



CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2019

Christmas and New Year Greetings from the Club President, Col Ray O'Lehan.

Mar Uachtarán agus ar son Coiste an Club Marcra, ba mhaith liom Beannachtaí na Nollag agus athbhliain faoi mhaise a guí oraibh go léir. Beirim beannachtaí speisialta air gach oifigeach a bheidh ag obair ar shon síocháin ar fud an domhain le linn an Nollag.

Tá súil agam go mbeidh ceangailt idir an Coiste agus Ballraíocht an Club go deighin trí 2020 agus go mbeidh dea-chaidreamh eadrainn.

On behalf of the Cavalry Club Committee I extend Christmas and New Year greetings to our members and their families and wish them a carefree and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2020. We thank our loyal members for their support during 2019 and we look forward to meeting members and their guests 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. I ask members who might not have been active in the Club in recent years to make every effort to reconnect with the Club by attending at some club events in 2020.

The Cavalry Club Annual Dinner

The annual dinner was held on Saturday 02 Nov 2019 at the Officers Mess Collins Bks Cork. The certificate of Honorary Membership of the Cavalry Club was presented to Comdt Eamonn Smyth (Retd) at the dinner by the Club President Col Ray O'Lehan. Fifty seven members and guests had booked in and they thoroughly enjoyed fine fare and a very pleasant evening.





Cavalry Corps Memorial Day 2019.

On Saturday 07 Sep 2019 there was a good turnout of serving and retired personnel of the Cav Corps at the Curragh Camp to remember the fourteen cavalrymen who died while on peace support operations with the United Nations and Cavalry personnel who passed away since last Cav Day. Capt Joanne McCarthy represented the Club President who was abroad on the day. Mass was celebrated at St Brigid's Garrison church by the Very Rev Fr Fergus O'Connor Parish Priest of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Merrion Road, Dublin 4 (Cavalry Club President in 1982) who was assisted by Monsignor John McDonald CF.

After mass, the Church of Ireland chaplain, the Rev Fran Grasham CF led the prayer service before wreaths were laid at the Memorial Garden by Brig Gen Dave Dignam GOC DFTC and by Lt Col Colm Ó Luasa MA to COS on behalf of the Corps. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association, the Glengarry Club and the Second Cavalry Squadron Veterans Association.

The fourteen cavalrymen who died while on UN service are:

ONUC Republic of the Congo: Sgt Hugh Gaynor, Tpr Anthony Browne BMC, Tpr Thomas Fennell, Tpr Edward Gaffney, Tpr Patrick Mullins, Cpl Michael Nolan, Comdt Thomas McMahon;

UNFICYP Cyprus: Sgt John Hamill, Cpl William Hetherington, Cpl James Fagan, Tpr Michael Kennedy;

UNIFIL Lebanon: Sgt Edward Yeates, Tpr Paul Fogarty and Tpr Jonathon Campbell.

Among the Cav Corps personnel who died during the year and who were remembered were Capt Paul Roche 5 Cav Sqn, Comdt Arthur Magennis (The DSM with Honour) Office of D Cav, Col Hugh O'Connor D Cav 1992 – 94 and Capt Luke Mullins Dep Cav.



The parade at the Memorial Garden. The parade commander was Comdt Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Sqn Comd 1 Cav Sqn.



Brig Gen Dave Dignam GOC DFTC laying the first wreath.



Lt Col Colm Ó Luasa saluting after laying the Cav Corps Wreath.



Wreaths on the three stones
Photos credit RSM Keith Caffrey.

Congo Commemorations.

On Saturday 14 Sep 2019 a commemorative ceremony was held in the grounds of St. Oliver Plunkett's Church, Grange Con, Co Wicklow for Cpl Michael Nolan Armd Car Gp 35 Inf Bn ONUC who was killed in an ambush in Elisabethville on the night of 13 – 14 Sep 1961.

The event was organised by IUNVA Post 21 Bray and after an ecumenical prayer service conducted by Fr Ger Ahern PP St Joseph's parish and the Rev Mairt Hanley St Mary's COI both from Baltinglass wreaths were laid at the memorial stone to Cpl Nolan by the Nolan family, Wicklow County Council, the local community, IUNVA and the Glengarry Club.

