



**THE QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS**  
**REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Edinburgh Branch**

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

***Chairman: Eddie Maley, Treasurer: John Meikle, Secretary: Brian Gibson***

Report compiled by Jim Elliot

**EDINBURGH BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

Continuing from a very busy and hectic 2022, the Edinburgh Branch now look forward to another busy year in 2023.

With a full calendar of events planned for 2023, the Edinburgh Branch finished off 2022 with our annual Christmas Dance before embarking on the preparation and planning for 2023.

**Edinburgh Branch Christmas Dance 2022:**

The Edinburgh Branch Christmas Dance 2022 was held in the Bainfield Bowling and Social Club, Edinburgh on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.

The night was started by the Chairman of the Edinburgh Branch Eddie Maley welcoming all guests to the dance and thanking the Organizations and individuals who donated to the Edinburgh Branch hosting the Remembrance Day Events at the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Club in Edinburgh. A total of 76 members booked tickets for the Christmas Dance with 62 members and guests attending. Some members were unable to attend due to both sickness and the weather conditions on the night. We have a few people to thank, without whom our Christmas Dance would never have taken place.

The Bainfield Bowling and Social Club and their staff: Once again the Bainfield allowed us to use their magnificent hall to hold our dance and the bar staff ensured that all guests had their glasses charged when required throughout the night.



Tracy Liddell (Left) and David McIntosh (Right) wonder where the smell is coming from. John Meikle (Centre) looks so innocent!!!



The three old Amegos from B Coy, Sharjah Norman Robertson, Rab Wallace, Danny Carruthers

Eleanor of Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club Fame: Eleanor provided us with a 1st class buffet once again.

N'uff Said: A two-piece band who play music from the 60s up to present day, kept the dance floor full and our guests entertained all night. We received many compliments about the band, and we wouldn't hesitate is using them again.

Jim Elliot and Alex Sinclair set about selling the tickets for the World Famous Edinburgh Branch Raffle. We would like to thank all guests who donated raffle prizes on the night. Once again, you didn't let us down with both the quantity and quality of your donations. The raffle was drawn by Eddie Maley assisted by Bobby Costello.

A special thank you must go to WO2 Cathy Munro MBE (Eddie Maley's niece) who donated a magnificent decanter set engraved with the Queens Own Highlanders cap badge on the front and a beautiful verse on the rear. Poor Eddie dug deep to buy many raffle tickets but still failed to win the decanter set. Well done to Gail Thomas who went home with the decanter set under her arm. As well as the decanter set, WO2 Cathy Munro MBE was kind enough to also donate a pair of brandy glasses, also engraved with the Queens Own Highlanders cap badge which were presented to Danny Cochrane in recognition and thanks for his donation and the support he has given to the Edinburgh Branch during 2022.



Left to right: Brian Gibson, Danny Cochrane, Ritchie Turner Eddie Maley and Liz Duffy



Doris Anderson tells Shaun Mahady some stories about his Dad (Joe Mahady)

Buffet and raffle over, it was time to get down to some serious dancing with no shortage of volunteers on the dance floor. It was fantastic to see some new faces at the dance on Saturday night as well as some of the old and bold returning to our Edinburgh Branch events following the COVID restrictions.

A fantastic night was had by all with many compliments being received at the end of the night. Last orders at 23.45 with all guests heading safely home at midnight or very close thereafter. On behalf of the Edinburgh Branch Committee and Membership we would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a prosperous 2023.



George and Lynda Givens



Janet Reid and Rab Cunningham



Kenny Reid gives Elspeth Savage a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday dance



Anne Williams, Elspeth Savage, Molly Hunter and John Meikle

Many more photos were taken at our Christmas dance but far too many for this report.

