



CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2018

40th Anniversary of UNIFIL.

A party of twenty nine members of McKee Officers Club spent seven days in Lebanon from 16 Apr 18 and four members of the Cavalry Club travelled with the tour.



This photograph shows some of the serving Cav officers of 111 Inf Bn with the visitors. L to R: Capt Cathal O'Neill (Retd), Col George Kerton (Retd), Lt Darren Reilly, Capt Colm Kirby, Capt Eoin Carroll, Col Richard Heaslip (Retd), Lt Paul Fleming and Lt Col John Molloy (Retd). Photo credit 111 Inf Bn photographer.



This photograph was taken at Qana at a memorial to Fijibatt personnel that was erected by the people of the town. L to R: Capt Cathal O'Neill (Retd), Col Richard Heaslip (Retd), a local man who was seriously injured when on 18 Apr 1996 the IDF shelled Fijibatt HQ, Col George Kerton (Retd) and Lt Col John Molloy (Retd). Photo credit Lt Col Michael McCarthy (Retd).

Service Medal and UN Peacekeepers Medal Presentations.

On 04 May 18, Brig Gen Howard Berney, GOC 2 Bde presented the Service Medal, the UN Peacekeepers Medal and the ONUC and UNFICYP Medals mounted and framed to the daughter of the late Comdt Patrick Lane. Comdt Lane served with the UN in the Congo with Armd Car Gp 37 Inf Bn (May – Nov 62) and in Cyprus as Tech Offr Armd Car Gp 3 Inf Gp (Jul – Dec 1964). He died in Jan 18.

Brig Gen Berney presented the Service Medal, the UN Peacekeepers Medal to Capt Raymond Leonard (Retd), he served overseas with 38 Inf Bn ONUC (Nov 1962 – Apr 1963) and with 4 Inf Gp UNFICYP (Jan – Jun 1965)



Comdt Lane's framed medals.



Brig Gen Howard Berney with Amy Connolly (granddaughter) and Holly Connolly, daughter of Comdt Paddy Lane.



Brig Gen Howard Berney with Capt Raymond Leonard (Retd). Photo credits Capt Felix O'Callaghan (Retd).

Jadotville Medal Presentation.

On 30 May 18, Brig Gen Howard Berney, GOC 2 Bde presented their father's Jadotville Medal to Kevin and Clare Knightly, the son and daughter of the late Col Kevin Knightly at the Officers Mess Cathal Brugha Bks.

Col Knightly joined the army as a Cadet with 26 Cadet Class in Dec 1951 and he was commissioned on 23 Nov 1953. He served in 4 Mot Sqn, Dep Cav, 2 Mot Sqn, 11 Cav Sqn, HQ E Comd, ECIF, P & R Sec DFHQ; he was D Cav from Oct 1990 until his retirement in Oct 1992.

He deployed to the Congo as a Lt in Jun 1961 with the Armd Car Gp 35 Inf Bn and in Sep 1961 he commanded the Section of Ford armoured cars under command to A Coy at the action in Jadotville. He was, along with the two Armd Car crews and personnel from A Coy and some from C Coy, held captive from 17 Sep to 25 Oct 1961 when they were freed in a prisoner exchange with the Katangan forces.

He served a second tour in the Congo with the Armd Car Gp 39 Inf Bn (Apr to Oct 1963); with 6 Inf Gp in Cyprus (Apr – Oct 1966); as the Recce Gp Comd with 44 Inf Bn in Lebanon (Nov 1978 – May 1979, the second unit to deploy to UNIFIL) and as Comd of the Force Mobile Reserve UNIFIL for a year from Feb 1987 to Mar 1988.

He was Sqn Comd 2 Cav Sqn from Feb 1981 to Aug 1983, he was Sch Comdt Cav Sch from Aug 1983 to Sep 1985. He was President of the Cavalry Club in 1981. Col Knightly died on 23 Jul 2003.



L to R: Clare Knightly, Brig Gen Howard Berney and Kevin Knightly Jr (Former Tpr 11 Cav Sqn). Photo credit Lt Col Gerry Cooney (Retd)

Annual Cavalry Club Golf Outing.

The Cavalry Club Golf outing was held on Wednesday 27 Jun 2018 at the Royal Curragh Golf Club. Twenty members of the club played on a scorching hot day. Paul Rafter was the winner this year.



Lt Gen McCann presenting the winner's trophy to Paul Rafter

Club Visit to the Sites of Op Market Garden (A Bridge Too Far).

