

THE STAFF GALLOPER

INCORPORATING
"THE SHAMROCK"

Forth Coming Events

Cavalry Memorial Weekend Saturday 9th May / Sunday 10th May 2009

See notes on page 2.

Battle of the Hitler Line Celebration and Commemoration May 2009

The Hitler line weekend will be held in Limavady during the weekend 22nd – 24 May 2008

See notes on 2

Combined Irish Regiments Association Weekend (CIRAssn)

Saturday 13th / Sunday 14th June 2009

More information concerning the CIRAssn may be obtained from Colonel David Maitland-Titterton

Remembrance Sunday 2009

See below

Congratulations

Honours

Mrs. Joan Christie OBE LL. The widow of the late Colonel Dan Christie was appointed as Her Majesty The Queen's Lord Lieutenant for the County of Antrim in October 2008. This accolade follows a lifetime of public service. We in the North Irish Horse are especially proud of her as she is following in the foot steps of Colonel The Lord Raymond O'Neill, thus keeping this distinguished appointment within the Regimental family.

Colonel The Lord O'Neill KCVO TD. In the New Year's Honours List 2009 it was announced that Colonel The Lord O'Neill is to be dubbed as Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO). Colonel Raymond joined the NIH in June 1954. He subsequently commanded both D Sqn in 1967 and the Cadre 1969. He was appointed Honorary Colonel of the Regiment in 1986 until 1991.

Promotions 2008

SSGT RC Davidson to WOII	B (NIH) Sqn QOY
SGT A Johnson to SSGT	B (NIH) Sqn QOY
CPL DJ Massey to SGT	B (NIH) Sqn QOY
Sig J Booth to LCPL	69 (NIH) Sig Sqn
Sig H Wilson to LCPL	69 (NIH) Sig Sqn

Appointments

Lieutenant Colonel NC Tougher NIH TD. On relinquishing the appointment of Commanding Officer of the Queen's University Officer Training Corps in November 2008 Colonel Nick assumed the appointment of Detachment Commander; The Joint Civil / Military Liaison Group. This is a prestigious National TA appointment.

Remembrance Sunday (continued from column 2)

Other events. Full details of all Remembrance events will be published nearer to the occasion

Please try to give the events your support.

"We Must Not Forget Them"

Out And About

The North Irish Horse Flag is kept flying high by both the Sabre Squadron and Signal Squadron. Great demands are being placed on the Reserve Forces to support the Regular Army in its deployment in all theaters of operation. The North Irish Horses continues to make a valuable contribution to this Reserve Forces commitment.

Afghanistan

SSGT Colin Ritchie	69 (NIH) Sig Sqn R Sigs
SGT Frank Kelly	B (NIH) Sqn QOY
Tpr John Hamill	B (NIH) Sqn QOY

Cyprus Operation Toscar

SSGT IJ Palmer	69 (NIH) Sig Sqn R Sigs
LCPL C George	69 (NIH) Sig Sqn R Sigs
Sig G Kyle	69 (NIH) Sig Sqn R Sigs
Sig J McBeth	69 (NIH) Sig Sqn R Sigs

Be Safe Stay Safe

Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2009

Belfast City Hall. The Secretary has been advised that the Belfast City Hall should be available for the traditional wreath laying ceremony on Sunday 8th November 2009.

London Whitehall. Several Regimental Association members residing in Ulster have indicated to the Editor that they are considering attending the Cenotaph Parade in London to give support to Colonel David Maitland-Titterton. Colonel David was the only NIH member on parade last year. Even so he managed to get the Regiment a mention during the BBC TV commentary. Any other members resident in England or Ulster who would like to consider giving the Regiment their support at any of the remembrance events in London should contact the Regimental Secretary, (Continued foot column 1)

Cavalry Memorial Weekend 2009

English Branch Dinner. The English Branch dinner will be held in the Victory Services Club on Saturday 9 May 2009. Full details will be distributed in a Staff Galloper Supplement to be published in early April. However, to give some idea of what is in store for those attending; times approximate, the bar is scheduled to open at 1800 hours to give all attending time to meet and make new friends. Dinner to be served at approximately 1900 hours. The bar remains open for a considerable time after the dinner.

