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25th October 2012

Dear All,

HIGHLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER AND DECEMBER BUFFET DANCE

I thought I would take this opportunity to bring you up to date with behind the scenes activity.

QO HLDERS MEMORIAL

I have written to the Convenor's of Moray, Highland, W Isles and Orkney Councils in an effort to have the QO HLDERS remembered in some way. I sent them a copy of our history reminding them of our achievements and sacrifices. I suggested naming streets and buildings after us and also dropped a hint that a permanent memorial would be very much appreciated. I will keep you up to date with their response.

SID KELMAN

We are not allowed to erect a gravestone at his unmarked grave. We are however allowed to commemorate the fact that he is buried in Forres Cemetery by way of donating a bench/seat with a suitably engraved plate attached. Therefore, I have been in touch with Moray Council and I have selected a suitable wooden bench. A site meeting will take place in the near future to agree a location (hopefully very close to his grave). This is being funded by the collection taken at his Thanksgiving Service which was added to by a couple of substantial donations. One donation was from a member of his family and the other from a fellow member of the QO HLDERS now working overseas. However, the cost of putting in a suitable base and then installing the seat (At Moray Council prices) is likely to be more than we currently have in the kitty. Further donations appreciated. Cheques made payable to "QO HLDERS Regimental Association (Highland Branch)", and write "Sid Kelman" on the reverse. Send to Treasurer, Highland Branch, QO HLDERS Regimental Association, Home HQ, Cameron Bks, Inverness, IV2 3XD.

AMALGAMATION DINNER

I have written to the Regimental Sergeant Major of 3 SCOTS (Black Watch) for his permission to hold the Dinner in the Sgt's Mess at Fort George on Friday 8th February 2013. I await his reply.

"And one for Cabar Feidh"

HIGHLAND BRANCH BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2013

At the AGM we discussed the possibility of the Branch filling a coach for a tour of the Great War Battlefields. I have started investigating the details and cost of this with various firms. The plan is to leave Inverness and surrounding area with additional pickups as necessary on the Sunday or Monday, spend four/five days visiting numerous sites and cemeteries returning to Inverness on the Friday. This tour will take place sometime during September 2013. A copy of the first quote I have received is attached. **This shows a cost per person of £429** plus insurance if required departing to/from Inverness if we can fill 42 seats. I suspect remaining quotes are likely to be similar.

The Itinerary is not firmly set and may be altered within reason to include Regimental/Personal preferences.

Those wishing to take part (**this is also open to other Branches of the Association**) are requested to **register their interest** (not binding until deposit paid) with me soonest by email, telephone, text or word of mouth. A speedy response will allow firm planning to proceed. **No monies at this stage.**

BUFFET DINNER DANCE SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER 2012

This will be held in Highland Hall of the Royal British Legion Nairn from 1930 hrs. I have decided to remain in Nairn using the same Caterers following the good attendance at the Sunday Lunch. The meal will consist of a Hot/Cold Buffet followed by a disco.

The Legion is located on the Cawdor Road. If coming from the Elgin direction continue on up the High Street the Legion is on the Left after the Post Office. If coming from Inverness turn right off the A96 onto Waverley Road. At the end of Waverley Road, turn left onto the Cawdor Road and the Legion is on your right. Parking is available on the streets surrounding the Legion.

Please complete and return the attached to Steven soonest.

I look forward to a good turnout and you can assist by encouraging the attendance of those we have not seen for some time.

Please support Highland Branch.

Yours aye,

Bob

PROPOSED BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2013

Tuesday, 23 October 2012

Dear Mr Towns

QUOTATION

6 Days – All Quiet on the Western Front – September 2013

I am pleased to suggest your holiday itinerary as follows:

Day 1 – Early departure from Inverness for the journey to Dover and your Ferry crossing to Calais. On to your hotel for five nights with continental breakfast included. This quotation is based on the 4 Star Best Western Hotel Alize, Mouscron. **Please note we are not holding any space for you at the moment.**

Day 2 – **In Flanders Fields.** Today we look at the battlefields around Ypres and the main British and Commonwealth sector during the war. We start our tour at the preserved trenches in Sanctuary Wood and take time to see the incredible collection of battlefield relics in the museum. We then move on to the fighting at Passchendaele seeing Tyne Cot Cemetery. Lunch (at own expense) at Hooge, with its private museum and nearby mine craters. In the afternoon we look at the Messines Ridge. We see the New Zealand Memorial park, with its preserved German bunkers and the nearby Irish Peace Tower which commemorates the Irish role in WW1. At Ploegsteert we look at the story of the Christmas Truce, see the Ploegsteert Memorial, and visit the grave of one of the youngest soldiers to die in WW1.

