



*The Journal of*  
**The Royal  
 Highland Fusiliers**



**SUMMER 2005**  
**Volume XXIX Number 1**

*Editor:*

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Printed in Scotland by:  
 IAIN M. CROSBIE PRINTERS  
 Beechfield Road, Willowyard  
 Industrial Estate, Beith, Ayrshire  
 KA15 1LN

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**at Sydney Opera House**

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**Colonel-in-Chief**

HRH Prince Andrew, The Duke of York KCVO ADC

**Colonel of the Regiment**

Major General W E B Loudon CBE

**Regular Units**

RHQ

518 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3LW

Depot

Infantry Training Centre Catterick

1st Battalion

Salamanca Barracks, Cyprus, BFPO 53

**Territorial Army Units**

The 52nd Lowland Regiment, Walcheren Barracks,  
 122 Hotspur Street, Glasgow G20 8LQ

**Allied Regiments**

Prince Alfred's Guard (CF), PO Box 463, Port Elizabeth,  
 South Africa

The Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada, Cambridge,  
 Ontario

11th Bn The Baloch Regiment, Malir Cantonment,  
 Karachi 9, Pakistan

1st Bn The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment  
 Wellington Lines, Linton Camp, New Zealand



# Battle Honours

## ON THE REGIMENTAL COLOUR

**Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, Malplaquet, Dettingen, Belleisle, Carnatic, Hindoostan, Sholinghur, Mysore, Martinique 1794, Seringapatam, Cape of Good Hope 1806, Rolica, Vimiera, Corunna, Busaco, Fuentes D'Onor, Almaraz, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, Toulouse, Peninsula, Bladensburg Waterloo, South Africa 1851-53, Alma, Inkerman, Sevastopol, Central India, South Africa 1879, Tel El Kebir, Egypt 1882, Burma 1885-87, Tirah, Modder River, Relief of Ladysmith, South Africa 1899-1902.**  
**Gibraltar 1780-83, Gulf 1991, Assaye.**

## WORLD WAR I (Those in bold are on the Queen's Colour) 49 Battalions

**Mons**, Le Cateau, Retreat from Mons, **Marne 1914**, Aisne 1914, La Basse 1914, **Ypres 1914, 15, 17, 18**, Langemarck 1914, 17, Gheluvelt, Nonne Bosschen, Givenchy 1914, Neuve Chapelle, St Julien, Aubers, Festubert 1915, **Loos, Somme 1916, 18**, Albert 1916, 18, Bazentin, Delville Wood, Pozieres, Flers-Courcellette, Le Transloy, Ancre Heights, Ancre 1916, 18, **Arras 1917, 18**, Vimy 1917, Scarpe 1917, 18, Arleux, Messines 1917, 18, Pilckem, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendale, Cambrai 1917, 18, St. Quentin, Bapaume 1918, Rosieres, **Lys**, Estaires, Hazebrouck, Bailleul, Kemmel, Bethune, Scherpenberg, Amiens, Drocourt-Queant, **Hindenburg Line**, Havrincourt, Canal Du Nord, St. Quentin Canal, Beaufort, Courtrai, Selle, Sambre, France and Flanders 1914-18, **Doiran 1917, 18**, Macedonia 1916-18, Helles, **Gallipoli 1915-16**, Rumani, Egypt 1916-17, Gaza, El Mughar, Nebi Samwil, Jerusalem, Jaffa, Tell `Asur, **Palestine 1917-18**, Tigris 1916, Kut Al Amara 1917, Sharqat, **Mesopotamia 1916-18**, Murmansk 1919, **Archangel 1919**.

## WORLD WAR II (Those in bold are on the Queen's Colour) 28 Battalions

Defence of Arras, **Ypres-Comines Canal**, Somme 1940, Withdrawal to Seine, Withdrawal to Cherbourg, **Odon**, Fontenay Le Pesnil, Cheux, Defence of Rauray, Esquay, Mont Pincon, Quarry Hill, Estry, **Falaise**, Le Vie Crossing, La Touques Crossing, Seine 1944, Aarat, Nederrijn, Best, Le Havre, Antwerp-Turnhout Canal, **Scheldt**, South Beveland, **Walcheren Causeway**, Lower Maas, Meijel, Venlo Pocket, Roer, Ourthe, Rhineland, **Reichswald**, Cleve, Goch, Moyland Wood, Weeze, **Rhine**, Ibbenburen, Dreirwalde, Aller, Ulzen, **Bremen**, Artlenberg, **N.W. Europe 1940, 44-45**, Jebel Shiba, Barentu, **Keren**, Massawa, Abyssinia 1941, Gazala, **Cauldron**, Mersa Matruh, Fuka, North Africa 1940-42, **Landing in Sicily**, Sicily 1943, Sangro, **Garigliano Crossing** Minturno, Anzio, Advance to Tiber, Italy 1943-44, 45, Madagascar, Adriatic, Middle East 1942, 44, Athens, **Greece 1944-45**, **North Arakan**, Razabil, **Pinwe**, Shweli, Mandalay, Burma 1944-45.

**Publication:** Half-yearly

**Subscription:** £15.00 per annum by banker's order or £6 per copy (plus £1.50 UK postage if posted). Additional postage costs will be charged to subscribers outside Europe.

**Bankers:** The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Holt's Farnborough Branch, Victoria Road, Farnborough.

Literary contributions and all correspondence should be addressed to the Editor.

Contributions on disk (**Microsoft Word**) for the Summer Edition to be sent to RHQ before:

(for letters and articles) 09 December 2005.

(for Unit notes) 16 December 2005.

Texts not on disk should be sent a fortnight earlier.

Illustrations embedded in texts (Microsoft Word) **cannot** be used.

Photographs without captions will **NOT** be used.

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### **The Colonel of The Regiment writes:**

The first half of 2005 opened with us all beginning to digest the news announced in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for Defence in December 2004 about the Future Infantry Structure. At first sight the consequences of this may seem very unpalatable indeed but I do want to emphasise that the Army, as a whole, is at one of those watersheds in history when a great deal is changing in a short period in time. 96% of all units in the British Army are either to change shape or size over the next three years and these changes affect both regular and territorial soldiers. There will be a great deal of painful emotion to overcome but I remain convinced that from the Army's point of view, there are more virtues than vices in the plans for the future.

Those of us in the serving community responsible for implementing the changes now have clear orders and we know that by 1 January 2007 we are required to create a new regiment to be called The Royal Regiment of Scotland. It will form as six regular and two TA battalions in early 2006 and, in August 2006, it will reduce by one regular battalion as a result of the merger of The Royal Scots and The King's Own Scottish Borderers. The regular battalions will, thereafter, be styled as follows:

The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

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

The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

At their unanimous request the TA (formerly 52 Lowland and 51 Highland Regiments) will wear exactly the same capbadge as their regular counterparts and they will form as the 7th and 8th Battalions, The Royal Regiment of Scotland. There is a great deal to be done to bring this transformation to a successful conclusion and the views and voice of the serving soldier have played a significant part in the decision making process. Commanding Officers, Adjutants and Regimental Sergeant Majors have all been members of the main working groups – Recruiting and Marketing, Regimental Issues, Communications and the new Infantry Postings Policy - and Willie Shaw and I have been involved in keeping an eagle eye on financial matters and the future relationship between the new regimental headquarters and the headquarters of the antecedent regiments. There is to be a new RHQ

for the new regiment in Edinburgh Castle and I am confident that there is no imminent threat to the continuing roles and functions of 518, indeed the general principle that the new RHQ should deal with new and old with old seems to be gaining support around the Scottish regiments. Once the new arrangements are in place we will need to address the question of what 518 should be called in future. I am taken by the notion of Home Headquarters, The Royal Highland Fusiliers; the word Home seems to me to encapsulate everything that is desirable in ensuring that the 'golden thread' remains a feature of our future relationships with our local communities in Glasgow and Ayrshire and it also underscores the enduring sense of family and comradeship between both the serving and retired military community.

Wearing another hat – as Colonel Commandant of The Scottish Division – I very much hope that the findings of the various working groups will have reached a sufficiently mature stage by October 2005 for me to write to every soldier and officer in the Division outlining the way ahead and a copy of that letter will appear in our winter edition of the Journal. Soldiering in 2005 remains a demanding and dangerous business, both on operations overseas and as we have seen from the events which unfolded in London in July 2005 other dangers are once again on our home shores. Those responsible for security matters have a heavy burden to carry and I hope very much that we, in the wider regimental family, who can play such a central role in keeping peoples' spirits up in difficult times, will give the men of the 1st Battalion and of 52 Lowland Regiment our support and encouragement. They have all been living, in an organisational sense, under a cloud of uncertainty for some time; that period will start to come to an end by this Christmas and it will be no time at all before the 1st Battalion returns to Scotland from Cyprus to its brand new barracks at Penicuik in Midlothian. Details of our proposals for the official opening of the barracks and a battalion 'at home' day will appear in the winter edition of the Journal.

**Euan Loudon  
August 2005**



# Calendar of Events

**This is an outline calendar forecasting the various events so far planned for the period August 2005 to July 2006. It is subject to alteration and will be updated and added to in the Winter 2005 Edition of the Journal. All known events that will take place in RHQ have been included to show what other dates are free for bookings. RHQ can also be booked for almost any evening**

**The Regimental Secretary also proposes an All Ranks Luncheon Club, which could meet on the last Friday of each month, lunch with wine £8.50 per head and a cash bar. Please contact the Regimental Secretary with your views on these suggestions.**

**The Regiment needs your support at all Remembrance Day Parades in George Square Glasgow or Wellington Square, Ayr. Please contact the Regimental Secretary for details of the next parade.**

## Events in 2005

20th August	Tattoo Regimental Night.	5th November	52nd Lowland Regiment Inkerman Ball, Ayr
7th September	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ	9th,10th November	6th RSF OCA Westminster Garden of Remembrance
9th September	Alan Glen Lunch at RHQ	11th November	Alan Glen Lunch at RHQ
10th September	OCA gathering at RHQ	13th November	Remembrance Sunday
21st September	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ	16th November	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ
23rd September	Assaye Day WO's Dinner, Hotspur Street	30th November	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ
29th September	Regimental Dinner, Lincoln's Inn	3rd December	OCA Christmas Dance at Hotspur Street
30th September	Regimental Luncheon, Lincoln's Inn	9th December	Alan Glen Lunch at RHQ
4th October	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ	14th December	RHQ visit to Erskine Hospital
14th October	Alan Glen Lunch at RHQ	14th December	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ
19th October	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ		
30th October	OCA RHF & RSF		
2nd November	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ		
5th November	Inkerman Day OCA Gathering at RHQ		

## Events in 2006

11th January	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ	22nd March	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ
14th January	Alan Glen Lunch at RHQ	5th April	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ
22nd January	RHQ Open Day 47th Anniversary of the Amalgamation	7th April	Alan Glen Lunch at RHQ
21st January	OCA Burns Supper (Fusilier House) Ayr	8th April	OCA Meeting at RHQ
25th January	Officer's Luncheon Club, Burns Supper at RHQ	19th April	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ
8th February	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ	29th April	WO's & Sgts Mess, Reunion Dinner Hotspur Street
10th February	Alan Glen Lunch at RHQ	3rd May	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ
17th, 18th, 19th February	Reunion weekend for all Regimental Associations.	12th May	Alan Glen Lunch at RHQ
February	Officer's Mess, Edinburgh Training Centre At least 6 couples from each Association are expected to attend.	17th May	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ
19th February	HRH The Duke of York's Birthday	28th May	OCA Summer Ball, Fusilier House Ayr
22nd February	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ	31st May	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ
4th March	HLI Reunion at RHQ	4th June	OCA gathering at RHQ
8th March	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ	9th June	Alan Glen Lunch
10th March	Alan Glen Lunch at RHQ	14th June	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ
March(Date TBC)	6th RSF Reunion Blackpool	12th July	Officer's Luncheon Club, Wednesday Lunch at RHQ

In addition the RSF OCA meets in Fusilier House, Ayr on the last Sunday of each month. On almost every Thursday afternoon veterans of 1 HLI meet in the Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow and veterans of 10 HLI meet in O'Leary's Traditional Ale House, Rutherglen. The Inverness Branch meet in the British Legion Club. Livingston and Cambridge are both setting up a meeting point. The address for both will be in the next edition of the Journal.



# Lieutenant Colonel P K Harkness MBE

*(Editor's Notes: Lieutenant Colonel P K Harkness MBE assumed command of 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers in June 2005 vice Lieutenant Colonel(now Colonel) P A S Cartwright. Biography of Lieutenant Colonel P K Harkness MBE is featured below)*



Lieutenant Colonel Paul Harkness was commissioned into the Queen's Own Highlanders in September 1987 and posted to the Battalion, which was based in Munster in the Mechanized role. Following an inevitable tour in Northern Ireland, he moved to Headquarters 4th Armoured Division, initially as the ADC, and then subsequently as the SO3 G3 O&D. After the Junior Division of the Staff College he became the Adjutant of the Battalion, again in both Munster and Northern Ireland. He was then posted to the Ministry of Defence as the Assistant Military Assistant to the Assistant Chief of the General Staff.

On promotion to Major he was attached to Headquarters Sector South West as part of the Joint Commission Military Executive Committee in Bosnia, before returning to The Highlanders as a Company Commander in Londonderry. A year later he attended the first Joint Services Command and Staff Course at Bracknell, after which he assumed the appointment of Brigade Chief of Staff at Headquarters 8th Infantry Brigade in Northern Ireland. A second tour as a Company Commander followed, during which he returned once again to Northern Ireland as the Operations Company in South Armagh, organised the presentation of new Colours in Edinburgh and commanded the Royal Guard at Balmoral. However his tour as a Company Commander was cut

short after only a year as he was posted to the Permanent Joint Headquarters in Northwood as the Military Assistant to the Deputy Joint Chief of Operations (Ops). He was awarded an MBE for his work during the planning and execution of OP TELIC.

On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel he was posted to Iraq as part of Headquarters 3rd Division. In 2003 he was posted to Headquarters Land Command as the SO1 Org Plans, dealing primarily with Future Army Structures. In June 2005 he assumed command of the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers.

Lieutenant Colonel Harkness is married to Jacky, whom he met at St Andrew's University. He has two sons, Alexander aged nine and Jamie aged seven who thankfully take after their mother. His interests include all sports, especially rugby, and reading. His aspiration to indulge in a far wider variety of sports and hobbies has been severely curtailed by having moved house fifteen times in fourteen years of marriage.

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# Location of Serving Officers

**Colonel of the Regiment:** Major General W E B Loudon CBE

## 1. General Staff List

Major General W E B Loudon CBE	– GOC 2 Div
Brigadier D C Kirk CBE	– Comd 51 (Scottish) Bde
Colonel J S M Edwardes OBE	– Vice President RCB
Colonel N T Campbell	– COS HQ 4 Div
Colonel J M Castle OBE	– Col APS 1 DAPS
Colonel P A S Cartwright	– Col Land2 Focus Finance Mgt Sp Gp DLO (Ensleigh)

## 2. Former RHF Officers Transferred to Other Regiments

Colonel A L Reid OBE	– Adviser to Jt Force Comd RSLAF
Lieutenant Colonel G F Hislop	– BMM SANG
Major C C J W Taylor	– LI (French Army Staff College)

## 3. Regimental List

### LIEUTENANT COLONELS:

P K Harkness MBE	– CO 1 RHF
A D Johnston MBE	– HQ ARRC
A C B Whitelaw	– CO BATSUB
A C Whitmore	– SO1(W) LOG IS RMLAN LAIPT
W A Common	– Dep Ch J5 HQ EUFOR
N H De R Channer	– CO Oxford UOTC
D C Richmond	– SO1 Programmes D Army RP
J Garven MBE	– SO1 Observer/Trainer JWC Stavanger (Norway)

### MAJORS:

N A Archibald MBE	– SO2 G1 Pol HQ 2 Div
H M Miln	– COS ITC Warminster
A D Middleton MBE	– Rhine Area Support Unit
N B V Campbell	– SO2 INFO OPS (PLANS/PSYOPS) HQ ARRC
D G Steel	– 2IC 1 RHF
D M N Mack	– MA to MS, APC Glasgow
S J Cartwright	– SO2 DS24 JSC&Staff College
B S Montgomery	– SO2 G3 ORG&CTS HQ 2 Div
D C Masson	– SO2 Coll Tig(B) Fd Army HQ
P Whitehead	– SO2 Inf HQ LWCTG (G)
N R M Borton MBE	– 1 RHF
E A Fenton	– 1 RHF
C L G Herbert	– 1 RHF
A T Rule	– MA to DCG CFC(A), OCE HQ LAND

P Hutt	– 1 RGR
J R Duff	– SO2 EC(CCII) TAC CBM INTEROP
A J Fitzpatrick	– SO2 G3 TRG HQ 3 (UK) DIV
M P S Luckyn–Malone	– SO2 J3 TRG/EPS Joint Staff Div J3 HQ BF Cyprus
E M N–R Holme	– 22 SAS
T J Cave–Gibbs	– SO2(W) WARRIOR UPGRA CLOSE ARMOUR IPT (Bristol)
N D E Abram	– 1 RHF
N J Kindness	– 1 RHF
K C Thomson	– 2 RGR

### CAPTAINS:

S R Feaver	– SO3 G3 Ops 4 Armd Bde
R R Keating	– ATR Pirbright

### Intermediate Regular Commission

#### CAPTAINS:

T H C De R Channer	– SO3 GS DASD MOD
N G Jordan–Barber	– Adjt Old College RMAS
P A Joyce	– Pl Instr RMAS
F A L Luckyn–Malone	– ADC to GOC 2 Div
T A Winfield	– Adjt 1 RHF
N J L Brown	– SO3(AI TRG) HQ LWCTG (G)
J A Reid	– 1 RHF
R R D McClure	– 1 RHF

#### LIEUTENANT:

B O'Neill	– 1 RHF
M J Munnich	– 1 RHF

### Short Service Commission

#### CAPTAINS:

K Greene	– 1 RHF
J A French	– Adjt 52 Lowland Regt
M J Rodger	– 1 RHF
N A Wheatley	– 1 RHF

**LIEUTENANTS:**

N P Bridle	– ITC Catterick
D R Taylor	– 1 RHF
R S Montgomery	– 1 RHF
E D Aitken	– 1 RHF
D J Clark	– 1 RHF

**2nd LIEUTENANTS:**

A G Lipowski	– 1 RHF
M D Kerr	– 1 RHF
L G Curson	– 1 RHF
V T Gilmour	– 1 RHF

**Regular Commission (Late Entry)****MAJOR:**

J Frew	– QM 52 Lowland Regt
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**Intermediate Regular Commission (Late Entry)****CAPTAIN:**

J E B Kerr	– QM(M) 1 RHF
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**Short Service (Late Entry)****CAPTAINS:**

C Kerr	– 1 RHF
G McGown	– 1 RHF
A T Grant	– 1 RHF
J McDermid	– OC RRT 1 RHF

# Location of Serving Volunteer Officers

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

**COLONEL:**

J G d'Inverno TD ADC WS	– 2 Div TA Colonel
-------------------------	--------------------

**LIEUTENANT COLONELS:**

J L Kelly MBE	– JRLO 51 (Scottish) Bde
S W Burns TD	– CO 52 Lowland Regt
H Grant TD	– SO1 G3 Tigr(V) 51 Scottish Bde
R Doyle	– CO GSUOTC

**MAJORS:**

J M T Allen	– OC B(RHF) Coy 52 Lowland Regt
J E Tookey	– OC C(RHF) Coy 52 Lowland Regt
S J R Bollen TD	– ACIO Glasgow

**CAPTAINS:**

P C MacDonald BEM	– HQ 51 (Scottish) Bde
A Blair	– PSAO C(RHF) Coy 52 Lowland Regt
H M McAulay	– PSAO B(RHF) Coy 52 Lowland Regt
D McNally	– QM(V) HQ Coy 52 Lowland Regt
D H Coulter	– OC HQ Coy 52 Lowland Regt
J Donald	– 2IC B(RHF) Coy 52 Lowland Regt

**SUBALTERNS:**

A I Campbell	– Asst Pnr Pl Comd C(RHF) Coy 52 Lowland Regt
A P Wickman	– Pl Comd B(RHF) Coy 52 Lowland Regt

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# Letters to the Editor

From: Lieutenant Colonel I Shepherd  
Forthview East, Dalmeny  
South Queensferry  
West Lothian, EH30 9JR  
28th February 2005

Sir,

I was not present at Redford on 20 January 1959 when the Regiment was formed – I was still a cadet at Sandhurst. However, Major A G Buchanan–Dunlop and I were the first officers to be granted Permanent Regular Commissions in The Royal Highland Fusiliers and it is from that perspective that I write to regret the forthcoming demise of our Regiment.

For demise it will be. Whether or not a battalion of the new regiment carries our name is immaterial: it will be but one battalion in another regiment and, because of that, I wonder just what real link it can have with us? As the Colonel of The Black Watch (and Adjutant General) has said in a letter to his regiment and made public on the Ministry of Defence web-site, after a few years such battalion designations may well lapse. This will be assisted by the system of trickle posting that will see our people moving to what was The Black Watch or The Royal Scots etc and men from those and other battalions coming to the one that may bear our name. What significance will Inkerman or Assaye have for them? And what will Ticonderoga mean to our people?

I further regret the fact that our demise is coming so quickly: a little less haste might have seen us survive to 21 January 2009 and fifty full years of service as The Royal Highland Fusiliers.

Of course I will wish the new regiment, and all who will continue to serve in it, well. However, they will all belong to that regiment and it is under that regiment's colours they will serve and it is to that regiment their loyalties must lie and it is for that regiment's future history that their actions and behaviour will be important and it is for that regiment that they will win Battle Honours. In even more immediately apparent terms it is to that regiment that they will donate their day's pay under the Day's Pay Scheme.

I am etc,

Lieutenant Colonel I Shepherd

From: Lieutenant Colonel I Shepherd  
Forthview East, Dalmeny  
South Queensferry  
West Lothian, EH30 9JR  
28th June 2005

Sir,

It occurs to me that this may be the last edition of the Journal of The Royal Highland Fusiliers (21st, 71st, 74th) and thus be time to correct a historical inaccuracy in the book retained in the Officers' Mess of the 1st Battalion in which are recorded the names of Ensigns who have carried the Colours.

On Remembrance Sunday 1962 the Guard of which I was Ensign paraded at St John's Co-cathedral in Valletta for His Excellency the Governor of Malta. Consequently the Colour I carried was the Queen's and not, as the book records, the Regimental.

I do not know how many of that memorable Colour Party remain: as the trophy in the bar of the 1st Battalion's Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess states, we stood together; I suspect their memories may be even hazier than mine.

This is perhaps also an opportunity to pay tribute to my late friend the then Senior Subaltern, Lieutenant Colonel R E M Thorburn, whose attempts to spare me from the wrath that was to follow I so rashly brushed aside.

I am, Sir,

&c,

Lieutenant Colonel I Shepherd

***The following is a letter addressed to Major General W E B Loudon CBE, the Colonel of the Regiment:***

From: Major A J Fitzpatrick  
1 RHF  
Salamanca Barracks  
Episkopi Garrison, Cyprus  
BFPO 53  
9th May 2005

Dear General Euan,

On behalf of the officers and soldiers of 1st Battalion who took part in Exercise Aphrodite Swartkop I would like to thank you and members of the Regimental Council for their generous financial support.

We had a fabulous time and many wonderful experiences. This included learning about our Regimental forefathers, their bravery, robustness and commitment during the Boer War. We trekked through the Drakensberg National Park, saw some amazing wildlife and even had the opportunity of shooting some.

Our exploits will be explained in the Summer edition of the Regimental Journal. It is also hoped that via Land Media Ops we will get some local boys stories and articles on the exercise in some local Scottish press.

The highlight for us was meeting Anthony Gordon. The Jocks loved listening to his stories of old and extracts from his father's diary were very informative. While at Pieter's Hill we also laid a wreath and tidied up the graves of the Royal Scots Fusiliers.

Sadly we were unable to meet up with Prince Alfred's Guard. They were due to meet up with us at the Swartkop Challenge and supply us with a Piper, but on our arrival in South Africa I was informed that they could no longer make it.

The soldiers were excellent ambassadors for the Regiment and are thoroughly appreciative of the support you gave them.

Once again thank you very much.

Yours aye,

Sandy Fitzpatrick.





From: Alan Stewart  
E-mail: Stewartsledk9@aol.com  
13th June 2005

From: Lieutenant D R Taylor  
B Company  
1 RHF  
BFPO 53

Subject: Sled Dogs in the Cairngorms & Royal Scots Fusiliers 1942

In 2001 I started the first sled dog centre in the UK. We have 30 sled dogs based in a remote area of Rothiemurchus Estate outside Aviemore. My wife Fiona and I run trips and courses throughout the winter months. My son John now 19 yrs is half-way through his Royal Marine Commando training at Lympstone. John has worked, trained, raced sled dogs since he was 6 yrs old. Before he joined the RM he spent 6 months in Alaska with 3 times sled dog sprint racing world champion.

My centre has a small museum in it dedicated to Alec "Scotty" Allan who was born in Dundee and brought up outside Orton here in Speyside. He went on to be an adventurer in the Gold Rush days of the 1900s with sled dogs and helped to fight the Germans in the First World War with sled dogs in France.

In the Second World War the area where I live now was home for a period of time to Norwegian Special Forces. In fact the very men who took out the heavy water plants in Norway. They trained for many months around where we live now.

But it's the mystery of the Royal Scots Fusiliers and 40 sled dogs and a sixteen-year-old kid called Murray Clark from New Hampshire /USA which I find very interesting. The following is from an interview with Murray Clark, conducted 4 years ago;

"In the fall of 1942, the British government once again approached the Clarkses for dogs, only this time requesting forty dogs. But after the twenty-four that were shipped out the previous summer, there were only about eight to ten that could be spared. Mr Clark bought some dogs back from Felix Leser. The balance of the order came from "The Pass" Manitoba. The representative of the British Army had gone there looking in Greenland for stock but eventually decided to send the sixteen-year-old Murray Clark back there to seek out and purchase "able-bodied sled dogs or dogs with Eskimo blood in them to add to what we could supply to put together forty dogs – three teams." Within a few days of his return to New Hampshire with those dogs, all forty, along with all the sleds, harnesses, cold weather clothing, veterinary supplies frozen horsemeat, two Canadian soldiers who had been staying in New Hampshire to assist with the transfer and to learn how to manage the dogs, and Murray Clark, were taken by tractor trailer and the Clark's truck to New York City where the shipment was loaded onto a ship. "It was sixteen days at sea from New York harbour to Liverpool, England in some of the worst God forsaken north Atlantic winter weather. I stayed over in Scotland about six weeks training Royal Scots Fusiliers how to handle and operate the teams of sled dogs. I was a sixteen-year-old civilian boy working under secret orders of His Majesty. They led me to believe that small groups of the dogs were going to be sent on commando missions to knock out German radio stations on the mountains adjacent to Norwegian fjords".

I am writing this short letter to the Regiments Journal to see if I can contact any of the 4/5 RSF members who can put any light on the matter.

Regards.

Alan Stewart

[www.sled-dogs.co.uk](http://www.sled-dogs.co.uk)

Sir,

I am writing to thank all those who contributed to our wedding gift. Those that are married know how difficult it is to make a house a home, especially when abroad.

Therefore although Joanna and I are undecided on what to buy, we are considering some beautiful pieces of furniture.

Again thank you all for this most generous gift.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your Obedient Servant,

Lieutenant D R Taylor

From: Stephen Mason  
International Military Music Society  
United Kingdom (Founder) Branch  
82 Southwell Road  
Camberwell  
London SE5 9PG

Dear Editor,

I have been asked by the UK branch committee of the International Military Music Society to collate details of British Army musicians who died on active service or were awarded decorations. The aim is to publish this information to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall in 2007.

I would therefore ask if any readers of the Journal know of such musicians that they let me have their details. My major problem concerns the rank shown on casualty records/medal rolls or London Gazette. They may be listed as private, corporal or sergeant with no link to their band role. If at all possible could you let me have details of their name, rank, band and casualty/award detail together with the source of your information.

Please note that given the nature of my task I am only looking for details of musicians serving in established battalion, regimental or corps bands; unfortunately I am excluding drummers, buglers and pipers. I am however including former band boys who progressed to regimental duty.

My address is: Stephen Mason, 82 Southwell Road, Camberwell, London SE5 9PG

My email address is: [Masonste@yahoo.com](mailto:Masonste@yahoo.com)

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Mason



# Obituaries

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL H D R MACKAY HLI/RHF



*Lt Col H D R Mackay with HM The Queen*

Hugh David Ruthven Mackay was born on the 29th of December 1928 in Blackheath, but his family soon moved to India, to Secunderabad, where his father was Medical Officer to 1st Bn The Suffolk Regiment. His family were military, his grandfather serving in the Royal Horse Artillery and his great-grandfather commanding the squadron of direction in the charge

of the Light Brigade at Balaklava where he received a bullet in the knee.

Mackay went to Yardley Court Preparatory School near Tunbridge in Kent before attending Epsom College. At school he was a keen member of the Junior Training Corps – what would be called now the Combined Cadet Force. He had always wanted to be a soldier and after Sandhurst he was commissioned into The Highland Light Infantry, the 1st Battalion of which was then the Highland Brigade Training Battalion at Fort George. He was a platoon commander both at the Fort and in Colchester and served on the 1949 Royal Guard, where he shot his first stag and caught his first salmon, but was himself almost hit by an Invercauld keeper when after capercaillie – his only comment being “I say, you nearly shot me”.

He left the Battalion to be General Roy Urquhart’s ADC in Malaya and it was there that he met his future wife whose father, himself a distinguished gunner, was looking after the Malaya Rubber Planters Association. The future Mrs Mackay was working with polo ponies, her love of horses being something that Mackay never entirely shared; they were married in 1953. Subsequently General Urquhart moved to Austria, taking Mackay with him.

Following this he served at the Depot at Maryhill Barracks where he became Adjutant, an appointment he held under Colonel Freddie Noble when he rejoined the 1st Battalion in Luneburg in 1956, continuing in that appointment during the Battalion’s deployment to Cyprus. He was strict, but fair and displayed that professional seriousness that was to mark his military career. He was on parade as Adjutant when The Highland Light Infantry trooped its Assaye Colour for the last time in 1957, in the presence of the Colonel-in-Chief.

Although he had passed the selection exam for the Staff College he was not selected. Instead he was seconded to the 2nd Bn Queen’s Own Royal Nigeria Regiment as a company commander, joining 1st Bn The Royal Highland Fusiliers in Aden late in 1960 as the commander of C Company. He was a demanding man to serve. He expected the highest standards and he expected his platoon commanders to be with their platoons whenever they were on training. By now the Battalion was in Malta where he trained his company well with full and varied training programmes embracing laying and lifting mines, recording mine fields, building sangars and preparing a variety of wire defences – as well as the attack, defence and withdrawal in and out of contact with the enemy, by day and by night. Neither was weapon training nor range work ignored.

To train above platoon level one had to go to Libya so the Battalion flew

to Castel Benito airport, near Tripoli. Early next morning we set off to advance tactically across the desert to the little town of Tarhuna with its former Italian barracks. What a march! It was very hot and water melons were seized wherever they were found.. Throughout, Mackay was at the head of his company urging them on. This period was commemorated by the Company Piper, Sgt David Caird (subsequently the Queen’s Piper) in the tune “C Company at Tarhuna”. It was here that he astonished two of his platoon commanders, and, one suspects, delighted his company, by placing them in Open Arrest when they arrived late for Muster Parade.

Mackay left the Battalion in 1962 for the Royal Canadian School of Infantry where he held several appointments and enjoyed meeting both the Highland Light Infantry and Royal Scots Fusiliers of Canada. He returned to command the Platoon Commanders Division at the School of Infantry at Warminster. He was ideally suited for this with his demanding, no-nonsense approach to soldiering and several now very high ranking officers benefited from his influence. He returned to 1st Bn The Royal Highland Fusiliers in 1966 at Fort George. The Spaniards were making one of their periodic claims for Gibraltar so the regiment was ordered to send a strong half battalion to reinforce the garrison. Mackay was, for part of the time there, the Second-in-Command and one weekend the Commanding Officer, Adjutant, a company commander and several other officers, along with Corporal Starest the redoubtable Officers’ Mess cook, sailed off on a chartered yacht to North Africa. On their return they were greeted at the wharf side by the sailing company commander’s wife telling them that they had missed the riot. “What riot?” “The riot to stay British” which Mackay, scrounging dustbin lids for shields and arming the Jocks with pick helms had deployed to put down. Later, he was visiting the sentries one night when he spotted a figure swimming furtively towards the shore from the Spanish side of the border. This was the Anti-Tank Platoon Commander who, instead of the expected praise for his initiative, was met with a somewhat brusque greeting and orders to report to the Adjutant.

It was also at this time that a grand Review was held in Holyrood Park, of which Mackay was the Second-in-Command. He was mounted for the occasion and if a story of him falling off a donkey in India is true, the photograph of him on his charger suggests why he and his horse seem not to approve of each other. Amazingly, it was only while practising, and for the first and last time, that his wife and he rode out together. But there was one horse he did like, her old Shetland pony which she kept at their house in Auchterarder; a house he had chosen so that his wife could keep her horses. It was here that he continued to pursue his love of shooting – when was he without a Springer spaniel or a meat pie in his pocket for it at a shoot?

Sadly not selected for command of the 1st Battalion Mackay left the Army in 1968 to join the Automobile Association. The Regiment lost a very fine member who would have been an outstanding commanding officer. There then followed an unhappy business venture before he joined Scandia Life with whom he enjoyed a successful career, inspiring the same loyalty in his staff as he had in the Army and rising to hold a senior appointment. He enjoyed this period of his life and after retiring would join a few of his former senior colleagues for regular luncheons in London.

However, he was not through with the Army because in 1974 he was asked to take command of the Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt Universities Officer Training Corps and was granted a Territorial Army commission as



a lieutenant colonel for the purpose. During his period in command the Corps obtained a new cap badge and adopted Hunting Stewart trews, giving up its kilt of the same tartan.

He became involved in politics, becoming the Chairman of the Perth and Kinross Conservative and Unionist Association at the time when Sir Nicholas Fairbairn was the Member for that Constituency. He also served the East Lothian Branch of the Association as their Treasurer and, recently, rejected appeals to return to a post in that branch.

In Auchterarder he had become Chairman of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association home in Crieff and then in the mid-1990s he became Secretary to the Trustees of the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle, both appointments to which he took his keen business mind and robust approach to life. Sadly, ill health obliged him to retire after only three years. His energy would not let him stand idle. Soon he was involved in the organisation of the Haddington Pilgrimage and, in the last few months, he had been taking a keen interest in attempting to secure the future of the regimental museum, a museum with which he was much involved in its early days. He was convinced of the need for an endowment to secure its future and was pressing for the formation of a framework for an appeal to raise the money that would be required. The museum shop will miss his purchase of model soldiers of which he had a large, varied and outstanding collection.

Colonel Mackay leaves his wife and three daughters who, with their husbands and children made a tightly knit family.

**IS**

## MAJOR HERBERT HARRISON MC TD



Herbert Walter Plews Harrison, whose death was announced on 15th May, was the middle son of John Harrison, the internationally famous engraver, whose stamps, proofs and engraving tools were exhibited in the British Museum and the National Postal Museum.

Herbert (always called "Harry" by his Army comrades) was born in 1907 in Dulwich, where he was educated at Alleyns School

(1915-1923), suffering the tragic loss of his mother, when he was only thirteen.

On leaving school he joined Lloyds Bank, for whom he worked, except for the war, for 44 years, ultimately managing branches at Farnborough and Hastings.

In 1927 he joined the Honourable Artillery Company as a Territorial, which became one of the great interests in his life, enjoying training, sport, and winning prizes for shooting. When he died he had been a member of the HAC for 78 years and was very proud to be presented to HM The Queen as one of its oldest veterans.

In 1939 he was posted with 3 other HAC officers, after a farewell dinner at Rules Restaurant, to the Royal Scots Fusiliers in Ayr. Two of those officers were Frank Rippen and Charlie Korts, who commanded "A" and "C" Companies 6th RSF in Normandy and were both killed in action in Operation Epsom on 26th and 28th June 1944. (Sadly they had been married to two sisters). He became 2IC to the Infantry Training Centre at the Racecourse, later serving with the 4th/5th Battalion RSF in 52nd (Lowland) Division, training in

mountain warfare and in airborne landing. In October 1944 he was posted as 2IC to the 6th Battalion RSF in 15th (Scottish) Division, then engaged in severe fighting in Holland and later in the onslaught on the Siegfried Line in Germany.

In February 1945 he was Acting Commanding Officer in the attacks on the heavily defended German towns of Cleve and Goch in the Reichswald. For his gallantry in this operation he was awarded an Immediate MC.

His Citation reads:

"On February 10th 1945, the 6th Royal Scots Fusiliers, under the command of Major Harrison, were ordered to capture the thickly wooded Kieverburg Hill that dominated the town of Cleve. Owing to the rapid arrival of enemy reinforcements, the attack had to be put in immediately and in darkness. Realising the vital importance of seizing the hill, before the enemy occupied it in strength, Major Harrison organised a mobile force, which raced the enemy to the feature, while he brought up the rest of the battalion. Despite lack of reconnaissance and time for preparation, Major Harrison cleared the thick woods during the night in the face of strong enemy resistance. In the morning a strong enemy counter-attack was launched and further enemy reinforcements infiltrated between localities in the woods. Though short of reserves owing to the size of the area to be held, Major Harrison personally organised a small force, which, when launched, completely demoralised the enemy, killing many and capturing a large number of prisoners. During these operations, Major Harrison showed great coolness and under mortar and machine gun fire. His rapid appreciation of the situation, energy and determination secured a vital feature before the enemy could consolidate there, and his action enabled another Division to be passed through quickly into the town and saved a lot of hard fighting and many casualties"

Unfortunately he was severely wounded in the arm in the subsequent successful attack on Goch.

He was a popular officer, always thinking of his men, courageous and determined utterly reliable and steadfast. On the 6th of February, when he had taken over command of 6th RSF in Nijmegen he persuaded his soldiers to give up one day's rations to help feed starving Dutch children before the move into Germany.

In 1935 he married Margaret Womack, a happy union lasting 42 years, until she died of cancer, despite his personal nursing care. He leaves four children, eleven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

In 1970 he and Margaret moved to Lymington after his retirement, where he stayed for his remaining years. Gardening, golf, sailing, collecting antiques, and finally swimming which he mastered when over 60, contributed to the very full life of a true gentleman, always courteous and thinking how his actions would affect others, leading by example.

We always hoped that Harry would complete his century but considering how severely he was wounded, he did very well to reach his 99th year! I personally will always remember the annual reunion dinners in London, with Col Ian Mackenzie, on his way to fishing in the Highlands, his wife Anne (still in Johannesburg, I believe), my late wife Sheila and Harry – very happy occasions to recall 6th Battalion RSF memories.

**IM**



## MAJOR A J DU SAUTOY RSF



We were all saddened to learn of the death of Major Arthur John Du Sautoy on Monday the 8th of August 2005 as a result of a short illness. His funeral took place at Mort Lake Crematorium in London.

