



The Cavalry Club

CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2016

PLEASE READ THE NOTICE FOR THE 2017 AGM (TO BE HELD AT 1900 IN UNTSI ON THURSDAY 23 FEB 2017) AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER

In Memoriam.

On Monday 10 Oct 2016 St. Conleth's Parish Church Newbridge was filled to overflowing for the funeral mass for Col Frank Lawless (J7 Director of Defence Forces Training and the Reserve) who died aged 55 years of age in St. James's Hospital, Dublin.

Col Lawless followed his forbearers in the military service of the State - his Great-grandfather (also named Frank), two of his great-granduncles, Jim and Ned, his grandfather Col JV (Joe) Lawless and his granduncle Colm were all members of 5 Bn Dublin Bde of the Irish Volunteers and they fought in the Rising during Easter Week 1916. His own father, the late Col Frank Lawless (senior) served in the Cav Corps from 1945 to 1983, he was Club President in 1968.

Col Lawless was a member of 58 Cadet Class, he was commissioned in Mar 1983 and he was appointed as Tp Comd B Tp, 4 Cav Sqn in Connolly Bks Longford. During his career he later served in 2 Cav Sqn, the Cav Sch, Cav Wksps, Office of D Cav and 1 Armd Cav Sqn.

He served in appointments in the Mil Col in the Inf Sch, the Cdt Sch and the Office of CMC, in DFHQ in Ops Div, as PSO to DCOS Ops and PSO to COS. He served overseas with Recce Coys of 60 Inf Bn (1986) and 67 Inf Bn (1990) UNIFIL, as an observer in Western Sahara with MINURSO in 1999 – 2000, in Kosovo with 35 Inf Gp KFOR in 2007.

He spent three years in Brussels from 2012 as Assistant Mil Rep at Ireland's mission to the EU & NATO and this was followed by service at 2 Bde HQ. On promotion to Col last April, he was appointed as J7 Dir DF Trg & Res.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Noreen, children Ciara, Daniel, and Anna, his sisters Eithne, Grainne, Finola and Niamh, and his extended family, to his Cadet Classmates, relatives and friends.

Solas na bhFlaitheas dá anam.



This photograph shows Col Lawless as a young Lt with the officers of Griffith Bks prior to the closure of the barracks in 1988. Cav officers front Row L to R: Number 2 Lt Col Dermod Coffey D Cav (RIP), Number 3 Comdt Brendan McCann Sqn Comd 2 Cav Sqn, Number 6 Comdt Tony Whelan (RIP) Sqn Comd 11 Cav Sqn; Back Row: Lt Dave O'Brien, Capt Gerry Brennan, Capt Adrian Grey, Capt Gerry Cooney, Lt Frank Lawless (RIP), Capt Eugene Smyth, Lt Greg Flanagan.

Condolences.

We extend sympathy to Lt Col Liam O'Flaherty (Retd) and his children Fiona and Neil, on the death of his beloved wife Eileen (Mac) nee McNally (Newbridge and Cork City). She passed away in the Beacon Hospital Dublin on 01 Dec 2016 after a long illness.

We also extend sympathy to Col Brendan McCann (Retd) and his children Patrick, Hughna, Claire and Scott on the death of his beloved Christeen (née Campbell) Greystones Co Wicklow and late of Scotland. She passed away at home on 07 Dec 2016.

May Eileen and Christeen rest in peace

Retirements.



Lt Paul Austin 1 Cav recently retired from the DF. He was a member of 83 Cadet Class commissioned in Jan 2008 and he served on the Cav Club committee in 2012.



Lt Col Cormac Kirwan retired on Dec 2016. He joined the army as a member of 65 Cadet Class in 1988 and he was appointed as Tp Comd 1 Armd Car Sqn. He held a wide range of appointments in 1 Tk Sqn, AC HQ, DFPCS, HQ DFTC, CSSC, Ops & Plans Br (J3 & J5) DFHQ, Office of DCOS Sp as well as overseas service in UNIFIL, KFOR, EUTM Somalia and MONUSCO. We wish Paul and Cormac every success in their future careers.

Decadal Lunch.

The annual decadal lunch was held at McKee Officers Mess on Oct 2016. Cav officers whose anniversary of commissioning was were invited to the lunch.



