



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

BRANCH NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2014

Remembrance Parade – Sunday 9th November 2014

Following the successful introduction of a more conspicuous role for veterans into the Service of Remembrance at the City Chambers in Edinburgh last year, Legion Scotland are again asking veterans to parade and take an even more prominent role. This year the veterans will be leading the parade and will march **from the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle** down to the City Chambers where members of the Scottish Government and the three Service Chiefs in Scotland will be laying wreaths. For those able to attend, please turn up at the **Esplanade** at 10.15 am ready to form up dressed in Regimental Headdress, medals, and Regimental ties please. Our own Bobby Munro will be giving the words of command for the veteran's contingent (**please note the change of form up point to the details given out at the Branch AGM – also the march off parade will now end up in Johnstone Terrace and not Waverley Station**)

As usual, entertainment and food will be laid on at Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club following the various ceremonies. This year the Royal Scots Regimental Association is sponsoring the buffet and entertainment, so why not come along with your families and have a really enjoyable afternoon out. There will be many like-minded veterans present, the usual tasty buffet, some decent piping, and a good sing-along, so please head to the club after your own parade.

Christmas Dance – Saturday 13th December 2014

The Branch Christmas Dance will take place this year at Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club on Saturday 13th December 2014. Many of you will remember a group called Timeless, who we all raved about – we have managed to get them back and they will be providing the music and entertainment to get us all in the mood for Christmas. The club will be laying on their usual excellent Christmas buffet and as is customary, we will be holding a grand Christmas raffle. Following tradition, it would really be appreciated if donations for the raffle could be made to bump up the number of prizes – remember, all proceeds of the raffle go back into the Branch Funds to help subsidise our annual events.

Please plan to start your festive season in good style and get your return and ticket money off to Danny Carruthers as soon as possible (A Return can be found at the end of this newsletter).

Report – Branch AGM

We have attached the Minutes of the Branch AGM held on the 12th October 2014 so you can see what was discussed at the meeting

Forecast of Events

Branch Events

Remembrance Parade
Branch Christmas Dance
Amalgamation Dinner

Sunday 9th November 2014
Saturday 13th December 2014
Saturday 7th February 2015

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EDINBURGH BRANCH,
QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
HELD AT LEITH EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB, EDINBURGH ON 12th OCTOBER 2014**

The meeting opened at 13.00 hrs with 38 members present: Lt Col (Ret'd) CPD Millar, Maj (Ret'd) G Givens, Maj (Ret'd) D Shepherd, D Carruthers, J Meikle, G McCann, T McCann, J Hogg, A Sinclair, J Dunn, J Donlevy, G Kidd, J Alan, N Robertson, I Forsyth, D MacCallum, C Stewart, C Anderson, K Urquhart, J Elliot, C Purvis, D Kelly, K Reid, A O'Reilly, R Chapman, J McGinn, M Bell, R Aitken, D Espin, M Kelly, J Westwood, R Griffith, J Moore, A Walker, J Skinner, J Dunion, G Stirling, A Dewar

Fallen Comrades The meeting started with a minutes silence to remember those members of the Regimental Family who had sadly passed away over the last year. A list of fallen comrades was read out.

Apologies Apologies were received from Brig (Ret'd) N Ridley, Col M White (Ret'd), Lt Col (Ret'd) NG Smith, Lt Col (Ret'd) R Turner, J Ryan, G Taylor, M Stirling, J Keay, D Little, R Munro, R Dall, E Maley, G Lawson, D Logue, J McVey, D Fraser, S Byers, J Gilchrist, J Coburn, I Sargeant, A Downs, G Henderson, E Chorley, R MacMillan, R Miller, P Wason

Minutes of last Meeting It was proposed by John Donlevy and seconded by Duncan MacCallum that the Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting were an accurate account of the proceedings.

Matters Arising Maj Givens reported that following last year's meeting, talks had taken place with the CEO of Legion Scotland to discuss issues regarding the route and lack of refreshment facilities provided at previous Armed Forces Day Parades in Edinburgh. The meeting proved fruitful and the route of the 2013 AFD Parade in Edinburgh was subsequently changed in order to start in the High Street, near Cockburn Street, and to finish at the watering holes surrounding the Grassmarket. This route proved popular, and since this initial discussion, another two meetings have taken place to consider changes to Remembrance Parades, as well as other veteran's issues.

Chairman's Report Maj Givens reported that the Branch remained very active with a number of new members joining the Branch and the following successful events taking place over the past year:

Representation at the 2013 Remembrance Services at the City Chambers and the Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street Gardens.

