

**THE NORTH IRISH HORSE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 24th September 2011
DUNMORE PARK TAC BELFAST**

MINUTE		ACTION
1	The Vice Chairman William Brown occupied the Chair. The Chairman Gareth Baillie-Stewart having tendered his apology. The Secretary reminded the meeting that Gareth now resided in Bangalore, India. <i>Secretary's note. The vice chairman will be referred to as the Chairman throughout these minutes.</i>	
2	Memoriam. The Chairman called the meeting to order to observe a short silence for comrades who had slipped from the saddle since the last AGM. The Secretary announced that nine casualties had been reported, he then read out their names and gave a short citation for each of the fallen; Connolly Anderson 2006, Douglas Binstead, June 2011, John Corry December 2010, Norman (Nobby) Hines June 2011, Raymond Hubbard December 2010, Jackson Reynolds November 2010, Jackie Stewart MM May 2008, Norman Sweetlove December 2010, Geoffrey Turner September 2011.	
3	Welcome and Apologies. The Chairman welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance. Twenty seven (27) members were present. Apologies both verbal and written had been received from thirty seven (37) members. A list of those submitting apologies was passed round the meeting. A lists of those attending and apologies received are attached to these minutes as Appendix "A"..	
4	<p>a. The Introduction of The New NIHRA Banner. The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to the new NIHRA Banner. The Chairman declared that it was an impressive piece of work and did credit to all who had been involved in its acquisition and production. Mr Andrew Thompson the leading light in the acquisition was asked to say a few words. Andrew (Drew) thanked the members of the Association for their support in acquiring the banner. Drew was nonetheless quick to explain that it had been a joint project and that special thanks were due to; Bracken Anderson for designing what was in fact a work of art and to James (Jim) Price for taking on board the logistics involved and negotiating the purchase. The Chairman then directed the Secretary to record a vote of thanks to all concerned. The Chairman's proposal was met with rapturous applause.</p> <p>b. Banner Administration and Control. The Chairman explained that the administration and control of the banner had been discussed at the Regimental Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2011. It is essential that to maintain the integrity of the Banner and to prevent misuse and abuse a set of guidelines must be in place. The Committee's deliberations resulted in a draft set of guidelines. A copy of the guidelines had been distributed on arrival to all members attending the AGM. A copy of the guidelines is attached as Appendix "B". The Chairman asked the Secretary to guide the meeting through the document.</p> <p>The Secretary read through the document and explained the reasons for each of the items included. The Secretary concluded by telling the meeting that all the points included had been agreed in principle by the Committee except paragraph 9 concerning "authorisation for use". The AGM agreed to leave this paragraph for the Committee to make a decision at a later Committee Meeting.</p> <p><i>Secretary's Note: This item to be brought forward to the next committee meeting.</i></p>	<p>Secretary. The vote of thanks has been duly recorded.</p>
5	Minutes of the AGM for 2010. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the minutes of the last AGM had been published on the Regiment's webpage and that printed copies had been distributed during this meeting's assembly. After giving the meeting time to deliberated the chairman asked for comments or	

	<p>observations from the floor. No comments or observations being received the Chairman asked for a proposal that the minutes of the AGM 2010 be passed as being a true record of that meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by: Major Mac McGowan. Seconded: WO2 Colin Davidson</p>	Passed
6	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2010 AGM. The Secretary advised the Chairman that there was only two matters arising from the previous minutes; Mr Gerry Chester's request for the Regimental History to be amended and additional names to be included on the North Irish Horse Roll of Honour. These items to be covered in minutes 7 and 8 Correspondence.</p>	
7	<p>Correspondence. The Chairman requested the Secretary to give details of the correspondence received and sent on behalf of the NIHRA. The Secretary continued and listed the correspondence.</p> <p>Received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A letter of thanks from the Yeomanry Benevolent fund for a gift of £500. b. A letter of thanks from the R Signals Benevolent fund for a gift of £500. c. A letter from Mr John Gifford apologising for his absence from the AGM and enclosing a donation of £25 for the Benevolent fund. The Secretary has responded to this letter and donation. d. Letters from Mrs Katrina Norton and Corporal Richard Norton pointing out that several names had been missed from the Staff Galloper's report on B (NIH) Sqn soldiers serving in Afghanistan. The Secretary has replied to both these letters with an apology. e. A raft of letters and e-mails from Mr Gerry Chester requesting amendments to the Regimental History "A hundred years of service" and to the Regiment's Roll of Honour WW1 and WW2. f. A raft of correspondence with Mr James Price concerning the purchase of the NIHRA Banner. <p>Despatched:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Letter to Belfast City Council requesting permission for the NIHRA to lay our wreaths at the Memorial Windows at an earlier time of 8.15 am. This request being to enable members of NHRA to travel to Dervock for the Dedication of the Banner ceremony. A letter was received from the City Council in reply granting permission. h. A letter to the Somme Museum / Association requesting permission for the NIHRA to apply for corporate membership of the Friends of the Somme Association. The application has been accepted. i. A letter to the Royal British Legion (N Ireland) requesting permission for the NIHRA Banner to participate in the RBL Festival of Remembrance in the Water Front Hall Belfast. An invitation was received and accepted. 	
8	<p>Correspondence relating to Mr G Chester (continued). The Secretary read all the correspondence referred to in minute 7 sub paragraph e. above. The Secretary further explained that the subject of the amendments to the Regimental History and additions to the Roll of Honour had been on going since circa 2009. Despite the fact that the Secretary had, on the proviso that Mr Chester produce authenticated evidence, offered all possible assistance to put matters right. To date Mr Chester has not produced the evidence requested by the Secretary.</p> <p>In response Mr Chester stated that both matters had been fully discussed with the Secretary and in his opinion they required no further verification. Mr Chester felt that too much time had been wasted and to allow more time was harming the Regiment's reputation within military history and heritage circles and that both issues should be rectified as quickly as possible. He added that such procrastination had cost the Regiment dear in the past. Mr</p>	

