



## CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2018

### **Elders Lunch.**

The annual Elders Lunch was held at the Officers Mess the Mil Col on Thursday 19 Jul 2018. The Elders who attended the lunch were joined by the COS, V Adm Mark Mellett DSM, Col Brendan McGuinness EO DFTC, Lt Col Colin MacNamee Cav Sch Comdt, and members of the Club Committee.

The President, Comdt Jayne Lawlor welcomed the guests and she thanked the Mil Col Mess for the hospitality and very fine meal. Brig Gen Liam MacNamee (Retd) was the after dinner speaker and he regaled the audience with stories of 1 Mot Sqn in Fitzgerald Camp in Fermoy in the 1960s.



A group shot of the diners with the COS. The Elders included Capt Michael P (Mick) Mulcahy (Retd), Capt Charles P (Charlie) O'Rourke (Retd), Capt James (Jim) Power (Retd), Lt Col Michael F (Mick) Murphy (Retd), Capt Noel Treacy (Retd), Comdt Eamon O Briain (Retd), Capt Anthony (Tony) Marshall (Retd), Col Richard (Dick) Heaslip (Retd), Lt Col Vincent (Pearse) McCorley (Retd), Lt Thomas G Hickey (Retd), Col Brendan McCann (Retd), Comdt Edward (Ed) Horgan (Retd), Comdt Larry Johnson (Retd), Lt Col Niall Daly (Retd), Comdt Tommy O'Brien (Retd), Lt Gen Patrick Nash DSM (Retd), Comdt Johnny Moriarty (Retd), Comdt Noel Maher (Retd), Col Maurice Collins (Retd), Comdt Michael Heery (Retd), Capt Joe Kelly (Retd), Capt Peter McEntyre (Retd), Brig Gen Liam MacNamee (Retd), Fr Fergus O'Connor PP (Comdt Retd), Lt Col Noel Byrne (Retd). Photo credit Lt Col Gerry Cooney (Retd).

### **Medal Presentation.**

On Monday 20 Aug 2018 Brig Gen Joe Mulligan, GOC DFTC, presented Captain Luke Aloysius Mullins (Retd) with the Service Medal and the United Nations Peacekeepers Medal. Luke was born at Graigue, County Kilkenny on 06 Jan 1922 and he joined the army during the Emergency in 1941.

He was commissioned into the Cavalry Corps on 13 Jun 1944 and served in 5 Mot Sqn for the duration of the Emergency. He later served in 4 Mot Sqn and Dep Cav as well as with Dep Engrs. He served overseas in Cyprus with the Armd Car Gp of 9 Inf Gp (Sep 1967 – Mar 1968). He retired voluntarily from the DF in May 1970 and he had a long career as manager of Galway Race Course at Ballybrit.

Luke's daughters Mary and Jane, granddaughter Niamh and son-in-law Joe O'Brien along with club members attended the presentation in Ceannt Officers Mess.



This photograph shows Brig Gen Mulligan presenting Luke with the Service Medal and the UN Peacekeepers Medal.



Luke with Lt Col Colin MacNamee Cav Sch Comdt, the GOC and club members.  
Photos credit Joe O'Brien.

### **Cavalry Corps Memorial Day.**

Club members joined with serving and retired men and women of the Cav Corps at the annual Cavalry Corps Memorial Day held on 01 Sep 2018. Cavalrymen, who died while on service with the UN and those who died during the year were remembered at a mass at St Brigid's Garrison Church and at a wreath laying ceremony at the Cavalry Corps Memorial at Plunkett Bks.

