



CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER - EASTER 2020

Dear Club Member,

As we find ourselves in uncharted waters and with a return to normality in our lives some time off, I would just like to reach out to you all and hope that you and your families keep safe and healthy during this uncertain period.

I have no doubt in your abilities to overcome and manage such adversity with your extensive training and experiences.

Given that assembly is now unwise and likely to get more restrictive, our Club activities for the near future will be put on hold pending advise from the proper authorities. We will strive to keep you informed via email and website as time passes, and we expect to resume our gatherings once we believe it to be safe for our membership, especially those of later years.

As a stated objective of the Club, with Welfare of the membership to the fore, please remember that comms are still up and running, and with so many channels to choose from, I would encourage you to keep in touch with your fellow Club members especially those who now have this added movement and isolation constraint.

The Committee extend our support and thoughts to those members and colleagues in the wider Defence Forces still serving who are now in a state of readiness to provide assistance to our civil authorities.

If you have any suggestions on 'contactless' activities or initiatives, the Committee would welcome same. So, in the meantime, hull down, and keep under cover.

Regards
Peter O'Kelly
President

The Annual General Meeting 2020.

Some thirty Members of the Club attended the AGM at the Cavalry School on Monday 17 Feb 2020. The composition of new committee is Comdt Peter O'Kelly (Retd) President, Capt Damien O'Herlihy Vice President and President Elect for 2021, Lt John Nevin Honorary Secretary, Lt Col Gerry Brennan Honorary Treasurer, Lt Col Gerry Cooney (Retd), Lt Col Niall Daly (Retd), Comdt Ciaran Dillon, Comdt Jayne Lawlor, Capt Mark Morris (Retd) and Col Ray O'Lehan.



Pictured: Col Ray O'Lehan, outgoing Club President and the new committee congratulating Comdt Peter O'Kelly (Retd) the incoming President. L to R: Lt Col Gerry Brennan (Retd), Lt John Nevin, Lt Col Gerry Cooney (Retd), Comdt Jayne Lawlor, Comdt Ciaran Dillon, Col Ray O'Lehan, Lt Col Niall Daly (Retd), Comdt Peter O'Kelly (Retd), Capt Mark Morris (Retd) and Capt Damien O'Herlihy.



Promotions.

Colm Ó Luasa has been promoted to the rank of Col and he has been appointed as Director Combat Support, ISTAR & the Reserve. Peter Norton, who was Club President in 2015, has been promoted to the rank of Lt Col and he has been appointed as Cav Sch Comdt. Joe Mullins and Jayne Lawlor, who was Club President in 2018, have been listed for promotion to Lt Col. We wish them well in their new ranks and appointments.



New Cavalry Corps Officers.

Ninety-one officers, eighty-five Irish from 95 Cadet Class (sixty-seven Army Officers and eighteen Air Corps Officers) and six Maltese, were commissioned on 20 Feb 2020 at Dublin Castle. The class included thirteen officers who previously served in the Defence Forces and twenty-six university graduates with a range of qualifications including law, international relations, history, engineering, sports management, law, archaeology, geomatics and computer science. A further five officers were attending third level colleges prior to joining the Defence Forces. The newly commissioned Officers are from twenty five counties; Dublin (13), Kildare (12), Kilkenny (7), Cork (5), Tipperary (5), Wicklow (4), Offaly (3), Meath (3), Mayo (3), Donegal (3), Galway (3), Kerry (3), Waterford (3), Westmeath (3), Clare (3), Limerick (2), Wexford (2), Down (1), Monaghan (1), Roscommon (1), Cavan (1), Louth (1), Tyrone (1), Derry (1), Sligo (1) and Malta (6).

V.Adm Mark Mellett DSM the Chief of Staff officiated at the ceremony and he presented the commissioning scrolls. Nine officers were appointed to the Cav Corps and the Club Committee welcome our new comrades into the Corps.



Photo from L to R: Lt Tadgh Campbell, 1 Cav Sqn; Lt Borys Stan, 1 Armd Cav Sqn; Lt Maurice Harnett, 2 Cav Sqn; 2/Lt Alex Moran, 1 Armd Cav Sqn; Lt Brendan Prendergast, 1 Cav Sqn; 2/Lt Peter McNamara, 1 Cav Sqn (and former Tpr 1 Armd Cav Sqn); Lt Ivan McDonald, 2 Cav Sqn; Missing from this photograph: Lt Alexander McNamara, 1 Armd Cav Sqn and 2/Lt Daniel Baldwin, 2 Cav Sqn.



The Chief of Staff taking the Guard of Honour under Lt Karl Dempsey.

Historical Cavalry and Armoured Vehicles Photographs.



