

AMALGAMATION DINNER 7th FEBRUARY 2014 - REPORT

The Dinner this year was once again held in the Sergeants' Mess at Fort George. We are extremely fortunate to benefit from the use of this excellent location thanks to the Regimental Sergeant Major and Mess Member of 3 SCOTS.

Our main guest, was a fellow a Branch Member namely Colonel James Murray the Chairman of the Regimental Association. Our two other official guests were Major Edward Osborne the Regimental Secretary and a well-known to us all Queen's Own Highlander, Major Colin McInroy currently Company Commander of Headquarter Company of 3 SCOTS. We are fortunate that Jacobite Cruises allow employee and branch member Kenny (Chalky) White to use one of their coach's to transport the Inverness members to the Fort free of charge. As a thank you, Kenny Clunas from the company was also invited as a guest. Seventy plus members and guests in total attended.

Apologies were read out and members were informed that General Seymour and Angela had flown to Cape Town visit their son Bert who is very seriously ill after catching the worst type of malaria.

After introducing the guests the Secretary Steven McIntosh read out the names of Absent Friends:

Frank Blincow	Pat Kyle	Paddy Mills
Kenny Maclean	Mark Duffus	John Swanson
John Joyce	Ali Meechan	Alex Irvine
Davie Anderson	Scott Munro	John Blackhall
Davie Spence	Johnnie MacLean	Jimmy and Emma Walker
Willie Andrew	Paul Christie	Cathy Reid
Andrew (Speedy) Munro	Eddie Blevins	Jean Givens
Alistair McGillivray	Danny O'Reilly	Meggie Campbell
Eddie Carruthers	Billy MacLean	Maureen Rattray

We Will Remember Them

Grace was said by the chairman and this made reference to the Amalgamation, and the heroism and sacrifices of the Seaforth and Cameron Highlanders during WW1.

An excellent meal followed, cooked to perfection by Sgt Primrose and his team and masterfully served by the Mess Manageress Livvy Hillman and her team. We are very lucky to have the use of this fine facility.

After the meal glasses were charge, in fact they were kept very well charged all night and toasts proposed by Peter Finlayson to the Queen and Colonel and Chief and to the Regiment by the Chairman. The toasts were heartily supported by all attending.

Our Pipers for the evening were the Association Pipe Major John MacDonald supported by Calum Mackenzie, Richard Anderson and Steve Slater. The Pipe Programme was as follows:

March	Ishbel T Macdonald
Hornpipe	The Highlanders Hornpipe
Slow Air	Sheila's Lullaby
Jigs	Corkhill & Scarce o' Tatties
March	Cameron Men & Cabarfeidh

We are so fortunate to have such excellent Pipers who once again did us proud both at the table and later upstairs in the Lounge.

Following the Pipes the Association Chairman Colonel James Murray addressed those present and covered the following topics; The Museum, Welfare and the forthcoming honours to be paid to the ladies of Hornfleur in respect of the assistance given to Lieutenant Richard Broad, and the seven members of the Seaforth Highlanders (Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs) during their escape from France in 1941.

This was very well received by all present,

After thanking the Chefs and those involved in looking after us we retired upstairs to the bar to enjoy the craic, more Pipes and the raffle.

Finally, here is a wee story to restore your faith in human nature and standards. A collection was organised and well contributed to as a way of saying thanks to those who had cooked and waited on at the table and looked after us so well. The generous sum of £305.19p was collected and handed over to the Mess Manager for equal distribution amongst those responsible for looking after us.

We wrongly thought that one of the reasons we were looked after so well was that the word had gone out that we were good tippers. I say wrongly because the money was handed back to the Chairman by the Mess Manager with the words, ***“We would like you to take the money back and present it to Erskine as we have enjoyed looking after you.”*** Livvy and team, thank you very much indeed for this very humbling gesture. We Highland Branch will certainly do this and I will put it to members that we donate the same amount from Branch Funds to increase the amount to £610.38p. A handover of monies will be arranged with Erskine, details to follow.

Thank you to all Highland Branch Committee Members for the part they played in putting the Dinner together and ensuring its successful execution. Thank you to Seoras for producing such an excellent photographic record of the event.