



HISTORY OF THE ARTILLERY CLUB



1973 - 2023





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARTILLERY CLUB

The Artillery Club, on the centenary of the formal establishment of the Artillery Corps on 23 March, 1923, salutes our gunners of all ranks who have served Ireland with distinction, both at home and overseas since. We also acknowledge our predecessors sacrifice in the service of Ireland.

Marking the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Artillery Club, the “*History of the Artillery Club 1973 – 2023*” endeavours to provide an insight into our activities arising from our stated mission and associated objectives. Brigadier-General Paul Pakenham (Retd) compiled this history, supported by members of the Club’s Committee.

I wish to take this opportunity of commending the service of our Past Presidents, our Honorary Members, and our former and serving Officers and Committee Members including elected Auditors. Likewise, the Club acknowledges the encouragement and assistance provided by the Director of Combat Support, the Artillery School, 1 Brigade Artillery Regiment and 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment.

The Club will continue to support the preservation of our Corps legacy and distinctive traditions, promote professional excellence, and provide a focal point for remembrance and camaraderie, in order to encourage and foster our unique Artillery *Esprit de Corps*.

Finally, we will strive to enhance our network of relationships throughout Ireland, enabling serving and former officers of the Artillery Corps to maintain a lasting bond with colleagues, whilst retaining contact with their parent Regiments, the Artillery School, and by extension the Corps.

Semper et ubique fidelis

Colonel Patrick White

President

The Artillery Club



Introduction



Marking the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Artillery Club, the “History of the Artillery Club 1973 – 2023” endeavours to provide an insight of the Club’s activities arising from its stated mission and associated objectives.

The following topics are covered in this History of the Artillery Club:

- Establishment, Past Presidents, Mission, Objectives, Membership, Honorary Membership, Recipients of The Military Medal for Gallantry and The Distinguished Service Medal, Roll of Honour,
- Governance and Rules, Committee, Current Focus, Communications Framework, Website, Partnership with other Military Clubs, Merchandise,
- Gunner James Magee, Curragh Military Museum,
- Projects, Activities, Foreign Field Trips, Field Trips in Ireland,
- State and Defence Forces Ceremonies, Annual Golf Competition, Annual Disbanded Units’ Mass,
- Gala Dinner 90th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Artillery Corps, Passchendaele Gun Salute, Gala Dinner 95th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Artillery Corps, 90th Anniversary Parade Reserve Defence Forces,
- 60th Anniversary of 2 Air Defence Battery, Defence Forces 1916 Commemorative Medal, and Hall of Heroes Collins Barracks Cork.



Establishment



The Artillery Club salutes gunners of all ranks who have served Ireland with distinction, both at home and overseas, whilst maintaining exceptional operational readiness, unique legacy and solidarity, distinctive customs and traditions, valuable friendship, and the bond of camaraderie, since the establishment of the Artillery Corps on 23 March, 1923 in Islandbridge, Dublin.

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 is described as follows: “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 Michael P. Dunne, Lieutenant Ray Quinn, Lieutenant Paul Allen and Lieutenant Brian Wickham met to draft a constitution. The Artillery Club was formed in March 1973 on the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Artillery Corps and the event 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’

Since its formal establishment in March 1973, the Artillery Club acknowledges the encouragement and support provided by the Director of Artillery, the Artillery School, and the Artillery Regiments.

Past Presidents

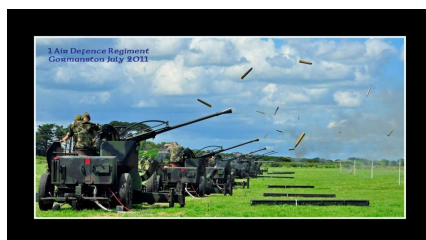




Including the current holder of the appointment, since 1973 the Artillery Club has had eighteen Presidents. The first holder of the Chain of Office was Lieutenant-Colonel S.P. Ó'Catháin, Officer Commanding 4 Field Artillery Regiment and Columb Barracks Mullingar.

1973	Lt Col S.P. Ó'Catháin
1974	Lt Col J.P. Kelly
1975	Comdt J. Curtin
1976	Lt Col M.J. O'Donnell
1977	Lt Col R.A. Childers
1978	Col J.S. Nolan
1979	Lt Col T.A. Ryan
1980	Lt Col T.V. Furlong
1981	Col P.J. Quinlan
1982 – 1983	Lt Col K. O'Halloran
1984 – 1989	Comdt P.R. Eager
1990 – 1994	Col J. Croke
1995 – 2008	Col J. Hall
2009 – 2010	Col B. O'Connor
2011 – 2012	Comdt M. Flood
2013 – 2014	Comdt C. O'Flanagan
2015 – 2022	Brig Gen Paul Pakenham
2023	Col Patrick White

Club's Mission





The Artillery Club supports the preservation of the Artillery Corps unique legacy and distinctive traditions, promotes professional excellence, and provides a focal point for remembrance and camaraderie, in order to encourage and foster the Corps admirable Esprit de Corps.

Club's Objectives



The main objective of the Artillery Club is to maintain, promote and foster the Artillery Corps unique legacy and solidarity, distinctive customs and traditions, lasting ethos, valuable fellowship, and the bond of camaraderie.

In addition, the Artillery Club supports the preservation for posterity the proud military heritage of the Irish Defence Forces Artillery Corps, and promotes professional excellence through sponsoring the Captain Jack Jones Best Student Award on Artillery Young Officers' and Detachment Commanders' [Number 1s'] Courses.

The Artillery Club provides a focal point for remembrance and comradeship, both of which are vital elements for the cohesiveness and operationality of the Artillery School and the Regiments of the Artillery Corps.

The Artillery Club promotes the study of military history associated with Field Artillery, Air Defence Artillery and Coast Defence Artillery, circulates appropriate publications and information, and supports military and regimental museums, in the maintenance and display of Artillery weapons, equipment, material and artefacts.

