



## [Calbost in the Two World Wars]

### Calbost War Losses

#### First World War

Dugald Kennedy	Born 1897, age about 18 years	Son of Donald Kennedy, 2 Calbost
Donald Kennedy	Born 1894, age about 21 years	Son of John Kennedy, 2 Calbost
J. MacArthur 'Tommy'	Born 189? Age about 22 years	Son of John MacArthur, 4 Calbost
Murdo Smith	Born 1894, age about 19 years	Son of Alan Smith, 5 Calbost
Angus Mackay 'Bix'	Born 1882, age about 34 years	Son of Ken Mackay Sen, 7 Calbost
Neil Morrison 'Nellie'	Born 1893, age about 22 years	Son of John Morrison, 9 Calbost
Donald Morrison	Born 1881, age about 35 years	Son of Angus Morrison, 9 Calbost
Murdo Nicolson	Born 1872, age about 44 years	Son of Ken Nicolson, 1 Calbost
Dugald Macleod	Born 1892, age about 25 years	Son of Alex Macleod, 13 Calbost
Roderick Kennedy	Born 1892, age about 18 years	Son of Murdo Kennedy, 1 4 Calbost

The survivors returned to a depressed economy, unemployment, and lack of opportunity, a new Lewis landlord and land raiding. Fifteen young people from Calbost emigrated in the 1920s.

#### Second World War

Don. Alex Kennedy	Born 1914, age about 29 years	Son of Donald Kennedy, 2 Calbost
Cap. Rod. G. Mackenzie	Born 1918, age about 22 years	Son of John R. Mackenzie, 4 Calbost
Angus Macleod	Born 1916, age about 23 years	Son of Angus Macleod, 8 Calbost
Murdo Finlayson	Born 1913, age about 30 years	Son of A. Finlayson, 10 Calbost
Alex Finlayson	Born 1919, age about 20 years	Son of A. Finlayson, 10 Calbost
Murdo Kennedy	Born 1908, age about 30 years	Son of A. Finlayson, 10 Calbost

Donald Kennedy, 2 Calbost and Murdo Kennedy, 14 Calbost each lost a son in both World Wars. Angus Finlayson lost two sons in the Second World War.

The Pairc Historical Society 'Roll of Honour' for the Second World War for the ten townships of Pairc contains 361 names, 54 of which were from the small crofting community of Calbost with 14 land holdings and a population of about 150 at that time.

Once again the ex-servicemen returned to a land of no opportunity. The herring fishing, which was the backbone of crofting in Lochs, was finished and the village was completely depopulated in about 20 years. What, may we ask were all the sacrifices for? What did the patriots of Calbost get out of two World Wars? By 1964 there were only 7 families left in Calbost and ironically some of those families lived on the Common Grazing at the back of the village. In 1981 there were only 2 families left in the village and in 1991 there was only one 79-year-old man left.

In the first year of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the land in the Highlands & Islands is still concentrated in the hands of a few, despite the innumerable injustices of the Highland system of Landownership caused throughout history. Politicians continue to pay lip service.

## The 1938 Crisis and Mobilisation of Naval Reservists



*(Above) Parents on the way to the Calbost bus-stop. Left to right: John Macleod, 'Iain Ruadh' 8 Calbost, Angus Morrison 'Aonghais-An-Mhurchaidh' 9 Calbost, Ishbel Mrs John Macleod 8 Calbost carrying the writer's kid bag. Naval reservist John Mackenzie West-End, 'Seonaidh Alastair' bidding goodbye to his aunt, and Donald Macleod 'Domhnuill Cruaidh' 8 Calbost.*

*(Below) Seven Calbost Naval Reservists waiting at Calbost for the bus to take them to Stornoway on the first leg of their journey to a National Naval base for military duty. Left to right: Angus Macleod 8 Calbost, Murdo Finlayson 10 Calbost, who was lost in the war, (Donald Kennedy a parent), Angus Morrison 9 Calbost, 'Derrick' Angus Morrison 9 Calbost, 'Tom' Donald Alex Kennedy 2 Calbost, also a war casualty, Duncan Macleod 1 Calbost. By the time their bus had reached Stornoway the naval office there had processed enough Lewis Reservists to fill the daily mail boat 'Loch Ness' and the rest of the reservists were dismissed and told to report on the following day. By that time the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and Herr Hitler of Germany had reached an agreement at Munich and peace was declared 'in our time'. The Second World War broke out the following year, 1939.*



[ends]

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