



## The Cavalry Club

### CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER WINTER 2011

#### **In Memoriam.**

The Club President and Committee were saddened to report the death of Lieutenant Colonel Larry Cooke (Retired) at the Bon Secours Hospital Cork on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011 following a long battle with illness. Lieutenant Colonel Cooke was born in Cork City on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1941 and he joined the Army as a member of the 35<sup>th</sup> Cadet Class in January 1961. He was commissioned in July 1962 as a Recce Troop Commander with the 4<sup>th</sup> Motor Squadron in Plunkett Barracks, Curragh Camp. During his service, Lieutenant Colonel Cooke held a range of appointments in the Corps and outside including: School Commandant Cavalry School, Squadron Commander 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Car Squadron, Officer in Charge Cavalry Workshops, Operations Officer Curragh Command, School Commandant NCO School General Training Depot, Kildare Regional Civil Defence Officer and Staff Officer Observer



Corps. He attended the Bolton Street College of Technology where he completed a Motor Engineer Management course in 1972. He was very well known throughout the Corps and through the Defence Forces from his time in Cavalry Workshops first as the Technical Officer (July 1973 to May 1977) and then as OIC Workshops (August 1978 to April 1985). He was widely known in sporting circles as an experienced rugby referee. He first served overseas in the

Congo in 1963 with the Armoured Car Group 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (ONUC). In 1966 he was Technical Officer with the Armoured Car Group 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Group (UNFICYP). He spent two years in the Middle East as a military observer with UNTSO in 1970 – 72. He was Logistics Officer with 59<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (UNIFIL) in 1986. He worked in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at UN Headquarters New York from August 1995 and on his voluntary retirement from the Defence Forces in May 1999; he continued to work in UNNY in a civilian capacity. A sizeable number of serving and retired personnel attended his Requiem Mass on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August at Christ the King Church, Turner's Cross. Larry was pre-deceased by his wife the late Edna (Tyndall) and is survived by his partner Carol and his children Lynda and Ronan and their families. The passing of Larry closes a chapter in the history of the 35<sup>th</sup> Cadet Class as all three officers who were assigned to the Cavalry Corps from that cadet class have gone to their reward. We remember his cadet classmates Tony Whelan and Frank Cotter along with the late Larry Cooke.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílis.

### **Cavalry Officers Serving Overseas.**

Welcome home to the following officers who completed their tours of duty abroad in recent months: Lieutenant Colonel Gerry Brennan (Sweden), Lieutenant Colonel Gerry Cooney (Cote d'Ivoire), Lieutenant Colonel Tony Bracken (Bosnia), Commandant Bob Duggan (Democratic Republic of Congo), Commandant Tom McGrath (Afghanistan), Commandant Daragh O'Brien (Kosovo), Captain Eugene Cooke (Middle East), Captain John Fitzgerald (Bosnia), Captain Andrew Burke (Democratic Republic of Congo), and Lieutenant Claire Mortimer (Vienna).

In June 2011, thirty three years after the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion first deployed to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the 458-strong 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion returned to the area of operations where Defence Forces personnel have served longest overseas. A number of Cavalry officers completed their service with the battalion in late November and they have returned to their home units. They are: Captain Denise Burke, Captain Gareth O'Neill, Lieutenant Michael Conway and Lieutenant Conor Connolly.

Our Club President, Commandant Rory McCorley was posted to the Force HQ at Naquora in June where he is serving in Operations Branch until the end of June 2012. Captain Mark Tormey started a six-month tour in Logistics Branch in September and Lieutenant Colonel Pat Power joined them in November at the FHQ for a twelve-month period as the Deputy Chief Liaison Officer for the force. Three other Cavalry officers deployed to the Lebanon with Reconnaissance Company of the 105<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in November and they will complete a six-month tour of duty. They are Commandant Fergal Mac Donald (Recce Coy Comd), Captain Laura Keane and Lieutenant Ciaran Dillon.

Commandant Philip Cotter is in Kabul since September with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and he is scheduled to finish at the end of February 2012.

