

COMBINED IRISH REGIMENTS ASSOCIATION



Minutes of:

- 1. AGM 2008-2009; and**
- 2. Quarterly Meeting held on 18th October 2009 at the Civil Service Club, London SW1**

Members Attending

Col. DHSL Maitland-Titterton, (NIH) Chairman; J.A. McNeish, (RUR) Vice-Chairman, Peter Scott, Secretary; A.N. Shooter, (RUR); David Ball (Leinster Reg. Asscn); K. Hyland (LIR/RUR); Nigel Wilkinson (LIR), M.S. Wallis (R. Innisk.F). Committee.

F. Adlington (Faughs), K. Austin (Innisk DG), J. Ball (Leinster Reg.Asscn), E.G. Bryant (Leinster Reg. Asscn), K. Bryant (Faughs), W.A. Byrne (R.Innisk.F.), James Clayton(RUR), R.R. Crampton (Faughs/R.Innisk.F), Fred Dewberry (R.Innisk.F), Don Dickson (Leinster Reg.Asscn), Fintan Donohoe (RUR), Sid Dunning (R.Innisk.F), J. Fay (Faughs/R.Innisk.F), M.J. Foster (Associate), CSGT J. Gavin (IG), D.L. George (Leinster Reg.Asscn), Captain P.A.Geraghty (I.G.), T. Goodman (LIR), Felix Grant (Irish Defence Forces), A. Hayward (RUR), D. Hope (Faughs), Jim Ireson (Faughs and R.Innisk.F), Peter Kelly (RUR), SGT. T. Landy (United Nations Defence Forces), P. Larrigan (R.Innisk.F), S. Levy (Queens), R. Maile (Faughs), T. Maguire (R.Innisk.F), Leslie McCrea (R. Innisk.F and RUR), Jim McDonnell (I.G.), J. Moody (RUR), V. Needham-Crofton (R.Innisk.F), Mike O'Leary (RUR), R. Pearce (R.Innisk.F), Len Rees (R.Innisk.F), F. Shaw (R.Innisk.F), A.J. Smith (Faughs), J. Smith (R.Innisk.F), R.W. Stopher (8th KRIH), B. Summerfield (8th KRIH), T. Surgeoner (RUR), Col. P. Walton (Leinster Reg.Asscn), John Webb (Faughs).

Apologies for absence

J. Duffy, P. Drummond, N. Holland, Vic Kenchington, John Kimmins, P.Fitzpatrick, W. Briers, Sharron Patten, J. O'Brien, Bill Roche, Maura and Bob Kilford, D. O'Morchoe, D. Ward, P. Clarke, Charlie O'Leary, Roy Ball, Harry Hogan, Ian Lowe, Noel Cullen, Com. Mick McGonnach, John Howard, Sean Cooke, Barry Nugent, Col. Tommy Pace, Charles Hoar, Mr.and Mrs. J. McGaughey, Pat Murphy, John Reynolds, Chris Birmingham, Ron Holland, Ted Read, John Robinson, George Ralph, Tony Munro.

1. Obituaries

The Secretary read a list of members and friends of the Association or members of the Irish Regiments known to the Association who have recently died.

Fusilier Jim Cullen

The meeting stood in silence in the memory of fallen comrades.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Chairman mentioned that due to computer software problems the Minutes of the last meeting were not available, however the Chairman ran through his notes of the last meeting and there were no matters arising.

3. Accounts Review

The current account Bank Balance at the end of the accounting year was presented to the meeting as were the Income and Expenses account for the year ending 31st August 2009. The accounts were approved and adopted by the meeting. There is a healthy balance shown on that account however the Secretary did mention that one had to keep an eye on expenditure, particularly where the preparations for the June Parade are concerned.

4. RBL Remembrance Parades 5th - 8th November 2009

The Chairman went through the arrangements for both the 5th November, Westminster Abbey Field of Remembrance and St. Patricks Chapel and the 8th November, Cenotaph march past. Dennis Hope (Royal Irish Fusiliers) was nominated to stand in front of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Cross at the Field of Remembrance. If there are standard bearers available on either day George Ralph is to take charge. The Secretary mentioned that he had tickets available from Jeff Jeffrey, (North Irish Horse) and would distribute these nearer the time.

