

# IRISH MILITARY

SEMINAR



**RIVERBANK  
ARTS CENTRE**  
NEWBRIDGE, CO. KILDARE



**9-11 JUNE  
2017**

Clár Eire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme  
2017-2022



**IRELAND'S  
MILITARY STORY**



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.



## 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 Cumhail 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.



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## 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

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

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.



# BOOK LAUNCH

FRIDAY 17.45 P.M

WAR MEMOIRS OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL C.M.L. CLEMENTS, MC

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## 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.

## WAR MEMOIRS



of  
Lieutenant Colonel  
**C.M.L. CLEMENTS, MC**

*Compiled and edited by James Durney and Hugh Crawford*



### 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. Héléne 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 of 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.

# SECOND SESSION

FRIDAY 19.30-20.30 P.M.

BLUE CAPS AND BULLS WOOL – THE CONGO AND BEYOND!

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## DECLAN POWER

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.

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## DAN HARVEY



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.

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## SEMINAR

### 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

# programme

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## 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

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## SATURDAY / ALL-DAY EVENT

11.00am-18.00pm: McKenna Gallery Riverbank, *Weapons' Display and workshop*— Irish Military Vehicles Group

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## SUNDAY

**FIELD TRIP TO THE RATH OF MULLAGHMAST** 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



# FIRST SESSION

SATURDAY 09.25-10.10 A.M.

THE SEA WAS RED WITH IRISH BLOOD — GALLIPOLI 1915

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## 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.

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10.10-10.55 A.M.

THE FENIAN RISING — BLOODLINES

## 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.







# FIELD TRIP

SUNDAY 10.00 A.M. BUS DEPARTS NEWBRIDGE  
MASSACRE AT MULLAGHMAST—A GAME OF THRONES!

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## 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 Maistiú. 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.



[griesyouththeatre.com](http://griesyouththeatre.com)



Griese Youth Theatre



[griesyouththeatre99@gmail.com](mailto:griesyouththeatre99@gmail.com)



## 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).



## BURTTOWN HOUSE & GARDENS

Burttown 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@burttownhouse.ie](mailto:info@burttownhouse.ie)

 <http://burttownhouse.ie>

## 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>