Arising from its Mission and compatible with the ethos of its members, the Club provides opportunities for appropriate activities, outings, visits and endeavours, while maintaining a positive image, and refraining from any political activity.

Finally, the Artillery Club facilitates a networking environment throughout Ireland, enabling serving and former officers of the Artillery Corps to maintain a lasting bond with colleagues, coupled with retaining contact with their parent Regiments, the Artillery School, and by extension the Corps.

Membership

Membership of the Artillery Club is open to all serving and retired commissioned Artillery officers of the Permanent Defence Force and the Army Reserve, (previously the Reserve Defence Force). Members pay an Annual Subscription of €10.



Gunner Officers 94 & 95 Cadet Classes – Commissioning Ceremony – 2019 and 2020



Glen Imaal – November 2017 - Empty Guns:

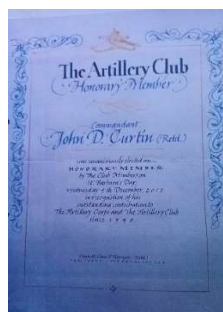
Lt Col Noel Murphy, Comdt Derek Hanley, RSM John Morris, RSM Noel O'Callaghan

Honorary Membership



Honorary Membership is conferred on distinguished Artillery Officers. To date, four officers have been elected as Honorary Members: Commandant John D. Curtin (Retd) in 2013, Commandant Paddy Gillen (Retd) in 2014, Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Dawson in 2018, and Commandant John O'Brien in 2018.

Commandant John D. Curtin (Retd)





Commandant Curtin enlisted in the Local Defence Force on 13 October 1940. He completed his reserve service as Battery Commander 14 Battery, 7 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA). During his distinguished career, he fired the following Artillery weapons: 60th Pounder, 4.5 Howitzer, French 75s and the 25 Pounder.

The final firing of the 18 Pounder took place on 28 April 1974 in Glen Imaal, with the last round fired by Commandant John Curtin, Battery Commander 14 Battery, 2 Field Artillery Regiment.

Commandant Curtin was elected the third President of the Artillery Club in 1975, and was also a former President of McKee Officers' Club (1989 and 1990). With a service spanning 36 years and 110 days, Commandant Curtin had the unique distinction of being retired longer than being in uniform. He was retired 37 years and 132 days, when he died peacefully on 12 June 2014, at the age of 94.

Commandant Paddy Gillen (Retd)

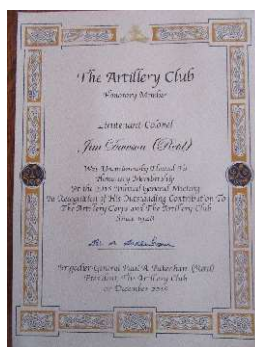


Residing in Galway, Paddy served in the 50 Infantry Battalion LDF from 1940 through 1943, when he enlisted in the 6 Commando, landed on Sword Beach, Normandy, and following the conclusion of hostilities on the European Front, served in Greece, Cyprus, Egypt and Lebanon.

Enlisting in the 44 Field Artillery Battery in May 1950, he was promoted to the rank of Commandant and appointed as Battery Commander (FCA), 1 Field Artillery Battery in 1970. This Battery subsequently became an organic Battery in the 8 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA) on reorganisation in 1979. He retired on 07 March 1982, with 42 years' service "under two flags" in the profession of arms.

On 08 December 2014, H.E. Jean-Pierre Thébault, French Ambassador to Ireland presented Commandant Gillen (Retd) with the *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur*, in recognition of his role in liberating France, in Normandy, during the Second World War. One of the last surviving Irish veterans of D-Day, he died on 27 December 2014.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Dawson (Retd)

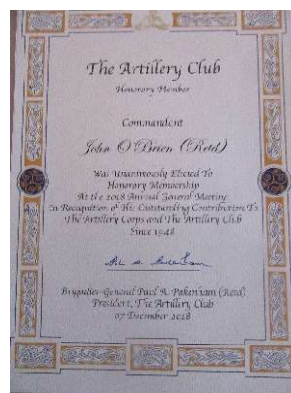




Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Dawson was born in Callan, County Kilkenny, on 12th April 1926, three years after the establishment of the Artillery Corps, and enlisted in the Local Security Force at the age of 14.

On commissioning, he was appointed to the Artillery Corps, completed his YO's course, and was posted to the 2 Field Artillery Regiment. Following service with the 1 Field Artillery Regiment, he was transferred to Spike Island, where he developed his renowned and legendary expertise in the art and science of Coast Defence Artillery. Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson served overseas with the 1 Infantry Group in the Congo, and in the Force Headquarters in Cyprus. Retiring in 1986, Jim kept a close eye on his nephews Colonel Mick who hosted the Club's Decades' Reunion in 2017, and Michael's brother Jim.

Commandant John O'Brien (Retd)



Residing in Bray, in 1944, Commandant O'Brien enlisted in the Local Security Force and transferred to the An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil on its establishment in 1947. Serving in the North Wicklow Battalion, he was commissioned in 1955. In 1959, as part of the Defence Forces reorganisation which included the integration of FCA subunits within Artillery Regiments,

Lieutenant O'Brien was one of ten FCA officers posted to Griffith Barracks to establish the 2 Ack-Ack Bty (FCA), a sub unit of the 1 AA Regiment. Promoted Commandant in 1982, he was appointed as Battery Commander of the 2 Air Defence Battery. Commandant O'Brien retired in 1984, after 40 commendable years' service in the Defence Forces.

Serving and retired officers of the disbanded 2 Air Defence Battery (FCA) assembled in the Stephen's Green Hibernian Club on Thursday, 10 February 2017, to mark the 90th birthday of Commandant O'Brien (Retd). Attendance included four of the founding officers of the 2 Ack Ack Battery, the President of the Artillery Club and other officers who served with John during his distinguished career in the Defence Forces.

