

# Curragh History Archives



## Irish Army Units Stationed in the Command Area

### Curragh Camp 1923 - 2009

#### 1923

The following is a list of units stationed at the Curragh in 1923

##### CURRAGH COMMAND 1923

29th Garrison Infantry Battalion  
43rd Garrison Infantry Battalion  
54th Garrison Infantry Battalion  
59th Reserve Infantry Battalion  
60th Reserve Infantry Battalion ' this unit was disbanded late 1923 '  
61st Reserve Infantry Battalion  
62nd Reserve Infantry Battalion  
63rd Reserve Infantry Battalion  
64th Reserve Infantry Battalion ' this unit was disbanded late 1923 '  
65th Reserve Infantry Battalion ' this unit was disbanded late 1923 '

Command Armoured Car Company  
Command Military Police Company  
Command Services

There was no 3rd Bn in the Curragh at this stage they were part of the Donegal Command based in Drumboe.

The Strength of the Army at the start of 1923 was approx 48,500

# Curragh History Archives

## 1924

At this stage the strength had decreased to approx 16,500 all ranks one reason was that the Infantry Battalions were reduced from 59 to 27

### CURRAGH COMMAND 1924

No 8 Brigade  
22nd Infantry Battalion  
23rd Infantry Battalion  
24th Infantry Battalion

No 9 Brigade  
25th Infantry Battalion  
26th Infantry Battalion  
27th Infantry Battalion

HQ Armoured Car Corps  
1st Armoured Car Company

HQ Artillery Corps (Kildare)

1st Field Artillery Battery  
2nd Field Artillery Battery

Curragh Command Signals Company

Curragh Command Military Police Company

Curragh Command Transport Company

No 3 Army Band

The Military College

The 3rd Battalion were now in the west and part of No 1 Brigade Ballyshannon

## 1927

The Strength of the Army was now 11,500 approx and the Infantry Battalions were reduced from 27 to 16.

### CURRAGH COMMAND 1927

8th Infantry Battalion

Armoured Car Corps

1st Armoured Car Company  
2nd Armoured Car Company  
3rd Armoured Car Company  
4th Armoured Car Company

Artillery Corps (HQ Kildare)

1st Field Battery

[www.curragh.info](http://www.curragh.info)

[matt@curragh.info](mailto:matt@curragh.info)

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2nd Field Battery  
3rd Field Battery

Curragh Command Signals Company  
Curragh Command Military Police Company  
Curragh Command Transport Company  
No. 3 Army Band

No 3rd Battalion they were now in Boyle and still part of the 1st Brigade

## 1929

The Battalions were starting to amalgamate.

CURRAGH COMMAND 1929

3rd Battalion (The Bloods)

1st Armoured Car Company  
2nd Armoured Car Company  
3rd Armoured Car Company  
4th Armoured Car Company

Artillery Corps (HQ Kildare)

1st Field Battery  
2nd Field Battery  
3rd Field Battery

Curragh Command Signals Company  
Curragh Command Military Police Company  
Curragh Command Transport Company  
No. 3 Army Band

The 11th Battalion amalgamated with the 8th which then amalgamated with the 3rd there was now only nine Battalions

## 1931

A lot of change in the Curragh

CURRAGH COMMAND 1931

3 Infantry Battalion

HQ Cavalry Corp  
1st Armoured Squadron  
2nd Armoured Squadron

Artillery Corps (HQ Kildare)

1st Field Battery  
2nd Field Battery  
3rd Field Battery

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Artillery Depot & School (Kildare)  
1st A/A Artillery Battery

1st Field Engineer Company  
1st Maintenance Engineer Company  
1st Signals Company  
1st Supply & Transport Company  
1st Hospital Company  
1st Military Police Company  
No. 3 Army Band  
The Military College

## 1939

And Europe is close to war and the Strength of the Irish Army is approx 5900 excluding reservists

### CURRAGH COMMAND 1939

3 Infantry Battalion

HQ Depot & School Cavalry Corps  
1st Armoured Squadron  
2nd Armoured Squadron  
1st Horse Cavalry Squadron  
1st Cyclist Squadron

HQ Depot & School Artillery Corps -Kildare

1st Light Battery

1st Field Artillery Brigade  
1st Field Battery  
2nd Field Battery  
3rd Field Battery  
4th Field Battery

2nd { Reserve } Field Artillery Brigade

5th Field Battery Volunteer Force  
6th Field Battery Volunteer Force  
7th Field Battery Volunteer Force  
8th Field Battery Volunteer Force

HQ Depot & School Army Corps of Engineers  
1st Field Engineer Company  
1st Maintenance Engineer Company

HQ Depot & School Army Signal Corps  
1st Signals Company

HQ Depot & School Supply & Transport Corps  
1st Supply & Transport Company

# Curragh History Archives

HQ Depot & School Army Medical Corps  
1st Hospital Company

HQ Depot & School Corps of Military Police  
1st Military Police Company

Band of the Curragh Training Camp  
Military College

## 1940

The strength of the Army was now 17,156 . 1,256 Officers and 15,900 other ranks. The Army had 3 Tanks and 25 Armoured Cars { 13 were obsolete } I find this amazing as the thinking of the time was we could be invaded by the British to regain the Treaty ports OR an invasion by Germany so as to attack England from the west.

