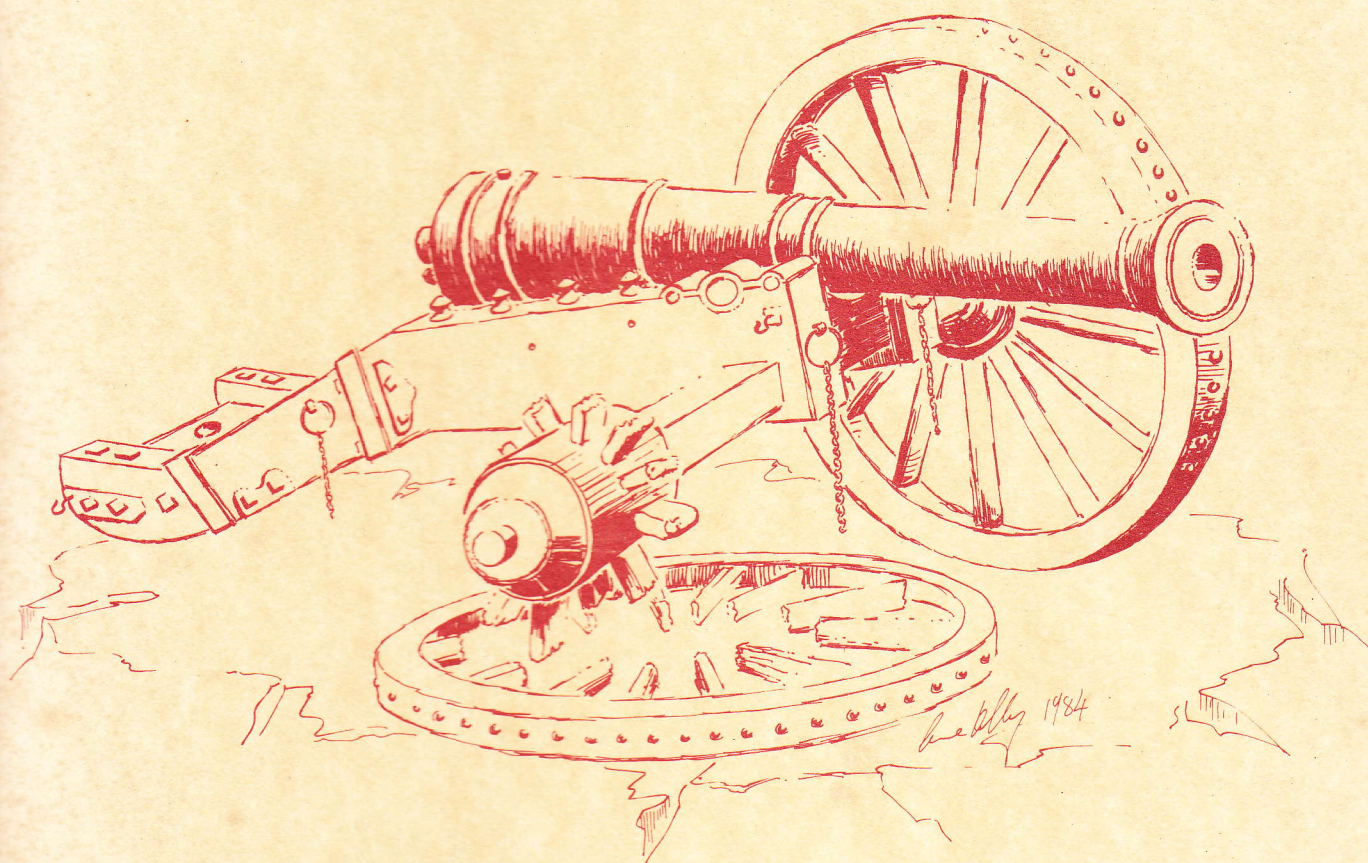


# 6 Field Artillery Regiment F.C.A.

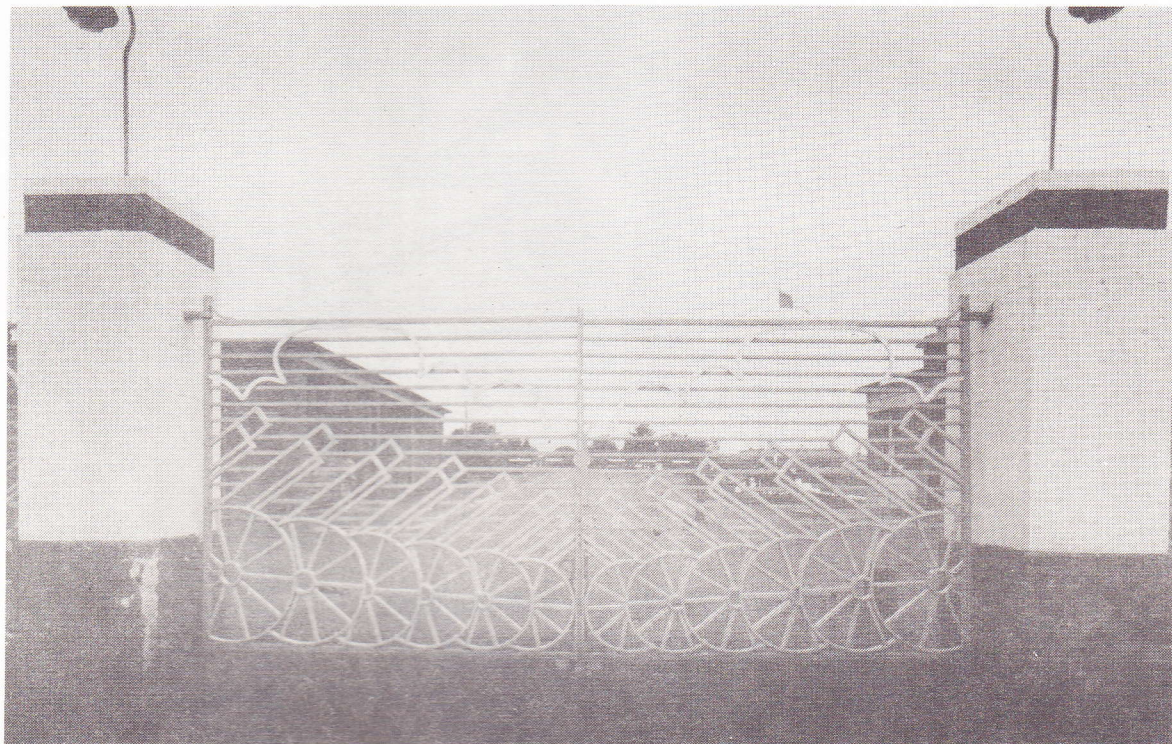


## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

1959 - 1984



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OF  
6 FD. ARTILLERY REGIMENT F.C.A.  
SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER, 1984.

PROGRAMME.

1. 1200 hrs – On Parade – Detachments Front.
2. Review by Director of Artillery Col. P. F. Monahan.
3. Address by Director of Artillery.
4. Presentations to Comdt. F. McGowan and B/S Geoghegan by Regimental Commander.
5. Deployment of Guns and “Fue de Joie”.
6. Equipment Display – Artillery School.
7. 1245 hrs – Assembly in New Canteen.
8. 1300 hrs – Lunch – Dining Hall.
9. 1400 hrs approx – Dispersal.



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### EDITORIAL

This magazine could not have been produced without the full co-operation of the Battery Commanders, Area Officers, Officers and Gunners of the 6th Field Artillery Regiment F.C.A. To those, and the many individuals who gave of their time to seek supportive advertising, I am most grateful. I would like to especially thank Comdt. John Miley and Comdt. Maurice Scanlon who supported me in researching, and producing the many photographs and articles which appear herein. Also I am not forgetting the P.D.F. staff, and particularly Q.M. Paddy Newman for his tireless research and exhaustive typewriting.

The co-operation and enthusiasm shown by many has made this magazine possible. It certainly highlights the full value of teamwork, a trait which is not lacking in the 6th F.A.R. I am most proud that I was given the task of editing and producing this historical record of our 25 glorious years. I sincerely hope that all my fellow gunners share in this experience of renewing memories of times past, both written and in photographs.

Let none of us forget our many deceased comrades. Some photographs are merely a record of their past and dedicated service both in the F.C.A. and originally in the L.D.F. I sincerely hope that they will be present with us here today, in spirit, to share in this wonderful 25th Celebration. May their souls rest with God.

Commandant P. L. Bradley.  
Editor.

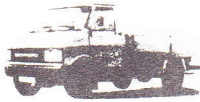
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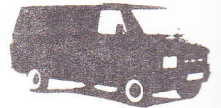


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Since its formation in 1959 the 6th Field Artillery Regiment has always aspired to the highest standards of the 'Gunner' in technical and tactical proficiency. The dedicated work of the Officers, NCO's and Gunners has been a source of satisfaction to successive Directors of Artillery.

The contribution which the 6th Regiment has made to the PDF both in supplying Officers, NCO's and men and in assisting in security duties has been invaluable.

I congratulate the Regiment on its 25th Anniversary and wish it continued success in the future. 25 years is but a short span in history and I encourage the present members to set and maintain the highest standards so that future recruits will feel honoured to be accepted in the 6th Field Artillery Regiment.

Keep those limbers rolling,

P. F. Monahan. Col.  
Director of Artillery.



#### INTRODUCTION

On this occasion of the twenty fifth anniversary of the 6th Field Artillery Regiment I am privileged as Commanding Officer to be able to pay tribute to a unit whose members, since its inception, have served the State and the Defence Forces with unswerving loyalty and an excellent standard of military professionalism. In historical terms twenty five years is a short period. This time span has witnessed the transition of Infantry Soldiers of the Local Defence Force of Kildare, Offaly and West Wicklow into Artillery gunners. Much sweat, tears, determination and indeed laughter was injected into this task by many people over the last quarter century. The success of their endeavours is manifest in the Regiment today. Its members can state with pride that they have successfully employed some of the most modern Artillery equipments in service in the Western World in terms of guns, target acquisition and computerised fire control systems. On behalf of the previous Regimental Commanders and on my own behalf may I express my gratitude to F.C.A. and P.D.F. members alike for the dedication and zeal that has produced this standard of competence.

A significant feature of the Regiment has always been its high morale and esprit-de-corps. In consequence those who served in the unit retain a special endearment for it and an undiminished interest in its activities. You will undoubtedly notice among the fresh faces of some gunners on parade today a remarkable similarity to old photographs in this magazine. I am particularly pleased to be in command of this second generation of 6th Regiment Gunners. While it may be somewhat sad evidence to their fathers that twenty five years have indeed passed, albeit too rapidly, I am sure they take solace in the fact that their sons are carrying forward their customs and principles in a spirit of pride and optimism for the future. Long may this tradition continue. I believe we may all feel confident that future contributions of the 6th Regiment to the Army and State will be as significant as those of the last twenty five years.

The Regiment is fortunate in being co-located with the Artillery School in Magee Barracks. Successive School Commandants and their staffs have always provided the unit with unique guidance and access to training equipment. We are also deeply indebted to the Commanding Officers of Magee and Devoy Barracks and the 1st Anti Aircraft Regiment without whose administrative support and co-operation we could not complete our training tasks.

Commandant Raymond J. Quinn.  
Officer Commanding  
6th Field Artillery Regiment.



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### UNIT HISTORY – 6 FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT

September 1939 saw the out-break of hostilities between Great Britain and Germany. In 1940 due to the heightened tension in Europe, the Irish Government declared 'The Emergency'. One of the practical implications of this Emergency was the formation of the Local Security Force (LSF). The LSF was subsequently divided into two (2) groups, one (1) under Garda control, the other under Army control. The Army controlled group became known as the Local Defence Force (LDF).

In the Kildare-Offaly area there were (3) LDF Battalions, namely the Edenderry Bn, the North Kildare (Naas HQ) Bn, and the South Kildare (Kildare HQ) Bn. Among the original volunteers to the three Battalions were Peter Brennan, Ger Kinchella, Charlie Geoghegan, Paddy Winders, George Keogh (decd), (All North Kildare Bn), P. Buckley, J. P. Keane, M (Sonny) Collins, Des Farrell, T. Judge (decd), Bob O'Connor (All Edenderry Bn, Comdt. Mattie Nolan (decd), Capt Jack Murphy (decd), Capt S. Brennan (decd), Sgts. Dinny Collins, Roland Garrett, Tony Smith, Connie Byrne, Jim Mahoney, Fred McGowan and Paddy Dooley (decd), all Sth Kildare Bn.) Bty Sergeant Charlie Geoghegan and Comdt. Fred McGowan served until this year - our last link with the early days, now unhappily severed by time.

At the end of the Second World War the LDF became known as An Forca Cosanta Aitiuil (FCA). The three (3) Battalions continued to operate in an Infantry capacity until integration of the FCA units into the Army in October 1959. From that date the Battalions changed over to Artillery weapons and they also underwent an identity change. The Edenderry Bn became the 11th Heavy Mortar Battery, the South Kildare Bn became the 5th Field Artillery Battery and the North Kildare Bn became the 6th Field Artillery Battery. Each of these Batteries were sub-units of the 6th Field Artillery Regiment. The Regimental Headquarters being based in Magee Barracks, Kildare.

The first Artillery Shoot for the 6th Field Artillery Regiment took place on Annual Camp in the Glen of Imaal during August 1960. The Gunnery Instructor for the shoot was Comdt. Tom McDunphy - later GOC, Curragh Command. Each Battery consisted of eight (8) guns. The 5th and 6th Batteries fired 18 Pounders and the 11th the 120mm Heavy Mortar. The Leinster Leader reported that Cpl Willie Gibson was very proud of his crew's achievement in firing 62 shells in two (2) days practice. Cpl. Gibson later joined the Regular Army and is presently serving as a Gunnery Instructor in The Artillery School.

Other members of the Regiment who later joined the Regular Army include Comdt. Sean Brennan, Comdt. Adrian Mulleney, Comdt. Ger Swan, Lt. Karl Croke, Lt. Tony Denvir. Other past and present members have occupations as diverse as the priesthood, accountants, teachers, engineers, gardai and the prison service.

Since the original Artillery Shoot the Regiment has fired a considerable variety of weapons including the 25 Pdr, 3.7 inch Howitzer, 4.5 inch Howitzer, the 81mm Mortar and the 120mm Mortar. The 5th FA Battery along with the 6th FA Battery joined a composite battery in 1981 to fire the 105mm Light Gun. The first (and only) FCA unit so far to do so. Comdt. George Murphy was the Regimental C.O. during this milestone in our history. This particular shoot was carried out using the Field Artillery Computer Equipment (FACE) and the Laser Range Finder. The spectacular results achieved on this shoot opened all our eyes to the benefits of computer technology in the modern day Artillery Corps.

