



CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2018

PLEASE SEE NOTICE FOR THE 2019 AGM ON LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER

Christmas and New Year Greetings from the Club President, Comdt Jayne Lawlor.

Mar Uachtarán agus ar son Coiste an Club Marcra, ba mhaith liom Beannachtaí na Nollag agus athbhliain faoi mhaise a guí oraibh i gcéin agus i gcónar. Beirim beannachtaí speisialta air gach oifigeach a bheidh ar dualgas i rith an Nollaig. Tá súil agam go mbeidh ceangailt idir an Coiste agus Ballraíocht an Club go deighin trí 2019 agus go mbeidh dea-chaidreamh eadrainn.

In my capacity as President and on behalf of the Cavalry Club Committee I wish to extend season's greetings to all members of the Cavalry Club and their families. I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2019. We thank our members for their support during the year and we look forward seeing many of you at club events in the coming year. We extend special greetings to our members who will be on duty or working at home or abroad during the holiday season.

In Memoriam.



In Oct 2018 members of the Cavalry Club were saddened to hear the sad news of the passing of Capt Paul Roche (Retd), Garryduff Drive, Castlebar and late of the 5 Mot Sqn, Castlebar. Paul joined the 5 Mot Sqn in Castlebar in 1972 and served up until 1976 where due to work commitments he took a short break. In 1982 he rejoined the Unit and it wasn't long before that his proficiency in marksmanship in small arms especially the Gustaf was recognised. He represented the Unit at Brigade and Command level winning many medals and prizes and then went on to participate at All Army level on numerous occasions.

A colleague of his he would have served with in the 5 Mot Sqn is the present Chief of Staff, V Adm Mark Mellett DSM. After rapid promotion through the ranks (Cpl 1983 and Sgt 1985) Paul was commissioned a 2/Lt in 1987. Capt Paul Roche (Retd) died on 06 Oct 2018, peacefully at Swinford District Hospital. Deeply regretted by his loving wife Tess, sister Mary (Connolly), brother John (Loughrea), Tess' daughter Ella, brother-in-law Michael, sister-in-law Marcella, daughter Emer, son John, son-in-law Paul and grandchild Ronan, extended family and friends. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family and his Cavalry Corps comrades. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.



Comdt John (Sean) Matthews (Retd) 11 Cav Sqn, East Wall, Dublin (previously Ballyfermot) died on 02 Nov 2018. He served in the 11 Cav Regt, which became the 11 Mot Sqn following integration in 1959 and then the 11 Cav Sqn until his retirement on 26th January 1995. Having joined the 11 Cav Regt in Sep 1955, he was promoted corporal on 06 Jan 58 received his 3rd stripe in June 1959 and subsequently was SQMS for many years before being commissioned on 06 Jun 1972.

In his civilian career, he trained and worked as an ophthalmic lab technician in Dublin, becoming lab manager and in later life attended college as a 'mature student' and qualified as a dispensing optician, subsequently running his own practice in Dublin's Dorset Street. His organisational ability was outstanding, he was a founder member of the 11 Mot Sqn NCO's Club and served as president for three years. He was also involved in the Scouting movement, both in East Wall and at national level, in addition, he played pitch & put and lawn bowling in his leisure time.

Deepest sympathy to his wife Rosaleen, daughters Breda, Ann and Patricia, brother Pat, their families, friends and former comrades in the 11 Cav Sqn and all Cav Corps colleagues. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

At this special time of the year our thoughts are also with the families and loved ones of our two other comrades who passed away since last Christmas. On 12 Jan 2018 of Lt Alfred (Alfie) Johnston DSM (Retd) died and on 14 Jan 2018 Comdt Patrick (Paddy) Lane (Retd) died.

Go dtuga Dia dídean na bhFlaitheas dóibh.

Annual Club Dinner

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 03Nov 2018 in the Officers Mess The Military College. Brig Gen Joe Mulligan GOC DFTC was the guest of honour and after dinner speaker. Comdt Jayne Lawlor, the Club President, flew in from overseas service with the EU Training Mission in Mali on the morning of the dinner. Our thanks to the Mil Col Comdt, Col Brendan McGuinness and the mess staff for a most enjoyable and scrumptious meal and the hospitality.