Sitting L to R: Lt Col Gerry Brennan (Retd), Lt Gen Sean McCann (Retd) DSM, Capt Paddy Power (Retd) (Commissioned 1976); **Standing:** 2/Lt David Kelly (Commissioned 2016), Comdt Philip Cotter (Commissioned 1976), Capt Siobhán O'Sullivan (Commissioned 2006), Comdt Jayne Lawlor, Lt Michael O'Donnell (Retd) (Commissioned 1996), Lt Damien O'Herlihy; Lt Col Ray O'Lehan (Commissioned 1986) is missing from the photograph.

Annual Dinner.

The Annual Club Dinner for Club Members and their spouses, partners and guests was held in the Officers Mess. Forty nine attended the annual dinner held at the Officers Mess the Mil Col on Saturday Nov 2016. Brig Gen Peter O'Halloran ACOS was the guest speaker.



Cav Officers Serving Overseas.

The Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Paul Kehoe, TD reviewed personnel prior to deployment for service with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights and with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

On 19 Sept 2016 one hundred and thirty personnel from 54 Inf Gp (UNDOF) paraded in Galway.

On 24 Oct 2016 Donegal Town was the venue for the Ministerial Review for members of the 109 Inf Bn (UNIFIL).

The following Cav officers recently deployed overseas:

Comdt Eugene Cooke MONUSCO HQ, Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Col Peter Marron has taken up duty as Military Adviser to the Permanent Mission to the UN in New York,

Lt Brian Lane 54 Inf Gp UNDOF,

Capt Oisín Branagan, UNIFIL HQ,

Capt Ciarán Dillon, ADC to FC UNIFIL,

Capt Marie Carrigy, Lt Fionn McCaffrey, Lt Cathal Sweeney the latter three officers are serving in 109 Inf Bn UNIFIL.

Other Cav officers on overseas duty are Col Eugene Smyth with the EU Mil Staff, Lt Col Rory McCorley and Comdt Pat Moloney with the EUBG, Lt Col Daragh O'Brien is in the Ivory Coast with UNOCI.



Lt Brian Lane 1 Armd Cav Sqn at the 54 Inf Gp review. Photo courtesy of DF Press Office.



Lt Fionn McCaffrey 2 Cav Sqn carrying the 109 Inf Bn colours. Photo courtesy of DF Press Office.

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 2017 and look forward to meeting more members at club events in the coming year.

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 Lt Col Patrick J Fingleton (Retd), Capt John Paul Chadwick (Retd), Comdt Michael (Mick) O'Byrne (Retd) and Col Frank Lawless.

Historical Cavalry Photographs.

1920s.

Jun 1922. On the afternoon of 30 Jun 1922 the Anti-treaty Forces' garrison at the Four Courts surrendered and several hundred Irregulars then occupied the eastern side of the north of O'Connell Street. They tunnelled through the walls of four adjoining hotels, the Gresham, Crown, Granville, and Hammam and created a strongpoint, they also occupied some buildings on the west side of the street. The National Army (the Pro-Treaty Free State Forces) under the command of Gen Tom Ennis first drove the Irregulars from Parnell Street and Gardiner Street and then used an 18 pounder artillery piece, machine guns, snipers and armoured cars against positions in O'Connell Street. Fighting continued until the Irregulars surrendered on 05 Jul 1922.



This photograph shows the Armoured Rolls Royce “Customs House” AC 1 (later ARR 6 and registration number YI 6454) on Henry Street with Nelson’s Pillar on O’Connell Street in the background. An effigy of Rory O’Connor who commanded the Irregular garrison in the Four Courts is on the turret.

1930s.

Late 1930s. In 1931 the Armd Car Corps was reorganised and the new establishment provided for a Director, Depot, School, Tank Cadre and I Armd Sqn. In 1933 a new type of Cav unit, 1 Cyclist Sqn was added to the Corps.

Large scale field exercises to test the proposed new organisation and structures for the Army were conducted in Counties, Kildare, Wicklow and south Dublin from 16 to 24 Sep 1933. 1 Armd Sqn, 1 Cyc Sqn and an experimental Horse Sqn were involved in the exercises.

The Cav unit commanders for the exercises were Comdt O’Dwyer, 1 Horse Sqn, Lt Charles Heuston 1 Cyc Sqn under and Comdt J V Lawless 1 Armd Sqn.

In 1934 the Corps was re-named as the Cav Corps, the glengarry was introduced and the Corps colours red, black and green were adopted around this time.



This photograph is believed to have been taken in the late 1930s and it shows one Tp from 1 Armd Sqn with four ARR and two DRs

1940s.

