



# The Journal *of the* Royal Highland Fusiliers

(Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Argyllshire Regiment)

2008 Edition



# The Journal of The Royal Highland Fusiliers



2008 Edition

*Editor:*

**Maj A L Mack**

*Assistant Editor:*

**Capt K Gurung MBE**

Home Headquarters

The Royal Highland Fusiliers

518 Sauchiehall Street

Glasgow G2 3LW

Telephone: 0141 332 5639 / 0961

Fax: 0141 353 1493

Email: [journal@rhf.org.uk](mailto:journal@rhf.org.uk)

Regimental Website: [www.rhf.org.uk](http://www.rhf.org.uk)

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The Colour party during a dress rehearsal on the Battalion Square in preparation for the unveiling of the VC Memorial at Glasgow Cathedral.

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*Royal Colonel*

HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York KG, KCVO

*Representative Colonel*

Major General W E B Loudon CBE

### Regular Units

Home Headquarters RHF

518 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3LW

The Royal Highland Fusiliers  
2nd Battalion The Royal  
Regiment of Scotland

Glencorse Barracks, Milton Bridge,  
Penicuik, EH26 0NP

### Territorial Army Units

The Lowland Regiment  
6th Battalion, The Royal  
Regiment of Scotland

Walcheren Barracks, 122 Hotspur Street, Glasgow G20 8LQ

### Allied Regiments

Prince Alfred's Guard (CF)  
The Royal Highland  
Fusiliers of Canada  
11th Bn The Baloch Regiment  
1st Bn The Royal New Zealand  
Infantry Regiment

PO Box 463, Port Elizabeth, South Africa  
Cambridge, Ontario  
Malir Cantonment, Karachi 9, Pakistan  
Wellington Lines, Linton Camp, New Zealand



## Foreword

It gives me pleasure to introduce our Journal and to commend Colonel Bobby Steele and his team at Home Headquarters not only for producing this publication but also for providing the glue that continues to hold the fabric of our regimental family together. This Journal is published just before the second anniversary of the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Far from being overwhelmed or subdued by the consequences of this latest reorganisation of the Infantry, I am pleased to report that in the ranks of the serving soldiers, and in the extended family of the branches of our Association, the Royal Highland Fusiliers are setting the pace and doing their bit to keep our torch burning brightly. This spirit draws its strength amongst the serving men from the challenges of contemporary operations and an absolute determination that our best traditions will be carried forward in their day and generation. From what I have seen on my recent visits to the regular and TA battalions, professionalism, unswerving comradeship and a genuine sense of benevolence towards our comrades, past and present, remain strong strands on the golden thread of the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

The regular battalion has had a frantic and at times frustrating year. In the course of ten months they served in four different brigades in four different divisional headquarters. Rather than being blown off course in such choppy waters, their mindset is best summed up in a passage taken from a letter written by Lieutenant Colonel Paul Harkness on relinquishing command. "Operations are what the Jocks live for. They are never happier than when they are doing what they joined for, which should come as no surprise in a volunteer professional Army. It doesn't matter how cold, wet or hungry they are, they remain indomitable. In fact the worse the conditions the more cheerful they are – we are a peculiar breed of people who seem to thrive on adversity". During 2007 they nimbly switched their efforts between training exercises, public duties and state ceremonial in Scotland and their preparations for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. As you read this they will be testing their mettle at the start of a difficult and dangerous operational tour in Helmand Province in Afghanistan and until they return in late September they will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Such operations are not without their costs and at the end of last year we lost Captain John McDermid. I am grateful to the many, many hundreds of you who travelled to Inverness Cathedral on 26th November 2007 to pay your respects and to support Gill and the rest of the family in their darkest hour.

Away from operations, they have excelled on the sporting field either as champions or as finalists in hockey, squash or the Army's Rugby Community Cup. These efforts are best summed up by the remark made to me on a recent visit to the battalion when the Quartermaster said "not bad for a football battalion"! We should also rejoice that once again an all-ranks group travelled to the Republic of South Africa to study the battlefield and to compete in Exercise Swartzkopf Challenge. This gruelling exercise mimics the heroic acts of manhandling the wheeled artillery at the Relief of Ladysmith in February 1900. The aim of the competition is to haul a one-and-a-half ton cannon up a high vertical slope as quickly as possible and in 2007 the Jocks saw off the South African Defence Force, South African Police and the Royal Navy Field Gun Team to win the competition.

The TA battalion has had a testing time on operations providing a force protection element in Kabul as well as individual reinforcements for Iraq, the Balkans and Germany. They played a significant role in Exercise Summer Challenge; designed to offer fast-track training and entry into the TA for those who can make themselves available for six weeks intensive training in Scotland. In addition the battalion once again took a lead role in supporting Glasgow's Service of Remembrance in George Square. I was pleased to see so many RHF veterans marching behind the Standard of the Glasgow Branch and hope that numbers will swell yet further in 2008.

Our Royal Colonel has taken an active interest in all areas of our activities visiting the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada in May, hosting an all-ranks reception at the Palace of Holyroodhouse during His Royal Highness's appointment as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The Duke also visited the 2nd Battalion



in barracks and on field training and the new Commanding Officer – Lieutenant Colonel Nick Borton – hopes that his Royal Highness will be able to see something of the battalion whilst it is on operations.

The Branches of the Association continue to grow in number and in confidence. We now have Chairmen, committee structures and an enthusiastic following in Inverness, the East of Scotland, Glasgow and Ayrshire. We still have Association Standards to present formally in Glasgow, Ayr and the East of Scotland Branches and I hope that this will be achieved in 2008. The presentation ceremony at Ness Bank Parish Church, Inverness on 28th October 2007 was a really well-organised event and those of you who know the Reverend John Shields will be glad to learn that we managed to coax John out of retirement to give the address in church just before the Minister, Mr John Chalmers, blessed and handed over the Inverness Branch Standard. Home Headquarters always helps others to bring such events to a successful conclusion but in this case particular thanks go to John Hamilton, Iain Cameron and my old House Sergeant, Sergeant Sammie Torrance, for making all the administrative arrangements and ensuring it was a day to remember.

In addition to helping families past and present, the team at 518 Sauchiehall Street is also to be commended for the

part they played in organising the Royal Highland Fusiliers contribution to Glasgow's commemorative service to mark the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in Glasgow Cathedral on 1st July 2007. The regimental family was out in strength – old soldiers, Cadets, TA, regular soldiers and the Colour Party from the 2nd Battalion. The Minister – the Reverend Lawrence Whitley – preached a stunning sermon on the contribution and sacrifice that Glaswegians, particularly those in the HLI, made during those dark days in 1916. Bobby Steele also organised an excellent RHF night in the Army Box at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in August and I was glad to have the chance to meet our guests before the event and to say some words of welcome.

I know that we are good at hiding our light under a bushel but I hope that the news that in 2008 four of the five regular battalions of The Royal Regiment of Scotland will be commanded by Officers of the Royal Highland Fusiliers brings a smile to those who take an interest in these matters. Lieutenant Colonels Herbert, Borton, Cartwright and Richmond are all excellent commanders and we wish them every good fortune as they lead their men through the many challenges that they will encounter during their time in command.

*Major General W E B Loudon CBE*

## Lieutenant Colonel NRM Borton MBE

**L**t Col Nick Borton was educated at Canford School and Stirling University, where he read History and English Literature. His Father and Grandfather both served in the HLI. He was commissioned into The Royal Highland Fusiliers in 1991 and served with the Battalion in UK, Belize, Germany in the Armoured Infantry role, Bosnia and Northern Ireland. After completing his tour as Adjutant of the Battalion, Lt Col Borton served as Directing Staff at the Platoon Commanders Division and the Jungle Warfare School in Brunei. In 2000 Lt Col Borton completed an MA in Defence Management and Technology at the RMCS, followed by ACSC 5 at the JSCSC. After Staff College, he was appointed Military Assistant 2 to the Chief of the General Staff, for which he was awarded the MBE. He then returned to 1 RHF to command A Company, serving with them in Cyprus, Jordan, Iraq, UK and Belize. In 2006 he went on promotion to HQ MND SE in Iraq as COS Div Fwd/SO1 J3/5, where he was responsible for the detailed planning and execution of Operation SINBAD, the Basra security plan. After a period back at the Staff College as a DS, he returned to Edinburgh to command The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland in Edinburgh. Lt Col Borton is married to Amanda, and they have two daughters.





# Calendar of Events 2008

This is an outline calendar forecasting the various events so far planned for the period April 2008 to December 2008. Some of the events are subject to alterations and should these happen or new functions/events are added in the calendar they will be notified accordingly (See Forum in the Regimental website [www.rhf.org.uk](http://www.rhf.org.uk) for updates). All known events that will take place at Home HQ RHF have been included to show what other dates are free for bookings. Home HQ can also be booked for almost any evening.

The Regiment needs your support at all Remembrance Day Parades in George Square, Glasgow or Wellington Square, Ayr.

16th April 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
30th April 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
4th May 2008	Blessing of the Glasgow Veterans Standard at Glasgow Cathedral
10th May 2008	HLI Reunion Home HQ
14th May 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
28th May 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
11th June 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
25th June 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
28th June 2008	All Ranks Dinner Dance (TBC)
9th July 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
3rd September 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
17th September 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
23rd September 2008	Assaye Day
26th September 2008	Annual Officers' Regimental Dinner City Chambers Glasgow
27th September 2008	Annual Officers' Regimental Luncheon (Venue TBC)
1st October 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
15th October 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
29th October 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
5th November 2008	Inkerman Day
9th November 2008	Remembrance Sunday
11th November 2008	Remembrance Day
12th November 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
26th November 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
10th December 2008	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ

(NB: When the Battalion returns from Afghanistan there will be Welcome Home Parades in Glasgow and Ayr – in Oct/Nov 2008, dates to be confirmed.)



# Location of Serving Officers

**Representative Colonel:** Major General W E B Loudon CBE  
**Deputy Representative Colonel:** Colonel N T Campbell

## 1. General Staff List

Colonel N T Campbell – Asst Director Plans HQ APHCS  
Colonel P A S Cartwright OBE – Asst Director Cbt Eqpt, Eqpt Div, HQ LAND

## 2. Former RHF Officers in Other Appointments

Colonel J M Castle OBE – Col Msn Sp Gp, Op Sp Gp  
Colonel A L Reid OBE – Col Inf MCM Div APC Glasgow  
Major C C J W Taylor – OC A Coy 5 RIFLES  
Captain K Greene – AGC(SPS)

## 3. Regimental List

### LIEUTENANT COLONELS:

P K Harkness MBE – SO1 Plans/Comprehensive Approach PJHQ Army MND(SE)  
A D Johnston MBE – SO1 Info Ops HQ ARRC  
A C B Whitelaw – Regtl Lt Col Scottish Div  
W A Common – Dep Garrison Comd HQ Warminster Garrison  
N H De R Channer – CO Oxford UOTC  
D C Richmond – CO 5 SCOTS  
J Garven MBE – SO1 COS Jt Stf Div J3 HQBF Cyprus  
A D Middleton MBE – BLO GE Inf/UK HVO German Infantry School  
D N M Mack – CO Sp Bn HQ ARRC  
N R M Borton MBE – CO 2 SCOTS  
C L G Herbert – SO1 J5 OCE HQ RC(S) (OP TELIC)  
S J Cartwright – SO1 L15 DS ACSC JSC & Staff College  
D G Steel – SO1 AITAT HQ LWCTG(G) Sennelager

### MAJORS:

H M Miln – SO2 G3 ATE SEA, DOPS(DTE) – HQ  
N B V Campbell – SO2 G2/G3 HQ Catterick Garrison  
D C Masson – 2IC 1 SCOTS  
E A Fenton – SO2 LT WPNS (DS40 ICSC(L)) DCMT Defence Academy Shrivenham  
P Hutt – SO2 Instr CS&O Wg, Exch Offrs – Australia  
A J Fitzpatrick – 2IC 2 SCOTS  
M P S Luckyn-Malone – OC FSp Coy 2 SCOTS  
T J Cave-Gibbs – OC C Coy 2 SCOTS  
A S J Douglas (Late KOSB) – OC A Coy 2 SCOTS  
N D E Abram – SO2 Man Plans 1 Mech Bde  
K C Thomson – Gurkha Contingent Singapore Police Force  
S R Feaver – SO2 Plans Req&Risk D Def Log Ops  
T H C De R Channer – OC B Coy 2 SCOTS  
N G Jordan-Barber – SO2 Change Mgt HQ ARTD  
P A Joyce – Requirements Manager JBTSE IPT Abbey Wood  
T A Winfield – ICSC(L) Shrivenham  
F A L Luckyn-Malone – SO3 G3 O&D 4 Mech Bde  
N J L Brown – SO3(AI TRG) HQ LWCTG(G)

### CAPTAIN:

R R Keating – Int Offr 2 SCOTS

## Intermediate Regular Commission

### CAPTAINS

D D J Mackinnon (Late HLDERS) – Adj 2 SCOTS

J R L Savage (Late RLC) – 2IC A Coy 2 SCOTS  
J A Reid – SO3 NBC/Digitisation 52 Inf Bde  
R R D McClure – Trg Offr 2 SCOTS  
M J Munnich – HS 5 SCOTS (Det Duty)  
D R Taylor – RSO 2 SCOTS  
B O'Neill – OC Mortars 2 SCOTS  
R S Montgomery – 2 SCOTS(Det Duty)

## Short Service Commission

### CAPTAINS

J A French – SO3 G3 NBC/Digitisation 20 Armd Bde  
M J Rodger – SO3 G1 Ops 102 Log Bde Gutersloh  
N A Wheatley – 619 TACP Osnabruck FAC HQ 1 Armd Div  
N P Bridle – Ops Offr 2 SCOTS  
M D Kerr – 2IC C Coy 2 SCOTS  
E D Aitken – OC ATK 2 SCOTS  
L G Curson – AFC Harrogate  
V T Gilmour – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS  
I D Brember – Pl Comd ATR Pirbright

### LIEUTENANTS

A G Lipowski – 5 SCOTS  
A R Gill – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS (Att to 2 YORKS)  
J B McVey – Pl Comd 3Bn ITC Catterick  
G W Muir – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS  
A M Sweet – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS (Att to 2 YORKS)  
D J W Morgan – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS  
D E Reed – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS  
O W Bridle – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS

### 2ND LIEUTENANTS

B S E Davey – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS  
A N Lassoued – PCBC/Pl Comd 2 SCOTS  
C K Law – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS  
M A Dobson (Late AGC) – PCBC/Pl Comd 2 SCOTS  
G C MacGregor – PCBC/Pl Comd 2 SCOTS  
M D Oladjins – PCBC/Pl Comd 2 SCOTS  
J D House – PCBC/Pl Comd 2 SCOTS

## Intermediate Regular Commission (Late Entry)

### MAJORS:

J E B Kerr MBE – QM(M) 2 SCOTS  
S Wemyss (Late HLDERS) – QM(T) 2 SCOTS  
G A McGown MBE – ICSC(L) Shrivenham

### CAPTAIN:

W G A Hunter – UWO 2 SCOTS

## Short Service (Late Entry)

### MAJOR:

C Kerr – OC HQ Coy 2 SCOTS

### CAPTAINS:

A T Grant – OC ART, Glasgow  
J K Law – RCMO 2 SCOTS  
R C Welsh (Late A&SH) – MTO 2 SCOTS



# Location of Serving Volunteer Officers

**Honorary Colonel:** Colonel J P Wright QVRM TD

**BRIGADIER:**

J G d'Inverno TD ADC WS – Asst Div Comd HQ 2 Div

**COLONEL:**

J L Kelly MBE – 51(Scottish) Bde

**LIEUTENANT COLONELS:**

S W Burns TD – Unposted List

H Grant TD – CO Tayforth UOTC

R Doyle – Vice President AOSB Westbury

**MAJORS:**

J M T Allen – Glasgow & Strathclyde UOTC

S J R Bollen TD – OC BRAT 51(Scottish) Bde

**CAPTAINS:**

P C MacDonald BEM – RTC(S)

A Blair – PSAO C Coy 6 SCOTS

H M McAulay – PSAO B Coy 6 SCOTS

D McNally – QM(V) HQ Coy 6 SCOTS

D H Coulter – PSAO HQ Coy 6 SCOTS

J Donald – OC B Coy 6 SCOTS

J Coombes – Unposted List

A I Campbell – 2IC C Coy 6 SCOTS

**SUBALTERN:**

A P Wickman – LONDONS

## The Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum

330 years of history of the City of Glasgow's own Glasgow & Ayrshire Regiment illustrated by a unique collection of silver, paintings, weapons, uniforms and militaria. The building has distinctive Charles Rennie Mackintosh features, excellent library, museum shop and function rooms for meetings, presentations and social events.

**Education:** We also provide educational resources for both adults and children with particular reference to the national curriculum. We have a vast collection of fascinating World War I and World War II exhibits(all original!). Schools, youth clubs and other agencies are most welcome to use the Museum for guided tours, presentations, workshops etc. Call the Museum to arrange visits.

**Volunteers:** The Museum offers a range of volunteer roles: retail, researcher, library, corporate hospitality (eg: Regimental Veterans Association functions etc), charity work, museum education, museum documentation(eg: cataloguing, digitising collections etc) etc), office administration, marketing/PR etc. Have fun, enhance your CV, make friends, SUPPORT your Regimental Museum.

Open Monday to Friday 0900 to 1600 hrs

(Call the Curator for access outwith these times)

Wheelchair access(ground-floor only), hearing loop system and modern audio-visual technology.

Admission: Free.

**The Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum**

518 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, G2 3LW

Tel: 0141 3320961/5639, Fax: 0141 3531493

E-mail: [curator@rhf.org.uk](mailto:curator@rhf.org.uk)

Website: [www.rhf.org.uk](http://www.rhf.org.uk)

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL OFFICERS

Please contact Home HQ by letter or e-mail [reg.sec@rhf.org.uk](mailto:reg.sec@rhf.org.uk) or telephone (0141 3320961/5639) if there are any changes to your contact details, appointment, rank and unit/location, and also when you are about to retire or PVR.

With the introduction of the JPA system, Home HQ RHF no longer receives assignment orders (posting orders) from APC Glasgow. **Hence we need these details directly from you to enable us to update the Location of Serving & Volunteer Officers List and the Regimental Directory.**



# Letters to the Editor

From: Lieutenant Colonel P J Haldane  
Walnut Tree House  
The Pines, Hatfield Peverel  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM3 2DB

A clue – I took it and I think you know the person on the right.

Yours aye,

Peter Haldane

[**Editor:** *The answers are NOT at the back of the Journal. The wittier of the correct solutions will, with any luck, be published in the 2009 Edition – by, we hope, the NEXT Editor.*]

Dear Alastair,

Thank you for your note of 10th April.

By exertion of several brain cells not recently used I can name the Jocks in the Malaya photo on p.40 of the 2007 *Journal*. From the right they are:

1. Fus Wardrope
2. Fus Black
3. Cpl Joe Kielba
4. Fus Donnelly
5. Fus Hunt.

As I called your editorial ability into question (quite without cause) I feel that I owe you a photo for the next edition. Here it is.  
**WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN?**



From: Lt Col J L Kelly  
HQ 51st (Scottish) Brigade  
Forthside  
Stirling  
9th July 2007

Dear Editor,

Whilst in Edinburgh one sunny day and with 10 minutes to spare I dropped into the National Trust for Scotland property in Charlotte Square known as The Georgian House. Part of the visitor attraction is a video of a dinner party taking place in the house in 1810. One of the guests is an Officer of the Army of that period who when addressed by his host states that he was an Officer in The Royal Scots Fusiliers lately returned from the Battle of Corunna. Oh no he wasn't !!!!!

Enclosed is my letter to the Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland and his reply which you may find of interest.

Oh dear, I have now joined the legion of those who take their lead from the good Victor Meldrew!

J L Kelly  
Lt Col

The Bent  
Gartocharn  
Dunbartonshire  
G83 8SB  
6th May 2007

Dear Sir,

As a long-time member of the National Trust for Scotland I thoroughly enjoyed a visit to the Georgian House in Charlotte Square yesterday. Not having been there for a number of years it was the first time that I had viewed your new video. I know that the Trust prides itself on accuracy and I would therefore wish to point out a discrepancy on the video. During the simulated dinner party, which takes place in 1810, one of John Lamont's guests is an Officer from the Army of the day. When questioned by Mr Lamont he states that he was "an officer in the Royal Scots Fusiliers who had participated in the recent Battle of Corunna".

There are two points to make. Firstly, in 1810 the Royal Scots Fusiliers would have been known as the 21st Regiment of Foot



which subsequently became the Royal Scots Fusiliers. Secondly, the 21st of Foot did not participate in the Battle of Corunna. The 1st Battalion at the time was engaged with the French in Sicily and the newly-formed 2nd Battalion spent the time between Scotland and Ireland.

The National Trust for Scotland  
28 Charlotte Square  
Edinburgh EH2 4ET  
28th June 2007

Dear Mr Kelly,

Thank you for your letter of 6th June highlighting two historical inaccuracies contained in the Georgian House video.

We have consulted with the National War Museum of Scotland and I can confirm that the reference to the Royal Scots Fusiliers and also their association with the Battle of Corunna is indeed incorrect. I have been informed that these errors most likely stem from the various amalgamations that have taken place over the years. The Battle of Corunna honour belongs to the Highland Light Infantry and not the Royal Scots Fusiliers (the Victorian name for the 21st Regiment of Foot) who merged in 1959 to form the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

The National War Museum recommends that the video be changed to refer to the Highland Light Infantry who did participate in the battle.

I am most grateful to you for bringing these inaccuracies to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Adderley  
Chief Executive

From: Lieutenant Colonel C S Winter  
Shellachan  
Kilchrenan  
By Taynuilt  
Argyll PA35 1HD  
(01866 833263)  
4th December 2007

Dear Alastair,

Thank you for your newsletter on the latest Regimental Dinner. I was gratified to learn from you of the restoration of *Hielan Laddie* and *The 71st Quickstep* to the pipe programme.

I suppose it was predictable that the Royal Regiment of Scotland would adopt *Scotland the Brave* as its quick march. I have always disliked this irksome tune with its banal words but at least it is infinitely preferable to that dismal dirge *Flower of Scotland*. No wonder Scottish sports teams always lose when this tune lacking words and melody of any merit is played.

I have always thought it a pity that *Scots Wha Hae* has never achieved greater acclaim and popularity. The tune admittedly is

no more than good but the words, as one might expect from the National Bard, are truly inspiring.

Best wishes. Yours aye,

Colin Winter

[Editor: not "restoration" but "continued existence"]

From: Lieutenant Colonel D M Robertson  
10 Netherby Park, Weybridge  
Surrey KT13 0AE  
(01932 857423)  
6th December 2007

Dear Alastair,

I do applaud the effort that is being made to sustain the identity of our Regiment through the continuing publication of a dedicated magazine. I thought the first issue to be commendable, and I greatly enjoyed reading it. My enjoyment was enhanced by Corporal Cameron's memoir which he has called *The Fight Against Eoka*.

The period of which he writes in such detail and so accurately is one in which I was serving in 1 HLI, as indeed were you, and his report of the year we spent in Bulford stirred many memories. Not least of these was the Presentation of Colours by HRH The Princess Margaret, and in the picture that accompanies the article the Subaltern who has just received the Queen's Colour is myself. Ordinarily that would be unremarkable, but four years later when the amalgamation took place I was still a Subaltern serving with the Battalion and I had the great honour and privilege to carry that same Colour when it was laid up in Glasgow Cathedral. Given the normal lifespan of a Stand of Colours it must be very unusual, if not unique, for a Colour to have been carried by the same officer on both Presentation and Laying Up!

I look forward to the next issue of the truncated *Journal*, and in particular to the next instalment of Corporal Cameron's diary.

Yours ever,

Douglas

[Editor: *This Edition is less truncated than its predecessor; there is room for all the remainder of Corporal Cameron's 'Fight Against Eoka'.*]

From: Lieutenant Colonel C S Winter  
Shellachan, Kilchrenan  
By Taynuilt  
Argyll  
PA35 1HD  
(01866 833263)  
6th December 2007

Dear Alastair,

A few months ago, Flora and I visited Philip Maxwell (RHF 1966–75) and his wife Briar at their fabulous cliff-side home in the far Northwest corner of the Island of Islay. It is difficult to exaggerate



the beauty and isolation of this delightful spot – *Ultima Thule* indeed, next stop America.

The photograph shows myself and Philip in front of the ferry at Port Askaig. The tune I am playing is, of course, *Leaving Port Askaig*.

The opportunity to play this fine old Willie Ross tune was quite irresistible on this the first time I have visited Islay and was now about to embark for Oban.

I have been playing this tune for over 30 years. Perhaps I should say, rather, trying to play it. I remember on one occasion in 1984 in Belfast, when I was commanding Charlie Company, going up to the Pipes and Drums to have my pipes tuned. After being assisted by the ever patient and courteous Cpl McQuade, I struck up *Leaving Port Askaig*.

Apparently, a few moments later Pipe Major Gavin Stoddart burst out of his office exclaiming “Who’s that idiot playing *Leaving Port Askaig*? Where is he?” “Just round the corner there, Pipe Major,” replied Cpl McQuade innocently.

Round the corner, oblivious to the offence being given to the Pipe Major’s discerning ear, was I gently mangling aforesaid tune but, on seeing his thunderous countenance and realising all was far from well, ground to a feeble, wailing halt. There was an uneasy pause then Gavin took a deep breath and growled, “Oh don’t stop. You need all the practice you can get.”

Best wishes. Yours aye,

Colin Winter





# Book Reviews

***The British Army – a pocket guide 2008-2009* ed Charles Heyman (ISBN 978-1-84415-280-3 Pen & Sword Books Ltd, £5.99)**

Some might doubt whether a small book such as this merits a review, bearing as it does on its title page the important caveat that its contents have been gathered from unclassified sources. Those who care to read it are almost certain to dissent from that view.

Running to a total of 231 pages, it begins with a detailed Contents List of the items covered in its 14 chapters. Despite the small font used of necessity, it is well laid out, easy to follow, and contains no serious typographical error that this reviewer could spot. The text is supported by numerous silhouettes of aircraft and vehicles currently in service. A select list of standard military abbreviations at the end of the book will prove handy, and not merely to those who (like this reviewer?) merit the description of outdated old buffers.

Towards the end of this worthwhile little book is a collection of military and general quotations, commended to young Officers and NCOs as useful for briefings. Under the heading *Finally*, there is this gem, overheard at RMA Sandhurst: Drill Instructor to an embarrassed Officer Cadet who appears to be completely incapable of identifying left from right – “Tell me, Sir, as an outsider, what is your opinion of the human race?”

A S R

***CONFRONTATION – The War with Indonesia 1962-1966* by Nick van der Bijl (ISBN 9781 8441 55958 Pen & Sword Books, 2007, £19.99, but available more cheaply when ordered direct via the publisher’s website)**

The Brunei Revolt of December 1962, although led by local dissident/aspiring nationalist politician Azahari, had the undoubted backing of Indonesia. That revolt was swiftly and decisively quelled by 99th Gurkha Infantry Brigade flown out in haste from Singapore. This consisted principally of the standby battalion (1st Bn Queen’s Own Highlanders) and 1/2nd Gurkha Rifles and was joined a little later by ‘A’ Squadron 22 SAS and other key units.

Immediately thereafter however the adjacent East Malaysian states of Sabah (formerly the British Crown Colony of North Borneo) and Sarawak (which the ‘White Rajahs’ of the Brooke family had ruled) both became the target of sustained Indonesian armed incursions employing both regular and irregular units, the latter in particular enjoying a good deal of succour from Communist elements within the ethnic Chinese population (which was especially large in Sarawak). Defeating ‘Confrontation’ (a term derived directly from the Indonesian *Konfrontasi*) was to call for a long campaign in which Malaysian, British and Commonwealth forces fought.

The problem had been growing for some years. As far back as the 1950s, the activities of the Clandestine Communist Organisation (CCO) in Sabah had been a cause for concern, as had more recently been those of the Sarawak United People’s Party in that State. Indonesia’s incursions thus had to be seen as a serious threat at least to the stability of Malaysia, if not to its very existence. Malaysia had only just been established, and Indonesia’s unpredictable President Achmed Sukarno, long nurturing his

stated ambition of extending Indonesian influence, had been openly hostile to the concept of Malaysia, branding it as a creature of neo-colonial imperialism and repeatedly vowing to crush it.

It was to be 11 August 1966, shortly after Sukarno’s fall from power, before Indonesia’s more moderate leadership put a final end to ‘Confrontation’. For the Malaysian, British and Commonwealth forces involved at sea, on land and in the air, the campaign had been nothing short of *de facto* war, during which many awards for gallantry were won, including the 1965 VC by LCpl Rambahadur Limbu of 2/10GR. The clasp ‘Borneo’ was the first on the new General Service Medal. Casualties for the whole period were 114 killed and 181 wounded, while civilians suffered 36 killed, 53 wounded, and 4 captured. The Indonesian forces lost at least 590 killed, 222 wounded, and 771 captured.

Recalling that at its height the theatre absorbed 17,000 Commonwealth servicemen, with another 10,000 immediately available, there has been relatively little written about Confrontation aimed at general readership. *The Undeclared War* (Harold James & Denis Sheil-Small, Leo Cooper Ltd 1971, and later NEL paperback 1973) is a good concise account, and there is of course *How Borneo was Won*, by General Sir Walter Walker himself, on whom Malaysia bestowed the title ‘Dato’, on a par with knighthood and rarely conferred on foreigners. Copies of this monograph are hard to find.

Nicholas van der Bijl BEM joined the Intelligence Corps in 1970 and served for twenty years in a wide variety of postings. In *Confrontation – The War with Indonesia*, he has written a fine account which is wide in scope and unprecedented in depth, possibly the better for not having served in that campaign. Running, with Index, to 280 pages, it includes no fewer than 16 maps, 3 tables, 38 monochrome photographs, and a bibliography. Conveniently placed towards the front is a useful Glossary. In his Foreword, the Rt Hon Lord Denis Healey of Riddlestone (Defence Secretary at the time) expresses his delight “that a detailed account of Britain’s confrontation with Indonesia has at last been published. Our campaign was a text-book demonstration of how to apply economy of force, under political guidance, for political ends.” He rightly pays tribute to General Walter Walker, under whose overall command much of the campaign was conducted.

