

The Royal Regiment of Scotland



MAY 2008

Journal





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Pte's Hancock & MacDonald, taking a little rest



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Contributions

We welcome letters, articles and comments
from our readers. If you have an issue to raise,
questions to ask or a story to tell that will be of
interest to The Royal Regiment of Scotland, write
to us at The Castle, Edinburgh EH1 2YT.
All contributions are accepted at the editor's
discretion and may be edited for length.



RHQ Journal

The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Colonel in Chief

Her Majesty The Queen

Royal Colonels:

The Royal Scots Borderers

HRH The Princess Royal

The Royal Highland Fusiliers

HRH The Prince Andrew

The Black Watch

HRH The Duke of Rothesay

The Highlanders

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders,

HM The Queen

52nd Lowland, 6th Battalion

HRH The Princess Royal

51st Highland, 7th Battalion

HRH The Duke of Rothesay

Colonel of the Regiment

Lieutenant General AJN Graham CBE

Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

Lieutenant Colonel ACB Whitelaw

Regimental Headquarters:

Regimental Secretary

Major (Retd) C A Campbell

Assistant Regimental Secretary (1)

Major (Retd) F Morton OBE

Assistant Regimental Secretary (2)

Major (Retd) GR Akhurst MBE

Battalions:

The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel CLG Herbert

*The Royal Highland Fusiliers,
2nd Battalion*

Lieutenant Colonel NRM Borton MBE

The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel SJ Cartwright

The Highlanders, 4th Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel J Campbell

*The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders,
5th Battalion*

Lieutenant Colonel DC Richmond

52nd Lowland, 6th Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel CA Coull

51st Highland, 7th Battalion

Lieutenant Colonel DW Hay

Home Headquarters:

Colonel RP Mason

Home Headquarters

The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

The Castle

EDINBURGH EH1 2YT

Colonel RL Steele TD DL

Home Headquarters

The Royal Highland Fusiliers

*(Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and
Ayrshire Regiment)*

518 Sauchiehall Street

Glasgow G2 3LW

Lieutenant Colonel CGO Hogg OBE

Home Headquarters

The King's Own Scottish Borderers

The Barracks

Berwick-upon-Tweed

TD15 1 DG

Lieutenant Colonel RM Riddell

Home Headquarters

*The Black Watch (Royal Highland
Regiment)*

Balhouses Castle

PERTH

PH1 5HR

Tel: 0131-310-8530

Major M Gibson MBE

Home Headquarters

*The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and
Cameron's)*

Cameron Barracks

INVERNESS IV2 3XD

Major R Elliot BEM

Home Headquarters

*The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
(Princess Louise's)*

The Castle


STIRLING

FK8 3PA

Next Edition

The Next Edition will not be published until early in 2009, and will record in detail the activities of the whole Regiment throughout the calendar year 2008. Thereafter there will be a mid year 'Journal' along the lines of this edition intended to provide articles and other matters more of interest rather than military archive and record.

Units are asked to submit material for the next Journal, covering activities throughout the whole of 2008, by 1st December 2008. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Articles, letters, photographs etc can be submitted at any time. 



Foreword

You will notice a slightly re-designed Journal. It has been decided that to produce two editions annually of what each Battalion, and indeed what each Company and Department within each Battalion, is doing is unnecessary. Therefore, once per year, we will produce an annual 'Year Book', giving all the details. The second publication will consist of a brief summary from each unit, and then concentrate more on photographs, articles and the less formal.

All members of the Regiment, the wider Regimental family, and any contributors, are asked to consider this as their Journal, and to submit articles for it. Submissions are always welcome and can be received any time and may be on any topic which may be of interest to readers.

Much has been achieved over the last 2 years. The Regiment has clearly come of age, and this will doubtless be proven in the months to come with all Battalions either on operations, or preparing to deploy. In the background are a number of smaller matters, but all of which point to an organisation that is rapidly maturing. Inside this Journal there is a short article on the newly completed Regimental War Memorial. The One Day's Pay scheme is working well with a healthy take up right around the Regiment. This helps the Regimental


welfare work which is required and is setting up the Regimental finances for provision of welfare into the future, whilst provision is also being made for the welfare of those serving to-day.

The Scottish soldier continues to be regarded as second to none both within the British Army and in the world at large. General Andrew Graham, in his recent talks around the country, quoted from the book *Sword of Scotland* by General Anthony Leask late of the Scots Guards. In it he says:

"Scottish battalions of whatever Regiment have always had many capable officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers who took and continue to take real pride in the Regiment to which they belong, the battalion in which they serve and in their profession. Loyalty, courage, resilience and pride define the Jock; pride is a consequence of self-confidence, of confidence in others and of absolute confidence in the Regiment. These characteristics are part inherited from previous generations and part inherited through the regiments; combined they make the Jock a formidable adversary in any organisation. Those who join, or serve with, a Scottish regiment, and with a Scottish battalion within a Scottish Regiment, are instilled with these same qualities; the Jock is both born and

made, to be firm friend and feared and respected; it has always been so."

This is as true to-day of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, as it ever was of all of our predecessors. There is a clear spirit of 'strong battalions with clear identities in a strong Regiment' and this is understood all round the Regiment. The phrase the 'Golden Thread' is often quoted and means different things to different people. The Golden Thread builds and supports Battalions with strong, clear, individual identities and a sense of shared purpose within the Regiment. Separate, mutually exclusive Golden Threads which are parochial and self-serving will build battalion stove-pipes which can fall over. Everyone can be assured of the Regimental commitment to maintaining the Golden Thread, provided the detail meets the criteria above.

Scotland, and its wider environs, including, reportedly the First Minister, have now accepted the Regiment is a reality and welcome its arrival. It is now the task of all of us within it to assure the public what we all know; that it is as potent an entity as all those Regiments who have gone before, carrying with it the many years of shared heritage and is worth supporting and talking up. Let's all do it. 

Honours and Awards

CBE

496219 Col Alan Keith McCulloch Miller OBE
Late The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

MBE

523823 A/Maj Margaret Eleanor Walters
Orkney Independent Cadet Battery Army Cadet Force

QCVS

514877 Brig Michael Lawrence RIDDELL-WEBSTER DSO
Late the Black Watch

25022558 WO2 Paul Robert James DARGAVEL
The Royal Regiment of Scotland

541524 Maj James Christopher RODDIS
The Royal Regiment of Scotland

MiD

25030683 Cpl (A/Sgt) Scott William McLEOD
The Royal Regiment of Scotland

MSM

24716219 WO2 Ewen Robert Stuart

C IN C'S CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

563287 Capt Thomas McElroy Brass

JOINT COMMANDER'S COMMENDATIONS – OP TELIC

24626473 Sgt Kevin O'HARA – 7 SCOTS

BRONZE STAR MEDAL –

Decorations conferred by the President of the USA

510175 Col AWB Loudon OBE
Late the Black Watch



Promotions and Appointments

OFFICERS SELECTED FOR PROMOTION TO MAJOR ON 31 JUL 08

557939	Capt A Brown	3 SCOTS
548553	Capt DC Close	HQ 7 Armd Bde
553467	Capt A Cann	OP SP GP
554923	Capt PWA Crosbie	HQ 1 Mi Bde
552376	Capt GF Giles	4 SCOTS
552392	Capt RSJ Hedderwick	HQ 52 Inf Bde
548978	Capt AD Lumley	HQ 16 Air Asslt Bde
551793	Capt DI MacIntyre	4 SCOTS
547544	Capt TJ Petransky	HQ ARRC
548530	Capt JS Prowse	3 SCOTS
545443	Capt AP Richards	HQ 2 Inf Bde
553402	Capt GF Sefton	DGS
550066	Capt SJ Stanley	HQ 1 UK Armd Div
550831	Capt JR Tweedie	HQ 12 Mech Bde
557731	Capt G Tait	APC Glasgow (Selected to attend ICSC(L)5)
552508	Capt ARW Watson	3 SCOTS
555795	Capt CA Whitehead	5 SCOTS

PROMOTION TO WO1 IN PROMOTION YEAR 2008-09

24759423	WO2 D Tait	1 SCOTS
24797995	WO2 LJ McDougall	3 SCOTS
24707355	WO2 DG Campbell	5 SCOTS
24753721	WO2 M James	5 SCOTS
24755631	WO2 M Green	2 SCOTS
24759501	WO2 RM Penman	HQ Inf
24743493	WO2 AD Steele	TPS Osnabruck
24743703	WO2 DL Grant	PJHQ Northwood
24824648	A/WO1 N Hall	ASBM Edinburgh

COMMISSIONS

The following have been selected for commission in the year 1 Apr 08 to 31 Mar 09:

IRC (LE)

24738641	WO1 LI Campbell
24755665	WO1 SG Cochrane
24713943	WO1 AJ Cuthbertson
24743167	WO1 GR Hogg
24738541	WO1 D Hood
24811671	WO1 WC McAuley
24772549	WO1 D McCutcheon
24587943	WO1 MJ Pearson
24738964	WO1 SA Rae

Commissioned into AAC

IRC (LE)

24849997	WO2 EC McGilp
24716219	WO2 ER Stuart

Selected for ACSC 12 Lt Col's (and Maj's for Lt Col 08)

528409	Maj MJF Ewing	DCDS (EC)
528213	Maj AI Gray	4 SCOTS
537291	Maj EG Jones	3 SCOTS

Selected to attend ICSC(L)5

557731	Capt G Tait	APC Glasgow
552508	Capt ARW Watson	3 SCOTS



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with the
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Royal Regiment of Scotland

Command Appointments:

Scottish Division

533080 Lt Col CLG Herbert	1 SCOTS	Feb 08
525859 Lt Col SJ Cartwright	3 SCOTS	Mar 08
528845 Lt Col AJ Aitken MBE	4 SCOTS	Mar 09
533531 Maj (Lt Col 08) AWA Griffiths MBE	5 SCOTS	Jun 09

Infantry Training Commands

524309 Lt Col MP Hay	Support Weapons School	Jun 09
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E2 Training Commands

525870 Maj (Lt Col 08) TAS Hill MBE	2nd Bn ATC Pirbright	Jan 09
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E2 Misc Commands

521455 Lt Col DG Steel	MCTC	Aug 08
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UOTCs

Maj (Lt Col 08) SLEL Jackman TD	Glasgow & Strathclyde UOTC	Jul 08
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Appointments:

Lt Gen J Cooper DSO MBE (Late KOSB)	Deputy Commanding General Multi-National force – Iraq and Senior British Military Representative (Iraq)	Mar 08
517898 Brig JM Cowan OBE	Comd 11 Light Bde	Oct 07
517407 Col PAS Cartwright OBE	Dep Asst COS Combat Eqpt, HQ LAND Command	Nov 07
509202 Col RJK Bradford	Asst COS G3 HQ NATO, Rapid Deployment Corps, France	Dec 07
508839 Lt Col J Garven MBE	SO1 COS Joint Staff Div J3 HQ BF Cyprus	Oct 07
525834 Lt Col (Col 08) RB Bruce	COS HQ 6 Div York	Apr 08
515763 Lt Col NHDR Channer	SO1 G7 Ex Plan Staff HQ ARRC	Jul 08
529739 Lt Col LR Macduff	SO1 Pers Ops/Plans Pers Div	Apr 08
521744 Maj (Lt Col 08) MPD Onslow	SO1 Ch Ops Coord/ BSM NRDC HQ ITALY	Feb 08
535764 Maj (Lt Col 08) DSG Graham	SO1 LAND (GM) DCDC	Apr 08

Belated Appointments:

527175 Maj JD Tink	SO2 J5 PLANS 6th UK Div	Feb 08
553402 Capt GJ Sefton	SO3 GS DGS MOD	Aug 07
548554 Capt CMB Broadbent	SO3 CTb HQNI	Aug 07
552313 Capt DGH Bolas	SO3 J5 JACIG RAF Henlow	Aug 07
553391 Capt AJS Rodgers	SO3 J3 Coord HQ 16 AA Bde	Aug 07
24738268 WO2 GA Bruce	PSO ASDC Lichfield	Oct 07
24757307 WO2 TD Sweeney	RCMO ATR Pirbright	Jan 08
24743493 WO2 AD Steele	SO3 Infrastructure HQ Osnabruck Garrison	Oct 07
24712774 WO2 L Robertson	SO3 G7 Trg HQ 4 Div	Jan 08



Extracts From The London Gazette

Infantry Scottish Division

REGULAR ARMY:

To be Brig:

517898 Col JM Cowan OBE (Seniority 30 Jun 07) 31 Dec 07

Retirals:

