In Memoriam:
The Club President and Committee were saddened to report the deaths of two of the eldest retired officers who served in the Cavalry Corps, Captain Theo Ryan who died on 16th January 2012 and Commandant Tom Kelly who died on 22nd January 2012.

Theo Ryan was born in the Middle Parish Cork City on 9th September 1919. He enlisted in the Army on 8th November 1940 and he served in the Curragh Camp. He was commissioned as a Temporary Officer in September 1941 and he was posted as Troop Commander in the 3rd Motor Squadron in the Aerodrome, Fermoy, County Cork. After the Emergency he was transferred to the Supply and Transport Corps. He resigned and went on the First Line Reserve in December 1957 on the strength of 2nd Field Supply and Transport Company. He was called up on full time service for a period in 1969 and he relinquished his commission in September 1973 at the age of 54. Theo was a member of the Irish Veteran and Vintage Car Club (founded in 1963) and Secretary of the Gordon Bennett Rally for many years. On Friday 20th January 2012 his funeral mass was concelebrated at the Church of the Holy Name, Beechwood Avenue, Ranelagh by the Reverent Father Sean Gildea OFM from the Franciscan Friary, Rossnowlagh, County Donegal with Reverent Father Bernard Kennedy, Administrator and Reverent Father David Tyndall CF Cathal Brugha Barracks. Father Gildea was a Cadet with the 19th Cadet Class (1945 – 47) and he served with Theo as a captain in the General Training Depot before joining the Franciscans. Theo is survived by his wife Stephanie (nee Fitzgerald), daughters Geraldine and Jennifer, son-in-law Paul Murphy, grandson Christopher Theo, niece Mary O’Brien and nephew PJ Ryan.

Tom Kelly was born in Whitegate County Cork on 20th January 1920 and he was educated at Rockwell College County Tipperary. He developed a love for rugby and athletics while at school at Rockwell College and he was the founder, past President and inspirational leader of Fermoy Rugby Club. He enlisted in the Volunteer Force in September 1939 and was commissioned in October 1941. He served with 3rd Motor Squadron during the Emergency and later with 1st Motor Squadron and as a Staff Officer at Headquarters Southern Command. He also served on attachment with 13th Infantry Battalion FCA as a training officer in the early 1960’s. He was Squadron Commander 1st Motor Squadron from June 1968. He served overseas on two occasions in Cyprus, as Second-in-Command.
to the late Lieutenant Colonel Jer Delaney with the Armoured Car Group 40th Infantry Battalion (1964) and as the Group Commander Armoured Car Group 9th Infantry Group (1967 – 68). The 40th Infantry Battalion was the first Irish unit to serve in UNFICYP and the armoured car group was the first to use the Panhard AML 60 armoured car. Tom retired in 1980. He was pre-deceased by his wife Ellen (Nellie) nee O’Flynn and he is survived by his six children Ann, Diarmuid, Margaret, Brenda, Eamon and Jacqueline and his extended family. His funeral mass was held on Wednesday 25th January followed by burial at Kilcrumper New Cemetery, Fermoy.

In February, the club also learnt of the death of Comdt Paddy O’Brien, Ard na Greine, Clonmel and late of the 3rd Motor Squadron FCA who died at South Tipperary General Hospital on 11th November 2010. Paddy was pre-deceased by his wife Betty and his daughter Patricia. He was buried following requiem mass at Saints Peter & Paul’s church on 14th November and he is survived by his son Tom, daughters Bernadine and Betty and their families.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílis.