The Honorary Colonel, Colonel Colin McDonald, the Association Chairman Gareth Baillie and Colonel David Maitland-Titterton the Chairman English Branch are looking forward to meeting as many members as possible.

Colonel David has laid on an impressive menu at a modest price of circa £35. It is anticipated that the dining fee will include a glass of claret and port.

This year the Regimental Association is extending an invitation to the other Queen's Own Yeomanry constituent Regimental Associations. This is an informal invitation to offer hospitality to our comrades in the other Associations.

Unfortunately over the years the numbers attending this dinner have declined, so please try to make it this year. You will enjoy the occasion..

The Combined Cavalry Memorial Parade. The Annual Combined Cavalry Memorial Parade will take place in Hyde park on Sunday 10th May 2009. The salute this year will be taken by HRH The Duke of Kent.. The parade assembles between 1000 - 1030 hours alongside the Broadwalk near Hyde park Corner. The North Irish Horse parade behind the Queen's Own Yeomanry OCA Banner. The parade falls in at 1055 hours and marches off at 1100 hours precisely.

Battle of the Hitler Line

Commemoration Parade and Church Service

This year the Battle of the Hitler Line Church Service and Parade will be held in Limavady on Sunday 24 May 2009. By the kind permission of Lieutenant Colonel Stewart McConnell R Signals the Commanding Officer of 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment the parade will be held in the Edenmore Road TAC.

Major Clifford Montgomery the Squadron Commander of 69 (NIH) Signal Squadron has kindly agreed to host the event and together with Captain Rodney Smyth will organize all the Military aspects of the Church Service and Parade.

Canon Sam McVeigh TD CF has kindly given his permission to hold the Church Service in his Parish Church.

An administrative order will be published by 69 (NIH) Sqn and all the relevant details will be passed to Association members in April 2009.

Major George Wylie Chairman of the N West Branch has kindly undertaken to organise the reception and family lunch.

North West Branch Dinner

The NW Branch Dinner will be held on Saturday 23 May 2009 in the Broomhill Hotel Londonderry. Please make a note in your diary and give the NW Branch your support. George Wylie and his team look forward to seeing as many as possible at the dinner.

In Memorium

Colonel Alexander James (Sandy) Cramsie. November 2008

Colonel Sandy was commissioned into the QRIH and served as adjutant of the NIH in 1966 to 1969. His connection with the NIH goes back a long way as his father Lt Colonel AJH Cramsie OBE DL JP had previously commanded the Horse 1956 - 1959. Colonel Sandy's association with the Regiment was somewhat unique, inasmuch as he commanded the QOY from 1981 to 1984 and was appointed as Honorary Colonel of 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment (V) from 1991 to 2001. Sandy was a true friend of the Regiment and an archetypical Cavalryman.

Colonel Daniel Monroe (Dan) Christie. December 2008

Colonel Dan gave a lifetime of service to the North Irish Horse. He served in "A" Squadron and commanded "D" Squadron in 1971 and the Cadre in 1974. Colonel Dan was appointed Honorary Colonel in 1998 until 2003. It was during Colonel Dan's stewardship that in the face of drastic cuts and the reorganisation of the Reserve Forces the Regiment faced the very real threat of disbandment. It was down to Colonel Dan's management, leadership and political acumen that both the Sabre Squadron and the Signal Squadron survived. During this troubled period of the Regiment's History the Regiment celebrated "A Hundred Years of Service" the success of the year of celebration was in no small way down to Colonel Dan's drive and enthusiasm. The Colonel a Horseman to the end most certainly "Rode his country straight".

OBITUARIES

The Editor can only publish obituaries if he receives as much detail as possible. Both the Editor and A Hard-Ryder are concerned that Regimental casualties are not being passed to the Secretary. Please try to keep the Secretary informed. It is most unfitting if we allow former members of the Regiment to slip from the saddle unnoticed.

Association Membership

The Regimental Association membership stand at 380. Unfortunately only 214 members are on the mailing list. All these members were issued with the new membership cards in September 2007. The residential breakdown of those on the mailing list is:

■ Northern Ireland / ROI	165
■ England / Malta	46
■ Australia / Canada / USA	3

If you know of any former members of the North Irish Horse who are not receiving communications from the secretary please provide them with my address and ask them to contact me.