494927 Brig AJM Durcan 01 Sept 07
505287 Brig DC Kirk CBE 31 July 07
507236 Brig DNF Stewart 02 July 07
496685 Brig AJC Campbell 02 Sept 07
496219 Col AKM Miller CBE 26 June 07

Colonel Commandant:

495192 Lt Gen GCM Lamb CMG DSO
OBE late The Queen's Own Highlanders is
appointed Colonel Commandant Small
Arms School Corps

Regular Commissions (LE):

539994 Maj CM MacFarlane MBE to be Lt
Col 22 Sep 07

552534 Capt SJ Garmoury from
Intermediate Regular Commission 08
Feb 07 to be Capt with seniority (Belated
Entry) 12 Oct 03

Intermediate Regular Commissions (IRC):

556751 Capt GJ McGhie from Short
Service Commission 23 Oct 07
To be Capt with seniority 10 Feb 05

Short Service Commissions:

562103 Lt SD Chalmers to be Capt
11 Jun 07
560841 Lt NC Claydon – Swales to be
Capt 11 Jun 07
562205 Lt TA Lewington to be Capt
11 Jun 07
562274 Lt RA Smith to be Capt
11 Jun 07
562310 Lt CM Wood to be Capt 11 Jun 07
564616 2Lt DJW Morgan (Belated Entry)
13 Apr 07
25227058 OCdt ABC Barclay to be
Subaltern 2Lt 15 Dec 07
N029751T OCdt DR Clark to be
Subaltern Lt 15 Dec 07 With seniority
11 Jun 06
25173819 OCdt RJ Colquhoun to be
Subaltern Lt 15 Dec 07 With seniority

11 Jun 06
25228864 OCdt RJ Donaldson to be
Subaltern Lt 15 Dec 07 With seniority
11 Jun 06
25233047 OCdt SACH Du Boulay to be
Subaltern Lt 15 Dec 07 With seniority
11 Dec 06
25147402 OCdt EB Gorrie to be
Subaltern Lt 15 Dec 07 With seniority
11 Jun 06
25166236 OCdt JD House to be
Subaltern Lt 15 Dec 07 With seniority
11 Dec 06
25196786 OCdt GC MacGregor to be
Subaltern Lt 15 Dec 07 With seniority
11 Dec 06
25203518 OCdt MD Oladjins to be
Subaltern Lt 15 Dec 07 With seniority
11 Sep 05
25166899 OCdt HTM Pearce to be
Subaltern Lt 15 Dec 07 With seniority
11 Dec 06
25166496 OCdt AJ Phillips to be
Subaltern Lt 15 Dec 07 With seniority
11 Dec 06

Awarded Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military):

24757307 WO2 TD Sweeney
25004897 CSgt ACR Lambert
25009149 Sgt GM Murray
25012374 Sgt CT Anderson
25023256 Cpl M Duncan

Awarded The Meritorious Service Medal:

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS:

Class 1

551637 Capt JCH Combes from Territorial
Army Group A to be Maj 10 Aug 07

Short Service Commissions:

559617 Capt D Kennedy from The
Active List 24th September 2007 to
be Capt

TA:

To be Maj:

514180 Maj EP Maxwell SCOTS from
Royal Corps of Signals
19 Jun 2007 to be Maj with seniority
01 Oct 07

553729 Capt SJ Kerr to be Maj
01 Aug 07

To be Capt:

546169 Capt JR McElhinney from
Regular Army Reserve of Officers Class
I 12 Aug 06 to be Capt with seniority
12 Apr 2000 (Belated Entry)
548262 Capt GWH Patterson from
Regular Army Reserve Officers Class I
30 Apr 07 to be Capt with seniority
12 Oct 2000

Awarded the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal:

527104 Lt Col CA Coull
546453 Maj MA Edwards
24179197 SSgt MTA Paton
24971263 LCpl SC Gibson

Awarded 1st Clasp to the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal:

23909417 SSgt JP MacDougall

Awarded 3rd Clasp to the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal:

24633081 WO2 WR Cooper

Awarded the Efficiency Decoration (Territorial) 1982:

543830 Maj DG Stimpson

Resignations:

563744 Maj MA McLelland-Jones
resigns commission 23 Mar 07
560739 2Lt DM Fraser (Belated Entry)
resigns commission 30 Jun 06

Retirals:

525768 Capt (NRPS) A Beveridge
15 Nov 07

ACF:

West Lowland Battalion:

563105 Lt HE Arbuthnott resigns
commission 07 Aug 07
528191 Lt I Middleton from A&SH Bn
to be Lt 26 Dec 07
565046 2Lt (on probation) ST Gray is
confirmed as 2Lt 10 Oct 05 to be Lt 10
Oct 07
C35918 GG Burns to be 2Lt (on
probation) 17 Sep 07



Extracts From The London Gazette

1 Highlanders Battalion:

564294 2Lt (on probation) S Mezals is confirmed as 2Lt 18 July 2005 to be Lt 21 July 07

541267 Lt J Marshall resigns commission (Belated Entry) 02 Feb 07

30042933 M C Whyte to be Lt 05 Jun 07

With seniority 05 Jun 04 (formerly Army Cadet Force) (Belated Entry)

Lothian and Borders Battalion:

563460 Lt J Ross resigns commission 01 Aug 07

544791 BJ Maxwell to be Lt with seniority 19 May 1996 08 Jun 07 (formerly Army Cadet Force)

562396 Kt KG Trotter resigns commission 30 Nov 06 (Belated Entry)

489551 Lt DN Lawson to be Lt with seniority 02 May 1982 03 May 07 (Belated Entry)

Black Watch Battalion:

C31270 Victoria Margaret Ross to be 2Lt (on probation) 30 Apr 07

555410 2Lt (on probation) JR Macrae

resigns commission 01 Jan 08

564946 2Lt (on probation) MW Little is confirmed 2Lt 05 Dec 05 To be Lt 05 Dec 07

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Battalion:

544755 Lt DM Hutchins resigns commission 01 Nov 07

Angus and Dundee Battalion:

556032 Lt SE Gray from Greater London (South West Sector) 01 May 07 to be Lt (Belated Entry)

Glasgow and Lanarkshire Battalion:

509966 Maj AJ Bissett (Belated Entry) resigns commission 8 Jun 06

503744 NA Archibald at own request in the rank of Lt

(on probation) 01 Oct 07 with seniority 04 Oct 1980 (formerly Regular Army)

549722 Lt K Dunn resigns commission 31 Oct 07

565184 2Lt (on probation) B Sweeney is confirmed as 2Lt 05 Dec 05 To be Lt 05 Dec 07

CCF:

Glasgow Academy Contingent:

565162 2Lt (on probation) AW Mathewson is confirmed 2Lt 14 Dec 05 To be Lt 14 Dec 07

Dundee High School Contingent:

547014 Lt CE Hulbert resigns commission 14 May 07

555868 2Lt (On Probation) AL Laing resigns commission 09 May 07

30044244 HEM Hamilton to be 2Lt (on probation) 24 Aug 07

George Heriot's School Contingent:

510264 Lt LJ Peddie relinquishes commission 17 May 07


Merchiston Castle School Contingent:

496395 Lt DC Syme retires 30 June 07

Morrison's Academy Contingent:

550767 Lt AWS Mair relinquishes commission 01 Aug 07

Robert Gordon College Contingent:

565161 2Lt (on probation) KL Hastie is confirmed 2Lt 14 Dec 05 To be Lt 17 Dec 07 

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Articles

THE REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL AT THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL

The Scottish National War Memorial is within Edinburgh Castle. With the kind permission of the Board of Trustees for the Memorial a Column (the last column on the left hand side) was allocated to The Royal Regiment of Scotland on which to place our Regimental Memorial. Planning initially began on the design and inscription in July 2006. It



is a lengthy process and the design required the approval of the Trustees of both the Memorial and the Regiment. Once that had been gained the designs were passed to Historic Scotland for approval, and finally the agreement was required of the First Minister. The Memorial is a stone disc with the Regimental badge and motto carved in relief. Both are painted. Below the stone disc is a bronze plaque containing the simple inscription:

**THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND
FORMED ON 28th MARCH 2006
FROM THE SCOTTISH INFANTRY REGIMENTS
OF THE LINE**


The stone masonry and carving was carried out by John Laidlaw and Son Ltd of Jedburgh and the stone was

quarried especially in the Borders. The plaque was produced by Powderhall Bronze and the paintwork was completed by John Nevin, both local companies in Edinburgh.

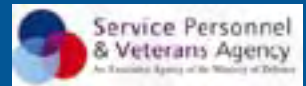


Beside the Memorial on an oak table is a leather bound book containing the Roll of Honour. This contains the names of our soldiers killed on operations and is kept up to date within days of a casualty occurring. Entries are alphabetical, and to date the following members of the Regiment are recorded on the Roll:

561716 Capt John McDermid
25164918 Pte Scott Kennedy
25208345 Pte Jamie Kerr
25146937 Pte Craig O'Donnell

It is hoped to formally dedicate the Memorial in a ceremony in May 2008. All members of the Regiment are encouraged to visit the Memorial when the opportunity arises. 

LEAVING THE FORCES Welcome to the Veterans' Community



The word 'veteran' often conjures up a particular image – that of our older generation who served so magnificently in WWII. However, **anyone who served in HM Forces, regardless of when, how long for and whether in conflict or peacetime is by definition a veteran.**

If you were in the Navy, Army or Air force, even if only for one day, you are a veteran and as such can access a vast network of support and guidance.

HOW VETERANS-UK CAN HELP YOU?


Veterans-UK is the new brand bringing together services to veterans. It's the first stop for veterans who need help and advice.

The first organisation to use this name for its services is the Ministry of Defence's Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA). This new Agency (formally Veterans Agency and AFPAA) provides a range of 'through life' support functions direct to around

900,000 serving personnel and the Veterans Community. These include Pay and HR for the Armed Forces, Pensions Schemes and Compensation Schemes for veterans and those disabled or bereaved through service and a dedicated welfare service providing one to one support, in the home if needed.

Whatever your enquiry, whether it be accessing service records, finding out about entitlement to a War Pension, the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, health concerns or any other issue, the Agency is here to help. If we can't help on the spot, we are at the heart of a wide network of support dedicated to helping ex-Servicemen and women and their families. By working in close partnership with ex-Service organisations, War Pensions Committees and other voluntary groups and statutory bodies we can point you in the right direction for sound, practical assistance.

A HOME VISIT

Wherever you live in the UK, one of our dedicated welfare managers can visit you in your home on request. They can provide face-to-face help on all the above issues as well as statutory benefits, health, training, employment and housing. Call our Helpline on 0800 169 2277 for more information. 

THE NEW ARMED FORCES COMPENSATION SCHEME

SPVA administers the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). Launched on 6 April 2005, it provides a simple and quick means of compensating Service (and ex-Service) personnel for illness or injury sustained as a result of their service. It's a tri-service scheme and also provides income payments to dependants when a person's death is due to service. This can include a tax-free bereavement grant of up to £20,000.



AFCS covers all Regular (including Gurkhas) and Reserve personnel and, for the first time, tax free lump sum awards can be paid to personnel while they are still serving. If personnel have to leave the service as a consequence of injury or illness due to service, they may also be eligible for tax-free income payments, aiming to focus on helping the most severely disabled. AFCS compensation only applies to injury, illness or death caused by service on or after 6 April 2005. It DOES NOT affect those already in receipt of a war disablement or war widows pension.

BEFORE 6 APRIL 2005

AFCS supersedes the older war pensions and war widow(ers) pension schemes (applicable to medical conditions caused by service before 6 April 05), and elements of the Armed Forces Pension scheme but new claims are still being made under all three, all being managed by SPVA.

HOW AFCS WORKS...

Any condition or symptom suffered can be the subject of a claim as long as it is service-related.

AFCS uses a tariff-based system of compensation payments with a sliding scale of award based on severity of injury. Claiming is straightforward. A claim form is completed; any supporting evidence attached and sent off to SPVA at our Blackpool site. On receipt and review, either more information is requested, usually from Service medical authorities or Commanding Officers, or a decision is made there and then.

AFCS has been designed as a 'no fault' scheme, which means individuals still have the option to sue the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for negligence. Underpinning AFCS is a new IT process, collectively called the Compensation and Pensions System (CAPS), a feature of which is 'statute expert' which enables administrators to reach consistent decisions across a wide range of medical conditions. They use a complex but simple to use multi-choice question and answer procedure, guiding the user through to a decision. Professional medical advice is always on-hand to resolve more problematic cases.