Day 3 – Tunnels and Trenches We begin the day at Arras and spend the morning in the Wellington Quarries – a massive system of tunnels used by British troops in WW1, and dug by New Zealand Tunnellers. We then visit the Arras Memorial and travel out to Monchy le Preux to look at the defence of the village by the Newfoundland Regiment. We end the day at Vimy Ridge, captured by the Canadians in April 1917, seeing the preserved trench system, visitors' centre and impressive memorial on Hill 145 – the highest point on Vimy Ridge. Vimy was a defining moment for Canada in World War I and this is arguably one of the finest memorials on the Western Front.

Day 4 – **The Somme: Death of a Generation.** The haunting battlefields of the Somme are our destination today. To set the scene we begin at the impressive Historial Museum in Peronne. We then see the largest British mine crater on the Western Front at La Boisselle. Lunch nearby (at own expense). At Thiepval we visit the Memorial to the Missing and then see the Ulster Tower. At the Newfoundland Park we see the preserved trenches and end the day at Serre and see the area where war poet Wilfred Owen fought and was inspired to write his early poetry.

Day 5 – Enjoy the morning as free time. Afternoon visit to **Ypres** where you will have time to visit the town and walk down to the Menin Gate and look at the missing of Flanders and see the Ramparts of Ypres. Our day ends with the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate.

Day 6 – We return to Calais for the Ferry crossing back to Dover. Late arrival to Inverness.

Please note, all timings are approximate and subject to confirmation upon receipt of deposits. Times quoted are local.

“And one for Cabar Feidh”

Prices

Price based on 22 Passengers on the Coach

£499 per person based on two passengers sharing a twin/double room.

The Single room supplement would be £110.

The price depends on a minimum of 21 paying passengers. After 21 paying passengers you qualify for **1 free place sharing 1 twin/double room**. The maximum number of passengers per coach is 48 including any infants.

Price based on 44 Passengers on the Coach

£429 per person based on two passengers sharing a twin/double room.

The Single room supplement would be £110.

The price depends on a minimum of 42 paying passengers. After 42 paying passengers you qualify for **2 free places sharing 1 twin/double room**. The maximum number of passengers per coach is 48 including any infants.

What's included

*Coach travel in an executive vehicle with reclining seats, tea/coffee making facilities, air-conditioning and on board toilet.

*Channel crossings as specified above.

*Services of experienced drivers/coach assistants.

*Services of a Specialist Battlefield Guide.

*Hotel accommodation as specified above with 5 nights bed and continental breakfast. All rooms have private facilities.

*Included excursions as specified above.

At extra cost.

*Insurance (please see hereafter for prices)

*Meals other than specified.

***Entrance fees to places of interest.**

A deposit payment of **£120 per person** is required to confirm the booking along with your **insurance payment if required**.

Please note that the holiday is subject to the availability of suitable rates for hotels, coach, itinerary and Channel crossings at the time of confirmation. This is also subject to our booking conditions, which can be found in our current brochure or on www.leger.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

Leger Groups Department

Only required if you do not have your own.

**Rock
Insurance
Underwritten by Union Reiseversicherung AG
(URV)**

Available to UK Resident only Policies sold from 1st December 2010. Prices from 15th June 2012

PREMIUMS

Ages at date of Purchase		Age Band 3 - 17 years 18 - 65 years		Age Band 66 years +	
Destination	Duration	Gold	Std	Gold	Std
Europe (Morocco tour requires Worldwide policy)	2 days	£37.95	£31.95	£49.95	£40.95
	3 - 5 days	£38.95	£32.95	£50.95	£41.95
	6 days	£40.95	£34.95	£53.95	£43.95
	7 - 8 days	£48.95	£42.95	£61.95	£51.95
	9 - 11 days	£51.95	£45.95	£70.95	£58.95
	12 - 16 days	£53.95	£47.95	£73.95	£61.95
	18 - 24 days	£60.95	£52.95	£86.95	£71.95
Ireland	4- 6 days by coach	£38.95	£32.95	£49.95	£41.95
	9 days by air	£43.95	£37.95	£55.95	£46.95
UK	3 days	£19.95	£14.95	£24.95	£20.95
	4 days	£21.95	£15.95	£26.95	£22.95
	5 days	£21.95	£17.95	£26.95	£22.95
	6 - 8 days	£22.95	£17.95	£27.95	£22.95
	9 days	£26.95	£21.95	£31.95	£26.95
Worldwide	9 - 24 days	£75.00	£69.00	£115.00	£99.00
Falklands		£85.00	£79.00	£125.00	£109.00
DISNEYLAND RESORT PARIS		Ages at date of purchase			
3-11 years		12 - 17 years & 18 - 65 years		66 years +	
Gold	Std	Gold	Std	Gold	Std
£15.95	£10.95	£26.95	£21.95	£31.95	£27.95

“And one for Cabar Feidh”