

## **Armed Forces Day Parade – Edinburgh – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Since its inception the Armed Forces Day in Edinburgh continues to become a popular and well attended event. The Castle Esplanade on the 26<sup>th</sup> June was therefore completely filled with many servicemen and women from the both the regular, reserve forces, cadets, and various Regimental Associations.

It was therefore with some pride that members of the Edinburgh Branch of the Association, as well as comrades from the Seaforth Highlanders & Cameron Highlanders, formed a forty-strong marching contingent. Bobby Munro was made the honorary contingent sergeant major and organised everyone into three ranks (Bobby was the only one who still had a pace stick so we thought he should get the job!). The Association Standard was carried by George Taylor and the new and recently acquired Branch Standard was carried by John Meikle. Eddie Maley, as one would expect, took on the job of right marker for the Branch. It was great to see that every one of our marching contingent was wearing either regimental head dress or kilts or tartan trews - the Highlanders therefore stood out from the remainder of the Associations on parade and were the second largest Association contingent (after the Royal Scots, who after all are an Edinburgh regiment!)

Once the One O'Clock Gun was fired, the parade stepped off to the music of a Military Band and made its way down the Royal Mile to the cheers and applause of the crowd. The spectators completely filled the pavements and it was particularly heartening for everyone on parade to be made aware of the enormous pride that so many members of the general public have for their Armed Forces.

The parade route followed the Royal Mile and an eyes right was given opposite the City Chambers to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and the Chief of the General Staff. The parade then marched into Cockburn Street, down to the Mound, and eventually into Princes Street Gardens where everyone fell out and made their way to the beer tents, displays, and Ceilidh Band especially laid on for the occasion.

It should be noted at this stage that Edinburgh has been chosen to host the 2011 National Armed Forces Day Parade and therefore next year will be a much grander affair - so dust off your regimental head dress, start practicing your drill, and put the date into your diaries!

## **Summer Dance 2010 – Held at Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club, Edinburgh on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Despite being down on numbers from last year, the Summer Dance was well attended with 65 members, their wives, family, and friends. As usual, many of the stalwarts from the Edinburgh Branch turned up to support the Branch and enjoy themselves, together with a familiar face from further afield – notably Sammy Ord and Dot, together with their daughters, Donna and Debbie. It was also nice to see Woody (ex-Sergeants Mess Barman) for the first time at the Branch and George Givens's son Richard, a serving officer with 4 Scots (The Highlanders)

The entertainment on the night was provided by a very talented group called The All Stars, who presented some quick change routines featuring Elvis, Cher, Shania Twain, and the Blues Brothers. The group entertained everyone for the whole night and succeeded in getting George Givens to participate in their Blues Brothers routine, pork pie hat, sunglasses and all!

After the buffet Bobby Munro and Johnny Meechan organised the raffle (thanks again to all those Branch members who kindly donated the prizes). To keep the raffle above board, and to ensure there were no fiddles taking place, Sammy Ord was asked to make the first draw for prizes but was subsequently sacked by Bobby! Funnily enough, members of Sammy's family eventually ended up winning four of the prizes! We are still trying to work out how Sammy did it!

Photographs taken by Sandy Dewar marking both occasions can be found on the Photos page, plus many more to follow from Margaret Munro.