

**MINUTES OF THE HIGHLAND BRANCH AGM – 1900 THURSDAY 15th APRIL 2010
IN THE LOUNGE BAR, ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - NAIRN**

1. Introduction – Welcome by the Chairman and a thank you to Mr Frank Michie the Chairman of the RBL in Nairn for the use of the Lounge Bar. The Chairman thanked all for attending and specifically welcomed Major General AP Grant Peterkin, President of the Regimental Association, Bruce Botto currently fighting a serious illness and the soon to be RSM of the Black Watch 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (3 SCOTS), Michael Duffus. The Chairman also thanked Charlie Duncan for attending all the way from Gretna. Before beginning the Chairman reminded members that we were a Family Regiment and we were all entitled to an equal say in branch and regimental matters. The following members attended:

Andy Konczak	Cliff Thorpe	Roddy Wood	Bob Shanks
Snowie Warden	Eric Duguid	Eddie Mundy	Sheddie Carr
Schimf MacKenzie	JJ Johnstone	Jimmy Mutch	Larry Young
Gordon MacKenzie	David Grant	Andy Venters	Frank Blincow
Jim Hutton	David Terron	Mav Yarrick	Charlie Duncan
Ross Fraser	Jock Schneider	Vernon Nicoll	Sandy Finnie
Bruce Botto	Eddie Wallace	Alister MacGillvray	Gen Peter
Ronnie Sinclair	Peter Finlayson	Michael Duffus	Bob Towns

2. Fallen Comrades – Members stood and the Chairman read out the names of recently departed Branch and Regimental Association Members and Members Wives. A minute's silence was observed in their memory.

3. Apologies – were received from:

Steven McIntosh, Seoras McIntosh, Neil McAulay, Col Angus Fairrie, Col James Murray, Rab Maley from Canada, Roddy Macdonald 58 from Lochmaddy, Robbie MacIntosh, Charlie Liddell from the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, John Bailey, Gen Seymour, Maj Adam Fairrie, Mike McIntosh from Croydon, Terry Bashford from N Ireland, Charlie Wooley, Drew Todd, Grant MacLeman from Avoch, Alastair Stewart from Kyle, Ian Munro, Bill Russell, Des Irvine, Eric Munro, Col Colin Gilmour, Rab Boyd, Hamish MacPherson, Jim Campbell, Willie Wilkie, Mick McCulloch & John Sutherland a victim of Volcano dust.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – The Chairman pointed out that they were very short and no points had been brought forward for discussion. The minutes were passed as read.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes. A couple of points regarding the committee setup were discussed of which more would follow later in the meeting.

6. Chairman's Report. The Chairman's report touched upon the following matters:

a. Since our AGM in May last year we have had the following events:

24th Jun 09 - Armed Forces' Day (AFD) Forres when we had a PI on parade.

25th Jul 09 - AFD Inverness when we had a bigger platoon on parade.

27th Sep 09 – A Lunch was held at Cameron Barrack where we had 90+ in attendance. This was a very good event with an excellent display by our Association Pipes and Drums. Since the Lunch they are now resplendent in their new kilts and other items of dress.

14th Nov 09 - Buffet Dinner in the Masonic Club in Forres with 60 plus in attendance.

06 Feb 10 - Amalgamation Dinner was held at the Royal British Legion Inverness. 60+ in attendance and our Guests were Peter Guthrie from the Museum, Maurice Gibson and Mick Low from RHQ and Brian Matheson the Chairman of the RBL Inverness. Good meal, good Pipes from Andy and the only failing is that it has no wheelchair access. This will be taken into consideration at all future events.

In addition to the events listed a number of Branch Members travelled to Northern Ireland to commemorate the Warrenpoint bombing in 1979. This was an excellent weekend; very well run by the Northern Ireland Branch.

7. Paid Up Members 2010: We currently have 201 fully paid up members at the date of the meeting. This means that we have more funds to support our events and we are therefore becoming more active. However we can still do better. **Haven't paid? Get in touch with the Treasurer Frank Blincow on 01463 224380. Your £10 Branch Fee is due at the 1st of January annually.**

8. Treasurers Report. The report was given by Major (Retd) AF Blincow MBE. Proposed by Sandy Finnie and Seconded by Iain MacKenzie.

9. Committee Changes if any. As a reminder your Highland Branch Committee is:

Appointment	Name
Chairman	Bob Towns
Vice Chairman	Ronnie Sinclair
Secretary	Steven McIntosh
Treasurer	Frank Blincow
Members	Peter Finlayson Larry Young Sheddie Carr JJ Johnston John Mav Yarrick Davie Grant

10. Planned Branch Events 2010/11

- a. Sun 26th Sep Lunch Cameron Bks or elsewhere.
- b. Sat 13th Nov Buffet Dinner with Partners.
- c. Sat 5th Feb 2011 Amalgamation Dinner. After discussion it was decided to keep the Regimental Dinner as a Stag event.
- d. The Golf meeting is on Friday 31st April at Kinloss Golf Club. Further details on the website.
- e. Inverness Tattoo 26th Jul – 31 Jul. Col Roddie Wood made a plea for Branch Members to volunteer to help the Tattoo as security staff even if only for one evening. Volunteers are requested to submit their names to the Chairman please. Dress would be Blazers, Regimental Tie and Glengarry. The Tattoo would make a donation to branch funds in return.