Cavalry Officers Serving Overseas:
Captain John Tynan started a six-month with UNIFIL in January and he is serving as a Staff Officer Operations Branch at Sector West Headquarters in Shama until the end of June 2012. In January, Lieutenant Andrew O’Shaughnessy commenced a year-long posting with the Permanent Mission to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna. In March three Cavalry officers were posted abroad; Lieutenant Colonel Frank Lawless was posted to Brussels as the Assistant Military Representative to the European Union Military Committee; Commandant Cormac Kirwan joined the European Training Mission Somalia and he is based in the Operations/Plans Branch in Brussels for a year-long tour of duty and Commandant Trevor Ging started a six-months tour of duty with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. Commandant Paul Rafter (Retd) (Club President in 1995) has joined the growing number of retired officers who are working abroad with international organisations. He is Civil Military Coordination Officer and Operations Officer with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Mogadishu, Somalia.

The security environment in Mogadishu is dominated by the presence of AMISOM (African Mission in Somalia) forces, operating under a UN Security Council Resolution and African Union (AU) Mandate. Comprising of Ugandan and Burundian troops, it is currently at strength of 12,000. Government military forces, confined to Mogadishu itself, are fledgling in nature and relatively under equipped, immature as a force and unlikely to be able to provide any guarantee of security. The security environment within Mogadishu is further complicated by a patchwork of heavily armed, clan based militias, which have loose and constantly shifting alliances with each other and the government. Outside of Mogadishu in the south and central regions of Somalia, Al Shabab, an extreme Islamist insurgency movement, comprised of national and foreign members, control the territory. Paul is a highly experience officer with overseas service with 47th, 58th and 83rd Infantry Battalions UNIFIL,
UNTSO and OSCE. He interacts between the AMISOM and a range of humanitarian agencies, organisations and NGOs to ensure that all players are aware of each others' roles, organisational architecture, structures and activities in order to deliver humanitarian assistance.

The Committee welcomes home those who have completed their overseas duty and wish all Cavalry personnel who are serving overseas a safe and peaceful tour of duty.

Retirements:
Four Cavalry officers retired during February and between them they gave over one hundred and twenty years’ service to the Defence Forces. Col Joe Dowling, the Director of Administration Section, was a member of the 45th Cadet Class and he joined in October 1970. Lieutenant Colonel Gerry Brennan, Acting Director of Cavalry, had served as a Trooper with 11th Motor Squadron FCA and he was awarded a cadetship in December 1973 as member of the 50th Cadet Class. Commandant Philip Cotter, who recently returned from overseas service in Kabul, joined in November 1975 with the 52nd Cadet Class. Commandant Conor Lynch, Squadron Commander 2nd Cavalry Squadron, was a member of the 63rd Cadet Class and had been a Sergeant with the FCA before he joined in November 1986. The committee wish Joe, Gerry, Philip and Conor all the best for the future and we also send best wishes to Brigadier General Paul Pakenham, who retired as General Officer Commanding 1st Southern Brigade in early February. General Pakenham, who is an associate member of the Cavalry Club, was a member of the 44th Cadet Class and on commissioning in September 1971 he was appointed to the Artillery Corps. He served as Director of Cavalry from the time of his promotion to the rank of Colonel in July 2004 to September 2005.

The committee also extend best wishes to Captain Philip Gunn, Staff Officer Operations/Training 31st Reserve Cavalry Squadron who is due to retire from the Reserve Defence Force in May. Philip originally joined as a young trooper in 1972 with the 11th Cavalry Squadron FCA in Griffith Bks and went on to serve on full time security duties with 2nd Cavalry Squadron in 1976 with some time spent in Cavan on border duties. Philip's civilian life brought him to live in Watergrasshill in Co. Cork were he rekindled his FCA service with the Fermoy Troop of 3rd Reserve Cavalry Squadron in 1989. He received his commission as a Reserve Officer in November 1993. Philip's passion for motocycling saw him take a leading role in organising DR courses and ensuring that those skills were retained in the unit. He was involved in organising the recent revival of the Defence Forces Motorcycle Competition and went on to win the individual prize with a fine display of off-road motocycling skills. Philip's skills are so well regarded that he was asked to do some off-road training with the ARW some years ago. As an officer with 31st Reserve Cavalry Squadron, Philip's last appointment has been in Sqn HQ as Operations/Training officer, which has seen him plan many unit tactical exercises where his love of the outdoors and all things cavalry were clearly to the fore. On 26th March 2012 Philip rode out of Kickham Bks on a Honda CBF600 with 31st Reserve Cavalry Squadron for the historical parade marking the closure of the barracks. We wish Philip, his wife Ita and family well for the future.
**Promotions:**
Best wishes to the three Cavalry officers listed for promotion to the rank of Colonel, they are Lt Cols Jim Burns, Eugene Smyth and Willie Dwyer.

