



CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2018

In Memoriam.

In January we reported with sadness the deaths of two Cav Corps officers.

On 12 Jan 2018 of Lt Alfred (Alfie) Johnston (Retd) of Elmwood, Naas, Kildare died aged 77 years.

He was a member of 2 Potential Officers' Course and on commissioning in Dec 1970 he was posted as QM 2 Mot Sqn, he later served in Svy Coy Engr Corps, McKee Bks Coy and 2 Inf Bn, he retired in Feb 1985.

He was awarded a DSM With Distinction for service as an Engr Corps Pte at Kisenyi Post in Goma in the Congo with 32 Inf Bn in 1960.

We extend our condolences to his children James, Robert, Mary, Claire and Tony and their families and comrades.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Jun 1973 Lt Johnston along with the late Comdt Michael O'Byrne (then a Capt) are standing beside President Eamon de Valera after the president's last Escort of Honour at the end of his second and last term of office.

On 14 Jan 2018 Comdt Patrick (Paddy) Lane (Retd) of Templeogue Rd Dublin 6W died in his 88th year. He was a member of 22 Cadet Class and on commissioning in Dec 1950 he was posted to the Cav Dep. He later served in 1 Mot Sqn, 1 Armd Car Sqn, 4 Mot Sqn, 2 Mot Sqn and he was Sqn Comd 5 Mot Sqn FCA when he retired on voluntary grounds in Jun 1974. He remained on the Reserve with 2 Cav Sqn. He served with the UN in the Congo with Armd Car Gp 37 Inf Bn and in Cyprus as Tech Offr Armd Car Gp 3 Inf Gp.

He was pre-deceased by his wife Patricia who died in Oct 2012, he is survived by his children Nikki, Holly, Rossa and Barra and their families. We extend our sympathy to the Lane family, relatives and comrades of Paddy.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam



1962 Paddy Lane as a Capt serving with 37 Inf Bn ONUC in the Republic of the Congo. L to R: SQMS Peter Dignam, Capt Mark Carroll, Cpl Norman Mason and Capt Paddy Lane. The other officers of the Armd Car Gp were: Comdt W A (Gus) Mulligan, Capt Dermod (Clar) Coffey, Capt Tommy Roche, Lt Mick Mullooly and Lt Maurice Walsh. Photo courtesy of the late Col Dermod Coffey collection.

Annual General Meeting.

The turnout for the 73rd AGM held at the Officers Mess Ceannt Bks Curragh Camp on 22 Feb 2018 was above the quorum of members required in attendance. The new committee elected is

Comdt Jayne Lawlor President,
 Lt Col Ray O'Lehan Vice President,
 Capt Damien O'Herlihy Honoray Secretary,
 Lt Col Gerry Brennan (Retd) Honorary Treasurer,
 Members
 Lt Col Gerry Cooney (Retd),
 Capt Mark Morris (Retd),
 Lt Gen Sean McCann (Retd),
 Capt Joanne McCarthy,
 Comdt Peter O'Kelly (Retd)

New Cav Corps Officer.

On 26 Jan 2018 the Minister with Responsibility for Defence, Mr Paul Kehoe T.D. and Chief of Staff VAdm Mark Mellett DSM, officiated at the commissioning ceremony for seventy eight cadets from 93 Cdt Class at a ceremony at St Brigids Garrison Church at the Curragh Camp. The class comprised of 68 new Army Officers, 2 Air Corps Officers (ACAL) and 8 Maltese Officers.

One officer was appointed to the Cav Corps, he is Lt Brian Kelly who hails from Killeslin Co Laois. Lt Kelly graduated from DCU with a Bachelor in Business Studies degree and he worked in the banking sector before his Cadetship. He was the Cdt Capt for Phase 3 of training.