1943. This photograph was donated by Tommy Kinsella from Gorey Co Wexford. His father Capt Robert G Kinsella served in the Cav Corps through the Emergency period and up to 1947. He commanded 7 and 9 Cys Sqns and served in Cav Dep from 1945 until he retired. The photograph is captioned "Senior Officers Course 1943 Cavalry: Engineers: Signals."



Names have been put to a few of the Cav officers in the photograph: Front Row L to R: No 7 is Col Sean Collins Powell OC Curragh Command (a nephew of Michael Collins, he was Club President in 1971), No 8 is Lt Gen Dan McKenna who was D Cav 1935 -39 and COS from Jan 1940 to Jan 1949, No 10 is Lt Col P C Byrne OC Cav Dep (later renamed as Dep Cav), he was Club President in 1948, Third Row: No 2 is Lt Tom Dwyer one of the founding fathers of the Club, No 4 is Capt Lorcan Byrne Training Officer Cav Dep, No 14 Comdt Hugh Maguire OC 2 Mot Sqn , Club President in 1947, Fourth Row: No 3 is Comdt Charlie Heuston OC 1 Armd Sqn, Back Row No 6 (partially hidden) is Comdt PJ (known as Laddie) Hassett OC 1 Mot Sqn, No 12 is Lt JH (Joe) Foley Training Officer Cav Dep, Club President in 1962.

1950s.

1954. The 1 Mot Sqn was the first of a new type of unit and it was established in the summer of 1939 in McKee Bks, Dublin. The first Sqn Comd was Comdt Patrick Joseph (Laddie) Hassett, the other officers in the unit were: Capt J Morrissey 2 I/C, Capt G Riordan Tp Comd Armd Tp, Lt Jim Crowley Tp Comd A Tp, Lt O'Shea Tp Comd B Tp, Lt V Finn Tech Offr, Lt Brendan Hanley Adjnt, Lt Donal Oliver (Dan) Daly QM. During the course of the Emergency a total of seven Mot Sqns were formed.

As home-manufactured AFVs were produced, each Mot Sqn was organised with one Armd Tp (with four armoured cars), three Recce Tps each with five soft-skinned Ford scout cars called 'Bug Chasers' and fifteen motorcycles.

During the period up to early 1940, 1 Mot Sqn was deployed between Dublin and Castleblaney. Later the unit as part of 1 Bde 1 Div spent time in the Curragh, Mount Juliet Estate, Co Kilkenny, Kilkenny Castle, Salterbridge House Cappoquin Co Waterford and Murphy Bks Ballincollig Co Cork.

Officers and enlisted personnel from 3 Mot Sqn, 7 Mot Sqn, 1 Cys Sqn, 2 Cys Sqn and 8 Cys Sqn were posted to 1 Mot Sqn with effect from 17 Jan 1946 as the Army downsized at the end of the Emergency and these units were stood down.

In 1948 the Sqn took up residence in Fitzgerald Camp in the Aerodrome in Fermoy and this was to be the unit's home for half a century.

Fitzgerald camp closed on 28 Sep 1998 and 1 Cav Sqn moved to Collins Bks, Cork. Since the late 1940s, 1 Mot/Cav Sqn has built up a remarkable reputation in shooting competitions.

This photograph shows 1 Mot Sqn shooting team, winners of the Cav Weapons and Rifle Cups 1954.



Front row L to R: Tpr P McCarthy, Cpl D Morris, Capt Tom Kelly, Comdt Timmy Ryan Sqn Comd, Tpr M O'Mahoney, Tpr P O'Mahoney, Cpl M Begley; Second row: Tpr W Mulcahy, Tpr E Ryan, Cpl P Fraher, Tpr P Fitzpatrick, Tpr R Whealey, Sgt Dan Carroll, Back row: Tpr T Mockler & Tpr R Hanna.

1960s.

11 Apr 1960.

Personnel of 1 Tk Sqn at Tintown, Curragh Camp. The unit was established on 01 Oct 1959 and it was equipped with 8 Comet and 4 Churchill tanks. It was dis-established in Jul 1973 due to the shortage of ammunition and the obsolescence of the tanks. During the lifetime of the unit it had two Sqn Comdts, Comdt Kevin Nunan up to Feb 1968 and Comdt Denis Quinn up to dis-establishment.

