



## The Cavalry Club

### **SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010**

**Annual General Meeting 2009.** The Club's 65<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held in the Ante-room of Ceant Officers Mess, Curragh Camp on 14 November 2009. In keeping with tradition a minutes silence was observed in memory of Club members who had passed away during the year. 17 members attended the meeting and among the matters dealt with the following were noteworthy:-

- ❖ The Hon Treasurer, Comdt Bob Carroll (Retd), suggested that AGM consider changing the Club's financial year from its current 01 October - 30 September to 01 January–31 December as this would bring it into line with the financial year now operated by most organisations. He said he would be proposing this Rule change to AGM 2010
- ❖ The Club's Annual Dinner would continue to be held in November. The moving of the AGM to a different date, consequential on a change in the Club's financial year, is to be reviewed at committee level and a report and/or proposal will be prepared for AGM 2010.
- ❖ Amendments to Rules 3.3 ("Honorary Members") and 8.4 ("Committee") were agreed and are reflected in the "Constitution" currently on the Club Website.
- ❖ A proposal by Capt Chris McQuaid (Retd) to award Honorary Membership to Club member Comdt Art McGuinness DSM, (Retd), was agreed unanimously.
- ❖ A later proposal by Col Dick Heaslip to award Honorary Membership to Club member Capt Luke Mullins (Retd), was also agreed unanimously.
- ❖ A special mention of appreciation and thanks was recorded for Lt Damien O'Herlihy who was stepping down from the Committee having served 5 years, 3 of them as Honorary Secretary.
- ❖ The Club raised 300 Euro from members present at the Dinner for the "TLC4CF" (Tipperary-Limerick-Clare for Cystic Fibrosis) organisation.
- ❖ The election of Club Officers and Committee members resulted in a number of new faces and we now have a very good regional representation. Nine (9) members, as under, were elected to the Committee for the current year:-

Capt. Mick Bohan. (President).  
Comdt. Rory McCorley. (Vice-President and President Elect).  
Comdt. Tom McGrath. (Honorary Secretary).  
Comdt. Bob Carroll (Retd). (Honorary Treasurer).  
Col. Dick Heaslip (Retd).  
Lt. Col. Ken Kelly (Retd).  
Comdt. Daragh O'Brian.  
Capt. Pat Moroney.  
Capt. John Power.

At the January 2010 Committee meeting Capt Páraic O'Toole (Retd) was co-opted to the Committee bringing its strength to 10.

❖ The AGM elected the following Auditors for the current year:-  
Capt Chris McQuaid (Retd)  
Capt Peter O'Kelly



*Comdt Art Magennis DSM being presented with his certificate of Honorary Membership by Maj Gen Sean McCann DCOS(OPS)*



*Club President Capt Mick Bohan presents the TLC4CF collection to Lt. Joann McCarthy, 31 Res Cav Sqn.*

**President's Report 2009.** The President, Col Dick Heaslip circulated his President's report prior to the AGM detailing the Club's 2008/2009 activities. In that report he noted the Committee's position on its ongoing duties, and functioning, on behalf of the Club. The following extracts from his report illustrate this –

*"The Primary goal is to give added weight, status and emphasis to the Cavalry Club as the primary social asset of the Cavalry Corps while seeking to re-establish and develop the Clubs honorary role as custodian of the Cavalry Corps history, traditions and lore."*

*"From the outset there was full recognition of the reality of the environment in which the Club operates namely that the Corps is now a much reduced entity. Operational Squadrons are all now resident in the Bde HQ garrison locations, with greater training and operational demands on the stretched resources of all units. In such circumstances the Cavalry Units, regular and reserve, have to strive hard to assert a Cavalry identity. The challenge in this situation is to find a meaningful role for the Cavalry club both with regard to reinforcing the Cavalry identity and addressing the Cavalry Club's Corps social dimension requirement."*

### **CAVALRY CLUB and CORPS EVENTS, PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES 2009 / '10.**

**Fitzgerald Camp Fermoy - Memorial Wall.** As mentioned in the last Club Newsletter (Autumn 2009) a memorial wall was erected, at the instigation of Fermoy's IUNVA Post 25, in Fitzgerald Camp, Fermoy to commemorate those who died on service with the United Nations and those who died in service and who at anytime of their service had served in the camp. The memorial was unveiled at a ceremony on 10 Oct 2009 by Lt Gen Pat Nash DSM (Retd), Club Honorary Member, who also delivered the keynote address. The occasion of the dedication served as a reunion for those who had served in the Aerodrome /Fitzgerald Camp with the 1 Motor Squadron/1 Cavalry Squadron over the years and there was a great turnout on the day. It was a wonderful occasion and the ceremony was held in bright sunshine. The Club was represented at the ceremony by our Club President and a wreath was laid in memory of deceased Club members.