Arthur was commissioned into the 2nd Battalion RSF in 1938 and stayed with the Battalion until September when he was posted to the ITC in Ayr as MTO. In June 1940 he was appointed

LO at HQ Corps before rejoining 2 RSF in March 1941 serving until March 1943. He then joined the 11th battalion The Parachute Regiment as a Company Commander serving with them in the Mediterranean and the UK until August 1944 when he went to Staff College. He was posted as CSO 2 (Air) to Allied Land Forces South-East Asia, subsequently joining in RSF in India and Burma in November 1945. Arthur was Second-in-Command of the Battalion when John Delano-Osborne commanded in Delhi. In March 1947 he was appointed GSO 3 Staff as Duties Directorate at the War Office and then Assistant Military Advisor to the UK High Commissioner in Pakistan before returning to UK as Commanding Officer of the Depot, Churchill Barracks, Ayr. In 1953 he was posted to 155 Bde as Brigade Major, re-joining 1 RSF in Shorncliffe 1956 as Company Commander. Then as Second-in-Command, he retired from the Army in December 1958 and took up farming for a time in Kent before retiring to Surrey.

Arthur was a life-long friend of Mike Evetts and Guy Carlton Smith Ingles and all three were at Lancing College together. Arthur was an excellent Staff Officer, but his main priority was the Regiment. We extend our sympathy to his daughter Carman and son Nicholas at their sad loss.

**W S**

Gordon Wilmot writes:

"When the 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers were stationed at Delhi Cantonment, because the troop ships were filled with National Servicemen relieving troops who had been on active service in the Mediterranean and Far East, wives were not allowed to join their husbands until the autumn of 1946. One of the recreations Arthur was keen to partake in was riding, in the cooler evenings, one of the few horses the battalion were allowed to keep.

When John Delano Osborne became CO, he became 2IC. In 1947 the Battalion moved to Meerat to carryout training. Shortly after settling in, the crisis brought about by the partition of India broke out. That inter-religious civil war set the Hindus and Sikhs against the Moslems living in south of the newly formed Pakistan Border, while north of the border it was the Hindus and Sikhs who suffered. It was estimated that millions were killed. As it turned out knowing that the British were leaving, the Indian population felt no animosity against them. The Brigadier who had just escorted his wife on the Bombay train told Arthur that it was the first time he had seen three decapitated bodies before breakfast.

At that time it was not known which way the wind was blowing regarding the British still living in India. The Viceroy Lord Mountbatten consulted Field Marshall Auchenleck in Delhi, who had been made C-in-C of the Indian and Pakistani armies, saying that in view of large population of British living in Delhi it would be wise to

bring down to the city the British Battalion in Cantonment. The Auk replied there was no battalion there and that the nearest was sixty miles away in Meerut. The outcome was that at 6pm the CO was ordered to have his Battalion in Delhi by midnight. The Battalion transport was put nose to tail with headlights on so that loading all the Battalions gear could proceed. At 10.30pm the feverous activity ceased when a message was received that it would be all right for the Battalion to be in Delhi by mid-day (the next day) with all the families. Arrangements were made for Dakotas to ferry the families to Bombay should they be required.

On arrival at Delhi, Arthur was detailed to command a convoy to collect all British families living in the Himalayan foothills. Several 3-ton army lorries were assembled and wooden benches placed in them with at least four lorries piled high with 5-gallon petrol cans. While they were away the battalion set a rest centre plus transit camp for their return. After several days the convoy returned fully loaded with families, after a completely successful mission. Whose success was never taken for granted for when it started, it could well have been hazardous or even suicidal undertaking when the mood of the Indian people were unknown. Sadly Arthur would never given in any official commendation.

On retiring from the Army he took up chicken farming. On final retirement he bought his Kew house, which having been a workman's cottage had to be almost completely renovated and another storey added – he remained there for the rest of his life.

I have just remembered that when he was in England prior to going to Burma on a divisional exercise he went to sleep while riding a motor-cycle and woke up under the Brigadier's Station Wagon with a severely damaged leg from which he made a full recovery."

## MAJOR JOHN DOUGLAS LOGAN BUIST MBE



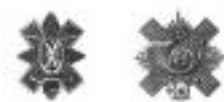
*Maj J D L Buist MBE with his wife Joyce*

John Buist died in the Constantia Hospital, near Cape Town, on 18th June 2005 after being in hospital for a few days with an internal cancer.

There was a very well-attended memorial service in the retirement village on 22nd June and he was buried on the 23rd June in the Logan family cemetery near Matjiesfontein where the very many farmers and local population came to pay

their last respects to their very well-liked "Major". Many were offered free accommodation in the famous "Lord Milner Hotel" in the village by David Rawdon, the present owner of the village. After much difficulty, because of other commitments and distance, Lawrence Hart was able to arrange for a piper to play at the funeral. This was a much appreciated aspect. There were hymns sung by the school and a very grateful eulogy by a retired schoolmistress.

John's Logan and Buist families are buried in the next row to Maj General A. J. Wauchope, Black Watch, killed at the Battle of Magersfontein on 15 Dec 1899. How he came to this cemetery is a long story but John's grandfather-in-law, J D Logan, was the cause! There is a large Wauchope memorial on the hillside close to the cemetery.



John and Joyce had moved into their lovely house a few years ago. They also had John's life use of the big Logan and Buist house in the Matjiesfontein, a restored village 180 miles inland in the dry Karroo.

John was born in Claremont, Cape Town, on 9th October 1914. His father, Herbert, was a Regular Royal Army Medical Corps doctor. He had served in South Africa during the Boer War 1899 – 1902. In 1910 as Senior Medical Officer for the whole country he was stationed at the British Army HQ near Pretoria at Roberts Heights (later Voortrekkerhoogte and now some other name!). John's mother, Gertrude, nee Logan, and Herbert Buist had met, as did so many, on the ship from UK in 1905 but were only married in 1912. Soon after the outbreak of WWI in 1914 the Buists were transferred to Cape Town to "The Castle" Army HQ. John was born soon after their move to Cape Town. This was when my father, then Capt E I D Gordon RSM, was the Garrison Adjutant and first met the Buist family – the start of a two-generation friendship.

However in 1915 Colonel Buist was transferred to England and Gertrude and baby John accompanied him. He was attached to the French Army at Salonica but the family remained in England. After the war he became Deputy Director for Medical Services for Scotland based in Edinburgh. In 1920 Gertrude Buist, and baby John, left for South Africa for the last days of her very well-known father J D Logan. Colonel Buist retired in 1921 and made their home on the main Logan farm "Tweedside" (close to the now disused "Constable" railway station) also in the Karroo but a few miles nearer Cape Town. This is where John grew up and where his daughter, Jennifer Hart, and family still live.

Because of the distance from good schools John first had a tutor at Tweedside and then went, as a boarder, to the well-known Anglican Boy's School "Bishops" Prep in Rondebosch, Cape Town. He started there in the 4th term of 1924 in the Lower 2nd class.

He went up to the College to Founders House and was a rather sickly person with frequent visits to the Sanatorium. He did not finish school and left in the middle of 1932 without completing the year.

With a view to farming his father sent him to Wye Agricultural College in Worcestershire. He passed the two years there. But he did not enjoy the time at Wye. British agriculture was totally unlike the semi-desert he had grown up in and would inherit.

He decided to join the British Army. He was a good friend of his two Buist uncles living in the south of England. They had been Indian Army and one was in The Royal Scots Fusiliers at some stage. Other than this contact the family and I have no idea why he joined the Highland Light Infantry (HLI).

He did not go through the RMC Sandhurst. The family think he was too old but say he wrote some exams. But we still do not know how he got his commission in the HLI nor the date of his joining.

He joined 1 HLI and is in the photograph of their officers at Elgin on 13 Sep 1939 before going to France. John is a 2/Lt. (See Proud Heritage Vol 4 page 226).

We know that he was in 1 HLI in the BEF in France with the Regimental story in Proud Heritage. John had written an article about the terrible withdrawal to Dunkirk and then rescue to England. He once told me that when hauled onto the destroyer he collapsed in sleep for a day – like everyone else!

After Dunkirk we know nothing of John's wartime story!

**John had three marriages:**

Joyce tells me that John first married Diana Johnston in a small church near Fort George on 3rd September 1939 (on declaration of war) witnessed by Diana's mother and two staff from an hotel. This was totally without permission! (officers had to have their Commanding Officer's permission). On reporting his marriage he was given 14 days Orderly Officer, confined to barracks, but given 2 hours "to consummate the marriage"!

John and Diana had two sons:

**Anthony:** Joined the Army and went to RMA Sandhurst after the war. After passing out (to unknown regiment) he broke his neck in a motor accident. He lived in a wheel chair for about two years but died aged about 22.

**David:** A Solicitor, he lived in Staffordshire with his wife Barbara. He was ill for some time and John wanted to go to see him but was himself too frail to go. His daughter, Jennifer Hart, went to see him. He died in 2004 aged 62.

John and Diana were divorced.

**John's second marriage** was to **Anne Botha-Reid** in 1948 in Ibadan, Nigeria, when John was serving there (Regiment uncertain!). Anne was the grand-daughter of the famous Transvaal Boer leader Louis Botha who became the first Prime Minister of the 1910 Union of South Africa. She was a very well-known person for her cheerful and happy nature and for always being very hospitable and full of fun! Their only child is:

**Jennifer, Anne:** born 1952 in Ibadan. She married Lawrence Hart on 11th March 1978 and now have 2 daughters. All living in the very old family farm at Tweedside.

It seems that John and the family left Nigeria for a staff posting in Hanover at an unknown date. In the mid 1950s John was on the staff at Hanover in Germany when his battalion, 1 HLI, were at Luneburg nearby. John and Anne were well-known for their and regimental parties!

Jennifer can remember going with Anne and John to Aden where John was supposed to be for a year. She remembers the big house on the dusty hill, the smells, heat and swimming in the sea at the Officers' Club. She says that John was asked to stay another year but he refused and retired from Aden direct to South Africa in July 1958.

This would tie up with my idea that John was never RHF – after the amalgamation in 1959.

### **Retirement to South Africa**

He retired to go to the family village of Matjiesfontein and the thirteen farms that the Logan Trust (his mother's family trust) owned. I believe they covered over ten miles. John's uncle was running the Trust but was too old to carry on. John, Anne and baby Jennifer moved to the large farm house at Tweedside.

The Trust was based in the Victorian village of Matjiesfontein on the main railway. There was the big hotel and many other houses and offices, Post Office etc. The Trust was a huge job! Mr Michael Emmett, for decades the family lawyer, told me that it was John's strong loyalty to the family that made him resign from the Army and take on the task. He said he had asked John if he missed his life in the Army and John replied "Every day!"

A number of the farms were sold and in 1968; Mr David Rawdon bought the whole village. With the new National Road passing close to Matjiesfontein it became a most popular and comfortable stop in the bare Karroo country. He put huge resources into restoring it to its



old splendour, enlarging aspects and building suitable museums. John Buist and family had the free use of a large house for his life. This is and was a veritable Logan Museum and is taking a huge effort to dispose of the silver etc. Jenny has her hands full!!

#### **John's third marriage:**

Anne died on 14th September 1975 and John and Joyce were married on 6th October 1978 for 29 very happy years. They had a townhouse in Kenilworth until a few years ago when they moved to the Alphenvale village. For both of their health's sake they stayed more and more in Cape Town, nearer the doctors! But the dry air of Matjiesfontein always drew them and they still had staff to call upon and the wonderful memories of early days. They were able to put on magnificent dinners with all the silver etc.!

John, after his 90th birthday still drove his car but had two crashes, luckily no one was hurt! But the family stopped him from driving!

John's passing has left another hole in the Old Cape Families.

The photograph is of John and Joyce Buist at Danger Point on Tuesday 26th February 2002. John had just laid the RHF wreath on the Birkenhead monument for the 150th anniversary of the wreck. For the first time for 40 years John had put on his tropical uniform (probably from KAR days) and even his HLI brogues with HLI bonnet. It was a very windy day, John was very smart when he went up to lay the wreath and did a most smart salute (even though his knees were troublesome!) before marching back. John and Joyce were sitting behind a row of VIP Councillors – all Afrikaans speaking – and one of the ladies said, in Afrikaans, "I wish that was MY man!". Joyce is fully bi-lingual, so tapped the lady on the shoulder and said "You cannot have him! He is MINE!!"

**A G D G**

### **LIEUTENANT ROBIN DICKSON RHF**



Robin Dickson died peacefully at the age of 68 on 13th December 2004. He was surrounded by his family over the last days.

Robin was commissioned from Mons, where he won the Cane of Honour, in 1960. He joined the Battalion in Aden in 1960 and shared a room with me in Singapore lines and later in St Patrick's Barracks Malta. He left the Battalion in the summer of 1962 at the

end of his National Service. The RMO Ian Davidson, a close friend, also doing National Service left at the same time.

Robin quickly settled into the Battalion life and everyone warmed to him as an efficient, attentive and amusing companion. He had graduated in Law from Glasgow University and he was persuaded to put his skills to good use. He served throughout his time in the Regiment in A Company. It says much for his high standards that the then Commanding Officer, Charles Dunbar tried hard to persuade him to stay on. It was not to be and Robin joined ICI to make a career in civilian life.

In 1962 Robin married Victoria Cassar Torreggiani who he had met in Malta. She, tragically, died in 1974. They had two children, Christopher and Anthony.

Donald McLeod who worked with Robin in ICI adds;

"I first met Robin early in the 1960s when we were neighbours in Bramhall and our wives knew and liked each other, but we did not work together until about 1965, when I was asked to interview him as a possible recruit to the Central Purchasing Department of ICI in London. The interview took place at the bar of a nearby pub and a lengthy discussion, suitably lubricated with alcohol at the expense of our employer, would clearly be necessary before a decision could be made – on either side. Robin joined the Department shortly after and his sound legal training in Glasgow, added to his natural abilities and personal charm, got him involved in commercial negotiations of high value at an early date, launched his career and got him noticed for early promotion. Both our young and growing families then lived in Ashted and we saw a lot of each other. He was about to be promoted and transferred to ICI's headquarters for Europe in Brussels when Victoria's illness was first diagnosed and the company agreed to post him instead to Paints Division at Slough. Not long after Victoria's early and tragic death, Robin left ICI and returned to Scotland, thus cutting short a career which looked likely to take him to the most senior positions in the company. He was much missed there, as a colleague, by his numerous friends who appreciated his wit, his kindness and his great ability, all of which qualities remained with him to the end".

Living in Selkirk, Robin worked from home and became Chairman of the local Conservative Association for Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles. During this time he married Jane Clarke (nee Tipper) who had three children. After the five children had grown up, Robin and Jane moved to Coulter, near Biggar where they ran the Elphinstone Hotel for some years. Ill health dogged Robin's last few years but he remained cheerful to the end. Jane was a wonderful support.

The funeral, held in St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh was attended by many members of the of the regiment and other friends who had known him and his family.

He will be sadly missed by Jane, his sons Christopher and Anthony, Jane's children Simon, Sarah and Lucy, all his grandchildren and his many friends.

**R C**

### **WO2 (CSM) J M BUCHANAN KOSB, RSF, RHF**



We were all shocked to hear of the death of CSM "Big Jake" Buchanan who died on 14th February 2005 at his home at Beenham peacefully in his sleep. Jake's military service started in 1953 when he was called up for National Service. He trained at the KOSB Depot Berwick-on-Tweed and was cap-badged KOSB. After Passing Out he was transferred to the 1st Bn RSF in Berlin.

The Battalion returned to Edinburgh in preparation for their move to Malaya on 1st April 1954. Jake was a member of B Coy and remained so until their return to Shorncliffe in 1957.

As a National Serviceman Jake should have returned to the UK for Demob in 1956, but I talked him out of it and he became a Regular Soldier.

He was proud to have Lt Col Thom's signature and mine on his attestation papers. Jake served 25 years in the Regiment with a spell in the TA as PSI and Cadet Training Team.



He served in Malaya, Singapore twice, Shorncliffe, Cyprus, Iserlohn, Fort George and Gibraltar. Jake was a very good shot with the small bore. He was a member of the Battalion Team and won his Sports Tie at the Major Units Shoot in Germany which the Regiment won.

At the end of his service he was based in Glasgow as a heavy goods instructor and examiner on military vehicles.

When Jake left the Army in 1978 he joined Bradfield College as Quartermaster and Instructor. After he joined, "Bradfield" won the Shooting Area Trophy for five consecutive years. He was also a coach at the Bisley Annual Shoot on many occasions.

Jake was a very smart soldier and a stickler for detail and loved his Regiment. He will be sadly missed by us, his friends. Our condolences to his family, Steve, Mark, Craig and Ailsa.

**J A C**

## SERGEANT NORMAN MACLEOD HLI



Norman Macleod, who served in 6 HLI throughout the Second World War, died in Paisley Hospital on the 23rd of July. This was hardly anticipated. Although Norman had been for some time resident in Erskine he was a very active member.

Before the War, Norman worked in his mother's fishmongering business. Not long after that he was called up in 1940, when he reported to the

HLI stronghold of Maryhill Barracks. That year the First, Fifth and Sixth Battalions returned from France and Norman was posted to the Sixth.

The Sixth was in the 52nd (Mountain) Division. Crieff was Norman's first mountain-training station (in 1941) and in the mountains he and his battalion trained and trained. But in 1944, before this 'Mountain' Division, which now had become an Airborne Division, crossed the Channel, 6 HLI was detached. 6 HLI landed at Arnhem in September 1944, under the Brigade command of a former CO of 1 HLI, Brigadier J D Russell DSO, MC, and first went into battle at Bommel, just across the Nijmegen Bridge in Holland.

When the Division rejoined the Sixth the Sixth had already sustained over 200 casualties. Then the Sixth waited with the Division to reinforce Roy Urquhart's brave venture at Arnhem, but the 52nd was not used in that role – despite the urgings of the 52nd's Commander, Major General Hawke-Smith, a former Royal Scots Fusilier and later Colonel of The Regiment.

The Sixth then fought through the bloody Walcheren battle and eventually crossed the Rhine, ending the War in Bremen.

Norman, as Corporal in the Battalion Intelligence Section, was noted not only for his considerable talents in that field but also for his culinary and food-obtaining skills. In each town or village where the Battalion halted for any length of time the Intelligence Section would occupy its own house and there establish its own Mess – which was invariably envied by the rest of the Battalion. Whether fresh food from friendly locals or other provender gleaned from the houses' cellars Norman dealt with it all – and not only that. When the Section dined they did so properly, on a table

covered with a tablecloth and laid with sets of cutlery. The CO of 6 HLI, Lieutenant Colonel E L Percival, was particularly jealous of what Norman would achieve. "Here's the rest of us with our mess tins on our knees," he might say, "while the Int Sec enjoy near luxury!"

Norman ended his service as the Battalion's PRI Sergeant. After demobilisation in 1946 he entered solely civilian life, running his own fish-shop in Bedford Street (which had been his mother's) and later moving to Crow Road. He had also, in 1944, married Miss Rena Pritchard, and they had two sons, David and Norman. Rena pre-deceased Norman, and so he led a bachelor existence for many years – but keeping in touch with many of his former colleagues in the Sixth and often lunching with them at RHQ.

It was about three years ago that Norman moved into Erskine. He was indeed a very active member of that institution, but this summer he had to be transferred to Paisley Hospital. On the 23rd of July he died there, and his massively-attended funeral was at Dalnottar on the 29th. Norman, ever a gentleman *sans reproche* and also the friendliest of men, is sadly missed. We extend our sympathies to David and Norman and to his five grandchildren and tell them again what they well know already. The Highland Light Infantry was lucky to have Norman Macleod.

**A L M**

## LANCE CORPORAL D J CAMPBELL RHF



It was with immense sadness that we were informed about the tragic death of LCpl Del Campbell in late December 2004. Del was on leave at the time of his death, prior to assuming a new appointment with the MT Department at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick; a post that he had wanted for a considerable time.

Del joined the Army in the summer of 2000, and arrived with 1 RHF later that year in Fallingb., Germany. He rapidly qualified as a Warrior Driver, and subsequently went on to pass a vast array of driving qualifications during his time with the Battalion. After service in Fort George and Northern Ireland, and successful completion of a Potential NCO Cadre he was promoted to Lance Corporal in May 2003, at which point he moved to B Company. He subsequently served in Cyprus, Iraq and Jordan. As a keen footballer, a fanatic Rangers fan, and an all-round character, he was a hugely popular member of B Company who could be relied upon to see the amusing and cynical side of every situation, and who could bring a smile to the most hardened face.

The Battalion's deployment to Iraq in Jan 05 prevented B Company from getting together properly in memory of Del until early May, when a Company Memorial Day was held in his honour. Given his abiding passion for football, it was inevitable – and only right – that the day commenced with an inter-platoon football competition, and the award of the 'Del Campbell Football Cup' to the victorious team. This was followed by a moving Church Service, for which we thank Padre John Duncan, before all ranks gathered for a company lunch in Del's honour. A copy of Del's favourite football shirt, complete with a small plaque, now hangs in



the company common room, and will help to ensure that his memory lives on. The following text is an extract from the moving and amusing eulogy delivered by Del's good mate LCpl J Michie, at the Memorial Service on 2 May 05:

"I speak here today as friend of Del. As most of you know me and Del became friends instantly, since I left C Company to come to B Company. I had only known Del for a year, but wish it could have been longer, because he was one of the best guys I have ever met. Del came from Kirkintilloch and was 31 years old, and was widely known throughout the Battalion as the "Auld Yin". As we all know, Del's character was one in a million. He was an outstanding guy who got on with everybody. Like all soldiers Del would try to get out of anything – even the smallest of tasks! The Med Centre was like his second home; he was down there at least once a week.

Del served in Northern Ireland and Iraq during his time in the Army. When we were in Baghdad getting mortared every morning Del would lighten the mood of the platoon by his comical appearance. As the platoon RV'd under hardened shelter Del would always be the last to arrive – with a helmet on his head that was far too small. Either that, or he had three field dressings inside it, thinking that if a mortar did hit him, then his big cushioned helmet would save him.

Del was a sociable guy, and it was he who introduced me to 'crazy apples', which was his name for Strongbow Cider. You could also say that we became drinking buddies!! Del's passion and enthusiasm were seen in one sport, and that was football. However, there was one major problem: he thought he was good...but he wasn't! When B Company were playing in the Newlove Cup, Del would always pester me to ask Sgt McGrath to give him a game. To tell you the truth, we both agreed that we'd be better playing with a man down than asking Del to play! When it came to supporting a team, then there was no other team on the planet than Rangers – he was a real bluenose, and everyone knew it. He'd often lock himself in his room and fall asleep with his stereo blaring out Rangers songs. The boys couldn't take much more of it on one occasion, and to get their own back nicked his tapes!

Today we remember a friend and a fellow soldier, who died in tragic circumstances, and I express my deepest sympathy to his Mum and Dad".

Del's tragic death is a huge loss to us all in the Regiment. A true character, he embodied many of the characteristics so important to the Royal Highland Fusiliers: in particular loyalty, humour and a true sense of friendship. He is missed by us all, and our sympathy goes out to all his family and friends.

#### **B COY 1 RHF**

### **ROBERT MCCONNELL RHF**

Robert McConnell suddenly passed away on the 28th May 2005.

Robert joined the Battalion from the Junior Leaders after training at Dundonald Camp in about 1963 and I believe he was initially a member of the Signal Platoon. His service included Germany, Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Singapore. On completion of his time in the Army, he joined the Prison Service from which he retired on reaching his fifty-fifth birthday. He often spoke fondly of his time in the Regiment.

He leaves his wife Lorna, daughter Samantha, and son Graham.

#### **R A M M**

### **FUSILIER DUNCAN CONNER MCLEISH RSF/RHF**



We were saddened to learn of the death of "Big Duncan" McLeish at Erskine Hospital on the 21st April 2005.

Duncan joined the Royal Scots Fusilier as a boy bugler in August 1957. He was stationed at Churchill Barracks in Ayr, prior to joining the 1st Battalion in Redford at the time of the amalgamation. He was tired of being a bugler and decided to join the MT and was soon escorting the sewage wagon in Aden. He then decided to try his hand

as a Regimental Cook under the guidance of Colin Crawford. He was a cook in Malta, Iserlohn and left the Regiment in 1968. He then took employment in the kitchens of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst where he worked until retiring to Erskine through ill health in 1989.

He loved his time in Erskine where he made many friends and he also kept up his contacts with the Regiment.

Duncan was buried at Bishopton on the 27th April 2005. He was a true Regimental "character" and we will all be the poorer for his passing.

#### **W S**

### **MAJOR ROBERT (ROY) C MACGREGOR HLI**

We have been informed by Erskine Hospital that Major Robert (Roy) C MacGregor died on 23rd December 2004.

He served with HLI from 1936 to 1946. He served in Scotland, England and Italy reaching the rank of Major

(Editor's Notes: We would like to publish more about Major MacGregor's service with HLI and his subsequent life after his military service. We would be grateful for any information from those who knew him)

### **CATHERINA RIED-HOEKVELD**

We have been notified that Catherina Reid-Hoekveld (Kitty), the widow of Late Major Sandy Reid RSF/RHF died in Holland on 27th June 2005.





# Regimental Miscellany

## Famous Men of The Regiment

### CAPTAIN WYNDHAM HALSWELLE HLI

In 2002 a “Scottish Hall of Fame” was established in the Royal Museum in Chambers Street, Edinburgh to recall the exploits of famous Scots sportsmen and sportswomen. The next year it was expanded. It now commemorates the achievements of Captain Wyndham Halswelle of the Highland Light Infantry.

Although Halswelle’s prowess has already been remarked upon by the Colonel of The Regiment (Summer 2004 Edition, 17–18) the Regimental Secretary issued a command early this year. “The next ‘Famous Man’ will be Captain Halswelle,” said our *Fuhrer*. “Write a bit more.”

Here the “more” is anonymously attempted – although a host of information promised by an outside source has not yet materialised. Never mind. We can always crib the Colonel. (Lest we are accused of improper plagiarism we have put quotation marks about some of his more striking passages. The latter will be marked ©.)

Halswelle was born in London in 1882. In 1897 he entered Charterhouse and almost immediately demonstrated his sporting skills whether on the football or cricket fields or long jumping or running – anything from one mile to one hundred yards – and also in the “steeplechase”. In 1899, his final year, Halswelle became Joint *Victor Ludorum*, joint winner of Charterhouse’s Athletics Championship Cup. An interesting passage from *The Carthusian* (Charterhouse’s Journal), June 1999, is: “Halswelle certainly showed a degree of prowess that was, except to the knowing, rather unexpected, and though he made no records for us this year, he showed a promise of doing so in future years, which will unfortunately not be fulfilled [*Halswelle being about to leave Charterhouse*]. We wish him triumphs in other fields.”

Halswelle did triumph “in other fields”. The first was getting through The Royal Military College Sandhurst, the second was being commissioned into the Highland Light Infantry in 1901, and the next was arriving in the Transvaal in 1902. The others were yet to come.

In the Transvaal this outstanding athlete found himself not a foot–soldier but on horseback. This was fortunate for so active a man. As by that stage of the war 1 HLI was engaged in somewhat tedious block–house duty on the River Orange, it was lucky for Halswelle that he found himself posted to the HLI Mounted Infantry Company. (This was a considerable force many of whose members were from the 150–strong reinforcement draft from 2 HLI that arrived in 1901. When 2 HLI arrived home from Ceylon in 1900 it had been ordered to start training in mounted infantry work. Instruction in mounted drill and horse management had been provided by Army Service Corps personnel at Aldershot.)

Most of the Mounted Infantry Company’s service was with the 12th Mounted Infantry Battalion and was active in its operations. The tasks were twofold. One was to harass the remnants of the Boer commandos and drive them when and where possible on to the block–house lines; the other was to engage in directly offensive action (Halswelle’s Company Commander, the famous Captain A N E Brown who later wrote and drew a masterly book on the dress of the 71st, was severely wounded at Rietfontein, which was a *mounted* action.) For Halswelle’s “part in operations in the



*Captain Wyndham Halswelle (1882-1915)*

Transvaal in 1902... he received the Queen’s Medal with four clasps.” ©

After the Boer War Halswelle served with 2 HLI in England, Scotland (initially Redford and then Fort George) and Ireland. “He was promoted in 1905 [*to become a full Subaltern*] and became a [*Captain and*] Company Commander in 1911.” © It was during this period of home service that Halswelle became nationally and internationally famous. There were yet more of his “triumphs in other fields”.

What were these “*other* fields”? In 1905 at the Scottish Amateur Athletics Championships he won the 440 yds. In 1906 at the Championships Halswelle quadrupled this. He came first in the 100 yds, the 220, the 440 and the 880 – all in one day. In the same and later years he won race after race in Scotland and Ireland and broke record upon record.

It was therefore not surprising that Halswelle was chosen to represent Great Britain in the Olympics that very year, in the 1906 Olympic Games at Athens. There he won his first Olympic Medals, a Silver for the 800 metres and a Bronze in the 400. The next Olympics were two years later in London. Again Halswelle represented his Country and his triumph was then even greater. In the 400 metres Halswelle won a Gold. (His time in the heats was even faster. At 48 and 2/5ths seconds it was an Olympic record.)

**Halswelle “remains the only British male to have won gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic individual events.”** © It is for that (and for his unfailing courtesy and sportsmanship on any



competitive field) that he is still internationally famous and has been elevated to the Scottish Hall of Fame. That may be enough to make him “A Famous Man of the Regiment” – but there is more to it still.

Halswelle’s meticulously-kept diaries show him throughout his service not only to have been a thinking and most competent soldier but also a leader who had a constant care for the welfare, training, effectiveness and safety of his men. His actions too show his competence – and also the courage already evident not only in South Africa but also in his unbroken efforts on the running-track. On the 12th of March 1915 at Neuve Chapelle it was Halswelle’s company of 1 HLI that succeeded in pushing on and crossing the De Layes. Halswelle was wounded by shrapnel during the crossing but in spite of his injuries he would not remain out of action. He dug his heels in, he persuaded the Medical Officers of the Field Hospital to release him, and as soon as he could he rejoined the Battalion. He was still in bandages on the 31st of March. That day he sought to rescue a wounded brother-officer. As he went forward he was shot through the head by an enemy sniper.

What might Wyndham Halswelle have become if he had survived the War?

(Halswelle has been remembered by more than his place in the Hall of Fame. In 1969 a silver cup, The Wyndham Halswelle Trophy, was presented by the Regiment to the Scottish Amateur Athletics Association to be awarded annually to the winner of the Scottish Junior 400m race. In 1987 21 of Halswelle’s sporting medals came up for auction and were purchased by the Regiment. They are now in the Museum. Perhaps the Olympic medals and even more items to do with Halswelle will follow them.)

### **(MORE) FRAGMENTS FROM The Sergeant’s Pocket Book (Gale and Polden, Aldershot 1902)**

*(Before publishing some more gems from this very comprehensive guide as to how soldiering should be conducted, we have a most interesting piece of information to impart. Our researcher has discovered (by reading what is written on the book’s back cover) that the copy of the Pocket Book we possess belonged to 7380 Cpl W Steele 2 HLI)*

(p. 14) PRISONERS TO BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR CAPS....  
Soldiers are to be deprived of their caps or any articles they can use as missiles during the investigation of offences ....

(p. 32) LATRINES.

.... They should be at some distance from the water supply.

.... If possible, a rail should be erected for the men to sit upon;

.... If lime can be had it should be used in large quantities.

.... When a latrine becomes nearly full, it should be carefully filled in ...

(p. 128) STING.

If stung by an insect withdraw, if possible, the sting, and then apply a strong solution of ammonia...Sal volatile and a little laudanum is good. A sting of a wasp or bee may be best extracted by pressing a watch-key firmly over it...

### **PAST TIMES (“Has anything changed?”)**

#### **100 years ago:**

From: Editorial Notices, *HLI Chronicle* July 1895, p. 450

The “*Highland Light Infantry Chronicle*” is published at threepence, but fourpence must be sent by anyone writing for a copy, to cover postage.

#### **50 years ago:**

From: Machine Gun Platoon Notes, RSF Journal July 1955, p. 11

The small local town has been our permanent Company Base for six months now, so there is no excuse this time for grumbling about having to continually pack our kit for moving.

The area is one of the blacker parts of Malaya as far as terrorists go, but even so, excitement is very hard to come by, and demands many man-hours of work. Just a handful of men in the Company have actually got to grips so far, and no one in the Platoon, except Sgt. Gamage, has come face to face with a C.T., though there have been a few good games of hide-and-seek.

Apart from normal patrolling we keep our hands in at the machine-guns when the opportunity arises and Sgt. Ferrie thinks fit to unleash his wrath. We have done three operational shoots into pieces of jungle so far, which, apart from being good training value, must have been hell for the monkeys.

#### **25 years ago:**

From: Coy HQ Journal Notes, RHF Journal June 1980, p. 19

Since the notes were written last we have lost some important people. Lt Whitmore has had the unfortunate task of taking over a platoon in B Company; probably a heartbreaking task but then it is always nice to build something out of nothing.

### **LINGO TRUST PUPIL MADE HEAD BOY**

Mark Cartwright has been appointed Head of Harrow School from September 2005. Mark is the son of Col Paul Cartwright and one of three boys currently at Harrow under the Regiment’s Grahame of Lingo Trust Scheme. He is studying English, Maths, History and Theatre Studies for A Level. He has recently been awarded his BTEC in Public Services, a CCF qualification, and is working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. After a Duke of Edinburgh expedition during the Easter break, he was able to join the Harrow School CCF for the last day of their visit to 1 RHF. Freddie Wade, one of the other Lingo Trust pupils, has been made a school monitor(prefect)



# Associations & Clubs

## THE 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 or Benevolent Institutions.

### 2. Membership

All Officers, WOs, NCOs and soldiers who have served or are serving in the Royal Highland Fusiliers (or any Regiment, Corps, or other Military Formation with or into which the same may be amalgamated or merged), the Royal Scots Fusiliers and the Highland Light Infantry (including the Glasgow Highlanders), and also those members of the Territorial Army who wear 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 of the Benevolent Association 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 2004 the Benevolent Association awarded to individuals, Grants-in-Aid totaling £31,659.

4. The Association continues to benefit through the generosity of the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF). In 2004 they provided top-up grants and annuities to a total £12,895 to ten ex-members of the Regiment. Each annuitant receives £55 a month which is reviewed annually by ABF.

5. Charitable donations totaling £21,500 was disbursed to other Service-related charities that help ex-members of the Regiment and their dependants as follows:

The Army Benevolent Fund	£1500
The Erskine Hospital	£4000
Glasgow Branch of SSAFA Forces Help	£1750
Ayrshire Branch of SSAFA Forces Help	£1000
Earl Haig Fund	£3500
Scottish Veteran Residences	£1000
Mental Welfare Society (Hollybush)	£1000
Hollybush House Ayr (Appeal)	£5000
'Not Forgotten' Association	£1000
The Royal Caledonian School Trust	£500

British Limbless Association (BLESMA)	£1000
Ex Service Fellowship Centres	£ 250
<b>Total</b>	<b>£21500</b>

6. The combined sum of grant-aid and donations provided by both the Regimental Association and the ABF in 2004 was **£66,054**.

7. At Christmas monetary gifts totaling £785 were distributed to 18 other ex-soldiers in hospitals and after-care establishments.

8. The Regimental Headquarters received 50% of the soldiers' one-day pay voluntary contribution totaling £11,666.

### 9. Grants from Trusts:

The Andrew and Mary Little Charitable Trust	£250
Prince Andrew Trust	£500

### 10. Donations received by the Association in 2004:

Major Taylor	£500
Major Q Agnew	£600

11. The Association operates under a written constitution and is managed by an Executive Committee.

## THE HLI OCA REUNION 2005

This year's Reunion was on Saturday the 5th of March. The meeting place was RHQ – and there it was well looked after as a result of the Fuhrer's organisation. We were fed and watered by Sandy Leishman, David McMaster, Stewart Ferguson and Steven Torbet. Although initially we gathered in the Colonel's Room, Building Three proved to be more popular. Lunch was therefore served there and it became the sole centre for the Reunion. (If only, however, there could be more circulation of members! Whether around the Colonel's Room or at the big table in Building Three there was a universal tendency to sit down and not move again (except to the bar).

Numbers are dropping – less than forty this year, less than fifty the year before and just over fifty in 2003 – so there are two parallel thoughts: one is to have the Reunion in warmer weather, probably in early summer; the other is to attract young blood, to recruit serving and ex-Fusiliers. They after all are our successors.

Next year's Reunion will be in warmer weather, probably either on Saturday the 13th of May or on Saturday the 20th. It is hoped that it will again be in RHQ – although if some kind of working committee **is** mustered the present writer will be only too happy to hand over the reins and watch the Association perhaps being guided elsewhere. That some kind of committee should be formed was proposed by one forceful speaker – and he hoped too for expansion, by attracting RHF and ex-RHF men.

However, this surely implies merging the RHF OCA with the HLI OCA – or **vice versa**, that is transferring over completely to the existing RHF OCA. The **Fuhrer** did speak to this effect, and a vote was taken. There was almost unanimous rejection of our becoming members of the RHF OCA, so that was that. (There was no vote for the establishment of any kind of committee!)

The whole was a very pleasant affair. We are very grateful to The Colonel of The Regiment and to the Regimental Secretary ("**Fuhrer**" is shorter and more accurate) for letting us use RHQ – and are even more grateful to the **Fuhrer** and his staff for laying on absolutely everything. (– But no piper! With Leonard Henson absent this year,



we had to do without.)

The following attended:

Charles Brannan	Archie Brown
Frank Carrick	John Deuchars
James Fury	Mr and Mrs A Gillon
James Henderson	Hugh Houston
Chris Hughes	Peter Hunter
Robert Johnstone	Ronnie Johnstone
John Kirk	John Lamont
Roland Leaf	Joseph McAuley
Alastair Mack	Lt Col and Mrs Hugh Mackay
Mr and Mrs Mapp	William Miller
Arthur and Marilyn Mooney	Michael Mulheron
James Murdoch	Gordon Morrison
William Paterson	Edward Pearce
David Pithie BEM	Joseph Scollen
Major Willie Shaw MBE	James Smith
Robert Smith	Fred Spicer and Mrs Spicer

The following had hoped to come (and had subscribed) but couldn't make it:

William Blackwood	Major Willie Bowie MBE MC
Robert Chisholm	Major Ross Crawford
Leonard Henson	John Moran
Major Alan Robertson	Patrick Tracey

We are also grateful for the subscriptions from:

Lt Col Richard Cross, William Gavin, Henry Hallewell, Lt Col Colin Mackenzie and William Nixon.

## THE TENTH HLI CONTINUATION CLUB

Still meeting on Thursday afternoons in O'Leary's, Rutherglen, the numbers attending are very constant if small – but this did not stop us from enjoying the now-annual Christmas Luncheon given by O'Leary's. This session's one was next door in The Sportsman's Club but the initial meeting that day – and of course the subsequent additional drinking – was in O'Leary's.

There was a brief break at Hogmanay. As accommodation was not readily available in the Land of Our Fathers, Willie Nixon, Bobby McLachlan and Eddie Traynor departed south! It was in Oldham that they dug in – in a well-chosen hotel. The landlord charged no corkage on the whisky bottle that each carried – provided that these were kept under the table when not being poured. (The same

concession was not made to the other 120 or so attending the celebration, even although some must have been expatriate Scots.)

Then came another break. In March Willie and Eddie departed south again, this time to Benidorm and in "self-catering" accommodation. (It is doubtful whether this particular pair did any self-catering – other than pouring from a large supply of cheaply-purchased bottles.) They also bumped into Mr Quigg, the former Landlord of O'Leary's and the former Hon Col of the Continuation Club.

Another meeting was a melancholy one. On the 27th of April, two years to the day since Tommy Copeland's funeral at Daldowie, we were back there for the funeral of his son Hans. But there was some good news to do with Tommy.