To the best of this reviewer’s knowledge, two greatly-missed RHF friends served Staff tours of duty in the FARELF during Confrontation: Robin Thorburn (Lt Col R E M Thorburn) and Donald Mack (Major D I A Mack), the former at HQ Director of Borneo Operations in Labuan, the latter at the subordinate HQ in Singapore, through which the majority of forces transited en route for Sabah and Sarawak. A former Officer of the Regiment, the late John Edwardes (Major J S M Edwardes GM), by that time an SAS Officer, was OC ‘A’ Sqn 22 SAS when it was flown from winter-bound UK in December 1962 to play its part in ‘mopping up’ after the Brunei Revolt, continuing thereafter to take part in many other important operations. That same officer (who gets several mentions in this book) later had much to do with The Border Scouts, raised mainly from Iban and Dayak, two of Sarawak’s indigenous races, whose native expertise was crucial in the dense jungle in which many fierce actions were fought. As to himself, this reviewer has his own reasons for commending this overdue account of Confrontation. In his reincarnation as an officer of RMP, he had the good fortune to land a busy and unforgettable Emergency Tour as OC 99 Brigade Provost Unit RMP in Kuching, Sarawak’s capital, and has paid more than one visit there since 1965, most recently in 2001.

A S R



# Obituaries



*Robert Borwick is the central figure. On one side of him is Brigadier J D Russell DSO MC, on the other is an Argyll Officer.*

## MAJOR THE LORD BORWICK MC HLI

James Hugh Myles Borwick, always known as Robert, was born in London on 12th December, 1917, the eldest son of the Hon Robert Myles Borwick. His father, who was serving on the Western Front, was manning an artillery observation post at the time. He received the news of Robert's birth by field telephone.

Robert was educated at Eton, where he was an above-average scholar, having passed the entrance exam among the first five. He also excelled in physical sports, notably in rugby and rowing. He entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst in 1936 – passing in third of his intake. He ended as a Cadet Sergeant and was a member of the RMC contingent at the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in the summer of 1937. Later in 1937 he was commissioned into the Highland Light Infantry and posted to the 1st Battalion, then stationed at Fort George.

As a teenager Robert, encouraged and coached by his father, discovered the pleasures of game-shooting and fishing. Also, before joining the 1st Battalion, he crewed in the Highland Brigade Yacht Club's ex-Bristol Channel pilot cutter "Saladin" in the 1937 Fastnet Race. This experience whetted his appetite for the sea and deep-water sailing in particular. (Indeed, ocean-racing was one of Robert's many activities. After the War he crewed both Max Aitken's *Drumbeat* and *Outlaw*.)

Soldiering at Fort George in the late 1930s was, by all accounts, a relaxed affair – largely because the 71st, as the "home" battalion, was responsible for keeping the 74th in India up to strength and in consequence was often much under-manned itself.

The pace of life quickened in the spring of 1938 when, because of the activities of the Germans, it was thought prudent to double the size of the Territorial Army. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who had both their regular battalions stationed abroad, were unable to provide officers to supervise this expansion. Robert was posted to 7 A&SH as Assistant Adjutant – with particular responsibility for the forming of a new battalion, 10 A&SH.

In September 1939 all his hard work came to fruition and 10 A&SH was embodied, with Robert as Adjutant. Throughout the winter of 1939 10 A&SH were deployed on local defence duties in Scotland – although their effectiveness was severely hampered by lack of weapons and transport. By the spring of 1940 more A&SH officers became available and Robert was able to return to the 71st, now returned from Dunkirk, via the Regimental Depot at Maryhill.

Back with the 71st, Robert was first appointed Adjutant and then to command C Company. He stayed at this throughout the gypsy-like wanderings of the 71st throughout England during the three years until June 1944. By this time the 71st was stationed in north Kent. Together with their fellow regular battalions of the East Lancashire Regiment and the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, they formed the 71st Brigade!! But despite the Brigade's very apt numbering, there was the stroke of a Whitehall pen. The 71st Brigade became part of the 53rd *Welsh Division*. It was with this formation that they sailed for France in June 1944.

During the to and fro of infantry life in the Normandy bridgehead, which was always uncomfortable, often dangerous and usually smelly, Robert continued to command his company with vigour and effect. The breakout from the bridgehead, the battles at the Falaise Gap and the heady advance across northern France into Belgium have been well chronicled. After arriving in Antwerp, however, things changed. The "cunning plan" as Baldrick might have described it, was to clear the enemy from land within the southern arc of the rivers Maas, Lek and Waal to ensure a firm base for the subsequent advance into Germany. The 71st were much involved in these operations and, in particular, before the major assault on the town of S'Hertogenbosch, the clearing of two villages, Middel Beers and Oostel Beers. In the last of these C Company, under Robert's command, gave a spirited account of themselves and Robert himself was awarded an immediate Military Cross. An extract from the official citation for this award describes the action.

During the action 21/23rd September, 1944, an advance was made from Oerle to Middel Beers and Oostel Beers on two centre lines. Major Borwick was in command of a Company Group with the task of clearing the right, subsidiary, centre line and establishing himself in Oostel Beers.

First contact was made about 1600 hrs on the 21st, about a road junction where his company overran a 75mm anti-tank gun. From this point onwards the route consisted of tracks through wooded country which had not been reconnoitred. Throughout the night the Company fought a series of actions until first light found them just south of Oostel Beers. Here Major Borwick halted, made a plan with his forward-observation officers and successfully attacked the village. During the day he successfully held his position against two counter-attacks. Until withdrawal on 25th September, he maintained his position with the reinforcement of a carrier section.

Major Borwick showed a splendid example to his Company by his disregard of his own safety and by his coolness and determination brought a difficult operation to a successful conclusion. Thirty-two prisoners were taken by his Company and heavy casualties inflicted upon the enemy.

An incident not recorded in the citation occurred towards last light, during C Company's advance when the leading platoon



contacted a number of the enemy in one of the many woods on the centre line. The enemy had taken cover and C Company were almost on top of them before they realised it. The only solution to this situation was quickly appreciated by Robert. He gave the order “fix bayonets and charge”. The Jocks obeyed with a fearsome roar and the enemy surrendered.

In the autumn and early winter of 1944 the 71st moved constantly up and down the western bank of the River Maas from Nijmegen in the north to Hoorn in the south, to prevent Germany infiltration. Before Christmas the Battalion was withdrawn to re-group and re-equip in preparation for the battle for the Rhineland.

During this period all ranks were able to enjoy the pleasures of Antwerp and Brussels -which were many and various. This was all spoilt by the German attacks through the Ardennes region of Belgium with the intention of capturing Brussels and Antwerp and thus cutting the Allied line of advance. On Christmas Eve 1944 the 71st were in a defensive position on the battlefield of Waterloo as their forefathers had been some 129 years before. Indeed, the CO gave out his orders for the disposition of the companies with the aid of the panoramic display of the 1815 battle in the Waterloo Museum. (To digress, the compiler of this Obituary spent that Christmas Eve digging an OP on the top of the Lion Memorial. In retrospect, what a silly place to put it.)

That evening it started to snow and arctic conditions continued for many weeks. At midnight the Battalion received orders to move to the town of Dinant on the river Meuse (as the Maas had become). After a chaotic drive the Battalion moved across the river to take up a defensive position in thick woods. During this time C Company came under heavy shellfire and first the 2IC was wounded and then, about half an hour later, Robert himself was hit in the legs by shrapnel. With the Company now leaderless the CSM, one “Happy” Day, took command for which he received the well-merited award of the Military Cross.

Robert returned to the 71st when the war in Europe was over. The Battalion had moved from Hamburg, where the fighting for them had finished, to Solingen in the Rhineland to relieve an American battalion in an “occupying” role. Robert initially took command of D Company. However, there followed a period of reorganisation during which those of all ranks who would be unable to serve for a further year were exchanged with others from, for example, the Territorial Battalions, who would be qualified to do so. This shuffle was occasioned because the 71st was transferred from 53rd Welsh Division to the command of 3rd British Infantry Division which was destined to form a major part of the UK element of the assault force on the Japanese mainland. There were many sighs of relief when the nuclear bombs were dropped and the war with Japan ended. However, there was another surprise in store when it was learned that the 3rd Division was to move to Palestine to help keep the peace between Arab and Jew – a thankless task as history has shown.

By now Robert was Second-in-Command of the 71st under Lt Col Rhoddy Rose, who had replaced Lt Col Dick Kindersley. The Battalion was flown in converted bombers from Brussels to Cairo and thence by road and rail to their final destination, Jerusalem. This journey was broken at Quassasin, an army base in the Canal Zone of Egypt, where several weeks were spent in acclimatisation. During this time Robert took advantage of one

of the amenities available locally – sailing on the Little Bitter Lake in dinghies converted, very roughly, from the standard infantry assault boat.

On one such expedition a sudden squall capsized his boat. With it lying on its side, with mast and mainsail on the water, Robert remarked, as he stepped out on to the nearly submerged sail, “This has only been done once before.” His weight and the rotten canvas put paid to his adventure. As he emerged spluttering from the water he remarked, “Worth a try anyway.”

Robert remained as Second-in-Command throughout the Battalion’s uncomfortable and boring six months’ duty in Jerusalem and later in the much pleasanter surroundings of Suez. In the spring of 1946, after a short break as a staff officer at the HQ Palestine Command, he returned to the United Kingdom and the Highland Brigade Training Centre in Redford Barracks, as OC the HLI and Seaforth Company.

In the summer of 1947 Robert’s request to be allowed to resign his commission was granted and he joined the family business in the City of London. Not surprisingly for an outdoor man such as he the 9 to 5 life was not to his liking; he was only too glad to escape to farm in partnership in Ireland. This enterprise lasted two years and, in his own words, was not “a howling success”.

Realising that farming had to be taken seriously or not at all, Robert enrolled on a course at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. He found not only lodgings at the home of Miss Pat Smythe, England’s foremost lady show jumper at the time, but also his future wife, an elegant equestrian lady, Hyllarie Johnston from Bala, North Wales, whom he married in September 1954.

Robert’s first farm in England was a small 157-acre mixed farm in deepest Devon. He was a most hospitable and generous host but his guests were expected to pull their weight in the running of the farm. Mucking out the milking parlour after the herd had spent the night munching rich Devon grass was not for the faint-hearted and not be done after a hearty farmhouse breakfast.

Over the following years Robert and his family moved several times to various properties in the West Country and the Welsh borders, mostly to meet the needs of an expanding family. He eventually dropped anchor, a suitable phrase for such an experienced sailor, in Herefordshire, but not long ago moved his establishment to France, of course to Normandy. But in his last year he re-crossed the Channel – and died in Britain. At his funeral were not only the devastating Hyllarie and his equally-devastating daughters but a fair muster of us. The latter trio most generously “entertained” us.

As can be seen, Robert was a gallant and highly effective soldier, a talented and successful fisherman and shot, a countryman in the best sense of that phrase. He was a good friend and an amusing companion. When describing his position as hooker in the Eton 1st XV as “nearest to the enemy”, he was unintentionally describing his own character. Any problem or pleasure, no matter whether military, nautical or agricultural, he attacked with the intelligent vigour of a good front-row forward. A good man indeed to have on your side.

**D M**



## MAJOR P N STEPTOE MC HLI



*Captain Steptoe being decorated by Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery.*

Major Patrick Neil Steptoe, who died on 6 May 2006, wrote not so very long ago “I cannot seriously believe that anyone is remotely interested in a clapped-out and pear-shaped Major of 83.” But there *is* interest. We are more than grateful that he gave us a brief *resumé* of his service.

Pat, straight from Sandhurst (where this future “pear-shaped Major” had just won its supreme award, the Sword of Honour! (the last awarded before the outbreak

of War)), joined 1 HLI at the Fort in June 1939. However, unlike Walter Ottewill, Brian Carson and John Whitcombe, he was, when war broke out, adjudged to be a little too young to be immediately sent into battle. When the Battalion embarked for France Pat was left behind. He was dispatched to the Depot. (Some of his friends – and he had many – laughingly christened him as “Home Service Only Steptoe”.) His next posting was to 13 HLI – where he heard being played (for its first time) the notable March that was later entitled *The Tenth HLI crossing the Rhine*.

Soon, however, Pat was back with 1 HLI and soon *NOT* on “Home Service”. As a remarkably active Company 2IC in Normandy in 1944 he took patrol after patrol deep into the enemy lines, particularly throughout July into August, and was, because of those particular activities, awarded the Military Cross (gazetted 12 Dec 44). (Pat was always reluctant to let some young Fire-eater of a Subaltern disappear into the murk of battle – especially as the Subaltern might not only disappear therein but do so with his soldiers.)

From Normandy Pat fought on through the rest of Northern France and then through Belgium into Holland. It was in Holland that he was badly “shot-up”.

Although air-evacuated to UK he eventually (after “much quarrelling with medics”) got back to 1 HLI. He re-joined them in Hamburg and “finished up near Dusseldorf”.

But the War hadn’t “finished up”. There was still Japan.

Luckily, the Atom Bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima removed the need for 1 HLI to storm Japan, but 1 HLI had not yet “finished up”. Next was Jerusalem and then Egypt. Pat commanded a Rifle Company in both locations.

Pat’s service thereafter was as notable as it had been from the start. It is not surprising that he then became an Instructor at the School of Infantry (Warminster). Nor that, after his return to 1 HLI, his next extra-Regimental service was as a Company Commander in the RMA Sandhurst – an appointment reserved for Officers regarded as being on their way up. He rejoined 1 HLI at the tail-end of its existence, in Luneburg in 1958, became 2IC of the Battalion and proceeded, at Redford in 1959, to become 2IC of The First Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers. Alas, he then, to quote him, “lost my temper and got [a] Golden Bowler”.

Perhaps Pat wasn’t altogether inspired by the Amalgamation of *his* Regiment – no matter with whom it was amalgamated.

But Pat had done more during his “Home Service” than listen to the beauty of what later became *The Tenth HLI crossing the Rhine*. He had managed, despite the vagaries of war and despite his youthfulness, to persuade the very attractive Paddy to marry him. (That a “Pat” had married a “Paddy” they both found amusing.) Not long afterwards the union had further results. On the sixth of October 1944 (by which time Pat himself was no longer on “Home Service”) they had a son.

The latter, Robert, eventually commanded 4 Devon and Dorset, and *his* son also rose to command rank (– but by the time the latter did so the Devon and Dorsets had vanished into the maw of *The Rifles*). Let’s not hold his son’s and grandson’s Englishification against Pat (or against Paddy). The English fight even better when they’re being properly commanded – as was shown when Pat assumed command of an Ox & Bucks patrol (apparently his own very first patrol) on 8 July 44 and successfully extricated it under heavy fire. One of their battalions, the 52nd Foot, had fought beside ours at Waterloo – when we were the 71st – and had not only very considerably distinguished itself but had also discovered it was fortunate in having the 71st on its *outer* flank. On 8 July 44, with one of its Officers dead and the other wounded, the Ox & Bucks patrol discovered itself even more fortunate. They were being *led* by an Officer of the 71st. Pat “acted calmly and efficiently at a critical moment disregarding his personal safety”.

(It is, however, a *baseless* rumour that Pat did so clutching not only a revolver but also a *sharpened* Sword of Honour! – which, being his, was a Highland broadsword. But would he, being only in patrol dress, have girded himself with his *cross*-hilted broadsword – or would he have equipped it with the *Undress* basket-hilt?)

## MAJOR A L ROWELL DSO RSF



There are many examples from two World Wars of gallant conduct by those called up for war service. They brought renown to their Regiments and credit to themselves – such a one was Leslie Rowell.

Born in 1916 the son of a Devonshire farmer, he was educated at Clifton College. Leaving there he trained as a chartered accountant and began working in Bristol in 1939. With war on the horizon, he enlisted as a trooper in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars (TA).

Shortly afterwards he was selected for officer training. When asked for a choice of regiment, he naturally requested one from the West Country. Much to his surprise he was commissioned into the Royal Scots Fusiliers whose RHQ was in Ayr! He had never set foot in Scotland in his life. However, this did not deter him from marrying a Scottish lady a few years later – one Margaret Ogilvie who was the Almoner at Ballochmyle Hospital in Ayrshire.



Posted to 11 RSF, stationed in Norfolk, he gained experience in platoon and company duties before becoming Adjutant in 1942. This writer, who was a newly-joined subaltern, remembers him well. He was a formidable figure – firm but fair. It paid to keep out of his way unless one was confident of one's turn-out, and clear as to what one was doing! He continued as Adjutant in Normandy and in the advance into Belgium. After officer casualties he took over D Company in August 1944.

The trust built up between a CO and his Adjutant continued when he took over the Company. It was hardly surprising that difficult and hazardous tasks frequently came the way of D Company, which was often "in reserve" for such a purpose. Three instances of this will suffice – in all of which he played a major part.

On the 24th of September 1944 the Company crossed the Turnhout-Antwerp canal to create a diversion to help a neighbouring brigade make a major crossing. The leading assault boat took casualties from a machine-gun covering the crossing – but the Company pressed on and established a bridgehead some five hundred yards in depth. From here aggressive patrolling was done. On 26th September the position came under heavy fire and a withdrawal was ordered back across the canal. Shortly after this, the enemy attacked the empty position: the diversion had succeeded.

The next instance came on 3rd/4th December 1944. A heavy enemy attack had broken into the positions of the Brigade right-forward battalion (7th Duke of Wellington's) to the north east of Nijmegen Bridge. D Company was hastily sent to assist in restoring the position. The situation was complex with Germans in some houses, Dukes in others and some buildings empty. The Company moved in the dark and commenced operations at first light (0730 hours). By skilful movement of the platoons on alternate sides of the road the enemy was driven out. Seventy-seven prisoners were taken for the Company's loss of one dead and two wounded.

The third instance happened on 10th/11th March 1945. By this time the area north east of the Nijmegen Bridge was so heavily mined and wired that normal patrolling was ineffective. Accordingly, a plan was made to move a company (D) up the River Rhine by landing craft (Waal) and land behind the enemy front line. The aim was to inflict casualties, capture prisoners and cause general confusion by fighting back to the Battalion's front line.

Phase I was the landing and securing of a bridge-head by capturing and holding a prominent white house on the river embankment. The enemy was swiftly overcome and a secure base established. In Phase II a platoon moved some three hundred yards to the east and set up a secure flank: this resulted in the capture of one enemy officer and two soldiers.

Phase III was the clearing of six buildings on the embankment to secure the Company's withdrawal route to the west. When strong opposition was encountered from one house the platoon commander involved called down artillery fire on his own position! The way to the west was open – but a minefield was encountered! While a route through was being taped the platoon holding the eastern flank drove off two counter-attacks, inflicting serious losses on the enemy.

The Company finally withdrew about 0800 hours bringing back ten prisoners. Nineteen enemies had been killed and several

wounded for the loss of three killed and eight wounded from the Company. Throughout the operation the Company Commander was in close touch as the operation developed, directing and controlling with calm efficiency. Not surprisingly he was awarded an "immediate" DSO. An account of the operation was published in "Current Reports from Overseas" which circulated throughout the Army.

He continued to command D Coy, after the war ended and finally left the Battalion (by then stationed in Germany) when demobilised in January 1946.

As a Commander he believed in leading from the front and constantly set a fine example of energy, calmness and bravery – and was always careful of his soldiers' lives and of their welfare in and out of the line. Men followed him willingly – confident that he would do his best for them in all circumstances. For all that he was modest about his own talents and achievements. After the War he wrote, "I took enormous pride in the success of the Company but claim little credit. Most of the officers and NCOs and some of the senior soldiers had been trained to a high standard by my predecessors. Indeed several were decorated for bravery – I was just fortunate to be leading them".

On returning to civilian life he became a partner in an accountancy firm in Bristol until 1958. He then moved to the W.D. & H.O. Wills organisation. Then in his own words, "Much to my surprise I eventually became Second-in-command of the organisation!" He finally retired in 1978.

In retirement he always took a great interest in the fortunes of his former Regiment of which he had been such a worthy member.

To his daughter, two grand-children and three great grand-children we send our sincerest sympathies.

**W D D**

#### **MAJOR W KEITH DAVIDSON CBE RAMC/RSF**



Keith Davidson was born in Partick, Glasgow, in 1926, and began his education at Jordanhill College School. As his father, an LMS locomotive engineer, moved around the country, Davidson attended schools as far apart as Inverness, Kilmarnock, Dundee, Gourrock and finally Coatbridge.

He began his medical training at St Mungo's College (later absorbed into Glasgow University)

and, following graduation in 1949 and a year in general practice in the Gorbals, he was called up for National Service in 1950. He was posted to Germany to join the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots Fusiliers and had the happiest of memories of his time in the RSF but, after a year with the Battalion, he was moved to the 14th Field Ambulance in Iserlohn with the rank of Major.

While with the Field Ambulance he married Mary Jamieson, a fellow medical student, and showed determination and ingenuity



very early in his married life. The documents for a new wife joining her husband in Germany could only be authorised after the marriage took place. Owing to the death of King George VI on their wedding day, the relevant office was closed and no documents were obtainable. But Davidson was not daunted by this. He talked his way through the guards at the German border; Mary, although without documents, was allowed into Germany. No documents meant no food rations were authorised and it was a month before the papers came through.

On his discharge from the Army Davidson was taken into partnership with his father-in-law in Chryston and he set up a practice in Ruchazie. This was at a time when few houses had telephones and he followed his father-in-law's example from rural general practice, one of setting up "call houses" where people requiring a doctor could leave a message for a doctor to call. This caused a complaint of "advertising" to be made against him and he was taken before the local medical committee and told to close the call-house facility. This proved to be his entry into medical politics. He so impressed the interviewing senior general practitioner that a few months later he was co-opted on to the local medical committee.

He served for many years on the Glasgow Local Medical Committee, becoming chairman from 1971 to 1975 and was one of the Glasgow Representatives on the Scottish General Medical Services (GMS) Committee, of which he became chairman from 1972 to 1975. He was a member of the Scottish Council on Crime from 1972-1975 and, following his chairmanship of Scottish GMC, was appointed deputy chairman of GMS (UK) from 1975 to 1979.

In 1978, he was appointed chairman of the Scottish Council of the British Medical Association, which position he held until 1981. He was also a member of the Scottish Medical Practices Committee between 1968 and 1980.

The esteem in which he was held by his peers was shown when he was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, a Fellow of the BMA and a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners, and although proud to be awarded the CBE by the Queen in 1982, he was even more proud to be appointed a vice-president of the British Medical Association in that same year.

His involvement in the Health Service at the highest level continued, being a member of the Health Service Policy Board, Greater Glasgow Health Board and Chairman of the Scottish Health Services Planning Council from 1984 to 1989, the first general practitioner to be appointed to this position. He was a member of the General Medical Council from 1983 to 1994, being especially involved with disciplinary hearings.

Involvement in medical politics was not an all-consuming passion, although he had to give up hobbies such as fishing and gardening; preparation for meetings was very great for a man with a quite severe degree of dyslexia. He remained a caring family doctor in Ruchazie, devoted to improving the health of the local residents. In 1956 with the co-operation of Glasgow Maternity and Child Welfare, he set up a child welfare clinic in his own surgery building with Glasgow Corporation health visitors and midwives attending. This was an unusual situation 50 years ago.

He was also involved in the community through his deeply-held Christian faith. He was Session Clerk of Ruchazie Parish Church for ten years and when the family moved to Stepps he served as an Elder in St Andrew's Church, after which he became the first Session Clerk of the united congregation of Stepps Parish Church, serving from 1983 to 1997. He was a member of the Bonnetmakers and Dyers Craft and a Serving Brother of the Order of St John, as well as carrying the office of Chairman of Chryston High School Board from 1995 to 1998.

Above all, he was a family man. He was devoted to his wife Mary, whose total support, which he fully recognised, enabled him to spend time on medical politics. He was fiercely proud of his son Keith and his daughter Mhairi. Despite his very busy schedule, he always made time to spend with them and to be there when they needed him. In later years he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, Ailsa and Jill, who holidayed with him in Sutherland and Northumberland.

The last ten years were a difficult time for him. His memory began to fade and medical problems set in. Spells in hospital left him unable to walk or talk but, despite being told that he would not walk again, his strength of character and Mary's determination meant that he was able to walk round the house with the help of a zimmer, enjoy sitting in the garden and once again attend Church on a regular basis. His happy memories of service with 1 RSF also survived. For the past twenty years or so he was always delighted when a particular Christmas Card arrived. It would not only be a Regimental Card but would be addressed to "Doctor R S F Davidson".

As Keith's health deteriorated Mary was insistent that she would continue to care for him at home. He died peacefully in the company of his family on the evening of Monday 21st May 2007.

**L M**

#### **MAJOR DONALD IAN ANDERSON MACK RSF/RHF**



Major Donald Mack was educated at George Watson's College in Edinburgh and at Glasgow Academy before continuing his education at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

He was commissioned in the Royal Scots Fusiliers and joined 1 RSF at Wuppertal in 1952. Thereafter, he served in Berlin and in the Malayan campaign where he was responsible

for the successful ambush of a Communist Terrorist patrol. Unfortunately this brief account cannot convey the reality of the dangers and privations of months of jungle patrolling in a hostile environment. Today there appears to be little recognition of a campaign which lasted from 1948 until 1960. It is a sobering thought that the campaign cost the lives of 1,865 members of the UK and Commonwealth security forces.

A subsequent posting took him to emergency operations in Cyprus. After the formation of the Royal Highland Fusiliers he filled



various regimental and staff appointments in Aden, Malta, Iserlohn, Borneo, Singapore, Northern Ireland, Scotland and England.

At the end of his career on the Active List Donald held two General Service Medals. One medal has the clasps "Malaya", "Cyprus" and "Arabian Peninsula". The other medal has the clasps "Borneo" and "Northern Ireland". In modern currency this could amount to at least three or four separate campaign medals. He also held a United Nations (Cyprus) medal.

Donald was an outstanding military historian with an encyclopaedic knowledge of regimental dress, customs and music. He was also a gifted artist and cartoonist. Many of us will have fond memories of him drawing caricatures on menu cards, beer mats or sketch books. Much of his work is preserved today in our regimental archives. Above all, he conveyed the image of the archetypal regimental officer who lived for his regiment and all that it stood for. As many of his cartoons imply, he did not always approve of some of the post-war Army reorganisations.

After his retirement Donald became the Assistant Regimental Secretary at Regimental Headquarters. Unfortunately, his career was cut short when he suffered a series of strokes. In his latter days he was a resident at the Erskine Home where the burden of his illness was lightened by a devoted staff. He died on Sunday 13th January 2008.

Those of us who had the privilege of serving with Donald will salute the passing of a well-remembered colleague and friend.

#### **Major Alan Robertson adds:**

Having served with his younger brother Alastair in 1 HLI at Luneburg during 1958, the Battalion's final year, it was with eager anticipation that I looked forward to meeting Donald. This I was to do when those who had remained reported to Redford Infantry Barracks to become Royal Highland Fusiliers on 20th January 1959. From the time of our first encounter, I was to relish Donald Mack's friendship in a variety of situations as we served together and indeed long after I and later he had left the Active List.

During the years I was living and working in London, Donald often stayed with me for one night, outward to the battlefield tours he so enjoyed and about which he knew so much, those of the Great War and Second World War Northwest Europe, Crimea, Peninsula, American Civil War, South Africa, – and for another night (or more, if he thought I could tolerate him!) on his return. He steadfastly refused to travel to and from Glasgow except by coach, so I became accustomed to doing duty as his Orderly, helping him manhandle his impedimenta (no light traveller he) between my Pimlico flat and Victoria Coach station, fortunately no great distance.

An incident from these distant early Edinburgh months of 1 RHF is one I cannot forget. Under the leadership of "Colonel Mike", light hearted and yet demanding, the Mess began a punishing round of Regimental Guest Nights and Dinner Nights, aimed at welding us into a cohesive entity and getting the Regiment known.

After dinner, rough games usually subjected our new Mess Kit to demanding troop trials. In the space between Anteroom and Dining Room lay a large thick carpet. On the evening of which I write, it was decided to topple Donald to the floor, after which the carpet was rolled up, he inside it. A good number of us were

needed to shoulder the carpet, carry it out to the edge of the square, and unroll it. That done, Donald was seen lying there, supine and absolutely motionless.

While the rest looked on with mounting sense of alarm, our RMO (who had been one of the carpet carriers) knelt down and made to give mouth to mouth resuscitation, whereupon Donald sat bolt upright. Glaring up at us with that familiar slightly wolfish half smile, he said, "Well, you buggers, bet that scared you".

Later in 1959, after the Battalion's baffling move from Redford Infantry Barracks to the Cavalry Barracks, and when it was providing its first Royal Guard at Balmoral, we were all delighted by Donald's elaborately illustrated verses 'The Balmoral Highlanders'. This masterpiece was prompted by the need to send an additional officer (2Lt R H de R Channer) up to Ballater to help out with the burdensome duties. Donald however knew better; poor Ronnie was there "to clear the blocked and smelly drain, and wind the Prince of Wales's train, and while the others fish for trout, he mounts the guard and turns it out"! The manuscript was taken to Balmoral, where it was reportedly seen and enjoyed by members of the Royal Family.

Sadly, it was long afterwards destroyed in an outbreak of fire at RHQ. So far as I know, only a single poor photocopy existed, which I last saw hanging in The Bothy, Wormington Grants, where Colonel Mike Evetts and his wife were living when they hosted the last of the Founders' Luncheons before his death in 2001, and which Donald and I both attended.

As OIC Officers' Mess scrapbook from the start until just after that spectacular Queen's Birthday Parade of 10th June 1961 in Malta, it was my duty to see the very best of Donald's elaborate cartoons inserted, where they remain as witness to his rare talent: "Pay no attention, it's just Frobisher talking cock as usual" (the content of which is best left unstated) and, when we had all been to see the film, "Dinnae worry, Sir, they're no' queer. They've just been to see 'Psycho'." (this from grizzled Battalion Orderly Sergeant to horrified young Orderly Officer, whose torch beam illuminates a single barrack bed wherein sit two pyjamas clad Jocks, arms round each other, their eyes wide with terror).

Some modern phenomena were sure to merit a cartoon. One such (reproduced in the Journal, Vol 23, No 1, Summer 1999) was drawn after Donald had seen an officer of the Regiment wearing an abhorred baseball cap. In this scene, the moon is up. On the ground lies a prone, crumpled figure. Kneeling beside him is a Corporal, clad in combat kit and TOS, as is the young sentry (usual round face, wide-eyed). The sentry cradles a well-drawn SA 80, while slim young Officer (Glengarry, blue patrol, dirk, strap treads, cane) holds a gloved hand to his lips in surprise. The Corporal is saying "Mr Yoonylad, Sir, dead as a doornail" while the sentry is addressing the Officer: "Aw Sir! Ah could see wis a baseball cap an' a dirty semmit. Thought he wis a Bosnian spy and shot him... not an officer, Sir"!