On the ceremonial front the Regiment has had a very busy time over the years. Most recently a Regimental Guard of Honour rendered compliments to the Minister for Defence, Mr. Cooney at an FCA Officers Commissioning Ceremony in the Curragh. The Minister for Finance, Mr. Dukes also inspected a Guard of Honour drawn from the Regiment at the Opening of Kildare Derby Festival. The individual batteries of the Regiment also take part in civic functions and events organised in their locality.

Although FCA units, by nature tend to have a high turnover of members, the 6th Regiment has not suffered at NCO/Officer level in this regard. Each Battery Commander has in excess of 20 years service, while the other serving officers have an average of 17 years service. Long serving NCO's include RSM Tom Murphy, BQMS Joe Meade, BQMS Frank Lawlor, B/S Tom Morrissey and Charlie Byrne Sgt, 'Podger Dunne', Larry O'Reilly and 'Kipper' Herron. There are many other serving members with long service, for which we are extremely appreciative as it leads to good continuity when each year's training commences.

Lr. G. Gibson, 6 Battery.



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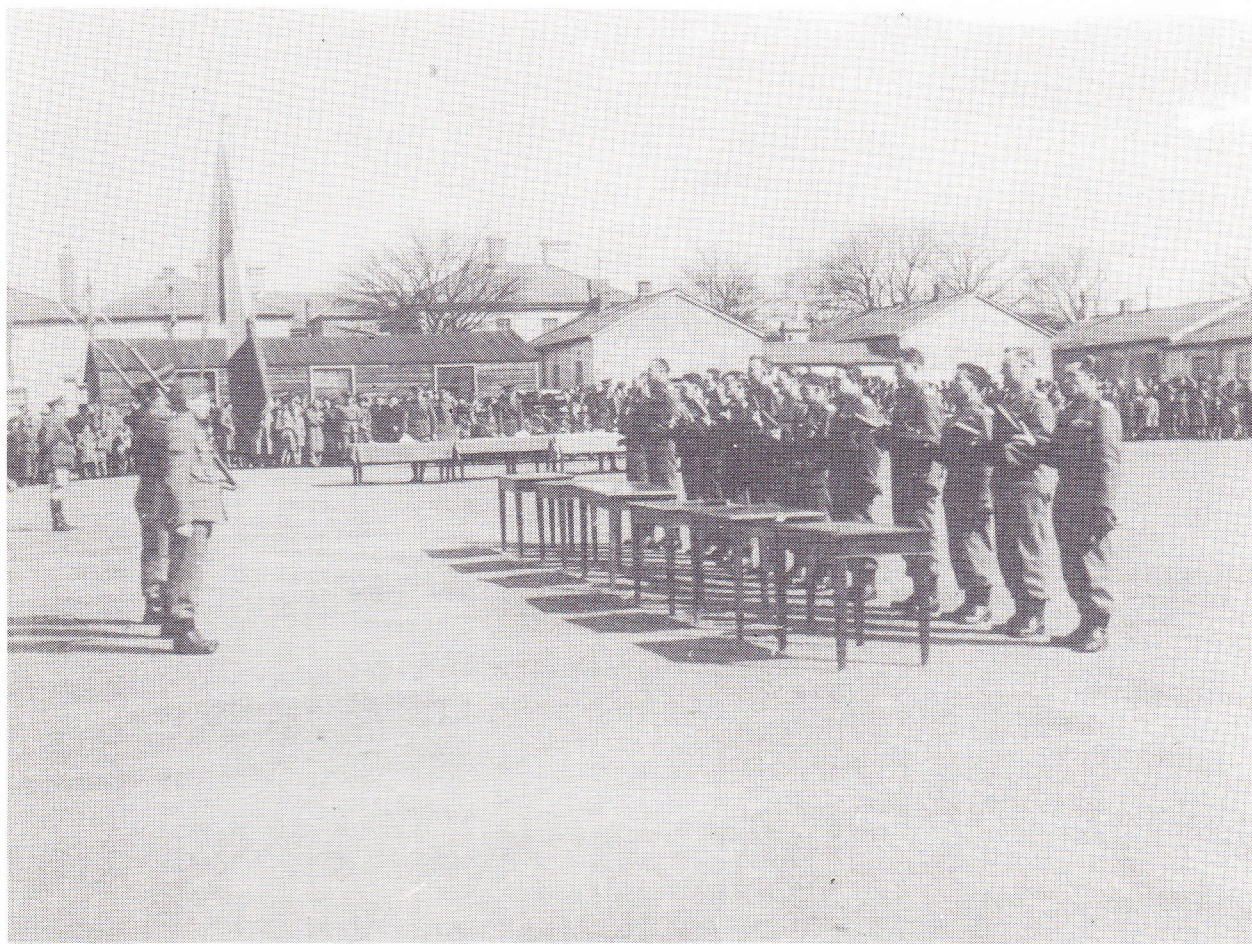


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Commissioning of first FCA Officers in 1946 in Ceannt Bks. Capt. J. P. Keane 2nd from left.



EDENDERRY BN ON PARADE ST. PATRICK'S DAY — EARLY 50's

Included are: Capt. P. Buckley, Lt. J. P. Keane, Lt D. Farrell.  
Parade taken by Comdt. M. Wedick (Kildare/Offaly FCA)





POTENTIAL OFFICERS COURSE 1963

Included are: O. Murphy, W. Nott, P. G. Boyle, S. Moore, L. Carroll (RIP),  
Officers i/c Comdt. Sullivan & Capt. L. Clancy.



ANNUAL CAMP 1968

On the occasion of the visit to Waterford Bks., by the Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. S. MacEoin.





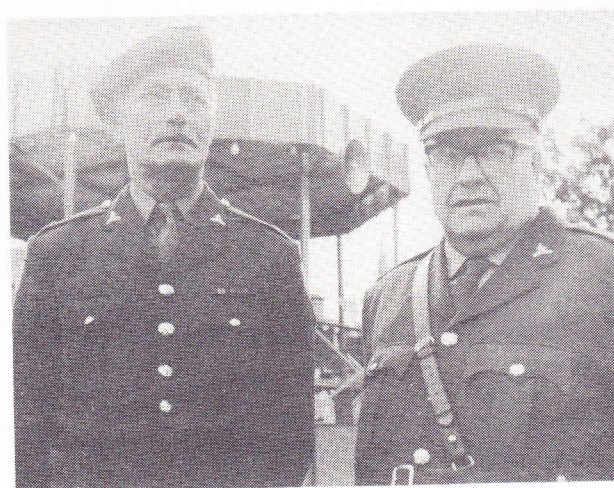
Bty/Sgt. C. Geoghegan and Sgt. A. Smyth  
There's many the slip 'twixt the cup and the lip, but not between these two Gentlemen!



OPENING OF NEW CHURCH, BALLYMORE.



OPENING OF CARAGH CHURCH 1960  
Included are: A. J. Mallowney, FJ Lawler, J. Miley, G. Swan, S. Moore, P. Winder. Officer i/c Lt. McGinley.



Comdt. J. Frost & Comdt. J. Higgins.

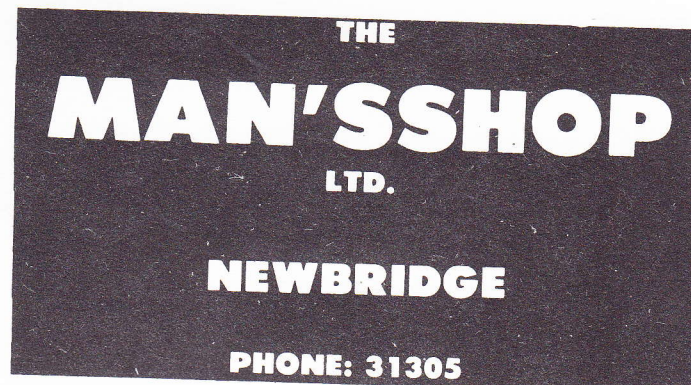


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# 6 FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT

## COMMANDING OFFICERS

Comdt. I. P. Noone 1959 - 1962  
 Comdt. T. Walsh 1962 - 1969  
 Comdt. J. Higgins 4/1968 - 10/1968 ( Acting OC)  
 11/1969 - 5/1970 5/1970 - 12/1970  
 Comdt. T. M. McDunphy 1969 - 1972  
 Comdt. P. J. Croke 1972 - 1976  
 Comdt. M. McMahon 1976 - 1980  
 Comdt. G. Murphy 1980 -  
 Comdt. J. Murray 1980 -  
 Comdt. G. Murphy 1980 - 1982  
 Comdt. P. G. Boyle 1982 - 1983 (Acting OC)  
 Comdt. R. Quinn 1983 -

## STAFF OFFICERS

Capt. T.F.D. Duff 1959 -  
 Capt. T. A. Ryan 1964 -  
 Capt. P. F. Monahan 1971 -  
 Capt. G.C. Murphy 1972 -  
 Capt. B. O'Connor 1973 -  
 Capt. G. Swan 1977 -  
 Capt. N. O'Connor 1978 -  
 Capt. S. McDermott 1979 -  
 Capt. A. Ainsworth 1983

## TRAINING OFFICERS

Lt. C. O'Reilly  
 Lt. J. Hall.  
 Lt. G. Murphy  
 Lt. M. McMahon  
 Lt. C. McGuinn (A Trg Officer)  
 Lt. M. Moriarity  
 Lt. S. Gray  
 Lt. W. Gibson  
 Lt. W. Nott.  
 Lt. D. Betson  
 Lt. B. O'Connor  
 Lt. R. Twomey  
 Lt. B. Wickham  
 Lt. R. Quinn  
 Lt. S. McDermott  
 Lt. M. Smyth  
 Lt. D. Brown ( A Trg Officer)

## CQMS

CQMS J. Handibode. (R.I.P.)  
 CQMS E. McCamley. (R.I.P.)  
 CQMS McCann. P.  
 CQMS Sherry. P.  
 CQMS Kavanagh. P. (R.I.P.)  
 CQMS O'Brien. J. (R.I.P.)  
 CQMS Keane. P. (R.I.P.)  
 CQMS Kiernan. A.  
 CQMS Keogh. J.  
 CQMS Newman. P.  
 CQMS Hughes. M.  
 CQMS Mullins. O.

## TRAINING SGT's.

Sgt. C. Baldwin. (R.I.P.)  
 Sgt. T. Brennan.  
 Sgt. N. Fahy.  
 Sgt. J. Flanagan.  
 Sgt. P. Mulcahy. (R.I.P)  
 Sgt. A. Kiernan.  
 Sgt. J. Halpin.  
 Sgt. J. Keogh.  
 Sgt. P. Kavanagh.  
 Sgt. M. Stanford.  
 Sgt. M. Moore.  
 Sgt. J. Kelly.



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## 6 BATTERY

### FIFTY YEARS AGROWING

In 1934 I attended a meeting in Naas Military Barracks which had been organised to launch the Reserve Defence Force known as "An Sluagh", or as it was later popularly called "The Volunteers". The principal speaker at the meeting held in the building known as "the Gym" was Mr. Frank Aikin T.D. the then Minister for Defence. As I recall it one of the essential requirements for joining the Volunteers was to attend a prolonged initial full time training course (three months I think). Having only commenced my working life late in 1932 such an attendance by me was not possible and thus ended my first connection with the Defence Forces. As a matter of interest Naas Barracks was unoccupied at the time save for the resident caretaker and Messrs Donaldson's printing works which was housed inside the main gate in the old Mobilisation Hall.

An Sluagh was dressed in green uniforms with silver buttons, black belt, black boots and knee leggings and side cap. At the outbreak of World War II in September 1939 the members were called up for full time service with the Permanent Defence Force.

In June 1940 the Local Security Force was formed and membership was open to all over the age of 18 years. R.S.M. Gerald Kinchella and the writer were among those who attended the inaugural meeting in the Court House in Naas. The force was unarmed, wore their own civilian attire and were under the control of An Garda Siochana. Our main duty was to patrol in pairs the country roads around the town on our own bicycles to watch out for any attempted landing by foreign aircraft. I remember arriving with my fellow patroller Tom Gibson at the top of Swordlestown Railway Bridge one moonlit night at around 1a.m. to find as we at first thought that the road at the bottom of the bridge seemed to be blocked by four men, silent and still, standing across it. Somewhat taken aback as we were more concerned with foreign aircraft or parachutists we held a short council of war and decided to investigate this group although we were outnumbered by two to one. We approached "the enemy" with no means of attack or defence save our fists, feet and bicycle pumps, to discover to our relief that the four men were in reality two stray horses standing crossways on the road. This was about the most exciting incident during my service in the L.S.F.

Some months later the L.S.F. was divided into "A" and "B" groups the "A" group which R.S.M. Kinchella and myself joined, was armed, but continued to wear civilian attire and remained under the control of An Garda Siochana. The photograph reprinted here shows what was probably the first route march through Naas, the Parade being led by the Group Leader Mr. William Daly.

In October 1940 the Local Defence Force (L.D.F.) was formed from the members of the L.S.F. A group and it came under the control of the Permanent Defence Force the members being obliged to take the Oath of Allegiance similar to that taken by present day members. By degrees the Force was issued with brown denim blouses, slacks and sidecap. Usually the members during the winter time wore the brown trousers over their own pants as while the issue was suitable Summer wear the same could not be said for Winter.

Eventually the Force became dressed in green blouses and pants with Glengery caps, brown boots and leggings which were only midcalf high and this resulted in their being generally referred to as "jampots".

The L.D.F. was organised into Areas which were subdivided into Districts. The Kildare/Offaly area was comprised of the North Kildare, South Kildare and Edenderry Districts. The North Kildare District was subdivided into Companies of which Naas was one. The District boundary line was roughly from Kilcock in the North County to Donadea, Robertstown, Kilmeague, Caragh, Naas, Ballymore, Blessington, Kilteel, Straffan and back to Kilcock. The Companies were headed by Company Leaders the other promotion ranks being Section Leaders, Assistant Platoon Leaders and Platoon Leaders. While the L.D.F. "A" Group was unpaid all ranks in the L.D.F. were paid a flat rate of 2/6 per day while attending annual training camps which were usually held under canvas in the Tramore, Dunmore East and Pickardstown areas. The only other remuneration I can recall reclining was a voucher to purchase at my own expense five cigarettes daily in the Camp Canteen and being a non-smoker my voucher was much sought after.



