



Queen's Own Highlanders
Regimental Association
Edinburgh Branch

BRANCH NEWSLETTER – MAY 2014

Future Events

Over the coming months there are quite a number of events that will help to raise the profile of the Queen's Own Highlanders and which we very much hope our members will fully support.

In June there are two Armed Forces Day Parades – one in Edinburgh and the other in Stirling. At the beginning of July we have our annual Branch Summer Dance and in August the Royal British Legion Scotland are commemorating the 100th anniversary of the First World War by holding a Drumhead Service on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, followed by a dazzling public pageant in Holyrood Park. Moving on to September, a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum is being organised to pay respect to all those who gave their lives whilst serving in Northern Ireland, and in our particular case, to the eight members of our regiment who died whilst serving in the Province

These events are aimed primarily at encouraging comradeship and remembrance, however, as an Association we must keep on striving to keep our regiment in the public eye and counter the claims of all those doom merchants who say we are being forgotten. One of the best ways to do this is to keep on turning out to the various parades dressed in regimental headdress and regimental tie to show everyone we are still alive and kicking. We are therefore asking all Branch members (and those from other Branches) to sign up to a number of high profile events over the summer months and **more importantly to fill in the returns attached to this newsletter to give us an idea of turnout.**

Armed Forces Day – Edinburgh Parade – Sunday 22nd June 2014

The route this year has changed so that the start point will be in the High Street (near Cockburn Street) and veterans are asked to form up at 10.30 am ready to step straight off at 11.00 am. The marching contingents, led by a Pipe Band, will pass the saluting dais at the City Chambers and march from there down Victoria Street to the Grass Market, where various military displays, stands, and a band will be on hand (and then on to local hostelrys where we have been told there will be discounts!).

A good turnout is requested so please fill in the return at the end of this newsletter to give us an idea of numbers. Usual dress: Glengarries, Regimental Ties and Medals (kilts or trews if you have them please)

Armed Forces Day UK National Parade – Saturday 28th June 2014

This year the **National** Armed Forces Day Parade for the whole of the UK will be held in Stirling and will consist of a march through Stirling town centre and then on to a local park where there will be beer tents, various stalls and displays, bands playing, and an RAF fly past. The salute will be taken by a member of the Royal Family and it will be a great chance for us to march behind our Branch Standard to show that the Queen's Own Highlanders are still a strong and active association. Veterans Scotland have indicated that there will be at least 1200 veterans marching alongside the regular members of our armed forces and Queen's Own Highlanders need to be prominent amongst them.

Stirling Council are planning to lay on good day out for everyone and are forecasting a bumper turnout. The Branch has therefore provisionally booked a coach to take members through to Stirling to avoid problems with parking etc (but this will depend on numbers). At this stage there has been a slow response

to our last newsletter although we have been given several verbal assurances and some indication that people will either travel by private car or train. It is therefore important that we (a) know the numbers for the bus so we can gauge if this option is still viable and (b) the names of those members who are definitely going to attend but who plan to travel independently by car or train.

So why not come along for what looks like being a great opportunity to show people that the Queen's Own Highlanders are still a vibrant association (and maybe also treat your families to a good day out).

Remember this is a UK National parade and many other Scottish regiments will be turning out – so please support the Association and come and proudly march in this national celebration of our armed forces.

Anyone travelling by private car should be aware that Stirling Council is offering 50% reductions on parking if people book in advance through their website. Timings: bus drop off at the Albert Hall at 10.30 am, register at 11.00 am, and step off at 11.30 am. Timings for the bus pick up will be passed on once we know if the numbers make it viable to hire a coach or not

Association AGM – Friday 4th July 2014

The Regimental AGM will take place at Fort George starting at 11.00 am on Friday 4th July 2014 and George Givens and Danny Carruthers will be attending as Branch representatives – this of course this does not preclude any other Branch member from also attending. If anyone has any points to raise please let either George or Danny know in plenty of time (and let Danny know if you plan on attending so we can pass on the numbers for catering purposes – see the return at the end of this newsletter)