The occasion on 10 February 2017, was notable in that An Taoiseach Mr Enda Kenny T.D. sent a letter congratulating him on his service to the Defence Forces and to the ESB from which he retired as Company Secretary. Commandant John O'Brien died peacefully on 15 April 2021 at the age of 94.



Recipients - Military Medal for Gallantry and Distinguished Service Medals



Obverse
The surrounding ring is in the form of a laurel wreath and each arm of the cross bears a St. Brendan's knot. In the centre are the words **de bARR CalmaCta** (For Gallantry).

Reverse
The inscription "**An Bonn Míleata CalmaCta**" above a scroll for the particulars of the recipient.

Ribbon:
35mm Green with 6mm crimson edges



Obverse
A design of the ancient Irish warrior Cuchulainn with upraised sword standing in a war chariot drawn by two horses at the gallop. A charioteer crouched beside him whips the horses.

Reverse
Plain with the inscription "**An Bonn Seirbhíse Dearsca**" (The Distinguished Service Medal) around the outer edges.

Ribbon:
35mm wide in dark green with 5mm black stripes at the edges.

The Artillery Club salutes personnel of the Artillery Corps who were awarded An Bonn Míleata Calmachta (The Military Medal for Gallantry) and An Bonn Seirbhíse Dearsca (The Distinguished Service Medal), especially those who were, or continue to be members of the Artillery Club.

The Military Medal for Gallantry (MMG) was initiated in 1944 and is the highest military honour in the State. The medal may be awarded in recognition of the performance of any act of exceptional bravery or gallantry (other than one performed on War Service) arising out of, or associated with Military Service and involving risk to life or limb.

To date only eight awards of The Military Medal for Gallantry have been made. Captain Adrian Ainsworth MMG, Depot and School Artillery, was awarded The Military Medal for Gallantry while serving with the Heavy Mortar Troop, 46 Infantry Battalion UNIFIL, arising from action in At Tire on 07 April 1980.

The Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) was initiated in February 1964. The medal may be awarded in recognition of individual or associated acts of bravery, courage, leadership, resource of devotion to duty (other than any such acts of duty performed on War Service) arising out of, or associated with, service in the Defence Forces and not meriting the award of An Bonn Míleata Calmachta.

The following six personnel of the Artillery Corps were awarded The Distinguished Service Medal:

- Sergeant Patrick Mulcahy DSM, 6 Field Artillery Regiment, 'A' Company, 36 Infantry Battalion (ONUC), December 1961.
- Captain Tom Boyle DSM, 4 Field Artillery Regiment, Troop Commander, Heavy Mortar Troop, 38 Infantry Battalion (ONUC), December 1962 – January 1963.
- Sergeant John Quirke DSM, 4 Field Artillery Regiment, Heavy Mortar Troop, 38 Infantry Battalion (ONUC), December 1962 – January 1963.
- Corporal William Allen DSM, 4 Field Artillery Regiment, Heavy Mortar Troop, 38 Infantry Battalion (ONUC), December 1962 – January 1963.
- Lieutenant-General J.N. Bergin DSM, Chief of Staff, 1992 - 1995.
- Lieutenant-General Conor O'Boyle DSM, 2013 - 2015.



Roll of Honour



On the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Club, our thoughts and prayers remain with the families of those members who have died in the past, and especially with the families and comrades of the following personnel of the Artillery Corps, or who were serving in the Corps, and who died overseas while serving with the United Nations:

- Lieutenant Patrick Riordan DSM, Infantry Corps attached to 6 Field Artillery Regiment, 36 Infantry Battalion (ONUC), 16 December 1961.
- Sergeant Patrick Mulcahy DSM, 6 Field Artillery Regiment, 36 Infantry Battalion (ONUC), 16 December 1961.
- Commandant Thomas P. Wickham, HQ Curragh Command, UNTSO, 07 June 1967.
- RSM John Fitzgerald, 1 Field Artillery Regiment, HQ UNIFIL, 24 February 1987.
- Gunner Paul Cullen, 2 Field Artillery Regiment, 64 Infantry Battalion (UNIFIL), 17 March 1988.
- Sergeant Charlie Forrester, 2 Field Artillery Regiment, 64 Infantry Battalion (UNIFIL), 21 May 1989.

***"But if fate me should call
And in action I should fall
Keep those Limbers a Rolling Along.***

***Then in peace I'll abide
When I take my final ride
On a Limber that's Rolling Along."***

Club's Governance and Rules

The Rules of the Club are the basis of the Club's effective governance, transparency and accountability and are available on the Club's website. The current version of the Rules was adopted at the 2015 Annual General Meeting. The Club refrains from any political activity.





The management, control and direction of the Club are exercised by a Committee consisting of serving and retired Artillery officers, geographically spread over Ireland. Members of the Committee are elected by the Club's Annual General Meeting. The current tenure of office is for one year. Under the chair of the Club's President, the Committee arranges functions and activities as it deems appropriate to achieve the Club's objectives. The Club's President presents a report to the Annual General Meeting, which takes place during the month of December.

The Club is a non-profit organisation. Financial accounts are audited on a yearly basis and presented by the Club's Treasurer for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

Club's Committee



During the 2022 AGM, the following members were elected as Officers, Committee Members and Auditor:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Col Patrick White
Immediate Past President	Brig Gen Paul Pakenham (Retd)
Secretary	Comdt Lar Joye
Treasurer	Col Tom O'Callaghan (Retd)
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)

In January 2023, the Committee co-opted Colonel Brian O'Connor (Retd), Colonel Conor Fitzsimons (Retd), Commandant Chris O'Flanagan (Retd) and Commandant Derek Coulter (Retd) to its forum for the year. Regimental Commanders and the School Commandant nominate Liaison Officers to the Committee.



Current Focus



The Artillery Club will focus on key measurable outputs such as organising appropriate activities and projects, augmenting its Membership base, implementing its communications strategy through its newsletters and emails, enhancing its Web Site, improving the interface with other Corps Clubs, and supporting, as appropriate, State, Defence Forces and Artillery Corps Ceremonies.