### **Field Marshal Earl Haig Wreath Laying Service, Edinburgh Castle:**

A wreath laying service was held at the National Scottish War Memorial, Edinburgh Castle on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 to mark the death of Field Marshal Earl Haig. Brian Ward (Events Manager for RBLs) kindly invited 3 members of the Edinburgh Branch to assist with the service. Jim Elliot (piper), Danny Mullan and Tommy Graham (buglers). Towards the end of the service Danny and Tommy sounded Last Post followed by Jim playing the lament The Flowers of the Forrest. Meeting up at New Haig House in Edinburgh at 07.45, we were then be transported to Edinburgh Castle for a rehearsal at 08.30 with the service starting at 09.00. The service ended at 09.25 and we headed back to New Haig House for dispersal.

We would like to thank Brian Ward and the Royal British Legion Scotland for their very kind invitation and allowing us the honour of taking part in their wreath laying service marking Field Marshal Earl Haig's passing.





Thomas Graham, Danny Mullan and Jim Elliot



RBLs and Q.O.Hldrs on parade together

In the words of Brian Ward (Events Manager, Royal British Legions Scotland) 'It is heartwarming to see just what we can achieve when the veterans community steps in to assist each other.' Never a truer word spoken, we may be Queens Own Highlanders but if we can assist other veteran's groups out there, we should not hesitate.

### **Edinburgh Branch Amalgamation Dinner**

Edinburgh Branch held their Amalgamation Dinner on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 at the Bainfield Bowling Club, Edinburgh.

This being our first Amalgamation Dinner since 2020 due to Corona Virus restrictions, it was fantastic to see a total of 76 members, wives/partners and friends attending and enjoying a great night.

Edinburgh Branch Chairman Eddie Maley started the evening by welcoming the Branch members and their guests to our Dinner, with special mentions to guests who had traveled long distances to be with us:

Colin Hughes from Southport

John Knowels from Bradford

Charlie Derbyshire from Buckingham

The Chairman even welcomed an Argyle and Sutherland Highlander – Sandy Henderson.

We also welcomed some other special guests:

Lt. Col. Peter Watson (Chairman of our Regimental Association)

Maj. Richard Barker (Treasurer of our Regimental Association and our guest speaker for the night)

Col. and Mrs. Mike White (Who have both supported the Edinburgh Branch for many years)

Mrs. Anne Blair (Wife of the late Col. Blair and a supporter of the Edinburgh Branch)

Pipe Major Andy Venters (Recently moved to Edinburgh and served with the Camerons and Queens Own Highlanders).

A special mention also went to our Brunei Rebellion Veterans to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queens Own Highlanders first operational tour. Present on the night were:

Lt. Col. Ritchie Turner

Maj. Dougie Shepherd  
Jimmy Skinner  
Tom Nisbet  
Jake Dunn  
Rab Dall.

The Edinburgh Branch took this opportunity to thank two members who we believe to be unsung heroes of the Edinburgh Branch:

Danny Mullan and Thomas Graham.

Both these men served their time with the Queens Own Highlanders as members of our Regimental Band. For many years they have turned out without fail to help us send veterans off to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion by playing the Last Post and also parade every year to visit several resting places of veterans around Fife on Armistice Day.

As a thankyou and to show our appreciation for all the work they do for the Edinburgh Branch, the Edinburgh Branch Chairman Eddie Maley presented Danny Mullan with two pairs of silver cuff links (Thomas Graham being unable to attend the Dinner due to previous family arrangements).



Maj. Richard Barker, Mrs. Sharon Barker, Eddie Maley, Mrs. Anne Blair, Lt. Col. Peter Watson

Welcomes and special mentions done, Lt. Col. Ritchie Turner said grace before our three-course dinner was served. The committee and members would like to thank Mr. Stephen McDonald and his staff for supplying a first-class meal and a service that was second to none. We have used Mr. McDonald's catering services in the past and would not hesitate in using them again. Stephen and his staff are professional and courteous at all time and deliver a 1<sup>st</sup> class service.