It is worthy of note that we have 35 WW II veterans in the Regimental Association.

The Regimental Association

Reports from the Chairmen

The Association Chairman's Report

The Chairman Andy Deans thanked the all the Committee members for their support during the past year and acknowledge the amount of work that went on in the background to keep the Regimental Association alive and ticking. He also thanked the members who gave up their time to attend Regimental Association events. He stressed that he was aware of the cost in both time and money, especially when traveling to events outside Ulster. He also acknowledged the debt the Association owes to the serving Squadrons and their permanent staff, without their help we could not survive.

The North West Branch

The Chairman Major George Wylie reported that 2008 had been yet another year of successful activity in the NW. The Branch is now holding regular meetings in the Victoria Hall, Spencer Road, Waterside. A contingent from the Branch had attended the RAF Battle of Britain Commemoration parade and church service on 14th September 2008, in St. Columb's Cathedral. Several members of the NW Branch had joined in with members of 69 (NIH) Sqn, R Sigs, to represent 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment in a visit to the Tipperary Trust Parade and Memorial Service in Tipperary on 26th / 28th September 2008. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the NW Branch in Londonderry and Limavady on Remembrance Sunday 9th November. Looking forward Major George confirmed that the NW Branch would be holding the NW Branch Hitler Line Dinner in May 2009; full details will be included in the Regimental Association "News Letter" prior to the event. George concluded by telling the meeting that he had been informed that the NW Branch now had 75 members registered on the NW Branch Roll of Members.

The English Branch

The Chairman Colonel David Masitland-Titterton and Charles Jeffery the Branch Secretary had tendered their apologies for not attending the AGM. Colonel David Maitland-Titterton had sent a message of greeting to all present at the meeting and reunion dinner. Colonel David also extended his thanks to all in the Regimental Association resident in Ulster for the support they had given the EB during the past year. Although very few in number the EB were doing their utmost to represent the Regiment at as many events in London as they could. The EB had also managed to get TV coverage of the NIH participation in the Remembrance Cenotaph Parade in Whitehall. Colonel David also confirmed that the Branch had already booked the Victory Services Club for Cavalry Memorial Dinner on Saturday 9th May 2009 and looked forward to welcoming a strong contingent from Ulster for both the dinner and parade.

The Secretary's Comments

The Secretary took the opportunity to reiterate the Chairman's remarks and thanked the permanent staff for all their help and understanding during the past year. The two Squadron Chief Clerks were also thanked. The Secretary mentioned that he was very conscious of the fact that his constant requests for assistance must be tiresome for the squadron office staff.

The meeting was then told that the Secretary's main concern was the fact that there still appeared to be far too many former members of the Regiment who for one reason or another had lost contact. He urged that it is up to each and every member to do their bit to rectify this situation. Whilst WOII Colin Davidson B Squadron and SSGT Colin Ritchie 69 Squadron are doing their best to recruit new members from the serving squadrons, membership is inevitably going to be on the decline during the next two or three years.

The secretary indicated that he was waiting with interest to see Captain Henry Moore's Report and Recommendations on the restructuring of the Regimental Association. The Secretary expressed an opinion that a review was long over due and the organisation of the Committee was not adequate to meet the challenges that will inevitably face the Regimental Association during the next two or three years. The Committees are too big and the geographic distribution of the committee members does not relate to the geographic distribution of the members..

Only time will tell but we must plan for survival before it is too late.

Honorary Colonel's Address

The Honorary Colonel and President, Colonel Colin McDonald thanked the Chairman for affording him the opportunity to say a few words. He promised to keep the address short as he preferred to give his report and State of the Nation Speech at the Association Dinner. Colonel Colin said that during his first six months as Hon Colonel he had been delighted at what he had seen. He could only conclude from his initial observations that both the Regimental Association and the serving squadrons were in good heart. Nonetheless, he intimated that he was concerned for the future, as there was still change in the air for the serving squadrons and that yet another review of the Reserve Forces was in process. This together with natural reduction in membership of the Association due to old age meant that we must consider how best the Regimental Association can be structured to meet the demands of the future. Henry Moore's report and review on the structure of the Regimental Association was now in his hands and he would give it very careful consideration and seek the advice and approval of the Trustees before making any recommendations to the Chairman to be placed before the Regimental Association. The Colonel concluded by saying it was an honour to be the Honorary Colonel and that he looked forward to enjoying everyone's company at the Dinner.