Congratulations to three officers who were recently promoted to the rank of Commandant: Micheál Conneely, Michael Curran and Eugene Cooke. Commandant Conneely continues to serve in Sarajevo with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Commandant Curran is working in Coláiste Caoimhín in Administration Section and Commandant Cooke assumed command of 4th Cavalry Squadron in January. Congratulations also go to Paul Ralph, Donncha Lenihan and Richard Griffiths all from the 84th Cadet Class and to Fergal Reilly from the 85th Cadet Class who were promoted from Second Lieutenant to Lieutenant in March. The committee also congratulate Commandant Robert Duggan (Club President in 2002) who is listed for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel following the recent promotion competition.

**News from the Reserve Squadrons:**

**Barracks Closures.**

Among the recently closed Barracks were Kickham Barracks Clonmel and Mitchel Barracks Castlebar, two stations associated with Cavalry Reserve Squadrons since 1959. The two county towns are steeped in military history and have traditions of military service spanning many generations.

In 1959 “Integration” was introduced in the Defence Forces whereby units of An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil (FCÁ) were integrated with the Regular Army. 3rd Motor Squadron was re-activated with Squadron HQ in Kickham Barracks as part of 3rd Brigade and 5th Motor Squadron with Squadron HQ in Mitchel Barracks as part of 5th Brigade. The titles of the Motor Squadrons were changed to Cavalry Squadrons in July 1983 and the nomenclatures changed to 31st Reserve Cavalry Squadron and 54th Reserve Cavalry Squadron after the RDF Review Implementation Plan in 2005.

Clonmel was a garrison town for British troops from the time of the surrender to Oliver Cromwell in 1650 following a two month long siege up to the gaining of Independence in 1922. In 1780 a permanent barracks (the Infantry Barracks) was constructed and this was extended in 1805 (the Artillery Barracks) and further accommodation was added in 1870. It was named Victoria Barracks to mark the Queen’s coronation in 1837 and it became the regimental depot for the Royal Irish Regiment in 1882. The regiment recruited from counties Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny and Carlow and recruits were trained in Clonmel prior to World War 1. On 9th February 1922 at 1330 hours, three Companies from 1st Battalion York & Lancaster Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Wedgewood DSO, marched out of the barracks gates
to Clonmel railway station to board a train for Waterford. This was followed by a convoy of Crossley tenders and lorries led by a twin turreted armoured car flying the Union Jack and headed towards Tipperary Town. At 1430 hrs about fifty members of the 5th Battalion 3rd Tipperary Brigade of the Old IRA under Comdt Paddy Dalton, took over and the National Flag was hoisted. Comdt Dalton, along with most of his men took the anti-treaty side in the ensuing Civil war and Clonmel was the HQ for Liam Lynch who was Chief of Staff of the anti-treaty forces. In August 1922 the pro-treaty forces under Major General John Prout advanced from Waterford city via Carrick-on-Suir to capture Clonmel on 10th August 1922. Between 6th and 8th August the anti-treaty forces burnt down most of the barracks. The 25th Battalion of the National Army occupied the barracks until the end of the Civil War. During this time a guerrilla campaign was waged in the area of the town and into the hinterland of the Comeragh and Knockmealdown mountains. The barracks was handed over to the Office of Public Works in 1927 and not reoccupied until 1941 when it was taken over by the Field Engineers of 1st Brigade. During the Emergency Clonmel was home to HQ 1st Brigade and Field Companies from Engineers, Signals, Supply & Transport, Military Police and a Field Ambulance Company. 1st Motor Squadron spent a period in the barracks before moving to Murphy Barracks, Ballincollig at the end of the Emergency. The 13th Infantry Battalion occupied Kickham Barracks after the Emergency until 1959 when the battalion was disbanded as a PDF unit and B Company and Support Company 12 Infantry Battalion took over.