In September 2000, for the Regimental Dinner and Luncheon hosted by 1 RHF at Fort George (coinciding with UK-wide car fuel shortage), thanks to a lucky thankful of diesel, I had driven Donald to Ardersier, where we shared a hotel room. The weekend sparked two fine cartoons. In the first, with the Fort in the background, an elegantly-suited and hatted figure (DIAM himself?) faces with evident dismay an uncomely officer of the



## CAPTAIN JOHN MCDERMID RHF



*Captain John McDermid and his wife Gill.*

Captain John McDermid was born in Glasgow in 1964. He joined the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers in 1983 serving 21 years as a soldier and three years as an officer. In a distinguished career he served in Berlin, Canada, Kenya, Cyprus and Belize, conducting two tours in Bosnia as part of the UNPROFOR mission and one in Kosovo as part of the NATO deployment. He completed four Northern Ireland tours, and a further tour in Iraq cemented his standing as a hugely-experienced, skilled, knowledgeable and capable soldier.

His quality was identified early on and he rose quickly through the ranks. As a first-rate Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, he was selected to instruct officers at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where he excelled. On return to the Battalion he served as Company Quarter Master Sergeant, Company Sergeant Major and Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant before promotion to Warrant Officer 1st Class and Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers in 2002.

He was commissioned in June 2004 and initially led the Regimental Recruiting Team based in Glasgow. His energetic and engaging approach overhauled recruitment. His subsequent appointment was as Unit Welfare Officer where he oversaw the move of the Battalion (now the Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland) from Cyprus to Glencorse Barracks, Edinburgh.

Captain McDermid was posted to a staff appointment at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in early 2007. Always a field soldier, he volunteered for operational service in Afghanistan. In September 2007 he was attached to 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment as a member of the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team, tasked with training the Afghan National Army. As a mentor, he was responsible for developing the leadership and infantry skills of platoon or company commanders.

On the 16th of November 2007 Captain McDermid was leading a joint UK and Afghan National Army patrol to the south of the district centre of Sangin in Helmand Province, during which he was also mentoring an Afghan National Army Officer in the leadership and infantry skills that platoon commanders need. It was during this patrol that an improvised explosive device detonated. This sadly resulted in the death of Captain McDermid and serious injury to the Afghan interpreter who was accompanying him.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Harkness MBE, Commanding Officer of The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, said:

Captain John McDermid represented everything that is special about both the Army and The Royal Highland Fusiliers. From Fusilier to Regimental Sergeant Major, his 21 years service as a soldier was notable for its professionalism,

Regiment, clad in Glengarry, combat kit, tartan belt, court-mounted medals, and carrying a briefcase (or worse, possibly a cased laptop). The caption is: 'Parade Dress – Well, look at me – Glengarry and medals too.' The second arose from a remark made by the female Lt Col Dental Officer, who claimed that the shocking state of the Battalion's teeth was due to over consumption of Scotland's other national drink. Donald's sketch depicts his ever present round-faced young Jock clearly apprehensive as he sits in the dentist's chair. He holds a big fizzing glass of something. Over him stands the slim attractive overall clad figure of the Dental Officer, her uniform cap and badges of rank easily visible. In one hand she is holding out a set of dentures. The caption reads: 'Don't fuss, laddie.. Just swallow that pint of bru and then I can fit these in no bother.' Both cartoons appeared in the journal (Vol 24 No 2, Winter 2000).

As subsequent events have sadly proved, Donald Mack was remarkably prescient. Reprinted in the Journal (Vol 28 No 2, Winter 2004) were his verses Saint George for integrated England! Which he had penned while he and I were in 1 RHF in Aden, 1960. The second of its six stanzas begins "Our buttons are identical/and the badges in our caps – to show our solidarity/we cross post all our chaps..."

Donald's wit enlivened Journal pages on countless occasions. His letters to the Editor could be relied on to rattle a few cages, dealing as they did with topics dear to some hearts: how much or how little attached female officers of AGC knew: the pattern of helmet in service, the culpable failure of those in authority to see that the tartan patch on combat kit was grenade shaped, rather than square. Those who have read 'Bits and Pieces from Malaya,' published in two parts (Journals Winter 2004 and Summer 2005) can be left in no doubt that the young Lt D I A Mack, en route to Malaya with 1 RSF Advance Party and serving there as a Platoon Commander during the anti-communist Emergency displayed even then an uncommon talent for vivid prose. His description of the tribulations of junior officers sharing tables with families and feral "kiddie-winkies" at meals on board HMT Empire Orwell is in my view a classic, and we are fortunate that Donald's parents, recipients of the letters quoted, preserved them.

We have Lt Col Ian Shepherd to thank for the apt Eulogy he delivered on 21st January at the Service of Thanksgiving for Donald's life in Hyndland Church, where Donald's years as an Elder were called to mind not only by the Minister, but also with warmth by elders I met.

It is also thanks to Ian that another example of Donald Mack's prescience, and I believe the last of Donald's cartoons to feature in the Journal (Vol 29 No 2, Summer 2005), was reproduced. Drawn all of thirty-seven years earlier, it depicts two very "GS looking" hatless officers, clad in detested "English" Service Dress, fleeing for their very lives. The red-tabbed senior is saying to the other, "Look here, Prendergast, I thought you said the Council of Colonels had ceased to exist"! Hard on their heels, brandishing claymores, a horse whip, shotgun, wild of eye and fiercely moustached, comes a pack of officers, Lowland and Highland, the leaders, RHF, Argyll, choleric-faced RO in tweed breeks, each accurately drawn, while above the pack are Saltire and fiery cross. In the background are mountains, while a small sign on the ground reads "You are now entering Scotlandshire". Donald Mack was sui generic, truly one of a kind.



commitment and loyalty. His exceptional qualities led to him being commissioned into the Regiment that he loved and into which he had devoted so much of his time and energy.

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Downey MBE, Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment, said:

Captain John McDermid was an exceptional soldier, officer and man. Deeply able, hugely energetic, and an accomplished compassionate and encouraging leader, he rose rapidly through the ranks from private soldier to captain, excelling at every stage.

Captain McDermid leaves behind his wife Gill, his two sons and a stepson.

## WO2 BRUCE BRADFORD CAMERONIANS/RHF



I was very saddened to hear of the sudden death of Brad Bradford. A real Regimental Character if ever there was one. Stories of Brad are legendary and most of them, no matter how you embellish them, turn out to be true. There are some events that happened where Brad was concerned that you wonder “How did he get away with that?” and others where you just shook your head in amazement.

Brad joined the Battalion at Fort George in 1969 on the disbandment of the Cameronians. He joined A Coy and the rest of his career with the Regiment was never dull. From the start it was clear to see he had exceptional ability. A first-class soldier, he left his mark on every rank and appointment he held in the Regiment. Brad always wanted to be a soldier and when he left school, if soldiering had not about he would have invented it.

Brad acted a lot on impulse and at times this could lead him into trouble – not only ‘at times’; it invariably did. Never once in his army career did you hear Brad say, “It was not my fault” or “Just bad luck at the time I did it.” What you would hear Brad say was, “It seemed like a good idea at the time.” Brad accepted everything that happened as part and parcel of his life. If he fell foul of authority he accepted it, put it behind him and got on with his life and soldiering. There was never any attempt to shift the blame to others or to hide away from facing the consequences.

But his impulse and instinct was also very important during the numerous tours of Northern Ireland in the 70s and 80s. His instinct of spotting when something was not right, whether it was patrolling through the fields of South Armagh or urban patrolling in Turf Lodge or Andersontown, bordered on the uncanny. His soldiering ability was never in doubt. In the field he was an exceptional soldier and a real credit to the Regiment. However, the RHF have always had a reputation for being better at living in holes in the ground in the field, rather than in nice squared-off barrack blocks. When Brad was CSM of C Company in Germany, his attitude to any Jock causing damage to the barrack block was, “If you do not want to appreciate living in camp, you can live in the field.”

A barbed-wire compound was set up outside one of C Coy’s barrack blocks and any Jock convicted of breaking windows, damaging doors etc was sentenced to live in the compound in a tent and only allowed into the barrack block to shower and shave once a day. Brad was an exceptional man and once you met him, you never forgot him – as no doubt some of the compound inhabitants will remember.

However, there is one side of Brad that may have been missed by those who knew him. Brad was a very accomplished sailor. In 1972 Brad and I were stationed at Glencorse as training instructors. Rab Dallas was also there as a Platoon Commander and, as Rab was an exceptional skipper (Junior UK champion at 16), he decided that an RHF team should go and take part in Clyde Week, the week-long sailing regatta held on the river Clyde.

The team consisted of the three of us and we stayed at Clynder for the 10 days and were competing in a Piper Class racing yacht. It was an excellent week and on one occasion as we were sailing along the start line waiting to begin, the yacht slowed down. Something had attached to the keel and the boat became almost stationary in the water. Rab shouted to Brad if he could see what was holding the boat back. “Nae problem,” said Brad and promptly disappeared over the side. This is in the middle of the Clyde, a force six roaring and three miles from land.

Then came a cry, “Haud this!” (Brad was taking off his life jacket and throwing it up to land on deck.) He then disappeared under the boat, removed the obstruction and resurfaced. The boat had shot forward and Brad very coolly (coldly!) swam to one of the marker buoys in the Clyde, climbed on and waited for us to come about and pick him up. The Royal Navy guard launch was very quickly on the scene and hove alongside to pick Brad up. If he had stepped on to the Navy launch we would have been disqualified and he refused all offers of help until we picked him up. It was the talk of the regatta for the rest of the week. There was one other occasion when Rab, in trying to catch the run of the tide to gain an advantage, got too close to shore and ran aground. This time both of us were over the side pushing like mad to dislodge the boat. This also had been seen and Rab was asked where he got his crew from – especially the big black-haired one that goes swimming for fun fully-clothed in the Clyde.

Brad commanded loyalty in his men from his first appointment as a Lance Corporal to his last appointment as a Company Sergeant Major. I knew Brad for 39 years and I can honestly say there was never a moment when you could predict what Brad was going to do next. However, the same moments were never dull. He leaves a gap in the Regiment, especially in the Sgts’ Mess. Even after he left the Army Brad believed that the Sgts’ Mess was the most exclusive club in the world. He took great delight in being invited back and no matter where the Battalion was stationed he would make the effort to attend. Even although his first regiment was the Cameronians, he had unswerving loyalty to the RHF.

One of the last times I attended a Sgts’ Mess function with Brad was the Burns Supper at Cambridge in 1991. He stood in the centre of the floor of the Sgts’ Mess anteroom and said “I am home. As far as I am concerned this is the centre of the universe.” Of course, trying to get him to go to his real home was when the fun would start.

There are many more stories of Brad and I am quite sure we all have our favourite memory of being in Brad’s company – both socially and as a soldier. What you saw was what you got. He lived



life his way and if that meant it wasn't a way you approved of – tough. He was not going to change and he never did.

But he had the likeability factor about him. Never ask the Jocks to do something you will not do yourself was his motto. And it worked with every command he had. He had the respect of the Jocks – the biggest compliment that can be paid in a Scottish regiment. No doubt he had the despair of the Company Commanders to contend with as well, but he took it all in his stride.

There was a wonderful turnout at his funeral for a wonderful character. It was like being back at Fort George in the sixties. No doubt wherever he is he will be baffling St Peter with his favourite line: "I do not drink but if you are asking, I am partial to two fingers of Red Eye."

Brad is survived by his wife Sandie and their son.

**W P E**

### **COLOUR SERGEANT GEORGE MOWAT GORDON MOODIE CAMERONIANS/PARA/HLI**



George, or Geordie as his pals called him, enlisted on the 10th of October 1935 under the name of George Gordon, having tried to enlist earlier in the year in his own name and being caught out as underage. He joined the Cameronians, Scottish Rifles and on his sixteenth birthday was on a troop ship bound for India.

In 1941 he transferred to the Airborne, to the 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment and dropped and fought at Arnhem. He declared his true age at the outbreak of war and his true name before marriage. He met my mum, Edith (nee Mason) in Blantyre in 1942 where she was stationed with

the ATS and they married at our village church at Crich on the 5th June 1945. Unfortunately, my mum died in 1981.

Dad left the Army in 1948 and worked in the local limestone quarry but found it difficult to settle and re-enlisted into the Highland Light Infantry in 1949 where he finished his twenty-two years service and was discharged with the rank of Colour Sergeant in June 1959 – just after the amalgamation with the Royal Scots Fusiliers which of course became the Royal Highland Fusiliers.

From the stories he told he was a bit of a rogue and according to his pay book, which only covers 1950-59 he went up and down the promotion ladder at a rate of knots.

The Army was the happiest part of his life and he loved to talk about it. My two daughters would listen and laugh with him even if they had heard that particular tale before. They often asked to hear his stories again. It's just a pity he won't be

around to tell them to his three great-grandchildren. They gave him the title of GREAT GEORGE, which to us was true.

We were very pleased and grateful to see three of Geordie's HLI friends at the Funeral, Sergeants Willie Blackwood, Allan Ordish and Jock Schofield.

**D M**  
**(Geordie's daughter, Dianne)**

### **COLOUR SERGEANT JAMES MORRISON RHF**



CSgt James Morrison died tragically in the early hours of the morning on 5th October 2007; he died suddenly while serving on his last six months in the UK.

CSgt Morrison was born on 31 March 1966. He enlisted into The 1st Battalion the Royal Highland Fusiliers on 4 July 1985. Colour Sergeant Morrison could have been considered to be ahead of his time in that he served throughout

the Royal Regiment of Scotland with The Black Watch and The Highlanders as well as his parent Battalion prior to the formation of the Regiment. He served in almost every theatre in which the British Army has a presence during his long and rich career; including Belize, Canada, Poland, Cyprus, Germany. In addition he saw operational service in Northern Ireland, The Gulf, Bosnia, Kosovo and most recently in Iraq.

Having served his early years in UK, in 1991 Colour Sergeant Morrison deployed to the Gulf to take part in Operation Granby. Shortly afterwards, in 1994 he was posted to Fallingbostal with the Royal Highland Fusiliers. On 9 March 1996 he married Eva who supported him loyally throughout his remaining career. When the Regiment conducted an arms plot move in 2000, his Armoured Infantry expertise was in such demand that he stayed on with the 1st Battalion The Black Watch. Following a short posting to Cyprus, he returned to Fallingbostal in 2005 to join B Company, The Highlanders (later 4 SCOTS) as Technical Company Quarter Master Sergeant. He was responsible for the management of the Company's fleet of Warriors, including an operational tour to Maysaan Province in Iraq with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Battlegroup, for Operation Telic 7. It was during this gruelling 6-month operational tour that he earned an outstanding reputation for vehicle availability despite the tremendous heat and harsh operating conditions.

In April 2007 Colour Sergeant Morrison moved back to Inverness with his wife Eva and three children Sarah, Jason and Cameron, where they planned to start a new life on his retirement.

Colour Sergeant Morrison was a great personality, who was always ready with friendly banter and a wry smile. He was a tremendously loyal regimental character wherever he served. Throughout his service he displayed selfless commitment and dedication which make him a great example for others. He will be sadly missed by his family, all those who knew him and had the good fortune to work with him.



## PRIVATE JOHN ROSS HLI



John wasn't just HLI, he was **10th HLI** – but never boasted about it (or about anything else). Initially he was in the 5th Battalion, which John had joined in May 1939. He knew that war was just round the corner. It was indeed. The Battalion was at Annual Camp, that year at Dechmont, when War was declared.

But they weren't *immediately* mobilised. "Go home for *tonight*," they were told, "– and report in at eight o'clock *tomorrow* morning." John was soon transferred to the newly-formed 10th Battalion (which was initially 2/5th). He started in its D Coy, but the Tenth's Signal Officer, Lt (later Major) J M Foulds, had noticed John back in the Fifth. Lt Foulds looked at John and said, "You're for the Signals." And so John was, initially wrestling not only with heliograph (despite a frequent lack of sun) but also with signal lamps and semaphore flags. He was later burdened with the heavy Battalion-net wireless set.

He also had, when the Tenth was at Watten in Caithness, telephonic duties. One night, when John was controlling the telephone exchange, he *happened* to overhear the CO, Lt Col R G Collingwood, in conversation with the trainer of his racehorses. A series of hot tips emanated – and were passed on to the betting men of C Coy (John's current attachment). Many of C Coy were able to afford a weekend leave almost immediately.

In the *wireless* field John nearly came adrift. He was one day netting in the Battalion's out-stations using the codeword "Bowfie". Unfortunately this was the nickname of the Tenth's RSM, WO1 (RSM) Hooper, and RSM Hooper was in earshot. On being angrily questioned by "Bowfie" as to who had given John the codeword, John quite truthfully told the RSM, "It was the Signals Corporal, Sir." (There is no record of what happened to the latter.)

Another recollection of John's was from the Tenth's Shetland posting (which was under command of the Royal Navy and therefore daily-rum-entitled). The Officers' ladies could pay short visits – provided they also volunteered as NAAFI orderlies. They invariably did so – and also provided dancing partners during the Tenth's dances. "They were all good sports," said John.

In 1944 the Tenth went to war. John was badly wounded in Normandy. He didn't get back to the Battalion after this; he ended the War not only at home but as a *Green Howard*. But he ended his service with the 5th. His medals are not just the usual four, 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal and War Medal, but also the TA Efficiency Medal.

When John came home he married Mary and they had a son, also John. John himself returned to his work with Alexandra Transport, which job had been kept open for him, and he may then have found things slightly easier. Before the War the firm's principal transport had been steam lorries and so John's day had often begun rather early, raising enough steam pressure to let the

vehicle embark on its duties. 1946, the year he married Mary, was slightly easier. Petrol and diesel engines were now universally in vogue. But John still employed one of his pre-War forms of transport. He had been a fervent cyclist and still was for many years.

He was also a staunch attendee at the weekly (and other) Tenth HLI meetings, staunch until fairly recently. John had become virtually house-bound and was almost blind.

We, the so-called "Tenth HLI Continuation Club", miss him sorely – as do Mary and his son John.

## FUSILIER HENRY HAMPSON RHF

Henry, who served from 1969 to 1976 with the Regiment, died in Erskine Main Home in June 2007.

## 25231476 FUSILIER SCOTT WILSON RHF

7th April 1987 – 7th January 2008



Scott John Wilson was born 7 April 1987 to parents Jean Linton and John Wilson in Glasgow. Scott quickly became a confident and funny individual who was, at times, undoubtedly a handful for his parents. After his time at school Scott spent a brief period as a civilian with a variety of jobs but spending much of his time as a chef in Glasgow prior to joining the Army. With his father John and both of his

uncles being former Fusiliers it was perhaps not surprising that Scott decided to follow in their footsteps and opt for the Royal Highland Fusiliers. Scott worked hard and enjoyed his time at ITC Catterick before joining the Battalion in May 07. Scott joined Charlie Company and 8 Platoon in May 2007. A tribute to how much he enjoyed himself at Catterick was his first meeting with the Commanding Officer to explain his impersonation of a Non-Commissioned Officer during his training. Since then he completed a field exercise and live-fire package in Otterburn, where he showed a typical Jock trait of being excellent in the field and not quite so suited for time in camp. Subsequently, he completed two more live-firing packages in Fort George and Barry Buddon. Recently he completed his Pre-Deployment Training in preparation for the forthcoming tour of Afghanistan. He thoroughly enjoyed this training. It was the precursor to what he really wanted to do: to go on an Operational Tour with his friends.

Sadly this was not to be. In the small hours of 5 January 2008 he was involved in a road traffic accident. Tragically Scott died on 7 January 2008 as a result of the injuries he sustained. This is now a day that will be forever remembered by his family John and Morag Wilson, Jean and Iain Linton, brothers Mark and Craig and sisters Leanne and Kerry.

The Company has lost a genuine character in the Celtic and motoring fanatic who created a massive impact in the short time we had with him.



# Regimental Miscellany

## REGIMENTAL DINNER AND LUNCHEON

Both took place this year in London in The Caledonian Club, the Dinner on the 27th of September, the Luncheon on the 28th. It was unfortunate that no Officer of the Battalion was present at either – but that’s soldiering for you. (We only hope that digging in on Luneburg Heath (or wherever one digs in nowadays in what used to be BAOR) wasn’t too rain-soddenly undesirable.) But there were three *members* of the Battalion there at the Dinner – and how they made their presence felt! Pipe Major Roderick Weir was one, LCpl S Gillies another, and LCpl A Gordon the third of that notable trio.

It was a ‘trio’ – and yet the pipes were so beautifully tuned it was only the reduced volume that let us know when they weren’t playing in concert. They played in particular *The 71st Quickstep* with such beauty that even the subsequent *74th Slow March* paled into insignificance! But we mustn’t forget the Pibroch. This, played of course by the Pipe Major, was *The Groat*, a piece quite unknown to our unmusical ear. How perfect it was to hear! (We took counsel with LCpls Gillies and Gordon and were happy to hear that even that redoubtable pair of experts in the Good/Great Highland Music agreed with our untutored ear. Pipe Major Roderick Weir can cheerfully take his place among the Greats!)

But that was not all the greatness. We had with us OUR OWN COLONEL! Major General Euan Loudon may no longer be Colonel Commandant of The Royal Regiment of Scotland (in shorthand: SCOTS – without the superfluous ‘Royal’) and is now solely ‘The Representative Colonel of The Royal Highland Fusiliers’.

As such he spoke of the Battalion’s future. Would it be Iraq or elsewhere in the Spring? If Iraq is off, somewhere else is on. (*It is. The Battalion is off to Afghanistan in March 2008.*) And recruiting! We’re not only somewhat ahead of our immediate competitors but we also win on retention. Our soldiers like being Royal Highland Fusiliers. Not only do many of them stay the course but more of them stick it than some others do.

He also spoke of the past, of the notable Service conducted by the Reverend Dr Laurence Whitley in Glasgow Cathedral this year to remember the Somme. (There is a report of this on page 23.) More presently, he spoke of our Benevolent Society conducted by Ken Kenyon and, of course, of HHQ conducted by Colonel Steele. Even *The Journal* was mentioned!

Then came the future – other than whatever else “is on” for the Battalion. Next year (2008) there is to be an RHF Dinner in Glasgow’s City Chambers – and the next (2009) will see a presentation of a new Assaye Colour.

Oh dear, that’s all we can decipher from our scribbled notes. There must have been lots more.

Next day was the Luncheon. No speeches – but lots of ladies. It was unfortunate that General Stuart Green couldn’t make it (we hear that he is very ill) – and nor, of course, could Mrs Green. In fact, there wasn’t a great deal of us there. But Dick Bromley Gardner was. We were, as ever, more than amused.

Nor did we mind the red wine (an unobserved claret) being served first. Why should we (or why should most of us be)? Most of our palates are untutored. (Sandy Ingram used to say, at the Maryhill Depot in 1958, “Red wine rots gentlemen’s guts!” – despite there then being in the Mess Cellar bottle upon bottle of Pre-War Clarets, each of a notable Vintage. How *particularly untutored* we were then!)

But, despite our (no doubt ignorant) semi-criticism of the wine-sequence, we must applaud The Caledonian Club. The food was as good as we have ever eaten and the service was remarkably immediate. The Club did us well.

But someone remarked (despite his lack of Latin), “*Quis custodiet custodes ipsos?*” Oh dear, not only might our Latin be a bit inaccurate but its relevance has escaped us. (Can we look forward to a vigorous correspondence – to be published in the 2009 Edition?)

Incidentally, Pipe Major Weir played even more recently in our earshot. The occasion was Donald Mack’s funeral where, despite the pouring rain, the Pipe Major played a fine succession of Company Marches at the entrance to Hyndland Parish Church (Donald having commanded all of the Companies other than FSp Coy), and then later, at the Clydebank Crematorium, he played *The Regimental Lament*.

At the latter, ‘The Good Highland Music’ was even briefly surpassed(?). Fusilier Christopher Crawford (Mackenzie-trewed and *sharply*-spatted) blew *Last Post* and then *Reveille*. We have never heard a finer *Last Post*. Convinced that its excellence must have come from an *orchestral* key-trumpet, we inquired. Beneath his (luckily) all-enveloping Gortex cape, Fusilier Crawford had no more than an *issue bugle* slung!

## LT COL DAVID STEPHEN ROBERTSON OBE ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS (1874-1919)

Lieutenant-Colonel David Stephen Robertson OBE (1874–1919) was a brilliant linguist – he spoke French, Chinese, Russian, Japanese and Serbo-Croat fluently – and for much of his career worked in semi-diplomatic/intelligence posts in areas of conflict in the Far East and Russia. His medals (shown below) reflect his fascinating life and, with their intriguing names and exotic designs, provide a wonderful glimpse of the cultures in which he worked.

David was the son of David Robertson J.P. of the Glasgow publishing firm, Robertson & Co. David senior was active in the then newly-formed Clan Donnachaidh Society and in 1894 organised a dinner attended by Alasdair Stewart Robertson of Struan, the 20th Chief.

Young David joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1897. He served with his Regiment in India and then in the Boer War in South Africa. He was promoted to the rank of Captain at this time and received his first medal, the **Queen’s South Africa Medal 1899-1902**. This Medal, with bars to indicate the campaigns in which the individual fought, was awarded to British and Colonial Forces who took part in the Boer War and to civilians employed in official capacities.



After a year at Aldershot, David was attached, during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5, to the Japanese Second Army in Manchuria. This brought him the **1904-05 War Medal**, a medal instituted by the Japanese Government in 1906 and awarded for service in the 1904-05 Russo-Japanese War.

David was sent to Peking in 1905 to study Chinese and, after a spell in the United Kingdom (during which he participated in the Coronation of George V as a Traffic Officer, for which he received a commemorative medal), was appointed Military Attaché Peking in 1912. He was attached to the Chinese Army in 1913-14 during the Yangtse Rebellion and the 'White Wolf' Campaign in Central China. In 1914 he was awarded the **Order of the Golden Grain** (referred to in Home Office and family papers as the Excellent Crop and Second Crop respectively) and the **3rd Class Chai Ho** decoration (assumed to be the **Order of the Striped Tiger**)<sup>1</sup> 'in recognition of services whilst attached to the (Chinese) Government during hostilities at Hurow and Honan'. The **Order of the Golden Grain** was established in 1912 (replaced by the order of the Brilliant Jade in 1929) to reward outstanding civil or military meritorious achievement. The **Order of the Striped Tiger** was also founded in 1912 (abolished in 1928) to reward both Chinese and foreign military officers for 'merit during times of peace and war'. The permission of the Sovereign to wear the insignia of foreign orders had to be obtained and, in a letter to his mother, David expresses his delight that permission to wear the Insignia of the Chai Ho Order arrived just in time for it to be worn at a function taking place on his birthday. David was also awarded three Chinese **War Lord Medals** – almost every Chinese warlord (the 'White Wolf' was a warlord) awarded his own Medals.

David's next posting was an attachment to the Japanese Army during the Siege of Tsingtao (1914-15), for which he was awarded **The Order of the Sacred Treasure 4th Class**. This Order was created in 1888 to reward distinguished military or civil merit.

After a brief period at the War Office in London, David accompanied General Murray on a mission to Russia and spent six months at the Russian front (1915-16); as a result he received **The Order of St Vladimir (4th Class) with Swords and Bow**. This Order, named in honour of St Vladimir who introduced Christianity to Russia, was founded in 1782 by Catherine the Great to reward those who had served the State loyally and faithfully, had 'saved ten lives from fire or water', had given assistance in times of famine or had done something notable in their professions.

David went back to Peking as temporary Military Attaché in 1916. In 1917 he was despatched to Vladivostok to prepare for the intervention of British forces during the Russian Civil War, was briefly British Military Representative in Siberia and acted as British High Commissioner (under order of the Foreign Office), was promoted Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel and appointed British High Commissioner in Omsk. He was later recalled to Peking as Military Attaché and died in 1919.

The British Government recognised David's services by awarding him:

**The British War Medal 1914-1920**, a medal issued to commemorate the battles of World War I, for post-war services in Russia (1919-20) and for mine clearances in the North Sea.

**The Victory Medal 1914-1919**, a medal produced to commemorate Victory in the First World War and often called



Top Row: Japan, Order of the Sacred Treasure (Neck Badge), China, Order of the Golden Grain, China, Order of the Striped Tiger  
 Middle Row: Great Britain, Queen's South Africa Medal, Great Britain, British War Medal 1914 – 1918, Great Britain Victory Medal 1914 – 1919, Russia, Order of St Vladimir  
 Bottom Row: Japan, Order of the Sacred Treasure (Breast Badge), Japan, 1904-5 War Medal, China, War Lords Medals, China, War Lords Medals, China, War Lords Medals

*Researching the Chinese orders has presented problems.*



the 'Allied Victory Medal' as the Allies had agreed that a common theme should be adopted. The main qualification for receiving the British Medal was service in any theatre of war but civilians serving in recognised voluntary organisations were also eligible.

**The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire** (not included in the gift to the Clan Donnachaidh Museum), an award established in 1917 for distinguished services other than military but which can be awarded to the military for non-combatant services.

David Robertson's medals were mounted and framed by Spink & Son Ltd (art, coin and medal dealers).

*Note: The Clan Donnachaidh Society is still active and may be contacted at Clan Donnachaidh Centre, Bruar, Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH18 5TW; tel/fax 01796 483338; e-mail secretary@clandonna.wanadoo.co.uk; www.donnachaidh.com*

(The above article, by Miss Jean Robertson of Struan, is reproduced by her kind permission and that of the Editor of the Clan Donnachaidh Annual, in which the article originally appeared, in the 2007 Issue)

#### **A PRESENTATION TO WO2 EDDIE DUFFY**

Better late than never! WO2 Eddie Duffy served in Northern Ireland from January to June 1970 but did *not* receive his General Service Medal (Northern Ireland Bar). At long last (37 years later) Home HQ RHF applied on his behalf for the medal. On the 7th of June 2007 Eddie's GSM was formally presented to him by Mrs Ena Ravenscroft, his CSM's wife. He is flanked by two Gurkha Officers, in the photograph of the presentation on the inside of the front cover.

#### **THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME**

On the 1st of July 2007 a Memorial Service was held in Glasgow Cathedral "to mark the commencement of The Battle of the Somme: 1st. July 1916".

This was conducted by the Minister, The Reverend Doctor Laurence Whitley, who not only took pains to mention every RSF and HLI battalion that fought at The Somme but was as inspiring as he was interesting. His detailed knowledge of that day and of the subsequent and hard-fought months was amazing. One may be grateful that one missed The Somme but those of us who didn't miss Dr Whitley's Sermon are equally grateful.

The Battalion wasn't there on parade but the three Colours were, with their Escort. How superb the Escort and Colours looked as they swung into the Cathedral!