Two Cav Corps Congo veterans who had served with Cpl Nolan in 1 Tk Sqn attended the ceremony, Sgt Timmy Roles (3 Armd Car Sqn ONUC) and Sqn Sgt Mick Loughman (C Coy 35 Inf Bn ONUC and 2 Armd Car Sqn) attended the ceremony. On Saturday 21 Sep 2019 a mass and wreath laying ceremony took place in Kilbehenny Co Limerick for Tpr Patrick Mullins Armd Car Gp 35 Inf Bn ONUC who was killed beside Cpl Nolan, the remains of Tpr Mullins were not recovered.



Memorial to Tpr Mullins.



Memorial to Cpl Nolan.

RTE Radio Programme.

On Saturday 24 Aug 19, Captain Tom Tooher, who comes from a Co Offaly farming background and who completed an Agricultural Science degree before his cadetship, was one of a panel of three guests on the RTE Radio programme Country Wide hosted by John Cooke. The discussion focussed on how agricultural education has practical applications in careers outside of farming.



Capt Tom Tooher. Photo credit RTE.

Cav Sch Courses.

The attached photograph shows students from the recently completed Basic Recce course, the Cav Standard NCO course and the Cav YOs' course.



Students from the three courses with the Cav Sch staff. Photo credit RSM Keith Caffrey.

Retirement.

Brig Gen Philip Brennan, who was the Military Representative to the UN and NATO in Brussels and an Associate Member of the Club, retired from the Defence Forces on 21 Oct 2019. Gen Brennan is an infantry officer and he was Sqn Comd 3 Cav Sqn for a period when he was a Capt in Kickham Bks Clonmel. We wish Philip, his wife Maura and their family all the best for the future.



Brig Gen Philip Brennan. Photo credit DF PR Br.

Annual decadal Lunch

The luncheon was held in the Officers Mess McKee Bks on Thursday 05 Dec 19 and ten Cav Corps officers who were commissioned in 1969, 79, 89, 99 and 2009 were joined by members of the committee. Capts Jim Power and Michael Cunningham were commissioned in 1969, Comdt Ray Stewart, Capts Conor Furey and Adrian Grey were commissioned in 1979, Lt Cols Gavin Young and Rory McCorley (Club President in 2010) were commissioned in 1989, Comdt Jayne Lawlor (Club President in 2018) was commissioned in 1999, Capts Niall Dolan and Paul Ralph were commissioned in 2009



Historical Cavalry and Armoured Vehicles Photographs.

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

1919 - 1921

These four images show British army 14-ton Mark A “Whippet” medium tanks. These tanks were crewed by three and were twice as fast as a Mark IV main battle tank with a speed of at eight miles per hour, and were armed with four Hotchkiss machine guns. The Whippets were a light, fast tank with a high-viewing platform that gave good observation. They were used B Coy 17 Bn Tk Corps.



The first image of the two Whippet's with a Peerless armoured car operating in Co Clare appeared in a number of newspapers in Nov 1919. The news reports referred to an increase in attacks on RIC barracks in the county. The next two photos show the tanks on patrol in Clare.



This photo was taken near the South Wall at Ringsend in Dublin in May 1921 and it shows a Mark A recovering a stalled 3 Ton lorry from the mud. The lorry had been used in an attempt to retrieve wooden drums containing bales of tobacco that were dumped in the river Liffey by the IRA.

Early 1930s.



This photograph shows six Reserve Cav Officers cooling down beside an Armoured Rolls Royce at an annual training camp held at Kilworth Ranges. Included are Capt J Hogan, Lt Coates, Lt John Aherne, Lt John Griffin, Capt J Henry and Capt Hugh Maguire on the right, he was President of the Cavalry Club in 1947.

As a seventeen year old, he joined the Volunteers in 1913 and he was a runner during the Easter Rising. He was commissioned as an officer in the National Army in 1922 and he served with No 2 Coy Armd Car Corps in Collins Bks Dublin.

He transferred to the Reserve in Feb 1929 and was recalled to fulltime service on 03 Sep 1939. He served initially with 1 Armd Sqn and in May 1940 he was posted to the newly established 2 Mot Sqn (the unit was formally established in May 1939).

The Sqn moved from McKee Bks to Mullingar to Collins Bks Dublin to Cabra Castle in Kingscourt Co Cavan to Clondalkin Monastery to the RDS in Ballsbridge to Griffith Bks. Comdt Maguire took over command of the squadron from Comdt P C Byrne in Nov 1941 and he remained there until Apr 1946 when he retired to the Reserve of Officers. Photo credit the late Col Pat Lavelle collection.