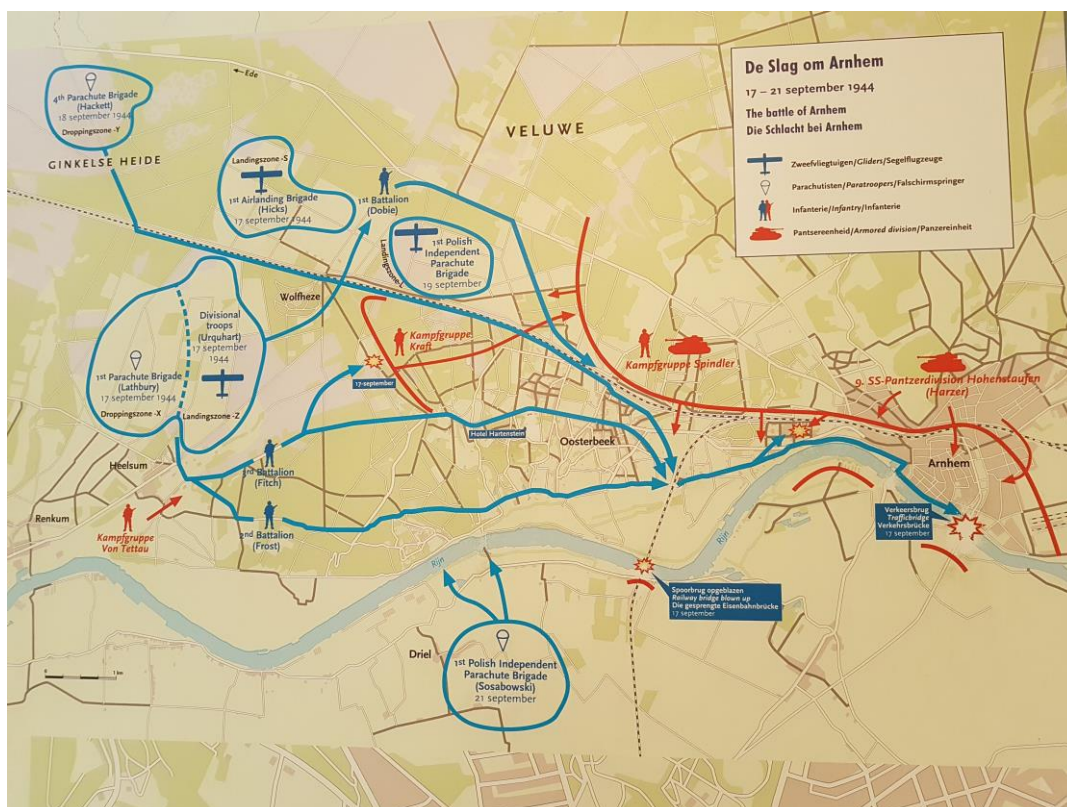
Following on from an invitation extended to the Cavalry Club from Brigadier General Philip Brennan who is serving as Military Representative of Ireland to the EUMC and EAPMC in Brussels six members of the Club travelled over to Brussels in April to be given an Military History Tour of Operation Market Garden. The ill-fated attempt by the allies to enter Germany via Holland in September 1944

Representing the Cavalry Club on the tour were Col. Declan Hayes (Retd), Comdt Larry Johnson(Retd) Comdt Peter Kelly (Retd) Comdt Seamus Ryan (Retd) Comdt John Power and Capt Mark Morris (Retd).

The tour followed the route of Hells Highway from the start line at Joe’s Bridge in northern Belgium all the way to Arnhem in Holland. On the route the visiting party stopped at several landmark stands and the military significance was pointed out and discussed in detail.

The traveling party included three Irish Army Officers, Lt Col Tom McGrath Lt Col Fergal McDonald and Lt.Col J.McCrann based in Brussels along with Brigadier General Brennan.

The Cavalry Club expresses its sincerest thanks to Brigadier General Brennan for all his help in making the trip as successful and enjoyable as it was informative



Historical Cavalry and Armoured Vehicles Photographs.

In this newsletter we have a selection of armour and Cavalry photographs from independence to the start on the millennium. Our special thanks to Col John A Ryan for sharing his UNOGIL photos.

1920s.

17 May 1922. The National Army took over Portobello Bks from the Worcestershire Regt of the British Army. The contingent included around 800 men of the Dublin Bde and two armoured Rolls Royce, The Big Fella and The Custom House.



L to R: Comdt Gen Tom Ennis, Gen Eoin O'Duffy and Maj Gen Emmet Dalton, the ARR Custom House is behind the reviewing party. Photo credit Military Archives.

1940s.

1942. During the Emergency, twenty six Universal Carrier Mk II (referred to as Bren Carriers) were purchased in 1940 and the Carrier Sqn of the Cav Corps was formed in Oct 1941. The Sqn had five Tps, each equipped with five carriers. A Tp and B Tp were stationed at Rineanna Co Clare (now Shannon Airport) and the remainder of the unit was based at Dunboyne Co Meath.

In 1942 all Tps were located in Co Clare at Dromoland Castle and at Hurlers Cross. The Carrier Sqn was disestablished in 1943 and personnel were posted to the newly formed 4 Armd Sqn. A number of Carriers were kept in service and they were used for tracked driver training in the Cav Sch up to the early 1960s.



The Carrier Sqn at Dromoland Castle in 1942. Photo credit Mil Archives.

1950s

1958. The UN's fourth mission, the United Nations Observation Group in Lebanon (UNOGIL) was established on 14 Jun 1958 and fifty DF officers took part in the DF's first UN mission. HQ UNOGIL was based in Beirut, and forty nine positions throughout the country were manned by observers.

