



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



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2015

The Remembrance Field at the Auckland War Memorial Museum



photos: Dale Bailey

Real Highland weather for the Brigadoon Games in NSW



Fraser Cameron hands over the reins to our new President Nick Cameron



German Field Gun, captured by the 5th Service Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders at the Battle of Loos, 1915. Now positioned outside the Clan Cameron Museum at Achnacarry

Photos: Bill Cameron

“Cameron”

is the magazine of the
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)

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Clan Cameron New Zealand website
Decision pending on new site
Use Clan Cameron facebook page in the interim

<https://m.facebook.com/ClanCameronNZ>

An Introduction to our President.....

Nick and his wife Julie have lived on a small block north of Darfield since 1981, where they grow a range of fruit ornamental trees and keep two dogs, Defor and Sidney. The block was originally the small country Kimberley school planted in 1873 which provided a backdrop for the garden they have established over the last thirty four years. Their daughter Rowan is a vet nurse with a daughter Andrea who is now 2 years old. Their son Hamish is a qualified mechanical engineer and builder who is currently foreman of a local building company.



Nick was brought up in Hawkes Bay and went to school in Napier, and later qualified with a Masters of Agricultural Science at Massey University specializing in quantitative genetics, plant breeding, biochemistry and agronomy. After graduation he went to work for the Auckland based Arthur Yates Ltd as its grass breeder in 1979. Following the takeover by Yates of Hodder & Tolley he became its Research Manager and continued to serve as its Pasture Plant Breeder and carried out contra season Barley Breeding work for what is now Syngenta Seeds. For the last 18 years Nick has worked for Cropmark Seeds as its Research Director managing a diverse range of projects (and staff) including Forage and Grain species breeding as well as grass fungal development. These fungi have been developed to be non toxic to grazing animals but confer resistance to a range of pasture insects and nematodes. He is the single largest shareholder of Cropmark Seeds. The company exports pasture seeds all over the world.

Nick's ancestors originated from Lochaber, where following Culloden his ancestor Alexander Cameron took twenty Camerons to Little Loch Broom. They stayed in Loch Broom until 1845 when they were evicted from theircroft and Nicks great great grandfather Alexander III took the family to Tain where he set up a school. His son Donald Cameron married an Ann Fraser and was the Police Superintendent at Stornoway, on the Isle of Lewis. Four of Donald's elder brothers and sisters migrated to New Zealand on the boat Strathallen initially to Dunedin, with the eldest son Kenneth settling in Weber, Hawkes Bay. Donald's son Lt. Finlay Cameron was injured at Gallipoli and billeted in Calais with a French family – he eventually married the daughter – so as Nick explains he has some French and Scottish ancestors. Nick's father Ken, his Uncle John and Aunt Renee Cameron were bought up multilingual. Aunt Renee was President deGaulle's personal assistant during World War 2 and led a very interesting life working for the French Embassy in London.

Nick's father Ken died 17 years ago, but Ken's older brother (Nick's Uncle) John is still alive and Nick says Uncle John is a very very good cook and will shortly be residing in Porangahau, Hawkes Bay with Nick's brother Paul. He hopes the Clan members get to meet him soon. He served on the mine sweepers during the war so no doubt he and Neil will have some things in common besides sea sickness!!.

A Message from Fraser

A message from your Past President. Thank you all for appointing Nick to office - as a younger member he will be of great benefit to the Clan, I am sure.

Our Annual General Meeting at Palmerston North was very successful as well as enjoyable, the travel there and back for Elaine and myself was uneventful. We had an enjoyable lunch stop at a Cafe in Waiouru - then on via Rotorua to home.

My other occupational hazards keep me busy so time is not dull or stagnant, as I write this note after 3 days in Whakatane Hospital at the request of my doctor. It was for a heart check up and excess fluid in the system. Generally I feel O.K. My daughters duly arrived to put me in my place and told me to obey.

I now have joined the pill poppers class for the moment. Travel is limited and driving is not on the agenda for a few days.

