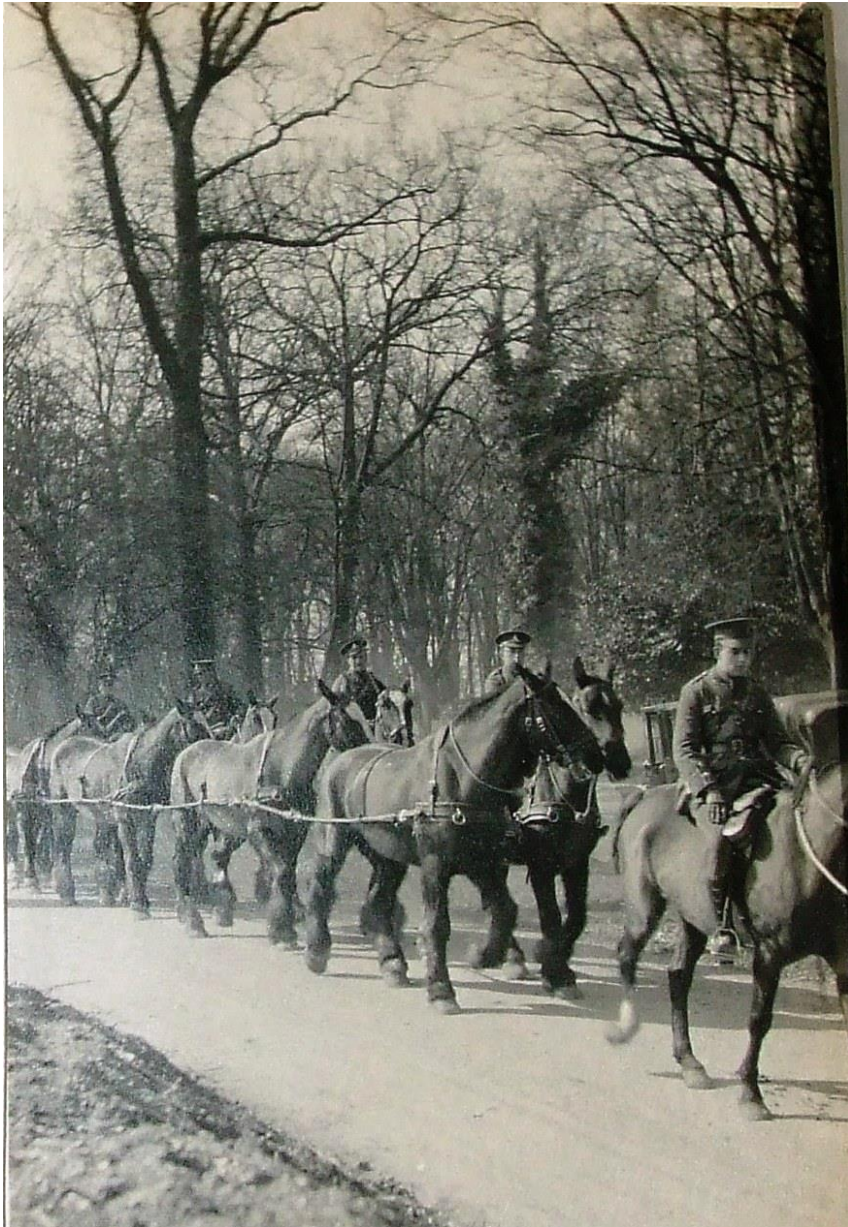


“Our men were
called out”



‘D’ Company of the
Seaforth Highlanders.
August 1914-March 1915

In his *Game Book*, Robert Hanbury of Tournaig, (the son-in-law of Osgood Mackenzie of Inverewe) kept a record of family, local and war events. This page notes events from July and August 1914, when "our men were called out". Robert went but failed the medical.