The Units based in the Curragh at this time were:

Command HQ  
HQ Depot & School Army Signal Corps  
1st Signals Company

1st Maintenance Engineer Company

HQ Depot & School Supply & Transport Corps  
1st Supply & Transport Company

HQ Depot & School Army Medical Corps  
1st Hospital Company

HQ Depot & School Corps of Military Police  
1st Military Police Company

Band of the Curragh Training Camp  
Military College

GENERAL RESERVE (CURRAGH)  
3rd Infantry Battalion  
1st Motor Squadron  
1st Light Battery  
Engineer Section  
Signals Section  
Medical Section

HQ Depot & School Cavalry Corps  
1st Armoured Squadron  
2nd Armoured Squadron  
1st Cyclist Squadron  
2nd Cyclist Squadron

HQ Depot & School Artillery Corps -Kildare

7th Field Battery  
9th Field Battery  
10th Field Battery

# Curragh History Archives

11th Field Battery

HQ Depot & School Army Corps of Engineers  
1st Field Engineer Company.

## 1941

Some small changes had occurred The Curragh Command also consisted of units outside of the Curragh Training Camp

### CURRAGH COMMAND

Command HQ ( Curragh Camp)  
16th Rifle Battalion (Kilkenny)  
24th Rifle Battalion (Curragh)  
25th Rifle Battalion (Curragh)

HQ Depot & School Cavalry Corps  
1st Armoured Squadron  
2nd Armoured Squadron  
3rd Armoured Squadron  
6st Cyclist Squadron  
1st Carrier Squadron

HQ Depot & School Artillery Corps -Kildare

HQ Depot & School Army Corps of Engineers  
1st Field Engineer Company.  
1st Maintenance Engineer Company

HQ Depot & School Army Signal Corps  
1st Signals Company

HQ Depot & School Supply & Transport Corps (Dublin)  
1st Supply & Transport Company

HQ Depot & School Corps of Military Police  
1st Military Police Company

Band of the Curragh Training Camp  
Military College

3rd Brigade

Brigade HQ  
3rd Infantry Battalion ( Curragh)  
6th Infantry Battalion  
7th Infantry Battalion  
3rd Artillery Battalion (The regiments were re-organised) 4th, 9th, 12th Field  
Battery's  
3rd Field Engineer Company  
3rd Field Signals Company  
3rd Field Supply & Transport Company  
3rd Field Ambulance  
3rd Field Company Military Police.

Some of the above may not have served in the Curragh but were under the

# Curragh History Archives

command of The Curragh Command.

The LDF were in operation at this stage they eventually reached 100,000 but their Military potential was not of any significance.

As pointed out in 1940 the strength of the Army was approx 17,500 they increased to 40,000 by the end of the 1940's.

## 1942-1945

The Government had allowed for a war time strength of 49,603 but this was never achieved. April 1945 saw the strength at 37,786

### CURRAGH COMMAND 1942-1945

HQ (Curragh)  
24th Infantry Battalion  
1st Armoured Squadron  
4th Armoured Squadron  
9th Cyclist Company  
10th Cyclist Company (Portlaoise)

### Garrison Units

1st Maintenance Engineer Company  
1st Garrison Signals Company  
1st Garrison Ordnance Company  
1st Garrison Supply & Transport Company  
1st Transport Company  
1st Hospital Company  
1st Garrison Company Military Police  
1st Internment Camp Staff  
2nd Internment Camp Staff  
1st Battalion Construction Corps  
5th Battalion Construction Corps  
HQ Depot & School Cavalry Corps  
HQ Depot & School Artillery Corps -Kildare  
HQ Depot & School Army Corps of Engineers  
1st Field Engineer Company.  
1st Maintenance Engineer Company  
HQ Depot & School Army Signal Corps  
1st Signals Company  
HQ Depot & School Supply & Transport Corps (Dublin)  
1st Supply & Transport Company  
HQ Depot & School Army Medical Corps  
1st Hospital Company  
HQ Depot & School Corps of Military Police  
1st Military Police Company

Band of the Curragh Training Camp  
Military College

A few points to note at this stage is that the 3rd Battalion was gone to the 5th Brigade and based in Waterford

The Internment Camp was in operation and that the Construction Corps were non combatant

# Curragh History Archives

## 1946-1959

Moving on we had got through the WAR it is worth noting that the Germans did draw up a plan to invade Ireland but it was never a serious possibility. There was no lessons learned from our pre 1939 strength and the Defence Forces were again reduced to 12,740 which included the Navy and Air Corp.