Photo credit Lt Col Gerry Cooney (Retd).

20TH Anniversary of Closure of Fitzgerald Camp Fermoy.

On 11 Oct 2018 former members of 1 Mot/Cav Sqn assembled at the former Fitzgerald Camp in Fermoy to mark the twentieth anniversary of the March Out of 1 Cav Sqn from Fermoy and the President of Cavalry Club was represented at the ceremony by Lt Gen Seán McCann DSM (Retd). The Sqn was established as 1 Mot Sqn in McKee Bks, Dublin in the summer of 1939 at the outbreak of WW2. During the Emergency the Sqn occupied a number of posts including Griffith Bks Dublin, Castleblaney Co Monaghan, Boyle Co Roscommon, the Curragh Camp, Mount Juliet Estate Co Kilkenny, Ormond Castle Carrick-on-Suir Co Tipperary, Salterbridge House Lismore Co Waterford, Kickham Bks Clonmel and Murphy Bks, Ballincollig, Co Cork. In 1948 1 Mot Sqn, under the command of Comdt Timmy Ryan moved to the Aerodrome, Fermoy Co Cork where personnel of the unit became an integral part of the community for more than half of a century. In September 1966, the aerodrome was renamed Fitzgerald Camp in honour of Comdt Michael Fitzgerald, OC 1 Bn Cork No 2 Bde who died during the War of Independence on hunger strike in Cork Prison on 17 Oct 1920. He was a mill worker from Ballyoran, Fermoy and he joined the Irish Volunteers in 1914.



L to R: Comdt Hugh O'Neill (Retd), Col Peter Marron (Retd), Lt Gen Seán McCann DSM (Retd), Col James Burns (Retd), Col Richard Heaslip (Retd).



A group photograph of members of IUNVA Post 25 Fermoy with members of the Cav Club, other veterans of Fitzgerald Camp and personnel from 1 Cav Sqn.

Decadal Lunch.

On 06 Dec 2018 the Club hosted a lunch in McKee Officers Mess for officers who were commissioned on 1968, 78, 88, 98 and 2008. The guests were Fr Fergus O'Connor PP (Comdt Retd), Comdt John Moriarty (Retd), Comdt Pearse Buckley (Retd), Capt Gay D'Arcy (Retd), Capt Cathal O'Neill (Retd), Capt Joe Kelly (Retd), Lt Col Colm O'Luasa, Capt Tony Marshall (Retd) and Capt Eamonn McGuinness (Retd). Col Ray O'Lehan represented the Club President.



Guests and members of the committee at McKee Officers Mess.

WW1 Purple Heart.

The Cavalry Club World War One Tours organising group of Capt Michael Bohan (Retd), Col Richard Heaslip (Retd) and Col George Kerton (Retd) were delighted to accept an invitation to Glasnevin Cemetery Museum recently for the Presentation of the Purple Heart to a World War One American Soldier.

The soldier was Private Michael Walsh, Company K, 116th Regiment, 29th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, who died of wounds on 24 Oct 1918 less than three weeks before the Armistice was signed on 11 Nov 1918. He had been injured during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in France in the autumn of 1918 in which more than twenty-six-thousand Americans died. Michael was an immigrant from Claremorris in Co Mayo to the USA in 1911.

In 2016 Finola O'Mahony accompanied the group on an organised WW1 battlefield Tour of France and Flanders. She was researching the military history of her great grand Uncle the late Michael Walsh. This research culminated with the official presentation of the Purple Heart to ancestors of Michael Walsh by Major Zachariah Fike US Army, Purple Hearts Reunited. His Purple Heart was the last of 100 medals returned over the last two years by Purple Hearts Reunited and the United States World War One Centennial Commission. The US Embassy was represented by the presence of US Defence Attaché Lt Col Andrew Martin.



The photograph shows the group pictured with Finola in Glasnevin Cemetery after the Presentation.

Two weeks in Nov with 2 Bde Cavalry Squadron Reserve.

