



The Committee has undertaken to design and launch a Cavalry Club logo to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the Cavalry Club in 1944. The logo consists of the original wheel of the Armoured Car Logo from which we originated from. The Crossed Carbine rifle and Sabre were the weapons of the Mounted Cavalryman. The Cuirass was a piece of armour worn by knights of old that protected the front and rear not unlike the modern day Cavalry Corps and it is bracketed with the wreath of service binding the volunteer and the professional to unit service.

CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2019

In Memoriam.

With sadness we reported the death of one of the oldest members of the Cavalry Club, Capt Luke Aloysius Mullins (Retd) late of Standhouse Road, Newbridge, Co Kildare and Doninga, Goresbridge, Co Kilkenny on 21 June 2019. Luke was born at Graigue, Co Kilkenny on 6 Jan 1922 and he joined the army during the Emergency in 1941. He was commissioned into the Cav Corps on 13 Jun 1944 and served with 5 Mot Sqn for the duration of the Emergency until the unit was disestablished on 17 Jan 1946. He later served in the 4 Mot Sqn and Dep Cav as well as with Dep Engrs. He served overseas in Cyprus with the Armd Car Gp 9 Inf Gp (Sep 1967 – Mar 1968). He retired voluntarily from the Defence Forces in May 1970 and he had a twenty year-long career first as secretary and then as manager of Galway racecourse at Ballybrit. Luke was predeceased by his wife Rita, his son David and daughter Catherine. He is survived by his daughters Jane and Mary and his son Eric. We extend our condolences to Luke's family and friends from the DF and the equine world.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.



Capt Luke Mullins in the early 1950s.



On 20 Aug 2018, the Club in collaboration with Ceremonial Sec J1 Br, arranged the presentation of the Service Medal and the United Nations Peacekeepers Medal to Capt Mullins by Brig Gen Joe Mulligan GOC DFTC. L to R: Col George Kerton (Retd), Capt Damien O'Herlihy Hon Sec, Col Richard Heaslip (Retd), Comdt Eamonn Smyth (Retd), Lt Col Colin MacNamee, Lt Gen Sean McCann DSM (Retd), Col Eugene Smyth (Retd) with Luke.

Cavalry Club Golf.

This year the Cavalry Club Golf outing was held earlier than usual on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at the Royal Curragh Golf Club. Lt Col Liam O'Flaherty (Retd) won the coveted Pegasus cup for the first time.



This photograph shows the golfers at the clubhouse.



Col Ray O'Lehan, Club President presenting the Cavalry Cup to Lt Col Liam O'Flaherty (Retd).

1 Cavalry Squadron Annual Deceased Members Mass.

On Saturday 15 Jun the annual commemoration organised by Post 25 IUNVA for deceased members of 1 Cav Sqn was held at the former Fitzgerald Camp in Fermoy Co Cork. Following the mass, wreaths were laid at the fine memorial wall.



L to R: 2/Lt Donal Lonergan, Des Keegan, Martin O'Keeffe, Col Ray O'Lehan, Tommy McCarthy, James Ronan.

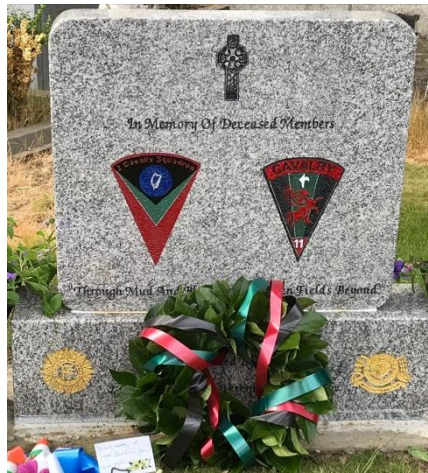
2 Cavalry Squadron and 11 Cavalry Squadron Memorial & Deceased Members Mass.