Following our meal, we fitted in a comfort break which was Jim Elliot and Ritchie Turner's cue to start selling the tickets for the World Famous Edinburgh Branch raffle.

Comfort break over, it was now time for some entertainment. This year, once again, we had the privilege of welcoming the Pipers and Drummers from the Edinburgh Academy who played the following selection of tunes:

2/4s

Corriechoillies Welcome to the Northern Meeting

The Weary Maid

Teribus

The High Road to Gairloch

6/8

The Glendaruel Highlanders

3/4

My Dream Boat

4/4s

Scotland The Brave

Bonnie Galloway

Rowan Tree

We were also treated to a solo performance from the Pipe Major playing 'Cabar Feidh'.



The Pipe Major plays Cabar Feidh



Edinburgh Academy Pipes and Drums

It was time for our Guest Speaker for the evening Maj. Richard Barker to address the members and guests. Maj. Barker gave a light hearted talk on his time with the Regiment giving special mention to Eddie Maley about when he dropped Eddie from the football team and to Brian Gibson when he used to order Maj. Barker about in his stores.

On completion of his address to the members and guests, Maj. Barker toasted the Regimental Family.

Other toast that were made were:

Bobby Costello

The Regimental Toast in Gaelic

Eddie Maley

The Loyal Toast.

Once again, the Branch would like to thank members and guests for donating many high quality raffle prizes. With a special thanks going to Cathy Munro (Niece of Eddie Maley) for donating a beautiful lantern which had 4 decorated glass panels. On one side was our Queens Own Highlanders badge, to the rear was our Regimental Collect and on either side was the Queens Own Highlanders toast, both in English and in Gaelic. Cathy also donated a silver stag on a plinth which was auctioned off after the raffle was held.

Thanks to the generosity of the members and guests, a total of £540.00 was raised through the World Famous Edinburgh Branch Raffle and the auction of the Stag.

The raffle was drawn by Bobby Costello and Eddie Maley (now known as the Chuckle Brothers) followed by the Auction of the Silver Stag by Lt. Col. Ritchie Turner.

On behalf of the committee and myself, I would like to thank everyone for their donations and for helping to raise money for the Branch funds.

The money raised will go towards offsetting the costs of our Summer Dance to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 at the Bainfield Bowling Club.



Mrs. Anne Blair, Bobby Costello, Eddie Maley



BBVA Standard and Edinburgh Branch Standard flying over the Edinburgh Branch Bass Drum Decorated by the one and only Kelvin Hunter (Yonk)

Raffle and Auction over, it was now time to hit the floor to get some serious dancing done. Our entertainment for the rest of the evening was supplied by a local group called 'The Cover Notes'. A first class group who kept the dance floor full for the rest of the evening. We would like to thank The Cover Notes for their professionalism and their selection of music.





The Cover Notes



Members and guests enjoying the evening.



John Knowels, Colin Hughes, Evan Venters, Andy Venters



Rachel Shepherd, Dougie Shepherd, Anne White, Mike White



Charlie Derbyshire, John Meikle, George Givens,  
Sandy Henderson and Richard Barker



Nancy and Cecille Melville

Many more photos were taken on the night and have been posted on Facebook for anyone who wants to see them.

A good night being had by all, we cleared the Bainfield Bowling Club at midnight and made our weary way home.

Watch out for more news from the Edinburgh Branch which will be from Amalgamation Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February in Inverness.



## Amalgamation Day 2023, Inverness

A contingent from the Edinburgh Branch travelled to Inverness on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to attend two commemorations at the Queens Own Highlanders Statue on Bank Street, Inverness which was taking place at 11.00hrs on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.

The commemorations included the anniversary of the Amalgamation of the Seaforth Highlanders and the Cameron Highlanders to form the Queens Own Highlanders in 1962 and also to commemorate the anniversary of the Regiment's first operational tour of duty in 1962 during the Borneo Uprising.

