



Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) R J Towns MBE

**Chairman Highland Branch
Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) Regimental Association**

Website

**40 River Park
Nairn
IV12 5SR**

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Dear All,

I write this the morning after a very successful Highland Branch Amalgamation Dinner held courtesy of 3 SCOTS in the Sgts' Mess at Fort George.

The evening started with a brief in the bar for all attendees and a welcome to our guests from the Chairman. This was slightly delayed due to the late arrival of the Inverness bus. The Elgin, Forres and Nairn buses had no such difficulties!

76 members and guests sat down to a very fine meal prepared by Sgt Primrose and the chefs of the battalion. CSgt Chessar, the Offrs' Mess Manager and his team did us proud with their excellent, friendly and professional service. They managed this despite the battalion being deployed and the job of looking after us being taken on by the Rear Party or more aptly, in correct modern terms, the Rear Operational Group.

After the excellent meal and toasts: The Queen, Prince Philip and Regimental we enjoyed two excellent sets of pipes played for us by the Association Pipe Major Andy Venters, his designate John MacDonald and John May. This was the final performance by Andy as the Pipe Major and General Peter thanked him for the massive contribution he has made during his 28 years in post. Special mention was made of his pursuit of excellence in both piping and dress during this time. The President asked everyone to be upstanding to drink a toast to Andy and he rightly left the room to the biggest round of applause of the evening. This was fitting tribute to a long period of dedication by the Pipey.

Our official guest was someone well known to most, namely, Maj Colin McInroy the QM of 3 SCOTS. Colin started life in Macdelta in Hong Kong and it was fitting that a number of his colleagues from that time including his Company Commander and Company Sergeant Major were present. Recently returned from Afghanistan he updated us on life on operations highlighting the expense of "Poo Bags" for humans. His small QM's team having to provide the resupply for a huge Battle Group with no increase in numbers meant 17 hour working days for the duration of the tour. Nothing has changed then!

We retired upstairs to the Bar where we held a very well donated Raffle. Thank you to all. Gen Seymour informed us that he had gone to Gordon McPhail in Elgin and purchased a bottle of the Regimental Whisky only to leave it at home in the car. We can expect it next time then!

Bob Shanks ran a small Museum Shop during the evening allowing Rab Boyd to finally, acquire a proper tie. Thanks to Tosh for the photographs.

After finishing the stock of whisky (honest) we made our way to the waiting transport shepherded by Peter and David. A good night, thanks to all for your support and assistance.

Yours aye,

"Cabarfeidh gu Brath"

Bob

**Telephone Home: 01667 452156 Office: 01463 732343 Mobile: 07771956475
Email Home: bob@townssb.freeserve.co.uk Work: hi-ceasstinv@hi.rfca.mod.uk**