A successful 2013 Christmas Dance at Leith Ex-servicemen's Club

A good turnout at a very enjoyable Summer Dance

Another excellent attendance at the 2014 Armed Forces Day Parade in Edinburgh despite the main effort being focused on the National AFD Parade a week later

A Great turnout and a good day out at the National AFD Parade in Stirling (for which the Branch laid on a bus to take participants through to Stirling)

An excellent night out at Edinburgh Student Union at our annual Amalgamation Dinner

A good representation from the Branch on the Regimental Association trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to commemorate the lives of all those servicemen and women who gave their lives during Op Banner Tours, and particularly the eight Queen's Own Highlanders who had been lost

Treasurers Report John Meikle, the Branch Treasurer, had prepared an Income and Expenditure Report covering the period of September 2013 – September 2014 and all members present were provided with a copy. John Meikle ran through various parts of the statement and reported that the Branch funds were in a healthy state and encouraged everyone to pay their annual subs by Standing Order. There were no questions from the floor.

Report from the Regimental AGM Maj Givens reported that he and Danny Carruthers had attended the Regimental AGM at Nairn in June 2014 and reported two salient points he thought would be of interest to

everyone: 1. Maj Givens had proposed that a grand reunion be held in the Highlands in 2016 similar to the event in 2011 which everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed – this proposal was unanimously agreed.
2. It was agreed to form a sub-committee under Lt Col Bob Towns to make plans to erect a suitable memorial to the Queen's Own Highlanders, at a location to be decided in the Highlands (since then it had been mooted that a memorial should also be erected in the grounds of the National Memorial Arboretum as well as in Scotland)

Remembrance Parades 2014 Maj Givens informed the meeting that Legion Scotland wanted to make the Remembrance Service at the Garden of Remembrance on Monday 3rd November a more high profile event and have therefore asked for a good attendance, as well as a Branch Standard to be on parade. The wreaths at Princes Street Gardens are to be laid by John Meikle (Queen's Own Highlanders wreath), Bobby Munro (Seaforth Highlanders wreath) and Jake Dunn (Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders wreath). The wreaths at the main parade at the City Chambers on Sunday 9th November will be laid by George Givens (Queen's Own Highlanders wreath), Bobby Munro (Seaforth Highlanders wreath) and Jake Dunn (Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders wreath).

The form of the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 9th November will change this year – Veterans will march from St Giles Street into the quadrangle of the City Chambers (this year a tannoy system is being installed so that the veterans are able to hear the service clearly). After the service ends the veterans will then march from the City Chambers (eyes left at the Stone of Remembrance) and down the High Street/Cockburn Street to Waverley Station, where Network Rail will be laying on light refreshments. Thereafter, veterans and their families are invited back to Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club for a buffet and entertainment. All those able to attend were strongly encouraged to parade with the veterans and then go back to Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club for a good afternoon of entertainment – it was noted by several members that these events were always good value and well worth attending

Forecast of Events Maj Givens gave the following forecast of events:

- Christmas Dance – Saturday 13th December 2014 at Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club, Edinburgh
- Amalgamation Dinner – 7th February 2015 at Edinburgh University Students Union
- Maj Givens also mentioned the Liverpool Scottish Annual Reunion on the 24th October, the Moray Loons Night Out on the 31st October, and the Highland Branch Christmas Dance on the 6th December 2014

Committee The Committee all volunteered to remain in their present roles. Danny Carruthers proposed that Alec Sinclair join the committee and this was seconded by Jimmy Elliott. There being no objections Alex joined the committee.

Any Other Business

Maj Givens reported that John Gilchrist had emailed Danny Carruthers and asked him to pass on his regards to all Branch members and to inform everyone that he was settling down well to life in New Zealand and that he had recently been parading with the Kiwis on Soldiers Day, resplendent in tartan and blue hackle!

Maj Givens reported that when members pass away it is sometimes difficult to find the relevant details that could be used to respectfully mark their passing. He therefore asked members to fill in a short proforma showing particulars of their military service and life in civvy street. He said the proforma would be used to update members contact details, whilst at the same time being a useful tool to help write a few paragraphs about the life of those comrades who eventually pass away.

Maj Givens went on to present the eleven members of the Branch who had volunteered to be Marshals at the WW1 Commemorations in August, with a memento from the organisers (a First World 1 "Kings Shilling")

RETURN – CHRISTMAS DANCE – SATURDAY 13th DECEMBER 2014

Name:	
I will be attending the Branch Christmas Dance (£15.00 per head)	Numbers?
	Names....
I enclose payment of:	£.....

(Please make your cheques out to QOHLDR Regtl Assn, Edinburgh Branch so they can be paid directly into the Branch Account and **NOT** made out to Danny Carruthers)

Please return ASAP to: Danny Carruthers, Picterin Cottage, 61A Grahamdyke Road, Bo’Ness, EH51 9DZ

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