Also on Saturday 15 Jun a sizeable number of club members attended the annual mass for deceased members of 2 Cav Sqn and 11 Cav Sqn organised by 2 Cavalry Squadron Veterans Association at St Patrick's Garrison Church, Cathal Brugha Bks.

The mass was celebrated by Fr David Tyndall CF and a memorial stone to deceased members of 2 Cav Sqn and 11 Cav Sqn was unveiled by Col Brendan McCann (Retd), (Club President in 2005) in the Memorial Garden in Niemba Square.



Some of the Club members who the ceremony.



The newly unveiled memorial stone.

50th Anniversary of Death of Tpr Michael Kennedy.

On Sunday 07 Jul 19 a commemorative mass to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Tpr Michael Kennedy, who died on 01 Jul 1969 while serving with 12 Inf Gp in Cyprus, was celebrated in Saint Michael's Church, Portarlinton. Tpr Kennedy's father, Henry, had served in 1 Armd Sqn during the Emergency and Michael followed in his father's footsteps when he joined the army in Dec 1966.

He completed recruit training at the GTD at the Curragh Training Camp and he was assigned to the 1 Armd Car Sqn at Plunkett Barracks. In Mar 1969 he deployed as a member of the Armd Car Gp, 12 Inf Gp and he died as a result of a drowning accident at Famagusta on Tuesday 01 Jul 1969.

Lt Col Eugene Cooke (Cav Sch Comdt and Club President in 2013) and Comdt John Tynan (Sqn Comd 1 Armd Cav Sqn) attended the commemoration. Fr Fergus O'Connor PP Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Merrion Road, Dublin 4 (Comdt Retd and Club President in 1982) concelebrated the mass with Fr Tom Dooley PP. Fr Fergus, as a young 2/Lt, was the person who brought the dreadful news to the Kennedy family home in Jul 1969. Jim Casey IUNVA National Chairman also attended the ceremony, Jim pulled Michael Kennedy from the water but efforts to revive him were not successful.



A photograph of Tpr Kennedy and his medals were placed on the altar.



Members of IUNVA, ONE, 2 Cav Sqn Veterans Association and the Glengarry Club at the grave.

National Day of Commemoration.

The National Day of Commemoration was marked on Sunday 15 Jul 2019 by ceremonies at Collins Bks Museum Dublin and at other locations in Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick, Sligo and Waterford. In Dublin, the military and religious ceremony was conducted in the presence of the President, the Taoiseach and other ministers of the government, members of the Oireachtas, the Council of State, the Diplomatic Corps, the Judiciary, relatives of 1916 leaders, next-of-kin of those who died on service with the UN and representatives of military clubs and former service personnel associations. The Cav Club was represented by the President, Col Ray O'Lehan.



Col Ray O'Lehan with members of the Glengarry Club and 2 Cav Sqn Veterans Association.

Cavalry Club Elders Lunch.

The annual Elders Lunch was held at the Officers Mess the Mil Col on Thursday 18 Jul 2019. The nineteen Elders who attended the lunch were greeted by the COS, and Col Brendan McGuinness CMC before the lunch, unfortunately the COS could not stay for the meal as he had another appointment.

The President, Col Ray O'Lehan welcomed the guests and he reported on how the Club is alive and well and marking the 75th anniversary of its founding. Comd Pat O'Brien (Club President 1990) was the after dinner speaker and he remarked that the four officers from his cadet class, the 41 Class, were at the lunch, Brig Gen Liam MacNamee (Retd), Fr Fergus O'Connor and Comdt John Moriarty (Retd).

