion: 29 September. The Committee will reconvene for a pre-AGM meeting on 02 December, in the Trophy Room, DFHQ Officers’ Mess, McKee Barracks. The Committee’s first meeting in 2023 is scheduled for 26 January, in DFHQ Officers’ Mess.

To-date, the Committee has enhanced the Diary of Events for 2022, conducted planning for the various activities, executed a Field Trip to Defence Forces Training Centre visiting Ordnance Workshops (Civil War 18-pounder Mark II QF Field Gun), and the Curragh Museum on 21 April, attended the Defence Forces Veterans’ Day on 19 June, was represented at the National Day of Commemoration on 10 July, and successfully organised the Annual Golf Outing in Midleton on 01 December, and the Decades’ Reunion on 26 October.

The Committee remains proactive in planning and coordinating the 2022 Annual General Meeting and Saint Barbara’s Day Lunch on Friday, 02 December, and appropriate activities during 2023 to mark:

- The 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Corps on 23 March 1923; and
- The 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Club in March 1973.

Annual Audit - 2022

The Club’s financial records for period ended 31 October 2022 have been provided to the Auditor, and will be distributed during the 2022 Annual General Meeting, taking place on Friday, 02 December in McKee Barracks, Dublin.

2022 Annual General Meeting – Friday 02 December – McKee Barracks Dublin

The Calling Notice for the 2022 Annual General Meeting was circulated by email and posted on the Club’s Website on 03 November, the contents of which are outlined below in the Activities Section.

Incoming Team - 2023

With the exception of the President, who will be standing aside at the conclusion of the 2022 Annual General Meeting and St Barbara’s Day Lunch, all Officers, Committee Members, Co-opted Committee Members and Auditor are offering themselves for re-election. Colonel Patrick Whyte has kindly accepted an invitation from the Committee to have his name put forward for election as the President of the Artillery Club.

Focus for the Remainder of 2022

Mindful of the Club's objectives as prescribed in the Rules, the focus for the remainder of 2022 is executing appropriate activities, enhancing the Website, extending its Membership base and participating in appropriate ceremonial and commemorative events. In addition, the Club's Committee is currently examining potential activities in 2023, including marking the Centenary of the establishment of The Artillery Corps which occurred on 23 March 1923, and the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Club in March 1973, see below.

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 355 individuals from the wider Artillery Community, far exceeding the Membership strength of 187. 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.

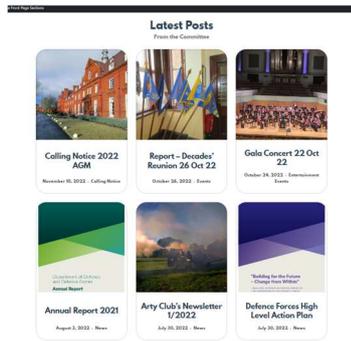
As of 16 November 2022, the membership strength is 187, compared with 96 in October 2014.

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 from 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.

Since the circulation of Newsletter 1/2022 on 31 July, the following postings have been made on the Club's Website:

- **Posts – Homepage (6):** Newsletter 1/2022, Defence Forces High Level Action Plan, and Annual Report: Department of Defence and Defence Forces, Gala Concert, Report Decades Reunion, Annual General Meeting Calling Notice and Units' Mass and Wreath Laying.
- **Events:** Revised 2022 Calendar.
- **Photo Gallery**
 - **Arty Corps (1):** Gala Concert.
 - **Arty Club (3):** Golf Outing, Decades' Reunion, Units' Mass and Wreath Laying.

Currently, the Website's Picture Gallery contains 33 albums reflecting the Artillery Corps, and 48 Albums covering the activities of the Artillery Club.

Only a small portion of our restructured Website requires text population including *Artillery Corps Disposition and History*, and *Artillery Units' Disposition and History*, perhaps a project for some serving or retired Gunner Officers during the Corps Centenary Year in 2023.

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.



