

804724 Sgt. Jimmy Lucey

Depot. Cavalry

Plunkett Barracks



After a long journey from his native Co. Kerry a young Jimmy Lucey arrived at the gates of the newly established Army Apprentice School, Naas. Jimmy was just 16 when he successfully secured a place in the first Army Apprentice School class in 1956. In total 55 young men from all corners of the country would converge Devoy Barracks on the start of their three years apprenticeship. Apprentice Jimmy Lucey would go on to become an MT Fitter/Mechanic in the Cavalry Corps and posted to the Depot Cavalry Corps, Plunkett Barracks in 1959.

AN ROINN COSANTA

VACANCIES FOR APPRENTICES IN THE PERMANENT

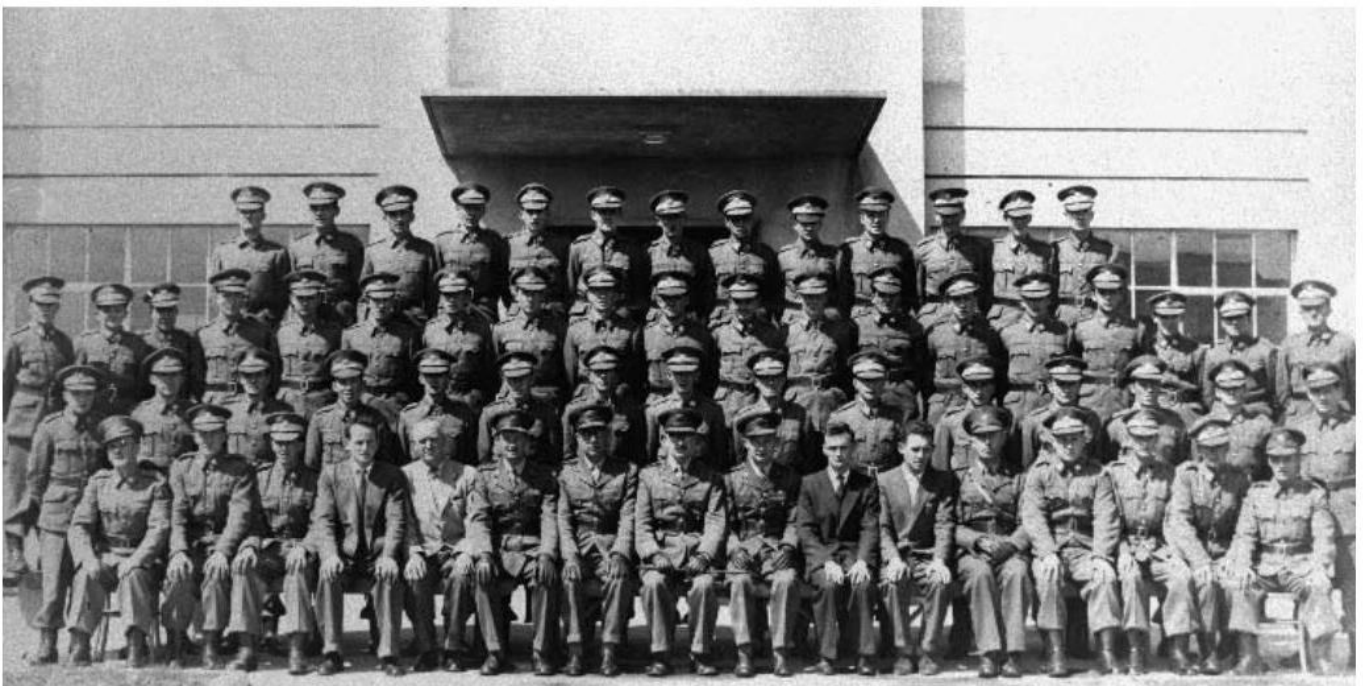
DEFENCE FORCE

FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT

In connection with a recent advertisement regarding vacancies for boys to be trained as technicians in the **Army Apprentice School** at Naas, Co. Kildare, it is hereby notified, that the latest date for the receipt of completed application forms has been extended to the 22nd August, 1956.