Club's Communication Framework



Through its communications framework, the Artillery Club maintains a lasting bond between serving and former officers of the Artillery Corps, its Regiments and School. The primary means of communications is the Club's website, followed by emails and where required normal post, and by word of mouth.

Through means of Newsletters, Information Briefs, Warning Orders, Coordinating Instructions, and regrettably Death Notifications, members are informed of prevailing issues.

Currently, a total of 357 individuals are currently on the "Artillery Community" Contact List which used for the distribution of Club information via emails, far exceeding the current Membership strength. The Contact List in 2015 was 122 individuals.

Club's Website



The Club's Website was formally launched at the 2015 AGM. The Committee remains indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart McNamara (Retd) for his technical advice and expertise, and for the provision of the Website's design and software. The Website is accessible through www.artilleryclub.ie



The Club is availing of the Website to enhance awareness of its mission, objectives, governance and membership. The Website provides a library of significant information on the Artillery Corps and the Artillery Club.

Safeguarding the legacy of the Artillery Corps, the Website provides a repository for appropriate articles and publications, and a library of relative information on the both the Artillery Corps and the Artillery Club.

Currently, the Website's Picture Gallery contains 36 albums reflecting the Artillery Corps, and 49 Albums covering the activities of the Artillery Club.

Partnership with Other Military Clubs



As part of its Outreach Programme, the Artillery Club has effective partnership with the McKee Officers' Club, the Cavalry Club, the Signal Officers Club and the Supply and Transport Club. Club members frequently avail of activities organised by the McKee Officers' Club, such as Theatre Outings and Tours.



Marking the 60th Anniversary of Defence Forces deployment to Lebanon, McKee Officers' Club conducted an extensive trip to the Lebanon in April 2018, which included visits to UNIFIL HQ and the Irish Battalion's Area of Operation. Participants included members of the Artillery Club.

Marking its 75th Anniversary, the Cavalry Club's Annual Dinner was held in the Officers' Mess, Collins Barracks Cork, in November 2019. The Club's President, Colonel Ray O'Léhan presided. The Artillery Club was represented by its President.

Club's Merchandise



The Club's Merchandise includes the following garments and accessories: Jacket, Polo Shirt, Peaker, Tie, and Bow-tie. In 2016, the Artillery Club's Plaque was added to the list of items



in the Club's Clothing Catalogue, maintained by Commandant Chris O'Flanagan (Retd). A Lapel Pin and Tie Clasp were added in 2017. Merchandise is sold on a non-profit basis.

A Club Plaque is also available on the authorisation of the Committee. See Club's Website for Catalogue.

Gunner James Magee



In addition to paying homage to Saint Barbara, its patron saint, the Artillery Corps is unique within the Defence Forces, in that it has an historical figurehead, namely Gunner James Magee, from whom derives the Corps unique esprit de corps, its rich heritage, and its enduring values of professionalism, respect, loyalty, selflessness, physical courage, moral courage and integrity.

Since the establishment of the Artillery Corps on 23 May 1923, Gunner Magee's courage, heroism, and resourcefulness have inspired gunners of all ranks, and his heroic stand during the Battle of Ballinamuck has been commemorated and honoured by the Corps.

In 2018, The Artillery Club commissioned a Paper commemorating and honouring the 220th Anniversary of Gunner Magee's death on 08 September 1798. The comprehensive Paper is based on research carried out by the Artillery Club in August 2018, which derived from existing narratives on Gunner Magee, information from publications and in the print media, and in particular, specific information arising from historical sources, popular culture, folklore, and social memory.



Information on issues relating to Gunner Magee is also included in the Paper: Magee Barracks Kildare, the Magee Gun Trophy, the Battle of Ballinamuck Painting, the Magee March, and the Ballad of Gunner Magee. The Paper on Gunner Magee can be viewed on the Artillery Club's Website: www.artilleryclub.ie



Club's Direct Support - Curragh 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.



Attendees at the 2017 AGM unanimously passed a motion: *that the Artillery Club, within its competencies, undertakes to offer to GOC DFTC to organise and maintain the Artillery display in the Curragh Military Museum on behalf of the Artillery Corps.*

The Artillery Club's Working Group, under the leadership of Colonel Brian O'Connor (Retd), which engages with Lieutenant-Colonel Des Healy the museum's curator, provides 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.



On Monday 02 December 2019, Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd) and RSM John Morris (Retd) secured the side gate of Magee Barracks for the Curragh Museum.

In January 2022, the Club's Committee authorised an appropriate contribution of €400 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.



Members are encouraged to locate and donate Artillery artifacts and material for display in the Artillery Gallery of the Curragh Museum.



On 26 October 2022, during the Club's Decades' Reunion Lunch, Commandant 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 9 inch Coastal Defence Gun kindly donated by Brigadier-General Brian Cleary, General Officer Commanding 1 Brigade.

Club's Projects



The Artillery Club avails of Projects to achieve its objectives. Examples, in chronological order, include: Battle of Ballinamuck Painting; Chief of Staffs' Portraits, Perpetual Trophy Regimental Survey Courses, Church Window Insert – Artillery Club, UN Peacekeeping Medal – Commandant Thomas Wickham RIP, Restoration and Relocation of Main Gate Magee Barracks, Organisation Chart – 4 Field Artillery Battery 1939 – 1945, and 18pdr Mark II QF Field Gun Serial Number 9168.

Battle of Ballinamuck Painting





Honouring Gunner James Magee, who was killed in action on 08 September 1798, the Artillery Club commissioned an oil on canvas painting of the “Battle of Ballinamuck” (1978) by Thomas Ryan PPRHA.

The painting is the property of the Artillery Club. The painting’s dimensions are: 86.4cm x 111.6cm, and it is mounted on a plain mock gilt, non-glazed frame. The painting was unveiled in the Officers’ Mess Magee Barracks, in 1995. Thomas Ryan PPRHA has had many commissions for portraits and he is also well known for his Irish historical scenes, especially those of the 1916 Rising. He was President of the RHA from 1982 to 1993 and was conferred with the Freedom of the City of Limerick.