*Col Dick Heaslip (Retd), Comdt Art Magennis DSM(Retd) and Lt Col Eamon Cullagh (Retd) lay wreaths at the unveiling of the Fermoy Memorial Wall.*

**Recently-Commissioned Cavalry Corps Officers.** In Jan 2010 the 85th Cadet Class was commissioned and from it four young officers were assigned to the Cavalry Corps. The Cavalry Club is pleased to note the posting of Lts Eoin Carroll, Ruairi Millane and Steven Keane, and 2/Lt Fergal Reilly to Cavalry Corps units and, in due course, will present each of these officers with the Cavalry Corps tie. These officers reported to their units and having equipped themselves with their Glengarrys began the business of absorbing the Cavalry ethos and *esprit de corps* under the watchful eyes of their respective Squadron Commanders in the 1 Armoured Cavalry and in the 1, 2 and 4 Cavalry Squadrons. In early March they returned to the Officer Training Wing of the Infantry School, Military College to complete a Platoon Commanders Peace Support Operations Course. This is now a follow-on course undertaken by all officers immediately after commissioning to qualify them for a range of operational appointments and assignments. Current planning for their Cavalry training is for them to undergo a Cavalry YO Course soon after their course in the Military College. As three of these officers are graduates they will then not go on to participate in the third level education scheme and will report back to their units. This will be welcomed by hard-pressed Squadron Commanders who are constantly under pressure for Troop Commanders for a variety of operational and administrative duties.



*Lt Steven Keane. Lt Ruairí Millane. Lt Eoin Carroll. 2/Lt Fergal Reilly.*

**Young Officer Induction Dinner.** In the absence of a Cavalry Corps Mess, and given the necessity to mark the induction into the Cavalry Corps of the four recently commissioned officers in an appropriate manner, the Cavalry Club proposes to host a Cavalry Corps Young Officer Induction Dinner in April. The format for this formal event will be similar to last year's hosting. The function will provide the recent arrivals into the Corps with the opportunity to meet with, and hear from, a grouping of serving and retired Cavalry Officers. Speakers at last year's event represented serving, reserve and retired officers. In 2009 the function was very well supported by the Squadron Commanders and the ranking senior officers of the Corps.

### **Lecture Room Dedications in the Cavalry School, Combat Support College.**



On Cavalry Day 2008 particular rooms within the Cavalry School area of the Combat Support College, Plunkett Barracks were dedicated to the memory of influential/noteworthy Cavalry Corps personalities - Col J.V. Lawless, Mr Pat Lynch and Tpr Patrick Mullins. The Cavalry Club is keen to develop this concept further and to add to this very worthwhile project by including relevant personal memorabilia which will give further insight to the service of those who are commemorated in these dedications. As a first step in this project the Cavalry Club, having established that the Lawless family had recently completed a project to mount the military service medals of three generation of their family, has now acquired a large photograph of the completed display. This photograph will be framed and presented to the Cavalry School for display in the "Lawless Room". It is hoped to follow this initiative with similar-style presentations for the "Lynch Room" and the "Mullins Room".

### **Cavalry Corps Memorabilia.**

The sculptured Cavalry Corps collar badge in marble which is set in the wall above the fireplace in the "Lawlor Room" (formerly the Anteroom in Plunkett Officers Mess, now dedicated to the memory of Col A.T. Lawlor – a Director of the early "Armoured Car Corps" and later a Director of Cavalry) has been overlooked/gone unnoticed for a long time. It is a well-executed fine piece of sculpture, observed and commented on by many, but with little curiosity expressed regarding its provenance. In effect it has been taken for granted by all of us who enjoyed the convivial surroundings of that beautiful room. Through the good memory and interest of Art Magennis and John Chadwick it has been possible to resurrect the background to this spectacular piece. This unique item of Corps memorabilia has graced the Plunkett Officers Mess Anteroom since 1943. It has a unique history and was the personal donation of Lt Jack Harrison (aka Harrison's Monumental Sculptors, Dublin) who served in the Cavalry Corps during the Emergency. Apparently this was presented to the Officers Mess in Plunkett Barracks when the Cavalry Corps was relocated from McDermott Barracks in 1943 and Plunkett became the Corps Depot and Plunkett Officers Mess the Cavalry Corps mess. This exceptional gesture has gone unrecorded for far too long and it is now the intention of the Cavalry Club, with the support of the appropriate authorities, to erect a brass plaque giving details of the badge's provenance.

