



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

*Vol 47
No 3 June
2013*



The Navy Pipes and Drums lead Clan members to the Chapel

Photos: Editor



A maritime background for our president



A morning with the Navy - a nautical ending to a friendly Annual Gathering

"Cameron"

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

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(This has links to other Clan Cameron sites)

Printed By

A message from our President.....

Dear Clan Members,

The Annual General meeting is over for another year with many thanks to the Auckland branch for such a successful event with good hospitality and service. The barbecue on Friday evening was most enjoyable as it possibly made the council meeting go better.

To the branches and members present my sincere thanks for re-election as President for another term of office. Your confidence is much appreciated. My express thanks to our Secretary as well as the very capable Treasurer for their reports and success in their duties.

The visit on Sunday to the Naval Base for the Church service, a cuppa to follow, then the enjoyable walk around the complex. All members went to the Naval Museum for lunch. A look at the very extensive displays on view completed the visit to Auckland for all.

I will take this moment to advise all of the passing of my sister Marian Lewes, a stalwart of the Gisborne branch, after a very short illness. Many thanks to members for their condolences received from all.

Matters arising needing prompt attention by branches with early replies has been very acceptable, allowing for due decisions to be adopted. It is my intention to direct all contacts with branches via our Secretary and would appreciate replies this way also so records of all matters are recorded. Emails are easier for me via secretary Tanya as we both have a busy work life and I can contact her via faxes easily.

Life membership has become a topic for Mike Topham to research. Interest in branch records as well as the Clan records would allow an update of all records.

Remember the mid year council meeting could be held in Palmerston North in October 2013 as a result of discussions at the last council meeting, the date will be about 5th or 6th.

I will close these notes for the editor to correct for printing before his deadline.

Fraser



Coming Events

Saturday June 15 2013

The Hastings and District Scots' Society Annual Ball,

St. Andrew's Hall, Hastings, 7.30 p.m,
Tickets \$15.00 from Ian and Suzette
Ingles, Phone 8777 458.

Your support appreciated. A great night is assured.

Sunday 30th June 2013

Bay of Plenty Branch Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa at 1:15pm

This will be preceded by a Pot Luck Finger Food Luncheon at 12:00 noon.

Enquiries to Denis or Joy Cameron
07 575-4659

Sunday 30 June 2013

Tartan Day Commemoration Service

St. Andrew's First Presbyterian Church,
Lower Symonds Street, Auckland.

10 am, Banner Bearers 9.30 am.

A cordial welcome is extended to all Good Scots to attend this Service.

Morning Tea will be served in the adjacent Church Hall after the Service

Scottish Clans Assn. Auckland and District
Contact *Murdock McDonald* 09 298 4802

Sunday 14th July 2013

Bay of Plenty Branch Mid-Winter Luncheon

Tauranga RSA building, 1237 Cameron Road,

Greerton - 11.00am start - 2:00pm

Cost \$19.90, Gold card holders \$17.90

Wear your tartan, bring family and friends and enjoy some great Scottish hospitality.

Enquiries to Ray or Janet Crafts

07 577-9562

or Hazel Cameron 07 578-1346

Saturday 10 August 2013

Auckland Branch Annual Dinner

Quality Hotel. Gladstone Rd, Parnell
6.30pm

\$50 per person

Enquiries to Neil Cameron 09 445 1177

Thursday 4th October 2013

Gisborne Branch Meeting

Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club

12pm - 2pm

Lunch then meeting following.

All Welcome

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Auckland Branch

Trish and Lloyd Anderson Te Awamutu

Hawke's Bay Branch

Jean Mackintosh Whakatane

Wellington/Wairarapa Branch

James Cameron Wellington

Bay of Plenty Branch

Phillipa Van der Wal Townsville, Australia

Ceud Mile Fàilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes

History Corner by Fiona Cameron

Where did they live?

While filling out my census forms recently, I wondered whether years down the line, some family history researcher might stumble across my census information and gleefully cheer "So that's where she was living in 2013!"