Fraser is much better but still on medication. We wish him a speedy recovery. We thank him for all the time and support he has given during his four years as president of Clan Cameron NZ.

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 July.

Printed By



Iar Branch:

Roger Cameron

Marrickville, Australia.

Ceud Mile Fàilte

One Hundred Thousand Welcomes

History Corner *by Fiona Cameron*



A mythical national animal?

Following on from my stories about the Saltire (which appeared to a 9th century king in a vision) and the thistle (a weed), I guess it's not so strange to have the mythical unicorn as one of Scotland's national animals?

Unicorns were worshipped in ancient Babylonia and written descriptions of them also appear in texts from the ancient Persians, Romans and Greeks. They all describe the unicorn as a horse-like animal with a single horn. In Celtic mythology, the unicorn symbolized innocence and purity, healing powers, joy and even life itself, and was also seen as a symbol of masculinity and power.

The unicorn was first used in Scottish heraldry in the 12th century, when it was used in an early form of the Scottish coat of arms by William I.

In 15th century Scotland, gold coins were introduced that featured a Unicorn and by the time of King James VI of Scotland, the Scottish Royal Arms featured two unicorns as shield supporters. When James succeeded Elizabeth I and became King of England and Scotland, he replaced the one on the left with the English lion. Today, the Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland still has the English lion on the left and the Scottish unicorn on the right, and

the Royal Coat of Arms for use in Scotland has them the other way round.

According to folklore, however, the lion and the unicorn hate each other - a tradition going back to the ancient Babylonians in 3,500 B.C. The fight between the two results from the Unicorn representing spring and the lion representing summer. Each year the two fight for supremacy; and each year the lion eventually wins.

In the case of Scotland and England, the fight continued, and a popular English nursery rhyme of the period sums up the animosity. It also recalls old wars between England and Scotland:

*The lion and the unicorn
Were fighting for the crown;
The lion beat the unicorn
All round about the town.*

However, the proud unicorn may have another fight on its hands. Recently a Scottish tour company started a campaign to have Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster, replace the unicorn as Scotland's national animal.

Freda Newton, of Loch Ness by Jacobite, said: "Nessie is an icon and an asset. There is no doubt she attracts hundreds of tourists to Scotland every year and she deserves recognition."

And Nessie, rumoured to be a plesiosaur, has some history to back her up. The earliest recorded mention of Scotland's famous lake monster dates back to the 6th century.

I'm just not sure how the Royal Coat of Arms will cope with Nessie.



Coming Events:

Sunday 14th June, 2015

Bay of Plenty Annual General Meeting

will be held on at the home of Denis and Joy Cameron, 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa commencing at 2.00 p.m. and followed by afternoon tea

Sunday 28th June

Bay of Plenty Branch Mid-year Christmas Luncheon

will be held at the Masonic Lodge Centre, Corner of State Highway 29 and Hairini Street, Maungatapu, Tauranga. Cost is \$30.00 per person. Numbers are essential for catering so it would be appreciated if members could ring Denis, 575-4659 or Ray Crafts 577-9562. Further details in our Bay of Plenty report.

Saturday 22 August 2015

Auckland Branch Mid-Winter Dinner

6pm for 6.30pm. Quality Hotel, Parnell, Auckland. Price \$ 57.50. This will be a special dinner to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the departure of the barque *Blenheim* from Greenock for Port Nicholson. 197 Scots were on board, including many Camerons. Our President, Norman, is a descendant, as is our guest speaker for the evening, Marc Ulyatt. Marc is the author of 'The Kaiwarra Camerons'

Enquiries to Norman Cameron 09 372 8442.

norman.cameron37@gmail.com

Flyer for Auckland members enclosed.

Lochiel's Message for the AGM

I hope you have a successful AGM and that you are all in good heart. The Lochiel family is in great shape with six grandchildren growing fast and turning out to be lovely children (their grandfather would, of course, say that!). The weather has been very changeable of late and we have had some flooding in the basement of Achnacarry which occurred after 6 inches of rain over a weekend but luckily no permanent damage.

