



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

BRANCH NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2014

Armed Forces Day Parade – Sunday 22nd June 2014

Because it was the turn of Scotland to host the National Armed Forces Day Parade this year it was decided to hold the Edinburgh Parade a week earlier to avoid a clash. The parade in Edinburgh therefore attracted a smaller attendance than usual but nevertheless our Branch produced another good turnout.

About twenty of our members formed up in on the Royal Mile/Cockburn Street area to march on a new route up the High Street, past the City Chambers and then down Victoria Street to the Grass Market. As usual, Eddy Maley very ably carried the Branch Standard and Bobby Munro gave the orders.

Once the parade fell out everyone departed to various watering holes. Photographs, as usual can be found on the Association website

National Armed Forces Day Parade – Saturday 28th June 2014

Members of the Edinburgh Branch, plus a few new faces, turned out to provide a goodsized squad to celebrate Armed Forces Day at the National event in Stirling. It was awe inspiring to see the many Service and Regimental Associations coming together to march past and give an eyes right to Princess Anne (accompanied by her Klingons – David Cameron and his mates Alex Salmond and Ed Miliband!). On this occasion our Branch Standard was very capably carried by Jock Meikle.

A few old faces turned up in the crowd ie Angus Steele from 4 SCOTS, Donny Munro, who was manning the SSAFA tent, Tam Hunter across from Northern Ireland, Chris Starrs (son of Ringo), and Roger Burt (ex-Mil Band), to name but a few. Brigadier Paul Harkness (ex-Battalion Adjutant and now Brigade Commander, 51 Brigade) was also on parade resplendent in his No 1 dress.

The day was very well organised with military hardware galore and flying demonstrations from Apache helicopters, Tornado Jets, and the Battle of Britain Memorial Squadron – and yes, a very large beer tent, where many of our members congregated to discuss military matters! Evidence of this can again be found on the photos page of the Association website

Summer Dance - Saturday 5th July 2014

Another good night was had in Auld Reekie! Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club was comfortably full of Branch members and their better halves, attempting (and succeeding) to enjoy themselves. The comedian/singer for the night, Robbie Carran, suitably took the mickey, and succeeded in making sure the place was buzzing by getting everyone to strut their stuff on the dance floor and contribute to a great party atmosphere.

The buffet provided by the club was as usual, excellent and plentiful (it must have been – Stevie Byers was reported to be full!).

It was also good to see a few new faces at the dance, including Charlie Derbyshire, who came up from the south of England & Ian (Chalky) Whyte and his wife Elsie from Elgin.

A big thank you must go to Margaret Munro for selling the raffle tickets, Bobby Munro and Tam Balloch for running the raffle, and of course to the many Branch Members who kindly donated the prizes.

Regimental AGM

The annual Regimental AGM took place on Friday 4th July 2014 at Fort George and our Chairman, George Givens, and Secretary, Danny Carruthers attended on behalf of the Branch.

Relevant points from the meeting will be relayed to members at our own Branch AGM, however two points of interest should be highlighted – George Givens, our Branch Chairman, suggested that a grand reunion, similar to the one in 2011 be held in 2016. This was unanimously agreed and a planning committee under the chairmanship of Bob Towns is to be formed

The second point is that it was agreed that some form of regimental memorial be erected to commemorate the Queen's Own Highlanders – again, a planning committee is to be formed to gather ideas about what form this should take, the location of the memorial, and the likely costs

World War 1 Commemoration – Drumhead Service and Procession - Edinburgh Castle – 10th August 2014

Fifteen members of the Edinburgh Branch actively supported Scotland's commemoration of the start of the First World War by acting as either Marshals, marching in the Veterans 100 contingent, or spectating during the Drumhead Service and subsequent procession. It was initially hoped that over 8000 people from all over Scotland would take part in the Service and Procession down to the living memorial in Holyrood Park, however in the end, and because of the inclement weather, about 5000 spectators turned out – no mean feat in itself though!.

