

**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 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009**

The meeting opened at 13.30 hrs with 27 members present: Lt Col (Ret'd) C Millar, Lt Col (Ret'd) R Turner MBE, Maj (Ret'd) D Shepherd, Maj (Ret'd) G Givens, D Carruthers, J Dunn, G McCann, T McCann, A Dewar, J Skinner, R Dall, E Maley, D MacCallum, R Munro, A Munro, J McGair, G Kidd, J MacPhail, J Gilchrist, J Paterson, J Hogg, K Reid, G Stirling, A Dewar, J Meikle (plus two undecipherable names on the Attendance List)

1. **Fallen Comrades** The meeting started with a minutes silence to remember those members of the Regimental Family who had passed away over the last year.
2. **Apologies** Apologies were received from Brig (Ret'd) N Ridley, Col (Ret'd) M White, Capt (Ret'd) GS Anderson, J Ryan, H Harrigan, A Goodwin, T Brown, J Meechan, D Scott, P Kyle, N Robertson
3. **Minutes of last Meeting** It was proposed by Duncan MacCallum and seconded by Jimmy Skinner that the Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting were an accurate account of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising
5. **Chairman's Report.** Maj Givens reported that the Branch remained very active with the following successful events taking place over the past year:
  - Representation at the 2008 Remembrance Services at the City Chambers, the Garrison Church, and the Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street Gardens.
  - A successful Christmas Dance on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at The Royal Navy Club
  - A well attended and entertaining Amalgamation Dinner on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club
  - An enjoyable Summer Dance on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at the Royal Navy Club, Edinburgh
  - An excellent attendance at the Armed Forces Day Parade in Edinburgh on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009
  - A good representation of Edinburgh Branch members at the memorial week-end in Northern Ireland from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009
6. **Treasurers Report.** John Meikle reported on Income and Expenditure over the period of September 2008 – September 2009 (all members present had a copy of this information attached to their agendas). There were no questions from the floor about the Treasurers Report. Maj Givens thanked Mr Meikle and reported that the Branch funds were in a healthy state. Mr Meikle then proposed that the annual Christmas Gift for the widows be increased to £25.00. This was seconded by Eddie Maley, and after a show of hands this proposition was passed.
7. **Report from the Regimental AGM** Maj Givens reported that he and Danny Carruthers had attended the Regimental AGM at Nairn on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and had the following points to report:
  - The Chairman of the Northern Ireland Branch, Capt (Ret'd) Tim Lewis, reported on progress of plans to hold a trip to the Province to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Warren Point. The trip would involve services at Palace Barracks and Warren Point, a bus tour of Belfast to let members see the differences in the Northern Ireland community since the peace process had started, a Ceilidh at Ballykinlar, and ending with a church service at Ballykinlar Garrison Church.

- It was confirmed that the Regimental Association would hold a grand Reunion in Inverness in 2011 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Queen's Own Highlanders. It was hoped that the dates for this week-end could be tied in with the Armed Forces Day Parade so that the Association could also march through Inverness as a formed body (dates probably at the end of June 2011 if the Veterans Day Parades are kept to the same time of year)
  - A letter from a widow was read out by Lt Col (Ret'd) Bob Towns drawing attention to the lack of contact from the Association after her husband's death. *Maj Givens thought this was probably a valid criticism and therefore proposed to write to all widows of Edinburgh Branch Members asking if they wished to be sent regular copies of the Branch Newsletter and making them aware that they would be made most welcome at any Branch functions.*
8. **Remembrance 2009** Maj Givens announced that he would be laying a wreath at Edinburgh City Chambers on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2009, Stuart Anderson and Alec Mackie would be laying a wreath at the Garrison Church on the same day, and John Meikle would be laying a wreath at the Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009. Sandy Dewar reported that Branch Members are invited to Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club after their local Remembrance Services on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2009, courtesy of the Royal Scots Regimental Association
9. **Forecast of Events** Maj Givens reported the following forecast of events:
- Christmas Dance – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club, Edinburgh
  - Amalgamation Dinner – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club
  - Summer Dance – TBA
10. **Presentation of Medallions** Maj Givens presented a bar to their Association Medallions to John Meikle and John Gilchrist
11. **Committee** Maj Givens announced that Frank Scott, John Donlevy, and Mick Bell had decided to stand down as Committee Members and thanked them for all their hard work and support over the years. He reported that Sandy Dewar and Johnny Meechan had been co-opted onto the committee some months ago but their appointments needed to be ratified by Branch Members. Danny Carruthers therefore proposed that Mr Dewar and Mr Meechan join the Branch Committee. John Meikle seconded this proposition, and after a show of hands, the proposition was carried. As none of the other committee members had intimated that they wished to stand down and no new nominations were received, it was decided that the remainder of the committee would continue in office for another year
12. **Any Other Business**
- Danny Carruthers reported that he had secured the use of the Association Standard for the 2010 Edinburgh Armed Forces Day Parade and that Bobby Munro had volunteered to carry it. This led to a discussion about purchasing a standard for the exclusive use of the Edinburgh Branch. Maj Givens said that he would explore the issues and costs of acquiring a Branch Standard with Home Headquarters
  - Maj Dougie Shepherd reported that he had been in contact with Jock White, a former Seaforth Highlander and Queen's Own Highlander, who was now very ill. Those who knew Jock and wished to visit him were asked to see Dougie for further details
  - Maj Givens offered members the opportunity to buy regimental ties and lapel badges
  - Maj Givens tabled a number of copies of the revised Association Constitution for members to take away

**There being no other business to discuss, the Meeting closed at 14.05 hours and members joined the wives and families for a Curry and Salad Lunch.**