**Nonagenarian Cavalry Officers.**

The special lunch hosted by the Club in August 2009 for our octogenarian veterans will be repeated again later this year. However, as a newsworthy item, it should be noted that some of those veterans have added another milestone to their collective achievements in that three former Cavalry Officers became nonagenarians during 2009 (Pat “King” Sweeney, Theo Ryan and Art Magennis) and another, Tom “TB” Kelly, did so in January 2010. We take great pleasure in offering heartiest congratulations of behalf of the Cavalry Club to each of them and we pray that they enjoy continued good health and well-being for many years to come.

**Veteran Recordings.**

The Committee is currently looking at a project proposed by Lt Col Noel Byrne (Retd) in relation to recording the military careers of Cavalry Corps/Club members. The aim of this project is to record the fullest possible picture of what the Cavalry Corps has meant to people, in their own words. The project will record face-to-face interviews with Cavalry Corps members both serving and retired. These interviews will then be preserved as a permanent resource on the history of the Cavalry Corps. The very positive feedback from our octogenarian members who attended the lunch last year was encouraging and the project could commence sometime this year. The committee is meantime working on a suitable process that will accommodate the project. News on this project’s progress will be communicated in due course.

**Cavalry Corps Perpetual Golf Trophy Competition.**

This annual outing will be in the Curragh Golf Club again this year. Two dates are provisionally booked, July 7 and 14. Final date will be confirmed in due course and communicated immediately.

**Family Orientated Weekend.**

The Club committee is in the process of organising a family-orientated weekend in early June this year. The location will be in the West and the area around Killary Harbour has been proposed. Efforts are ongoing at the moment to put a package together detailing prices, accommodation etc., which, when finalised, will be notified to members.

The weekend is planned to cater for Club members and their families who are interested in the outdoors, and, as the Killary Harbour area boasts a wide range of outdoor amenities that should appeal to both young and old. A great weekend’s entertainment is in prospect.....!



.....*K i l l a r y C a l l s !!*.....

### **Battlefield Tour.**

Officers of the 31 Reserve Cavalry Squadron, Clonmel, have indicated they would be happy to organise a WWII Battlefield tour this year. The trip will be over a 3 day period (Fri-Sun) on a weekend in October and the main focus will be on the Battle of Arnhem in Holland. More details as we receive them nearer the time.



*Cavalry Club Committee meeting in Clonmel March 2010. Meeting with 31 Res Cav Sqn Offrs to discuss upcoming Battlefield tour.*

### **Upcoming Events - 2010.**

National Day of Commemoration, Royal Hospital, Kilmainham–Sunday 11 July.  
Cavalry Corps Memorial Day, Plunkett Barracks, DFTC – Saturday 04 September.  
Tpr Patrick Mullins Memorial Mass. Kilbehenny, Co Cork – September (Date TBC).  
Cavalry Club AGM, Ceannt Officers Mess, DFTC – 6 or 13 November (Date TBC).  
Cavalry Club Annual Dinner, Ceannt Officers Mess, DFTC – Same date as AGM.

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

### **A note from the Club Treasurer.**

Dear members - once more the Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who have continued to support the Club through the prompt payment of their annual subscription. Unfortunately, some members have yet to update their standing order and this reflects unfavourably in the accounts as “arrears due by members”. In order to rectify this, all members are once again requested to check their existing standing order and have same amended to read €25 per year (as introduced at AGM 2005) and not the older subscription rates of €3.81 or €12.70 as reflected in many of the subscriptions received.

