

Nationalist and Leinster Times

Friday, December 10th, 1982

Army veteran retires to Netherlands

A VETERAN of the Second World War which served the Irish Army for over forty years has been found a retirement home in a museum in the Netherlands. The veteran, a Landsverk Armoured Car, was handed over to the Dutch army at a special function in the Curragh on Monday, November 29.

It was presented on behalf of the Irish Defence Forces by Col. Frank Lawless, Director of Cavalry and was accepted by Col. H. J. Haijts, O.C. Cavalry Training Centre, Army of the Netherlands and chairman of the Historical Cavalry Collection.

The armoured car, which is one of five owned by the Irish army, is of particular interest to the Dutch who lost all their own models of this type in the Second World War in 1939. Ireland is the only known country which has mobile Landsverks at present.

Manufactured in Sweden

This particular armoured car was manufactured in Sweden in 1937 and served all its life in the Cavalry Corps, from 1938 to 1970 in 1 Armoured Car Squadron, Plunkett Barracks, and between 1970 and '82 in the 11 Motor Squadron McKee Barracks, Dublin. It was purchased in 1938 at a cost of £6,075 and has a range of 190 miles and a max speed of 52 m.p.h.

It weighs 7.4 tons and has a crew of five, a commander, two gunners and two drivers. It was originally equipped with a 120mm Madsen Gun. and two .303 Madsen Machine Guns but these have been altered.

During the course of its forty-year career a number of modifications have been carried out on the car including the replacement of the engine, the installation of a Hydraulic clutch, the fitting of radio mountings and the altering of the machine gun mountings.

Learning fast

Speaking at the handing over ceremony Col. Haijts said that although he did not know very much about the Irish army he was learning fast. The Dutch and Irish forces were neighbours in Lebanon, and he considered it a marvellous gesture that the Irish forces should consider handing over the car to the Netherlands army.

The attendance at the presentation ceremony included Dr. H. A. H. Schouten, the Dutch Ambassador; Mr. J. G. Wilbrennick, an official at the Dutch Embassy; Lt. Col. P. H. Hoebenars, O.C. Regiment of Huzzars; Major General William Prendergast, Adjutant General, Irish Army; Brigadier General Tom McDunphy, OC Curragh Command.



Presentation of Landsverk Armoured Car to the Army of the Netherlands. L. to R.: Dr. H. A. H. Schouten, Ambassador of the Netherlands; Lt. Col. P. Hoebenars, O.C. Regiment of Huzzars; Col. J. J. Haijts, O.C. Netherlands Cavalry Training Centre; Lt. Col. Frank Lawless, Director of Cavalry. See story on page 5.

Photo: Oliver McCrossan.



Landsverk L 180

In Service Irish Defence Forces: (1937 – 1982)

Number in Service: (8)

Crew: (5)

**Cavalry Corps Units: 1st Armoured Car Squadron,
3rd & 11th Motor Squadrons F.C.A.**





A former Irish Landsverk L180 (Reg No: ZC 758) painted to look like a Pantserwagen M-38 in the Cavalerie museum Amersfoort



**Cavalry Corps Landsverk
Registration No: ZC 5839**