As World War II came to its conclusion membership of the L.D.F. began to decline and eventually was disbanded in March 1946 on the formation of the F.C.A. the original members of which came from the still serving members of the L.D.F. Thereafter matters were organised on the same lines as the P.D.F. with the same rankings though there was no commissioned rank higher than that of Captain. The North Kildare District L.D.F. became the North Kildare Battn. F.C.A. Unlike the present centralised system of training the Battn. had centres in Naas, Ballymore Eustace, Caragh, Roberstown, Blessington, Lacken, Manor Kilbride, Dunlavin, Kilcock.

During the period 1946 to 1959 the North Kildare Battn. which was an Infantry Unit, had its ups and downs, its peaks and valleys so far as membership strength was concerned and on integration with the P.D.F. in 1959 it became the 6th Battery; 6th Regiment.

The foregoing was hastily compiled by the writer without the benefit of diaries or notes and if there are omissions or errors therein these can be attributed to the failing memory of a near septuagenarian.

Comdt. Peter Brennan (Retd)





## NEW TECHNOLOGY AND THE REGIMENT

The past decade has seen significant developments in the supply of new equipments to the Artillery Corps. Although they are in relatively limited supply, units have availed of the opportunity of training on these equipments. The Regiment has been no exception, and has trained on and used almost all of them during the past number of years.

On the gun position, the use of FACE (Field Artillery Computer Equipment) has greatly speeded up the process of plotting and computing battery and target data. The time-consuming task of consulting graphs, tables, and plotting instruments has been replaced by the much simpler and quicker procedure of programming FACE, which computes and displays the data in seconds. Reaction time is dramatically shortened, and target engagement is both quicker and more accurate.

Mortars, similarly, can now be fired using MORCOS, a small hand-held computer, which performs much the same function for mortars as FACE does for guns.

The Regiment was quick to seize the opportunity of training on these equipments. Courses were held in 1980-81 and FACE and MORCOS were used with success during the annual firing practices in Summer 1981.

In order to avail fully of the improved speed with which computers can plot firing data, it is necessary to improve the training and efficiency of the Observation Post staff.

In the training sphere, the introduction of the Data Saab Artillery Fire Control Simulator has been of significant benefit. This computerised simulator enables thorough training of OP staff under realistic conditions. Observation Post staff of the Regiment have been trained by use of the simulator since shortly after its introduction to the Artillery School.

The SIMRAD Laser Range finder (LRF) has greatly improved the efficiency of the observation post. Previously, target engagement involved establishing a pattern in which the aim was to direct adjusting rounds on the target by a system of bracketing. Valuable ammunition was expended in the process. The laser rangefinder (LRF) enables effective fire to be brought down in one or two rounds. The element of guesswork as to the exact location of a target on the map is removed as the laser beam emitted by the Laser Rangefinder gives an accurate reading of the distance and direction of the target from the observer. This can be converted to a map spot, or sent directly to the gun position computer. Extensive use of the Laser Rangefinder has been made by Observation Post staffs of the Regiment since 1981, and its value has been proven during many firing practices.

1982 was a memorable year for the Regiment. In 1980 the 105mm Light Gun was introduced to the Artillery Corps. It offers a significant improvement in range over our current standard weapon, the QF 25Pdr - 17200m as against 12250m. In Spring 1982, the Regiment was given permission to train on the new gun, and after an intensive training period that Summer, became the first, and so far only FCA Regiment to fire it, in August of that year. Use of all the new equipments was made - targets were engaged using the Laser Rangefinder, computed with FACE, and data was transmitted directly from the command post to the guns using AWDATS on which a digital readout was given to each individual gun.

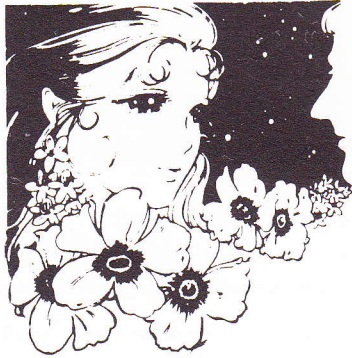
The Regiment has kept pace with the latest developments in artillery technology, and one hopes that this will continue. Much of the developments to date could not have taken place without the co-operation of all ranks of the Artillery School, whose support has always been most appreciated by the Regiment. We look forward to more of the same in the next 25 years.

Capt. M. Mangan.



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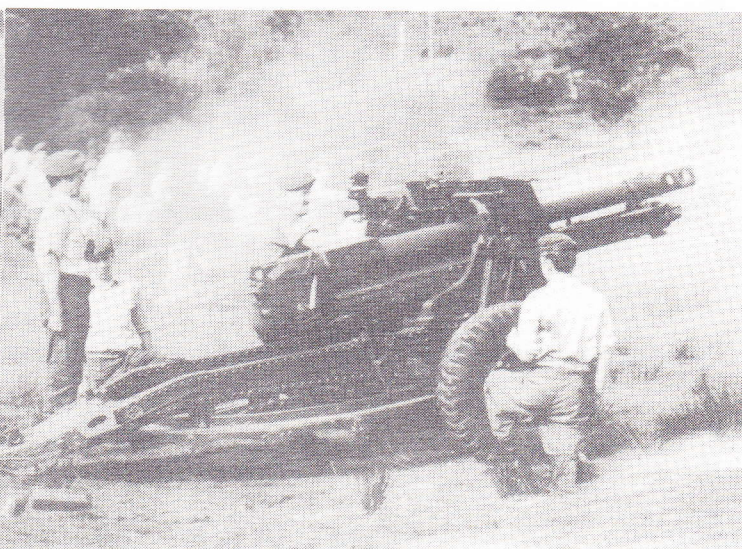
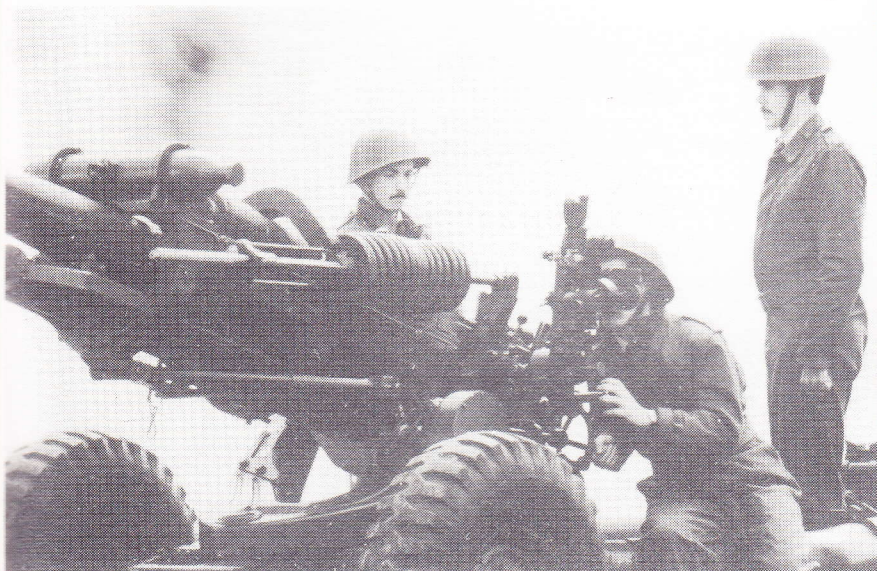
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Top Left: Firing 105m.m. Light Gun 1982.  
(Sgt. Phillips, Sgt. Cleary, Gnr. O'Sullivan).

Top Right: Capt. Mick Mangan at Director.

Middle Left: O.P. Party using Laser Range  
Finder.  
(Gnr. McMahon, Capt. Mangan, Comdt. Bradley)

Middle Right: Smith Fires his last round 1981.

BottomLeft: Guns in Action at Leitrim 1981.



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5 BATTERY ALTAR GUARD OF HONOUR, ST. PATRICK'S DAY 1960



Front: P. Tiernan, J. Breen, G. Coll, C. Bradley, B. Byrne.  
Back: O. Murphy, J. Hall, P. Doody, B. Sloan, B. Murphy.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY 1960 — 5 BATTERY  
25





T.O.E.T. BREN — CAPT. DAVE BROWN & SGT. FAHY — NOV. 1984.



DECEMBER CAMP — BEFORE



DECEMBER CAMP — AFTER



WHY THE SMILES ? IT HAS TO BE PLAYBOY MAGAZINE !



## MEMORIES OF A NAMELESS, FACELESS "GREYHOUND"

"Ah the memories that do be on me,  
Now my hair is turning grey."

This opening line from a poem of long remembered schooldays occurred to me when approached by Comdt. Maurice Scanlon B/C of the illustrious 11 HY. MOR. BTY., to jot down a few of my memories of an age that began for many an Edenderry lad at the beginning of what came to be known as "The Emergency" 1939 - 1946. Without having kept any written record of that period, it's extremely difficult to put my recollections in any sequence, so I'll jot down little things that cling to "the cobweb of recollection."

Sept. 1939: The All Ireland Hurling Final, Kilkenny V Cork. The thunder and lightning final - Kilkenny won by two points. Great jubulations by all Leinster supporters of Kilkenny. Oh yes, war was declared that day, it came to us over the public address, but who cared? Our favourites had won and we were drenched.

However, from then on it was all go, as the significance began to sink in - Parades every night - not once a week - in the Town Hall. Those of us who opted for the Local Defence Force were neatly attired in light denim type uniforms and issued with wooden rifles (bit of a disappointment for us budding generals). The remainder of the men formed the Local Security Force, attired in light blue, their responsibilities were police duties, fire watching, stretcher bearing, first aid, field ambulance etc. Many and varied were the "doings" of those days not least of which was the burning of our Town Hall in 1945. The platoon of which I was a member, had been training there the night before and we are still wondering ! ! ! !

We then had our Bn. HQ. in apartments now occupied by a local trader. There being no room for training indoors, we were obliged to train outdoors with marching and night exercise figuring largely on the training programme. It is with some amusement that one recalls one night that a promising (?) young corporal led a section in attack on a position situated on a wooded part of a hill overlooking our town EADON DOIRE. After what seemed like hours of "Cover, crawl, observe" tactics we seized the position to find that the former occupants had gone home, it being long past 22.00 hrs. the time for doing just that.

If one had time, one could write a booklet on those far - off days, so I'll bid a fond farewell to them and deal briefly with what was known as the "Change Over" - Integration. This happened in 1959 and presented new fields to be captured! as according to one training officer "We'd never again bother with infantry weapons after sampling the excitement of firing Heavy Mortars in the Glen" - all of which proved correct in many ways.

It was a whole new ball game, everything seemed so different, but with the help of a splendid cadre we slowly got the hand of laying out guns using a director, map spotting, communications etc. Much credit is due to those dedicated and patient instructors who enabled us to do reasonably well - sometimes - when called upon "to do a shoot" during our Annual Trng. in the Glen of Imaill. Mention of those officers & N.C.O.'s bring to mind our first Training Officer a Lt. Moriarty who was the very essence of patience and dedication in dealing with us, who didn't have a clue about Artillery. It was he who trained and presented us - as it were - for our first shoot. It was during this particular exercise that a certain officer from the 11 BTY. was doing his shoot and being too lavish with his correction for line, he was away off the target area. Before he could complete his fire order the I.G. of the day stopped the proceedings and with "words of learned length and thundering sound" (in a broad Cork accent) he put the matters right and the shoot continued. This I.G. was later to become Training Officer to the 11 Bty. By his benign and placid manner he endeared himself to a long line of Gunners who still like to recall funny incidents in which our beloved Trng. Officer played a part "with meek and unaffected grace" of course!

The Regiment didn't consist of the 11 Bty. alone, no, there were two other Batteries; 5 BTY. and 6 BTY. These were based - south of the border - you might say. But it was a real pleasure to meet them at Range Practices, Annual Camp "Round Ups". Some of them are no longer with us R.I.P., we regret their passing very much and pray for them occasionally.

It was during a shoot conducted by this scribe - that the O.P.O. reported "NOTHING SEEN" after a ranging round had been fired. Now the I/C Practices ruled that in the interests of safety the O.P.O. would at the end of the day's proceedings have to search the entire impact area - on foot - and if the unexploded round was found he was to plant a Stadia Rod beside it marking the spot and then report it's location to the responsible authority. The Officer, at the end of the day, prepared for the long walk with "wellies", raincoat etc., when two officers from the 5 BTY. offered to accompany him - an offer which was duly accepted. We found the vegetation thick and in places the height of ourselves. We had great fun poking about in the Glen - seeing objects and places that heretofore had just been just spots on the map. Then like the sound of a pistol shot it struck us - what if one of us stumbled over or kicked this unexploded shell - which was most likely - we wouldn't stand a chance! So, keeping to the tracks we had made on entering the area we got out of there and thanked God. My sincere thanks to providence and to LARRY and Fred. The O.P.O. never again met that officer who was I/C Practices on that day and so, the stadia rod lies somewhere in the vicinity of the Sheep Pen - if he is ever looking for it.

Towards the end of my service I had occasion to visit REGINALD'S TOWER in Waterford - a very historic landmark and the scene where certain actions took place which later resulted in a cock up of a "Kangaroo Court" being held in the Officers' Mess in Bks. The whole thing being cooked up by officers from the 5 & 6 Bty. and the "accused" coming from the 11 Bty. The chief role of Producer, Director, Schemer Arabian Sheik was played by a "ham" from the 5 Bty.



Still it was good fun and was only one of the very many incidents that made for comradeship and indeed friendship of a high order that began when training in Dunmore East (1943) where we slept in "bivvies", ate a quarter loaf of bread for breakfast, shaved in a nearby stream, queued for our daily ration of cigarettes (5) and believe it or not, we enjoyed every minute of it. As I think of those early days I don't compare them relative comforts of the Dining Room, Ante-Room, bar etc. of today no, that is just natural inevitable progression.

Finally by mentioning no names in these "memoirs" I hope I have offended nobody. I think of all those fine men whom I met during L.D.F, Infantry and Artillery days and I am happy to say that it was nice knowing you.

"Go dteigh sibh slan."



"Hello 3 this is  
Rainbow 31  
Radio Check"

Comdt. Maurice Scanlon  
"Starring In"  
Aerial O.P. Shoot.  
1983.



