

THE NORTHERN MICK

SPONSORED BY

**EPSTEIN'S GUEST HOUSE - 0151 281 8696
& BILL McNAUGHTON**

SPRING 2006

AGM 2006

The AGM was held on Monday 6th March in St Francis De Sales Parochial Club in Walton. The turnout was exceptional with 40 members attending. The members present decided to reselect the serving committee. The members also voted to give the Treasurer and Secretary tickets to the annual dinner, in recognition of their work during the dinner. There was a proposal to award an honorarium to the Secretary, which the current Secretary opposed, the proposal was thereby amended to agree to pay his out of pocket expenses. Our finances are looking very good, unfortunately due to ill health the Treasurer could not attend, Mr Ged Burgess accused the

committee of breaking Charity Commission rules (as he telephoned them, busy boy as he also rang the H&S and Fire Brigade) by having the Vice Chairman audit the accounts, two pints he has over looked, 1. we are not governed by Charity Commission rules and 2. The members voted at the previous AGM for Major Kelly to conduct the audit. It was mentioned that whilst Treasurer of the Ex Sub Branch Mr Burgess failed to have their accounts properly actioned, reminds me of people in glass houses.

However our shares in BAA have recently rocketed. The Secretary proposed that funds were used to subsidized transport to

visit the Battalion for St Patrick's Day next year, surprisingly this was overwhelmingly supported. A very important point raised at the AGM was the work done by our Welfare Coordinator, Eric Roberts. Eric ensures that coffin drapes appear at funerals, members are informed of the said funerals, Standard bearer is informed and transported, raffles are arranged at monthly meetings, he provides the provides the raffle prizes and sponsors our newsletters, he and his wife, Helen, sell raffle tickets at the dinner. As the Chairman mentioned at the AGM, we are indebted to Eric and Helen for their outstanding effort to the Branch and on a personal note, as Secretary his loyalty is greatly appreciated.

Www.huntforit.co.uk The new force in internet auctions and it's British and a future Northern Mick sponsor—check them out.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Annual Dinner*
- *AGM summary*
- *2nd Bn Tanks & Crew*
- *Yorkshire Corps of Drums*
- *Sponsors*
- *Back Page Poem*
- *Veterans Badge*
- *Huntforit*
- *Epstein's smoker*

ANNUAL DINNER 20TH MAY 2006

Well Gentlemen and Ladies, the main event of the year is fast approaching, yes the annual dinner at the Adelphi in Liverpool. Saturday 20th May and once again we are expecting a good turnout, so don't forget to book your ticket from John Roche, 11 Southgate Close, Croxteth Park, Liv-

erpool. L12 0JN. Tickets cost £25.00 per person and include wine and entertainment. Remember female guests are welcome, last years inaugural Ladies invitation was a great success and we hope to achieve similar this year. Guests who have accepted so far

are The Lord and Lady Mayor of Liverpool, The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside and Mrs Waterstone, Canon and Mrs Hawley and Warren and Pauline Bradley. Andy Coulter will be piping in the guests this year. Entertainment by 'Whiskey in the Jar'.

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OLD COMRADES ARE NOT FORGOTTEN BY THE MICKS



Gdsm Steve Sweeney, Big Les McNaughton, Gerry O'Neill and Frank Potts (sitting).

We were recently put in touch with Frank Potts, a former comrade from 1945—1953 who left the Micks as a Weapons Training Sergeant at Pirbright. Due to an illness Frank has had both his legs amputated. He can be seen regularly out and about in Kirkby wearing his Blazer and Regimental Badge but unfortunately no Brigade Tie, when Major Fabian Roberts found out that Frank needed a Tie he sprang into action. On a recent Recruiting drive in Liverpool, WO

2 (DSgt) Les McNaughton (The Senior Scouse NCO) and Gdsm Steven Sweeney visited Frank and on behalf of the Regiment presented him with a new Brigade tie and First Hundred Year Book. Franks reaction to Les was 'Christ lad your some bloody size' or words to that effect. Gerry O'Neill accompanied the visitors, as Gerry had been his instructor at the Depot, so now we know who to blame!

The Kirkby Extra ran this story and a picture in the April edition.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

KITCH 'N SYNC

WARREN BRADLEY

BILL McNAUGHTON

RONDAR
CONSTRUCTION

IRISH GUARDS
SINGERS

EPSTEIN'S GUEST
HOUSE

JOHN ROCHE

W J CARR

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING OUR NEWSLETTERS, THE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE IRISH GUARDS ASSOCIATION—NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

Have you ordered your dinner tickets yet?