The Edinburgh Branch contingent consisted of the following:

Jim Elliot, Eddie Maley, John Meikle, Bobby Costello, Danny Carruthers, David McIntosh, Jimmy Skinner, Tom Nisbet, Mrs. Liz Nisbet, Frank Barry and Ritchie Turner.

At 11.00hrs on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, we gathered at the Queens Own Highlanders Statue where the Branch Colours of the Seaforth Highlanders, MBBVA, Edinburgh Branch and the Caithness Branch were on parade.

Pipe Major Jim Stout played the lament 'Lochaber No More' as the Colours were dipped. Following a minutes silence we retired to the British Legion for tea/coffee and lunch.



Seaforth Standard, David McIntosh, Jimmy Skinner, Bobby Costello, Tom Nisbet, John Meikle, Frank Barry and Eddie Maley



Eddie Maley and Danny Carruthers listen intently as Lt. Col. Ritchie Turner gives a talk on the Borneo Uprising

On arrival at the British Legion, Lt. Col. Ritchie Turner gave a talk on the Borneo Uprising including the Units that were involved in quelling the Uprising as well as the Queens Own Highlanders involvement in overcoming the Rebels.

Following Lt. Col. Ritchie Turner's talk, a hearty lunch of soup and stovies were enjoyed by all attending.

The day's activities over and many a war story exchanged, the Edinburgh Branch contingent made their way to the bus station to start their journey home.

The Edinburgh Branch would like to thank Tony Curran and the Highland Branch for organizing the event and lunch. We look forward to commemorating Amalgamation Day with you again next year.

**Southern Branch Annual Dinner 2023:**

The Southern Branch held their Annual Dinner in the Solway Lodge Hotel in Gretna on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

A few of us from the Edinburgh Branch were lucky enough to get tickets for the function which turned out to be a fantastic weekend of good food, good entertainment and 1<sup>st</sup> class company. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee and the members of the Southern Branch for their hospitality and allowing us to attend their Dinner Night.

If you are reading this report and have never been to a Southern Branch Dinner, get yourself there next year, it will be a weekend you will remember for a long time to come.

Special thanks go to David Loftus, Robbie Gow and Dave Henderson from the Southern Branch and to Gary and all his staff at the Solway Lodge Hotel for making us feel welcome and making sure we were well fed and watered at all times.



Dickie Dawson, Ricky Griffiths and Tam Watson



Ricky and Helen Griffiths



Ian and Angela Forsyth



Lynne Green Brown, Mary Blair Barrie, Margaret Cockburn, Jane Langan, Michelle McNiven, Annemarie Farry and Linda Wood



A fantastic weekend was had by all and we look forward to next year's Dinner to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 in the Solway Lodge Hotel, Gretna.

**Away Day Drinks 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023:**

Many thanks to Michael and Kathryn Kelly for once again organizing another fantastic day out at the Smoking Fox in Glasgow. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to illness on the day, however I heard some heartwarming stories of old muckers meeting up after many years apart. With another record breaking turn-out, I'm sure Michael and Kathryn's away day drinks will carry on for many years to come.



Chris McLean and Kenny Reid



Danny Mullan and Mick Kelly



Michelle McNiven



Janet Reid

Well Done Michael and Kathryn, here's to many more CFGB.



### Dedication of the Monte Cassino Memorial Bench:

Edinburgh Branch had the privilege of attending the Dedication of the Monte Cassino Memorial Bench at St. Columba's Church, Blackhall, Edinburgh today, Saturday the 20th of May 2023.

Rev. Fergus Cook conducted a very moving and informative service including the story of a previous minister at the Church who was an Army Chaplain and who served in Italy. When at the Monte Cassino battles, from January to May 1944, he 'commissioned' a portable 'Battlefield' cross from a member of the Pioneer Corps. On being called, as minister, to Blackhall St Columba's Parish Church he brought the cross which has remained in the Sanctuary at the Church since.