However, many Battalion members had managed to come through to attend the Service – and most of the RRT were there too (or is it now the BHT?). Also present, of course, was the Regimental/Home Headquarters Secretary (HHQ is the 'new speak') and even the Editor (the latter hoping that *someone else* would record the details of this historic day).\*

And then most of us descended on HHQ. No rum ration was issued – as there was in the early hours of 1 Jul 16 – but a lot *in lieu* was issued down our throats, in between bites at a very good *buffet* luncheon. (\* *The Service is also described in the Battalion Notes.*)

#### **THE MAJOR J A R TAYLOR'S ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIER LUNCHEONS – A TALE OF CONTINUITY**

*Lt Col Ian Shepherd*

Many members of the Regiment will be familiar with the Wednesday Luncheons at Regimental Headquarters. Originally weekly events but now fortnightly, these were inherited from the 5th/6th Bn Highland Light Infantry. In their way, they are a Highland Fusilier link with a regimental past. Now, in 2007 we have seen a specifically Highland Fusilier gathering reaching forward to a new regiment's future.

Major John Taylor needs no introduction to many of those who gather on a Wednesday in Glasgow or a Tuesday in Edinburgh. For those who do not know him his obituary in Volume 28 Number 2 of the Journal (Winter 2004) will be a good introduction. John also served as a Retired Officer at the Headquarters of 52 Lowland Brigade in the late 1980s and after retiring from his post there remained as the Treasurer of the Edinburgh Castle Officers' Mess. It was here that he started a periodic Edinburgh luncheon for members of the Regiment. When he finally left the Castle these were continued by a former Highland Fusilier then working in the Castle. Keen readers of the *Journal* will have seen reports on these events from time to time.

Since the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland notices of the JART Luncheons have been sent to the Officers' Mess of the 2nd Battalion and the response, when the exigencies of the service have permitted, has been enthusiastic. In March Majors Fenton, Fitzpatrick, Kerr and Steel with Captain Montgomery attended while in July Major Douglas, Captain Savage and Messrs Bridle and Reed were present.

The latest gathering to meet, on Tuesday 30 October 2007, to enjoy reminiscences and banter and toast the memory of our much-missed patron, comprised Captain D N Anderson, Major H Cameron, Lieutenant Colonel R N R Cross, Mr J A S Edington (with his Gurkha guest, Lieutenant Colonel I Tedford), Captain J M Hutton, Major A L Mack, Lieutenant Colonel R Milne, Reverend J B Lawson, Major A S Robertson, Major R Laing Robertson, Lieutenant Colonel I Shepherd, Colonel W K Shepherd and Lieutenant Colonel G A Thom. Training commitments prevented any members of 2 SCOTS from joining the gathering.

It would be wrong not to mention the Castle Mess staff who continue to look after these gatherings – and, in so doing, one must single out for especial mention Miss Karen Osprey who has been helping at these luncheons from the time when John Taylor organised them. At the most recent of them Miss Osprey was assisted by Victor Blanco and Andrew McCulloch – a new member of the Mess staff – and the chilli con carne was prepared with flavour and warmth by Shaun Brown. Shaun is not only one of the Castle cooks but has his own herb garden from which he adds flavour to the meals he prepares.

Now that 2008 has dawned we hope we'll continue to see representatives from the Battalion attending these gatherings from the Past.



# Associations and Clubs

## THE ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS REGIMENTAL BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

### 1. The objects of the Association are:

- a. To grant financial assistance and/or gifts in kind and/or pensions to such persons as are eligible and are (in the opinion of the Grants-in-Aid sub committees appointed for the purpose) in distressed or necessitous circumstance.
- b. To assist if possible such persons as are eligible under the Constitution to obtain admittance into Homes, Hospitals, Schools or other charitable or Benevolent Institutions.
- c. To make donations, contributions and subscriptions to Funds, Institutions, Associations or bodies established for purposes which are in law charitable.

### 2. Membership:

All ranks who have served in the Royal Highland Fusiliers, the Royal Scots Fusiliers and the Highland Light Infantry (including the Glasgow Highlanders in time of war or immediately post-war), and also those members of the Territorial Army who wore the cap badge of the RHF, or who joined Companies whose origins lie in the RHF, RSF or HLI, and who served with the Regular Forces on full time regular service (FTRS) or a similar engagement shall be members and as such eligible to apply for Grants-in-Aid. The dependants of the persons described in the preceding sentence, shall also be eligible to apply for Grants-in-Aid from the Benevolent Fund.

3. In the year 2007, the Benevolent Association awarded, to individuals, Grants-in-Aid totalling £42,822.
4. Charitable donations totalling £10,860 were disbursed to service-related charities, including the Regimental Museum, that help ex-members of the Regiment and their dependants.
5. At Christmas, monetary gifts totalling £805 were distributed to ex-soldiers in hospitals and after-care establishments.
6. The Army Benevolent Fund, Poppy Scotland (Earl Haig Fund) and the Royal British Legion are to be applauded for their continued support. In the period 1 January to 31 December 2007, the ABF awarded top-up grants to a value of £9,500 and Annuities totalling £6,660 to ten pensioners.
7. None of our work would be possible without the dedication and voluntary contribution of SSAFA – Forces Help, who investigate and validate the majority of cases presented by our members. It is therefore right and proper that the Trustees formally record their appreciation to the Organisation for the selfless contribution they make to our work.
8. Readers may be pleased to learn that during the period 1992 to 2007 the Benevolent Fund has dealt with 1542 cases for assistance and disbursed to individuals and charitable organisations the grand sum of ‘One Million, Six Hundred Pounds’– (£1,000,600).

### 9. How to apply for Assistance:

All requests for Grants-in-Aid should first be addressed to

the SSAFA – Forces Help Branch/Division nearest to the applicant’s home. If in difficulty the nearest Royal British Legion Office or DSS office will assist. A representative of SSAFA – Forces Help will make contact and will meet the applicant to determine the facts of the application. A written report along with the application form will then be sent to The Regimental Benevolent Association for consideration.

A sub-committee of the Benevolent Association will consider the application and decide whether assistance should be given and in what amount. The SSAFA – Forces Help Branch, which investigated the application, will be notified of the decision of the sub-committee.

Any grant awarded will be sent to the SSAFA – Forces Help investigating branch who will personally pay the agency providing the service of need. Under no circumstances will cash or payment be paid directly to the applicant.

**A D K**

## ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS VETERANS ASSOCIATION HIGHLAND

On Wednesday 01 November 2006 it was decided it was time to set the wheels in motion to start an Association for ex-members of The RHF, RSF and HLI living in the Inverness and Highland area. The meeting took place at the Community Centre, Wimberley Way, just behind Cameron Barracks, with kind permission of 1 RIR.

To my delight, I was pleasantly surprised that 17 members turned out, and like myself, quite apprehensive, about where and what it was all going to lead to. On that first evening we did not agree to very much, except to meet again and change the date for our next meeting to the first Tuesday of each month, which we have adhered to ever since. We also talked a great deal amongst ourselves about past and present, which as far as I was concerned is exactly what we should be doing at this stage.

The following month was to me the first test, to see how many would reappear, or was this just a flash in the pan? It exceeded all our expectations; 22 members turned up. The first 17 did their job, and passed the word around that this was something worthwhile and deserving support. At this stage we decided that our second test was not to meet again until February and if we still had the same support we would become the Royal Highland Fusiliers Veterans Association Highland. Once again our expectations were exceeded and, now at 1 November 2007, we have a membership of 39 and hope to increase this each month.

We now have a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Constitution and a Standard presented by Major General W E B Loudon CBE. Our aim is to maintain the good name of the Regiment in every possible way and to make known the advantages of service in the Regiment. To foster the feeling of comradeship among all ranks, past and present, by maintaining contact with comrades both in and out of the Service. To assist each other to the best of our



*"Hurry up, John. We're on a double yellow line!"*



*Disco George and his backing group.*



*"Psst. Anyone know where Taff got all those medals?"*



*Blessing of the Standard March-out.*

ability in civilian life as we did in the Service. To promote and assist in organising re-unions, socials and entertainment.

Since our formation we have paraded the Standard on three parades of Remembrance with the British Legion, and at the end of the Inverness Tattoo it was carried on alternate evenings by Nicky Fitzpatrick and our Vice-Chairman Ian (Cammy) Cameron. We have also had three visits by Col Bobby Steele.

General Loudon came up to Inverness to present the Standard – which, sadly, wasn't ready at the time. We all however had a great night. The General was quite surprised at the amount of old faces he knew, including two of his old PI Sgts, Nicky Fitzpatrick and Lenny Monaghan. Sammy Torrance was as usual close by, keeping his eye on him and even brought his son, an Army Cadet, to assist. 1 RIR once again came to our assistance by providing the facilities and the catering. There



*Highland Veterans on parade.*



*"The Three Amigos".*



*"Get me to the church on time!"*



*"Right or Wrong, STAND STILL!"*



*"Still in step!"*

was the usual group photo taken and the wine was supplied FREE by Jim MacTaggart and Hughie Young. It would have lasted the evening, if I could have got George Adam, a visiting Australian who once played in the Regt Band for a short time, away from it. The General did not get off lightly and was bombarded with questions, and a few even tried to get a few Tattoo tickets free gratis (We think he went deaf at that point, must have been too much shooting without proper ear protection. If he gets in touch I can maybe assist with compensation.). We finally bade farewell to the General after a long struggle untangling him from the clutches of John Begg who must have thought he had found a long-lost brother. Everyone knows he's related to Sammy Torrance. (See the *RHF Veterans Association Highland photographs on the inside of the front cover.*)

On Sunday 28 October 2007 we had our Standard officially blessed at Ness Bank Church, Inverness by the Rev. John Chambers and our old Padre, John Shields, who travelled all the way from Lauder for the Service. Also attending were General Loudon and Colonel Steele along with their wives. The parade was followed by a lunch at the TA Centre by all attending and their families. This was the highlight of our first year and was a great success, due only to the hard work of a committee headed by Big Harry Adams and the assistance given by the TA at Gordonville Road. (See the photograph on the outside of the rear cover.)

Sadly, just before the Blessing took place Mo Morrison passed away. We have 2nd Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland to thank for organising the funeral and providing a Bearer Party, who carried out their duties so proudly. Mo would have been very proud.



*"Eyes Left!..."*



*Padre John Shields touting for business, maybe?*



We have become in my opinion quite formal. All the members are purchasing Trews, Blazer and a Badge which we are in the process of having made. Everyone also wears a Regimental tie, Glengarry and Badge.

Our members have served in the RSF, HLI, RHF and REME attached, all wear their Regimental insignia with great pride and we have a great spirit of camaraderie, of belonging to something very special.

I believe I speak for us all when I say a special thanks goes to Sammy Torrance for the effort he has put in and being the main go-between, between General Loudon and ourselves and being, unofficially, our CQMS. We should also thank 1 RIR for their assistance in getting us started by lending us their facilities. We have now moved our meetings to the TA Centre in Gordonville Rd where we are being given a great deal of assistance from the TA. We also say a special thanks to Majors Kerr and Macaulay along with Jim McGerty for all their help. These guys don't forget what loyalty is or how deep it goes.

For the future, there are many more old comrades still to be found out there and brought back to the fold. We plan a website, and would like to be more involved with our brothers down South. All of these we will do in our 2nd year.

Yours Aye,  
John Hamilton  
Chairman

## **THE ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2007**

Wednesday the 16th

The tour party, which was, as ever, organised and led by Major W Shaw MBE, left Glasgow earlyish in the morning by coach (which was driven by David Swinton). First stop was at Fusilier House in Ayr for tea or coffee (or both) and also to pick up the Ayrshire Mafia – and be seen off by Norman Rae. Norman was unable to come with us this year but there he was this morning wishing us the best of luck.

Next was lunch at Shapwells Hotel, then a brief halt at Birch Services to pick more of us up and then another at Ferrybridge for more, including Bob Douglas, our from-now-on arch-organiser (*Organisationskönig*). Here we were also delighted to see Bernard Marshall – alas, he was neither coming with us nor transferring to us *any* of his millions to swell our Euro funds. Finally we reached Hull Docks, were joined by Peter Bowcock (which brought our strength up to 49) and boarded the *Pride of Rotterdam*. (A quarter of our 49 were ladies!)

Thursday the 17th

After a smooth crossing and an early landing at Europoort (being, of course, *fervently* pro-EEC we're spelling it in Dutch), we were soon in Amsterdam for a break of two or so hours. Alas, it was a Saint's Day, which meant that the principal shops were all shut. Luckily the bars weren't.

We were in Cassels House not long after four, room and key allocating was very rapid and we were ready for an early supper at

five. The bar opened early too (!! ) but this wasn't too vital at the time. There was wine *already* laid out on the dining-room tables (and even the odd extra (small) bottle). Next, of course, was the bar, where we were treated again! – this time as a result of Eddie Traynor's generosity. Although unable to make this year's tour he had given Major Shaw a large fistful of Euros to encourage us to drink even deeper than the norm. We did.

We also enjoyed piping from both Les Womack and Ken McKinney – and singing followed. (Ken is the local Branch Secretary of SSAFA Germany. His office is beside Cassels House.)

Friday the 18th

Most of us were off to Düsseldorf to walk and shop and drink – as well as enjoy an hour's cruise on the Rhine with free beer. (We had free beer earlier too, with our haversack rations before the cruise!) This was a very pleasant trip and in very fine weather. (What a pity it was that one could not hear enough of the very interesting descriptive commentaries; talking behind us drowned much of these.)

The piping tonight included the *71st Quick March* on pipes and guitar, the piping by Les, the guitar played by Ken. Ken also took part in a singing duet with young Miss Brooke Smith, Ken accompanying Brooke not only vocally but also with his guitar.

Saturday the 19th

This, our Liessel day, was unlike many in the past; the weather was perfect. (In fact, almost every day's weather was as good.) At the Memorial Ground, where we met Lies and Heine, we listened to short addresses in Dutch and English (the latter by a very pretty girl) and then came presentations to Major Shaw of scripts which had been compiled by the children who handed them to him. (The *Führer* thanked them in very fluent *Englische* – with a rich Ayrshire accent.) We came to attention then, the Minute's Silence was observed, Les played *The Flowers* and Ronnie Johnstone delivered the Homily. During *The Flowers* the standards borne by Arthur Mooney and Bob Douglas were lowered. (Afterwards we admired Arthur's Colour belt; it gleamed as perfectly as might do the Sam Browne of a Coldstream RSM.)

Lunch in Asten followed, where we met Lies and Heine again and also had a drink or two. (The whisky "measures" were *unmeasured* – and enormous!)

The trip back was smooth and after an early supper there was a lot of sitting (plus) outside. Next was in the bar and soon there was singing there.

Sunday the 20th

Sunday began, being a Sunday, with a latish breakfast – after which we had the morning off. After lunch we were off too, to Rath Anhoven to attend some of the Heinsberg *Kreis Schützenfest*. After getting a bit lost in and around Rath Anhoven we luckily encountered the *Schützenfest General* and found out where the *Schützenfest* was taking place. We got there, debussed and "marched", with Les and Ken piping, to join the *Fest*. This was a joyous get-together of the representatives of the *Brüderschaften* from eight of the twenty-five villages in Heinsberg *Kreis* (Heinsberg County). (Each village has its own *Brüderschaft*, a group originally raised to defend its church (a group with some resemblance to a kind of Home Guard) and later developed into a strictly-regulated village society, a society which may also



contain a shooting club and other clubs. Some of the twenty-five *Brüderschaften* of the *Kreis* date back to Mediaeval times.)

We sat there in a large marquee, were served with beer or wine (only *initially* at Major Shaw's expense) and, after the appearance on horseback of the *Schützenfest General*, watched a series of processions march in, one for each of the eight *Brüderschaften* taking part. All were headed by more than one band, brass or trumpet or flute (the same bands often reappearing), all had standards and other banners, many of the participants carried swords (and some carried wooden rifles), various uniforms were worn (as well as various silver adornments) and so were ball-dresses and evening dress. The arrival of each procession was followed by an award ceremony, which was the attachment of a *Wimpel* to its standard. (A *Wimpel* is a banner-like strip emblazoned with the year of the *Schützenfest*.) The principal of each *Brüderschaft*, the *Schützenkönig*, was also presented to the *Schützenfest König*, the current principal of the *Kreis*.

There was also a remarkably clear commentary (by the *Schützenfest Adjutant*) but as this was, of course, in German, it left us none the wiser. Alas, we had to leave before more happened, a grand horse-led procession round Rath Anhoven (rather like beating the bounds or riding the marches) and then a dance, the dance being for everyone in the *Kreis* who cared to attend.

Once home we had an early dinner – and quite a few of us got down to the usual.

Monday the 21st

Today's target being Nijmegen we were able to stop en route at the Jonkerbos Military Cemetery. In it are more than 1,500 graves some of which are Royal Scots Fusilier or HLI or Glasgow Highlander. There we formed up, observed the Minute's Silence, heard *The Flowers* and the Homily and examined as many gravestones as we had time. Then we were in the town (or city) itself to eat our packed lunches, drink and shop (and admire some of its old buildings) before getting back in time for supper – and, of course, the bar.

There was remarkably tuneful piping tonight. David Moir was there in addition to Les and Ken – and it was David who had tuned all three sets of pipes to more than perfection. (David is a UKBC, an MOD Civil Servant, and also a TA Royal Engineer Piper.) The singing also was even better than usual. Not only did Major Shaw give us "Ally Bally Boo" ("Coulter's Candy") but also there was beautiful singing by Ken's lovely partner, Fraulein Helga Scheuss (before she was away – to get up rather early the next day to start butchering in Mönchengladbach at 0630hrs). (This Helga does five-and-a-half days a week, every week.)

(Ken also told us that not long after we were back home Helga would be the *Schützenfestkönigin* at the Wegberg *Schützenfest*. At Wegberg, which is her own village, Helga will be the principal, the ruler, of its 2007 *Schützenfest*. (*Königin* is "Queen".) To commemorate this she will add her own piece of silver to the regalia which she was wearing yesterday at Rath Anhoven.) (See the photograph inside the rear cover.) (If the new piece makes the Wegberg regalia too heavy, the earliest piece in it at present, a piece dated 1927, will be taken off.)

Tuesday the 22nd

The principal enterprise today was a trip to Rüdersheim, a

pleasant little town on the Rhine upriver of and on the other side from Boppard. After a free drink (and free lunch) in the quite excellent *Hotel Internationale* (where the staff use "*bon appetit*", not "*guten appetit*") (and *during* a *Krankenhaus* (hospital) visit by one of our less fit members, the latter shepherded there by Louis Wouters) some of us took the cable cars up to near the Niederstein Monument, a monument erected to commemorate the Unification of Germany in 1871. From the cars and particularly from the Monument itself the views were spectacular – and the weather was still perfect. We then crossed the Rhine by ferry so that we could return to Rheindahlen by some different roads. Only then did the first real rain of this tour start. It lashed down all the way home and more – but luckily for the sake of the smokers it ceased not long after supper. Nevertheless, the bar was well frequented.

Wednesday the 23rd

This started as an idle day, some back to Düsseldorf in the coach, a few into Mönchengladbach by local bus and a few staying in camp. In the evening some went out to dine in Mönchengladbach, but when they (and other celebrators) were back we got down to the usual. On this evening, however, not only did we have more piping from Les and Ken but also there was a lot of solo singing. All the performances were fairly brief but were very tuneful – and were added to again by Helga's beautiful voice. Bed followed (at intervals).

Thursday the 24th

We were away by 0900hrs – despite the odd person having *failed* to have his luggage loaded by whatever time the *Führer* had specified the day before – and drove to Waterloo. The original plan, we think, had been to examine the Battle fought on the 18th of June 1815 and to have a look at the battlefield, but...

1. One had to *pay* to enter the fenced-off area around the Lion Mound – and presumably *climb* the Mound. The combination of struggling up the Mound's 226 steps and forking out nearly £5 to do so was too much of a bother-*cum*-fatigue for most of us. (Did any other than Ronnie Johnstone attempt it?)

(Oh dear, the earth used to make the Lion Mound was stripped from the ridge-top to its east, stripped as far as the cross-roads above La Haye Sainte. The "sunken lane" which ran along the front of the now-vanished ridge and formed an obstacle that protected some of the Allied Line is no longer "sunken" – and the reverse slope of the ridge, *behind* which Wellington positioned his troops, is no longer a "reverse slope". It's flat.) (The earth-removal and the erection of the Lion Mound annoyed Wellington too.)

2. Walking to the cross-roads above La Haye Sainte, which is more or less the centre of where the Allied Line stood and from where one could have viewed most of the battlefield, was, said the *Führer*, a bit far for all but the fittest (and would have interfered with *drinking-time*).

It is dangerous to even question *Führerdiktats*. We saw little or nothing. (And Ronnie's work, duplicating Battle Plans of Waterloo for issue to all of us, was wasted.)

The Editor had been prevailed upon to *introduce* the Battle, but he (as ignorant as ever) had *presumed* that we'd proceed, after his exposition, to *look at* the bloody thing. His exposition was, therefore, not much more than a few(?) words about the weapons used that day, their effective ranges and the formations used as



a result (line and square), and almost nothing about the battle. He paused, the *Führer* called for applause and when this had died down we debussed – but just to eat our haversack rations *AND DRINK*. There was *no* “Battlefield Tour”.

After a few beers, we re-embussed and drove to Zeebrugge – with, *OF COURSE*, a lengthy(ish) pause at *The Chocolate Box* to buy whatever was cheaper there in the way of cigarettes, tobacco and drink than would be on the ship.

Next we boarded the *Pride of Bruges* and sailed for home, in between times getting rid of our very last Euros (or delving into our reserve Sterling).

Friday the 25th

We got into Hull at about 0700hrs, after a very smooth crossing, but soon we ran into problems.

1. The Port Officials (*Die Hafenkönige*?) declared that our coach was too heavy! We were over the limit by nearly a tonne! We must hire a van to lift at least the baggage and so make the coach lighter. The *Führer* telephoned to find the cost of hiring a van. More than 500 Euros! Oh dear, TOO DEAR!

2. But THEN came worse! David Swinton was on the tenth of the ten days that he had been driving. The Law (from Brussels, of course) lays down that this is too much. We could not move until we had found a new driver – and David could not even remain on the coach! He would have to travel home *separately*!

The *Hafenkönige* then relented a bit. They’d “overlook” the weight problem and let us go. They’d even let David remain *ON* the coach. *BUT...* we *MUST* have another driver.

We then found that we did have one! One of us had a coach licence! *BUT* he didn’t have his (EEC-requirement, of course) *digital* card with him. Back to Square One.

So we (quite quickly) got a new driver (from Hull) and set off for Scotland – only two hours later than we had hoped. (We even departed only half-a-ton overweight! *Bernard Marshall* was driving down with one of his *Rolls-Royces* to lift the *Ferrybridge party*!) We arrived in Glasgow not very long after five, unloaded various alcoholic goodies at HHQ (518 Sauchiehall Street) and drove on to Ayr (the *Führer* still in the Chair) to get rid of the Ayrshire Mafia.

That done (and this note almost done), we have to thank Mrs Cairns and her charming staff at Cassels House for putting up with us (*and putting us up*). We are also indebted not only to Fraulein Helga Scheuss for adding *musik* to our singing but also to Miss Brooke Smith. Then the piping! David Moir didn’t just add to our efforts; he helped to make some of it even more musical than it might have been. (As Pipe Major Rennie of 1 HLI might have said, it was “the good Highland music” that emerged.) Ken McKinney also had a hand in this (as well as all of his ten fingers) but we have even more to thank him for. We didn’t have to scribble this (illegibly) on a note pad; he lent us a *LAP-TOP*! (This not only made it much easier to compile this note but on the CD he *gave* us to save it on were photographs. We have used one of them to illustrate this Edition.)

The whole was as good as a “Battlefield Tour” as we have encountered – but might “European pub-crawl” be a more accurate description? (However, someone has suggested an even better one, a “Bottleful Tour”.)

(NB: *The Battlefield Tour for 2008 has had to be cancelled due to inadequate support*)

## ARMISTICE 2007

This year’s parade was notable – for various reasons. Not only were we again at least 40 in strength (the RRT having put on their Sunday suits to become temporary Veterans) but we had in front of us our own Standard! This magnificent piece (of Pakistani manufacture) was borne by WO2 Steff Stevenson, and it was *he* who delivered the vital “Eyes Right” (and the subsequent “Eyes Front”). This was despite a rumour that General Euan Loudon would join our ranks and therefore command (he did neither, was just somewhere about) – and also despite our having Colonel Bobby Steele with us (who also brought a bagful of RHF-badged Glengarries – which almost all of us then wore, other than Bolshie individuals like George Lamont and the Editor).

Colonel Steele, however, marched in front of us (*behind* the Standard) and so did Major Willie Shaw – who also delivered *commands!* (in the shape of the occasional (*AND STENTORIAN*) “Left, Right”). (These additions were very useful, although the Lowland Band (or whatever it’s now called) was remarkably tuneful and had an outstanding Bass Drummer.)

On the Parade itself the 6 SCOTS Guard of Honour was very impressive, both in turn-out and drill, and the bugling of *The Last Post* was quite beautiful

The best part was of course that it didn’t rain – and also that we were warmed (if also blinded) by a remarkably warm sun as we stood and stood *AND STOOD*. Even better though was that the endless standing was not punctuated by bursts of conversation. (Was Cpl Weaver not there?)

In fact we were (or should have been) well over 40. We’d better count Arthur Mooney (and Marilyn), although he was detached – as our Wreath-Bearer – and we’d have *liked* to count one or two who “missed the ’bus” (or something) but were there in time for the post-Parade goodies in the City Chambers (eg David Skelly).

We also wish that we’d *counted* the Paras. They *swore* to us that they were 61 that day.

## FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY, LONDON 2007

The Field of Remembrance Ceremony was held at St Margaret’s Churchyard, Westminster London on Thursday the 8th November 2007. The event, sponsored by The Royal British Legion in aid of the Poppy Appeal, provides special plots for Regiments’ ex-Service Associations, in which members of the Public may place their personal Remembrance crosses.

This year, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh performed the opening ceremony. Following the short service of dedication the Duke



*At the Garden of Remembrance.*



*Tom and Alf with the Chaplain General.*



of Edinburgh performed the traditional “walkabout” among the many ex-service people attending their respective plots.

Representing the Regimental Association and attending to the RSF, HLI and RHF plots this year was Alf Wyke and Tom Thaxter. Members should be aware that the former has made the pilgrimage to London for over fifty years to watch over the Regimental patch. Tom, on the other hand, is a relative newcomer having paid his first visit to the event in 2003. Both 84-year-old wartime veterans, currently residing in Essex, served together in the Royal Scots Fusiliers during the period 1942-46.

*(See the Westminster photographs on the inside of the front cover.)*

The Regimental Association is extremely grateful and pays a warm tribute to both these ex-soldiers, Alf in particular, for their selfless devotion to duty.

**ADK**

### THE HLI REUNION 2007

The annual reunion this year was on the 5th of May and again in HHQ. There wasn't a great turnout – only 30 odd – but we were very glad to see Major Willie Shaw there and there had been the usual generous contributions from many who couldn't make it.

Something else that didn't make it – or didn't make enough of it – was the compiler's lap-top. It took a fit and had to be quietly put away, despite there being no other apparent record. But we do remember there was a quiz in which everyone took part in teams (which is less taxing than are individual performances). We've forgotten who won – and in any case it was felt that there isn't enough space in this reduced (but v expensive) Journal to publish its questions.

### THE GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION

The Glasgow Highlander Reunion/Meeting on the 31st of March 2007 was the first after two years of nullity. It was kicked off by WO2 Raymond (Dinger) Bell. First approached by CSgt Stevie Whyte in the early hours of 1 Jan 07 WO2 Bell soon mustered a Committee which was headed by Major George Stewart. It decided on a Reunion in Home Headquarters, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (518 Sauchiehall Street, G2 3LW). This was a great success. Not only was the Ayrshire Mafia there in some strength (Dick Stevenson and cronies) but there were many wearing the Glas H tie – and some of its wearers had even had Glasgow Highlander service of the pre-1967 vintage!

Among the latter were Rab Bryson, Jack Nelson, David Skelly, Major George Stewart and Patrick Tracey – as well as the writer – and we made a goodly company. As such, we were grateful to WO2 Raymond Bell for engineering the whole entertainment and also to WO2 Alex McDivitt, to the HHQ Staff and of course to Colonel Bobby Steele for letting the meeting take place in HHQ. Both WO2 Bell and the Colonel addressed us – but, alas, the writer is as deaf as a post. We have little to report on what was said.

But we do remember when someone spoke concerning the next Armistice Parade in Glasgow. The attention of the company was achieved by a series of drumbeats on the table (by an *empty* whisky tumbler), silence was achieved and a warning given. “Do we salute,” asked the speaker, “to ‘The Royal Highland Fusiliers, by the right, Eyes Right!’ or shall we say this year ‘...The Glasgow Highlanders...!’” ?

The company had no doubts – but what will actually happen will be reported (along with this) in the 2008 *Journal*. Wait and see. (Besides, we are putting pressure on *Colonel Steele* to take command of our mixed *ensemble* at this year's Armistice. We think that *he* is likely to favour “Royal Highland Fusiliers”.)\*

\*See **ARMISTICE 2007** (page 29). *We conformed!*

We did miss Major Willie Shaw at the March meeting. Let us hope that he will use his 'bus pass in time for this year's Armistice Parade in George Square. Whether or not the command is preceded by “The Royal Highland Fusiliers” or “The Glasgow Highlanders”, we *do* need Major Shaw to keep us in step\*\*

\*\*He did! See **ARMISTICE 2007** (page 29).

Next was a BBQ Families' Afternoon. This, as reported by Major George Stewart, our President, took place on Sunday 17th June 2007 in Walcheren Barracks.

“Our sincere thanks go to Lt Col Coull and RSM Cochrane for their continued support of the Association in allowing us to use the WOs' and Sgts' Mess. About 44 members and their guests appeared – as well as some of their children (and there was considerable inter-wife gossip, some of the ladies not having seen each other for years).

“The sun was shining on the BBQ area in the yard behind the barracks, tables and chairs were laid out and WO2 (Dinger) Bell (who is now with the ACF) had managed to ‘borrow’ enough BBQ equipment. This was put to good use by our Chef, Jim McConnell (not only an Association member but also ACF). He did a magnificent job. The food was done to perfection – although he himself must have been half-baked, with the BBQ fires on one side and the sun towering on the other!

“Next was, of course, up in the Mess. Not only was the Bar open – and the attendant Mess Staff very helpfully busy – but there was our usual ‘*MUST-HAVE*’ Raffle. The latter, run by Sonny Martin, Robert Griffin and Hugh Cameron, made a handsome profit, a profit assisted by Hugh's donation of a bottle of Bubbly.

“In all, it was a most successful and enjoyable afternoon. It was the first that both my wife Noreen and I had attended. We'll *BOTH* be back next year too!

“We have also to thank not only Sonny and Robert [Griffin] and Hugh but also our ‘Events Manager’ Robert Woodburn, and also Angela Gardner and C/Sgt Stevie Whyte 6 Scots – and of course Dinger.”



