

Information Panel erected by the Queen's Own Highlanders Memorial in Inverness

Information panels are widely used by public and private organisations to interpret and inform the public about monuments, buildings and other notable structures and scenes. There are many panels in the Highlands and Inverness, for example at the Town House and Inverness Castle, to enhance the visitor experience. Our Memorial by the River Ness on Bank Street, which was unveiled on 28 September 2019, is now a notable landmark in the City. Accordingly, the Regiment's trustees decided to erect an information panel beside the Memorial to inform the public about the Regiment and its history.

The Association Chairman therefore initiated a project to install a panel adjacent to "Hamish". The first challenge was to design an accessible panel, which summarised the history of the Regiment in such a way it would interest tourists and the public alike, who may have no understanding of the British Army and the Regiment. This task was given to Adam Fairrie and George Givens, who were supported by local graphic designer, Iain Sarjeant who had designed other panels in the City.

Queen's Own Highlanders
(SEAFORTH AND CAMERONS)

This memorial commemorates the Queen's Own Highlanders and those members of the regiment who lost their lives on active service.

The regiment was formed on 7th February 1961 by an amalgamation of two famous Highland regiments - the Seaforth Highlanders and The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. HRH, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh became its Colonel-in-Chief.

The combined regimental recruiting area embraced all the northern counties of Scotland, including the Western Isles and Orkney. The regiment also had strong recruiting links with Liverpool. It was considered

The Regimental Recruiting Area

1961 Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

to be a true family regiment with many fathers, sons, uncles, and nephews serving in the regular and reserve battalions as well as units of the Army Cadet Force.

A year after the amalgamation the newly formed battalion was posted to Singapore and soon saw action. In December 1962, it helped restore law and order in the Sultanate of Brunei after an armed rebellion broke out, and rebel forces attacked the Sultan's palace and key major oilfields in the country.

The regiment continued to serve with distinction on operations throughout the next 33 years including eight tours during The Troubles in Northern Ireland, the Falklands War in 1982 for which it was awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace, and the Gulf War in 1991.

In 1994 the Queen's Own Highlanders were amalgamated with the Gordon Highlanders and became 'The Highlanders'. Twelve years later they became the 4th Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland. This regiment now upholds many of the fine traditions and customs of the Queen's Own Highlanders.

Fourteen members of the regiment made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives whilst on active service. Their names are commemorated on the Memorial. It was erected here in Inverness, Capital of the Highlands and centre of the regiment's recruiting area. The regiment was granted the Freedom of Inverness in 1961.

Mackenzie of Seaforth tartan

Cameron of Errischie tartan

Gulf War 1991

Sharjah, 1990

Pre Cullin Flaleyson, Northern Ireland 1993

For more information about the Queen's Own Highlanders please use the QR code or visit the Regimental Association's website: www.cabarfeidh.com

or go to The Highlanders' Museum (Queen's Own Highlanders Collection) at Fort George, Ardersier, Inverness, IV2 7TD; www.thehighlandersmuseum.com

Once the design was completed Maurice Gibson with support from Bob Towns and Richard Barker set about the manufacture of the panel with Border Signs & Graphics and identifying exactly where the panel could be located. They sought permissions of Highland Council (Planning Department) and the Manager of the Mercure Hotel behind the Memorial. Once this was complete, Maurice and Richard set about clearing space in the raised shrub bed where the posts have been installed and putting the panel in place, which was achieved on 12th October.



The Information Panel has already attracted interest from passers-by and has enhanced the Memorial and will explain to everyone who visits, who the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth & Camerons) were. The panel also provides a link to the Association website and our Museum at Fort George should they wish to learn more about the Regiment. The trustees are already

committed to putting an information panel in Station Square, Inverness to explain the memorial there to The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Progress has been halted while the City and Network Rail decide on how to redevelop the area.