

# The Northern Mick

Autumn/ Christmas  
2007 Edition

## Sponsored by Billy Gray Taxis

### The Safe Return of the Irish Guards

#### *Special points of interest:*

- Battalions Safe Return
- The death of Fergal
- Annual dinner
- March through Liverpool
- General gossips

The end of November has seen the safe return of the Irish Guards from Iraq.

The Regiment were involved in various duties throughout Iraq including attachments to 4 RIFLES Battle Group in Basra Palace; No 2 Company acted as Protection Force for Lt Gen Bill Rollo, the Senior British Military Office before handing over to No 1 Company.

No 2 Company joined Badger Group in Monitoring, Mentoring and Training the Iraqi 14th Division.

The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Micheal O'Dwyer, did comment that the moral of the battle group was maintained by the quality of their food and what an amazing job the cooks do.

A dinner to mark the QM's, David Ryan and Tech QM's, Paddy Shields 32 years in the

#### **The Father John Thompson & Canon Anthony Hawley Trophies**

This year saw the first presentation of the two trophies donated by the branch in honour of Father John Thompson (The Parish Priest of St Francis De Sales) and Canon Anthony Hawley (Canon Treasurer & Acting Dean of Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral). The Canon Anthony Hawley Trophy was presented by Sgt Paul Patterson (Recruiting Sgt & serving member on the Committee) to Callam Haslam. (pictured right)

Army was held. Paddy's come a long way since he taught Joanne Lumley how to make shoes out of her bra !

The Irish Guards Singers will be joining the Battalion in Aldershot on 12th December for their Christmas church service, prior to embarking on some well deserved leave.

The Battalion will be on leave until 14th January 2008 and we wish them our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

#### ***The Regimental Mascot—Fergal***

***We were sorry to hear of the premature death of Fergal, the Regimental Mascot. Drummer Colin Luther Davis had brought Fergal to Liverpool on numerous occasions to attend Association events and he had a fantastic temperament, Colin was well behaved too.***



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## Irish Guards Memorial Stone in Liverpool



The Irish Guards Association—North of England Branch will be unveiling a memorial stone in St John's Garden, Liverpool on the 2nd February 2008. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Michael O'Dwyer, has consented to the Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour being paraded in Liverpool together with an Escort provided by No 1 Company and the Regimental Band. Canon Anthony Hawley has graciously agreed to conduct a service at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, assisted by Father John Thompson and the Irish Guards Singers at 10 am. After the service the Irish Guards and Band will form up, together with the Irish Guards Cadets and Association members and proceed

to March to St George's Platteau via Rodney Street, Brownlow Hill and Lime Street. The Lord Mayor and other VIP's will take the salute as the Guard passes St George's Hall.

On arriving at St John's Garden, the Escort and Band will form up on Path behind St George's Hall and Canon Hawley will dedicate the memorial prior to it's unveiling by Major General Sir Sebastian Roberts.

There will be a Civic Reception in St George's Hall hosted by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, together with invited Civil Dignitaries. Many councils have been criticized for ignoring returning troops, however Liverpool's response

is to the welcome the 'Micks'.

The Regiment were granted the "Freedom of the City of Liverpool" in 2000 and as 2008 will be Liverpool's Capital of Culture year it is a fitting tribute to both the Regiment and the City.

Limited numbers will be invited to join the Lord Mayor's Reception in St George's Hall.

Members of the Association can apply to the Secretary for a ticket for them and their spouse, not all applicants will be successful and **Stamped Addressed Envelopes are a necessity.**

**No ticket no entry—Paid up association members will receive priority on applications.**

## North of England Branch St Patrick's Day Celebrations

The Branch's St Patrick's Day Celebrations will take place on Saturday 16th March 2008.

Once again Canon Hawley has kindly agreed to conduct a service in Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, assisted by Father John Thompson and the Irish Guards Singers.

The Service will commence at 10:00 am and presentation of Shamrock at 11:00 am. Later followed by a Buffet at the Adelphi Hotel.

The Lord & Lady Mayor of Liverpool; The Lord Lieutenant & Ronald Muirhead; The Minister for Veterans Derek Twigg MP; Eddie O'Hara MP and Peter Kilfoyle MP have already accepted our invitations to join us.

This year the cost of the buffet is £12.00 per head. Tickets from the Treasurer, John Roche.