The mood in Scotland is curious with the "No" vote not settling matters and with so many permutations, it is going to be an interesting general election on May 7th with the SNP possibly playing a major role in who governs the country which won't be to the liking of the English or indeed some Scots.

The Estate is in good shape and Astie Cameron, who some of you will remember from his First Light trip, is now the Estate manager and is doing an excellent job. We are developing five hydro schemes which should become operational at the end of this year and which will make a big difference to our cash flow. We are also harvesting a lot of timber and will replant in an environmentally friendly manner.

As always, I am indebted to those of you who keep the spirit of the clan alive in New Zealand - without your efforts, our history and heritage would wither on the vine and I am immensely grateful to you for all that you do to keep the flame burning brightly.

Finally, I hope you win the Rugby World cup in October. I fear Scotland have little chance!

With warmest good wishes and with many thanks,

Lochiel

From the Branches....

Auckland by Norman Cameron

The Auckland Branch of Clan Cameron held their AGM on the 27th of March at the Parnell Cricket Club, thanks to Bryan Haggitt. Thirty members and friends attended and after the meeting a BBQ was held. Bryan Haggitt has replaced Hillary Hakaraia as Vice President and Elaine Ebbett has become Secretary - Treasurer. Hillary has been Vice President as long as I have been on the Committee and this goes for Bryan who has also had a long term as Treasurer.

The National AGM of Clan Cameron was held at the Hotel Coachman, Palmerston North on the weekend of the 18th of April. Neil & Ruth Cameron, Bryan Haggitt and myself attended and it was a well organised and enjoyable three days thanks to Harry Lampen-Smith. At the Executive Meeting President Fraser Cameron said he would like to relinquish being President and at the AGM Nick Cameron from the Canterbury Branch was elected President. Fraser was well supported by his family and he served the Clan well over his four years of presidency. I hope he and his family will attend our dinner on August the 22nd, they will be most welcome.

Jill and I were in Sydney for a week just after Easter and on the weekend of the 10 of April were driven to a small town called Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands. We arrived Friday evening and on Saturday morning attended the Highland Games at Brigadoon which the town is called for the day. The day started with a street march of 20 pipe bands followed by the mass bands marching and playing across the oval. It was very wet underfoot as it had rained all the previous night. I made my way to the Clan Cameron tent and met Robert (Bob) Cameron - Australian Commissioner of the Clan and James Cameron - NSW President of the Clan. When these games first started over twenty thousand attended with at least 40 buses from Sydney and a special steam train, this time about ten thousand attended. In the evening we attended a wonderful Ceilidh in the local hall with the MC getting us all dancing. Elizabeth Hartley who is a member of the Auckland Branch and her husband Richard were with us at the games.

This year's Clan Dinner on August 22nd theme will be the 175 anniversary of barque *Blenheim*'s arrival in NZ. The guest speaker is Marc Ulyatt who has written a book "The Kaiwarra Camerons" I would like descendants of the passengers of "Blenheim" to attend.

Bay of Plenty by Denis Cameron

Many thanks to the members who have already paid their subscription. Direct payment to our bank account appears to be popular for those with access to a computer. Bank details are on your invoice which was sent out in March. Alternatively snail mail is fine.

We are looking forward to our Mid Winter Christmas Luncheon on June 28th. "Daniels in the Park" will be doing the catering so those who attended the National AGM in 2014 know what a wonderful spread they prepare. The day will start with a "Meet and Mingle" from 11:30 a.m – 12:00 noon. The address to the Haggis will then take place and this will be followed by the luncheon and entertainment. Cost is \$30 per head and it would be appreciated if payment could be forwarded to our treasurer, Joy Cameron, 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa, by June 24th. We need to advise our caterers of final numbers several days in advance. Drinks are BYO – no bar facilities available. Please bring family and friends to enjoy the great company of the "Camerons" of the Bay of Plenty.