In 1691 Castlebar was the second largest British outpost in Connacht after Galway and over the years several regiments of the British Army were posted there including the Welsh and Scottish Fencibles, the North Mayo Militia Regiment, the 69th Regiment and later the Connaught Rangers. On 27th August 1798, French forces under the command of General Humbert aided in a rout of the English garrison in the town during the failed Rebellion of 1798, which was so comprehensive it would later be known as "The Races of Castlebar". The present barracks was built between 1831 and 1834. The 2nd Battalion the Border Regiment was in occupation at the time of Independence. Major General Michael Kilroy took over the barracks in February 1922 and it was HQ for the 4th Western Division with the anti-treaty forces for a period. Four blocks in the barracks were burnt during the Civil War in 1922. The barracks was rebuilt in the years following the Civil War. In June 1932, the then Minister for Defence Frank Aiken TD, told the Dáil that with the exception of a couple of blocks which it is proposed to retain for military purposes, the barracks was surplus to military requirements and will shortly be transferred to the control of the Commissioners of Public Works. This was on foot of representation from Castlebar Urban Council requesting that the military barracks should be utilised for housing purposes. A Marching Out Ceremony took place in Castlebar on 18th March and at Clonmel on 26th March. The current Minister for Defence stated that premises would be rented for reserve units in the towns where barracks have closed.
An Cosantóir.
Lieutenant Damien O’Herlihy, Support Troop Commander 62nd Reserve Cavalry Squadron was the subject in the feature “What I Do” in the April Issue of An Cosantóir magazine. In his civilian life, Damien is a fraud analyst in the Credit Control Department of Eircom.

The Nijmegen International Four Day Marches.
The Cavalry Club Committee wishes to express all the best of luck to Capt Brendan McDonald and his Team from 54 Res Cav Sqn who have received official military permission to participate in the The Nijmegen International Four Day Marches, (Holland), in July.

The Nijmegen International Four Day Marches (or Vierdaagse) is the largest marching event in the world. It is organised every year in Nijmegen in mid-July, as a means of promoting sport and exercise. Participants walk 30, 40 or 50 kilometres daily, and, on completion, receive a royally approved medal (Vierdaagsekruis). While originally a military event only, civilians now also attend in large numbers which have consistently risen in recent years, with over 40,000 taking part last year. Military teams follow a slightly different route to other participants; this is because they do not start in Nijmegen but in the military camp Heumensoord which is built every year just south of Nijmegen to house all military personnel. Military participants have a choice of two options; they either walk 50 km a day or 40km when they carry a pack of at least 10 kilogram’s of dead weight, in addition to large amounts of water to keep hydrated in the heat. The importance attributed by the Dutch government to the performances achieved was reflected in the recognition of a Decoration to military participants for their marching, fitness and endurance skills (the Four Days Cross) by Queen Wilhelmina in October 1909.

There has been an International Walking Festival held in Castlebar, County Mayo for over fifty years and this festival has had a close link with Nijmegen since its inception. Every year there is participation by military personnel from various armed forces taking part in uniform in the festival in Castlebar. In 2011 there was a military presence in Castlebar from the British, Dutch, German, and Swedish armed forces, including many senior officers all walking in uniform. Members of 54 Res Cav Sqn represented the Irish Defence Force at the Walking Festival in 2011, as they have
done since 2009. Each year, many officers of visiting armed forces have suggested that there should be an Irish military presence participating in the Nijmegen walks.

