



Queen's Own Highlanders
Regimental Association
Edinburgh Branch

BRANCH NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2010

The Chairman and Committee of the Edinburgh Branch Wish All Our Members a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Edinburgh Branch Amalgamation Dinner

As you all know the Regimental Association is organising a grand reunion in Inverness this coming summer to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Queen's Own Highlanders. This is being organised by a separate committee and more details will follow in due course. The Edinburgh Branch has decided that our main effort in 2011 will be to organise an extra special Amalgamation Dinner on **Saturday 12th February 2011 (7.30 pm for 8.00 pm)**. Because of the significance of the anniversary we intend making this event a much more memorable affair than in previous years and are subsequently hoping for a really good turnout. The dinner will be held at Easter Road Football Ground, where we will be looked after by their dedicated events staff. Padre Matthew Robertson will start the evening by saying Grace in his own inimitable and entertaining way and the guest of honour will be Colonel Mike White, who as a young subaltern carried the Queens Colour of the Seaforth Highlanders back from Germany prior to the amalgamation and has many tales to tell about the fledgling Queen's Own Highlanders battalion!

The menu looks first class - a three course meal, half a bottle of wine per person, port for the toasts, and freshly brewed tea or coffee (see annex for details). We have also booked a Mini Pipe Band from Edinburgh Academy to entertain us during the dinner and, by popular demand, a return of The Kool Kats, a 50's/60's band who will entertain us after the dinner. The tables at the venue are round and can accommodate eight people quite comfortably (ten at a squeeze). To avoid problems with people scrambling around for a seat on the night we plan to allocate members and their partners to a table. We know some people will wish to sit with their usual mates so if you want to be included in a table with specific people please indicate on the return who you wish to sit with. If you are happy to sit with a mixture of other members please leave this part of the return blank. We are hoping everyone who has a kilt or trews will wear them on the night.

The entrance to the venue will be the Forthview Suite Entrance at the North Stand. If you have mobility problems – don't worry – there is a lift up to the function area.

The Branch is subsidising the cost of the night quite heavily and therefore the tickets for the entire package will be a real bargain at £20.00 per head. As we need to provide a list for the security team at Easter Road it is important that you give Danny your names as soon as possible – along with your money please! (we are trying to avoid the Treasurer having to carry cash on the night so please send the payment with your return). To reduce waste on the night the caterers would also be obliged if you could indicate your choice of menu on the return. **Returns ASP please but no later than the 4th February 2010**

Report - Remembrance Parade – Sunday 14th November 2010

We advertised the 2010 Remembrance Parade in Edinburgh as being a much bigger event than in the past. What we didn't realise that it would be a much wetter event than in previous years!

Despite the weather however, the Branch produced about thirty members all willing to brave the elements to march down the Royal Mile. The parade's RV was at The Hub (the old converted church on Castle Hill – ie at the top of the High Street where it forks to become Johnston Terrace). Most of our members gathered there beforehand to have a welcome cup of hot coffee before finally forming up in the Lawnmarket. John Meikle, carrying the Branch Standard, and Bobby Munro, carrying the Malay Brunei Veterans Association Standard were hived off to form up with all the other Standard Bearers. The rest of the Branch joined the main parade and formed up in three ranks in front of a giant TV screen to watch the proceedings taking place at the Stone of Remembrance down the road.

True to form, the Branch members were resplendent in tartan, Association Ties, and Regimental head dress. Yet again we must have been one of the largest association contingents on parade! Shortly after 11.00 am the parade stepped off to a Pipe Band and we marched down the High Street to give an eyes left at the saluting Dias and then a right wheel behind St Giles Cathedral from where we fell out (the original plan was to march straight down the Royal Mile, into Cockburn and fall out in Market Street, however the powers that be decided that Cockburn street was too slippery in the wet weather for some of the older marchers and therefore reduced the route)

The parade over, many members made their way down to Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club where the Branch had arranged a hot meal. We had previously invited the Royal Scots Regimental Association and the RASC/RCT Regimental Association to join us and therefore we had a somewhat full house! After the Loyal Toast and Toasts to the various Regiments we had our usual raffle (to which half the proceeds went to the Erskine Hospital). We then had the good fortune of having three Pipers from the Edinburgh Postal Pipe Band march through the doors and lo and behold their Pipe Major

turned out to be Johnny Simpson, a former Queen's Own Highlander! We were therefore entertained to a few pipe tunes before a local singer and comedian took the stage.

It was good to see so many members turning up for the parade, particularly those from farther a field, as well as some new faces: David McIntosh, Jim Allan, and Dusty Miller to name but a few.

Report – Christmas Dance – Saturday 11th December 2010

The Christmas Dance proved to be another big success for the Branch with an excellent turnout of 90 Branch members and their guests. The Q's, a talented musical duo, made their way down the M8 from Glasgow to provide the music for the night – if it was a week earlier the extreme bad weather might have made the night a whole lot different! As it was, the music provided by the group was excellent and much appreciated, judging by the amount of folk on the dance floor.

