



The Cavalry Club

Newsletter Spring 2009

CAVALRY CLUB AGM & DINNER 2008

First off from the 2009 Cavalry Club Committee greetings and every good wish to you and yours for good health, happiness and prosperity in 2009. Club activities for 2008 finished with the **64th AGM and Annual Dinner** in Ceannt Officers Mess, The Curragh on November 08th last. The AGM, held prior to the Annual Dinner, was attended by a disappointingly low number of members. Nevertheless there was a lively debate on the agenda issues and of particular note is the fact that new Club rules were adopted. Details of the AGM, including composition of the Committee and the new Club rules are being distributed with this Newsletter. Of special note to members is the sterling work done on your behalf by Club Treasurer Comdt Bob Carroll who has totally revamped our register of members and more importantly has almost totally resolved issues related to fluctuations in membership. The present state of membership is that the Club Membership Directory listed 219 names and the Committee would appeal to each member to consider making greater efforts to attend the 2009 AGM (14 November '09.) Attendance at the dinner was 68, which included members and their guests. Guests of the Club on the night were Lieut Gen Dermot Earley, COS, Maj Gen Dave Ashe D COS(Sp) and his wife Brig Gen Sean McCann (GOC DFTC) and his wife, Brig Gen Liam MacNamee and his wife, HCF Msgr Eoin Thynne.

“FODDER FOR THOUGHT”. A CAVALRY CLUB APPROACH TO 2009

The Cavalry Corps continues to adapt to the changing organisational, training and operational demands facing the Defence Forces. In these circumstances the Cavalry Club's role to provide a social dimension for the past and present officers of the Corps assumes a much greater importance. The Cavalry Club it is also increasingly aware of its function as a custodian of the Corps' history, lore and traditions. Acknowledging the importance of these issues and the unique camaraderie amongst past and present officers of the Cavalry Corps, it is critical that the Cavalry Club remains strong and vibrant. Central to achieving this is the participation of members in the Cavalry Club's activities. In order to facilitate and encourage involvement by Club members it is intended to fully publicise a range of a Cavalry Club and Cavalry Corps related social and ceremonial activities in each Brigade / DFTC area. Given the countrywide reach of the current committee, with members resident in each of the Brigade / DFTC areas, this provides a unique opportunity to enable direct liaison with the units of the Corps. The committee is also stretching its wings by rotating its monthly committee meeting in turn amongst the

locations in which Cavalry Corps units are now located and this is done in cooperation with the unit resident in that garrison. The Committee is of the opinion that these measures will raise the profile of the club and improve the contact with members and those who serve throughout the Corps.

ANNUAL CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Yes it's that time of year again. The Committee would like to express their appreciation to all the members who have updated their subscriptions and are now paying the current rate of €25.00. However, there are still some who have yet to do so and we request that members check their banking Standing Order to the club and amend same as soon as possible. Undoubtedly, some arrears will have accrued for those who have not updated their subscription status and Bob (Honorary Treasurer) will be happy to help with any request for information regarding same.

During the last year the Committee has been extremely active in recruiting new members and also in encouraging "lapsed members" to rejoin the Club. This is proving to be very positive for the Club and we request the membership to actively support our efforts, in this regard to. Bob may be contacted at 044-9344740 or 087-7731044 or E.mail: rdc9581@iolfree.ie

Club Archive

Since notifying AGM 2007 of the establishment of a Cavalry Club Archive in Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin there has been a slow trickle of Club-related material arriving to the "collector-in-chief", Lt Col Ken Kelly. Heretofore the accumulation of material was dependant on the interest of individuals and Ken now acts as a "point of contact" on this matter and is eager to hear from any person who has any Cavalry Corps memorabilia or documents related to the Cavalry Club or Cavalry Corps. A number of members have promised "Attic Raids", confident that their recall of long-stored contents will reveal items of Club interest from yesteryear! As the archive is only in its infancy EVERYTHING connected with the Club is important. Ken is willing to go ANYWHERE, ANYTIME to collect ANYTHING from ANYBODY!!! He can be contacted at 028 - 34769 or on mobile 086 - 8059081..... or by e-mail at kayteekay@eircom.net

If you are donating photographs to the Archive it would be great to have details of the subject(s) – name(s), date, event/activity, location, etc., for the record.

It is appreciated that many items will be important to holders and their families and in those circumstances the Club would appreciate an opportunity to copy and/or photograph them. A call to Ken is all that is required to set the wheels in motion. All archived material will be credited to the individual(s) who provided same.

Club Minute Books for periods.... 1944 to Dec 1948 and Apr 1956 to Oct 1965

???? Can you help locate these items ????

