



## The Cavalry Club

### **NEWSLETTER - August 2008**

Dear Member,

Tempus fugit! The year is moving towards Autumn and the most notable events remaining on the Club's events calendar are **Cavalry Memorial Day on Saturday 06 September '08 in Plunkett Barracks, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare** and the **Club AGM and Annual Dinner on Saturday 08 November '08 in Ceannt Officers Mess, again in the Curragh**. The Committee encourages Club members to attend on both of these occasions.

**Cavalry Memorial Day** is the one day in our Club year when we, as serving and retired Cavalry officers, have the opportunity to remember, and pay tribute to, former comrades and friends. The ceremonies in Plunkett Barracks on September 6<sup>th</sup> will include Mass, the unveiling of a new stone in the Memorial Garden and the laying of wreaths. Following these ceremonies there will be a display of Cavalry equipments in the area between the Cavalry School Instructional Bay and Plunkett House (in rear of, and to the left of the Memorial Garden). **All those attending are encouraged to wear medals**. Refreshments will be available in the DFTC NCOs Mess in Ceannt Barracks afterwards for those who might wish to avail of same.

**Timings:-**

**1100 hrs. Mass in the Cav Sch Instr Bay, Combat Support College, Plunkett Bks.**

**1200 hrs. Unveiling and wreath laying in the Cavalry Memorial Garden.**

**1245 hrs. Cavalry Corps equipment display.**

**1330 hrs. Reception in DFTC NCOs Mess, Ceannt Barracks.**

**The Club AGM and Annual Dinner** is, again, the one day in our Club year when members make decisions! Last year there was a disappointingly small attendance and the Committee would like to see a better turnout this year. A major effort has been put in by your Committee this year to update Club records and that work will continue right up to AGM. For those members who have been unable to attend Club-organised events so far this year the AGM and Dinner present an ideal opportunity to "catch up" with friends and comrades, serving and retired, discuss and help decide the future of the Club and enjoy a great meal afterwards. As this year's AGM will deal with a number of Rules amendments it would be good to have an improved turnout relative to that seen in recent years.

**Timings.**

**1800 hrs. Club AGM 2008 in Ceannt Officers Mess, Curragh Camp.**

**1930 hrs. Reception of Dinner Guests, Ceannt Officers Mess.**

**2000 hrs. Annual Dinner.**

**Club Subscriptions.** Our Hon Treasurer has been very busy these past few months! As noted in the February Newsletter, the income from subscriptions constitutes the

Club's working capital. One of the objectives the Committee set itself this year was the detailed examination of Club financing. Early in the year it was established that while the Club Register listed 219 members, only 112 of those were in fact paying subscriptions! Of this number 81 were paying the pre-2005 subscription rate of €12.70! By now all those not paying the current subscription rate of €25 have been written to by Treasurer Bob Carroll giving details of their arrears and requesting them to amend their Bank Standing Orders (SOs). We would ask all members for their cooperation in this regard. Those who have already sent in their arrears and updated their Bank SOs we thank sincerely. If you have not got around to it yet we would ask that you do so as soon as possible. For those who might have slipped "of the radar" in recent years we encourage you to "reconnect". Arrears in such cases have been "capped" by the Committee at €25 (one year's subscription), so, payment of the current year's subscription, plus the arrears (total €50), will bring membership status right up to date. Arrangements can be made with Bob to make this payment by whatever method suits best. Call him at 044 – 9344740..... or ..... 087 – 7731044..... or ..... e-mail him [rdc9581@iolfree.ie](mailto:rdc9581@iolfree.ie) and he will be happy to help.

**(Note.** For those members who have been paying the pre - 2005 subscription rate of €12.70 the Committee also "capped" the arrears - at €24.60, the difference between the current and old subscription rates for the 2006 and 2007 years. This ensures the maximum arrears for any member, whatever their history, will be no more than €25).

**Cavalry Corps Perpetual Golf Trophy.** The Curragh Golf Club was again the venue for this year's annual golf outing. We must record a very sincere "Thank You" to the Captain, Committee and Members of the Curragh Golf Club for facilitating our competition on June 4<sup>th</sup> last and also to the Captain of the Curragh Army Officers Golf Society for allowing the Cavalry Club members compete for the trophy in association with that Society's outing on the day.

Conditions on June 4<sup>th</sup> were "challenging" to say the least and all competitors have to be applauded for their determination to compete despite the weather. Col Brendan Mc Cann took the honours on the day and congratulations to him on a fine achievement.

**A particular word of thanks must be recorded to Capt Adrian Grey (Retd) and Kerry Foods for their very generous sponsorship of the event this year.**

**North West Muster 2008.** Comdt Brendan Rohan's **Corcreggan Mill** was the venue for this Club event over the weekend of 25/27 April last. For those who made the trip it was a most enjoyable weekend spent in great company, blessed with good weather and looked after so well by Brendan, Angelique, Louis and Anna. On Saturday morning some availed of the horse-riding facilities on the nearby beach at Dunfanaghy while others accompanied Brendan on a guided walking trip to Tramore Beach - 2 kms across the sand dunes with NO dwellings, NO cars and few people to be seen! From this 3 km-long lovely sandy beach the vista was magnificent and clearly visible were Tory Island and Bloody Foreland - the North West corner of Ireland. A sous-terrain was visited en route to the beach and before returning to The Mill an opportunity was taken to visit a Celtic stone circle. Regrettably, time did not permit exploration of a number of other features in the area e.g., McSwynes Gun (a 30 m-deep blow-hole which explodes sea-water 30 m into the air, the report of which could be heard 80 km away in Derry, until sleep-deprived locals dynamited it during WWII, ensuring a somewhat quieter environment!!) Additionally, within an 8 km radius of Corcreggan Mill is an unusually large concentration of portal, court and wedge tombs, crannogs, holy wells, fulacht fia, promontory fort, etc. The Mill itself

(cited in Padraig Pearse's only court case as a recently-qualified barrister circa 1909) occupies what was a pre-Celtic ritual site, said to be the energy centre of the whole North West of Ireland.

