



CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013

In Memoriam.

With sadness we report the passing of Comdt Jeremiah Brennan (Retd) aged 82 years of age. Comdt Brennan enlisted in the Defence Forces in 1948 and he served in the Medical Corps. As a CQMS, he was selected for 2 Potential Officers Course and he was commissioned in 1970 and appointed as QM 1 Mot Sqn Fitzgerald Camp Fermoy County Cork. He later served with the Ordnance Corps in Collins Bks Cork and he finished his service as Asst QM HQ C Comd. He was buried after a funeral Mass at the church of the Holy Cross Lobinstown County Meath on Monday 18 Mar 13. He is survived by his sons Comdt Edward Brennan (Retd) and Diarmuid, daughters Theresa, Esther and Monica, sons-in-laws, daughters-in-law and grandchildren
Suaimhneas síoraí dá anam uasal.

The 68th Annual General Meeting

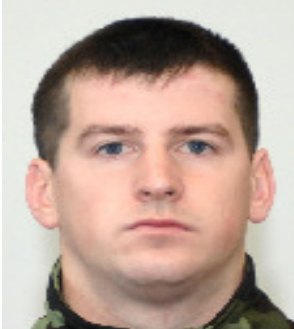


The 68th Annual General Meeting of the Cavalry Club was held in the Col A T Lawlor Room at the Cav Sch (the old anteroom of the former Plunkett Officers Mess) in the Curragh Camp, at 1900 hours on Thursday 21 Feb 12. Twenty seven members, of the club attended and the attendance included many generations of officers ranging from Capt Mick Mulcahy Retd who was commissioned in 1951 to Lt Colm Kirby who was commissioned in 2011. The new committee elected by the meeting is:

Comdt Eugene Cooke [President], Capt John Power [Vice-President & President Elect], Lt Joanne McCarthy [Honorary Secretary], Lt Col Gerry Brennan (Retd) [Honorary Treasurer], Capt Neil Curran, Lt Colm Kirby, Comdt Peter Norton, Capt Paraic O'Toole (Retd), Comdt Seamus Ryan, Capt Shane McGrath and Col George Kerton (Retd).

The meeting considered two proposals for reconfiguring the Presidential Chain-of-Office and a majority of members voted in favour of a proposal that involves forming plates for the first thirty two years into four blocks each of eight plates using silver wire through the top lugs of each plate and mounting them in the chain above the medallion with the remaining forty two plates (1978 to 2009) and with ten new plates to cater for incoming Presidents up to 2020.

Commissioning Ceremony 88th Cadet Class and RDF Commissioning.

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence Mr Alan Shatter, TD presented Commissions to nineteen officers of the 88 Cadet Class at the Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh Camp on 25 Jan 2013. Three of the class were appointed to the Cav Corps: There was one Cavalry Corps RDF Officer commissioned at a Ceremony in the DFTC on the 4th Nov 2012. She was presented with her Commission by the minister of State at the Department of Defence, Mr Paul Kehoe TD.

	<p>2/Lt Grattan O'Hagan is from Dundalk, County Louth and is 26 years of age. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Leisure Management) from the Dublin Institute of Technology. Grattan joined the Defence Forces (Naval Service) in 2010 and was serving on the LE NIAMH prior to commencing his cadetship. Posted to 2 Cav Sqn.</p>
	<p>2/Lt Darren Reilly is from Ballinamuck, County Longford and is 20 years of age. Darren had just completed his Leaving Cert prior to joining the Defence Forces. His interests include Soccer and Gaelic Football. Posted to 1 Cav Sqn.</p>
	<p>2/Lt Lisa Chambers (AR) is from Ballyheane, Castlebar, Co Mayo and is 26 years of age. She is a Barrister by profession and has a Commerce Degree from NUIG. She has a LLM in Commercial Law from UCD and holds a Barrister at Law Degree from King's Inn Dublin. Awaiting re-assignment.</p>

Promotions.

Best wishes to Col Tony Bracken BMC who has been promoted to the rank of Col and appointed as Director of Combat Support and ISTAR and to Lt Col Peter Marron who is listed for promotion to Col in July.

Retirement.