Lieutenant Colonel Kieran Dalton remains with EU Military Staff in Brussels and Captain Micheál Conneely continues in Sarajevo with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

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

### **News from the Reserve Squadrons.**

The Reserve Cavalry Squadrons, like all reserve units, continue to be impacted by the public service moratorium on recruitment and promotions introduced by Government on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and applied to the Reserve by the Department of Defence. The moratorium and the considerable reduction in paid mandays available for full time training have severely impacted on the ability of units to carry out effective individual and collective training. Despite these constraints and other factors outside the control of units, the Reserve Squadrons continue to strive to train to fulfil the roles assigned to the Reserve. During the summer the three Reserve Squadrons conducted full time training with 31<sup>st</sup> Reserve Cavalry Squadron on camp in Kickham Barracks Clonmel, 54<sup>th</sup> Reserve Cavalry Squadron in Stephens Barracks Kilkenny and 62<sup>nd</sup> Reserve Cavalry Squadron in the Curragh.

### **Retirement Commandant Eadaoin McNamara.**

Brigadier General Conor O'Boyle, GOC DFTC, hosted a farewell lunch in Ceannt Officers Mess on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November for Commandant Eadaoin McNamara, Cavalry School who retired for the Defence Forces after twenty years service. Commandant McNamara joined the Army as a member of the 68<sup>th</sup> Cadet Class in November 1991. She was commissioned in July 1993 and she was appointed as Support Troop Commander with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Squadron. The Mess President read a letter from the Chief of Staff Lt General Sean McCann in which he remarked on her groundbreaking career, as she was something of a trailblazer and a role model for other officers as the first female officer of the Cavalry Corps and the first female to command a motorcycle escort of honour. During her service, Commandant McNamara held a range of appointments in 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Cavalry Squadron and in the Cavalry School. She was an instructor in the Eastern Command Training Depot and served on the staff at Defence Forces Training Centre Headquarters. On promotion to the rank of Commandant in December 2008, she was posted as Chief Instructor at the Cavalry School.

She served overseas on four tours of duty, as the Technical Officer, Battalion Mobile Reserve with the 83<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Battalion and the 86<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion UNIFIL, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Guard & Administration Component with UNMEE in Eritrea and with 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Group KFOR in Kosovo. Eadaoin is steeped in army life as she is married to Commandant Eamon Kirby DFHQ and her father is Lieutenant Colonel Jim McNamara (Retd). Her sister Commandant Finola McNamara is serving with the CIS Corps. The Committee join with her colleagues and friends in wishing Eadaoin and her family all the best in her retirement.

### **Promotions.**

There has been a slight easing on the public service moratorium on promotions in line with the Employment Control Framework agreed under the National Recovery Plan 2011-2014 to reduce the cost of the public sector pay bill by reducing public sector numbers. This in effect has set a ceiling on the numbers in each rank and grade across the public sector. Captains Ruairi O'Brien and Jonathan Mills, who were listed for promotion under the 2008 round of promotions convened on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008 have been elevated to the rank of Commandant. Officers from the 79<sup>th</sup> cadet Class were promoted to the rank of Captain and they include: Neil O'Grady, Aisling Regan, Melissa Hogan, David Coughlan, Shane McGrath, Conor Connolly and Conor Glynn. The Committee extend congratulations to the officers of the Corps on their long awaited promotions.

## **Report on Events since the last Newsletter.**

### **10 Jul 11: National Day of Commemoration.**

The Club was invited by the Department of an Taoiseach to attend the annual National Day of Commemoration (Lá Cuimhneacháin Náisiúnta) to commemorate all Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the United Nations at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July. President Mary McAleese, the Taoiseach Mr Enda Kenny TD and members of the Government attended the event as



well as representatives of the Council of State; the Diplomatic Corps; the Dáil and Seanad; the judiciary, an Garda Síochana and relatives of the 1916 Leaders. The next-of-kin of those who died in past wars or on UN service and ex-servicemen's organizations including the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women, the Irish United Nations Veterans Association, the Association of Retired Commissioned Officers,

the Military Heritage of Ireland Trust Limited, McKee Officers Club, the Royal British Legion and other representative groups also attended. For the first time this year commemoration ceremonies were also held in Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford, Sligo and Kilkenny. The ceremony at Kilmainham began with pipers and the band playing the "Limerick Lament". An inter-faith service followed with prayers being offered for those who died in the cause of the freedom society now enjoys. President McAleese laid a wreath, a minute's silence was observed and the ceremony ended with the National Flag being hoisted to full mast, the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann and an Air Corps flypast. Members are reminded that this annual ceremony is open any club member who wishes to attend.