During the service, Last Post was played by Mr. Tony Laidlaw with Pipe Major Mark MacRae playing the wreath layers from the church, outside to the war memorial where the Memorial Bench has been positioned.

Laying wreaths for the Branch were:

Dougie Shepherd - Seaforth Highlanders

Ritchie Turner - Cameron Highlanders

Also present: Eddie Maley, Jim Elliot and Bobby Munro 49.

We would like to thank Lesley Teasdale and the Monte Cassino Association for their very kind invitation and hospitality.



Monte Cassino Memorial Bench



Plaque on the top right of the Memorial Bench



Seaforth Highlanders, Cameron Highlanders and Cameronians wreaths.



Jim Elliot, Bobby Munro 49, Ritchie Turner, Eddie Maley and Dougie Shepherd



Dougie Shepherd lays his wreath on behalf of the Seaforth Highlanders and shows his respect.



Ritchie Turner lays his wreath on behalf of the Cameron Highlanders and shows his respect.



Pipe Major Mark Macrae (Scots Guards) and the Standard Bearer from the Monte Cassino Association.



Dougie Shepherd and Ritchie Turner wait to lay their wreaths.

### **Scottish American Memorial Day Service, Edinburgh:**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Royal British Legion Scotland commemorated the Scottish American Memorial Day Service at the statue "The Call 1914" which stands in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. The service started at 13.00hrs on the firing of the 1 o'clock gun on Edinburgh Castle.



The commemoration started with the marching on of the Colours, three Colour parties were in attendance, Royal British Legion Scotland, USAF Honor Guard, 48<sup>th</sup> Fighting Wing RAF Lakenheath and the Balaklava Company, Royal Regiment of Scotland Colour Party.

Colours on parade, the service was started by the Reverend Peter Sutton AKC BD MTh PGCC, minister of the Parish Church of St. Cuthbert, Edinburgh followed by a reading from Robert Aldridge, The Right Honourable Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh.

Present on the day from the Edinburgh Branch were:

Eddie Maley – helping RBLs with car park security.

Ritchie Turner

Jim Elliot

Following a very moving service, all who attended were invited back to St. Cuthbert's Church for coffee and buns.



The Call 1914



Jim Elliot, Eddie Maley and Ritchie Turner

### **Highland Branch Pipes and Drums Display:**

On Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, some of us from the Edinburgh Branch were lucky enough to attend the RBLs Nairn as guests of the Highland Branch to watch a first-class display of Pipes and Drums music supplied by the Pipes and Drums of the Queens Own Highlanders Regimental Association lead by Pipe Major Jim Stout.

The Pipes and Drums display was followed by an excellent buffet supplied by a catering company from Elgin.



Following the buffet, it was planned to have some music and dancing but due to a (friendly) neighbour complaining about the level of the music, the jigging had to be cancelled. (Or was it just Tony Curran's choice of music!!!).

We from the Edinburgh Branch would like to thank Tony Curran (Chairman), Richard Barker (Treasurer) and David Terron (Secretary) of the Highland Branch for their warm welcome and hospitality.



Pipes and Drums of the Q.O.Hldrs. Regt. Assoc



Pipe Major Donald John McIntyre toast the Regiment.



Ritchie Turner and Jim Elliot



Kathryn and Mick Kelly

### **Kirknewton Gala 2023**

Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 was another successful day for the Kirknewton Gala committee with a fantastic turn-out of locals and relatives from Kirknewton and the surrounding area.

Once again this year, Eddie Maley (Edinburgh Branch Chairman) was asked to head the parade along the main street to the public park at the far end of Kirknewton. Eddie was very ably lead through the village by a young piper from the Balerno Pipe Band. The Pipe Band also played a selection of tunes in the park following the parade.

We would like to thank Samantha and the rest of the Gala committee for once again including the Edinburgh Branch in their Gala. It is always an honour to attend.