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are still held across Merseyside at the following venues:

Port Sunlight

1st Thursday at the RBL from 7pm

Liverpool

3rd Wednesday at St Francis De Sales Parochial Club, Walton from 1pm

2nd Monday at Epstein's Guest House, Anfield Road from 7pm

Your support at these venues is appreciated and we need to spread the word to encourage other ex Micks to attend, association members or not. We are hoping in the near future to arrange social evenings at Epstein's, Brian Caldwell is always happy to see new faces visit-

ing his establishment. Epstein's is a Beatles Themed Guest House by Liverpool's Ground, in the house that was Brian Epstein's family home. Well worth a visit and also to have your photograph taken with a replica European Cup, for the Evertonians amongst you, that is a trophy you could win if you are the cream of Europe, dream on.

FALLEN COMRADES

The following comrades have passed away since the last newsletter:

Geoffrey Davenport

Joe Brown

John Joseph Currie

James Hynes

Thomas Slater

The condolences of the Members and Committee of the Branch go to their fami-

lies at this time.

Quis Separabit.

Eric Roberts, the Welfare Coordinator, needs input from members, if you know of a former colleagues who is either ill at home or has been admitted to hospital, please inform Eric so arrangements can be made for someone to visit them. If we don't know, we cannot help, sometimes just a telephone

call or card means a great deal to someone not well.

St Patricks Day 2007

The members who attended the AGM voted to use the Branch funds to attend St Patrick's Day at Aldershot in 2007. Please inform the Secretary if you are interested in participating, to judge possible numbers.

THE YORKSHIRE CORPS OF DRUMS

A group called 'The Yorkshire Corps of Drums' has recently been set up by Greg Tunesi BEM in Leeds. Greg describes them as a small friendly group of enthusiasts who enjoy playing traditional military music. Ranging in age from twenty-one to seventy-one. They undertake three or four engagements each year and meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Further details can be obtained from Greg Tunesi at Harewood Barracks, Regents Street, Leeds, LS7 1AT or email him at greg@tunesi.com.

DVD JOURNALS

RHQ are considering having a DVD compiled of all the Irish Guard Journals since the end of WW 2. The cost is expected to be in the range of £30 and would also include the 1st Hundred Year Book. Anyone who would support the idea should contact Major Bill Matthews, c/o RHQ to enable him to monitor the feed back.

VETERAN'S BADGE

The Minister of Defence, John Reid has extended the qualification date for the Veterans Badge to include all servicemen and women who served up to 1954, this will take in those who served up to Korea and in June it will be extended to 1956. In time it is intended to make it available to all veterans up to date. The MOD Veterans Agency are responsible for distribution of the badge. They can be contacted on 0800 169 2277, Textphone 0800 169

3485, email help@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk or write to Graham Taylor, Veterans Badge Office, Room 6108, Tomlinson House, Norcross, Blackpool, FY5 3WP or download an application form from www.veteransagency.mod.uk/vet_badge/vet_badge.htm. Some members of the Association have already received their badges.

2ND BATTALION—TANKS AND CREW 800TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS—2007

Alan McNeilly, who served in the 1970's, is compiling a list of all the Tanks and Crew that served with the 2nd Battalion during World War 2. If any member would like to contact him to forward any names and details he can be contacted by email on alanmneilly@ntlworld.com or contact the Secretary who will forward the details to him. All info appreciated.



Don't forget—John Roche is dealing with the dinner tickets—Don't miss out on this fantastic event.

Next year, 2007, sees Liverpool celebrating it's 800th Birthday of being granted City status. It is hope that the City Council will do the Regiment the honour of inviting them to exercise their freedom to March through the City. The publicity that Liverpool will generate in it's Birthday Celebrations and the publicity that the Irish Guards would generate would be beneficial to both

parties, it would be a spectacular event for Liverpool and a great recruitment aid for the Regiment.. The new Leader of Liverpool Council, Warren Bradley, is a supported of the Branch and newsletter sponsor, Warren is a serving Fireman with Merseyside Rescue and Fire Service, who have Norman Purchase as an Driving Instructor, no doubt the Insurance premiums are high.

