



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

**BRANCH NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2011**

**Report - Amalgamation Dinner – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011 (previously published on the Association Website)**

The 2011 celebrations to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment kicked off in good style for the Edinburgh Branch with a bumper turnout of one hundred and eight members, partners, and friends of the branch turning up for a dinner at Easter Road, the home of Hibernian Football Club. The choice of venue proved to be popular, even for those die hard fans of the Jam Tarts!

George Givens started the evening by welcoming all those members from the local Lothian and Fife areas, as well as those travelling from further afield – namely Liverpool, Newcastle, Gretna, the Highlands, and Glasgow. This was followed by messages being passed on from friends who could not make it to the dinner for various reasons – ie John Gilchrist currently in New Zealand awaiting the arrival of a new Grandchild, Margaret and Bobby Munro from their cruise liner somewhere off the coast of Japan, Stewart (“Geordie”) Anderson from Liberton Hospital, and Brigadier Nick Ridley from the Borders. Stephen McIntosh, the Secretary of the Highland Branch, passed on very kind best wishes from his members to the Edinburgh Branch. This was followed by a moments silence to remember all those comrades who had sadly passed away since the formation of the Regiment, some fifty years ago.

George then handed over the proceedings to Dougie Shepherd, who recited a special Grace for the anniversary dinner. This went down a storm and hit all the right notes for the start of what proved to be an excellent evening.

The caterers at the venue did us proud and served up a tasty and filling three course meal after which a comfort break was called for. The second half of the evening started with a very fine performance by a Mini Pipe Band from Edinburgh Academy (incidentally the only Cadet Unit to retain the regimental cap badge of the Queen's Own Highlanders). As usual the young lads, all under the age of eighteen, produced an excellent repertoire of tunes and did themselves proud. This was followed by an extra treat in the form of Pipe Major Michael Gray, a former Queen's Own Highlander, playing a selection of favourite regimental tunes (The 79<sup>th</sup>'s Farewell to Gibraltar, Cabar Feidh, March of the Cameron Men, and Pibroch of Donuil Dubh). Michael was then called back and Colonel White thanked him and his Mini Pipe Band for an extremely polished performance. Michael replied by giving the Regimental Toast in Gaelic, which was very well received.

George Givens then gave the Loyal Toast and went on to introduce Colonel Mike White as our Guest of Honour for the evening. Colonel Mike proceeded to entertain the company with tales of life in the Seaforth Highlanders as a young second lieutenant before the momentous events in February 1961 and re-badging to become a Queen's Own Highlander. Colonel Mike went on to recount tales of jungle warfare training, pirate hunting, the Brunei Revolt, mechanised warfare training in BAOR, and operational tours in Northern Ireland. His tales, linked to mentions of regimental characters, brought back long forgotten memories to many of the assembled company. To finish off a very entertaining

talk, Colonel Mike gave the Regimental Toast, this time in English, to which there was an outstanding reply of “**Cabar Feidh Gu Brath**”.

George Givens thanked Colonel Mike for a very memorable talk and handed over to Colonel Charlie Millar, who proposed a toast to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (The Highlanders) and wished them a safe and successful operational tour in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Michael “Dinger” Bell, Johnny Meechan, and Tam Balloch then cracked on with the raffle - the star prize being an original Kelvin Hunter Dram Table in the shape of a Queen’s Own Highlander in Number 2 Dress. At this stage we must give a big thank you to all those members who generously donated prizes for the raffle.

The evening finished off with dancing to the Kool Kats and the sound of the swinging sixties

All in all, a very successful and enjoyable evening and a great start to the Regiment’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

### **Regimental Gathering – 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

Numbers for the Gathering are increasing by the day and many well kent faces will be popping up over this week-end – (see list of attendees on the Association website) We know many of the Edinburgh Branch members have booked accommodation but names still appear to be missing from the list – if you have not yet filled in your return, please do so ASP.

If your name is not on the current list of attendees please complete the proforma you can find on the Association website and get it sent off to reach RHQ by the **deadline of the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

If you know of anyone who is not a member of a Branch, why not give them a ring and encourage them to come along to the Gathering – let’s make this reunion the biggest one yet!

If anyone is in the Inverness area on the Friday preceding the Gathering and would like to give a hand in setting up Cameron Barracks, then please feel free to turn up and report to Bob Towns (NCO ic Fatigues) – dress is clean fatigue, bring your own NAAFI Break!

### **Armed Forces Day Parade 2011 – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

As Edinburgh is the National Focus for this year’s Armed Forces Day Parade, the organisers have put together a full and varied programme for the whole of the week-end (which you will find enclosed with this newsletter). However, the main focus for the Branch will be on the Parade itself on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Detailed plans are still being made, however the latest news is that the Regimental Associations will form up in Johnstone Terrace and should aim to muster at about 10.30 am as we know that the regular contingents of the Army, Navy, and Air Force will step off at 11.00 am, with the Veterans following closely behind. A 10.30 am muster should therefore be enough time to get ourselves organised, however please be aware that the traffic might be heavy as the Royal Highland Show and the Touch Rugby World Cup are both on that day so it might be necessary to allow time for delays.

We have also been told that anyone with mobility problems – ie not able to manage the march from the Castle down the Royal Mile to Holyrood Palace - will be managed separately, however detailed plans are still awaited and we will therefore inform anyone with mobility problems about the exact details when we find out ourselves (so please indicate on the return if you are in this category)



## **RETURN – ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE**

To be back with Danny Carruthers **by the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011 please** so we can inform the Veterans Association about our numbers by their deadline of the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Name:	Address:
I am now on the internet and my email address is: All future newsletters will be sent by email if we have your address	@

I will be attending the Armed Forces Day Parade and <u>will march</u> down the Royal Mile	Yes / No
I will be attending the Armed Forces Day Parade but have mobility problems and will not march	Yes / No
I will be attending the Armed Forces Day Parade but am unable to march as I am a wheelchair user	Yes / No
<b>Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club</b>  For Catering Purposes –  I intend to go back to Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club (include any family members)	Numbers.....

## **PRESENTATION OF COLOURS**

I am interested in attending the Presentation of New Colours to the Royal Regiment of Scotland on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2011 – (names will be passed to RHQ – but you are not guaranteed a ticket until informed by the Regimental Secretary. Payment details will be passed on when known)	Yes / No
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Please return **ASAP** to: **Danny Carruthers,  
Picterin Cottage,  
61A Grahamdyke Road,  
Bo'Ness, EH51 9DZ  
Tel: 01506 829766.**

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