



The Cavalry Club

CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER WINTER 2012

In Memoriam.



On 25 Nov, Mrs Nancy Buckley (nēe Keogh) passed from this life at Elmhurst Nursing Home in Dublin. Nancy was the widow of the late Capt Tom Buckley 11 Mot Sqn (Club President in 1973) and she was elected as an Honorary Member of the club in 2004. She was the mother of SQMS Tony Buckley and Comdt Pearse Buckley (Club President in 1994). On behalf of the Cavalry Club we extend condolences to her family, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, sister Kotch, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, relatives and a wide circle of army and civilian friends.

Suaimhneas Sioraí dá hAnam.

Condolences.

We extend sympathy to Comdt Pat Lane (Retd) and his family on the death of his beloved wife Patricia (Paddy) nee Downing (Templeogue and Belfast). She passed away peacefully at Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross Dublin on 27 Oct 12 after a long illness.

We also send our condolences to Comdt Tom McGrath on the death of his mother Tess McGrath, (Castlebar) who died on 13 Nov 12 at University College Hospital Galway.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha is anamacha na marbh.

Cavalry Officers Serving Overseas.

Best wishes to Capt Pat Moroney who has been appointed as ADC to the DFC at UNIFIL FHQ and to Capt Conor Glynn, Capt Neil O'Grady, Lt Paul Muckian and Lt John Dicker who have started a tour of duty with 107 Inf Bn in South Lebanon. Capt Pat O'Connor deployed to UNTSO in Oct. Comdt Micheál Conneely has taken leave of absence with effect from 19 Nov 12 and he is working with OSCE in Sarajevo.

RDF Commissioning



Congratulations to 2/Lt Lisa Chambers 54 Res Cav Sqn who was one of eighteen RDF officers commissioned at a ceremony at the Curragh Camp on Sunday 4 Nov 12. Lisa is twenty six and hails from Ballyheane just outside Castlebar, County Mayo. She is a Barrister by profession and has a commerce degree from NUIG. She has an LLM in Commercial Law from UCD and a Barrister at Law Degree from Kings Inn, Dublin. She joined the RDF in 2003 and promoted to Cpl in 2008. In her free time she enjoys fundraising for Autism Ireland, Trocaire and Concern. Her hobbies include Debating and public Speaking.

The 20th RDF Potential Officers Course had four female and fourteen male candidates and come from diverse backgrounds. The class consisted of two university students, twelve university graduates, including three with masters degrees a further three undertaking masters degrees. All have different civilian backgrounds including, teacher, barrister, engineer, civil servant and a racing jockey.



The Minister of State at the Department of Defence, Paul Kehoe, TD officiated at the ceremony.

RDF Value for Money and Policy Review.



On 21 Nov 12 the Minister for Defence Alan Shatter TD announced that the government has accepted the Value For Money and Policy Review for the RDF. This process commenced in Mar 09 and it covers the First Line Reserve, the Army Reserve (formerly an FCÁ) and the Naval Service Reserve (formerly an Slua Muiri). The Minister has also accepted the proposed re-organisation of the Reserve Defence Force. The full text of the Value for Money Review of the Reserve Defence Force can be viewed on the Department of Defence website <http://www.defence.ie>

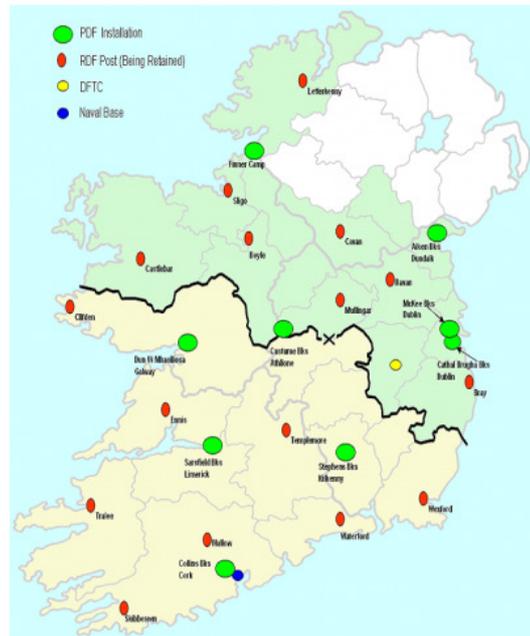


In a press release the Minister said: *“The measures announced today set out a clear, realistic and viable direction for the future of the Reserve. A “Single Force” concept is at the heart of the new organisation. Permanent and Reserve Units will have closer working relations with Permanent Defence Force Units now having dedicated Reserve components. This will facilitate more effective training and improve capability into the future. Reservists will also have more opportunities to give practical assistance, in a voluntary unpaid capacity. Consolidation in a smaller number of locations has facilitated the retention of a countrywide presence. While the closure of many RDF locations is regrettable, the findings of the VFM and the reality of the resources available demanded reform. The Government values and appreciates the voluntary service of active members of the Reserve. The steps now being taken aim to ensure a viable Reserve that is appropriate for our requirements.”*



Key points include:

- A new “Single Force” concept will see PDF Units having Reserve components, rather than a separate stand-alone Reserve.
- A geographic spread for the Reserve will be achieved between existing Permanent Defence Force locations and the retention of sixteen external locations at Letterkenny, Sligo, Cavan, Boyle, Castlebar, Mullingar, Navan, Bray, Clifden, Ennis, Tralee, Mallow, Templemore, Waterford, Wexford and Skibbereen. The remainder of units will train in permanently occupied posts. This consolidation into an effective organisation will entail the amalgamation and closure of Units throughout the country. Recruitment is also envisaged where this is necessary to achieve the numbers required in particular locations.
- The strength of the Army Reserve and Naval Service Reserve will be reduced from its current 4,500 personnel to 4,069 personnel. This will be achieved through natural turnover. Implementation of the new organisational structures will require participation and flexibility from existing Reserve personnel.
- The Naval Service Reserve of 200 personnel and will be based in four locations.
- The number of PDF Cadre personnel available to work full-time with the Army Reserve and Naval Service Reserve is being reduced from the current 261 PDF personnel to 57 full time PDF personnel. Additional support will be provided from PDF Units.
- Implementation of the re-organisation, including regulatory provision for the new Reserve organisation, will be progressed in tandem with the broader re-organisation of the PDF. As with the PDF, there will be an implementation process to achieve the transition from current structures to the new structures. In the intervening period, the military authorities will ensure the continuity of Reserve training.



The dis-establishment of 4 Cav Sqn was reported in the Autumn Newsletter. The impact of the Cav Corps of the reorganisation of the RDF is that the three Res Cav Sqns are also being stood down as separate units and Reserve Cav personnel will be organic to the three PDF Sqns – 1 Armd Cav Sqn, 1 Cav Sqn and 2 Cav Sqn. Reserve personnel will fill appointments at Sqn HQ (5 Personnel) and two Recce Tps each with 28 Personnel, - a total of 61 Reserve personnel will be in each of the Sqns. In addition three reservists will be on the strength of the Cav Sch. Overall, the Corps has been reduced from seven Sqns to three.

Annual Club Dinner 03 Nov 12.

The Annual Club Dinner 2012 for Club Members and their spouses/partners was held in the Officers Mess Costume Barracks, Athlone on Saturday 03 Nov 12 with a total



of 55 members and guests in attendance. Certificates were presented to the two recently elected Honorary Members Cmdre Mark Mellett DSM and Capt John Ging (Retd). Comdt Trevor Ging accepted the certificated on John's behalf and the president read a message from Capt Ging who is the Director of the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs at UNHQ New York.

In his after dinner address the COS Lt Gen Seán McCann thanked the GOC Brig Gen Ger Aherne for the welcome

and hospitality and he remarked on the long military connections with Athlone. He traced the history of 4 Cav Sqn from its establishment as 4 Mot Sqn in Jul 1940, through its twenty seven year long sojourn in Plunkett Bks in the Curragh to its border operations from 1972. He paid tribute to all the personnel who served in the unit and who gave sterling service at home and abroad. He said that this was the closing of one chapter in the Corps long and proud history.

New Arrival.

Congratulations to Comdt Mick Curran and his wife Ciairín de Buis on the recent arrival of their son Éibhear.

Provisional Calendar of Events 2013.

- YOs Induction Dinner Feb 2013.
- AGM Plunkett Bks 21 Feb 2013 at 1900 hrs.
- Planned Tour of Prospect (Glasnevin) Cemetery in Mar 13 TBC.
- The Annual Cavalry Cup golf competition will be at the Delgany Golf Club on 10 Jul13.
- The Septuagenarians/Octogenarians/ Nonagenarians Lunch will be held in Defence Forces Headquarters Officers Mess, McKee Barracks in August 13.
- Cavalry Day will be on Saturday 02 Sep 13 at Plunkett Barracks, Curragh Camp. Please Note: This will be the 50th anniversary of the unveiling of the Cav Corps Memorial Garden [06 Oct 1963].
- Annual Club Dinner, 02 Nov 13 TBA.

Other Diary Dates.

- Easter Sunday Commemoration Ceremony at the GPO 31 Mar 13.
- IUNVA Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony Arbour Hill on 29 May 13.
- National Day of Commemoration RHK 06 Jul 13 TBC.
- ONET Niemba Commemoration Cathal Brugha Bks 09 Nov 13.

NOTIFICATION OF THE 68TH 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 21st February 2013. All members of the Club are cordially invited to attend.

AGENDA

Welcome and President's Opening Remarks.
Appointment of Tellers to count votes.
Minutes of the 67th Annual General Meeting.
Matters arising from the Minutes.
President's Report.
Honorary Secretary's Report.
Honorary Treasurer's Report.
Report of the Audited Accounts of the Club.
Election of Club Officers.
Ratification of appointment of incoming Club President.
Election of the Vice-President and President Elect.
Election of the Honorary Secretary.
Election of the Honorary Treasurer.
Election of remaining Committee Members.
Election of Auditors.
Motions.
Any Other Business.
Closing remarks.

NOTES

Please note that in accordance with Rule 19.4, 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.

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 2013 and look forward to meeting more members at club events in the coming year.

At this special time of year we remember with sadness those who died during the year, in particular we think of the families and loved ones of the late Col Dermot (Clarr) Coffey, Mae McCorley and Nancy Buckley. The coming year will present challenges to Cavalry units and to our members as the new structures take shape. With reductions in the organisation and with the merging of units it is inevitable that Cavalry officers will spend more time in appointments outside of the Corps. The committee hope that we can continue to keep our members informed and we look forward to fulfilling our mandate by getting members involved in the Club's activities. We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and we send greetings to our members who will be on duty at home or abroad.

Beannachtaí na Nollag daoibh uilig

Carpe Diem