To further speed up decision making, CAPS is linked to the Joint Personnel Administration System, which holds personal and service details of every Serviceman and woman in HM Armed Forces.

Martyn Blythe, AFCS Team at Blackpool says, "AFCS runs alongside the War Pension Scheme. Every claim received is reviewed to identify which scheme it falls under.

"Those being medically discharged do not need to claim as we will look at their case automatically. Similarly for death-in-Service cases, which are treated as priorities, we liaise closely with the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre and our welfare colleagues to ensure the whole process is efficient and effective, with minimum disruption for the family."

WHERE DO I FIND A CLAIM FORM?

To request an AFCS or war pension claim form call 0800 169 2277 or you can download a claim form at www.veterans-uk.info and click onto pensions/compensation.

THE VERY FIRST AFCS CLAIM – A CASE STUDY

The first in-Service claim was from a Guardsman serving in Iraq. He was patrolling in a vehicle that was blown up and was thrown against the roof by the explosion, breaking two of his front teeth

On his behalf, his regimental administration officer contacted SPVA by email on 3 May 05 requesting a compensation claim form that was subsequently emailed back to him the following day.

The claim form was completed and returned to the Agency's AFCS team, arriving on 20 May 05. It was accompanied by a detailed report from the dental centre in Al-Amarah. The form and report combined provided sufficient evidence for the claim to be approved and a tax free payment of £2625 was authorised on 24 May 05. A written notification and reasons for the decision were issued to the Guardsman the same day.

On average claims take around 9 weeks to process.



CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information call 0800 169 2277 or visit www.veterans-uk.info

AFCS FACTS

Who does it cover?

- Current and former regulars and reserves (including Gurkhas) whose injury, illness or death is caused by Service activity that took place either on or after 6 April 2005.
- AFCS also provides benefits to spouses, civil partners, eligible partners and children.

What does it cover?

- AFCS pays compensation for injuries, illness and death caused by service, including training, accidents and those caused by acts of terrorism and warlike incidents.
- AFCS is a 'no fault' scheme and individuals can still sue the MOD for negligence.
- AFCS does not cover injury, illness or death caused by service activity BEFORE 6 April 2005

What are the scheme's benefits?

- A tax free, lump sum awarded for pain and suffering which varies according to the severity of the injury or illness. The lump sum can be paid in-Service.
- For more serious injury, a tax-free Guaranteed Income Payment (GIP) can be awarded for life. GIP is paid only after discharge.
- On death-in-Service or in retirement, spouses, civil partners, eligible partners and children may also qualify for GIP. A tax-free bereavement grant of up to £20,000.
- GIP takes into account pension but not lump sum, benefits paid from the Armed and Reserve Forces pension schemes.



When should a claim be made?

- Claims can be made while still serving in HM Armed Forces.
- A claim should be made within five years of the date of the event/ incident that caused the injury and/or illness.
- On invaliding or following death-in-Service, compensation payments will be considered without the need for Service personnel or their families to claim.

How to make a claim?

- Claims, using the official form and accompanied by any supporting evidence, should be submitted direct to SPVA (see contact details).


Is there help available for completing the claim form?

- Call freephone: 0800 169 2277.

What happens to the claim?

- The claim is reviewed using evidence from Service and

civilian medical, Health & Safety and Unit records.

- Where it is considered 'more likely than not' that the injury, illness or death was caused by Service activity, an award will be made.
- A full explanation on the decision will be provided in writing, including any rejection.
- A reconsideration and appeals process is available to review any decision. 

HACKLING BAGHDAD

by Maj G C Wearmouth

The precise, crisp, grey blue uniforms of US servicemen gives a sense of unity and purpose in the Victory Base Complex (VBC), Baghdad, home to about 30,000 members of Multi National Corps Iraq and a host of 'guests' ranging from two divisional headquarters, their rotating troops from the Baghdad / southern Baghdad and Wasit combat outposts / Joint Security Stations and a bewildering array of supporting functions, contractors, specialist Task Forces, and the willing members of 32 coalition partners (even including two Singaporeans...). But in this common sea of pale blue / green American 'BDUs' can occasionally be glimpsed the stylish and much remarked upon, symbol of our new Regiment – the hackle on the Tam O Shanter.

Or I wish it could be so easily defined. The small number of us from the Royal Regiment of Scotland based in the 'VBC' have spent significant periods of their tours patiently explaining why it is we wear what we do – and this will no doubt increase with 1SCOTS arrival in theatre in November 2007. The questions range widely:

- "Why do you wear a feather and a pompom on your 'cover'?" (US phrase for their military headgear) – standard response: "They are hackles and it is a tourie" (or toorie – defined by the world famous Association of British Scrabble Players as a 'small heap' or a 'knob of hair', the latter missing from the bulk of US servicemen who tend to sport the 'high and tight').
- "What rank does the capbadge lion and cross represent?"



Left – Lt Col Iain Brant RLC; Centre – Maj Colin Ramsay, serving in Baghdad as MA/UK Deputy Commanding General Multi National Corps – Iraq; Right – Maj Graeme Wearmouth serving in Baghdad as DIS LO to Multi National Force / Corps.

- Why the different coloured 'feathers'? Cue hackle once more and a lengthy response on the history of the Scottish Regiments, now Regiment, and the territorial origins of the different battalions ... which all combine to warn the next listener never to ask a Scottish Infantryman a question on dress ever again.
- To Australian smirks about 'Pommies' can be delivered a more robust, unprintable and satisfying response. And I have to admit to enjoying the crestfallen looks of our 'Digger' brothers in arms following the Rugby World Cup Quarter Finals. For once we should applaud 'well played England'.

The constant looks of incredulity at the 'ToS' (which can sometimes admittedly descend to amusement) mark us out for attention and symbolises the individuality

of all our British Regiments, which we may take for granted but which still are warmly commented upon by our bigger cousin from across the Atlantic. Any unwelcome requests for headdress can be met with the cost of a ToS, transmitted to \$, which usually brings a gasp and a close to the conversation. But the final assessment of the 'ToS' and its recognition within US military circles is captured in this exchange between a US Marine and a US soldier, arguing over whose Arm was being more successful in Iraq today. The following is an edited version of the exchange:

USMC: "Stop messing with me, when are **you** Army types going to sort out Baghdad like **we've** sorted Al Anbar out west..."

US Army: When **you** Marine types... (distracted by a hackle passing by)... you see that cover, chicks dig it.

You cannot put it fairer than that. 



WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 2 (PIPE MAJOR) GM ROWAN SCOTS

WO2 Pipe Major G Rowan was awarded the Master of Signals Award at the annual Royal Signals Institution London Lecture and Dinner, held in the Institute of Directors on 22 November 2007, in the presence of around 250 attendees, including the Chief of Defence Materiel, and numerous other officers of four star rank downwards. The presentation was made personally by the Master of Signals, Gen Sir Sam Cowan KCB. The award is given for special contribution or service to the Royal Corps of Signals, and tends to be awarded rarely, about once every two years. The award is an engraved silver salver. A summary of the Citation for the award reads:

“WO2 Rowan has been responsible for advising on the development of piping and highland drumming in the Royal Corps of Signals. He set about defining and establishing the policy and roles of his own appointment and that of the Corps Pipe Major, and interfacing with Commanding Officers and others up to Brigadier level to institute a comprehensive survey of clothing, equipment and accoutrements as well as negotiating the release of key individuals for training and practice. He liaised directly with the Director of Army Bagpipe Music to place Corps personnel for the first time on courses at the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, and interceded directly with Commanding Officers secure the release of those so selected. He successfully argued the case at senior officer level for the establishment of a drumming instructor at Blandford, and interacted with the appropriate MCM branch to identify the right candidate. He recognised early on the need for true esprit de corps, and set about team building through adventure training activities, and demonstrated typical drive and energy in identifying and releasing facilities to this end.

He demonstrated high qualities of leadership, common-sense, tact and judgment to drive these innovations through, organising overseas Pipes and Drums practice camps in Italy



WO2 Rowan is presented the Salver by General Sir Sam Cowan KCB CBE, the Master of Signals

and Ascension Island, and displaying much resourcefulness and persistence in securing commercial sponsorship to defray costs. The results were not long in coming. Unit and formation events have been extensively supported by the presence of Pipes and Drums personnel, as have key Corps functions such as the Royal Signals Association Weekend and Corps Guest Nights twice annually, as well events in support of charities, City Livery Companies and professional bodies with whom the Corps has affiliation. Individuals have been asked to perform Europe wide, as well as for HM The Queen at RMA Sandhurst pass-off parades.

Recognition was completed by an invitation for the Pipes and Drums to participate in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo during the month of August 2007 and the Kremlin Zoria Tattoo in Red Square, Moscow in September 2007. Congratulatory letters were received from very senior officers and on one occasion, Royalty, which testified to the level of performance attained.

Throughout, WO2 Rowan continued to live up to his personal maxim of “soldier first, piper second” by volunteering on arrival for SQMS duties in the Military Leadership Squadron, an onerous and demanding position where truly effective performance was needed if the Squadron was to attain its military objectives. In this he was consummately successful, and was subsequently appointed to acting rank in the post of Squadron Sergeant Major, an decision confirmed soon afterwards by his selection for substantive promotion. WO2 Rowan has therefore always held two key posts simultaneously, with consummate success, and devoted much out of hours time to running evening classes for aspiring new players as well as playing a full part in unit activities. He is thus very highly regarded by his peers and superiors alike, both within and outwith the Corps, and has been a true ambassador for his Regiment and the Army. For these services, WO2 Rowan is nominated for this award.



TOUR OF SCOTLAND – COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

In late January and early February Major General Graham conducted a tour of Scotland speaking to members of the Regiment, retired members of the antecedent Regiments and members of their Regimental Associations, as well as a number of Lords Lieutenant, MSPs, Councillors, Schoolteachers and other assembled gatekeepers. The venues were based around, and organised by the respective Home Headquarters. He visited Glasgow, Galashiels, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Inverness and Stirling. His message was well received and reassured all those who attended. His aim was to inform, not to persuade anyone, but he took the opportunity to stress some points. Namely:

- As with all its antecedent predecessors, the Regiment was formed as the result of an order.
- If it wasn't for change none of the antecedent Regiments would have existed in the first place.
- We want to be taken seriously as a Regiment, and to do the best for our soldiers, which includes recruiting them, motivating them and looking to their futures rather than harping on about the past.
- Those serving are proud of their Regiment and a quote from a young officer sums it up:



Major General Graham at C Coy, 7 SCOTS in Inverness with Ptes Steven Munro, Joseph Tainsh and Major Christine Paterson, RMO 7 SCOTS

Picture courtesy of the Press and Journal

“Regardless of the fears that we had when we became the Royal Regiment of Scotland the Mess is just as full as it has ever been with officers who are proud of their heritage, proud of the hackle that they wear and proud of the new Regiment they serve in.”

- The serving officers and soldiers both need and appreciate support, encouragement and interest in word and deed from their antecedent Regiments and from their communities. Everyone was urged to ***“...simplest of all, talk them up.”***

THE WAY HOME – Robin Scott-Elliot

Based on a true story, *The Way Home* tells of one Glasgow family destroyed by the First World War. It is an epistolary novel; the letters of the four Anderson brothers mix with the journal of Nora, their mother, to describe the family's battle to survive.

It began on a surge of patriotism, as Bertie, Ronnie and Teddie rush to join Charles in uniform. 'Wouldn't it be wonderful if we were all in this together,' wrote Charles. He arrived in France in late 1914 and soon went over the top never to be seen again.

Ronnie was next in Flanders. He lasted a handful of months before falling to a sniper's bullet. Teddie had swapped schoolbooks for pilot's wings and, finally, Bertie too went off to war.

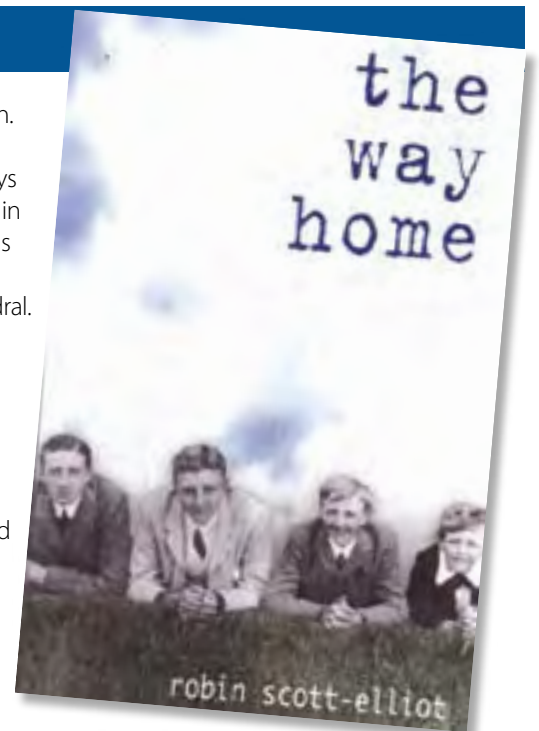
They reached 1918, then one spring

morning Teddie's plane crashed to earth. On the day of his funeral, the Germans launched a huge offensive and, four days later, Bertie was dead. Nora's world was in ruins. Bertie was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross and a memorial to the brothers was placed in Glasgow Cathedral. It remains there today.