Rex Cameron is home, on the mend and once again enjoying his fishing at Pukehina. Fraser Cameron has had another trip to Whakatane Hospital and is now being well cared for by Elaine. Sounds like hard work confining him to barracks.

Congratulations to Jean Barker on her 90th Birthday. Jean is the Mother of our National Treasurer, Alison Jordan, and has been a member of the Bay of Plenty Branch of Clan Cameron for many years.

After many years in the "Chair" I remind you that I will NOT be seeking re-election as President of the BOP Branch at the AGM on 14th June. It has been a privilege to be your President for many years but it is now time for a change.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

We have been resting on our laurels lately, however we have two events to look forward to. Firstly, the combined Clan luncheon held in Christchurch in July. This is a fun event and gives us a chance to mix with members of other Clans. Then in November we have our tent at the Hororata Highland Games. Each year these Games are becoming more and more popular, they are enjoyable, even if we go home exhausted.

Congratulations to Nick Cameron on being elected President of Clan Cameron New Zealand.

Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw

Once again the Hawkes Bay branch were represented at the Hastings Highland Games at Easter. Our tent /gazebo was one of only four this year. The weather was fine and sunny on Saturday but cloudy and cooler on Sunday. Crowd numbers were down on both days as we had competition from a Race meeting and shoppers on Saturday and the weather wasn't conducive on Sunday. We conducted our usual raffle with the usual success. We didn't sign up any new members although there was interest from one gentleman. Thank you Neil once again for the loan of the display boards. Five members attended the A.G.M. and annual gathering in Palmerston North on the 17/19 April. Thank you Palmerston North for a very relaxed weekend.

We wish to thank Fraser Cameron for his custodian of the Clan for the last four years and wish him a speedy recovery from his recent trip to Hospital.

Congratulations Nick on your appointment as our new chief. We look forward to your visit next year if you are attending the Hastings Highland Games.

Manawatu by Jessie Annabell

Manawatu hosted the national AGM from 17th to 19th April this year in Palmerston North. On Friday evening Joy & Colin Cameron hosted an informal and very enjoyable get together at their home in Rangitikei Line. Manawatu members provided finger food, and music by past First Lighter, Robert Nairn, played in the background. Joy heard comment that it was wonderful chance for visitors to just sit down and chat.

All Saturday functions were held at the Hotel Coachman in Fitzherbert Avenue. After the Executive meeting came the AGM in the morning. About 40 attended. The new Deputy Mayor, Duncan McCann, welcomed people to Palmerston North. He said, with perhaps some envy, that not everyone was fortunate enough to have such a strong sense of their roots. We were very pleased to have past national president, Maisie Earle, attend the AGM. After a delicious lunch, members had the choice of 3 outings, the Rugby Museum, the Orlando Country Club in Rangitikei Line, and the Feilding Coachhouse Museum. The Coachhouse appeared to be the most popular.

The branch committee was very happy with evening function. About 65 partook of an excellent dinner, superbly provided by the Coachman and staff. Pipers from the Manawatu Scottish Society played outside the venue and, with rising young Pahiatua piper, Sebastian King, led the haggis party into the dining room. Gordy Mains delivered a rousing Ode to the Haggis. Guest speaker, Rangitikei M.P. and local branch member, Ian McKelvie, spoke about being an M.P. from a rural electorate. Listeners could not help but be impressed with his down-to-earth and genuine approach. The 50th AGM cake drew appreciative comments for its taste, texture and

continued on page 5

moisture. Alas, it was not home-made. After dinner four pipers entertained us. Highland Cathedral and Amazing Grace, amongst other items, was followed by Auld Lang Syne.

Sunday's church service was at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Broadway. A single piper, again from the Manawatu Scottish Society, led our tartan through into the beautiful Church. Father Fahy made us welcome and the congregation invited us to their morning tea.

The committee truly appreciates the participation of all local members in making this a very pleasant weekend. And we also appreciate the excellent resources of the Coachman and the hospitality of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

Gisborne by David Cameron

Gisborne Branch held their A.G.M. on 30th April 2015 at The Tatapouri Fishing Club premises, preceded by a very enjoyable lunch. We were fortunate to have our Branch Member from Opotiki Fraser Cameron attend, and he gave a report on the Clan's 50th A.G.M. held at Palmerston North earlier in the month.