For the information of readers, it is noteworthy that all four Cav officers commissioned from 41 Cadet Class in Sep 1968 are past Presidents of the Club. The nineteen Elders were Comdt Bob Carroll (Retd), Col Dick Heaslip (Retd), Comdt Michael Heery (Retd), Comdt Ed Horgan (Retd), Comdt Larry Johnson (Retd), Lt Col Ken Kelly (Retd), Capt Tony Marshall (Retd), Brig Gen Liam MacNamee (Retd), Col Brendan McCann (Retd), Capt Peter McEntyre (Retd), Comdt Johnny Moriarty (Retd), Capt Mick Mulcahy (Retd), Comdt Noel Maher (Retd), Comdt Eamon O Briain, Comdt Pat O' Brien (Retd), Capt Charlie O'Rourke (Retd), Capt Jim Power (Retd), Comdt Tommy O'Brien (Retd), Fr Fergus O'Connor PP (Comdt Retd).



V Adm Mark Mellett DSM addressing the gathering before the lunch.



A group shot of the diners after the lunch.
Photos credit Lt Col Gerry Cooney (Retd).

New Cavalry Officers Induction Dinner.

On Thursday 25 Jul, the Club welcomed into the Cav Corps the eight officers from the 94 Cdt Class who were commissioned on 04 Feb 2019 at a dinner at Ceannt Officers Mess.

Col Ray O’Lehan welcomed to the Corps 2/Lt Paul Sheehan, Lt Ruth Ní Riada and 2/Lt Donal Lonergan (1 Cav Sqn), 2/Lt Evan Duggan and Lt Colm Layton, (2 Cav Sqn), 2/Lt Conor Heffernan, 2/Lt Ciaran Feeney and Lt Jordan Corrigan (1 Armd Cav Sqn).

Lt Col Ken Kelly (Retd) was the after dinner speaker. We wish the eight young officers every best wish for their careers.



Recent Retirements.

Comdt Greg O’Keeffe, an associate member of the Club, retired in Jun. He served in 1 Cav Sqn and as Sqn Sgt he was selected for 9 POC. After commissioning on 10 Jun 08 he served in 1 BTC and 1 Bde Engr Coy.

Lt Col Trevor Ging joined the DF in Nov 1990 as a Cdt with 67 Cdt Class and on commissioning in May 1992 he was assigned to 4 Cav Sqn.

Comdt Will O’Meara retired from the DF in Jun after more than twenty years’ service. He joined the DF as a member of 75 Cadet Class in Oct 1998 and on commissioning in Jul 2000 he was assigned to 1 Cav Sqn as Recce Tp Comd.

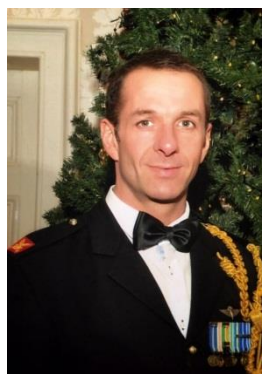
We wish, Greg, Trevor and Will all the best for the future and we hope they stay in touch with the Club.



Comdt Greg O'Keeffe



Lt Col Trevor Ging.



Comdt Will O'Meara.

From Cathal Brugha Barracks to the International Space Station and back again.



This is a story of how a unit flash of the now retired Irish Defence Forces Reserve unit 11 Cavalry Squadron FCA ended up orbiting our planet as part of the 50th mission to the International Space Station and came back to Dublin. A journey of nearly 118,000,000 Kilometres taking 173 days and approximately 400 kilometers above the earth with an average speed of over 28,000 KPH.

NASA Astronaut Shane Kimbrough (Col., U.S. Army, Ret.) has been a family friend for many years and when he visited Ireland as part of science week back in 2010 I handed him my unit flash that I had taken from my uniform and said jokingly the next time you are in space would you mind bringing up my unit flash and taking a photo with it. We both laughed at this unlikely outcome as Shane had already been in space on board STS-126 the Space Shuttle Endeavour that on November 14 2008 launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, and returned November 30th to land at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

Fast forward to early in 2015 to when I got an email from Shane letting me know that he had been chosen to command the upcoming 50th mission to the International Space Station that was due to launch towards the end of 2016. As Shane progressed through his training with his new Russian crew mates we kept in regular phone and email contact from Russia and Kazakhstan so I knew how well it was going and how hard a task he had to master. From learning Russian to be able to operate the Soyuz vehicle in which he would be flying to space to mastering the techniques he would need during his four planned space walks during his time on board the ISS.