About the Author: Robin Scott-Elliot was born in Edinburgh in 1970. After working as a freelance journalist and travelling in Africa, he joined the BBC in 1998 and later moved to ITV. He now works for the *Independent* and lives in London with his partner and daughter. Bertie Anderson, the eldest brother in *The Way Home*, is Robin's great-grandfather.

ISBN: 978-1-906221-24-9.

Price £7.99.




A presentation ceremony took place at Edinburgh Castle, the spiritual home of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, on 28th March. A cheque for £300 was presented to the Regimental Secretary, Major (Retd) Alastair Campbell from the proceeds generated from the sales of the Royal Regiment of Scotland's Calendar for 2008. The cheque was presented to Alastair Campbell by Elaine Hatch representing AONIX, the production company.



This was the first annual edition of the Regimental which has generated a great level of interest in the Army in general and The Royal Regiment of Scotland in particular. Calendars sales were dispatched world wide to places such as the USA, Canada, Germany, Sweden and through out the British Isles.

Proceeds from the Calendar go to the Royal Regiment of Scotland Association welfare and benevolence funds.

The 2009 Calendar will feature a series of themes depicting the breadth of activities engaged in by the Regiment, both on operations and in training. The Calendar will also feature a recruiting element which will assist in advertising a career in the Regiment.

If you would like to subscribe to the annual calendar or have material that could possible feature in next future editions please contact Major Frank Morton, the Assistant Regimental Secretary at RHQ, on 0131 310 5090. 



Steve Campbell, Scotmag.com ©

The photograph above shows two generations of the Archibald family. During his War Service Ian Archibald exchanged his Glasgow Highlanders 'Government Tartan' Kilt for HLI Mackenzie Trews. In 2006 his son, Niall, exchanged RHF Mackenzie Trews for a Government Tartan 1A Kilt. *"Plus ça change, plus ça y reste la même chose."*

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THE TRANS ROCKIES

by Capt RRD McClure, 2 SCOTS

In August this year I had competed in the Trans Rockies challenge; a 7 day mountain bike stage race held in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. The race covers over 500 Km of wilderness and ascends over 11000m. The race is a team event: made up of 2 riders who must remain within 2 minutes of each other at every check point. This year over 600 competitors from over 20 countries competed. I entered the race with Capt Charlie Pennington RM who I had only met a few months earlier while deployed in Iraq.

The race commenced in Panorama Ski resort approximately 4 hours away from Calgary. The Kootenay Rockies provided the stunning backdrop to the event running north to south and finishing in Fernie. With one exception, each day we would race to a new location. The event organisers moved the camp each day while we raced. A mobile shower unit, kitchen, marquee, tents and RVs (for those who could afford them) followed the race to our new destination.

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

On the fifth day we had our worst finish 84th in our category and 160th overall. We were devastated as we



STAGE 6 – Capt McClure, Capt Pennington

arrived at Elkford, made all the worse by the fact we were sitting in the top 100 overall and just inside the top 50 in our category and locked in a battle with 2 other army teams; The Afghan Hounds and The Rifles.

The town of Elkford had welcomed us with open arms which was typical of the attitude of the local communities. Strangers would line the streets to cheer us on and they opened their community centres for our use. Day 6 was another epic, this time 116km and over 2300m of climbing. The end was now in sight and we were determined to make up for the previous day's mechanical problems. This was some of the most scenic riding of the event making our way to Sparwood. The route had two major climbs (equivalent to ascending 2 Munros consecutively) up to Alexander and Wheeler Creeks respectively, once again we were well of the beaten track and into bear country. This stage had over 50% gravel roads and this suited us well as we were

able to work ourselves up to a very respectable top 40 finish. The last 10Km was a particularly memorable roller coaster ride of old roads and single-track that led us directly to the mining town of Sparwood.

The last day was promising to be a very quick blast into the finish at Fernie. Only 48km long and with just 600m of climbing the day would be over in around 2 hours.

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



EX ICE BREAKER



Captain James Stuart

4 SCOTS' Captain James Stuart, Secretary of the Army Skeleton Bobsleigh Association, gives an insight into Ex ICE BREAKER: the Army Ice Sports Camp.

***'Feel the rhythm,
Feel the ride,
Gear it up, it's Bobsleigh time.'***

I am sure most of you are very familiar with the Walt Disney film *'Cool Runnings'*, but just how many of you have actually decided to give it a go? Every year the Army offers just this opportunity at the Canadian Olympic Park in Calgary as part of Ex ICE BREAKER, the Army Ice Sports Camp. In fact we offer more than just Bobsleigh; those of you who are brave enough can give Bobsleigh, Skeleton Bobsleigh (head first on a tea tray) or even Luge (feet first) a go.

Assuming of course that you have not seen *'Cool Runnings'*, I ought to explain a bit more about Ice Sports. All three take place on the same track; Bobsleigh in a car-like sled with 4 big metal runners on the bottom that you sit inside of; Skeleton on a 1m long tray with two metal runners underneath and Luge, on what appears to be a highly modified classic sledge with two big curls of glass fibre at the front.

Luge may appear to be the easiest of the sports, going feet first, but it is in fact anything but. The sled is so manoeuvrable that it takes incredible



Skeleton load



A Skeleton slider in full flight



skill to avoid the sides when you have built up speed. Progression up the track is gradual and it may take years before you reach the top of the track where speeds of around 90 mph are possible with over 4G in a couple of the corners.

Bobsleigh and Skeleton Bob are not quite as quick or responsive as a Luge and so progression up the track is quicker; indeed novice skeleton athletes will go from the top on the second day! They're not slow though, and both can reach over 80 mph on the Calgary track. Even as novices you can expect to break 60 mph by the end of a week's training. All in all a frightening prospect and certainly not one for the faint hearted.

Ex ICE BREAKER runs every year in the winter, usually around the beginning of November. Our aim is to get 100 new athletes a year introduced to the sport over two weeklong courses. This is aimed at complete beginners and absolutely no experience is required; you just need to be fit and up for a challenge. It's an all in package too including flights, accommodation, food and equipment hire and of course instruction. The



Corner 8: 75mph and 4G

instructors are first class and in fact often world class athletes with GB team and even Olympic medal winners forming the coaching staff. It is very much like being taught how to play football by James McFadden.

So if you, like the 15 or so of 4

SCOTS who have been so far, are up for a challenge and fancy some fun in Canada give it a go. More information can be found on the Army Winter Sports Association (AWSA) web pages or keep an eye out in Soldier Magazine for the adverts. 🇬🇧



Its Bobsleigh Time!



BRITISH EXCHANGE OFFICER – US ARMY, NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

by Maj PM Charlesworth SCOTS

After the best 2 years of my professional life, commanding Delta Company, Louise, the girls and I headed off to California for the start of another adventure. We took up the post of British Exchange Officer at the US Army National Training Centre (NTC) in July 2006. We left Canterbury baking in 30 degree heat to be met by 40 degrees in Las Vegas, and 45 degrees in the Mojave Desert where the NTC resides. NTC was first activated in World War II by General Patton. He spearheaded a successful campaign to use the Mojave Desert area as a training ground for his armoured formations. The centre was closed at the conclusion of the hostilities in Europe.

After a brief re-activation for the Korean War in 1951, the NTC was permanently stood up to train armoured formations in 1979. Initially, there were 2 permanent observer controller teams that covered live fire training. Operations Group now boasts a complement of 1000 observer controllers who are the EXCON, replicate the Divisional Tactical Operations of 52nd Infantry Division in AO Warrior as the HICON, and role play the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) in AO BRONCO (the training area) for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or the Afghan Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Mission Rehearsal Exercises (MRE).

The National Training Centre's key tasks are as follows:

- Provide tough, realistic, joint and combined arms training in multi-national venues across the full spectrum of conflict.
- Focus on developing collective task proficiency at the brigade combat team and all echelons below.
- Assist commanders in developing trained, competent leaders and



Soldiers by presenting them with current problem sets from the Contemporary Operating Environment.

- Identify unit training deficiencies, provide feedback to improve the force and prepare for success in the Global War on Terrorism and future joint battlefields.
- Advocate Army transformation by leading change in developing and integrating emerging organizations, equipment, technologies, and doctrine.
- Train, sustain and deploy combat ready units from the 11th ACR and NTC SPT Brigade for worldwide contingency and rotational support missions
- Take care of Soldiers, civilians, and family members.

To achieve these tasks there are 14 Observer Controller Teams:

- Warriors / Lizards – HICON / EXCON
- Broncos – Brigade Training Team
- Scorpions – Combined Arms Battle Group (CAB) Trainers
- Tarantulas – CAB Trainers
- Cobras – Armoured Reconnaissance Squadron and Cavalry Trainers
- Wolves – Field Artillery Trainers
- Eagles – Aviation Trainers
- Ravens – Air Force Trainers
- Sidewinders – Engineer Trainers
- Goldminers – Logistics Trainers
- Vultures – Digital Support Trainers
- Roadrunners – NTC Support Team
- Dragons – Live Fire Training Team

Each Team is commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel and covers down on the Headquarters elements, the specialist detachments and down to the platoon and section level in each HBCT organisation. We coach, teach and mentor our counterparts through the following Contemporary Operating Environment (COE) rotational model:

- Leadership Training Package (LTP)
 - o 8-day Command and Staff Trainer.
 - o Launches the rotation.
- Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (RSOI):
 - o 5-day RSOI to build combat power.
 - o During RSOI HBCT receives training in:



- Negotiation Training down to PI Comd level.
- ECM Training
- Search Training
- ROE / Escalation of Force (EOF) Training
- Language Training
- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Training
- Joint Effects Training (includes all Indirect Fire Assets, UAS, Rotary Wing and CAS)
- o HBCT staff receive daily Theatre Update Brief (TUB) to provide an update to the Operations and Intelligence (O+I) Brief received to launch LTP.
- Situational Training Exercises (STX):
 - o 1-day HBCT Tactical Road March (TRM) against a competitive OPFOR
 - o 5-day STX lane package to include:
 - Patrolling (Mounted and Dismounted)
 - Cordon and Searches
 - Live Fire
 - Medical Trauma
 - Air Ground Integration (AGI)
 - Personnel Recovery (PR)
 - Specialist Lanes:
 - CBRN lane
 - EOD lane
 - HUMINT lane
 - o Simultaneous 5-day Relief in Place conducted with the Bronco HBCT, role-played by the teams.
- Full Spectrum Operations (FSO)
 - o 8-day final exercise.



Throughout the rotation the HBCT is provided feedback on doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures and best practice. The current operational environment feedback is benchmarked against the following NTC fundamentals:

- Negotiation skills
 - Cultural Understanding
 - Language Capability
 - Tactical Questioning
 - ROE/EOF
 - Search, Detain and Prosecute
 - Counter IED
 - Counter Sniper
 - Every Soldier a Sensor and Ambassador
- There are detailed and graduated standards for each category and the unit is informally graded between 1 (ouch!) and 5 (never!) during the rotation.

We get 11 rotations a year and in the rotational period we get a long weekend off a month.

I have been extremely fortunate in that I took up the Operations Trainer appointment on the Cobra Team (Cavalry Trainers) for 9 months before moving up to the Bronco Team (Brigade Trainers) to become the senior Operations Trainer.

The professional side of life has been outstanding, and the domestic side hasn't been too shabby either. The post facilities are all geared towards



the young family and the girls are happy. Louise is volunteering for the Judge Advocates Office (JAG), is the treasurer of the Officers and Civilians Spouse's Committee (OCSC) – not bad for someone who thought maths was a church service for a catholic with a speech impediment – and she is running the Vegas Marathon in December. A busy, but happy, family.

Did I mention that we were halfway between Las Vegas and Los Angeles? When we get time off we travel. Vegas, LA, San Diego, the Grand Canyon and Hawaii have been visited to date. We

aim to hit Mexico, San Francisco and Seattle before heading East across the States prior to departing next Summer. The Americans are great hosts and travelling in the US has been fantastic.