The Vivienne McConnell Memorial Banner.

By Trish and Mike Topham

As members of Gisborne Branch we experienced great pride at the Palmerston A.G.M. in the handing over of the banner to Manawatu Branch. In our opinion, Jean Barker representing Bay of Plenty Branch, did a sterling job in advising those present of the immense contribution Vivienne had given to Clan Cameron N.Z. and the pride she had in her Cameron ancestry. We also note that Jean, like Vivienne, is a descendant of John Cameron of Corrychoillie. Thank you Jean.

Iar (formerly Taranaki/Wanganui) by Shona Wallace

As reported at the recent AGM, Taranaki/Wanganui Branch have changed our name to Clan Cameron Iar. Iar being Gaelic for West. This was driven by needs of our branch to be available to all but not restrained by boundaries financially.

Criomagan (Odds & Ends) by the Editor

Clan Historian / Genealogist - and Newsletter Editor

Fiona Cameron, because of personal commitments and pressure of work, has advised us that she is not able to give full justice to the position and has tendered her resignation.

The urgent task is to convert masses of records from various paper forms to disc. Fiona has completed about a third of the task. She is happy to retain custody for the time being and will progress the work when she can.

If you are interested in taking over this important position, or in helping Fiona, please contact her to obtain further details of what the task entails. (contact details on page 2)

On another note, I have intimated that I would like to retire from the position of Newsletter Editor at next year's AGM. I will have been editor for 10 years and feel that perhaps a change in style may be indicated.

Please contact me if you are interested in taking on this rewarding task.

Donald Cameron the Younger of Lochiel.

Donald was the Conservative candidate for the electorate of Orkney and Shetland at the recent UK General Election. This was a strong Liberal Democrat seat and was held by that party, their only seat in Scotland, despite a strong challenge from SNP.

We are chugging along quietly here with a few active members and some who are unable to participate in activities. Planning is well underway for next years AGM.

We are working hard on trying to gain new members but not to much avail. We are meeting on a more regular basis this year and I hope that this will bind us together more.

Congratulations to Manawatu for a successful AGM with a great venue. Well done! Lovely to meet up with other branch members again.

175th Blenheim Gatherings by Roz Grant

Twenty-five years have passed since the descendants last gathered to commemorate the Pioneer's legacy. The Blenheim pioneers made an important contribution to the European settlement of the lower North Island after 1840 in many fields of endeavour including economic, cultural, social, and civic. Perhaps the feature that is least recognised today is that Kaiwharawhara was the site of the first settlement of Scots in New Zealand, 8 years before Dunedin and 14 before Waipu. Culturally, they brought with them much that we now take for granted as part of the fusion of Scottish Highland and Kiwi culture. The first set of bagpipes was carried on the Blenheim. They held the very first Highland Games on these shores in 1848 at Kaiwharawhara, replanting a tradition of Scottish culture, music, dance, and athletics - in a new land.

It is exciting to be gathering once more to celebrate with the descendants of such an important group of early pioneers

If you haven't registered your interest in attending the dinners there is still time.

Visit the web page for the information on the settlers at www.blenheim175.wordpress.com.

Face book <https://www.facebook.com/Blenheim175>

For further information contact:

Wanganui dinner: Ewen & Roz Grant 06 327 3861 tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

Auckland dinner: Norman Cameron, 09 372 8442.

norman.cameron37@gmail.com

Kaiwharawhara picnic: Hugh McPhail 04 970 9851 blenheim175@gmail.com

We congratulate Donald on coming third, beating the Labour and UKIP candidates.

Embroidered Clan Crests

Shown on the back page are photographs of embroidered crests as worn on shirts by John Cameron at the Gathering. Please contact John on (06) 358 0417 for information on how to order. The price for the badge is \$25 (\$30 if branch name is included) and you provide or order the shirt separately.