Under the leadership of Col Brian O'Connor (Retd), the Artillery Club's Working Group continues to actively engage with the Museum Curator Lt Col Des Healy. The Working Group coordinates the required work to achieve identified objectives within the domain of the Artillery Display, including weapons and equipment. The Working Group is in the process of collecting a comprehensive range of Artillery artifacts from a benefactor in Cork. The Museum's Twitter account is highly recommended, and can be accessed via: @CurraghMuseum.

Presentations to the Artillery Club



On 26 October, during the Decades' Reunion lunch, Comdt Martin Hackett (Retd), 23 Infantry Battalion (FCA) kindly presented the Artillery Club with a High Angle Gun Site from a 3.7 inch Ack Ack Gun. Attendees also viewed an Electronic Ignition Firing Gun for a 9inch Coastal Defence Gun donated by Brig Gen Brian Cleary.

Committee's Short Term Priorities: Q4 2022

The Committee's short-term priorities are: Annual General Meeting and Saint Barbara's Day Lunch (02 December), Club's 2023 Activities, and Centenary Celebrations marking the establishment of The Artillery Corps on 23 March 1923, and the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Club in March 1973.

ACTIVITIES

Proposed Activities – 2023

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.



Celebrating the 95th Anniversary, The Artillery Club hosted a Gala Formal Dinner in DFHQ Officers' Mess in July 2018. The Club's Committee primary focus for 2023 will be identifying an appropriate event to mark the Centenary of the establishment of the Artillery Corps which occurred on 23 March 1923 and the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Club in March 1973.



In addition to the routine activities (Glen Shoot, Annual Golf, Decades Reunion, AGM), during its meeting on 29 September, the Committee tentatively agreed to implement the activities deferred on account of Covid-19: Field Trip Dublin (February), Field Trip Artillery School and National Stud (April), Field Trip (overnight) Fort Shannon Foynes Flying Boat Museum, Bunratty, Árd na Crusha and St John's Castle (May), Foreign Field Trip London: Kings Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, located in Woolwich, the Honorable Artillery Company, National Army Museum, and Royal Hospital Chelsea (September / October).

Remaining Activities - 2022

The current version of the Club's Diary of Events for 2022 is attached as Annex A. Reports on the Club's activities executed since the circulation of Newsletter 2/2022 on 31 July and information on the final activities for 2022 are outlined below.

Annual Golf Competition & Dinner: 01 September - Coordinators: Lt Col Cormac Lalor (Retd), Lt Col Brendan Crowley (Retd) and Comdt Jack Burke (Retd)



The 2022 Artillery Club's Annual Golf Outing and Dinner took place on 01 September, at the East Cork Golf Club, Gortacruce, Midleton, Co Cork. Club members, spouses, and guests participated in the golf competition, and later were joined by non-golfers for an enjoyable dinner in the Midleton Park Hotel. A total of 32 attended the very successful event.

Some of the attendees arrived on 31 August, and having booked into the Midleton Park Hotel, visited the local attractions including Fota House, and thereafter attended dinner in Salina's Bistro nearby.

East Cork Golf Club was founded in 1968 when Eamon and Peg Moloney converted their dairy farm into a nine-hole golf course. The Course is situated on the outskirts of Midleton, bordered by two rivers, making for an ideal parkland golf course. Eddie Hackett, one of Ireland's foremost Golf Course Architects designed the course, which was extended to eighteen holes in 1975. Hospitality and courtesy are hallmarks of East Cork Golf Club, and it is a consistent friend to the Military. Thankfully, the weather on 01 September was very conducive for enjoyable rounds of golf, and the golf course did not disappoint.



A total of 17 golfers took part in the Single Stapleford competition, including 3 lady visitors. Confined to serving and retired members of the Artillery Corps, the Captain Jack Jones Perpetual Trophy was won by Commandant Cormac Lalor (Retd) with a score of 38 points. Mrs Rosemary Twomey won the Ladies' Visitors Competition with 21 points. Lt Col Paddy O'Brien won the Visitor's prize with 39 points which was the highest score of the day. Prior to an enjoyable dinner, the Club's President, Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham presented the prizes.