	<p>Chester claimed that the original Battle Reports appertaining to the WW2 North African campaign had been stolen from the RHQ in Dumore Park and that nothing had been done about it. He alleged that copies of the report were being circulated in Australia on a commercial basis.</p> <p>After further discussion Mr Chester asked if a NIHRA sub committee could be formed to investigate all the issues that had been raised.</p> <p>The President Col Colin McDonald intervened and advised the meeting that these matters concerned the ownership of the NIH's intellectual property and as such were the responsibility of the Regiment's Trustees. Mr Chester agreed that he would be satisfied if Colonel McDonald would place these issues before the Trustees for their attention.</p> <p>Secretary's note: <i>If any genuine military historian within the NIH who has academic aspirations would like to see the correspondence relating to this issue they may do so by arrangement with the Secretary. Copies of the correspondence will not be sent electronically.</i></p>	
9	<p>Confirmation forecast of events.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. London, 9th November Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey at 0930 hours. Westminster Cathedral, St Patrick's chapel at 1400 hours. b. Belfast City Hall, wreath laying 13th November at 0830 hours. c. Dervock Co Antrim Banner Dedication 13th November at 1030 hours. d. Cavalry Memorial Weekend London 19th and 20th May 2012. e. Dates and locations for other Regimental events for 2012 have to be confirmed. Details of all events will be announced in forthcoming News Letters. 	
10	<p>The Branch Chairmen's Reports.</p> <p>a. North West Branch. The Chairman Major George Wylie gave a comprehensive report on the Branches activities during 2011. A copy of his report is attached as Appendix "C".</p> <p>b. English Branch. Colonel David Maitland-Titterton having tendered an apology for not attending; had asked the Secretary to deliver a report on behalf of the English Branch. Colonel David thanked all the members of the NIHRA for their support during the past year. All members of the English Branch (EB) are well aware that the EB could not continue without the support of the members from N Ireland who at great expense travel to London to attend the EB Dinner and Cavalry Memorial Parade. It is in order to reduce expense that the EB Dinner in 2012 will be held in the Civil Service Club London. The objective of the EB is to reduce costs to members whilst maintaining the expected high standards.</p> <p>Colonel David wished to draw attention to all the work for the EB that was carried out quietly by the EB secretary Charles (Jeff) Jeffery ably assisted by his wife Dot. Dot works tirelessly to keep contact with all the EB members and the widows of the deceased members.</p> <p>Colonel David concluded that the EB had a full programme during the period of Remembrance Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th November. He assured us all that the EB would ensure that the NIH was given as full a representation as was possible during this period of Remembrance and invited as many as possible to join the EB in their acts of remembrance.</p> <p>Post Script. The EB Chairman asked the Secretary to remind all NIHRA members who are intending to attend the 2012 Cavalry Memorial weekend to book their accommodation early as London is expecting to see the arrival, during the late Spring, of a bumper crop of tourists for the 2012 London Olympics. Also to remind all concerned of the change in dates of the EB Dinner and Parade. (<i>Minute 9 sub paragraph c shows the amended date</i>)</p>	
11.	<p>Accounts and Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer Captain Henry Moore had circulated to all present copies of the accounts as audited by Lt Colonel NC Tougher and Tom Crothers. Henry then gave a very full and interesting</p>	

