



THE QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating the Regimental Associations of the
Seaforth Highlanders and The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders)

President: Major General AP Grant Peterkin CB OBE *Chairman:* Lieutenant Colonel PDM Watson

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10th October 2019

Dear Fellow Members of the Association ,

At our Annual General Meeting on 21st June 2019 it was agreed that I would take over from James Murray as Chairman of the Regimental Association following the unveiling of our statue in Inverness on 28th September. I am writing to inform you that James has now handed over to me and I have assumed the role of Chairman. This is a great honour for me and I can assure you that I will work tirelessly on the Association's behalf for as long as our Constitution, the Association's trustees and members allow.

My first act as Chairman is to offer our sincere thanks to James for his long service to the Association. Since taking over as Chairman six years ago he has organised and led the Association to achieve many notable successes. These have included: the 2016 Gathering for over a thousand Association members and their families; the unveiling of our statute at the National Memorial Arboretum, where the fight continues to get the names of our fallen added to it; and of course, the unveiling of our splendid new statue on Bank Street in Inverness. He oversaw arrangements to commemorate several of the Regiment's Victoria Cross winners at events held across Europe in the hundredth anniversary of World War One. And he also supported Giles Nevill and Edward Usborne in their work to enable the Association to become involved in the annual Remembrance Sunday march past the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, which will now be a bi-annual event with the National Memorial Arboretum. His legacy as Chairman will endure, not just because these achievements, but also because of all that he did behind the scenes to improve governance and administration within our Association. I am sure that you will agree

we owe James a huge debt of gratitude and we wish him a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

Under the continuing presidency of General Peter, I intend to follow James's example and continue the gradual process of change that allows us to move with the times and address the needs of our branches and their members. For example, you may be aware that there is a project to renovate our Association's website and improve communication across the membership. I hope this will be up and running by the end of this year. Then, early next year we will begin planning for our next Regimental Gathering in 2021. We may also be able to arrange a visit to Saint-Valéry-en-Caux next year, eighty years on from the surrender of the 51st Highland Division.

Next year, we will also make a significant adjustment to the Regiment's governance. It has been decided by the Regiment's Trustees that the Association's Trustee Committee will merge with the Regimental Trustee Committee. This rationalisation will provide long-standing members on both committees an opportunity to step down after many years' service. The change should further improve coordination between the Regiment's various trusts and the Association. Once the merger is complete, Peter Grant Peterkin will hand over to me the role of Chairman of the Regimental Trust, while retaining his role as our President. We aim to have this work completed in time for the Association's next Annual General Meeting on Friday 19th June 2020.

As you can see, between now and then there is much to do and hope I will have your support, through your individual contributions and collective efforts in our Branches. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming months and hearing your views on how the Association should continue to develop.

Yours aye

Peter

P D M Watson

Chairman