

The Northern Mick

Spring Edition
February 2007

Special points of interest:

- St Patrick's Day
- The Annual Dinner
- The Regiment
- RHQ
- Ian Lucas
- Irish Guards Cadets
- Fergal
- West Midlands Branch
- Aden Remembrance



Inside this issue:

St Patrick's Day	1
Annual dinner	1
Ian Lucas	3
The Regiment Today	2
Regimental HQ	3
The Committee	4
West Midlands Branch	4

Sponsored by: Bill McNaughton

St Patrick's Day Celebrations

The branch this year will be organizing it's own St Patrick's Day celebrations in Liverpool. The programme of events are:

09:30 hrs

Coffee available at the Adelphi Hotel.

10:30—12:30 hrs

Shuttle bus service between the Adelphi and the Anglican Cathedral in operation. Provided to assist the less agile. Try and not use this service if you are fit and able.

11:00 hrs

Service in the Lady Chapel of the Anglican Cathedral conducted by Canon Anthony Hawley and the Irish Guards Singers.

11:30 hrs

Presentation of Shamrock by the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Dame Lorna Muirhead in the Cathedral car park.

12:30 hrs

Buffet in the Adelphi during which a presentation will be made to Father John Thompson in recognition of his support and assistance to the Branch and the Irish Guards Singers. The award is a cup engraved "The Father John Thompson Trophy" which will be awarded each year to the "Best All Round Pupil" at St Francis De Sales School and also features an Irish Guards Capstar.

The Cadet Corps of Drums and Pipe Band will provided the music at the presentation of Shamrock.

The Irish Guards Cadets from Crosby have been invited, together with the Lancashire Cadets from Ormskirk and Skelmersdale.

If the event is successful and members wish it, it is hoped that this could become an annual event, however a charge would have to be levied.

Major Roy Bevan will be on hand to photograph the event and we are led to believe that the Liverpool Echo will also be sending their photographer.

The Minister for Veterans, Derek Twigg, Peter Kilfoyle MP and Eddie O'Hara MP have all accepted our invitation to attend the celebration, however Peter can only attend the buffet and presentation to Father John, due to a prior engagement.

Annual Dinner 19th May 2007

Once again the annual dinner will be held in the Britannia Adelphi Hotel on 19th May 2007. The cost is held at £25.00 per head and it is hoped that more members will bring their wife/partner. The Duke of Abercorn has confirmed he will be attending again, as will

Major General Sebastian Roberts. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Joan Lang and her son Graham, the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Dame Lorna Muirhead and her husband Ronald will also be in attendance. Entertainment will be provided by "Whiskey in the Jar" and

"The King" should be dropping in to entertain. This year there will be a Charity auction of a Full Sergeant's Tunic, proceeds towards Ian Lucas, whose family are raising funds to fly him home after an accident in Tenerife. Ian served in the Mortars in the 90's.

The Regiment Today

*In case you
have forgotten,
Liverpool is
800 years old
this year.
Happy
Birthday
Liverpool*

First on the agenda is to wish Captain John Donaldson our congratulations on his commission and appointment as the Battalion Golf Pro, sorry I meant Families Officer and also congratulations to WO I Piers Lally on his appointment as RSM.

The Battalion recently returned from Operation Tropical Storm, a six week training programme under battle conditions in the jungles and mountains of Belize. The ex-

ercise was not to replicate Basra in the jungle but was about building a team.

An member of the Hogan family has now joined the Irish Guards, John Hogan from Netherley has now joined his Uncles, Sgt Michael and Gdsm James and Peter. The three Hogan brothers where the Escort to the Colour when the Regiment Trooped the Colour in 2005 and another Merseyside lad was the Ensign, 2Lt Ben Pennington.

The Battalion will be celebrating St Patrick's Day whilst on exercise. The Princess Royal, Princess Anne and the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Major General Sebastian Roberts, will be flying in to present them with shamrock and after lunch it is back to work.

The Battalion will be returning to Basra in the very near future and we wish them a safe tour and send them our best wishes.

The Annual General Meeting—19th February 2007

The AGM took place at St Francis De Sales Parochial Club on Monday 19th February. 19 members attended and the club steward, Trish, put on an excellent buffet. Amongst matters discussed were the accounts for 2006 which were audited by Major Kelly, an issue that the previous Treasurer is still unhappy with, although the members voted for this some three years ago. Major Kelly is acting treasurer until the end of June 2007, when the accounts will be audited and handed over to the new treasurer on 1st July 2007.

