

Transcript of newspaper article (undated) in Mairi Sawyer's photograph album: Inverewe Archives

Poolewe 1/4th Seaforth Honoured

On Friday a most enjoyable function took place in the Drill Hall, Poolewe when Coy Sergt-Major Alex Mackenzie 1/4th Seaforths, who recently returned home on leave from France, was the guest of the evening, to mark the extreme pride and satisfaction with which the community regarded him, as having been the recipient of the D.C.M. in recognition of meritorious services in the great war. A large number from all parts of the parish attended. M. W. B. Macrae, who was unanimously appointed to the chair, after a few appropriate remarks bearing on the object of the meeting, called upon Mr T. R. Mackenzie, Poolewe to hand over to C.S.M. Mackenzie a beautifully designed gold locket bearing a suitable inscription, a number of war saving certificates, and a well-filled purse of treasury notes. Mr Mackenzie made the presentation in a felicitous manner, making special reference to C.S.M. Mackenzie's plucky work at a critical time and place on the Western Front and also to the martial characteristics of the Highlanders in general and how nobly and ungrudgingly their services had been given to King and Country in the titanic struggle against the Kaiser and his hordes. He also stated how fortunate it was for all that the cause of justice had prevailed and that auguries pointed to the time at which the sword would be turned into ploughshare and the spear into a pruning hook.

On receiving the gifts, to which it is gratifying to add there was a splendid response, testifying not only to the popularity of the young hero, but also to the keen patriotism felt by all over his success against the hateful Hun. C.S.M. Mackenzie, in a neat little speech, expressed his thanks for the honour that had been done him, adding that he felt he had only accomplished a duty which he was sure many others would have performed had they been placed in similar circumstances.

Mr Mackenzie, of the Hotel, in a short and pity speech, dealt on the several phases of the war, and said that he would have it that the guest of the evening had done something more than a duty, for the reason that he stood in a breach with very little hope of success in view of the fact that the enemy forces operating against him had inflicted many casualties and was making rapid headway, and but for the successful attempt of the gallant C.S.M. in what appeared to be a forlorn hope the gain would have been very much greater.

In the interval between the speeches, songs were very ably rendered by Miss. B. Maclean, Riverside; Miss Mary Grant, Moss Bank; and Mr Kenneth Maclean, Riverside. It would be invidious to single out one more than another, yet because of Mr Maclean's splendid tenor voice and his effective rendering of the songs give, for which he was loudly encored, it may be permitted to say that with some expert training, he would excel in musical circles. Indeed one could not help being struck with the profusion and quality of the vocal and instrumental talent displayed throughout the evening. There was no lack of music, bagpipes, violin and accordion, etc., for the various dances known to any ballroom, which were engaged in, and most pleasantly executed, by the large number of your men and their lady friends, who were present. It is no exaggeration to say that one could not have found oneself in a more happy and harmonious company. Through the indefatigable efforts of Mr A. Ross, Moss Bank, assisted by several

young ladies and the Committee, the wants of the inner man were not neglected, as tea with suitable concomitants were purveyed at desirable periods during the evening, and he also discharged the duties of secretary to the Presentation Committee, of which Mr Hanbury was chairman, and contributed in other ways towards the success of the whole function. In all these respects he was highly complimented while the gathering was in progress. Mention would also be made of the joint treasurers, Messrs A. Mackenzie and John Cameron. The latter has seen a good deal of service in France, where on two occasions he was severely wounded. The duties of M.C. were ably carried out by Messrs John Mitchell and A. Cameron with commendable tact and pleasantness. Altogether the night was one that is not likely to be forgotten soon, the only regret expressed being that more gatherings of this jolly nature are not possible of being held in a place where there is so little doing away from ordinary routine, which at best is somewhat depressing without relaxation of a social nature, affording young people an opportunity of meeting together, and thus making life brighter and happier. The singing of "God save the King" and "He's a jolly good fellow" brought a most pleasant evening to a close.