Apr 1920

This photograph is believed to have been taken in Apr 1920 on the North Circular Road in Dublin when a large force of British Army personnel and a number of Austin armoured cars deployed near Mountjoy Prison during a hunger strike. On 5 April 1920, thirty-six men refused food and in a matter of days, eighty-nine IRA prisoners were on hunger strike. Large demonstrations and prayer meetings were held outside of the prison. On 14 Apr 1920, the Lord Lieutenant, Lord John French directed that the strikers be released. One Austin armoured car is visible on the left.

1930s.

This photograph shows the Vickers Mark D Tank, the first tank purchased by the Defence Forces in 1929. It was armed with a Six Pounder gun and four Vickers .303 machine guns. The Mark D was a prototype of a series which was being developed for the Japanese armed forces. The tank was scrapped in 1940. The Gun is on display in the entrance hall of the old Plunkett Officers Mess at the Curragh Camp.



1940s.

Jul 1943.

During the Emergency, the Cav Corps had four types of units: Armoured Squadrons (4) each unit was equipped with 17 AFVs, Motor Squadrons (7) each with an Armd Tp with 4 AFVs and three Recce Tps with soft-skinned vehs, Cyclist Squadrons (14) and a Carrier Squadron equipped with Universal (Bren) carriers. In Jul 1943, a special dinner was held in Plunkett Officers Mess for officers of the Armd Sqns. The Armd Sqns were 1 Armd Sqn established on 12 Sep 1931 and located at the Curragh, 2 Armd Sqn established on 23 Oct 1940 and located at Templemore, 3 Armd Sqn established on 02 Jan 1941 and located at Rineanna (now Shannon airport) and 4 Armd Sqn established on 22 Apr 1943, this unit was formed from personnel of the disestablished Carrier Sqn and was located at the Curragh. The first three Armd Sqns were equipped with Leyland, Landsverk L 180, Rolls Royce, Dodge and Ford armoured cars. 4 Armd Sqn was equipped with Beaverette Scout Cars.

This photograph was published in An Cosantóir magazine in Jan 1975. Ranks and names as in 1943 are shown where known.



Back Row L to R:

2/Lt Arthur Magennis, Lt Thomas Patrick Martin, 2/Lt Jeremiah Delaney, E Dwyer, P Sheehy, Lt Timothy Ryan, Lt Sean Barrett, Club President 1974, P McCarthy, Unidentified, P Rigney, 2/Lt Timothy Wyse, one of the Club's founding members and Club President 1963, 2/Lt John F Coffey, one of the founding members and Club President 1957, Lt M Moffat.

K Quinn, T Stone, Lt James Bergin, one of the founding members and Club President 1952, A/Capt Patrick J Daly, Capt J Flynn, Capt John Rouine, Lt Richard Murray, T Trainor, Lt Patrick Lavelle, Capt C Hendrick. Capt Dermot Hurley, Capt J D Walsh, A/Capt T P Buttimer, 2/Lt Thomas Roche, Lt Joseph Harold Foley, Club President 1962, Capt J H Butler, Lt Patrick Cahalane, Lt N J Marsh, Lt J C Hannon, Lt B McManus, W Mooney.

M Tierney, Lt Alexander Elliott, one of the founding members and Club President 1969, 2/Lt Thomas Dwyer one of the founding members, Comdt Thomas J O'Hanlon, Col Sean Collins-Powell Chief Staff Officer Plans & Operations, Club President 1971, Comdt Thomas Marrinan, Lt James John Stapleton, Comdt James Cogan, Club President 1960, B Dunne, R Dowling, 2/Lt Reginald Simpson, Capt Lorcan Byrne.

Comdt JJ Henry, Comdt Hugh Maguire, Club President 1947, Comdt Charles C Heuston OC 1 Armd Sqn, Comdt M Breslin OC 2 Armd Sqn, Comdt P J McCullagh, Club President 1953, Col Anthony TS Lawlor D Cav Jan 1943 to Feb 1952 and Club President 1954, Lt Col Patrick C Byrne OC Cav Dep Club President 1948, Comdt Richard Dalton, D O'Connell, Capt Patrick J Hayes, Comdt William Barrett, Comdt Charles J Hegarty OC 4 Armd Sqn Club President 1961, Comdt Donal T McCormack OC 3 Armd Sqn. J Cassidy, 2/Lt Patrick J O'Connell, D McCarthy, Capt Eamonn McNamee.

1950s.

1952. Four Churchill Mark VI tanks were acquired in 1948 – 49, the tank had a crew of five: commander, gunner, loader, driver, co-driver/hull gunner. It was armed with a 75 mm gun, a coaxial 7.92 mm BESA machine gun with a second BESA in the hull.