	<p>explanation of both the Regimental Account and the Benevolent account. He assured the AGM that although the NIHRA was not wealthy beyond the dreams of avarice we were comfortable for the time being. He drew attention to the very generous legacy that had been bequeathed by the late Mr AN McCleary a magnificent sum of £15897.16. This legacy having all but doubled the Benevolent funds capital account which now stood at £28406.46. Having said that the accounts were comfortable Henry advised the AGM that we should be cautious about the future and maybe start to look for ways to raise additional funds especially for the Regimental Account.</p> <p>The Chairman invited comments from the floor. Colonel Nick Tougher in his capacity as an auditor informed the meeting that the accounts had been managed in a meticulous and professional manner and thanked Henry for the manner in which he had presented his accounts for audit. And in doing so proposed to the meeting that the accounts be accepted as audited.</p> <p>As the second auditor was not present the Chairman asked if any other member would second the proposal. The Secretary Reynold Kirk, who had been present during the audit, said that he would be pleased to second the proposal.</p> <p>Proposed by Lt Colonel NC Tougher Seconded by: Reynold Kirk The proposal was passed with acclamation</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for all his hard work and instructed the Secretary to record a vote of thanks in the minutes. Copies of the accounts are attached as Appendix “D”</p>	<p>Passed</p> <p>Duly Recorded</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>The Secretary’s Report. The Secretary told the AGM that although it had been a very busy year he had nothing of substance to report. This was possibly because all the hard work was done by the Branch Chairmen and Branch Secretaries. It is to these gentlemen that we are, as ever, indebted, for the successful NIHRA events, the EB Dinner and the Hitler Line parade and NW Branch Dinner. These events alone made for a very successful year. There is no doubting the fact that none of the events could take place without the assistance and co-operation of all our serving NIHRA members. We all owe them a vote of thanks. I am especially grateful to the PSAOs Captain Dean Young (NIH) QOY and Captain Trevor Henry R Sigs (V) and their supporting teams WO2 Colin Davidson, SQMS Steve Pooley Sgt Hook, WO2 (YOS) Colin Ritchie and Billy Lyle. Perhaps if Major Jonathan Taylor and Major Sam Burgess knew just how much of their staffs’ time was taken up with non military activities in assisting the NIHRA it would be another story. However, I am sure they both know of the valuable assistance their staff give the NIHRA so I give them both a big personal thank you for turning a blind eye.</p> <p>I have made it quite clear to the President and Chairman that I do not wish to continue as Secretary after the AGM 2012. I feel that I have served long enough and true to say no longer enjoy the support of some members of the committee. It is going to be another busy year with challenges I am looking forward to. It is my hope that the year 2012 will see the resolution of some of the issues that have prevented the development of the NIHRA into the strong cavalry / yeomanry orientated association that it should be.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>The retiring Chairman’s Report. The Chairman reminded the meeting that he was in fact the vice-chairman and he called on the Secretary to read Gareth Baillie-Stewart’s retiring Chairman’s Report. The report was read as requested. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix “E”</p>	
	<p>Deliberate deletion of content see minute 14 on the next page</p>	

<p>14 Continued</p>	<p>d. Co-opted Members. The Chairman advised the meeting that he wished to invite the Squadron Leader B (NIH) Sqn QOY Major the Hon Jonathan Taylor and the Squadron Commander 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn Major Sam Burgess to serve on the Regimental Committee as co-opted members. Both the gentlemen who were present accepted the invitation. Their acceptance was greeted with applause.</p> <p>e. The conclusion of the election and appointment of members of the Regimental Committee. The Chairman thanked the President for his assistance during the election and thanked the newly elected member and all the re-elected Committee members for accepting the offices and added that he was looking forward to working with them all for the benefit of the NIHRA.</p> <p>The Chairman then directed the Secretary to record a vote of thanks for both the retiring Chairman Gareth Baillie-Stewart and Mr George Johnson he commended them both not only for their hard work but for continued interest in the NIH over many years. This statement was greeted with a round of spontaneous applause.</p>	<p>The vote of thanks recorded as directed.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>The President / Colonels Address. The Chairman invited Colonel Colin to address the meeting.</p> <p>Colonel Colin told the AGM that he had hoped to bring very positive news concerning the SDSR (Reserve Forces) and the effect the review would have on the future of both the sabre and signals squadron. He apologised by telling the AGM that the best he could do was bring encouraging news for it was almost certain that there was to be a major increase in the number of service men enlisted into the Reserve Forces. It is also certain that the Reserve Forces are destined to play a major role in the support of the decreasing number of Regular Forces. This increase in the numbers employed and the increased operational commitment was particularly relevant to the Yeomanry Regiments. To meet the increased Yeomanry commitment it is planned to form a 6th Yeomanry Regiment. The location, and the when and the where were yet to be finalised. But, it had been strongly hinted that at least one new Yeomanry squadron could be raised in N Ireland.</p> <p>Colonel Colin continued by saying that these planned changes in unit strengths and locations was delaying the decision that had to be made by PS 12 (a) Honours and Distinctions Committee concerning the retention of the honorary (NIH) title within the Signal's Squadrons title. Until this decision was made and finalised he considered that it would not be in the interest of the NIHRA to raise the membership moratorium that had been in place since late 2009. He regretted this decision and asked all to be patient</p> <p>Colonel Colin concluded his address by thanking the Chairman for his invitation to join the AGM and the opportunity to join the Association at the Annual Re-union Dinner. He wished all members of the Association every good wish for the future.</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>Any Other Business. The Secretary advised the Chairman that Major Mac McGowan in his capacity as Secretary of the NW Branch wished to raise four items. The Secretary added that he as Secretary of the NIHRA intended to give notice of a proposal that he would make at the AGM 2012. Major McGowan was then invited to raise his 4 points:</p> <p>a. The Churchill Tank. Mac stated that he was under the impression that the Churchill tank (Bushmills), currently located in Edenmore Road TAC Limavady, had been given to 69 (NIH) Squadron by the late Colonel Dan Christie, During the renovation and movement of the tank 69 (NIH) Sqn had invested a considerable amount of time and money. With this in mind the N West Branch and the Signal Squadron requested that a plaque should be placed on the hull of Bushmills in recognition of their previous ownership.</p>	