Stations were set up in five locations in Sidon, Marjayoûn, Chtaura, Baalbek and Tripoli – from where 14 sub-stations and 30 OPs were directed. Six of the fifty Irish observers were Cav Corps officers: Capts Patrick Lavelle and Patrick Keogh, Lts Mark A M Carroll, Roger E McCorley (Cav Club Pres 1972), John O'Brien and Edward J Sheehy (Cav Club Pres 1970). The mission operated 20 surveillance aircraft and employed 290 vehicles for ground patrols.



This photograph shows Maj Gen Odd Bull (Norway COS) [No 5 from Left sitting] and Galo Plaza (Ecuador Chairman UNOGIL) [No 4 from Left sitting] with Military Observers at Baalbek. Lt McCorley is standing behind the officer who is seated second from the right, Lts Carroll, Sheehy and O'Brien are at the very back standing on the right of the photograph. Photo credit Col John A Ryan (Retd).

1960s.

1969. The Armd Car Gp 11 Inf Gp was based at Xeros for most of the tour of duty in Cyprus from Aug 1968 to Mar 1969. One Tp was for a time located at Kato Pyrgos and other elements were deployed to Limnitis and Lefka.

The armd Car Gp was commanded by Comdt Jim Crowley (Cav Club President 1964) and the other officers were Capt Leo Dawson 2 I/C, Capt Mick Mullooly TSO, Lt Pearse McCorley Tp Comd, Lt Dick Heaslip Tp Comd and Lt Brendan McCann Tech Offr.



L to R: Capt Mick Mullooly, Lt Dick Heaslip, Lt Pearse McCorley. Photo credit Col Dick Heaslip (Retd).

1970s.

Summer 1976. 1 Mot Sqn with a lot of silverware on display following the presentation of prizes at the All Army Shooting Competitions in 1976.



The late Comdt Louis Paul Culleton (then a Lt) is number 4 from the left standing and beside his is Lt Col Sean Hennessy then a Comdt and Sqn Comd 1 Mot Sqn. Photo credit Mil Archives.

1980s.

1988. A reunion of the DF first peacekeepers who deployed to Lebanon as unarmed observers with UNOGIL in 1958 was held at McKee Bks to mark the 30th anniversary of the mission. Thirty four of the fifty officers attended.



Five of the six Cav UNOGIL Veterans are in this photograph. Col Pat Lavelle is sitting number 3 from the left, Col Ted Sheehy is number 3 from the left in the second row, Col Pat Keogh, Col Roger McCorley and Comdt Jack O'Brien are in the centre of the third row in front of the door of the Officers Mess.

The late Comdt Mark Carroll died in service on 15 Mar 1973. Photo credit Col John A Ryan (Retd).

1990s.

Oct 1992. Col Kevin Knightly D Cav retired from the DF on 23 Oct 1992 after forty one years' service. All nine units of the Corps were represented at the Stand down Parade at Plunkett Bks under the command of Lt Col Pat Freeman OC Dep Cav.



Col Knightly standing on Slieve na mBan AAR2 taking the salute during the drive past.
Photo credit Col Sean O'Keefe.

2000s.

2001. 89 Inf Bn served in Lebanon from May to Oct 2001 and the commander was Lt Col Gerry Hegarty (Brig Gen Retd). This was the last of forty seven Irish battalions to serve with UNIFIL from the start of the mission in 1978. To mark the departure of the Irish from the area, the people of Tibnine donated a site near the Maronite Christian church at the top of the village for a memorial to the DF personnel who died in the service of peace. The location gives a panoramic view of most of the old Irishbatt Area of Operations. The memorial has the names of forty six DF personnel who died while serving with UNIFIL and one who was killed outside Beirut in 1982 while serving with UNTSO. Three Cavalry men are named on the memorial: Sgt Edward Yeates (43), Finglas Dublin, 47 Inf Bn, Home Unit 2 Mot Sqn died at Brashit on 31 May 1980, Tpr Paul Fogarty (23), Newbridge Co Kildare, 59 Inf Bn, Home Unit 1 Tk Sqn died at Hill 880 on 20 Jul 1986 and Tpr Jonathan Campbell (28, Co Longford, 85 Inf Bn, Home Unit 4 Cav Sqn died in Beirut on 05 Sep 1999.

Since 1958, Óglaigh na hÉireann has actively participated in international peacekeeping operations worldwide and 87 personnel died while on overseas duty - (26 ONUC (17 Mil Stars), 9 UNFICYP, 46 UNIFIL (18 Mil Stars) 2 UNTSO (both Mil Stars), 1 UNTAET, 1 UNMIL), 1 Nordic Battle Group, 1 EU Mil Staff. In addition, three retired DF officers died



This photograph was taken during a 89 Inf Bn Comd's inspection in Sep 2001 at Al Yatun. The officer is Lt Brian Leahy (Capt Retd) BMR. Photo credit Mil Archives.

Carpe diem.