### **20 Jul 11: Cavalry Cup Golf Competition at the Curragh Golf Club.**

The annual competition for the Cavalry Cup Memorial Trophy was held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at the Curragh Golf Club. On a very pleasant day, over thirty individuals, both serving and retired with their guests, competed for the trophy. One of the contestants actually flew in from Austria and arrived just in time to

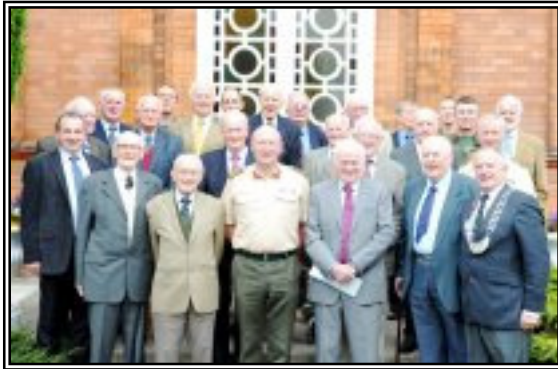


compete - much to the chagrin of all others. I am referring to the winner - again - Lieutenant Colonel Eamonn Cullagh (Retd) who, despite travel weariness, produced a brilliant winning score of 39 points to successfully defend the trophy. He is now on a hat trick!!. Other winners on the day were Lieutenant Colonel Pearse McCorley (Retd) and Commandant Pat O'Brien (Retd). The visitor's prize went to Mr. Tony English with a fine score of 37 points. All were presented with their prizes by the Cavalry Club President, Colonel George Kerton (Retd) at a very enjoyable function in the 19<sup>th</sup> following the event. We would like to take

this opportunity to thank the Curragh Officer's Golf Society for their continued assistance in running this prestigious event and look forward to their continued association. Finally, if there are any budding Eamonns out there wearing a Glengarry, please join us in July 2012 at the Curragh Golf Club, where you will be made very welcome and who knows what might result. Again, many thanks to all who travelled and played in 2011. They made the event and the day a fun outing and a very enjoyable success.

### **31 Aug 11: Septuagenarians/Octogenarians/ Nonagenarians Lunch.**

Following the very successful lunches held in 2009 and 2010 for the surviving senior officers of the Corps, this year the committee decided to expand the pool of



potential guests by inviting officers of the Corps who were born before 31<sup>st</sup> December 1941. The Club has contact details for five nonagenarians, eight octogenarians and thirteen septuagenarians. Unfortunately, a number of the elders were unable to attend due to ill health, inability to travel, prior engagements or holiday arrangements. The thirteen guests who attended the lunch at Defence Forces

Headquarters Officers Mess McKee Barracks on 31<sup>st</sup> August were Captain Theo Ryan, Commandant Art Magennis, Commandant Dan Daly, Captain John Chadwick, Captain Luke Mullins, Captain Charlie O'Rourke, Colonel Hugh O'Connor, Captain Mick Mulcahy, Colonel Bill Young, Commandant Brendan Smyth, Commandant Pat Lane, Captain Jim Power and Colonel Maurice Walsh. Captain Mick Mulcahy was the after lunch speaker and he regaled the gathering with stories from his service in the Corps and in his civilian careers, particularly from his work with the United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Jordan and Afghanistan. The Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Seán McCann took time out of his very busy schedule to attend the function. Serving officers who attended were Lieutenant Colonel Gerry Cooney Acting Director of Cavalry, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Lawless, Commandant Conor Lynch, Commandant Colin MacNamee and Captain Joe Mullins, committee members Colonel George Kerton (Retd), Commandant Bob Carroll (Retd), Captain Mick Bohan, Captain Paraic O'Toole (Retd), Captain John Power, as well as Colonel Brendan McCann (Retd) and Colonel Dick Heaslip (Retd). Full credit for the success of this event must go to the sub-committee of Captain Mick Bohan and Colonel Dick Heaslip (Retd) who were instrumental in contacting the guests as well as to Colonel Brendan McCann (Retd) and Commandant Colin MacNamee who helped with the transport arrangements.

