IRISH MILITARY SEMINAR

RIVERBANK ARTS CENTRE
Newbridge, Co. Kildare

9–11 JUNE 2017

Part of KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL’S DECADE OF COMMEMORATIONS PROGRAMME and a CREATIVE IRELAND KILDARE INITIATIVE, in association with IRELAND’S MILITARY STORY, MERRION PRESS and JUNE FEST.
MESSAGE from the CHAIR

PÁDRAIG MCEVOY

Our 1916/2016 commemorative year was unique. Communities across the county engaged with us to bring a successful programme to the people of Kildare and our intention is to continue this work in the coming years. I wish the seminar well and hope it proves to be an annual event. I would like to thank all the citizens of the county, the Elected Members and staff of Kildare County Council and the Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee.

Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee — Mission Statement

The aim of the programme is to establish the most appropriate way in which to mark the centenaries within the county. The nature of the programme is expansive, delivering a series of commemorative events, school programmes, publications, etc., but with the unique intention of creating a legacy of research and/or cultural and artistic material for future generations. The delivery of the programme should be inclusive, appropriate and sensitive, to take account of all aspects of life in Co. Kildare in the period 1913–1923.

www.kildare.ie/ehistory
KildareDecadeofCommemorations
Twitter: @cillda2016

The image on the front cover was drawn by David Butler—Fionn, Bran and Sceolan—the marvellous sculpture at Ballymany Roundabout on the Curragh, the work of Lynn Kirkham of the Greenmantle studio.
WELCOME

Mayor Ivan Keatley

It gives me great pleasure to welcome people to this inaugural Irish Military Seminar and I wish it every success for this and future years to come.

Ireland has a long, proud military tradition. The aim of this inaugural seminar is to look at all aspects of Irish military history, drawing chiefly on events and personnel from within our nation's past. Great episodes in Ireland’s history are intermingled with escapades in far-off places like Vietnam, the Balkans and the African continent.

Here in Kildare we have a military heritage that stretches back to Fionn Mac Cumhaill and the Fianna who played for sport on the Curragh Plains.

It is our intention, in this period of commemoration, to celebrate all facets of military history and indeed associated social and political aspects of life in various periods of our history.

Brigadier General Joe Mulligan

Brigadier General Joe Mulligan is General Officer Commanding of the Defence Forces Training Centre, which is located in the Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare and the Glen of Imaal, Co. Wicklow.

He was educated at St. Augustine’s College, Dungarvan and joined the Defence Forces as a Cadet in 1975; he was commissioned in 1977 as a Second Lieutenant. He has worked at all levels of the Defence Forces from Platoon Commander to Infantry Battalion Commander. His appointments include service as a Director at Defence Forces Headquarters, Commandant of the Cadet School, Chief Instructor Command and Staff School, Officer Commanding 3rd Infantry Battalion and Military Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations). He has served overseas in the Middle East (UNIFIL), Africa (MINURSO) and the Balkans (EUMM, KFOR & EUFOR).

He is a graduate of English and Political Science, NUI, Galway; the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham, UK; Defence Studies (M.A.), King’s College, London; Management and Employee Relations, National College of Ireland; Strategic Leadership, NUI Maynooth.
James Durney works in the County Kildare Local Studies Department in Newbridge Library, and was Historian in Residence for Kildare’s Decade of Commemorations 2016. He is an award-winning author of eighteen books on Irish history. James has written two books on the Irish experience in the Korean War and one on the Vietnam War—*The far side of the world: Irish Servicemen in the Korean War 1950-53* and *Irish casualties in the Korean War 1950-53*, and *Vietnam: The Irish Experience*. His research was used as the basis for RTE’s four-part TV documentary War stories: Korea, on which he was also the historical adviser and consultant.

His latest book *The 100 Kilo Case. The True Story of an Irish Ex-NYPD Detective Protected by the Mafia, and one of the Most Infamous Drug Busts in New York City*, reached No. 2 on the *Irish Times* bestseller list.

Hugh Crawford is a surveyor by profession. He attended the Agricultural College in Ballyhaise, and joined the Department of Agriculture as an agricultural officer in its land rehabilitation programme. In 1983 he joined the Department of Defence working in its property management branch; he retired as Properties Officer in 2009.