PROPOSED CAVALRY CLUB EVENTS (CEREMONIAL & SOCIAL) 2009

The Club website has some preliminary information on events being planned for the year ahead. The latest update is as follows:-

- **Cirque Du Soleil.** This critically celebrated entertainment group is to stage an arena tour of the breathtaking production “Quidam” in the O2 arena in Dublin. It is proposed that Club members interested in this show would attend the show being held on Friday 03rd April 20:00. Please contact Damien before 20th March 2009.
 - Ticket Price - €76.05 per person (Ticket Price €69.70 plus Service Charge €6.35)
 - Tickets available on www.ticketmaster.ie.
 - For more information please contact Damien: 087- 6486901. E-mail doherlihy@eircom.ie

- **Croke Park Stadium Tour.** Join Club members in May on a guided tour of the historic Croke Park museum and stadium. To be held on a weekend, contact Damien for date and time.
 - Contact Damien: 087- 6486901. E-mail doherlihy@eircom.ie

- **Cavalry Cup Golf Outing.** The **Curragh Golf Club** is again the venue for the 2009 outing and it will take place on **Wednesday 08 July**. Further details will be posted on the Club website but the format will be similar to previous years. Members are encouraged to bring some guests along to this event.
 - PS: **Has anyone seen the "PEGASUS" trophy** – it is understood that this was one of the prizes presented for the annual golf outing but it has not been seen for some time. Anyone with information as to it’s current whereabouts, please contact a member of the Committee. As we would like to reinstate it’s presentation.
 - **Bookings:** Contact Bob Carroll at 044-9344740 or 087-7731044 or email rdc9581@iolfree.ie

- **4 Cavalry Squadron.**
 - 16 Apr 09 – CO’s Dinner for 4 Cav Sqn Unit Offrs, Cavalary Club Pres and Vice Pres and retired 4 Cav Sqn Offrs in 4 W Bde area. Black Tie dinner Custume Bks.
 - Official opening of the New 4 Cav Sqn HQ “Teach Séan Úi Chonghaile” in Custume Bks Athlone. Date to be confirmed later.
 - Contact Tom at 087- 2278528 or e-mail tom.mcgrath@defenceforces.ie

- **National Day of Remembrance.**
Royal Hospital Kilmainham 12 July 2009. See local papers for details

- **Cavalry Memorial Day.** This will be held on the now traditional first Saturday in September, this year **Saturday 05 September ’09**. Members are

encouraged to attend the ceremonies and wear medals. Details will be notified when received.

- **WORLD WAR I BATTLEFIELD TOUR 09.** As you may or may not be aware the Cavalry Club organised and conducted a visit to the First World War Battlefield sites of France and Flanders last year under the Presidency of Lt. Col Ken Kelly (Retd). The tour was essentially a recce mission with a view to developing the tour as a regular event in the Club's activities for the foreseeable future. After much discussion and debate, and taking in the very positive feedback from all the participants the President, Col. Dick Heaslip (Retd), and Committee are happy to announce that another tour will take place this year. The tour will be based on a four day visit during the weekend of the 28th – 31st August 09.
 - The recce tour 08 consisted of an intensive but very enjoyable weekend. The group flew from Dublin to Charleroi and based itself in Arras. The main focus of the visit was on Irish Military connections and among the many sites visited was a visit to Mons where the Great War started and then progressing South on the general line of the BEF Retreat, stopping at Etreux where the Royal Munster Fusiliers fought a famous rearguard action in the course of that retreat.
 - The visit to the Somme and Ypres Battlefields involved memorable visits to the Ulster Tower where the 36th Ulster Division went over the top on July 1st 1916, to Guinchy and Guillemont where the 16th Irish Division saw action, and to the massive monument at Thiepval where the names of over 73,000 soldiers are inscribed and remembered and for whom there are no known graves. The Irish Peace Park was visited was very impressive with its monuments to the 10th, 16th, and 36th Divisions. Messines Ridge was also visited where the 36th Ulster and the 16th Irish Divisions fought side by side for the first time. The group was privileged to participate in the unique "Last Post Ceremony" at the Menin Gate Monument at Ypres.
 - This year the tour will be planed on similar lines and will enable the participants to visit locations where Irish soldiers have fought and served with great distinction in the Great War.
 - This tour will be a unique opportunity to participate with like-minded people from a military background to visit these sites. It is a chance to get involved in the Clubs activities and enjoy what has proven to be a memorable event. Anyone who wishes to participate please contact Mick Bohan on bohan97@hotmail.com or 087-1391362 before the end of April 09.

- **Tpr Mullins Commemoration.**

12 September 2009 Kilbehenny Co Cork

- **Niamba Commemoration.**

07 November 2009, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin.

- **UN Memorial Day.**

08 November 2009, IUNVA House, Arbour Hill, Dublin.

- **The Defence Forces Annual Band Concert.**

Concerts scheduled for Dublin and Cork venues, details to follow.

- **65th AGM and Annual Dinner.**

Ceannt Officers Mess in the Curragh will be the venue again this year on **Saturday 14 November '09**. Timings will be published closer to the date

- **Cavalry Club Senior Members over 80's Dinner**

Event to be held in Dublin's McKee Barracks and in the south. For details please contact Col R Heaslip (Retd) on rheaslip@eircom.net or 087-9049323

Hoping to see you at a Club event during the coming year. We would hope particularly that you might make the Club's AGM and Annual dinner on 08 November next a date for your diary - to meet with, and enjoy, an evening in the company of fellow "Ironsides", serving and retired.

With our very best wishes,

your committee:-

Dick, Mick, Damien, Bob, Ken, Tom and Michael.