### **03 Sep 11: Cavalry Corps Memorial Day.**

An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD and the Defence Minister Alan Shatter TD, attended the annual Cavalry Corps Memorial Day at Plunkett Barracks, Curragh Camp on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The ceremony to remember Cavalry personnel who died while on overseas service and those who passed away during the year commenced with mass in the Combat Support College and was followed by a wreath



laying ceremony at the Cavalry Corps Memorial Garden. Representative groups attended the ceremony from all of the Cavalry Corps units, the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen and Women and the Irish United Nations Veterans Association. The event this year also marked the first public unveiling of the 'Sliabh na mBan' Rolls Royce armoured car following its

extensive restoration by the staff of Combined Vehicle Base Workshops and Mr James Black and his team of craftsmen.

### 15 Sep 11: Trooper Patrick Mullins Commemorative Ceremony.

Trooper Patrick Mullins, 1<sup>st</sup> Motor Squadron, served with the Armoured Car Group, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion ONUC and he was killed in action on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1961, at Boulevard Reine in Elizabethville, Republic of Congo. His remains have not been recovered for repatriation to Ireland and burial. Trooper Mullins's comrade and crewman in the Ford armoured car, Corporal Mick Nolan, 1<sup>st</sup> Tank Squadron, from Colbinstown, Co Wicklow, was killed in action in the same engagement. His remains were recovered and he was buried with full military honours in the Army Plot in Glasnevin. On the fiftieth anniversary of Trooper Mullins death, a commemorative ceremony took place at Saint Joseph's Church, Kilbehenny, County Limerick on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011. An Honour Guard from 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Squadron rendered Military Honours to Mr Alan Shatter TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence and to the Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Seán McCann before they joined Trooper Mullins's family and former comrades for a special memorial Mass. The Club President attended the ceremony at the invitation of GOC 1<sup>st</sup> Southern Brigade. After the Mass, a



monument inscribed with Tpr Mullins' name, unit, the Cavalry Corps collar badge and UN badge was unveiled in a commemorative ceremony within the church grounds. The Mullins family, the Minister, the Chief of Staff, the Director of Cavalry, the Cavalry Club, ONET, IUNVA Post 25 and local organisations, laid wreaths at the monument. This was followed by a volley of shots, the Last Post, the raising of the National flag to Full Mast, reveille, the marching of colours off parade, the National Anthem and a reception in the community centre.

### 05 Nov 11: Annual Club Dinner.

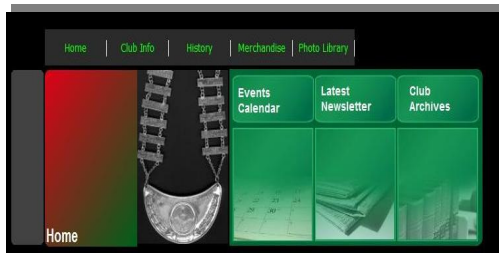
The Annual Club Dinner 2011 for Club Members and their spouses, partners and guests was held in the Officers Mess the Military College, Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh Camp on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2011. Lieutenant General Seán McCann, the Chief of Staff, Monsignor Eoin Thynne, Head Chaplain to the Forces and Colonel John Tolan the Commandant of the Military College were guests at the function and Colonel Declan Hayes (Retd) was the after-dinner speaker. At total of 61 diners attended and they enjoyed the excellent hospitality of the Mess. The Chief of Staff complimented the organising sub-committee of Commandant Bob



Carroll (Retd) and Lieutenant Neil Curran for their work in attracting a representative grouping of club members who were commissioned in each decade since the 1940s to the present time for the dinner. He also remarked that officers from all Squadrons and the Cavalry School were present at the dinner.



## Club Website and Facebook.



Anyone keeping a close eye on the Cavalry Club web site lately will notice that all the photographs taken of the various events held during the year are posted in the Photo Library section. We also have included various articles that we think will be of interest to the Membership and we encourage anyone who wants any article or have any pictures included on the Website to get in touch. Please also note the Face book link on the Site in which members can post any comments they wish to.

The committee wishes to thank the Web master Captain Peter O'Kelly for all the work he does, sometimes on short notice in keeping the web site updated and current.

