



**The North Irish Horse Regimental Association  
Annual General Meeting 2008  
Minutes of The meeting Held in Dunmore Park TAC  
On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008**

<b>7.</b>	<b>Reports from the Branches:</b>	
<b>7.1</b> <b>Continued</b>	<p><b>Chairman North West Branch (NW).</b> Major George Wylie was delighted to inform the meeting that the year 2008 had been yet another year of successful activity in the NW. The Branch is now holding regular meetings in the Victoria Hall, Spencer Road, Waterside. A contingent from the Branch had attended the RAF Battle of Britain Commemoration parade and church service on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2008, in St Columb's Cathedral. Several members of the NW Branch had joined in with members of 69 (NIH) Sqn, R Sigs, to represent 40 (Ulster) Signal Regiment in a visit to the Tipperary Trust Parade and Memorial Service in Tipperary on 26<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the NW Branch in Londonderry and Limavady on Remembrance Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. Looking forward Major George confirmed that the NW Branch would be holding the NW Branch Hitler Line Dinner in May 2009; full details will be included in the Regimental Association "News Letter" prior to the event. George concluded by telling the meeting that he had been informed that the NW Branch now had 75 members registered on the NW Branch Roll of Members.</p>	
<b>7.2</b>	<p><b>English Branch (EB).</b> Both the Chairman and Secretary had tendered their apology for not attending the AGM. The EB Chairman Colonel David Maitland-Titterton had sent a message of greeting to all present at the meeting and reunion dinner. Colonel David also extended his thanks to all in the Regimental Association resident in Ulster for the support they had given the EB during the past year. Although very few in number the EB were doing their utmost to represent the Regiment at as many events in London as they could. The EB had also managed to get TV coverage of the NIH participation in the Remembrance Cenotaph Parade in Whitehall. Colonel David also confirmed that the EB had already booked the Victory Services Club for EB Dinner on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and looked forward to welcoming a strong contingent from Ulster at the Dinner.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Secretary's Report.</b> <i>(In summary. The full Secretary's report is attached to the Secretary's copy of the minutes).</i> This has been another very busy year for the Regimental Association as a whole. There is no doubt that we appear to be taking more on against a background diminishing membership and resources. It is due to the fact that we get support from both the Sabre Squadron and the Signal Squadron that we are able to achieve anything at all. The Secretary took this opportunity to thank all the permanent staff for their unstinted assistance. In particular he thanked the two PSAO's and SQMS's.</p> <p>The Regimental Association membership stands at 379 of which 211 are active card carrying members. There are 45 card carrying members in England and abroad, this leaves 166 active members in Ulster. It is a matter of concern that all the EB members except for one are over 65.</p> <p>The Secretary expressed his concern that the present committee appears to be too large and unbalanced to serve such a small association. The Committee being unbalanced in both its geographic and demographic distribution.</p>	

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<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Treasurer' Report.</b> (<i>Copies of the Regimental Association and Benevolent Fund Accounts were distributed</i>). Captain Henry Moore gave the meeting a detailed explanation of the accounts and concluded by advising the meeting that all due accounts had been settled; both creditors and debtors.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the Secretary for his stewardship and asked the meeting for a proposal that the accounts as presented be accepted subject to audit.</p> <p><b>Proposed by:</b> Mr A Norman                      <b>Seconded by:</b> WOII C Davidson</p>	Auditors
<b>10</b>	<p><b>The Chairman's Report.</b> Our Chairman Andy Deans thanked the Committee members who had presented their reports and acknowledge the amount of work that went on in the background to keep the Regimental Association alive and ticking. He also thanked the members who gave up their time to attend Regimental Association events. He stressed that he was aware of the cost in both time and money, especially when traveling to events outside Ulster. He reiterated the Secretary's comments concerning the debt we owe to the serving Squadrons and the permanent staff, without their help we could not survive.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>The Chairman's Resignation.</b> The Chairman then informed the meeting that after much heart searching he had decided that he did not wish to carry on as Chairman of the Regimental Association. He stated that his reasons were personal and that it was with great regret. He was pleased to announce that his Vice-Chairman Gareth Baillie had agreed to take over a year early and took the opportunity to wish Gareth a happy and successful term of office. He also thanked all members of the Regimental Association for their support during the past year and wished them and their families all the very best for the coming years. The Chairman then announced that it was his duty to ask the meeting to accept Gareth Baillie as the new Chairman. Gareth was then invited to take the Chair.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<p><b>The New Chairman.</b> The New Chairman Gareth Baillie thanked the retiring Chairman for all his hard work not only during his tenure as Chairman but also in the preceding years when he had done so much for the Regimental Association whilst secretary of the North West Branch. Gareth asked the meeting to acknowledge Andy's service with a round of applause. He then directed the Secretary to record a vote of thanks in the minutes. (<i>This statement was also greeted with applause</i>)</p>	Secretary
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Vote of Thanks.</b> A vote of thanks in recognition of Mr. Andy Dean's service to the North Irish Horse is recorded as directed.</p>	
<b>14</b>	<p><b>The Election of the Regimental Association Officers.</b></p> <p><b>The Vice Chairman.</b> The Chairman informed the meeting that he had invited Mr. William Brown to be his Vice-Chairman and asked for a proposal.</p> <p><b>Proposed by:</b> Lt Colonel NC Tougher    <b>Seconded by:</b> Major B Houston</p>	<b>Passed</b>