The month of Nov was a very eventful time for members of 2 Bde Cav Sqn Reserve. Answering the call to support the unit and be a part of the Presidential motorcycle Escort of Honour for the Centenary celebrations of the end of WW1 and the inauguration of President Michael D Higgins, three of the Reserve EOH qualified DR's volunteered.



SQMS Darren Martin Sgt David Mann and Sqn Sgt John Shiels, came in and worked to prepare the Escort of Honour bikes to ensure that they were at the highest of standards as befitting a Presidential Inauguration and the commemoration to mark the centenary of the ending of WW1.

This was not the first time that members of the Reserve Defence Force have been involved as part of the Presidential Motorcycle Escort of Honour as several reserve members of the unit were involved in many of the escorts in 1916 both on the motorbikes and in the support vehicles but this is the first time that members of the Reserve have been involved with a Presidential Inauguration Motorcycle Escort of Honour.



L to R: SQMS Martin D, SGT Mann D, SSGT Shiels J

Less than a week after escorting President Michael D Higgins several members of 2 Bde Cav Sqn including Sgt Mann were involved in a 72 hour joint tactical exercise with some of the Reserve members of 1 Armd Cav Sqn, 1 Mech Inf Coy and 1 Cav Sqn in the Sliabh Bloom Mountains from Friday 16 Nov to Sunday 18 Nov. The exercise was excellently planned and organised by the Reserve members of 1 Armd Cav Sqn of the DFTC.

To hone the skills that would be needed for this exercise members of 2 Bde Cav Sqn implemented a three month training program over parade nights and a refresher training weekend in October in the DFTC to rehearse and practice the skills that they would need during

this exercise from map reading and navigation to setting up, operating and maintaining the Singar radio to moving tactically and rehearsing their actions on drills and practice using night vision equipment and the thermal imager. All essential tools and skills that would be needed and used by an OP detachment.



2 Bde Cav Sqn Reserve Detachment



Members of 1 Cav Sqn, 1 Armd Cav Sqn, 1 Mech Inf Coy and 2 Cav Sqn on exercise in the Sliabh Bloom Mountains.

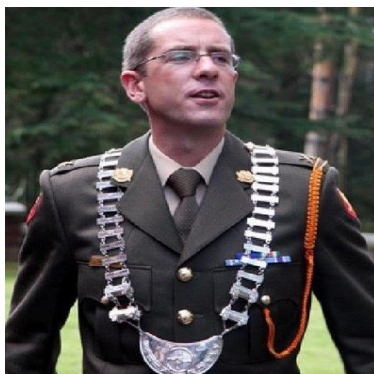
On Wednesday 14 Nov Capt Damien O’Herlihy was contacted and asked as a qualified military driving instructor to assist with an ongoing driving course as one of the instructors was now unable to complete the course that was being run by 2 Bde Cav Sqn and being delivered to PDF members of 2 Cav Sqn and 7 Inf Bn. Answering the call Capt O’Herlihy took the students out and assessed their driving on Monday morning 19 Nov and continued to instruct them for the remainder of the week helping them prepare for their driving test that was being held in the TVMS in the DFTC the following week.

2 Bde Cav Sqn Reserve members have always had an excellent working relationship with the PDF members of the squadron and I know that this is replicated in many units all over the island.

This snap shot of two weeks in the squadron shows how we as members of the Reserve can support the Front line and work together in the single force concept to achieve the mission. All photos credit Capt Damien O’Herlihy.

Listed for Promotion.

Heartiest congratulations to Comd Eugene Cooke who has been listed for promotion to the rank of Lt Col in the New Year. Eugene is a member of 71 Cdt Class and he started his service in the Cav Corps in Jul 1996 as Tp Comd 1 Tk Sqn. He was Cav Club President in 2013. At present he is a SO with J7 Trg Br DFHQ.



Comdt Eugene Cooke.

Historical Cavalry and Armoured Vehicles Photographs.

As 2018 comes to a close we thank our members who contributed photographs for newsletters with their memories of the Corps lore and history. Members are invited to forward old photographs to the Honorary Secretary for inclusion in future newsletters. Originals will be scanned and returned to the owners.

1920s.