I would advise anyone considering an initial staff job overseas to jump at the chance. It has been an outstanding experience for my family, and I have had and continue to have a great time as Bronco 3 and the British Exchange Officer at the National Training Centre. Hoowagh! My apologies, must have been something I had for breakfast. 🇺🇸🇬🇧

NANSEN'S ENDEAVOUR 2008

Four members of 7 Scots will form part of a 51 (Scottish) Brigade expedition that aims to cross the Greenland Ice cap in August 2008. A team of 10 on skis will pull 80kg sleds unaided 450 miles from the east to west coast following in the footsteps of the famous Norwegian Arctic Explorer; Fridtjof Nansen. This will be a first for the British Army and the first time since 1988 that the route has been crossed in its entirety by anyone. The route has a great number of challenges making this a unique experience for the team.

The challenges facing the team will be the extreme physical effort required to pull the pulks for 35 days in low temperatures and strong winds and will require careful navigation of glaciers, crevasse and meltwater channels. That's once they've successfully managed to land ashore through the sea ice

avoiding the dangers of calving glaciers and polar bears, before portering their equipment up 2500m onto the ice cap itself. The constantly changing ice landscape, so unpredictable in the current changing climate will also pose a unique navigational challenge to find routes through the glaciers and meltwater channels. The team must also be prepared for the mental challenge of everything being the same day after day. The same company, the same food, the same scenery, the same.... On the ice cap the view never changes, what changes is your perspective.

This expedition will be one of the key projects being carried out this year marking the 100th Anniversary of the Territorial Army. Brigadier Allfrey, Brigade Commander 51 (Scottish Brigade) launched the expedition at a presentation in Edinburgh Castle

on 18th January to an audience of patrons, commanding officers and potential sponsors.

The team have started their physical preparation regime and after a week in the Cairngorms in early February are due to move to Norway to confirm Ski Touring Proficiency and Ice Climbing Ability. Additional training in immersion is being conducted whilst there with The Royal Marines with further Crevasse rescue training will be carried out in the Alps to equip the team with all the skills necessary to complete the expedition.

You can follow their progress at www.nansensendeavour.co.uk

Capt James Woodhouse, Expedition Leader

James was born in East Africa and educated in Australia and the UK. After graduating from UCL he attended



Sandhurst and was commissioned into the British Army. After ten years regular service he joined 7 SCOTS as operations officer and latterly as company commander C Coy (The Highlanders). James has been climbing and mountaineering for 10 years and is a member of the Association of Mountaineering Instructors. He is director of Woodhouse Mountaineering an expedition and mountaineering business. He is married to Morag and has a son Adam James.

Lt Richard Elder, Communications Officer and Publicity

Being born in Dundee Richard currently works as a Construction Project Manager for Morgan Est in Portlethen. He is a Platoon Commander in Aberdeen with 7 SCOTS. Coming from the hometown of Captain Scott's



famous polar explorer ship the RRS Discovery, Richard is fully relishing this fantastic opportunity. He has already confirmed his skills of Winter Climbing Proficiency and Mountain Leadership Training and looks forward to honing his Ski-ing and Alpine skills during the expedition training. He will also act as Communications and Media Officer for the Expedition.


LCpl Fraser Barrie Morgan Philip, Equipment



Fraser serves with C COY 7 SCOTS. He has joined recently and is already promoted. He is studying Forestry at the moment and is currently on his placement year, working as a forest manager in the borders of Scotland with a company called Kronospan. He is a keen skier (downhill and touring) and rugby player having played prop for Highland in their recent season. He is the expedition equipment representative.

Pte Lynsey Mac, Team member



Lynsey is a TA soldier serving as a piper with 7 SCOTS. She is a qualified pharmacist and works in her family business in Stirling. She is a keen member of the Scouts and was involved in their recent 7 Summits expedition. Her participation in the expedition will be confirmed at the end of the Norway pre training. 





Obituaries

30025811

Private Sean Tait



Pte Sean Tait arrived at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick on 15 July 2007 to begin his training to be an infantryman in the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Brought up in Castlemilk, he had been supported in his decision to join by his parents and his uncle, who had served with the Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Logistic Corps.


On arrival at Catterick Pte Tait was a quiet recruit, much like any other, but, within a short period of time he came out of his shell and started to grow in confidence.

Sean made a real impression on recruits and staff alike during his time in the army. He was mature beyond his years and many will remember the way in which he argued passionately in class discussions against discrimination and bullying. To his friends he was somebody who would listen and give advice with great skill. Sean encouraged recruits two and three years older than him to persevere through the introductory exercises and stay motivated with their training.

Sean Tait was also an amusing man. There were few practical jokes that didn't involve a little input from Sean and, together with friends that he had

joined the army with from Glasgow, he was a real character within the platoon who kept the hard days of training fun.

Sean was involved in the helicopter crash at Catterick 8th August 2007. He died on 9th August from injuries he received.

Sean will be remembered for his sense of humour and ability to influence and support his friends. He will be remembered at Catterick by his friends as they prepare to move to their Battalions in the Royal Regiment of Scotland and Royal Irish Regiment. 

25201587

Highlander Kevin Mitchell

Highlander Kevin Mitchell died tragically in a parachuting accident at Beiseker Airfield, Alberta, Canada on 14th September 2007.

Highlander Kevin Mitchell, or 'Mitch' as he was known to his friends completed training at the Infantry training Centre in Catterick in 2004, before being posted to the Battalion in Fallingbommel, Germany.

Highlander Mitchell will be held in a unique light by all those who knew him during his three adventurous and successful years within The Highlanders. He consistently proved himself as a strong member of the platoon and Company both on Operations in Iraq. More recently, on the Royal Guard at Balmoral as well as on exercise in Poland and Canada, he displayed his undoubted talent.


Fearless and dedicated in everything he did, he always highlighted the reasons why he was on course for promotion to Lance Corporal in the immediate future. As a keen mechanic, he embraced his role as a driver and took pride in everything for which he was responsible. He always passed on his knowledge to the other drivers, and was someone the younger jocks could turn to for advice.

Those who were especially close to Highlander Mitchell recounted many stories that came out which exemplified his enjoyment of the social and professional side of Army life. Many of which seemed to emphasize an aspect of military life he clearly cherished, that of the comradeship amongst his peers.



In short, Highlander Mitchell was a talented soldier and a good friend. He lived by the Army's ethos of work hard, play hard. But what really stood out about Mitch was how he regarded his family. This was evident to all who knew him. While on exercise or operations there is often a time when a soldier finds himself awake during the early hours of the morning on a cold night; at such times Highlander Mitchell spoke of family and returning home to help his father finish off his shed roof or getting home to his mother's cooking.

This affinity for rural life paid off in Balmoral on Her Majesty's Royal Guard as the ghillies continually spoke highly of Highlander Mitchell's abilities.

Highlander Mitchell is remembered with great fondness by all ranks of the Battalion. Our deepest sympathies remain with his loving family. 

24847148

Colour Sergeant James Morrison

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

CSgt Morrison was born on 31 March 1966. He enlisted into The 1st Battalion the Royal Highland Fusiliers, on 4 July 1985. Colour Sergeant




Morrison could have been considered to be ahead of his time in that he served throughout the Royal Regiment of Scotland with The Black Watch and The Highlanders, as well as his parent Battalion prior to the formation of the Regiment. He served in almost every theatre in which the British Army has a presence during his long and rich career; including Belize, Canada, Poland, Cyprus, Germany. In addition he saw operational service in Northern

Ireland, The Gulf, Bosnia, Kosovo and most recently in Iraq.

Having served his early years in UK, in 1991 Colour Sergeant Morrison deployed to the Gulf to take part in Operation Granby. Shortly afterwards, in 1994 he was posted to Fallingbosten with the Royal Highland Fusiliers. On 9 March 1996 he married Eva who supported him loyally throughout his remaining career. When the regiment conducted an arms plot move in 2000, his Armoured Infantry

expertise was in such demand that he stayed on with the 1st Battalion The Black Watch. Following a short posting to Cyprus, he returned to Fallingbosten in 2005 to join B Company, The Highlanders (later 4 SCOTS) as Technical Company Quarter Master Sergeant. He was responsible for the management of the Company's fleet of Warriors, including an operational tour to Maysaan Province in Iraq with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Battlegroup, for Operation Telic 7. It was during this gruelling 6 month operational tour that he earned an outstanding reputation for vehicle availability despite the tremendous heat and harsh operating conditions.

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

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

561716 Captain John McDermid

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

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





Officer 1st Class and Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers in 2002.

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

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

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

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

"Captain John McDermid represented everything that is special about both the Army and The Royal Highland Fusiliers. From Fusilier to Regimental Sergeant Major, his 21 years' service as a soldier was notable for its professionalism, commitment and loyalty. His exceptional qualities led to him being commissioned into the Regiment that he loved and into which he had devoted so much of his time and energy."

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Downey MBE, Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment, said: "Captain John McDermid was an exceptional

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

Captain McDermid leaves behind his wife Gill, his two sons and a step son to whom we send our sympathies in their loss. 🇺🇰🇫🇷🇩🇪

Repatriation of Captain John McDermid

After the formal ceremony of repatriation at RAF Lyneham, the coffin is then taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford for the Oxford coroner to conduct post-mortem procedures. The hearse is escorted the whole way by police cars with motor cycle outriders to stop traffic at junctions etc. Three motorcycles and 3 cars were in John's escort.

When repatriations were moved to RAF Lyneham, the Station commander told the Mayor of Wootton Bassett that hearses would be going through the town. From the very beginning, the British Legion Branch and Mayor have stood beside the War Memorial in the centre of Wootton Bassett to pay their respects. The hearse stops a couple of hundred yards before the Memorial, the undertaker gets out and walks in front of it, stops for a minute in front of the Mayor and Memorial, and then walks off for another couple of hundred yards before getting in again and carrying on with the Police escort. The shops shut down for this short period. CGS has written to the Mayor to thank her.

This photo shows Maj Gen Andrew Farquhar, GOC 5 Div, his ADC and the Deputy Commander 52 Bde, Colonel Andrew Campbell, with the Mayor and Mayor's Consort after the hearse containing Capt John McDermid had just passed through Wootton Bassett. 🇺🇰🇫🇷🇩🇪



25231476

Fusilier Scott Wilson

Scott John Wilson was born on 7th April 1987 to parents Jean Linton and John Wilson in Glasgow. Scott quickly became a confident and funny individual who was extremely popular if a bit of handful for his parents at times. His childhood was spent in Glasgow.

After his time at school in Glasgow, Scott spent a brief period in 'civilian street' where he sampled a variety of jobs but spending much of his time as a chef in Glasgow prior to joining the Army. Cooking was a hobby that Scott continued to enjoy throughout his army career – although he always commented on the 'boil in the bag' being a poor substitute for the real thing. With Scott's father and both his uncles being former Fusiliers it was perhaps not surprising that Scott decided to follow in their footsteps and opted for a career in the Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland. His gregarious, hardworking and dedicated manner shone through at the Infantry Training Centre where he passed out in May 2007 after making some close friends.

Scott Wilson joined Charlie Company and 8 Platoon in May 2007. Since joining the Battalion the focus was on the training for deploying to Afghanistan; which Scott loved. He completed a field exercise and live firing package in Otterburn, where he was noted for his abilities. More training followed at Barry Buddon and Edinburgh in preparation for the company's final training exercises before deploying to Afghanistan. Sadly this was not to be as in the early hours of the 5th January 2008 he was involved in a road traffic accident close to Glencorse Barracks. Tragically Scott died on the 6th January 2008 as a result of the injuries he sustained in the accident.

Scott will be forever remembered by his family John and Morag Wilson, Jean and Iain Linton, brothers Mark and Craig and sisters Leanne and Kerry. The Company have lost a genuine character in the Celtic and motoring fanatic who created a massive impact in the short time we had with him. 🇺🇰🇫🇷🇩🇪



Newly Commissioned Officers

Details of those operating in their new roles...


2Lt Simon Du Boulay



Simon Du Boulay was born in Walvis Bay, Namibia. He and his parents lived there for two years before they moved to Richard's Bay, some 200km's north of Durban, where they lived for a further five and a half years. Simon's father worked as a Harbour Master and his mother as a Nurse. Regrettably his parents divorced and so Simon with his mother and sister moved to his grandparents in Scotland, living in Carronbridge, about 40 minutes from Dumfries.