## 2008 Annual Dinner

**The 2008 Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 17th May 2008 at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.**

**The Cost of the dinner is held at £ 25.00 per head and includes entertainment and wine for the toasts, wives and guests are welcome.**

**Tickets are available from John Roche, Honorary Treasurer.  
The Treasurer  
11 Southgate Close  
Croxteth Park  
Liverpool  
L12 0JN**

The Branch now has it's own web site, which can be found at [www.northernmicks.co.uk](http://www.northernmicks.co.uk)

We are looking for sponsors who may wish to have a link to their website for a small annual fee, which includes the set up of your link.

Should you wish to, then contact the Secretary, Ken Owen.

SEASONS  
GREETING  
TO ALL OUR  
READERS.

## Your Committee and further News.

A E French—Chairman

Major RAD Kelly MBE—Vice Chairman

Ken Owen—Honorary Secretary

John Roche—Honorary Treasurer

Eric Roberts—Welfare Officer

Ron Scott—PR

Peter Lee

Gerry O'Neil

Tim Fitzgerald

Joe Worth—***Standard Bearer***

Sgt Paul Patterson—Serving Member

The Branch can be contacted at

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Website www.northernmicks.co.uk

The committee welcomes the return of Tim Fitzgerald, now that the meetings have returned to a Wednesday, they no longer conflict with other interests that Tim has.

Major RAD Kelly MBE represented the Branch at the Association AGM in London, prior to the London Branch Dinner.

At the recent Association AGM, it was stressed that Association ID cards are a necessity for members, future events on Military Establishments will require them. A passport sized photograph and date of birth are required. I do hold photographs of Bill Ashley; George Hynds; F Brierley & Brian Cadman without DOB.

The Committee of the Association AGM upheld the Branch's decision to suspend Ged Burgess and he has been expelled from The Irish Guards Association.

*Major Kelly, Vice Chairman, has written to Lieutenant Colonel Michael O'Dwyer on 25th November as follows:*

*"I am writing to you in my capacity as Vice Chairman North of England*

***branch of the Association on behalf of all our members, to welcome you and the battalion back to the UK after your tour in Iraq.***

***During your tour you have all been remembered daily in our prayers for your safe return. We were all sorry to hear of the deaths that occurred and also the injuries suffered by members of the battalion. I trust that all the injured are doing well and will make a full recovery. Please pass on the branches regards.***

The annual Fallen Comrades service took place on 17th November, the Irish Guards Singers were in excellent voice, the service was conducted by Father John Thompson and Canon Anthony Hawley. Joe Worth carried the Branch Standard and Lawrence Liddy the Canon Casey Cross. There was an excellent turnout of parishioners but unfortunately not a great many Micks. Kevin Farrell was amongst those who turned out, with his better half Jackie, strange to think Kevin is already a pensioner! Drummer Colin Luther-Davis and Guardsman John Collins carried the wreathes.

***The Members of the Branch wish to convey our best wishes to RQMS Les McNaughton on the news of his forthcoming promotion. Big Les will take over next year as RSM of New College at RMAS.***

Lt Col Robin Bullock Webster is due to hand over the reins of Regimental Adjutant shortly to Lt Col Gorman, we wish him for the future and thank him for his support and loyalty to the branch.

The Branch website is now up and running, there is more work to be done to bring it up to date and I apologise for any errors, I

would confirm that our Branch Standard Bearer is Joe Worth and his title is not shared by either of the other two gentlemen mentioned on the website. Joe provides great support to the Welfare Officer, Eric Roberts attending funerals of our Fallen Comrades for which the committee are greatly appreciative of.

*There has been a lot of discussion recently on various websites regarding the issue of membership fees and journal cost. I believe as a branch we are value for money; our annual subscription charge is £5.00 per year, less than 10p per week. For that charge we provide (most times) four newsletters per year; the minutes and agenda of the AGM; wreathes for the funerals of our fallen comrades; wreathes for Remembrance Sunday and our fallen comrades services; the administration of the branch. We are lucky in the fact that most times the newsletter is sponsored, our membership numbers are just over 200, with only 90% paying their subscriptions last year. We do not require members to purchase annual sweepstake tickets or Christmas draw tickets and therefore should members wish to receive an annual journal they are required to purchase it @ £5.00, any excess from the sales of journals allows the branch to provide free journals to widows of that years fallen comrades; in 2007 the branch funded the St Patrick's Day celebrations in Liverpool, due to the compulsory purchase of our BAA shares; this year the event will be chargeable. Should any member not be content with the way the branch is administered, your options are - join the committee and have your say. The committee need new members; members who wish to push the branch forward and give up some time to ensure that happens*

**I n s i d e   S t o r y   H e a d l i n e**