The next function was a combination of the Association's first AGM and its *second* 2007 "Reunion". Again Major George Stewart reports.

"This was held on Saturday 27th October 2007 in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess in Walcheren Barracks. The AGM part didn't take long. The 'old soldier' instinct soon kicked in; 'Keep your mouth shut and let's get on!'

"So we did. As our last Reunion was in 2004, it was great to be back and seeing the same old faces. Some had a few more lines on them but they were there. There was David Skelly (MT), George Lamont (P&Ds), Pat Tracey (Signals) and Alastair Mack (B Coy) and some of our 52nd Intake – Gibby McDowall (CSM), Tom McElinney (QM) and John Hurles (MT/D Coy). If we had a combination of memory and space, the list would go on and on.

"Bobby Woodburn, our Treasurer, then *RETURNED* to most of us £3.00! The Reunion's costs were less than had been calculated. But Bobby very sensible restored the money just before the usual '*MUST-HAVE*' Raffle. The Raffle proceeded to make a healthy profit.

"More importantly, we must mention the attendance of a Glasgow Highlander who served even long before David Skelly. Jim Wilson, who joined us in 1939 and fought with 1 Glas H throughout the War, had travelled up from England to join us again.

"Jim and his friends enlisted in 1 Glas H on 1 Sep 39 on advice from his father. The latter knew that War was about to be declared, that call-up papers would soon be issued, and that Jim and his friends might thereby find themselves in a host of separate units. If they *PRE*-enlisted together, they would stay together. So Jim and his friends not only immediately enlisted but decided (very sensibly) to follow more of Jim's father's advice. They joined the elite Glasgow Highlanders.

"However, although Jim went to war with 1 Glas H as part of BEF2 to Cherbourg in 1940 (and got back again), his known expertise (he had worked in Barr and Stroud's) had him soon extracted – but not out of battle. Soon he was a Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer – fighting first the Italians and then the Afrika Corps in North Africa.

"Jim's being there is a perfect example of why we must do our best to ensure the future of the Association. It is fortunate that we are being supported by both Lt Col Coull and WO 1 (RSM) Cochrane."

## THE TENTH HLI CONTINUATION CLUB

This, if not its "activities", has diminished even further. Halfway through 2007 even Willie Nixon became ill – and seriously so. The weekly visits to Eddie Traynor and Bobby McLachlan have continued but have often done so without Willie or any other *full* members. It is Lachie Christie, an Associate Member, who now conducts them – and often does so on his own. Nor is a descent on the Station Bar now part

of the visits – except that Lachie sometimes calls in there en route to Eddie's (Thursdays). But what we miss at the Station Bar is more than generously afforded at Eddie's. In addition to pie and peas we have *APPLE PIE AND ICECREAM!* We also have the usual beer and whisky(ies) – *AND* once at least the latter was a Smith's Glenlivet! (Bobby also very generously feeds us – and has even been known to pour out whisky for at least one of the thirstier Associate Members – except Bobby.)

But now the bad news. John Ross, who had been virtually house-bound for the last year or two, died at the beginning of October. (John, who enlisted in 5 HLI *before* the outbreak of war in 1939, was soon posted to the newly-formed 10 HLI and was, equally soon, prevailed upon by Captain Faulds to become a Signaller – with the brief words, "Ross, you're for the Signals!" John was badly wounded in Normandy – and after his recovery found himself a Green Howard – but was, luckily, too long in service to be despatched to bring Japan to its knees.) (There are rather more of John's exploits recorded in his *Obituary* in this Edition.)

Willie Nixon managed to get to his funeral, which was on the 12th of October, and so did Bobby, both driven there (by son-in-law and son), but alas Eddie wasn't there. Although we had seen him just the day before, he had in the interim collapsed – and been carted off to the Royal Infirmary.

Major Willie Shaw was also at John's funeral. (Willie has not only a rigid sense of duty but has always had a soft spot for the redoubtable Tenth.). He didn't stay for the post-funereal 'Celebration' (pleading "work"! but we (and many others) did. We found ourselves being generously entertained by Mrs Mary Ross, John's lovely wife and constant companion since 1946, and also by her son (another John). (The latter *dwarfs* John but is equally well-mannered!)

There have been other events worth noting *vis-à-vis* the Tenth. In February this year Colonel Bobby Steele gave, along with the members of the Luncheon Club, a luncheon at HHQ for Eddie Traynor and his friends and relations (including Willie Nixon and Bobby McLachlan). John Ross didn't make it. Neither did the Queen – but HM took note of it. She *herself* came up to Holyrood in July to present Eddie with his MBE. Oh dear, someone didn't brief HM to invite *us* (nor us to invite HM).

And of course the Continuation Club carried out its customary disappearance for Hogmanay and New Year's Day to Blackpool. (To do so in Scotland is a bit more expensive.) Willie Nixon was the only *full* Member there this year – and he made the best of it, apparently dancing on Hogmanay and during the Year's Turn with every lady in sight.

That's the Tenth for you!

The Continuation Club had another function on Friday 15th of February – a *free* luncheon as the guests of Eddie Traynor – who has recovered since his October disappearance into hospital.

(As this edition of the *Journal* should be off to the Publisher before the 15th of February, we can't report on the luncheon.)



# The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Second Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland



CO: Lt Col N R M Borton  
2IC: Major A J Fitzpatrick  
Adj: Captain D D J Mackinnon  
RSM: WO1 (RSM) W Barrie

**T**he Battalion are well and have coped admirably with the turmoil of changing Brigade Headquarters, operational focus and theatre. We are at last and all now very happy that we are not going to IRAQ again but to AFGHANISTAN. While we will all get a new medal, we are not going as a battlegroup but filling a number of task lines due to our late arrival to 16 Air Assault Bde (Or should it be Celtic Bde now that us, 5 SCOTS and 1 R IRISH are in it?) and the OP HERRICK 8 orbat.

This means the Battalion will be spread as far north as Kabul, with the majority in Helmand Province. We have had to generate a Mastiff (the new armoured fighting vehicle) Group using B and FSp Coys, the Mor Pl are attached to 5 SCOTS for the tour, MFCs attached to 7 RHA, C and A Coys form the Kabul Patrols Company and BHQ the Security Sector Reform HQ within the Bde HQ. In addition the RAO and his team and, the majority of the QM Dept will be based in Camp Bastion providing real life support to the brigade.

Much has been achieved since the change was made in early Oct. We have had numerous trips to Colchester, trained over 250 drivers, fired nearly half a million rounds, covered over 100 miles worth of PT, had some excellent career course results and still kept smiling while doing so. This is only a snapshot; the Coys and departments will tell you the rest with a few scribbles and pictures.

## A COMPANY

OC: Major A S J Douglas  
2IC: Captain J R L Savage  
CSM: WO2 G R W Stewart

As ever with 2 SCOTS it has been a busy period, and A Company has been at the forefront of it all. In April old appointments were filled anew, with WO2 Stewart returning to the Battalion to take over from WO2 Green as Company Sergeant Major, and Capt Savage stepping into the breach as Company 2IC.

In early May the Company conducted a two-day low-level Adventurous Training (AT) package (EX NORTHERN ORE). The Company was split into four groups and rotated around climbing, canoeing, orienteering, and the beloved hill-walking. The middle night allowed for a company barbeque and a few beers, which seemed to lubricate the spirits for some entertaining "skits". The AT was a good opportunity for all to see the Company "at ease".

A Company were planning on a November deployment to OP TELIC, where they were would be operating as the Brigade's 432 Mark 3 (BULLDOG) strike force. This change of role, from light



*Fus Mair (C Company) instructing Fus Bell during the canoeing phase of Ex Northern Ore.*



*Sgt Palmer discussing to Group 3 about the next stage of the lesson.*

to mechanised infantry, was new for the majority of the Company. The Company soon found itself heading out to 1 LANCS in Germany, who had been tasked with training A Company on BULLDOG. The BULLDOG drivers and commanders learnt a lot about this good and powerful new piece of military hardware – and also found time to enjoy the delights of German hospitality.

Come July the Company was scattered to the winds on courses and a reduced A Company deployed to Otterburn for a Battalion exercise. Regardless of the scant numbers, A Company conducted a good exercise, with solid training being undertaken at all levels. There was, however, another change of operational plan; A Company would not be deploying in November on OP TELIC 11. Instead, the Battalion would be deploying with 7 Armoured Brigade on OP TELIC 12 in May 08. This would be as a 2 SCOTS Battle Group (BG) and the first time that 2 SCOTS would be forming a BG under their new name.



*A Coy; Ex Northern Ore, May 07.*



*The end of a fine day's sailing aboard HMSTC Zidona, during Ex Northern Seaward.*



*"Spot the ball", 1 Platoon vs. 3 Platoon in the Chalmers Cup;  
A Coy inter-platoon football competition.*



*"The Millpond"; Fus Hughes surveys a windless English Channel.*



*Sgt McGuire (1PI) collecting the Chalmers Cup from Mrs Chalmers, after winning  
A Company inter-platoon football comp.*

*Continued on page 39*



### A Coy 2 SCOTS



*Fus Hughes taking control of HMSTC Zidona during Ex Northern Seaward, with Capt Savage relieved that they are still moored to the pontoon.*



*WO2 CSM Stewart contemplating the temperature of the water.*



*Fus Punton and Fus Gildea "locking off" during the climbing phase of Ex Northern Ore.*



*Capt Savage looking concerned after discovering that no one is actually belaying him.*

### B Coy



*Still waiting for the RAF!*



*The man-portable HMG!*

### The Trans Rockies



*THE FINISH – Capt McClure, Capt Pennington.*

### JNCO Cadre



*Early morning PT.*



## C Coy 2 SCOTS



*The joys of Castlelaw Ranges (back row L-R Fus Ingram, Muir, Coats, Curran, front row L-R Fus O'Shea, Punton and Minto).*



*Loch Ness Marathon: L – R LCpl Dunlop, Fus Buist, LCpl McKinney, 2Lt Law, LCpl McGill and Capt Grant.*



*C Coy Newlove Cup Winners: back row L – R: Fus Oliver, LCpl Begley, Cpl McCormack, CSgt Marshall, Fus McIlmun, Fus Brevis, Fus Clerkson, Fus Black; front row L – R: Fus McLaren, Fus Mair, Cpl Fairbrother, Fus Whitelaw, LCpl Hogg, Sgt McCulloch, Cpl Mortley, LCpl McGlone.*

## FSp Coy



*LCpl Gillies and Fus McLaughlin are distracted from their machine-gun drills.*



*Cpl Gunn and LCpl MacLeod setting up the Command Post on Deployment.*



*L-R, Fus Wilson, Fus Vuki and Fus Christie preparing to fire.*



*2 SCOTS Mor Pl putting rounds down the range.*



### The Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada

### First Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment



*November 11th 2007, Cambridge, Ontario.*

*Traditional welcome (Haka) which opened the 50th birthday celebration.*



*Training Exercise Sep 07, Meaford, Ontario – “B” Coy.*

*Lt Colonel John Howard leads the Battalion in a Haka.*



*Cpl Linton and Fus Smith on foot patrol in Ayr, Ontario.*

*Maori Warrior during the welcoming ceremony.*



*Mrs Gail Wilder and Mrs Ollie Lackenbaur with HRH The Duke of York at a Regimentsal Dinner in May 2007.*

*IRNZIR Colours make an entrance.*



**6 SCOTS**



*B Coy ambush rehearsal on ATD.*

**West Lowland Battalion ACF**



*Ayr RHF Detachment being presented with the Commandant's Banner.*



*Battlefield Tour to Monte Cassino, Mar 07.*



*Col David Steele Glasgow and Lanarkshire Battalion ACF (Commandant) with Cadet RSM Kirsty Wylie (Ayr RHF).*



*The Honorary Colonel, CO and RSM greet the Royal Colonel.*

**Glasgow and Lanarkshire Battalion ACF**



*The Triathlon canoes.*



*Pte Bryson, Kabul Foot Patrol Oct 07.*



*The Girls' Hockey Team.*



*A Coy celebrating at the 'Last Social' before dispersal, Nov 07.*

In a busy programme time was found for EX NORTHERN SEAWARD; a Company lead sailing expedition. Although the exercise was enjoyed by all and it presented the Jocks with a number of challenges (including sea sickness), it was certainly not as arduous as had been hoped. A distinct lack of wind ensured that most of the week was spent pleasantly sailing around the south coast: better winds next time!

It was now late September and once again the operations plot was shifting. 2 SCOTS had been transferred on to 16 Brigade's ORBAT and would be deploying on OP HERRICK 8. September drifted into October which ended with Pre-deployment Training (PDT). The deployment was, unfortunately, only scaled for two companies and without a role for BULLDOG in Afghanistan it was with sad heart that A Company had to disperse and backfill B and C companies. A Company HQ was to remain with the role of training the Afghan National Army as part of the United Kingdom Leadership and Training Team (UKLTT). *(See also the Colour Section.)*

### **B COMPANY**

OC: Maj T H C de R Channer	2IC: Lt G Muir
CSM: WO2 M McNally	CQMS: CSgt C Trousdale
4 Pl Comd: 2Lt M D Oladjins	4 Pl Sgt: Sgt J Fraser
5 Pl Comd: 2Lt B Davey	5 Pl Sgt: Sgt P Gordon
6 Pl Comd: 2Lt A Lassoued	6 Pl Sgt: Sgt S Devlin

The last few months in B Company have been as hectic as ever. *(So hectic that the only B Coy photographs are in the Colour Section.)* Before going on summer leave, the Company had been planning on an Iraq tour in 2008. On return, we were soon informed that the Battalion would no longer be going on Telic. It was not

until late October that 2 SCOTS were told that they would be going to Afghanistan. This news managed to sweep away the disappointment of the preceding months and gave renewed impetus to B Company. The remaining period has been focused on training for OP HERRICK, with the Company working extremely hard to gain the necessary qualifications to fulfil its role as Mastiff Company in the Helmand Province.

The Company continues to be under the command of Major Channer with WO2 McNally as CSM. The JNCO Cadre dominated the first six weeks after leave, as B Company sponsored the whole cadre. Based in Barry-Buddon Camp, those not involved in the cadre itself (with B Company contributing the highest number of potential Lance Corporals) were acting as enemy or helping out generally with all the daily administration requirements. After the initial training, the Company and Cadre moved to Otterburn for the test week. The exercise itself went well, but paled into insignificance in comparison to the France v Scotland game which everyone desperately wanted to see – although using Land-Rovers to drive up the surrounding hills to get 'phone reception to check scores was probably not why they were brought on exercise. The Cadre itself turned into a significant success for B Company and Fusiliers Boyle, Cokanasiga, McDonald, McLaren and Philipson all passed. LCpl Andrews finished top of the Cadre and was awarded his stripe on the parade square in front of the Battalion.

Due to the continually changing plans, the proposed exercise to Poland was cancelled and instead B Company spread itself across the United Kingdom and even to Germany in order to gain qualifications on various weapon systems as well as the



Mastiff armoured vehicle. Mastiff became the focal point for the Company's efforts and Fusiliers, JNCOs and SNCOs all enjoyed learning to drive and command the vehicle. All returned extremely enthusiastic about the vehicle and the protection it offers. Most even managed to not crash the vehicle, something which was to change later on during the training. In Germany, the Company was taught how to use the HMG and GMG, which will be the weapon systems on the Mastiff.

Operational Training and Advisory Group (OPTAG) training took place in early November and we had the opportunity to meet other members of 16 Brigade, the Brigade we were deploying with. Later on in the month the Company got its first chance to use Mastiff on exercise in STANTA with 2 PARA. The usefulness and limitations of the vehicle were soon discovered by LCpl Naqarase, who managed to discover why the REME exist; having driven off-road he was forced to wait for twelve hours for them to turn up and pull the vehicle out of the ditch. The rest of the Exercise managed to pass without major incident and the week-long opportunity to train will prove invaluable.

The Company then went straight to Otterburn for a live-firing package. Any exercise in Otterburn in December is forced to deal with the elements and despite the opportunity to use new weapon systems and continue with all the build-up training, most will undoubtedly remember the horizontal rain and sleet and often a mixture of both. The end of the exercise did, however, signal the end to a very busy period and the reward of Christmas leave. The Corporals and Sergeants had their Mess Christmas function and on the Friday before leave, the Company had its annual party. The benefit of being on exercise a lot and raising money through the tuck shop was enjoyed by all.

The months since the last leave period have flown by and, although the Company has spent long periods on exercise and away from Glencorse, knowing that we will deploy in the New Year has provided all the necessary motivation for the intensive period. As ever, there have been several arrivals and departures in B Company. Capt Keating has moved to BHQ to become IO, Lt Muir has become Company 2IC. 2Lt Oladjins commissioned in December and will takeover as 4 PI Comd. Cpl Thomson returned from his tour with the R ANGLIAN and was posted to Catterick. 2008. Bring it on....

## C COMPANY

OC: Maj T J Cave-Gibbs	2IC: Capt M D Kerr
CSM: WO2 S Drever	CQMS: CSgt P Marshall
8 PI Comd: 2Lt C Law	8 PI Sgt: Sgt T Lowe
7 PI Comd: Lt D E Reed	7 PI Sgt: Sgt S McCulloch
9 PI Comd: Lt D J W Morgan	9 PI Sgt: Sgt D Ames

Much like the rest of the Bn, C Coy returned from leave in August ready to continue training to support the forthcoming deployment to OP TELIC 12 in May 08. However, the plan and the brigade was to change and by September we had been told that we would be deploying to Afghanistan on OP HERRICK 8 in March 08 as part of 16 Air Assault Brigade.

The training programme has incorporated the key lessons from PDT and other essential skills such as communications, vehicle patrolling skills and public order. The programme has squeezed in what must be a record number of individual courses; driving



*Fus Thrower takes no chances in passing his GPMG assessment shoot.*

licences (from zero to hero in 8 weeks is the record, thanks to the MTO's support) for Mastiff and Snatch vehicles, qualifying an All Arms Search Team and putting soldiers through team medic, tactical intelligence and various helicopter handling courses to name but a few. We also focussed on getting to grips with the relatively new (to us) Bowman radio system and to qualify the whole Company on the GPMG.

To fill our manning requirement for OP HERRICK the Coy welcomed around 40 soldiers from A Coy led by 2Lt Bridle and Sgt McGuire to swell the ranks. They have been quickly absorbed and the benefits of a 'fully-manned' coy are being felt.

Amongst this full training programme we had a number of soldiers pass the Potential Junior NCO Cadre. Special mention should be made of Fus Smith and Fus Mair, both finishing high in the top third. Lt Morgan began as DS PI Comd and due to the fortunes of war ended up running the whole cadre! Cpl Thompson and Cpl Mortley were involved as Sec Comds.

On the 7 Oct a Bn Team comprising 2Lt Law and Bridle, Cpl Glen, LCpl Dunlop and McKinney and Fus Buist (all part of the C Coy family) completed the Loch Ness Marathon, running in boots, combats and day sacks weighing 20lbs (unlike all the other competitors, who had also done some training for the event!).

Nevertheless, the team threw themselves wholeheartedly into the race and completed the course in a very respectable five hours and raised £1400 for the Erskine Charity. Capt Grant and LCpl McGill also took part as individual runners.



*Cpl Mortley destroying the B Coy opposition to win the Newlove Cup.*



*CSgt Marshall holds aloft the Newlove Cup (presented by the Bn 2IC, an impartial ex-C Coy OC).*

The week after this the Coy football team won (and thereby retains) the Newlove cup by beating B Coy 2-1 in the final at Meadowbank Stadium. CSgt Marshall captained the team and Cpl Mortley won the Golden Boot as top scorer. *(See also the Colour Section.)*

#### **Social Notices**

We welcome in Sgt Ames, Sgt McCulloch, Cpl Torrance, Fusiliers Berry, Black, Brown, Clerkson, Cooper, Jackson, McLellan, McIlmun, McCrorey and Watson and say farewell to Sgt Kyle, Cpl Fairbrother, Mortley and LCpl Hogg.

Congratulations to Fus Bates and Lauren on the birth of their second son Millar, to Fus Grant and Joanne on the birth of their daughter Kelice and to Fus Mason and Stephanie on their marriage.

#### **FIRE SUPPORT COMPANY**

OC: Major M P S Luckyn-Malone  
OC Mortar: Captain B A O'Neill  
OC Recce: Captain R S Montgomery  
OC ATK: Captain D Aitken  
CSM: WO2 K J Galloway

It has been a frenetic period involving much disruption, but equally, many opportunities. FSp Coy has embraced the changes. Having been split down to support other Companies for Iraq, it was necessary to reconstitute and retrain as when it became apparent that 2 SCOTS had been transferred to a later Afghanistan tour. There is an increase in enthusiasm, knowing that each of our specialist

roles will be put to good use during the tour. Recce and Javelin have joined the Mastiff Group and the Mortars will be supporting 5 SCOTS and 7 RHA. Some of CHQ will also get to play with Mastiff, though the OC and CSM will be covering Security Sector Reform jobs, chosen for their well-developed diplomacy skills.

The last six months have been a blur of training for operations, career courses and using opportunities such as RAAT to good effect. We have managed to conduct a successful cadre period, followed by a Live-firing Tactical Training (LFTT) camp at Barry Buddon.

It has also been a period of consolidation for the re-formed Recce Platoon. Although numbers remain low, the structure is now established. The return of CSgt Robertson (from instructing in Brecon) and Sgt Lucas (4/73 Bty) from operations have added considerably to the experience held both in general tactics and recce skills. This, coupled with the welcome addition of Sgt Kyle from C Company, has created a robust and effective Platoon HQ.

The strains of "The Muckin of Geordie's Byre" faded away, and "Orange and Blue" once more came to fore, as the Pipes and Drums Platoon rejoined FSp Company after a brief stint with A Company. We said 'farewell' to Pipe Major Neil Hall in July and Drum Major Scott MacDougall in September. The Platoon competed at the Army Piping, Drumming and Bugling Championships, winning the medley competition, coming 2nd in the March, Strathspey and Reel Competition and 2nd overall. Sgt Thompson achieved 3rd in the senior Bugling and the Pipe Major two 2nd places in the senior Piping. Preparation is now in earnest for the Edinburgh and Basil Tattoos.

The Javelin Platoon, as with the Ps&Ds, now has a new Pl Comd and 2IC, Capt Ewan Aitken and CSgt Joe Burke. Training has continued unabated to its usual high standards. The closer relationship with Recce is very welcome and, like the new weapon system itself, has forced the Platoon to reassess its TTPs. Both ISTAR and STRIKE roles will be well utilised in theatre. A successful Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) cadre earlier in the year has allowed the Platoon the time to now concentrate on training for the Mastiff role, safe in the knowledge that there will be little skill-fade in their primary role.

The Mortars have done well to get so much live-fire training in recent months. There was a successful numbers cadre in Otterburn and also LFTT on Barry Buddon, support to JFACSU in Otterburn, support to 5 SCOTS on Salisbury Plain and 7 RHA in Sennybridge. The Platoon has been busy, but the training is necessary preparation for the kind of demands that are being reported back from Helmand. Sgt Stewart is already out there with 52 Bde and we recently received Cpl Bright back from the last tour.

The Company is well prepared for next summer. Those in the Mastiff group are training on its crew-served weapons and many now have Cat C licenses to drive the beast. Our MFCs are being trained as Forward Air Controllers and Forward Observation Officers, greatly enhancing our future capability. FSp Company is looking forward to the tour and will benefit enormously from the breadth of experience that its personnel will return with. Their experiences will help shape how FSp Coy operates and supports the other Companies in the future.



*Machinegun Platoon rests so that the Pipe-Major can pick his nose.*



*Fus Chisholm and Tora enjoy life in an OP.*



*Colour Party – CSgt Smith, CSgt McIndoe, WO2 Drever, CSgt Trousdale.*



*Fus Strathearn poses for the Anti-Tank Platoon Calendar.*



*Fus Waqalevu enjoys the 'man-packable' CLU.*

### **Fire Support Company Cadres**

In August the Recce Platoon combined with the Anti-Tank Platoon undertook an ISTAR Cadre. It had two main objectives: revision of the basic skill sets and the forging of a stronger working relationship between the Platoons. The introduction of the CLU sighting system which has ensured the surveillance capability of the Anti-Tanks is now invaluable to the recce role. Integrating this capability into the Recce Screen will be the key to future light-role surveillance operations.

The mutually dependent skills of sub-surface ops, contact drills and patrolling in small teams were rigorously tested during the

exercise phase in Sennybridge Training Area. The final week was a Live Firing Camp in which the Company combined for the first time in many months. This was used to strengthen the marksmanship of the Company; over 60% of the Recce achieved Marksman standard on the APWT.

Despite the ups and downs of the operational deployment rollercoaster, the Mortar Platoon deployed to Otterburn Training Area in late August to conduct a refresher cadre and its annual live-firing camp.

After shaking out the cobwebs in the first week the Platoon moved into Otterburn Training Camp for the second. Mortar



*Capt Montgomery assesses the OP.*



*LCpl Bonnar adjusting targets from his OP.*



*L-R, Fus Tawake, Cpl Denovan and LCpl Vanalagi getting down and dirty during the Illum Shoot.*

sections deployed out to the training areas and the MFCs stayed in camp to use the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer. By exploiting the full extent of the Bowman radios, MFCs were able to send real time fire missions against a digital enemy. Added to the complexities of the Bowman radio this really tested all the personnel in the Platoon and prepared them well for the remaining events..

As always the main event for any mortar platoon is live firing. After a few refresher shoots the Platoon was back up to its usual high standard; just in time it seemed for a surprise visit by the Commanding Officer and the Regimental Sergeant Major. The

Commanding Officer saw the complexities of a mirror shoot whilst the Regimental Sergeant Major was introduced to the life as a Number 2 and 3 by WO2 Temple. An Illumination shoot followed on that evening, which saw some unusual firing positions being adopted due to soft ground.

The cadre concluded with an introduction to the executive side of life for the Mortar numbers, allowing the junior members to be both MFCs and CPO (with some supervision). The day culminated with a Direct Shoot pitting young mortar numbers against the older command team. *(See also the Colour Section.)*

### **HQ COMPANY**

OC: Maj C Kerr

CSM: WO2 D Robertson

CQMS: CSgt A Turner

Storeman: Cpl B Devlin

Clerks: LCpl N Duhaney and Cpl S Hillhouse

Since our last entry the tempo of training and support to the Battalion has increased dramatically. From SLE, a possible operational tour of IRAQ on TELIC 11 and now a confirmed deployment, on OP HERRICK 8 with 16 Air Assault Brigade. Many members of HQ Company still had the time to support ceremonial duties for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the guard at Holyrood Palace. All departments in HQ Company can be proud of their achievements to date and will continue to train and support the Battalion for the forthcoming Op Tour.

The QM's G4 gang, which incorporates the MT, LAD and Signals, has been actively involved in the final stages of the completion of the Bowman conversion – less four vehicle fits which still remain in Ashchurch. Sgt Worrall (Signals CQMS or QM G1098 2IC) has had the pleasure of receipting all equipment on to the UNICOM account, a major task as you can understand with every piece of equipment given a serialised number. Now that we have successfully converted the fleet we now need to Whole Fleet Manage (WFM) these assets in line with 3 Div WFM directives and reduce the fleet to approx 42 vehicles. I can hear the screams of joy from the MT/LAD – less to worry about for the ECIs, more time off, etc. But... “No Chance” – as most of the LAD are now actively training to convert to Snatch and Mastiff, having just converted to “BULLDOG”. (That’s another story.)

Also during this period the Battalion took loan of four of the new troop-carrying vehicles that are intensively and very successfully used in Iraq and Afghanistan. The “Mastiff”, an impressive vehicle to say the least, gives vital all round protection to the occupants and packs a punch with its 0.5 Browning machine gun. A Class 2 licence is required for this monster; it is as wide as a ‘bus. This troop carrier and weapons platform will be used extensively by the Battalion in Afghanistan.

The Bn continues to be at apace; despite the Driver Training Wing being maxed out, it is producing newly-qualified drivers in incredible numbers to meet the operational requirement. At the time of writing there are 99 soldiers planned to go through some form of licence acquisition, conversion or familiarisation training in November alone. These are incredible numbers. All credit must go to the Driver Training Wing for their efforts in meeting the required stats.



## HQ COY & SIG PL – MONTAGE



The RCWO and his band of merry men have worked tirelessly to ensure Pay As You Dine (PAYD) was introduced also this year. The chefs have done an amazing task supporting the Battalion from Glencorse, Lydd, Germany and all over England. Their support has been noted and they are to be commended for their hard work ensuring our soldiers' waist lines are kept at a reasonable size!

Not forgetting Battalion Headquarters who continue to bombard us with Op orders, exercise instructions, Int briefings and anything else they can think of. We have the right mindset to take the training forward in a positive manner and ensure the full weight and support is available for the operational tour of Afghanistan early next year. Till next time.

## POTENTIAL JUNIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER CADRE

20 AUG-28 SEP 07

The PJNCO Cadre is an important phase in an Infantry soldier's career as he begins the transition from Fusilier to Lance Corporal. It is possibly his greatest hurdle as he steps up to take responsibility and command. This year's Cadre was sponsored by B Company, who provided the overarching support and direction. The Cadre Officer, selected from an enormous pool, was Lt Morgan from C Coy.

The 2 SCOTS 07 Cadre began with an instructional phase at Barry Buddon Camp, getting the ever dreaded Command Leadership Management (CLM) out of the way first, mixed with a challenging but progressive Physical Training programme taken by LCpl "master chief" Barr. This phase although largely classroom-based was spiced up where possible with outdoor activities. (See the first page of the Colour Section.)

By Week 3 it was time to move into the more bayonet-focused part of the programme, a week-long range package culminating with a series of live Fire Team attacks. During the first four weeks the PJNCOs were thoroughly put to the test across a vast spectrum of activities, from the physical to the intellectual (by common consensus the running of their BLs being the most challenging), all achieving varying degrees of success.

By Week 5 it was time for a scenery change and the Cadre moved to 'sunny' Otterburn for the exercise phase. Although a well-planned exercise we forgot one vital ingredient, which is normally guaranteed at Otterburn, the rain. In the end it did not matter as the Fusiliers were kept so busy they would not have noticed the rain anyway. The dreaded command appointment change was in force – and from section attacks to ops and recce patrols the PJNCOs came back with a thorough knowledge of the training area. The exercise culminated in an epic dawn Platoon attack with the best students in command appointment.

For the final week the Cadre returned back to Glencorse Barracks for the last of the CLM – and to the CSM's delight more drill than you can shake a stick at. Twenty of the twenty-eight soldiers who started the cadre passed off the square. They were: Fus Andrews (top student), Fus Boyle, Fus Buchanan, Fus Cokanasiga, Fus Coleman, Fus Loughlin, Fus Mair, Fus Mana, Fus McBlain, Fus McBride, Fus McCracken, Fus McDonald 46, Fus McLaren, Fus Nakanacagi, Fus Philipson, Fus Punton, Fus Smith, Fus Thom, Fus Vueti and Fus Vakalaloma.