Comdt Seamus Ryan retired from service on 25 Mar 13. Seamus enlisted in 3 Mot Sqn as a Tpr on 22 May 73 and he served continuously for just short of forty years with An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil and later with the Army Reserve. He was commissioned in Jul 83 and he served as Signals Officer before his promotion to Comdt and Sqn Comd in Sep 02. We wish Seamus his wife Mary and family best wishes for the future and he will retain his connections with the Army and the Corps as an active member of the Club Committee.



Cavalry Officers Serving Overseas.

In Jan 13, Lt Col Gerry Cooney deployed to EUFOR BiH in Sarajevo as HQ Commandant Camp Butmir for a year-long posting. Capt Gillian Collins left for a six-months posting with KFOR in Kosovo at the end of Jan 13. Comdt Eugene Cooke also departed on overseas service at the end of Jan; he is serving at Sector West HQ with UNIFIL where he is working with Plans Section G5.

Comdt Colin MacNamee and Comdt Jayne Lawlor started a six-month tour of duty with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan on 28 Feb13.

The Committee wishes all Cavalry personnel who are serving overseas a safe and peaceful tour of duty.



Lt Col Bob Duggan UNTSO briefs Minister Alan Shatter TD and the Chief of Staff Lt Gen Seán McCann on the Golan Heights at Post 51 during a visit to the region in Mar 13. Lt Col Duggan was the Club President in 2002."

News from the Reserve.

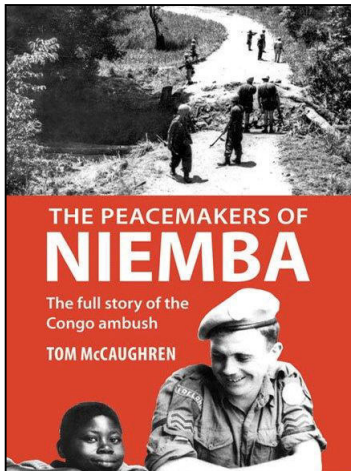
The re-organisation of the RDF is continuing apace with personnel having completed an expression of preference form to opt for their new unit of choice. The reorganisation involves a *Single Force Concept* in which Reserve personnel will be embedded into DF units with a single chain of command in more effective and cohesive units allowing scope for greater collective training thereby creating operational effectiveness. By 30 Mar 13, Phase One of the reorganisation will be completed and this entails the reassignment or transfer of all RDF personnel to DF units as well as the closure and auditing of old RDF unit accounts. Cav Corps Reserve personnel like their counterparts in all Combat Support and Combat Service Support RDF units, will be based in occupied military posts as the RDF elements of Combat Support and Combat Service Support units. In effect Cav Reserve personnel will be organic to 1 Armd Cav Sqn, 1 Cav Sqn, 2 Cav Sqn and the Cav Sch.

Phase Two – the Implementation Stage will be from 31 Mar 13 to 30 Sep 13 and this will focus on capability development. When the reassignment or transfer of all RDF personnel to DF units is completed, this will permit the much needed recruitment to fill the new establishment. Coordinated unit training with integrated training camps for the period between Jun and the end of Aug 13 will follow this.

Ceremonial events were held to mark the closure of the RDF HQs, at Cork, Dublin, Galway and the Curragh recently.

Book Launch on the Niemba Ambush

On Thursday 21 Mar 13, Nora Owen launched Tom McCaughren's book entitled *The Peacemakers Of Niemba* at the Officers Mess McKee Bks. Ms Owen is the grand-niece of Gen Michael Collins and the niece of Col Dick Bunworth Bn OC 33 Bn. The book



was first published in 1966 and now more than fifty two years after the massacre, the author has updated the work. Three Cavalrymen from 2 Mot Sqn was among the nine members of A Coy 33 Bn who died in the ambush: Sgt Hugh Gaynor, Tpr Thomas Fennell and Tpr Anthony Browne BMC.

The front cover of the book has two photographs, one of the search party at the bridge near the River Luweyeye approximately fourteen miles from Niemba village and the bottom photograph shows Sgt Gaynor with a local boy.

The Peacemakers Of Niemba ISBN: 978 0 9573461 1 6 by Tom McCaughren is published by Somerville Press and costs €11.99.

The Curragh Military Museum – Comdt Larry Coughlan (RIP) Exhibit.