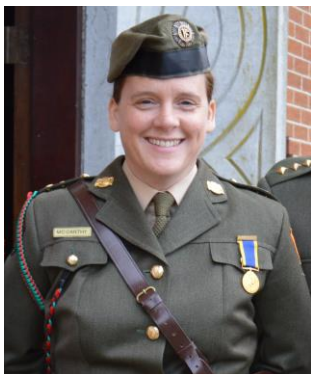
He is an accomplished sportsman and he represented the DF in the CISM cross-country competition in Belgium. Col George Kerton (Retd) presented Lt Kelly with the ARCO (Association for Retired Commissioned Officers) Sword (An Claiomh Gaíscíochta) for the best overall Cdt.



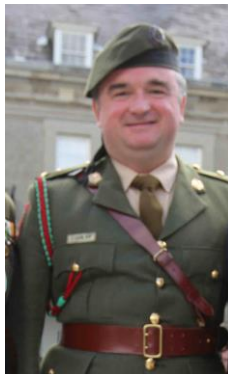
L to R: Mr Paul Kehoe TD, Col George Kerton Vice-President ARCO, Gerry Kelly, Lt John Kelly, VAdm Mark Mellett DSM, Lt Col Ian Byrne, Cdt Sch Comdt. Photo courtesy DF Press Office.

Promotions.

Cav Club history was made in 2018 as the year during which three members of the committee were listed for promotion to higher rank, the President Joanne McCarthy and the Honorary Secretary have been promoted to Capt and the Vice President Ray O’Lehan is due to be promoted to Col. We congratulate the trio and we wish they well in the future.



Capt Joanne McCarthy.



Capt Damien O’Herlihy



Col Ray O’Lehan.

Retirements.

In Feb and Mar four Cav Corps officers retired from the DF.

Comdt Peter O’Kelly retired after forty years’ service to the FCA and RDF with 11 Mot Sqn, 11 Cav Sqn, 62 Res Cav Sqn and 2 Cav Sqn. He was commissioned in Oct 1993.

Comdt Ruairi O’Brien retired from HQ 2 Bde he was a member of 69 Cdt Class and he served for twenty five years.

Col Eugene Smyth and Col Peter Marron were members of 52 Cdt Class and they both served for more than forty two years.

We wish our four comrades all the best for the future and we hope that they will stay connected with the club.



Comdt Peter O'Kelly.



Comdt Ruairi O'Brien



Col Eugene Smyth.



Col Peter Marron.

Historical Cavalry and Armoured Vehicles Photographs.

This year, 2018, is the sixtieth anniversary of the deployment of Ireland's first UN peacekeepers when fifty DF officers went to Lebanon as Military Observers with the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL). It is also the forty fifth anniversary of the Second United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF II). This mission deployed from October 1973 to July 1979 in the Sinai Peninsula to supervise the ceasefire between Egyptian and Israeli forces at the end of Yom Kippur War (also known as the October War). Perhaps the most important DF anniversary to be marked this year is the fortieth anniversary of the formation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The following Cav officers were in the first DF unit to serve with UNIFIL 43 Inf Bn: Comdt Ken Kelly Recce Gp Comd, Capt Pat O'Brien 2 I/C & Tech Offr Recce Gp, Lt Lester Costello Sec Comd Recce Gp HQ Coy, Lt John Cunningham Sec Comd Recce Sec A Coy, Lt Jim Burns Sec Comd Recce Sec B Coy and Lt Gerry Brennan Sec Comd Recce Sec C Coy.

The committee asks if any member has photographs of Cav Corps involvement in these three missions or other peacekeeping forces, he/she might pass to the Honorary Secretary and original photographs will be returned to the owners.

1920s.

Jul 1922. During the Civil War in 1922, the National Army (Pro Treaty Forces) in Co Mayo were initially commanded by General Anthony Teasdale (Tony) Lawlor and HQ was set up in Claremorris, the formation was known as Claremorris Comd. Castlebar was quickly taken and on 24 Jul 1922 Westport was captured in the first sea-borne operation when a landing took place at Clew Bay with a force of almost four hundred men, one 18 pounder field gun and an armoured car. Very soon most of the major towns throughout the County were taken from the Anti-Treaty Forces (The Irregulars). Col Lawlor remained in the Free State Army and he served in the Armd Car Corps and then in the Cav Corps. In the rank of Maj he was OC Armd Car Corps from Jun 1928 to Aug 1931, he was Dir Armd Car Corps Nov 1931 – Mar 1934, Dir Cav Corps Mar 1934 – Jun 1935, as a Col he was Dir Cav Corps Jan 1943 – Feb 1952, OC Curragh Training Camp from 1952 until 1959. He was Cav Club President in 1954