Branch Summer Dance – Saturday 5th July 2014

The Branch will be holding our annual Summer Dance in Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club on Saturday 5th July 2014. We have booked a highly recommended singer/comedian by the name of Robbie Carran to keep us entertained for the night and the staff at the club will lay on its usual excellent buffet. Little and Large (Eddie Maley and Bobby Munro) will also be on hand to argue over the colour of the raffle tickets, so come along and let your hair down – the tickets remain a bargain at £15.00 per head and the return can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Royal British Legion Scotland Drumhead Service – Sunday 10th August 2014

The RBLs are planning to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War by holding two events in Scotland. The first will be in Glasgow on the 4th August 2014 and the second will be in Edinburgh on Sunday 10th August 2014. The Branch will be focusing on the event in Edinburgh and it is hoped that we will be able to raise enough bodies to attend the Drumhead Service on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle and then act as ushers to guide the forecasted 8000 members of the public down the Royal Mile to Holyrood Park to attend a grand interactive pageant. This event is being planned on a very ambitious scale and the RBLs are therefore asking for as many volunteers from the Veterans community to help out. So please sign up to this event to help commemorate this very significant anniversary and to particularly remember the many Seaforth and Camerons Highlanders who fought so valiantly and gave up their lives during this conflict. A return can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Service of Remembrance – Op Banner (Saturday 20th September 2014)

We have received notice and an invitation to an annual Service of Remembrance in September to pay respects to all those servicemen and servicewomen who gave their lives whilst serving in Northern Ireland. This service will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and it was thought that many of our Association members might like to attend. We have therefore put together a proposal ie to organise a coach to pick up passengers in Inverness, Edinburgh, Bothwell Services, and Gretna on Friday 19th September and returning on Sunday 21st September 2014. However, we will only proceed with the plan if we get sufficient numbers to make it worthwhile. You can see the full proposal on the attachment to this newsletter

Branch Forecast of Events

Armed Forces Day	Edinburgh Parade – Sunday 22 nd June 2014 <u>UK National</u> Parade in Stirling - Saturday 28 th June 2014
Summer Dance	Saturday 5 th July 2014
Drumhead Service	Sunday 10 th August 2014 (WW1 Commemoration - Holyrood Park)
NI Service of Remembrance	20 th September 2014 (National Memorial Arboretum – Staffordshire)
Branch AGM	Sunday 12 th October 2014
Remembrance Sunday	Sunday 9 th November 2014
Christmas Dance	Saturday 13 th December 2014

Other Branch/Associations Events

RBLS D Day Commemoration – Dunblane	Friday 6 th June 2014
WW1 Commemoration – Glasgow	Monday 4 th August 2014
Cameron Gathering	Saturday 9 th August 2014
Highland Branch Assaye Day Lunch	Sunday 7 th September 2014 (This date TBC)
Liverpool Scottish Reunion	Friday 24 th October 2014
Moray Loons	Friday 31 st October 2014
Highland Branch Christmas Dance	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 members of the regimental family has been reported on the Association website since January:

Johnny Meechan	<i>QO HLTR</i>
John McNiven	<i>QO HLTR</i>

“We Shall Remember”

THERE ARE A LOT OF RETURNS AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER – BUT PLEASE STICK WITH IT AND FILL IN ALL RELEVANT DETAILS AS WE REALLY NEED THIS INFORMATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

DANNY IS AWAY ON HOLIDAY IN JUNE SO IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF RETURNS CAN BE IN BY THE END OF MAY PLEASE

VARIOUS RETURNS – Please fill in the parts that are applicable to you and return by the end of May please

Name:	
Address:	
Email address:	
Telephone Number	

ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE - EDINBURGH
SUNDAY 22nd JUNE 2014

Please tick the appropriate box	
I wish to march on the Armed Forces Day Parade in EDINBURGH	

NATIONAL ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE - STIRLING
SATURDAY 28th JUNE 2014

Please tick the appropriate box:	
I wish to parade on National Armed Forces Day and <u>am fit and able to march</u>	
I wish to parade on National Armed Forces Day and <u>have limited mobility</u> (you will probably join the parade closer to the saluting dais)	
I wish to parade on National Armed Forces Day <u>but am wheelchair bound</u> (we are hoping that separate arrangements will be made for wheelchair users by the organisers)	
I am interested in making use of free transport provided by the Branch to take members from Edinburgh to Stirling (this option will depend on numbers and the cost of appropriate transport)	
I will be making my own arrangements to travel to Stirling	