1940s.

Easter Monday 18 Apr 1949.

At midnight the Irish Free State officially became a republic and the event was marked in Dublin with a 19-gun salute on O'Connell Bridge with a military parade and march past the GPO reviewed by the President Seán T O'Kelly.



Motorcyclists and Landsverk armoured cars from 1 Armd Car Sqn driving past the reviewing stand.

1950s.



1958.

Lt Tony Carr (Lt Col Retd), pictured Number 6 from the left sitting, at Plunkett Bks with instructors and members of a recruit platoon after the passing out parade. Photo credit Lt Col Tony Carr (Retd).

1960s.

25 Nov 1963. Following the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States of America, his wife Jaqueline asked that the funeral drill at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia be conducted by members of 37 Cadet Class. The cadets from this Class assigned to the Cav Corps on commissioning in Sep 1964 were Richard Heaslip, Thomas Hickey and Felix O'Callaghan.



The twenty six members of 37 Cadet Class under the command of Lt Frank Colclough at Arlington perform the Queen Anne or the Funeral Drill at the graveside. Photo credit AP.

Late 1970s.

The DF procured eight Comet A34 Tanks between late Dec 1958 and Jan 1960. The Comet was armed with a 77mm High Velocity gun and two Besa 7.92mm machine guns. 1 Tk Sqn was established on 01 Oct 1959 and it was equipped with the eight Comet Tanks and the four Churchill Tanks (procured in 1948/49).

The tanks were used for training and demonstration purposes both in the Curragh and the Glen of Imaal from the 1960s into early 1970s. In 1969 stocks of 77mm ammunition were low and experiments were carried out to fit a 90 mm Bofors Pv1110 recoilless rifle on a mounting in the turret ring after the turret was removed. This was not proceeded with and the last Comet main armament and machinegun shoot took place in the Glen of Imaal in Dec 1973.

1 Tk Sqn was disestablished in Jul 1973 and the unit was re-established seven years later and equipped with Scorpion CVR (T) light tanks and Timoney Mk VI APCs.

In Dec 1998, Dep Cav, 1 Armd Car Sqn and 1 Tk Sqn were dis-established and personnel were assigned to the new unit, 1 Armd Cav Sqn.

During the life of the original Tk Sqn it had two commanding officers, Comdt Kevin Nunan DSM (Cavalry Club President in 1958) from the start in 1959 to Feb 1968 with gaps for UN service in the Congo in 1961 and 1962-63 and in Cyprus in 1965 and 1967.

Comdt Denis Quinn took over in 1968 to disestablishment in 1973 with a gap for UN service in Cyprus in 1969.



This photograph shows five mothballed Comet A34 Tanks parked at the bottom of Plunkett Sq in the late 1970s. The fenced-in area on the far side of the square was called the Special Jail Complex (SJC), it was built to house terrorist prisoners but it was not used.

A Berliet TBU 15 CLD six-wheeler recovery truck and two Mercedes LA9911B four-by-four trucks are parked by the fence. Three Berliets were in service with the Cav Corps from 1974 and they were disposed of in 2000.

The Mercedes trucks were in service with Dep Cav and 1 Armd Car Sqn in the 1970s. Later on the Artillery Corps used the trucks for towing field and anti-aircraft guns up to around 1990. Photo credit Mil Archives.

1980s.
1989.



The Aug 1989 edition of An Cosantóir magazine covered the 50th anniversary of the establishment of 1, 2 and 3 Mot Sqns during the Emergency. This photograph shows personnel from 3 Cav Sqn on a Tp exercise near Kilsheelan Co Tipperary with the majestic slopes of Slievenamon mountain in the background. This photo was on the front cover of the magazine. The officer Number 4 from the left with a stick pointing at a map is Lt John Power (Comdt and Cavalry Club President in 2014). Photo credit Mil Archives.

1990s.

Jul 1991.

After the start of the Balkan Wars following the breakup of Yugoslavia, the European Community (EC) and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) with support from the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) worked to bring an end to hostilities.

This led to the signing of the Brioni Agreement or Brioni Declaration by representatives of Slovenia, Croatia, and Yugoslavia under the political sponsorship of the EC on the Brijuni Islands on 07 Jul 1991. The Brioni Agreement attempted to create an environment in which further negotiations on the future of Yugoslavia could take place by resolving border and customs issues and arranging exchanges of prisoners of war.

