

**Letter to Aldourie from Lovat, Beaufort Castle, Beauly re raising of a corps of  
Lovat Scouts for South Africa, 1900  
(GB0232/D766/8/1/6)**

Beaufort Castle  
Beauly  
Jan 4/00

Dear Aldourie,

I have been authorized by the War Office to raise a corps of 150 stalkers, ghillies & picked men for primarily scouting service in South Africa. At a meeting at the club at Inverness yesterday, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, it was unanimously resolved to ask you to assist in the recruiting of any suitable men in the district of Stratherrick. The terms of service are as follows –

Enlistment for one year, or to the conclusion of the war if over sooner. Pay, allowances & bounties the same as for troops on active service.

The corps to be attached to the Black Watch for pay, rations etc: to be commanded by Highland Officers, & to be sent out to the port as soon as possible.

I enclose forms of enlistment which I would be obliged if you would fill in for any man wishing to join, & forward to Colonel Fergus McNeil 13 Lombard St. Inverness.

On receipt of the enlistment paper at Inverness the candidates name will be enscribed on the roll & a day appointed on which he will be inspected at one of the following centres (at the candidates option) – Inverness, Kingussie, Fort William, Dingwall, Lairg, Perth, Oban.

As it is essential to secure the best stamp of man with all possible dispatch I would be much obliged if you could see your way to send for some of the most likely men in your district & acquaint them with the scheme, in order that they may both have an opportunity of judging for themselves & also of acquainting others of what is on foot.

In the event of you being yourself unable to attend to the matter, could you delegate a friend, factor or suitable person to undertake the work without further authority.

I may add that of the proprietors as yet written to, the very great majority have [when asked?] offered to keep places thus vacated open, many have promised to help to pay the difference of wages, while none have offered to put difficulties in the way.

Any technical difficult will at once be looked into by Col. Ferg. McNeil 13 Lombard St, while telegrams to me at Beaufort, Beauly, will be at once forwarded & attended to.

In conclusion – it has been reported in the papers that the men of this corps are to be all stalkers, that they are all to be mounted & that the officers are chosen. All these facts are incorrect –

The men are to be as far as possible hill men with a [lesser?] of good shots & signallers: only a part of the corps can possibly be mounted, & the choice of officers lies entirely with the War Office, & is naturally not yet settled.

Again requesting your aid.

I remain

Yours truly,

Lovat