# 11 BATTERY IN ACTION 1980



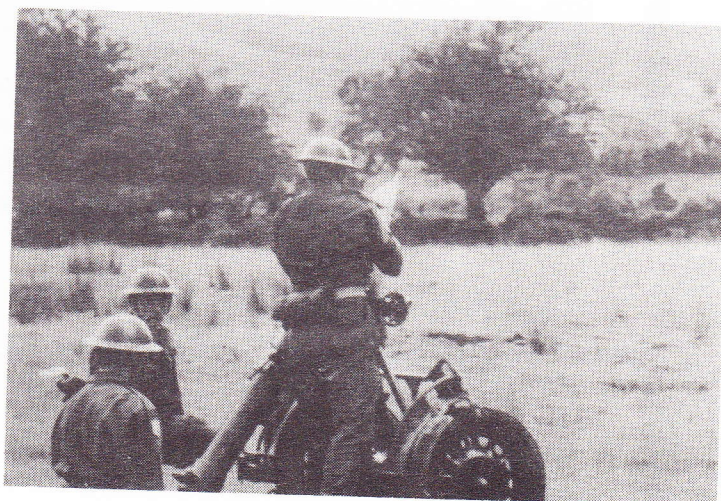
MOVEMENT TO GLEN AUGUST 1980



"SOS LOGAIDH" 1980



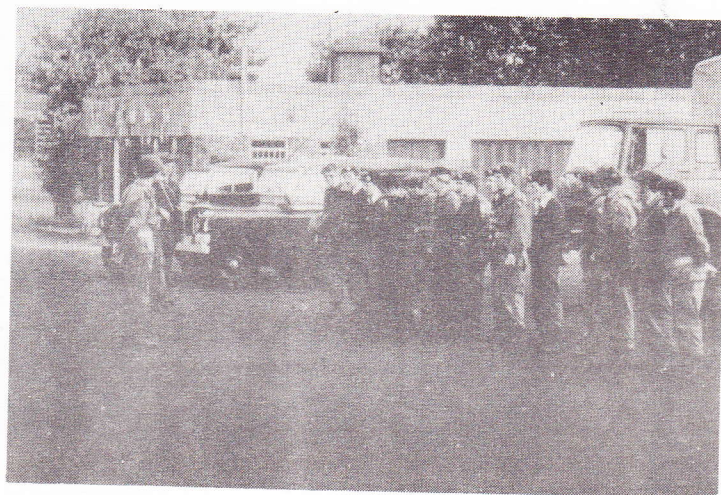
ALTERNATIVE POSITION ("LEAP-FROG") COAN 1980.



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"DE-BRIEFING" AUGUST 1980



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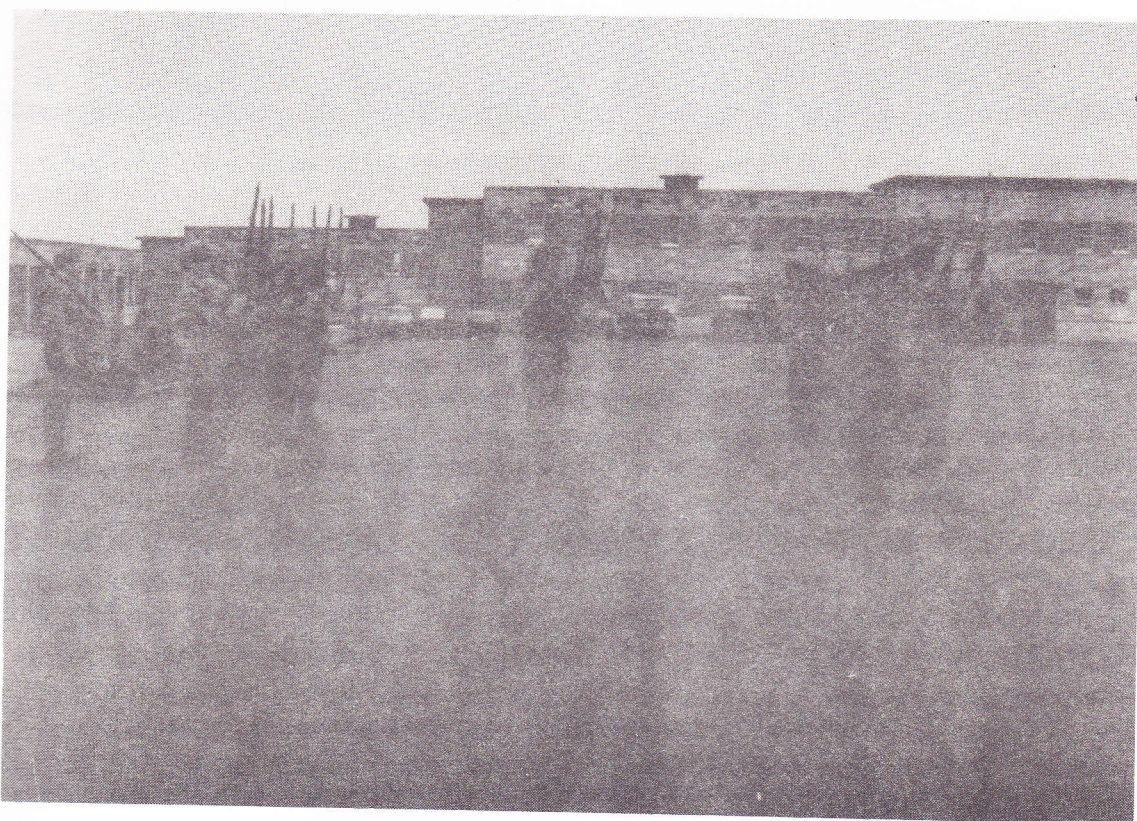
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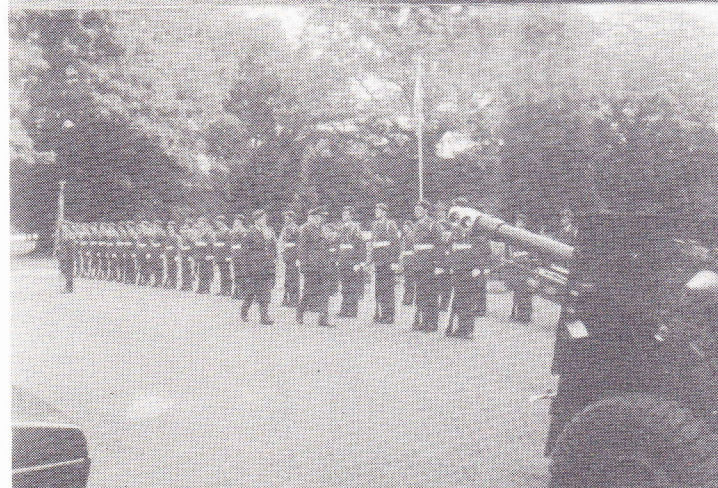
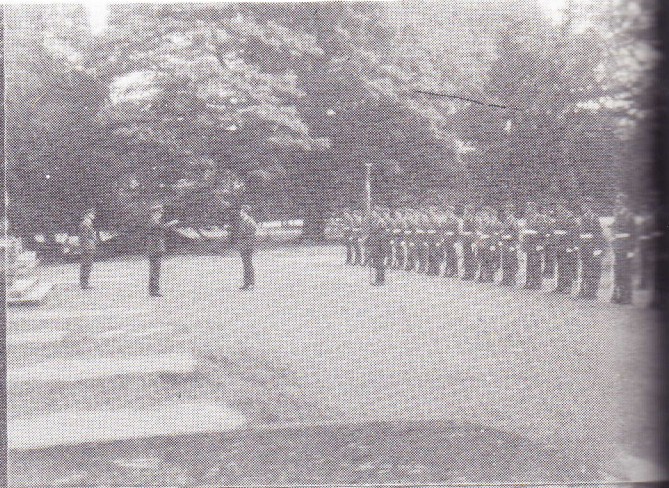
LT. P. O'BRIEN, G.P.O. GLEN 1980.



Gunner Edward Caffrey, who served in the 11th Battery, a member of the Presidential Escort "The Blue Hussars", in Magee Barracks 1932.

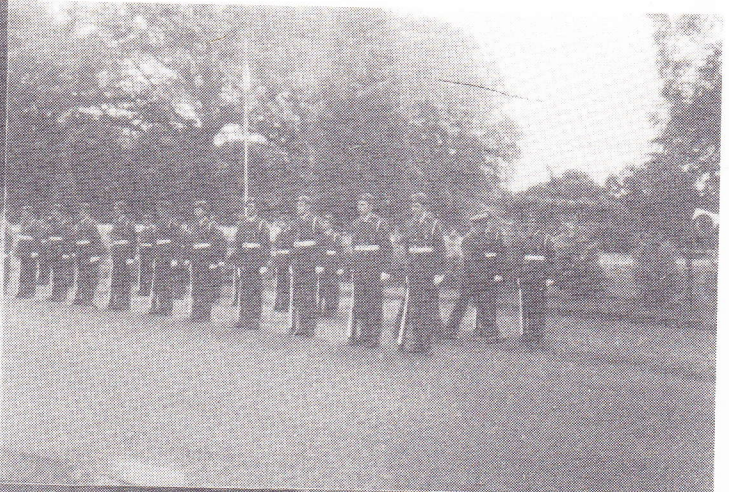
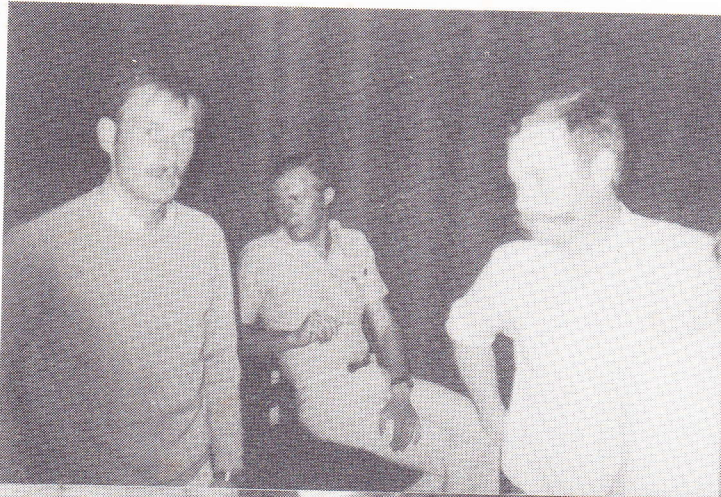


## 6 FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT





# GLEN IMAAL 1984





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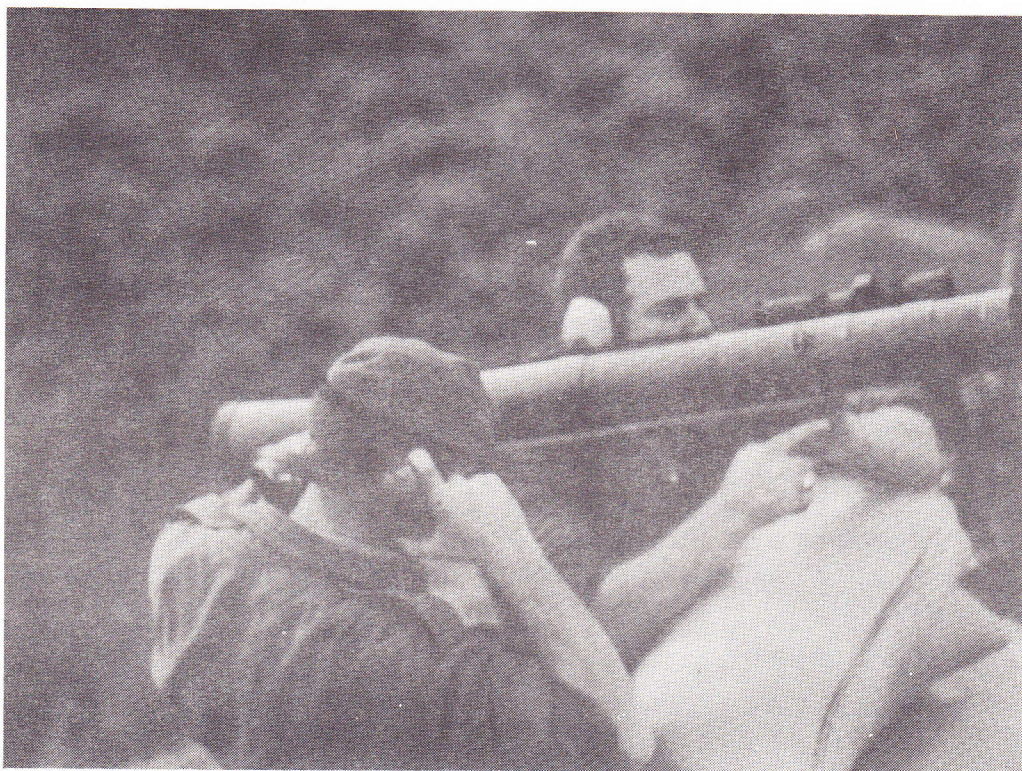




WEAPON TRAINING, UNION FIELD 1967.



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## 6 FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT 1959 – 1984

### RECIPIENTS

#### THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL 3rd CLASS (Posthumous)

87410 Sergeant Patrick Mulcahy

#### Citation:

For distinguished service with the United Nations Force in the Republic of the Congo, in displaying leadership and devotion to duty to a high degree. Although painfully wounded during hostilities in December, 1961, he refused to leave his platoon and subsequently, whilst looking after his men, he received the wound from which he died.

On the night of Dec 15th 1960 a joint United Nations Force of Ethiopian, Gurkha, Irish and Swedish troops commenced an assault to secure the city of Elizabethville. The objective was to prevent the province of Katanga under Moise Tshombe seceding, thereby destroying the unity of the newly emergent Republic of the Congo. The Katangan forces were well armed with Mortars, Machine Guns and Armoured Cars. In many instances they were led by white mercenaries. The assault took place in torrential rain which hampered operations considerably.