**Commissioning Ceremony 87th Cadet Class.**

On 8th March Second Lieutenant Criostóir Humphreys was appointed to be an officer of the Cavalry Corps at a commissioning ceremony at the Curragh Camp. Criostóir was one of twenty one Irish and three Maltese cadets who completed their training at the Cadet School and he was assigned to 2nd Cavalry Squadron. He was a second year student in the University of Limerick studying Mechanical Engineering prior to joining the Cadet School. He spent two years in the RDF and his interests include orienteering and the GAA, he represented the Cadet School in football. He hails from Ardmore County Waterford and he comes from an Army background as his mother is Captain Gabrielle Fagan (Retd) who was a member of the 58th Cadet Class (1981 – 83) and his grandfather is Colonel Jim Fagan (Retd) who was a cadet in the 16th Cadet Class (1943 – 44).

**Congratulations.**

Heartiest congratulations to a former Honorary Secretary of the club, Commandant Tom McGrath and his bride Captain Kate Hanrahan who were married on the 29th December 2011 in Mulranny, County Mayo. The Cavalry were well represented with Commandants Cormac Kirwan and Daragh O’Brien both present on the happy couple’s Guard Of Honour. Also in attendance from the Cavalry Corps were Commandant Trevor Ging and Capt Alan Sharkey.

Congratulations also to Captain Peter Norton and Ms Yvonne Kiely daughter of Ms Fionnuala Kiely, Letterkenny and the late Commandant Tony Kiely on their engagement published on 7th of January 2012.

**Report on Events since the last Newsletter:**


Captain Luke Mullins celebrated his ninetieth birthday on 6th January 2012 and he was joined by some of his friends in the Cavalry Club and with members of Ceannt Officers Mess for an Irish coffee to mark the occasion. Luke was born at Graigue, County Kilkenny on 6th January 1922 and he joined the army during the Emergency in 1941. He was commissioned into the Cavalry Corps on 13th June 1944 and served in 5th Motor Squadron for the duration of the Emergency. He later served in the 4th Motor Squadron and Depot Cavalry as well as with Depot Engineers. He served overseas in Cyprus with the Armoured Car Group of 9th Infantry Group (1967 – 1968). He retired voluntarily from the Defence Forces in 1970 and he had a long career as manager of Galway Racecourse at Ballybrit.
9th February 2012: 67th Annual General Meeting:
The 67th Annual General Meeting of the Cavalry Club was held in the old anteroom of the former Plunkett Officers Mess, Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh Camp, County Kildare at 1900 hours on Thursday 9th February 2012. Thirty members, including nine past Presidents of the club attended and the meeting had a full agenda with many worthwhile contributions from the floor.

The meeting was informed of the temporary solution that has been applied to the Presidential chain of office as was raised at the last AGM. Because of the long length of the chain, twenty two plates have been removed to avoid the possibility of it being damaged. The chain now has plates from 1967 to 2009 i.e. 42 plates and it is valued at €5,500 and is the highest priced asset of the club. A wide-ranging discussion took place and many members expressed strong views about some of the suggested solutions put forward. The meeting decided to task a sub-committee with exploring all suggestions and to report back to the committee. The Committee welcomes any more suggestions from members on how we can deal with this situation and all comments will be fed into the sub-committee for consideration.

The minutes of the 2012 AGM will be published on the website in advance of the next AGM.

The New Committee:
The meeting elected the following: Col George Kerton (Retd) President, Comdt Eugene Cooke Vice President & President Elect, Comdt Robert Carroll (Retd) Honorary Treasurer, Lt Neil Curran Honorary Secretary, Capt Michael Bohan, Capt John Power, Capt Paraic O’Toole (Retd), Lt Joanne McCarthy, Capt Peter Norton, Lt Joseph Tynan and Lt Paul Austin.
Honorary Members Elected:
The AGM unanimously elected Commodore Mark Mellett BSD and Captain John Ging (Retd) as honorary members of the club.

