

Dun Ui Mhurchadha

Murphy Barracks, Ballincollig

It is true to state that Ballincollig is quite a modern town in origin. It grew up around a military garrison. Richard Og Barrett built a castle on a limestone rock which rises abruptly from the surrounding countryside, just south of the town. This castle was built in 1365 and remained in Barrett hands until 1642 when Oliver Cromwell's troops garrisoned it. One tower and some of the walls are all that remain of the castle now. At that time there were 103 people living in the township of Ballincollig.

THE ARTILLERY BARRACKS

The Artillery Barracks, as it was called, was completed in 1810 and was garrisoned by the 7th and 9th Batteries Royal Artillery under the command of a Captain A. Wall. Samuel Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary of Ireland describes it: "The Artillery Barracks form a quadrangular pile of buildings, having on the eastern range the officers apartments, and on the western side a hospital, and a neat church, built in 1814, in which divine service is regularly performed by a resident chaplain. The buildings contain accommodation for 18 officers and 242 noncommissioned officers and privates and are adapted to receive eight gun batteries. In the centre of the quadrangle, eight gun sheds are placed in two lines and near them are the stables and offices. Within the walls is a large and commodious school room". At this time, 1837, there were 837 inhabitants in Ballincollig.

The Barracks remained in artillery hands, with two or three field batteries stationed there at a time, up to 1866. In 1814 when the 7th Battery Royal Artillery was stationed there under the command of a Major Evilly a riot took place.

The function of the barracks at this time was to protect the gunpowder manufactured at the mills and to escort it, via Magazine Road, where some powder was stored in magazines, on to Rocky Island, which was then a small island. It is now part of the foundation for the bridge that links Haulbowline to nearby Ringaskiddy. From Rocky Island the gunpowder went to feed British guns which conquered not only India but the British Empire, "on which the sun never sat". This demonstrates the importance of the powder mills and the importance of the barracks which supplied its protection.

Conal Sheeran

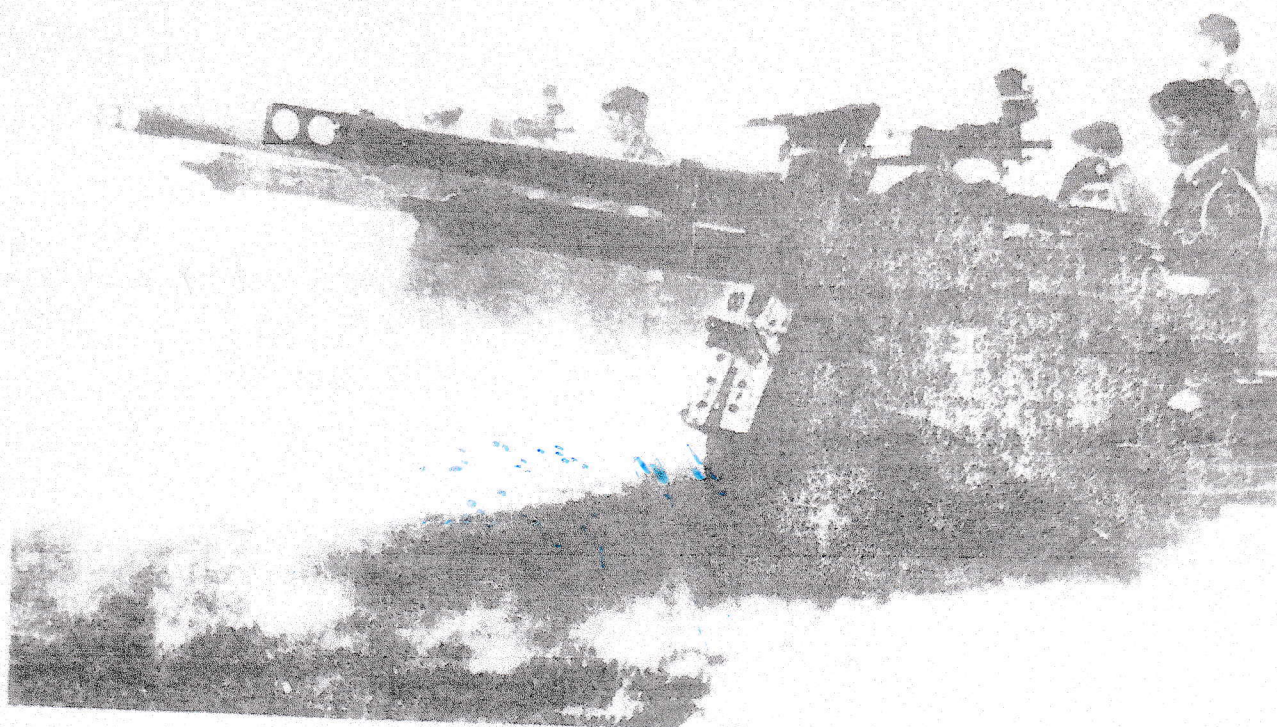
1ST FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT

In mid 1946 the 1st Field Artillery Regiment, formed two years previously in Clonmel, took over command and control of the barracks. It is still there to this day. The barracks then became known as the Military Outpost.

Officers, NCOs, and gunners of the 1st Field Artillery Regiment have served overseas with the United Nations in the Congo, Cyprus, Middle East, on different peace keeping missions. As an operational unit we are today fully involved in all facets of training, security and aid to the civil power duties and UN service while the Glen Imaal is our home from home for Artillery training and firing practices. This unit has had personnel serving with United Nations in Lebanon (UNIFIL) since its inception in 1978. In addition it has special ceremonial commitments providing gun salutes for visiting dignitaries at Shannon Airport and visiting Naval Vessels to Cork.



*1st Fd Arty Regt
Forming up Prior to going to Glen Imaal 1955*



*Gunners 1st Fd Arty Regt
Firing Gun Salute For Opening Ceremonies Cork 800 Celebrations 1 Jan '85*



Annual Firing Practices Glen Imaal 1985