<p>16 Continued</p>	<p>And connection with the Royal Signals.</p> <p>b. The NIHRA Banner. At a meeting of the of the N West Branch the members present considered that the NIHRA Banner should be trooped once year between the ranks of the serving soldiers and members of the NIHRA to enable them to witness the battle honours emblazoned on the Banner in the same manner as the NIH Guidon. <i>(This being contrary to the agreement reached by the Regimental Committee on the usage of the Banner.)</i></p> <p>c. The Membership Moratorium. Mac advised the meeting that to continue the moratorium was unfair. He reported that he had circa 20 applications and life subscriptions to process. To continue the delay could well have an adverse effect on future membership within the N West Branch.</p> <p>d. Hard Ryder's Column. Mac considered that A Hard Ryder's comments in his News Letter column concerning the R Signals were unfair and unfounded. He suggested that the editor should have more control over Hard Ryder's input to the Staff Galloper.</p> <p>A brief but lively discussion ensued over the topics raised by Mac McGown. The Chairman thanked Mac for his contribution and instructed the Secretary to place the four items on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>e. The Secretary's Proposal. The Secretary told the AGM that he had regrets about giving this notice of a proposal for the AGM 2012. However, he explained that from his perspective as Secretary relationships between the two serving Squadrons and the NW Branch and NIHRA had worsened dramatically since 69 (NIH) Signal Squadron had been placed under the command of 32 Signal Regiment. Arbitrary decisions had been made by the Royal Signals that affected both the Sabre Squadron and NIHRA. There had been no discussion prior to these decisions being made with either the RHQ QOY or the NIH hierarchy. The slights and disregard are well catalogued. However, the appointment by the Master of Signals of an Honorary Colonel for the Signal Squadron, again without consultation or regard to the possible embarrassment has provoked me as Secretary ito brining this matter into the full view of the membership of the NIHRA. The absurdity of the situation was witnessed at the last Hitler Line Parade in Caw Camp. I accept that the proposal may need to be honed and fine tuned. But it is for this reason I give 12 months notice of proposal. But enough is enough the situation is intolerable.</p> <p>Membership of the North Irish Horse Regimental Association be closed to all members of the Royal Corps of Signals, And that the North Irish Horse Regimental Association should work towards being an association for which the eligibility for membership should not be extended beyond those who have served as members of the North Irish Horse as a regiment, or as a cavalry / yeomanry / RAC squadron"</p> <p>The existing Royal Corps of Signals members who do not meet this criteria should have their membership transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals Association or be offered a limited Associate Membership.</p> <p>In order to affect the transfer of R Sigs members the Secretary of the NIHRA will explore this possibility with the Secretary of the Royal Corps of Signals Association. The Terms for the Associate membership to be discussed and decided in Committee.</p> <p>Chairman's Comments. The Chairman thanked the Secretary for his notice</p>	<p>Noted for the Committee agenda</p>
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17	<p>of a proposal and considered that a great deal of time would be spent during future meetings debating the issues involved.</p> <p>The Meeting Closes. The Secretary having advised the Chairman that there was no further business to bring before the AGM. The Chairman declared the AGM for 2012 to be closed. Accordingly he thanked all present for their contribution and lively exchange of views. He wished all who were not staying for the Re-union dinner a good night and safe journey home. He concluded by inviting all who remained to join him in the Drill Hall for the Dinner.</p>	
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Reynold Kirk

Secretary

North Irish Horse Regimental Association

Appendices:

Appendix 'A' Attending / Apologies page A1 of 1

Appendix "B" NIHRA Standard Custody and Use pages B1 to B2

Appendix 'C' NW Branch Report pages C1 to C2

Appendix 'D' NIHRA Accounts as at 30 June 2011 pages D1 to D2

Appendix 'E' Retiring Chairman's Report pages E1 to E2

Appendix 'F' Regimental and Benevolent Committee Nominal Roll.