Commodore Mellett served in an Fórsa Cosanta Aitiúil as a Trooper and as a Corporal in 5th Motor Squadron from 1973 to 1976. He joined the Defence Forces as a Naval Service Cadet in 1976 and he was commissioned as an Ensign in 1978. He became OC LE Orla in 1992 and he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal With Distinction for a major drugs interdiction operation at sea in 1993. He subsequently commanded the LE Ciara in 1997. In 2005, he commanded the Irish Naval Flagship LE Eithne. In the rank of Commander he was OIC Head of Naval Plans and Policy and Commandant of the Naval College and Associate Head of the National Maritime College of Ireland. He served overseas with UNIFIL in Lebanon (1989) and with ISAF in Afghanistan (2004). Commodore Mellett attended courses at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich in 1989, at the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island in 1999 and he was awarded a PhD in Oceans Governance from NUI Galway in 2009 and a Masters in Government and Public Policy from University College Cork in 2004. He was promoted to the highest rank in the Naval Service in 25th January 2011.

Captain Ging joined the Defence Forces as a Cadet with the 60th Cadet Class in 1983 and he was commissioned in 1985. He served in 1st Cavalry Squadron, in 1st Tank Squadron and as an instructor in the Cavalry School. He served overseas with 66th Infantry Battalion, 69th Infantry Battalion and 72nd Infantry Battalion UNIFIL. He retired in 2002. In 1994, as a serving officer, he was seconded to GOAL as Regional Field Director in Rwanda. He spent eight years from 1997 as Chief Of Staff OSCE Bosnia and Herzegovina. He then moved for a brief stint as Chief of Staff of the Institution Building Pillar within UNMIK (the United Nations Mission in Kosovo). He served as Director of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) Operations in Gaza from 2006 up to January 2011. He was appointed by the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon as the Director of the Coordination and Response Division of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in January 2011 and he continues in that role at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. He earned a BA in political science and a degree in law from the National University of Ireland, Galway and subsequently qualified as a barrister. He has two post-graduate university degrees, having completed studies in Law, Sociology and Political Science. Captain Ging has a record of high achievement and he has made an outstanding contribution to international peace and human rights through his service as an officer and through his work with international organisations. He has brought great credit on the Defence Forces through his performance and achievements in his civilian careers as a fine ambassador for Ireland and for the Defence Forces.
21 February 2012: 70th Anniversary of Commissioning:

Nineteen members of the club joined with the Acting Officer Commanding 2nd Eastern Brigade Colonel John O’Reilly and members of Cathal Brugha Officers Mess to celebrate the 70th anniversary of commissioning of Commandant Art Magennis and Captain John Chadwick.

Art Magennis was born on 30th June 1919 in Ardglass, County Down and he was attested in what was then Portobello Barracks on 20th June 1940. He served as a Trooper with 2nd Motor Squadron. He completed Emergency Course H and was commissioned as a Temporary Officer on 21st Feb 1942 and he was posted to 1st Armoured Squadron. He received a Permanent Commission on 1st Nov 1946. During his service he served in the Cavalry School as an instructor, 4th Motor Squadron, Cavalry Workshops, 5th Motor Squadron, 1st Armoured Car Squadron and at Defence Forces HQ. He was Squadron Commander 1st Armoured Car Squadron from 5th January 1971 until his appointment in the Director’s Office in September 1974. He served twice in the Congo, with the Armoured Car Group 35th Infantry Battalion in 1961, Armoured Car Group 2nd Infantry Group in 1963 - 64, and twice in Cyprus with the Armoured Car Group 8th Infantry Group in 1967 and Armoured Car Group 18th Infantry Group 1970. He was awarded An Bonn Seirbhise Dearscna le hOnóir (The Distinguished Service Medal with Honour) for service in Elizabethville with the Armoured Car Group 35th Infantry Battalion ONUC. Art retired from the Defence Forces in 1979.