On the closure of Magee Barracks, the “Battle of Ballinamuck” painting went on loan to the Officers’ Mess Column Barracks, Mullingar. Following the closure of Columb Barracks, the painting was relocated to Custume Barracks Athlone.

In September 2012, Adam’s Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers valued the painting at €30,000.00. On 12 June 2013, Major-General P.F. Nowlan (Retd) formally presented the painting on loan from the Artillery Club to the 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment for display in the Officers’ Mess Custume Barracks Athlone. Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Yorke, OC 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment received the painting.

A brass plaque was provided by the Artillery Club marking the loan of the painting. The proprietorial interest if the Artillery Club is noted on the mess property insurance, Officers’ Mess, Custume Barracks, Athlone.

In 2014, the painting was restored by Ciara Brennan MA, of the Conservation of Fine Art. The painting remains on loan from the Artillery Club to the 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment, and remains on display in the Officers’ Mess, Custume Barracks, Athlone.

Mr Thomas Ryan PPRHA was the Guest of Honour at the Club’s Annual Saint Barbara’s Day Lunch held in Custume Barracks, Athlone on 04 December 2014.

Portraits - Chief of Staff



In recognition of the appointment by An tUachtarán of Artillery Corps officers to Chief of Staff, the Artillery Corps commissioned portraits of Lieutenant-Generals Patrick A. Mulcahy, (1955 – 1960), Tadgh O’Neill (1986 – 1989), and Noel Bergin (1992 - 1995). These portraits, and that commissioned by the Artillery Club for Lieutenant-General Conor O’Boyle (2013 - 2015) are on display in the Artillery School.

The Club remains grateful to Commandant Paddy Walshe (Retd) for undertaking the commission of Lieutenant-General O’Boyle’s portrait pro gratius. The portrait was unveiled on Saint Barbara’s Day 2015, in the DFHQ Officers’ Mess.



Perpetual Trophy – Young Officers’ and Detachment Commanders’ [No Is’] Courses



The Captain Jack Jones Perpetual Trophy is awarded to the best placed student on both the Young Officers Course and on Detachment Commanders’ [No 1s’] Courses.

A native of Suncroft, County Kildare, Jack Jones enlisted in Connolly Barracks Curragh Camp, was commissioned as a Temporary Officer during the Emergency, and served with C Company, 13 Infantry Battalion in Waterford, Curragh, New Ross, and Kilkenny. In 1943, with the reorganization of the Artillery Corps, he transferred to the Corps, successfully completing a Young Officers’ Course, (with Lieutenant Tom Wickham).

As a member of the 18 Cadet Class, 2/Lieutenant Jack Jones was commissioned in 1946, appointed to the Artillery Corps, and posted initially to 7 Field Artillery Regiment in Limerick, and thereafter served with 1 Field Artillery Regiment in Ballincollig, 4 Field Artillery Regiment in Mullingar, and the Depot and School Artillery in Kildare.

Retiring early in 1960, Captain Jones was appointed to the Army Reserve, joined the Neilsen organization, and in April 1962, he established MRBI becoming one of the foremost political analysts in Ireland. Following discussions with the Director of Artillery Colonel Jim Prendergast, Captain Jack Jones (Retd) initiated his Perpetual Trophy in 1994.

The Artillery Club congratulates the following officers who received the Capt Jack Jones Perpetual Trophy from 1994 through 2021, as best student in their respective Young Officers’ Course: 1994 2/Lt F. Costello Depot Artillery, 1996 Lt S. O’Malley 2 Fd Arty Regt, 1999 Lt R. Kane 1 AD Regt, 2000 2/Lt D. Sweeney 1AD Regt 2001, Lt L. Fahey 2 Fd Arty Regt, 2003 2/Lt O. Jennings 2 Fd Arty Regt, 2004 2/Lt D. McElroy 2 Fd Arty Regt, 2005 2/Lt R. Kavanagh 2 Fd Arty Regt, 2006 2/Lt A. Quinn 4 Fd Arty Regt, 2007 Lt J. Malynn 4 Fd Arty Regt. 2009 2/Lt E. Murphy 4 Fd Arty Regt, 2010 2/Lt E. Gallagher 4 Fd Arty Regt, 2011 Lt D. Coffey 2 Fd Arty Regt, 2012 Lt J. Hopkins Arty School, 2014 Lt E. Maguire 2 AR, 2015 Lt C. Clancy 1 AR, 2017 Lt A. Quigley 2 AR, 2018 2/Lt P.J. Dalton 1 AR, 2019 Lt A. Gallagher 2 AR, 2020 Capt P. Dowling 1 AR, 2021 2/Lt C. Whelan 2 AR.

Perpetual Trophy – Regimental Survey Courses

In 2016, having received approval from Mrs Mary Brown, and in consultation with the Artillery School, the Committee decided that the Artillery Club will sponsor a Perpetual Trophy in the memory of Commandant Dave Brown (Retd) RIP, awarded to the first placed student on the Artillery School’s Regimental Survey Courses.



A native of Dublin, Commandant Dave Brown enlisted as a gunner in the 2 Field Artillery Regiment and was awarded a Cadetship in Óglaigh na hÉireann. Graduating as a member of the 51 Cadet Class, he was commissioned in 1975 and appointed to the 4 Field Artillery Regiment.

Following his Artillery Young Officers' Course, Lieutenant Dave Brown was posted to the Artillery School, where he was renowned for his technical and tactical knowledge. He was first in the Defence Forces to fire the Milan Anti-Tank Missile in Glen Imaal. As a Gunner Officer, Commandant Dave Brown also served in the Depot Artillery, 3 Battery, 6 Field Artillery Regiment (FCA) and 1 Air Defence Regiment.

