

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
(incorporating the Regimental Associations of the Seaforth Highlanders and
The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders)**

Held at Fort George on Friday 4th July 2014

In attendance:

General AP Grant Peterkin CB OBE	President
Lieutenant Colonel IJ Murray DL	Chairman and Trustee
Colonel M White	Trustee
Lieutenant Colonel CE Gilmour MBE DL	
Lieutenant Colonel AA Fairrie	
Captain J Mackintosh Walker	
Mr P Finlayson	
Mr D Loftus	
Maj JE Osborne	Secretary
Major D Grant	Treasurer

Ser (a)	Item (b)	Action (c)
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed the trustees and 34 members of the Association to the meeting</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Maj Gen The HonSHRH Monro, Brig NJ Ridley, Maj D Sheperd, PM Venters, Mr R Wood, Mr C Thorpe, Mr G Monaghan and Mr G Fraser</p>	
3.	<p>Obituaries</p> <p>The Chairman invited those present to stand and the names of those who had died or were related to Seaforth, Camerons or Queen's Own Highlanders were read out:</p> <p><u>Seaforth Highlanders</u></p> <p>Mr GM Brown Mr V Carmichael Mr H Cole Mr W Duncan Mrs AH Holland Mr B Inglis Mr A Lloyd Mrs D Mackenzie Mr R McDonald Mr R McVey Mr W Mills</p>	

	<p>Mr J Walker Mrs E Walker</p> <p>The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders</p> <p>Mrs PD Brown Lt JD Cameron Maj DW Campbell TD Mrs RM Campbell Mr E Carruthers Capt EFJ Chavasse Col R Craik OBE, JP, DL Mr J Glass Mr RC Lowson MM Mr DA Mackenzie Mr D Mackintosh Mr D McLaren Mr GS Neill Mr SVP Reid Sgt WJ Robson Mr RG Shearer Mrs RB White Mr W Yellowlees MC</p> <p>Queen's Own Highlanders</p> <p>Mr EH Blevins Mrs MD Campbell Mr P Christie Mr M Duffus Mrs AH Holland Mr APW Kyle Capt JR Maclean Mr W MacLean Mr J McNiven Mr A Meechan Mr J Meechan Mr W Mills Mr SWR Munro Mr D O'Reilly Mrs M Rattray Mr J Swanson Mr J Walker Mrs E Walker</p> <p>A minutes silence was held as a mark of respect.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>The Secretary made the meeting aware that there were 2 paragraphs numbered 9 in the previous Minutes. The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the 2013 Meeting.</p>	JEU
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p>	

	<p><u>Para 9b.</u> The Chairman introduced Maj JE Usborne as the new Secretary of the Association. He had previously been the RO3 in RHQ so was well known in regimental circles.</p> <p><u>Para 9c.</u> The Secretary informed the meeting that over the last 12 months there had been 56 welfare cases. The Association grants an award of £18k to the SO2 Welfare of The Royal Regiment of Scotland for him to disburse as he sees fit for our welfare cases. The Association paid out £9,238.94 and the SO2 raised a further £61,790.40. The Secretary asked those present that if they heard of any member of the Regimental family who had fallen on hard times to inform SSAFA, whose details are on the web site, so that their circumstances could be improved.</p> <p><u>Para 9f.</u> The Chairman explained that having looked at our and other Regimental Association Constitutions the Trustees had agreed to amend ours so that it included the ability to help/assist with Kohima/Memorials/Graves and Parades at home and abroad with regimental connections.</p>	IJM
6.	<p>Financial Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Chairman invited the Treasurer to explain the Annual Accounts. Maj Grant explained that income was £57,762 with expenditure standing at £52,162 leaving an end of year balance of £5,600 which was slightly down on the previous year. Investments had continued to do well and the financial committee are delighted with the returns being achieved. b. The accounts had been examined and approved by Lt Col GJ Johnston and were now ready to be sent to OSCR. c. The Chairman explained that although the SO2 Welfare in Edinburgh had not expended all the monies that we had entrusted with him the RABF was not as well off as in the past and so the Trustees had agreed to continue to grant an annual £18k. d. The Chairman then asked all the Association Branch Chairmen not to use the Regimental Association Charity number on any of their correspondence as this could lead to serious complications for all the accounts. 	DG All Branch Chairmen
7.	<p>Branch Reports</p> <p>All Branch reports are being circulated with these minutes and were taken as read. There is no set format for these reports or as to their length.</p>	All Branch Chairmen
8.	<p>Museum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Chairman encouraged Association members at the meeting to come forward and become a ‘meeter and greeter’ at the Museum as first impressions are absolutely vital in ensuring a visitor has a good experience. In time these volunteers would be asked questions and would have to find out the answers thus improving the visitor experience. It would be time well spent but not onerous. b. Lt Col RJ Towns MBE asked that it be recorded that Mr Jack McColl had/was doing a wonderful job at the Museum as a volunteer. 	All
9.	<p>Events</p>	