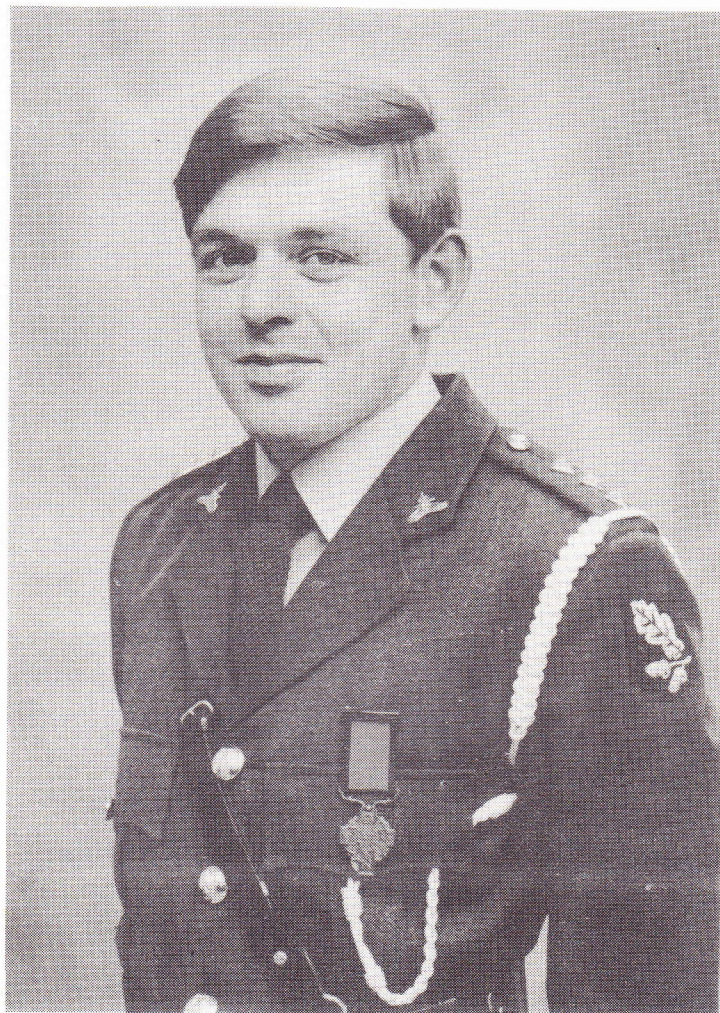
The Katangans resisted fiercely, defending their positions to the point where hand to hand fighting and in one instance air attack with rockets and cannon were required to dislodge them. Nine United Nation troops were killed in this operation, three of them being Irish.

The photograph depicts Sgt Mulcahy supervising training of the 6th Bty during the first Artillery Firing Practice of the 6th Regiment in the Glen of Imaal in the Summer of 1960. He was posted to the 36th Infantry Battalion on the 29th of November of the same year for service to the Congo. He was fatally injured during the assault on Elizabethville by shrapnel from an exploding Mortar bomb a mere seventeen days later.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a nAnam.

Photo: Sgt. Mulcahy (RIP) second from left.





MILITARY MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY 2nd CLASS  
0.8639 Captain Adrian Ainsworth

Citation:

For displaying exceptional bravery and compassion of a high order when at AT TIRI SOUTH LEBANON on 7th April 1980, at grave danger to his own life from direct and sustained fire, he without hesitation crawled a distance of two hundred (200) metres to aid a grievously wounded comrade, and still under fire on the return journey brought him to a place of safety.



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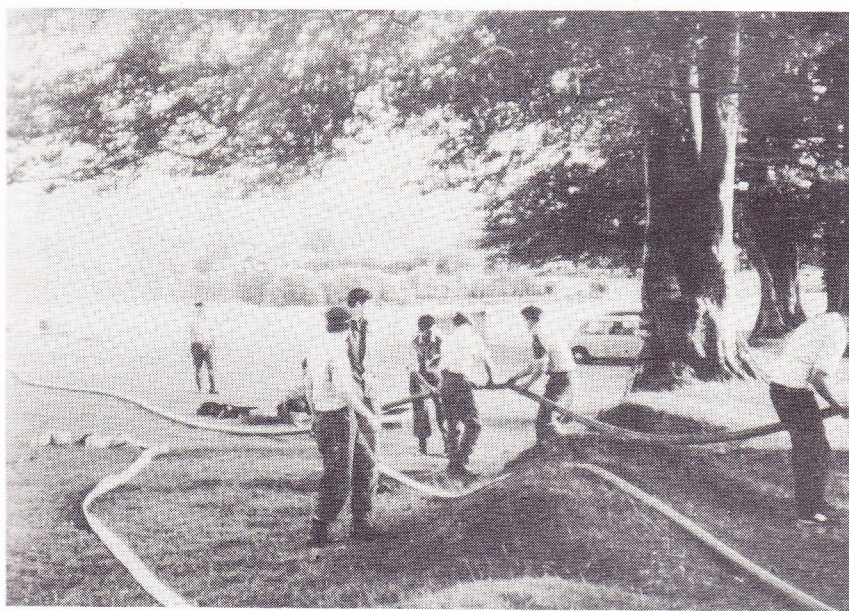
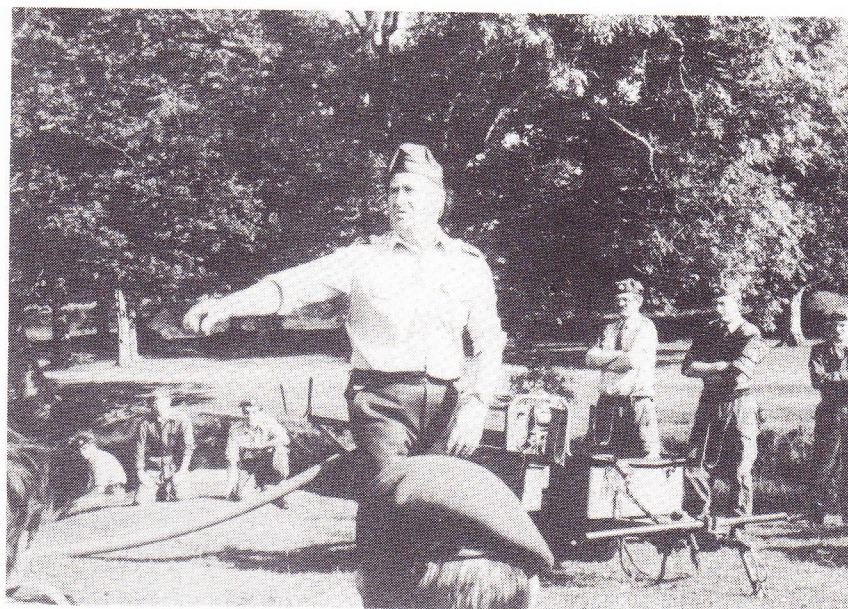
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August 1984.  
Comdt. McGowan  
Instructs.



Fire ! Fire ! Fire !  
Has Comdt. McGowan gone mad  
However there's no smoke  
without fire.  
Action immediate  
Hoses out  
Fire engine on  
Fire engaged

Fire Extinguished  
Excellent Exercise  
Thanks Fred!





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From

***Yvonne***

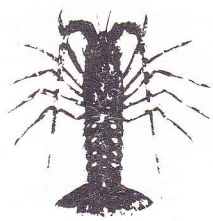
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by Comdt. M. McMahon



Dave (Think) Bloody Sleeping Civvies



Comdt. Miley reads a bedside story for Ginger !



"AINSEY". RELAX BRAD ! RELAX ! YOU'LL BE  
GOING HOME TOMORROW.



M-E-D-I-C !



ALL GOOD Q.M.'s ALWAYS HAVE THE  
BARE ESSENTIALS - Q.M. MEADE COVERS HIS.

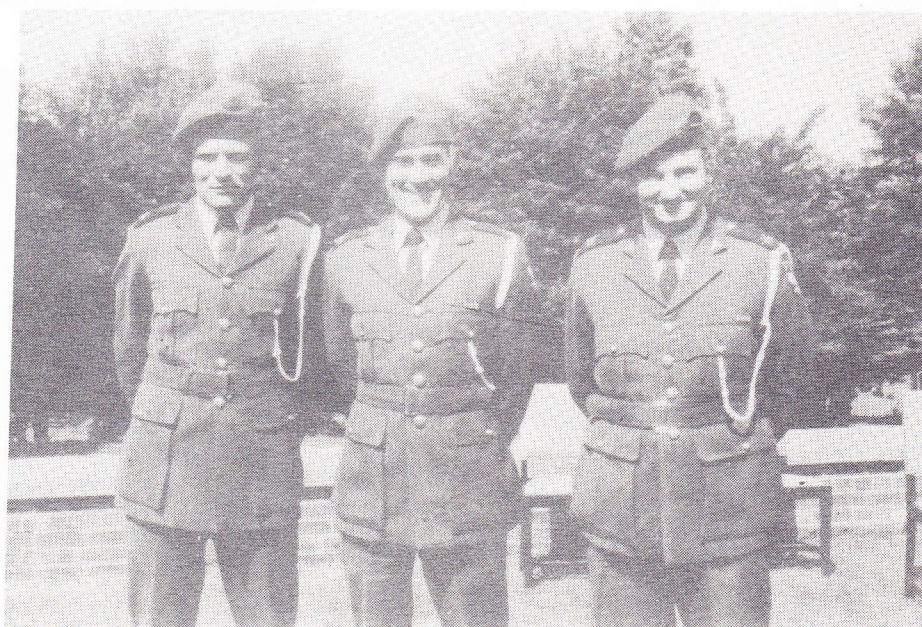




Capt, Mick Mangan B.L. — Kings Inns — Congrats Mick !



Coolmoney Camp 1984



Military College Course 1981. .



## “ THE FIFTH ”

1959 – 1984

What is it that causes men to abandon their jobs or holidays, to forsake temporary and permanent relationships and the normal run of the mill worries of life for a full two weeks Annual Training. What madness urges a lad out of his cosy bed at 8a.m. on a winters morning to attend a Sunday field day, or worse still, to remove himself from a cosy chair in front of a blazing fire and television entertainment, to change into a cold uniform and step out into the darkness heading for the pick-up point on his way to Kildare Barracks on Thursday Nights. Madness ! Some one will say, absolute bloody madness !

This year the Sixth Field Artillery Regiment F.C.A. comes of age in its twenty fifth year of ecistance. The “Fifth” Battery, with its headquarters in Magee Barracks, Kildare is proud of its associations with the Artillery Corps since integration began way back in 1959, getting the nucleus of its personnel from the then South Kildare Battalion.

The initiation took place in Gormanstown Camp, during a scorching summers fortnight. In the beginning our members found the change hard to grasp but they very quickly adapted to their new role as gunners and in a short period became competent in the use of new weapons, new tactics and new techniques. Much sweat, tears and not a little laughter went into this new task by everybody concerned. F.C.A. Officers then at the helm in those formative years were Comdt. Mattie Nolan (R.I.P.), Capt. Paddy Dooley (R.I.P.), Capt. Jackie Murphy (R.I.P.) and Capt. Seamus Brennan (R.I.P.). Men of their calibre and ability will never be forgotten because they were the backbone of the Battery. Mattie Nolan for his kindness and intelligent conversation was most popular with us younger members. Capt. Paddy Dooley will always be remembered for his absolute dedication and love for soldiering. Capt. Jackie Murphy “who should have been a regular” was always seeking the best out of us and he always seemed to have all the time in the world to get the job done correctly. And of course there was quiet and shy Seamus Brennan, who up to the time of his death was my 2 i/c., Seamus, who was the most recent deceased member of our dedicated group of officers never spoke a bad word during his F.C.A. life and his knowledge of Artillery left most of us out on a limb. God Rest their Souls.

The officers, with the professional backing of P.D.F. Staff are the roots of the Regiment. It would be a difficult task for me indeed to attempt to name all our P.D.F. friends down through the years but from time to time names keep cropping up in conversations, perhaps not so much now as say five years ago. Lt. Col. Tom Ryan had long associations with the Regiment, we thought at times that we would never get rid of him ! ! ! Former Director of Artillery, Col. J. S. Nolan was also with us during the formative years. Former Director of Artillery, Col. Tom McDunphy was our Regimental C/O for some years - (some say he was a grand man at the O.P. - some say ! ). His insistance on high standards, always, set guidelines for Regimental standards that remain with us to the present day. Lt. Col. Jim Croke brought colour and pride to the Regiment and Comdt. Joe Higgins (retd) left a trade mark all of his own. Lt. Col. Mick McMahon, in his quiet but extremely efficient manner, solved many of our problems, in fact many of us were certain that he would remain with the Regiment for ever !

Comdt. George Murphy (now Lt. Col.) spent a short span with us and was temporarily replaced by Comdt. Jim Murray, but only whilst he was on overseas service. He arrived back on the scene after six months and following his promotion to Lt. Col. he was succeeded by our present and very active Commanding Officer, Comdt. Raymond Quinn. An artillery scholar in his own right, Comdt. Quinn spent a few years in Larkhill, England on an extensive course with the Royal Artillery. His motivation and expertise is one of the finest assets the Regiment has ever “inherited”. We continue to progress under his skillful command, together with our tireless training officer Capt. Dave Brown and Staff Officer Capt. Adrian Ainsworth.



Many other P.D.F. Staff who come to mind are Capt. Ciaran O'Reilly, first training officer with the fifth. Sgt. Major Nick Fahy (retd) our efficient and knowledgeable training Sgt. I remember one comment he made as he swiftly passed by me during practices in the Glen. You could say it was a miscalculation but Nick's comment was "You'll need a f ..... launching pad to fire that round Sir ! Upon which we made a hasty check and an accurate correction - bloody template ! C.Q.M.S. Paddy Kavanagh R.I.P., Cpl. Jackie Keogh, training Corporal with the Battery - now a rogue Q.M. with the 11 th Heavy Mortar Battery. Comdt. Brian O'Connor - we could hardly keep up with him ! There was a personal love/hate relationship here somewhere ! Comdt. Dave Betson (a lovable guy - but a bloody nuisance sometimes). Brian and Dave were staunch workers and the Regiment owes a lot to them. Comdt. Mick Moriarity was also there in the beginning as was Lt. Charlie McGuinn now Brigadier General and Officer Commanding Curragh Command.

The success of our Battery down through the years is easily gauged when one considers our close associations with all the aforementioned people. Their undivided co-operation and interest, their expertise and thorough administrations have been a golden harvest to the Fifth Battery and of course the Regiment. We are grateful for these associations down through our 25 F.C.A. years, which highlight the value of teamwork between F.C.A. and P.D.F. and surely this is what success is all about - teamwork ! It is on this past work that we build the present and prepare for the future, remembering we are only as good as our next performance.

Members of the Fifth Battery have been "lost" to the Gardai, the Cadets, Air Corps, Aer Lingus, the Navy and practically every other profession under the sun including the Priesthood. In the early 1970's many of our older N.C.O.'s retired and a new crowd came to the fore. In the Fifth Battery at the moment we have an excellent body of young N.C.O.'s who are now the core of the Unit and they include such staunch members as R.S.M. Tom Murphy, C.Q.M.S. Joe Meade, Bty. Sgt. Paddy O'Shea, Sgt. D. Fahy and Sgt. J. Phillips. They certainly set the standard for the young corporals, with their high standards and excellent attendance.

In 1982 "Smithy", Sgt. Tony Smith retired from the scene. A legend in F.C.A. life, Smithy was always a "dinger" at instruction on all weapons. During lighter moments his German songs always added a lift to any sing-song. However his German dialect was of the Maddenstown school of learning but few ever argued the point.