*CSgts Trousdale and McIndo covering off the VC memorial.*

## **CEREMONIAL/PUBLIC DUTIES**

The Battalion has settled into the hustle and bustle lifestyle that we now know and love at Glencorse Barracks. The barracks is well situated and close to the capital and in particular Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace and our recruiting areas. This proximity has given the Battalion a number of opportunities to take part in ceremonial duties, allowing the kilt to be worn as our new form of dress, instead of our traditional lowland trews. The ceremonial duties have allowed the Jocks the chance to swagger with our new-found attire to the sound of the Pipes & Drums.

The main ceremonial event was the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (GACOS). The 2nd Battalion had to provide a Guard of Honour for The Queen's Representative attending the Assembly. This was Prince Andrew, who is also the Battalion's Royal Colonel – which made the event more memorable. The

Guard of Honour was to greet Prince Andrew on his arrival at Holyrood Palace on the 18th of May 07. The Battalion would also provide ceremonial guards to Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace throughout the week of the Assembly.

This was to be a fairly alien world to most of the Jocks as the last time any had taken part in a drill ceremony was their pass-out parade. Years of company operations in Inverness and Cyprus doing minimum drill were the norm. It took a week's preparation, starting from the very basics of foot and rifle drill, double sentry drill and learning how to wear No 1 Dress properly with a kilt. (Lowland Dress was much easier to fit and wear.) The end product for the week was a Jock looking the part in our new attire, with a swagger and drill prowess that would grace any drill square. It also gave some of the SNCOs a chance to exercise their tonsils and practice the Sir Alex Ferguson hairdryer, which was delivered a number of times to great effect.



*The Guard of Honour for Prince Andrew at Holyrood Palace during the GACOS.*

With the experience of GACOS fresh in our minds it was time to parade our Battalion Colours at Glasgow Cathedral on the 1st of July 07. This was to commemorate the first day of the Battle of the Somme during the First World War. All three Colours, 'with Escorts', were paraded in full ceremonials and the service was attended by the Lord Provost of Glasgow's Deputy, many Glasgow Councillors, the Regimental Association and all key personalities from the Battalion. After the service all members of the Regimental family then attended Home Headquarters for a buffet Lunch.

Two months later, on 1st Sep 07 it was time to parade the Regimental Colours again at Glasgow Cathedral, this time for the opening of the Victoria Cross Memorial to commemorate all those Glaswegians who have won the award. The opening ceremony started with a service during which all three Colours were paraded, followed by the unveiling of the memorial. Two Colour Sergeant



escorts flanked either side of the memorial in No 1 Dress to pay the correct compliments during the unveiling and act of remembrance. The day was very poignant and attended by many members of the Regimental family both old and new. The Royal British Legion was also on parade in strength carrying their Standards, which added great colour and splendour to the occasion. *(See also the Front Cover!)*

During the month of September, the Battle of Assaye was commemorated, in usual RHF style, by All Ranks in the Battalion. Each mess celebrates Assaye Day annually with a Ball. The weekend of celebrations started on the 20th Sep 07 with a service on the main square at Glencorse Bks. The Battalion paraded in a hollow square and the QM, Major J E B Kerr, marched on the Assaye Colour with escorts to the sound of the Pipes and Drums. This was to symbolise Quarter Master Grant and his well-known actions during the Battle. At the service Lt D E Reed gave a very stirring rendition of the battle, which would have acted as a history lesson to our newest Jocks and hopefully inspire in them the pride in our Assaye Colour that is felt by everyone associated with RHF both past and present.

As the Battalion focus now changes towards operations and OP HERRICK, there are no forecasted ceremonial duties till our return from Afghanistan. This will mean that the enclosed drill square in Glencorse Bks will be silent to the echo of marching troops, SNCOs screaming words of command and the sound of pipes and drums. The drill square will now see a different role – for troops taking part in Battle PT lessons.

## VISIT TO 1 RNZIR

On the 27th of July, Lt Morgan and Lt Muir departed for New Zealand to represent 2 SCOTS at the 1st Battalion, The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment's 50th Birthday. The Battalion's relationship with 1 RNZIR stretches back to Singapore in the early 1970s when the Royal Highland Fusiliers and 1 RNZIR were stationed there. A parade was held in 1973 to commemorate the affiliation.

The shock normally associated with swapping a Scottish summer for a New Zealand winter was not as great as hoped considering the adverse weather which we had experienced in Edinburgh so far. So it was no surprise that on landing in Auckland we were met with rain. A short flight to Wellington followed, and at that point we had several days to experience New Zealand before attending the celebrations over the weekend of the 3rd to the 5th of August.

Palmerston North is a couple of hours north of Wellington and is not the most attractive of places, although it does have a large student population. The first event of the Birthday Weekend was a cocktail party held in their Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess on the Friday evening.

The event itself presented an opportunity for us to meet up with our Regimental Secretary, Colonel Steele, and introduce ourselves to their Mess. Everyone was extremely friendly and quite impressed that we had all travelled so far, not perhaps realising we had a stop-off in California planned for the way back! We also interestingly met several Officers and NCOs including an ex-RHF Sergeant, Rab Kelly, who had transferred across from the British Army.

The open day commenced with a Powhiri, a traditional Maori welcome, during which their Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel John Howard led the Battalion in a Haka.

The rest of the day comprised demonstrations of 1 RNZIR's armoured personnel carriers and equipment and tours of their history room, detailing the numerous conflicts in which they have been involved. It was extremely interesting to read of their deployments to Vietnam and meet several of those involved, as it is a conflict which is not talked much about in Britain. In the late afternoon, a parade and beating of retreat was held with the innovative and impressive parade at odds with the diabolical weather. This included their Colours arriving on the square in armoured vehicles, Maori warriors patrolling the edges of the parade ground and some more recognisable drill as the Colours were paraded and the band went through its paces. The rain



*Something that New Zealand has no shortage of, scenery.*



*A Maori warrior on patrol.*



*Stage 1 – Capt McClure, Capt Pennington.*



*1 RNZIR 50th Birthday Parade.*



*Tented Accommodation.*

did not let up at all during the hour-long parade and it was undoubtedly with some relief that the crowd dispersed to the evening function, especially for those involved in the Parade who were soaked to the bone.

The evening involved a buffet dinner, a considerable amount of alcohol and some valiant attempts at public speaking by several dignitaries who were drowned out by the sound of rain and noise of the crowd. We continued to meet individuals from other Regiments affiliated to 1 RNZIR and several dignitaries before the evening's end.

The visit allowed us to refresh the links with 1 RNZIR, which were established over 40 years ago.

*(NB: More excellent 'Visit' photographs are on the third page of the Colour Section under 1 RNZIR.)*

## **THE TRANS ROCKIES**

*Captain R R D McClure*

In August this year I had competed in the Trans Rockies challenge; a 7-day mountain bike stage race held in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. The race covers over 500 km of wilderness and ascends over 11000m. The race is a team event, each team made up of two riders who must remain within two minutes of each other at every check point. This year over 600 competitors from over twenty countries competed. I entered the race with Capt

Charlie Pennington RM who I had only met a few months earlier while deployed in Iraq.

The race commenced in Panorama Ski resort approximately four hours away from Calgary. The Kootenay Rockies provided the stunning backdrop to the event running north to south and finishing in Fernie. With one exception, each day we would race to a new location. The event organisers moved the camp each day while we raced. A mobile shower unit, kitchen, marquee, tents and RVs (for those who could afford them) followed the race to our new destination.

Each day saw us in the saddle for an average of 4 hrs with the longest stages taking over 6 hrs. The first descent of the Tran Rockies was an eye-opener; this goat track, a few inches wide, first contoured the mountainside before dropping over 500m in a series of tight switchbacks. On Day 2 we encountered our first technical problem when we realised Charlie's rear hub was broken: he would have to pedal for the whole of the stage as he was unable to freewheel. As Day 3 dawned aches and pains were now being felt and my backside was not looking forward to another day in the saddle. Day 4 arrived and with it the realisation that my body could feel worse than the previous. It felt colder and we were taking longer to warm up; the first hour was painful. This was one of the longer days, 113 km and over 1300m climbing. Charlie had a major accident, coming off on a fast descent. He recovered well enough to pull us along the forestry service roads and we finished 47th.



Stage 6 – Capt McClure, Capt Pennington.

On the fifth day we had our worst finish, 84th in our category and 160th overall. We were devastated as we arrived at Elkford, made all the worse by the fact we were sitting in the top 100 overall and just inside the top 50 in our category and locked in a battle with two other army teams; The Afghan Hounds and The Rifles.

The town of Elkford had welcomed us with open arms which was typical of the attitude of the local communities. Strangers would line the streets to cheer us on and they opened their community centres for our use. Day 6 was another epic, this time 116km and over 2300m of climbing. The end was now in sight and we were determined to make up for the previous day's mechanical problems. This was some of the most scenic riding of the event making our way to Sparwood. The route had two major climbs (equivalent to ascending two Munros consecutively) up to Alexander and Wheeler Creeks respectively. Once again we were well off the beaten track and into bear country. This stage had over 50% gravel roads and this suited us well, as we were able to work ourselves up to a very respectable top-40 finish. The last 10 km was a particularly memorable roller-coaster ride of old roads and single-track that led us directly to the mining town of Sparwood.

The last day was promising to be a very quick blast into the finish at Fernie. Only 48 km long and with just 600m of climbing the day would be over in around two hours.

Charlie and I finished 46th in our category. We had both enjoyed the experience. The race was very challenging and had tested us both. Charlie had crashed with alarming regularity and I had struggled with the physical demands but we had made a very good team. The Canadian Rockies provided an amazing scenic backdrop to the event. The spirit of the competitors was second to none and the camaraderie on the stages was fantastic. Despite the fact Charlie and I had never

ridden together we would both sign up to similar events in the future. (See also the Colour Section.)

## 2 SCOTS BATTALION FOOTBALL TEAM

*(The full squad is on view on the inside of the Rear Cover – a whole half-page!)*

The football team have endured a busy yet unsuccessful season. We entered numerous competitions and tournaments and have returned without silverware. The season has not been a total loss, as the coaching staff has identified a lot of new football talent within the Battalion. With the correct training and coaching the new players will be a future asset to the team.

The first competition the team entered was the Infantry Six-a-Side Competition at ATR Pirbright. The Team Manager CSgt Paddy Marshall took a team of nine gladiators to Pirbright to conquer the other 18 infantry teams that were there. We gave a good account of ourselves and reached the quarter finals, which we lost to 1 Rifles. When we returned to Glencorse we had a friendly match organised with a civilian team from Glasgow. Baillieston Villa play in the Saturday league in Glasgow and are sponsored by the Army. The team is coached by Sgt Brian McLachlan (Boulders) who was a former captain of the Bn football team. It was a close match with the visitors being the victors by 5 goals to 4.

Next up was the Infantry Cup competition where we had been drawn against 3 SCOTS. The team was granted a week's training to concentrate on the fixture. CSgt Jim Stevenson (Coach) managed to secure six hours of training with Hamilton Academicals (The Accies), the current leaders of the Scottish Football League Division 1. The Director of youth football Mr Frankie McIlvoy was the man to put the team through their paces. Throughout the training time we had



at the Accies, we played in numerous training matches against the under 19s (U19). This was a great experience for all involved and should have set us up nicely for the game against 3 SCOTS.

Unfortunately this was not the case as we lost the game by 4 goals to 1. This meant we were knocked out of the Infantry Cup in the first round.

It wasn't the last we would see of 3 SCOTS. We still had the Army Cup competition to play in. As fate would have it, we were drawn against 3 SCOTS for the second time. This game was played two weeks after the Infantry Cup match. The game finished a nail-biting 6 goals to 5 in favour of 3 SCOTS.

With no more competitions left we look forward to returning from operations and starting all over again. This time we will have our own pitch in Glencorse and hopefully a league competition to join in. This will guarantee competitive football on a weekly basis.



*LCpl Begley closes down the U19 midfielder, with Fusiliers Oliver and Brewis and Capt Taylor in the background.*



*Frankie McIlvoy instructs the team.*



*Captains Collide. Cpl Eddie Mortley attempts to win the header.*



*Cpl Ian Anderson evades the challenge of the Baillieston Villa midfielder, with LCpl Craig McMeeken looking on.*



# 52nd Lowland, Sixth Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland



CO: Lt Col C A Coull  
2IC: Major A J Tomczyk  
Trg Maj: Major G A Irvine-Fortescue  
RAO: Major PM Hazell  
Adj: Captain A D Watson  
RSM: WO1 (RSM) S G Cochrane

## COMMANDING OFFICER'S OVERVIEW – 2007

*Lt Col C A Coull*

I took over command from Lt Col Sam Burns in April of this year.

The summer period has been heavily dominated by our preparations for deploying a Force Protection (FP) Platoon to Kabul on OP HERRICK 7 and Exercise SUMMER CHALLENGE 07.

The most challenging activity of the Summer months was to mobilise and train the FP (Force Protection) Pl to accompany 124 Petroleum Sqn from 151 Tpt Regt for a six-month tour of duty based at the ISAF (International Security and Assistance Force) HQ in Kabul. The MOBREP (Mobilisation Report) to HQ LAND was to mobilise forty-four from the Bn in order to meet the minimum manning requirement for the FP Pl of 1 + 31. Bremen Pl, as we've named them, form the 4th Pl of the Macedonian (MK) FP Company in the ISAF base and will be under TACON (Tactical Control) of the MK Coy, but remain OPCOM to (under Operational Command of) the Tpt and Maint Sqn. A Lt Col from

the NATO ISAF HSG (HQ Support Group) is the immediate commander of the ISAF 10B Tpt & Maint Sqn. So a complex chain of command and set of events! The bulk of the training effort fell upon the Bn and it is no small part due to the Herculean efforts of the Training Major and his team (and in particular CSgt Millar, the Machine Gun Pl PSI who is also accompanying the Pl for their first few months in theatre) that the relatively short period of training passed off so well. I am also very grateful indeed to 5 SCOTS who provided, at very short notice, a training team of three with recent experience in Kabul who worked with the Bn team.

SUMMER CHALLENGE was headed up by 7 SCOTS and over a seven-week period produced CIC (Combat Infantryman's Course) (TA) trained soldiers, most of whom had come straight from civilian life. 6 SCOTS contributed a large number of personnel to assist with the training and in turn have benefited from almost an entire Rifle Pl. This scheme, although manpower intensive and extremely difficult to organise, has produced large numbers of trained personnel over the past two years, many of which are now deployed on HERRICK 7. We will be running Summer Challenge in 2008 and it will be the main effort for the year.

In addition to the FP Pl in Kabul, we have personnel mobilised in the Balkans, Germany and quite a few who have just returned from Iraq. It is fair to say there are very few left in the Bn who can be mobilised and the situation is unlikely to improve for a while. That said, we will attempt to support the Reg Bns with



*Bremen Pl, PDT, Barry Buddon.*



*Bremen Pl, Kabul, Dec 07.*

IRs (Individual Reinforcements) where possible but we must now shift our focus to OP HERRICK 12 where we are to provide a TA Cohort. In all likelihood this will take up most of the Bn but at last the OCP is being aligned with Regimental ties and we look forward to working closely with 2 SCOTS over the next few years.

It has been difficult to maintain any form of normality during this period – numbers attending training have been low due to the manpower demands of Ex SC 07, the deployment (and training) of the Jocks to Kabul and the ever-present RATT (Regimental Assistance Task Table) tasks. However I expect these demands to decrease now that Bremen Pl have deployed to Afghanistan and life begins to settle down a little.

Our annual camp was in Warcop this year. We conducted a lot of quality live-firing, a Coy-level exercise and had visits from the Princess Royal, who is our Royal Colonel and the Colonel of the Regiment, both of whom were visiting the Bn for the first time. The visits were a great success with the Princess Royal spending three hours rather than



*Lt Fisher leads a foot patrol in Kabul.*

the two planned. We have just completed the Glasgow Remembrance Parade (which is said to be the largest one in the UK after the Cenotaph in London) at which we were blessed with fine weather and the usual impressive turnout from all sorts of organisations.

*The Royal Colonel with the Officers, see picture on page 52.*

### **A COMPANY**

OC: Major D G Stimpson

PSAO: Captain J W Reid

CSM: WO2 K F Irving

A Company 6 SCOTS has now fully reorganised and now consists of the Company Headquarters and a Rifle Platoon based at Hepburn House in Edinburgh, a Machine Gun Platoon with an increased manning establishment in Bathgate and a Javelin Anti-tank Platoon and a Rifle Platoon in Galashiels.

In January of this year Major D G Stimpson assumed command, taking over from Major A J Tomczyk. This was followed immediately by the annual Equipment Care Inspection and as always a busy period for a unit. Concurrent to this the Battalion underwent the implementation of the new rules and arrangements for personal administration.

A Company have provided a large component of the Battalion's Bremen Platoon personnel mobilised for OP HERRICK 7. The Platoon are based in Kabul alongside a Macedonian Army Force Protection Company providing Force Protection throughout their TAOR (Tactical Area of Responsibility). Working closely with the Afghan National Army and the Kabul City Police they provide personnel for foot patrols, vehicle patrols and QRF (Quick Reaction Force) duties. The Platoon has adjusted rapidly to its new environments and continues to come to terms with the busy and challenging local surroundings. Throughout the formative and first



*The Royal Colonel with the Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs.*

few months they have been coached and mentored by CSgt Millar SCOTS, the Machine Gun Platoon PSI who deployed along with the Platoon. To date the high point of the tour has been providing base security for SACEUR's visit.

The Pre-deployment training package for Bremen Platoon was held at Barry Buddon Training Centre with the Battalion providing the training infrastructure and support. The training package was then followed by a period of intensive training period in England prior to deployment to Afghanistan in September 2007.



*Javelin Training ATk Cadre, Dreghorn Barracks, Feb 07.*

The Machine Gun Platoon, Bathgate Detachment, continues to maintain their skills on the GPMG (SF) weapon system. The Platoon Second-in-Command has assumed the role of the Platoon Commander in the absence of Lt D Fisher, who is currently deployed on OP HERRICK 7 as the Bremen Platoon Commander.

The Javelin Platoon, Galashiels Detachment, have commenced the training of the Platoon hierarchy and currently have a course-qualified Platoon Commander, Platoon 2IC, Section Commander and Detachment Commander. With the new qualifications in place the detachment personnel delivered a basic Javelin Anti-Armour Guided Weapon System cadre to personnel from both 6 SCOTS and 7 SCOTS in March. The cadre trained gunners and controller observers on the weapons system and the basic tactics. The Anti-Tank Platoon is now continuing the training to the detachment with the aid of the new Javelin Indoor Trainer.

A Company has also ensured the opportunity for a period of sport/adventure training and have now identified a number potential canoeists within A Company as a result of the sterling efforts of Capt David Coulter who delivered an excellent period of canoe skills training at the Dreghorn Camp swimming pool before following on to a live river system during the Battalion's ATD at Warcop in September.

The Company also supported the Battalion's main recruiting effort on Summer Challenge 06 at Inverness Training Camp and looks forward to playing a key role in 2008.

The Company efforts in supporting the community and charity events continued. The most notable being that of A Company providing personnel to support to the Edinburgh Taxi Day for handicapped and disadvantaged children in July. CSgt Watson led this team armed as usual with lots of water, water pistol and sweets for the children.



WO2 C Best, Machine Gun Platoon 2IC and a keen sporting parachutist, participated in the British Indoor Rowing Championships in Birmingham. This is the largest indoor sporting event in the UK; circa 3000 competitors take part each year. The race is over 2000m, which Olympic athletes complete in under 6 minutes. After much personal planning, private time training and determination WO2 Best completed his race in 6:42.8. The winning time was 6:14 with WO2 Best coming in 14th out of 60.

A Company continues to have a wide area of responsibility on Remembrance Sunday. The Company paraded in Bathgate, Galashiels, Peebles, Hawick and Edinburgh (both at the Canongate Kirk and Broughton Church). The Edinburgh parades are always then followed by the 7th/9th Highlander Battalion. A Company also contributed to the Battalion's Guard of Honour at George Square, Glasgow.

Closure to the year was provided in the form of the Battalion's annual Exercise CHRISTMAS PUD. The finale of the training event being the JNCOs and Jocks receiving table service from the Officers and SNCOs. At year-end A Company is now looking forward to a well deserved but short break over the festive season, taking the opportunity to rest, revitalise and contemplate the busy year ahead that is 2008.

## **B COMPANY**

OC: Captain J Donald  
PSAO: Captain H M McAulay  
CSM: WO2 R S M Hogg

With the requirements of the ATD (Army Training Directive) successfully completed the year has almost come to a close. ATD was split into two, the first week being a range package bringing in Annual Personnel Weapons Tests, zeroing, and other Annual Training Tests. The second week consisted of adventure training exercises, which saw everyone taking to the outdoors to participate in rock climbing and hill walking. As usual Captain Donald had only a few volunteers to participate in his team, possibly due to fear of the hill walking turning into a new CFT (Combat Fitness Test) challenge.

Remembrance Sunday was a bit disappointing regarding numbers. Due to this we were only able to have two people representing B Company in Ayr. WO2 Hogg was tasked to lay a wreath on behalf of the Company and 6 SCOTS at Prestwick. The Coy supported the Bn Main Effort in Glasgow which saw 6 SCOTS supplying the Guard of Honour. It was the first time that most of the Jocks had worn the new No 2 Dress.



*B Company Headquarters.*

Focusing now on our troops from the Company over in Afghanistan. With five soldiers deployed on OP HERRICK 7, the Company still offers great support to the regular forces. Reports that have come back are positive and advise that they are all working hard just as we imagined that they would. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a speedy safe return home, as the end of their tour is nearly approaching. Many congratulations go to Woman Private Barr AGC who is currently deployed in Afghanistan. She has participated in raising the sum of £1052.00 in aid of breast cancer.

Last training event of the year was Ex Christmas Pud. The location for this was Redford Barracks in Edinburgh. The tasks for this weekend saw the troops taking part in a march and shoot over the hills to the range. It was a great team effort, which saw B Company's team coming in a close 2nd. With an excellent time for the march, followed by an outstanding shoot, however we just got beaten by the underdogs, Charlie Company's 2nd team. Following this we had the traditional Christmas Dinner. With a couple of light refreshments to wash a tasty meal down, the Officers and Senior Ranks then left to let the Junior Ranks let their hair down.

Sunday morning saw B Company showing off their skill in the Christmas-themed Inter Battalion competition. This saw teams having to pull or push a half-ton trailer around a course whilst competing in various events. Again, 1st place missed again and 2nd position taken by B Company.

The first training event to take place in the New Year is a Company training weekend at Barry Buddon. This will see the Company harbouring up, and setting out patrols. This will allow them also to catch up with any missed test requirements, and to brush up on field skills.

Congratulations go to Captain Don Donald on his new appointment as Company Commander, and to WO2 Hogg as CSM in his substantive rank. It is more than certain that B Company will provide full support for the year ahead.

And finally, the Company has new recruiting staff, who are working hard to gain and retain soldiers. We offer full support to them on taking on this challenging role. With Cpl Chivas at the helm, we are sure that this is an achievable task! All the Best.

## **C COMPANY**

OC: Captain T Pounder  
2IC: Captain A I Campbell  
PSAO: Captain A Blair  
CSM: WO2 A Duncan

C Company has had a busy year, not least with the changes to the command structure within the Company. There is a new OC after Captain Jason Combes handed over to Captain Tom Pounder, an ex-Regular Army Officer with the Argylls, who after a sabbatical with the South African Defence Force has returned to assume command of C Coy. This change was implemented at the same time as the change over of CSM. CSM Andy Duncan completed his two-year rotation in post and handed over to CSM Ernie Stewart. This change in command should see a renewed thrust for company training in the forthcoming year as both are keen to progress the Company to achieve new levels of training and capabilities. To the two outgoing, we wish them good luck in their future endeavours and hope they enjoy their weekends off!!



The main effort of the Company in 2007 has been to course qualify as many individuals as possible so as to benefit both Company and Battalion training. A main focus at the beginning of the year was the Assault Pioneer cadre that was organised and run by 6 SCOTS in Weymouth. This cadre incorporated students from 6 SCOTS, 7 SCOTS and 4 LANCS. This course was initiated and planned by Sgt Healy the Assault Pioneer PSI and implemented and run by NCOs of 6 SCOTS Assault Pioneer Platoon. This was a ten-day cadre that incorporated four core Pioneer modules and allowed all students the chance to gain the relevant modular qualification. It is a testament to the quality of the instructors, namely Cpl Mearns and Cpl Coyne, that the pass rate was so high. Throughout the remainder of the year there were many qualifications gained from various courses and indeed the Company now has our first Bowman-qualified instructor in Sgt Aitcheson, who will be kept busy in the forthcoming year attempting to convert the remainder of the Company.

C Company has supported the Battalion weekends with renewed vigour this year. A highlight of this training was the range weekend held at Warcop Training Area. The Company ran an IBSR (Individual Battle Shooting Range), Pairs CQB (Close-quarter Battle) and a pistol range amongst others with the consensus being that the weekend was both informative and enjoyable for all those who took part. It is encouraging to see the levels of attendance both on Tuesday night training and weekends beginning to increase. This has been in no small part due to the hard work put in by the Company recruiting team which has been successfully led by Sgt Aitcheson. There is an encouraging flow of new recruits both in Maryhill and Motherwell which should lay a solid foundation on which to grow the Company in 2008. Indeed in the new year there will be more of an emphasis placed on Company rather than Battalion weekends, which should be of benefit to C Company as there are many young JNCOs eager to use their experience and qualifications gained throughout this year to train the newer members of the Company.

There have been six members of the Company deployed on operations this year, all of whom are currently with the composite 6 SCOTS Force Protection Platoon working out of Kabul, Afghanistan. The high intensity of training they received before deployment will only help the Company to train towards future deployments and we wish them well with the remainder of their tour.

In all it has been a busy but successful year for C Company and we look forward to building on our successes and progressing forward through quality training in 2008.

#### **HQ COMPANY**

QM: Major J R Stevenson  
QM(V): Captain A McInally  
MTO(V): Captain G McIntosh  
CSM: WO2 A Liddell

Well the time has come again to give an update on what the Company has been up to during the year. We have had a mixed bag of fortunes over the piece with people coming and going and a very successful ATD at Warcop Camp where the main effort was placed on MATTS (Annual Training Tests) training. We are now looking forward to the new year and to participating in the TA100 celebrations and supporting Summer Challenge 08.

#### **Coy HQ**

Welcome to CSgt Geordie Murray who has been posted in from 2

SCOTS as PSI to replace CSgt Terry Young who went in the opposite direction to help prepare for the forthcoming 2 SCOTS deployment. The only thing they seem to have in common is the support of a pub team from Govan. Sadly we've had to say farewell to CSM Jim Cavanagh who has decided to hang up his webbing after 25 years of sterling service to concentrate on his business. We wish Jim and his family all the very best for the future and welcome CSM Alex Liddell who replaces him.

#### **Quartermaster**

The new QM Major John Stevenson has now got his feet firmly under the table after replacing Major Jocky Frew at the beginning of the year. Our thanks go to Jocky for the assistance and guidance during his term. The period has been extremely busy for the Department now with the issue of the new tribal uniforms. Just as well the QM came from 3 SCOTS or some of us quite possibly could have been marching down George Square with our kilts at our ankles during Armistice Parade. Farewell to Cpl Jenny Wren who has decided to go back to A Coy. Jenny was a stalwart with the Department and that mantle now falls to Penfold. We now look forward to the challenges ahead such as the transition between Bowman and Clansman and Summer Challenge 08 at Cameron Barracks.

#### **Signals**

Farewell to Captain Torquill Corkerton who has been posted to RTC and has left the RSWO WO2 Alec Collins at the helm – just in time for the delivery of the Bowman kit. Well done to Alec and Sgt Liam Seaton who both have been successfully 'bowmanised' at their respective courses and welcome to L/Cpl Olivant who has just been posted in from 32 Signals Regiment.

#### **Motor Transport**

The MTWO (affectionately known as 'sick-note') has continued to steady the ship and ensure the Battalion is able to get from A to B with minimum fuss. Well done to Pte Abbess who continues to jump out of perfectly good aeroplanes with the Golden Lions and his award of the VRSM.

#### **Catering Platoon**

A big well done to the Master Chef and his Platoon during ATD where they had a chance to provide their culinary skills to the Officers' and WOs' and Sgts' Messes and remind us of what feeding was like prior to the introduction of contract catering/ PAYD. The service was outstanding and would have put many a top-class restaurant to shame as the MO will testify – who not only never missed a meal but never missed a choice of courses despite being built like the gable end of a pound note. We have at last a challenger to the Training Major as the eating champion of the Battalion. Once again we have to bid our good-byes to Cpl Bobby Carroll who has retired after 27 years service at the grand old age of 60. He hasn't quite hung up his ladle yet while he continues to burn the beans with the Glasgow and Lanark Battalion ACF. All the best for the future Bobby and here's to another 27 years.

#### **Medical Section**

A couple of big well done's here. Firstly to the 'Doc', Captain James Harper, for completing P Coy (Parachute Selection Company) and to Cpl Pearl McAllister who was presented with her Lord Lieutenant's Certificate at the City Chambers. Pearl continues to look after the female weans with the CCF at Garelochhead and 2 SCOTS RST (Regimental Support Team). Keep up the good work. (*See also the Colour Section.*)



# The Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada

2007 was a busy year for the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada. Lieutenant Colonel Richard Peters CD returned to his CO duties in April following a seven-month duty tour in Afghanistan. On October 4th, DCO Major Charles Fitton CD was promoted Lieutenant Colonel to succeed Lt Col Peters who was assigned new duties at Land Forces Central Area Headquarters in Toronto.

Two members of the RHFC, Corporals Rodney Grubb and Ryan Pagnacco were awarded Wound Stripes following combat injuries sustained in Afghanistan. They have since returned to Canada and the unit. Fifteen unit members served in Afghanistan during 2007. Currently there is a waiting list of 68 unit members who have volunteered for duty in Afghanistan. Fifteen were recently accepted and are undergoing specialised training with regular force units before their scheduled deployment in 2008. Several RHFC members are employed as trainers at Canadian Manoeuvres Training Centre (CMTC) Wainright, Alberta.

Major Paul Hale CD has succeeded Lt Col Fitton as DCO. Major Hale has extensive operational and overseas experience, including Afghanistan. He recently retired from a thirty-year career with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). Also joining us in 2007 as full-time Operations Officer was Major Paul Pickering a former Artillery Officer and Afghanistan veteran. Majors Desmond Donovan and Jarrett McDonald continue in their roles as company commanders.