Census records have always been a goldmine for finding who was living where. I found my great-great grandfather's family living in Fort William on the 1841 Scotland census, confirming their address, ages, occupations and the fact the family was well off enough to have a maid. Unfortunately historic New Zealand census records were not kept, making it more difficult to find where people were living.

Some information can be found in early electoral rolls. However they differ greatly to the ones compiled now that list every voters name, residential address and occupation and where all permanent residents over 18 are eligible to vote.

From 1852, only male property owners who were British subjects had the right to vote and appeared on the early rolls. Maori male property owners were often excluded as they owned

their land communally rather than by individual title. As well, if you owned property in different electorates, you could enrol and vote in each place. The early rolls also don't give a lot of detail – sometimes listing only the electors name and reason for eligibility.

Recent arrivals and transient workers like farm labourers, timber workers and seafarers were not eligible. As they did not possess property, these men were not considered 'bona fide' (genuine) settlers. This changed somewhat in 1860 when any male British subject over 21 who held a miner's right (that is, a licence, which cost £1 per year) was entitled to vote without having to enrol.

In 1867 Parliament established four Maori seats, in which all Maori men over 21 could vote for their own representatives. Then in 1879, the franchise was extended to all adult European men, regardless of whether they owned or rented property.

In 1893, the right to vote was granted to all adult women and therefore all adult citizens over 21 should appear in the electoral rolls (with some exceptions, such as prison inmates and the mentally ill).

Finally the voting age was reduced, to 20 in 1969 and then to 18 in 1974.

Part 2 coming up next issue! Where to find old electoral rolls

Cameron Genealogy Records

It was great to meet so many Clan members at the recent Gathering/AGM and chat about our various forays into Cameron family research. We also talked about how to make the Audrey Rosoman Genealogy collection more accessible and up to date.

Over many years, Audrey collected and collated a huge number of family trees and pedigree charts from Clan members. The current collection numbers over 300 'sets' of charts – some ranging to multiple pages and covering many, many generations of our history. Most of these charts have been indexed and the information added to the card catalogue. However, this means that the information is really only accessible through this index (which is currently housed in over 20 rather heavy metal file drawers) and is not very portable!

Using the wonderful example of Clan Cameron Australia's genealogy database, I decided to start inputting the charts into a computer genealogy program. This way, the information can be saved onto a disc which means branches could hold their own copies of the database and it would be much more accessible. I have chosen to use the Legacy program as it is very easy to use, and can hold scanned copies of the trees for easy reference. It also has the benefit of being free.

Each chart is first entered into the program as a source and coded to link back to the original chart and submitter in the paper files. Then the names, dates and other information can be entered and linked back to this source. This means that the origin of the information is retained and can be cross referenced easily.

No. on Roll	Surname and Christian Name in full, Residence, Occupation, and Qualification; Residence or other Description of Property, if any.
1	ABBOTT, Thomas, Franklin Road, grocer
2	Abbott, Henry David, Kytter Pass Road, agent
3	Abbott, J. Wm, Cleaves Avenue, house duties
4	Abbott, John, Hobson Street, grocer
5	Abbott, Louisa Susan, Napier Street, house duties
6	Abbott, Benjamin John, Cleaves Avenue, Turkish baths attendant
7	Abbott, James, Fortago, Park Road, house duties
8	Abbott, John, Franklin Road, lab. over
9	Ackland, J. Wm, Whitby Terrace, household duties
10	Adams, Albert Edward, Alexandra Street, clerk

Every piece of information on each chart is entered – name of the person and any additional information like when and where they were born or which ship they sailed on to New Zealand, Gradually information about an individual or family which appears on different charts can be merged and linked together.

To date, nearly 30 charts have been entered, with information on over 1200 different people. But it is a rather long and slow process! So bearing in mind that "many hands make light work", are there any members out there who would be interested in lending a hand to this project? All you would need would be some spare time, a computer, access to the internet and the ability to download the Legacy program (as well as a certain amount of patience in deciphering some of the handwriting on the charts!)