This year we lose Comdt. Fred McGowan and thus is severed our final link with the Emergency. I would not attempt to write about Fred's efficiency and dedication as an Artillery Officer. Those who served close to him acknowledged his technical abilities in all aspects of artillery. His last two shoots in the Glen this year (1984) did him proud. We trust he keeps in close contact with us.

Another severe blow to the 5 Battery was the resignation, due to work pressures, of Lt. Mick Dooley, son of our former Battery Commander Capt. Paddy Dooley. I honestly could never accept his resignation, it would be untruthful of me to say so. I held Mick in high esteem, he was dedicated in his work and always sought the best responses from the gunners.

The greatest resource of an F.C.A. Unit is the endless supply of recruits. The Fifth Battery area is well endowed with schools which provide recruits of a very high standard. By instilling discipline into the youth of the area, the 5 Battery is providing a useful and indeed an essential service to the community. It prepares them for Leadership by exposing them to responsibility, which in turn leads to maturity.

The future may hold many surprises but the "Fifth" is confident that it can meet all challenges and continue to function in an efficient and useful manner.

A special thank you to my 2 i/c Capt. Mick Mangan for his unflinching co-operation and support during the last two years. To Capt. Ger Coll and Lt. Colm Cox for their never tiring efforts in making the story of the 5 Battery a successful and honourable one.

Finally, it is my dearest wish that in the next few years we will see an addition to our office numbers, which are sadly very low at this time. I am confident that the Fifth like the Phoenix will rise once again with an increase in numbers and that all the traditions handed down through 25 years will instill new ambitions and esprit-de-corps amongst the new gunners of 5 Battery. Let us all enjoy today and add another cherished memory to the many we have all experienced down through the years.

Commandant L. Bradley.  
Battery Commander  
5 Battery.





L.D.F. Newbridge - Easter Sunday - 1941



Guard of Honour for Mr. Devalera, Curragh Camp, Easter Sunday 1941.  
Newbridge Company L.D.F. - Lt. Ger Byrne, Guard Commander.



Newbridge Company L.D.F. Dunmore East Camp.



# NEWBRIDGE COMPANY L.D.F. 1943



Back Row: P. Hayes, ( ), D. Conlon (Decd), P. Strong, A. Nolan, ( ), J. Ryan, J. Kavanagh, C. White, ( ), J. Mahoney, B. Heuston, ( ), Sgt. Murray, G. Byrne (Coy. Comdr.).

Centre Row: (C. Murphy), M. Dunne, K. Swan, S. Kirwin, S. Garrett, P. Kealey, W. Geraghty (Decd), P. Doody, ( ), ( ), J. Murray, P. Collaton.

Front Row: (R. Garrett), (C. Whyte), P. Coffey, N. Murphy, ( ), ( ), H. Rhorpe, M. Dempsey, T. Nolan (Decd), ( ), J. Bohan (Decd), J. Breen, W. Nolan (Decd).

## A LOOK BACK

In 1939 when the War Lords began to ravage the Western Hemisphere, Ireland declared its neutrality and prepared to defend that stand.

The army increased its manpower and strength. Those of us who had to continue working joined the local Defence Force and with the help of Army Sergeants trained and became proficient in small arms and defence tactics.

We were proud to don the Green Uniform and with great zeal devoted all of our spare time to becoming fit and ready for anything. While wives and mothers used ration books wisely we spent our training hours on exercise and collected on a few occasions incendiary bombs carelessly dropped by German planes and helped to round up some German prisoners who found the Curragh Compound too irksome.

We had some lighter moments also. In the early days two men were detailed each night to stay in the local Garda Barracks to protect LDF equipment and ammo. In the small hours one morning the two 'minders' were sitting on chairs, rifles butts on the ground, when one of them stressing a point pressed the trigger of his rifle in error and the .303 bullet hit the ceiling, flew inches past the bed in which the Garda Sergeant was peacefully sleeping and zoomed through the roof of the barracks !

On another occasion we were about to do a route march - but our big drummer had a sulk and took refuge in a local pub and refused to bridge. The company moved off and after a vigorous step-out march halted for a rest on a railway bridge. After five minutes we prepared to move on. Suddenly the drummer arrived amid great cheering. The march continued with boom-boom and step together !

They were good times and bad times but morale was high. Those seven years were well worth while and forged comradeships that are just as strong today.

We salute today's progressive and efficient F.C.A. members.



## EMPTY GUNS

Air: tannenbaum.

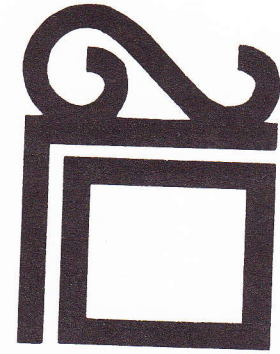
Every artillery unit has its own version of the song. All of them have the requirement to pronounce the word 'Captain' like a nasal ndeadh singer, something like 'Gapteinge'. Here's how it goes.

*You mixed up Coen with the White Stone.  
You'll never be a Captain. Sir !  
You swore so when. 'twas the Sheep Pen.  
You'll never be a Captain. Sir !  
Your opening round. hit Knapahoun  
Your second shot was not so hot.  
So 'Empty Guns, Prepare to move'.  
You'll never be a Captain. Sir.*

*And every time, you were off for line,  
You'll never be a Captain. Sir !  
Your time of flight, was quite a sight (Variable !)  
You'll never be a Captain. Sir !  
Your opening round was on the ground.  
Before the time, the School laid down.  
So 'Empty Guns, Prepare to move'.  
You'll never be a Captain. Sir.*

*'Your range was short'. - I.G.'s retort -  
You'll never be a Captain Sir !  
You made a (optional) of Fire for Effect.  
You'll never be a Captain. Sir  
You should have fired on Stony Ridge.  
And not be blasting Seskin Bridge.  
So 'Empty Guns, Prepare to move',  
You'll never be a Captain, Sir.*

*'Th Octagonal Field. will never yield.  
You'll never be a Captain, Sir !  
You killed a fawn, on Crissadaun.  
You'll never be a Captain. Sir;  
So take your battery from the Glen  
And do not come back here again -  
Just 'Empty Guns, Prepare to Move'  
You'll never be a Captain, Sir.*



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NAAS,  
CO. KILDARE  
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Captain Jackie Murphy (Decd) receives Shamrock from Monsignor Miller P.P. (Decd.)  
St. Patrick's Day 1959 Church Parade.



Glen Imaal 1960. Sgt. Nick Fahy (Instructor) standing  
Sfts. Dinny Collins, Eric Byrne and Ger Coll.

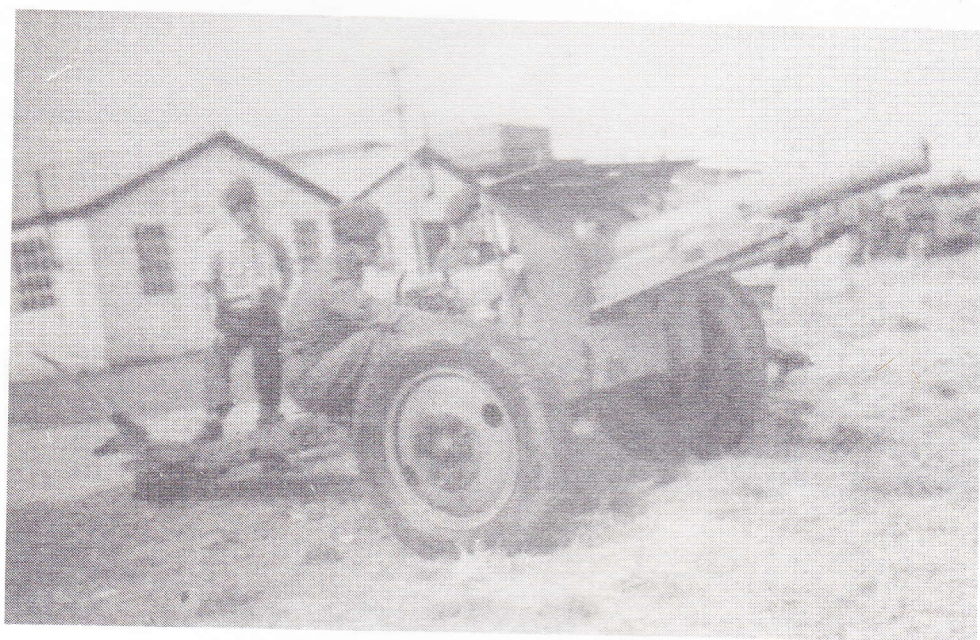


# 1959

## PRECIOUS MOMENTS



The Summer of 1959 was the year it all began. One could say that Gormanston was the Introductory Camp. We saw the guns for the first time, trained on them and then travelled to the Glen to see a P.D.F. Shoot in progress. It was all fascinating. We couldn't wait until we got home to commence training for the following year. The brightness in the photographs (which are very old !) is sunshine, a rare treat nowadays !





Congratulations and Best Wishes to  
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From



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**MANAGER — DONAL SHANNON**

**PHONE: 045/31227.**

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From

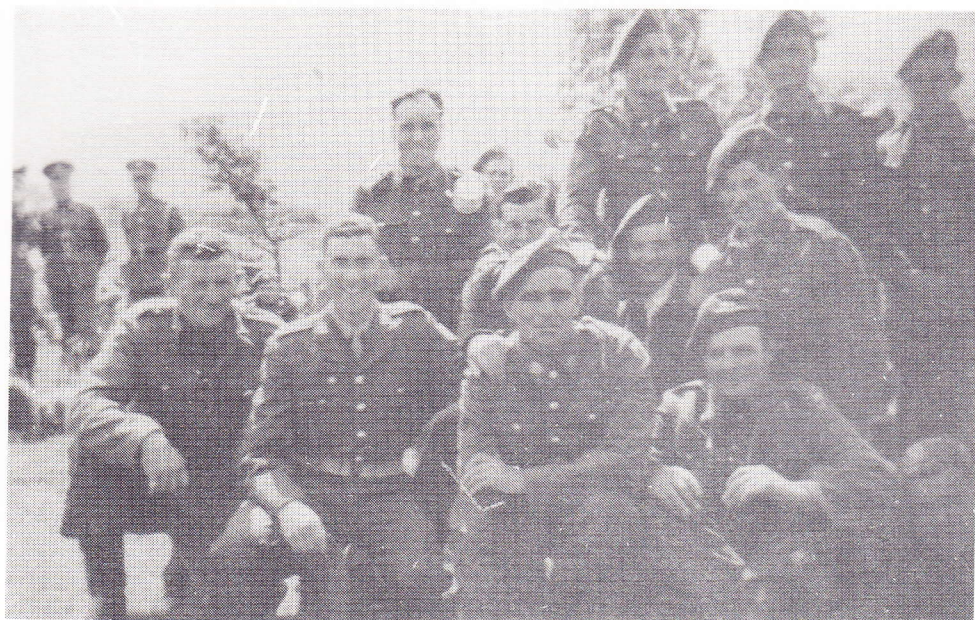
# **Eddie O'Connor**

**NEWSAGENT**

**MAIN STREET — NEWBRIDGE — CO. KILDARE.**

**PHONE: 045/31410.**





Obviously we were not firing !  
Possibly the reason for all the smiles !  
Front row "Smithy", 2/Lt Bradley,  
Sgt. Jim Mahoney, Sgt Dinney  
Collins, Gnr. Jim Bowdran.  
Middle Sgt Eric Byrne, Bill Murphy  
Con Toft, John O'Brien  
(some names have been omitted)

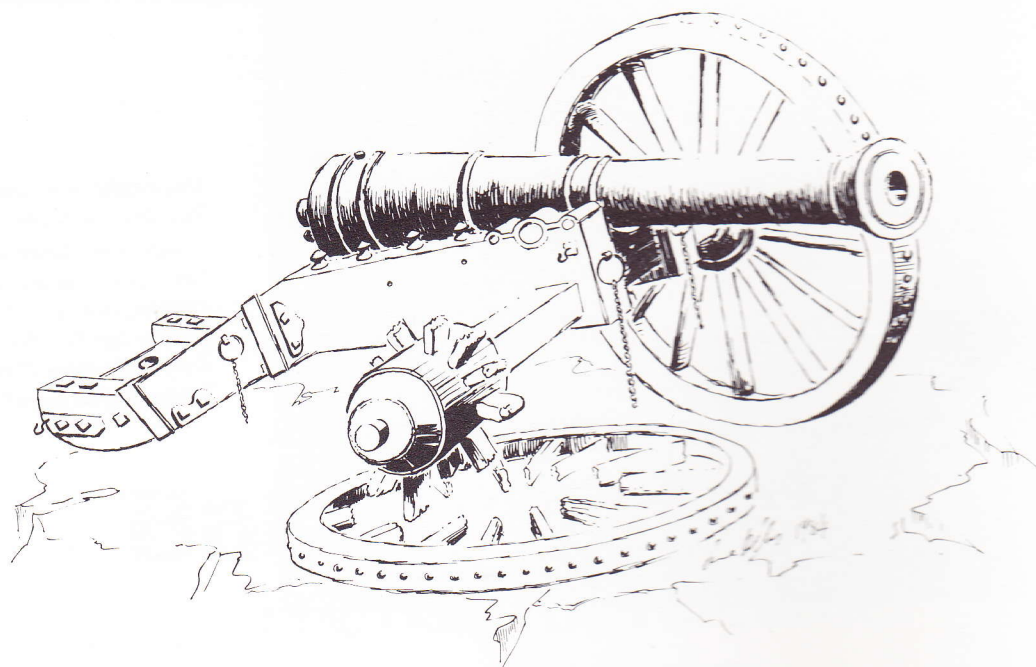
Grub Up! Bread/Butter/Jam and  
Tea served by Joe Handibode &  
Paddy Sherry. Handibode probably  
gave the meat - which we should  
have got - to his greyhounds Funny  
thing! "Handy" always looked well  
fed !!

Officers in photo are Capt. Paddy  
Dooley (R.I.P), Capt Fred McGowan  
and Capt Seamus Brennan (R.I.P.)



They look like Pilgrims on their  
way to Mecca ! Really its the first  
ever arrival of the "soon to be"  
6th F.A.R. in Glen Imall. Capt  
Dooley Supervises, assisted by Capt.  
Fred McGowan and Sgt. Nick Fahy  
(Back turned)





### THE "MAGEE GUN" TROPHY

This Field Artillery Trophy commemorates the heroism of Irish Gunners in an Historic Epic of the Insurrection of 1798, and typifies the spirit which keeps the guns firing at any cost. The Trophy is a replica of the French Six Pounder fired by Sergeant Magee of the Franco-Irish Army, against the British Forces at Ballinamuck in September 8th, 1798.