As Shane neared the end of his training I received another email from NASA where I was asked to sign up for the ISS / NASA friends and family website that would be the easiest way to stay in touch while Shane was on board the ISS. Signing the non-disclosure document and giving my details I received the link and was soon able to familiarise myself with how I could remain in touch with my friend as he orbited the planet.

Launch day came very quickly and a quick call from Shane a couple of days before his launch from Baikonur was a great surprise to me as was how calm he was on the other end of the phone. I know I was more nervous but I also knew the thousands of hours training he and his crew mates had put into the preparation for this mission and the thousands of people all over the world who also put in huge time and effort to ensure that it went off as smoothly as you can expect while strapped into a small capsule perched on top of what is essentially a massive bomb and be blasted into space.

I was able to watch the launch live on NASA TV. Needless to say my heart was in my mouth as I watched the countdown and while main engine ignition to launch seemed to take an age, eventually they gracefully rose from the launch pad and in a few minutes were entering their orbit around the planet. Expedition 50 crewmembers Shane Kimbrough, Sergey Ryzhikov and Andrey Borisenko launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on board Soyuz MS-02 on October 19 2016 at 03:05am.

Watching the Soyuz dock with the ISS live was a little surreal to be honest as it was like watching a Hollywood blockbuster, it felt as if I was there in mission control watching the monitors and ensuring that the trajectory was right and the speeds were aligning in geosynchronous orbit in the moments before the connection was successfully made. After an hour of checks and pressure equalisation the hatches were finally opened and the new residents of the ISS were welcomed on board by the current residents. The now expanded crew all worked together to unload the fresh supplies from home and restocked the stores on board. Once all their personal gear was packed away in their quarters work began on the multiple experiments that each of the three would be focussed on for the duration of their mission.

I found out that the ISS operates on GMT so I was able to stay in fairly easy contact using the link and a few apps that tracked the orbit of the ISS. I logged in regularly to watch the team go about their business and how they were getting on and was able to email Shane regularly and was very pleasantly surprised to receive fairly quick replies. All was good and the flight up there went perfectly and he was loving his new home and was very excited about the next few months.

One of the most surprising things about Shane's mission happened when I was in the Aviva stadium on the 19th of November watching Ireland play the All Blacks. My phone rang and while I normally don't answer numbers I don't recognise I was intrigued to see the number was from Houston in Texas. I thought it was Robbie Shane's wife calling me to catch up since Shane's Launch but how wrong was I. I couldn't believe it when I answered and heard his familiar voice at the other end of the phone. It was Shane calling me from the ISS. Honestly it was a rather surreal moment, standing in the Aviva cheering on Ireland after their historic win in Chicago and then speaking to my friend who was in a space ship orbiting the planet. We had a great chat for about ten minutes and while Ireland was not victorious that day I had a smile from ear to ear.

Shane continued his planned mission experiments, one of which was to grow lettuce in space for the first time and four spacewalks to do maintenance on the ISS. We stayed in touch via email and it was great to catch up and who knew the much maligned and often varied Irish weather would be of such interest but it was a topic of great interest. While up there Shane took some amazing photographs of our planet and one he sent to me was of my unit flash floating in the viewing cupola on the ISS. Shane also took an amazing night photograph of Dublin that he tweeted.

We spoke on two more occasions once on Christmas day and once more in February when he told me that his return date was being pushed back due to a technical issue and he would land back home in April. The preparations for the return home began in March and I watched the farewells being given by the team on board the ISS and the undocking on NASA TV and caught the not so smooth landing more like a controlled crash on the same channel.

Shane, Sergey and Andrey returned safely to earth landing in the vast steppes of Kazakhstan on April 10 2017 at 06:20. I was delighted to see all three had returned home safe and sound and spoke to Shane a few days later after he had returned home to Houston.