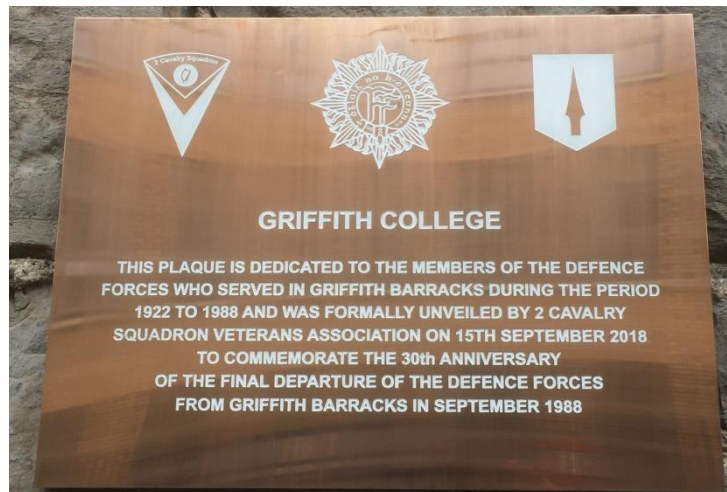
The mass was celebrated by Fr Fergus O'Connor PP, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Merrion Rd Dublin 4 and Cav Club President in 1982. Wreaths were laid by Brig Gen Joe Mulligan GOC DFTC and Lt Col Colin MacNamee Cav Sch Comdt. Among those who died since the previous Cavalry Day were: Capt John Clarke 5 Mot Sqn, Comdt Danny Hynes, Sqn Comd 5 Cav Sqn, Comdt Billy Moran 5 Mot Sqn, Col Leo Dawson Dir of Cav from 1983 to 1984, Lt Alfred Johnston 2 Mot Sqn and Comdt Pat Lane Sqn Comd 5 Mot Sqn.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha uaisle.



**Griffith College Plaque.**

On 15 Sep 2018, 2 Cav Sqn Veterans Association held a ceremony at the Former Griffith Bks, now Griffith College, to remember all DF personnel who served there and a plaque was unveiled to mark the occasion.



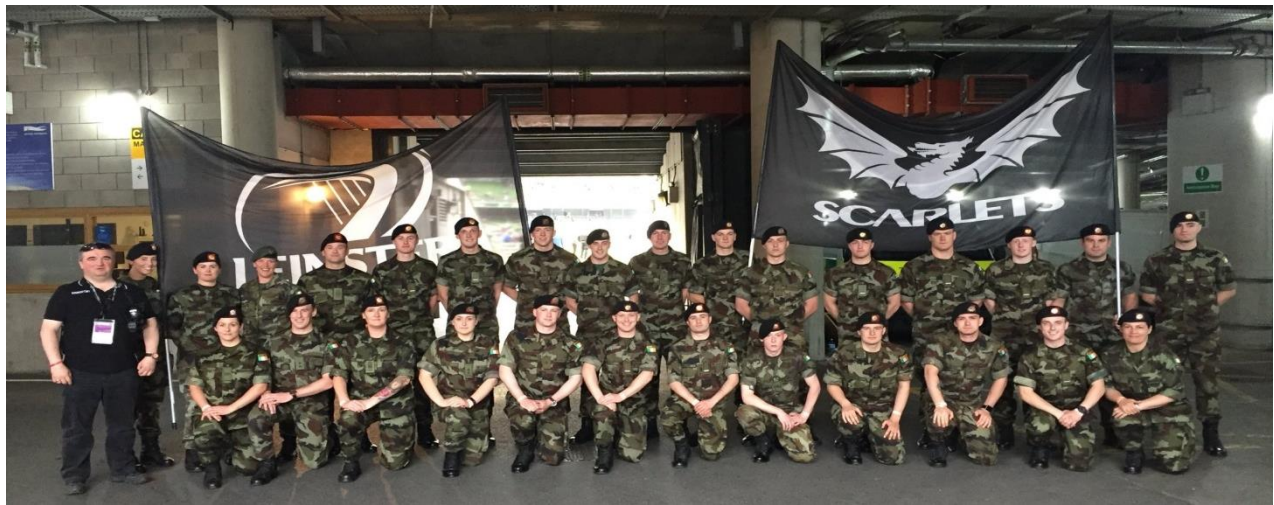
The 2 Cav Sqn Vets Association plaque.



Col George Kerton (Retd), who unveiled the plaque and Sgt Billy King (Retd). Photos credit Capt Mark Morris (Retd) (Club President 2004).