The Club's Committee acknowledges the organisers and coordinators of this very successful event Lieutenant-Colonel Cormac Lalor (Retd) and Commandant Jack Burke (Retd), assisted by Lieutenant-Colonel Brendan Crowley (Retd), and the renowned hospitality and excellent support provided by the Midleton Park Hotel and the East Cork Golf Club.

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

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

Defence Forces Gala Concert – 22 October



Featuring Bands of the Defence Forces the 41st Annual Gala Concert took place in the National Concert Hall in aid of the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund and the Soldiers Aid Fund. The Guest artist was the Soprano Anna Devin. Captain Fergal Carroll (Band 1 Brigade) was the compère. The concert was conducted by Captain John Carpenter (Army No 1 Band) and Captain Thomas Kelly (Band 2 Brigade). The Irish Blood Transfusion Service was the main sponsor.

Members of the Artillery Club who were in attendance with their spouses or partners, included Comdt Rory deBuir, Comdt John Miley, Comdt Eoin O'Curry, Lt Col John Prendergast, Col Ray Quinn Col Pat White, Brig Gen Brian Cleary and Brig Gen Paul Pakenham.

2023 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Army School of Music.

Decades' Reunion: 26 October 2022 - Coordinator Colonel Mick Smyth (Retd)



Following the Artillery Club's inaugural Decades' Reunion in 2016, this annual event took place in 2017 and 2018 in The Cadet School. Unfortunately, on account of the 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, took place on Wednesday, 26 October in The Cadet School, with 22 retired or serving Gunner Officers attending the event.



Whereas the intent of the 2022 Reunion was to focus on Gunner Officers from the Permanent Defence Force, An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil and the Army Reserve, commissioned in 1942, 52, 62, 72, 82, 92, 2002, 2012, and 2022, on account of the cancellation of the Reunion in 2019, 2020 and 2021, the target attendance was extended to cater for those officers missing out on the cancelled Reunions.

We were honoured to have in our company Lt Gen Noel Bergin (Retd) DSM, one of four Gunner Officers who held the appointment of Chief of Staff of Óglaigh na hÉireann from 1992 through 1995, and a strong supporter of the Artillery Club.

Likewise, we were delighted that Lt Col Jim Dawson (Retd) participated in the Reunion. One of four Gunner Officers elected as an Honorary Member of the Artillery Club, he was born three years after the establishment of the Artillery Corps

Retired and serving Gunner Officers commissioned in 1948, 1952, 1962, 1963, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1981, 1989, 1992, 2001, and 2022, and representatives of the Club's Committee, Took Post on the day.



The presence of Lt Col Jim Dawson (Retd), Lt Pierce Hosey and 2/Lt Aaron Dalton of the 97 Cadet Class commissioned in 2022, represented a spectrum of seventy-seven Cadet Classes, from the 20 Cadet Class through to the 97 Cadet Class, spanning the period from 1948 through 2022.

On arrival in the Cadets' Mess, the Group was received by the Cadet Captain Cadet Rory Maher, the Mess President Cadet Cathal Ó Luasa, and members of the 98 Cadet Class, including Cadet Matt O'Neill, Cadet Daragh O'Mahony and Cadet Seana Connaughton.



During Coffee, participants were able to view memorabilia from their cadetship and visit the mess facilities, bringing back nostalgic memories to all. Thereafter, Cadet Kieran Fennely and Cadet Mark Doherty displayed current equipment on issue to Cadets.

Following the visit to the Cadets' Mess, the Group visited Pearse Hall, Accommodation Passages in B Block, the Drill Shed and the construction site for the new HQ Cadet School incorporating the façade of the old Guard Room.



During a comprehensive briefing in Pearse Hall, Lieutenant-Colonel Jim O'Shea, OC Cadet School provided an insight into key areas pertaining to cadet training and education. Finally, the Group adjourned to Pearse Officers' Mess for a most enjoyable lunch.



During the lunch, Lt Pierce Hosey and 2/Lt Aaron Dalton of the 97 Cadet Class were presented with their Club Ties, and Comdt Martin Hackett (Retd), 23 Infantry Battalion (FCA) presented the Artillery Club with a High Angle Gun Site from a 3.7 inch Ack Ack Gun.