Tony Lawlor was replaced by Gen Dan Hogan as OC Claremorris Command and by early 1923 the tactics of establishing small posts at key locations and using cordons and searches of the countryside gained the upper hand on the Irregulars. This photograph shows an Armoured Rolls Royce of the Claremorris Command at an unknown location in the county, note what appears to be a pilot's helmet being worn by the gunner. The ARR is named The Big Fellow after Gen Michael Collins and later designated ARR 8 with road registration number YI 6456

1930s.

10 Sep 1934. In 1933, Comdt Joseph Vincent (Joe) Lawless (later Col and Cav Club Pres in 1950) OC 1 Armd Sqn, Capt A W (Aubrey) Mayne (later Comdt and the second President of the Cav Club Pres in 1946) and Sgt Paddy Lynch commenced a project to produce AFVs using the turrets, hulls and armoured plate salvaged from scrapped Peerless armoured cars.

A Leyland TE 2 chassis (6X4 wheeler) was selected and work on fitting the hull started in Cav Wkshps. On Monday 10 Sep 1934, the prototype vehicle with the designation ALV 1 (Armoured Leyland Vehicle) was demonstrated by Comdt Lawless to the General Staff and senior officers at the Curragh Camp. Cav Corps officers at this demonstration included Maj Tony Lawlor, Capt Aubrey Mayne, Capt Sean Collins-Powell, Capt Tommy O'Hanlon and Capt Michael Kilkenny.

It took until Jul 1939 before all four Leyland Armoured Cars were completed. The Leylands were armed with a Madsen 20mm cannon and a .303 inch Madsen machine gun. One Leyland is on display in the Curragh Museum.



17 Mar 1930. This photograph shows the first prototype of the Leyland with a Peerless hull fitted to the Leyland Chassis and a turret from an Armoured Rolls Royce in place of the twin Peerless turrets. The four Leylands were fitted with Landsverk turrets.

1940s.

27 Feb 1942. Comdt Art Magennis DSM is the sole survivor of this re-union of Cav officers who served in the Armd Sqns during the Emergency. The photograph was taken outside Plunkett Officers Mess on 27 Feb 1947.



Sitting L to R: -, Davy Coates, Matt Breslin, Lt Col Patrick C Byrne (Cav Club Pres 1948) , -, Comdt Charles J Hegarty (Cav Club Pres 1961), Comdt Patrick J McCullagh (Cav Club Pres 1953), -, -, -, -, Capt Brendan Cassidy, Comdt Donal McCormack, -. Standing: -, Capt Sean Barrett (Cav Club Pres 1974), -, Lt John Chadwick, Max Moffett, -, Lt James L (Jimmy) Bergin (Cav Club Pres 1952), Capt Bob Collier (Cav Club Pres 1956) , -, Lt John Minihan, -, Comdt Lorcan Byrne, -, Lt Dan Kennedy (Cav Club Pres 1980) , -, Capt Edward MacSweeney, -, -, Dan Kirby, -, -, Lt Joseph H (Joe) Foley (Cav Club Pres 1962), -, -, Lt Luke Mullins, -, -, Capt Timmy Ryan, Lt Tommy Roche, -, -, -, Lt Art Magennis, Lt John Shehan.
Photo courtesy of Mil Archives.

1950s

Summer of 1959. 4 Mot Sqn was established during the Emergency on 13 Jun 1940. The Sqn served in the W Comd area mainly in Boyle Co Roscommon and in late 1945 it moved to Plunkett Bks in the Curragh Camp. It remained as a unit of the Curragh Traing Camp until Jun 1972 when the unit moved back to W Comd to Connolly Bks Longford Town. The officers of 4 Motor Squadron during a break after exercises near Arklow in the summer of 1959.