### **On the Pitch for the Pro 14 Finals in the Aviva Stadium.**

In the Aviva Stadium in May this year Club President Comdt Jayne Lawlor and Club Honorary Secretary Capt Damien O’Herlihy were photographed with members of the male and female Defence Forces Rugby teams who carried the club banners of all clubs in the Rugby PRO 14 finals in the Aviva Stadium. Capt O’Herlihy through his civilian occupation organized with the help of Comdt Andrew Burke and Comdt Rory McCann for the Defence Forces personnel to participate in this globally televised event.



Club President Comdt Jayne Lawlor and Club Honorary Secretary Capt Damien O’Herlihy with members of the DF male and female rugby teams.

### **On the front page!**

The front cover of the September issue of An Cosántóir features Cpl Shane Smyth of 1 Brigade Cavalry Squadron. The photograph was taken when he was Section Commander during the tactical phase of the RDF PNCO course run over the summer. Cpl Smyth is 26 years old and from Rathcormac, Co. Cork. He joined the RDF in 2009 and following the re-org became a member of 1 Bde Cav Sqn. He has completed a number of other courses including a FIBUA course and Recce Techniques course. We wish Cpl Smyth and all the new Cpl’s every success in their career in the RDF.



Photograph courtesy of Sgt Wayne Fitzgerald Editor of An Cosantoir.



## Cavalry YO's

This years Cav YO's was as tough as ever and the club members Capt. Humphrey's who was promoted since the course and is now UNIFIL bound, Lt Reilly, Lt Conneely and Lt Humphreys who is UNDOF bound that took part in it were held to very high standards and ensured through their hard work and determination that these standards were met.



Photo Credit Lt Karl Dempsey 2 Cav Sqn.

## Historical Cavalry and Armoured Vehicles Photographs.

Members are invited to forward old photographs to the Honorary Secretary for inclusion in future newsletters. Originals will be scanned and returned.

### 1920s.

**1927.** In the Jan 1928 edition of An tOglach, (the forerunner of An Cosantóir), Lt B Kennelly from the Army School of Instruction (the forerunner of the Military College) published an article entitled "The Case For Establishment Of Cyclist Echelons In The Army.

An Experimental Cyclist Coy was formed in 1927 and the article goes into great detail of the establishment, roles, training requirements, the road network, armament, specialist squads and he concludes "The success of the practical tests already carried out, and the existence of data relative to tentative lines of organisation, training and equipment, on which the trials were based, - suggest that the question of establishment cyclist echelons as an important element of our Defence Forces merits exhaustive consideration."

Five years later the Free State Army carried out a large scale field exercise to test the proposed new organisation and structures for the Army and the Cav Corps units included 1 Armd Sqn equipped with Armoured Roll Royce and Lancia AFVs, an experimental Horse Sqn and an experimental Cyclist Sqn.

The exercise involved over five thousand troops and was conducted in Counties, Kildare, Wicklow and south Dublin from 16 to 24 Sep 1933. The Cav units involved were 1 Horse Sqn commanded by Comdt O'Dwyer, 1 Cyclist Sqn under Lt Charles Heuston and I Armd Car Sqn commanded by Comdt JV Lawless.



This photograph shows the experimental Cyc Coy on the square at Keane Bks and it appeared in the Jan 1928 edition of An tOglach. The nomenclature of the seven Bks in the Curragh were change to the names of the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation with effect from 06 Dec 1928 as directed by the Adjutant General Maj Gen Seosamh MacSuibhne in General Routine Order 23 of 1928. Keane Bks was renamed as Dún An Phiarsaigh or Pearse Bks.

### **1930s.**

This photograph shows the two L60s Landsverk tanks in training. One tank was delivered in Nov 1935 and the second in 1936.

The two L60s given the designations L-601 and L-602 were assigned to the 2 Armd Sqn and they served alongside the Vickers Medium Tank Mk C.

The L60s remained in service until 1953, one tank is on display in the National Museum Collins Bks Dublin and the other is in the Curragh.



Some believe that this photograph was taken on the Curragh Plains but it is more likely that it was taken in Aug 1936 when the tanks were undergoing mobility testing near the Landsverk factory at Landskrona in Sweden in Aug 1935.