Apart from all of our usual Branch stalwarts we welcomed Jimmy Cumming back after his long illness (and Annemarie of course). Jimmy also managed to entice Ian and Tricia Hunter along from sunny Alloa – it was good to see them both. We were also graced with the presence of Archie and Rena MacKinnon down from the Highlands, and from the west coast: Tam & Liz Balloch, Duncan MacLeod, Pat Ferguson accompanied by Michelle, and Eddie & Morag Chorley.

After another tasty buffet provided by the staff of Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club (nice Ruby Murray, Eleanor!) we were entertained by Bobby Munro trying to figure out the colour of the raffle tickets being drawn! A big thank you must go to all our members who generously donated the prizes for the raffle. The star prize of the evening was an original "Kelvin Hunter" dram table in the form of a Queen's Own Highlander in combat dress – won by Margaret Munro (funnily enough, wife of the organiser of the draw!).

Hopefully we managed to get everyone into the festive spirit for Christmas and fired up for our next function – the Amalgamation Dinner in February.

Stewart "Geordie" Anderson

Stewart Anderson is still in Liberton Hospital and unfortunately could not make it to the Christmas Dance this year. Doris reports that he has recovered from his stroke but his mobility has suffered and it looks unlikely that he will be on his feet again. He is being allowed out on Christmas Day but would appreciate visitors at any other time – anyone who knows Stewart will know he is always pleased to blether about old times. If you would like to visit Stewart he is in Ward 5 and the visiting hours are between 3.00 - 4.30 pm and 7.00 – 8.00 pm

Last Post

For those of you that do not have access to the internet, the following sad news of the deaths of former Queen's Own Highlanders has been reported on the Association website over the past few months:

Eddie Jenkins

Former Queen's Own Highlander - passed away in September

Capt Simon Taylor

Former QOCH and Queen's Own Highlander - passed away in September

Ian Laidlaw

Former Cameronian and Queen's Own Highlander - passed away in November

“We Shall Remember Them”

Anniversary Gathering

The following is an extract from a letter hot off the press from Bob Towns:

“I had hoped to be in a position to publish firm details of our Anniversary Gathering at this stage however the future ownership of Cameron Barracks remains uncertain and until I receive confirmation of the agreed way forward I will bide my time. Suffice to say however that the Gathering will take place in Inverness over the weekend 11/12th of June 2011 and you can plan your travel using these dates. Start Time on the Saturday will be approx 1400 hrs and on the Sunday 1030 hrs. We will be clear on Sunday at approx 1500 hrs. Meals will be served both days.

The cost will be £10 per head for the weekend and the event will be restricted to former members of the Seaforth Highlanders, Cameron Highlanders, QO HLDRS, and associated TA Companies and their families. This also includes all personnel who were attached to us. Details of how to book will be issued by the 1st of February 2011. This delay is deliberate as it will allow us to include as much detail as possible and to condense the administrative work load of our small team. Believe it or not the main attraction at this event is YOU. Regardless of rank or time served it would be great to see you. Further updates will be issued as necessary.”

For the Latest News:

You will find details of future events, lots of Regimental information, and photographs of Association members & functions on the Association web site at:

www.cabarfeidh.com

RETURN – AMALGAMATION DINNER – SATURDAY 12th February 2011

Name:	Address:
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I will be attending the Amalgamation Dinner (If accompanied by a partner please state the name for the table plan) And I enclose a cheque/postal order for..... (£20.00 per head). Please send a Cheque or Postal Order – NO payments on the night please	Numbers? Name.... £.....
I would prefer to sit on the same table as: (this cannot be guaranteed but we will try our hardest to accommodate everyone)	

	Please Indicate for you and your partner:
<u>Starter:</u>	
Homemade Minestrone Soup or	
Baked Garlic Field Mushrooms on Toasted Brioche served with a Blue Cheese Dressing & Fresh Lambs Leaf	
<u>Main Course</u>	
Peppered Scottish Beef with a Red Wine Jus served with Roasted Fondant Potato & Parcel of Fine Green Beans Or	
Seared Chicken Supreme with Haggis Tower & Rich Red Wine Jus served with Pomme Puree, Baby Leeks & Carrots Or	
Homemade Bubble & Squeak with Melted Brie served with Tomato Ragout & Fresh Spinach	
<u>Dessert</u>	
Homemade Sticky Toffee Pudding served with Cream Butterscotch Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream Or	
A Selection of Scottish Cheeses and Biscuits	

(If you haven't done so already) - I wish to renew my annual membership and enclose a cheque/postal order for the sum of: (£15.00 for the under 65's and £10.00 for the over 65's)	£.....
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(Please make your cheque out to QOHLDR Regtl Assn, Edinburgh Branch so it can be paid directly into the Branch Account and please **NOT** made out to Danny Carruthers)

Please return **ASAP** to: Danny Carruthers, Picterin Cottage, 61A Grahamdyke Road, Bo'Ness, EH51 9DZ
Tel: 01506 829766. eanddcarruthers@hotmail.com