A graduate of the Institute of Technology, Sligo, University College, Dublin and Maynooth University, he is the holder of a B.A. in Local Studies, an M. A. in History, and a higher diploma in environmental impact assessment. In 2005 he was awarded the Lord Walter FitzGerald medal by the County Kildare Archaeological Society for a study of the Curragh Lock Hospital. He is currently president of the Society and a regular contributor to journals and magazines.
War Memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel C.M.L. Clements, MC
Compiled and edited by James Durney & Hugh Crawford

Charles Clements of Killadoon, Celbridge, joined the British Army as a young subaltern. After service in India with the 4th Queen’s Own Hussars, he returned to England as storm clouds gathered over Europe. He served in France during the ‘Phoney War,’ which ended with the German invasion of France and the Low Countries. Charles accompanied the 4th Hussars to North Africa and subsequently to Greece in 1941 to thwart an Axis invasion. He was captured, along with the bulk of his regiment, in Greece and spent the next four years as a prisoner-of-war in Germany. Liberated in April 1945, Charles Clements returned to Britain to an appointment as commandant of Bridgend POW Camp, where he was the guardian of many of the commanders of the German armed forces. Throughout his time in the British Army Charles maintained a diary; and in later years began to compile his writings for publication. The authors have used his diary, memoirs, letters and photographs to compile a highly readable account of one man’s personal struggle through combat and captivity in World War II.

OFFICIAL SEMINAR BOOKSTORE

Established in 1957, Farrell & Nephew has been a part of the Main Street in Newbridge for almost 60 years.
Dr. Hélène O’Keeffe

Dr. Hélène O’Keeffe is from Tralee, Co. Kerry. She is a post-doctoral research fellow at the School of History, UCC. Her research interests include the Irish revolutionary period, oral history, commemoration and memory. Her recent book, To Speak of Easter Week, a study of second-generation memory of the 1916 Rising, was published in 2015. Most recently she has worked as a researcher on the forthcoming publication The Atlas of the Irish Revolution (Cork University Press). She is coordinating the Atlas of the Irish Revolution Schools’ Outreach Programme.

She also contributed a series of chapters about Thomas Ashe, The O’Rahilly and the 1916 Rising to the recently published Rebel Kerry edited by Simon Brouder.

Maurice O’Keeffe

Maurice and Jane O’Keeffe run Irish Life and Lore, an organisation based in Tralee, Co. Kerry, dedicated to the audio recording and archiving of Irish oral history. Since 1990 over 3,000 hours of recordings have been compiled and archived. This work is commissioned by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, local authorities, colleges, public and private bodies.

Fieldwork is carried out all over Ireland, and individual oral history collections are compiled from the resultant recordings. Jane O’Keeffe has written a number of books utilising information gathered from the recordings, including Voices from the Great Houses of Cork and Kerry published by Mercier Press in 2015.
Dan Harvey, author of Peace Enforcers, is a serving officer of Lieutenant Colonel rank in the Irish Defence Forces. He has thirty-seven years’ service to date during which he has been involved in a wide variety of operations both at home and overseas. A highly qualified heritage practitioner, he has been associated with a number of worthy projects, most notably a number of military museum exhibitions. Dan is a constant contributor to An Cosantóir, the Defence Forces magazine.

He has written and published a number of highly successful books on the involvement of the Irish Defence Forces overseas. He has had a life-long interest in the Battle of Waterloo, particularly in the role of those ‘forgotten Irish’ in what was one of the greatest land battles in world history.

Declan Power is a security and defence analyst and writer working with Europa Strategic Partners and the European Commission on projects involving counter-terrorism and countering of violent extremism. In recent years he led a successful Irish/Swiss government-funded project to manage conflict and crisis in South Sudan.

A former career soldier, he served in the three combat arms of the Irish army on a variety of operations both at home and abroad. He continues to deploy on UN and other missions. Declan has completed a degree in journalism at Dublin City University; he is a graduate of Peace and Conflict Studies, Trinity College, Dublin and the UNHCR’s Emergency Management program.