The Artillery Club remains grateful to Lieutenant-Colonel O’Shea, supported by Lieutenant Garry Marron (Artillery Corps), for making the resources of The Cadet School available throughout the day.



Pending the approval of the appropriate authorities, it is envisaged that the 2023 Decades’ Reunion will be held in The Cadet School on Wednesday, 13 September for Gunner Officers commissioned in 1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003, 2013 and 2023.

Link to Website Postings and Photographs: <http://artilleryclub.ie/decades-reunion-26-oct-22/>

Units’ Annual Mass and Wreath Laying: 12 November 2022



The 54th 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, 12 November 2022. Commandant Richard Armstrong (Retd), assisted by the 2 Field Artillery Regiment Association, planned, organised and coordinated the successful Remembrance Day.



Commandant Justin Barry represented OC 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment. Commandant Richard Armstrong (Retd) welcomed the attendees. The celebrant was Rev Fr Damien Farnon CF. Regimental Sergeant-Major Jimmy Grey was the Parade Commander, and 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 Anthony Byrne (Retd) as the Pipe Major, and Sergeant John Connelly and Bandsman Ronan Scarlet from the Defence Forces School of Music rendered musical honours.



Following the Mass, a Wreath Laying Ceremony took place at the Flag Pole. Commandant Niall Buckley was the Flag Officer and Lieutenant Teresa Hudson (Army Reserve) was the Master of Ceremonies. Wreaths were laid by Commandant Justin Barry 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.



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.

Link to Website Posting: <http://artilleryclub.ie/deceased-members-mass-12-nov-22/>

Commemoration Ceremony – National Memorial: 16 November 2022



On 16 November, the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Seán Clancy laid a wreath at the National Memorial in Merrion Square, commemorating all Defence Forces Personnel who died in service both at home and overseas.

Saint Barbara - Artillery School's Annual Prayer Service: 01 December 2022



As Saint Barbara's Day falls this year on a Sunday, The Artillery School's Annual Prayer Service in honour of Saint Barbara, Patron Saint of The Artillery Corps and Gunners worldwide, will take place on Thursday 01 December 2022, in the Defence Forces Training Centre.

The School Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Noel Maher has kindly invited members of The Artillery Club to attend the Prayer Service, followed by an equipment demonstration and a reception in The Artillery School.

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

Annual General Meeting & St Barbara's Day Lunch – 02 December



The Artillery Club's 2022 Annual General Meeting will take place by kind permission of the GOC 2 Brigade, in the Auditorium, School of Catering, McKee Barracks Dublin at 1130hrs, on Friday, 02 December. Coffee will be available in the Ante Room, Defence Forces Officers' Mess, from 1030hrs. Draft Agenda was included in the Calling Notice, released on 03 November.

Following the Annual General Meeting, the Artillery Club will host its Annual Saint Barbara's Day Lunch in the Mess Dining Room at 1330hrs. This year, our Guest of Honour will be the Assistant Chief of Staff, Brigadier-General Rossa Mulcahy, who will be representing the Chief of Staff. As a Gunner Officer, Colonel Seán Grant, UK's Defence Attaché will propose the toast to The Artillery Corps and to our Patron Saint, Saint Barbara.

Please notify, as soon as possible, the Club's Secretary Commandant Lar Joye by email: larjoye@gmail.com), or by phone: 086 8605678 of your intention to attend, NLT Friday, 25 November, providing any dietary requirements, and car details (make and registration), for

ease of entry into McKee Barracks. Apologies should also be made to the Club's Secretary, as appropriate.

In order to finalise the lunch numbers, and for administrative purposes, it is requested that the cost of the 3-course lunch, €35, be paid NLT Friday, 25 November directly to the Club's Treasurer: Colonel Tom O'Callaghan, HQ 1 Brigade, Collins Barracks, Cork.