This was given to us on the same day by Karola, Mrs Tommy Copeland. Tommy's grandchildren are high-flyers. Young Gordon McNeill, who is now sixteen, recently received the award of Best Overall Air Cadet presented by the Wishaw Branch of The Royal British Legion. He is also to go further into the clouds (*Per Ardua Ad Astra*). In February next year he is going to the Officer Selection Board at RAF Cranwell and may be awarded a 6th Form Scholarship to assist his entering the Royal Air Force. The even younger Miss Carol McNeill (who is fourteen) is this year's Best New Cadet in 449 Squadron (Lanark) Air Training Corps. Tommy would well approve, even if fighting in the air may be as almost hazardous as was Tommy's crossing the Rhine with the Tenth – or as was his conducting the Tenth's water truck all the way (in between being wounded) from Normandy to Germany in 1944/55.

The Tenth's members too have plans (as ever). At the end of this year all but John Ross will descend again on Oldham to celebrate the incoming of the next – and again they will carry their own whisky supply. This news was discovered at O'Leary's on the Tenth's first muster there after their return from this year's Annual European Pub Crawl (see p. \_\_\_ of **Associations and Clubs**). Eddie Traynor was at O'Leary's too in spite of his having been bedded-down for much of the Crawl (and therefore missing out on the Arnhem visit). He seemed much better.

But things have got worse than then. Just after mid-July Eddie found himself admitted to the Royal Hospital and there (now August) he still is. This has also resulted in a major change in the activities of the Continuation Club. Their weekly meetings are no longer (temporarily, they hope) in O'Leary's. The meetings are now at Eddie's bedside. Who knows? His friends' attentions might tip the balance – and drive Eddie to seek the peace and comfort of his home.

There is a further impetus to this effect. When our very busy *Fuhrer* heard of Eddie's plight he summoned the ex-Editor. "Here's a bottle of RHF Malt," he said. "..... No, it's not for you. Take it to Eddie!" This was accomplished, but the bottle is not one of Eddie's (present) medicines; it was there and then taken by his son back to Eddie's house. Eddie's son is as great a gentleman as is his father but has the same remarkably good taste for Malt. If Eddie doesn't get home soon, who knows? He might find the bottle empty!

Postscript: The Continuation Club now has two bedsides to visit in the Royal. When Bobby McLachlan emerged after visiting Eddie on the 11th of August he had a sudden argument with a bus he was about to board. The result? The bus was unhurt but Bobby's arm was rather badly damaged by the attentions of its nearside front wheel and he was immediately re-admitted – for an extended visit. Let us hope that this isn't over-long. When we came to visit Bobby he was as cheerful as ever. His only comment on the accident was "It's a good



# Infantry Training Centre Catterick

thing it wasn't a double-decker." Ours was – "You must be about the only crosser over the Rhine who has had a bus cross over his arm."

## Permanent Staff:

Lt N P Bridle	Pl Comd
WO2( RQMS) L Foreman	ITC RQMS (T)
CSgt R Inglis	CQMS Scots Div
CSgt B Gunn	Regimental Shepherd
Sgt P Gordon	Pl Sgt
Cpl Wilson	CQMS Storeman
Cpl Gibson	Sect Comd
Cpl McCormick	Sect Comd
Cpl McNally	Sect Comd
Cpl McCulloch	Sect Comd
Cpl Muir	Sect Comd
Cpl Rodgers	Sect Comd
Cpl Thomson	Sect Comd

The 1st Bn is well represented at ITC having a relatively large number of Permanent Staff (PS) from Section Commanders to RQMS. The ITC is a strange jigsaw consisting of a multitude of organisations from across the infantry. As well as 'normal' day-to-day training of Infanteers which we will come to later, the centre is also the home to the AAISC, Gurkha Training Wing and provides training teams for STTT overseas and in the UK.

So far as we in the Jock Div are concerned centre stage is taken by the Combat Infantryman's Course (CIC). This is the relatively new Phase 1 (Basic Training) and Phase 2 (Special to Arms Training) combined in a 24-week-long course. One training team, consisting of a Pl Comd, Pl Sgt and four Cpl instructors, is responsible for



*Lt Bridle( front row extreme right) and his ITC 7s Competition Plate winning (mostly) Scots Div team*



*Sgt Gordon (extreme left) with his winning pace sticking team*

steering the recruits throughout their time at ITC. The training teams are organised into Divisional companies and are almost always responsible for recruits from that Division.

Though busy the PS generally thoroughly enjoy their time at ITC. As a Platoon Commander I have particularly relished the opportunity to get to know the soldiers that fill our Bn before they become soldiers. The Cpls enjoy the chance to really get to grips with their trade by commanding a 'captive section' through the spectrum of conventional ops and in the classroom. The leeway afforded to Platoon Staff, with a little bit of leg work, allows a real sense of satisfaction to be gained from running effective and interesting training. Within the arcs of assessment targets (laid out by the course assessment programme) and resources (laid out by the seemingly completely rigid training programme) the PS, provided they are willing to push the envelope of the training programme, are able to do pretty much what they want. In other words – here's your area, here's some CSups what are you going to do? It's a formula that works and there is healthy competition between training teams as to who ran the bloodiest bayonet lesson, the best range packages, best shots, winner of the March and Shoot etc. This competition automatically rubs off on recruits to their obvious benefit as well as helping to maintain the dynamics of the ITC at training team level. The other benefit of time at ITC is that it affords the training team the opportunity to learn the detail of G1 management and record keeping (constantly under the microscope) and equally importantly the detailed conduct of Pl level ops.

A key part of the training cycle is played by the Regimental Shepherd; detached from RRT to work at the ATRs and ITC he has a vital role in the retention of recruits in training as well as helping to engender a sense of Regimental spirit where there are no RHF PS in the recruits PS.

Although the staggered nature of recruit intakes often reduces RHF PS interface to a 'ships passing in the night' basis, the spread of RHF PS always produces a friendly face at least once a day! Regular updates from Bn through the Regimental Shepherd and Senior Rep keep the 1st Bn current in the 'detached contingents' minds and where necessary provides the G1 hug required to reassure PS they have not been forgotten about on the Brecon Plot. Overall morale is high (in the summer time at least) and as Sgt Gordon pointed out –

# You're kiddin'



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# 1st Battalion Notes



Commanding Officer:	Lieutenant Colonel P A S Cartwright
Second-in-Command:	Major P Whitehead
Adjutant:	Capt T Winfield
Operations Officer:	Captain N J L Brown
Quartermaster:	Captain J E B Kerr
Regimental Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class One J Law

The last Battalion notes finished with the forecast that the Battalion expected either another deployment to Iraq or a period of stability, including a Christmas or New Year break, a Rowallan Targe, a JNCO Cadre and many inter-company sports competitions. Needless to say, we have ended up having both. After a relatively quiet Christmas (the SMO even rang the CO to thank the Battalion for being the best behaved unit in Episkopi over the holiday period) we deployed to Iraq to assist the security for the elections. This time we took FSp instead of C Coy, and many of those in HQ Coy who had missed out on the first tour. A and B Coys were our veterans and demonstrating their expertise at operating in Iraq, were smoothly dispatched to the far edges of the British Sector. A Coy led by the recently honoured Major Nick Borton (MBE in the New Year's Honours list) went to work for the Dutch and B Coy led by Major Charlie Herbert for the RDG. FSp Coy led by Major Nick Abram spent their five weeks in Basra, allowing them to sample many of the sights and sounds (mortars, bursts of small arms fire) that we had experienced last summer. Our Mortar Platoon even got to fire back illum rounds on an almost nightly basis and the Recce Platoon ended up conducting river patrols up the Shat Al Arab Waterway.

Although it drove a coach and horses through our programme, to be in Iraq during such an historic time was well worth it. Those who missed out the first time were given the chance to experience what the rest of us had last summer and it also gave us the opportunity to see a bit of progress on the ground. There was no doubt that Basra was a more bustling place and there was much evidence of rebuilding. This made us feel that all the hard work of the first tour had been worthwhile. A further tour also countered the fears of our newer recruits who had arrived on a diet of press stories giving the impression that Iraq was nothing but a deadly war zone. In reality, although daily fatalities occurred in the North of the country the incidents of this around Basra were less frequent. The most serious incident of the tour for 1 RHF was when a two-vehicle convoy (containing the 2IC and Padre amongst others) was attacked by a roadside bomb, bringing echoes of Fus Gentle's death. Fortunately, the only echoes felt this time were the ringing deafness experienced by Capt Wheatley and LCpl Hunter on top cover; both of whom recovered after a few days or so.

There was a sense of déjà vu living in Shaibah Log Base (SLB) next to our previous camp. One noticeable difference was the number of teeth arms in SLB. Last summer we were on our own; this time there were three Infantry (1 RHF, 1 Scots Guards and 2 PWRR) and two Royal Armoured Corps units (RDG, QDG) in the camp. Although deploying for a notional period of six weeks, we were told to be ready for a six-month tour, just in case the elections went badly. Needless to say,

rumours were rife and it was good to have confirmation of the first option after a successful polling day.

Meanwhile, back on the Rear Party, the Pipes and Drums had slipped off to Australia to take part in their Tattoo. The Pipes and Drums have been playing more frequently, building up a good repertoire and significantly enhancing the Battalion's reputation in Cyprus. The highlight so far was their playing at a charity concert alongside two military bands, the drums of 1 QLR and the Gurkha Pipes and Drums; no prizes for guessing which band looked the smartest and got the biggest applause.

Once again, we took up our Cyprus Ops commitment almost immediately on return from Iraq. C Coy and the Pipes and Drums took this on, giving the Iraq crew a few weeks break. However, with two coys required on Island, one to do the Cyprus Ops and the other to remain on 48-hour notice for Iraq, it meant that post-tour/Easter leave seemed to stretch from the beginning of March until the May Bank holiday. This was the price to pay for arranging the programme so that there are times when no one from the Battalion is off Island. This arrangement of concentrated leave followed by periods with the Battalion all on Island has been worth it. A quick amendment of our programme saw the JNCO Cadre start almost immediately and work through Easter. Ten soldiers were promoted on the square. Meanwhile, the RSM had put a lot of work into running a Rowallan Targe in February. The Iraq tour meant this had to be changed to a May competition. Despite concerns about the heat, this well contested, 60-hour ordeal saw only five soldiers drop out. The ten stands gave the sections a wide variety of challenges and route selection rather than speed was a key factor. The contest finished in Happy Valley with prize-giving and a barbeque and Battalion morale visibly high. It was surprising to find that this competition had not been run for ten years and it is hoped to re-establish it as a much more regular event. The CO was so inspired by the performance of the Jocks that he promoted two who had stood in successfully as Section 2ICs, to LCpl on the spot.

The Battalion has had a number of rewarding visits. First and foremost was that of our new Colonel-in-Chief, who dropped in on a return trip from a busy schedule in the Middle East. CBF Cyprus very kindly put him up for the night and allowed 50 officers, SNCOs and their wives to descend on Flagstaff House for a cocktail party, with ten of us staying on to entertain the Duke of York over dinner. The next day he watched a Public Order demonstration by C Coy and met some soldiers at a buffet lunch in the cookhouse. We have also provided the security for Princess Anne, hosted CDS, the House of Commons Defence Committee, Chief of Joint Operations PJHQ and the Scottish Division Lieutenant Colonel. The latter reminisced about his days in Cyprus with 1 A&SH in the 80s and more recently as an SO1.

Despite the protracted post-Iraq leave period, we managed to get involved in many of the events in March and April that had been pre-planned. Most prominently was an Adventure Training exercise to South Africa (led by OC C Coy, Major Sandy Fitzpatrick) which can be read about in more detail elsewhere. Suffice to say that this was the first Battalion AT exercise in many years, ambitiously combined a series of events and was a great success. We also hosted the Harrow CCF, as we had done in 1986. The week was sponsored by OC B Coy, Major Charlie Herbert, and combined an exercise with AT, a look at Battalion life and some good trips around Cyprus. One of the accompanying





staff, an ex Guards Battalion RSM was gracious enough to comment that it was the best CCF trip by far he had ever been on in his 20 years at the school. At almost the same time, the long-awaited and often postponed Wives Club exercise – Band of Sisters – took place. Held over a gruelling 36 hours, this was run like a mini Rowallan Targe with 1 section, coincidentally containing Mrs CO and Mrs UWO, running out as the winners.

All this activity is not going unnoticed in MS terms. The Battalion is gaining a reputation for strength in depth, from a multitude of Staff College-trained Majors through to instructors at RMAS and Brecon Battle Courses. Notably, we gained twice the average number of promotions to WO2 and CSgt this year and until recently had four staff at RMAS, with another two SNCOs attempting Instructor Selection this summer.

Our sporting calendar has improved, with the Laird Trophy being resurrected and a host of inter-company competitions being run. The Battalion's rugby players were key to an Army win over the RAF in Cyprus and a Combined Services Cyprus victory over an international Cyprus team. 1 RHF also contain the Army Golf Champion in the form of Cpl Stewart. The firm sporting/Recreational Pursuits focus for summer is Fusilier Beach, our Inshore Watersports facility. The Battalion has set up a watersports training team and refurbished the facilities. We expect to put many soldiers through their RYA2 powerboat course and to teach them how to waterski and kayak.

Finally, warm congratulations are extended to Capt McDermid and his intrepid team of recruiters at the RRT. For the second year in the last three we have been the best recruited Battalion in the Scottish Division and the only one to meet its target. Our Regimental Shepherd at Catterick has helped to keep more of our recruits in the system and after several months of receiving no recruits at all, a deliberate and foolhardy Infantry-wide policy, we are back in the business of reducing our manning deficit.

Looking ahead, our Arms Plot date to Glencorse has been confirmed as March and April 2006. The Battalion is likely to deploy almost immediately for a six-week exercise in Belize in preparation for becoming the Spearhead Lead Element over the summer. These activities are something for the new team at the top to plan and look forward to, as we say farewell to the CO and 2IC this summer and



### *"The Muckin' o' Geordie's Byre"*

welcome Lt Col Paul Harkness and Major David Steel in these appointments.

## A COMPANY

OC:	Major N R M Borton MBE
2IC:	Captain M J Munnich
CSM:	Warrant Officer Class 2 H Wilson
CQMS	Colour Sergeant J L Bruce
1 Pl:	2nd Lieutenant V T Gilmour

2 Pl: Lieutenant R S Montgomery

3 Pl: Colour Sergeant I A MacLachlan

Reading the last issue's notes, concerned exclusively as they were with preparation for and deployment to Iraq, there is a serious danger that this issue's notes might read very much the same! The return from summer leave in September 2004 left very little time for the much vaunted post-operational pause. The Company was swept along with everyone else in preparing for the Extreme High Readiness Reserve task which we assumed in November. Despite the considerable experience from the previous tour, there were a number of new faces in the Company that needed to be trained for a possible Iraq deployment, not least the OC! Added to this, the continued Cyprus operations commitment ensured that the second half of the year disappeared rather quickly! Despite the pressure to prepare for Iraq, the OC insisted on taking the company out for a week's conventional war fighting exercise on the training area, where the great staples of infantry soldiering were revisited – advance to contacts, company attacks, and platoon ambushes. All good stuff for those tired and sweaty Jocks who thought that being an infantryman was about standing in the front gate sangar or on top cover! The other event to break the autumn monotony was the Battalion Boxing competition. This was a tremendous evening, and the small handful of determined A Company men put up an outstanding performance against greater numbers, and despite winning nearly all their bouts, just lost by a handful of points. Special mention goes to Fusilier Donnachie who was awarded the Braveheart Award for the most valiant boxer, after a bloody but unbowed demonstration of raw courage.

The Christmas leave period was somewhat tense as we were on five-day notice to move to Iraq, with the result that everyone was slightly looking over their shoulders. However, we had the comfort of going on leave with the OC's firm assurances that we would not deploy ringing in our ears. It was therefore no surprise to learn on our return that deployment was imminent, and the CQMS had spent Christmas Day packing the kit! With our deployment date rapidly shaping up for the end of January we embarked on a final burst of training: driving, shooting, baton gunning, rules of engagement, riot training, Arabic training, passport checks, NOK details, dental inspections, injections – the list was endless. It was a great relief at last to fly out of Akrotiri for Basra (and we missed our January ops cycle in Cyprus!).

Our deployment to Iraq, which finally occurred with only five-day official notice (that'll be why it's called **Extreme High** Readiness! – OC) was well publicised as UK's insurance policy over the critical forthcoming period of the first free Iraqi elections in a generation. Obviously the Jocks of A Company were unphased to know that the future of Iraqi democracy lay solely in their hands. Paradoxically, and in the true nature of British military operations, our arrival in theatre seemed to catch everyone off guard, and the hierarchy had to fight tooth and nail to obtain all the pieces of equipment we required to operate on the ground. While this happened, and we awaited our fate, the Company languished in the romantically named Camp 3, doing what training we could. We had a couple of good days on the range (desert) where unfortunately we sustained our only casualty of the tour – Fusilier Qarau crushed his finger in the door of the armoured Landrover. Luckily the CSM was on hand to tell him to stop being pathetic just as the blood loss and shock was about to overcome him!

Operational tasks were finally confirmed and allocated, and A





Company were delighted to learn that we had the pick of the crop. We were to drive our newly issued Snatch Armoured Landrovers 350 km north, in order to reinforce the Dutch Battalion in As Samawah. As they had one battalion covering an area bigger than Holland, they needed all the help they could get! The logistics of moving the whole company group and all its kit across three different national AORs, up a route that was experiencing a high rate of terrorist attack, was considerable. The OC therefore left it to the 2IC and flew ahead to camp Smitty to prepare. Nevertheless the convoy reached its destination without mishap (and fortunately without the still-injured Fus Qarau, who was discovered attempting to stow away in the back of a Lanny with the rest of his mates!) Our time with the Dutch was an interesting experience, and not as any of us expected. The best account of it is, as ever, provided by the Jocks, and two of their views are published below. However, overall, it was a great opportunity to get out of the British area and see a different part of the country. Despite the terrible food, the Dutch were charming hosts and professional soldiers who were clearly impressed by the Jocks and enjoyed having us (their CO referred to us on the Divisional conference calls as "our Highland Fusilier Company"! ). The elections passed off very smoothly across the South, and soon we returned to the familiar delights of Shaibah Logistics Base, and the rest of the Battalion. The ever-present threat of static guard duties at the Base or the Detention Facility was happily avoided, as the company continued conducting rent-a-Jock patrols in the PWRR and RDG areas. The remaining days of this ultimately brief tour passed without incident (except Fusilier "Lucky" Qarau, who on rejoining the Company, sustained a serious eye injury, and spent more time in the hospital than Florence Nightingale!) It was a great relief as ever to get home with everyone in one piece. Our role in the development of democracy in Iraq remains unclear but it was a good sharp operational tour which kept us on our toes and got us away from Cyprus for a while and ensured our reputation for operational reliability remains sky-high.

Back in Cyprus and after leave and a stint of ops again, the next major event to focus on was the Rowallan Targe section competition. The Targe was a tremendous exercise, extremely challenging in the May heat, over gruelling terrain, and with ten very testing stands. The company fielded three teams, commanded by Corporals Roberston, Houston and Waddell. Despite having just come off ops, the three teams flung themselves into the competition, and after the first day, it became clear that all three were doing well. The key to success was to get round the course with all members of the section and it was a credit to all concerned that no A Company soldiers fell out. By the last day it appeared that all three A Company teams were in the top 5, with Cpls Roberston and Houston vying for honours. Cpl Robertson's final stand was the CWS shoot and they produced the goods with an outstanding performance, gaining the highest score of the competition which they thought must surely have gained them the Targe. However, Cpl Houston's team had other ideas and their final stand was the Leadership task led by the section 2IC Fusilier Ratunaceva. They scored an impressive 92 points out of 100, even more creditable given they were all Jocks. This was just enough to sneak Cpl Houston in front and win the Targe, with Cpl Robertson a close second and Cpl Waddell fifth. Cpl Houston tells his own story of his success below. All round, this was an outstanding performance by the Company. Fusilier Ratunaceva received not only his winner's tankard but also his LCpl tape from the CO.

Flushed by victory, A Company are now turning their thoughts to

the next objective: EX SAFFRON SANDS 05. This will be a four-week exercise in the desert of Jordan which we will be doing in September with 2 R ANGLIAN. During it we shall be conducting Live Firing up to Company level, as well as Adventure Training and a battalion Field Training exercise. It promises to be a demanding and thoroughly rewarding exercise and another excellent opportunity to get off the Island for some training. Although we are training hard to make the most of this exercise, we are also making time to enjoy the summer and have already been to the local water park and Fusilier Beach for water sports. There are also plenty of Adventure Training opportunities coming up on Island, and we intend to ensure that we do not waste our final summer here.

On the personnel front, we have seen the usual change of faces in the Company, and welcomed a number of new Jocks. CSgt McCormick has departed and been selected for promotion – we wish him luck with the TA (and them!). In his place we welcome CSgt Bruce from C Company. In 1 Pl, Sgt Marshall has departed for the Int Cell to join the Company 2IC, Captain Wheatley. He is replaced by Capt Munnich, and 1 Pl is in the hands of the newly promoted Sgt Neil and 2Lt Gilmour. 2 Pl have bid farewell to Sgt Byrne and welcomed Sgt Dickson. 3 Pl have been joined by CSgt MacLachlan. We congratulate the following on their promotions: Capt Munnich, CSgt McCormack, CSgt Bruce, Sgt Neil, Cpl Waddell, Cpl Roberston (twice!) and LCpl Ratunaceva. We leave you below with some personal perspectives, and look forward to reporting on an enjoyable Cyprus summer, and an exciting Jordan exercise in the autumn.

## **AL MUTHANA**

### ***Fus Elvin***

Whilst being deployed to Iraq as a rifleman for the second time with A Company, I had the fortunate experience to work along side another country's Army. We were deployed as a Company to reinforce the Dutch Sector called Al Muthana during the Iraqi elections. We set off one very early morning from Shaiba Logistics Base (SLB), the main British forces camp in the south of Iraq near Basra. Our spirits weren't exactly high due to the time of day, but soon lifted once the vehicles started to roll out of the base. We travelled up route Tampa which is a main transit route for the Americans and leads to the American camp in Talil. We stopped for some good scoff but were unable to get into the PX for some cheap shopping due to the time and distance that we had to travel.

We returned to the road once again in the cumbersome but protective Snatches. On the route out I saw a sign put up by the Americans that said there was to be no test firing of weapons for the next two miles, which I found funny, as it must be the only area in Iraq in which they don't fire! Within three to four more hours we rolled into the Dutch camp called Camp Smitty. They were very relaxed all the time and would deploy on patrol wearing soft hats and in cut down jeeps. We, on the other hand, thought it better to be well prepared and never deployed without helmets on and fully protected by the Snatch Land Rover. Give the Dutch their due, they were very professional and had a very good relationship with the local population.

The worst thing about being deployed with the Dutch must be the food. All they eat is cereal, for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We all lost weight.



Our task was to reinforce the Dutch during the elections by conducting irregular patrolling around the Al Muthana area, and by checking up on the Iraqi police checkpoints to ensure they were doing their job. We also conducted snap vehicle checkpoints on the main routes that had been identified as being the main smuggling routes.

Election Day wasn't the big bang that everyone had thought it would be; due to the combined presence the area was kept very quite and trouble-free. Or maybe the insurgents had been put off by the professionalism of the troops on the ground.

I enjoyed the tour of Iraq and the chance to work with other nations but there is no doubt that the British Army stands head and shoulders above the rest. By being in Iraq you really do start to think how fortunate we all are that we live in Britain, and even if it takes several years to stabilize the country I really feel it will have been worth all the sweat and toil.

### **A COMPANY DUTCH DEPLOYMENT**

*Fus Wark*

Once again A Company deployed to Iraq. However, this time it was not to be sun sand and a two-can rule. The weather had all gone bad, it was cold and wet all the time and the bar had gone dry. We travelled back to Shaibah Logistics Base and for the first week the majority of the tents were flooded with a foot of rain water. Word came down from above that A Company was to move to Camp Smitty, a Dutch camp in Al Muthanna. Everyone was happier, not just because they were to leave the delightful accommodation, but because of the rumours of the beautiful Dutch girls.

A Company was one of the first units to receive the new Snatch 2 vehicles. So all the other drivers and I had to sit a conversion cadre. The vehicles were left-hand drive and more top-heavy. It took me a while to adjust but after a few hours I got the hang of it.

After the conversion A Company moved to Camp Smitty in a fourteen-Snatch, Bedford and REME recovery vehicle convoy that seemed to stretch forever. It was a long boring drive but we did have a break at Talil, a big American camp, to get food and refuel. After taking all that we could from the camp we continued on to Camp Smitty. On arrival we were placed in 50-man tents which reminded me of old WW2 barrack buildings. Our task was to support Dutch troops and Iraqi police, and ensure the latter did their job correctly during the elections.

Camp Smitty was a culture shock. When we went in the Field Showers you would turn and see a female beside you, but the high walls concealed what I wanted to see! When I was standing at a urinal a girl came in to brush her teeth just behind me. She said hello and carried on as if it was perfectly normal. Within hours of arriving the Jocks were bored of the food in the cookhouse. I admit that I enjoyed it more than the British food but I may have been the only one.

The night before the elections I was due to go out on patrol with Sgt Dickson as Multiple Commander, when we heard the Dutch were fired on by a nervous Iraqi police checkpoint. Their CO decided that the night's patrols should be cancelled. Everyone was a bit disappointed but still we were happy to get a full night's sleep.

On return from Camp Smitty we visited the big American PX and everyone stocked up on American junk and protein drinks to help them get massive. We were to spend the remainder of the tour at Shaibah doing local patrols and escorts. The time in Al Muthanna

was the most interesting part of the tour.

### **WINNING THE ROWALLAN TARGE**

*Cpl Houston 2 Pl*

On return from Easter leave, I found myself posted to A Company after having previously stationed at ITC Catterick for the last three years. Major Borton, the Company Commander, made me feel welcome almost immediately, and I was eager to get back into the thick of things and settle in with my new Platoon. No sooner had I "settled in" than I was informed I would be in command of a team for the 1 RHF Rowallan Targe competition, from which my only experience had been listening to the men who had completed the last one approximately ten years ago when I was a young Jock. I was introduced to my new section and prepared with two weeks of build-up training, with a lot to take in especially the Iraq based training, as I was a bit of a "bayonet" when it came to drills and SOPs. After the build-up training, all the commanders were briefed on the rules and regulations, and also the history of how the competition came about by the main organiser, WO1( RSM) Law. He laid down the points and the penalties that could occur, telling us that we would lose points for failing to reach a checkpoint or for losing a man or unprofessional conduct, the list was endless!

And so the day came and started off with a strict kit check by the RSM at 0430 at the main square prior to deployment. The section got off to a good start, without being deducted any points. After the kit check, all involved dispersed to the respective stands with my section starting off at the river crossing. At the river crossing I thought we would be deducted points for poor noise discipline, as Fus Holmes could not stop baulking at the smell of the freshly dead goat in our FRV. After the first checkpoint was completed we then moved off again with everyone intact. We completed another two checkpoints that day. On Day Two the fatigue was starting to creep in but wasn't giving us cause for concern. After a helicopter and boat ride the lads were grateful for the small break in the seemingly never-ending tabbing. We then found ourselves at Sgt Dickson's observation stand where the section did well with their observation skills and produced a very detailed sighting of an enemy position. On to the next checkpoint, the first-aid, where Fus McSeveny did not realise that it was a checkpoint and not a medical point for the treatment of his blisters. He proceeded to tell the medic that he would need his leg amputated from the knee down because of the unbearable pain he was suffering. After being "repaired" he still looked a little bit disgruntled as the medic informed him they did not have any morphine left for him. We then hobbled on to complete the last of the checkpoints, all of us intact but starting to feel the combination of the Cyprus heat and the weight taking its toll. At Sgt Kyle's checkpoint, the very last one I sat out and observed (competition rules) and Fus Ratunaceva took command of the section for the command tasks where he did very well and produced a high score (and got promoted!). On our return to the camp with ten checkpoints completed, I had no idea in which position my section was – only happy that everyone was still there at the end. We waited about nervously to find out the winner, and when we were informed it was us, it came as a total surprise. It was a good feeling for me, and a sense of achievement set in but a lot of credit must go to the lads in the section for their excellent teamwork and professionalism (Well done 2 Section!). To sum up, the Rowallan Targe was a demanding competition for all, however an excellent mental and physical challenge for any junior commander, so let's not wait another ten years!



*"The Bugle Horn"*

## B COMPANY

OC:	Major C L G Herbert
2IC:	Capt D Taylor
CSM:	Warrant Officer Class 2 (CSM) A Middlemiss
CQMS:	Colour Sergeant G Graham
Coy Clerk:	Corporal E Gordon
4 Pl Comd:	Lieutenant E Aitken
Pl Sgt:	Sergeant D McGrath
5 Pl Comd:	Colour Sergeant A Turner
Pl Sgt:	Sergeant R Todd
6 Pl Comd:	2nd Lieutenant Green Int Corps
Pl Sgt:	Sergeant W Craig

I don't suppose that there are many quiet periods in the life of a modern-day Infantry Company and the last six months have been no exception for B Company. When the last *Journal* notes went to press we were busy training and preparing for a possible but unconfirmed EHRR deployment. Now – some 6 months later – we have recovered from the tour and are praying for a period of less frenetic activity over the forthcoming summer months. Whilst the highlights of this period have been many and varied, it is pleasing to note that the low points have been few and far between. That said, the lowest point came in late December 2004, when we heard about the tragic death of LCpl Del Campbell whilst on leave in the UK. All ranks in the Company were desperately saddened and shocked by his death, and our thoughts go out to his family. A tribute to him can be found elsewhere in the *Journal*, including a moving but good-humoured eulogy delivered by his good mate LCpl J Michie at his recent Memorial Service.

Whilst our second Iraq tour was considerably shorter than the first, I think that it's fair to say that we managed to cram a fair old amount into the six-week deployment. Having deployed in early January, the Company achieved full operating capability within a matter of days, before deploying to Al Faw to relieve the Danish Contingent there. Having relieved the Danish, the Company was thereafter attached to the Royal Dragoon Guards Battle Group, and was tasked with securing the strategic infrastructure sites stretching from the southern outskirts of Basra to the oil export facilities in Al Faw at the very southern tip of Iraq.

Having trained for the deployment in the ruins of Paramali village in Cyprus, it was strangely reassuring to deploy somewhere not dissimilar – the Manifold Metering Site in Al Faw, about 70 miles outside Basrah – which looked far more like a FIBUA village than a strategic site! The pace of life was absolutely frenetic, especially over the election period, with the Jocks rotating through a cycle of patrols, patrols, patrols,

patrols, QRF and yet more patrols. Thankfully, the elections passed off far quieter than anticipated, but the tour was not without the odd bit of excitement: Sgt Davey McGrath's section being engaged from across the Iranian border; patrolling the suburbs of Hamden and Abu Al Kaseeb over the election period (akin to an Iraqi Free Fire Zone!); and aiding in the capture of armed "Ali Babas" on Route 6. Never ones to rest on our laurels, we even managed to run a short training package for the Iraqi Army Company located next to us in Al Faw. The OC even managed to get himself a part-time job as the RDG LO to the Iraqi Army Battalion in Az Zubayr, giving the Jocks an opportunity to see yet another part of Iraq.

From the moment we arrived, it was clear that life at the Manifold Metering Site was never going to be easy. Imagine the opening scenes from "Mad Max" and "Alien" and you have a good idea of what home resembled...or so it was until we transformed it into our very own Winter Palace on the Riviera. Within a few hours of arrival we were fully bedded in, with the Ops Room open for business, and patrol teams slipping and sliding their way down some pretty dodgy and mine-ridden tracks to check up on our Iraqi comrades. The Camp Jannie, Sgt "I'm nae goin' out there" Richie Todd even managed to construct a gym and a canteen, in between firing a nightly barrage of 51mm illumination to deter the Bogeymen!

Whilst life rapidly settled into routine around Al Faw, the remainder of the Company under Lt "I don't do Al Faw" Aitken were responsible for dominating the northern pipeline areas, patrolling the southern Basra suburbs, and monitoring the various Police and Army checkpoints in the area (a task somewhat akin to herding cats!). CSgt Barry Lynn – our short-term 6 Pl Comd – claimed the first contact of the deployment with a shoot on Day Three, whilst Cpl E Wilson started rumours about necrophilia by chasing coffins along Route 6. Never one to rest on his laurels, CSgt Lynn even helped the Iraqi Army capture some pipeline saboteurs. Meanwhile 2Lt 'Wee Al' Lipowski (attached briefly from C Company) hankered after some action, but the excellent tutelage of Cpl Gerry McQuade kept him out of bother. With the elections over, we were able to turn our attention more towards Security Sector Reform in the last week or two of the deployment, with the establishment of a small Iraqi Army training team at Al Faw, under Lt E Aitken and Sgt Jason "The Horse" Craig, as well as hosting a Company Dinner Night for the Officers and SNCOs of 602 Battalion Iraqi Army.

Since returning from Iraq in late February, the Company has been kept as busy as ever with leave catch-up, some low-level section training, sport, adventure training and a short surge of refurbishment at Fusilier Beach. At work and at play, all ranks have performed superbly. Cpl Jimmy Fraser is congratulated on managing the boxing team to victory in the Inter-Company Boxing at the end of last year, whilst Lt B O'Neill achieved a similarly victorious result with his Company athletics team in Mar 05. Mention too must also be made of the Company football team who achieved a disappointing but very commendable second place in the Newlove Cup, under the management of Sgt Davey McGrath. Fresh back from Iraq the Company also hosted a very successful week-long visit by Harrow School (see separate article). As mentioned at the beginning of the article, the low points have been few and far between thankfully. However, the severe head injuries sustained by Cpl Jimmy Fraser in a rugby accident, and by Big Jim Naqarase in a car crash stand out as particular low points. We are all delighted that both individuals are now well on the road to full recovery, and we look forward to seeing Big Jim back at work in the next few weeks.

As always this period has seen a plethora of comings and goings.



Congratulations go to WO2 and Mrs McCutcheon, and Fus and Mrs Cunningham on the birth of their children – Maya and Keira Marie. Congratulations too to Cpl E Murray, LCpl G Docherty, Fus S Quinn and Fus G Millen on their recent weddings. A warm welcome to the following recent arrivals: Capt D Taylor from C Coy, 2Lt Green from the Intelligence Corps, WO2 (CSM) A Middlemiss from JCUNI, CSgt A Turner from ITC (Catterick), CSgt C Temple from AFC Harrogate, Cpl A McGuire from ATR Pirbright, LCpls G Allison and K McAleese from C Coy (on promotion), LCpl J Wodehouse and Fus D Campbell from the RRT and Fus J Jeffery from A Coy. Welcome too to new wives Kelly Millen and Lisa Marie Docherty! Finally, we have bid a sad farewell to the following personnel over the recent months: Lt Brian O'Neill (to 2IC C Coy), WO2 Dougie McCutcheon (to RQMS), CSgt Gary Graham to the DF Platoon, Cpls K McGregor and P Conn (to ATR Pirbright), Cpl J Thompson (to ITC Catterick) and LCpls C Docherty and G McLean (both to C Coy on promotion).

The summer months now look promising – with a forthcoming four-week period of adventure training, sport and low-level Iraq skills revision, before we ramp up the tempo again in late summer with a field-firing package and another demanding Company FTX. Optimistically, we all rather hope that our next Journal notes won't again focus on Iraq....but who knows??

### Some Memorable Quotes from B Coy's Iraq Deployment

Fus J Young on life at the MMS. *“And so, halfway into our 2nd tour and B Coy have settled in. Like stagnant water – quite literally”.*

Fus J Young on Cpl G McQuade's navigation skills. *“GPS Gerry – it's Basra APOD we're heading for, not Baghdad APOD”.*

Cpl K Thompson's reflections on listening to people play Risk. *“I'm sick of hearing Hardman (Sgt McGrath), Swagger (Sgt Todd), Silver-Fox (CSM McCutcheon) and Zippy (LCpl Thomson) using the term 'they taught me this in Brecon'”.*

Cpl G McQuade on the Deployment. *“Good ole' C Coy stayed behind in Cyprus because the C130 couldn't accommodate LCpl Muir's lugs and also because Cpl Carr wouldn't stop crying until he was told he was staying”.*

Cpl G McQuade on Weapon Handling. *“No, Specky, you can't fire a 51mm mortar from the shoulder!”*

Cpl G McQuade on the state of the MMS. *“In fact a few members of the Coy from Dungshire (Ayrshire) even said it reminded them of home; at least the smell did anyway”.*

Sgt R Todd on a case of mistaken identity. *“I tasked a couple of Jocks to fit the Chubb into the back of a wagon. I left thinking it would be done. On my return I caught them trying to jam Lt 'Buddha' O'Neill into the back of the Land Rover”.*

Fus G McLean on smoking whilst pregnant. *Someone had just pointed out that his missus smoking while pregnant might be harmful to the baby – “its alright, she'll smoke them in the kitchen”*

Sgt R Todd defending the high price of his canteen stock. *“These mars bars come all the way from Iran you know!”*

LCpl B Anderson on being asked by the CO what the highlight of his tour was. *“The DVD” He subsequently remarked with typical lucidity “aye, every c\*\*t buys 'em.”*

2Lt A Lipowski and Fus C Andrews on patrol. *“That'll be the PPL where the flashing light is.” “I can see the light, Sir, but it keeps going out”.*

LCpl McVitie to CSgt G Graham after he told her to hurry up with his baguette. *“Perfection takes time... You must have been a quick child??”*



Sgt R Todd on appearing on Page 2 of the Daily Record. *“Did you see my face in the paper. I don't like to talk about it, but did you see it? I'm gorgeous aren't I?”*

*“MacDonalds's awa tae the war”*

## C COMPANY

OC:	Major A J Fitzpatrick
2IC:	Lieutenant B A O'Neill
CSM:	Warrant Officer Class Two W R Barrie
CQMS:	Colour Sergeant J M Burke
7 Pl:	2nd Lieutenant M J Kerr Sergeant G A Theyers
8 Pl:	Colour Sergeant D C Robertson Corporal M Morrison
9 Pl:	2nd Lieutenant A G Lipowski, Sergeant K Kyle Sergeant S B Robertson
RSDC:	Corporal D H Rennie

## FORWARD

This is my last year in command of C Coy and our exploits will be explained below. It has been a full two years, with its highs and lows, trials and tribulations, but overall it has been a privilege to have worked with such a group of men. I wish you and your families all the very best for the future and remainder of your careers, whatever it brings get the basics right, stay off the radar and try to get out of those bridesmaid dresses.

## COURT & SOCIAL

### Postings Out

The last few months have seen a large amount of individuals, arriving and leaving. Some of the personalities who have moved on to new pastures are Lt Munnich to A Coy 2IC, CSgt Stewart on promotion as WO2 to Cadre Training Plans (CTP) in Warminster and Sgt Bruce on promotion to CSgt, CQMS A Coy. Cpl Parker was posted to ATR Pirbright, Cpl McCormack, LCpl McNally (promoted to Cpl) and LCpl Muir (promoted to Cpl) to ITC Catterick. Others who have left the Army for the quieter life in Civilian Street are: Capt Dowling, LCpl McCormack, Fus Duncan and Fus Simpson. We wish all those and their families the very best for the future and hope that they thoroughly enjoyed their time with the Company.

### Postings In



A number of newcomers have arrived, Lt O'Neill as Coy 2IC, CSgt Burke as CQMS and CSgt Robertson as 8 Pl Comd. Cpl Lowe returns from ITC Catterick to 7 Pl, LCpl Mclean to 8 Pl and LCpl Docherty 7 Pl, both arrived on promotion from B Coy. Fus Brian Wade and his family return from Catterick and he has joined 9 Pl along with Fus Walker who came from A Coy. There are a number of new recruits who have arrived and they are listed on the recruit's page. We welcome all both old and new as part of the "Charlie Company Team".