**The North Irish Horse Regimental Association
Annual General Meeting and Re-Union Dinner
Saturday 24th September 2011**

Attending;

Mr N Allen
Mr D Allen
Mr B Anderson
Major GM Bingham
Mr WS Brown
Major SJ Burgess
SSGT T Carse
WO2 C Davidson
Mr SH Dempster
Mr S Evans *** (Guest)
Mr F Hamilton
Major RJ Kirk
Mr W Lynn
WO2 (SSM) McCann
Mr F McCaughan
Mr WJ McCurdy
Colonel CR McDonald
Major MM McGowan
Captain GH Moore
Mr SL Morrow
Mr A Murphy
Major The Hon Jonathan Taylor
Mr A Thompson
Lt Colonel NC Tougher
Mr J Wilmot
Major G Wylie
Mr G Chester

Apologies:

Mr G Baillie-Stewart
Major WBS Buchanan
Captain PFS Clements
Mr LH Cochrane
Mr T Crothers
Mr J Deans
Colonel JT Eaton
Mr A Farrell
Colonel RJ Gordon
Mr DL Graham
Colonel B Grime
Mr P Hamilton
Mr J Harvey
Major B Houston
Captain DF Hunt
Mr CTR Jeffery
Mr G Johnson
Major RT Lee
Colonel JF Leslie
Mr K Lindsay
SGT A Loudon
Major SCR Mckean
Colonel David-Titterton
Lt Col RJ Moore
Mr JC Neill
Colonel The Lord O'Neill
Mr N Orr
Mr WM Ross
Major N Santry
Mr S Simpson
Lt Col DA Stanley
Mr MJ Taylor
Mr B walker
Mr ANG Webb
Major Sir William Moore
Colonel RF Windsor
Mr F Boggs

The North Irish Horse Regimental Association Standard Custody and Use

1. The aim of this annex is to provide information to fuel a meaningful discussion on the Custody and Use of the new Regimental Association Standard. The following points are a record of the concerns and opinions raised during a Committee meeting held on 5th August 2011. All the points were mutually agreed except for paragraph 9. **Authority for the use of the Standard.**

2. Possible events in which the NIHRA could participate with the Standard

Serial	Event	No	Yes	Comments
1.	Regimental Association Dinners and Meetings. (Not Branch Meetings)		Yes	The English Branch Dinner may be an exception the cost of transport (excess baggage etc) could be prohibitive. Also the fact that it could not be used on the Sunday Cavalry Memorial Parade.
2	Cavalry Memorial Parade	No		Squadron Association Flags are not paraded. The Parade is under the aegis of the QOY
3	Hitler Line Parade and Service		Yes	Essential
4	CIRAssn Parade June		Yes	Travel expenses. Is there sufficient support from the NIHRA to justify this?
5	Somme Commemoration Belfast		Yes	If agreed the Secretary will seek permission from the Belfast City Council and the RBL (NI) to be included)
6*	Island Bridge Dublin		Yes	This event is prestigious and must be given more publicity. Secretary to note
7	Armed Forces Day Carrickfergus		Yes	As required and invited by Carrickfergus Borough Council and 38X
8	Remembrance Sunday		Yes	With critical planning the Flag could be used in both Belfast City Hall and Dervock
9	The RBL Festival of Remembrance, Belfast		Yes	The secretary has already made an application for the NIHRA to be included in the muster.
10*	Tipperary Remembrance		Yes	Yes if requested by the Chairman of the NW Branch.
11*	The Somme Centenary 1 July 2016		Yes	If there is sufficient following. To be held in Normandy in 2016 and in Belfast Annually.
12	Military re-enactment events	No		Re-enactment and quasi military events are events in which people dress in replica uniforms and masquerade as if they were still serving.
13	QOY 40 th Anniversary		Yes	Request Hon Col to seek permission for a Standard as apposed to a Banner to be paraded by the NIHRA. on this occasion.

- If the Flag is to be used outside of the United Kingdom; The Permission of the Hon Colonel must be granted and transit insurance arrangements confirmed.