Declan is the author of a number of articles and papers on security affairs, including From the Congo to Mali (Irish Studies in International Affairs 2013) which examined Ireland’s contribution to international peace support operations. He also wrote Siege at Jadotville (Maverick House 2005) which was recently adapted into an award-winning film directed by Richie Smyth.
FRIDAY
15.15-17.30pm: Congo—An Irish Affair (FILM)—a special screening
17.45pm: Reception in foyer of Riverbank.
Opening of the Seminar by Mayor of Co. Kildare, Cllr. Ivan Keatley.
Book launch by Brig. General Joe Mulligan, GOC, Curragh—War Memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel Clements, MC, compiled and edited by James Durney and Hugh Crawford
18.30-19.15pm: Thomas Ashe—A life given for Ireland (the 100th anniversary of his death)—Maurice O’Keeffe and Dr. Hélène O’Keeffe, Irish Life and Lore (Oral History Projects)
19.30pm–20.30pm: Blue Caps and Bulls Wool—The Congo and beyond! Declan Power, Dan Harvey and Maurice O’Keeffe

SATURDAY
8.45am–9.15am: Registration / Tea & Coffee
9.20am–9.25am: Welcome—Wesley Bourke and Conor Graham
9.25am–10.10am: The Sea was Red with Irish Blood!—Gallipoli 1915—Lar Joye
10.10am–10.55am: The Fenian Rising—Bloodlines!—Helen Litton
10.55am–11.25am: Break—Tea / Coffee
11.30am–12.15pm: A very uncivil affair! War in Dublin 1922-1923—John Dorney
12.15–13.00pm: Michael Kelly Lawler, American Civil War General—Wesley Bourke
13.00–13.55pm: LUNCH (at own expense)
14.00–14.45pm: Full Metal Shamrocks—Irishmen and the Vietnam War—James Durney and guest(s)
14.50pm–15.35pm: A Belfast Jacobin—Samuel Neilson and 1798 Rebellion—Kenneth Dawson
SATURDAY
15.35pm–15.50pm: REFRESHER BREAK
15.55pm–16.40pm: Luftwaffe Eagles over Ireland—Justin Horgan
16.40pm–17.00pm: Close of Seminar with Chair of Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee, Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy

SATURDAY / ALL-DAY EVENT
11.00am–18.00pm: McKenna Gallery Riverbank, Weapons’ Display and workshop—Irish Military Vehicles Group

SUNDAY
FIELD TRIP TO THE RATH OF MULLAGHAMAST in association with the Co. Kildare Federation of Local History Groups
10.00am: Bus departs Newbridge
Massacre at Mullaghmast—A Game of Thrones!—a note by Mario Corrigan and James Durney
The lost Medieval Village—Noel Dunne, Archaeologist
Performance—Griese Youth Theatre
12.30pm: Refreshments at Burtown House
14.00pm: Arrive back in Newbridge

Free Admission (minimal cost for field trip): booking essential: boxoffice@riverbank.ie/045-448327
Contact: cilldara2016@gmail.com or localhistory@kildarecoco.ie or phone: 045-448350 or 087 9871046
Wesley Bourke

Wesley Bourke served with and worked for the Irish Defence Forces for nineteen years. He first served with the Air Corps and then as the Defence Forces journalist. He holds a B.A. Hons. in War and Security Studies from the University of Hull, and an M.A. in War in the Modern World from King’s College, London. He is currently finishing an M.A. in Military History and Strategic Studies in NUI Maynooth.

In 2014 he launched an Irish military history magazine: *Reveille*—telling Ireland’s military story. This title has since been re-branded as *Ireland’s Military Story*.

Conor Graham

Irish Academic Press was established in Dublin in 1974 by Frank Cass following the demise of the Irish University Press, and gradually developed into one of the leading Irish publishers of academic and scholarly writing on a wide range of subjects within the broad field of Irish Studies.

In 2012 the company was acquired by Conor Graham, formerly of New Island and Brookside Publishing Services, and the company moved to its current location in Co. Kildare. 2012 also saw the establishment of a new popular history and general books imprint, Merrion Press. It was created to include more popular and accessible titles, distinct from the typical academic projection of the IAP format, and ultimately to provide a vehicle for the growing number of general and popular history titles published each year which appeal to a broader audience, and made available in a more accessible format.