Executive Council Meeting

The next meeting has been confirmed for 19 September 2015 at the Wellington Airport in the De Havilland room. Start 1pm.

EC Members are asked to provide Agenda items they would like to discuss at this meeting, and whether they will be attending.

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The Edinburgh Tattoo will perform away from Edinburgh Castle for only the fourth time in its history, visiting Australia and NZ in February next year. It will perform at the Westpac Stadium, Wellington, 18,19,20 and 21 February 2016.

Tickets available **now** from: festival.co.nz or ticketek.co.nz.

Extracts from the letters of Jessie Campbell

Will be continued next issue.

The Cameron and Soldiers Memorial Park upgraded and renamed

by Rob Cameron (Wgtn/Wairarapa)

The main rugby ground in the Wairarapa, Trust House Memorial Park, staged New Zealand's first-ever professional rugby game on artificial turf, when the Hurricanes and Chiefs development teams met on Thursday 30 April 2015. The \$2.1 million state-of-the-art turf was officially opened just prior to the development game, which was the highlight of an evening festival of rugby and football. The occasion was also marked by a mass haka performed by groups from Wairarapa schools and colleges. The multi-use facility will be of tremendous benefit to a vast number of schools, colleges, sports clubs, and other community organisations. Park usage is expected to increase from five per cent to 40 per cent, with ground hire fees the same or less than in previous years. Floodlit rugby and football are planned, with many evenings already booked out. The name has been changed to Trust House Memorial Park to recognize the significant financial contribution of Trust House. This is a community owned enterprise dedicated to enhancing the well being of the Wairarapa, Flaxmere and Rimutaka. Previously it was known as the Masterton Licensing Trust.

The park was previously named **The Cameron and Soldiers Memorial Park** and was donated by brothers Donald and Robert Cameron after the First World War, as a memorial to Donald's son Norman, who was killed in action at Gallipoli, and all other soldiers from the Wairarapa who lost their lives during the Great War. The land had originally belonged to Masterton's Agricultural and Pastoral Association, which sold it to a syndicate of 12 members, the Cameron brothers among them. The brothers eventually bought all of the land, which included a grandstand, the A and P Association left behind when it relocated across town to the Solway Showgrounds. This was gifted to the people of the Wairarapa and has remained as the principal rugby ground there ever since.

At the official opening of the grounds Rob Cameron, Wellington/Wairarapa President and Great grandson of Robert Cameron, spoke on behalf of the Cameron descendants, eluding to the history of the park and expressing their approval of the new surface and congratulated the Masterton District Council for their input in the development of the grounds.

Norman's Obituary

Norman Donald Cameron was a keen young territorial officer with the Wellington (East Coast) Mounted Rifles, promoted to captain at the age of 20 when war broke out. His father, Donald, had earlier been a local Volunteer soldier. Born in 1893 at Black



Remembering Our Fallen Heroes

Of the 2779 New Zealanders who died during the Gallipoli Campaign, eight had the surname Cameron:

Allan Cameron *Harry Cameron*
James Finlayson Cameron *John Colin Cameron*
John Stewart Cameron *Norman Donald Cameron*
Percy Cameron *Robert James Cameron*

Source: The New Zealand Herald



Rock, he moved with the family in 1904 to 'Sherwood' at Upper Plain, Masterton. Norman attended Fernridge School and Wellington College before returning to farm at 'Sherwood'. He played rugby for the Red Star Club.

Norman enlisted in Masterton, joining the Wellington Mounted Rifles, service number 11/216. He helped assemble recruits and on 13 August 1914 led the first mounted rifles group of 32 into camp at Palmerston North. He was made a lieutenant in the NZEF and went overseas to Egypt, where his father visited him.

The Mounted Rifles Brigade remained in Egypt when the infantry of the Anzac Division sailed to Gallipoli to land on 25 April 1915. With casualties in the Battle of the Landing so heavy, the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force decided to use the New Zealand Mounted Rifles and the Australian Light Horse as infantry reinforcements.