The small Franco-Irish Army had battled it's victorious way through Connaught against the British Forces, but Viceroy Cornwallis arrived with a large army of English, Germans and Renegade Irish and the French surrendered. The Irish Insurgents continued to fight. Sergeant Magee, with another Gunner Sergeant named Casey, took over two French Six Pounders and fought till the end. As the last round of Grape was about to be fired by Magee, a ball from an English gun broke the right wheel, but rather than give up the fight, four of Magee's gun crew threw down their Pikes and lifted the axle of the gun on their shoulders. Magee applied the match and the gun fired it's last round. The four gallant volunteers were killed by the recoil, and Magee was taken prisoner and hanged.

This trophy was presented as an Annual Award by the Depot and School Artillery Corps to the Field Artillery Regiment attaining the highest marks for fighting efficiency in an Annual All-Army Competition. It was won by the III Field Artillery Regiment in 1944 and 1945.

The model mounted and suitably inscribed, with the right wheel broken, just as it was before firing for the last time, was made in the workshops of the Depot and School Artillery Corps in 1943.

The Historical Research and Designing was carried out by Captain C. Ua Donachair, Artillery School.

The stand was prepared by Captain T. J. Lambert, Depot Artillery Corps. The gun wrought in bronze is the work of Coy Sgt. Jas F. Scanlan of the Depot and School Artillery Corps.

The model was completed under the direction of Lieut-Colonel A. Dalton, Depot. and School Artillery Corps.

Assistance in research and construction was given by Dr. Richard Hayes; Dr. Hayes McCoy, (National Museum); Dr. J. H. Delargy (Irish Folklore Commission); Colonel J. J. O'Connell, (G.H.Q.) and Comdt. J. Doyle, (Ordinance Corps).



#### LARKHILL 1984.

Conferences at Regimental Headquarters are frequently protracted affairs. Efforts to consider appropriate ways to celebrate our twenty fifth anniversary fitted into this mould. The decision making process might make a Military College instructor wince but in the final analysis the task was completed and the first stage of our trip overseas as an organised group was in motion. The visit would have two objectives, firstly educational and secondly social. Pressure of training commitments coupled with reduced training time plus the increasing difficult business environment had considerably eroded the social aspect of service in the Regiment. We all recognised the detrimental effect this could have on comradeship and esprit-de-corps, so remedial action was called for. The thirst for education stemmed from Comdt. Oliver Murphy's simple statement that "seeing is believing". He quite rightly stated that being informed of the tactics and equipment of foreign armies through lectures and films could only educate personnel to a limited level. He also somewhat unkindly mentioned that the rare opportunities to relax in the mess were interspersed by harangues from the regular officers as to "how the Brits do it". Oliver was determined to see "how they did it" for himself and not rely on second-hand information. Thus the gauntlet was thrown down. A visibly agitated CO called a hushed conference within a conference at the top table. Officers present swore they heard remarks about certain "Doubting Thomas". The training officers complexion heightened at another match of a sentence that sounded ominously like "See what you've got us into now". Outraged but finely balancing tact with moral courage the CO was not informed by his staff that he himself was the worst culprit in this regard. Finally the huddle broke up, a decision had been taken, we would indeed head for foreign parts. All agreed that live firing or military manoeuvres would be preferable to a static display of equipment. Investigations commenced immediately and within a fortnight the headquarters had three alternative programmes available for consideration. The most attractive option proved to be the U.K. Royal School of Artillery at Larkhill. It incorporated the important criteria decided at the conference, also the venue and procedures were familiar to the CO who had trained there and now found himself appointed as liaison officer. Old contacts at Larkhill were renewed, travel arrangements made and dear ones were assured that the weekend would be spent in hardship on the bleak Salisbury Plains. Thus with light hearts and untroubled consciences a dozen officers of the Regiment boarded and untroubled consciences a dozen officers of the Regiment boarded an Aer Lingus flight to the newly re-located RHQ in the bright lights of London our base of operations for the next three days.

Our first day was spent following the normal tourist pattern of visiting buildings and museums. Fortunately our visit co-incided with the Royal Tournament a military tattoo, in Earls Court. This had the two fold attraction of putting us in the correct frame of mind for the fire power demonstration the next day and equally as important of protecting the ill-disciplined from themselves and the demon alcohol.

Early Saturday morning saw us motoring westwards. Some were clear eyed and glowing with exuberance, others huddled miserably in overcoats in the summer sun. The latter were gleefully informed by their healthy sympathetic comrades that the best 'cure' was the sound of high velocity gunfire and that "a sniff of cordite" would work wonders. With their cheerful thoughts in mind the walking wounded carefully contemplated the approaching sight of Larkhill Camp.

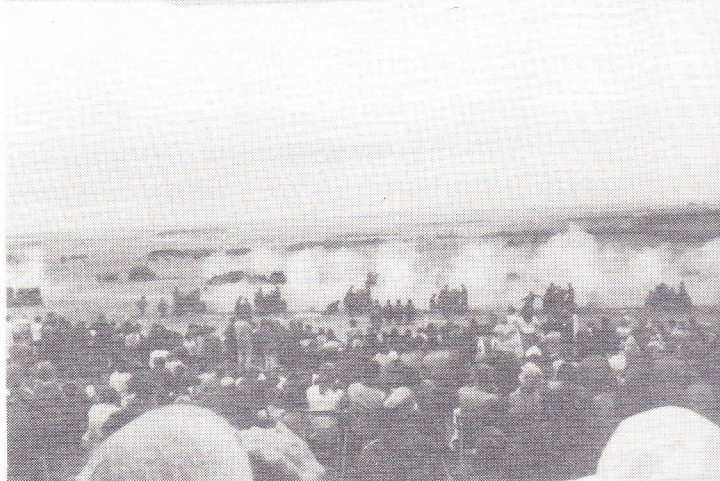
The firing programme commenced at 14.15hrs. All Artillery Weapons in use in the British Army from 25prs up to 8 inch were fired. In all 62 guns took part some being displayed conventionally, others being brought into action by helicopter. The variety and amount of ammunition used did arouse a small tinge of envy in our hearts. A wide variety of targets were engaged at different ranges by both self propelled and towed artillery. On completion of the firing programme we were able to converse with and question the gun detachments. A military tattoo followed and the day was sounded off by a visit to a large arena of military equipment. It seemed that every item imaginable was on display and available for "hands on" trial, from surface to air missile simulators to tiny hand held back up computers. The spectrum covered surface to air, surface to surface and anti-tank missiles, anti-aircraft cannon of differing calibres, and a fantastic variety of artillery guns and ammunition. We were very interested to inspect among this tableau a large amount of captured Argentinian equipment. Briefings on target acquisition, computerised control systems, survey and communication equipment sated our already gorged appetites for knowledge and completed our visit to the Royal Artillery.

On return to London a determined effort was made to ensure that our second objective of the visit, socialising, would receive the deference it deserved now that our educational capacities were complete. Programmes, rendezvous etc. were adhered to in a manner that convinced all that they were older than they felt. On our return to Ireland our shattered visages re-assured our families that the Salisbury Plains must indeed be a terrible place to spend a week-end.

Anon.

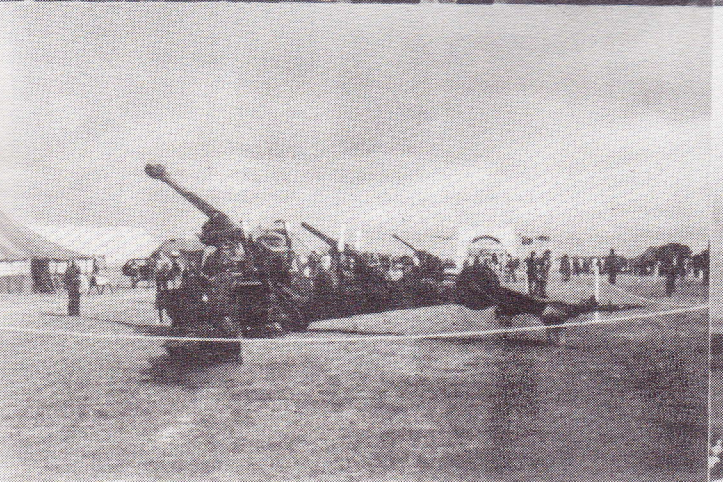
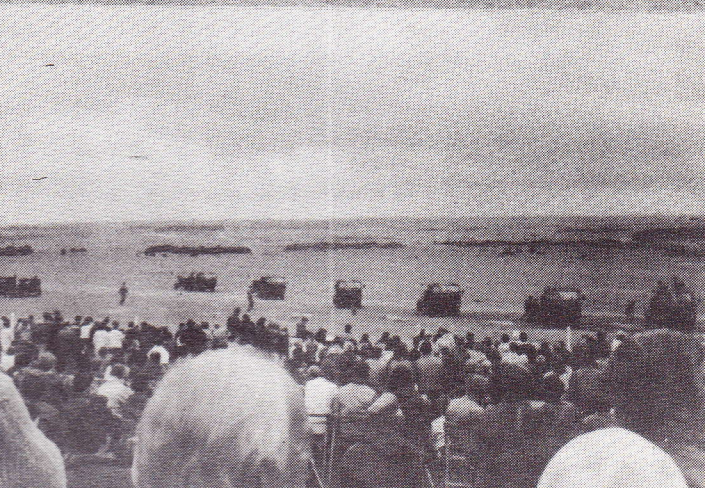
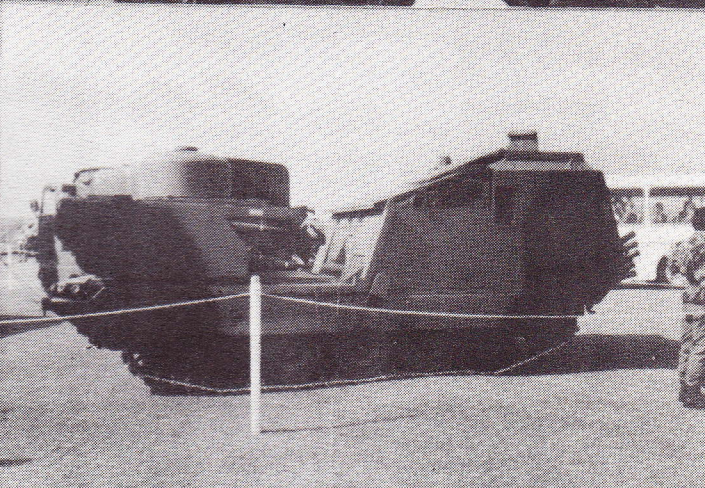


# LARKHILL 1984



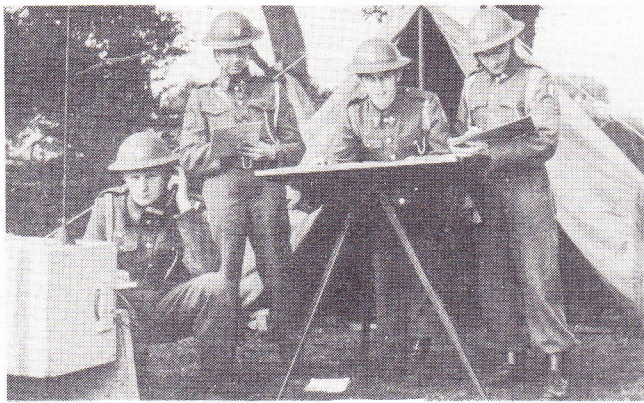


## BIG GUNS AT LARKHILL





# EARLY DAYS – 6 BATTERY



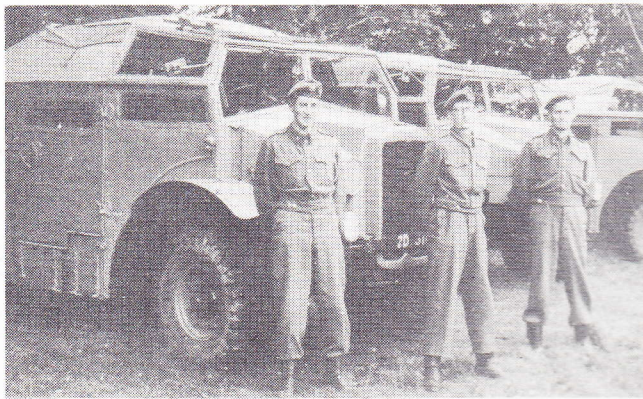
GLEN IMAAL 1960

L to R: Cpl P. O'Donnell, Sgt/Maj G. Kinchella, Cpl. S. Moore, Sgt. J. Mangan.



GLEN IMAAL 1960

L to R: Cpl S. Moore, Comdt. T. M. McDunphy, Lt. K. O'Malley, Cpl. P. Swan, Cpl. M. O'Malley.



L to R: Quad Gun Towers with Cpl. J. Miley, Gnr. McLoughlin, Cpl. Kelly.



GLEN IMAAL 1960

Included are: Cpl. M. Byrne (now Rev. Fr.), Gnr. C. Malone (now Rev. Fr), Gnr. P. Patterson, Cpl. M. O'Connor, Gnr. M. Malone, Gnr. Kavanagh.



GLEN IMAAL 1960

L to R: Sgt. P. Mulcahy (RIP), Cpl. W. Gibson, T. Cooke, P. Winders, J. McGrath, G. Keogh.

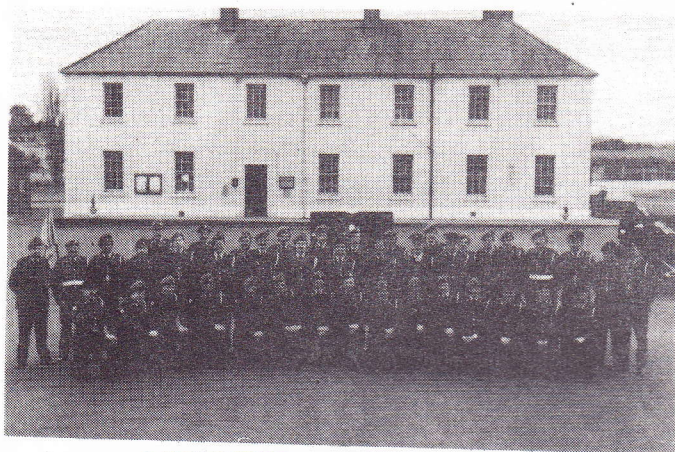


CHRISTMAS DINNER 1960

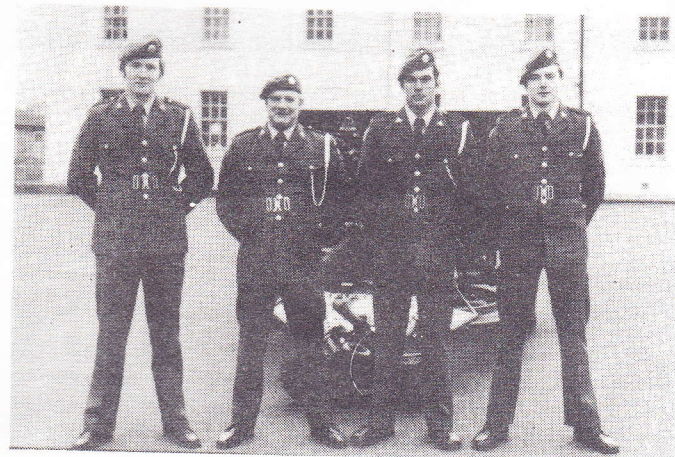
Gnr. J. Collins, Gnr. P. Patterson, Cpl. A. J. Mullowney, Gnr. McGrath, Cpl. McCamly, C. Plant.