## Provisional Calendar of Club Events 2012.

- By the kind permission of the General Officer Commanding DFTC, the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held in the old Anteroom of the former Plunkett Officers Mess on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 1900 hours and will be followed by refreshments in Ceannt Officers Mess DFTC.
- The Young Officer's Induction Dinner will be held after the commissioning of the 87th Cadet Class in March. The planning date for the commissioning ceremony is 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- A Walking Tour of Military Graves in the Dublin area will be arranged for a Saturday morning in April 2012 with the starting point at McKee Barracks.
- Plans are well underway for a Battlefield Tour to France and Flanders around April or May 2012. It is expected that the tour will cover between five or six days including travelling time.
- The annual Cavalry Cup golf competition will be at the Curragh Golf Club in July 2012.
- The Septuagenarians/Octogenarians/ Nonagenarians Lunch for surviving officers of the Corps will be held in Defence Forces Headquarters Officers Mess, McKee Barracks in August 2012.
- Cavalry Day will be on Saturday 1st Sept 2011 at Plunkett Barracks, Curragh Camp.
- Annual Club Dinner, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2012.

The Committee also plan to have functions for Young Officers in Athlone and in Cork during the year and also plan to support events to coincide with Reserve Cavalry Squadrons annual training during the summer months.

Please note that precise dates and timings will be on the club website.

### Miscellaneous Dates for your 2012 Diary.

- Sunday 8th April -Easter Sunday Commemoration Ceremony at the GPO.
- Sunday 8th April (afternoon) -ONET's National day of Commemoration starts with a parade from Brú na bhFiann in North King Street to Arbour Hill Church.
- Sunday 8th July -the National Day of Commemoration at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham.
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October -DF Gala Concert in the National Concert Hall.
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November -Mass for Deceased Members of the DF will be held in major Barracks and Posts.
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November -the Niemba Ambush Remembrance Mass at the Garrison Church, Cathal Brugha Barracks at 1200 hrs followed by a wreath laying ceremony.
- November -IUNVA National Commemoration at Arbour House, Mount Temple Road, Dublin 7.

## NOTIFICATION OF THE 67<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Committee wish to notify members that the Annual General Meeting of the Cavalry Club will take place in the old anteroom of the former Plunkett Officers Mess Defence Forces Training Centre Curragh Camp County Kildare at 1900 hours on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012. All members of the Club are cordially invited to attend.

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and President's Opening Remarks.
2. Appointment of Tellers to count votes.
3. Minutes of the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes.
5. President's Report.
6. Honorary Secretary's Report.
7. Honorary Treasurer's Report.
8. Report of the Audited Accounts of the Club.
9. Election of Club Officers.
  - a. Ratification of appointment of incoming Club President.
  - b. Election of the Vice-President and President Elect.
  - c. Election of the Honorary Secretary.
  - d. Election of the Honorary Treasurer.
10. Election of remaining Committee Members.
11. Election of Auditors.
12. Motions.
13. Any Other Business.
14. Closing remarks.

The Committee wishes to remind members that the AGM is central to the business of the Club as stated in Rule 7; *"The control and direction of the policy and affairs of*



***the Club, subject to the provisions of these Rules, shall be vested in the Ordinary membership as expressed in motions passed at the Club's Annual General Meeting or at any Special General Meeting”.***

The Committee invites members who wish to seek nomination to the incoming Committee to contact the Honorary Secretary (Lt Neil Curran, 4 Cav Sqn, Custume Barracks, Athlone, Co Westmeath, Telephone Mobile 086 7955982, E-mail neil.curran@hotmail.com) on or before 1st February 2012.

Please note that any member who wishes to propose a motion or motions for consideration by the AGM should give at least seven days notice of the motion to the Committee and such motion(s) must be duly seconded.

Refreshment will be available at the end of the meeting in Ceannt Officers Mess.

**Christmas and New Year Greetings.**



**Beannachtaí na Nollag agus Athbhliain faoi shéan is faoi shonas.**

The Committee takes this opportunity to wish all members of the Club and their families a happy and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2012 and look forward to meeting more members at Club and Corps events in the coming year.



**With the compliments of the Cavalry Club Committee  
Le dea-mhéin Coiste an Club Marcra  
CARPE DIEM.**