L to R: Lt Ray Leonard B Tp Comd, Lt Martin O'Neill C Tp Comd, Lt Dermot (Clar) Coffey QM, Capt Paddy Lane Tech Offr, Capt Bill Manahan 2/IC, Comdt Gus Mulligan Sqn Comd.
Photo courtesy of Capt Ray Leonard (Retd).

1960s.

Jan 1960. This photograph shows three Ford armoured cars of Armd Car Gp 38 Inf Bn after the first phase of Op Grand Slam at the residence of Moise Tshombe president of the breakaway province of Katanga during the first week of Jan 1963.

Tshombe's house was in Kipushi near the border with Northern Rhodesia (Zambia). Op Grand Slam was the final ONUC offensive operation against the Katangan Gendarmerie and it was executed during Dec 1962 and Jan 1963.

The operation resulted in Moise Tshombe, fleeing first to Rhodesia, then to Madrid. The Gendarmerie dissolved and Katangan secession ended. Armée Nationale Congolaise (ANC) entered Katanga in strength and together with ONUC they disarmed the final remnants of the Gendarmerie in Katanga.

Four members of 38 Inf Bn were awarded Distinguished Service Medals with Distinction. One of the four was Captain James Lavery Armd Car Gp.

One of Comdt Lavery's sons, Don Lavery, has a fine article on his father's career in the DF from his commissioning in 1944, through his time escorting visiting dignitaries such as President J F Kennedy to his UN service with 33 Inf Bn and 38 Inf Bn in the Republic of the Congo and in Cyprus with 18 Inf Gp.



Personnel of Armd Car Gp 38 Inf Bn at Tshombe's residence. The officer standing on the AFV is Capt Ray Whyte. Col Whyte was Dir Cav Corps from Nov 1984 to Aug 1987. Photo courtesy of Capt Ray Leonard (Retd).

1970s.

24 Apr 1978. Members of a 2 Mot Sqn Escort of Honour provided for Queen Margrethe of Denmark and her husband Prince Henrik who were on a State visit to Ireland.



Front Row L to R: Sgts PJ Povey, A Hayes, E Hamilton, P Weafer, Lt Peter Gleeson, Capt Joe Dowling OIC EOH, Lt Billy Campbell, Sgt F Doran, Tprs P Shaughnessy, J Behan, B Carton. Centre Row: Cpl J Curley, Sgt P Murphy, Tprs B Weafer, P Butler, E Behan, J Twomey, P Keogh, M Donnelly, J Rafter. Rear Row: Cpl G O'Reilly, Tprs W King, McCarthy, E Walshe, D O'Neill, P Slater, P Bradley. J Dunne, Sgt W King, Tpr J McCarthy, Sgt J Dundon.

1980s.

17 Mar 1988. This photograph was taken thirty years ago at a medal parade in Camp Shamrock Tibnin in South Lebanon and ten years after the inception of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.



Lt Pat Power, Recce Coy 62 Inf Bn UNIFIL saluting the Force Commander Mag Gen Gustav Hägglund (Finland).

Gen Hägglund took over as FC from Lt Gen William Callaghan DSM who was FC from 15 Feb 1981 to 31 May 1986 and he was the longest serving UNIFIL FC.

The Cav officers in Recce Coy 62 Inf Bn were Comdt Sean McCann Coy Comd Recce Coy, Capt Liam O'Flaherty 2 I/C, Capt Jonathan de Renzy Pim Tech Offr and Lt Pat Power Sec Comd.

1990s.

28 Sep 1998. This photograph was taken as 1 Cav Sqn were about to depart from Fitzgerald Camp Fermoy to move to Collins Bks Cork. The camp at Fermoy was used by the Royal Flying Corps during WW1 and many old soldiers still refer to it as the Aerodrome. 1 Mot Sqn, under the command of Comdt Timmy Ryan, took up residence in the camp in 1948.



L to R: 2/Lt Peter Norton (Club President 2015) Orderly Officer and Lt Mark O'Connor at the guardroom in Fitzgerald Camp Fermoy before the squadron moved to Cork. Photo courtesy of Mil Archives.

Carpe diem.