This photograph was taken in 1952 in the Glen of Imaal during the Second Basic Churchill Tank Course, the officer students included Comdt Lorcan Byrne, Lt Roger McCorley (Cavalry Club President 1972), Lt Mick Mulcahy, Lt Edward O'Neill and Capt Denis Quinn. Photo credit Capt Michael Mulcahy (Retd).



1960s. Summer 1961. This photograph was taken during an annual training camp for 3 Mot Sqn FCA, Sgt Cormac Mackey on the left and Sgt Jim Scanlon (shirtless) on the right, Cpl Paddy English is standing. There are a number of Willys Jeeps and Beaverette Scout Cars in the background. Photo credit Capt Jim Power (Retd)



1970s.

1978.

This photograph shows some personnel from 4 Mot Sqn with the first Defence Forces unit to serve in South Lebanon with UNIFIL in 1978. Lt Col Gerry Brennan (Retd) the Club's Honorary Treasurer has named the crews and they were members of C Coy 43 Inf Bn. AML 90 car commander Lt Gerry Brennan, gunner Tpr Noel Patton, driver Tpr Tommy Molloy, M3 VTT APC car commander Cpl Teddy O'Neill, driver Tpr Noel Maguire. The officer in the foreground is an UNMO, UNTSO provided sixty-eight military observers to assist the establishment of the force. C Coy was initially deployed to As Sultanyia and Tibnin. Photo credit Col Seán Norton DSM (Retd).



1980s.

1982.

This photograph shows two Panhard AML 90 armoured cars and two MS VTT APCs from recce Coy 51 Inf Bn UNIFIL (Apr to Nov 1982). Capt Eamonn Smyth 2 I/C Recce Coy is car commander in the leading APC and Lt Stephen Ashmore Recce Sec Comd is forward of the turret on the second APC. Photo credit Comdt Eamonn Smyth (Retd).



1990s.

1998. On 01 Nov 1998 with a major reorganisation of the Defence Forces, the three Cav units in Plunkett Bks: Dep Cav, 1 Armd Car Sqn and 1 Tk Sqn were disestablished, and personnel were posted to the newly formed 1 Armd Cav Sqn and some went to fill appointments in the Cav Sch.



Personnel from 1 Armd Car Sqn photographed at Plunkett Bks: Front Row L to R: Sgt Leo Moran, Sgt Jimmy Leonard, Capt Willie Nugent 2 I/C, Cpl John O'Brien and Sgt Gerry Hughes. Middle Row: SQMS Christy Mullins, Sgt Kevin McDonald, Sgt Poncho Dowling, Cpl Jim Harris, Cpl Harry Hanley, Sgt Robert Moore, Sgt Ger Devereaux, Cpl Eugene Brady. Back Row: Cpl Thomas C Martin, Sgt Joe McLoughlin, Cpl Joey Hayden, Sgt Noel McMahon, Sgt Stevie Carroll.

2000s.

Sep 2004.

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was deployed in Oct 2003 and the mission had an initial strength of up to 15,000, including 250 military observers, 160 staff officers, up to 875 UN civilian police personnel and an additional five-armed formed units. The Defence Forces provided seven units to UNMIL as the UNMIL's Quick Reaction Force (QRF) from Nov 2003 31 to May 2007. The Irish BNs worked in partnership with a Swedish mechanised Coy and following much evaluations by the UN, it was recommended that the Irish – Swedish QRF model be used in future deployments. The Irish and Swedes were the only European contingents to serve with UNMIL. In May 2007 the Pakistani contingent took over the QRF role.

The units were designated 90 Inf Bn through to 96 Inf Bn. The units were initially in the region of 450 all ranks and consisted of a Logs/Admin Coy, an APC Coy equipped with twenty-two Mowags, and Sp Coy. Personnel of ARW also deployed to the mission area as a Special Operations Task Group (SOTG) under the direct command of the Force Commander, this element served in Liberia until Mar 2004. The Bn Logs/Admin Coy (comprising Tpt, CIS, Logs/Admin, and Med Pls, MP and Ord Sec, and a National Support Element) and Sp Coy (comprising an Engr Pl, an 81mm Mor Pl, and a Cav Tp, equipped with four AML 20s and two AML 90s). The HQ of the Irish contingent was established in the grounds of an abandoned hotel 10 Kms north of Monrovia, the capital, and was named Camp Clara.

The QRF's mission mainly involved long-range 'recce in force' patrols and providing rapid reaction to any emergency that arose in any of UNMIL's four military sectors. The long-range patrols, usually of 3-day or 10-day duration, were of company size.



This photograph was taken in Sep 2004 and it shows an AML 20 being loaded on the MV Catarina at Port Harper, the smallest of the four sea ports in Liberia. Catarina was chartered by UNMIL and it sailed fortnightly between Harper and Monrovia, the Liberian capital.

Carpe diem.