The members voted to re-elect the following committee members: Major Kelly—Vice Chairman; Ken Owen—Secretary; Eric Roberts—Welfare co-ordinator; Ron Scott—PR and Gerry O'Neill. The following were elected on to the committee: John Roche—Treasurer and Peter Lee—Membership. The previous Treasurer opposed Ken Own as Secretary but the vote went 15 for Ken Owen and 4 against and for Brian Cadman, 4 for and 15 against. The Secretary spoke to members about the continued sponsorship of

The Branch Newsletter and it's shared distribution with the West Midlands Branch, also about the use of the Internet. RHQ Irish Guards is only responsible for the Forum on the official web site and the use of Robbie Doyle's web site is entirely at peoples own choice. There is a warning regarding the content and bad language and by entering the site you accept it's usage. RHQ has no control over this site. Members were also informed of the order of events for St Patrick's Day, which are published on the front page.

IRISH GUARDS CADETS

Two units of the Lancashire Cadet Force are due to re-badge as Irish Guards Cadets. The units are based in Ormskirk and Skelmersdale. The Branch sends them our best wishes and hopes that members may call in to visit the cadets. Lt Col Dave Stewart of Lancashire Cadet Force has been working overtime to ensure that this rebadging occurs

and he and his Staff are looking forward to joining our numbers as associate members. The re-badging is due to take place on 1st April at Fulwood Barracks.

This will bring the total of Mick Cadets in the area to three and will hopefully encourage more cadets to consider a future with the Regiment.

ADEN REMEMBRANCE 10TH JUNE 2007

There will be a Remembrance Parade at the National Memorial Arboretum on 10th June 2007. This is to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Irish Guards who lost their lives in Aden. An invitation is extended to all members and their families to attend.

Further details from Paddy McGowan on 0121 243 5973

The Micks say thank you to Father John

Guardsman John Fay and Drummer Colin Luther Davis visited Liverpool on 19th February together with Fergal, the new Regimental Mascot. The Liverpool Echo wanted to run a story about our forthcoming presentation to Father John Thompson on St Patrick's Day. It was arranged that some members of the Branch and members of St Francis De Sales School would be photo-

graphed with Father John and the trophy, which will be awarded to the best all round pupil each year. The Adjutant, Captain JS Langton agreed that Fergal could attend, which delighted not only the pupils at St Francis De Sales but the staff.

The picture shows Drummer Luther Davis, Father John and the Star of the day, Fergal.



Regimental Headquarters

Changes are afoot at RHQ, it was not so long ago that RQMS Kev Mayne took over from Kev Farrell and now it is he's turn to move on. On to the London Regiment as Regimental Sergeant Major, to which we wish him well and thank him for his assistance. He will be replaced by Dean Crawford as the RQMS. Will Dean take over for a week and disappear sailing and then swan off on a nice cushy course. It must be a very hard life being RQMS at RHQ!

Lieutenant Colonel Robin Bullock Webster OBE will also be

stepping down in the autumn after ten years as the Regimental Adjutant.

We wish Colonel Robin all the best for the future, under his leadership Regimental Headquarters has gone through many changes, some good some bad, but all necessary, however he, Captain Vince McEllin and their staff must take great pride in the fact that they have overseen the Irish Guards Journal get better every year and the producing of all the journals on cd roms.

Captain The Hon Tom Orde

Powlette MC has taken over from Lieutenant JJJL Roberts, as Webmaster.

AcSM Simon Nicholl has recently been awarded the MSM.

Brian Andrews, an Ex Mick, was recently awarded the RVO.

Kevin 'Rocco' Farrell is now employed with a division of TNT, who are actively seeking drivers based at Speke Airport. If you are interested speak to the Secretary who will pass on your details to Rocco.

Ian Lucas—An Injured Mick

An ex Mick, Ian Lucas, from Seaforth was recently injured whilst working in Tenerife. Ian's family recently held a charity night in Lathom Hall, Seaforth and raised over £3k towards the cost of bringing him home and John Hyland has organized another for 1st March to be held at the RN

Club, Bowring Park. Ian was a Cadet at Crosby when they were rebadged to Irish Guards, under the watchful eye of John Roche and he went on to serve in the Mortar Platoon.

STOP PRESS—Ian's mum has informed me he is now home having been discharged

from Walton Hospital without proper assessment. And now has problems with his sight and memory. Ian and his mum still need help from the MICKS and should any of Ian's former comrades wish to visit him, they will be very welcome.

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- North of England Branch**

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Quis Separabit.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Arthur French—Chairman

Major RAD Kelly MBE—Vice Chairman

Ken Owen—Secretary

John Roche—Treasurer

Eric Roberts—Welfare

Ron Scott—PR

Peter Lee—Membership

Gerry O'Neill

Joe Worth—Standard Bearer

Inside Story Headline