RSM Mark Adam, and the Drum Major, Sgt Eric Ferguson, are training for positions in Afghanistan as Civilian Military Cooperation (CIMIC) officers.

Regimental strength now is an impressive 195 soldiers. Eleven members are in the process of transferring to the Regular Force.

In January 2007 the Regiment began their training year with winter exercises in Ayr, Ontario. Operations included road blocks, foot and vehicle patrols, and establishing forward operating bases. Throughout the year, the Regiment carried on with Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS), covering field craft, weapons handling, vehicle and mine recognition, and navigation. Between January and June the unit was well represented in a mix of brigade and unit level exercises. During the summer members participated in a number of national training courses culminating in August with a brigade exercise in Wainright, Alberta. In September the unit took part in company level tactical exercises at Area Training Centre Meaford, Ontario. Activities in October and November included live fire exercises with support weapons including the C7 rifle, C6 medium machine Gun, C9 Light Machine Gun, 84mm Carl Gustav rocket launcher, hand grenade, and 9mm Browning pistol.



*Cpl Swietlick firing C7 Rifle Winona Range Ontario.*

On November 11th the Regiment, including its Pipes and Drums, participated in the Remembrance Day parade and ceremonies in Cambridge, Ontario.

The highlight of the year was the first visit by our Colonel-in-Chief His Royal Highness Prince Andrew The Duke of York KG KCVO. During two memorable days in early May Prince Andrew toured company training facilities in Kitchener, dined with the Regimental Council, Officers and senior NCOs, participated in a Freedom of the City Parade for the unit in Cambridge, Ontario and lunched with the Mayor, regional Police Chief and unit officers. His Royal Highness also devoted time to meet all ranks and sit for group photos. The evening of his departure Prince Andrew was guest of honour at a Regimental Ball attended by more than 300 unit members, spouses and municipal leaders.



*2Lt Reiner 9mm pistol November 07 Meaford Ontario.*



# 1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

Commanding Officer: Lt Col J G Howard MNZM  
Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 A H Wright

2007 proved to be a challenging year for all members of The First Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, both operationally abroad and at home in New Zealand. This year we have seen the return to New Zealand from operations, three contingents of our soldiers from three separate theatres of operations, Afghanistan (CRIB 9), Timor Leste (Victor Company) and the Solomon Islands (Support Company). This was a substantial contribution for the Battalion to undertake.

With the commitments to overseas operations, Whiskey Company undertook the commencement of build up training to achieve Cavalry D-LOC through a series of progressive combined exercises, culminating in Wolf Three. Throughout the month of October, utilising the RNZAF's 3rd and 5th Squadrons and the RNZN's latest capability the Multi Role Vessel (HMNZMS CANTERBURY), Whiskey Company travelled the length of the North Island being put through its paces and continuing to develop our NZ Cavalry.

In the first week of August this year 1RNZIR celebrated its 50th birthday. There were some 2000+ ex-members of 1RNZIR and their families who closed in on Wellington Lines from

far and wide to help celebrate the event. They were joined by members of affiliated Battalions including members from the Royal Highland Fusiliers, Singapore Commando Battalion and the Royal Australian Infantry Regiment to name but a few. The festivities were kicked off by a traditional welcome (Powhiri) and the Battalion challenging its friends and extended family with the new Cavalry Haka, followed by an open day. The current serving members of 1RNZIR then paraded in that late afternoon battling the adverse weather conditions, a proving testament that 'regardless of weather season or terrain' is still alive with the new Cavalry unit. The Battalion then moved into the LAV hangers for the function, which is definitely a memorable event for both current and previous serving members of 1RNZIR.

With 2008 quickly approaching 1RNZIR is preparing for another busy year with us sending our troops back into Afghanistan on the 12th and 13th rotation of TG CRIB. The majority of the troops will be drawn from Whiskey Company. Victor Company will commence its training to achieve NZ CAV D-LOC through a series of similar exercises to what Whiskey Company developed this year. This will be a second tour to Afghanistan for some of these soldiers.

We extend our warmest welcome to any member of your unit visiting New Zealand to call in and see us.



*1 RNZIR Colours being marched on to the 50th Birthday Parade by NZLAV.*



# Officer Training Corps

## GLASGOW AND STRATHCLYDE UOTC

*CfJOU Duncan Fraser*

The affiliation Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC has with 2 SCOTS dates back to February 1909 when the Glasgow Contingent of the OTC was formed. Its first Adjutant was Captain A N E Browne, a Highland Light Infantry Officer who, despite having only one arm, steered the OTC through its fledgling years.

The Mackenzie HLI tartan continues to be worn by the Cadets, with the Red Erskine Tartan of the Royal Highland Fusiliers being worn by the female Cadets of the Highland Dance Troop. The Pipes and Drums proudly wear HLI plaid brooches, and one form of headdress for Cadets is the rifle-green Glengarry as was worn by the HLI (and the Cameronians).

Yet, despite the fact that this OTC is heading towards its Centenary, it had never deployed abroad for its Annual Summer Camp – not until June 2007. It was then that the Unit travelled to the Continent – for its first deployment in France since 1945!

Departing from Glasgow on June the 6th we were all too aware of the fact we would not be seeing our barracks for a good few

days. However, entertainment from the Corps Highland Dance Troop as well as the Pipes and Drums relieved the agony of the long ferry ride to the Continent, as well as a few beers!

En route to our barracks we visited the famous battlefields of the Ypres Salient, the Somme, and Waterloo. Time was also given to a visit at the Commonwealth cemetery Tynecot. The Unit also had a contemplative day at the Menin Gate, where we all paid our respects whilst reading the many thousands of names listed. The day ended with an impressive Ceilidh in the town centre which was enjoyed by all, even some of the locals!

We were no sooner in barracks when we headed to Fort Penthievre, a beautiful eighteenth-century fort, and also a training base for the French marines. The Unit was then lucky enough to attempt the challenges of the Confidence Course as well as find time for a barbeque and a night on the beach.

All Officer Cadets were granted a day out in the seaside town of Quiberon before *happily* deploying into the field. The exercise was a tough and arduous four days. It saw the usual recce patrols, as well as a Corps river crossing which was a memorable experience for many. The FTX culminated in a loud and thrilling Company-level attack on a village complex, with two



*Hours-of-darkness Briefing.*



of the band piping the troops in and the rest of the Pipes and Drums acting as the enemy.

Having survived the worst we headed back to barracks for the annual Corps Regimental black tie dinner. The following morning camp was handed over and we headed home with another long and memorable night ahead on the ferry (which many of the PSIs and Staff will not forget for a long time!)



*The Pipes and Drums.*



*Lone piper.*



*About to become entangled?*



# Army Cadet Force

## WEST LOWLAND BATTALION

### Annual Camp 2007

The Battalion had the 2007 Annual Camp in Warcop in July. Once again a very successful cadres camp was held even though the weather was a major factor – we had wet weather for around five days out of the fourteen that we were there. However, this did not dampen the morale or the enthusiasm that all members of the Battalion showed during this very important piece of our busy calendar.

Ayr Detachment RHF were the proud winners of the Commandant's Banner which is presented on the first day of each annual camp and that detachment marches on to the Battalion muster every morning with the Banner showing to the rest of the Battalion.

Delta Company won the Lucas Tooth Competition at camp which consisted of Tug of War, Drill, Military Skills, Orienteering, Shooting and Sports. Delta Coy are from Ayr and surrounding villages, predominately wear the hackle of 2 SCOTS and are the largest contingent in the Battalion affiliated to 2 SCOTS.

### Lapland 07

Once again the Battalion sent 12 cadets and 3 instructors on the Royal Star and Garter cadet challenge expedition (which involves a 100 kilometres trek across Finland into the Arctic Circle) to raise money for The Royal Star and Garter home for ex-service personnel. Again this year they were joined on this challenge by Simon Weston.



*Cadet Shaun Nelson with the Pendant that goes to the winning Detachment in the Banner Competition.*

### Belgium 07

Two trips were undertaken this year by the Battalion. First was the annual trip of the cadets taking part in cultural tours of the battlefields and war cemeteries with a parade and wreath-laying at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

The second visit was by the Battalion's Pipes and Drums who played at the 'Dou Dou' Tattoo as part of the Mons Music Festival week in June 07

### West Lowland Bn

Of the 32 detachments within the Battalion 6 are affiliated to 2 Scots (RHF) with the latest addition being Stewarton Detachment which was successfully raised last year in East Ayrshire. (*See also the Colour Section.*)

## B (RHF) COMPANY, GLASGOW AND LANARKSHIRE BATTALION 2007

OC: Major John Robertson

21C: Capt Derek Coulter

CAAs: Lt Alan Liddell, SMI Dinger Bell

A Platoon RHF King's Park OC: WSI Lisa Hay  
Instructor: SI Daniel Dunlop

B Platoon RHF Cambuslang OC: AUO Jenny Lake  
Instructor: PI Paul Fagan

C Platoon RHF Easterhouse OC: SI Ricky Ralston  
Instructor: SI Robert Black

D Platoon RHF Pollockshaws OC: 2Lt Bernie Sweeney  
Instructors: SI Robert Campbell,  
WSI Heather Robertson,  
WSI Daisy Seymour

E Platoon RHF Beardmore OC: AUO Billy Lannigan  
Instructors: SI John Swan,  
WSI Sarah Collingwood

F Platoon RHF Maryhill OC: SSI Raymond Bell  
Instructors: SI Ricky Thompson,  
WSI Claire Wilson

The year started off with A Platoon RHF King's Park retaining the Lean cup, with E Platoon RHF Beardmore runners up. Our Battalion Easter Camp was spent at Garelochhead, during which a good mixture of training was undertaken. The Company all pulled together at the Tug of War Competition, resulting in a clean sweep: 1st E Platoon RHF Beardmore, 2nd A Platoon RHF King's Park, 3rd D Platoon RHF Pollockshaws and 4th F Platoon RHF Maryhill. In August the Company team became Scottish Tug of War Champions. The Company 5-a-side winners were: boys D Platoon RHF Pollockshaws and girls F Platoon RHF Maryhill.



*The Scottish Tug of War Champions.*



*The winning girls' team.*

B Coy cadets got an interesting invitation in May, to take part in Exercise Executive Stretch down at Kirkcudbright. Some of the stands involved abseiling, demolitions, signals, driving, shooting, command tasks and first aid, an all-round challenging weekend to which the cadets hope they will be re-invited.

May also saw cadets participate in a triathlon involving raft-building, orienteering and mountain biking at Strathclyde Park to raise funds for Click Sergeant Cancer Charity. The cadets raised £431.

The ACFA Scottish Athletics Championship at Grangemouth saw the Company pick up 26 medals in total, 11 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze – which helped the Battalion to win 7 of the 8 trophies.

Annual Camp was a return to Swynnerton. The weather again this year had a detrimental effect on training. The amount of rain that fell resulted in the range-work being cancelled as the sand in the stop butts had washed away. Our girls' team won the Bn hockey; A PI RHF King's Park won the girls' 5-a-sides and E PI RHF Beardmore the orienteering. During the first week of camp WSI Heather Robertson and WSI Daisy Seymour, both D PI RHF Pollockshaws, successfully completed their ITC Course. The excellent training area was put to good use with a cracking 48hr F/X centred on the underground bunker. This allowed for a wide range of recce patrols, fighting patrols and ambushes to be mounted. C/Sgt Keighley Doyle, F PI Maryhill, gained more successes by being awarded the Campbell button stick, from Lt/Col Downie, which goes to the best-turned out Cadet during the Cadet Commandant's parade.

One of the new Training activities at Annual Camp was Pipes and Drums training. The cadets showed a lot of interest in the sessions being run, which hopefully will bare fruit with the band taking off. A trip to Alton Towers is always a good finale to Camp with Cadets of all ages enjoying the trip.

Annual Camp 2007 was Col Kelly's last camp as Cadet Commandant. To bid farewell all the cadets formed up on both sides of the road out of camp. Col Kelly was then pulled out the camp gate in an old Landrover by the Battalion's Officers and Adult Instructors.

In September at very short notice (5 days) the Coy provided the Bn team for the 51 Brigade Military Skills Competition. Even with little or no practise the cadets put in a fine effort, with some good results at some of the stands, especially in the patrol lane where they were placed 1st. The team overall were placed 7th which, against some very good teams, was an impressive result.

In October Cpl Michael Manley, LCpl Christopher King, A PI RHF, King's Park and LCpl Danya Adams F PI RHF, Maryhill took part in the bi-annual Canadian exchange 2007. Our Battalion visited Canada for two weeks, Vancouver being the destination. The host unit, The Cameron Highlanders, laid on a brilliant programme which saw our Cadets taking part in Cadet training Canadian style. The different methods and types of training



*Cdt Anderson abseiling.*



*The Stretcher Race.*



*Alton Towers, here we come!*



*Col Kelly being "pulled out".*

certainly encouraged great light-hearted debate. Some of the highlights were the F/X – the low point the rations during the F/X (bring out the compo). The surrounding countryside was a perfect setting for adventure training, canoeing, mountain biking, horse riding and hiking, activities all greatly enjoyed. A visit to a native Indian longhouse proved to be an interesting experience. Just being able to see at first hand their culture encouraged more late night debate. All too soon the trip was over, but it won't be long until their new-found friends visit here (March 2008).

Some other highlights: the street collection in Glasgow during November was one. B Coy Cadets helped to collect the magnificent total of £15,000 for the Earl Haig Poppy Fund.

Other Charity collections raised £555 for the Special Olympics and £798 for Cash for Kids. WSI Claire Wilson successfully

completed her BETC Diploma. CSgt Paul McBride won the Company Marksmanship trophy, which is presented to the best score in the Cadet 100 Small-bore Competition. A Pl RHF King's Park won the Company March and Shoot shield.

The Halloween party at King's Park saw some very imaginative costumes.

There was also the presentation of national sports colours to the Company Cadets who represented Scotland during the past year.

2007 was another good year for B Company. Well done, all my cadets. To all the Officers and Adult Instructors, thanks for all your often unsung hard work. I would like to wish you all the best for the coming year. *(See also the Colour Section.)*



*LCpl Neil Davidson selling poppies.*



*Cpl Manley receives the Company March and Shoot Shield.*



*The Halloween Party.*



# Home Headquarters Notes

Regimental Secretary: Colonel (Retd) R L Steele TD DL  
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Captain (Retd) K Gurung MBE  
Editor: Major (Retd) A L Mack  
Regimental Benevolent Association: Major (Retd) A D Kenyon

**T**his has been another busy and eventful year for our small team here at 518 Sauchiehall Street – Kamal, Liz, Sandy, Maureen, Stewart, David, Ken and Major Ken Kenyon continue to supply the answers.

I am particularly grateful to all of them and our volunteers for their hard work and good humour, in particular, to Alastair Mack for his unstinting and meticulous attention to detail in editing this journal.

The highlight of my year was, undoubtedly my visit in August to the 50th Anniversary celebration of our sister regiment the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment accompanied by Lts David Morgan and Gordon Muir from the Battalion.

It was a splendid few days and we were royally entertained and hosted by the honorary Colonel, General Sir John Mace, the Commanding Officer Lt Colonel John Howard, Lieutenant “Biscuit” Nicolson, who was brought up in the West of Scotland, and a host of others to numerous to mention.

The ceremonial was most impressive and started with the traditional HAKKA, led for the first time by the Commanding Officer, and the rest of our visit alternated between a mixture of ceremonial and social events.

We were made to feel most welcome and the three of us will long remember the hospitality and friendship we were shown throughout our stay. The RNZIR were most impressive on parade and certainly know how to throw a party.

Most memorable for me was being invited to march with the Battalion alongside the Honorary Colonel to the Cenotaph for a Commemorative Service in Palmerston North.

The alliance between the RHF and the RNZIR was forged in the heat of Singapore in 1973 and long may we continue to maintain our links with them.

This year we have managed to strengthen our ties with Glasgow Cathedral. The Battalion’s Colours were marched in as part of the Commemoration of the Battle of the Somme in July and in August we provided the Guard of Honour for the unveiling of the Memorial to Glasgow’s VCs in the Cathedral grounds.

Our links with Ayrshire have not been neglected and I was invited to attend the unveiling ceremony of the memorial to the Russian destroyer Varygar at Lendalfoot as a guest of the South Ayrshire Council and the Russian Navy.

Other highlights of the year were attending the blessing of the Branch Standard in Inverness and the annual Remembrance Parade in George Square. Both ceremonies were well supported by our veterans. It is good to see that throughout Scotland Branches of the Veterans Association are thriving and we continue to support our less able veterans with visits to Erskine and the Royal Hospital at Chelsea.

Once again I am asking for volunteers to help run the Museum and open it at weekends. No matter how little time you are able to give will be much appreciated. Anyone interested please give me a shout.

Home Headquarters has had another successful year on the entertainment front and we have entertained parties from RBLS and Kentigern House as well as regular gatherings of the old and bold and of course our regular fortnightly Luncheon Club. In this regard I am most grateful to Alex McDivitt for his excellent support

Please keep your eye on our website for forthcoming events and support as many of them as you can throughout the year. It’s always good to see old friends.

Before closing I must record my grateful thanks to Willie Shaw for his unfailing support and advice and to Ron Milne for his valuable assistance with the accounts. Between them they’ve kept me out of the “jail”.

Finally best wishes and good fortune to everyone for 2008.



*A gathering of Veterans and guests in Dec 07 (organised by Alec McDivitt and attended by the Regimental Secretary). (Prize for spotting the latter?)*



# Articles

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## A DEPOT DIARY (Part Two)

*(The extracts from this shown here are again adapted from what were various writings by a Platoon Commander who served in the HLI Depot at Maryhill from 1956 to 1957.)*

### Range Work

Most of this, using both the No 4 Rifle (the .303 calibre “Short Magazine Lee-Enfield” as used in the *Second War*) and the “Bren Gun” (a .303 Light Machine Gun invented by the Czechs at Brno before Hitler’s take-overs of Czechoslovakia in 1938 and 1939) took place at Dechmont, a scant ten miles from the Depot. In those days Dechmont had *usable* ranges of various lengths, a 500-yard range, another of 300 and a very convenient 100-yard range (as well as one of 600-plus. (We didn’t use the latter until much later – when we were expending our very last issue of *stream-lined* .303 via the about-to-be abandoned Vickers Medium Machine gun) (the GPMG was “replacing” it).

The recruits started on the 100-yard range, both to zero their rifles and to be familiarised with live-firing the Bren – and the 100-yard range was very “convenient”. At only 100 yards and with no “butts” there was no need for telephones. Just as well. Dechmont’s ‘phones seldom worked. (When we were on longer ranges it was advisable to bring our *own* telephones – and *DRUMS* of cable.) (We preferred this ancient method to wireless sets; one didn’t have to perpetually wear ear-phones and also cart the set about.)

When zeroing, each recruit would fire his two statutory “warmers” and then a (carefully-coached) five-round group. Next the detail would walk forward to the targets and we would accompany it to “assess” its groups. This wasn’t difficult. Although having emerged from the Musketry School at Hythe with only a C-grade, we still remembered what had been hammered into us there. The tune was “Dirty Stinking CMPs” or “DSCMP”. The “D” was what declarations each firer had made to his coach (“I’ve just *pulled* that one, Corporal”), the “S” was for “size of group” (four-inch or eight-inch etc) and the “C” was a subtle point. It was “size of group” for *COACHING* purposes! In other words, “Private Macdonald, *IF* you hadn’t pulled *that* shot, you’d have had a 4-inch group! Well done!” The “M” was the vital part. It was for “mean point of impact” or “MPI”. We’d know from it how Macdonald’s sights needed to be altered to bring his “MPI” to the traditional four inches *above* the middle of the bull (and therefore slap-on at 200 yards). “P” was even more subtle. If the five holes in the target were evenly distributed (not, let’s say, three reasonably close together and two perhaps equally close to each other but noticeably elsewhere), we’d say to Macdonald, “A nice *even* pattern. You have it in you to become a *marksman*!”

So on we went, eventually getting the recruits “classified” at 200 and 300 yards. Luckily, *our* first Training Company Commander at the Depot, Jock Hawley (Major F J Hawley) had decided that we weren’t completely incompetent and so just let us get on with our job. But his (much-decorated) successor!

The latter either speedily deduced that our skills weren’t up to much or was less inclined to direct operations from behind a desk (or both). Whatever, one day he came out to Dechmont – to find us on the zeroing range. The detail had just fired their groups, we had just (most punctiliously) assessed each group and every recruit in the detail had “pasted up”. But the Company Commander had arrived.

Being a soldier of considerable military skill he had a fair idea of what had just taken place – but he wasn’t satisfied. “I don’t suppose you’ve done that properly,” he cried. “Do it again!” “Gentlemen,” we said to the detail, “please remove the patches you’ve just put on [*to cover the shot-holes in the targets*] and I’ll come round again.”

So we did (and behind us Sergeant McLeary murmured, “Don’t worry, Sir. He was always like this back in the Battalion.”) (Sergeant McLeary was, like most of the cream of the Depot Staff, an old 2 HLI man and therefore well knew the Company Commander and his moods.)

But the battle wasn’t over. Not long afterwards we were out with our latest recruit platoon on the zeroing range, this time firing LMGs. Yet again the Company Commander appeared, and this time he said, “You’re doing it all wrong! *THAT’S NOT THE PROPER BREN GUN DRILL!*” This baffled us for a bit – but in those days our memory wasn’t entirely deficient. The then current Bren pamphlet had been issued in (we think) 1948 but before its issue our school CCF had been using the old one (and went on doing so for another year or two). Although it was now 1957, we could still remember the old (pre-1948) drill. “*That* might do,” we thought. “Gentlemen,” we called out to the detail, “when I order ‘load’ do NOT raise the butt into your shoulder. Leave it on the ground.” We shouted out “Load”, our intelligent recruits obeyed the latest instructions to the letter – and the Company Commander said, “*NOW* you’re doing it properly!”

We also occasionally used the 30-yard range in Barracks but usually for only one or two forty-minute periods at a time. Time was tight and speed was essential – with either NAAFI Break or lunch-time just round the corner. So, when clearing up at the period’s end, we or Sergeant McLeary might say, “Last one off the firing-point gets thrown in the river” (the range was just beside the Kelvin). Then the two of us would walk up from the range, leaving the Platoon Corporals to see to the clearing up and chase the recruits to join us. But sometimes .....!

As we stood there waiting we might hear a loud cheer followed by a splash. Although neither of us would have entirely meant our dire threat (or would have forgotten about it), the recruits would usually grab the slowest of their fellows and cast him into the Kelvin.

But one day, instead of walking up from the range we were standing at the river’s edge and for some reason were looking pensively at the flowing water. No threats had been made on this occasion but the clearing-up had been remarkably fast. When we turned round to see, not only all was done but the Platoon, which was a very enthusiastic bunch, had formed up behind me. “Can we *cross* the river, Sir?” they begged. “Why not?” we thought and without *further* thought stepped into the water – with the Platoon following us.



We didn't complete our mission. By the time we were halfway across we were waist-deep (with our kilt floating around us), the current in the middle of the river was a little stronger than we'd anticipated and we began to have a strong suspicion that the river would get deeper before it got shallower. "Sorry," we said. "We'd better turn back." There were a few disappointed groans – but no requests to continue. Time was as tight as ever and it was only twenty minutes to lunch-time. (We didn't attempt that crossing again.)

### TsOETs

Tests of Elementary Training had always fascinated us and so whether or not TsOETs were a part of Basic Training (we can't remember) we decided to get them going.

Time, in a ten-week recruit course, was quite tight (and our belief in field-firing AND passing out in both quick and slow time made it even tighter) – but we had a solution! "EXTRA training in the evenings," we said. This didn't impress Sergeant McLeary. "Sir, you won't want *me*?" he said.

So we didn't. The Platoon was quite keen (being too underpaid for more than the odd half-pint after work) and whichever of the Corporals had volunteered (or been volunteered) for duty didn't seem to mind. The methods used are best explained by an example, the sequence of actions for "With five rounds LOAD!"

First the safety catch was thumbed forward, then the bolt was opened, a clip of five rounds pulled out from an ammunition pouch and inserted into the magazine, and the bolt closed (etc). So we'd say, "Thumb on the safety catch! Stop!" "Thumb on the safety catch and *push!* Stop!" "Thumb on the safety catch, push and fingers round the bolt! Stop! ... [ETC]". Using this kind of "Time and Motion Study" the recruits soon learned how to load (or unload, etc) their weapons automatically and *without unnecessary movements*

The result was that in their TsOETs a fair proportion of recruits gained "Skilled", most of the rest reached "Above Average", very few were just "Average" AND NONE "FAILED"! It was (for us at least) great fun – AND there were no complaints.

But the paperwork afterwards! We had got Sandy Ingram (our Adjutant) to get a TsOETs rubber stamp made, it very soon reached us and we applied it to every tested recruit's Pay Book. But did this "Time and Motion" have long-term effects? We don't quite know.

Not long after we got back to Battalion we took part in a rather conquering attack on A Coy (which was *then* commanded by the *then*-Major David (D I) Mackenzie). Halfway through it our bonnet was blown off by a rather closely-discharged blank round. "Who on earth taught you safety procedures?" we asked (once we'd woken up). "*You* did, Sir," the perpetrator said.

## ENCORE À NORMANDIE

*Captain I A Munro MC*

I paid two visits to the 1944 battlefields in Calvados in June 2007.

The first occasion was a tour with the Normandy Veterans New Forest Branch No 70, from 3rd to 7th June, consisting of Veterans plus companions, arranged by Tony Watts of Poole and including the Mayor's Cadet from Poole (Naval), Keith Mist, who was a very smart Standard Bearer.

We embarked at 1230 hrs from Poole on Sunday 3rd and after a very pleasant voyage to Cherbourg travelled to Bayeux, with only a short stop at St Mere Eglise where John Steel the American parachutist was suspended on "D" Day 1944 from the church tower and survived. There is still a dummy hanging by parachute from the tower and a very fine US Airborne Museum has turned the little town into a "must" for all visitors. Our hotel Campanile at Bayeux proved very comfortable with a view across water meadows to the magnificent Cathedral.

On Monday we went to Arromanches (Gold Beach), where we visited the Museum and saw the surviving caissons of Mulberry Harbour, so vital in 1944 as the artificial port through which the Allies were supplied with all supplies and reinforcement until Antwerp in Belgium fell in late autumn. (Cherbourg was captured in late June, but had been wrecked by the Germans).

Inland at Cruelly, after laying a wreath at the Royal Dragoon Guards' Memorial, we visited the Chateau, which was the French wartime HQ of the BBC, and were joined for lunch by the charming French Admiral Christian Brac de la Perriere who in 2004 originated the Normandie Memoire Badges for all veterans. We are proud to wear these on our right lapels. After

visiting the Chateau de Fontaine-Henry (a German HQ which fell to the Canadians without a fight) we reached Courseulles on Juno Beach where the Canadians landed and where the excellent Canadian Museum is situated. In the shape of a Maple Leaf, it is compact but very interesting, with excellent artefacts and helpful young staff.

On Tuesday we had time to visit Bayeux before travelling to Chef-du-Pont near St Mere Eglise to attend a French ceremony of their liberation. A large number of American vehicles and people in uniform were present but, apart from one genuine veteran, they all turned out to be young French men and women dressed up!

The ceremony was rather long drawn out, but the senior Frenchman did welcome the presence of British veterans, and afterwards our excellent lady coach driver from Sea View Coaches successfully negotiated a very difficult manoeuvre to bring us into the very narrow gate, flanked by ditches, into the long drive of another beautiful Chateau, which had also been a German HQ.

It was Chateau Le Plein Marais, the home of Count Jean and Countess d'Aigneaux. After a warm welcome he showed us his family tree and mentioned that he had Scottish relations. "Not Agnew?" I asked and was delighted to find out that he was indeed related to that great Scottish family with such a distinguished record in the 21st Foot which became my Regiment, The Royal Scots Fusiliers!

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw, who commanded the 21st at the Battle of Dettingen, is famous for his order at that battle, "Dinna fire till ye see the whites of their een!". (Since then British Infantry have always held their fire until the enemy was close enough for the subsequent volleys to



have a truly devastating effect.) My Company Commander, Major Andrew Agnew, a direct descendant, was the first Officer of the 6th Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers to be killed in our first engagement on 26th June 1944. This was with the fanatical 12th SS (Hitler Youth Division) at Saint Manvieu at the start of "Operation Epsom", which culminated in the capture of "The Scottish Corridor" (a six-mile salient into six SS divisions) and the capture of two bridges over the River Odon by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Andrew was very popular and a great loss. This action resulted in the holding up of the six SS divisions and preventing them from getting to General Roosevelt and the Americans who were advancing from Utah Beach.

It was now raining so a planned picnic had to be moved into the nearby village hall. Here we were fortunate, as Count Jean is the Maire! A very happy lunch with plenty of good wine was followed by a pre-arranged visit to St Mere Eglise Museum and then our return to Bayeux. That evening we were supposed to attend a special event at Longues-sur-Mer, but the traffic jam was unbelievable and the car parks looked very full, even from a distance. Instead we went on to Port-en-Bessin, at the Western end of Gold Beach, a fishing port captured by Royal Marines, where we enjoyed a special drink on Tony Watts in a dockside bar.

On "D" Day 6th June our main party attended the Anglo-French official military ceremony by the Norman Fortress at Caen, where the smartness and bearing of British Regulars was a sight for sore eyes.

I went instead as one of our representatives to Bayeux Cathedral, a most magnificent building, to attend a British Legion Service of Remembrance, with the Band of the Parachute Regiment making the most of the perfect acoustics. Arranged by the Normandy Branch of the Legion, it was a very moving Service, attended by the British Ambassador Sir Peter Wheatcroft, top Brass from the Paris Embassy and a Brigadier from 3rd Division. Another very welcome guest was the Head of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. I was glad of the opportunity to thank him for the wonderful and dedicated gardeners who tend the British War Cemeteries so perfectly. I have met the Frenchman who looks after 1600 British and 500 German graves without any help. The lawns and hedges are immaculate, and at this time of year a rose blooms on every grave, so comforting to many visiting relatives and old comrades at St Manvieu, many from our 15th (Scottish) Division. I was accompanied by an ATS veteran, Merville Ridgeon (in Bayeux in 1944), and the former Mayor and Mayoress of Poole, Les and Mary Rose Burden.

We then went across to the Hotel de Ville (Town Hall) where we were welcomed by the Mayor of Bayeux. We were to receive a "Vin d'Honneur" and did – but I must say that I wish we could have had a drink before the rather protracted speeches, eloquent as they were. After rejoining our main party for lunch we visited the British Commonwealth Cemetery in Bayeux for more wreath laying and more memories before travelling to Caen for a visit to the vast Memorial Museum. Very impressive but in the long film there is still no mention of the tremendous part our 15th (Scottish) Division played in the Battle of Normandy. The Division engaged the six SS Divisions opposed to us in the "Bocage" for 3 days, thereby giving General Roosevelt at Utah Beach a chance to establish the American bridgehead there.