	<p>a. Honfleur. The Chairman told the meeting that Mr Seoras McIntosh and Mr Richard Anderson went to Honfleur to represent the Association on the 70th anniversary of escape of Seaforth Highlanders from capture, being hidden in Honfleur by the local ladies and their onward journey via Paris, three jails, Gibraltar and a troopship back to the UK. They are still known as ‘Snow White (Lt Richard Broad) and the Seven Dwarves’ (Highlanders).</p> <p>b. Cameron Association Gathering August 2014. Lt Col AA Fairrie informed the meeting that on Friday 8th August there is a Cameron Highlanders Officers Dinner in the Drumossie Hotel. On 9th August the Cameron Highlanders Gathering will take place in Cameron Barracks. A Service to commemorate the outbreak of WW1 will be held in The Old High Church (TBC) followed by a lunch in the Old High Church Hall.</p> <p>c. Tattoo Fort George. The meeting was informed that Maj Gen Monro is the Chairman and Maj Hitchings is the Director and that the Association would be holding a drinks and small eats reception in the Museum on the Saturday night, 6th September, starting at 1830hrs. Members were encouraged to attend and to inform the Secretary of their details. Lt Col RJ Towns asked for volunteers to assist as ushers/stewards.</p> <p>d. Cenotaph November 2014. The Chairman informed the meeting that he had just heard that the Association had been allocated a guard of 48 personnel for this year’s parade. He commended Capt Giles Nevil on all his hard work in achieving this and for having found over 50 personnel to take part. All communications will be through the Secretary as GN resides in France. The Association would consider help with transport costs if required.</p> <p>e. Waterloo 2015. It was suggested that the Cameron Association might like to put on a dinner to commemorate this battle and Lt Col AA Fairrie replied that he would look into it. Afternote: Lt Col AA Fairrie informed the Secretary that it would be far more fitting for RHQ RRS in Edinburgh to take the lead as all Scottish Battalions were present at Waterloo.</p> <p>f. Arboretum Memorial. The Chairman informed the meeting that he was going on the coach to the Arboretum in September so that he could look at the memorials in situ. For information the Argyll’s were building one at a cost of £30k and the DLI at £76k – the average is £19k. He would report back to the AGM in 2015.</p>	<p>AAF</p> <p>JEU RJT</p> <p>JEU DG</p> <p>IJM</p> <p>IJM</p>
10.	<p>QOHldrs Memorial</p> <p>It had been brought to the attention of the Chairman that there was a considerable interest in having a QOHldrs memorial in the north of Scotland. After some discussion it was decided that a small committee would be formed under Lt Col RJ Towns to investigate costs, location and type of memorial and that the results would be brought to the meeting next year for further discussion.</p>	<p>RJT</p>
11.	<p>Presentation of Medals and Bars</p> <p>All Medals were awarded to members of Highland Branch:</p>	

	<p>Gold Medals: Lt Col RJ Towns MBE Mr S McIntosh Mr J Yarrick</p> <p>Gold Bar: Mr R Forbes – Caithness Branch</p>	<p>Silver Medals: Mr R Sinclair Mr J Johnston Mr R Carr Mr S McIntosh Maj D Grant Mr P Finlayson</p>	
12.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a. Mr A Mackinnon raised the question of the modernisation of the Museum. A short discussion followed and the view was that the museum was informative and well organised with ‘work in progress’ to make further improvements.</p> <p>b. Lt Col AA Fairrie informed the meeting that the funeral of Mrs Gow was to take place on Monday 7th July.</p> <p>c. Lt Col C Gilmour said that the Pipes and Drums were a wonderful advertisement for the Regiment but they were having difficulty recruiting. They were also ageing slowly and found it more difficult to stand for long periods and march as do a number of other Association Bands. Numbers are declining. Lt Col Gilmour said that they are trying hard to recruit both civilians and ex-military and now had their first female. They undertook about 10 engagements a year. A discussion took place about other bands/payments and it was decided that, if required, the Association would be able to assist with travel costs.</p> <p>d. Bob Shanks appraised the Meeting that they were about to re-publish the Ross-shire Roll of Honour publication that recorded the deceased of Ross-shire during WW1. The publication runs to 2,000 copies @ £10 each and can be purchased from either the Dingwall or Highlanders Museums.</p> <p>e. It was raised and agreed to look at another QOHldrs Gathering in 2016. Lt Col Towns would lead on this.</p> <p>f. Maj G Givens stated that for the Condolence Cards it is difficult to get complete details of the deceased at such a time. The Secretary replied that this was understood and that each card was processed individually on the known detail.</p>		<p>Lt Col Gilmour</p> <p>RJT</p>
13.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and it was agreed that the next AGM would be on 26th June 2015. The meeting closed at 1215hrs.</p>		