If you are interested, please drop me an email clanameronhistory@gmail.com

From the Branches....

Auckland Gathering by the Editor

The 48th National Gathering and AGM, which Auckland had great pleasure in hosting, was held over the weekend 19 - 21 April. It was a friendly gathering with a great feeling of being part of a happy family get together. Even the weather, after no rain for months, came to the party with something very reminiscent of a highland summer. However the showers did not dampen our spirits, and the rain stayed away for our only outdoor event, the visit to the Naval Base at Devonport.

On the Friday evening a 'meet and greet' barbecue was held at the famous Parnell Cricket Club which was well attended. During the evening the members of the Executive Council adjourned to another room to hold the EC meeting. Our thanks to Jenny and Bryan Haggitt for organising the evening and to other helpers, especially the barbecue team of Andrew and Matthew McQueen.

The AGM was held on the following morning in the Quality Hotel, with an disappointing attendance of only 29. At the meeting Mike Topham showed the splendid new Vivienne Memorial Banner. It was decided that this would be held for a year by the branch hosting that year's AGM, and accordingly was presented to the Auckland president, Don Cameron, later in the evening. All officers were returned for another year. Warren Cameron will continue to update the website while Tanya Cameron starts working on developing a new one. The patron of the Auckland branch, Angus Fletcher, was introduced and gave a short talk about his family's association with Clan Cameron.

A very enjoyable Clan dinner took place at the same venue in the evening with entertainment from singer and kitchen pipes player Malcolm Campbell, piper Andrew McQueen, drummers Glen Rodgers and Matthew McQueen, and Highland dancers Jordan and Honor Braid. The whole evening was controlled in an entertaining way by the MC, the Rev. Bryan Haggitt, borrowed from the Canterbury branch for the occasion. Bryan also delighted folk with a stirring, if somewhat different, rendition of the 'Address to a Haggis' by Robbie Burns. The raffle run by Fiona Cameron raised \$400 for First Light.

On Sunday, we were lead to St. Christopher's Chapel by the Navy Pipes and Drums. I had only expected two or three players to be there but in the event nine turned up. I am really grateful to these wonderful people who turned out in their own time to play for us. To me and for many others it was the highlight of the weekend. The chaplain did us proud and led a memorable service in which he explained what chaplains did in the Navy and a little about the historic chapel. I suspect he may have had a day off if we had not been there. The majority of his congregation is made up of trainees who have to attend church but this Sunday was between courses and there were no trainees on the base. Just us Camerons! Thank you, Chaplain Mason. A big thank you also to Mrs Mason, who provided a lovely morning tea.

After the service we were shown round some of the Naval Base and finished the morning - and the gathering - with lunch at the Naval Museum.

A good gathering with a great feeling of kinship about it. The only disappointment was the low turnout, especially from the host branch. This sentiment was also expressed by Trish Topham, from Hawke's Bay. In view of the shortage of much branch news, I have taken the liberty of including some excerpts from her letter to me, as follows:

"A note to yourself and members of the organising committee to thank you all so much for the excellent AGM in Auckland recently.

We thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, and the accommodation was excellent - the generous 10% discount when we checked out was great also.

I know full well, the time and effort that goes into these AGM weekends and it just saddens me a little that members don't attend in larger numbers - when one considers the total membership of Clan Cameron NZ. There is nothing more uplifting than all being together and celebrating our Scottish heritage with our Cameron friends. I suppose though as we are all aging that some folk don't like

travelling / driving long distances.

So full marks to all involved. There are many who would give their eye teeth for such an opportunity as the Naval Base visit"

Thank you Trish, and a big thank you to all who attended and made it such a happy occasion.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

We have been living quietly for the last two months. However there could be an event coming in July. Last year the combined Clans went to a venue in Christchurch for Sunday lunch, although perhaps the meal was not the greatest we have had, everyone mixed well and enjoyed themselves. I believe this is being planned again, so I'm sure some of our members will be attending this event.