### Promotions

We congratulate Cpl Kyle on his promotion to Sgt and Fusiliers Alison, McAleese and Glencross on promotion to LCpl for their outstanding performance on the JNCO Cadre for which they were promoted on the final parade on the Battalion square. The Coy had seven Fusiliers on the JNCO Cadre; Fusiliers Palmer, Cole, Spence and Cavin are awaiting their tape.

### Births

We would also like to congratulate Fus McGlone and his wife Rosalind on the birth of their daughter Erin. We hope that you don't have too many sleepless nights.

### Marriages

The Company wishes to congratulate LCpl Muir on his marriage to Nadia, we wish them both all the best for the future and hope that they enjoy ITC Catterick.

## CHARGIN' CHARLIE'S EXPLOITS

C Company having had a very busy 2004 with Iraq, Ex Saffron Sands and deployments on operations in Cyprus. Looking back it's been an achievement to have fitted so much into one year. On our return to Cyprus near the end of the year it was time to wind down as Ops Support Company over the Christmas period, before going on New Year's leave for a well-earned break. During Ops Sp, all members of the Company enjoyed 1330hrs stand-downs and although the Company had to remain on island, morale remained fairly high as most got a chance to celebrate Christmas in the usual Jock manner, drink more drink and then, drop! The Coy party was held at Episcopiana Hotel in Episkopi, and was organised by Sgt Bruce and a number of JNCOs. The night proved very successful and was enjoyed by all. The party was the start of the Company getting into the festive



*"Pay the Piper or else...." Coy Officers and SNCOs before the awakening on X-Mas Day*



*"Pigging out on X-Mas Day" Fusiliers Simpson, Glencross and Allison with their egg banjos on X-Mas Day*

spirit and it continued up until Christmas Day. All those who decided to return to the Company block after Christmas Eve were awakened early on Christmas Day by a lone piper playing the Company tune with all Company officers and SNCOs bearing gifts of bacon and egg banjos with a wee dram of gunfire (Tea with Brandy). It wasn't a very pretty sight and yes, there are a few soldiers that looked the worse for wear, but they managed to muster in the TV room where the banter was passed from the previous evening's activities (the less said the better) and we all wished one another a Merry Christmas.

It was a few days prior to going on leave that the Battalion was informed of its possible deployment to Iraq as the Extreme High Readiness Reserve. The Company were told that it may be recalled during leave in order to meet the commitment which at that time had not been confirmed. On the 28 Dec 04 it was time for our well-earned break and for most, New Year spent in Scotland with our families. On return, we found that C Company would remain in Cyprus as Rear Party while the remainder of the Battalion deployed to assist in the Iraqi elections. This deployment had a knock-on effect. 23 Pnr Regt were the Cyprus Reinforcement Regt (CRR) and based in the UK, were deployed to cover the Battalion Ops commitment in Cyprus. The responsibility for training 23 Pnr Regt fell with C Coy. CSgt Stewart and his small training team of Sgt Theyers, Cpl Mitchell and LCpl McCormack took the pioneers on public order and introduced them into the Cyprus Ops cycle, all of which was very new to them including the weather which they had expected to be a lot hotter.

Although the majority of the Company were disappointed not to



*"We don't need no education, we don't need no..." Sgt Theyers teaching 23 Pnr Regt, PO Drills*



deploy to Iraq, it was a chance to put together some quality training and cadres. This generated more qualified soldiers in areas such as team medics, signallers and Cat B drivers. There were a number of competitions planned, which brought out the competitive spirit of the Company and showed the rivalry between each platoon and certain individuals. Sgt Theyers put together a platoon skills day that tested military knowledge, fitness and weapon skills. The conspiracy theory is rife, due to his platoon (7 Pl) winning. WO2 (CSM) Barrie organised an individual march and shoot competition, "Ex Walter's Walk," for the JNCO's and Jocks which was won by Cpl Morrison and Fus Newton.

A large number of soldiers from the Company also took part in the gate-to-gate challenge which is a half-marathon from Episkopi Garrison to RAF Akrotiri. It was an RHF rear party team that won the team event of which Cpl Fraser and LCpl Fairbrother were members. In addition, due to the cold weather there was a lot of snowfall on the Troodos Mountains which allowed a number of ski trips to be planned. There are a number of nominations for the best "Eddie the Eagle" type "Kamikaze" runs as the Jocks were let loose on the slopes Fusiliers Smith and Anderson proved to be the main contenders.

When the Battalion returned from Iraq, it was time for the usual banter of war dodgers and "you've done nothing while we've been fighting the war", "Aye right we've heard it all before". C Company was also tasked with setting up a Public Order (PO) stand for the quick but informal visit of our new Colonel-in-Chief, HRH the Duke of York.



*"...now if I run like the Six Million Dollar Man..." JNCOs taking part in the individual march- and- shoot competition*



*"Aye, I can smell them too.." Fus Newton on completion of the gruelling competition*

The last few months have seen the Company and Battalion spend its longest period of time on island. It has been the first long period since arriving in Cyprus that the full Battalion has had this luxury. This has allowed time for some inter-company competitions to be run from sports such as athletics, swimming, football and basketball, to the Rowallan Targe. It has brought back memories for some of the older members in the Company of their time spent in Cambridge and Fallingbostel. Although the Company have taken part in all competitions, it has turned into a standing joke within the Company that the Company's nick-name should be "The



*HRH Duke of York talking with Cpl Carr during PO Demo*

Bridesmaids" as we have just missed out being winners of a few competitions – "Second prizers never go home with the Prom Queen!"

Over the forthcoming months the Company is gearing up for a number of events such as the boxing competition. Cpl Lowe is the team coach and manager and he has already put together a large team of enthusiastic volunteers. There is a cadre period being run that will mean most of the JNCOs and Jocks gaining some sort of military or civilian qualification from driving licence, education, radio user, team medic to adventure training. Another company party is also planned for the summer. There is more leave, which is probably the most important for the majority of Jocks as they can return to sunny Scotland and time with their families.



*“ Orange and Blue ”*

## **FIRE SUPPORT COMPANY**

OC:	Major N D E Abram
CSM:	Warrant Officer Class 2 D Loughery
CQMS:	Colour Sergeant G Law / Colour Sergeant B J Lynn
Coy Clerk:	Lance Corporal G O Ansah

It has been another intense but hugely rewarding six months for Fire Support Company. The busy coy program has been full of many exciting events; an Advanced Soldiers Cadre (Dec 04), Christmas Duties in Cyprus, shortened leave at New year followed by a five-week deployment to Iraq in order to bolster security over the period of national election, a FSp-sponsored Battalion Potential Junior Non-Commissioned Officer (PJNCO) Cadre run by Capt McClure, sponsorship of the Wives Exercise (Ex Band of Sisters) in Mar 05 and the Battalion Rowallan Targe Patrol Competition (four sections) – the list goes on and on!

Many FSp soldiers have also had the opportunity to participate in adventure training now that the summer weather has arrived; parachuting, kayaking, climbing and waterskiing being some of the popular activities enjoyed by the men. There have also been many fun inter-coy events and individual pursuits including, football, athletics, basketball, swimming, volleyball, sailing and golf. There is little time to sit still in Cyprus at the moment.

It has been a remarkable new year with a great list of achievements, not only for the coy but for many individuals; Fusiliers Mana, Korovulavula and Rokotuiloma gaining places on the Army Rugby Team and Fus Vuki has made the dizzy heights of the Combined Services Cyprus squad. Once the Regiment returns to the UK our rugby talent will hopefully get a chance to shine in the full Army side. Sgt Curran also earned a place in the Joint Services Football squad earlier this year. Cpl Stewart is riding high on the recent success in winning the Cyprus Amateur Open, the Infantry Golf Champs and reaching the quarter finals of the Army Match Play Championships only to be beaten by the eventual winner. We all hope he can go one better next year.

In the weeks preceding Christmas there were plenty of rumours of a potential deployment to Iraq. The rumours were true indeed, as we were tasked shortly after New Year to go to Iraq to provide stability over the election period. The deployment was a resounding success and was an excellent opportunity for the young Fusiliers to gain their first operational experience in a most demanding operational environment. Fortunately the tour passed without any serious incidents, however Fus Street's decisive response to the “drive by” shooting at his sangar was of considerable merit.

During the tour of Iraq the Coy was placed at three separate locations around Basra city, working to the DWR BG. This gave the Platoon Commanders an excellent opportunity to have independent command. Of particular note was the Mor Platoon firing their first operational mortar rounds since the first Gulf War. Each night they were on task to provide illumination for the callsigns working on the ground. Duties for the Coy were not confined to camp; teams frequently worked alongside other units in patrolling the streets, working with Iraqi military and police.

After Iraq most of the Coy went straight on some well-earned leave. For the

Recce Pl there was no such respite, as they immediately had to prepare for the PJNCO Cadre. Many thanks to Capt McClure and his team, including instructors from A, B and C Coys, for making the cadre a great success. Congratulations to the 5 FSp Coy Fusiliers who passed the cadre, 3 of whom were promoted “on the square”.

The Year ahead: There are many challenges and exciting events planned for FSp Coy in 2005. Later in the year the Coy will conduct a specialist platoon cadre to introduce and qualify new members of the platoons in their respective roles. The live-firing part of the cadre will be held in the UK, providing an excellent opportunity for the Coy to visit Glencorse to find out about our new home for next year. In the mean time the Coy is going to enjoy its last summer in Cyprus, before heading back to the not-so-sunny but equally welcoming hills of Scotland.

The Coy has worked tirelessly and with great gusto over the last 6 months. This would not happen without the encouragement of those unseen and often unsung heroes; wives', girlfriends', partners' and families are our ever-present, unwavering support. Thank you.

### **Promotions**

Congratulations are passed to the following individuals:

Fusiliers Bright and Ferris – promoted to LCpl (Mar 05).

LCpl Kelt – promoted to Cpl (Mar 05).

CSgts Law and Galloway – promoted to WO2 (June 05).

### **Births**

Congratulations to the following personnel and their wives on the birth of their children:

Cpl Hayward and his wife who gave birth to a boy, Kaden, on 22 Dec 04.

Fus Woods and his wife who gave birth to twins, Jay and Darren, on the 7 Mar and 8 Mar 05 respectively.

Fus Devlin and his wife Yvonne who gave birth to a girl, Cara, on 5 Apr 05.

Cpl Kyle and his wife Sarah who gave birth to a girl, Ellie May on 18 May 05.

### **Marriages**

Congratulations to the following newly-weds:

LCpl Watt and his wife April (nee Benson) who were married on 16 April 05.

LCpl Minhas and his wife Louise (nee Carberry) who were married on 22 April 05.

LCpl Houston and his wife Mhairi (nee Morrison) who were married on 29 April 05.

### **Postings In / Out**

The Coy says a sad farewell to all personnel that have left the Coy recently:

WO2 Law to UWO/PSI in 52 Lowland Regt, CSgt Collins to PCD Instructor, Sgt Robertson to SCBC Instructor, Cpl Taylor to PRI, Cpl Marshall to Inf Instructor in Leconsfield, Cpl Horn AGC on EOT, LCpls McGuigan and White on retirement, LCpl Minhas to C Coy Armourer and LCpl Weir to UWO.

The Coy welcomes all its new arrivals and respective families:

WO2 Loughery (CSM), CSgt Lynn (CQMS), LCpl McComb (Sigs Pl), Fusiliers Strathearn and Quinn from A Coy, Fusiliers McGuire and Clarke from B Coy, Fusilier Kinnear and LCpl Watt from C Coy, and LCpl Duncan from RRT.

### **Congratulatory**

Many congratulations to the following individuals on the passing the cadre and courses as shown:

Fus McGuire and Twigg – JNCO cadre Feb/Mar 05.

LCpl Stasiw – Mor Standard Course Mar 05.

LCpl McComb – RSJ Course Mar 05.





## DIRECT FIRE PLATOON

Platoon Commander: Captain M J Rodger

Platoon 2IC: Warrant Officer Class 2 H I Grant

Platoon Sgt: Sergeant R J Kelly

It has been another busy period for the Platoon since the last *Journal*. The majority of the Platoon spent three weeks on operations over Christmas in the relatively cool temperatures and snows of Mount Olympus and Troodos. Due to the daily snow flurries, Christmas dinner seemed all the more seasonal than by the coast!

In the New Year the whole Company returned to Cyprus early, ready and eager to deploy to Iraq, which we did fairly shortly after coming back. For the Platoon, it was a new and exciting experience, and a chance to work with other cap-badges. We were fortunate in that both multiples were located in the Old State Building in the centre of Basra. We worked for Prince of Wales Coy, 1 WG (Welsh Guards). For the first part of the tour, the Platoon provided camp security during the election period to allow the resident troops to increase their patrolling footprint. After about ten days we were fortunate enough to integrate into their patrol matrix, allowing the Platoon to get out on the ground. Through a mixture of both foot and vehicle patrols the Platoon got to know the AOR very well. It was an excellent chance for the Platoon to work closely together for a settled period. The Welsh Guards could not have been more hospitable, thanks to Major Dino Bossi and his Company for making us feel so welcome. Some of the Platoon also experienced some local cuisine courtesy of the local sheikh. To the Jocks' relief there were no Indiana Jones specialities on offer, no snakes or monkey brains; instead very tasty roast chicken stuffed with cinnamon flavoured rice! The food went down surprisingly well and the night was certainly one to remember.

After a well-deserved Easter leave, the Platoon supplied a team for the Rowallan Targe competition. Well done to LCpl Quinn, LCpl Kyle, LCpl Storrie, Fusiliers Mana, Muir, McMenamin and Waqalevu for completing a tough and demanding patrol competition.

The Platoon would like to extend a warm welcome to Fus Strathern, and to LCpls Watt and Thompson. Congratulations to Cpl Kyle and his wife Sarah on the birth of their baby daughter on the 18 May 05. Congratulations are also due to LCpl Watt and his new wife, April nee Benson, who were married April 16. Well done to LCpl Storrie also for his recent promotion after the JNCO cadre. Finally, a fond farewell to Cpl Taylor who has moved to HQ Company (PRI), and to Cpl Marshall who has left for the Defence Driving School at Leconsfield. We wish them both well in their new appointments.



Cpl Kyle and friends



First parade at the Old State Building



LCpl Kyle, Capt Rodger and Cpl Watt at the Shat al Arab Hotel



"Doubling for Tom Cruise in MI 3" – LCpl Ramsay at the Old State Building



"I got my shades from Specsavers." Y50B at Old State Building





## MORTAR PLATOON

Platoon Commander:	Captain K Greene
Platoon 2IC:	Colour Sergeant Galloway
Platoon Sgt:	Sergeant Masson

The Mor Pl has had another busy period since the last *Journal* notes were required, which has included Ops in Iraq, Ops in Cyprus, various training packages, Adventure Training, the Rowallan Targe Competition – and we still managed to squeeze in about a six-week leave each!!

The Bn Boxing Competition was the first event to get to grips with. Fus Vuki was the Mor Pl's representative in the competition. After a brave start he soon succumbed to the silky skills of a 'man mountain' from B Coy. Looking shaken but not stirred, he could still muster his usual cheerful smile. Well done Fus Vuki, as it is a brave man to step into the ring.

Pre-deployment training was next and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day of Public Order training, which had Captain Greene hoarse and LCpl Weir sick of hearing the words 'Prepare to advance'.

Cyprus Ops was next on the calendar. The Mor Pl was deployed to the Salt Lake Site and Akrotiri. We weren't on Ops long when we heard the news "Be prepared to deploy to Iraq in January". The response from the Pl was positive; everyone's attitude being it was a job to be done and another medal.

The men got into the festive spirit and made the ops period over Christmas cheerful and upbeat. Fortunately, all the married men were able to get home for at least 24 hours. We came off Ops shortly after Christmas to go on leave for New Year; all anxious and excited about what 2005 would hold for the Mor Platoon.

The short leave period was soon over. Men returned from the UK for just a few days before jetting off to the familiar second home of Shaibah Logistics Base. A week later we were conducting our first



*"Mor Pl on its way to Basra"*

operational firing on the Mortars since the first Gulf War. We were also lucky enough to have MFCs on the ground directing the fire (even if it was only illum).

Everyone has worked extremely hard over the last six months; the following are of particular note. Well done to Fus Twigg who completed the Cadre with a strong pass. Well done also to LCpl Stasiw, who attended and passed with flying colours his Mor Standard Course. CSgt Galloway has been rightly rewarded for his many years of commitment to the job by being promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2. Congratulations also to Cpl Kelt for his thoroughly deserved promotion.

The Mor Pl says a sad farewell to LCpl Weir and LCpl White. LCpl Weir has found a temporary release from Pl life and is now working in the Families Office. We also wish LCpl White all the success he deserves as he makes the transition into civilian life. He was a very popular member of the Pl and will be missed.

The Mor Pl has has many successes in the first half of 2005. OC Mors would like to thank all the members of the Pl for their continued hard work and enthusiasm.

## RECCE PLATOON

Platoon Commander:	Captain R R D McClure
Platoon 2IC:	Colour Sergeant C Collins
Platoon Sgts:	Sergeant WA Robertson and Sergeant J P Curran

No sooner had we returned from Jordan than we found ourselves preparing for a possible trip to Iraq. For the younger members of the platoon this was to be their first taste of operations and for all of us our first visit to Iraq. After the New Year and some leave we were called back early, not knowing what to expect.

The Platoon deployed to Basra during the surge operation over the Iraqi elections. The Platoon was split between three locations: one multiple under Capt McClure deployed to Basra Palace and another under CSgt Collins was located at the Shat Al Arab hotel, a number of the Platoon found themselves with the Anti-tank Platoon in the tiny Old State Building. Everyone found the tasks interesting: LCpl Bouffler became the multiple's interpreter with his extensive knowledge of Arabic slang phrases. On patrol Cpl Walker reprised his role as the angriest man and attempted to drive over the many stray dogs in the area. The second multiple was kept busy with extensive guard duties but most managed to deploy on the ground and get a feel for the area. For the younger members of the Platoon it was a real education offering an excellent experience of the high intensity of operations. We enjoyed a great deal of banter with the locals and we were all amazed to see first hand that the negative press reports were not true.

The Company returned to a heroes' welcome in Cyprus and the vast majority of the men departed on some well-deserved leave. A battle hardened bunch remained to run the PJNCO Cadre. Most of the instructors were taken from the Platoon and it was a fabulous opportunity for all those involved to show their talents. The Recce Platoon Fusiliers performed extremely well on the cadre: both LCpls Bright and Ferris were promoted on the square; congratulations to them both on a fine performance.

LCpl Houston has been busy: not only did he complete SCBC but he also married his fiancée Mhairi Morrison in April and we wish them the best. LCpl McComb (the Platoon's new signaller) successfully completed



the RSJ course, well done. Fus McGuire and Quinn joined the Platoon and we welcome them into the fold. LCpl McGuigan left the military and we wish him all the best in his new career. LCpl Thomson departed to the DF Platoon and participated in the Army Judo Championship. Cpl Wilson finally admitted the pace of the Recce was too much and departed for the calmer life of the CO's Rover Group. Finally CSgt Collins and Sgt Robertson departed shortly for instructor posts at PSBC and SCBC respectively: we wish them the best as both have served the Platoon extremely well over the years.

After returning from leave, the Platoon fielded a team in the Rowallan Targe Competition. Cpl Lucas led the section, which successfully completed the arduous march. We are looking forward to a number of sporting challenges over the next few months. More importantly, the entire Platoon is relishing the opportunity to spend our first complete summer in Cyprus.



*"Recce Team with a Snatch"*



*Cpl Walker, Sgt Robertson and LCpl Bouffler on patrol*



*LCpl Bouffler, Fusiliers McGoveney and Fus Quinn with an Iraqi Interpreter*



*Capt McClure, Cpl Walker, LCpl Bouffler, Fus McGoveney and Davidson securing a sinking rigid raider*

## **FIRE SUPPORT COMPANY DEPLOY TO BASRA CITY**

FSp Coy conducted their Battle Preparation and deployed to Basra by Chinook and Vehicle from SLB on the morning of 22 Jan 05. There the adventure began.

A diverse number of tasks across Basra, ranging from Force Protection, Mortar tasks and Patrols, required the Coy to be split down across the city. Coy HQ was based with 1 DWR Battle Group Headquarters, at the Shat al Arab Hotel (SAAH) in the north of Basra City. The Mor Pl complete and elements of the Recce Pl were also located in the SAAH. Direct Fire (DF) Pl complete was deployed to the Old State Building (OSB) in the Basra City Centre. The remainder of Recce Pl were deployed to Basra Palace (BP) in the southern part of the city.

At the Shat Al Arab Hotel the Mor Pl, with elements of Recce, were tasked with the Force Protection (FP) of the Duke of Wellingtons Regiment Battle Group Headquarters. Part of this task was controlling entry and exit through the Main Entry Point (MEP). This task was of great importance as there was an ever-present threat of a Suicide Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (IED). The threat in Basra was never to be taken lightly, and it was not long before the MEP Sangar was engaged by small arms fire, requiring a sharp riposte from a 'steely eyed' Fusilier B Street.

Another crucial task for the MEP personnel was the searching of all vehicles and persons entering and exiting the base. The Fusiliers had to be diplomatic to ensure that each individual was treated with respect. They rose to the challenge with ease, using their native wit and the 'Banter' to great effect and earning the trust and confidence of all those they dealt with.

Whilst in the SAAH, the Mor Pl carried out its first operational firing since the first Gulf War in 1991, firing over 300 rounds. It was an opportunity that the NCOs and Fusiliers relished as is possibly the only chance some will get to fire operational mortar rounds for their entire careers.

Every man in the SAAH also deployed onto the ground to get a flavour of what the city was like. Men were integrated into the local BG framework operations over the initial weeks. The Coy went on to cover the entire AO for a day to allow the BG to recover from the intense election period.



The DF Pl provided Force Protection for the resident troops, the Prince of Wales Coy of the Scots Guards in the Old State Building. They were left under no illusion of the threat they faced: the wearing of Combat Body Armour (CBA) and helmet was compulsory when outside hardened accommodation and weapons were to be loaded at all times. After a quick orientation of their new home the Pl took over camp guard. Split into two multiples, each multiple was responsible for two sentry positions with two men to each. As well as providing the personnel for these, the DF Pl provided searchers for the main gate and a guard commander, after a short period both multiples deployed on patrols of the local area, allowing everybody to practise their urban patrolling skills. The first thing that hit the Fusiliers was the smell: the years of repression have long taken its toll on the local services and infrastructure.

It was during one of these periods as a GDA multiple that Sgt Kelly was tasked to go to the aid of British Forces who had been targeted by a Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device close to the OSB. Capt Rodger remarked "We had just reverted to wearing soft hats around camp that morning, but when we heard that explosion we all dived to our kit, threw on our Combat Body Armour, helmets and webbing ready to roll out the front-gate". Unbeknownst to them, the British Forces who had just been targeted were members of their own Coy from the SAAH. They were escorting elements of BHQ, who had been en-route to see DF Pl.

The Recce Multiple had an excellent time supporting 88 Battery of 4 RA in Basra Palace in the south of Basra City. The troops enjoyed a wide variety of tasks: patrolling by day and night, using vehicles, helicopters and boats, routinely carrying out beach landings and conducting ops with other troops.

(Whilst on Ops, normal Army life continued as was case with the promotion of the Coy Clerk, Private Ansah to Lance Corporal. Fortunately the Brigade Commander, Brigadier CM Deverell, MBE (Late RTR), was visiting the Coy and was able to promote LCpl Ansah personally.

FSp Coy had a very interesting and busy period whilst on this Op. This deployment has been an excellent opportunity to introduce the young soldiers to operations in a very demanding environment. Many valuable lessons were learned and the Coy eagerly awaits its next adventure.

## **Christmas Duties 2005: 'A Merry Christmas' for Fire Support Company**

Fire Support Company took over the operations in early December for three weeks across Christmas. Each platoon covered a site, with the DF platoon in a cold and wet Troodos, the Mortars in Salt Lake Site, and a mixture of Recce and Mortars holding the fort at RAF Akrotiri and camp guard in Episkopi.

The Ops cycle gave the Company a welcome break from a hectic few months before Christmas and an opportunity to catch up on low-level training. The AEC tutor visited the Company and local commanders were able to run their own location programs to keep the men busy over the festive season. PT, ITD's, and weapon handling being the mainstay of the training conducted.

Although the Company was on duty over Christmas, morale was lifted by a visit from the WRVS lady, who came armed with some

welcome board games and sweeties. Santa and his little helper (the OC and CSM) put in an appearance on Christmas Day with gunfire and a 'secret Santa' present for all. Pink slippers were amongst the more unusual presents received! Luckily Capt Greene received a bottle of whisky, unlike last year when some joker gave him shampoo and a comb!

The weather in Cyprus in December was unfortunately very similar to Scotland with rain and cloudy skies. The buildings in RAF Akrotiri are not designed for prolonged, heavy rain, with both the ops room and sleeping accommodation flooding. Another downside to the weather was the howling winds. As a result, the alarms in RAF Akrotiri were going off accidentally four or five times a night, ensuring the five-minute team was really working for their mince pies! Fortunately, the DF platoon had more seasonal weather with a fair amount of snow. The ski runs on Troodos were open for a short while, and Troodos village was soon bustling with keen sledgers and skiers. The main roads were closed for a short period to civilian cars but luckily the four-wheel-drive Land Rovers, carrying Santa and his little helper were still able to get through.

With a little bit of slack in the system, the married men were able to spend Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with their families, whilst duties were covered by the singlies. A big thank you to the chefs at all three locations for providing an excellent spread for our Christmas Dinner.

While on ops the Company received the news that it may be deploying to Iraq in the New Year. The news was generally well-received, with almost every member of the Company keen to gain more operational experience and not wishing to be the only company without an Iraq medal.

On 28th December the Company departed on a well-deserved leave, ensuring all their desert kit was packed for Iraq and a "possible" tour in the New Year.



*"Scotland the Brave"*

## HQ COMPANY

OC:	Major N J Kindness
CSM:	Warrant Officer Class 2 J K Murray
CQMS:	Colour Sergeant D W McDonald
Storemen:	Lance Corporal T Main Lance Corporal W Forrest
Clerks:	Corporal L Walsh Lance Corporal M Coss

Mark Twain once wrote "A man is never too tired to tell you how hard he has worked." The HQ Company Jannies would love to tell you too, but most of them do not get the opportunity to say it in the *Journal*. On their behalf I must say that each department has really put in the hours to support the Duty Companies this past year, so well done and thank you to all. Our Christmas leave was a wee bit spoiled knowing there was a January Iraq deployment in the offing; the cat leaping from the bag on the day before leave started. OC HQ deployed as Liaison Officer amongst the Head Sheds at Divisional HQ in 'luxurious' Basra Airport. CSgt McDonald took his team a few miles down the road to Shaibah Logistics Base. A few days of rain at Camp 3 saw them wallowing in biblical flood conditions: they definitely got the short end of the stick. CSM Murray remained in Cyprus on Rear Party (to get in some much-needed golf practice). Five weeks was a perfect tour length; I recommend it to anybody. It was much quieter than expected, except if you went into downtown Basra with CSgt McDonald. The vehicle convoy he commanded was hit by a roadside bomb and a reliable source says the Padre didn't laugh or say a word for well over a minute afterwards; surely some sort of record. Luckily, the only damages were burst eardrums, shot nerves and one broken Snatch vehicle.

Returning to Cyprus – green and lush in 'winter' – from flat, barren, beige, treeless Iraq was a visual assault on the senses, but so good to be back. Since then we have somehow managed to cram in long-overdue leave and get to grips with the G4 inspections. Dare I say it, but the pace has slackened just a little bit. We might even get to appreciate this mythical Cyprus summer we keep hearing about. A chilled-out summer would be a welcome break in tempo. Cpl Don Wilson and Cpl Graham McDonald led HQ Company's Rowallan Targe Section to a very creditable 7th place out of 15. We were very proud of their brilliant effort over three hard days, especially considering how hot it was. Cpl Mac says that was his last Rowallan Targe and he's now hanging up his Twisties.

Coy HQ has bid farewell to Cpl Danny Aitken who is off to Brecon on a thoroughly-deserved promotion. LCpl Willie Forrest has moved up from the Int Cell to take over as armourer. A big thank you from the whole Company goes to the Clerks, Cpl Walsh and Pte Coss, for the very long hours they put in for us all. Pte Coss picked up LCpl in May. Well done to her; she deserves promotion for her irrelevant Irish chatter alone.

Until the next issue, "Come on the Jannies!"



## SIGNAL PLATOON

RSO:	Captain J Reid
RSWO:	CSgt D Swash
CQMS:	Sergeant T Young
Pl Sgt:	Corporal Murray

The period from November to May has been another non-stop period for the Platoon with maximum effort expended by all.

On our return from Jordan, the Platoon had a period of consolidation with the main effort firmly on the G4 work that was required in order to recondition our equipment after the abuses of the Al Qutrana training area in Jordan. There was a lot to do with an extensive repair and maintenance program. LCpl Wilson, the Pl Storeman thought he was posted to the workshops in Akrotiri as he was there so much.

It was over this period that the Platoon adjusted to the idea of the imminent departure of the Pl stalwart RSWO, WO2 Tam Brisbane. Tam was RSWO for as long as most can remember and it was an end of an era when he departed for the UK to spend his last six months before moving on to a second career. Obviously there was a ting of nostalgia, which might account for his record breaking five leaving nights! And it was good to see him embracing his imminent return to UK, by spending the whole month of November breaking in his civvy clothes!

As we wound down for a long-awaited period of Christmas leave, we were again warned off about our imminent return to Iraq, which ensured all were busy over the festive period, not least the CQMS and his staff who spent most of their holiday packing an ISO container, ready to be loaded on to a ship.

On deployment, the change of personalities in November proved not to be a major issue as the bulk of the Pl had residual knowledge of Shaiba Logistic Base. Sgt Terry Young as the new CQMS had his work cut out for himself as we battled to get something like the equipment we needed,



*"Smoking and Joking" in Iraq*



however he pulled it out of the bag and did a sterling effort. Also Sgt Gary Worrall was a constant source of guidance on comms planning to the non-course-trained RSO in the absence of CSgt Swash.

The Pl worked flat out over a very short first week from advance party arriving to the first Coy, FSp Coy deploying to Basra. It was a proud period to watch the men work to a common goal and overcome the many hurdles put in place over the time. To illustrate the mentality, Division did us the 'favor' of supplying fourteen sets of the new BOWMAN PRC 325 HF radio, a truly excellent piece of kit, however we were only to get it the night before we were to be at full operating capability, and it was supplied with one battery charger and 42 new, uncharged batteries! By the end of the week the long nights had paid off, as all three Coys were able to depart in good order with what was in comparison to last year's deployment, a very reliable suite of comms and ECM equipment, which at last we could have faith in.

Iraq was the main event over the period, however the Pl has not rested on its laurels and has been firmly focused on the maintenance and husbandry requirement that is laid down by the QM and his staff, and the numerous inspections and checks on the horizon.

Since our return from leave in April, the CQMS has been trying to knit more soldiers to help him, as we gave assistance to the rifle coys by providing a team to the Episkopi Guard over the period of the JNCO Cadre.

Leading smoothly on to courses, the Pl has had a number of successes internally and externally on courses. Firstly Fus Ligavu successfully completed the JNCO cadre, which is his first step of his career in the Platoon. At Warminster, we have had CSgt Swash attend his RSO, LCpl McComb attend the RSJ, and LCpl Deans and Fus Mc pass their RS course, well done to all concerned.

As well as the departure of the RSWO, Sgt Gary Worrall was posted to 52 Lowland Regt in Glasgow where hopefully he will continue the long tradition of poaching some good potential signalers for the 1st Bn over his two years there, we wish him all the best.



## MOTOR TRANSPORT PLATOON

MTO:	Captain G McGowan
MTWO:	Colour Sergeant B Anderson (Designate)
MT SNCO:	Sergeant J Morrison (Designate – Sergeant A J Power)
Office Manager:	Cpl D Nicoll
Driver Training Cell:	Corporals M Taggart, T Cunningham and Lance Corporal R Brown
Service Bay:	Corporal J Stewart, Lance Corporal T Latta, Fusilier T Manners

G1098/Saxon: Lance Corporals Kev McMahon, Ian Adams,  
Fusiliers Theo Jaeger and Alec Langan

CO's Driver: Fusilier R McGill

The return from Op Telic VHRR signalled a very turbulent time within the MT Platoon. There was a series of well-deserved promotions and postings that saw the platoon strength depleted by almost a quarter – but all in a good cause, in short .....

### Fond Farewells

To Fus 'wee Sinky' Sinclair and 'Big' Davy Green (Shirley Anne and the girls) who both moved to pastures new and posts in Edinburgh (SDRT) at Glasgow (RRT) respectively and to LCpl 'James' Mathews who is the new driver for the Comd 51 Bde although Fus 'Moudi' Cannon is still trying to convince the MTO that he has the job! Additionally LCpl Barry Heron is posted to the Golden Lions Parachute Team and CSgt Mo Morrison and Sgt Tony Cunningham moved to 1 Highlanders, Fallingbowl as Armoured Infantry instructors – best of luck for the future. Our very own FTRS attachment LCpl Pete Hynd also leaves us soon and is currently focused on his resettlement (reportedly for the past 18 months; as far as we can make out). Until recently we were under the impression that he was employed as the CO's Driver, that is until early morning risers (MT running posse) observed the CO 'roller-blading' down Happy Valley roads to get to work – what has Pete been doing? We may never know, but best of luck to him and Sharon for the future.

### Hellos

The gaps have been plugged with a new influx of individuals from across the Battalion; Fus Tony Manners, Theo Jaeger, Graham Sorley and Alec Langan now fall under the MT spell as does (allegedly) LCpl 'Beaker' Douglas, well according to the OC !! LCpl 'Simi' Simpson from the Officers Mess has been attached to the Pl for a wee while and is currently undergoing vocational training – additionally there appears to be a bit of a baby boom within the MT, best of luck to you all and welcome.

### Promotions

I briefly mentioned the current spate of promotions which included Mo Morrison and Tony Cunningham, but in recent months the Pl have fared very well. Congratulations must go to the following:

**Sgt to CSgt.** Billy Anderson on his forthcoming promotion and post as MTWO.

**Cpl to Sgt.** Andy Power on his recent promotion to Sgt and appointment of MT SNCO. (*Technically that means that as MTO, I have three 'gunfighters' in the MT Pl – if that is the case where are they?*)

**LCpl to Cpl.** Jim Stewart promoted and assumes the post as Service Bay JNCO.

**Fus to LCpl.** Well done to Barry Heron and Tam Latta on their success on the latest JNCO cadre and subsequent promotions. **Is Ray McGill still a Jock?**

Whilst I am giving out well-deserved recognition to the MT boys, I would just like to point out the series of successes on external courses by every member of the platoon and express my admiration and gratitude for the professionalism and hard work shown by all – thank you all for a job well done. Right that's enough of the crawling down to reality.



The return from VHRR has not epitomized the best period of the Cyprus tour thus far for the MT and LAD. The inspection season loomed as did the reinforcement of the Ops Coy duties which invariably meant that the elusive 1330 hrs daily summer-time 'knock off' has not yet reached the top half of the camp!! But we live in hope. As I write these (my final MT) notes we in the MT are preparing the vehicles and men required for the next 'short notice' tasking Ex Saffron Sands (Jordan) and have started the battle procedure for a possible VHRR deployment back to Iraq – *deja vu*. The MT battle procedure is now very slick and much of the preparation is set in stone and easy to run with, my only concern is that the forthcoming deployments will upset the recent success of the LAD/MT five-a-side football team and the domination of the local table that they feature in – yet another HQ Coy surprise (winners of the New Love Cup, March and Shoot competition etc, etc).

The Battalion has embraced the issue of driver training with gusto and has over the last reporting period qualified over 100 military drivers. Driver training is the core function and main effort of the Driver Training Cell and this success is planned to continue well into the next reporting period. Get a licence before it is too late!!!

Well that just about brings us up to date with events in the driving world so until the next exciting instalment remember – DRIVE SAFELY.

**'BEEP BEEP YA BASSA'**

## QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

QM(M):	Captain J E B Kerr
QM(T):	Captain G McGown
RQMS(M):	Warrant Officer Class 2 D McCutcheon
RQMS(T):	Warrant Officer Class 2 G R Hogg
Clothing:	Colour Sergeant G Pollock
Accommodation:	Colour Sergeant J Stevenson
G1098:	Sergeant T McBride, Corporal J Taylor
USA/Expense:	Corporal F Fraser
Ammunition:	Corporal Quigg
Rations:	Corporal McFadyean
Clerks	Private Cairnie, Private Campbell

It has been clearly a busy period since the last **Journal** because it seems only recently that the previous notes were submitted. To begin with, an expeditionary packet headed up by Capt (JEB-Harry) Kerr was launched into the Jordanian Desert to establish a base camp for future missions on Ex Saffron Sands. The 500 camps were erected in record time three days, no mean feat considering it took only 87 pairs of hands to achieve this. The execution of G4 insertion, occupation and extraction of Saffron Sands was immaculate, as expected under the watchful gaze of the (Ronnie, Reggie) **Kerr**. Then just as Christmas approached EHRR gained speed; new weapons and equipment to handle and distribute, right up to Christmas Eve. And in January Iraq-bound again. The procedures of moving a Bn with all its equipment are now a well-oiled SOP. 'I've spent longer in an OP' was heard around the rear party. But we all had a successful and safe tour.

This tour conveniently finished just in time for our ET Re-write, ECI/MEI/LSI...Oh and Board of Officers all in May. So G4 packet has been steady. The tour for Wee Tam during this period has been an eye-opener, to say the least, but the rest of the team consisting of Cpl (Big KKKittttt Katttt) Taylor and Cpl (Fish Head) Fraser keep morale high. On the passing of the G1098 corridor you might here two commonly-used expressions, 'oh naw anither fat finger day' followed by "K-EEEE-OOO!". Or a real show-stopper is "Wee Fish Head making a brew, grab the camera!"

The department that Swiss watch makers, Rolex regularly take their precision from that is 1330hrs Cyprus time is that of the Clothing Store or at least until "I am the Daddy" started to concentrate his gaze on them. Commanded by CSgt (Gary the Pipey) Pollock and assisted by Cpl (Mad Eyes) Stirling they continue to keep the RQMS and QM on their toes. With the departure of Gary at the end of the year Wee Steff's apprenticeship is nearly over and soon he will be able to press the Happy Key (F9) for all you budding G4 people. To the CQMSs, a Diffy and Exchange day will be forthcoming, honest.

The wheeling and dealing of CSgt Jim (Arthur Daily) Stevenson is legendary to the benefit of the Battalion of course has already made an impact on the way that the accommodation distribution system operates, for the best.

The RQMS(T) keeps the pressure on with chasing demands and "why is that still on the shelf, get rid of it" and "make it happen" are phrases most commonly used. RQMS(M) has just arrived from B Coy with the birth of his beautiful daughter Maya, we wish Dougie and Debbie all the very best for the future.

Lastly as in every edition we say our farewells and welcomes to our team. Firstly we say goodbye to Capt (Who is the daddy?) Chris Kerr who has moved on to become the Regimental Careers Management Officer to continue to inspire and direct. In his shadow we welcome Capt (Show me your FMT 600) McGown fresh from MTO into the roost. We also congratulate WO2 Cameron on his promotion to RSM and posting to London Regt with his wife Margaret, we wish them all the best in the future. Picking up the reins from Cammy is WO2(RQMS) McCutcheon from CSM B Coy. To CSgt Peter Watson, wife Susan and family we say farewell and thank you for your hard work we wish you all the very best in civilian street. Accounting for the accommodation and infrastructure repairs falls squarely on the lap of CSgt Jim Stevenson freshly posted in from JCUNI, Jim is an old hat at accounting with Cpl (Stormin' Norman) Quigg lending a hand. Congratulation goes to WO2 (Chunky) Murray on picking up CSM HQ COY, and replacing him in that G1098 monster is Sgt (Wee Tam) McBride from the Med Centre, may the force be with you Tommy. Another welcome goes out to Cpl (DAZ) McFadyean our new ration storeman and Cpl (Sniper) Wyper who by the time of printing will have his feet well under the G4 table and last but not least Pte (The Waen) Cairnie our newest member of AGC.