EPSTEIN'S GUEST HOUSE

Not only has Brian Caldwell at Epstein's become a Northern Mick sponsor, he has now invited all serving and Ex Mick's to attend a 'Mick Smoker' at Epstein's Guest House, Anfield Road, Liverpool sometime in June 2006. The invitation will open to all Micks, be you serving, association members or not, Brian is not prejudice, just be a Mick. The date will be

announced soon, so watch this space. Epsteins has a number of double rooms available for bed and breakfast, call 0151 281 8696 to book a room for your next visit to Liverpool. Availability for match days, when the Mighty Reds play at home is very restricted, so book early. Epstein's is also convenient for those attending the Annual Dinner, Brian

and his party (includes Terry Smith) taxi in and out to the Adelphi.

www.huntforit.co.uk

The newest internet auction/search engine is now fully operational. Members should check it out as huntforit is lined up to become one of our sponsors.

Mick or Ex Mick

Frank Feeney from the West Midlands Branch has raised the point that the expression Ex Mick should only be used on death. The argument being that we are all Micks, some are still serving and some of us are no longer serving, however we are all still Micks..

Good point Frank.

What do you think ?

Answers on a postcard to Frank.

IRISH GUARDS ASSOCIATION -
NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH

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Merseyside

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The Committee consists of:

A.E. French—Chairman

Major RAD Kelly MBE—Vice Chairman

Ken Owen—Secretary

Brian Cadman—Treasurer

John Roche—Dinner Secretary

Eric Roberts—Welfare

Gerry O'Neill—PR

Ged Ruddock—Recruitment

Sgt John Parkinson—Serving Member

Tim Fitzgerald—Ron Scott

QUIS SEPARABIT.

The Back Page Poem

Who are those men who march so proud
who quietly weep, eyes closed, head bowed
These are the men who once were boys
Who missed out on youth and all it's joys

Who are these men with sorrowful look
who can still remember the lives that were took
These are the men who saw young men die
The price if peace is always high

Who are these men with aged faces
who silently count the empty spaces
These are the men who gave their all
who fought for their country, for freedom for all.

These are the men who in the midst of pain
whispered comfort to those who would not see again
These are the men who hands held tomorrow
Who brought back our future through blood, tears and sorrow

Who are these men who promise to keep
Alive in the their hearts the ones God holds asleep
These are the men to whom I promise again
Veterans, my friends, I WILL REMEMBER THEM.

*Best wishes and well done to Rosemary Hawley,
who has just completed a successful year as The
High Sheriff of Merseyside.*

RHQ & THE REGIMENT

Applications are now available for the 2006 Troop tickets, should any member require an application form, send a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary and the form will be sent to you.

Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. Following a recent announcement regarding the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal (PJM), Those awarded the the PJM may accept but should not wear the award. Further information can be obtained from Fred Burden, Membership Secretary, National Malaya & Bornea Veterans Association, 44 Meadgate Avenue, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, CM2 7LQ.

The Regiment are in the process of moving to Aldershot, now St Patrick's Day is out of the way.

The Regiment's football team has recently competed in the final of the Army Cup, unfortunately being beaten by 2 Royal Irish, could this be 'cos there is only one scouser in the team !

Lt Col Micheal O'Dwyer is now settled in as Commanding Officer, having taken over from Charlie Knaggs, and we send our good wishes to him and look forward to seeing him in May at our annual dinner and also best wishes to Charlie Knaggs on his promotion and new appoint-

ment.

I gather the lads are pleased with their new accommodation in Aldershot, single rooms only with barrack rooms being a thing of the past. All the old soldiers will be thing 'it wasn't like that in my day' thank god things change for the better, after all they have even stopped using the Lee Enfield, which will be a shock to Lawrence Liddy.

Have I mentioned the annual dinner lately ?

Tickets £ 25
from John Roche

Jack Doyle 1929-32

Ailbhe Maher of Mint Productions, 205 Lower Rathimnes Road, Dublin 6.

Tel: 00353 1 4913333

Is researching a documentary about Jack Doyle. Jack joined the Irish Guards in 1929 at 17 years old. He became a very successful boxer and was bought out by a promoter in 1932 and turned professional. Jack was from Cobh, Co Cork. If any one remembers Jack or has any memories of him Ailbhe will be interested to hear them. Mint Productions produced the documentary 'All the Queen's Men' shown on RTE in 2002, about Irish men in the Irish Guards and Royal Irish.