# 6 BATTERY



6 BTY BEFORE EASTER PARADE 1983



DEVOY BARRACKS, NAAS  
L to R: Sgt. P. J. Dunne, Sgt. C. Byrne, Sgt. G. Graham,  
Sgt. J. Everan



EASTER PARADE 1983  
L to R: Sgt. PJ, Dunne, Lt. G. Gibson, Sgt. C. Byrne.



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FIRST POTENTIAL NCO COURSE (1961) 11th HY MOR BATTERY  
 Seated: Cpls, Stephenson, Moore, Kelly, Comdt. Buckley, Cpls, Hayes, Perry, Usher.  
 Standing: Cpls, McNamee, Kelleghan, Declan, Gnrs, Nolan, Sutton & Hynes.



PRESENTATION OF SERVICE MEDALS ANNUAL CAMP 1983.  
 Front Row L to R: BQMS McGrath, Sgt. Lenehan, Sgt. O'Reilly, B/S Morrissey, Sgt. McDonnell,  
 Sgt. Judge, Sgt. Gibson.  
 Back Row L to R: Sgt. McCarthy, Sgt. Graham, Sgt. Byrne, Lt. Daly, Lt. Hogan, Comdt Quinn,  
 Lt. Guing, Sgt. Dunne, B/S O'Shea, Sgt. Cleary.



THE OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT AT PRESENT ARE:-

Comdt. Raymond Quinn - Officer Commanding  
Capt. Adrian Ainsworth - Staff Officer  
Capt. David Brown - Training Officer

5 BATTERY

Comdt. L. Bradley, Battery Commander  
Capt. M. Mangan, Tp Comdt. 'A' Tp  
Capt. D. Coll, Tp Comdt 'B' Tp  
Lt. C. Cox, GPO 'B' Tp

AREA COMMANDERS

Comdt. O. Murphy - 5 Battery  
Comdt. F. McGowan - 6 Battery  
Comdt. S. Moore - 11 Battery

6 BATTERY

Comdt. J. Miley, Battery Commander  
Capt. S. Moore, Tp Ldr 'C' Tp  
Lt. A. Burke, Tp Ldr 'D' Tp  
Lt. A. Guing, CPO 'D' Tp  
Lt. P. Graham, Asst CPO 'D' Tp  
Lt. G. Gibson, GPO 'C' Tp

11 BATTERY

Comdt. M. O'Scanlain, Battery Commander  
Capt. D. O'Connor, Tp Comd, 'F' Tp  
Lt. P. O'Brien, Asst CPO 'F' Tp  
Lt. L. Hogan, Tp Ldr 'E' Tp  
Lt. S. Whelan, Tp Ldr 'F' Tp  
2/Lt M. Hogan, CPO  
2/Lt P. Daly, GPO 'F' Tp.

Finally a word of thanks to all our Regular Army training staff who, over the years, have given 100% of their time and effort to make the 6th FA Regiment one of the most competent and respected units in the Artillery Corps in which we are proud to serve.



NEWLY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS 1979.





5 BATTERY — ANNUAL CAMP 1976 — GLEN OF IMAAL



11 BATTERY — ANNUAL CAMP 1976 — GLEN OF IMAAL



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NAAS — CO. KILDARE.

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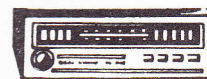
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# "UNDER CANVAS" GLEN IMAAL, DECEMBER, 1983.



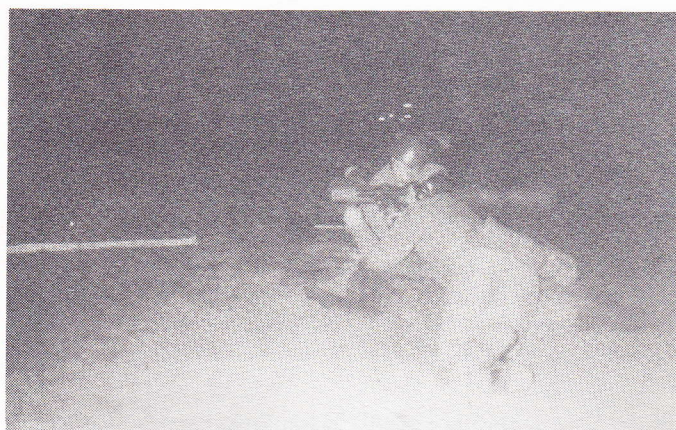
Officers Prepare for "War"



"Grub Up" for The Warriors



"Grub Down" - No Bother !



Anti Tank Night Firing Practices



"Smithy" Who Fired that Flare ?  
Adrian: I can't Locate Maurice Anywhere !



Night Firing Practices G.P.M.G. Heavy Role



Spectators and Critics Observe Firing.



## UNDER CANVAS IN GLEN IMAAL 1983

It disappointed me that it never appeared in the Guinness Book of Records, it exceeded greater "heights" than all Everest Expeditions, it left all Antarctica Expeditions in the halfpenny place and for sheer endurance, perseverance smiling through faces and body endurance it put the Miss World Beauty contest in the shade . . . . . what am I talking about ? The Weekend Overnight Training Exercises - held in Glen Imaal - under canvas ! ! - in December.

The thought of it all in the beginning was most appealing and had the same romantic and historic appeal as a John Wayne or Clint Eastwood western. But there had to be a catch somewhere, Comdt. Ray and his cohorts were up to no good as usual you could say ! but there was only one way to suffer near frostbite, and this was it, we could boast about it afterwards.

So the trucks were loaded with weapons, ammo, tents, sleeping bags and loads of bodies. The Sgt. Major had his usual knapsack full of goodies - a walking field kitchen somebody called it - and at one stage was seen to be kicking the wheel of a truck. Somebody said he was only warming up ! Jigger and Newman were like pistol carrying gringos from a Pancho Villa movie. Everybody thought Jigger won with his moustache. Eventually a beady eyed Corporal opened the gates for us and making sure to take all truck numbers we were allowed to pass through.

Arrival in the woody glades of the Glen was as smooth as Southern Comfort. Tents were erected in no time at all and eventually the whole camp area took on the appearance of a Sioux Camp - minus the Women Children and horses of course ! Then came the issue of the sleeping bags ! Now I only speak for myself when I say that very definitely somebody had died in my sleeping bag and nobody ever discovered it. Anyway I was stuck with it and no spraying or splashing with Bruit or Blue Stratus could remove the "dead thing" smell. Being a good gunner I smiled, said a silent (xjxjxk) and prepared for the tactical night exercises. Adrian gleamed at me - the so in so ! !

The night fire power demonstration was par excellence, exceptionally detailed and expertly demonstrated. The use of flares and tracer was in a league of its own and the frightening crescendo of machine guns with their deadly rate of fire left one wondering about protective cover. As far as I was concerned the sand bags were for rabbits. Being near the merry time of Christmas Comdt. Maurice Scanlon ( then an ordinary Captain ! sorry Mick and Doc ! ) fired one flare which ended up in a tree and directly over the silohetted "enemy" targets. It was the first time any of us had seen a "Kerrymans Christmas Tree". Smithy was heard screeching ! The highly effective accuracy from the 84 A/Tank under flares consoled us with the thoughts that we were not in the Cavalry Corps. Direct hits were scored two out of three, very good considering this was our first time. Our P.D.F. instructor Capt. Dave Brown and Capt. Mick Smith were "chuffed," it was to their credit and certainly to the credit of our N.C.O. "regular" instructors. The C/O Comdt. Ray Quinn was to be congratulated on undertaking this extensive and ambitious exercise.

The G.P.M.G. in the heavy role during the day and night exercises was also - as already mentioned - extremely accurate.

On the way back to camp spirits were high. Plans were being prepared to "roast" the R.S.M. on a spit over the roaring camp fire, but it was never carried out. Somebody said he was too heavy, and anyway a roasting was too good for him ! ! ! The activity in the field kitchen tent would put the Burlington kitchen to shame. The aromatic odour of delicious cooking pervaded the night air, everybody had the "Bisto Kids" expression on their faces, heads back, noses in the air and starving anxious faces everywhere. To queue was boaring and admittedly everyone was under the impression that there would not be enough food to go around, But the quartermasters had done their homework and there was ample meaty stew for all and extra for anyone who wanted more. God! it tasted good ! Home was never like this. Gunners sat around in groups chattering like magpies, they were in high spirits, this type of exercise was a new experience for them. It was a new experience for all of us.

The night wore on with sing songs and story telling around the giant campfire. Finally the weary warriors wended their way towards the various "teepees" the exception was however the N.C.O.'s tent which was lit-up and smelled like the Lotus Flower Chinese Take Away, certainly not up to the standards of "Chicken America" although it was admittadely still finger lickin good. Now all was quiet - at long last. Three survived "Ainsey", "Gibbo" and myself.

To Bed - God ! — To Bed !. The thought of it chilled me. Then as I climbed into its crypt like interior the chill returned. I lay there shivering and thinking "Your'e mad" I told myself. Then I got a sudden flash of inspiration. My trusty hip flask ! where the hell is it ? I fumbled around in the dark - a wet sock first came to hand, probably Mick Mangans. Then I found it, scrambled out of the "tomb" and tripping across ropes eventually came to the field kitchen with its cauldron of boiling water. I filled the flask to the brim, scuttled back to the "tomb" and slipped down into the stagnant depths clutching my homemade central heating system to my — well let me say it started at the feet first. I won't say where it ended up !

I slept, the silent sleep of the contented, smiling to myself and comforted in the thought that this was a first ever for an empty hip flask - definitely a contender for the Guinness Book of Records. To hell with forstbite !

"Brad"





FIRST LDF UNIFORM — DEVOY BKS.



1st ANNUAL CAMP — 6 BTY

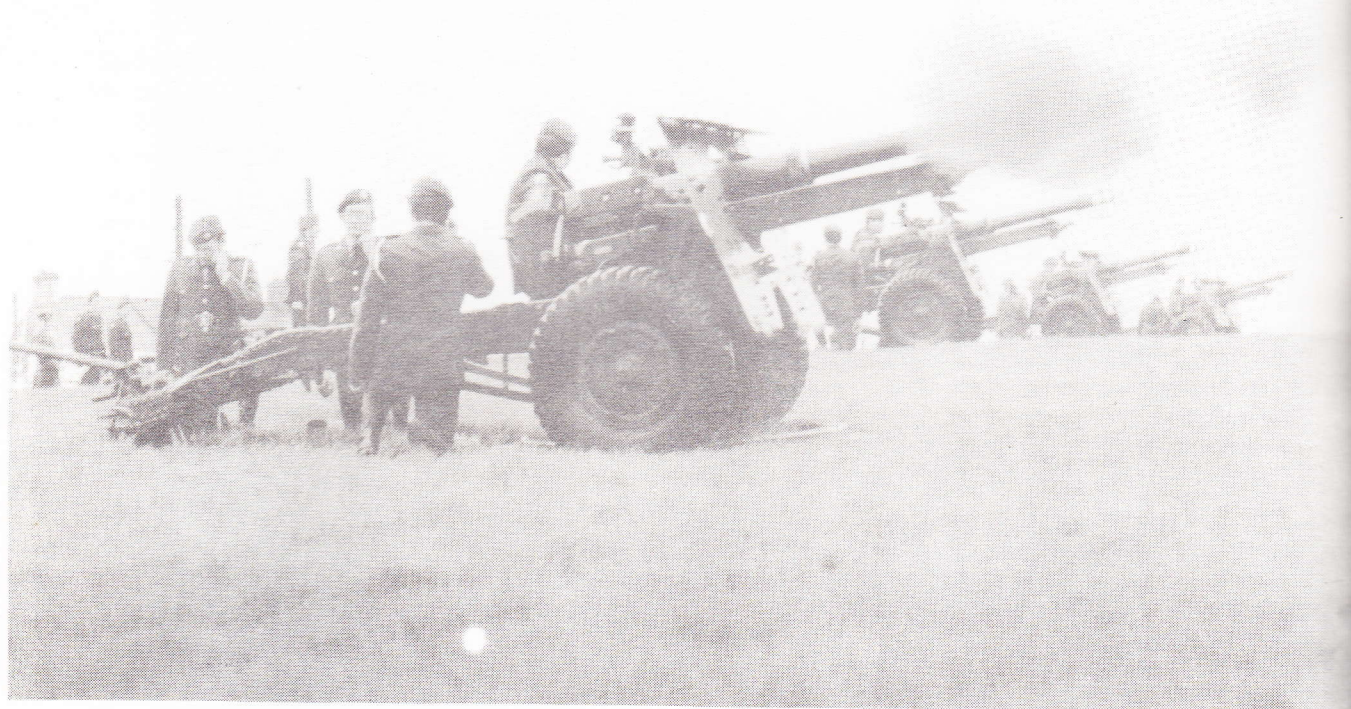
Included are: Cpl. J. Miley, Cpl. D. Moore, Comdts J. Frost, P. Brennan, Cpl. A. J. Mullowney,  
Cpl. S. Brennan, Cpl. W. Gibson, C. Geoghegan, P. Winders, RSM Kinchella,  
T. Cooke, P. Mulcahy (RIP) Cpl. G. Swan.



5 BATTERY GORMANSTOWN CAMP



## FINALE 1983 EASTER PARADE, 6 BATTERY, NAAS.



Included are: Capt. M. Smyth, Comdt. J. Miley, Lt. A. Burke, Cpl. Delahunt, Cpl. Corcoran, Gnr. Corcoran, Gnr. D. Moore.

### EPILOGUE

This magazine, like a crystal ball,  
has magically transported us back down memory lane,  
we have all been touched by happy memories of sound comradeship down through the years.  
We are very proud of our achievements and are hopeful  
that our next years together  
will be as memorable and as eventful as those just past.