Norman and 470 men of the Wellington Mounted Rifles landed at Anzac Cove on 12 May and the regiment went into the line at Russell's Top (part of Walker's Ridge) the next day. Trenches held by the Auckland and Wellington Mounted Rifles on Russell's Top were heavily attacked by the Turks on May 19. The defenders killed thousands by rifle and machine gun fire and several days later the Turks asked for an armistice to bury the dead. No.3 Outpost, a position north of the Anzac perimeter, was occupied by Turkish snipers. It was attacked by the Canterbury Mounted Rifles on the night of 28 May. After evicting the Turks, the Canterburys were relieved by the Wellington Mounteds, including Norman Cameron. A large Turkish force counterattacked during the night and by daylight, it became obvious the New Zealanders were occupying an isolated position dominated by Turkish fire.

After unsuccessful daylight attempts to reinforce No. 3 Outpost, the depleted Wellingtons were relieved on the night of 30 May and shortly after, the position was abandoned.

Norman Cameron, along with three officers and 15 men of the Wellington Mounteds, did not survive the ill-planned battle. Another 50 men of the unit were wounded. As the position remained in Turkish hands, Norman's body was not recovered and he is memorialised on the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli.

After the war, Norman's father Donald and uncle Robert purchased and donated 14 acres in Dixon Street which became the **Cameron and Soldiers' Memorial Park**.

Norman Cameron, Auckland President, has the same relationship to Norman above as Rob Cameron.

By Editor; ☆

To remember those who fought or nursed in the First World War a hundred years ago, I would like more of your stories to publish. Please send to me at any time.



The Field Gun at Achnacarry

By Bill Cameron:

As I sit considering what to write about the German field gun that stands outside the clan Cameron Museum at Achnacarry, my small digital radio is currently broadcasting a service on the BBC from the cenotaph in London - where a large number of people have gathered to commemorate VE day - seventy years on to this very day.

So much has changed since Winston Churchill addressed the BBC audience listening to their crackling Bakelite radios back in May 1945.

The rather tired looking one hundred and ten year old German field gun has stood silent at Achnacarry in all weathers for a good number of years now, in fact, it is not known exactly how many years its been there. However, we do know some of its history from a small plaque on its gun shield. We also know that it is one of only a handful still in existence in Britain, and the only one of its kind in Scotland. It is therefore a unique example of First World War artillery.

'Captured by the 5th Service Battalion, Queens Own Cameron Highlanders at Fosse Vill – Lez -Bethune, Battle of Loos 25th Sep 1915. Presented by the Battalion to The County of Inverness 20th Oct 1921.'

It is believed that the field gun was passed on to Donald Hamish Cameron of Lochiel for safe keeping in the 1950's from the then Inverness County Council.

Some press accounts of the time point to feelings of discontent about displaying such symbols of war in the grounds of Inverness Castle where it had stood on display since the early 1920's.

The German 77mm Feldkanone model 1896 light field gun at Achnacarry was manufactured by Friedrich Krupp in Germany around 1905. Over five thousand were produced under license in Belgium, Sweden and Denmark up until the start of World War two.

The gun would have had a box trailer, four gun crew - two on horses and two sitting on wooden seats on the gun carriage operating the brakes.

On the breech of the gun are the marks Fr. Kp (Friedrich Krupp), Nr3537. On the barrel of the gun, under decades of flaking glossy grey paint you can just make out the engraved form of the Prussian eagle near the muzzle and the intertwined monogram of Kaiser Wilhelm the Second, along with the motto of the Prussian army 'Pro Gloria Et Patria' – for glory and fatherland.

Having recently had an extensive survey, it would appear

5th (Lochiel's) Battalion.

by the Editor

At the AGM, I was intrigued by Maisie Earle's story of Lochiel recruiting Camerons who served together and later suffered severe casualties so I tried to find out more about it..