We take this opportunity to thank all the wives, families and loved ones who supported our QM Dept because late nights and the traditional "first out last in" operating ethos are our bread and butter.



## PIPES AND DRUMS

Drum Major:	D/Maj W S McDougall
Pipe Major:	P/Maj H Walker
Pipe Major (Designate):	P/Maj N Hall

Headquarter Company is an even busier place to live in, than Fire Support Company! I never thought we would hear ourselves say that. The time we have had to ourselves has been spent well however. Our return from the Edinburgh Military Tattoo was soon followed by a trip to Jordan to apply some 'Tartan touches' to what was a very successful Ex Saffron Sands. We were invited to play at the Ambassador's residence in Amman which proved to be a memorable occasion for some more than others. Two of our finest decided to relieve His Excellency of a couple of towels – which he never forgot and is probably still looking for them, don't worry Sir, so are we. The Assaye and Inkerman Celebrations proved to be a real 'Gas' (ed) – ask the Drummie! Christmas passed with the usual blur and before we knew where we were, being roasted under the South Australian sun.

The 'Edinburgh Military Tattoo – A Salute to Australia' was a long way from the wind-, snow- and rain-swept Castle Esplanade. A visit by our Colonel of the Regiment went down well with the boys but sadly no Sammy – he had to look after the dogs – he did bring the long-absent Pipe Major's Dirk with him though. The crowd was approximately 27,000 every night compared with the 9000 who attend the Tattoo in Edinburgh nightly – yep, it was a big job for a small band but someone's gotta' do it.

Yet again the Drum Major had the pleasure pressure of leading the biggest ever massed band in history. Yet another first for the RHF and the same will be done at this year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Our return from Australia our time was divided between Ops with C and A Companies and on band jobs around the Island. These jobs include: Beating Retreat and visit by Harrow School, visit by HRH the Prince Andrew the Colonel-in-Chief, Beating Retreat for Eastern SBA, Cancer fund jobs with the SBA Police, Gurkha welfare concert at Curium Amphitheatre, SBA Police Pass-Out Parade, JNCO Cadre Pass-Off Parade, Wives Club Exercise, Charity Boxing nights at Dhekalia with 1QLR, Army Cadet Force Piping and Drumming Cadre in Inverness, Charity Road Race at Anyoira Village, Ladies Dinner Night in our Officers Mess, Dinner nights with the UN in Nicosia, Football and rugby matches galore, RHF Officers Cocktail Party and the list goes on...

Aye, we're busier this year than we have been for a while (even in Scotland) but that's what we do and we enjoy doing it.

Pipe Majors will change over again from Shuggy (The Cat) Walker to Neil (The Bag) Hall; welcome back Chieftain O' the Puddin' Race and family. You might even get the chance to be Pipe Major on the

front rank for the Tattoo this year. Also welcome to Sgt Roddy Weir and family who saw sense and transferred from the Scots DGs. See you in Edinburgh in the summer. A warm welcome also to Fusilier Letham who has joined us from B Coy and is currently on his Class 3 Pipers Course with 'Mini Mumps' Son of Tam (Big Mumps) Wilkie.

Congratulations to LCpl Alec and Cpl Emma Gordon on their marriage and congratulations to Pipe Major Hall and Drum Major McDougall, not on their marriage but on their promotions. Farewell to Capt (Crap Boxer) Joyce who is replaced in the Erskine hot seat by Capt Winfield the new El Presidente – more about him in the next edition. Also, farewell to Lt Col Cartwright who was kind enough to give us the time to re-build for the future and on behalf of all in the Platoon, thank you and good luck to you and your family.

That's it for another few months; we will have much to report next time, as we all know what's going to happen shortly. The announcement of the winning tune – the last for 1RHF as we know it – and the winner of the competition of the first for the new Battalion, and maybe, just maybe a new Regimental Bugle Call. Who knows? Wait and see what the Regimental Council says.

..... "DRESS ERSKINE FOREVER"!!!



## INTELLIGENCE CELL

IO:	Captain N A Wheatley
AIO:	Sergeant Marshall
Int Cpl:	Corporal McDonald
Int Collator:	Lance Corporal Forrest

Since the last **Journal I** am very pleased to announce that the Battalion Intelligence Cell has become a lot more intelligent. Capt Luckyn-Mallone has moved on to become ADC to Maj Gen W E B Loudon CBE and has been replaced by Capt Wheatley. LCpl 'Cornelius' Forest moved to the stores, Cpl McDonald is moving to RRT with a view to returning as AIO in two years and Sgt Marshall recently took up the post of AIO and is currently on his Iraq briefing course – which we are all hoping he doesn't have to brief on.

After dusting off the maps and boards from Saffron Sands we prepared to deploy to Iraq. Once we actually deployed in January we were as frustrated, as the rest of the Battalion was, with our initial lack of tasks. After spending a frantic few days finding where everything was and how units were deployed (and also trying to take over from Capt LM at the same time) we were at somewhat of a loss when all the Coys were deployed out of Shaibah Logistic Base. Our routine consisted of monitoring the sub-units, requesting information and briefing Battle Group staff as and when required. Our most notable achievement came in the form of an intelligence estimate for the Netherlands Battle Group. This quickly turned into a massive project and involved two weeks of researching, drawing, typing and briefing



all of which was scrutinised by Maj Borton. By the time we had briefed CO 1 RHF and CO QDG we realised we were able to extract back to Cyprus and had put in all that work only to have to hand the whole lot over to the QDG!

Our most notable 'moment' of the whole tour was a visit to Basra to see FSp Coy. This involved Cpl McDonald being 'volunteered' to command a vehicle by Maj Whitehead. I didn't move low or fast enough and then 'volunteered' to be top-cover with LCpl 'Davey' Hunter. After visiting Shaat al Arab Hotel we were en-route to Basra Palace when we were blown up. (Sorry, had to put the full stop for effect). LCpl Hunter and I were thrown into the bottom of the Snatch as LCpl 'Joe' Walker brought the Snatch to a cool and controlled stop considering the underside of the vehicle had just been ripped to shreds and his door had buckled due to the blast. We then had our collective mad ten minutes where I thought I could observe the effects of shock on human behaviour; Cpl McDonald ran round talking manically, Maj Whitehead subjected us to his immediate observations before conversing in fluent Arabic with passers-by about god knows what and 'Big Davey' looked at me and profoundly said 'Ahhh?'. It was only later I realised it was because he was profoundly deaf due to the blast and this was normal behaviour for all the above individuals. Another moment I will never forget is when we were talking about it afterwards and Maj Whitehead volunteered us to say what we took away from the incident. I stupidly said, "I now appreciate every moment" to which I was greeted with laughter and told to be more manlike (Not in those exact terms but I am not able to repeat what was said in this forum). One lesson I will definitely take away is to be more cautious when volunteered to do something by Maj Whitehead.

I then departed Iraq to go to Chicksands for the Unit Intelligence Officer's Course. This course receives a lot of bad press; long hours, working weekends, memorising Genforce and having to work with the Intelligence Corps. Unfortunately I can confirm all of it. However, it was good to meet and be instructed by WO2 'Billy Bad back' Brennan who has instructed at Chicksands for the last four years; it is always good to see the white hackle doing well outside and inside the Battalion.

Since being back in Cyprus we have been overtaken by the same inspections and visits as the rest of the Battalion. We have made some headway in visiting the outstations and increasing liaison with the sub-units. I must also point out that the HQ Coy Rowallan Targe Team (which Cpl McDonald was part of) came 7th in the competition. So congratulations to him and the team who did so well with so little preparation and notice. I can also confirm to the rest of the Battalion who know Cpl McDonald that he has actually worked for at least three days this year.

## THE REGIMENTAL POLICE

RSM:	WO1 J Law
Provost Sgt:	Sgt W M Anderson
Provost Cpl:	Cpl R Mitchell

Since the winter 2004 edition of the *Journal*, the RP staff have had a surprisingly quiet period. The Detention Centre has had very few 'customers' to look after, and at the time of writing (mid May), we have had no RHF Soldiers Under Sentence in the Detention Centre this year.

With Christmas leave approaching the Battalion was warned off for another deployment to Iraq in January to assist with security during their elections. LCpl Allan and LCpl Kennedy took Christmas leave early and covered duties during stand-down; they would not be deploying to Iraq as they had courses booked for January. Cpl Mitchell and LCpl Gowans deployed to Iraq as part of the CO's Rover Group and Cpl Buchanan was attached to A Coy as a Section 2IC for the duration of the deployment. On their return from Iraq at the end of February, the three RPs took their POTL leave and some annual leave before returning to work.

Whilst the Battalion was deployed the Provost Sgt went to DST Leconsfield for three weeks where he attended and passed the Defence Driving Examiners course. LCpl Kennedy and LCpl Allan went to Deepcut Barracks for the Unit Fire NCO course which they both passed. LCpl Kennedy also went to MCTC Colchester for the All Arms Regimental Police course which he passed with no problems. Cpl Mitchell also attended and passed the Unit Fire NCO's course just before his deployment to Iraq. LCpl Allan and LCpl Gowans have confirmed places on the All Arms Regimental Police course in the summer and both should pass the course with ease.

On his return from Iraq, Cpl Buchanan received a posting order for ATR Bassingbourne as a PTI (his first love). Cpl Buchanan started work at Bassingbourne on the 4th April and we wish him and his family all the best and hope they have an enjoyable posting. LCpl 'Eddie' Mortley returned from AFC Harrogate where he was posted for a couple of years and moved into the RP staff. LCpl Mortley is already fully-trained as an RP and Fire NCO and has been a great asset to the RP staff. LCpl Mortley is also a keen footballer and immediately got himself back into the Battalion team.

Cpl Mitchell and LCpl Mortley were selected to play for the Army football team (Cyprus) in April and they both managed to get a couple of games each. Hopefully they will both continue to be selected for the Army team next season. They also played a big part in ensuring that the Battalion team won the Minor Units football league, beating the JSSU 8-1 in the final. LCpl Gowans was also selected to represent the Battalion at the recent Cyprus Skill-At-Arms Meet where he spent a couple of weeks on the ranges and kept up his excellent shooting record.

Finally, we would like to say to our soldiers to keep up the good behaviour to ensure that the RP staff continue to have a 'quiet' period in the Detention Centre.

## PHYSICAL AND RECREATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Bn APTCI:	Sgt McAndrew
Bn PTI's:	Cpl Gordon
	LCpl Boyd
	LCpl Houston
	Fus Bryce
	Fus Begley
	Fus Tutty

Well, it's been an extremely busy period for the Gym staff since the last *Journal*. After doing two Operational tours, I have now taken full charge of the Resident Infantry Battalion at Episkopi gymnasium. So much has been achieved that I don't know where to start. Fus Bryce aka. 'Big Guns' has been kept busy this year due to inter-company events like boxing, football, cross-Country and athletics. The





remaining events are swimming, basketball and orienteering. The hard work paid off with the events being highly praised by all who took part. Despite the long hours and at times minimal manpower, we have been able to provide very professional facility appreciated at all levels. The Gym staff's hard-line approach and standards has led to a huge change in attitude towards fitness; a change for the better, I might add. Records show large increases in numbers of soldiers using the facility in their own time, as well as their attendance in PT lessons and ITDs.

I have been with the Battalion now for over a year. I can safely say that I am just settling down and feeling comfortable with the way the gym is running. Fus Bryce has returned from his course and now works as 2IC for the gymnasium. Congratulations to Fusiliers Begley and Tutty for successfully completing their AAPT course. Despite being overworked and inexperienced, the young AAPTIs still impress their peers and superiors through professionalism and positive attitude to the job. There is a strong PTI presence within the Battalion now. There is another pre-course PTI cadre starting soon with a good number of candidates so the overall fitness level within the Battalion will be maintained by the Companies under the watchful eyes of the PTIs.

Until next time "Be fit, be fit. For honours sake, be fit."

## UNIT WELFARE OFFICE

Unit Welfare Officer:	Captain A T Grant
Unit Welfare Warrant Officer:	WO2 G Law
Assistant Unit Welfare Officer:	CSgt A Ross
JNCO:	Cpl J Fullerton
Driver:	Fus K S Ogden

At time of writing (May 2005) the weather is rapidly improving, the families have just been told officially about the forthcoming Arms Plot move to Penicuik and for once the majority of the boys are at home and not away on operations or exercises.

However getting to this settled period has not been easy for the families of 1 RHF. The smallest department in the Battalion however once again excelled themselves by playing a major role in what was another hustle bustle busy period.

Over Christmas period we ran a string of parties and held a brilliant New Year, kilts, pipes and all, bash in Scots Corner. Then in January the boys were off to Iraq leaving the UWO team to scramble about and once again do their best to keep up spirits of the families left behind. Counting every penny and doing the very best not to overspend, the families and Jocks left behind were treated to:

- Nicosia Shopping Trip
- TV Bluey's and Televised Valentine Messages
- Water-sports for the brave hearted.
- Skiing in the Troodos Mountains
- Cinema show
- Wives Karaoke/Disco (All the good singers must have stayed home that night).
- Live video link-up with boys in Iraq

- Curry family afternoons
- Scots Corner was opened every morning for Tea, Jock Salad (big fry), message boards and to use the internet. Even the CBF came down for a moral check with the families.
- Purchased an Internet PC for the Jocks.

Shortly after the return of the troops from Iraq, there was no rest for the wicked, HRH Prince Andrew came to Scots Corner and had a good old blether with the families. Then 19/20 Mar 05, saw what has been acclaimed as the best wives exercise ever, Exercise Band of Sisters (see article written by Mrs Joe Taylor).

The Welfare Staff has also had their moments, Fus Kenny (Deaf as a lamp-post) Ogden & CSgt Andy Ross ran the fourteen-mile Gate to Gate annual event. This was a huge achievement considering the hot weather conditions and lack of prior training. Cpl James Fullerton (Old Grumpy) was even seen on a CO's Friday morning run early May but this report has not yet been confirmed. WO2 Gordon Law recently came into welfare fold and has the difficult task to look forward to, covering as the UWO when Capt Alan Grant moves to MTO late 2005.

Again it goes without saying that the success of the Welfare Office would not have been possible had it not been for the stalwart consistent assistance and support from Mrs Anne Weir, Sam Wannop and Eva Morrison, wives committee and our own wives.

## EXERCISE BAND OF SISTERS

*Joanna Taylor*

SHRIEKS of laughter pierced the air around the training ground at Episkopi as the wives of soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers faced their fears and threw themselves into Exercise Band of Sisters.

After months of planning by the Unit Welfare Officer, the thirty-one women were divided into four sections before tackling assault courses, bayonet training, unarmed combat, public order control and numerous other physically and mentally demanding activities. After a short health and safety brief and a visit from Commander WSBA, Group Captain Nick Randle, the wives prepared to give the exercise their all.

1 RHF Unit Welfare Officer, Captain Alan Grant co-ordinated the exercise said: "I'm totally impressed with the girls' competitiveness and their robustness. The Paras and the Marines get beasted around to bring out their aggression and these girls, whether they're Scottish, Irish, Welsh, English or Fijian have got that natural core of aggression and determination in them and it was brought out in a single weekend. Watching the girls take part in the bayonet training and the riot drills and witnessing their will to win was inspiring."

As one of those who volunteered to take part in the exercise I can confidently say that drill practice helped most of us get rid of our nervous laughter before it was swapped for shouts of 'on guard' and 'high port' as we undertook bayonet training. Colour Sergeant Donnie McDonald instilled fear into the bravest of souls and turned this already aggressive activity into an episode of "Bad Lads' Army". Fortunately by the end of the session we had all seen past the camouflage cream and snarling smirk and realised that he was psyching us out to make us angry.



As part of our public order control and riot training, and under the expert tutelage of Sergeant Gary Theyers, we were shown how to protect ourselves with shields and how best to hold a baton to deter violence rather than incite it. However, the best training comes through practice and so an angry mob had been arranged courtesy of 1 RHF's Fire Support Company. Through the claustrophobic helmets and visors we gritted our teeth and yelled for order as we lashed out with our batons and held our shields high. Members of the mob yelled abuse, kicked our shields and lobbed potatoes at our quivering section; suffice to say we quickly became strong soldiers and a few of the 'enemy' licked their wounds long after we'd brought them to submission.

Despite our thorough brief on which body parts we were allowed to strike, there were one or two 'assaults'. Despite Mrs Sonia Barrie's plea that she didn't want to hurt anyone she was seen taking on a six-foot man who had dared to kick her shield. Mrs Karra Boyd also unleashed her frustration: "At first I thought the riot training would be a laugh, but when the boys started pounding into us the wee switch went and I thought 'I'm just gonna get you' and I think we all became really evil."

After an amazing day we enjoyed an exhilarating helicopter trip to Paramali courtesy of 84 Squadron, RAF Akrotiri. We were taught basic first-aid and how to use night-vision equipment before being sent on patrol to gain specific intelligence about a crash scenario. At least one member of each group had to be reminded and reassured that it was just a 'scenario' as we scoured the area for clues; each person jumped at the sound of an owl hooting or twig snapping.

Some of those from 1 Section also decided that they were now well enough equipped to take on the professionals. Karra Boyd said: "We had a cracking section commander (Corporal Bernie Winters) who fired us all on. Maureen Craig and I asked if we could go and ambush two soldiers from Recce Platoon who were patrolling the area. We crept up behind them and they claimed that they had heard us coming, but we managed to drag one of them off the wall, sit on him and chase the other one before we took his weapon. It felt great for us but it wasn't so good for him."

Padre John Duncan joined us at Paramali on Sunday morning to hold a touching service. It was exceptionally fitting that we chose to sing 'All things bright and beautiful' as we sat on our benches surrounded by breathtaking views.

However, there was little room for sentiments as we were flown back to Episkopi to face a challenging march and shoot before being taught basic mechanics and how to conduct a vehicle search. Whilst many girls proved to be ballistically challenged, and the shoot quite literally became a hit or a miss, an eagle-eyed Mrs Kelly Nicholl proved her worth and was suitably rewarded.

Mrs Sam Wannop is thrilled with the whole experience: "I've been on previous wives' exercises but this one was more structured and really well-organised. I'm amazed at how much we managed to fit in. There were times that I thought I can't do this, but I got on with it and now I feel really proud."

1 Section achieved the best score with the guidance of Cpl Bernie Winters from Fire Support Company.

The grand finale and presentation by Lieutenant Colonel Paul Cartwright was bittersweet for Capt Grant: "One of the most touching moments was probably seeing the tears in their eyes when they were marching behind the Pipes and Drums at the very end. It took a lot of hard work to get this exercise off the ground but once it started it was just fantastic and I didn't ever want the exercise to end."

Staff from 1 RHF Unit Welfare Office worked tirelessly to make Exercise Band of Sisters a major success and I can say without a doubt that every single 'sister' took pride in what they did and admire the skills and organisation of the unit welfare staff for making the weekend an outstanding success. Exercise Band of Sisters II is planned to take place later this year.

## LAD

OC LAD: SSgt Wheeler

2IC LAD: Sgt Wood

Cpl Ford, Cpl Greiner, Cpl Mephram  
LCpl Pybis, LCpl Loveridge, Cfn Fidrmuc  
Cfn Hart

The transition from 2004 to 2005 saw some major personnel changes for the LAD and for the armourers in particular. Out went SSgt 'Boggy' Marsh to a life of certain ease sailing the ocean waves; and out went Cfn Leon Slingsby to a life of certain debauchery in JHQ. They were replaced by SSgt Neil Wheeler and Cfn Andy Fidrmuc. We also received our long-awaited and much-needed electrician in the shape of Cpl Duncan Ford.

The New Year started in earnest with an almost immediate deployment to Iraq – everybody's favourite holiday camp – and all that this entails, i.e. working over X-Mas leave to get the fleet ready in time. The tour was short but combined with the prior exercise in Jordan and the Iraq tour of 2004 and it all amounted to a great deal of maintenance required on the fleet. We attacked it fervently and spent a good deal of hours on, transforming the fleet into its prior gleaming condition.

The second half of 2005 sees more personnel changes with the loss of Sgt 'Woody' Wood, Cpl Si Mephram, LCpl Kev 'WBSS' Pybis and LCpl Dean Loverage. This should be in good time for another exercise in Jordan (thanks to the QLR) and yet another (probable) mystery deployment.

## EXERCISE CLASH OF THE TITANS

### (Mountain-To-Sea Mountain Bike Challenge 2005)

#### LCpl Kevin Pybis

On the 30th of April 2005, four budding volunteers from 1 RHF's REME Light Aid Detachment deployed up to the snowy hills of Troodos (Zeus Temple) to compete in a 55-km mountain bike ride down to the warm sunny beaches of Pissouri Jetty (Neptune's domain).

On arrival at Troodos camp we set off to the NAAFI to find out our descent time and receive a very in-depth safety brief. This changed our minds on what was about to happen. We thought the race was a gentle ride though the seven villages en-route to the bottom. It was actually a race against forty other 'professional' teams who came from around the world to plummet down the dangerous tracks to the bottom. We gave our bikes a final preparation and had a few photos at the summit before descending to Ommodos village. The first hill was slightly tricky to those who had not ridden a bike since school and the slope was full of loose gravel with sharp hairpin bends looking down the steep cliff to the base. Everyone managed to work their way down, even LCpl Dean (Mouth) Loveridge with his fear of heights. We even overtook a couple of teams who had found themselves with early technical problems.

We stopped in the little village of Ommodos to have a well-deserved



shandy and take a couple more snaps before setting off on the next leg of the journey up the other side of the valley we had just come down. The short rest we had must have taken its toll on Deano. As we were climbing the hill Deano shouted to us that he had a problem; his derailleur had snapped off, meaning he was unable to continue. Cfn Hart (Bagpuss) came to the rescue in his mini-bus and helped Deano back down to the beach, but not without their trusty Big Macs.

The team was now down to just three members climbing the hills which we now found a bit easier. Unfortunately, shortly after the second checkpoint Cfn Andy (Gob) Fidrmuc became our second drop-out, snapping his chain into two. Fortunately a passer-by helped him; it seemed SSgt Neil Wheeler, the organiser of this venture, was afraid of getting his hands dirty. So on we went for ten minutes and then Andy decided to lose his rear wheel nut because he was too tired to keep going. So he got a lift back from the friendly photographer.

Then there were two, Neil and I, who carried on till the end. We braved a few river crossings and more hills which was slightly tricky without a map: luckily young Andy had decided to take it with him. We finished down at the sunny beach of Pissouri and then headed for a little cheeky swim in the Mediterranean Sea to cool us down.

The day went very well; all the teams finished (not as quick as us though) and enjoyed the presentation at the end. The main thing was that we beat OC HQ's official RHF team. Every competitor received a free tee-shirt and meal which was washed down with a few well-deserved beers supplied by the ever watchful Cpl Ford.

## AGC DET

RAO:	Maj B N Kingston
Det Comd:	Capt C Leeson
RAOWO:	WO2 A Marriot
FSA:	WO2 M Norris
RAO Staff:	Sgt Ritchie, Sgt Allen, Sgt Bleese, Cpl Carr

Since the last Journal entry the Detachment has, as always, been extremely busy. Elements have deployed to Jordan on Exercise Saffron Sands; others have been to Iraq as part of the Battalion's latest EHRR deployment; yet more have been employed in the annual documentation inspection or general day-to-day administration of the Battalion in Cyprus.

The face of the Detachment has changed in the last few months due to the trickle-posting system, inevitably moving personalities on. Cpl Horn, LCpl Harrison, LCpl Whittle and Pte Thompson have all said their goodbyes and left for pastures new. Pte Cairnie has joined the unit straight from the 'factory' and is now in residence with the QM's Dept. There have been several promotions; LCpl Rush and LCpl Ansah received their promotions in January and Sgt Allen was pre-selected for promotion to SSgt. Congratulations to them all. Congratulations also go out to Cpl Emma Gordon (nee Murry) on her marriage to LCpl Alex Gordon of the Pipes & Drums and also to Cpl Debbie Bates on the birth of her son, Alfie.

The RAO, Maj Bruce Kingston has recruited WO2 'Chuck' Norris and WO2 Andy Marriott into the Battalion golfing fraternity and they can now be seen some Wednesday afternoons on the 18th hole at Happy Valley. The Det Comd, Capt Chris Leeson has kept up his continuing mission on the sporting front and most members of the Detachment

have either raced in the Dhekelia Dash, slogged it out on the CCU Walkdown, been Sub-Aqua Diving in the Med or walking in the Troodos mountains.

We are sure the remainder of 2005 will be just as busy with EHRR at the forefront of everyone's minds and another possible deployment along with a never ending stream of work here in Cyprus. Although with the summer now upon us and the Cyprus sun shining, there should be plenty of opportunities for leave, sport and adventure training.

## CATERING PLATOON

RCWO:	WO2 Foley
Master Chef:	SSgt Jones
Admin SNCO:	Sgt Kelly
Kitchen Manager:	Sgt Barnett

The Catering Platoon has had a strenuous twelve months with all the RHF deployments to Falklands, Op Telic and Jordan. Even with a high percentage turnover of military staff due to postings in and out, the lads and lasses have produced the goods at every challenge.

The military chefs work in a Combined Dining Facility catering for both the RHF and the Garrison, providing support to fifteen separate tri-service departments on a daily basis. As well as producing the standard three meals a day for 365 days a year, the platoon provides assistance for Regimental, Mess and departmental social functions. They have also found time to provide catering support to the Queen's Birthday Celebrations and raising much-needed funds for charity events which include BFBS Wireless for the Blind, SSAFA, Open Arms, BARC and Bay to Bay to name but a few.

Exercise Saffron Sands was by far the most difficult conditions to work in due to the heat, wind and constant sand gusts. The platoon even produced a high-class fork buffet for the VIPs during the final live-firing exercise and a formal regimental dinner hosting the Jordanians. Even in these hot and far from ideal conditions the professionalism and morale of the department remained extremely high and ensured that all personnel from the RHF and QLR were well-catered for.

Within a few weeks of the equipment arriving back from Jordan it was immediately conditioned and repacked for the EHRR commitment in Basra. The Battalion took over a tented camp that had been left empty and unmanned for sometime. On opening the unlocked ISO containers, apparently containing all the operational catering equipment, it was immediately obvious that all had been pillaged leaving the platoon with no in-theatre catering equipment. However, due to the foresight of the platoon, the Jordan exercise equipment arrived and the setting-up stage began. Due to sheer hard graft from all concerned the first breakfast was produced on time and to the delight of the whole Battalion.

The Platoon's culinary successes have been plentiful. We had a clean sweep in every discipline at the British Forces Cyprus Culinary Skills Competition and Gold medals in the Culinary Arts Competition back in the UK. Other non-catering awards like the annual Danny Brooks Shield and Carter Cup Plate also have pride of place on the silverware shelf.

The platoon continues to thrive professionally and is prepared for possible future operations during the EHRR commitment.



## REGIMENTAL AID POST

RMO: Maj Dave Winfield RAMC

Med Sgt: Sgt Tam McBride

The Regimental Aid Post continues to work closely with the staff in Episkopi Medical Centre, juggling the 'Garrison' duties with Battalion responsibilities, and continually pestering the Battalion about 'jags', audios, and medicals. In addition to providing medical cover and support to the Battalion, there is also the requirement to man the 24-hr emergency medical cover for the WSBA, as well as the numerous events that require support.

On the Battalion front, there was the short deployment to Iraq, which saw members of the RAP out with the Companies throughout the AOR. The RMO was conspicuous by his absence on the short jaunt, and he hasn't been allowed to forget it.

The Rowallan Targe was extremely successful from a medical view-point, with a minimal number of casualties. Considering the climate, terrain, and arduous nature of the challenge, this was a positive reflection on the professionalism of the soldiers, and the sensible planning which had gone into the event.

Sgt McBride finally moved on, after sixteen years within the RAP, and was last spotted skipping out the Med Centre with a smile and cheery wave. Cpls Tough, Johnson, and Pickup are still deciding among themselves who is the 'most senior' Cpl.

Whilst that discussion was ongoing, LCpl Cryans successfully completed his RMA1 course with flying colours, and is now vying for position as the main 'hands-on medic'. LCpl Dempsey, on the other hand, has been hindered by the new limitations on practice for RMAs, and is in prime spot for 'hands-off' medic. However, the definite winner of that award is Fus Rafferty, who was volunteered for a stint on the beach as part of the Inshore Water Sports Centre team. No complaints were heard from him.

The latest arrival from the RAMC, LCpl Partridge, appears to have settled in well. He was definitely helped by the fact he can speak the lingo, and actually understands what the Jocks are saying.

And as we receive a body from the RAMC, so we lose another. Fus Davis has eventually been accepted for transfer into the RAMC, and is to be posted imminently. The Battalion's loss is certainly the Medical Corps' gain – we wish him all the best for the future.

All in all, another busy period for the RAP, with some key personalities moving to pastures new. We continue to keep smiling, and like to think of ourselves as 'coiled springs' – tense and wound up.

### Views from the Medic Boys

There have been plenty of changes in the RAP since the last issue, with the departures of Sgt McBride, LCpl Blake, Fus Rafferty, and 'Brigadier' Davis soon to be leaving for that quality outfit known as the RAMC, which might explain why things are running smoothly. Joining the crew was 'BIG' Davey Partridge (AHA), good swap eh!

When the call came through from higher authority that we were to deploy back to Iraq, Cpl Tough and LCpl Cryans were always the ones for the job. However, Cpl 'YES' Johnson wanted to play soldiers so we took him along for our own enjoyment. That was the only option as the rest of the medics are propping up the downgraded draw with laminated biff chits.

With that deployment behind us it was back to the grind, 'TRYING' to square away the Jocks and supplying the WSBA with med cover in

one form or another. The weekends are 'apparently' quite good in Cyprus! All said and done, we all remain in good humour and look forward to whatever comes our way.

## WARRANT OFFICERS' & SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last *Journal* the WOs' and Sgts' Mess has been kept ticking over with most Mess members deployed on Ops in Cyprus or preparing for deployment as part of EHRR. With the social calendar taking a severe knock in the past, the Mess had time to fit in a few social events which included the outstanding evening of the Christmas Draw which was organized by WO2 (CSM) Shuggie Wilson and his committee, and not to forget the Christmas Party for the kids which went exceptionally well, the children even had the honour of meeting Santa and two of his elves (No, one of them wasn't Joe Nicholson). With Deployment on the lips of everyone for the forthcoming election in Iraq, the Battalion still let everyone go on Christmas and New Year leave. WO1 (RSM) Jimmy Law would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all Mess members and wives to thank WO2 (CSM) Wilson and his committee on an outstanding Christmas Draw, an excellent evening had by all.

On our return from leave we started to prepare for one of the main events of the year The Burns Night headed by WO2 Jamie Murray and cronies/artistes, from the selected few practicing in the shower to performing in front of fellow Mess members from Jun 04, it came to the selection of the best artistes being on the 7th Jan 05. Sadly the 2005 Burns Night had to be cancelled due to EHRR commitments. This is one of the great highlights of the year for the Mess, the 'Chief Cronie', WO2 Mick Green hopefully will not be hindered for the 2006 Burns Night.

Yet again we closed the Mess, as the boys deployed to Iraq from the 17th of January to the end of February, for the elections which has had a detrimental effect on the social life of all Mess members and has curtailed events held within the Mess. However now that we are all back safely, the forecast of events for the Mess looks far healthier and will allow Mess members and their families to relax and enjoy themselves.

During the Battalion's deployment in Iraq, CSgt Joe Burke has now moved to CQMS C Coy and has handed over CSgt Robbie Robertson our new Mess Manager, you know, out with the old and in with old in this case.

On return from Iraq and leave the committee headed by WO2 (CSM) Walter Barrie (PMC) and CSgt Gary Stewart (PEC) organised a Quiz and Disco which was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all who attended. Most of the teams gave themselves names related to Womack & Womack, the only thing that rings a bell is SOLID, SOLID as a rock, which was more apparent when the scores were calculated. We also had the Officers to the WOs' and Sgts' Mess, also organized by the PMC and PEC which surprised a few young Officers and SNCOs, when a Bouncy Castle was erected in the bar area of the Mess. The penny didn't drop until two pairs of huge boxing gloves were brought out. Lt Col P A S Cartwright, the Team Captain representing the Officers and WO1 (RSM) Jimmy Law, the Team Captain representing the WOs' & Sgts' Mess; at this stage everyone started to fade away into the background as the Team Captains selected their best fighters. Three knock-downs secured a win and on some occasions the WOs' and Sgts' Mess was severely embarrassed by Donny McDonald ('I'll knock that clown into next week') Aye right Donny!! Donny was beaten about the ring more than Michael Jackson was; he sustained head injuries and even had a Cut Man in at the corner. All in all it was an outstanding afternoon's entertainment.



“...and the winner of the bandana wearing competition is....”



Quiz and disco night at the Mess

There are many social events held within the Mess, one being the dining out of Mess members on completion of 22 years service with the Battalion, a sad but very enjoyable evening. Recently we have dined out CSgt Peter Watson who is a close friend of mine and many Mess members and will be sadly missed by all (CSgt Robertson has informed me that the bar-takings have plummeted since Peter left). Since we arrived in Cyprus we have seen some old faces leave; Tam Brisbane, Gregs McPherson, Ian Cameron and Boggy Marsh.

Our most recent get-to-gather was the Families Carvery, an excellent turn-out, the weather was great, the food was fine and most important of all everyone including the kids enjoyed themselves. Our forthcoming events include, Regimental History by WO2 Conway on the Scottish Company in Catterick, the Dining-Out of Lt Col PAS Cartwright and also the Dining-In of Lt Col Harkness in June, and not forgetting the Boxing Finals on the 9th of June.

The RSM, WO1 Jimmy Law would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the Mess Members to thank the outgoing committee members for their hard work and commitment to the Mess and to welcome the new committee members, headed by WO2 (CSM) Jamie Murray (PMC) and CSgt Donny McDonald (PEC). He would also like to congratulate the Mess members listed below on their well-earned promotions.

#### **To Warrant Officer Class 2:**

WO2 Law  
WO2 Stewart

#### **To Warrant Officer Class 2 – WEF 30 June 05:**

WO2 Graham  
WO2 McCormack  
WO2 Robertson  
WO2 Hall  
WO2 Galloway  
WO2 McNally

#### **To Colour Sergeant – WEF 30 June 05:**

CSgt Bruce

#### **To Sergeant – WEF 11 April 05:**

Sgt Power  
Sgt Neil  
Sgt Kyle

#### **Welcome to the Mess:**

WO2 Middlemiss	– Northern Ireland
CSgt Hall	– Sandhurst
Sgt Kelly	– Germany
Sgt Turner	– RRT

#### **Farewells to the Mess:**

WO2 Brisbane	– Completion of 22 years service
WO2 McPherson	– Completion of 22 years service
CSgt Cameron	– Completion of 22 years service
SSgt Marsh	– Completion of 22 years service
CSgt Watson	– Completion of 22 years service
WO2 Grant	– Completion of 22 years service

WO1 (RSM) Jimmy Law would also like to congratulate WO2 (RQMS) McCutcheon and Debbie on the birth of their baby daughter Maya, and a small message from some fellow Mess members to Dougie; “It’s good to know that you savored all those days at the beach and out on your lovely boat, because you won’t be seeing any beaches or boats for sometime”

## **THE GREEN HILLS OF AFRICA – EXERCISE APHRODITE SWARTKOP 2-20 APR 2005**



The whole group– Ex Aphrodite Swartkop 2005

In April 2005, 24 men of the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers conducted an Adventure Training Expedition to South Africa. This was the first overseas expedition the Battalion has managed in several years and the Expedition OC, Major Sandy Fitzpatrick’s plan was an ambitious one. The aims of the expedition were threefold. Firstly, to carry out some quality adventure training in the form of a five-day trek in the



Drakensberg Mountains, a day of white water rafting on the Tugela river, a day of horse riding at a South African Ranch and a safari at Tala Game Reserve. Secondly, we planned to take several battlefield tours of the sites of Boer War and Zulu War battles. Our primary interest in this was the involvement of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, one of our parent regiments, in the campaign against the Boers. Last but by no means least we planned to compete in the third annual Swartkop Challenge. This is an event where teams compete to pull a 19th Century 12-pound naval gun up a 1 in 1 hill. This feat was first accomplished by soldiers of the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1900, when they helped Royal Navy gunners haul their guns up the Swartkop hill in order to add weight to the British Artillery at the Battle of Valkraans.

We departed from our base in Cyprus in the afternoon of 2nd April and flew via Dubai to Johannesburg. From there we travelled by hire vehicle to Ladysmith Barracks where we were to stay for the Battlefield tour phase of the trip. Just over 100 years ago, Ladysmith was at heart of the conflict between Britain and the Boer nation. The Beseigement of Ladysmith by the Boers, and the British attempts to relieve it, led to many of the key battles of the war. Our guides for these first days were provided by Campaign Trails, a company set up by Charles Aitkenhead, a former Irish Guards officer, who specialise in 'war walks'. Over the next three days we took tours of the battlefields of Spion Kop and Colenso from the Boer War and Isandlwana and Rourke's Drift from the Zulu War. For the second day we had the added bonus of Major (Retd) Anthony Gordon, a former RSF and RHF officer, lending us his expertise. Major Gordon's father was a platoon commander with the RSF during the Boer War, and Major Gordon has both his father's diary and that of Captain Pollard, his father's company commander, to draw relevant passages from which enhanced the tour.

The site of the Battle of Spion Kop lent itself well to the war walks format, as we were able to follow the route the assaulting British forces took before looking back from the Boer defensive positions. As a result



*The youngest and oldest Fusiliers*

of this we managed to combine education on the battle with a training trek in preparation for our trek through the Drakensberg. Whilst Colenso was a bad defeat for the British, it was there that Private Ravenhill of the RSF won the Victoria Cross. He repeatedly risked extremely heavy enemy fire to rescue wounded comrades and to help the Royal Artillery withdraw their guns across very open ground. The third day was devoted to the Zulu war, and this was popular with the Jocks due to their knowledge of the subject through the films "Zulu" and "Zulu Dawn". This inevitably led to some very bad Michael Caine impressions.

### ***Some photos taken at the RSF Memorial***





From Ladysmith we moved to the Rolling 'M' horse ranch where half the group went riding whilst the other half set off to scale the 3005m Cathedral Peak. The group who rode had a swift introduction to riding ('It's just like driving a car. Turn left, turn right, go, stop. Easy!' Well, someone must have cut the brake cables on my 'car'...) before setting out on a two-hour, 12km ride which saw them ford the Tugela river twice and gallop the horses across any open ground they could find. Meanwhile, the other group trekked to around 2600m on the shoulder of Cathedral Peak before having to concede that time was not in our favour. After an exhausting day in the great outdoors, we drove the short distance to Mambasa Camp, a collection of native kraals (small huts) and tents on the banks of the Tugela which was to be our home for the duration of the Swartkop Challenge.