Curragh Camp 1946-1959

3rd Infantry Battalion  
1st Armoured Squadron  
4th Motor Squadron

Anti-Aircraft Training Regiment (Kildare)  
1st Maintenance Engineer Company  
1st Garrison Ordnance Company  
1st Garrison Supply & Transport Company  
1st Hospital Company  
Military College  
Depot & School Cavalry Corps  
Depot & School Artillery Corps -Kildare  
Depot & School Corps of Engineers  
Depot & School Signal Corps  
Depot & School Supply & Transport Corps  
Depot and School Ordnance Corps  
Depot & School Corps of Military Police  
Depot & School Army Medical Corps  
Army Apprentice School (Established 1956)  
General Military Hospital  
Band of the Curragh Training Camp

During this time 1946 the LDF was renamed and became the FCA  
The Bloods were back in the Curragh again

## 1959 to 1979

This period will appeal to some of our older members.  
Pay was low, something's never change and strengths were in around 8,000 about 2500 less than now.  
FCA units were integrated with the regulars.

CURRAGH COMMAND

3rd Infantry Battalion  
1st Tank Squadron ( 8 Comet and 4 Churchill Tanks )  
1st Armoured Squadron  
4th Motor Squadron  
1st Air Defence Artillery Regiment ( Kildare )  
1st Maintenance Engineer Company  
1st Garrison Ordnance Company  
1st Garrison Supply & Transport Company  
General Military Hospital  
1st Hospital Company  
Depot & School Cavalry Corps  
Depot & School Artillery Corps -Kildare  
Depot & School Corps of Engineers

# Curragh History Archives

Depot & School Signal Corps  
Depot & School Supply & Transport Corps  
Depot and School Ordnance Corps  
Depot & School Corps of Military Police  
Depot & School Army Medical Corps.

As I stated numbers were low and added to this so was morale, salvation of sorts was to come with Ireland joining the UN the first Mission involved a number of officers in Lebanon (UNOGIL) this lasted a number of months and then became UNTSO I think this mission is still in place today.  
This was followed by our first major mission the Congo (ONUC) and later Cyprus (UNIFCYP)

## 1973-1977

CURRAGH COMMAND 1973 TO 1977

3rd Infantry Battalion  
1st Tank Squadron ( 8 Comet and 4 Churchill Tanks )  
1st Armoured Squadron  
4th Motor Squadron  
1st Air Defence Artillery Regiment ( Kildare )  
1st Maintenance Engineer Company  
1st Garrison Ordnance Company  
1st Garrison Supply & Transport Company  
General Military Hospital  
1st Hospital Company  
Depot & School Cavalry Corps  
Depot & School Artillery Corps -Kildare  
Depot & School Corps of Engineers  
Depot & School Signal Corps  
Depot & School Supply & Transport Corps  
Depot and School Ordnance Corps  
Depot & School Corps of Military Police  
Depot & School Army Medical Corps.

No Major changes here but the main events at the time for the Defence Forces were dealing with the situation from the north and the terrorist activity in the country which lead to the withdrawal of troops from the Sinai mission( The Dublin and Monaghan bombings ) a new unit was formed The 30th Inf Bn a sister unit of the Bloods and became part of the 6th Brigade

# Curragh History Archives

## 1977-1979

### CURRAGH COMMAND

1st Maintenance Engineer Company  
1st Garrison Ordnance Company  
1st Garrison Supply & Transport Company  
General Military Hospital  
1st Hospital Company  
Depot & School Cavalry Corps  
Depot & School Artillery Corps -Kildare  
Depot & School Corps of Engineers  
Depot & School Signal Corps  
Depot & School Supply & Transport Corps  
Depot and School Ordnance Corps  
Depot & School Corps of Military Police  
Depot & School Army Medical Corps.  
Band of the Southern Command  
Army Apprentice School ( Naas )

6th Brigade ( HQ Curragh)

3rd Infantry Battalion  
30th Infantry Battalion ( Kilkenny )  
9th Infantry Battalion ( Kilkenny )  
10th Infantry Battalion (Wexford)