### **1940s.**

**1942.** This photograph shows 11 Cav Regt on parade at Dún Uí Mhaoilíosa, Renmore Galway.

The unit has its genesis in 11 Cyclist Sqn from the Emergency years.

In 1949 the unit was renamed as 11 Mot Sqn FCA.



Photo credit Mil Archives.



## 1950s

1956. The Cav Club committee at the Gresham Hotel for the Cav Club Ball.



Front Row: Lt Leslie Acheson (Club President 1949 , Capt Bob Collier (Club President 1956), Col Joe Lawless (Club President 1950).

Second Row: -, Capt Owen Quinn (Club President 1966) , Lt Dan Kennedy (Club President 1980) ,

Third Row: Lt Liam Young centre (Club President 1977) ,

Fourth Row: Capt Jim Crowley (Club President 1964), Lt Aidan Pender (at back) (Club President 1965) , Lt J D (Sean) Clery (Club President 1955) , Sgt D Canavan, Lt Clem Kinsella (Club President 1959).

Photo supplied by Lt Col Ken Kelly (Club President 2007).

## 1960s.

**12 May 1964.** Twenty eight Ford Mark VI armoured cars were manufactured by Thomas Thompson & Co Carlow in 1940 and 1941. Eight Fords were sent to the Congo in Jan 1961 with the Armd Car Gp 34 Inf Bn ONUC and three more Fords were deployed in Jun 1961 with the Armd Car Gp 35 Inf Bn.

Two Fords were captured at Jadotville (now Likasi) in Sep 1961, they were recovered by the Armd Car Gp 38 Inf Bn, one at Union Miniere work yard at Kipushi and the second at Mulungwishi power station about twenty five miles north west of Jadotville.

On 12 May 1964 the last DF unit to serve with ONUC, 2 Inf Gp, handed over six Fords to 4 Group of the Congolese Army at Kolwezi Airport



2 Inf Gp Armd Car Gp personnel at the handover and identified are:

Standing No 5 from the Left 2/Lt Ken Kelly (Cav Club President 2007), No 9 Lt Martin O'Neill, No 11 Sgt Ned Poole, No 13 2/Lt Larry Coughlan.

Kneeling No 2 from Left Cpl Tom Hannon, Cpl Colin O'Callaghan No 5. Photo credit Comdt Art Magennis DSM.

**1970s.**

**1978.** This photograph was taken at the end of a Panhard Gunnery Instructors Course at the Cav Sch.



Front Row L to R: Sgt Timmy Roles (Instr), Lt Eamonn Smyth (Club President 1993), Lt George Kerton (Club President 2012), Lt Col Joe Foley (Club President 1962), Capt Jack McCarthy (OIC Course), Lt Oliver Barbour, Sgt Terry Hall;

Back Row: Sgt Roche, Sgt Robert Moran, Sgt John Enright, Sgt James Dundun, Sgt Thomas O'Herlihy.

**1980s.**

**Sep 1988.** Thirty years ago the DF vacated Griffith Bks and 2 Mot Sqn moved across the Grand Canal to Cathal Brugha Bks. The Office of D Cav relocated to McKee Bks.





This photo shows the last Orderly Officer, Capt Seán O’Keeffe (Club President 2000) handing over the National Flag to Comdt Brendan McCann Sqn Comd 2 Mot Sqn & OC Griffith Bks (Club President 2005). Photo credit Col Sean O’Keeffe.

**1990s.**

**Sep 1998.** Twenty years ago 1 Cav Sqn ended a half century in Fermoy Co Cork when Fitzgerald Camp, known as the Aerodrome was vacated and the unit moved to Collins Bks in Cork.



The photo shows the last Orderly Officer, 2/Lt Peter Norton (Club President 20 15) taking down the flag. Photo credit Mil Archives.

**Annual Club Dinner**

The Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday November 03<sup>rd</sup> 2018 in the MILCOL in the DFTC.

To book tickets for this event please contact any member of the committee.

*Carpe diem.*