3. **Safe Custody.** The balance between safe custody and ease of authorised access must be maintained. It was agreed that the Standard, when not in use should be kept within the spiritual home of the NIH Dunmore Park. This decision being to ensure that the maximum number of serving soldiers will be able to see the Standard. The Standard should be kept in the Sqn Ldr’s or SSM’s office on a display stand.

4. Flag / Banner Bearer and Escort. The question of would an escort be required for the Standard and the Bearer was discussed. This was resolved by the agreement that we will require a pool of Standard bearers, possibly at least four. The Standard bearers are to be selected by the Committee on the recommendations of the NIHRA membership. If an escort is required it could be drawn from the pool of Standard bearers. It was agreed that the selected escorts should be representative of the whole NIHRA family and that they should be young and be of a high standard. Suggested names were, Messrs Billy Lyle, Ben McFetridge, Andrew Thompson and Lloyd Cammack. Committee members were asked to give consideration to other candidates and to let the Secretary know as soon as possible before the AGM.

5. Dedication of the Flag / Banner. The Standard is the embodiment of the spiritual entity of the NIHRA and it was agreed that the Standard should be dedicated before it is taken into use. It was also agreed that the dedication should take place on Remembrance Sunday 13th November at Dervock. Drew Thompson agreed to pass on the details of the planned ceremony to the Secretary as soon as possible. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had made application to the RBL N, Ireland for the NIHRA Standard to be included in the RBL muster during the Festival of Remembrance to be held in the Waterfront Hall on Saturday 5 November 2011. The Secretary asked the Hon Col if he would permit the Standard to be used prior to the dedication on this occasion. Permission was granted.

6. Post obit members funerals. It was agreed that the Standard should not be used at the funerals of late members. The following exceptions and conditions were agreed:

- a. At the request of a former member's family the Standard may be placed in vigil by the coffin prior to the internment; in the members home, church or chapel of rest. The officiating; priest, minister or chaplain must be in agreement with the family's request.
- b. The Standard must not be draped over the coffin or paraded during any part of the interment ceremony or thereafter.

7. Order of Dress. The order of Dress was agreed as; Regimental blazer, grey trousers, white shirt, regimental tie and beret with the appropriate cap badge, The NIH cap badge should only be worn by those entitled.

8. Military Parades. The Standard must not be allowed to become a substitute Guidon and must not be Trooped. The Standard should only be paraded at the head of the NIHRA and must not be paraded at the head of uniformed members of the serving Squadrons or any other uniformed organisations.

9. Authority for the use of the Standard. This issue was discussed at length but without reaching a recordable decision. As clear guidelines concerning who can authorise the use of the Standard must be in place to prevent misuse and abuse. The Secretary will carry the matter forward.

10. Conclusion. Regimental Traditions and Customs evolve over time. Traditions and Customs cannot be predetermined. The usage of the NIHRA Standard must be allowed to develop to meet the needs of the NIHRA. The above guidelines must not become restrictive but they should be in place to prevent misuse and abuse.

Reynold Kirk
Secretary

North Irish Horse Regimental Association
(North West Branch)
Chairman's Report / Brief to
The Annual General Meeting 24th September 2011

Brief – NW Branch 2010/2011

The NW Branch continued to have a very active year since the last AGM. First of all we would like to welcome home from Cyprus, 69(NIH) Signal Squadron after their very successful tour on Op Tosca with the UN. As most of you will be aware their parent Unit 40(Ulster) Signal Regiment was disbanded along with 3 other Signal Regiments prior to Op Tosca. The Squadron is now part of 32 Signal Regiment who are based in Glasgow, Scotland. During Op Tosca Mr Billy Lyle represented the NIH on the Hitler Line parade which was held in Nicosia. Mr Lyle carried the NIH Banner on parade.

Membership of the NW Branch continues to hold up, but due to demises during this past year the numbers are down slightly. However, we have 21 new members already paid up front, waiting for their membership to be approved. This has been going on for 18 months. It is imperative that these members are fully stated as soon as possible. The Signal Squadron is the life line for membership of the NW Branch, irrespective where it is based.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Lady McCorkell, who always supported the NW Branch in most of its activities. She will be sadly missed by us all. 4 members of the NW Branch attended her funeral in Londonderry forming a guard of honour for her, outside her church. 17 NW Branch members joined other NIH Association members at her commemoration service on 12th February 2011 in St Columbs Cathedral, Londonderry.