After two years he and his family relocated to York where he attended The Minster Prep School and then St Peter's School. After school Simon took a Gap Year where he worked nights in the local abattoir, before going travelling, visiting places as diverse as South America, Tibet, Australia and America.

On his return to the UK he attended the University of Southampton for four years. He studied Oceanography and Geology and then completed a Masters in Management Science with his dissertation being done with DSTL analysing the "Risks to the Total Defence Supply Chain". On completing his Masters Simon passed his AOSB and went to Sandhurst.


Simon is proud to be joining the Regiment and being posted to 5 SCOTS. He aspires to serve the Royal Regiment of Scotland to the best of his ability, and looks forward to commanding Jocks both at home and on operations. 

2Lt Alexander Barclay



Alexander Barclay, known to most as 'Beatie', left Woodbridge School in 2004 with 'A' levels in P.E., Psychology and Philosophy. During his time at school he was an active sportsman with most of his time spent playing tennis, rugby and hockey. On leaving school he worked as a supervisor on a large farm, which taught him the value of hard work and money. After this he took a gap year in Australia, which offered the opportunity to experience life away from Suffolk, which after eighteen years had become more than slightly repetitive. He also had the chance to experience traditional Australian agricultural work and fulfil a hunger for adrenaline-fuelled sports such as bungee jumping, skydiving and white water rafting. He has also been lucky enough to travel throughout Europe a highlight of which was a short expedition in the Tatra Mountains, Slovakia.

As a practical and 'hands on' person he felt that a career in the Army

would be more suitable for him than University. The level of challenge that only the infantry can produce was one of his main attractions to the Royal Regiment of Scotland. He will be posted to The Argylls, 5 SCOTS. 

2Lt Robert J Colquhoun



Born in 1983, Rob spent many of his formative years in Lochaber, Argyll, developing an interest for the outdoors, particularly hill-walking, canoeing, sailing and skiing. Educated at Eton College, Rob studied for four A-levels and enjoyed rugby, beagling, music and the CCF.

Having spent a year working in Argyll and travelling in Russia, Mongolia, and New Zealand, Rob began his studies at Edinburgh University. In June 2006 he graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Ecology, having thoroughly enjoyed four years singing on a full time choral scholarship, running the University Reeling Club, captaining an intramural rugby team, and wishing he could still play the pipes!

After deciding to start Sandhurst in January 2007, Rob spent the summer kayaking the coastline between Ardnamurchan and Skye, the autumn working as a ghillie on a stalking estate, and the winter helping his parents at their hotel and restaurant on the Isle of Skye.

He has particularly enjoyed the academic and physical challenges of the



Commissioning Course, as well as the opportunities to command his peers. Rob now looks forward to a winter PCBC, meeting his platoon and joining his two brothers in The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, in Inverness. 🇫🇷🇨🇩🇪🇸

2Lt Robbie Donaldson



Robbie Donaldson was born in Stirling, and lived on a farm near Balfron all of his life. He went to Croftinloan Preparatory School near Pitlochry. A great outdoors school, it fostered a passion for being outside and many outwards bounds activities and sports. From there he went to Radley College near Oxford. He was lucky enough to take a gap year between school and university which was paid for by working as a Christmas Tree farmer. He then spent 3 months teaching English in southern India before 4 months travelling through Thailand, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. On return, he studied for a Masters in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Leeds University for 4 years. It was between the third and fourth years, while working for an engineering firm back in Australia, that he decided to join the Army. He was determined to lead as active a life as possible while young, and being an officer in the Army provided the challenge he wanted. He is very much looking forward to joining the Regiment in the New Year, and as well as the obvious operational commitments and all that that entails, he look forward to getting involved in as much sport and adventurous training as the Army allows. On completion of PCBC he will be posted to The Highlanders Battalion, 4 SCOTS. 🇫🇷🇨🇩🇪🇸

2Lt Euan B Gorrie



Euan Gorrie was born in Edinburgh, and grew up in Corstorphine. His father, John, works for a marine consultancy agency, and his mother, Linda, is a primary school teacher. His younger sister, Elizabeth is studying history at St. Andrews.

He attended Stewart's Melville College, completing Standard Grades and Scottish Highers. He was a member of the CCF and in his final year was promoted to Colour Sergeant and helped to run the stores. He played both rugby and hockey for the school, and in his Sixth year played at left back for the 1st XI.

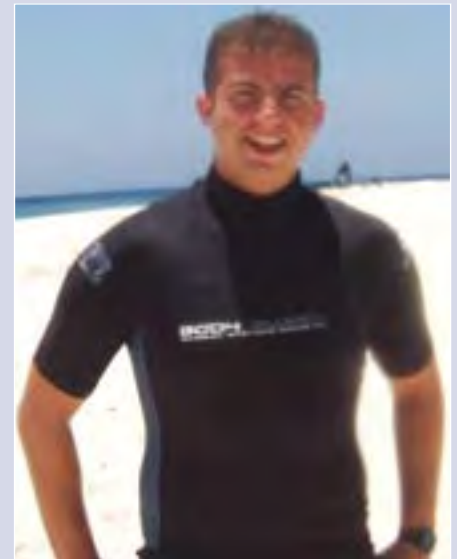
Finishing Secondary school in July 2000, he immediately flew out to Sydney, Australia to work for a year as a Teacher's Assistant. He worked for the Scot's College Preparatory School in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, being involved in a wide range of activities at the school, from helping in the classrooms in maths and English classes, to assisting on adventure training trips into the bush. During his year in Australia he travelled extensively visiting Tasmania and covering large parts of the east coast of the country. He also managed to attend a number of the events at the Sydney Olympics and games during the British Lions tour.

On returning to Scotland he moved to St. Andrews to study History. He had 4 fantastic years there and played rugby for the university side at scrum-half.

Whilst at the university he used the holidays to travel to South Africa, and to spend one summer working in France as a Children's Courier. He graduated in 2005 with a MA Hons 2:2.

In the future he hopes to sail around the world and has his sights set on being part of the army's team which is doing so in 2009-2010. He is keen to introduce as many of the regiment as possible to sailing. A keen sportsman, he hopes to become involved in the Regiments sports teams. As a Scotsman, he hopes to build and maintain the traditions of the regiment. On completion of PCD he is looking forward to being posted to 1 SCOTS and to meeting his platoon. He also hopes to continue to add stamps to his passport and to travel in particular across Africa. 🇫🇷🇨🇩🇪🇸

2Lt John House



John House was born in North London and educated at Verulam School in St Albans before studying Management Science at Coventry University, gaining a 1st Class BSc. Prior to university he spent a year working in engineering at a gas turbine power station and taking the chance to travel to Thailand, Vietnam and India, and also at this time joining the Territorial Army. Once at university, Birmingham Officer Training Corps offered him many opportunities to travel around the world taking part in snowboarding, scuba diving, climbing and parachuting, passions which he has since continued to varying levels of success whenever the opportunity arises.



NEWLY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

He has gained a number of adventure training qualifications that he hopes to use with the Battalion when time allows. On graduating from Coventry in 2005 he attended the Territorial Army Commissioning Course and became an Infantry Platoon Commander with the West Midlands Regiment. Some of this time was spent scuba diving in Australia as part of a research project studying Sting Rays as well as spending some time in Europe snowboarding. A keen shot, John has represented Sandhurst in the Army Pistol Championship and at Bisley with the service rifle, winning three bronze and one silver medal. After reaching the dizzy heights of JUO he is now looking forward to the challenges of PCBC and is proud to be commissioning into The Royal Highland Fusiliers, and looks forward to joining them in Afghanistan for Op Herrick 8. 🇫🇷🇮🇹🇪🇸🇩🇪

2Lt G C Macgregor



Gordon grew up on a small farm in Buckinghamshire and having attended Lord Williams School he undertook a gap year which involved working on a farm in East Africa.

This sparked an interest in travel that subsequently led him back to Africa and through East Asia on various occasions.

He studied Human Biology whilst at Leeds Met University graduating in 2006 with a 2:1. Whilst at University he was Part of the OTC and competed in the Cambrian Patrol Competition and subsequently trained a team for the following year. University allowed him to get involved in the variety of sports on offer, Rugby and Lacrosse being the main pursuits. Given his enthusiasm for travel he combined sports and adventure after

University and competed in the Kenya safaricom marathon.

Whilst at Sandhurst he was involved in the Boxing Night, a unique chance to try something new and was rewarded with a victorious bout. Sandhurst also allowed him to develop skydiving which he had started prior to joining the Army and is something he hopes to carry on with, along with skiing and sailing.

He looks forward to joining 2 SCOTS and getting stuck into life in Edinburgh. 🇫🇷🇮🇹🇪🇸🇩🇪

2Lt Harry Pearce



Harry Pearce was born in Exton, Rutland, raised overseas and educated in Yorkshire. Before reading History at Oxford Brookes University he taught in East Africa after which he spent some time working in Westminster. Between studies he led an Army Expedition to the Grand Canyon and was a member of the Cambrian Patrol '04. Later, as a soldier in the HAC he became a novice marathon competitor; an ambition to take part in the Marathon Des Sables remains unfulfilled.

A member of British Kiel Yacht Club, an avid skier and climber, much of his spare time is dedicated to outdoor sports and travelling. At RMA Sandhurst, 2Lt Pearce has represented the Academy at hockey and sailing, most recently in the Army Offshore Regatta. He very much hopes to be involved with The Black Watch Ski team.

After the Platoon Commanders Battle Course in Brecon, 2Lt Pearce will be joining the Battalion at their new home in Fort George. 🇫🇷🇮🇹🇪🇸🇩🇪

2Lt A Phillips



Alex Phillips, 23, was born in Germany and attended the Duke of York's Royal Military School in Dover completing A-levels in German, Geography and Business Studies. Following a summer travelling through half the countries of Europe, he went on to read Business Management at the University of East Anglia where he was a keen rugby player and member of Cambridge OTC. After graduating with a BSc (Hons) he spent a year working for Norwich Union before deciding to join the Army.

Alex is an enthusiastic sportsman and whilst at Sandhurst represented the Academy at Rugby, learnt to rock climb and spent his adventurous training hiking in the Pyrenees. Apart from rugby and hiking interests include skiing, reading and increasingly, since being accepted by the Royal Regiment of Scotland, Reeling and Whisky! On commissioning he looks forward to the immense challenge of PCBC and thereafter joining the Black Watch Bn, 3 SCOTS at Fort George. 🇫🇷🇮🇹🇪🇸🇩🇪

2Lt Matthew Oladjins

Matthew Oladjins was born in Germany where his father worked as a German translator. He was raised in Ellon and attended Ellon Academy. He went on to Aberdeen University and obtained a 2:1 in History. He then had a career as a tree surgeon before joining the RMP aged 25. He spent one year in 160 Provost Coy before applying to become an officer and successfully completing the selection process. He made full use of his time at RMA and is looking forward to service as a platoon commander with 2 SCOTS. 🇫🇷🇮🇹🇪🇸🇩🇪



THE ROYAL SCOTS BORDERERS 1ST BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

1 SCOTS ON TELIC II – COMMANDING OFFICER’S FOREWORD

I write this article from Basra, in Iraq, as the Battalion is about a third of the way through its operational tour. We are the first Battalion of the Regiment to deploy on operations. For us, this represents the culmination of the merger process; we have formed a new team, we have trained hard and we are now conducting operations.

For our deployment to Iraq we were required to furnish 2 manoeuvre companies, the Brigade Surveillance Company, an Echelon and to detach 2 platoons to the Scots Guards. Up to that point we had worked hard to forge the identities of our companies and we didn’t want to stand one down for its first operational tour. We took the decision, therefore, to tip the Battalion into the melting pot and, for the period of this tour only, to generate new companies. These were to be named after shared battle honours. The Brigade Surveillance Company became the ‘BSC’ and we formed Mons and Rhine Companies and the Minden Contingent to be detached to the Scots Guards.

To hone our skills we deployed, along with the rest of 4 Mechanized Brigade, to Hohenfels in Bavaria for a full-scale Mission Rehearsal Exercise. This took our training to a level that few had experienced. For example all the Jocks conducted ‘strike’ ops, firing full bore live ammunition as they worked through houses in teams and platoons, neutralising the threat from terrorists, rescuing hostages, capturing ‘Bravos’ and securing site-sensitive equipment and information. Superb marksmanship, slick weapon handling and the confidence that is borne of extremes of teamwork were much in evidence.