*Cathedral Peak*

## ***Pulling the Gun***



The challenge proved to be an exhausting one, as it took us 35 long and painful minutes to get 1.3 tons of gun up a ludicrously steep hill. Unfortunately, during the process of lowering the gun back down the hill, it overturned and one of the wheels buckled. This proved to be a showstopper as there were no spare wheels and it took us several hours to lower the gun back down to flat ground. Due to the fact that we were the only team to get the gun to the top, 1RHF were named Swartkop Challenge Champions 2005. The team captains agreed to give the prize money back to Charles Aitkenhead to repair the gun and prepare next year's competition.

After an excellent evening's entertainment provided by a local band playing traditional African instruments we returned to the Rolling 'M' ranch, where we were met by river guides from Four Rivers Rafting, who took us for a morning's white water rafting on the Tugela River. This involved just over two hours on the river traversing grade 3-5 rapids and a 12m cliff-jump. This was outstanding, and despite the fact most of us had never been rafting before, one or two people even managed to stay in the rafts. In the afternoon, the other half of the group tried the horse riding which was also excellent and led to everyone walking like John Wayne, and not entirely through choice. That night we had a barbecue on the banks of the river where most of us attempted to eat our own bodyweight of red meat in a single sitting.

The following morning we set off bright and early for the Drakensberg national park. This is an area of outstanding natural beauty, looking a lot like the Scottish highlands would with 300 days of sunshine a year. It is fairly remote, with a few herds of antelope and troops of baboons roaming the hills.





*Rocky bluffs*

We spent the next five days trekking across the range from North to South, carrying our food and kit with us. We spent our nights in huts, maintained by the park wardens, dotted across the hills, and cooked our food on petrol stoves. Each day we trekked from one hut to the next, following route cards drawn up by the Fusiliers and JNCOs. The scenery in the Drakensberg is spectacular, and we derived a certain satisfaction from being self-sufficient, removed from the world of mobile phones, computers and cars. The furthest we trekked in one day was 22km, and we gained and lost an average of 350m in height each day.



*Lipowski, Fraser and Fairbrother trekking*

From the Drakensberg we moved to Tala Game Reserve, about half way to Durban. This is a much smaller reserve than the more famous Kruger National Park, but is of an excellent standard. The reserve contains giraffe, Cape buffalo, zebra, warthog, ostrich, wilderbeast, hippo, rhino and a large variety of antelope. The first evening we were taken on a



*Rhino*

game drive where we were able to get within 10m of almost all these animals. This was a brilliant experience, a genuine once in a lifetime opportunity that had us wearing out the batteries in our cameras in record time.

The next day those individuals who had read too much Hemmingway and Wilbur Smith opted to go hunting, and eight of us bagged an antelope of some sort or another. Others went riding, taking their fearless horses in amongst the rhino herd. A third group went to an area of the park where they caught exotic looking birds and placed small rings around their legs. From there we packed up, said our goodbyes and set our sights on the bright lights of Durban.



*"and for dinner we are having..." Expedition OC with an antelope*

Durban is on the East Coast of the country and is South Africa's third largest city. With five miles of golden beaches edging the warm waters of the Indian Ocean it is the surfing capital of South Africa. With just two nights and one day in Durban, we didn't want to waste any time so set out to find some food and a beer or two straight away. Inevitably we all ended up in the same night club, where the Jocks' sterling work making friends with the local ladies was rather undermined by the arrival of seven international U19 rugby teams. During our day in Durban we visited the Old Fort at the heart of the city and shopped for souvenirs at an Indian market. Some of us visited the Ushaka Sealife centre to see some sharks whilst others opted to take it easy on the beach.

Tanned, tired and thoroughly 'shopped out', all that was left was for us to drive to the airport and head on back to Cyprus to try and explain to all and sundry how we managed to break the gun. The trip was an amazing experience, with so many highlights that it is impossible to pick out just one. Hopefully we can send another 24 lucky men next year, as we feel it is important to keep the RSF/RHF connection with the Boer War and the Swartkop Challenge strong. And of course, the adventure training



*"Only.....and Horses"*





opportunities are fantastic. We would like to thank all the organisations who, by supporting us financially, allowed this trip to happen, especially the Colonel of the Regiment and the Regimental Council.

## **EXERCISE APHRODITE SWARTKOP – FROM A JNCO'S PERSPECTIVE**

*LCpl Fairbrother*

When I first heard about the trip to South Africa I knew I wanted to be part of it – once in a while something special comes along and this trip lived up to all expectations. We flew to Johannesburg from Larnaca Airport via Dubai. From there we took a three-hour drive to Ladysmith where we spent the next four days. During our stay in Ladysmith we went on several battlefield tours such as the famous Spion Kop where the Lancaster Regiment fought the Boers. We also found out that the Kop End at Anfield road was actually named after this place because so many men from Liverpool and the surrounding areas were killed during the Boer War. From there we took a short drive to Mambasa Camp where the infamous Swartkop Challenge was to take place. The competition consisted of pulling a very heavy cannon up a 200-metre slope in the scorching heat in the quickest time possible, a task that was to prove harder than we first anticipated. The day of the competition pulled in the crowds as we nervously awaited the inevitable, the gun was fired and we were off, pulling to the shouts of CSM Barrie and W02 Stewart! Our time of 35 minutes proved good enough to secure the trophy for 1 RHE.

After our Herculean efforts in Mambasa it was off to the Rolling 'M' ranch for a bit of horse riding and white water rafting. We trekked through the Drakensburg Mountains taking in the amazing natural surroundings and finished this off with a day at the Tala Game Reserve for a safari and some game hunting. The last two days were spent in Durban which had everything we needed (McDonalds and cold beer!!). Then after a short but memorable three-week expedition it was back to reality and a long flight home. South Africa was a great experience and is something I would recommend to anyone.

## **POTENTIAL JNCO CADRE SPRING 05 – 'A STROLL IN THE PARK'**

On Monday 28 February, 40 hopeful Jocks listened to the PJNCO Opening Address; WO1 (RSM) J Law gave these potential leaders his advice and six weeks later, on Friday 08 April, 27 Jocks stood proudly on the parade square to hear who had been successful. Only one week after returning from operations in Iraq and with no leave the cadre began in earnest. The students faced the challenge of the PJNCO Cadre and also the new mental challenge of the army's Command Leadership and Management (CLM) module.

The cadre began with two weeks of mental exercises centred on the new CLM module Part 1. The men also prepared a number of more conventional lessons (including Skill-At-Arms and Field Craft Teaching Practices). The men found the CLM pitched at quite a high intellectual level. Undaunted, LCpl Houston ensured that the men were put through their paces physically and banished droopy eyelids! The men found the CLM difficult but it opened their eyes as to what is expected of them in the barracks. It will also form the backbone of the leadership development throughout their military career.

The third week on the cadre saw the emphasis shift toward the men's field skills, as the troops deployed for a teaching exercise. The squad instructors relished the opportunity to get to grips with the soldiers and

impart their knowledge to them. The troops were introduced to orders and some of the men had the chance to deliver their patrol orders.

Commander WSBA visited the cadre during the fourth week and saw the men being put through their paces on the ranges. The men were also the first group within the Battalion to complete the 'ACFT Part 2' fitness assessment in Cyprus. Cpl Duffy also took great pleasure taking the cadre through a water crossing in a very cold reservoir.

Week 5 saw the troops deployed into the field for the final exercise. A testing week began with a series of advance to contacts, followed by a patrols phase which culminated in a deliberate attack on Paramali village. Lt Aitken played the Platoon Commander and Sgt Robertson was the Platoon Sergeant. The old adage of 'If it ain't raining, it ain't training' held true to form as the Directing Staff ordered some especially for the final exercise; eventually arrived on the last night! Lt Aitken also participated on the pass off, and is thanked for his efforts, especially for his 'clockwork marching'.

In the final week the men had a few more PT lessons and thanks to LCpl Houston there can be very little heavy gym apparatus that the men have not carried, dragged or shouldered. Sgt Curran led the men on drill rehearsals for the parade, which the men occasionally found enjoyable, to the timing of 'Do It, Do It, Do It!'

For the majority of the cadre the high point was the passing off at the square. On Friday 8th April Commander WSBA, Group Captain Randle, took the salute. He issued tapes to LCpl's Allison, Bright, Docherty, Ferris, Glencross, Latta, McAleese, Ritchie and Storrie who all



*"Little and Large" Cpl Robertson and the left rank at the Passing Of Parade*



passed off at the square. LCpl Docherty performed extremely well throughout the cadre and passed off as the cadre's top student. Unfortunately the cadre lost a few students through injuries; hopefully they will be fit for the next one.

Many thanks to CSgt Collins, Sgts Curran and Robertson (all FSp Coy), Cpls Duffy (B Coy), McFarland (C Coy), Robertson (A Coy), Walker and LCpl Houston (both FSp Coy); they all worked extremely hard as instructors throughout the cadre.



Comd WSBA, CO1 RHF, Lt Aitken and Sgt Curran on the inspection



"Now who tossed this caber on us?"

## THE ROWALLAN TARGE PATROL COMPETITION 11 – 13 MAY 05

WO1 (RSM) J K Law

The Rowallan Targe Patrol Competition has been with 1 RHF for just under 40 years. The first competition was competed for in 1965 and it's been run every other year since. To give the readers a better feel for the Rowallan Targe, I will try to explain how it came about. (Hopefully the old and bold will correct me if I'm wrong in the next Journal).

From the historical library in RHQ RHF, the following extracts regarding this event have been discovered:

### From December 1965 Issue of the Journal (4/5th Royal Scots Fusiliers (TA))

"We had a successful camp at Buddon and much hard work was put in with very gratifying results. The battalion was split into cadres – Trained Soldiers Continuation Training, Recruits and Support Weapons.

The main exercise at Camp was the competition for the Rowallan Targe. During his Governorship of Tasmania, Lord Rowallan felt that there was

a need to promote and foster initiative among junior NCOs. The Australian Army in Tasmania competed annually for the Targe he presented there, and on his return to this country, he very generously decided to provide the same stimulant for his old regiment. The competition was carried out in extremely arduous country, and tested the ingenuity and skills of the NCOs taking part to the full. Everyone learnt a great deal from the competition, and we are deeply grateful to Lord Rowallan for his interest and generosity and also for coming to Buddon to witness the closing stages of the competition, and for presenting the Targe to the first winner, Cpl A Brodie of "D" Coy"

### From December 1966 Issue of the Journal (1st Bn The Royal Highland Fusiliers)

"In June 1966, Lord Rowallan presented a Targe to the Battalion for an inter-section competition. It was decided to make the competition an inter-section patrol contest to be run in two rounds.

The first round was held on the 1st September when twelve section teams battled their way round a course on the Schwerte Training Area. Apart from trying to navigate through thick "Jungle" they had to deal with guerrilla ambushes and hidden observation posts. They then proceeded to Menden Range where the fleeting enemy appeared in the shape of fast moving figure targets, which were engaged on the move between 100 and 25 yards. The final leg of the competition was a forced march home over the five and a half mile road against "Bogey Time". When all patrols arrived back in bogey time – the time of the fastest patrol was established as a very creditable 58 minutes. The scores, including marks for their orders, the driving of the APC and their reaction to the situation on the Ranges, were totalled and the first four teams were:

1st	Cpl Dunnigan B Coy
2nd	Cpl Barratt B Coy
3rd	Cpl Nichol A Coy
4th	Cpl Mathews Recce Pl HQ Coy

The finals were held during Lord Rowallan's visit with the Colonel of the Regiment on the 31st October. The four teams were put through a different course but on the same lines as the first. Additional hazards included information from an informer who unfortunately was ambushed and the sighting of an enemy ambush position.

On the morning of the 1st November, Lord Rowallan presented the Targe to Cpl Mathew of the Reconnaissance Platoon"

### The origin of the Rowallan Targe in brief:

- Rowallan Company was at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS).
- Named after Lord Rowallan who as a Lt Col was Commandant of the Highland Fieldcraft Training Centre (HFCT) in 1943/44.
- The HFCT was set up by the Adjutant General in 1943 for the purpose of developing character and leadership qualities of the young commander.
- The Rowallan Company succeeded the HFCT in 1977.
- Proven theme of "punishing failure and rewarding success, alongside total uncertainty, creates a tremendous motivating ethos for young commanders".
- Lord Rowallan's philosophy was "develop character first and military leadership will follow".
- Rowallan Company has now ceased to exist.



Here's where my trail becomes misty;

- "Targe" meaning shield and the "Rowallan Targe" was born. A proper shield with all previous winners inscribed on it exists in the Officer's Mess.
- The first Rowallan Targe was in 1965.
- It was a section commanders competition and has been competed for ever since.

#### Previous Winners;

1965	Cpl	Brodie			
1966	Cpl	Mathews	1968	Sgt	Sloan
1969	Cpl	McBride	1972	Cpl	Hamill
1973	Cpl	Erskine	1973	Cpl	Hogg
1975	Cpl	Hamill	1976	Cpl	McEnhill
1977	Cpl	Stewart	1981	Cpl	Wood
1986	LCpl	Haxton	1987	Cpl	Lynch
1989	LCpl	Hogg	1991	Cpl	Donald
1993	Cpl	Green	1995	Cpl	McLaughlin
2005	Cpl	Houston			

With the Battalion 2IC, Maj P Whitehead's direction I was tasked to plan and conduct this historic competition whilst we were stationed in sunny Cyprus. One previous planning attempt was shelved and postponed due to our operational commitments. However after our previous deployment to Iraq other dates were set. The 11 – 13 May 05 will be remembered by most of the JNCO's within the Battalion.

The Rowallan Targe Patrol Competition was an arduous exercise conducted within the Western Sovereign Base Training Area (WSBTA) near Salamanca Barracks in Episkopi. It ran over 48 hours. This exercise developed section team building whilst placing individuals under conditions of physical and mental stress. It involved a planning phase and then navigation by night and day over difficult terrain, visiting manned checkpoints (CPs). At each CP the sections performed basic infantry skills. Each section covered nearly 60 kms over arduous terrain with two compulsory rest periods.

The onus was scoring points at each CP and whoever accumulated the highest score by the end won the Rowallan Targe. Each Section was given a start point and a route to visit ten CPs. The CPs were planned and conducted by Officers and SNCOs throughout the Battalion with each Company picking up the responsible for 2 CPs each. Specific CP details are as follows:

CP 1	–	Close Target Recce.
CP 2	–	1st Aid Battle Exercise.
CP 3	–	Section Attack.
CP 4	–	Signals Task (Command Post Scenario).
CP 5	–	Command Task 1.

CP 6	–	Tactical River Crossing.
CP 7	–	Section Vehicle Anti-Ambush Drills. (Iraq setting).
CP 8	–	Command Task 2.
CP 9	–	Fitness (4-mile stretcher and then Bergen Race).
CP 10	–	Shooting (Live-firing).

Each Section had to carry a pre-determined kit list and all participants were patrolling with bergens each weighing up to 85 lbs.

The main concern was the heat and all soldiers were encouraged to drink plenty of water. As the readers would expect there were casualties; five in total (four heat illnesses and one feet injury). All of whom have made a good recovery.

The competition was won by A Company and their outstanding section were as follows:

Cpl Houston.

Fus Ratu (now LCpl).

Fus Holmes.

Fus Messer.

Fus Nicol.

Fus McSeveny.

Fus Denholme.

Fus Cama

On completion of the competition, the whole Battalion assembled and then the Commanding Officer presented the winning section with their prizes. A special mention goes to Cpl Gray and his section of LCpl Lynn, LCpl Hunter, Fusiliers Carey, Currie, Lydon and McGerty from 52 Lowland Regiment. They came over to compete and conducted themselves in a professional manner. A real credit to TA. Well done! Also huge thanks go to the external support from 84 Flight RAF for the use of their helicopters and 62 Sqn RE for the use of their boats.

Well done to all the Check Point Directing Staff who provided an outstanding facility for our soldiers. I know a lot of time and effort was expended trying to achieve realistic and demanding training. Thank you!

## INTER-COMPANY SPORTS

The Commander's Cup Inter-Company Sports Competition was designed to identify talented competitors and encourage Inter-Company relations whilst playing sports.

This competition has proven there are serious gladiators out there, shedding blood, sweat and tears for their Company.

The seven chosen sports are Boxing, Football, Orienteering, Basketball, Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country. As at May 05, the competition had three events remaining (Swimming, Basketball and Orienteering) with B Company in 1st place (9 points) followed closely by A Coy, C Coy and FSP and HQ Company neck and neck at the bottom.



Later it was decided to cancel Orienteering and after the remaining two events, Swimming and Basketball, the final results were as follow:

Coy	Boxing	X Country	Football (New Love)	Athletics	Swimming (1 Jun)	Basketball (29 Jan)	Orienteering (Not Held)	Total
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
<b>A</b>	2nd	4th	3rd	2nd	4th	3rd	–	18 = 3rd
<b>B</b>	1st	5th	2nd	1st	3rd	1st	–	13 = 1st
<b>C</b>	3rd	1st	4th	4th	2nd	2nd	–	16 = 2nd
<b>FSP</b>	4th	2nd	5th	3rd	1st	4th	–	19 = 4th
<b>HQ</b>	5th	3rd	1st	5th	4th	5th	–	23 = 5th

Other sports within the Battalion range from climbing, triathlon and rugby through to golf in which Cpl Stewart (FSP) won the Infantry Individuals and Army Match Play Competition. Fus Dickie (FSP Coy) is a remarkable jumper winning the high, triple and long jump in the Inter-Company Athletics competition.

The Bn rugby squad have had a remarkable session with the following achievements:

18 Army Colours (British Forces Cyprus).

9 Combined Services Colours.

9 Selected for Army (British Forces Cyprus) Team.

9 Selected for Army under 21s (British Forces Cyprus) Team.

The Bn football team headed up by the RSM finished 2nd in the Minor Units league, Cpl Fraser (C Coy) got the Man of the Match in the final and Bn sports colours being awarded to individuals for there outstanding achievements.

## 1st BN THE ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILERS FOOTBALL TEAM

Football Officer: Maj N R M Borton MBE, OC A Coy

Secretary: WO1 (RSM) J K Law

Manager: CSgt J Burke, C Coy  
WO2 G Stewart (Posted Feb 05)

Club Captain: Sgt P Marshall, A Coy

### A Coy

CSgt I McLachlan  
Cpl J Houston  
Cpl D Murray  
LCpl J Higgins

### B Coy

LCpl J Michie  
LCpl I Tollet  
Fus A Robertson

### C Coy

Sgt K Kyle  
Sgt S Robertson  
Cpl T Fraser  
Cpl D McLachlan  
LCpl W Gilmour  
Fus N Begley  
Fus J Cole

### Fsp Coy

WO2 Loughery  
CSgt K Galloway  
Sgt J Curran  
LCpl A Quinn  
Fus B McGoveney

### HQ Coy

Sgt T McBride  
Cpl R Mitchell  
Cpl G Murray  
LCpl T Latta  
LCpl E Mortley  
Fus J Harvey

It has been a tough year for the Battalion football team due to the operational commitments on the island and in Iraq. This has met us with inconsistent team selection leading to mixed results within the league. The pre-season kicked off well with morale really quite high at the prospect of playing against Partick Thistle FC at Happy Valley. We played well for the first 20 minutes or so then they found their scoring boots and thrashed us 18 – 0 but a great evening was had by all involved.

The league we had to enter was the Episkopi Minor Unit League due to the operational commitments. However it was not as easy as some may have predicted as in the previous season we finished second to CCU Eagles who had dominated the league the past few seasons. The first few games saw us starting well, beating the majority of our opposition by large goal deficits. This positive start saw us on top of the table. Then the Battalion was placed EHRR for deployment to Iraq and prior to the Battalion's departure, the team lost 8–0 to the DFS. This was the turning point of the season. The Rear Party then took over the reigns in the team's absence producing some decent games, however the inexperience of some of the younger members showed through and vital league points were lost. On the Battalion's return the league was out of our grasp – the only real chance of clinching a silverware was the League Cup and the hunger and desire to win something whilst in Cyprus was within all squad members. The League Cup showed that we had the bounce-back ability within the squad and the team scored 22 goals from the quarterfinal onwards, none more special or sweeter than the 8 scored in the final against JSSU Utd. The final saw Johnny Curran taking the match ball home after scoring a priceless hat-trick; there were also great performances by Davie McLachlan and Eddie Mortley in the front scoring 3 goals between them. The other 2 were scored by Andy Robertson and Kevin Galloway. The Man of the Match award for the final went to Big Tam Fraser for a solid performance at the back.

Now the season is over a special thank you to the Rear Party personnel who helped the team during the Battalion's deployment. It has also come to the attention of all players and staff that a lot more people from the Battalion have supported us throughout the season, in particular the wives and children. A big thank you to our three most loyal fans, Colin McCormack, Gordon Law and Billy Anderson; thanks for your support over the season, your comments are always welcome. All players and staff would like to say farewell to Gary Stewart and his family and wish



him all the best for the future.

Congratulations go to Russell Mitchell and Eddie Mortley for receiving their Football Colours for playing for the Army Cyprus. Andy Robertson also received his Sports Colours for services to sports within the Battalion. The remainder of the squad who played in the final of the League Cup have also received the Regimental Football Colours. The Player of the Year, for this year was awarded to Johnny Curran, so many congratulations to him for his tireless performance throughout the season.

We look forward to next season when we are entering in the Islands Major Unit League in which we are hoping we can compete at a slightly higher level.

## **FUSILIER BEACH – INSHORE WATER SPORTS CENTRE**

The past few months have seen considerable changes at the Battalion's Inshore Water Sports Centre (IWSC) at Fusilier Beach, as we shrugged off the winter blues and prepared for the onset of the busy summer season – our first proper summer season since we arrived in Cyprus, with all companies actually on Island. The centre has now bid farewell to Major Nick Abram, and welcomes in his place as OC Water Sports Major Charlie Herbert. Concurrently, the long term 'skipper' at Fusilier Beach – Cpl Rab Anderson – has taken on board a full complement of summer crew from across the Battalion. Welcome aboard to new faces Fusiliers C McBlain, S McCracken, K Johnstone, J Rafferty, S Donnachie, G Monks and M McNeil.

Having taken a battering at the hands of the winter weather last year, the centre has needed an extensive programme of refurbishment since our return from Iraq, to return it to its former glory. Whilst the list of helpers and supporters is too extensive to name individually, our thanks go to all those in B Company who worked long hours in all weathers to bring the centre and the boats back up to scratch. Particular mention must go to Debbie McCutcheon who, whilst heavily pregnant, still found the time and effort to design and hand paint the new Fusilier Beach sign.

With the centre now running at close to full productivity, we are looking forward to a summer of water sport activities. All the new staff have been trained and qualified to RYA2 or SBDA standard, the equipment has been updated, and the boats have been refurbished. The course programme this summer includes old favourites like power boating and waterskiing, but has added wakeboarding, kayaking and a general 'all round' water sport course this year. With a full complement of trained crew we now have the capacity to run Company Fun Days or Wives' Club ski mornings concurrent with the courses. A further addition this year has been the opening of the Fusilier Beach Weekend Waterski Club – giving soldiers and dependants the opportunity to enjoy the facility outside of the normal working day. In addition the Centre is looking forward to hosting a couple of Battalion Fun Days over the summer months.

## **VISIT BY HARROW RIFLE CORPS TO 1 RHF – MARCH 2005**

No Sooner had the Battalion recovered from Iraq, than it hosted a week long visit by 21 staff, cadets and undergraduates from Harrow School. This was the first time in many years that we have hosted the school, with whom the Regiment has a long and historic connection. The visit was huge success, with a number of undergraduates and cadets subsequently expressing an interest in joining the Regiment. The

Battalion now hopes to build on the success of the visit, and intends to support the Harrow Rifle Corps Summer Camp, this summer in the UK. The following is an extract from an article produced by 1 RHF, which featured in the Cyprus Lion Newspaper in late March.

### **RHF maintain historic link with top school**

1 RHF maintained their close link with top public school Harrow last week when the Battalion hosted a week long visit by 21 staff and pupils. The visitors, all members of the Harrow Rifle Corps, were given a thorough introduction into life in the Army and had the opportunity to participate in many of the adventure training opportunities offered in Cyprus. "The principal aims of the visit were to give the cadets an opportunity to develop their military skills, to enable them to undertake adventure training, and to maintain and develop closer links between the Battalion and Harrow" said visit organiser, Major Charlie Herbert.

1 RHF have a long and close association with Harrow School, which dates back to a former Commanding Officer of the Highland Light Infantry, Colonel John Grahame of Lingo who was educated at the school. Colonel Grahame's widow bequeathed a large sum of money to the Regiment to help fund the education of officers' sons at Harrow. Consequently, many serving RHF officers, including the current CO Lt Col Paul Cartwright are Old Harrovians and former members of the Harrow Rifle Corps. The Corps, which dates back over 150 years, numbers many prominent personalities in its alumni, including Sir Winston Churchill and former Chief of the Defence Staff, Lord Guthrie.

The highlight of the visit for many was deploying on a demanding infantry exercise in the local training area. After a helicopter insertion



*Cadets of Harrow Rifle Corps preparing to conduct recon patrol*



*Cdt Sgt Edward Monkton prepares to fire a sniper*



by 84 Sqn the cadets undertook an overnight platoon ambush, before spending a day conducting patrol tasks and an advance to contact. The culmination of the exercise saw the cadets conducting an overnight close target recce of enemy positions in Paramali village, before launching a dawn attack on an enemy force provided by B Company 1 RHF. Having defeated the enemy, the cadets conducted a hasty helicopter extraction back to Salamanca Barracks. "The attitude and performance of the lads was excellent", said Squad Instructor, Cpl Colin Shaw of 1 RHF. "They threw themselves into the whole visit with complete enthusiasm, and often performed to the same level that I'd expect of a newly joined soldier."

After a short period of post exercise recovery, the cadets had an action packed week in and around Episkopi, which included a tour of the UN Green Line in Nicosia, a day of watersports, climbing and diving, a visit photograph at Curium Amphitheatre, some go-karting, and dinner at a local Cypriot taverna. A major highlight of the visit was a morning on the Akrotiri ranges, where cadets and staff had a chance to fire most of the weapon systems employed by the infantry, including the sniper rifle, general purpose machine gun, and baton gun, and competed in an inter-section competition shoot.

The end of the week saw the cadets undertaking a pass out parade, where they were inspected by the CO, before being presented with various prizes and certificates. "All in all, it's been a terrific week", said visit coordinator Capt David Taylor, "the cadets were great, everything went really smoothly, and we're immensely grateful to all those in the Battalion and the wider Garrison who helped to make it such a huge success".

## NEW OFFICERS

### SECOND LIEUTENANT L G CURSON



Lee Curson was born in Forth, Lanarkshire. He moved to Clydebank when he was young, and then lived in numerous locations including Fallingbostal and SHAPE and attended numerous service schools due to the fact his step-father is also in the Army. He graduated from the University of Abertay Dundee with a Law degree and a Diploma in Conveyancing and Executry Law in the summer of 2003. Whilst at university he

attended Tayforth Universities Officers Training Corps as well as being a member of the Law society.

He commissioned from Sandhurst in December 2004. Whilst at Sandhurst he represented the Academy at football playing in both the minor units league and cup. He also gained his MLT award and went on expedition to Romania which the award helped make the expedition as adventurous as possible.

In his spare time Lee enjoys going to the gym, learning how to play the guitar and reading military fiction and non-fiction. He also intends to make the most of the opportunities Cyprus offers by adding to his parachuting tally and learning how to scuba-dive, as well as making the most of the fantastic weather prior to the battalion's move back to Glencorse.

### SECOND LIEUTENANT V T GILMOUR



Vince Gilmour went to the University of Manchester where he read Geography and graduated with Honours in 2003. During his time at college and university he was in the Royal Marines Reserves and Manchester and Salford UOTC. Whilst at university, he played rugby league for the first 13 and was a member of Manchester District Orienteering Club.

Prior to beginning the commissioning course in January 04, he worked for the Co-operative Bank as part of the ATM liaison team for four months. Whilst at Sandhurst he boxed for Gaza Company and New College. During his intermediate term he undertook triathlon training and would like to take this further whilst in Cyprus.

In his spare time he likes to go hillwalking or trail running and has completed the 3 Peaks and the 3 Peaks of Yorkshire. He also likes to read autobiographies and science-fiction. After a particularly hard day, a hot Radox bath wouldn't go amiss! His long-term girlfriend Amy will graduate this summer and lives near Mauchline, Ayrshire.

## NEW RECRUITS

### A COMPANY

#### 25183548 FUS O'DONNELL

Fus O'Donnell hails from Irvine. He attended Glencairn Primary School in Stevenson and Auchendarvie Secondary School. After completing his education he enlisted into the Army. He joined C Company on 13 Apr 04 and has been deployed on operations with the Company. His hobbies are judo, football and table tennis.

#### 25100647 FUS WILSON

Fus Wilson was born in Irvine. He attended Drongon Primary School in Ayr and then Staincastle Secondary School in Irvine. Fus Wilson spent some time in the TA during which he was deployed in Iraq for six months. Shortly after this, he decided to join the Regular Army. On completion of training at ITC Catterick in Sep 04, he joined A Company. His hobbies are rugby, swimming and cycling.

#### 25189110 FUS CUMMING

Fus Cumming was brought up in Easterhouse, Glasgow and was educated at Lochend Community High School. He went to Basingbourne on 15 Aug 04 for his first 17-week basic training and then on 03 Jan 05, to ITC Catterick where he completed 14-week training. He then moved to Cyprus to join A Company on 27 Apr 05. Fus Cumming is in 3 Platoon and is looking forward to a good career in the Army.

#### 25188973 FUS DONOGHUE

Fus Donoghue was brought up in Irvine, Ayrshire and was educated at St Michael's High School. In Aug 04 he went to ITC Catterick where



he completed his 24-week training. On 21 Apr 05, Fus Donoghue moved to Cyprus to join A Company. Fus Donoghue, a member of 3 Platoon is looking forward to meeting new friends in the Army and travelling around the world.

## B COMPANY

### 25197184 FUS MURRAY

Fus Murray completed his training at ITC Catterick in May 05 and then joined the Battalion where he is currently a rifleman in B Company. Fus Murray was educated Auchenhavrie Academy where he attained a number of GCSEs. His interests are running and football.

### 25191708 FUS HENDERSON

Fus Henderson completed his training at ITC Catterick in Apr 05 and then joined the Battalion. He is currently a rifleman in B Company. He was educated at Chryston High School and Coatbridge College where he obtained several qualifications. His interests are swimming, cycling and football and he supports Glasgow Rangers.

### 25195577 FUS BEATTIE

On completion of training at ITC Catterick in May 05, Fus Beattie joined the Battalion. Currently he is serving as a rifleman in B Company. He was educated at Greenwood Academy and Kilmarnock College where he achieved a number of GCSEs. His interests are running and weight training.

### 25146130 FUS EAGLESHAM

Fus Eaglesham joined the Battalion in Jun 05 after completing his training at ITC Catterick. He is currently a rifleman in B Company. He previously joined the Army in Jan 02 and served with the Royal Signals. In Mar 03, he left the Army due to unforeseen circumstances but after a spell as a civilian he re-enlisted in 2005. Fus Eaglesham is getting married in Jul 05 and is looking forward to his wife joining him in Cyprus. He was educated at Carrick Academy where he obtained several GCSEs. His interests include clay pigeon shooting, running, rugby, fishing and gym workouts.

### 25184226 FUS CAMPBELL

Fus Campbell completed training at ITC Catterick in Nov 04. Then he was attached to RRT until Mar 05 because he was too young to serve in Cyprus. Finally in Mar 05, he joined B Company. He is currently employed as an LSW gunner within a rifle platoon in B Company. Since joining the Company he has taken part in all training including the recent the Rowallan Targe competition. Fus Campbell was educated at Irvine Royal Academy where he achieved a number of GCSEs. His interests are football, fishing, swimming and running.

### 25195732 FUS MILLIGAN

Fus Milligan completed his training at ITC Catterick in May 05. He then joined the Battalion and is currently a rifleman in B Company. Fus Milligan was educated at Kyle Academy where he achieved several GCSEs. His interests are football, running and swimming. He is due to get married in Jul 05 and is looking forward to his wife

joining him in Cyprus.

## C COMPANY

### 25055719 FUS COPLAND

Fus Copland arrived in Cyprus in February 05 after his training at ITC Catterick. His previous service with the Battalion was for a period of three years in Fallingbowl and Fort George with A Coy. He then left the Army in late 1999 and lived in East Kilbride with his girlfriend. He was doing some clerical work followed by working as a site manager for Weather-Seals Home Improvements. He then decided to pursue a career in the Army again and re-enlisted. He is now in C Company.

### 25179360 FUS FERGUSON

Fus Ferguson was brought up in Irvine in Ayrshire. He joined AFC Harrogate in 2004. Subsequently he chose to join RHF as his friends were already in the Regiment. He completed his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and had a U-15 football trial for Scotland. He arrived in C Coy in Mar 05 and is keen to develop as an infantryman. He has an interest in the Pipes & Drums which he hopes to pursue later in his career.

### 25183040 FUS CAMPBELL

Fus Campbell was brought up and educated in Bothwell in Glasgow. In Jan 04, he began training at AFC Harrogate as a Junior Soldier. Thereafter, he went to complete his Phase 2 training at ITC Catterick and then arrived at the Battalion in Mar 05. He is keen on getting his driving license and attending courses that will further his skills as an infantryman.

### 25177709 FUS MCLAUGHLIN

Fus McLaughlin is 18 years old and hails from Baillieston, Glasgow. He attended Bannerman High School before joining the Army. He attended Phase 1 training at AFC Harrogate and then Phase 2 at ITC Catterick. His hobbies are football and snooker

### 25163128 FUS RAE

Fus Rae is 19 years old and comes from Castlemilk, Glasgow. He attended Kings Park Secondary School in Glasgow. He left school and started an apprenticeship in roofing before joining the Army in Jul 04. He then attended his training at ITC Catterick. He is currently a rifleman in C Company. His hobbies are football

### 25187188 FUS CAMERON

Fus Cameron is 18 years old and was born in Drumchapel, Glasgow. He was educated at Knightswood Secondary School. His hobbies include playing football, swimming and fishing. He is currently settling in well in 9 Platoon, C Company and has successfully completed his RRU Cadre.

### 25189195 FUS THOMSON

Fus Thomson is 18 years old and grew up in Barrowfield, Glasgow. He was educated at Whitehill Secondary School. After leaving school he joined the Army and completed his training at ITC Catterick.



Thereafter, in Nov 04 he joined the Battalion. He is keen to do well in the Army and has already passed his RRU Cadre He is looking forward to a driving cadre in the near future.

#### **25184239 FUS GRAHAM**

Fus Graham is 17 years old and is from Irvine. He was educated at Greenwood High School. After completing his education he joined the Army. After an arduous year at ATR Basingbourne as a Junior Soldier he progressed to complete his training at ITC Catterick in Nov 04. His interests are motorbikes and running. He is keen to become a PTI during his career within the Battalion. He is currently serving with 9 Platoon, C Company.

#### **25189620 FUS WATSON**

Fus Watson is 21 and is from Kilmarnock. He was educated in Stewarton Academy. After his primary and secondary education he attended a college but did not complete his further studies. He then opted for a career in the Army. He has settled in quickly in the Battalion and has recently passed his RRU cadre. His hobbies include martial arts and football.

#### **25176718 FUS ELLIOT**

Fus Elliot is 18 years old and is from Ayr. He attended Kyle Academy in Ayr. He was employed in an apprenticeship as a bricklayer prior to joining the Army. Fus Elliot is a fit and ambitious young man and has settled in well in 9 Platoon, C Company. His hobbies include fishing and football

#### **25196974 FUS EVERS**

Fus Evers is 24 and is from Suva, Fiji. He was educated at Marist Brothers School where he enjoyed sports such as rugby and volleyball. He was employed as a clerk in a local firm in Fiji but wanted a more challenging career. So he joined Army. He is currently in 9 Platoon, C Company where he is settling in well.

#### **25192772 FUS SCOBIE**

Fus Scobie is 17 and comes from Beith in Ayrshire. He was educated at Garnock Academy. After he left school he joined the Army. After a six-month training at ITC Catterick he joined 9 Platoon, C Company where he is settling in quickly. His hobbies are computer games and martial arts.

#### **25196962 FUS TORA**

Fus Tora is 20 and is from Suva, Fiji. He was educated at the Fiji L.D.S Church College where he achieved high grades. After completing his education he worked for a civil engineering firm. Then he joined the Army. At ITC Catterick he won the top student award. Fus Tora is now in 9 Platoon, C Company where he is enjoying life within the Battalion. His hobbies are rugby, volleyball and socialising.

## **Marriages**

Fus Galbraith	to	Michelle	10 Apr 04
Fus McSeveney	to	Sarah Jane	17 Apr 04
CSgt Lynn	to	Lesley	25 May 04
LCpl McMahon	to	Kimberly Marion	13 Jul 04
Fus Lindsay	to	Vannessa Ann	20 Jul 04
LCpl Wiseman	to	Alison Helen Robertson	31 July 04
Fus Hall	to	Maria	02 Aug 04
Maj Herbert	to	Catherine Elizabeth	07 Aug 04
Fus Qarau	to	Adi Waqa Fane	13 Aug 04
LCpl Docherty	to	Michelle	13 Aug 04
W/Cpl Sneddon	to	Barry Albert	14 Aug 04
Fus Sneddon	to	Sarah Louise	14 Aug 04
Fus McGuire	to	Cathrine	17 Aug 04
LCpl Latta	to	Emma Louis	22 Aug 04
LCpl Vono	to	Lisi Koveni Miraci	01 Sep 04
Fus Warnock	to	Natalie	03 Sep 04
LCpl Cryans	to	Jennifer	04 Sep 04
LCpl Deans	to	Sharon	10 Sep 04
Fus Sorley	to	Nicola	25 Sep 04
Fus Quinn	to	Lisa Marie	16 Oct 04
Lt Aitken	to	Daisy Joy	22 Oct 04
Fus Innes	to	Lyndsay	26 Nov 04
Fus McCulloch	to	Leeanne	22 Dec 04
LCpl Muir	to	Nadia Elena	08 Jan 05
LCpl Mortley	to	Ann-Maree	05 Mar 05
W/Cpl Gordon	to	Alexander David	16 Apr 05
LCpl Gordon	to	Emma Louise	16 Apr 05
LCpl Minhas	to	Louise Janet	22 Apr 05

## **Births**

Fus & Mrs Ravuravunisali....a son, Kini Bale Dauvucu....	04 Apr 04
LCpl & Mrs Harvey....a son, Logan David....	08 Apr 04
Capt & Mrs Joyce....a daughter, Hermione Catherine Wallace ....	24 May 04
Fus & Mrs Ratunaceva....a daughter, Kolora Gareu....	25 May 04
Capt & Mrs Brown....a daughter, Rosie Mae....	25 May 04
Sgt & Mrs Byrne....a daughter, Lia Susan....	23 Jun 04
CSgt & Mrs Walterson....a daughter, Daisy Mercedes....	30 Jul 04
Fus & Mrs Christie....a daughter, Katie Marie....	16 Aug 04





LCpl & Mrs Forrest....a daughter, Shania Louise Michelle....15 Oct 04

LCpl & Mrs White....a daughter, Alanah....25 Oct 04

Fus & Mrs Manners....a son, Keevan Anthony Robert....12 Nov 04

Fus & Mrs McGlone....a daughter, Erin....18 Nov 04

Fus & Mrs Rafferty....a daughter, Mai Jane Elizabeth....04 Dec 04

W/Cpl & Mr Bates....a son, Alfie Moretti-Bates....21 Dec 04

Cpl & Mrs Hayward....a son, Kaden Joe....22 Dec 04

Fus & Mrs Savage....a daughter, Emilie Boo....27 Jan 05

Fus & Mrs McMahon....a son, Kevin William....12 Apr 05

WO2 & Mrs McCutcheon....a daughter, Maya Kate Anne Elizabeth....03 May 05

Cpl & Mrs Kyle....a daughter, Ellie May....18 May 05



*"And they are off" Gate to Gate Run*



*Major Phil Whithead with an Iraqi child*



*Maj Abram and Jocks on leisurely Battalion Run*



# 52nd Lowland Regiment

CO:	Lt Col S W Burns TD
2IC:	Maj A M Williams TD
Trg Maj:	Maj A N Laidlaw PWRR
QM:	Maj J Frew RHF
RAO:	Maj P M Hazell
Adj:	Capt J A French RHF
RSM:	WO1 W G A Hunter RHF

Life in the TA continues to be high paced and interesting. OP TELIC continues apace and our soldiers continue to provide a contribution, and 2005 has thrown more than its fair share of challenges our way. There has been much change afoot with the implementation of FIS FAS which is still underway, as well as the raft of administrative, and legislative changes that have been brought about through JPA, and the 'one army' concept; not to mention DII, FORGE and BLENHEIM projects, JPA, AGAI 67 and TA MS practices and precedents.