The NW Branch was honoured to be invited and participated in various other Associations in Londonderry during their own remembrance/commemoration celebrations. They were:-

- A. Help the Heroes Parade, Londonderry – 27th August 2010
- B. Royal Air Force Association Battle of Britain day – September 2010.
- C. Royal British Legion parade – 14th November 2010.
- D. Remembrance Services in Londonderry & Limavady - 14th November 2010
- E. Royal Navy Association, Londonderry Branch – 5th February 2011.
- F. Royal Inniskilling Fusilier Association – 26th June 2011

11 members of the NW Branch attended the Royal Irish Regiment Association parade in Londonderry in September 2010. They were presented with their new Regimental Association Standard, which was blessed at a service in St Columbs Cathedral, Londonderry.

4 Members of the NW Branch attended the English Branch dinner and Cavalry Remembrance Parade in London over the weekend 7/8 May 2011.

3 members of the Regimental Association (1 NW Branch) represented the NIH at the Combined Irish Regiments Old Comrades Association parade in London on Sunday 12th June 2011. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the NIH & SIH.

On 21st May 2011 the NW Branch, NIH held their annual dinner in the Belfray Country Inn, Londonderry. Another successful event, with 56 sitting down for dinner. It was a great honour to have in our presence a member of the Canadian Liaison Military attaché from London. Lt Col Denis Janelle and his wife Sylvie, were immensely honoured to be at this event.

On Sunday 22nd May 2011 took part in the annual Hitler Line Parade and commemoration church service in Caw Camp, Londonderry. Sadly the parade had to be adjusted and content reduced yet again in the absence of the Guidon and the new venue.

The NW Branch looks forward to the months ahead with the forthcoming events to include the 110th Anniversary of the formation of the North Irish Horse Regiment. It is also the 60th Anniversary for the annual Hitler Line Parade as we know it today. The Hitler Line Parade was first introduced in 1952 by "B" Squadron, NIH in Londonderry.

We also look forward to carrying on parade in the future the new Regimental Association Standard.

NORTH IRISH HORSE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Donations	656.14	Bank Fees	5.44
Bank Interest	3.44	Dinner (Creditor 2010)	513.00
Sale of Books	135.00	Misc Expenses	255.00
Sale of Ties	135.00		
Profit on Dinner	58.00		
Misc Receipts	10.00	Income over Expenditure	224.14
	<u>£997.58</u>		<u>£997.58</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT AND BALANCE SHEET

	£		£
Capital as @ 30/6/10	8,889.29	Investment at Cost	5,510.85
Income over Expenditure	224.14	Debtor	40.00
		Bank Balance	<u>3,562.58</u>
Capital as @ 30/6/11	<u>£9,113.43</u>		<u>£9,113.43</u>

Notes on Accounts:

1. Secretary's Expenses not yet charged
2. O/S Payment due M&G Dividend - £2,369.72
3. No further developments re the registration of the Association's Charitable Status in Northern Ireland

Treasurer: **GH Moore** *G. H. Moore*

Auditor: NC TOUGHEN Auditor: T CROTHERS
WT COLONEL

NORTH IRISH HORSE BENEVOLENT FUND

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Investments	2,009.84	Grants	3,480.50
Bank Interest	9.24	Miscellaneous	785.48
Legacy - (AN McCleery)	<u>15,878.08</u>	Income over Expenditure	<u>13,631.18</u>
	<u>£17,897.16</u>		<u>£17,897.16</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT and BALANCE SHEET

	£		£
Capital a/c @ 30/6/10	14,775.28	First Trust Bank	1,505.32
Income over Expenditure	<u>13,631.18</u>	Bank Balance	18,479.33
Capital at 30/6/11	<u>£28,406.46</u>	Investments at Cost	<u>8,421.81</u>
			<u>28,406.46</u>

Notes on Accounts:

1. Grants include the loan £658 to Graham Kelly to a grant also £1,000 (2 x £500) to Royal Yeo Benevolent Fund and Royal Signals Benevolent Fund
2. Misc Expenses included £680 for the Standard
3. Investments valued at £41,230.96 (30/6/11).

Treasurer:

G H Moore

G H Moore

Auditor:

NC TOUGHEN

LT COLONEL

Auditor:

T CROTHERS

Chairman's Report to
The North Irish Horse Regimental Association
Annual General Meeting 2011

by

Gareth Baillie-Stewart

I am sorry that I am unable to be with you in person today, but will certainly be there in spirit. At the moment I'm sitting on the veranda of the Bangalore Club sipping a Bombay gin and tonic waiting for my sedan chair to take me to the Taj Hotel for dinner. Although now, in these times of change I suppose I should really refer to it as a Mumbai gin and tonic!

The change here in Indian society is very evident. It has been a relatively slow process since independence in 1947, but now the time is right financially for India to emerge as a leading World economy. They are casting off the trappings of the British Raj slowly but surely. The British centre of the Indian colony in Bangalore was South Parade, which is now called Mahatma Ghandi Road. Bangalore, the centre of British administration in the state of Karnataka is now Bengaluru, and even the Old Madras Road is now Swami Vivekananda Road (Sorry Rey, I only put that one in to have some fun with your pronunciation!)