Conor is committed to continuing the work of his predecessors and further reinforcing its strong brand, with plans to publish 25-30 new titles each year, spanning the companies traditional subject areas of Irish history and literary studies, while specialising in modern Irish history, 20th century military history, political history, historical biographies, as well as books in the areas of Irish art, memoirs, and current affairs.
LAR JOYE

Lar Joye is curator of Transport, Flag and Military History collections at NMI Collins Barracks. He is the curator of the Museum’s award winning Soldiers & Chiefs Exhibition, which opened in 2006. As part of the Decade of Centenaries he worked on the exhibitions: History of Ireland in 100 Objects; 1913 Lockout—Impact and Aftermath; Recovered Voices—Stories of the Irish at War exhibitions.

He is a graduate in History & Politics from UCD, Museum Studies in Leicester University and the Getty Leadership Institute in California. Lar is a council member of the Military History Society of Ireland, Chairman of the Irish National Committee of the Blue Shield, a member of the Board of Directors of the Irish Museums’ Association and the Military Heritage of Ireland Trust.

He is a Commandant and staff officer in 2nd Brigade, Reserve Defence Forces, based in Cathal Brugha Barracks.

HELEN LITTON

Helen Litton is a great-niece of Commandant Edward Daly (commander of the First Battalion in the Four Courts during the Easter Rising, 1916), and of Kathleen Daly, wife of Tom Clarke, one of the leaders of the Rising. Helen was educated in Muckross Park, Donnybrook, and University College, Dublin.

She has written biographies of Edward Daly (2013) and Tom Clarke (2014) for the O’Brien Press series Sixteen Lives. She is a member of Concerned Relatives of Signatories of the Proclamation, who have been fighting to preserve the battlefield site of Moore Street and its surrounding lanes, under threat from developers.

He is a long time student and writer on the Irish Civil War; he has written articles on the anti-Treaty campaign of house burning in 1923, the government’s policy of executions, official and unofficial and the Special Infantry Corps. He is the author of the forthcoming book, *Dublin’s Civil War, the fight for the Irish capital 1922–23*, which will be published by Merrion Press in autumn 2017.

“*When it comes to just plain hard fighting, I would rather trust old Mike Lawler than any of them.*”

— Ulysses S. Grant, military commander and 18th President of the United States of America.

THIRD SESSION
SATURDAY 14.00–14.45 P.M.
FULL METAL SHAMROCKS—IRISHMEN AND THE VIETNAM WAR

JAMES DURNEY & GERRY DUIGNAN, USAF (RETIRED)

James and Gerry will explore the experience of Irish men in the US Forces in Vietnam. James Durney’s book, Vietnam. The Irish Experience, tells the story of many Irish people caught up in this bloody conflict. The American war in Vietnam lasted over ten years, in which three million Vietnamese and over 60,000 US and foreign soldiers died.

It is unofficially estimated that at least two thousand Irish-born soldiers served in the war.

KENNETH L. DAWSON

Kenneth L. Dawson was born in Belfast in 1968 and is a graduate of Queen’s University, Belfast. He was Head of History and Politics at Down High School, Downpatrick from 1997–2008 and Vice-Principal since 2008. Ken has been researching the United Irishmen for many years and is the author of numerous articles on the subject, including three entries in the New Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. In 1998, he was joint editor (with Brian Turner and Myrtle Hill) of 1798 Rebellion in County Down; he contributed a biographical chapter on Thomas Russell in the 2003 publication A Man Stepped out for Death, edited by Brian Turner.

His new book The Belfast Jacobin: Samuel Neilson and the United Irishmen will be published later this year by Irish Academic Press.
Justin Horgan has had a lifelong interest in the Second World War. Educated at St. Brendan’s College, Killarney, his curiosity about German military history, and, in particular, the Luftwaffe relationship with Ireland, led him to travel frequently to Germany. There he interviewed former Luftwaffe aircrew and that research led to friendships and constant communications over the last twenty years.

The first-hand source materials in his latest book Luftwaffe Eagles over Ireland are proof of the bonds created during that long period of research. In fact many of the aircrews’ children have stayed in contact with Justin.