Taranaki / Wanganui by Neville Wallace

The Taranaki/Wanganui Branch of Clan Cameron finally managed to hold their AGM on April 21st 2013. We met at Liffiton Castle in Wanganui and enjoyed luncheon followed by the meeting.

While Lord Christopher Monckton was a recent guest here at Ben Churn, prior to our AGM, I asked him to send his best wishes to Taranaki/Wanganui Clan Cameron and give the Robbie Burns grace which I recorded and played prior to lunch that day.

Election of officers saw the incumbents remain. Neville Wallace President, Shona Wallace Secretary and Don Cameron Treasurer.

Nine members attended the meeting and a variety of subjects were discussed.

Next year (2014) is the 150th anniversary of the Turakina Highland Games so we do urge all descendants of the original Camerons to attend these games in January.

Our next meeting will be June 30th at Ashleigh Park at 11.30am. We will be having a finger luncheon followed by a meeting.

Hawke's Bay

by Mike Topham

Robyn Vuleta.

The branch was surprised to receive Robyn Vuleta's resignation in January this year. Robyn and her husband Pat had decided to take early retirement and to re locate to Sri Lanka. Robyn joined the Hawke's Bay branch in 2007 and has been on our committee and the branch piper for six years. She had previously been a member of the Bay of Plenty branch, then the Manawatu branch.

Robyn was born in Canterbury in 1952, the eldest of three children of Reginald Cameron (1930-2011) and Beverley Cameron (nee McGee). Reginald Cameron was a long term member of the Bay of Plenty branch. He was a Great-Grandson of Kenneth Cameron of Camisky, born Scotland 1832, who emigrated to Australia in 1850, then to New Zealand in 1852, and died at 'Dromore' near Ashburton in 1902.

Robyn is an accomplished piper, having joined the City of Christchurch Ladies Pipe Band in 1970 and having been a member of both the City of Napier and then the City of Hastings Pipe Bands in recent years.

Robyn has worked in clerical roles with the N.Z. Defence and more recently at the Napier Police Station. Pat Vuleta's first employment was with the N.Z. Airforce. He retired in 1988 with the rank of Flight Lieutenant, having served 20 years. Since then they have owned two farms, and of late Pat has been employed in computer technology. Pat and Robyn's first farm from 1988 - 1995 was near Te Kuiti. They sold this and purchased another property in the Dannevirke district, farming there from 1995 - 2000. They named both farms "Glen Shiel".

Note: Robyn's Great-Grandfather, George Henry Cameron 1871 - 1961 was a brother of Albert Colin Cameron 1876 - 1939, who was the Grandfather of Denis Cameron, BOP president. The Hawke's Bay branch still has a connection to Kenneth Cameron of Camisky through his Great-Great-Granddaughter, Elizabeth Whenmouth.

The following newspaper cutting was sent in by Ewen Grant and dates from late 1938 or 1939. It refers to as 'last June' the first gathering in Achnacarry, held in June 1938. It is transcribed below. Ed.

Clan Gathering at Turakina

INTERESTING EVENING

The words of the poet, Lord Byron, in his historic poem "Waterloo":

"And wild and high the 'Camerons' gathering' rose

"The pilbroch of Lochiel, which Albyn's hills have heard ----

"And heard, too, have her Saxon foes!"

very aptly describe the stirring rendering of the "March of the Cameron Men" played by Piper Cameron as the opening number at the clan meeting, held in the old village of Turakina last week when clansmen and sept met for their second annual reunion.

Though a number of members, including Mrs. MacLachlan, "Waipu," Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Cameron, Hunterville; and Mrs. and the Misses B. and M. Baldwin, of the Valley, were unable to be present, there was a good attendance of those who could claim descent or connection with Cameron of Lochiel.

Pending the later arrival of his elder daughter (Mrs. Freda Cunningham), Mr. H. J. Cameron, president, was assisted in the welcoming of the guests by Mrs. A.

McPhail, of Wanganui.