Serving his country in the cause of peace, Commandant Dave Brown's overseas tours of duty included UNIFIL in Lebanon, UNTAC in Cambodia and MINORSO in Western Sahara. He also served as a Staff Officer in Defence Forces Headquarters and HQ Curragh Command.



The Perpetual Trophy consists of a mounted Director No 7 Mark 5, extensively used by our Field Artillery Units from 1941 up to the early 1970s, when it was replaced by the Director L1A1. The following number is inscribed on the director used as the Trophy: O.S. 1815GA POC 393 o.53910.S.A. The Perpetual Trophy project was successfully overseen by Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd).

On 13 July 2017, Club members were present in Coolmoney Camp when the Director of Artillery, Colonel Ray Yorke formally opened the Brown Hall, in the presence of the late Commandant Dave Brown's wife Mary, daughter Laura and mother.

On 04 December 2017, the Club President presented the first recipient of the Perpetual Trophy to Gunner Cleary 2 Artillery Regiment. On the same day, the Club President made a formal presentation to RSM John Morris in recognition of his commendable service to the Artillery School and steadfast support to the Artillery Club.



Church Window Insert



On behalf of the Club's Committee, Commandant Richie Armstrong (Retd) coordinated the design and production of a Window Insert for the Garrison Church, McKee Barracks consisting of the Club's Logo.

The window was formally dedicated and blessed by Rev Fr Bob McCabe CF during the Annual Commemorative Mass held on 14 November 2015. The 2 Air Defence Battery's pennant was also laid-up during the Commemorative Mass.

UN Peacekeepers Medal – Commandant Thomas P. Wickham (RIP)



On 23 November 2017, under the auspices of the Artillery Club, at a formal ceremony in the Defence Forces Officers' Mess, Brigadier-General Howard Berney, General Officer Commanding 2 Brigade, presented the United Nations Peacekeepers Medal to Mrs Patricia Wickham, wife of Commandant Thomas (Tommy) P. Wickham RIP.

At the time of his death, Commandant Wickham was deployed to the Golan Heights as an unarmed United Nations Military Observer. Tragically, he was shot and killed by a Syrian soldier, while trying to relieve United Nations observer positions on 07 June, 1967.

The action occurred at a Syrian checkpoint at the old Roman bridge near the village of Ar Rafid on the Golan Heights, in the vicinity of Quineitra, just one day after the start of "The 6 Day War".

A Lecture Room in the Artillery School is dedicated to Commandant Wickham.



Restoration and Relocation of Main Gate – Magee Barracks Kildare



The Artillery Club actively supported Regimental Sergeant-Major John Morris' notable initiative of preserving, restoring, and relocating the gates of the former Magee Barracks, Kildare. The gates, which depict 22 guns deployed in action, guarded the entrance to Magee Barracks, from the late 1930s until the barracks closed in 1998.

Magee Barracks was sold as a result of an auction in February 2016 at a reported price in the region of €8.2 million for the 51.4 acre site. The Club's Committee was encouraged with the attendance of a considerable number of its members at the formal handover of the restored Main Gate of Magee Barracks to the Curragh Museum on 13 April 2017.

Organisation Chart – 4 Field Artillery Battery 1939 – 1945



The Artillery Club received from Mrs Kathern Smyth the framed Organisation Chart of the 4 Field Artillery Battery 1939 - 1945, which was commanded by her father, Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Burke RIP. Colonel Seamus McDermott (Retd) supervised the project, and the Artillery Club remains grateful to Commandant Paddy Walsh (Retd) for his technical and material support. The chart is on display in the Artillery School.

18pdr Mark II QF Field Gun Serial Number 9168





Pursuant to its objectives, the Artillery Club wishes to formally convey its appreciation to the Defence Forces for the authentication, acquisition, recovery, storage, conservation and restoration of the Mark II QF Field Gun, Serial Number 9168 (Civil War Gun), with its distinctive type of recoil system, currently on loan from the Defence Forces, and on display in the Soldiers and Chiefs Exhibition, National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks Dublin.

This Field Gun played a significant role in the Irish Civil War of 1922 – 1923, when it was acquired by the new Irish State from the departing British forces. It was likely one of the four Field Guns deployed against the anti-Treaty IRA forces occupying the Four Courts in June 1923. This Field Gun was discovered in the United States of America, authenticated, recovered to Ireland by the Defence Forces, and was successfully restored to its original state by the Ordnance Corps.



During its visit to Ordnance Base Workshops on 21 April 2022, the Artillery Club's President availed of the opportunity of saluting the considerable research, and significant conservation and restoration work undertaken in the Ordnance Base 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 (AR), and assisted by Mr Sven Habermann and Ms Brenda Malone National Museum of Ireland.

From 2016 to 2022, the Artillery Club played a significant oversight role in the project and an overview of the project can be seen on the Club's Website at www.artilleryclub.ie.

Club's Activities





Regarding its activities, the Club acknowledges the encouragement and support provided by the Director of Artillery, the Artillery School, the 1 Brigade Artillery Regiment and the 2 Brigade Artillery Regiment. The Club's activities are of an Artillery nature, appealing to many members. A programme of events is published on a yearly basis and is well supported.

Tried and tested activities include the award of the Best Student on the Young Officers' Artillery Course and the Detachment Commanders' [Number 1s'] Course, attending Live Firing Shoots conducted by the Artillery Regiments in Glen Imaal, Annual Golf Competition, Foreign Field Trips, Field Trips in Ireland, Decades' Reunion (inaugurated in September 2016), Annual Saint Barbara's Day Celebrations, and attending Artillery Parades, and National and Regional State and Military Ceremonies.

Arising from the Government's guidance on Covid-19, Club activities such as Committee Meetings, Annual General Meetings, Foreign Field Trips, Field Trips in Ireland, and the Annual Golf Outing, were deferred in 2020.

Annual Saint Barbara's Day Celebrations



The Artillery School's Annual Prayer Service in honour of Saint Barbara, Patron Saint of the Artillery Corps and Gunners worldwide, takes place at the Saint Barbara's Monument located in the Artillery School, followed by the firing of the Miniature Guns.