On Thursday 7th June we attended the Liberation of Bayeux Anglo-French Ceremony outside the Battle of Normandy Museum. The Liberation had been 63 years before and, achieved by the Sherwood Rangers and the Essex Regiment, was the first British triumph in capturing a major city. The ceremony was very moving and was beautifully conducted by a British Padre with appropriate music and ceremonial.

The journey home started with a pleasant lunch at St Marie du Mont. We were joined by the Mayor of the Town and his wife, but Count Jean was detained by a modern US General and could only arrive after lunch.

The visit ended with a good crossing and pleasant dinner to Poole and home.

On the 24th June, my old comrade Piper Les Womack and I returned to Normandy on the fast ferry. It poured with rain all day, but I was very pleased that Count Jean managed to join us at St Marie du Mont, bringing further proof of his Scottish connections, a book recording the exploits of many members of the Agnew family. He was also very near to our battleground in 1944 as a small boy and has vivid recollections of the German occupation.

We stayed at the comfortable Hotel Argouge in Bayeux and also returned to an excellent restaurant, where I receive a great welcome every year. The taxi driver refused to accept our return fare to our hotel, a nice gesture from a young Frenchman.

On Monday we went back to the Canadian Museum at Courseulles, which is my favourite, and Les played a good selection of pipe tunes outside the Museum. These were well received by staff and visitors.

After lunch we motored to our 15th (Scottish) Division Memorial at Tourville, over looking the two bridges over the River Odon captured by the Argylls in 1944. It is the most impressive memorial I have seen and carries a "Lion Rampant" at the top, our Divisional Sign. It also bears the title of every unit in the Division, including Supporting Arms.

We decided to cross the Odon over the bridge which was very close to the cottage where our Brigadier decided to make his HQ. (His reasons for this were not entirely military; the cottager had *Jerusalem artichokes* in his garden. A costly exercise it proved as we were mortared by Nebelwerfers ("Moaning Minnies") and suffered a number of wounded, before we were withdrawn to a "fortified" farm house, still in shelling range of the Germans.)

Les and I drove on to Baron-sur-Odon, a village liberated by 6 RSF in 1944. Calling at the Mairie to pay our respects, we were surrounded by children from the adjoining school, about 100 in all. Les played pipe tunes to which the children danced and clapped and sang their sole English repertoire, "London's burning"! They did not want us to leave, reminding me of the Pied Piper!

On Tuesday the 26th (the date of our first engagement with the Hitler Youth in 1944), we met Ted Thurston, a sniper with 10 HLI, later Royal Military Police, and now Chairman of the NVA Branch 70, at St Manvieu cemetery where lie 1600 British and 500 German dead.



*Captain Ian Munro MC (6 RSF) and Ted Thurston (10 HLI) at St Manvieu War Cemetery 26 June 2007.*

We laid wreaths while Les played *The Flowers of the Forest* in this beautiful, tranquil place where so many Royal Scots, RSF and HLI lie for ever in peace.

Next was our annual commemoration with the people of Cheux of their liberation by the HLI and Royal Scots. It was enhanced this year by the accidental presence of an English RC padre from a Normandy parish and there was not only a "Vin d'Honneur" but we were again surrounded by school children. Finally Les and I came back to Cherbourg and a pleasant voyage home.

The Normandy people will never forget their freedom which we brought to them in 1944. British people must also remember the supreme sacrifice and crippling wounds which our soldiers suffered in those long distant times – and which our gallant forces are still enduring in Iraq and Afghanistan in these troubled days! (See also the inside of the rear cover.)



*Piper Les Womack (6 RSF) and Ted at St Manvieu War Cemetery.*



*Les Womack at 'Place de 6th Bn, Royal Scots Fusiliers' in St Manvieu, where 15th (Scottish) fought the 12th SS (Hitler Youth) Division on 26 June 1944.*



*Les Womack by the 15th (Scottish) Division Memorial Tourville-sur-Odon – which overlooks the Odon bridges captured by the Argylls.*



## ADVENTURES AT OXFORD

Anon

Up until 1958 the majority of (post-War) Oxford undergraduates had completed their National Service in the Regular Army before “coming up” but still had to complete their three years (or whatever) in the TA. To assist this “completion” many were attached from their Territorial regiments to the Oxford University OTC. As very many of the many had been commissioned, there was a considerable superfluity of Officers “in” the OTC.

This did change a bit in 1958. From that year onwards Oxford no longer required its undergraduates to have “done” their National Service *before* their “coming up”. Many of the 1958 Intake were straight from school – but not all. There still were many straight from National Service. There were appointments for some of these in the OTC as Troop or Platoon Commanders but the great majority were “surplus to establishment” – a total, even in 1958, of over 40.

So a suggestion was made to the remarkably tolerant Lt Col who commanded the OTC that an “Officers’ Platoon” might be formed. The CO agreed! The suggester found himself in command of it.

How to employ them? A number of minor exercises and TEWTs took place (all concerned with *Nuclear Battle*) and also a fair bit of Voice Procedure training – but one day he thought of something else. His “Platoon” could spend a happy day blowing things up. It would be fun! Unfortunately, someone had hinted that a stick or two of Plastic might be abstracted from the demolition material and be *later* used to blow open the Trinity Gates (which will remain closed until the *Stuarts* reign again). The hinter hadn’t been serious but no one quite knew when he was indeed joking. News of the hint reached the ears of the Authorities – and they became slightly perturbed.

So the Platoon Commander was summoned by the Adjutant! Although the latter (a very alive Hussar) didn’t accuse the Platoon Commander of would-be sabotage, he soon found a way to ensure that none could take place. He said, “Have **YOU** done an **Explosives Course**?” “No, Sir. I’ve just *used* explosives – and used them often,” said the Pl Comd. (He had. He’d blown blind after blind on various ranges, on one occasion even bombarding Robin Thorburn with a deluge of 2-inch mortar smoke blinds – and had even successfully blown apart the Garelochhead grenade-range shelter (demolishing it to *assist* in its rebuilding).) This didn’t suit the Adjutant. He said, “But you’ve a **Royal Engineer** in your platoon. *HE* will command that day!”

On the day itself the Platoon blew up various things – or tried to. Most of the explosives were a bit ancient. If one uses the *regulation* requirement – just one primer and detonator to a block or group of blocks of guncotton – and if the said blocks are Vintage 1946, the result quite often is no more than that the block or blocks just disintegrate. Some of the charges laid that day had *somehow* acquired extra primers etc and exploded satisfactorily, but most of

those set up according to the Book of Rules didn’t. They just scattered their fragments, fragments of *live* explosive, over the surrounding earth. (This wasn’t the Royal Engineer’s fault. Being a Royal Engineer he had been accustomed to working either with Plastic or with guncotton of more recent manufacture)

“Oh dear,” said the Pl Comd. “If *regulation* is the order of the day, *each* fragment will have to be blown up *in situ*!” “I know,” said the Royal Engineer, “... but it might be better if you went and had a cigarette.” Off went the Pl Comd – but glanced back to see the Sapper arming himself with a *broom*. He was about to use it to *sweep* the fragments into piles for *subsequent* demolition (in *totality*).

The next bit of the day was even more interesting. It was the demonstration of a technique quite unknown to both the Pl Comd and almost all of his heterogeneous Platoon. The object was to blow a crater. One uses a boring device to sink a narrow and vertical shaft a few feet deep and then a small cavity is blown at the bottom-end of the shaft. The cavity is then filled with more explosives, the explosives are then detonated .... and, **BOOM**, there is a **HUGE** crater! (There was! On this occasion the explosives were **PLASTIC**.)

Unfortunately, the crater had been made in a pasture field. A day or two later the Platoon Commander was summoned again. “Take two men and a boy with picks and shovels, drive down, and *fill in* that huge hole you blew!” said the Adjutant. “Oh, come on, Sir,” said the summoonee. “If you remember, I was not in command that day! It was the Royal Engineer whom *you* appointed!”

So the Engineer dealt with the problem. “... two men and a boy with picks and shovels”? He got on to a Royal Engineers earth-shifting unit (which had given up picks and shovels *years ago* for *bulldozers*) and the job was done. The hole needed at least *five tons* of earth and gravel to fill it. (Or was it *fifteen*?)

Not only had the Pl Comd found the crater-blowing demonstration very instructive but a little later he found that he *should* have been on an explosives course. One day he was tying a Plastic-explosives bandage round a tree to fell it. There was an Officer Cadet with him – and suddenly the latter began to sweat! Quite soon so did he himself. The bandage had been made up with a fused primer inserted into Plastic and he was pressing his chest against the bandage to hold it in position as he tied it. The bit he was pressing against was where the detonator was!

He got the knot tied – and the tree blown down – but thereafter became, at last, safety-conscious.

However, safety-consciousness can be somewhat expensive. Some years later at Garelochhead he’d been firing 2-inch mortar illuminating bombs (no HE) and there were a few blinds. As he’d no explosives with him, he went down to Faslane to “borrow” some. He didn’t get any. Instead, a Royal Navy **bomb-disposal team** was mobilised to blow the (*purely* ILLUMINATING) blinds. Luckily they didn’t send him the bill.



## THE FIGHT AGAINST EOKA (Second and Last Part)

Corporal A B Cameron The Highland Light Infantry

With the Xmas promotion to Corporal and forthcoming overseas allowance to come in Cyprus things were financially getting better. Off for Xmas and New Year at home, goodbye to Bulford, to Captain Oatts who got his Majority, and to Sgt Wallace who was returning to a rifle company when he went to Cyprus. So off with Captain Scobie, Lt Anderson and Sgts Weir and Underwood to Cyprus, January 1956.

### 14th January off to Cyprus with Advance Party



*The Advance Party.*

We flew from Blackbush Airport, courtesy of BA. First was a Stopover at Zug, Malta to refuel – but no visit to Valetta or the Gut for us; we were straight on to RAF Limassol. Then it was Golden Sands Leave Camp to check advance equipment and collect radios etc. We then moved temporarily into a makeshift camp at Komi Kebir whilst the camps were being prepared for us. Under canvas, with the weather wet and miserable and literally in a barren landscape, the place turned quickly into mud flats. A few times we woke up looking at the sky. The wind had whipped the tents away. We were fed out of field kitchens and hay boxes; the food was a credit to the cooks. (One good thing about the bad conditions was that they did get us a few rum rations.)



*Lt Col F B B Noble  
emplaning.*

While we were at Komi Kebir HQ and B Companies assisted in the construction of the camp at Dhavlos. When the camps were ready (and the weather improving) we moved on. HQ, B and D Companies were off to Dhavlos, Sp Company to Bhogas, C. Company to Kantara, and A Company to Mersinniki. The MT Platoon had their work cut out moving equipment and personnel about on dirt roads (still in the rainy season). A few vehicles went over the side but thanks to the skill of the drivers there were no casualties.



*Field kitchen at Komi Kebir.*



*The author checking equipment at Dhavlos.*



*The author, John Walker, Captain  
Scobie and John Moore.*

Life at Dhavlos, once all was set up, settled into routine. The Brigade network was established using the new C41 VHF radios, which were generator powered. They had great range and reception during the day but were useless during the night. This was blamed on the ionosphere. The Radio Code was simple, ie Sunray, Sunray minor, Pronto etc. I do remember some officer asking to “see” some Sunray or other. Quick as a flash he was asked if he thought this was a F-----g television set. He must have been pretty senior. Within the hour every on-duty operator was questioned, as it was obviously a Jock voice. But it could have been the Gordons.

Dhavlos was probably the best camp. It was off the road in a bay, so we could enjoy daily swimming without travel, unlike the Rifle Companies who would need transport to get to a beach. There were constant patrols by B Company (D Coy was the Cadre (Training) Company), each accompanied by one signaller. As these were foot patrols it was hard on the signaller as he had the backpack radio as well as his personal kit and weapon. A tough bunch the signallers. HQ carried on its role which was to co-ordinate the Battalion. Although the Battalion was split up, it was still one unit.

In spite of the constant patrolling, training was still carried on and there were of course drills and guards – as well as the exercise of military discipline. Sentences were usually loss of pay and were dealt with on detachment by the Company Commanders. I recall only one serious case requiring Commanding Officer’s Orders. The sentence was 56 days detention which was done at Wayne’s Keep Military Corrective Establishment. Not a very nice place to spend the best part of two months.

Signals Platoon continued carrying on under the scrutiny of Captain Bill Scobie and Sgts Weir and Underwood who kept everyone on their toes (Sgt Hopewell had deserted us for B Coy as



CSM). I stayed at HQ, Cpl McDougal went to A Coy, Cpl Stewart to Sp Coy and Cpl Sutherland to C Coy) As we advanced into the summer and the higher temperatures we changed into shirt-sleeve order and had the Spanish siesta break from 1pm-5pm – with the exception of the guards, duty signaller and some other essential personnel. We therefore would put this time to our own good use swimming or just lazing about. I remember trying to explain to Alan Muir how a ship could float in practically no water. (Alan was a compositor and had apparently sold off the two licensed grocers his father had left him so that he could go see the Hearts every Saturday. If he is still kicking about he will be over the moon and waiting to book his tickets for Europe.) Life carried on with general duties until March 56 when the decision to put Archbishop Makarios into exile was made. All units on the Island were put on standby in case of any serious repercussions but the event just passed over. The next major event was a visit by General Harding who was the Governor of the Island at that time. You can imagine the bull that went on for that visit.



*The Guard for the Governor's visit.*

In April I was seconded to C Company to relieve Cpl Jimmie Sutherland whom I had known very well prior to call-up (and who unfortunately died quite young). Going to a Rifle Company was a different kettle of fish compared with the relaxed haven of HQ Company.

### Charlie Company at Kantara

Charlie Coy was up in the hills, 2000 ft above Dhavlos and situated in a natural spring area which had been made into a concrete-covered reservoir. The camp also controlled a four-way road junction which could present escape routes in these directions. A large taverna sat adjacent to the crossroads – but unfortunately this was out of bounds (more about that later). Bren-gun fixed lines had been set up which could lay down a beaten zone across the road junction.



*Looking out over Kantara.*



Shortly after the camp was set up Capt Pender took over from Major Hendry (who went to A Coy) and was ably assisted by his officers, Lt Orr and 2Lts Cunningham, Boyd, Eekhout and Borton\*. He was more than ably assisted by CSM Shortt (favourite saying, “the barber’s children are starving”) and his NCOs, Sergeants Adair, Isherwood, Cope, Glencross, Tran, Bluck, McGuire and McLeish, along with various others. The CSM had a ready-made parade ground on top of the reservoir. He put it to good use.

Every detachment had its own small NAAFI which supplied the main essentials, toiletries, cigarettes, beer (two bottles a

night; if you were a teetotaler you would be very popular), sweets, soft drinks etc. The Company also had Signals and MT detachments (Battalion-supplied) and also one Pay Corps Corporal, one RASC Corporal, one Medical Corps Corporal and one from the Army Catering Corps. Usually they were all excused duties but CSM Shortt liked to remind us that we were with a Rifle Company, not skiving at HQ Company (as if we would?). CSM Shortt was an old regular soldier and when seen without his shirt had the most magnificent tigers leaping up on to his shoulders.



*Sgt Bluck.*



*CSM Shortt.*

Sitting well up in the hills and with little other than dirt track roads and very rugged terrain it's not difficult to imagine how hard it was on the troops – especially as we progressed into the heat of the summer. Nevertheless the patrols went out as regular as clockwork and, as the location of the camp being so high meant that the return journey was all uphill coming back, sometimes transport would pick them up at a pre-arranged time and spot.



*Charlie Coy Guard Room.*

(One of the terrorist tricks was to build bombs into the walls of the houses and detonate them as troops or vehicles passed by. As the streets were so narrow these could cause major casualties if successful.) [The Editor seems to remember that the drill was to dismount and pass through the villages on foot. As the dismounted troops would, whenever possible, be on the **other** side of the houses adjacent to the through-road, there were few explosions.]



*The NAAFI run.*

While I was with C Coy a bomb was thrown at the trucks as they returned from a major sweep up the Panhandle area. It exploded between two of them causing Willie McConologue to lose an arm. The bomber didn't escape. He was shot as he ran, shot by Willie Furey. Willie was afterwards known as “Hawkeye”. Another incident occurred when a bomb was tossed on the back of a truck. Fortunately everyone got off, no one was hurt and the culprit was caught trying to hide in a church. One incident that particularly upset us was the pointless killing of an old gentleman from the Church of Scotland who used to call in occasionally to visit us and bring some biscuits etc. He was a great old guy and would not accept the offers of escorts to his next port of call. These incidents highlighted the fact that all the training we had gone through worked. No one panicked, everyone knew how to respond. We were successful, apart from the injury to Willie McConologue, and our



*Willie Furey ready for action.*

\* 2Lt Bob Borton, the father of the present 2 SCOTS CO, Lt Col N R M Borton MBE.



successes slowed down the terrorists for a spell. They didn't take kindly to losses. If they'd known that Hawkeye was aboard one of the trucks that one of them bombed, perhaps they wouldn't have tried.

Entertainment at Kantara was almost non-existent due to its location. However morale was always good (you can't keep a good Jock down). There were some good turns; ie we had a Frank Sinatra, a Perry Como and a budding Andy Cameron – and also our share of chancers; but they all helped to keep things together. The highlight of our entertainment was our tombola, ably run by WO2 Shortt (I think he had missed his vocation), and there was a film show once a week and swimming trips to the coast at HQ at Dhavlos. I do not remember any outside entertainers coming while I was there.

One swimming party got stoned going through a village. I remember it was Sunday. On the way back it got stoned again, only this time the stones seemed to pass over the transport, and hit some locals sitting outside the taverna and breaking a lot of windows. Guess who got the blame for that? Other incidents took place with injuries but fortunately no more serious incidents.

### Back to the Taverna

The taverna was some fifty yards from the guardroom at the entrance to the camp and had a landline which could be hooked up with a field telephone and give us a connection to HQ at Dhavlos. One of my duties was to check this weekly, which I always did on a Sunday afternoon. I always went by myself, which in hindsight was very stupid; it was routine that got a lot of people killed. However I always took the spare valve box of the C41 radio with me. It comfortably held a half bottle under the top layer of valves (this was my introduction to Ouzo).

This was a secret I kept to myself for over 40 years until I told Willie Furey one night. He gave me a row for not telling him then. It helped me through the nights; I always did the night shifts as I did not do patrols.

I really enjoyed my time at C Coy, a great bunch who I had a lot of good times with. The sad times were still to come. Once again I was on the move, this time to A Coy at Mersinniki.

### Able Company. Mersinniki

I moved to A Coy in June 56 and stayed with them until we left on January 4th 57. I was relieving Cpl McDougal who returned to Dhavlos. A Coy always considered themselves the best Company in the Battalion and I must admit the longer I was with them the more brainwashed I became. I made many good friends in A Coy which friendships have endured to the present day. A Coy was situated at Mersinniki in a Forestry Commission camp. It was in the pass above Lefkoniko and on a main road to Famagusta.



George Ward on guard.

Initially commanded by Major Ottewill, with Lt Mack (not to be confused with Willie Mack the cook) and 2Lts Best and Maclachlan as his Platoon Commanders, the command later changed to Major Hendry and 2Lts Helm and Mason joined the Company. (Major Hendry even eventually acquired a 2IC, Captain Donnelly, the first A Coy 2IC for over half a year). CSM Stobie had taken the Coy to Cyprus but after a few months at Mersinniki left for HQ Coy in Dhavlos and was replaced by CSM Sievewright. Luckily CSjt Ramsay was there

throughout and the Sergeants were Kindness, Kenyon, Hutcheon, Milligan (at least two of whom had been for some time Corporals and Acting Pl Sgts). There had also been Sgt Breslin, who left for HQ as Provost Sgt, and Sgt Tervett who left for C Coy. All, with some very competent Cpls and LCpls, capably looked after us and our welfare. [Editor: Especially CORPORAL McGrory. When 1 Platoon's Acting Pl Sgt, Cpl A D Kenyon (Cushy) was in hospital after his platoon's 'visit' to Akanthou LCpl McGrory took over. As such, he commanded the guard at Mersinniki's gates when 1 Pl was on duty. One day the CO (Lt Col F B B Noble OBE) drove in. The 1 Pl Guard of course presented arms but Freddie didn't just touch his bonnet in response. "The Guard Commander should be a FULL Corporal," he dictated. LCpl McGrory immediately rose in rank.]

The Signals Platoon at A Coy was represented by myself, Charlie Shanks, Speedy McDowell and John Pollard.

The camp was well situated for our purpose and the terrain was reasonably flat. There was a fair amount of activity in the area and the patrols were kept at it. Patrols continued around and well beyond Mersinniki and at least [Editor: some of (!)] the terrain was much flatter there. However we were now moving into the high summer and the temperature was sometimes hitting 35 deg C, so it was no joke chasing about in that heat.

A Coy also had the job of guarding and patrolling the area of Triкомо Monastery for reasons which I don't recall. Various incidents occurred while I was at A Coy. A swimming party was attacked as they drove through the Lefkoniko Pass. A bomb was thrown from the top of a bluff with no injuries probably because the transport was moving apace. Fire was directed at an area and when a party reached the spot blood was found but the injured had been removed. [Editor: There also was what may have been a separate incident. (It was certainly earlier.) A 1 Pl "swimming party" (allowed to swim IF each participant would bring back a filled sandbag to heighten the ramparts round the Pl Area) was driving along the coast road when a wired 25-pdr shell was detonated under one of its trucks. (Luckily the latter was a 1-ton truck with an apparently armoured bottom. No one was injured.) Another swimming party was bombed while in the water. Fortunately it landed in a stream close to where 2Lt Helm was sitting reading a book. He was covered in mud but again fortunately no one was injured. [At least one A Coy swimming excursion was interrupted by the detonation of a "bomb", probably another 25-pdr shell, in the water by means of wire and battery. One swimmer was quite (or very) near at the time but the water seems to have blanketed the explosion. At the same time or shortly afterwards an inquisitive and very intrepid soldier fished out a wired but unexploded 25-pdr shell which had been lying on the sea-bottom. This was taken back to camp – and of course immediately blown. (Its demolition, considerably annoyed the Island's RAOC Bomb Disposal Squad. Demolition was their territory)]

Swimming/bathing parties were by no means routine but were fairly frequent – and usually used the same stretch of beach (with sentries posted on the cliffs or bluffs above). Both the locality and A Coy's route to it would have both been well-known to the Panhandle terrorists. (Sorry! Freedom fighters!)



Charlie Shanks.



Speedy McDowell.



John Pollard.



Entertainers started to visit the Island and tour the camps. We had visits from Lita Rosa who really went down a bundle, Frankie Howard, who cheered us up with patter not his television stuff, and Elsie and Doris Waters who were getting to the end of their career but were still prepared to entertain the troops. Betty Driver also visited the Island. I remember seeing her at Golden Sands Leave Camp.

Golden Sands Leave Camp was available for five days leave if one wanted (and could be spared from patrols, guards *and* fatigues). It was a beautiful setting just outside Famagusta giving a well-earned break from the constant routine of guards and patrols to any Other Ranks if they wanted to go. It was limited to six to ten personnel from each Company at any one time and was quite popular. There was no limitation on drinks within reason, good entertainment by visiting show-business people and dancing at night with a small amount of WRAC personnel. The camp was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, but outside the fence were orange groves. The odd bomb was thrown in. As the living and entertainment areas were well inside the perimeter no real damage was done. It was however a great break from the everyday routine of the camps.



*Recreation at Golden Sands.*

### Inter Company Sports

All the Companies had their own football teams and the competition was great. The teams were not all Junior Ranks. Some companies fielded players right up to CSMs (who could take it as well as give it) and 2Lt Best was one of the A Coy team's stalwarts. (CSgt Ramsay was of course a notable player as well as trainer.)

### Inter Battalion Sports

The Battalion was represented at most inter-Battalion competitions but the crowning glory was the winning of the Cyprus Mail Cup. The team played and beat the 10th Hussars, Pay Corps, 2 Para and Durham Light Infantry – and 3 Para (1-0) in the final. The team was Pinkerton, Kinney, McCulloch (scorer – penalty), McGill, Daniels, Baxter, Scoular, McEwan, Phin, Duffy and Graham, and the subs Thompson and Benton.

### Discipline

Military discipline continued to play its role in our lives although the penalties were mainly loss of pay. I only fell foul of it once. A patrol had just returned to camp and the signaller had left his FN rifle in the Signals tent. I noticed the action was cocked and assuming the weapon had been cleared I squeezed the trigger – to find there was a round in the breech. Fortunately I pointed the weapon at an unoccupied area of the camp and at least the magazine had been removed. The camp was immediately on stand-to as shots had recently been fired into HQ Coy at Dhavlos. My misdemeanour was quickly brought to light and the signaller and myself were up before the Coy Comd. I got reprimanded and he got seven days loss of pay, which under the circumstances was pretty light.

### The Sad Times

The sad times started when the Gordons, who were stationed in the Troodos mountains, were involved in fighting a forest fire. The wind changed and blew back on them causing 22 deaths. As a Regiment our hearts went out to the Gordons. I myself was very worried because I had pals in the Gordons at the time.

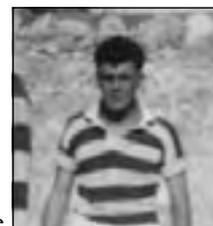


*The football teams before the game.*

Our own personal sad times came when we lost three of us, of A Company, in a bombing incident in Lefkoniko. They were Privates J Beattie, M Neely and P Doherty. The Company used to make up two teams for a game which was played on a school playing field in Lefkoniko. When the game was finished everyone gathered round an adjacent drinking-fountain. The locals used to come down and watch these games because they were always played on a Sunday afternoon. This particular Sunday no one noticed that the locals had all disappeared before the end of the game. As the teams ran to the drinking-fountain Matt Neely was the first to touch the spout. There was an immediate explosion and he was killed instantly. Beattie died next day of his wounds and Doherty died six weeks later at Cowglen Hospital – although it had been hoped he would make a full recovery. If the “bombers”, the terrorists at the other end of the detonating cable, had waited another 30 seconds it could have been 2 or 3 times that number. I suppose they wanted to be quickly away and that saved lives.



*Matt Neely.*



*J Beattie.*

Word was quickly relayed to the camp and two platoons were soon on the scene. [Editor: *The Brigadier ordered their immediate removal but the CO, Lt Col F B B Noble OBE, did not comply.*] The following day the town and the whole immediate area were intensely searched and the next few days were spent scouring the surrounding areas, but they were long gone. A Coy did not have any more serious incidents and I am sure it was because of the quick on-the-spot reactions. (The earlier death of Pte G Cullen of B Coy was the result of a most unfortunate accident. In the darkness on the night of 7/8 Jun 56 two observation post parties from the same B Coy patrol clashed. A challenge was issued but there was no response. The challenging party then opened fire – and Pte Cullen was shot dead.)



Due to Army policy the deceased could not be sent home and were buried at Wayne's Keep Military Cemetery. However, the people of Glasgow raised the money and they were sent home before we left the Island.

Although I knew most of them I was probably closest to Matt Neely, one of the cooks who was in the next tent to me. It was indeed the saddest day of our service. It was almost certainly the routine pattern of these matches that allowed it to happen.

Back to the constant patrolling coupled with the fact that the Suez Crisis was rearing its head and we fully expected to go, but it turned out a no-go as far as we were concerned. Rumours then began to circulate that we would be leaving the Island shortly. This was eventually confirmed and we began packing up and were to be relieved by the Royal West Kents. We had hoped to be home by Xmas but this was not to be. However we spent a more relaxed Xmas and New Year in camp knowing we would be leaving shortly. The Company had been given a piglet by the villagers when they arrived and it had become more of a pet than a meal as it freely roamed the camp. So there were some mixed feelings when the local butcher arrived to prepare it for our Xmas dinner. (To put us off someone started the rumour that it had been seen eating a 'deid dug' outside the perimeter) However, due to the expertise of Cpl Goudie and the Coy cooks we had a handsome meal – as Cpl Goudie was prone to say. Some of us even managed to scrounge a dram at the Sergeants' Mess later on. **[Editor: Whisky was only 12/- (60p) a bottle in Cyprus then but wasn't served in the Jocks' canteens. All there was there was soft drinks and beer. (But there was FREE rum – when notice had been given TWENTY-FOUR hours in advance to Brigade that conditions were harsh.)]**

Around the 4th of January we made our way to Famagusta to board the SS Dilwara on the first stage home. Famagusta Bay is very shallow so the shipping sits well out in the bay. The first experience of sailing for most of us was in small boats that ferried us out to the ship, the climb aboard in full FSMO was something else. Fortunately no one ended up in the sea. Accommodation on troop ships is very cramped, not bunk beds but at least four-tiered. Well fed and no duties but I don't recall any alcohol being available (probably just as well). Most of our time was spent resting, gambling or seagull watching.

We had one stop at Algiers on the road home to take on water and it was obvious the fighting that was going on between the settlers and the French government by the amount of action we could hear going on during our short stay there.

Apart from some rough weather passing through the Bay of Biscay our trip was quite uneventful and we docked at Southampton on the 17th of January. After being well turned over by Customs we left by train. Travelling overnight with some stops for feeding and watering we arrived in Edinburgh and Redford Barracks. We didn't stay long there and then moved on to Glasgow Queen Street Station. Transport was waiting to take us and our kit for an overnight stay at the barracks. They certainly took our kit; with the exception of those living outside Glasgow, I am sure the rest of us went home. Next day the 19th I remember well. We were given our release papers, paid, plus leave pay, up to 22nd February, our final release date. Actually we were held over for seven weeks but at that time we could be held over for three months. I don't recall anyone objecting. We were all too glad to be home. Dismissed with our kit and told to report for Territorial Army Service (which I must admit I never did) we parted company with HM Forces.

#### **Return To Civvy Street**

Myself and a few of the old A Coy lads continued our friendship after demob. We would meet every Friday and Saturday night in our favourite watering hole, the Grand Hotel bar at Charing Cross. Then as was the case we were picked off one by one by the fairer sex. (I wonder how many wives know they have been married to trained killers for 40-odd years?) We still kept in touch but our meetings got fewer as we became more under their control. However some of us still keep in touch to this day.

Fortunately employment was readily available then. We were still in the post-war house-building boom, we still had a shipbuilding industry, the steel industry was being rebuilt, and refineries were being built all over the country. I myself moved into the construction industry and as I progressed through the company I always remembered the words of a well-known senior detective, Joe Beattie, who I got to know very well after he retired, "DON'T FORGET THE MARYHILL BOYS". I was in the fortunate position to give employment to ex-HLI old pals who were tradesmen both onshore and offshore and I can honestly say I was never once let down.