



## CAVALRY CLUB NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2021



### **Christmas and New Year Greetings from the Cavalry Club**

Ar son Coiste an Club Marcra, guím Beannachtaí na Nollag agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh uilig i gcéin agus i gcónar agus orthu atá ag obair ar shon síocháin ar fud an domhain nó ina gcónaí thar lear.

On behalf of the Committee, I extend season's greetings to all our members and their families and wish them a happy and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2022. We look forward to putting COVID 19 behind us and regaining the freedom of meeting with our members 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 festive season. The Club has survived challenging times and lean times since establishment in 1944. The period since March 2020 will go down in our history as a most perplexing time, particularly for our members who are living in rural locations or on their own, but we await better times to come. I can assure that your committee is ready and keen for a return to normal business and we look forward to seeing you in 2022. Beir bua agus beannacht.

**President, Comdt Peter O'Kelly (Retd).**

### **A visit to a Cav Elder on Inis Mór .**

On 5 Oct, five members of the Club paid a visit to one of the Club's Elders, Comdt Brendan Smyth, who is a resident of Inis Mór, the largest of the Aran Islands in Galway Bay. Brendan attended most of the annual Elders' Lunches since 2009 but since the restrictions on travel and gatherings this has not been possible for the last two years. Tom Duffy, Richard Heaslip, Sean Hynes, George Kerton and Brendan Rohan spend a most pleasant and entertaining half day with lunch in Brendan's company with lots of reminiscing and story-telling. We look forward to meeting him and all of the Elders in 2022 if circumstances permit it.



L to R: Tom Duffy, Brendan Rohan, Brendan Smyth, George Kerton, Richard Heaslip and Sean Hynes.





Reminiscing after a hearty lunch.

**Remembering Tpr Patrick Mullins 35 Inf Bn and 1 Mot Sqn Missing in Action since 1961 and Cav Congo DSMs.**



On 6 Oct, Col Richard Heaslip (Retd, Club President in 2008) made a Power Point presentation to personnel of 1 Cav Sqn and members of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association in Collins Bks Cork to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the killing of Tpr Patrick Mullins during Op Morthor. Col Ray O'Lehan EO & 2 I/C 1 Bde (Club President in 2019) and Comdt Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Sqn Comd welcomed the audience and the lecture covered one of the most tragic episodes in the Cav Corps history of overseas service. Tpr Mulins was the first Irishman who was posted as missing in action, presumed dead following an ambush in Elisabethville on the night of 14 – 15 Sep 1961. In Oct 1963, he was listed as being killed in action.





After the lecture plaques were unveiled at HQ 1 Cav Sqn for the three members of 1 Mot Sqn who were awarded Distinguished Service Medals for service with OUNC in the Congo, Sqn Sgt Daniel Carroll, Sgt Michael Rowland and Cpl John Kealy and for Tpr Mullins, the plaques had the citations and photographs of the four men.



The families with unit personnel and IUNVA members.

Duplicate plaques were presented by Comdt O'Shaughnessy to the families of the four men. The plaques were presented to 1 Cav Sqn by IUNVA Post 25 Fermoy.



**Cav Club Annual Dinner. 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Collins Bks. Cork**





## New Cav Officers.

On 14 Nov 2021, the Minister for Defence, Mr Simon Coveney, TD and COS Lt Gen Seán Clancy officiated at the commissioning ceremony for twenty nine members from 5 Army Reserve Potential Officers Course, at the Curragh Camp. This was the first such course in more than ten years. The course commenced in Jul 2019 and it was conducted in modules spread over a three-year period. Three new Cav Officers were in the class. We welcome the new officers into the Corps and we extend our best wishes and congratulations.



Lt. Connon 1 Armored Cavalry Squadron



Lt. Dunne 1 Armored Cavalry Squadron



Lt. Hand 2 Cavalry Squadron



## Historical Cavalry and Armoured Vehicles Photographs.

In the Autumn Newsletter we remembered the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the killings in Sep 1961 of three Cavalry Corps men who were serving with 35 Inf Bn in Elisabethville in the Congo. In this newsletter we stay with service in the Congo and we have some photographs of Cav personnel who served with 34, 35 and 36 Inf Bns in 1961.



Capt Bill Managhan (3<sup>rd</sup> from left standing) with Number 3 Sec Armd Car Gp, 34 Inf Bn. Photo credit the late Col Dermot Coffey private collection.



Capt Harry Costello (3<sup>rd</sup> from left standing) with crews from the Armd Car Gp 34 Inf Bn. Photo credit the late Col Dermot Coffey private collection.





L to R: Lt Mick Considine, Capt Mark Carroll (both Armd Car Gp 35 Inf Bn) and Capt Roger McCorley, Wpns Pl Comd C Coy 35 Inf Bn with the Ford armd car in which Cpl Michael Nolan and Tpr Patrick Mullins were killed in an ambush in Elisabethville on the night 14 – 15 Sep 1961.

Col McCorley was awarded with the Distinguished Service Medal with Distinction for performing his duty with courage and initiative during the fighting. He was Club President in 1972. Photo credit the late Comdt Art Magennis DSM private collection.





This shows 26 personnel from 1 Mot Sqn who made up 50% of Armd Car Gp 35 Inf Bn. The late Tpr Patrick Mullins is number 2 from the left in the back row. The late Sgt Tim Carey who was in the armoured car in which Cpl Michael Nolan and Tpr Patrick Mullins were killed, is number 2 from the left in the front row. Capt Seán Hennessy is in the front row at number 4 from the left, Lt Col Hennessy (Retd) marked his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday in Oct and he is the oldest member of the Club. Photo credit 1 Cav Sqn.





Personnel of Armored Car Group 36, Infantry Battalion. Photo credit Dr James McCafferty DSM private collection.



Cpl James McCafferty DSM Armored Car Group 36, Infantry Battalion with two colleagues with the Katangese Gendarmerie Staghound armored car that had been captured by Armored Car Group 35, Infantry Battalion in Elisabethville during Op Morthor. Photo credit Dr James McCafferty DSM private collection.

*Carpe diem.*