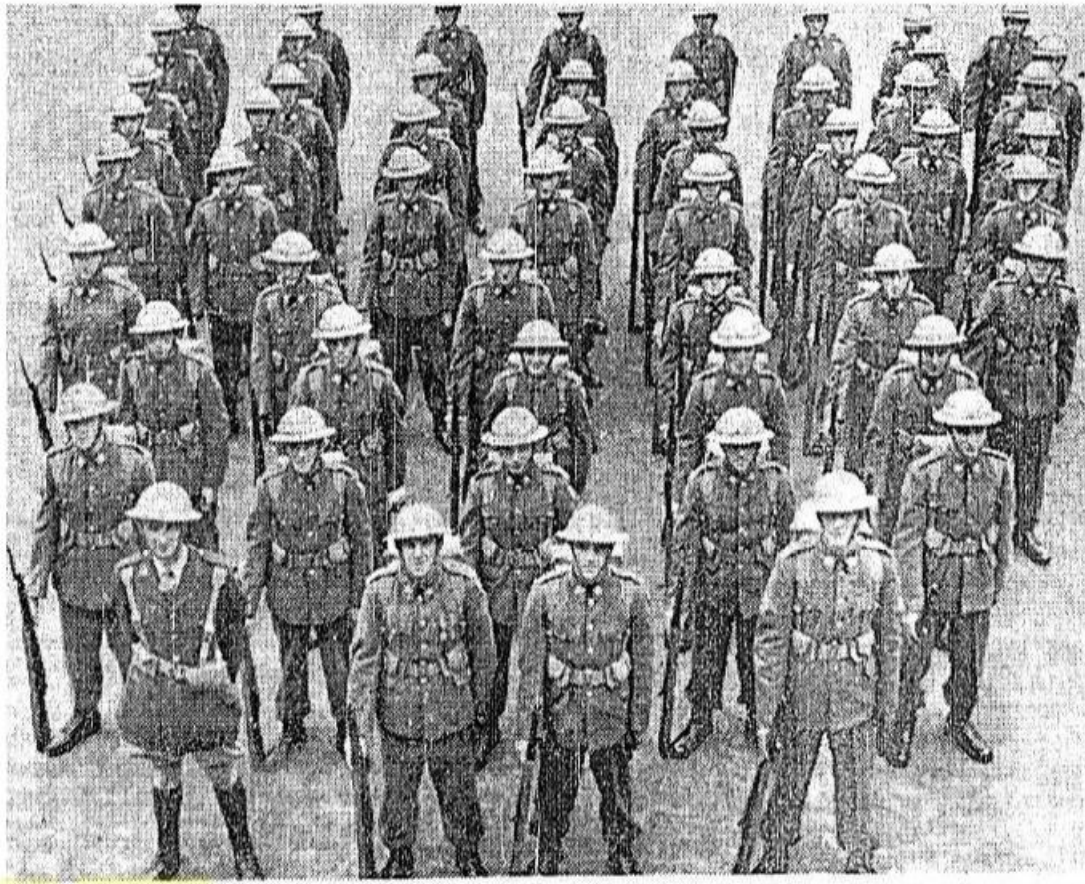
Candidates must have passed an examination of a standard not lower than the Sixth Standard, National **School** Programme, and have attended for one session a whole-time Day Course at a Trades, Preparatory or Technical **School**, or have otherwise attained an equivalent standard of general and technical education.

Candidates must be between the ages of 15 and 17 years on the 1st October, 1956. Application forms and full details in connection with the vacancies may be had on application to An Rúnaí, An Roinn Cosanta (S.6D), Balle Atha Cliath.



1st Apprentice Platoon 1956 - 1959

NOW TRADESMEN SOLDIERS



Passing out Parade of the 1st Army Apprentice School Class, July 1959

In 1961 Cpl. Jimmy Lucey volunteered for overseas service in the Congo with the 35th Infantry Battalion. He would be deployed with the Cavalry Corps Armoured Car Crew and Maintenance detachment.





**A Company, 35th Infantry Battalion
"The Jadotville Heroes"**

In September 1961 Cpl. Jimmy Lucey and other personnel from the Armoured Car Detachment were attached to A Coy, 35th Inf Bn, Jadotville, Katanga province, The Congo. It was during this time that the area of Jadotville was surrounded and came under intense hostile fire. The men of A Coy defended Jadotville until they literally ran out of food and water and much needed ammunition. Eventually a cease-fire was negotiated and the men of A Coy and attachments, including Cpl. Jimmy Lucey and the Cavalry Corps personnel were transferred to a prison camp.



