



**Queen's Own Highlanders
Regimental Association
Edinburgh Branch**

BRANCH NEWSLETTER – MAY 2010

Report - Amalgamation Dinner 2010

The 2010 Amalgamation Dinner managed to surpass last years large turnout with an even bigger number of attendees sitting down to the meal ie just short of one hundred members, their wives and guests attending – enough to fill the club's function room and keep the staff fully occupied!

George Givens, the Branch Chairman, welcomed everyone and gave a special mention to Lillian Duffus and Barbara McGraw who had both travelled down from Inverness especially for the dinner, and also to Jimmy Cummings, on his return to the fold after his recent illness. George commented that it was good to see so many people wearing regimental tartan, despite the sound of straining kilt straps and popping buttons!

Rev Matthew Robertson, the Battalion's Padre in Edinburgh, Sharjah, and Osnabruck said a special Grace he had composed for the evening. Once again Matthew delivered the Grace in verse - as always an excellent start to the evening and a great ice breaker.

Angus Lutton and Jamie MacLean, a couple of young fifteen year old pipers from Edinburgh Academy, resplendent in Queen's Own Highlander No 1 dress and regimental head dress, played two sets of pipe tunes during the evening. They received warm applause after each set and everyone remarked on the very high standard of their playing and the number of tunes in their repertoire

Ritchie Turner was the guest of honour for the evening and started off by proposing a toast to the Queen's Own Highlanders. He then proposed a further toast to the young jocks of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (The Highlanders) who were ably following in the footsteps of their predecessor regiments

Ritchie then went on to recount that in February 1961 he was witnessing the amalgamation of the two battalions from a whole different perspective from everyone else in the regiment ie as a guest of the Commanding Officer in the Caber Feidh Hotel! He went on to recall how he managed to turn his fortunes around after his brief holiday in Colchester and went on to advance his career in the army, just as the new regiment was also developing to become one of the finest battalions in the British Army. Ritchie's tales of his escapades throughout the years mirrored the Battalions progress through its first twenty two years (plus a bit extra for jail time!) and held everyone spellbound.

After the speeches "Dinger" Bell and Johnny Meehan cracked on with the raffle and George Givens gave a big thank you to all those members who generously donated the prizes and to Doris Anderson and Sue Ryan for selling the raffle tickets.

Pictures of the evening are now available on the website

Armed Forces Day – Saturday 26th June 2010

After last years excellent turnout at the Armed Forces Day Parade in Edinburgh we hope surpass it by returning this year with an even bigger contingent.

You might remember that at last years' Branch AGM the committee were asked to explore the possibility of purchasing a Branch Standard to be used on future Armed Forces Day (AFD) Parades. Investigations were therefore carried out and, in conjunction with the Highland Branch, we went ahead and ordered the standards (one for each Branch). We are hoping to have ours delivered before June so we can march behind it at the AFD parade (the standard is Hector on a St Andrews Cross, similar to the old Regimental Flag).

Please make an effort to turn up for the march, and if possible, parade with some form of Regimental dress so that Queen's Own Highlanders, Seaforth Highlanders, and Cameron Highlanders can all march as a formed group ie Glengarry with regimental badges, regimental ties, tartan trews, kilts, or blazer badges. The Form Up will be on Edinburgh Castle Esplanade at 12.15 pm - The Parade RSM will organise the various marching contingents and the Parade will steps off shortly after the one o'clock gun fires. The parade will then proceed down the Royal Mile, past the City Chambers, (were the salute will be taken), down Cockburn Street, along Waverley Bridge, East Princes Street Gardens and halt at the Mound Precinct. Entertainment and refreshments will be laid on in Princes Street Gardens, centred on the Ross Bandstand, and the day will culminate in a Beating Retreat. For those still fit enough, we will finish off the day in style with the Branch's Summer Dance (see next article)

Summer Dance – Saturday 26th June 2010

This years' Summer Dance will be held in Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club (7.30 pm for an 8.00 pm kick off) Danny Carruthers has booked a three piece band called The All Stars, who come highly recommended, and who will pay tribute to many of the most popular music stars of the past thirty years. They also promise to have non-stop costume changes during the night! (the committee are waiting with baited breath to see how they are going to manage that on the stage of Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club!)