1 Tk Sqn was re-established in Mar 1980 equipped with Scorpion CVR(T)s and Timoney Mk VI APCs.

In Nov 1998 following implementation of the DF Review Implementation Plan, personnel from Dep Cav, 1 Armd Car Sqn and 1 Tk Sqn were amalgamated into one unit 1 Armd Cav Sqn.



Front Row L to R: Sgt Peter Dignam, Cpl Ginger Maher, Sgt Dick Drohan, Sqn Sgt Mick Galvin, Lt Liam Young (Club President 1977), Lt Dermod Coffey, Comdt Kevin Nunan Sqn Comd, (Club President 1958), Capt Jimmy Bergin (Club President 1952), Lt Ray Leonard, Sgt Tommy Power, SQMS Des Nolan, Cpl O'Connor, Sgt Paddy Sweeney; Middle: Tprs Donnellan, John Ginty, Mick Loughman, Finn, Conway, Hackett, Goff, MacCarthy, Egan, Murphy, Sheridan, Furlong, Bolger, Brown; Rear: Tprs Cooke, Leonard, Geraghty, Deegan, Regan, O'Brien, Irwin.

1970s.

Circa 1976. This photograph was taken around 1976 on the Curragh plains and it shows 1 Armd Car Sqn formed up prior to a squadron exercise. The unit retained its old post-Emergency nomenclature and today's 1 Armd Cav Sqn can trace its lineage back through 1 Armd Car Sqn to the original 1 Armd Sqn which was formed on 12 Sep 1931 and to No 1 Coy Armoured Car Corps dating back to 1924.

In the 1970s 1 Armd Car Sqn was identical to the Mot Sqns with an establishment of 156 all ranks, the Landsverks and Leylands were replaced by Panhards in 1972 and 1973.

The Sqn consisted of a Sqn HQ mounted on a Panhard M3 VTT, two Landrovers and a DR; three Recce Tps each with two Panhard AML 60s, four Landrovers and a DR, Sp Tp had two Panhard AML 90s, two M3 VTTs one Landrover and a DR. The squadron was self-sufficient and it had an Admin Tp giving it logistical support and a recovery and repair capability.



1 Armd Car Sqn on the Curragh plains circa 1976.

1980s.

Summer 1982. The late Comdt Jude Ainsworth served in 5 Mot Sqn FCA and 5 Res Cav Sqn from his teenage years up to his retirement in 1982. He attend his final annual training camp in Connolly Bks Longford in 1982 before his retirement. He is photographed with officers of the unit with the Officers Mess to the rear on the right of the photograph and the gymnasium on the left. A Comet A34 tank is the backdrop for the photo.



L to R: Lt Michael Cunningham, Capt Ken Lyons, Comdt Jude Ainsworth (RIP), Lt Frank Feeney (RIP), Lt Jock Jackson and Lt John Clark.

1990s.

1994. Comdt Eadaoin McNamara was a member of 68 Cdt Class commissioned in Jul 1993. She was the first female in the DF to qualify as a motorcyclist and the first female officer to command a Recce Tp and an EOH. She retired in Nov 2011.

Capt Tim O'Connell was a member of 56 Cdt Class commissioned in Apr 1981, he served in 1 Armd Car Sqn and DFHQ before being posted to 2 Cav Sqn in 1994. He retired in Apr 1998.



Capt Tim O'Connell Adjt and 2/Lt Eadaoin McNamara Tp Comd Sp Tp 2 Cav Sqn in Dublin Castle.

Carpe diem.



The Cavalry Club

NOTICE FOR THE 72nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAVALRY CLUB 23 FEB 2017

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Cavalry Club will take place in UNTSI, The Military College, Defence Forces Training Centre Curragh Camp County Kildare at 1900 hours on Thursday 23 Feb 16. All members of the Club are cordially invited to attend.

AGENDA

Welcome address and Club President's Opening Remarks.

Appointment of Tellers to count votes.

Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

President's Report.

Honorary Secretary's Report.

Honorary Treasurer's Report.

Report on the Audited Accounts of the Club.

Motions.

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.

Any Other Business.

Closing remarks.

NOTES Rule 19.4: Please note that any member who wishes to propose a motion(s) for consideration by the AGM should give at least seven days' notice of the motion(s) to the Committee in advance of the date of the AGM and such motion(s) must be duly seconded.

Tea/coffee and light refreshments will be available after the meeting in the Officers Mess Military College after the meeting.

Any member who wishes to put his/her name forward for election to the committee is asked to notify the Honorary Secretary Lt Damien O'Herlihy damienerlihy@icloud.com