Association Officers and Committee

The Chairman Resigns

The Chairman announced that after much heart searching he had decided that he did not wish to carry on as Chairman of the Regimental Association. He stated that his reasons were personal and that it was with great regret. He was pleased to announce that his Vice-Chairman Gareth Baillie had agreed to take over a year early and took the opportunity to wish Gareth a happy and successful term of office. He also thanked all members of the Regimental Association for their support during the past year and wished them and their families all the very best for the coming years. The Chairman then announced that it was his duty to ask the meeting to accept Gareth Baillie as the new Chairman..

Our New Chairman

The New Chairman Gareth Baillie thanked the retiring Chairman for all his hard work not only during his tenure as Chairman but also in the preceding years when he had done so much for the Regimental Association whilst secretary of the North West Branch. Gareth asked the meeting to acknowledge Andy's service with a round of applause.

Gareth currently lives in Northampton and served as the Association Secretary before having to resign to take up a post in the Northampton Constabulary.

Association Officers

The President

The Honorary Colonel, Colonel Colin R McDonald TD

Vice Presidents

Colonel The Lord O'Neill KCVO TD

Colonel James F Leslie TD DL

Colonel Richard J Gordon TD

The Chairman

Gareth Baillie Esq

Vice-Chairman

WS Brown Esq

Treasurer

Captain GH Moore CBE TD

Secretary

Major (Retd) RJ Kirk

Regimental Committee

T Crothers, R Ewart, P Hull, CTR Jeffery, C Davidson, Col D Maitland-Titterton, Lt Col RJ Moore, G Kelly, G Baillie. (9 members)

Benevolent Committee

N Allen, WS Brown, Lt Col NC Tougher, B Houston, RG Johnson, F McCaughan, C McEvoy, GH Moore, RJ Kirk, G Wylie, N Orr. (11 members)

Regimental History and Research

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Maj General EVM Strickland CMG DSO OBE MM

Lt Colonel EVM Strickland served with and in the North Irish Horse throughout the North African and Italian campaigns during WWII. And he commanded the Regiment during the battle for the Adolf Hitler Line.

General Strickland's son Tim Strickland is currently researching and compiling his father's biography. Tim would be most grateful if any members of the Regiment particularly those who served with General Strickland during his time with the NIH could contact him. It could be that they have anecdotes, photographs or other source material that could help with his research.

Tim can be contacted at:

Tim Strickland, Church Farm House, Ightfield House, WHITCHURCH, Shrops, SY13 4NU.

e-mail.hawklandconsulting@nwclub.net

Mr CASEY NIH WWII

The following request for information appeared in the RBL "Legion" Spring 2009 issue.

If you have any information about Mr Casey who served in the NIH during WWI please contact Mr Casey (Jr) who would like to know more about his father's time in WWII and his NIH service in particular.

Please write to Mr Casey

c/o Chris Hoey, 48 Whitechurch Avenue, Ballyboden, Dublin 16. ROI.

This request was brought to Hard-Ryder's attention by Jon Boyd of Artigarvan, Strabane. Many thanks Jon

Editors note: No Christian Name was given in the article.

Useful Numbers

SSAFA Forces Help 0845 1300 975

Royal British Legion 08457 725 725

Veterans Agency 0800 169 2277
(Overseas) +44 1253 866043

Army Personnel Centre (historical disclosures)
0845 600 9663

In the event that you find errors the editor apologises on behalf of A Hard-Ryder, who is as usual to blame. Both Hard-Ryder and the editor would like to thank Jon Boyd and Colonel Jimmy Eaton for their contribution and assistance. The editor will make every effort to publish the Staff Galloper at regular intervals.