Alternatively, the €35 payment can be executed by SEPA transfer to The Artillery Club's Bank Account, Bank of Ireland Kildare Town, NLT Friday 25 November. Please cross reference your SEPA transfer with your full name for ID purposes. IBAN: IE70 BOFI 9011 6711 3871 91. BIC CODE: BOFIE2D. Please advise the Club Treasurer if you are paying by SEPA transfer, Email: tom_ocallaghan@hotmail.com, Phone: 087 673 8367.

Link to Calling Notice: <http://artilleryclub.ie/calling-notice-2022-agm/>

ARTILLERY CORPS

Promotions

The Committee joins all members of the Artillery Club in congratulating the following Gunner Officers who have been selected for promotion to the rank of Colonel, and wish them continued success in their respective military career:

- Lieutenant-Colonel Daragh McKevitt, OIC Military C & A, DFHQ;
- Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Hanly, OC 120 Inf Bn, UNIFIL; and
- Lieutenant-Colonel Karl O'Sullivan, MA (2) to Chairman EU Military Committee.

Likewise, the Committee joins all members of the Artillery Club in congratulating the following Gunner Officers who have been promoted or selected for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and wish them continued success in his respective military career:

- Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard Behan (promoted October 2022), and
- Comdt Rory Esler, HQ 2 Brigade.

In addition, the Committee joins all members of the Artillery Club in congratulating the following Gunner Officer who have been promoted or selected for promotion to the rank of Commandant, and wish them continued success in his respective military career:

- Comdt Emmet Gallagher (promoted March 2022),
- Comdt Avril O'Rourke (promoted March 2022), 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment,
- Capt Stephen Cooper, (listed for promotion in November 2022), HQ 2 Brigade, and
- Capt Eoin Murphy (listed for promotion in November 2022), Finance Branch, DFHQ.

Army Appointments – Gunner Officers. Members may wish to note the following Army appointment recently filled by a Gunner Officers:

- Colonel Dermot Hanifin, School Commandant, The Command and Staff School.

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

- School Commandant, The Artillery School: Lieutenant-Colonel Noel Maher,

Overseas Appointments. Members may wish to note the following Gunner Officer who have just departed on overseas services:

- Lieutenant-Colonel Damien Power, HQ UNIFIL
- Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard Behan, Chief Liaison Officer Damascus, UNTSO.

Artillery Corps



9/10 November - Kilworth – Operational Capability Assessment: Corps assets supporting 1 Brigade Artillery Regiment

11 November: “1 Brigade Artillery Regiment successfully passed their [NATO] Operational Capability Concept (OCC) Assessment with high standards achieved across all criteria. Huge congratulations to them and their supporting sister 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment. Many thanks to all the other critical elements across the Defence Forces whose collective input made this a great success.” https://www.linkedin.com/posts/shane-bradley-3147b22a_earlier-today-1-brigade-artillery-regiment-activity-6996859226593619968-ztTy?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

1 Brigade Artillery Regiment



01 October: CBRN refresher training in Kilworth Camp.

23 October: 105mm Light Gun firing smoke rounds down range, screening a 28 Infantry Battalion Live Firing Tactical Training platoon in attack:

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1584245109167575040>

08 November: Regiment departing Collins Barracks, as part of the unit's NATO Operational Capability assessment:

https://twitter.com/1Bde_Official/status/1590007766625964033?s=20&t=COVINjbtRT4xtl3mmb6mug

9/10 November: Kilworth – Operational Capability

2 Brigade Artillery Regiment



W/E 26 August: Regiment conducted training in Retrograde Operations in the Midlands.



29 August: Lt Ciarán Hogarty graduates with an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree, from NUI Galway.



17 August & 03 September: Confidence and Team Building Exercises, including climbing Carrauntoohil.



21 September: Lt Col John Prendergast and BS Lloyd Murphy presented cheques for funds raised during the Regiment's charity gun pull through the Midlands to the Irish Red Cross and the Defence Forces Benevolent Fund.



11 November: Support for 1 Brigade Artillery Regiment during NATO's Operational Capability assessment.

120 Infantry Battalion UNIFIL



W/E 22 October: Mortar Troop provided training to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) on Artillery capabilities. Combined training and activities with LAF are not only a key tenet of the Unit's mission, but mutually develops understanding and interoperability.