Siege of Jadotville Medal

It was during his time in the apprentice school the Jimmy perfected his Gaelic football skills and in general was an all-round athlete. And went on to play Senior level Football for his home county of Kerry, winning two Munster titles and one All Ireland title in 1962. Jimmy's brothers, Paul and Vincent were also gifted footballers and played alongside him on the Kerry Senior panel. The Lucey brothers Jimmy, Noel, Paul and Vincent all played for the **Kerry GAA Club Laune Rangers.**



Jimmy and Noel Lucey in training in Killarney for the All Ireland Senior Football Final 1962



**The 1962 All-Ireland Football Final.
Kerry 1-12 - 1-6 Roscommon**



**Kerry Senior Football Team - All Ireland Champions 1962
(Jimmy Lucey, 3rd row, 4th from left.)**



Official match programme from the 1962 final.

Depot Cavalry (Curragh) Rifle Team - All-Army Winners - 1963

(The new F.N. rifle used for the first time in competition.)



Rear: Jimmy Lucey, Sgt. Graham, Dixie Brown, Paddy Cullen.

Front: Comdt. Lavelle, Comdt. Daly, Sgt. Maj. M. Galvin, Tpr. John Dee.

Cpl. Jimmy Lucey represented the Depot Cavalry Corps in the All-Army Rifle Shoot of 1963. The Depot Cavalry Team won the rifle competition by beating the 5th Infantry Battalion in the first ever outing of the FN in All-Army competition.



FN Rifle used for the first time in All-Army Competition 1963.

Individual Competition, 1st. Sgt Christopher Grogan 12th Bn, 2nd. Tpr. John Dee Depot Cavalry, 3rd. Comdt. D Daly Depot Cavalry, 4th. Cpl Jimmy Lucey, Depot Cavalry.

Team Competition, 1st (Depot Cavalry), 2nd (5th Battalion), 3rd (12th Battalion).

Tragic death of ex-Kerry player



Sgt. Jimmy Lucey

Depot Cavalry
1941 - 1969

The death took place in St. Luke's Hospital, Dublin, on Sun. 16th Feb. of Sergeant Jimmy Lucey, formerly of Caragh Lake. Aged 28, he had lived in Elm Park, Kildare Town, with his wife, Kathleen, and two years old son, Seamus. A noted athlete and footballer, he was for some years a regular on the Kerry football team. In 1962 he had won an All-Ireland senior football medal when playing at midfield on the team that beat Roscommon in the final. His brother, Noel, played at centre halfback on the same team. Another brother, Vincent, had played for Kerry in the 1965 final against Galway, while his brother Paul was captain of the Kerry junior team in 1968. Jimmy served two terms with the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Congo and had taken part in the Battle of Jadoville. He had been for many weeks a prisoner of war. He had also served a term in Cyprus.

He had won many football and athletic honours in army sports and also Had given great service to the Laune Rangers and Mid-Kerry teams. At the removal of the remains and at the funeral, full military honours were rendered, and all sections of the army were represented. The remains were removed from Dublin to St. James's Church, Killorglin on

Tues. 18th Feb. The 2nd Motor Squadron (Dublin) supplied the Bearer Party and rendered military honours at the hospital. The Army Apprentice School rendered honours at Naas. The cortege passed through Plunkett Barracks, Curragh Camp, where again military honours were rendered. The funeral stopped in silence, for a few minutes, outside his newly built home in Kildare Town. On arrival at Killorglin, the military honours were again rendered and a guard of honour of members of the 1962 Kerry team, former Kerry players and members of the Mid-Kerry and Laune Rangers teams, was formed.

Those who knew of his long tedious illness were shocked when the news came that Jimmy Lucey was dead. It seemed incredible that one so young and strong could have lost the fight so early in life. A quiet, shy man off the field, Jimmy became a dynamo when he donned his football boots. The keener the exchanges the better he liked it and when the call was for courage and spirit, he never failed to answer. As a team-mate of his said, 'Jimmy would go back from nothing.' No man could have a finer epitaph.

Jimmy's only son Seamus grew up in Kildare town with his widowed Mother Kathleen and joined the 5th Bty 6 F.A.R (FCA) in Magee Bks, Kildare town in 1983. Having served several years with the unit, Seamus then joined the Permanent Defence Forces in 1985, completing his recruit training in Magee Barracks. He was posted to the Depot Artillery and served a number of years with that unit. He left the army in the mid to late 1990s and began working on various fishing trawlers of the west coast. Tragedy struck in September 2000 when a fishing net cable snapped hitting Seamus, resulting in his tragic untimely death, aged 33.



**Remembering
Sgt. Jimmy Lucey
1941 - 1969**



Sgt. Jimmy Lucey's Brother Vincent Lucey in the Air Corps Colours.