Among those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Ian Cameron (Masterton), Mr. H. J. Cameron and Miss N. Cameron ("Glenmore"), Mrs. F. Cunningham; Mrs. Angus Cameron, Miss M. Cameron, Mr. Lex Cameron, Mr Alan Cameron and his daughters, Mesdames Corballis, Fitzgerald and Newman ("Marangai"); Mr. and Mrs. Cameron (Wanganui), Mrs. J. Q. and Miss M. Cameron (Oroua Downs), Mrs D. Cameron (Turakina), Mr. and Mrs. H.Y. Cameron (Marton), Mr. and Mrs. A. McPhail (Wanganui), Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Mr. Ewen and Miss Margaret Grant; Mr. and Mrs. McDougall (Bonny Glen); Miss Gilchrist; Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Glasgow and Mr. H. Glasgow, Mrs. A. Glasgow, Mrs. W. Baldwin and Mr. Ian Baldwin, Mr. A. Mitchell, Miss M. Clark.

Delightful solos were sung by Mrs. F. Cunningham, Mrs. Russell Scoullar and Mr. Kendall. Mr. J. A. Harris (violin), accompanied by Mrs. Cunningham (piano) gave a very fine rendering of "The Portrait" and "Ave Maria," while Miss Joan Peters delighted the audience with her Highland dancing and her singing of Scottish songs.

Mr. Ian Cameron (organiser) gave an interesting account of the forming of the clan movements in the British Domimions, explaining that, as Sir Donald Cameron, 25th Chief of Lochiel, had been severely handicapped by heavily increased land and income taxation, and by the financial loss involved by his establishing and equipping a whole Cameron regiment, also his financial assistance to all the dependents of

those who fell in that regiment during the Great War, the clan estates were seriously threatened and, unless help was forthcoming from clansmen, it might be found necessary to reduce the proud holdings of the chief.

Such a tragedy could not be considered, and so, throughout the Empire, members of the clan had rallied, as always, and committees and councils were established to consider the financing necessary for the safeguarding of the glens of Lochaber.

Last June, Camerons from all parts of the world attended a huge rally, presided over by Lochiel and Lady Hermoine at "Achnacarry" when 1000 clansmen swore fealty to their Chief and decided to form a clan trust to which members in each country could, through their respective Dominion Councils, send such contributions as they thought fit towards the fund; from which scholarships would be awarded annually; a clan hostel would be built at Lochaber, and an annual reserve would be set aside for the removal of the estate indebtedness.

Mr. Cameron was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks for his inspiring address and the rest of the evening was devoted to social intercourse and dancing. The ladies present having provided a delicious supper, including, for the auspicious occasion, shortbread and oatcake.

Mrs. F. Cunningham and Mr. Lex Cameron provided the music.

(Transcribed verbatim)

Turakina Highland Games

By Bruce Cameron

On January 25th 2014 the Turakina Caledonain Societies 150th Highland Games will be held on the Turakina Domain, Cameron Road, Turakina. These games are the longest running annual highland games in New Zealand. To mark this special occasion the games weekend will begin on Friday afternoon with a ceremony "Pipes of Remembrance" at the Turakina Cemetery. The New Zealand Solo Piping Championship will be held at this year's games. The games will conclude with a Church Service at the Marquee on the grounds on the Sunday.

The village and surrounding countryside were settled by highlanders from 1849, after the Rangitikei Purchase by Sir Donald McLean from the Ngati Apa tribe in 1848. Further west halfway to Wanganui John Cameron had already settled at Marangai in 1841, along with his cousin Jessie Cameron Campbell and her husband Captain Moses Campbell. The first settlers at Turakina were predominantly of the "Blenheim" people who landed at Kaiwharawhara Wellington in 1840. They were the "Big" John Cameron and Donald "Bane the Cooper" Cameron and their families. These families established farms near the village.