At the beginning of the First World War, Lt Colonel Donald Walter Cameron of Lochiel, then commanding the 3rd (Special Reserve Battalion) Cameron Highlanders, was asked by Field Marshall Lord Kitchener to form a Service Battalion of Highlanders by direct appeal. He agreed, providing he became it's commanding officer. This new battalion was to have as a nucleus a selected detachment of his own men from the 3rd Battalion, and would be composed, so far as possible, exclusively of Highlanders. The response was so good that there were enough recruits to form four Service Battalions.

Lochiel took command of the first to be formed, the 5th Service Battalion. Companies and Platoons were organised according to local districts, so that men from each district of the Highlands would always be kept together in their own section,

that the field gun has survived surprisingly well, considering its early life in the muddy trenches of France, to intervening years spent out in the relentless Scottish rain.

In writing up a preservation report of the guns present condition, Michael Taylor has produced an interesting summary of its life - from its beginnings as part of the German Artillery in World War One - to its present day location outside the Clan Cameron Museum at Achnacarry.

"On 25th September 1915 the 5th Cameron Highlanders - 26 BDE, 9th Scottish Division suffered severe casualties in taking the pit waste heap named 'The Dump' and the adjacent area of Fosse 8.

Neither the battalion or brigade war diaries record the capture of any German Artillery. However, the divisional history records that "Two German guns were left near the cottages at Fosse. After dark on the 26th B/50 Battery took two limbers up to the cottages and brought back one of the guns; the other could not be found." The war diary of the 50th Brigade Royal Field Artillery adds more detail: 'On the night of 26th/27th Major Campbell commanding B50 and Lt Kenworthy took two limbers in to Fosse 8 cottages to remove 2 captured guns - they were however able to remove one only, the other being so buried in debris that it was impossible to extricate it.' The war diary entry has had a further note added at a later date: 'The captured gun was last seen on the Horse Guards Parade (London) labelled no doubt for some good reason "Captured by the 9th Division at Loos"- Loos to Fosse 8 being a matter of miles."

It would appear that guns such as the one at Achnacarry were taken back to Britain as symbols of victory during the First World War.

September 2015 will mark one hundred years since the Battle of Loos when the field gun was captured by Cameron Highlanders.

In light of this, and in order to preserve the gun and replace some missing parts, a small group of people have come together over the last couple of months to organise the preservation of the field gun.

This will involve some restoration to its two wooden wheels by a wheelwright, some metal and wood work; as well as stripping off layers of glossy grey paint and repainting it in the traditional German fieldgrau or, field grey - the colour it had originally been painted.

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A 1930's photo of the gun (centre right) in the grounds of Inverness Castle

platoon, or company, as part of the 9th (Scottish) Division. Lochiel stipulated that men joining together would remain together.

The battalion was officered by representatives of the leading Clans in Inverness-shire, and was formed in Inverness in August 1914 as part of the 26th Brigade, 9th (Scottish) Division.

They landed in France in May 1915 and their first major battle was at Loos in September 1915. However the 5th Camerons were left unsupported and, when relieved after three days fighting, only two officers and seventy men remained unrounded of the 820 who had started the attack. They went on to suffer further heavy casualties at the Battle of the Somme the following year.

Lochiel was invalided home in 1916 but returned to command the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion later in the war.

Source: 'Queen's Own Highlanders' and the internet

Jessie Annabell, Anne Walker-Long and Nigel Long



Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



Elaine, Julie, Fraser and Nick Cameron, Ian and Sue McKelvie



Fraser and Elaine cut the cake

Russell Cameron, Deputy Mayor Duncan McCann and Mike Topham



The Wellington / Wairarapa table



Pipers from the Manawatu Scottish Society



Roz Grant, John Cameron and Helen Shaw



On the Isle of Arran

Eliot Fenton with Bill Cameron



James Cameron, Pres NSW, Norman Cameron, Pres Auckland and Bob Cameron, Pres Australia at Brigadoon - page 3



The 50th Clan Cameron New Zealand AGM and Gathering - Palmerston North April 2015

Photos by Ewen Grant, Norman Cameron, Bill Cameron and the Editor