A successful EX CHRISTMAS PUD led us in to the New Year with vigour, and the first priority was recruiting. A comprehensive review of our procedures was immediately tackled with the re-vamp of all Regimental Recruiting Staff, and the up scaled resourcing of all recruiting activities. Under the able leadership of CSgt Hogg, the Regiment has worked hard to overcome the manning problems of the Regiment. This is a problem faced throughout the TA and will remain the Regimental Main Effort for some time to come.

World events came in to all of our living rooms with the tsunami disaster in the Far East, and the Regiment quickly became involved in the GOC's fundraising initiative with the Scottish Division dress down day. The only difficulty was in telling who had dressed down,



*GOC's Dress Down Day*

and who has dressed up!

After a memorably miserable first training weekend, the SF Platoon immediately began preparing themselves for the GPMG Match 9 competition due to take place in mid February. The MT began to prepare themselves for EX SCOTTISH ROVER due to take place in early March.

After the Regimental Ladies Dinner Night at the Great Western Club in Glasgow, the Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs set their sights on Normandy for a battlefield tour organised by the 2IC Major Adrian Williams. Major Martyn Ashley Taylor of the Royal British Legion brought the event to life for the participants, including a TEWT on a real historic Platoon Attack.

With the competition season starting, the RSAAM was held on Castlelaw ranges at the beginning on March. Unfortunately the event had to be scaled down due to the loss of ranges. However, the Regiment did enter a team in the DIVSAAM competition in May.

With Bounty in the bank and Easter Eggs eaten, the new training year started with a bang – or actually lots of bangs at Whinney Hill OBUA training centre. Whilst the Commanding Officer was completing copious amounts of paper work he was heard to mutter "RSM can you tell them out there to be a little less noisy?" We were visited by Col Tovey TA Col HQ Inf who had an in-depth discussion with the CO and his command team regarding the Implementation of FIS.



*The UK Group*



Earlier preparations proved their value as the Machine Gun Platoon came in a fantastic 3rd place in the TARA Match 9 SF competition, which was our best ever placing. Our two teams in EX SCOTTISH ROVER, a driving and navigation competition, achieved a very successful 2nd and 6th placing in the newcomer event. The Regimental Ski Team participated in EX SNOW LION in Aviemore and achieved two individual Bronze medals for Lt Jeff Watt. The team however was just outside the prizes by a 2-second margin. Lt Jeff Watt is now beginning his career with the Regulars and is currently at RMAS. We wish him all the best.

Our Padre, Stephen Blakey is currently serving on OP OCULUS in Bosnia as the Senior Chaplain HQ UK NSC based in Banja Luka Metal Factory, where 1 A&SH have recently arrived in theatre as the Multinational Task Force North West Battle Group. Padre Blakey now has the responsibility for the spiritual welfare of all the UK troops in theatre, covering a pan-Balkan parish which includes Butmir Camp in Sarajevo and Slim Lines in Pristina, Kosovo. Padre Blakey reports:

"There are 35 countries contributing troops to EUFOR. It is an amazing international effort and quite an exciting environment to work in. I have been given a secondary role as Co-ordinating Chaplain for the whole theatre. This will include running training events for as many chaplains as we can pull together. Each nation has its own approach to Chaplaincy so I am having to learn some diplomacy. One of the great things about military service is the way you keep bumping into people from the past. I wondered how many well-kent faces would appear out here. Within a couple of days I met a couple I married in Edinburgh Castle five years ago, followed swiftly by Lt Col Bill Common. I was Padre of 1 RHF in 1977 when Bill was a brand new Subaltern. We have both aged a wee bit!

These next six months will be really interesting and challenging. There is plenty to do and the time is flying by. Accepting the invitation to volunteer to be mobilized was certainly a good decision!"

The Regiment then began to brace itself for EX EXECUTIVE STRETCH which took place in mid May. The Regiment led on the organisation and running of leadership activities for 170 executives from around Scotland and further afield. The event was a massively successful, and the Scottish Division has shown the way ahead and set the standard for similar events in the UK next year.

The two highlights of this six month period have been the Regiment's participation in the 1RHF Rowallan Targe and EX COOPERATIVE BEST EFFORT

While frantic planning was underway for EX EXECUTIVE STRETCH, WO2 Drever was busy selecting a Regimental team to go to Cyprus to compete in the RHF Rowallan Targe competition which has been delayed from late February due to operational commitments. The details of the competition will no doubt be outlined elsewhere in the publication, suffice to say that it is challenging! With acclimatisation underway, the team was unfortunate to lose a member, leaving them two team members short. Having been kindly backfilled with two team members from 1 RHF, the team placed 12th, which was an excellent placing amongst their Regular counterparts. Some well-deserved rest and recreation in Paphos ended an excellent competition. Thank you 1 RHF.

EX COOPERATIVE BEST EFFORT is a NATO Partnership for peace exercise aimed at improving relations as well as inter-operability between 22 countries, comprising of NATO and non-member 'partnership' nations. Ukraine was selected as this year's host nation and training took place on the Lviv training area in the west of the country. 33 LOWLAND soldiers made up the entire UK contingent for the exercise. It was a fantastic opportunity for the soldiers to be exposed to a very diverse range of armed forces, and the Jocks wasted no time in establishing themselves as the most sociable contingent, narrowly beating the Croatians, and were only matched in performance by the Israelis!

A very busy year so far, and despite the flurry of training activity, we have still welcomed back 26 soldiers from their support to the Welsh Guards on OP TELIC 5, and bid farewell to nine more who are currently serving on OP TELIC 6. We are currently gathering the names of volunteers for OP TELIC 7. Those that have served on mobilised service in OP OCULUS should not be forgotten and neither should those who have served and are serving on mobilised service in support of regular Battalions and on FTRS appointments. The 'reserve of first choice' is really getting in to its new role of routine and sustained support to the Regular Army.

## C (RHF) COMPANY

OC:	Maj J E Tookey
2IC:	Capt J Combes RS
CSM:	WO2 G McIntosh

Life in C Coy remains as busy as ever with the regular round of training, operational deployments and courses that keep all 'out of mischief'. Back in February the officers and SNCOs from the Coy had the pleasure of being involved in EX LOWLAND POPPY 2 which is an Overseas Learning Experience (OLE) in Normandy. C Coy's contribution was important in the running of the event since the PSAO, Capt Andy Blair spent a great deal time suffering (so he says). Long drives, sailings, suffering the 'nightmare' of having to be out of the office in northern France doing a recce for the OLE over a long weekend. Hellish! Apparently the only benefit was being able to get a quick can of 'juice' in the bar on the sailing over to Caen.

The OLE included St Mere Eglise, where the 82nd and 101st Airbourne from the US Army were dropped during the first hours of the invasion.... a complete disaster ensued, the troops were being shot and killed before even they hit the ground. In the centre of the town in St Mere Eglise there is a church in the main square which is surrounded by houses. The troops landed on the square; one trooper a Pte John Steele was hung up on the roof of the church for some hours and to this day there is a dummy on the roof of the church depicting this event. CSM WO2 McIntosh was not entirely impressed by the turnout of the dummy still up on the church tower!

In addition to St Mere Eglise, the OLE consisted of various other highlights of the Normandy campaign of 1944 including the Hillman Bunker, Mulberry Harbours, Omaha Beach and Sword Beach. I had the pleasure of presenting the stand dealing with the Ranger Landing on Pointe du Hoc. It was so cold at the time we could all only imagine the effect of landing under fire, soaking wet and to climb 100



*The C Coy Reservoir Dogs – St Mere Eglise Museum*

*Left to right: CSgt Stewart, CSM McIntosh, CSgt Duncan, Sgt(now CSgt) Liddell, Cpl Chalmers*

cliffs! The duration of the OLE was hallmarked by how cold it was. Then again we all know that “if it ‘ain’t raining it ain’t training”. This was no doubt training by that measure. The C Coy’s finding of the OLE was that if you are planning a holiday in Normandy, do it in the summer during stand-down.



*OC Maj John Tookey demonstrates how cold Hillman Bunker is in February!*

Recent training has focussed on the development of defence skills prior to a Regimental training weekend at the end of July which will put all of the skills to the test. The Assault Pioneer Platoon, under Lt Alan Campbell, has been essential in the delivery of the defence



*PSI Sgt Sandy Healy reviews defensive ops training*

training. Their immaculately constructed (okay, apart from the water it was filled with) fire-trench with overhead cover was the talk of the preliminary defence training weekend in June. Particularly the highly effective camouflage of almost 5m of grass that managed to grow inside it when it was built and when it was used 3 weeks later! This is possibly the first time in the history of trench construction that a defensive position had to be mowed before training could start!

As stand-down comes to an end and the much-deserved holidays are over, the Coy begins to look forward to the remainder of the training year. Once again it seems like only 10 minutes since the last Christmas Pud weekend, but only about 5 minutes until the next! Probably the most important event in the near future is the forthcoming Annual Training Deployment in September. The troops are looking forward to this one in that OLE is being planned to feature some of the highlights of the EXERCISE LOWLAND POPPY 2 mentioned above – all for the Junior Ranks. Current thinking in the JRC is that this camp promises to be a memorable one, so is much anticipated.

On the promotions and personalities front, Capt Kamran Ali the Coy 2IC has come to the end of his posting with the Coy. He is now moving on to pastures new and we all wish him well. The new Coy 2IC is Capt Jason Combes who has joined the Coy from D Coy. Capt Combes has already settled in the job and had got his teeth into his first new project – a 5-a-side tournament which C Coy are planning to run as a means of publicising the work of the Coy locally and developing potential new recruits. CSM WO2 Graham McIntosh is also shortly moving in August. CSM McIntosh has provided outstanding service to the Coy and will be a particularly tough act to follow as he takes up his new posting as CSM HQ Coy. All the personnel of the Coy wish him well in his new post and know fully well that he will not be going very far away. No doubt we shall hear him falling in HQ Coy for parade – maybe, just maybe! CSM McIntosh’s successor is WO2 Peter Hendry. This is a happy return for WO2 Hendry who progressed through his early TA career in Glasgow with C Coy before a posting to the OTC and a subsequent tour in Iraq on OP TELIC. His experience, enthusiasm and in-depth ‘local knowledge’ will no doubt stand the Coy in very good stead.

Congratulations go to CSgt Alec Liddell on his recent elevation from Sgt. He is soon to take over as CQMS and will no doubt excel in this post. Also congratulations on their recent promotions to Sgt ‘Chuckles’ Campbell (who has transferred to Glasgow as Pl Sgt), LCpls Currie and Gould. All of the new promotions and appointments are in the process of coming into being as the NCO plot takes into effect. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the recent promotions, and wish everyone well in their new posts. They were all well-deserved and in each case, fully course qualified. Training throughout the autumn and winter period will give these key personalities the opportunity to shine in their new posts, and I for one look forward to seeing them do well.



# The Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada

CO: Lieutenant Colonel Rick Peters CD  
 DCO: Major Charlie Fitton CD  
 RSM: CWO M Adam CD

Unit soldiers have been extremely busy in 2005, training and supplementing regular force units on taskings overseas.

The Canadian Army's public image has improved in recent years as evidenced by an increasing number of new recruits to the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada. Although there are enrolments every day, frequent postings to other units and transfers to the regular force has kept total strength to about 190, all equipped with Canada's new camouflage (CADPAT) uniforms and load carrying 'Tacvests'.

Experiencing service this year in Afghanistan are Lt D Ryan, Sgt A Kroetsch, MCpls M Selberg and R Moser, Cpls S Gutierrez, P Schoepke, C. Newman, BBartok, and K. George.

Serving in Bosnia are MWO R Quickfall and MCpls C Hagan and D White.

We are fortunate in welcoming new Regular Force support staff: WO K G Ryan, Operations Warrant Officer (2 PPCLI), and Sgt D. Mills, Chief Clerk (1 Fd RCA).

Three new officers, 2Lt S MacMaster and OCdts J Reiner and A Straatsma have joined the unit and are currently undergoing officer qualification training at CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick. Newly-qualified MCpls are Cpls J Xasay, C Turner and M Richmond.

Members of the RHFC museum's 'Normandy platoon' have been kept busy at ceremonial functions across the country celebrating VE Day and Canada Day, wearing Second World War uniforms. A highlight was their 'bit role' in a CBC Television movie about the liberation of Holland and the Scheldt by Canadian soldiers.

In late August, 80 unit members will be among more than 3500 Reservists from across Canada participating in Exercise Stalwart Guardian. The exercise is the last of its kind as future combined training will focus on the transformation of the Canadian Army into a more agile, lethal, deployable and knowledge-based force, better suited to this century's strategic environment.

The bridge to the Canadian Army of tomorrow will develop over the next 7-8 years and includes the introduction of new weapons systems, training methods and the conversion to an all-digitised force. The Army Reserves will be increased accordingly along with new operational capabilities for them such as psychological operations, defensive chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear capability and civilian cooperation.



*"Sgt Rebecca Brindley and veterans aboard Stewart Loy's T-16 carrier during VE Day celebrations in Ottawa".*

## The Lowland Band of the Scottish Division

*Cpl Taylor*

This year has been relatively busy for the Lowland Band. Unfortunately we have not been able to visit The First Battalion Royal Highland Fusiliers to provide musical support or even to catch up with old acquaintances.

Since the last article we were involved in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and were lucky enough to do a couple of stints on the Ross Band Stand at Princes Street Gardens. We also did the usual Edinburgh and Glasgow Cavalcades although the Glasgow one was rained off and myself and some other west coasters in the band got the usual east coaster patter about the rain in the West. Those east coaster punters are so funny.

After the Edinburgh Military Tattoo we did our usual wee trip to Berwick for the Berwick Military Tattoo. Being the main band for the tattoo we took the opportunity to feature our excellent Dixie Band ensemble under the leadership of Sgt Andy Donaldson (ex-1 RHF). We also had the normal two-night stay at a holiday park which is good crack and a most excellent session.

After that the next major event was the opening of the Scottish Parliament which was an quite an experience. We started off by marching the street liners along the Royal Mile and then assembling outside Saint Giles Cathedral. After the service at Saint Giles we marched the MSPs with the Scottish Crown Jewels along the Royal Mile and then to the new parliament building opposite Holyrood Palace. Once there we played for the public who had gathered outside the main doors to await the arrival of Her Majesty the Queen. This gave the band the opportunity to admire the new building, and oh what a building; it's amazing what you can do with Lego and some dods of wood.

We have also been keeping ourselves busy doing school workshops, dinner nights and Pass-Off Parades in various locations throughout Scotland and England. In November we took part in the Glasgow Remembrance Parade which was probably the second biggest remembrance parade outside London, as well as other remembrance services in and around the Edinburgh area.

December came and we were into the Christmas period with Carol Services around Edinburgh, HQ 2 Div, the Castle etc. This was followed by a Pass-Off Parade for the Police up at Tulliallan and then we





took some leave.

The start of 2005 has been relatively quiet with only a few engagements but it has given us the opportunity to catch up with our ITD's and a spot of adventure training in Inverness in March (not the best time to be swimming about in the lochs and walking up hills, as you know). We are now preparing for the forthcoming busy summer season. The Royal Week has been disrupted due to the G8 Summit which means that leave has been sacrificed so that we can fulfil our commitments. In August we are on our way to Canada for BATUS. After BATUS we might get some leave but it all depends on what's happening with the Corps of Army Music. At the moment things are pretty uncertain as the two Scottish Division bands are being reduced to one, and the Corps wants the bands to be restructured around October. The two Scots Div Bands have commitments up till December, so we will see.

Since the last article the Band Sergeant Major Mark Wilson (ex-1 RHF) has been posted to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as the Band Co-ordinator. So we wish him and his good lady Jill and their children Stephen and Nicole all the best. Also Sgt Mark Hamilton, Cpl John McQuat and Cpl Allan Taylor (ex-1 RHF) are in the redundancy bracket. So if they get the boot poor old Sgt Andy Donaldson will be the last member of the band to have served with the 1st Battalion. Another ex-member of the Regimental Band 1 RHF who you may be interested in is WO1 (BM) Purvey who by the time of this going to print will be the Bandmaster of the Scots Guards. Just in case you can't remember him he is WO2I Kenny Kerr's nephew.

Anyway I hope that brings you up to speed and hopefully we will get a chance to visit the Battalion in the near future.



## B Company Glasgow and Lanarkshire Army Cadet Force

Hello, from Glasgow & Lanarkshire. It seems strange in the middle of June, but Happy New year! The year started off very well for the Company when A Platoon RHF won the Lean Cup which is the Battalions air rifle competition.

Training has been going very well with all cadets progressing at their various APC levels, British Red Cross Junior and Senior Certificates and DOE Award.

Camp was run at Garelochhead in February which is not for the faint-hearted. Four stout-hearted cadets actually achieved their one star at open-boat canoeing on Loch Long. The rest of the Company enjoyed the hospitality at Faslane and a welcome return to the boulder field at Glen Lion. Easter weekend was spent back at Warcop TC faint hearts getting fainter by the minute. Only joking, another good camp. Warcop TC again for the 1st holiday weekend in May, it seemed as if we had not gone home from Easter.

The start of the year was quiet on the sporting front but a couple of highlights were; A Platoon RHF winning the Bn 6-a-side football competition and Cadet David Law Glasgow Highlanders Platoon winning the Bn Junior cross-country.

The Company Shooting Team has been practising hard over the last few months and did not too bad at the Scottish Cadet Rifle Meet at Barry in May; the Company was placed fourth overall and CSgt John Swan of Beardmore Platoon was the Best Individual Score on the day. Already the lads are looking forward to Bisley in the first week of July.

Congratulations to Capt Derek Coulter 2IC on being awarded the Good Service and Conduct Certificate. Derek spent his cadet service at Glasgow Highlanders joining the Scots Dragoon Guards as an adult instructor but has come full circle to wear a decent bonnet again as Coy 2IC.

Major Craig Bryce the Battalion PRO retired in March 05. Craig spent 40 odd years in boy and man service in the ACF. Craig started parading in the ACF as a member of A Pl Cameronians in Auldhouse Road, achieved the rank of Cadet RSM and eventually commanded the Detachment. Craig's next move was into the Training Office as Assistant Training Officer, a job he carried out admirably. When the position of B Company Commander came up Craig was the man for the job and didn't he do well? After a good period as OC B Coy, Craig stood down into the Bn PRO job until his retirement this year. During all this time Craig was heavily involved with the first-aid training in the Battalion. Craig will be missed; he always took the time if help or advice was needed. From all past and present members of B Company, we wish you well and may all your eggs be double yokers.

That's about it, the Annual Camp is now fast approaching; this year's camp is at Swynnerton TC. Plans are being made well in advance and we are all looking forward to putting them into action. A report of how they went will be forthcoming, but for now. Yours aye, JR.



*Capt Derek Coulter receives Good Service and Conduct Certificate from the Comdt, Col John Kelly MBE*



*In centre, Cdt David Law who came first place in the Junior Cross-Country at Warcop TC. On the left, SSI Billy Lannigan and on the right WSI Jenny Lake*



*Cdt David Rae with his One Star Canoeing Certificate*



*Sgt John Swan with the Best Individual Score prize won at the Scottish Rifle Meet*



*Cdt Keighy Doyle and Cdt Justine McGowan with their One Star Canoeing Certificate.*



*Cdt Kerry Glencross, 1st in Small Bore Competition at Warcop receiving his trophy*



*Cpl Ryan Drummond(left), the BM Best Score at DCCT Easter Warcop 2005*



*Cpl Micheal Fairlie, the best shot in Full Bore Competition at Warcop*



*Major  
Craig Bryce*



*"We are the Champions!"  
A Pl RHF, the Winners  
of the the Lean Cup – Bn  
Air Rifle Competition.  
Rear(Left to Right); Cpls  
John Niven and Daniel  
Dunlop. Front(Left to  
Right); Cds Micheal  
Manley and Jamie  
Thomson.*



## THE WEST LOWLAND BATTALION ACF VENTURE “TARTAN JOCK V1” CULTURAL TOUR IN YPRES BELGIUM

*Capt T Wilson*

We travelled again this year on the Rosyth to Zeebrugge route, which again was excellent with all the party accommodated in twin-berth bunks. The journey was uneventful as the cadets had plenty to do on board. Our old friend Jose (now retired) was at the port to meet us and escorted us direct to Lombarsijde, which was to be our home from home for the next six days.

As there was no ‘Army Open Day’ at Zedelgem this year, we spent the first afternoon at the leisure centre in nearby Nieuwpoort.

The first full day in Belgium was to be the longest travelling day with the first stop being at Waterloo with all the party managing to climb the 200 plus steps to the top to take in the magnificent views over the site of the famous Battle of Waterloo.



*The view of the steps up to the top of the “Lion Mound”*

After a quick lunch break it was back on the coach and onward to Brussels for a visit to the War Museum, the collection of Militaria here stretching from some 200 years ago up to and including the Second World War armour and flight. This museum must be one of the best in the world and a full day visit will be on the agenda for next year.

The party left Brussels just before teatime, and we stopped at a restaurant in Bruges for our evening meal. The cadets really enjoyed this and the selection of hot or cold food was excellent. We spent some of the evening in the local town of Nieuwpoort on time off before returning to the Barracks and off to bed for some well-deserved sleep.



*Jose with Cadets Mackie (Auchenleck) and Connor (Troon)”*

Sunday was to start with a church service at St George’s Memorial Church in Ypres, the service being conducted by the Reverend R Jones with readings done by Capt Wilson, Lt McIntyre, Lt McPike and the Cadet Prayer recited by Cadet Sgt Louise McCallum; all completed their tasks with pride and the praises of Rev Jones. The cadets were on their best behaviour and had a good tour around the church after the service with various photographs being taken of the ‘Kneelers’ which are knitted in the various cap-badges of regiments that took part in the Battles of the Ypres Salient. The next part of the day was to be spent at the ‘Flanders Field Museum’ an ancient building that was destroyed during the First World War but re-built after, it houses an exhibition that tells the story of the War especially of the surrounding areas.



*The Kneelers at St George’s*

The afternoon visits were spent at Langemark German Cemetery and Talbot House known as TOC H, this is a house in Poperinge where troops used to go for rest and recreation during the wars. It has now been turned into a museum, with artefacts and the talk given to the cadets on the history of the house was superb.

The highlight of the trip was to take place at the Menin Gate tonight as the cadets got into uniform and were to march on to the ceremony and a wreath of poppies was laid by Cadet LCpl Hannah Henshall of Dumfries Detachment. The praise given to the cadets by people watching the parade was tremendous and all members did the Battalion proud. Cadet CSM Murdoch of A Company took the parade and his words of command could clearly be heard under the great columns of this monument.



*LCpl Henshall (Dumfries Detachment)*

Next day after another early breakfast we left in the sunshine for the Atlantic wall exhibition at Raversijde. The party was split into two groups, one under the female adults and the other with the male officers but this group split again with some joining onto Lt McIntyre who was giving a running commentary on all the Armour, trenches





and buildings that once belonged to the German Army. The afternoon was taken up with our now yearly 'Exercise Wappenplein' that finished with an advance on McDonalds.

Tuesday saw us visiting the biggest Commonwealth cemetery in the region with over 12,000 soldiers and sailors buried here. The walls surrounding the headstones hold the names of troops missing in action including members of battalions with peculiar names like Bicycle Platoon, Tractor Company and others. A few tears were shed here and paper tissues were the order of the day, and not just for the females. Lt McIntyre just strolled looking at all the Navy graves and seemed to pass some time at them all with a minute or two at each one. Cadet Hambly from Barrhead laid the wreath at the wall bearing the name of Lt Walton's uncle, who was missing in action and now has become an annual pilgrimage for us. We had our lunch stop at Hooge Kratur where we are always made welcome and as the sun was shining it made for us to eat "Al Fresco". The afternoon was to be spent at Zonnebeke Chateau which was built over several underground tunnels and trenches used at the Battle of Passendale. We also visited the site of Bayenwald to check over the newly-constructed trenches that were used here.



*Lt McIntyre and Adults hide from the Cadets at Bayenwald*

Well it had to happen, it was our last day in Belgium and we had to be up early to get the rooms ready to hand back to the Belgian Army, brushed out, floors mopped, buckets emptied and showers all spick and span we handed over to the Quartermasters Department of the 14th Artillery Battalion and we headed along the motorway in torrential rain towards Bruges for a 'cultural tour' of this lovely city. The weather did not pick up so off we trudged but managed to see some of the beautiful buildings.

All good things must come to an end, so it was back on to our super ferry for the journey back home.

Hopefully this trip will take place again next year – planning is already taking place.



*The Adults at Flanders Field Museum*



*The Trenches at Hill 62*



*The Cadets at Tyne Cot Cemetery*



*CSM Murdoch checks the Cadets at the Menin Gate*



*Cadets Hex, Flint and McCathie test their Weapons Skills*



## Regimental Headquarters

Regimental Secretary: Major(Retd) W Shaw MBE

Assistant Regimental Secretary: Captain(Retd) K Gurung MBE

Life here at RHQ continues in its normal role with everyone too busy to keep the day-to-day work flowing.

Mrs Torrance is immersed reading her romantic novels, whilst sailor Leishman keeps updating the web-site. Maureen Robertson selecting the vague and confused customers, whom she dispatches in the direction of the Regimental Secretary.

Captain Kamal Gurung has taken over from Major Alastair Mack as full-time Editor of the **Journal** and spends many long hours drumming up support for his project.

We still await the arrival of a candidate for the post of Regimental Secretary, as the present incumbent is looking a bit dog-eared and well past his sell-by date.

We are also heavily involved in the discussions regarding the Royal Regiment of Scotland. These are long and varied hopefully this will facilitate a smooth transition from the old to the new.

The varied functions continue to take place, dinners, lunches, patrons from Kentigern House using the enviable corporate hospitality facilities of the Museum are rising in numbers and the local caterer is kept very busy.

The regimental web-site is also very busy with regimental chit-chat and the [www.rhf.org.uk](http://www.rhf.org.uk) forum.

The amount of queries and visits by personnel carrying out research is on the increase, this combined with school visits keeps everyone on their toes, long may it continue.

There has also been a varied host of Regimental visitors:

General Loudon, Brigadiers Kirk and Drummond, Major Gordon McDallas, Col Agnew, Capt Roy, WO2 Stevenson, Adam Brogan, Alex McDivitt, Archie Bathgate, Len Henson and a great many more.

We are now in the midst of sorting out the invitations to the Tattoo and the Regimental Dinner and Luncheon.

## Regimental Recruiting Team

It is with a sense of achievement that the RRT bring this **Journal** entry to print. After the somewhat sombre article that we last produced, the Battalion has returned safely without major incident from its second tour in Iraq and to some form of routine in Cyprus. This reflects on life within the RRT with the soldiers knowing that their mates are safe and the ceremonial kit can be mothballed until the start of the busy summer period including the KAPE activities.

Despite recruiting within Scotland being down we have had an excellent recruiting year in comparison to the remainder of the Division; we were the only Regiment within the Scottish Division to meet our target. Such was the achievement that Major Shaw was alleged to have said well done.....merely rumour control. This was achieved through a series of initiatives but primarily it was down to the magnificent efforts of our Jocks strutting their stuff and full of the patter in the streets of Glasgow and Ayrshire.....Well done lads!

As a reward for surpassing the target the OC treated the team to an excellent adventure-training package ably assisted by WO2 "Fermer" Keenan and the Army Youth Teachers/Instructors. All the RRT personnel thoroughly enjoyed their four days in Kingussie. One concern was that CSgt "Benn" Gunn might try to burn his kayak (it may be the norm in Inverness, but we Glasgow and Ayrshire lads do things differently).

The RRT has seen a change of personnel over the last few months. Several members have either RTU'd to continue with their career in the Battalion, or have been attached to the Royal Scots until the Battalion Arms-Plot Move in April 06.....We wish them all the best of luck.

We also welcome the addition of some new members including the return of CSgt "Shuggy" Scoular from his escape and evasion course – Welcome back Shuggy. Congratulations are also in order to Shuggy on his recent marriage to Elaine. Additionally a huge well done must go to LCpl Stuart Ritchie on passing his PJNCO Cadre despite carrying a long term injury.

As the **Journal** goes to print discussions are on going within the Division as to the best way forward for our recruiting strategy in line with the set up of the new Royal Regiment of Scotland. A decision is imminent and will be made public in due course.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to thank the man ex-members who have assisted us in various ways throughout the past year in our pursuit of bringing your Battalion to full manning.



## Articles

### MAJOR H D C CRAIG MC MA LATE 2 HLI

*Major A S Robertson*

The Summer 2004 Journal (pp 81–83) carried an article describing how much had been discovered about Major Craig's parents, his siblings, and his academic and military career, the latter brought to a premature end when he died aged 32 of typhus at Reval, North Russia, on 13 February 1920.

In a footnote to that article, hope was expressed that it might yet prove possible to ascertain where the young Henry David Cook Craig had received secondary schooling sufficient to equip him for entry to the University of St Andrews. With so many of today's young people entering universities of one sort or another and regarding that as nothing out of the ordinary, it must rightly be seen as truly remarkable that H D C Craig and no fewer than six of his siblings, children of the Manse, all progressed to tertiary education at Scotland's senior university and achieved good degrees as long ago as the years 1903–1919.

Born in nearby Ardentinnay, it seemed not unlikely that he might have attended Dunoon Grammar School. However, enquiries made of the current Rector, himself an historian, revealed only that his predecessor at the material time had been meticulous in keeping records of pupils who had distinguished themselves academically, and that there was no trace of any of the Craig family. Supposing that sons and daughters of the Revd Robert Craig might have been awarded bursary places at another school under Church of Scotland auspices, enquiries were made of the Church of Scotland offices in Edinburgh, but in vain. Likewise, Madras College in St Andrews was unable to confirm whether any of the younger members of the family had been pupils there after Revd Robert Craig's widow settled in St Andrews in 1903/4.

Enquiries continued in another direction. Once again, this writer is indebted to Jamie McNeish whose efforts have uncovered additional interesting material on Major Craig.

The first item concerns the unusual Order of St Stanislaus, evidently awarded to Major Craig for service in Russia. The decoration was instituted by the last King of Poland, and was subsumed from Poland into Russia after the 18th century Partition, at which point the insignia lost its original 'white eagle' (of Poland), replaced by a dicephalous (ie Russian two-headed) eagle. The Order continued to be awarded by the Provisional Government (under Kerensky etc) to British and Germans who were helping in the struggle against the Bolsheviks. The Order 'with Swords' was awarded only for 'war activities'.

The second source of fresh material is Major Craig's file in the National Archives (formerly the Public Records Office) at Kew. This file revealed that he had passed Certificate 'B', presumably while an undergraduate in the University OTC at St Andrews. [His oldest brother Robert Meldrum, born 1882, was certainly in the OTC there in 1912, as recorded on p40 of St Andrews OTC, A History, by JSG Blair]. He applied for a Regular Commission in 1915 but was turned down, being then beyond the upper age limit (he was 27) and applied to be an Interpreter. If this appears unusual, it is explicable in terms of another fact that emerged from the file: he was an Arabic speaker, having studied the language for one year pre-war at Oxford, attaining



*"See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" The RRT Stand at Glasgow Show*



*Recruits get younger. RRT at Glasgow Show*



*"The A Team"*



*"...and you will get a designer shell-suit like this, for free when you join up"*



a standard sufficiently high for the Egyptian Civil Service, and had in fact spent a year in the Sudan Civil Service before coming home and joining up. After the war ended, he applied to be employed in the Mediterranean Theatre, but there were no vacancies, and although he specifically asked not to be sent to North Russia, he was as we know sent there, after serving, as the file revealed, on the staff of Glasgow University OTC in 1919.

The file contained no citation for Major Craig's MC, as it was awarded in a Birthday Honours List for consistent meritorious service. The last entries in the file name his Executor (his [elder] brother Prof J D Craig, Professor of Latin, University of Ontario), his solicitor in St Andrews, and his Banker.

## OP UNITY AND THE LIBERATOR

*Col A J B Agnew*

In mid 1955 the Director of Operations in Malaya launched Operation Unity designed to flush out terrorist activity along the Siamese (now Thai) borders.

It is now 49 years since these events occurred and consequently relying on memory without the benefit of patrol reports carries with it the risk of falling down on exact detail. Not only that but the author did not participate in the event until approximately 48 hours after it had happened, this to some extent hearsay is involved and any errors in the take stand to be corrected if any members of the patrol involved can do so.

Obviously a considerable number of troops were deployed on Op Unity, but this story concerns primarily 12 Platoon D Company 1 RSF commanded by Lt John Staheli and 7 Platoon C Company commanded by 2Lt Blair Agnew.

The Siamese border drops to the South to form a 'V' with Kroh, the Battalion Headquarters situated near the bottom. 12 Platoon were deployed to the West of the border and well North of Kroh. 7 Platoon travelled from Kroh to Baling and then North on the Westerly road, to debus and enter the jungle following a two-hour march across paddy field. After entering the jungle normal patrolling took place as we gradually moved north.

After approximately four weeks Fus Eddie Kerr, the 7 Platoon radio operator reported to me that he had been listening to 12 Platoon's radio traffic and had heard them using the word 'Liberator'. He asked me if that was a code word but I could find no trace of it in my list. Within 24 hours 7 Platoon was ordered to move north to join 12 Platoon at a grid reference which indicated a distance achievable in a day.

This turned out to be a total fallacy and when the Platoon set out the next morning they embarked on the worst journey that they could imagine. The going was through bamboo over a series of steep ridges which required slashing to make headway and after ten hours we had travelled a mere 1000 yards. Exhausted we bashed up on top of a hill and the following morning found that in fact we had spent the night in Siam. We moved off just after first light and regained what we believed to be the border track running along a ridge. In mid morning we came across an abandoned small terrorist camp just off the track (see sketch map marked 'A' in next page), and subsequently we came to the conclusion that this was a small outpost acting as a guard camp for the main CT camp. A little later we started to drop down with the track winding in front of us until we reached a stream at the bottom. The track crossed the stream and started to ascend a

ridge again winging upwards and in approximately 25 yards we came round a corner to find ourselves facing three slit trenches (marked 'B') sited to give a perfect killing ground at the corner. It was clear that we had virtually arrived at 12 Platoon's location and after proceeding for a further 250 yards we joined up with 12 Platoon (marked 'C'). What follows is John Staheli's account of what his patrol had found:

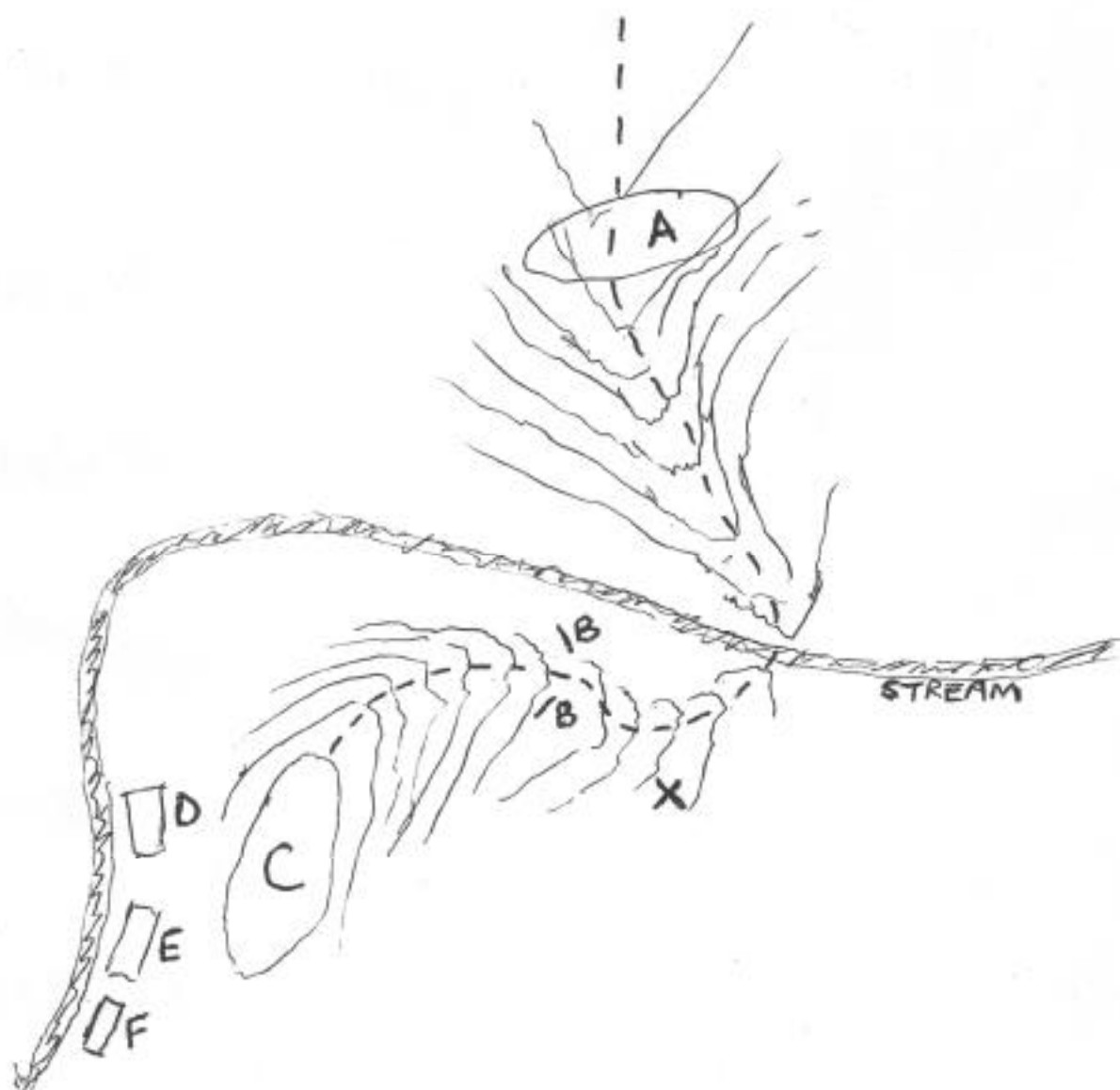
As stated earlier 12 Platoon had been operating North of 7 Platoon and after four weeks they had discovered this recently abandoned CT Camp. It was large, being capable of holding approximately 100 terrorists. It had a small parade ground, an armourer's shop (marked 'D'), ablutions for both men (marked 'E'), and women (marked 'F'), and a cookhouse area. Patiently it was an important case and the defences around it gave credence to that. It has to be remembered that the CTs were known to operate near the borders so that they could if necessary cross into the sanctuary of Siam where technically they could not be followed.