ASSOCIATION AGM – FORT GEORGE
FRIDAY 4th JULY 2014

Please tick the appropriate box:	
I will be attending the Association AGM and will require lunch	

BRANCH SUMMER DANCE – LEITH EX-SERVICEMEN’S CLUB
5th JULY 2104

Please tick the appropriate box:	
I will be attending the Branch Summer Dance and enclose a cheque for _____ tickets @ £15.00 per head	Total £ _____

RBLS DRUMHEAD SERVICE AND PAGEANT – EDINBURGH
SUNDAY 10th AUGUST 2014

Please tick the appropriate box:	
It is my intention to attend the RBLS Drumhead Service in September	
I am willing to act as a Steward for this parade	

Please return this proforma ASAP to:

Danny Carruthers, Picterin Cottage, 61A Grahamsdyke Road, Bo’Ness, EH51 9DZ
Tel: 01506 829766.

eanddcarruthers@hotmail.com



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

**NORTHERN IRELAND SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
20th SEPTEMBER 2014**

We have received an invitation from the Northern Ireland Veterans Association to attend their annual Service of Remembrance at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire –this is to commemorate all those members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives whilst serving on Op Banner Tours.

It has therefore been suggested that members of our Association might like to take part in this service and indeed take the opportunity to march behind our Association Standards as a mark of respect for our own fallen comrades.

PROPOSAL

Friday 19th September 2014 - Depart from Inverness on Friday 19th September. Pick up from Edinburgh, Bothwell Services, and Gretna and arrive at Burton Upon Trent late afternoon. Socialise at local hostelries in the evening

Saturday 20th September 2014 - Attend the Service of Remembrance at about 11.30 am and march as an Association behind the Branch Standards. Socialise at local hostelries in the evening

Sunday 21st September 2014 - Depart for the north after breakfast

FUNDING

The hire of a modern 49-seater coach for the week-end (with on-board toilets) is going to cost in the region of £1600.00. The Chairman of our Regimental Association, Lt Col James Murray, has very kindly agreed to provide funding for this comradeship event from Regimental Funds

Members will therefore just need to pay for their accommodation and food for the week-end.

After some research, suitable rooms have provisionally been booked at the Premier Inn in Burton Upon Trent – the advantages of staying in this particular inn is that we can get everyone in the same hotel and it has an adjacent Beefeater Inn where people can get their breakfast and other meals (plus it has a bar!).

The Premier Inn charges £58.50 per room per night (this does not include breakfast). We have asked for twin rooms so people can share (the room that is, not the bed!) This means that if people share, the cost per member will only be £58.50 for the week-ends accommodation. For those who want a room to themselves the cost would obviously be £117.00.

Because we are expecting a strong response, we unfortunately might need to cap numbers. It has therefore been decided that fairest way to proceed is that anyone applying for places on the coach should be paid up members of one of our Branches, that the places be allocated on a first come first served basis, and a cheque be received with your application (cheques will not be cashed until August). Any cheques arriving after all the places have been allocated will be returned. Of course this does not exclude anyone who might want to get to the National Arboretum under their own steam and who might only want to stay for the day – just turn up and feel proud to march behind standards bearing the badges of the Queen's Own Highlanders!

RETURN - NORTHERN IRELAND SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

20th SEPTEMBER 2014

Name:	
Address:	
Email address:	
Telephone Number	
Branch:	
Pick up point? (Inverness, Edinburgh, Bothwell Services or Gretna)	
I wish to share with (please get agreement with the person you wish to share with first!):	
I wish to have a room on my own (please tick)	
I enclose a cheque for: £58.50 if sharing £117.00 if in own room Cheques should be made out to "George Givens" as the total & final payments made to Premier Inn will be made on his personal credit card. Cheques <u>will not be cashed</u> until mid-August - just before the payment is due to Premier Inn	£.....

An admin instruction will be issued to all successful applicants with timings and pick up details nearer to the date of the trip **so please ensure your email address/home address details are completed**

Remember this is a first come first served event so please send all returns and cheques ASAP for this trip to George Givens, 23 Forbes Road, Rosyth, KY11 2AN