It also formed the basis for an observer mission to monitor implementation of the agreement in Slovenia. The EC deployed the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM), which initially consisted of fifty military observers. The monitoring mission was established under memoranda of understanding between the EC and its member states and the relevant parties in Yugoslavia.

It was supported the UNSC and CSCE participating states. The role of the mission evolved as the situation on the ground developed. Ireland supplied seven monitors in 1991.



This photograph shows the DF's first two monitors with the COS at DFHQ before they deployed to the Balkans.
L to R: Lt Col Colm Mangan (Lt Gen Retd), Lt Col Michael Mullooly (Col Retd) and Lt Gen James Parker DSM. Photo credit Mil Archives.

2000s.

26 Jul 2010.

In Feb 2008 DF personnel deployed to a United Nations mandated, European Union led peacekeeping mission to Chad and the Central African Republic EUFOR Chad/CAR.

The mission's operational commander was Lt Gen Pat Nash DSM, an honorary member of the Cavalry Club. Brig Gen Jean-Philippe Ganascia (France) was the EU Force Commander. The Operational Headquarters (OHQ) was located at Mont Valérien (France).

This mission changed over to a UN mission MINURCAT in Mar 2009. The Irish Bn withdrew in April 2010 and Irish staff officers remained in FHQ until the mission was closed in Dec 2010.



L to R: Maj Gen Dave Ashe DCOS Sp, Minister for Defence Tony Killeen TD, Lt Gen Seán McCann COS (Cavalry Club President in 2016) and Col Joe Dowling D Admin at the unloading at Dublin Port.

This photograph shows Irish contingent owned vehicles and equipment being unloaded on 26 Jul 2010 at Dublin Port after it arrived back in Dublin from Chad. The consignment included seventy five vehicles and it was transported by sea from Douala in Cameroon on the Grande Senegal operated by the Italian shipping company Grimaldi Lines.

The cargo was first moved by road from Goz Beida across 900 kilometers of desert to the capital, N'Djamena. From there the equipment was divided with sensitive cargo flown to the port of Douala. The remaining cargo was taken on another 900 kilometers long road journey to Ngaoundere, in northern Cameroon. From there it was shipped by rail for 650 kilometers to the port of Douala.

In Memoriam.

Members of the Club were saddened to learn of the death on 14 Oct 2019 of Col Maurice Walsh (Retd), Ballintemple, Cork City and Fermoy. He joined the DF as a Cadet with 32 Cadet Class in Jan 1958. He was commissioned in Jan 1960 and appointed as a Recce Tp Comd 1 Mot Sqn. He served in staff appointments at HQ S Comd, 3 Bde HQ and 1 Bde HQ. He commanded 1 Mot Sqn (1980 – 83) and 3 Cav Sqn FCA (1984 – 88). As a Lt Col he served in HQ S Comd HQ and in Trg Sec DFHQ. He was promoted to the rank of Col in 1993 and he was appointed as Bde Comd 4 Bde. He returned to Cork in 1994 as Bde Comd 1 Bde. He retired in Feb 1998 as 2 I/C & EO S Comd.

He served overseas with the UN in the Congo on two occasions as a Lt with the Armd Car Gp 37 Inf Bn in 1962 and with 2 Armd Car Sqn in 1963. He served in Cyprus with the Armd Car Gp 12 Inf Gp in 1969 and in the Lebanon as a Comdt in 1979 – 80 as the PSO to DCOS Ops, HQ UNIFIL. He was OC FMR in Lebanon in 1990 – 91. He served in the former Yugoslavia with the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in 1992 - 93.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Frances (nee Crotty), his children Fionnuala, Clíona, Shane and Sláine and their families and his DF colleagues.

Ar dheis Dé go raibha anam dílis.



Col Walsh as a Comdt photographed at HQ UNIFIL in Dec 1979.

Condolences.

At this special time of the year our thoughts are with the families of our four comrades who passed away since last Christmas. They were all Elders of the Club and we remember with pride their service to the Corps and to the State as well as their participation in Club events.

We remember Comdt Art Magennis (Retd) DSM who died on 12 Feb, Col Hugh O'Connor who died on 11 Mar, Capt Luke Mullins (Retd) who died on 21 Jun and Col Maurice Walsh (Retd) who died on 14 Oct 20.

Suaimhneas Síoraí air a nAnamacha Uaisle.

Carpe diem.