July 28th. Bob Tarlowe and his wife & family arrived. Another demand was against Serbia. Ships got worse. Russia backing Serbia. Tarlowe was recalled and left us. July 31st, Ripel & Gire arrived first of Aug.
Ships got worse bank rate raised to 8% then 10% our Fleet called out & reserves. Territorials are wanted. All army officers recalled.
Ripel & Gire return on Aug 4th. Money 10%.
Aug 5th. our men were called out. Captain Macmillan asked me to go with him. Lord Macmillan lent us his car and we went with the men to Dairwall. 2.00 rounds was served out and men were sent to Nigg to guard the coast. He could get no uniform. every one had to be medically examined. I did not pass so returned home on Aug 8th. There were all sorts of reports going at Dairwall about 700 beds were being got ready for wounded, as they expected a fight in the North Sea. Lady Marjory asked me to undertake Red Cross work here. I met Mr Knox on my way home and they had a splendid meeting at Gairloch on Aug 10th. I was unable to go as I did not feel well enough. The Belgians had been doing splendidly, and had stopped the German advance for some days, our troops were being sent over, but no one knew anything it was all kept very secret.
We received a message on Aug 13. from the fleet who had captured 8 battleships were here. Aug 14 Fleet sailed. Admiral Dunsy arrived at Antwerp to take over with them. Admiral Browning wished us to take charge of 160 German prisoners but we had no arms.
Aug. 14th. Had a Red Cross meeting at Poolawe and Mrs Portland Hunt gave us some lectures. Mr Dickson came for a week and gave Red Cross lectures.
We had the first war Fleet here 31 vessels also Hospital ship.
I had to arrange about the burial of 2 men from the fleet. Air planes were seen here several times & no one could find out where they came from.
There was heavy fighting on Aug 25th. our troops did well but were outnumbered 6000 casualties.

Robert then became
the local
Recruiting Officer

4th BATTALION

Seaforth . . .

Highlanders.

(Territorial Force.)

The COMMANDING OFFICER is pleased with the progress of Recruiting since the Mobilisation of the Battalion.

There are, however, STILL A NUMBER OF VACANCIES, and the Commanding Officer is anxious that they should be FILLED by ROSS-SHIRE MEN.

Men desirous of JOINING should report as soon as possible to the nearest Recruiting Agent (see below), or by letter to the Officer Commanding Depot at Dingwall.

Married Men will be accepted and their Wives will receive Separation Allowance at the rate of 1s 1d per diem, 2d per diem being allowed for each Child under 14 years.

Nearest Recruiting is :

Robert J. Hardaway
Township
Poolside

GOD SAVE THE KING.

TERRITORIAL WAR SONG

The day is dark with peril, but the cause is great and grand,
And the battle pipes of freedom are resounding through the land.
Britannia's might upholds the Right that justice may be done –
"Arise! Arise! To arms! To arms!" she calls to every son;
To south and north the call goes forth: we hear and we obey –
The Highlandmen and Islandmen are ready for the fray.

Our battle pipes are piping for the gathering of the men –
They come from croft and clachan, from island and from glen;
In every town by hillsides brown to east and west and north,
Is heard the heartsome music while the men come marching forth.
The martial fires that stirred our sires are burning bright to-day –
The Highlandmen and Islandmen are ready for the fray.

They leave their boats all high and dry and blistering in the sun;
They leave their fields of yellow oats ere harvest has begun;
From soft good-byes and tear-bright eyes, and blessings of the old,
They turn with unforgetting hearts that fearless are and bold;
From those so near they hold so dear, they turn and haste away –
The Highlandmen and Islandmen are ready for the fray.

O worthy they who rise in strength to strike the tyrant down,
Are of their ancient heritage of freedom and renown.
Our fathers all who heard the call with great hearts made reply,
"O happy they who fight for Right and noble they who die."
True sons are they of Freedom who hear the call to-day –
The Highlandmen and Islandmen are ready for the fray.

DONALD A. MACKENZIE

In his log book, 6 November, the head teacher of Poolewe School recorded how proud he was that so many of his pupils had gone, with their regiment, 4th Seaforths, to the Front.

1914 237
Oct. 16. Attendance & progress for week
good.
23. Attendance pretty good—
Potato lifting.
Alen. MacKenzie Postman,
has been attending school for
last 3 weeks, going in for Civil
Service Exam: (Postman's) Art: 29.
III.
Annie Urquhart Telegraphist,
P.O. is now attending school
under Art: 29. III.
Nov: 6 Duncan Urquhart has been
awarded Adam Kennon
Trust Bursary of £12-10/- for
3 years tenable at Highland
Sch. Sch. L. Govan, in all
£18-10/-. He proceeds there next
week.
Attendance & progress
for week, good. 39 on Roll.
Word has come yesterday
that the Poolewe Section

238
of Territorials proceeds at once
to the front with their regiment
4th Seaforths. Poolewe has
sent 26 men (22 in 4th Seaforths)
in all to Army which is
excellent for a small place
of 240 inhabitants, about
110%. 20 of these have
recently been pupils of
Poolewe School.
Nov 9th. We visited this school today, and examined
it in Religious Knowledge which was found
very satisfactory. Prizes were also given
to the children who merited the same.
Donald M'Naughton.
John Cameron