Later that year I received a wonderful Christmas present from Shane of one of his mission patches, my 11 Cav flash and a certificate from NASA stating the journey my old unit flash had made. In early November 2018 Shane was over in Ireland again to speak as part of National Science week. I had the honour of being invited to the US Ambassador's residence to hear Shane speak and also saw him speak and inspire a room full of school children in the Helix. Who knows there could have been a future Irish Astronaut in there who was inspired to work hard and pursue their dreams of being an Astronaut.



Inside Soyuz as they were taking off.



The view from the ISS of Soyuz.



Moving into his new accommodation.



Checking in with mission control and family after successfully completing the docking procedure.



In Dublin with my unit Flash.



In the US Ambassadors' Residence



Certificate from NASA.

Cavalry Corps Memorial Day 2019.

Members are advised that the annual mass and wreath laying ceremony to remember Cav personnel who died while on peace support operations overseas and those who died in the year since the last commemoration will be held at St Brigid's Garrison Church and at the Cavalry Corps Memorial Garden commencing at 1100 hours on Saturday 07 Sep in the Curragh Camp. Refreshments will be served at Ceannt Dining Facility after the ceremony.

All members of the Club are encouraged to attend and to wear medals.



The opening of the Cavalry Corps Memorial Garden in 1963.

Historical Cavalry and Armoured Vehicles Photographs.

This newsletter shows more photographs of AFVs deployed by British forces during the War of Independence as well as cavalry images through the decades.

1920s

1921.



These images show British Mark V tanks being used near Mountjoy Prison during rallies or demonstrations and at Capel Street near the junction with Mary Street, Dublin in Jan 1921 during a cordon and search operation. 400 Mark V tanks and 643 Mark V Star tanks were produced in 1917 and 1918. The Mark Vs were used by C Coy, 17 Battalion of the Tank Corps stationed at Marlborough Bks Dublin (now McKee Bks). .

Early 1930s.



The Vickers Mark D Medium Tank was the first tracked AFV purchased for the Armoured Car Corps in 1929. The first tank crew were: Lt Sean Collins-Powell (later Lt Gen), Cpl J Wixted, Cpl T McKeon, Tpr W Hogan and Tpr P Carolan, they were assigned to the Tk Cadre in Cav Dep. The Vickers had a water cooled, rear mounted, 6-cylinder Sunbeam Amazon petrol engine, developing 170 bhp at 2100 rpm.

As well as the Six Pounder main armament, the tank had four Vickers .303 inch machine guns. The tank was used in training in the Curragh until 1940 when it was damaged beyond repair during an exercise. The Six Pounder gun was then used as part of the scheme of defence for the Curragh during the Emergency with the turret mounted in a concrete gun emplacement near the Gibbeth Rath. In 1984 the gun was issued from the Ord Corps Dep to 1 Tk Sn on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the original unit on 01 Oct 1959. The Gun is now on display in the entrance hall of the old Plunkett Officers Mess at the Curragh Camp.

1940s.

Tuesday 5 Jul 1949. Seventy years ago in Jul 1949, the Cav Club organised a swimming gala at the Curragh Swimming Pool and a number of international competitors including medallists from the 1947 European Swimming Championships and the 1948 London Olympics from Denmark and Scotland as well as Cav Corps personnel competed in the event. The officials at the gala were: Patron, Col Sean Collins-Powell OC Curragh Training Camp (Cav Club President 1971), Referee, Lt Col Patrick C Byrne OC Cav Dep (Cav Club President 1948), the organising committee consisted of Lt Jack Coffey (Chairman) (Cav Club President 1957), Capt Pat Sweeney, Lt Art Magennis, Capt Jimmy Bergin (Cav Club President 1952), Capt Bob Collier (Cav Club President 1956), Capt Dan Kennedy (Cav Club President 1980), Capt Pat Lavelle, Capt Jer Delaney, Lt A Nicholson, Lt Luke Mullins and Lt Tom O'Leary.