Over time further Cameron families arrived including the Angus Cameron family (Angus was a nephew of Big John) in the late 1850's, this family also took up farming. Also resident for a while in the village was Thomas Ross Cameron who was employed constructing the roads in the district. To the east on the



Rangitikei river at Parewanui, Annie Cameron McDonell (daughter of Donald "The Weaver" Cameron, wife of James McDonell) and Alexander Cameron (nephew of Thomas Ross Cameron) and families also settled and were farming.

In later years descendants of these many Cameron families spread throughout the Rangitikei, Wanganui, Manawatu and King Country areas. In the 1950's Rev Ian Cameron (Cameron Newsletter editor's father) was the Minister at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Turakina. Today there are many New Zealanders who descend from these Cameron families. For genealogists all these Cameron families living in a very small area can make correctly identifying them difficult!

On behalf of the Turakina Caledonia Society I invite Clan Cameron members to this year's games. We also have T-shirts for sale at \$35 and a limited edition labelling of the Ben Nevis single malt whisky available.

Further information is available on the Games website; www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz, the Secretary; Heather Calkin, highlandmay@gmail.com phone 0276656238, or the Chief; Bruce Cameron, ardachie@xtra.co.nz. 02102204468.

What our First Lighters are doing

Heather Cameron (Auckland) 2005

A qualified teacher, Heather exchanged classes of thirty plus in Auckland, for a class of four on the Isle of Eigg. Alongside teaching, Heather managed to travel throughout Scotland, including a trip to the Isle of Skye.

Just the other day I was telling someone about the time when I took on the position of teaching/principal of a school. They were impressed until they heard it was at a school with four children on an island with 60 people! This was of course the six weeks I spent on the Isle of Eigg during my exchange to Scotland in 2005. I often think of that time (and my time in Scotland as a whole) as I got to have so many interesting and different experiences. I am still teaching and continuing to enjoy the challenge of working in the junior school. After teaching in South Auckland for eight years (and living out West) I was tired of the commute across town and the hour that it took me to get home so four years ago I moved to Hillsborough Primary. I am currently teaching a Year 2 class. This is a great age as the kids love learning and will tell me I'm a great artist, even though I can only draw stick



Heather with Lochiel at Achnacarry 2005

Thankfully the motorway has been extended and so it's only a 15-20 minute drive to work.

In 2010 I joined a team of teachers from New Zealand and went to Ghana for three weeks. RATA Teachers Support is an organisation that works with untrained teachers in schools in developing countries (many in slum areas). This was such a great experience that I went back in 2011 and am hoping to go again in October this year. The schools often have classes above 50 in a very small space, learn entirely by rote and the teachers teach

figures! We have lots of fun. I am also syndicate leader in the junior school and enjoy the management opportunities this gives me but teaching in the classroom is really what I am passionate about. It keeps me very busy though. Ironically, last year I bought a house in Manurewa, South Auckland so am now travelling in the opposite direction.

through fear and punishment. It was exciting to work with the teachers showing them the joy of using picture books and encouraging the children to actively participate and think for themselves.

I am pleased to still be a part of the First Light exchange programme as, and I'm sure the other First Lighters agree, it is such a great opportunity especially for young Kiwis who wish to find out and see for themselves their Scottish heritage. As you're aware the programme has been on hold lately but I know that the Executive Council is committed to working with Scotland to get it back up and running. Watch this space!



Heather's school on Eigg - some of her pupils pose in the snow



A great contrast. Heather teaching in Ghana

Commando March from Achnacarry

On 6th April the annual Commando March took place. Military history enthusiasts in authentic Second World War battledress marched from Achnacarry to Spean Bridge station to re-enact the route Commandos took during the Second World War. They paused at the Commando Memorial to pay their respects and lay wreaths before continuing their march to the station.

The group were escorted by an array of military vehicles from the period and carried the equipment and weapons that departing commandos would have carried. The participants came from as far a field as Poland and the Netherlands to take part and they were closely supported by a couple of local lads on their journey to Spean Bridge.