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



H.E. Kevin Vickers ONB SC, Canadian Ambassador was the Guest of Honour – December 2018

Colonel Seán Grant UK Defence Attaché was Guest of Honour – December 2022

The Artillery Club hosts its Annual Saint Barbara's Day Lunch in the Defence Forces Headquarters Mess, McKee Barracks Dublin.



115 Infantry Battalion UNIFIL 04 December 2019

Saint Barbara lived and died in what is now modern-day Lebanon making it particularly special for the gunners young and old deployed in UNIFIL to come together in observation of one of the Artillery Corps longest and proudest traditions.

The highlight of Saint Barbara's Day on 04 December 2019 was "The Battle of the Subs", which saw 5 teams go head-to-head in a series of timed, robust challenges. These challenges tested the physical courage of the crews and the technical skill and knowledge of each Detachment Commander. Saint Barbara's Day celebrations provided a platform for the development of unit cohesion, shared professional competence and the fostering of morale and new-found comradery.

Foreign Field Trips



Normandy 2013, Somme 2014 - Segovia 2015 - Granada 2016 – Lisbon 2017 - Vienna 2018 – Athens 2019



On an annual basis, the Club conducts a Foreign Field Trip such as visiting Battlefields in Belgium and France, and Artillery Schools in European countries. For example, since 2000 the Club visited:

- 2000: Royal Artillery School, Larkhill;
- 2002: Royal Artillery School, Larkhill;
- 2013: Second World D-Day Landings, Normandy;
- 2014: First World War Battlefields, Somme and Ypres;
- 2015: Madrid and the Royal Artillery Academia in Segovia;
- 2016: Malaga and the Spanish Training and Doctrine Command (MADOC) in Granada;
- 2017: Lisbon and the Portuguese All Arms School in Mafra;
- 2018: Vienna and the Austrian Land Forces College, including the Artillery School, in Zwölfaxing;
- 2019: Athens and the Hellenic Artillery School, located in Néa Péramos, Attikis, and
- 2023: London and the Kings Troop, Royal Horse Artillery (TBC).

Field Trips in Ireland



Fort Dunree 2016, Collins Barracks 2016, Inaugural Decades Reunion 2016, Air Corps 2017, 2 Regt 2017, Glen 2017, AGM 2017, Birr 2018, Killiney Martello Tower 2019, Áras an Uachtaráin 2019, Equitation School 2019, Spike 2019 DFTC 2021, Decades Reunion 2022.



In recent years, Field Trips in Ireland included:

- LÉ Niamh (2003), Military Archives (2005), State Apartments (2005), Houses of the Oireachtas (2006), Malahide Castle (2006), ATC Dublin Airport (2007), Soldiers and Chiefs Exhibition (2007), Artillery School (2008), LÉ Roisín (2008),
- Casement Aerodrome (2011), “Victoria’s Wars” National Museum of Ireland (2012), West Cork Tour – War of Independence and Civil War Ambush Sites [McKee Officers’ Mess] (2012), “The Irish and France” exhibition and Asgard Exhibition (2013), 2 Brigade Artillery and Custume Barracks Athlone – Ballinamuck Panting (2013), Spike Island – 75th Anniversary of the Handover of the Treaty Ports (2013),
- Viewing of “The Irish Soldier on Film (2014), Pals Production – Collins Barracks (2015) Soldiers and Chiefs Exhibition (2016 & 2023), Fort Dunree (2016), Air Corps, Casement Aerodrome (2017), Custume Barracks: 2 Artillery Regiment and Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa: 5 Fd Arty Regt FCA (2017),
- Dublin Port Heritage Trail (2018), School of Music and Military Archives (2018), Templemore and Birr: 3 and 31 Field Artillery Regiments FCA (2018), Killiney Martello Tower (2019), Equitation School and Áras an Uachtaráin (2019), Spike Island and Camden Fort Meagher (2019),
- Ordnance School and Curragh Museum (2022), Artillery School and National Stud (2023), Fort Shannon, Foynes Flying Boat Museum, Bunratty, Árd na Crusha and St John’s Castle (2023).

State and Defence Forces Ceremonies



Veterans’ Day, National Day of Commemoration and National Memorial

National Day of Commemoration and Wreath Laying Ceremony National Memorial 2017

The Artillery Club is represented at numerous State and Defence Forces Ceremonies such as the National Day of Commemoration Ceremony in the Royal Hospital Kilmanham and in Collins Barracks Dublin, the Defence Forces Wreath Laying Ceremonies at the National Memorial on Merrion Square Dublin and the Annual Veterans’ Day.

The National Memorial was unveiled by President Mary McAleese in November 2008 and is the National Memorial to members of the Defence Forces, Óglaigh na hÉireann, who died in the service of the State. It is a place of contemplation and remembrance, where families,



relatives and members of the public can reflect on the sacrifice our fallen comrades have made for Ireland.

Members of the Artillery Club also attend the Annual Commemoration and Wreath-Laying Ceremony at The Irish National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge.

Annual Golf Competition



Curragh 2015, Blarney 2016, Glasson 2017, Hermitage 2018, Woodenbridge 2019, Birr 2021, Middleton 2022

An Annual Golf Competition is organised for Club members, including their spouses, partners and guests. Confined to serving and retired members of the Artillery Corps, the Captain Jack Jones Perpetual Trophy is awarded to be best score during the Annual Golf Competition. In recent years, the competition was held in the:

- Thurles Golf Club (2004), Mullingar Golf Club (2005), Curragh Golf Club (2006), Mullingar Golf Club (2007), Curragh Golf Club (2008), Mullingar Golf Club (2009), Curragh Golf Club (2010),
- Muskerry Golf Club (2011), Curragh Golf Club (2012), Athlone Golf Club (2013), Dundrum House Count Club (2014), Royal Curragh Golf Club (2015), Blarney House Golf Club (2016), Glasson Hotel Golf Club (2017),
- Heritage Golf Resort (2018), Woodenbridge Golf Club (2019), [No competition in 2020 – Covid], Birr Golf Club (2021) and the East Cork Golf Course at Middleton (2022). The Artillery Club will be returning to the Royal Curragh Golf Club in August 2023.

