

A Medals
Park House 52
Manoan
St. James's

Dear Murdo,

14/2/89

Herewith is a copy
of the Army Medals Office reply
and it is disappointing as
we expected. It came to hand
today and as I am catching
the plane in the morning (Wed)
to Delfers Conference in Ljubljana
I am just dropping a copy in
the post.

We will now have to discuss
we can be done. In no way
is it good enough for the Ministry of
Defence to say - uncompromisingly -
"the regulations makes no provision". Typical army
officer thinking. We say Kenneth Mackel was
denied his rights and it is high time that
belated error is corrected

Yours sincerely
Angus

Angus MacLeod
Park House
Marybank
STORNOWAY
Isle of Lewis
Scotland
Tel. 0851 2308

Army Medals Office
Ministry of Defence
Droitwich
Worcester
England

21 February 1989

Dear Sirs

KENNETH MACLEOD, 13 CALBOST, LOCHS, STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS, ROSS-SHIRE

The above Kenneth MacLeod was an ancestor of mine, and of quite a number of other men and women in this area. He served in the 2nd Battalion, 78th Foot, Seaforth Highlanders, and he was taken prisoner by the Turks at El-Hamad in Egypt on 21 April 1807.

Due to blindness he was discharged from the Army on 12 September 1809 and he was granted a War Pension of 1/3 (later 1/9), W.O.116/13 Chelsea Pension Register, Invalid Soldiers.

Kenneth was born about 1780 and died about 1837. His age at the time of discharge was given as 33 years. He may therefore have been born a few years earlier than 1780.

He was 5ft6", black hair, hazel eyes, swarthy. Period of service was 5 1/12 years.

According to Muster W.O.12/8374 2Btn. 78 Foot Seaforth Highlanders, there were two soldiers by the name of Kenneth MacLeod. Both enlisted in 1804, one on 4 June 1804 and the other on 17 October 1804. The Regiment was stationed at Fort George in December 1804.

In January the Regiment went to Hythe Barracks and in June they transferred to Shorncliffe Barracks. In September they were in Gibraltar.

One of the Kenneth MacLeods was in Capt. Anderson's company and other in Capt. Henry H. St-Paul's. Later on, in December, one of the Kenneths was in Capt. Colin MacKay's company and the other in Capt. St-Paul's company. We do not know where the second Kenneth was from, and neither do we know which of the two above Kenneths was our ancestor.

The History of the 2nd Battalion of the 78th Seaforth Highlanders shows that the 2nd Btn. was raised in 1804 by Major-General Alexander MacKenzie Fraser, and that they assembled in Fort George. They were 850 strong, of whom 710 were Highland lads, mostly from the Western Isles, and 140 Lowlanders.

After six months' training at Hythe under Major-General Sir John Moor, the Battalion sailed for the Mediterranean, and after a spell in Gibraltar and Sicily landed in Italy in June 1806 as part of Major-General Sir John Stewart's expeditionary force in order to regain the Kingdom of Naples which was overrun by the French at that time. They gained a decisive victory at Maida and we presume that our ancestor was there.

We believe that from Italy they went to Alexandria and later took part in the battle of El-Hamad, where both Kenneths were taken prisoner by the Turks in April and released in December 1807 - W.O.Muster 12/8375-2/78th. One of the Kenneths was left sick in Malta and one of them died in Malta - presumably the same one.

P.t.o.

W.O.12/8376 - 2/78 - 1808/9

By January 1808 the Regiment was back in Canterbury and the only Kenneth MacLeod is the one in Colin MacKay's company. This one is presumably our ancestor and the survivor of the two Kenneths.

The December 1807/January 1808 Muster has a note against his name, went by sea to Deal. Transferred to 1st Btn. in India.

In July/September 1808, K MacLeod is again on the Muster and in Regimental Hospital on the Isle of Wight.

The Regiment moved to Fort George where K MacLeod is again in hospital in July/August 1809.

It seems he was meant to go to Goa but probably due to his disability he never joined the 1st Battalion to go there.

The reason we give the above details is to enable you to identify our ancestor easily. His daughter Catherine was in receipt of an army allowance in order to guide her blind father.

According to oral tradition, Kenneth MacLeod did not get any medals, and as there is now a Museum at CALBOST, the village of Mr MacLeod, we feel that Mr MacLeod's military contribution should be recognised, even now at this late date, so that his memory might be perpetuated by keeping the medal in the Museum in his home village.

We believe that the Military General Service Medal for those who were present at battles between 1793 and 1814 was awarded at the late date of 1847, but by that time Kenneth MacLeod, Calbost, had passed away (about 1837). The correct date of his death will, no doubt, be on record in War Office papers showing when he ceased to get his Army pension.