Thanks to 'The Braes' newspaper

Cameron June 2013

COACH TOUR OF SCOTLAND

Summer 2014

After recently discovering my ancestors came from Scotland in the 1860s, I decided Scotland is one of my must see destinations.

I would like to get a group together to join a Coach Tour of Scotland next summer 2014.

Anyone interested or to get more information, please phone Auckland Clan Cameron member, Elaine Ebbett, 09 523 3994.

**Donald Cameron continues
to talk of his early life and
wartime experiences to
'The Braes'
monthly newspaper
of Lochaber**

**Donald, having volunteered for the
commandos, has just arrived at
Achnacarry.....**

“**T**his was spring 1942 and we were the first intake, no Nissen huts yet and we were mostly in tents. I remember the CO. Col. Vaughan and a training officer called Lieutenant Leach; we called him Spider Leach because he could climb anything! We went through the whole 2 month training schedule, the assault course, armed and unarmed combat, canoes, opposed landings, endless exercise out on the hills; I can remember walking from Achnacarry through Glen Pean and on to Meoble from where I could see home just across the loch before getting the train back from Inverailort. And, of course there was weapons training with mortars, grenades and small arms and Bren guns. I can remember crossing the river on ropes and more than once seeing a man go in with a full pack.

After passing out, we went to Inverary to train for D Day; the beaches were more like Normandy and we practiced with landing craft; we were stationed briefly at Liberton, outside Edinburgh before heading for Littlehampton and the invasion of Sicily.

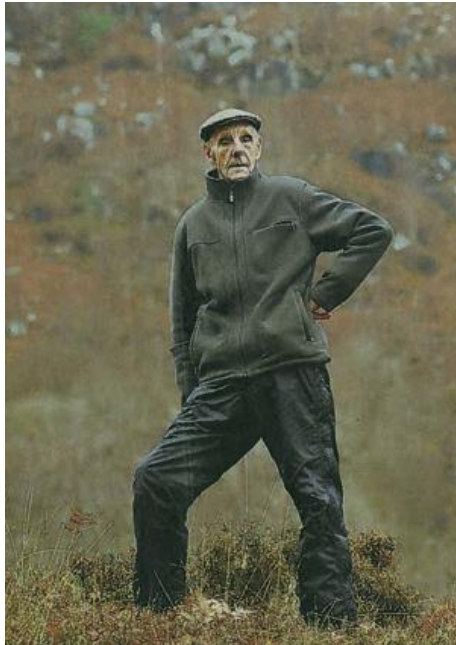
We landed in July 1943, in the south east corner of the island and the plan was to prepare for the invasion of Italy and to knock out the airfields that were attacking shipping in the Med. I was in the 9th Commando—the Germans were good soldiers and they had much better equipment than us—it was tough. We didn't have much heavy equipment, a few jeeps, bren gun carriers and some 6 pounders

After Sicily had fallen, we had a spell of recuperation in camp at Keighley in Yorkshire and then off to a farm called Borland, near Dumfries, we didn't have a billet, just tents, training for two months over the winter of '43/'44. We went down to Sevenoaks and in June '44, we landed on Sword Beach and we pretty much fought our way to North Western Germany at the end of the war, all the way from Arramanches to Petershagen, near Hanover.

We had big casualties on D Day, whatever the depth of the water, you couldn't hesitate. A lot of men drowned, imagine having an 80 lb mortar plate on

your back plus all your kit and even if the landing craft was in 20 feet of water, you were straight out. You could be talking to a man one minute and, whoof, he was dead. Men were going down in dozens as we fought towards the gun positions we were to destroy.

Sometime after Arramanches, we were withdrawn and sent for parachute training to Clay Cross and Ringway for the attempt in September 1944 to capture the bridges at Arnhem. I was one of the paratroopers who were dropped in—the boys in gliders had a hell of a time. It was nine days of fighting



and I was one of the lucky ones who survived and managed to withdraw, otherwise I'd have finished up as a POW. We very near did it and it was the Americans that let us down. We carried on up through Belgium into Holland where I was wounded; we were just battling on, and it was at a place called Hocksoff that I was wounded; it was an airburst, shrapnel from a German shell and it went through my tin hat into my head. I was treated in a field hospital and had about two months convalescence behind the lines.

