

# Stornoway Gazette

**05/02/2015**

**Lochs**

**PM Alex MacIver.**

**The pipe tunes written by Pipe Major Alex MacIver Glasgow and Lochs are now available as a new online collection, making them available to pipers and pipe tutors all over the world.**

**A number of the tunes are familiar to some of the current high ranking Scottish pipers, as practice pieces by tutor P.M. Alex MacIver of the 214 Boys Brigade in Glasgow during the 1950s and 60s.**

**Alex MacIver (pictured) was born in Glasgow, the son of John MacIver, Iain Mhurchaidh of 12 Laxay and Catherine MacKenzie, Catriona Murchaidh Sheòrais of 4b Achmore.**

**Having returned from army service in India in 1947, he joined the 214th Boys Brigade in Glasgow as pipe tutor. The pipe band of youngsters under his leadership, were winners of the Glasgow Battalion Pipe Band Championship 29 times, 25 of these, being in successive years.**

**The collection of thirty pipe tunes is available on [www.214bb.com](http://www.214bb.com) . In 2011 Hector Russell on behalf of the 214th BB ex-members Association, as a tribute to his former tutor, catalogued the tunes, with some of the original manuscripts contributed by former 214th BB members, from as far away as Australia.**

**The Pipe Mayor visited Lewis every summer and some of the tune titles reflect his love of Lewis and Harris: Loch Erisort, Laxay Poachers, Achmore Loch, Lochs of Lewis. Sands of Luskentyre, Broadbay, Hebridean Polka, The Kyles of Scalpay and The Ullapool Ferry.**

**Another composition is a tribute to his friendship with another of the island's most famous pipers: Pipe Mayor Donald Macleod's Farewell to Fort George**

**A copy of the pipe tune collection was recently contributed by Hector Russell to the Kinloch Historical Society.**