

# Nationalist & Leinster Times

Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1967

## SERGT. MAJOR HANDS OVER LAST PARADE

THE army's longest-serving soldier "called it a day" at the Curragh Camp, Friday. Btn. Sergt. Major James Dillon got a rousing send-off from his colleagues when he formed up and handed over his last parade at McDonagh Barracks parade-ground: The final handshake marked the completion of 44 years and 31 days of continuous service, making him the longest-serving NCO or member of the forces.

The retiring Sergt. Major was presented with a suitably Inscribed silver salver from the officers of the G.T. Depot, McDonagh Barracks, and with a canteen of cutlery from the NCO's Mess. Making the presentations, Barrack O.C, Lt. Col Patrick Dempsey spoke of Sgt. Major Dillon's wonderful service and conduct during his record-period of service and on behalf of all his colleagues wished him well in civvy life.

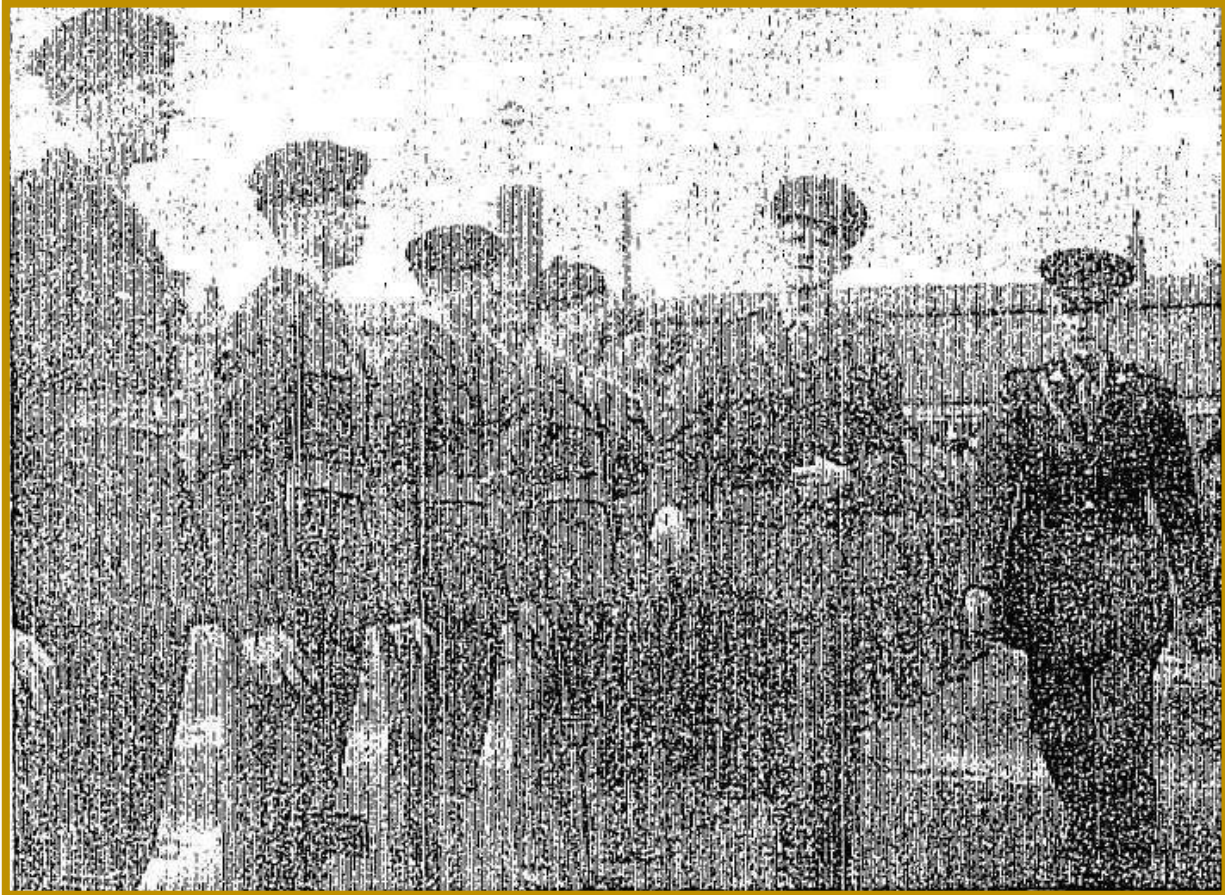
Afterwards, Sergt. Major Dillon was presented with a wallet of notes from the non-commissioned officers of the unit.

BSM Dillon was born in Baltimore City, U.S.A., but moved to Tuam at the age of two years and was reared there. Having had Pre-Truce service, he enlisted in the forces on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1922, and in January 1927, moved with the old Third Batt. from Boyle to the Curragh Camp, serving there ever since. He was promoted to Coy. Sergt. in 1940, and in 1948 was posted to the G.T. Depot at McDonagh Bks. He became Btn. Sergt Major of that unit in 1956.

He is holder of the Pre-Truce, Long Service and Emergency medals, and from 1956 to the date of retirement was the senior NCO responsible for the formation of all ceremonial parades at the Curragh Training Camp.

In the thirties he was a noted athlete and he played intercounty senior football with Longford, Roscommon and Kildare. He is the holder of five all-Army Gaelic football championship medals, one with Curragh Camp.

Now living at Fair Green, Kildare, he has eight children, and one of his sons is serving with the 7th Infantry Group in Cyprus. The bandsmen of the Curragh Training Camp band played "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" and "Auld Lang Syne" at the departure ceremony.



**BSM James Dillon, Stand-Down parade, McDonagh Bks, Curragh Camp**




**BSM Dillion officiating a prize giving ceremony, McDonagh pavilion.**



L.A. 89

ÓSLAÍŠ na hÉIREANN



**Certificate of Service**

SERVICE No. 21941

SURNAME DILLON,

CHRISTIAN NAMES JAMES.

ENLISTED ON 7th Aug. 1922

NOTE:—  
*Attention is specially directed to pages 2, 6 and 7.*