22 October: Minister for Defence Mr Simon Coveney T.D. and the Defence Forces Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Seán Clancy laid wreaths at Tibnine Bridge to mark the 40th anniversary of the deaths of Cpl Gregory Morrow, Pte Peter Burke and Pte Thomas Murphy. RSM Eric Byrne and RQMS Paul Gifford, the two most senior NCOs in 120 Infantry Battalion, were the Wreath Bearers for the ceremony.



02 November: Personnel who were on their first overseas tour of duty were presented with their UNIFIL medals in Tibnine Castle.

LOOKING INTO THE PAST

Establishment of The Artillery Club, as recorded on pages 281 and 282 in “*Kildare Barracks*” written by Mark McLoughlin, and first published by Merrion in 2014.

“In 1971 the officers of the Artillery Corps began to discuss establishing an artillery club. Discussions were held during the year and serving officers were consulted about the proposal.

A drafting committee at Kildare consisting of Captain M.P. Dunne, Lieutenant Ray Quinn, Lieutenant Paul Allen and Lieutenant Brian Wickham met to draft a constitution. The club was formed in March 1973 on the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Artillery Corps and was recorded in the Irish Times [21 March 1973]”:

‘Nobody who has ever served in the legal armed forces of John Bull’s Other Island needs any additional definition when there is a mention of the Corps. Admittedly, there are unfortunates – almost untouchables – in outfits like Infantry, Cavalry, Air Corps, Engineers, and even S. and T., who become unpurpled at the tacit assumption of the Gunners that their Corps needs no prefix, but members of the Corps ignore this, writing it off as the pardonable envy shown everywhere by lesser breeds towards the elected Ubermensch’

The Irish Times [29 March 1974] noted on the anniversary of the foundation of the Club that:

‘Bang-bang men (that is to say men of the Big Bangs) are reminded that the annual general meeting of the Artillery Club will be held tonight in Magee Barracks, Kildare at 20.00 hrs. Supper will be served and Gunners who require stabling for the night will be accommodated if they stand to attention and make suitable noises before the Hon. Secretary, who should be present with his range finder’

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

16 November 2022

Annex A: Diary of Events

ARTILLERY CLUB's DIARY of Events – 2022

(Changes since previous iteration highlighted in yellow)

Date	Event	Coordinator	Remarks
21 April	Field Trip to DFTC, Ordnance Workshops (Civil War 18-pounder Mark II QF Field Gun), and the Curragh Museum	Col Seamus McDermott (Retd)	Report and Photos on Website
19 June	Defence Forces Veterans' Day: McKee Bks Dublin	Secretary	
09 July	Commemoration - Islandbridge	President	
10 July	National Day of Commemoration	President	
01 September	Annual Golf Competition & Dinner: Midleton, Co Cork	Lt Col Cormac Lalor (Retd) & Comdt Jack Burke (Retd)	Report and Photos on Website
29 September	Committee Meeting: McKee Barracks	Secretary	
October	Foreign Field Trip to London	Comdt Michael Flood (Retd)	Deferred to 2023
26 October	Arty Decades' Reunion - Anniversary of PDF, FCA and AR Commissioning 1949-2019, 1950 – 2020, 1951 – 2021 and 1952 – 2022, Visit to Cadet School and Lunch in Military College	Col Michael Smyth (Retd)	Calling Notice Issued 14 July, reissued on 12 August. Instructions issued 20 October Report and Photos on Website
12 November	Units' Annual Mass and Wreath Laying: McKee Barracks	Comdt R. Armstrong (Retd)	Report and Photos on Website
16 November	Defence Forces Remembrance Ceremony, National Memorial, Merrion Square, Dublin	President	
01 December	Artillery School's Annual St Barbara's Commemoration, Defence Forces Training Centre	Col Seamus McDermott (Retd)	Calling Notice Later
02 December	AGM and St Barbara's Day Lunch: McKee Barracks	Secretary	Calling Notice issued 03 Nov