The winners of the Captain Jack Jones Perpetual Trophy are:

- Lt Col R A Twomey (2004), Comdt P Whelan (2005), Comdt S Finnegan (2006), Comdt S Finnegan (2007), Capt T Nolan (2008), Col E Breslin (2009), Comdt G Gibson (2010), Lt Col B Crowley (2011),
- Capt B Carey (2012), Lt Col B Crowley (2013), Comdt N Conneely (2014), Lt Col P O'Grady (2015), Lt Col R A Twomey (2016), Capt T Nolan (2017),



- Capt T Nolan (2018), Capt B Carey (2019), 2020 - No Competition (Covid), Comdt G Gibson (2021), and Lt Col C Lalor (2022).

A programme for non-golfers also prevailed. For example for the 2014 Annual Golf Competition, the non-golfers programme included an organised tour to Holycross Abbey, Bianconi Chapel, the Bru Boru Cultural Centre in Cashel and the Swiss Cottage in Kilcommon, Caher.

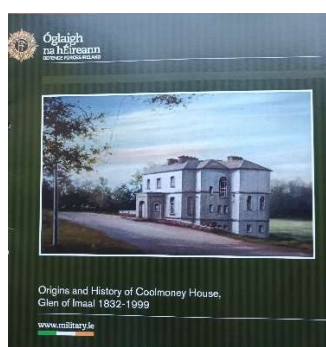
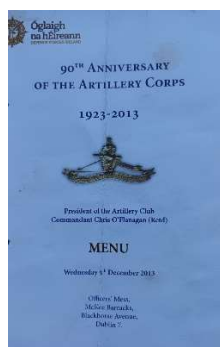
Annual Disbanded Units' Mass



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), takes place in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, McKee Barracks during the month of November.

Following the Mass, a Wreath Laying Ceremony takes place at the Flag Pole, during which the Club's President lays a wreath on behalf of the members. Thereafter, attendees adjourn to the Catering Complex for refreshments. The Artillery Club contributes towards the cost of the reception. The 54th Annual Commemorative Mass, coordinated, as in recent years, by Commandant Richard Armstrong (Retd) assisted by the 2 Field Artillery Regiment Association, took place on 12 November 2022.

Gala Dinner – 90th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Artillery Corps



The Artillery Club hosted a Gala Dinner on 04 December 2013 in the Defence Forces Headquarters Officers' Mess, marking the 90th Anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Corps. The Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Conor O'Boyle was the Guest of Honour.

A copy of "Origins and History of Coolmoney House, Glen Imaal 1832 – 1999", compiled by Commandant Joe Kelly from research notes of Commandant Liam "Bill" Dooley RIP, was distributed to all attendees.



Passchendaele – 100 Gun Salute



The Passchendaele Salute took place on 10 November 2017, at Fort Seclin, near Lille in France. Events included a ceremony of remembrance and a 100 Gun Salute to commemorate the centenary of the end of the Battle of Passchendaele.

The Gun Salute was fired by 10 field guns drawn by horses, with the crews coming from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Ireland, New Zealand, and UK. Coordinated by Commandant Lar Joye, 18 serving and retired Gunner Officers and 2 spouses travelled to Lille.

An 18-Pounder Saluting Gun was crewed by Lieutenant-Colonel Eamonn Fogarty (Retd), Commandant Michael Sutcliffe, Lieutenant Mark Rasmussen (Retd), Lieutenant Niall Costello, Captain Tom Butler (Retd) and Commandant Lar Joye.

Gala Dinner – 95th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Artillery Corps



On 05 July 2018, the Artillery Club hosted a formal Gala Dinner in the Defence Forces Headquarters Officers' Mess, marking the 95th Anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Corps. GOC 2 Brigade Brigadier-General and Mrs Howard Berney were the Guests of Honour at the event.

The Toast to An tUachtarán was proposed by GOC 2 Brigade. Colonel Brian Cleary Director of Artillery addressed the attendees, and proposed the toast to the Artillery Corps. With an attendance of 72, the Gala Dinner was a resounding success and a fitting way to mark the 95th Anniversary of the establishment of the Artillery Corps.



90th Anniversary Parade Reserve Defence Force



A military parade celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the foundation of the Reserve Defence Force took place in Collins Barracks, Dublin, on 16 April 2019. Speaking at the ceremony, the Minister of State with Responsibility for Defence, Mr Paul Kehoe TD said that the Reserve Defence Forces had a long and proud history, and holds a special place in the hearts of many people around the country. Commandant Lar Joye was the Master of Ceremonies.

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. It is worth noting that this activity, like the Club's Gala Dinner in 2018, strongly endorses the existence for an Artillery Club, with both activities supporting a key objective of the Club, namely to preserve the values, ethos and traditions of the Artillery Corps.

Defence Forces 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal

The 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal was presented to serving personnel of the Permanent Defence Force and the Reserve Defence Forces at Dublin Castle, on Sunday 4th December 2016.

The awarding of the 1916 Centenary Commemorative Medal is a special acknowledgement from the Government to the members of Óglaigh na hÉireann who have served during the centenary year of 2016. The award highlighted the Government's appreciation of the excellent work undertaken by the members of Óglaigh na hÉireann, both at home and overseas, and the commitment to excellence which is a hallmark of the Defence Forces.



The President presented the first medal to the Chief of Staff Vice-Admiral Mark Mellet DSM, and thereafter to seven personnel representing the commissioned and enlisted personnel of the three components of the Defence Forces including Commandant Lar Joye.

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 2019. 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.

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

Once a Gunner – Always a Gunner.

Keep Those Limbers Rolling Along

THE ARTILLERY CLUB



10 May 2023