Doubtless Mr MacLeod got a Discharge Certificate and we are wondering if it is possible to get a copy of that certificate.

We thank you and look forward to your esteemed reply.

Yours faithfully

Angus MacLeod

A. Macleod
Park House
Manorbank
Stornoway

22.2.89

Dear Kenag

Herewith please find
copy of a letter which is self explanatory
we have long been fascinated
by the real facts of Connrach Mor
B. Calhoun

Note that the Army has him
only 5' 6" - If so, why was he
always called Connrach Mor.

Incidentally why was he called
"Connrach-an-Tlach" - presumably
he attended to the Bull in summer
as a boy - like Shacker did in
our time.

I am chancing my hand here and do
not expect a positive response - not
at first anyway. You imagine
the check - of never giving the
book man they pressed into the
Army against his will to fight

for - he know not what, or who
The real reason was to block
the route to India - lest
the french take India.

What did a bare footed boy
from Calcutta have to do with
fighting the Turks in Egypt?

Then they gave him the
handsome some of 1/3 presently
a week.

Hope Alastair is keeping
well.

Thought you might be interested
I will send another copy to J. A.
for his information.

Best wishes

Erny

Augustus Medals
Paddy House 95
Marybank
Saturday 22/8/89

Dear Mr Fard,

Perhaps you might remember me as the
boy from 8, Callist.

I send herewith copy of a letter which is self explanatory,
for your information.

At long last we dug up some information on our
common ancestor from 13 Callist.

I thought you pleased your father would be, because
he often referred to Kenneth. Being a serviceman
perhaps he felt they had something in common.

I am chancing my hand and I fully expect
the Army to refuse to recognise Kenneth's services,
even at this late date. We'll have to twist their
arm as much as we can.

The Army only issued medals to those that
applied for them and by then Kenneth had passed
away. I would think the least they can do
is issue the medal which is Kenneth's by right.
I maintain that it was quite wrong of the Army to
deny these soldiers what they earned and was
theirs by right.

I should earlier to Mr Ed Farrie, Curator Seaford
Museum, Cameron Barracks, Inverness. It was
he that gave me the Army Medals Office address. I
sent him a copy of the letter.

We might have to recruit your services,
meantime I wanted to let you know.

Yours Sincerely
Augustus Medals

August Medley 94
Park House
Mansbury
Stoneway
Isle of Guernsey

22-2-89

Mt. Col Farris
Curator Seaforth Museum
Cameron Barracks
Inverness

Dear Col. Farris,

You may recall that I phoned
you a few weeks ago and you kindly gave
me the address of Army Medals Office,
Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, Wores.

I send herewith for your information, a
copy of the letter I sent to Army Medals,
which is self explanatory.

If you are in a position to provide me
with any other helpful information, I would
be grateful.

Thank you

Yours Sincerely

August Medley

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) A A FAIRRIE



REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS
(SEAFORTH & CAMERONS)
CAMERON BARRACKS
INVERNESS IV2 3XD
TEL: INVERNESS (0483) 224380

501

Angus MacLeod Esq
Park House
Marybank
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis PA86 ODD

24th February 1989

Dear Mr MacLeod,

Thank you for your letter of 22nd February 1989 and for letting us have a copy of your letter to The Army Medals Office.

I can only say that your research has been very thorough, and that I would doubt whether any further details are to be had from military records. We have nothing further to add from our archives here at Inverness.

Yours sincerely,

Angus Fairrie



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Army Medal Office Government Office Buildings Droitwich Worcestershire WR9 8AU

Droitwich (0905) 772323 Ext 8740

Mr A MacLEOD
Park House
Marybank
STORNOWAY
Isle of Lewis

Ref: D/Medals/1/3C

10 March 1989

Dear Sir,


Thank you for your letter of 21 February 1989 concerning your ancestor, Kenneth MacLEOD.

The Military General Service Medal 1793-1814 was not, as you correctly state, instituted until 1847. It was decreed that the medal would be issued on application from the individual concerned.

The regulations for the grant of the award make no provision for the next of kin of deceased personnel to claim the medal, whether they were killed in action or died before the institution of the award.

This Branch has no authority, therefore, to make a belated issue of this award.

Yours faithfully,



A J PARSONS
Officer-in-Charge

Park Gate
Mansfield
Stornoway

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14.3.89

Calum Macdonald M.P.
Stornoway

Dear Calum,

Reference to our conversation yesterday at Balivanick, I send herewith copy of my letter to Army Medals dated 21.2.89 and copy of their reply dated 18/2/89 re Kenneth Macleod R.C. allori.