The Committee strongly recommend a visit to the Curragh Military Museum, it is located across from O'Donnell's supermarket and it has been open since Oct 10. The museum is on the left hand side of the road approximately 200 metres after the Church



on the road leading to Suncroft. The Sliabh na mBan Rolls Royce armoured car following its extensive refurbishment is on display beside a reproduction of the Peerless armoured car. Members of the club may also be interested in an exhibition in memory of the late Comdt Larry Coughlan who passed away in Sep 09. Larry was from Geashill, Co Offaly and he played football with Raheen club. He joined the Army as a Cadet in 1960 as a member of the 34 Cadet Class. He served

in 4 Mot Sqn, 1 Mot Sqn, 1 Armd Car Sqn, 2 Mot Sqn, Dep Cav, HQ 6 Bde, HQ C Comd and was Kildare Civil Defence Officer for many years after his retirement in 1987. He was an accomplished sportsman and he played football for Offaly from 1960 to 1973, winning All-Ireland medals in 1971 and in 72. He won Leinster football medals in 1969, 71, 72 and 73. He served with the UN in the Congo with 2 Inf Gp (1963 – 64), in Cyprus with 8 Inf Gp (1967) and 46 Inf Bn in 1979 – 80. He commanded Recce Coy 46 Inf Bn and was at the Battle for At Tiri from 07 Apr 80 and subsequent operations. The museum display has Larry's SD No 1 uniform along with his sporting medals.

Opening times for the museum are:

Monday – Wednesday 1000 – 1300 and 1500 – 1700 hours.

Thursday 1400 – 2000 hours.

Closed on Friday & Saturday & Bank Holidays. Sunday 1400 – 1700 hours.

Admission and Parking Free. Telephone 045 445342.

Visit to Collins Barracks Museum 23 Mar 13.

A small party of just seven enjoyed a visit to Collins Barracks Museum on Saturday 23 Mar 13. The museum has a number of exhibitions running: the *Soldiers and Chiefs* exhibition has been attracting considerable numbers of visitors for some time, the *Irish and France - Three Centuries of Military Relations 1689 – 2012* is presented by the French Embassy in Ireland / Musée de l'Armée (Army Museum, Paris). This exhibition shows Irish and French military cooperation since the 17th century. The *Asgard* exhibition is housed in what was the barrack gymnasium (the riding school). *The Easter Rising: Understanding 1916* exhibition examines the decade of disturbance between 1913 and 1923, from the Dublin Lockout, through the Easter Rising to the end of the Civil War.



There are also many non-military exhibitions such as *Reconstructed Rooms: Four Centuries of Furnishings, The Way We Were, Irish Country Furniture and Schooling in the Nineteenth Century*.

Forthcoming WW1 Battlefield Tour May 13.



Section of Panoramic Photograph of Guillemont, the Somme, France taken in August 1916. The 47th Brigade of the 16th Irish Division helped to take Guillemont on the 3rd Sept.

The Cavalry Club will conduct a four-day Battlefield Tour of the WW1 Western Front sites during May 2013. The provisional planning dates are for the period **24 May – 27 May 2013** and this will be confirmed when we have indications of interest from members. The tour will be organised on the same self-help basis, which proved very successful on the two previous trips in 2009 and in 2012. The tour is open to Cavalry Club members and their guests and will cover a comprehensive programme focused on providing an overview of areas of Irish interest on the Somme & Ypres battlefields. Accommodation will be twin room sharing in the equivalent of 3* hotel accommodation on a B&B basis. Transport will be on a self-drive hire of a minibus or people carrier(s) at arrival airport. All participants will be expected to select a particular area of military expertise surrounding an event of the Great War and prepare a small brief for delivery at some stage during the tour. Priority of locations visited will be given to those travelling who had relatives involved in the Great War and who wish to visit their Graves or Memorials or areas of operation where a particular Regiment saw action. As always on every Cavalry Club trip to France and Flanders the trip will include a laying of a wreath at the Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony in Ypres on behalf of all Cavalry Club members to the memory of all Irish men and women who died in the World Wars.



Prospective participants should signal their general intention to participate in the tour to Capt Mick Bohan, (bohan97@hotmail.com) Cav Club sub-committee, or the Honorary Secretary Lt Joanne McCarthy not later than 6th April 2013.

Carpe Diem.