The service turned out to be very poignant and a big thank you must go to everyone who took part in what started with a Drumhead Service on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, and ended in torrential rain at a simulated War Graves Commission cemetery in Holyrood Park. Yes, we all got a soaking, but we need to remember that the soldiers of World War 1 suffered far worse conditions and they didn't go home at the end of day to dry out!

Many of you would have seen the televised coverage on the BBC and picked out some blue hackles in the crowds, however you can also see a few photographs of the proceedings on the Association website.

Trip to the National Memorial Arboretum – 19th-21st September 2014

As many of you will know George Givens has been organising a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to attend a service of commemoration organised by the Northern Ireland Veterans Association to remember all those servicemen and servicewomen who gave their lives whilst serving in Northern Ireland. A full report will appear in the next newsletter.

Branch AGM

The Branch AGM will take place at Leith Ex-Serviceman's Club starting at 1.00 pm on Sunday 12th October 2014. Any points for the Agenda should be submitted to Danny Carruthers by Monday 6th October 2014 please. The meeting will be followed by a Curry Lunch and members are encouraged to bring their families along (the Branch covers the cost of the lunch but please let Danny know so sufficient food can be laid on)

Payment of Annual Subscriptions

It is much easier to have your annual subscriptions paid by Standing Order – it saves you forgetting to pay, it ensures the Branch Accounts are topped up each year at the same time, and it prevents the Treasurer from carrying large amounts of cash around at the Branch AGM. If you haven't already done so, can you please arrange with your bank to have your subs paid into the Branch Account on the 1st October 2014 and annually thereafter on the same date:

Name of Account: Edinburgh Branch, QOHLDRS Assn
Sort Code: 80 11 30
Account Number: 00596546

When you do this please ensure you **include your name as the Reference** so Jock Meikle can identify where the payment has come from. If you don't have a bank account, Jock will be taking your subs at the Branch AGM (£15.00 and £10.00 for those aged over 65) - or if you can't make the AGM send a cheque to Danny

Forecast of Events

Branch Events

Trip to the National Memorial Arboretum	19 th -21 st September 2014
Branch AGM	Sunday 12 th October 2014
Remembrance Parade	Sunday 9 th November 2014
Branch Christmas Dance	Saturday 13 th December 2014
Branch Amalgamation Dinner	Saturday 7 th February 2015

Other Branch/Association/Regimental Functions

Liverpool Scottish Annual Reunion	Friday 24 th October 2014 (contact Colin Hughes on 01704 550360 for tickets)
Moray Loons Night Out (Seaforth Club Elgin)	Friday 31st October 2014
Highland Branch Christmas Dance (Inverness)	Saturday 6 th December 2014

Last Post

For those of you that do not have access to the internet, the following sad news of the deaths of former members of the Regimental Family has been reported on the Association website since our last Branch newsletter:

<i>Robert Shearer</i>	<i>QOCH</i>
<i>Donald McLaren</i>	<i>QOCH</i>
<i>Duncan Mckintosh</i>	<i>QOCH</i>
<i>Dr WattyYellowlees MC</i>	<i>QOCH</i>
<i>Maj Donny Campbell</i>	<i>QOCH</i>
<i>Pete Elder</i>	<i>QO HLDR</i>
<i>Alex McKay</i>	<i>QOCH</i>
<i>Ernest Finch</i>	<i>QOCH</i>
<i>Lt Col Donnie Grant</i>	<i>Seaforth & QO HLDR</i>
<i>Bill Mullen</i>	<i>QO HLDR</i>

“We Shall Remember Them”

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 – BRANCH AGM – SUNDAY 12th October 2014

Name:	Address:
	Email address:

I will be attending the Branch AGM	Numbers?
	Names....
I will <u>not</u> be attending the Branch AGM but enclose my annual subscriptions (<u>if not on Standing Order</u>) (£15.00 – under 65 or £10.00 for those over 65)	£

(Please make your cheques out to QOHLDR Regtl Assn, Edinburgh Branch so they 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