Please do not inconvenience yourself too much. If you feel anything can be done + take your time until you have a chance - there is no hurry.

Thank you very much for your kind offer to consider if anything can be done in this matter

Sincerely
Angus Macleod

A. Macdonald
53
Park House
Marybank
Edinburgh

14.3.89

Mr Jean Fraser
Craig Sheag Cottage
West Terrace, Kynessie

Dear Mr Fraser,

just to inform you,
I send herewith copy of the
reply I received from Army
Medals Office. It was forwarded

I ran into Colonel Macdonald
Member of Parliament and discussed
the matter with him in detail
and I am sending him copies
of the correspondence.

Please don't bother replying
to this - it is only for information

Yours Sincerely
A. Macdonald



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

March 27, 1989

Mr Angus Macleod
Park House
Marybank
Stornoway

Dear Angus,

Thank you very much for your letter of 17 March regarding your attempt to obtain the Military General Service Medal in respect of your ancestor, Kenneth Macleod.

I have written to the Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence to see if there is anything he can do although I fear if the regulations are as the letter you received from the MOD describe, then there is little we can do. However, it is still worth a try and I shall wait to see what response I get from the Minister of State.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calum Macdonald".

CALUM A. MACDONALD, MP

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218..... (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)MJN 0898

27th April 1989

Dear Colonel,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March about the award of the Military General Service Medal 1793-1814 to Kenneth Macleod requested by his descendent, Angus Macleod of Park House, Maybank, Stornoway.

The regulations for the grant of this award (copy attached) make no provision for the next of kin of deceased personnel, whether they were killed in action or died before the institution of the award, to claim the medal. It was necessary for individual claims to be submitted with sufficient detail to enable each claim to be proved.

I regret I am not able to accede to the request albeit that it appears to be in a very good cause.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Neubert

Michael Neubert

GENERAL ORDER

HORSE GUARDS, 1st June, 1847

Her Majesty having been graciously pleased to command that a Medal should be struck to record the services of Her Fleets and Armies during the Wars commencing in 1793, and ending in 1814, and that one should be conferred upon every Officer, Non-commissioned Officer, and Soldier of the Army, who was present in any Battle or Siege, to commemorate which Medals had been struck by command of Her Majesty's Royal Predecessors, and had been distributed to the General or Superior Officers of the several Armies and Corps of Troops engaged, in conformity with the Regulations of the Service at that time in force; General and other Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers, who consider that they have claims to receive this mark of their Sovereign's gracious recollection of their services, and of Her desire to record the same, are each to apply to the Secretary of the Board of General Officers, Whitehall, London, and to send in writing, to the same Officer a statement of his claim, for what action, at what period of time, and the names of the persons, or the titles of the documents by which the claim can be proved. . . . The occasions, for which medals have been granted by the Sovereign, are specified below for general information and guidance. . . .

By command of Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Commander-in-Chief.

JOHN MACDONALD
Adjutant-General



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

May 11, 1989

Mr Angus Macleod
Park House
Marybank
Stornoway

Dear Angus,

I am afraid I have run up against a brick wall in my approach to the Ministry of Defence. I enclose the letter I have received from the relevant Minister of State, Michael Neubert MP.

I am considering whether it would be worthwhile to make a second approach. Perhaps you can think of some new argument to put to them? If this is so, let me know. Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Calum Macdonald

CALUM A. MACDONALD, MP

Beal Finlay.

A. Macleod,
Pauc-House
Mansbank
Storkoway

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Knowing that you took 10/7/89

a particular interest ⁱⁿ the Blind Soldiers I thought of you when I came to a dead end with my efforts to get the authorities to recognise the service of my ancestor Kenneth Macleod 13 Calross.

I think it is a downright shame that Kenneth and his compatriot Island Soldiers were dragged away to fight a war in which they had no interest or understanding and in which many of them lost their health and some their lives, yet they were not given their due medals which was, after all, only a piece of metal. Officers and men today as always maintain their silly attitude and I am fully convinced that they should be made to cough up and hand over what is the rights of these soldiers. Why should these soldiers have to apply for their medals? And in any case if they were dead their families were due the medals that should have been handed out as of right when these men were alive.

I would like to discuss this subject with you so that we may decide what is the correct approach. Should we go for a general approach for all or as many of us know of these soldiers or concentrate on one in order to create a precedent.

I would like to hear from you or if you can spare the time to call anytime you are in this vicinity. Correspondence Enclosed.
Sincerely yours