This photograph shows some of the Danish and Scottish swimmers outside Plunkett Officers Mess Curragh Camp. The Cav officers in the photograph are Front Row on left Lt Jack Coffey. Second Row on right Lt Tom O'Leary. Rear No 2 is Lt Art Magennis, No 3 Capt Pat Lavelle, No 4 Capt Joe Foley (Cav Club

President 1962), No 5 Lt Luke Mullins, No 8 Capt Jer Delaney, No 11 Capt Kevin Nunan (Cav Club President 1958), No 12 Lt Tommy Roche.

1950s.



Capt Pat Keogh 2 I/C 2 Mot Sqn, No 5 from the left, briefing personnel for 11 Cav Regt FCA before an exercise at McKee Bks. Capt Clem Kinsella (Club President 1959) is No 4 from the left. Photo Credit Mil Archives.

1960s.

12 Inf Gp UNFICYP served in Cyprus from Mar to Sep 1969, the unit had a strength of 405 all ranks, 36 officers, 144 NCOs and 225 men. The Armd Car Gp officers were Comdt Denis Quinn, Capt Martin O'Neill, Capt Maurice Walsh, Lt Thomas Hickey and Lt Niall Daly.



The late Tpr Michael Kennedy, whose anniversary was marked at a ceremony in Portarlinton on 07 Jul 19, is in the turret of the Panhard AML 60 armoured car on the left as the gunner, Sergeant Vinnie Bradley (car commander) and Trooper Tommy Kenny (driver) leaving Group HQ camp at Xeros.

Tpr Kennedy was one of four Cav Corps personnel who died during service with UNFICYP, nine DF personnel in total died during the DF's service in Cyprus. Photo Credit SQMS Walter Tobin (Retd).

1970s.

Dec 1970.



Four of the officers who were commissioned on 07 Dec 1970 from 2 Potential Officers Course were assigned to the Cav Corps. Lt Jeremiah Brennan RIP (on the right in the back row) was posted to 1 Mot

Sqn, Lt John Robinson (No 8 from the left in the centre row) was posted to 4 Mot Sqn, Lt Jim O'Brien RIP (No 9 from the left) was posted to Dep Cav and Lt Alfie Johnston RIP (No 10 from the left) was posted to 2 Mot Sqn. Photo Comdt Pat Casey (Retd).

1980s.

1982. In 1982, GOC C Comd organised a special dinner for sports stars from all codes and personnel from the three units Cav in Plunkett Bks, Dep Cav, 1 Armd Car Sqn and 1 Tk Sqn attended the function.



Sitting L to R: Sgt Billy O'Brien, Sgt Jimmy Leonard. Standing L to R: Cpl Chris Delahunt, Capt Paul Rafter (Club President 1995), Lt Col Leo Dawson OC Dep Cav & Plunkett Bks, Cpl Ronnie Howe, RQMS Dick Jenkins, Sgt Charlie McAllister. Photo Credit Mil Archives.

1990s.

1999. A special dinner was held at Plunkett Officers Mess to mark the end of the 20th century and the new millennium. All past presidents of the Club were invited to the dinner.



L to R: Col Frank Lawless (Club President 1968), Capt Frank McMahon (Club President 1978 & 2001), Capt Clem Kinsella (Club President 1959), Lt Aidan Pender (Club President 1965) and Capt Pat Casey (Club President 1988).

2000s.

2004.



Col Brendan McCann (Club President 2005) served with the EU Monitoring Mission in Sarajevo Bosnia-Herzegovina during 2003 -05 and is photographed with a German colleague at the HQ.

ANNUAL DINNER 2019

The Annual Dinner to mark the 75th Anniversary of the foundation of the Club will be in Collins Barracks Cork on Saturday 02 November. The committee would be delighted and encourage you to put a date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there.

Carpe diem.