Ross-shire Journal
November 1914

FOR THE FRONT.—Considerable stir was caused in Poolewe yesterday when it was definitely known that the 4th Seaforth's (Territorials) were to proceed immediately to the front. There are twenty-one from the small district of Poolewe in the D Company 4th Seaforth's. In all, 26 have gone from Poolewe, which is most praiseworthy for a small place of about 240 inhabitants—almost 11 per cent. of population. Twenty-one of these are natives of Poolewe and recently have been pupils of Poolewe School. Three are in the army and one in the Lovat Scouts. Two families have sent three sons each, Camerons and Macleennans, and three families have sent two sons each, Mackenzies, Rosses, and Mitchells. We have no doubt the brave Gaels from Poolewe and Gairloch will give a good account of themselves and trust they will return with the crown of glory. The following are the names, etc., of those who have left Poolewe:—Lieut. Finlay Mackinnon, artist, Mossbank; Sergt. Finlay Maciver, Londubh; Lance-Corpl. Alick Mackenzie, Croft; Lance-Corpl. Angus Cameron, Londubh; Pte. K. Urquhart, Croft; Pte. John Mackenzie, Croft; Pte. Alick Macleennan, Mossbank; Pte. George Macleennan, Mossbank; Pte. Donald Macleennan, chauffeur, Hotel; Pte. Alick Ross, Riverside; Pte. William Ross, Riverside; Pte. Kenneth Maclean, Riverside; Pte. John Mitchell, Londubh; Pte. Alick Mackenzie, Pool House, Poolewe; Pte. Alick Campbell, Inverewe; Pte. John Macleennan, I. Mossbank; Pte. Wm. Burnside, London; Pte. William Macleennan I. Mossbank; Pte. Alick Macleennan, Tournaig; Pte. John Mackenzie, Tournaig; Pte. Duncan Macintyre, chauffeur, Tournaig; Pte. John Cameron, Londubh. Sergt. Donald Mackenzie, Drumchork, and Pte. John Mackenzie, Laide, are also in Poolewe section. The other five are distributed as follows:—Pte. Frank Cameron, Londubh (Kitchener's Army), London; Pte. Alick Cameron, Londubh (Cameron Highlanders); Pte. Alick Macleennan (Regular Army); Pte. Colin Mitchell (A. and S. Highlanders); Pte. Finlay Mackenzie, Hotel; Mellon (Lovat Scouts).

The first major engagement in France for the 4th Seaforths was the Battle of Neuve Chapelle.

(From the Highlander Museum archives, Fort George)

The attack which we are about to undertake is of the first importance to the Allied Cause. The Army and the Nation are watching the result, and Sir John French is confident that every individual in the IV. Corps will do his duty and inflict a crushing defeat on the German VII. Corps which is opposed to us.

H. RAWLINSON, Lieut. General,
Commanding IV. Corps.

to the IV. Corps,
9-15.

1762. C. Campbell

4th Seaforths Highlanders

There were many casualties ...

Battle of Marston Chippell. March 1915.

Casualties D. Coy Fairlock			
<u>Killed</u>			
1597	Br.	McDonald	Point <i>Was to be taken at Portmahomack with Bain.</i>
1581	J.	Kemp	Torrison <i>His brother 949 J. Macdonald is wounded in the hand.</i>
1557	W.	Ross	Poolewe <i>A son of Kemp who was at Portmahomack in 1915. Macdonald's son.</i>
597	H.	Ross	?
2339	H.	Firth	London <i>Son of George the Carpenter.</i>
2139	R.	Friend	London <i>Have not yet been able to identify this one.</i>
2127	J.	Flaget	London
1790	S.	Ughart	Letterewe <i>A brother of Donald the keeper at Stranraer.</i>
1179	Drummer	MacKenzie	(Dingwall)
1211	H.	MacLennan	Stranraer <i>A son of "Scotty" who used to be at the Garrison Hotel.</i>
<u>Living</u>			
967	Le.	Cope	A. MacKenzie South Erradale

Son of John MacKenzie, 28 South Erradale. He was sent to full where the Regiment was changing the German positions - but when one when a bomb was made he could not be found. His two brothers are at home wounded but I believe going back to France very soon.

