



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

**BRANCH NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2014**

**Report - Amalgamation Dinner 2014 (previously published on the Association website)**

The Edinburgh Branch annual Amalgamation Dinner was held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in the Debating Hall of Edinburgh University Student's Union and our guest of honour was Lieutenant Colonel Bob Towns (former CSM Delta Company, Regimental Sergeant Major, and Quartermaster of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion)

Bob took us through a whistle stop tour of his career and the many appointments he held whilst serving with the Queen's Own Highlanders, the Highlanders, and on various outside postings. His talk also mentioned many regimental characters and the great connection that still exists with the North of Scotland, and in particular with Nairn, where he and Shirley now live.

The dinner also doubled up as a commemoration of the coming one hundredth anniversary of the First World War and a remembrance of all the Seaforth Highlanders and Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders who sacrificed their lives in that conflict.

The menu was first class - a three course meal, half a bottle of wine per person, port for the toasts, and freshly brewed coffee. There was a great turnout of over 100 members and their partners, the atmosphere was fantastic, and it was fair to say that and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

It was also nice to see a few old faces at the dinner – in particular Brigadier Nick Ridley (past Chairman of the Regimental Association), Anne Blair (widow of the late Lt Col David Blair), and Terry Pearson (on leave from his job in Jordan).

As usual, Edinburgh Academy provided an excellent Mini Pipe Band and a good selection of regimental tunes. Zander, a local singer, entertained us after the dinner and was successful in getting everyone onto the dance floor very quickly.

Finally, a big thank you as always must go to everyone who generously donated the prizes for the raffle

**Service of Remembrance – Op Banner (Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014)**

We have received notice and an invitation to the 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 to organise a coach to pick up passengers in both Inverness and Edinburgh on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September and returning on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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

Please note that members wishing to go on this trip will need to send a cheque to secure a place and it will be on a first come first served basis (cheques for successful applicants will not be cashed until August when final payment for accommodation will be due).

## Armed Forces Day UK National Parade – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014

This year the National Armed Forces Day Parade will be centred on Stirling and 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 vibrant association. We are hoping for a strong turnout and therefore there is a proposal that the Branch hires a bus to take us through to Stirling (this will depend on numbers). At this stage we would ask that anyone who would **definitely** parade with the Branch fills in the return at the end of this letter to give the committee an idea of numbers so we can plan ahead and feed into Veterans Scotland, who are organising the veterans part of this event. Once we get numbers, and Veterans Scotland issue the admin order, we will publish further details. There will be a VVIP taking the salute so dust off your regimental headdress and regimental ties (and yes, there will be a beer tent, food outlets, and various military displays)

### Branch Forecast of Events

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

### Battalion Footballers Reunion (extracted from information on the Association website)

Steed Wilson is organising a Battalion Footballer's reunion in May and details are as follows:

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and/or Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 - arrive at accommodation in Nairn. Attendees will be required to book and pay for their own accommodation (Some suggestions are: Windsor Hotel, Golf View, the Newton, the Clubhouse, or the Waverly. There are also a large number of good B & B's in the town - contact Bob Towns if you require advice).

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 - Attend a Nairn County, Caley Thistle (Inverness) or Ross County (Dingwall) home match. Attendees will need to organise their own transport to the game. If it is a Nairn County game then the RV will be at the Nairn British Legion, time to be notified.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 - Evening function - 1900 for 1930 at Nairn British Legion. The evening will include a Buffet, Disco and Raffle. Dress: Smart Casual. The cost will be **£10.00 per person** and cheques should be made payable to: "The Nairn British Legion" and forwarded to **Steven Wilson, 24 Penyfan Road, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8DB**. Please include your telephone number with your cheque to enable an acknowledgement to be sent.

The Regimental Golf takes place at Kinloss Golf Club on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of May so why not combine the two events?

## **Branch Subs**

There are still a few members who have not paid their annual Branch Subs. If you fall into this category please send a cheque to Danny Carruthers as soon as possible. Under-65 subs are £15.00 and over 65's are £10.00 (better still set up a Standing Order)

## **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:

**Alex Irving**

***QO HLDR***

***"We Shall Remember"***

## **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](http://www.cabarfeidh.com)



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Regimental Association  
Edinburgh Branch**

**NORTHERN IRELAND SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE  
20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

We have received notice and an invitation from the Northern Ireland Veterans Association about their annual Service of Remembrance at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire - 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 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014** - Depart from Inverness on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Pick up from Edinburgh and arrive at Burton Upon Trent late afternoon.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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!

**George Givens  
Edinburgh Branch**

**Bob Towns  
Highland Branch**

**RETURN – NORTHERN IRELAND SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE - 20th SEPTEMBER 2014**

Name:	
Address:	
Email address:	
Telephone Number	
Branch:	
Pick up point? (Inverness or Edinburgh)	
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)	
<p>I enclose a cheque for: £58.50 if sharing  £117.00 if in own room</p> <p>Cheques should be made out to “George Givens” as the total &amp; final payments made to Premier Inn will be made on his personal credit card.</p> <p>Cheques <u>will not be cashed</u> until mid-August - just before the payment is due to Premier Inn</p>	£.....

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**

**RETURN -NATIONAL ARMED FORCES DAY PARADESTIRLING –  
SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2014**

Name:	
Address:	
Email address:	
Telephone Number	
<b><u>Please tick the appropriate box:</u></b>	
I wish to parade on National Armed Forces Day and <b><u>am fit and able to march</u></b> (the route is downhill from Stirling Castle on a cobbled surface)	
I wish to parade on National Armed Forces Day and <b><u>have limited mobility</u></b> (you will probably join the parade closer to the saluting dias)	
I wish to parade on National Armed Forces Day <b><u>but am wheelchair bound</u></b> (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)	

**Please return this proforma ASAP to:**

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

**[eanddcarruthers@hotmail.com](mailto:eanddcarruthers@hotmail.com)**