Later, everybody spent a very interesting afternoon in Glenveagh National Park, visiting the Castle and magnificent gardens. Then it was back to The Mill for a wonderful dinner at the end of which Club President Ken Kelly made a presentation, specially crafted in Irish Bog Yew, to Brendan and Angelique to mark the occasion of the Muster. Entertainment was provided for the night by the well known performer, John Mc Nutt, whose singing and guitar playing was very much appreciated by his audience. All who took part agreed it had been a very family-friendly, interesting week-end, and, on departing, were just as determined as Gen Douglas Mc Arthur was when they said "we will return"!

**Theatre Night.** The Club purchased tickets for the Opera Ireland Spring Season production of "**The Marriage of Figaro**" in the Gaiety Theatre. Those members who availed of tickets enjoyed an excellent production.

**WW I Battlefield Tour.** The February Newsletter carried the notation that the Committee was considering the organisation of such a tour in Autumn 2008. It happened!!, and, for those who made the trip it would be fair to say it was memorable, worthwhile and a unique experience. Seven members took off on the 4-day (August 01 to 04) tour, led by Col Dick Heaslip. The operational base for the duration was in Arras and each day's "recce" programme was significant by virtue of the number of "contact reports" generated! Gen Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army would have been hard put to match the progress of "Heaslip's Heroes" over the four days!!! Some of the highlights were visits to the **Island of Ireland Peace Park, Ulster Tower, South African Memorial, Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial, Messines Ridge** (where the 16<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division fought side-by-side with the 36<sup>th</sup> (Ulster) Division in the assault on the Ridge in June 1917), the **Somme battlefield area, Flanders Fields Museum** and the site of the **Battle of Waterloo**. On the Sunday night the group attended the **Last Post Ceremony** at the **Menin Gate in Ypres**. This was a very poignant event for all and a wreath was laid, on behalf of the Club, by Club President Lt Col Ken Kelly (Retd) and Hon Secretary Lt Damien O'Herlihy (AR) in memory of all Irishmen, North and South, who lost their lives during the First World War.

**Christmas Card.** Over the years the Club has been the recipient of Christmas greetings from many individuals and kindred organisations and, in responding, the Committee usually purchased "off the shelf" cards in order to reciprocate the greetings. It was suggested in Committee that a custom-designed card would be more appropriate and Capt Mick Bohan came up with a design concept which the Committee was happy to endorse. He has now finalised the project and a contract is being placed, as we go to press, for a quantity of 1,000 cards. They will be available for purchase in the Curragh at both the Cavalry Memorial Day on Sat 06 September next and at the Club AGM and Annual Dinner on 08 November next. They will be in packets of 10, with envelopes, and will cost €6.00 per pack.

**4 Cavalry Squadron BBQ.** Well done to CO, Comdt Rory Mc Corley, and all Squadron officers on a great night's entertainment despite the threatening weather conditions on Friday August 8<sup>th</sup> last.

**Club Members Directory.** Work continues on the updating of the Directory. If you have changed address, telephone number(s) or e-mail address details, please contact Club Hon Secretary or indeed any Committee member, and pass on the details. If you know of a member who is not getting the Newsletter, either by post or e-mail, again please let us know so that we can rectify the situation. Alternatively, you could pass on the contact details of any of the Committee members and they will be happy to hear from anyone who has been missed out in our mailings.

**Committee Visits to Cavalry Corps Units (Regular and Army Reserve).** When assuming the office of Club President last November Lt Col Ken Kelly raised the matter of the Club's connection and involvement with its younger elements, the serving officers of the Cavalry Corps. Because current Club Rules do not require the proposing and seconding of new members for membership, he felt many young officers were not aware they had been elected to Club membership by virtue of their commissioning into the Corps. He stated his intention to visit all Cavalry Corps Units and meet their young officers before the next AGM. So far visits have been made to 1 Cav Sqn, 4 Cav Sqn and to the grouping of officers at the Army Reserve Cavalry Units concentration in the Curragh. These have proved very fruitful in terms of an increased awareness of the Club and its history, tradition and function. Visits will soon be arranged to the remaining units.

**Club Committee 2008 – 2009.** As we all know, the most fuel-efficient engines will run out of steam if they are not refuelled! Your Club's engine, its elected Committee, is seeking to ensure that it will continue to function efficiently and provide support to its members into the future. To this end we would ask all our members consider a "tour of duty" on the Committee! We would especially ask our younger members to come on board and give us the benefit of their enthusiasm, energy and vision – "ni neart go chuir le cheile". Any Committee member will be happy to discuss "conditions of service" with prospective volunteers.

**Mayo Peace Park, Garden of Remembrance.** As we go to press Capt Mick Bohan sent word of the official opening of the Mayo Peace Park, Garden of Remembrance **in Castlebar on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October '08 at 1400 hrs.** President Mary Mc Aleese will perform the official opening. The Garden will commemorate the men and women of Mayo killed in the world wars of the last century and Mayo-born Defence Forces personnel who were killed while on active service with United Nations forces abroad.

**Finally,** if you have not yet managed to make it to one of our Club-organised events this year we would hope to meet up with you on **Cavalry Memorial Day** in the **Curragh on Saturday 06 September next.** Until then.....

Our very best wishes to all,

**Ken, Dick, Damien, Bob, Mick, Brendan and Rory.**

20 August 2008.