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<b>14</b> <b>Continued</b>	<p><i>Secretary's Note: Prior to vote the Chairman's right to invite a vice-chairman without consulting the Committee before the meeting; was questioned as it appeared to be undemocratic. It was explained to the meeting that in the North Irish Horse Regimental Association it had become the custom for the in-coming Chairman to choose his own Vice-Chairman and with the approval of the President present the name of his nominee vice-chairman to the Committee prior to the AGM. As Andy Deans resignation was not made public until shortly before the AGM it was not possible for this to be done without compromising Andy's confidence. However, the approval of the Honorary Colonel / President had been sought and given. Whilst it is agreed that the approval of the Committee should never be taken for granted; to refuse the Chairman his choice of Vice-Chairman would have been unprecedented and could lead to division and an unworkable partnership. The AGM was also informed that the President was anxious to set a pattern of rotation in place to ensure that the Chairman be elected in rotation from; the NW, England and Belfast. This being seen to be a democratic way to ensure that the Chair of the Regimental Association is occupied in a fair and democratic way. In the past the Chair has been almost the preserve of those residing in the Greater Belfast Area.</i></p>	
<b>15</b>	<p><b>Treasurer and Secretary.</b> The Chairman was pleased to inform the meeting that both the Treasure and Secretary had agreed to stay in office for another year. As there were no counter proposals or nominations it was declared that the both the Treasurer and Secretary retain their offices.</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Captain Henry Moore    <b>Secretary:</b> Major (Retd) Reynold Kirk</p>	Unanimous Agreement
<b>16</b>	<p><b>The Regimental and Benevolent Committees.</b> The Chairman suggested that in view of the possible changes and reductions in the size of the Regimental and Benevolent Committees; that unless any existing committee member wished to resign, the committees should be re elected without change.</p> <p><b>Regimental Committee.</b> T Crothers. R Ewart. P Hull, CTR Jeffery, C Davidson, Col D Maitland-Titterton, Lt Col RJ Moore, G Kelly, G Baillie. (9)</p> <p><b>Benevolent Committee.</b> N Allen, WS Brown, Lt Col NC Tougher, B Houston, RG Johnson, F McCaughan, C McEvoy, GH Moore, RJ Kirk, G Wylie, N Orr. (11)</p> <p><b>Proposed by:</b> G Baillie (Chairman)    <b>Seconded by:</b> RJ Kirk (Secretary)</p>	Passed Unanimously
<b>17</b>  <b>17.1</b>	<p><b>Benevolence.</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Gifts</b> The Treasurer asked the meeting to give formal approval for the Annual Christmas gifts to be distributed to the widows of the former members of the Regiment. Henry regretted that he was not in possession of the exact amount but he indicated that there was a slight reduction in the amount to be distributed as one or two of the recipients had passed on during the past year. Notwithstanding this the account was subject to the auditor's scrutiny.</p>	Passed



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<p><b>19.2</b></p> <p><b>19,3</b></p>	<p><i>(Minute 10. 9<sup>th</sup> Jul 08 refers)</i>. At this Committee Meeting it was agreed that on future Hitler Line Parades wherever the location the emphasis would be on family fun and not the entertainment of VIPs.</p> <p><b>The NW Branch:</b> <i>(Reference minute 6.1 d. above)</i>. The Secretary asked if the Chairman of the NW Branch would accept that these points be deferred to the next Committee meeting as some of the points appeared to be contentious and required notice to give fair and constructive comment.</p> <p><b>Hitler Line Parade. Inspecting Officer.</b> SSGT Colin Ritchie advised the meeting that a representative from the Canadian High Commission was to be invited to attend the NW Branch, Hitler Line Dinner. He asked if it would be possible for that guest to be invited to be the Inspecting Officer for the parade. It was pointed out that The Hitler Line Parade was a North Irish Horse Regimental Parade and that it was the prerogative of the Hon Colonel to be the inspecting officer. It was the Hon Colonel's, gift and his alone, to invite another person to be the inspecting officer of the Regiment if he felt that it was appropriate and in the interest of the North Irish horse.</p>	
<p><b>20</b></p>	<p>There being no other business the Chairman drew the meeting to a close and intimated that he had a surprise entertainment in store for them at the dinner.</p>	

RJ Kirk  
Secretary  
For the Chairman