Casualties D. Coy Fairlock				
<u>Wounded</u>				
2293	J.	Porter	?	Leg
2120	M.	McKail	Edinburgh	Legs
1211	*	Finlay MacDoe	Poolewe	Stomach
1947	A.	Ross	Poolewe	Arm
2116	J. R.	Clayton	London	Arm
627	J.	Camden	London Poolewe	Ride
2436	A.	Campbell	do	Arm
1210	Sgt	H. MacLennan	Strath	Both Legs
1960	H.	McFellin	Glen, Torrison	Arm & Legs
13	A.	MacDoe	Comraig Kinlochewe	Leg
1772	J.	Macdonald	Inveralligin	Leg
	J.	Garnsey	London	Foot
1554	A.	McLennan	Torrison	Slightly Wounded
1323	Le	Cope	A. Bain Opinar	Hand
969	J.	McDonald	Point	Chest
1258	L.	McKenzie	Portmahomack	Hand
1325	D.	McKenzie	do	Forearm
1723	R.	McKenzie	South Erradale	Forearm
1724	S.	McKernson	Badachero	Groin
2103		Gibson	a	Leg & Shoulder
2101		Clarke	a	Knee

* Only one of section in there, London. - Very bad case - not expected to recover.

o. Was apprenticed in Dundee, Glasgow up to the time of mobilization.

Ross-shire Journal
March 1915

ROSS MEN KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Intimation has reached Poolewe from Major Fraser, commanding officer, indicating that the Poolewe and Gairloch Territorials (4th Seaforths) have suffered severely in the last week's battle. The sad news has caused deep sorrow in the west, and greatest sympathy is felt for the parents of the killed and wounded. Up till now the 4th Seaforths had escaped with slight casualties. The following is a semi-official list sent by Major Fraser:—

10 Killed—(1597) M. Macdonald, (1581) J. Kemp, (2211) H. MacLennan, (1587) Wm. Ross, (597) H. Ross, (2337) H. Firth, (2139) P. Friend, (2127) J. Player, (1790) S. Urquhart, (1179) D. R. D. Mackenzie.

21 Wounded—(2293), T. Porteous (leg); (2120), Macphail (legs); (1244), F. Maciver (stomach); (1947), A. Ross (arm); (2116), R. H. Clayton (arm); (627), J. Cameron (side); (2436), Campbell (arm); (1210), Sergt. H. Macintyre (both legs); (1860), H. Maclellan (arm); (13), A. Maciver (leg); (1772), F. Macdonald (leg); Garnsay (foot); (1554), MacLennan; (1323), L.-Corpl. H. Bain (hand); (969), F. Macdonald (chest); (1258), K. Mackenzie (head); (1325), D. Mackenzie (forearm); (1723), R. Mackenzie (fingers); (1724), S. Macpherson (groin); (2403), A. Gibson (leg and shoulder); (2401), J. Clarke (knee).

Missing (probably killed)—(967), L.-Corpl. A. MacKenzie. He was seen to fall and not move, but his body was not found by the search party at night; perhaps removed by other party.

32 Major Fraser says D Company and whole regiment behaved superbly, and the regiment is back into the trenches again.

CAMERON TERRITORIALS.

Further particulars to hand disclose that the casualties sustained by the 4th Camerons (Territorials) at Neuve Chapelle are heavier than was at first thought, and the Fort-William Company has suffered sharply. In addition to the list of wounded given yesterday the following have now been officially notified:—

Killed—Corpl. Donald Grant, Fersit. Wounded—Captain Thomas Allison, Sergt. Donald Cameron, Sergt. K. K. Cameron, Corpl. R. Cooper, Pte. Edward Watson, Pte. Alexander Cameron. Corpl. Grant was a forester in the service of Sir John Stirling-Maxwell.

244/1915:

March 12. Attendance & progress food
for week

One of my best pupils - Murdo
Urquhart - left for South of Scotland
on Wed.

March 17. Word has reached Port Louis last night that
D. Coy 4th Seaforths suffered severely on
March 10. at Neuve Chapelle. N. France.

The following were pupils of this
School & of mine (Wm 6)

Killed: - Simon Urquhart. Barnmore.
" Wm Ross. Riverside.

Wounded

Sgt. Finlay Maciver. Londubh.

(died on 14th March) (seriously in stomach)

Alex. Ross. Riverside. - arm.

John Cameron. Londubh. - side.

The sad news has caused a
deep sensation in the West. Over
100 casualties in 4th Seaforths.
Several of these Officers killed & wounded.

April 5. The sad news by wire reached
Port Louis today that my good
friend Finlay Maciver succumbed
to his wounds on 14th March.

17 March 1915:
the head of Poolewe
School sadly listed
those pupils who had
been amongst the
dead and injured.