Mickie, Eddie and Minnie



Eddie Maley, Ritchie Turner and Jim Elliot

### **Armed Forces Day, Edinburgh 2023**

Armed Forces Day parade in Edinburgh took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 with a fantastic show of around 30 Blue Hackles on parade. We were also lucky enough to have many wives, partners, family and friends accompanying our veterans, proving once again the Edinburgh Branch are a Family Branch and that we encourage the participation of family and friends in all we do. The Queens Own Highlanders being the largest contingent of veterans on parade filled us all with a sense of pride and belonging.

Muster was at 10.00hrs on the 24<sup>th</sup> June to get ready for the 'Get on the bus, get off the bus' preparation. All veterans met up at the St. Andrew Square end of George Street ready for the step off at 10.30hrs.

The Queens Own Highlanders contingent were headed by Bobby Costello carrying the Edinburgh Branch Standard, Brian Gibson carrying the MBBVA Standard and Lt. Col. Ritchie Turner acting as contingent parade Sergeant Major.

The parade stepped off at 10.30hrs on the dot under the direction of Garrison Sergeant Major WO1 Ruaridh Tuach of 4 Scots. Following the 'eyes left' at the Assembly Rooms on George Street where the salute was taken by Robert Aldridge, The Right Honourable Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh the parade turned left on to Castle Street where we were brought to the halt and fallen out to make our way across Princes Street into Princes Street Gardens where an afternoon of entertainment awaited us.

15.00hrs came around and the entertainment in Princes Street Gardens came to an end. To carry on the theme of comradeship and friendship, the Queens Own Highlanders contingent decided to cement relationships and friendships with the Scots Guards by moving along to



Haymarket in Edinburgh to the Scots Guards Club where an evening of Regimental bonding continued until closing time.

Edinburgh Branch Members and Committee would like to thank RBLs for their organisation and professionalism throughout the event and the Scots Guards Club for their very kind hospitality.



Some of the Queens Own Highlanders contingent take George Street by storm.



Maj. George Givens keeps the GSM right.



Sid Shaw, Kenny Reid and Gus McLeod





L – R Kenny Reid, Danny Carruthers and Ian Forsyth



Brian Gibson, Ritchie Turner and just out the picture Bobby Costello leading the Edinburgh Branch.



Kenny Reid, Rab Dall and Freda Dall



Ritchie Turner and Eddie Maley wait for Bobby Costello to find his wallet.

Many more photos are available on line but as usual, we can only post a few in our reports.

### **Edinburgh Branch Summer Dance 2023**

The Edinburgh Branch Summer Dance was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 in the Bainfield Bowling and Social Club, Edinburgh.

This being the Branch's first Summer Dance since before the COVID pandemic it was fantastic to see so many regulars and many new faces to the Branch events.

The night was started by the Edinburgh Branch Chairman, Eddie Maley, welcoming the members and guests to the Summer Dance and thanking the one-and-only Eleanor for once again providing a first class buffet, The club bar staff for allowing us to use their facilities, the band 'Grand Central' who kept us entertained all night with a wide range of music and finally thanks the members and guests for attending and wishing them all a fun evening.

We the committee would like to thank all members and guests for donating so many wonderful prizes for the World-Famous Edinburgh Branch Raffle. The raffle tickets were sold by Ritchie Turner ably assisted by his daughter Amber and her partner Murray.

Introductions and welcomes over, it was time to get the music on and some serious dancing done with almost all of the 55 people who attended on the dance floor most of the night.



Sheila Wurr shows us how it is done



Didn't take long for the dance floor to start filling up .



Ritchie and Amber Turner in control of the raffle



Danny Carruthers tries to persuade Eddie Maley it's his round (good luck with that one Danny)

Time for the buffet and the raffle. Eleanor had once again supplied us with a feast of a buffet with a large selection of choices.