16.40 P.M.–17.00 P.M.
CLOSE OF SEMINAR Q & A

CHAIR OF THE COUNTY KILDARE COMMEMORATIONS COMMITTEE,
CLLR. PÁDRAIG MCEVOY

Kildare County Council is committed to developing this strategy of commemoration in line with the national programme, but also as a testament to our county’s will and determination and our reflective and creative spirit.

We engaged with the people of the county to deliver the best possible programme in 2016 and to ensure it was and continues to be inclusive, appropriate and sensitive. The process is ongoing and will allow all sections of the community to respond and put forward their ideas, aims and plans.

We hope this seminar provides a template for commemorative events in the years to come.

Full of surprises, County Kildare in Ireland’s Ancient East will give you many excuses to linger and stay. A warm welcome awaits you across our many memorable towns and villages. Unique Heritage, stunning scenery, quality accommodation, spectacular cuisine and a world class shopping experience are just some of the attractions that await you.
FIELD TRIP
SUNDAY 10.00 A.M. BUS DEPARTS NEWBRIDGE
MASSACRE AT MULLAGHMAST—A GAME OF THRONES!

Noel Dunne

Noel Dunne is an archaeologist employed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, based at the National Roads Office of Kildare County Council, Naas. His work involves the management of archaeological and cultural heritage aspects of major National Road Schemes; past projects have included the M7 Monasterevin Bypass, the M9 Carlow Bypass, the M9 Kilcullen to Carlow and the N11 Rathnew to Arklow. He is currently managing on-site archaeological works on the M7 Naas-Newbridge Bypass Upgrade, the M7 Osberstown Interchange and R407 Sallins Bypass schemes.

The largest site uncovered on the M9 Kilcullen to Carlow scheme was a previously unknown Deserted Medieval Village located in Mullaghmast townland, in the shadow of the Rath of Mullaghmast—the ancient Royal site of Maistiu. The founder was probably Walter de Riddlesford, a grandson-in-law of King Henry I. The village originally incorporated a castle and a church, but the locations of these two structures are unknown today.

Griese Youth Theatre

Griese Youth Theatre and Children’s Drama (GYT) was founded in 1999 in Ballitore, South Kildare. The group strives to nurture both the artistic and social development of the young person through participation in drama and other art forms. GYT produces high quality artistic work with professional and volunteer practitioners to help young people develop both their artistic skills and realise the possibilities and potential in their own lives.

Mullaghmast Rath—1577: This production is a reconstruction of the massacre of the Irish Chieftains and their followers at a meeting with General Sir Francis Cosby, the English Governor of Laois, on New Year’s Eve 1577. The author, Jim Burke, a member of the Defence Forces, has written many articles, plays and scripts set in a historical context.
THE COUNTY KILDARE FEDERATION OF LOCAL HISTORY GROUPS

The County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups was formed in 1999 in order to exchange ideas, share information and raise awareness of local history groups and their activities within the county, as well to improve accessibility and representation on relevant county committees concerned with heritage.

http://kildarelocalhistory.ie

IRISH MILITARY VEHICLES GROUP

The Irish Military Vehicles Group is the largest of its kind in Ireland. It has an interest in military vehicles and how they have been used in service throughout the last hundred years.

It was formed in 2005 when a small group of like-minded friends got together. It has forty members who own and maintain over thirty-five vehicles. While attending various military shows throughout Ireland and the UK over the years, the members have collected a large and varied amount of military memorabilia which is used to enhance its displays.

LORD EDWARD’S OWN

Lord Edward’s Own is a multi-period re-enactment group based in Monasterevin, Co. Kildare, that specialises in the 1798 and 1803 Irish Rebellions, the 86th (Leinster) Regiment and Regiment Irlanda in the Napoleonic Wars, the Prince of Wales Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) in WWI and also the Irish Volunteers, Irish Citizen Army, Cumann na mBan and National Army (1924–1939).

BURTOWN HOUSE & GARDENS

Burtown is an early Georgian Villa built for the Quaker Robert Power in 1710 and passed down the female line through a number of families to the Fennell family.

info@burtownhouse.ie

http://burtownhouse.ie