1st Armoured Squadron  
3rd Independent Field Battery ( Kildare )  
6th Field Artillery Regiment ( Kildare )  
6th Field Signal Company  
6th Field Supply and Transport Company

## 1979-1999

### CURRAGH COMMAND

HQ (Ceannt Barracks, Curragh Camp)  
Military College (incorporating Infantry and Command & Staff Schools) (Curragh)  
General Training Depot (Curragh)  
No.1 Security Coy. (Curragh)  
Army Apprentice School (Naas)  
Army Ranger Wing (Curragh)  
1st Tank Squadron (Plunkett Barracks, Curragh) equipped with fourteen Scorpion light tanks)  
Depot & School Cavalry (Curragh)  
1st Anti-Aircraft Regiment (HQ & 1st Air Defence Bty., Kildare) equipped with six 40mm Mk 1 Bofors A/A guns and four RBS 70 SAM launchers Depot & School Artillery (Kildare)

1st Maintenance Engineer Coy (Curragh)  
Depot & School Engineer Corps (Curragh)  
Depot & School Signals Corps. (Curragh)  
Curragh Command Supply & Transport Coy. (Curragh)  
Curragh Command Vehicle Workshops (Curragh)  
Depot & School Supply & Transport Corps (Curragh)

# Curragh History Archives

1st Garrison Ordnance Coy. (Curragh)  
1st Hospital Coy. (Curragh)  
General Military Hospital (Curragh)  
Depot & School Medical Corps (Curragh)  
Military Detention Barracks (Curragh)  
Depot & School Military Police (Curragh)  
Band of the Curragh Command (Curragh)

6th Infantry Brigade:

Bde. HQ (Connolly Barracks, Curragh)  
3rd Inf. Bn. "THE BLOODS" (Curragh) had one APC Coy.  
30th Inf. Bn. (Kilkenny) [Deactivated]  
1st Armoured Sqn. (Plunkett Barracks, Curragh) equipped with four AML 245 H-90 and six AML 245 H-60 armoured cars plus three AML VTT M3 APCs  
3rd Field Bty. (Curragh) equipped with six 105mm Light Guns  
6th Field Signal Coy. (Ceannt Barracks, Curragh)

## 1999-Present

In 1999 the Army underwent some major changes. A lot of the older units were disbanded while others were renamed and reorganised into a new Defence Forces Brigade System. The Curragh Camp was renamed as the Defence Forces Training Centre or D.F.T.C. for short. The D.F.T.C. is a centre of excellence that provides professional military training and education to Defence Forces personnel and administrates and manages the Logistics Base and Defence Force Reserve units located within its area of territorial responsibility. The various educational establishments within the D.F.T.C. also provide training to other international students who come to The Curragh for training on specialised equipment and courses.

Defence Forces Training Centre 1999

### Headquarters

*(Educational Establishments)*

#### **Military College**

Command and Staff School  
Cadet School  
Infantry School  
Officer Training Wing  
Infantry Weapons Wing  
NCO Training Wing  
United Nations School

#### **Combat Support College**

Artillery School  
Cavalry School  
Engineer School  
Communications Information Systems School

#### **Combat Service Support College**

Ordnance School  
Transport and Vehicle Maintenance School  
Military Police School  
Medical School  
Physical Training and Education School  
Military Administration School  
Defence Forces Catering School  
Trainee Technicians

# Curragh History Archives

*(Support Units DFTC)*

## **Service Support Unit**

- Personnel Management
- Logistics Unit
- Ordnance Detachment
- Medical Detachment
- Media and Language
- Transport Company
- Communication Information Systems Detachment
- Simulation Training Section

## **Defence Forces Logistic Base Curragh**

- Ammunition Depot
- CIS Base Workshops
- Combined Workshops
- Ordnance Workshops
- Engineering
  - Fire Service
  - Heavy Plant Section
  - Technical Stores
- National Stores Reception Centre

## **Military Police Company**

- Investigation Section
- Military Police Platoon

*(Operational / Army Reserve Forces)*

- Army Ranger Wing (ARW)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Cavalry Squadron (1 ACS)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Air Defence Regiment (1 ADR)
- B Company 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion (B Coy)

Since The Curragh Camp was handed over to the Irish Forces in 1922, it has gone through a lot of changes, none more than the last ten years. These changes came swift to a lot of people and change can be sometimes difficult to adapt to. A lot of new buildings appeared on The Curragh skyline and even older buildings disappeared. But a lot of money and resources have gone into refurbishing some of the original buildings which make The Curragh what it is. One such building is the planned Curragh Museum, which will move into an old stable building at the heart of The Curragh. The refurbishment will produce a fine modern museum, that will display The Curragh past right up to modern day.

**Tom Hetherington & Matt McNamara**