We are deployed in Iraq as the ‘Mentoring, Monitoring and Training’ (M2T) Battlegroup and we are organised as follows:

- HQ 1 SCOTS (Tac and Main)
- Ech 1 SCOTS
- Mons Coy 1 SCOTS



Bonding with the 14th Division

- Brigade Surveillance Coy 1 SCOTS
- D Sqn RDG
- Anzio Coy 1 LANCS
- A Coy 1 MERCIAN
- B Coy 1 MERCIAN
- The mentoring and liaison team to 14 (Iraqi Army) Division and its subordinate Brigades.

We have detached:

- Rhine Coy 1 SCOTS (to 1 LANCS)
- Minden Contingent 1 SCOTS (to 1 SG)

We sit squarely on the Brigade and Divisional Main Effort. Our main focus is on developing the capacity and capability of the Iraqi Army, particularly its new 14th Division.



Distributing arms to the Iraqi Army



BG HQ and Echelon Group

We are spread from Baghdad in the centre of the country to Shaibah and Basra in the south. We do more than M2T. For example the Brigade Surveillance Company is a specially-trained reconnaissance force; it has the most operationally prestigious role in the Force and we were delighted to be selected for the job.

We are operating in a very sensitive environment in Iraq. The threat from rocket and bomb attacks has been significant. We have seen plenty of both but our drills, our equipment and our Force Protection (FP) infrastructure have combined to ensure that we have received no casualties. (Editor's

Note: At time of editing four soldiers, 25145744 LCpl Reid, 25118663 Pte Geddes, 25162598 Pte McEwan and 25205653 Pte Mercer) were injured on 20th February 2008 in an IED attack whilst supporting a Scots Guards BG link up operation running through Basra City. LCpl Reid and Pte Geddes were moved to hospital in UK, but the remainder were able to be treated in theatre). All ranks have experienced contact with the enemy. All have reacted to this superbly and we have a great deal of confidence in our FP capabilities.

Against the backdrop of this threat, and while always prepared to close with and defeat our enemy, we have had to

tread rather carefully. We have had to operate in such a manner that could not offer political ammunition to insurgents as we have delivered Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC) for Basra Province. For our soldiers, the situation is not unlike that faced by troops in Northern Ireland as we moved through some stages in the peace process. A key difference is that the background level of violence in Iraq is clearly greater than that we experienced in NI over the past 20 years.

Accepting the fact that we were never going to remain in Iraq indefinitely, there had to be some movement at the tactical level. That movement had to see the profile of the Iraqi Security Forces to increase and ours to decrease proportionally. This has happened gradually, and successfully, over a period of months and the transition to PIC was a key milestone in that process.

We have clearly made our mark with the Iraqi Army and have started to develop beyond 'association' and into a level of integration with them. This is a challenge but it is certainly the way forward as we work together to develop them into a sustainable, effective, independent force. They have the talent and the motivation. We are able to offer some advice on structure and training. The Corps is able to help with equipment. We are clearly making headway. The point at which we can withdraw to total over watch will require a subjective judgement but I'm sure we'll be ready for it. 🇬🇧🇮🇷



Lt Col Bob Bruce and Iraqi Bde Comd



COMMANDING AND SUSTAINING THE BATTLE GROUP

BG CO:	Lt Col Bruce (replaced by Lt Col Herbert)	Adjt:	Capt Draper	G7 LO to 14 Div:	Maj Bishop (Aus)
BG COS:	Maj Masson	Media Ops:	Capt Stuart	G7 Lo to 14 Div:	RQMS Logan
M2T Ops:	Maj Rennie	RMO:	Maj Rao	G4 LO to 14 Div:	Maj Robertson RLC
Ops Offr:	Capt Adamson	RAO:	Lt Brooke-Smith	G4 LO to 14 Div:	Capt Taylor RLC
IO:	Capt Gooding	RSM:	WO1 McAuley	G6 LO to 14 Div:	Maj Youngman
BGE:	Capt Bowes-Lyon	QM:	Capt Aitcheson	LO to 3 Bde:	Capt Murray
Ops WO:	WO2 Watson	MTO:	Capt McCallum	LO to 2 Bde:	Capt Howard
FP WO:	WO2 Toman	RQMS:	WO2 Tait		

The BG live in the glamorously named TDA 117, a tightly packed mass of tents and portacabins near the centre of the military town which sprawls north and east from the Basra airport. This part of the camp was established by the Irish Guards so the BG inherited better standards than most of the rest of the brigade. All ranks live in tent spiders; ten 6-man tents, a rest room tent and an ablution tent stemming off a central corridor. The spiders cluster round a 120-man cookhouse, a welfare tent, a church tent, a 5-a-side pitch and a gym tent. At one end is BG HQ in a portacabin cluster and at the other are 20 'kudos' portacabins for field officers and the RSM. The camp is criss-crossed with blast walls and each bed space has a cave made of high density bricks, sheet steel and sandbags. Routine is reasonably predictable and settled. The BG work hard, but steadily for 6½ days a week, Sunday morning is dedicated to personal admin. The

highlights, so far, have been the Officers' Mess St Andrews Dinner (Irn Bru served cold), Christmas Dinner in the traditional fashion but in company shifts and the Sergeants' Mess Burns Night. At the other end of the scale everyone has a personal tale of the delights of taking cover in the freezing mud en route to, or worse, on the way back from the shower.

The Adjutant, always keen to write a visit programme, has been busy. We have been visited heavily, in the first 2 months the whole spectrum of command have been here; the Prime Minister, Minister for the Armed Forces, CGS, CinC, GOC 1 Div and Bde Comd have all 'popped in'.

The Ops Support team has all been busy doing what they were trained for. A list of people doing their normal thing does not make for exciting reading but mention must be given to Capt Bob Stuart, the RCMO and Media Ops Officer, who has had a full

workload with visits from the BBC, ITN, Channel 4, the FT, Sky News, Scotland on Sunday and Soldier Magazine. It was disappointing to observe that the journalists who came to cover the transition to Iraqi control were determined to paint a picture of Basra in flames, with the police and army unable or unwilling to cope. Nothing could be further from the truth but there was no telling them. Capt Danny McCallum, MTO and OC of the distribution point, has been giving 'stuff' out at a frantic rate. The material; weapons, trucks, HUMVEES, computers and radios all come from the Iraqi Corps HQ and are destined for distribution to the Iraqi forces. The Signals PI have coped admirably with running the ops room and managing the sensitive communications and protective stores that are now common currency on operations, all this in a highly charged environment that followed another Battlegroup 'loosing some stuff'. 🇫🇷🇮🇹🇪🇺

Capt Gartside's Gorilla team





EMBEDDED WITH THE US ARMY IN BAGHDAD


1 SCOTS provided two teams to work alongside the Americans in mentoring the Iraqi Army in Baghdad. This legacy task stems from the UK's role in raising the Iraqi 10th Division in Basrah before its 1st Brigade was redeployed on ops to Baghdad. As a result a British team, embedded with the Brigade, continues to mentor their progress.

MiTT team to 1st Bn, 1st Bde of 10th (Iraqi) Division	MiTT team to 2nd Bn, 1st Bde of 10th (Iraqi) Division
Capt Murray	Capt Gartside
CSgt Hamilton	CSgt Fraser
Cpl Fitzsimmons	Sgt Know
Pte Brown	LCpl DeCourcy

Capt Murray's Team. After the successful US-led surge in Baghdad small patrol bases had been set up throughout the area. The MiTT occupied a small base in a rural area outside the city. The situation was reminiscent of MND(SE) during the early TELIC tours in that there were infrastructure limitations and the security situation

was only tentatively peaceful. The team's role was to mentor the IA Bn and advise them on the best way to prevent terrorists re-entering the area, mostly by training IA platoons and offering advice to Bn HQ. The team's greatest success was to encourage greater cooperation between the IA Bn and the local armed volunteers. After a month, they were conducting joint IA / local volunteer patrols, check points and training. This cooperation not only brought mass employment for the volunteers, but also allowed for locals to take responsibility for their own security within a controlled, stable, national security framework. This situation was rare within the MND, but demonstrated how the Iraqis could provide their own solutions without reliance on Coalition firepower. It was a fascinating time to be involved at the grass-roots level of security where 1 SCOTS effort provided immediate and tangible results.

Capt Gartside's Team. MiTT Gorilla (named by the Americans) is made up of 11 US forces and 4 Brits. Due to

the Iraqi culture of respect for rank the team is very rank heavy; LCpl DeCourcy enjoyed a double field promotion to Sgt, but not the wages. The team is based in Joint Security Station 'Black Lion' in the West Rachid District of Baghdad. It is fully embedded in the 2nd Bn and patrol and mentor every day. The 1 SCOTS personnel are responsible for all G3 mentoring, this has proved a fascinating opportunity for all four team members to plan and exert influence with the fledgling Iraqi unit. The tour has been operationally challenging, as any period spent with the US forces in Baghdad is likely to be; highlights include dodging sniper fire on foot, moving down the most heavily IED'd road in Baghdad, witnessing the Iraqi Army's textbook foiling of a vehicle borne improvised explosive attack and the Iraqis immediate action drills – rummaging round in the wreckage without a care in the world. Without doubt the highlight is witnessing the continual improvement in the Iraqis performance. 



Training goes on in theatre



LCpl Thompson at BG HQ



Down time



Cpl Hutton fixing stuff



Mass casualty exercise



Constant stream of journalists



CO and RSM in Baghdad



PM visits



Minister Armed Forces visits



The officers dining after a rocket attack



Capt McCallum



2IC and the Corps Commander



PATROLLING IN MASTIFF – OC RHINE COMPANY


At the height of the insurgent bombing campaign a decision was taken by the MOD to procure a fleet of patrol vehicles capable of withstanding blast and improvised anti-armour attacks. Within 6 months the shopping trolley was full to the brim with what is now known as Mastiff PPVs (Protected Patrol Vehicles). Rhine Company has fourteen of them. Although these vehicles were initially regarded as armoured trucks their mobility, firepower (either a turret mounted .50 Machine gun or an automatic 40mm grenade launcher) and protection ensures that they are used as wheeled armoured personnel carriers. This forced the creation of doctrine in fairly short order, much of which has been proved to be valid.

Rhine Company's role see us conducting long range patrols to engage with the Iraqi Army and providing intimate protection

assistance to the re-supply convoys transiting between Kuwait and the Kuwaiti border. Mastiff has proved ideal for both these tasks. There have been numerous deterrent patrols against insurgents who aim to plant roadside bombs against Multi-National Force patrols, or rocket attacks onto the COB. But perhaps most importantly of all, Rhine Company is tasked to conduct patrols out to the Iraq-Iran border where we have been helping to *train & sustain* the Iraqi Border Police.

The Mastiff is an ugly beast of a vehicle. It is however hugely reliable and powerful and is about as rugged as a North American bison. It's just over 7 meters long, weighs over 25,000Kg and can carry up to 9 soldiers if you really squeeze up. It drives well although cornering at any speed can be a bit hairy. Its ability to withstand blast is excellent as is its reliability. This

Company has already covered many 1000s of miles without incident.

2½ months into this tour, after an awful lot of patrolling around the Basra Province, many of which involve being out for up to 5 days at a time, and after some pretty close shaves with the insurgents still at work here, Mastiff has, and continues to prove it's weight in gold. The soldiers feel safe in it and trust it to get them where they need to get to. The threat remains high but application of constantly developing procedures and physical protection systems has kept us safe so far. The same cannot be said for the driver of an Iraqi sand lorry that chose to follow the patrol. An improvised explosive device detonated just after the last vehicle passed, striking the cab of his truck and killing him instantly. A timely reminder of the value of protection, if one was needed. 

Rhine Platoon



ASgt Taylor with his men and his Mastiff



On patrol near the border with new friends



Browning Gunner

On patrol on the road to Safwan



The masked man is LCpl Hoy

Pte Kennard on Mastiff Top Cover duty



Mastiff Gunners Station

Lt Wilson's Mastiff leading a resupply convoy





TRAINING THE IRAQI ARMY – OC MONS COMPANY

Mons Company is responsible for running collective training for the Iraqi Army (IA) units in Basrah Province. The Coy has a dedicated training base at the Divisional Training Centre (DTC), Shaibah. Previous operational experiences gained in NI, Bosnia and previous Op TELICs are all being channelled into improving the capability of the IA. The syllabus focuses on the basic skills and techniques required for Counter-Insurgency; patrolling, contact drills, base security, cordons, convoy drills and strike operations.

The challenge is to take privates (called jundi), who have completed 5 weeks basic training and NCOs who are not trusted or given work in the IA system, and build them into an operationally capable force. We work with the officers to improve their confidence to delegate tasks and encourage them to plan ahead.