Once everyone had collected their food and settled down again, we were treated to an excellent set of tunes from Walter Williamson and his bagpipes. Walter's selection went down so well, we may have to keep it in for future events.

Food and bagpipe selection over the time had come, the event everyone attends Edinburgh Branch functions for, yes, the World-Famous Edinburgh Branch Raffle.



Eddie Maley and Norrie Robertson started the raffle draw with some tremendous prizes being won. Once again, we would like to thank everyone for donating such high quality prizes.

Back onto the dance floor to enjoy the selection of music from the wonderful Grand Central who I wouldn't hesitate in hiring again kept the dance floor full for the rest of the night.

I must give a mention to the committee for their hard work setting up the dance and ensuring the smooth running of the evening. Although some were more in the public eye such as Ritchie Turner selling raffle tickets, Eddie Maley and Norrie Robertson doing the raffle draw, Jim Elliot taking photos others were working in the background helping to clear up after the buffet and at the end of the night. This duty fell to John Meikle and Brian Gibson. Thank you very much gentlemen.



Norrie Robertson, John Meikle, Walter Williamson



Maurine Chamberlain, Sheila Wurr, Dana Forsyth and Brian Gibson



David and Caroline MacKenzie



Jane Robertson, Norrie Robertson, Ritchie Turner and Jane Wood think they spotted Eddie Maley buying a round.....



Eileen and Danny Carruthers strutting their stuff



Michael Thomson doesn't know what he is letting himself in for with Danny Carruthers Eddie Maley.

A fantastic night was had by all. Many more photos were taken and can be found on the Facebook pages. CFGB

### **Garden of Remembrance Edinburgh 2023:**

The start of the Scottish National Remembrance events started on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2023 at the Scott Monument, Princes Street, Edinburgh with the opening of the Garden of Remembrance.

The service was taken by Reverend Dr. Karen K. Campbell BD(Hons) MTh DMin, National Chaplain, Royal British Legion Scotland.

The first reading was given by Robert Aldridge, The Right Honourable Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh.

The second reading was given by Rear Admiral Mark Beverstock, The National President, The Royal British Legion Scotland.

The service was well attended by all Scottish Regiments as well as all arms of the Forces with their families and friends.

The Queens Own Highlanders were out in force with 17 members of the Edinburgh Branch in attendance backed up by family and friends.

Many photographs were taken on the day, please find a few of these photographs below:





Back row: Hank Espin, Jim Cockburn, Gus MacLeod, John Meikle and Walter Williamson.  
 Front row: Eddie Maley (Edinburgh Branch Standard), Kenny Reid, Rab Dall, Duncan MacCallum, Jim Elliot, Danny Mullan, David MacIntosh and Ritchie Turner (MBBVA Standard).  
 Not in the photo: Brian Gibson, Janet Reid, Margaret Cockburn and Isobel Espin



Before the service:  
 Back Row: David MacIntosh, Gus Macleod and Jim Cockburn.  
 Front Row: Jim Elliot, Duncan MacCallum, Kenny Reid and Hank Espin.



Wreath Layers:  
 Walter Williamson – MBBVA Wreath  
 Ritchie Turner – Cameron Highlanders Wreath  
 Danny Mullan – Seaforth Highlanders Wreath  
 John Meikle – Queens Own Highlanders Wreath.



Following the service of Remembrance a few of the attendees made their way along to the Scots Guards Club in Haymarket, Edinburgh to enjoy a catch-up and a few glasses of sherry.



Isobel and Hank Espin



Jim and Margaret Cockburn



Rab and Freda Dall



Kenny and Janet Reid with Isobel and Hank Espin

With many a tale shared and even more war stories told (or re-told), everyone had a good chin wag and headed home when the Scots Guards Club closed.

### **Garden of Remembrance Glasgow 2023:**

A service for the opening of the Garden of Remembrance in George Square, Glasgow was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2023. A small contingent of the Edinburgh Branch attended to assist the Royal British Legion Scotland with crowd control and wreath laying.



