



IUNVA POST 25 FERMOY

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY POST 25 IUNVA



A civic reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Kilkenny in 2015 to a combined group of Post 25 Fermoy and Mick McEvoy Branch ONE members from Ballincollig.

It was appropriate our 2025 AGM was held on the same date 30th January the Post held its inaugural meeting in 2003. Ray Connolly Post 5 Cork had been urging Fermoy for several years to establish a Post. It finally came to pass that night. Accompanied by Joe Spillane he chaired the meeting in Clancy's

Bar. Thirteen UN qualified veterans elected Martin O'Keeffe as Chairman and Noel Hogan as Treasurer. For the next twelve years we were nomadic using the Forge Bar and later Fermoy Pitch and Putt Clubhouse for our monthly meetings. Ten years ago, we

acquired the former Doll's House premises and are there since. Tommy McCarthy took over the Chair after Martin's twelve year "reign" and has been re-elected each year since. Under careful stewardship our Post flourished. At one point we had a membership of one hundred and ten. Due to a number of reasons, mainly bereavements, the number now stands just short of ninety. With no military presence in Fermoy and Ireland's participation in overseas missions dramatically down our source of recruitment is severely curtailed. Serving personnel for some obscure reason seldom join. The perception seems to be you need to be retired and old before considering membership. We need to actively change that perception or face extinction.

To meet our running costs of rent and related charges we are indebted to the people of Fermoy and surrounding areas for their continuous support of our money raising events. With the cooperation of Fr Casey, we erected a beautiful Remembrance Wall on the grounds of Our Lady Queen of Peace church. Part of which is dedicated to those who died serving on UN and UN mandated missions. The other part to those who died while in service in both Fermoy and Lynch Camp, Kilworth. It cost around €24,000. More recently we erected signage costing around €5,000 on the avenue of the same site. This bilingual signage is dedicated to all who served in the Aerodrome, including the Royal Flying Corps later to become the Royal Air Force. It is also dedicated to Colonel Fitzmaurice who was stationed there during the Emergency. He was part of a three-man crew in 1929, the first aviators to fly non-stop from east to west across the Atlantic Ocean. In 1966 during the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising the camp was renamed Fitzgerald Camp. 1 Motor Squadron renamed Cavalry Squadron were stationed there from 1948 until posted to Collins Barracks, Cork in 1998. At the stroke of a pen 201 years of military presence which began in 1797 with British soldiers bivouacking at Fants Cross ended. An incredibly sad day for Fermoy.

The presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to the families of deceased Congo veterans is proceeding at pace. Five families decided to receive them in our office on Fitzgerald Place over a cuppa with refreshments. Others received them with convivial beverages in a local hostelry. The certificates were also delivered to home addresses and workplaces. The recipient chooses the location. In one case two sons will set a date later in the year to travel from Kerry to receive the certificate. We are honoured presenting them. We started with over ninety on our list of veterans from the camp and are almost down to single figures. There is a possibility some qualified personnel may have been overlooked. Our office is staffed from 10 – 12 o'clock Monday through Friday. Call in with details if you think a relative may qualify.

Thanks to Eddie O'Hara our website iunvapist25.com is updated and reactivated. It's in its infancy. With your support and contributions of photos and related items it will blossom. Don't leave it up to someone else, get involved. Eddie has included a calendar of events. Have a read through and plan to be involved. Your participation decides how successful we become.



A Panhard AML 90 armoured car suffering a firing mishap during range practice in Lebanon. The photo captures the crewman's helmet amidst the smoke above the car from the explosion within. Luckily no serious injuries were caused.