5. Christmas Gathering

David Ball was pleased to confirm the arrangements for this year's Christmas gathering with entertainment by Annie the Vera Lynne singer.

6. SITREP

The Sitrep Editor Jamie McNeish mentioned that he only had two articles at present and the matter would be reviewed in 2010 as postage and printing costs were quite expensive.

7. Association Website

Don Dickson helpfully gave an update as to the use and maintenance of the Association Website. The meeting was very grateful to him for his expertise.

8. Election of Officers

This is done on a two year basis and consequently did not fall to be dealt with at this AGM and will next be dealt with at the AGM in October 2010.

9. Any other business

(1) Tipperary Remembrance

The Chairman gave an account of the Tipperary Parade which he attended where there were fewer than a dozen people on parade. It was thought to be a worthwhile but very expensive trip and our Membership is not honour bound to attend however we do know that we are made very welcome when we do.

(2) Association Christmas Card

This was further discussed and it is apparent that we have not yet decided upon the matter with potential designs, messages and indeed the cost of the distribution and production. The meeting voted to prepare our own Regimental Christmas Card for next year.

(3) Col. Sgt John Gavin Irish Guards gave a very interesting account of the up to date position with regard to training and preparation for the next tour to Iraq and the very warmest wishes of the meeting were given to John and his brethren within the Regiment. John mentioned that there were presently 80 members of the Battalion in Afghanistan assisting with the training of Afghan personnel. His colleague Simon Robinson had been injured, Lance Corporal Hill had died. The Battalion goes next year to Kenya in February or April and the rest of the summer until October they will be in Afghanistan again. Four guards are going on the 2010 Trooping of the Colour, the first time since the late 1960's. Mention was made of the presentation of new colours at Windsor.

(4) Barry Summerfield of Kings Royal Irish Hussars mentioned that next year (2010) was the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War and there would be a revisit out to Korea with General Swindleon in charge.

(5) Alan Hayward Royal Ulster Rifles mentioned that at the last meeting of his local Royal British Legion in Eastbourne an instruction had been given that standard bearers would no longer wear their Veterans Badge and asked that the Royal British Legion be written to expressing disappointment.

(6) Reg Pearce proposed to the meeting that we have a piper available at the next meeting to assist with our Social after the meeting. Terry Goodman kindly offered to assist.

(7) Len Rees mentioned that Ted Read had been unwell and very best wishes were conveyed to Ted and his family.

(8) John Webb (Faughs) addressed the meeting with regard to the cutbacks in training that were going on and how they were deplorable. He suggested a reduced size of our SITREP Magazine. He also mentioned his disquiet at the Daily Mail Article concerning the Union Jack doormat.

(9) Mention was made of the Korean War Memorial in Belfast moving from Ballymena to City Hall and that there would be a service on the 25th April 2010 with the Parade in Belfast, the Royal Ulster Rifles being the guests.

(10) Kevin Hyland addressed the meeting with regard to the Parade next June. If any members cannot march can they please find their own way down to the Cenotaph and stand ready. Sid Dunning mentioned he would be standing by Downing Street with the Royal Irish Rangers Standard.

- (11) David Ball thanked the meeting for its support for the Leinster Regiment Association trip. They had a great weekend, laid wreaths and the Menin Gate and were made very welcome by the Belgium Underground Association.
- (12) Hedley Mallock addressed the meeting with a very interesting account of First World War execution of Munster Fusiliers and villagers and whilst this took some time to work through it was quite evident how Hedley had researched the matter fully and the meeting also was appreciative of his obvious commitment and sincerity to the subject.
- (13) Colonel Peter Walton mentioned a forthcoming commemoration of 1914 and the old Regular Army which was all but slaughtered by the end of that year. He is hoping to organise a trip to Mons in 2010, further details to follow.

10. Date of next meeting

21st February 2010

Meeting closed.