They met up with George Monaghan and Jim McVey who were attending the service and laying a wreath on behalf of the Queens Own Highlanders.



Ritchie Turner, Eddie Maley and John Meikle



Ritchie Turner, Eddie Maley, Jim McVey  
John Meikle and George Monaghan

### **Armistice Day Edinburgh 2023:**

The Scottish National Armistice service was held at 11.00hrs on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023 at the Scott Monument Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh on a cold but bright Saturday morning.

The service was led by Reverend Dr. Karen K. Campbell BD(Hons) MTh DMin, National Chaplain, Royal British Legion Scotland.

Binyon's Lines was recited by Robert Aldridge, the Right Honourable Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh.

Following Binyon's Lines Last Post was played by Iona MacFarlane followed by The Flowers of the Forrest played by Piper Angus Adams from George Heriot's School. Iona then played Rouse to end the minute's silence.

The Kohima Epitaph was then recited by Dr. Claire Armstrong, Chief Executive Officer, Royal British Legion Scotland.

Following the Kohima Epitaph wreaths were laid by the following:

Robert Aldridge, The Right Honourable Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh.

Dr. Claire Armstrong, Chief Executive Officer, the Royal British Legion Scotland.

Mr. Austin Hardie, Director, Poppy Scotland.

Colonel Jim Wilson, Veterans Scotland.

Mr. Alasdair Henry Hutton OBE TD OstJ, Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Area President, the Royal British Legion Scotland.

Reverend Dr. Karen K. Campbell, National Chaplain, the Royal British Legion Scotland.

During this week of Remembrance the Edinburgh Branch have been busy paying their respects to fallen comrades throughout Edinburgh, Central Scotland and Fife as they do every year.



On Armistice Day Maj. (Ret) George Givens attended the Armistice Day service at HMS Caledonia (Rosyth) as the SSAFA Fife representative and managed to meet up with another Blue Mafia legend Stephen Ord, a very well-known Queens Own Highlander.



## Scottish National Remembrance Parade, Edinburgh:

The Scottish National Remembrance Parade took place on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. The marching contingent formed up on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle and marched down the Royal Mile to the Stone of Remembrance at the Edinburgh City Chambers. Edinburgh Branch of the Regimental Association were well represented with approximately 25 Blue Hackles on parade with the marching contingent and a further half dozen who were unable to march attending at the Edinburgh City Chambers.

Standard Bearer:

Bobby Costello who carried the Edinburgh Branch Standard.

Wreath Layers:

Maj. (Ret) George Givens: Queens Own Highlanders Wreath

Lt. Col. (Ret) Ritchie Turner: Cameron Highlanders and MBBVA Wreaths

John Meikle: Seaforth Highlanders Wreath

Following a very moving service of Remembrance many of the Edinburgh Branch of the Queens Own Highlanders Regimental Association headed down to the Royal Marine, Royal Navy Club for a day and evening of entertainment hosted by 1 Scots.



L to R: George Givens, Jim Headley, Rab MacMillan, Roger Burt, Billy Fraser, Ian Forsyth, Jim Cockburn, Michael Kelly, Joe Langan, Bobby Costello, Kenny Reid, Brian Gibson, Eddie Maley and Jim Elliot.



John Meikle, Ritchie Turner, Bobby Costello  
Eddie Maley and Brian Gibson



Bobby Costello gives the Queens  
Own Highlanders Regimental Toast  
In Gaelic



Michelle McNiven, Kathryn Kelly, Angela Forsyth,  
Margaret Cockburn and Janet Reid (The P.O.V.S.)



Billy Fraser, John Meikle and Ritchie Turner

A great day was had by all, meeting up with old friends and meeting new friends as well as having the opportunity of showing our respect to those who had fallen.

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM – GBNF CFGB**

Jim Elliot  
Queens Own Highlanders Regimental Association



