

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EDINBURGH
BRANCH, QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION -
AT LEITH EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB, EDINBURGH ON 10th OCTOBER 2010**

The meeting opened at 13.10 hrs with 32 members present: Maj (Ret'd) D Shepherd, Maj (Ret'd) G Givens, D Carruthers, G McCann, T McCann, A Dewar, J Skinner, R Dall, D MacCallum, R Munro, A Munro, J McGair, C McGair, J Gilchrist, J Hogg, K Reid, A Dewar, J Meikle, J Meechan, J Dunion, I Flynn, A Sinclair, J Elliot, P McMurdo, D McIntosh, D Fraser, J Dunn, R Wilson, K Urquhart, J Donlevy, J MacKenzie, G Taylor

1. **Fallen Comrades** The meeting started with a minutes silence to remember those members of the Regimental Family who had sadly passed away over the last year.
2. **Apologies** Apologies were received from Brig (Ret'd) N Ridley, Col (Ret'd) M White, Lt Col (Ret'd) C Millar, Lt Col (Ret'd) R Turner MBE, Capt (Ret'd) GS Anderson, E Maley, J Ryan, H Harrigan, A Goodwin, G Kidd, N Robertson
3. **Minutes of last Meeting** It was proposed by Sandy Dewar and seconded by John Meikle that the Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting were an accurate account of the proceedings.
4. **Matters Arising.** Maj Givens reported that a new Branch Standard had been purchased at a very competitive price and a very good standard of workmanship.
5. **Chairman's Report.** Maj Givens reported that the Branch remained very active with a number of new members joining the Branch and the following successful events taking place over the past year:
 - Representation at the 2009 Remembrance Services at the City Chambers, the Garrison Church, and the Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street Gardens.
 - A successful Christmas Dance on Saturday 12th December 2009 at Leith Ex-servicemen's Club with 90 members and their partners present and visitors from the Highlands, the West Coast, Newcastle, Liverpool, and the Borders
 - A well attended (just short of 100) and an entertaining Amalgamation Dinner on the 6th February 2010 at Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club at which Richie Turner was the guest of honour
 - An excellent attendance at the Armed Forces Day Parade in Edinburgh on the 26th June 2009 (40 strong marching contingent) and where the new Branch Standard had it's first outing
 - An enjoyable Summer Dance on the 26th June 2009 at Leith Ex-servicemen's Club and an unexpected visit from Sammy Ord and his family
6. **Treasurers Report.** John Meikle reported on the Income and Expenditure over the period of September 2009 – September 2010 (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. Maj Shepherd wished to give a vote of thanks on behalf of the members of the Branch to the Treasurer and committee for managing the funds so well. There was general agreement from the floor and this point was noted and appreciated by the Committee
7. **Report from the Regimental AGM** Maj Givens reported that he had attended the Regimental AGM at Nairn on the 16th July 2010 and had the following points to report:

- The last minutes of the independent AGMs were noted prior to the Seaforth Highlanders Regimental Association being incorporated into the Queen's Own Highlanders Regimental Association
- Andy Venters reported that the Association Pipe band were in good form and were now fully kitted with new kilts and equipment, following a period of fund raising throughout the Association and a grant from Inverness Council.
- It was decided that poppy wreaths would no longer be paid for by Association Funds as it was becoming increasingly expensive to maintain the outlay from funds earmarked for welfare purposes. Instead, it was agreed that a supply of professionally printed and embossed card would be ordered, with the appropriate Regimental Crest and condolences from the Regimental Association. It was thought that a card would be more fitting and would be something that the families could retain.
- There was a discussion about future dates for Regimental AGMs now that the Seaforth Association had been incorporated into the Queen's Own Highlanders Regimental Association.
- There was a suggestion about arranging a visit to the Highlanders in Germany. After discussion it was agreed to place this matter on hold as the Highlanders would be fully committed to training and subsequent deployment to an operational tour throughout most of 2010/11

8. **Remembrance 2010** Maj Givens announced that the format of the Remembrance Parade in Edinburgh would be changing this year to become something similar to the London event ie each of the local Edinburgh Associations had been asked to supply a marching contingent, the wreaths would be carried by a member of the marching contingent and then handed over to a wreath layer, veterans unable to march will be allocated seats, and there will be a large screen TV for spectators. As Maj Givens wanted to gauge the possible turnout he asked for a show of hands for those members who were likely to march on the day. A rough count of hands showed about 15 members who indicated that they wished to march. Maj Givens then reminded the meeting that, after the kind invitation from the Royal Scots Association last year to a meal and entertainment on Remembrance Sunday, it was the turn of the Queen's Own Highlanders to return the favour. It was therefore announced that there will be a buffet and entertainment laid on in Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club after the main parade and everyone was welcome to attend (details to follow).

9. **Amalgamation Dinner** Maj Givens announced that the Branch Amalgamation Dinner next year will be held on the 12th February 2011 and will mark the 50th Anniversary of the amalgamation. As this was a special occasion, the committee had been tasked to check various venues (ie facilities at Redford Barracks, the Minto Hotel, the Masons, and Easter Road). At the end of this exercise it had been found that the venue with the most potential was Easter Road (supplying a good venue, a four course meal, half a bottle of wine each, and two glasses of port each for the Loyal Toast). After discussion about costings, it was proposed that the venue was appropriate and that tickets would be priced at £20.00 per head, with the Branch subsidising the remainder of the costs (a subsidy of £18.00 per ticket at an estimate of 120 tickets = £2160) As this would be the main effort within the Branch for 2011, and a forecast of Branch finances suggested that the proposal was affordable, the plan was agreed.

10. **Forecast of Events** Maj Givens gave the following forecast of events:

- Christmas Dance – 11th December 2010 at Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club, Edinburgh
- Amalgamation Dinner – 12th February 2011 at Easter Road
- Armed Forces Day Parade – 26th June 2011 (Note: this will be the 2011 National Parade)
- Summer Dance – None this year as the main emphasis for the summer would be to encourage members to attend the 50th anniversary week-end in Inverness (11th & 12th June 2011)

11. **Committee** Maj Givens announced that with the death of Alec Mackie a place had become vacant on the Branch Committee. Danny Carruthers proposed that Norman Robertson be elected to the Committee and this was seconded by John Meikle. The proposal was carried

12. **Any Other Business**
 - Bobby Munro passed around a sample of greeting cards made by his wife, Margaret, which he thought could be re-produced and used by the Branch as Condolence/Get Well/or Christmas Cards. It was agreed to investigate this matter further
 - “Pop” MacKenzie asked if it would be possible to arrange accommodation within Cameron Barracks for the 50th Anniversary week-end. Maj Givens thought there might be difficulties with this idea but agreed to make enquiries and report back (*Afternote: Lt Col Bob Towns had been contacted but was unable to give any firm assurances at this time. He did, however say he would keep Branch’s apprised of the situation as soon as matters became clearer*)
 - Rab Dall reported that Ian Laidlaw was very ill and that he would keep members informed of his condition
 - Maj Shepherd reported that he had been emailed by Frank Stone asking about medals for Malay Brunei veterans. Jimmy Skinner reported that the latest presentation of these medals was being held in Perth during the coming week-end
 - Jimmy Skinner gave all Branch members sight of the new standard for the Malay Brunei Veterans Association (to be carried on the Remembrance Parade and Armed Forces Day)
 - Danny Carruthers reported that Sandy Goodwin had tied the knot with Linda
 - Maj Givens offered members the opportunity to buy Regimental Association ties and car stickers

There being no other business to discuss, the Meeting closed at 13.50 hours and members joined the wives and families for a Curry and Salad Lunch.