The club will be laying on its usual high standard of catering and the committee will be holding a raffle in aid of Branch funds. Tickets for the dance are now on sale now at a bargain price of £15.00 per head. Please fill in the proforma at the back of this newsletter and get it back to Danny Carruthers ASAP so we can make the necessary arrangements with the club.

Branch Forecast of Events

Saturday 26 th June	Armed Forces Day Parade	Edinburgh Castle Esplanade
Saturday 26 th June	Summer Dance	Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club
Sunday 10 th October	Branch AGM	Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club
Sunday 14 th November	Remembrance Day	Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club
Saturday 12 th February	Amalgamation Dinner	Venue TBC

Key Dates of Other Branch's Events for Your Diary:

Saturday 24 th of July	Armed Forces Day Inverness
Sunday 26 th September	Highland Branch - Lunch (TBC - Cameron Barracks or elsewhere).
Saturday 13 th November	Highland Branch Buffet Dinner with Partners.
Saturday 5 th February 2011	Highland Branch Amalgamation Dinner (Stag event).

Regimental Reunion 2011

As you are all probably aware, a grand Regimental Reunion will be taking place next year to mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment. Bob Towns (Chairman of the Highland Branch) has been tasked with chairing the organising committee and the plans are very much at an early stage, however some initial thoughts are: it should be held over the week-end of the 11th and 12th of June 2011, with a Parade at Cameron Barracks or a March through the City of Inverness, followed by a meal and drinks at Cameron Barracks, music from the Regimental Association Pipe Band, and a late night Ceilidh. Suggestions for the Sunday are: a Church Service at Fort George, followed by a visit to the Museum (that is if it is open– there may be refurbishment work taking place at this time), and a Lunch, followed by a display from the Association Pipes and Drums. The outline plans will be discussed at the Regimental AGM in July, when it is hoped that the dates will be agreed so members can go ahead and book accommodation (members should note that there is a Rock Festival taking place at Loch Ness that particular week-end so it is important to get accommodation booked well in advance)

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:

Maj Bob Holmes	Former QM and holder of the MM - passed away in January
Arthur Nicol	Ex-Signal Platoon in Berlin - passed away in January
Geordie Brown	Ex-MTWO - passed away in January
Ross MacKenzie	Corporal in Osnabruck - passed away in February
Lt Col Ian Fraser	Former Bn 2ic - passed away in February
Gerry McCrum	Ex Military Band - passed away in April
Rab Scott	Storeman in Osnabruck and brother of Davie Scott - passed away in April

Miscellaneous Events

SSAFA will be holding a concert at St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh on Sunday 30th May 2010. An open service will take place at 3.30 pm followed by a ticketed Garden Party. The Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Lowland Band, The Pipe Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, and the Pipers and Dancers of Queen Victoria School Dunblane will be performing. Tickets at £5.00 per head can be booked by telephoning 0131 310 2876. All funds will go to SSAFA

John Meikle also tells us that the Korean War Memorial in Bathgate is being re-dedicated on the 24th July 2010. Anyone, in particular Korean War veterans, would be most welcome at the ceremony

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**

**PLEASE FILL IN YOUR PROFORMA AND GET IT BACK TO DANNY
CARRUTHERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Name:	Address:
I will be attending the Armed Forces Day Parade	Yes/No
I will be attending the Summer Dance (state how many if accompanied by family/friends)	Numbers?
I enclose payment of.... (£15.00 per head)	£.....
There is a short flight of stairs from the main road that can be used by anyone with mobility problems. Please let us know if you require access by this route	Yes / No
If you would like your next newsletter delivered by email (<u>and</u> we do not already have your email address) please record it here:	

(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:

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