Some arrears will have accrued for members who have not updated their standing order. Bob Carroll (Hon Treasurer) will be glad to discuss these with members who are in doubt as to their current position – contact details as below. The Committee has agreed that the “capping” system introduced in 2008 will continue, i.e., members will not be charged the full amount of arrears due, with a maximum “look back” of 2 years. The following examples illustrate the capping:-

#### **Example 1 – Member with current Standing Order (SO) for €3.81 (Old £3.00 Sub).**

Current year’s (2009/10) SO paid - €3.81.....arrears €21.19  
Last year’s (2008/09) SO paid - €3.81.....arrears €21.19  
**Total arrears now due to update account:- €42.38**

#### **Example 2 – Member with current Standing Order (SO) for €12.70 (Old £10.00 Sub).**

Current year’s (2009/10) SO paid - €12.70.....arrears €12.30

Last year's (2008/09) SO paid - €12.70.....arrears €12.30

**Total arrears now due to update account:- €24.60**

**NOTE:- In both above cases member should contact his/her bank and have the SO updated to have the current subscription of €25.00 deducted, commencing in February 2011, until further notice.**

**Example 3 – Lapsed Member wishing to renew membership – a member is requested to pay the current year's subscription of €25.00, and, a nominal arrears of a year's subscription, i.e., €25.00, for a total of €50.00**

Contact details for Bob:- 114 Hillside Drive, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath  
Phone: 044-9344740 or 087-7731044.....E.Mail: [rdc9581@iolfree.ie](mailto:rdc9581@iolfree.ie)

### **Club Merchandise.**

At the moment the Club is totally sold out of lapel pins. An order has been placed for new pins and it is hoped to have initial supplies available prior to AGM and Annual Dinner 2010. They will be produced in hallmarked sterling silver, as before, and will cost €50 per pair – the inevitable consequence of the rise in the price of silver coupled with the cost of manufacture for these unique items.

Cavalry Corps ties are available at €25 each - if required in the Midlands, West or Eastern regions contact Bob Carroll – if in the Southern region contact Ken Kelly, Droum, Leap, Co. Cork (028 – 34769 or 086 – 8059081 ; [kayteekay@eircom.net](mailto:kayteekay@eircom.net))

### **Club Archive**

Another year.....Another request for assistance!

As readers will be aware the Committee arranged for the establishment of a Cavalry Club archive in Military Archives, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines, Dublin in the run-up to AGM 2008. The initial lodgement of Club-related material was made in 2008 and consisted of two Minute books and two boxes of files. Details of those Minute books were given in Club Newsletters circulated in 2008 and 2009 with a request for information relating to the “Missing Minutes” – the Club's first Minute book covering the **period from the first Committee meeting up to January 1949** and the Minute book covering the **period April 1956 to October 1965**. As will be appreciated, the fact that these crucial records are not available for historical research, notation and assessment by Club and Corps members, results in an information “black hole” which the Committee hopes will begin to be filled in the coming months and years. If you can help please contact Ken Kelly, our current Club Archive Officer, or any member of the Committee. We will be very glad to hear from anyone with information as to the whereabouts of any Club-related material and if you have anything to donate a Committee member will be happy to call and collect whatever that may be. Our thanks to Tony Carr, Pat Carey and Ken himself for material donated last year.

The Military Archive will be closed for renovation and decoration in March, April and May 2010. During this period Ken will be busy drawing up a descriptive index of what is currently in the Club archive. In our next Newsletter we hope to outline details of the arrangements to be made by any member wishing to view/work on the archive. Please think ARCHIVE! With the passage of time it becomes more and more important that material, particularly anything relating to the early days of the Club, be collected and noted. As was indicated in a previous Newsletter, donations will be identified with their donors in the Archive. We would ask anyone with material they

would wish to retain possession of to consider allowing the Club an opportunity to photograph or photocopy any such material.

**Club Website - Update.**

Plans are progressing nicely on updating and revamping the Club website. This revamp will involve a total overhaul of the site and the addition of extra headings detailing more of the Club's activities. In co-operation with the Club Archive Officer Ken Kelly and webmaster Peter O'Kelly it is intended to start recording archive items so that they can be displayed on the site. As this work progresses further details will be notified.

**Finally,**

Committee members will look forward to meeting you at any of the Club-organised events mentioned above. It is only by your interest and involvement in, and with, these Club activities that the future success of the Cavalry Club will be ensured.

With our best regards to all members

Mick, Rory, Tom, Bob, Dick, Ken, Daragh, John, Pat, and Páraic.