I rejoined my unit after about two months off—there was no home leave then- and we pushed on till the end of the war. The winter of '44/45 was the coldest I can ever remember; life was just as bad for the enemy and civilians suffered awfully. When I was back with my unit, we were to go to Kentucky in America to invade Japan but the Americans dropped the bombs, and that was it.

After that, they sent us out to Palestine; we were supposed to be peace keeping, but, I'll tell you this, it wasn't very safe there and it was a relief to be demobbed in 1946. I got a suit in a box, a coat, a hat and a pair of shoes, and that was it. My brother Angus had been in the RAF and John, the oldest, was in the Royal Engineers and they were

home too. I went to Swordlands, but there wasn't enough work so I came to Fort William and stayed at Annat, in digs in one of the prefabs and got a job in the Lime Quarry for a while. I also did a season working for a Mrs Spence in Oban—she had three pleasure boats for trippers and I'd used boats all my life.”

Donald, for most of the time I've known you, you've been a shepherd. When did that start?

“I got a job with Lochiel as a shepherd in 1951. It was what I knew best in civilian life and I lived at Strathan house in the bothy. There was Jimmy Henderson, Robert Wright, Sandy Kennedy and a man called MacVarish, about 15 shepherds altogether, including Glen Loy and Uachan. Quite a community, the school was still open and the ex-army ambulance came up the loch each week with supplies. If we were gathering and there was a lot of extra shepherds, Lexie Mackintosh would come up to cook for us all. In those days, the estate had a pedigree Jersey herd, about 12 cows and a bull and a cross highland suckler herd and an Aberdeen Angus bull and they were all summered up at Glendessary.

Between Caonich and Kinlochmorar there were about 3,000 wedders, some cheviots, some blackface; they were great wool producers sold at three years old—big strong sheep.

I married when I was there, in '53; Emma came from East Weyms in Fife and she was a hardy woman, and I met her when I went to St Andrews to see a man called Duncan MacGillivray. He had been at Strathan and had very good dogs but didn't like Lochaber and went to St. Andrews and I went to see him because he had an awful good bitch and I wanted a pup—and that was how I met Emma ! We lived at Toloman until 1955, when I moved to Blarachaoruinn which Donald Glen Nevis rented from the Forestry Commission; I was there for nearly 20 years until most of the hill ground was planted.

We moved to Caol in 1973 and, when Brooks left Mamore there was a lot of sheep left on Achintee and I spent a winter gathering what I could--Steall and places away up to near Spean Bridge and young Donald Glen Nevis--Do-Do, to all of us-- and I went into partnership until he moved to Dingwall.”

Thank you to The Braes newspaper and to Richard Sidgwick, former factor at Achnacarry, who collected and edited the recorded interview above.



Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



The Clan visit to the Devonport Naval Base



Three Bryan Haggitts at the Annual Gathering



Photo: Ewen Grant



Following the band into the Base and on to the Naval Chapel.



Photos: Editor



Photo: Ewen Grant

Mike Topham displays the Vivienne McConnell Memorial Banner which will be held by the branch hosting the AGM each year



Jenny Haggitt reads the lesson in St. Christopher's Chapel Photo: Ewen Grant



Elaine Ebbett, Warren and Lorraine Cameron at the AGM meet and greet barbecue. Photo: Ed



All photos this row by Shona Wallace

At the Taranaki/Wanganui AGM. From left: Val Grant, Nancy Minnell, Don Cameron, John Grant, Catherine Dickison, Alan Drake, Peter Cameron, Neville Wallace



Photo: Ewen Grant



Photo: Ed



Photo: Ewen Grant

At the Annual Gathering. Left: Jordan and Honor Braid dance at the dinner. Centre: Some of the Auckland committee. Right: Waiting to enter the Naval Base.