I was thinking about this political, social and economic change in India as well as the collapse of the British Empire, and it struck me that there were a number of parallels to the Regimental Association.

India is now independent. Let's call it the equivalent of an "association" for the Indian people. The British are no longer members of this "association". In fact they have their own association. It is called Britain. It is an old and distinguished association they have had for a long time, that they have always been able to be members of, and indeed an association of which they can be rightly proud. There is no need to try to change any one else's association in order to fit in.

Indeed they cannot fit in. No matter how much they want to be members of that association they never will be because they come from the wrong place. It was the right decision in 1947 for the British to return to Britain where they belong and to let the Indian people move forward and prosper.

At the time of Indian independence there was a great deal of uncertainty, fear and strife. At times such as these, it is unfortunate that there are always those who have their own agenda. These persons are of a seditious nature. They are selfish and contribute nothing to the welfare of the state. They are too fixated in building their own empires for either the sole benefit of themselves, or those they claim to represent.

It is also unfortunate that we too have such persons within the Regimental Association. They contribute nothing to the wellbeing of the members and do not deserve to be associated with the name of the North Irish Horse.

Over the last twenty two years of my experience of the Regimental Association I have noticed a great change. The Old Comrades Association was a welcoming, friendly and interesting place to be. It is disappointing that a minority of individuals have been responsible for upsetting this status quo by such empire building; creating disharmony, distrust and ill feeling. They ought to be ashamed of themselves.

Nevertheless, I am confident that good will prevail. There are so many selfless people in the Association that care only about the welfare of the members and that of the North Irish Horse as a whole.

Ghandi once said *"You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty"*. The Regimental Association needs to look at its cleanliness. We need to purify the waters before they become irretrievably polluted.

So, what direction for the future? Again I refer to Ghandi. He was once asked what he thought of Western Civilisation, and he replied *"I think that would be a good idea."*

If you ask me what I think of the North Irish Horse Regimental Association I too would reply that I think it would be a good idea.

While I love India very much, I was not born here. I have no right to be Indian no matter how much I want to be. I neither have the background nor the culture. I am here through the permission of the Indian people and only as long as I am permitted to be so. I am British, and proud of it, and one day will return to my rightful place, where I am most at home.

Being in the position of Chairman has been difficult for me. I strongly believe it should be a position of impartiality that it exists to facilitate healthy discourse and should not be a position to be abused to further any one agenda. However, the Regimental Association has been floating in the sea of uncertainty for too long. It needs to be rescued or it will surely drown.

This is the responsibility of the Officers of the Association and members of the Committee, who have been duly democratically elected. They need to show leadership, strength and determination in moving the Association to where it needs to be. They need

to speak out, to stand up and be counted and have the courage to do what they know is right.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my times in office as Secretary, vice-Chairman and Chairman. It has been both challenging and rewarding and I have always been immensely proud of being a cavalry soldier. I am ever indebted to those who have shown support to the Association as well as to myself during my terms of office. I would especially like to thank Rey whose loyalty to the North Irish Horse is unquestionable, and who has been in constant contact with me over the last three years. I hope to continue to serve the North Irish Horse and its members in whatever way I can.

Well, I better be off now as my sedan chair has arrived and I'm off to the Taj for a chicken madras on the way home, although I suppose that has been renamed now to a chicken chennai.

In any case I will leave you with one final quotation from Martin Luther King that the officers of the association and members of the committee may like to dwell upon:

"In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends"

The Regimental and Benevolent Committee 2011 – 2012

Minute No 14 Refers .

President: Colonel Colin McDonald TD
Vice Presidents: Colonel the Lord O'Neill KCVO TD
Colonel JF Leslie. TD DL
Colonel RJ Gordon DL
Trustees Lt Colonel NC Tougher TD
DW McCorkell Esq
Chairman: WS Brown Esq
Vice Chairman: Major JWD Pinkerton TD
Treasure: GH Moore CBE TD (*Plans to retire as Treasurer during or at the end of 2012.*)
Members: Colonel DHSL Maitland-Titterton
Major G Wylie MBE TD
N. Allen Esq.
T. Crothers Esq.
C Davidson Esq,
CTR. Jeffery Esq.
F McCaughan Esq.
WN Orr
G Baillie-Stewart
Mr A Thompson
Squadron Officers: Major The Hon Jonathon Taylor (NIH) QOY
(Non elected officers) Major SJ Burgess R Sigs (V) Sqn Cmd 40 Sig Sqn
Secretary: Major (Retd) RJ Kirk (*Plans to retire as Secretary during or at the end of 2012.*)