11. AFD10 - Armed Forces Day 2010. Various events going on. Branch members requested to parade wherever possible please. The following were known:

a. Mon 21st Jun Nairn – There will be the flag raising by the Lord Lieutenant and on Sat 26th Jun the actual AFD in Nairn based around the RBL.

b. Sat 24th of Jul will be AFD Inverness – members who parade will be entitled to free entry to the Inverness Highland Games in the Northern Meeting Park and families will get in for £3. We intend to march as a Branch with our new Highland Branch Standard which is currently on order. As our normal Bearers are likely to be on parade with the Association Pipe Band there will be a requirement for a new Banner Party. Volunteers to Chairman please.

(Further details will be published on the Website on both events).

12. Gathering 2011. Discussions took place reference the format of the planned Gathering.

a. Cameron Bks. The Chairman briefed members on the future of Cameron barracks. In summary, the future use of Cameron Barracks is uncertain. Highland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association have bid to run the establishment themselves and if this succeeds then the barracks should be available. If not then we will have to consider alternative locations.

b. There followed a prolonged and interesting discussion on the type of Gathering preferred by members and a look at possible clashes with other major events in the area next year such as:

(1) Rock Ness 10/11/12 Jun – not many of us attending but makes the roads to/from Inverness very busy on the Friday and Monday.

(2) Summer Challenge (TA Recruiting Camp occupies all of Cameron Bks) 18 Jun – 06 Aug.

(3) Cadet Camp 8 Jul - 22 Jul

(4) AFD & Highland Games Inverness Sat 22nd Jul

c. Members were also informed that the Regimental Museum at Fort George was planned for closure for major refurbishment **not before** the 1st of April 2011 and this might affect any Fort George aspect of the weekend.

d. After detailed discussion Members agreed that the preferred option of Highland Branch was:

(1) Saturday 11th of June 2011. A Parade at Cameron Barracks or a March through the City of Inverness followed by at Cameron Barracks; a meal, Beer Bar, Display by the Association Pipe Band and a Ceilidh/Disco in suitable marquee's.

(2) Sunday 12th of June 2011. A Church Service at Fort George followed by a visit to the Museum (if open), Lunch and display by the Association Pipes and Drums.

The President informed those present that we should not be concerned about costs and should go for a top quality event.

e. Further details and planning would follow once agreement and further direction was received from the **Association Office Bearers**. A Committee to run the event will then be formed and detailed planning will commence.

13. Museum Update: There is a lot to be done to ensure publicity and extra funding or donations to the Museum over the coming year. Events to be held in aid of or for the assistance of the Museum include:

a. **Wed 26th May 2010 Brig Charles Grant** - Information has been circulated and was distributed at the meeting about a talk he will give entitled "**The 51st Highland Division after St Valery**" See the website for further details. All welcome to attend.

b. **18 – 21st Jun 2010.** John (Mav) Yarrick is organising a Team to Canoe Loch Ness both ways to raise money for the Museum. The event called "**Highland Paddle**" will leave the Clachnaharry area on Fri 18th June at 0800. Sponsorship forms were available during the evening. Participating Branch Members are: Mav, JJ, Des Irvine, Boydie, Soapy and others. They need a couple more volunteers to drive along the route as the others paddle. Please see John Yarrick if you can help. Full Branch support is requested for this charitable event. Watch website for sponsorship details.

c. **Saturday 11th September 2010** There will be a Regimental Launch of Phase 2 of the Fund Raising at Fort George starting at Midday – All Association Members welcome. RSM Duffus may be in a position to offer use of the Sergeant's Mess. Further details to follow.

d. Bob Shanks attended the Meeting with a selection of items from the Museum Shop for sale.

14. Any Other Business—Items that had been submitted for discussion direct to the Chairman included:

a. Timing and Location of AGM – It was agreed by those attending that a stand alone AGM was the preferred option and that a similar date and venue was planned for 2011.

b. Wives participation. - It was unanimously agreed that wives/partners were welcome to assist however they would not hold appointments on the committee or be members in their own right. Widows would be invited to attend functions and be kept informed of events. The Amalgamation Dinner was to remain a Stag evening.

c. Access for disabled – agreed to take into consideration when selecting venues. The Chairman apologised for failing to take this into consideration when planning the Amalgamation Dinner.

d. Honorary Membership – It was agreed that the following names be passed to the Association Committee for approval at the AGM as Honorary Members of Highland Branch:

**Fraser McGillvary
Alan Renwick
Neil Spark**

Proposed by Charlie Duncan and seconded by Cliff Thorpe - Carried.

e. Use of the Raigmore Motel – it was felt it was too cramped for functions however the owner was a known supporter of the Association and David Grant and Sheddie Carr agreed to investigate further.

f. The Website: A very useful tool. Members had been able to be updated on Jimmy Cummings and other members going through difficult times. They'd also responded to a request for a Blazer, Buttons & Badge for Glen Aitchison the son of Bill Aitchison. The obituaries section was also very useful.

*Proposed by Iain Mackenzie and seconded by Maj Frank Blincow that a vote of thanks from the Branch to **Seoras and David** be officially recorded for all their hard work.*

Carried and supported by a generous round of applause.

g. David Grant informed those present that he had been to visit Lt Col NG (Geoff) Smith who was recovering from a series of serious operations and that he sent his regards to all.

h. In conclusion, the Chairman reminded all on the objectives of the Association. He once again thanked members for their participation. Almost double the attendance of last year. 40 in 2011?

15. The date of the next AGM. To be in April 2011 at a location to be confirmed, and perhaps branch members might like to suggest locations to be considered. The meeting ended at 2040hrs.