1922. The National army took over thirteen Armoured Rolls Royce Armoured Cars, seven Peerless Armoured Cars and sixty four Lancia Armoured Trucks (APCs) from the departing British Forces in 1922. The Armd Car Corps was constituted in Aug 1922 with HQ at Portobello Bks Dublin and nine Armd Car Coys were created with a varying number of cars. Corps HQ moved to the Curragh in 1924 and the organisation was reduced to a HQ and four companies, No 1 Coy at The Curragh, No 2 Coy in Collins Bks Dublin, No 3 Coy in Collins Bks Cork and No 4 Coy in Athlone. All Coys moved to The Curragh in 1925 for a major overhaul of AFVs. This photograph shows a Lancia being fitted with a turret Inchicore Railway Works Dublin in Dec 1922. The Lancias were fitted with roofs for added protection and some were fitted with a turret. By the late 1930s all Lancias had been withdrawn from service.



This Lancia was fitted with a turret and rail wheels for use by the Railway Protection, Repair and Maintenance Corps, seven rail Lancia's were used during the Civil War. The AFVs were constructed at Inchicore under the supervision of Maj Gen Furlong.

1930s. Two Landsverk L60A Light Tanks were procured from Sweden in 1935 – 36 The L60s remained in service up to the early 1960s, one is now in the Curragh Museum and the second is in the National Museum in Collins Bks.



One of the L60As on the Curragh Plains in the late 1930s.

1940s.

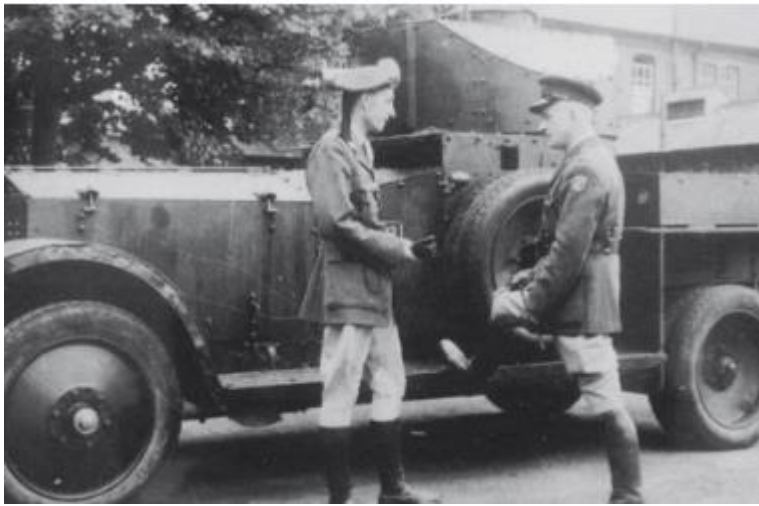
Early 1940s.



This photograph shows personnel of 2 Mot Sqn at Griffith Bks during the Emergency. The Mot Sqn consisted of a Sqn HQ, One Armd Tp with four Ford AFVs and three Motor Tps equipped with soft skinned cars and motorcycles. The unit was commanded during the Emergency by Comdt Thomas O’Hanlon (Mar - Jul 1940), Comdt PC Byrne (Aug - Nov 1940) and Comdt Hugh Maguire (Nov 1940 to Apr 1946). Photo credit Mil Archives.

1950s

Circa 1955. A number of families have more than one generation with service in the Cav Corps. The late Col JV (Joe) Lawless, his father Frank and his granduncle Colm were all members of 5 Bn Dublin Bde of the Irish Volunteers and they fought in the Rising during Easter Week 1916. He was D Cav from Jan 1955 to Oct 1958. Joe’s son the late Col Frank Lawless (Senior) was a member of 20th Cadet Class and was commissioned in Nov 1948, he was Club President in 1968 and he was D Cav from Jul 1981 to Aug 1983. His son, Col Frank Lawless (Junior) was a member of 58 Cadet Class, he was commissioned in Mar 1983 and he died in service in Oct 2016.



This photograph shows Col JV Lawless D Cav with his son Lt Frank Lawless Tp Comd 4 Mot Sqn at Plunkett Bks during a visit by the Director. Photo credit Mil Archives.

1960s.