John Chadwick was born in near Borrisoleigh, County Tipperary on 30th April 1921 and he lived near Templemore. He was attested in Limerick on 25th June 1940 and served with the 9th Infantry Battalion. He was commissioned as a Temporary Officer on 21st February 1942 and he received a Permanent Commission on 1st November 1946. He served with 2nd Armoured Squadron for the duration of the Emergency and later he served in Depot Cavalry, 4th Motor Squadron, Cavalry Workshops and was Second-in-Command 2nd Motor Squadron before his final PDF appointments at DFHQ. In 1948, the 4th Motor Squadron based at Plunkett Barracks at the Curragh Camp, took over the Presidential escort duties from the Mounted Escort (the Blue Hussars). John was a motorcycle instructor and he was the first Lieutenant to be OIC of a motorcycle escort of honour. He was involved in a lot of state ceremonial events for the President Seán T O'Kelly and other dignitaries along with the late Kevin (the Dean) Nunan and the late Pat (the King) Sweeney. The 4th Motor Squadron handed over the ceremonial role to the 2nd Motor Squadron in 1955. John retired from the Permanent Defence Force on 1st July 1961 and he had a most successful career as sales manager and later as a director for A H Massers Ltd, a heavy plant and machinery company. He continued on the strength of 2nd Cavalry Squadron with the First Line Reserve up to 30th April 1975.
Forthcoming Events:

**Saturday 14 April 2012:** Cavalry Club Guided Walking Tour of Military Monuments, Memorials and Graveyards in the Phoenix Park / Kilmainham area. Commencing at 1000 hours at McKee Barracks the route goes via Blackhorse Avenue to Grangegorman Military Cemetery and onwards past Arus an Uachtaran, Wellington Memorial, Islandbridge Memorial Park, to Royal Hospital Kilmainham (RHK). Following a programmed break for lunch / refreshments in the RHK restaurant the group will return to McKee Bks via Collins Bks and Arbour Hill Cemetery. Throughout Cavalry Club guides will provide insights and commentary on the relevant historical sites and memorials encountered. The walk is open to all club members and their guests. It will be the personal responsibility of participating Cavalry Club members to have the rudimentary level of casual walking fitness to ensure they and /or their guests can participate without difficulty. This is a participatory social event for Cavalry Club members and their guests and is a casually paced, walking tour starting from and returning to McKee Bks. To facilitate access to McKee Bks and pre-walk catering arrangements, participants are requested to advise Hon Sec Cavalry Club, Lieutenant Neil Curran at e-mail neilcurran1@gmail.com NOT LATER THAN 10 April 2012.

**Thursday 31 May – Sunday 3 June 2012:** The Cavalry Club will conduct a battlefield tour of the WW1 Western Front and the estimated cost is €450 per person and this price is all inclusive figure which covers flights, transport (car hire, insurance & fuel), hotels (B&B) and meals (lunch & evening meal). The entire recce tour will be organised on the same self-help basis, which proved very successful on the 2009 tour. The tour is open to Cavalry Club members and their guests. Planning and provisional costs are based on a minimum of nine participants and will be adjusted pro rata for a lesser or greater number of participants. The tour will be organised for a four-day period, which will facilitate the conduct of a comprehensive WW1 Western Front Battlefield Tour Programme focused on providing an overview of Irish areas of interest on Somme & Ypres battlefields. Accommodation will be twin room sharing in the equivalent of 3 Star hotel accommodation on B&B basis. (Gender issues addressed as required). Transport to be planned on the basis of using a self-drive hire of a nine-seater minibus at arrival airport. Each participant will be required to be in possession of European Health Insurance Card and personal travel insurance relative to their individual needs. Prospective participants should signal their general intention to participate in the tour to Hon Sec Cavalry Club Lieutenant Neil Curran at neilcurran1@gmail.com by 14 April 2012 and make payment of a €120 NON – REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT to the Cavalry Club WW1 Tour Sub Committee. Final payments of outstanding amount will be completed by 14 May 2012.

*Carpe Diem.*