Having found the camp, 12 Platoon made it their base and patrolled from it in the hope of following up and engaging any of its former occupants. One patrol was despatched back down the approach track with a view to patrolling the valley which carried the stream. The patrol was led by Sgt Dummelow and as it passes the slit trenches one of the patrol brushes against what turned out to be a hornets nest. Hornets have a vicious sting which makes a wasp look like an amateur and these hornets exited their nest at high speed and were patently very angry. The patrol reacted in the correct manner and scattered before regrouping and proceeding. The leading scout asked Sgt Dummelow where he should go and was told to go round the next and ten yards to the right. This he did and within about ten yards he stopped and according to Sgt Dummelow said "Sargeant – there's an airy plane".

Lying hidden in the jungle no more than ten yards from a main terrorist track was the remains of a Liberator bomber. A Jock was invited to crawl under the wing and get its number and the investigation began. It was virtually intact, the autopilot was set, the radio frequency setting could be seen, there appeared to be fuel in the tanks, the Browning machine guns were in place and on the ground were flying gloves and some personal armaments.

What should be explained here is that during the war some British soldiers stayed behind in the jungle after the Japanese overran Malays, and these men were joined by a few others from India to form what was known as Force 136. This force joined up with the Communist guerrillas to form a resistance movement against the Japanese. It was an uneasy alliance with both parties having very different agendas. The communists saw this as an opportunity to remove the colonial yoke on Malaya having disposed of the Japanese and had a further aim of establishing a communist state. The British aim was to defeat the Japanese and re-establish the benevolent colonial state. On the event the extent of cooperation was blighted by Communist suspicions and deviousness and ultimately the Communist members of Force 136 became the nucleus of the Terrorists with whom the Army in 1955 was engaged. To help Force 136 during the war, supply-drops were flown from Ceylon and these were made using liberator bombers. It is a matter of record that of all the supply flights made only two were reported missing during the war and by sheer chance and the intervention of hornets 12 Platoon had found one of the two missing planes!

The plane was thoroughly searched for the fuselage was virtually intact, and here the finds became more incredible. It appeared that these were three categories of cargo waiting to be dropped. The first



#### LEGEND

A	-	GUARD CAMP
B	-	SLIT TRENCHES STRADDLING APPROACH TRACK
C	-	MAIN CAMP FOR APPROX 100 TERRORISTS
D	-	ARMOURERS SHOP
E	-	MALE ABLUTIONS
F	-	FEMALE ABLUTIONS
X	-	CRASH SITE
-----		TRACK

12 Platoon D Company established their camp in the deserted CT Camp marked "C". After the discovery of the Liberator they cleared the area to create a Helicopter LZ.



was medical supplies and not surprisingly it was quite clear that these were well past their sell-by date and quite unusable. The second was clothing which included KF shirts and other items of clothing, but damp and time had done their worst and none of this kit was serviceable. The third category was the most important and consisted of weapons and communication. The weapons, including Bren gun parts, were well wrapped in greaseproof paper and proved to be in good condition, so much so that 12 Platoon swore that they had switched the working parts of their Bren guns for those in the plane as the latter were in better condition. They further swore that REME armourers had said that the parts sent out by helicopter were in poor condition. This may well have been apocryphal but it made for good story.

Obviously it was vital that all this hardware should be evacuated and RAF experts should be called into examine the wreck and some bones which had been found nearby. 12 Platoon set to work to cut down the trees round the camp thereby creating an LZ for helicopters. The RAF flew in but, according to 12 Platoon, were not enamoured with the jungle environment and flew out rapidly having pronounced the bones to be those of pigs.

What must the terrorists have thought when news reached them of this find? There they were with one of their major camps, well-sited and well-defended there no more than ten yards from their main approach track was a supply of arms and ammunition which they could never have imagined themselves capable of acquiring. Perhaps it illustrates how dense the jungle is and proves what those who spent weeks patrolling know, namely that visibility in thick jungle varies between 5 and 10 yards. Interestingly and almost as a postscript, the other missing Liberator was found about three years later in the South of Malaya.

The patrols of 7 Platoon and 12 Platoon did not end with this discovery for we discovered that at night we could see what appeared to be a flashing light coming from the West. We took bearings of this light and although the maps of the area were extremely bad we believe that the light must be coming from a cliff, on a long high ridge to the West.

It was decided that a patrol consisting of John Staheli, myself, Sgt Jackman, Sgt Dummelow and Fus Greenside would investigate. We set out and found ourselves on a knife-edge ridge with a track with a maximum width of three feet. There appeared to be no way to spot the cliff face but eventually a relatively clear but very steep slope on the North side of the ridge apparently ended in a precipice over a sheer drop. It was decided to investigate and Greenside went down first followed by Sgt Dummelow. Sgt Jackman then went down indicating that a vine hanging down was not securely anchored. I then went down followed by John Staheli who stumbled, grabbed the vine which gave way and hurtled down the slope. As he passed me I grabbed his carbine hoping to stop him but this had no effect. At the cliff edge he hit a tree with the crook of his right arm and spun right around the tree before falling into overhanging vines, which by the grace of God held him. We dragged him out and retreated to the ridge path where all of us sat and dragged at cigarettes, deeply shocked. John had lost his jungle hat and by chance a week later we found it at the bottom of what was a 300-foot cliff. When we returned to the camp still shocked. John's remarked to me perhaps summed him up well 'Blair for God's sake don't tell Patricia'.

12 Platoon moved north two weeks later and were lifted out having spent six weeks on patrol. 7 Platoon went north a week later carrying as many of our re-supply parachutes as we could manage and we were

also lifted out having spent exactly seven weeks on patrol, our longest ever sojourn in the jungle but one this has remained etched on the memory as probably the most unusual patrol carried out by 1 RSF.

## THE DEATH OF LANCE CORPORAL ANDREW FLEMING

*Col A J B Agnew*



*LCpl Andrew Fleming – RSF*

In August 1955 C Company 1 RSF were operating in the area north of Kroh in northern Perak. 7 Platoon had been tasked with a patrol, which was to last for 28 days, and by 1st August they had completed approximately three weeks of the patrol. During this time it had rained virtually non-stop and the jungle was even wetter than usual. A resupply airdrop was due within the next couple of days and it was decided to maintain the base camp in its location until after the drop. After the usual daytime patrolling the Platoon settled down for the night. As always they were in three-man bashas in a circle for all round protection.

Andrew Fleming had been called up for National Service in 1953 and had completed his basic training as a Cameronian at Winston Barracks, Lanark. He had then been posted to 1 RSF in Malaya and had joined C Company after completing his initial jungle training. His two closest friends were Corporal Wattie Craig and Fusilier Brannigan and these three always shared a basha. On the night of 1 August they had discussed as always, who should sleep in the middle and on this occasion Andrew Fleming had lost the battle and found himself with the central slot. It was to prove to have been the unluckiest thing that could have happened.

The rain continued throughout the night and at 0220 hrs on 2 August the entire Platoon were woken up by what sounded like a rifle shot. Everyone shot upright including the three in Andrew Fleming's basha and at that moment Andrew Fleming was hit directly on the head by a section of waterlogged branch measuring approximately seven feet long by 1 foot diameter. He was killed outright but miraculously neither Craig nor Brannigan were harmed.

It was pitch black and there was nothing that could be done until first



light, which came at approximately 0600 hrs. When light came the Platoon stood to as always and the signaller Fus Eddie Kerr started to try and contact Bn HQ at Kroh. We classified the signal as Op Immediate and when we did get through we arranged that we would carry Andrew Fleming's body out to the nearest road.

We then set to to make a stretcher using poncho capes and parachute cord and having wrapped the body in a blanket and a piece of parachute the long carry started.

One party went ahead to ensure safety whilst another group started to cut a path through thick jungle to enable the carrying party to make progress. It was slow work but progress was made and after some time we came to a broad and deep river. This was a river, which we had not seen before and by sheer chance we found that there was a single-plank-wire suspension bridge crossing at the point where we needed to cross. There was however a major problem in that the stretcher was both heavy and unwieldy and any weight on the single plank caused the two suspension wires to close in. Patently there was no way that two men could cross side by side.

At that point the situation was saved by the actions of two men in the Platoon. Fus Eck Campbell, the Pl Comd's batman, and Fus Kelligan who was a Bren Gunner, were both big men and as it turned out they were immensely strong. Using parachute webbing as straps they slung the stretcher between them and advanced onto the bridge. The wires closed in and the two soldiers inched forward forcing the wires apart as they advanced. It was the most incredible demonstration of sheer strength and will-power and a fitting tribute to a much liked and admired comrade and friend. Shortly after crossing the river we reached the RV and Lance Corporal Fleming's body was handed over to a party from Bn HQ and taken to Kroh. The carrying party and escort having completed their task turned around and went back into the jungle to carry on with the patrol, which lasted for another ten days. Andrew Fleming's body was taken from Kroh to BMH Taiping and he was then buried with full Military Honours in the Military Section of the Christian Cemetery in Taiping where his gravestone stands today as a memorial to a first-class young man whose death was a tragedy caused by a freak of nature akin to one being struck by lightning although in this case no lightning was involved but rather it was the effect of days of continuous rain making branches which already were sodden, finally give way under the weight of water.



Gravestone of LCpl Andrew Fleming in Taiping

Sadly none of the members of 7 Platoon were at the funeral as they had resumed their patrol.

Andrew Fleming's family lived near Blantyre and the author visited them in 1956 when he himself returned from Malaya. His father had lost a leg serving with The Cameronians and now mourned with pride a son lost so far from home and one who had served The Royal Scots Fusiliers so well.

## THE WAY WE WERE

### *Lt Col I Shepherd*

Most people who served in the 1st Battalion in the 1960s will remember Major D I A Mack – Donald. Mentioned in Dispatches as a platoon commander with the Royal Scots Fusiliers in Malaya, his B Company route marches in Malta paid dividends when we set off on the long advance to contact across the Libyan desert from near Castel Benito airport to Tarhuna (an event commemorated in [the then] Pipe Sergeant David Caird's tune 'C Company's March to Tarhuna'). Donald Mack was an outstanding military historian with an amazing memory – he could, and would, quote long passages of prose or poetry at the drop of a hat. All that is but background to his other wonderful attribute: he was a cartoonist of great ability. Wherever he went, and on any available material – paper napkin, beer mat, menu card, but best of all on a sheet of paper, prompted by some remark, he would suddenly start drawing. His cartoons were well-drawn figures, one frequently the same youth, and all invariably started by drawing the forearm of the main figure. One that I remember encapsulated the characteristics, as he saw them, of the three rifle companies: A Company was represented by an officer in Service Dress; B was an officer in Blue Patrols, complete with gloves, dirk and cane; but C Company was a steel helmeted head, peering out of a slit trench as bullets whizzed about: Combat C had its reputation from the beginnings of The Royal Highland Fusiliers.

The cartoon illustrated in the next page is perhaps appropriate for the moment and recalls the words of a song 'Those were the days, my friend, We thought they'd never end'. In the mid-1960s rumours were rife about a Corps of Infantry, a policy which was put to flight by the formation of the Scottish Division. In the picture Prendergast and his companion have just run past a sign saying "You are now entering Scotlandshire" with a posse of fierce Colonels of our Regiments chasing them back to London. Just look at those Colonels – red faced, sword, horse whip, gun, fiery cross and flag waving, they could put any number of Army Boards to flight.

Ah Yes, I Remember Them Well .....

Well, it is now thirty-seven years since Mack drew his cartoon and times have changed. I considered substituting 'Jackson' for 'Prendergast' then thought that would not reflect the reality of today. My opinion was confirmed when, a few months ago, the Second-in-Command of the 1st Battalion told me that life was not now as it was in my day: no longer, he said, could the Second-in-Command sit lingering over his port at lunch time. I did not mention this to my wife: her memories of my tour in that post are somewhat different. However, it is pleasing to imagine one's life being viewed in such a restful sunset glow.

I have not sought Major Mack's permission to reproduce this work of his. I trust he will not object because I find it a more accurate memory of the past and our outlook in the late 1960s than that of my alleged port-drinking luncheons in Hemer circa 1979 to 1981 or of the even more frantic present. It reflects also, the view held by most of us then, that our Regiment should not be touched – Nemo Nos Impune Lacesset, indeed.

Those Were The Days, my friends ... and they have ended!









## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

*Sue Drummond*

*(Editor's Notes: Sue Drummond is the wife of Brig John Drummond)*

The other day Willie Shaw said to me, "You should have started this when you were seventeen", and in a sense he's right. To go and live on my own in the Sinai mountains amongst the Bedouin in order to work on a survey was one of my more hasty decisions. Of course in a way it did start when I was younger because at the age of 21 I joined the WRAC as an officer cadet with the sole desire of becoming an Adventure Training Instructor. I only served six months before getting married, 'Services No Longer Required'! appeared on my release papers. So that was the end of that. But this whole thing with the Bedouin started unexpectedly one day when out running a long hill race in Scotland. My running mate told me about a charity called the Makhad Trust that aimed to help nomadic people and in particular the Bedouin in the Sinai deserts and mountains.

Having joined them on one working party I became involved in the organisation and was sent out to St Katherine's village underneath Mount Sinai to set up an 'overseas' office. As these things often go in that part of the world the office building was discovered to be unfinished. I would have camped in it but there was no water nearby. Instead of returning to the UK I was offered the chance of staying in the Sinai to do another project. This was to produce a survey of all the so-called 'lost' gardens in the mountains. These gardens which have been around since pre and early Christian times are being neglected by the Bedouin who own them. They are wonderful gardens sitting in narrow high up wadis surrounded by old walls and growing mainly fruit and olives; many of the trees have been there for over 1,000 years. The Makhad Trust want to try and restore some of the gardens and encourage productivity. Many of the Bedouin have moved away from their traditional areas and live in wretched circumstances near to the tourist areas at Sharm el Sheikh and other coastal resorts.

In addition to the garden survey I was to walk the high mountain routes, take notes and generally familiarise myself with the area with the view to becoming an additional 'tour leader'. We have been conducting college/schools and private parties of walkers on challenging routes through the desert and mountains for some years now and in order to expand we need more trained leaders. Taking parties of people through the mountains means that local Bedouin are being employed as guides, camel drivers, cooks etc and the gardens are used for camping. Everything is planned with careful regard to the fragile environment.

While I was doing the two surveys which took two and a half months my home base was in one of these gardens and I was looked after by two of our permanent Bedouin staff. The food cooked for me was delicious: flat corn bread, lentils, vegetable soup, salads and always apricots which were falling off all the trees. I slept on a mattress under the stars (it rarely rains) in a sort of rock enclosure protected from the wind. Near me was a cave where I kept my belongings and around it curled a wild fig tree. The compostable toilet and shower building was made from palm fronds and the shower itself the simple means of a hose end. If you timed it well the water from the hose was quite hot – so I had all the home comforts I needed really.

The first time I went out alone along the high trails with only a Bedouin guide, our packs and the camel (which carried our food by an easier route), I must admit I was a bit scared. These Bedouin, the Jebeliya tribe, have a great respect for women so I had no worries

there, also I had climbed with my guide before and knew I could match him for fitness and energy; I guess it was just a nameless, 'how-would-I-get-on' kind of a fear.' Our first three-day trip involved a descent of some 2000 ft from the high mountains down to the desert following a very ancient camel trail. Crusaders had walked this route and I was very excited thinking about it all. We passed an ancient stone leopard trap and many old Bedouin houses built around caves and the view from the mountains down to the desert was breathtaking.

Down in the shade of some date palms, my first meal was memorable. We, that is me, my guide and the camel man sat cross-legged round the little fire and ate ziziphus berries that lay on the ground. Liba, thick bread, was made by pounding flour and water together on a piece of old camel saddle and then baked in the fire embers. The bread was spread with oily tuna fish eaten straight from the can with a penknife. We never had plates or cutlery. Coffee was sweet and flavoured with cardamon and made in a rusty tin found lying about. An old well provided the water, which was pulled up by a rope attached to the ubiquitous kerosene tin. Strangely enough I was never ill the whole time I was there.

That night I lay on a thin mattress listening to the whine of mosquitoes and the camel eating his way through thorny scrub. I could hear the low murmur of my guide and the camel man still talking about 20 yards away round the campfire. The sky was huge with stars and a plane's lights flashed amongst them on its way back to Britain, I felt terribly alone.

By the third day on this trip I was becoming more used to camp life, and had adapted my survey into something more manageable. It was difficult trying to climb the walls around the gardens, observe the water supply, count the trees, old buildings, take a photograph and the GPS reading, and note down all these details in blistering heat, I'd discovered. To make things harder, our survey was covert in as much as we did not want the Egyptian authorities to learn of our interest. They have been very sensitive about the South Sinai since the Six-Day War in 1967 and its subsequent control by the Israelis for a further 20 years. In addition I was working off an inadequate tourist map. This area is under UN Multi-Force Observation and the only decent maps are either Egyptian military, or old Israeli military. Even if I'd been able to obtain one it would have been difficult for me if I'd been caught with it.

When we passed our first opium gardens back up in a high lonely pass I hastily stuffed my notebook and equipment into my pack. However the poppy growers, four indescribably filthy and villainous looking men, seemed pleased to see us and invited us to take tea with them as is the custom with the Bedouin. We sat under a rock amongst their few possessions and shared three glasses between us. I tried to fold my legs away and appear smaller – it was quite difficult to believe it was me. What would the Trust make of it, I wondered, and should I include the poppy gardens in my survey? Although I was well covered in a long khaki shirt trousers and foreign legion style hat the poppy growers were obviously intrigued by my light eyes and fair hair. To my great delight they put my age at 38 which perhaps is a better age to start an adventure, don't you think Willie?

I had other trips alone some of them requiring hard rock scrambling, climbing up crevasses and under cracks and then John came out to join me for three weeks. Of course we did not let on that he'd been in the Army. It was great to be together in such a wonderful place and we climbed some of the mountains and sat on the tops looking out across the incredible red landscape down to the desert and the



*Brig John Drummond on top of Gebel Umm Gasba, height 7,300ft*



*Brig John Drummond with marijuana in Wadi Isla, South Sinai*



*Sue Drummond cleaning pans at campsite in of Bedouin gardens – South Sinai*



Gulf of Suez. One night when we were sleeping a fox stole our bags of salt and rice and carried them off. The two Bedouin were very upset and we followed the trails into the rocks in a fruitless search. It was a worry to be without salt in that heat and we had three more hard days to go.

Another more entertaining incident, for me anyway, was watching John make polite conversation with a group of heavily veiled but beautiful Bedouin women in the village who had become my friends. Often unable to converse with some of the women myself I tended to show them photographs of my family, which I carried in my daypack. One of these was of John carrying our six-month-old son on his back as we scaled a hill in Scotland. This photo always caused much excited comments, as did the sight of John in a kilt so they were fascinated to meet him. Incidentally I was known by the women as 'Umm Robbie' (Mother of Robbie my elder son). I noticed that in passing from one culture to another I had now progressed from 'wife of' to 'mother of'.

But it was not all fun. In order to communicate with the outside world I had to climb over a high pass and walk down into St Katherine's which took nearly an hour and was always hot and windy. Once there I could use a mobile to call UK or go to the cafenet and struggle with emails. I never could discover exactly when the cafenet opened and often had to wait hours in the sun. Once inside the narrow room it was baking hot so that sweat poured off me and my fingers slipped on the keys. There was only one working computer and the Bedouin passing the open door stopped and stared in at me. I tried not to look up and meet their eyes and kept my hat pulled down over my face.

Near the end of John's time in Sinai we did a five-day trip during which we climbed a particularly stunning Mountain, Gebel Umm Shaumar (ht 8387 ft). The next day we progressed down Wadi Isla (ht 2315 ft) towards an oasis where there were supposed to be pools of water, we had seen pictures of it and were looking forward to a swim. The wadi was very wide and hot and contained only abandoned gardens with dead trees, some signs of poppy growing and much evidence of fruitless well digging. We knew that because of the drain on water from the hotel resorts on the coast the water table in desert has fallen dramatically making it difficult for the Bedouin to live. In this wadi it had fallen by eight metres and all the wells had obviously dried up. When we reached the oasis there were no pools and the date palms had been burned by the Egyptian police, presumably to discourage the drug growers. The only water for us to drink was from a small stone water tank buried amongst marijuana some distance away on a small rise. Two days later we were making our way back to Sharm for John to fly back when we were taken into a Bedouin village where we were to change from the jeep that had brought us out of the desert to a taxi. The dirt, poverty and sickness in the village was depressing and an hour later when we sat beside the pool at the Hilton in Sharm amongst the fat western bodies consuming vast quantities of water and food we felt profoundly shocked.

While I was there we had two groups of students came out from colleges to walk in the mountains and form working parties. Our Director/Leader has run the Everest Base Camp and has been part of many expeditions so he didn't need assistance. But as I was in the gardens anyway I tried to help where I could and after that was asked to train as a tour leader myself which seems to be another interesting opportunity. First I have to pass a mountain first aid course and then begin the lengthy training for a Mountain Leaders Training Board qualification. I would also like to do a basic rock-climbing course – this is why Willie thinks I should have started sooner. Now back at

home and having written up all the reports we are busy with administration and finance.

I'm not properly trained in any of these things yet, but I expect I'll learn, I've always liked adventures. I wonder if my past life connected to the Army has somehow prepared me for this – all that packing up and adapting to a new life each time we moved, all the different people we met, all the changes of jobs and activities. It was a great life with the Army, full of fun and interest and friendships but I guess there's plenty more still to come.



*Sue Drummond on top of Gebel Abbas Pasha, height 7552ft – South Sinai*

## BITS AND PIECES FROM MALAYA (2)

*(This is the second Part of a series of extracts from Major D I A Mack's letters written when serving as a Platoon Commander in 1 RSF in Malaya during the Emergency.)*

**Royal Scots Fusiliers Adv Pty**  
**Nee Soon Camp, c/o GPO**  
**Singapore,**

**1 March 1954 [Thursday]**

After a final run from Colombo I've arrived. I've got two more suits of jungle green, a set of '44 pattern equipment, a waterproof bag, a poncho, a toggle-rope, a bedding line, a machete, a lightweight blanket, a pair of hockey boots and a pair of jungle boots, so I'm all set, apart from the issue of a medical kit, to enter the jungle. Anyway I don't we'll be taken on a very gruelling patrol as (a) no platoon commander would care to have some untrained bodies round his neck on an important operation; and (b) our CO would be livid if someone got killed.

The area we're taking over isn't a very hot one as we'll be a new battalion and we'll have to find our feet, but even so the Manchesters have an awful reputation out here; the bandits seem to have the upper hand of them and they've lost more than the bandits [casualties]. If we say 'Oh yes, we're relieving the Manchesters' in public, its rather like saying 'I'm the new tenant of Frankenstein Castle'.



## **6 Mar 1954 [Tuesday]**

We're now with the Manchesters, in the battalion base at Butterworth. The journey up was very comfortable. Nothing happened although bandits do derail trains from time to time and we were carrying ammunition in case of attack. The train was pretty well guarded by Malay police, and behind the engine was a flat truck with a kind of steel truck built on top of it; this was the train's strong point, again in case of accidents.

In the mountains are a group of about 150 bandits who are our particular enemy. At present they're a bit part-worn as they've been hammered stupid by mortars, artillery and bombers, followed by foot patrols; two were killed in January and at present they're lying low for they haven't been seen since then.

## **17 Mar 1954 [Wednesday]**

One works in small patrols about 75 yards apart, moving in a straight line on a compass bearing; one starts on a line such as a crest or a stream and advances about half a mile per day, stopping on a check line, again a stream or ridge and camping there for the night. The advantage of this type of op is that one doesn't travel each day and camp is generally set up by midday; the disadvantage is that one carries one's pack, weighing about 25 pounds, all the time, and one has to keep on one's compass bearing, regardless of streams, hills, swamps and thickets.. [Later I weighed a pack, complete with 4 day's rations, poncho, spare clothing etc, and found it weighed 30 pounds; one's weapon, belt, ammunition pouch and water bottle adds about 18-20 pounds – more if one is a Bren gunner!]

I learned pretty quickly how to build a basha, either two-man or three-man; your poncho makes the roof, another is the floor and the straight saplings for the frame are very easy to come by, and it takes about half an hour to set one up completely. The camp is built in a circle with the bashas facing outward and the patrol commanders in the centre; the best sits is on a spur or rising round, near a stream, and there are plenty of streams in the jungle – it's like the Highlands.

My load consisted of my haversack ('44 pattern) crammed with my rations and my towel down the inner side to prevent the cans from chafing and on one side of it a mess tin with my washing kit inside it. In the other pocket was the other mess tin with a camera inside that; rolled up and strapped underneath was my poncho and inside that a mosquito net and a complete change of clothing, including socks and underwear. On my belt were a machete and water bottle, and, finally, my carbine and ammunition. The weight of the pack is no bother as long as you extend the straps and carry it low down on the back; this also prevents it from rubbing close against the back, and allows the air to circulate.

On the second last day of the op 'B' Coy found some of the bandits. A patrol came down a spur that they were on and found them building a camp. Unfortunately they sentry saw them before they came on the main body, and fired at them, thus warning. The birds flew, but they left their packs and one shotgun, which the patrol bore triumphantly out of the jungle the next day.

Last night 'D' Company set up an ambush round a hut, where they had been told by the police that a party of terrorists were going to collect food supplies. The hut was surrounded, and at the right moment a fearsome assortment of weapons opened up, blowing the hut into a heap of burning rubbish. But the real supply point had been a hundred yards away, and the bandits got away, but without their food or their packs.

There's our total then. No kills, which is a pity, but ten bandits, just as they were setting up camp were driven off and lost all their kit, and a food party returned empty-handed and again without their kit. That's the way to sicken them. Unfortunately Templer wants deaders; to double the number of kills per contact is his aim.

## **Far East Training Centre, Kota Tinggi**

### **1 Royal Scots Fusiliers Adv Party, c/o GPO Singapore,**

## **29 March 1954 [Monday]**

I'm at the FARELF Training Centre at Kota Tinggi and have been here since Monday. We got away to a depressing start with three days of continuous rain, but that has cleared up and given way to the usual glaring sun. Before I left for Malaya I was told that it would rain at the same time every day for half an hour, but I've seen every kind of rain except that. The only common factor is that it usually rains in the afternoon or early evening but that's only a very rough guide.

The first week of the course has consisted mainly of demonstrations and lectures but next week we have two days of jungle navigation and jungle battle drills and then a two-and-half- day exercise involving setting up a base camp and patrolling. Our one piece of real activity was an ambush exercise in the small hours of Saturday morning. We were divided into sections and my section was to ambush a party of bandits who were coming to collect food from a hut in a rubber estate at first light.

This involved setting out at 3 am and moving on foot to the ambush position where we settled down and waited. The wait was for four hours as the bandits didn't show up until after eight so I learned all about lying still for a long time. Fortunately there were no mosquitos to speak of and we seemed to have avoided the attention of the creepy-crawlies who starve for 364 days of the year until you come along and set up a blood bank in their midst. Eventually the bandits, having finished breakfast, arrived at the position without seeing or hearing us, and four more Injuns bit the dust.

## **4 Apr 1954 [Sunday]**

As you will have probably read, the battalion sailed in the "Asturias" on 1 April and we'll soon be part of it again; it's a change when the exile's home comes back to him. As far as I know we're getting a Gurkha pipe band to play them in and we'll be on the quay in fresh, starched olive green to meet them all disembarking in crumpled, sweaty, issue jungle-green. The colonel [Lt Colonel M.R.J. Hope Thomson DSO QBE MC] joined us last week and has now gone up to Kedah to look around and is meeting us again at Selarang Barracks.



## RSF in Malaya 1954-57





## RETURN TO THE “SCOTTISH CORRIDOR”

*Captain Ian Munro MC*

My son Andrew returned again to Normandy at the end of June, not this time as part of a Brigade group, but on a private visit apart from another official commemoration at Cheux on 26th June with Ted Thurston of 10th HLI. We were received by our good friend Madame Odile La Foll, Maire of Cheux and a representative group of her citizens.

Ted and I with an officer of 7th RTR and a representative of 43rd Division, flanked by six French standard bearers laid wreaths beside the HLI Memorial (placed by Ted in 2004). The gracious Maire promised to commemorate the Liberation every year. (My son assured me that he would attend the 70th Anniversary, if I am no longer there myself!)

We started this year at “Jig Green” Beach at Le Hamel, where we first drove ashore on “D” + 7, to the dewater proofing area well inland. Owing to the storm, 11th Armoured Div were unable to land in the heavy swell. We had to await their arrival in the middle of a heavy artillery area (5.9 in and 7.2in) so we had very little sleep before we heard the mumble of tanks and the relief that we would soon be in action (in 1944!).

St Manvieu was little changed since last year, except that the houses have now been built opposite our “Place de 6th Royal Scots Fusiliers”. They have left a clear plot opposite the Memorial so that you can still see the dried river bed where we first engaged the fanatical “Hitler Youth” 12th SS Division in that bloody battle.

St Manvieu itself does not commemorate its Liberation by 6th RSF, but after the Cheux ceremony, Ted Thurston and I laid wreaths in memory of those who died at the time, at the cemetery on the road to Cheux. This year the flowers were at their best, magnificent red, pink and yellow roses. I had a long talk with the devoted French gardener, and am writing to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to see if he could receive some recognition for his magnificent dedication to his work.

We also returned to 15th (S) Div Memorial at Touaille, then on to Baron, the scene of further heavy fighting for the 6th RSF.

We found the 43rd Div Memorial at “Hill 112” a very insignificant feature, which cost many British lives with little to show for the capture, loss and recapture of that bleak spot. There is also a Churchill Tank Memorial beside the road, our most supportive AFV, particularly when used as an SP Gun with a 17 pdr, most effective against Tiger tanks, from which 75 mm shells bounced off!

We paid our first visit to Pegasus Bridge Museum, memorial to 6th Airborne Div, where the British curator gave me a very attractive paperweight in heavy brass as a souvenir. His French wife is curator of the Canadian Museum at Courseulles, Surmen, where they landed on “D” Day. This museum, though small is a very fine memorial to our gallant Canadians and has the most comprehensive collection of artefacts, very accurate, that I have come across. Unfortunately the Canadians do not visit in great numbers, it is too far East to attract the Americans, and they have to rely on the French and particularly British visitors, of whom they could do with a lot more, which I commend.

On our return journey to Cherbourg for our ferry we visited Chaumont,

the scene of heavy fighting and where Col Colin Buchanan was wounded, but there is little to show for it now.



*Ted Thurston and the author at St Manvieu Cemetery*



*Major Andrew Agnew's and Fus “Don” Munford's graves (front left and right)*



*Captain Ian Munro MC saluting the Lord Lieutenant for Dorset in the Wimborne VE/VJ Parade on 17th July 2005*





# THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT'S SPEECH GIVEN AT THE REGIMENTAL DINNER NIGHT ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2005

Gentlemen, may I bid a warm welcome to you all. Before start I should like to thank David Hills and his team for allowing us once again to use Lincoln's Inn; it is a magnificent setting.

Last year when we met in the New Club I gave you a flavour of the Army's plans for reorganisation. Ten months down the track the picture is now clearer and although some details are still to be decided I thought you would appreciate an update. There is to be a new Regiment: it will consist of five Regular and two TA Battalions and I hope, as a result of further discussions, the Infantry capbadged ACFs in Scotland may come under our wing and wear the insignia of the new Regiment. We are to be The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland and our permanent home will be a brand new Barracks at Glencorse. I visited there in the Spring, it is a fantastic build in terms of quality and style and I hope in the years to come it will be the focus for many happy gatherings and reunions. Despite what you may have read in the press, the six Working Groups - which include the subjects of Recruiting and Marketing, the new Infantry Postings Policy and Regimental Issues - have been made up not of the Council of Colonels in a smoke-filled room but of senior serving officers, the COs, the RSMs and, even on some working groups, Retired Officers! Given the scale of the endeavour and the emotional bill to be paid, they have made remarkable progress. The new capbadge was launched at Edinburgh Castle on 16 August. The new recruiting organisation is to be launched on 01 November and I am going to London to speak to all Scottish MPs in Westminster on 25 October. I will also speak to the Lord Provosts and City Councils of the principal cities of Scotland over the Winter to explain how events will unfold in 2006. I expect the process of change to be complete by 01 January 2007.

Over time the 2nd Battalion will develop its own identity but for the foreseeable future its personality will be that of the RHF. To be sure we will be in the Government Tartan but we will keep part of our name, our traditional soldier recruiting area, we will continue to nurture potential officers and keep our customs and traditions. Assaye should, in my view, remain central to the folklore of the 2nd Battalion and this feeling is felt keenly in the Sergeants' Mess. The serving men feel strongly that we should make the changes work by ensuring that we get the golden thread right, while embracing the spirit of reform. I do find a certain symmetry with former times that the second oldest Scottish regiment of the line with a record of service second to none is about to become the 2nd Battalion of the new Regiment. Many of the recent decisions have been painful to take but we must not take counsel of our fears. In 1959 Mike Evetts wrote "those of us privileged to serve for those last few months in the Battalion were secure in the knowledge that the best traditions of the Regiment would live on" and I think it is with that spirit in our hearts that we should move forward. I am pleased to tell you that the

current regalia and tartan of the Pipes and Drums will be carried forward into the new arrangements. And we are optimistic that our RHQ - probably to be known as Home HQ in the future - will carry on its outstanding work in Glasgow.

Within the regimental family the ACF continue to thrive under John Kelly and David Steele's leadership in Glasgow and Ayrshire. Their Massed Pipes and Drums performed in the Spring at Edinburgh Castle and one of our girls from the West Lowland Battalion Senior Drum Major was on parade. Piping & Drumming and Small Bore shooting continue to be particular strengths in these two ACF Battalions.

Our sister TA Battalion is now under the robust leadership of Sam Burns who took over in October 2004 and he is ably assisted in his work by Jocky Frew, Jason French and RSM Hunter. One of Sam Burns' early gestures was to present Fus Russell Beaston's Iraq Medal to his young nephew Ian and Mrs Beaston and rest of family present. We organised a similar event for the family of Fus Gentle at RHQ in the Winter of last year. The highlights of 52 Lowland Regiment have centred on their very credible 3rd place in the LAND GPMG (SF) Competition. Producing 37 soldiers for mobilised service on operations and a Partnership for Peace exercise in Ukraine in which 35 personnel from the battalion took part. Gordon Walker's Pipes and Drums came 5th in the Grade 2 World Pipe Band Championships and RSM Hunter recently organised an enormously successful Assaye Dinner at Hotspur Street.

I was lucky enough the other day to attend an RSF Gathering at the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock. More than 200 former officers and soldiers were present and I was struck by just how vivid their memories were. Before I went to the gathering Anthony Gordon had sent me a touching email from South Africa saying "one of the organisers is Andrew Blackley, from Irvine. He is a very good chap and was one of the best Armoured Scout Car drivers in the MT platoon. HOW I WISH I COULD BE THERE!"

We maintain our contacts with our Affiliated Regiments:

- I had the New Zealand High Commissioner to stay in August and talked seriously with him about trying to rekindle the RNZIR connection.
- Patrick Fox has written in with news from Pakistan that 11 Baloch have moved from Gilgit to Sialkot in the Punjab. He sent some details about reviving that connection saying at one stage "the papers which the 1st Battalion should action are self-explanatory although they first must select someone who can manage without alcohol for six weeks".
- Prince Alfred's Guard. Major Sandy Fitzpatrick travelled with a team of Jocks to South Africa last year to compete in Ex SWARTKOP CHALLENGE. They won the competition and hope to repeat the experience in 2006.
- RHF of Canada. Colonel Terry Wilder remains in close touch and we hope that they will play - as they did at the Tercentenary - a prominent part in the Colours Parade that we will have at some stage once the 1st Battalion has returned from Cyprus.

1st Battalion. Keeping the best news till last, we now have six RHF WO1s serving in the Infantry; for a single battalion regiment this is a remarkable achievement. Officer recruiting is going exceptionally





well; four young officers are to be on Sovereign's Parade in December 2005 and ten Potential Officers visited the Battalion in Cyprus earlier this month. The Battalion was in Iraq in February and although they come off a year on the 'readiness roster' in November 2005 there is a chance they may return to Iraq next month to cover the Referendum. The Colonel-in-Chief visited in February 2005, Cpl Houston of A Coy won the Rowallan Targe and a very successful Boxing Final was held in Cyprus at the time of the handover of COs. Lieutenant Colonel Paul Harkness is now in command and the battalion is busy training both on and off the island. The CO tells me: "Training in support of the Defence Fire Service has proved invaluable, especially as B Coy have habitually set fire to the training area on a number of occasions; several thousands of square meters have fallen victim to them, although it is difficult to tell as the training area is mostly scrub".

Recruiting is going well. Last year we were the only Battalion in the Scottish Division to reach and exceed our targets.

The Battalion will be back in Glencorse by Easter 2006 and I can think of no better way of closing this address by quoting from a letter that I received recently from CO 1RHF.

"In terms of the transition to the new organisation, the Battalion is extremely positive. The new capbadge has been well received, with favourable comments made across all ranks. The move to Glencorse and the creation of our new home is giving us all plenty to think about. Please pass on our warmest thanks and gratitude to all members of the Regiment, both past and present, for their continuing and unwavering support."

## ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND INFORMATION NOTE: ISSUE 1

*(Editor's Notes: Details from The Royal Regiment of Scotland Information Note Issue 1 issued on 30 September 2005 by Headquarters The Scottish Division, Edinburgh are shown below)*

The aim of this and following Information Notes is to inform all ranks on issues relating to the formation of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

### CAPBADGE



The capbadge was launched on 16th August at Edinburgh Castle. It will be worn by all ranks from Formation Day, which will be no later than the end of March 2006.

It is composed of the Saltire, which since 1672 has been the National Badge of Scotland; the Lion Rampant, which has been used in the Royal Arms of

Scotland since the early 13th Century and was chosen as a symbol of strength and the position of the lion as one of the most noble of beasts in the wild; the Crown of Scotland which is a representation of the Crown in Edinburgh Castle. The motto **'No one invokes me**

**with impunity'** is inextricably linked with the Order of the Thistle and has long been associated with the Royal Arms.

## THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND VISION

We are The Nation's Regiment, founded on the enduring bedrock of our historic regiments; united by our past and confident in the future. We will excel in the best roles that our Army can offer, sustained by the pride and support of our communities. Our success will be guaranteed, as it always has been, by the courage, good humour and selflessness of the Scottish Soldier

## COLONEL COMMANDANT'S MESSAGES

**This is a watershed opportunity to restructure our regiments to meet the operational challenges of today and tomorrow**

We must recruit for a choice of roles across the largest Infantry Regiment – Air Assault, Armoured Infantry and Light battalions all of which may be in deployable brigades. Get out and recruit! Recruits will be allocated to battalions based on the traditional recruiting areas, unless a recruit asks for a specific role or location.

Arms Plotting is 'congealing', thereby making more battalions available for operations. Individual aspirations and versatility will be provided for and career variety will be maintained and enhanced by the Infantry Individual Posting Policy – already the RS and KOSB soldiers' view is that they are pleased to have the opportunity to take more ownership of their careers and were delighted to see that their choices were being actioned.

The Regiment will form no later than 31 March 2006. The Kings Own Scottish Borderers Battalion and The Royal Scots Battalion of The Royal Regiment of Scotland will merge to form one Battalion in late summer 2006, giving the Regiment five Regular and two TA battalions.

The Golden Thread - linking to past, through the present to the future is essential. RHQs have a key role to play and will probably be re-named 'Home HQs' on Formation Day. The new RHQ for the Regiment will be in Edinburgh Castle. The split of responsibilities is still being worked on in detail, but the principle is that Home HQ will deal with the old and the new RHQ the new. Home HQ will provide the essential link into the local communities from which the new Regiment will continue to derive its strength.