26 Jul 1960. In Jul 1960, just ten days after the UN requested Ireland to supply troops for the DFs first armed peace support operation, USAF Globemaster aircraft were taking-off from the Air Corps base at Baldonnel for the Congo with personnel of 32 Inf Bn. The Bn had 689 all ranks and many Cav Corps enlisted personnel deployed as infantrymen and in staff appointments. Comdt Timmy Ryan, who was OC 1 Mot Sqn at the time, was the unit QM. He was the first Cav officer to serve with an armed overseas DF unit with the UN. As a Col he was D Cav from Jun 1972 to Mar 1978.

On 26 Jul 1960, 32 Inf Bn officers attended a reception at Aras an Uachtarain with President Eamon de Valera, Taoiseach Sean Lemass, Minister for External Affairs Frank Aiken, Minister for Defence Kevin Boland and the General Staff.



Comdt Timmy Ryan is No 3 from the Left in the Second Row. Another Cav Corps Officer, Col Sean Collins-Powell, the QMG is No 3 from the Right in the Front Row. This photograph was taken on Tuesday 26 Jul 1960 at Aras an Uachtarain. The practice of overseas unit officers visiting the President prior to deployment continued to units deploying to Cyprus for service with UNFICYP. Photo credit Capt Robert Seward (Retd).

1970s.

1979. This photograph was taken at the Medal Parade at Tibnin Lebanon in March 1979. 44 Inf Bn was the second DF unit to serve in UNIFIL. It served in Lebanon from Nov 1978 to Apr 1979 and the CO was Lt Col Vincent Savino (Maj Gen Retd),



Lt Niall Cremen saluting, Mag Gen Emmanuel A Erskine (FC UNIFIL Mar 1978 to Feb 1981). Photo credit Mil Archives.

1980s.

1986. Four NCOs from 5 Cav Sqn attended the W Comd FCA Potential Officers' Course conducted at the Comd Trg Dep in Custume Bks Athlone and they were commissioned in May 1988.



The four Cav officers are in the Second Row L to R: Capt Paraic O'Toole (Retd) No 2, Capt Paul Roche (Retd) RIP No 7, Capt Michael Bohan (Retd) No 8, and Capt John Clarke (Retd) RIP No 9.

Photo credit Capt Michael Bohan (Retd).

1990s.



This photograph was taken in Sep 1998 when 1 Cav Sqn vacated Fitzgerald Camp Fermoy. Included are Col Maurice Walsh (Retd) 2 I/C & EO S Comd, Comdt Tom Kelly (RIP), Col Pat O'Sullivan D Cav (RIP), Lt Col Seán Hennessy (Retd), Lt Col Harry Costello (RIP), Capt Paddy Power (Retd) and Lt Col Ken Kelly (Retd) then Comdt, Cav Sch.

Carpe diem.

NOTICE FOR THE 2019 AGM



NOTICE FOR THE 74th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

18 FEB 2019

The Honorary Secretary hereby notifies members that the Annual General Meeting of the Cavalry Club will take place in the Ante Room in the Cavalry School Defence Forces Training Centre Curragh Camp County Kildare at 1900 hours on Monday 18 Feb 2019. All members of the Club are cordially invited to attend.

AGENDA

Welcome and Club President's Opening Remarks.

Appointment of Tellers to count votes.

Minutes of the 73rd Annual General Meeting.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

President's Report.

Honorary Secretary's Report.

Honorary Treasurer's Report.

Report on the Audited Accounts of the Club.

Motions.

Election of Club Officers.

- Ratification of appointment of incoming Club President.
- Election of the Vice-President and President Elect.
- Election of the Honorary Secretary.
- Election of the Honorary Treasurer.
- Election of remaining Committee Members.

Election of Auditors.

Any Other Business.

Closing remarks.

NOTES Rule 19.4: Please note that any member who wishes to propose a motion(s) for consideration by the AGM should give at least seven days' notice of the motion(s) to the Committee in advance of the date of the AGM and such motion(s) must be duly seconded.

Any member who wishes to become a member of the committee and who wishes to be nominated as per Rule 9 of should inform the Honorary Secretary.

Tea/coffee and light refreshments will be available after the meeting in the Ante Room after the meeting.