The courses themselves are geared to developing their capability and rely on feedback from the IA on their techniques, tactics and procedures. We keep the lessons short with plenty of interaction to keep the jundi engaged. We break down the lessons into individual practices enabling the jocks to talk through and demonstrate their jobs. This develops the IA capability and improves the instructional skills of our own team. It is not unusual to have privates just 10 weeks out of ITC working as instructors. The confirmatory exercises are always a source of surprise as they take what we teach and adapt it. It takes a bit of getting used to. Seeing the QRF deploying with half the jundi hanging off the vehicles and whooping is unusual, but it works. To date we have run courses in anti-ambush drills, mine awareness, house assault, combat lifesavers and unarmed combat.

The Jocks have taken to this new role well and the results are clear to see with the IA maintaining and improving the security situation in Basra. The challenges of giving lessons through an interpreter have been met by enthusiasm and determination. Breaking away from the classic Brecon style of delivery into an Iraqi friendly manner has been swiftly adopted. Lessons are short, to the point and involve lots of participation... not a bad idea really. 🇬🇧🇮🇷🇮🇷🇮🇷



Instructing the Iraqi 2 Brigade of 14th Div



Showing the Iraqis how to use a model



Training the Jundi at Shaibah



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF 3 PL: BASRA PIC CEREMONY AND PATROLS IN WARRIOR


3 Pl's toast has landed butter side up on this tour. Detached to the charming but relaxed D (Green Horse) Squadron of the RDG, but staying in the BG, patrolling in warrior and taking a lead role in the ceremony to mark transition to Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC) have all been highlights. Being blown up with an IED was also a highlight but for the wrong reason.

To the outside world the ceremony held to hand Provincial Control to the Iraqi administration on 16 Dec 07 ran perfectly. The events at Basra International Airport ran smoothly and the military presence was low key. This was only half the story. Like swans paddling serenely there was frantic activity, carefully hidden from sight in hangers and completed in cover of darkness by the 1 SCOTS BG.

The night prior to the event the 1 SCOTS All Arms Search Team, headed by CSM Lindsay and members of 3 Pl, assisted the Royal Engineers Search team and sniffer dogs in combing the terminal buildings to ensure that there were no unpleasant surprises. They were protected in their task by members of Anzio Coy 1 LANCS providing the inner cordon.

The remainder of 3 Pl were co-located with the immediate medical response team, based on 1 SCOTS Med Section, and the QRF armoured evacuation fleet from the MT platoon out of sight to the side of the terminal buildings. 3 Pl was to act as a QRF to marshal the responding emergency services. The outer cordon, over the horizon in the desert, was found from D Sqn RDG, also 1 SCOTS BG. This was all coordinated by Tac HQ, who spent a memorable couple of days in an inauspicious empty hanger.

No two days are the same and there is little or no chance of people becoming bored. Being attached to D Sqn RDG has meant that we have had to adapt to armoured infantry tactics which are different from what we are used to. This has required flexibility at all levels to ensure the smooth running of the Sqn. We visit the Iraqi Army battalions on a daily basis where we are responsible for mentoring, monitoring and training (M2T). They are all at a fairly advanced stage of development and are less interested in training, rather taking advice on developing tactics and procedures.

As a platoon we cover the Sqn responsibility for dismounted foot and helicopter patrols. These are conducted as a deterrent to insurgents who may try and launch attacks against us and to assess the situation on the ground. These are enjoyed by all as it gives us a chance to operate independently in the light role which is our bread and butter. There are of course the various guard commitments around different installations in the COB which are done in conjunction with the D Sqn troops. Although a chore, it establishes a routine and it is not minded too much. 



On patrol near Safwan



Sgt Skinner and Cpl McEwan



Warriors stuck in the mire



Some new Iraqi friends




BRIGADE SURVEILLANCE COMPANY (BSC)

The Brigade Surveillance Company is furnished entirely from 1 SCOTS. The 73 men were selected from across the Battalion and include assets from the Snipers, Javelin and Intelligence Cell. It is further enhanced with a Photographic and Imagery Cell, an increased number of Team Medics and a military linguist (10-week Arabic Survival Course). The individuals that comprise the company are some of the best and were selected following the demanding Jungle exercise in Belize, with a focus on the qualities of physical and mental robustness, discipline and determination. The capabilities focus mainly on technical surveillance and enhanced house assault, although the company is also equipped for the full range of framework tasks in the Contemporary Operating Environment (COE). The principles that drive all training and operating functions within the BSC are Simplicity, Flexibility and Agility.

Training for the role consisted of a 3 month period of intensive, back-to-back courses including the standard

week-long STANTA package, advanced Camera courses at Cosford and practical application training with the Close Observation Training and Advisory Team (COTAT). The COTAT training consisted of 2 parts; the first was a 2-week Enhanced House Assault (EHA) Course to prepare some of the BSC teams in the planning and conduct of building entry drills. The second was the 6-week Surveillance course that draws on years of knowledge and experience honed from British Army operations over the recent decades. It is physically demanding, intellectually stimulating and requires continual drive from start to finish. It contains a number of week long modules that train the 4-man teams in all aspects of technical surveillance (by foot, vehicle and air), advanced shooting and contact drills, reconnaissance field craft skills, and culminates with a fast-moving and expansive final exercise. The courses deliver high levels of professional satisfaction and so if you like the fresh air and the shingle of the north Kent coastline, then it's a great way to spend 8 weeks!

The BSC has been deployed over the period in which the province of Basra has been passed to Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC); the role of MND(SE) forces is now weighted towards the support to and capacity building of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) through 'raise, train, sustain and develop'. However, there is much still to do in order to deny the insurgent freedom to manoeuvre while at the same time protecting our own freedom to go about our mission; accordingly, the BSC has been involved in countering the threats posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), Indirect Fire from rockets and mortars (IDF), Smuggling (both criminal and 'lethal' aid), and a contribution to the protection of the Contingency Operating Base (COB). In addition, the BSC provides considerable support to a great number of specialist agencies in theatre and liaison for ISTAR platforms, as well as limited support to the ISF. April 2008 will see the BSC incorporate its own protected mobility, further enhancing its capability and utility. 



Enhanced House Assault Training at COTAT



THE ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS 2ND BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

BATTALION UPDATE

We have been part of 16 AA Bde since Oct 07 and firmly focused on deploying to Afghanistan in Apr 08. Plans had to be changed, changed again and the old adage of 'plan early plan twice' came to fruition. Thankfully, we no longer have to go to POLAND, but travel to and from Colchester to get acquainted with our new Brigade Headquarters. 16 AA Bde is our fourth Bde headquarters in less than 7 months and the Battalion now needed some continuity in command and operational focus. We got this with 16 AA Bde and were also much relieved to be joining 5 SCOTS and a Coy from 4 SCOTS on the orbat for HERRICK 8.

We would be filling a number of disparate tasks, but all still necessary for the mission. Bn Headquarters would be heading up the Security Sector Reform Branch based in LASHKAH GAR (LKG) primarily focusing on mentoring the ANP (Afghan National Police), the QMs and RAOs department would form the mainstay of the Bastion Support Group in Camp BASTION (BSN), A & C Coy would be the KABUL Patrols Company and B & FSp Coy will form the MASTIFF Group operating out of Camp BASTION. The Mortar Platoon would be attached to 5 SCOTS, some MFCs were to be trained as FOOs and be part of the Bde Fire Support Teams based throughout HELMAND co-ordinating Air, Aviation and Indirect Fire. Some drivers and medics would be attached to 1 RIRISH, the ANA (Afghan National Army) Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team BG. Our doctor would

be based in GERESHK (GSK) as would some of our chefs. Quite a fragmented deployment and very few 2 SCOTS personnel direct command, but still quite a challenge to get around and make sure boots fitted and mail was getting through.


The battalion had been preparing for operations for a while now and a lot of good training has been done, but with a new mission and theatre there came new training requirements; heavy machine gun (HMG), grenade machine gun (GMG), more Mastiff drivers, SAXON drivers, helicopter handling courses, more live firing, various new bits of kit and theatre specific skills. Throughout all the change the battalion has shown resilience, flexibility and a can do attitude. Many nights out of bed have been endured with time in camp at a premium to catch up with family, friends and e mails. To never lose sight of the goal, of being properly prepared for operations, we have all done extremely well.

Now with all the pre-deployment training going on it has sadly left very little time for much else. External courses have continued with distinctions on SCBC by LCpl Allison and at the Infantry CIS Wing by LCpl Quinn to name but a few very good course reports. The MTO has yet again qualified an inordinate amount of new drivers. We had yet another excellent live firing package at Otterburn where the MASTIFF crews got to grips with driving and firing the HMG and GMG and, the Trg Offr ran an excellent company live firing

battle run which replicated some of the compounds we would come across in AFGHANISTAN.

On the court and social there has been a little movement on who does what within the battalion. We say farewell to Lt Col Paul Harkness MBE and welcome back as the new Commanding Officer Lt Col Nick Borton MBE. Padre John McGregor turns to the right and gains height and we welcome Padre Benjamin Abeledo. Maj Chris Kerr finally hangs up his tartans after 30 years service to the battalion and becomes a civvy. The present and past members for the battalion wish you and Sandra all the very best in your new life in Inverness. You will be missed.

While riding on crest of a wave there have been a couple of serious speed bumps that have caused us to sit up and take stock of our good fortune. And, the death of Capt John McDermid in Afghanistan and then Fus Wilson from B Coy in a road traffic accident made us realise how fortunate we are. They will always be remembered.

As we now feel well and truly into the swing of 2008 our departure for Afghanistan comes closer and closer. Some souls will have departed during the writing of this with, the last soldiers arriving in theatre in early April. 

Early Morning PT





Adventure Training



Adventure Training



Adventure Training



B Coy still waiting for the RAF!



Winners of the Football Competition



Battalion Colour Party



Battalion Football



Battalion Football



Marathon Team



MASTIFF GROUP


When the Battalion was taken under command of 16 AA Brigade it took on the task of providing the MASTIFF Group. B Company, Fire Support Company and a number of Headquarter Company personnel were fused together to form this band of warriors. To the uninitiated the MASTIFF is a 23 ton 6 wheeled behemoth, armed with either a Heavy Machine Gun (.50 Cal), a Grenade Machine Gun and a General Purpose Machine Gun, it can carry up to 5 dismounts in the back and has been specifically designed to counter the mine threat.

2 SCOTS will be providing the drivers, gunners and commanders for the current fleet in theatre. Given its relatively new arrival into the UK's order of battle very few tactics, techniques and procedures have been developed. As a result the MAS GP has had to develop its own, borrowing from Tank, Warrior, Snatch and more conventional dismounted doctrinal pamphlets combined with the excellent Lessons

Learnt Packs that are provided by 52 Brigade. It has been a trying and testing yet rewarding period resulting in the production of a MASTIFF Battle Book. This has been made even more rewarding given that all ranks have been able to have their say and input!

The training has been almost non-stop since summer leave last year. The constant focus has been on driving licence acquisition, a truly excellent dismounted close combat range package, a number of HMG and GMG firing camps, cross country driving in Bovington and all culminating in the Mission Rehearsal Exercise in February. The jocks have had to become even more multi-talented not only to be able to drive the beast but also to be able to gun and fight it, maintain it and more importantly fix it. The Group has adopted the slogan 'Zero to Hero' which is entirely apt and a real credit to the soldiers for their hard graft. And of course to their families who put up with them being away!

The Group has been organised into a 6 platoon ORBAT. Two platoons are comprised of former B Company soldiers and commanders, the third is based on the Recce Platoon, the fourth on the Javelin Platoon and the fifth is an amalgam of B Company and Fire Support with a couple of Headquarter Company guys thrown into the melting pot. The 6th platoon is Company Headquarters. The inclusion of the Bn's chief PTI and the Provost Sergeant and their specialist skill sets rounds off an extremely capable and eclectic grouping, hence the term MASTIFF Group not MASTIFF Company. It is an organisation that can bring a great deal to the party.

The Group will take over from the KRH and be based in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan where we are likely to see much action. However given the training conducted, the quality of the vehicle, the types and quantity of weapons systems to hand it is a brave opponent who takes on the MASTIFF Group. 





THE BLACK WATCH

3RD BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

BATTALION UPDATE


The latter half of 2007 was a tremendously busy period for the Battalion, the likes of which had not been seen since our deployment to Iraq in 2004. During the summer the Army's enduring operation in Northern Ireland (Op BANNER) ended, the lack of fanfare was deliberate and closed an uncomfortable period in modern British history. The immediate fall out for the Battalion came under operational command of 19 Light Brigade from 39 (Irish) Brigade, and we became susceptible for RAAT tasks.

Immediately after summer leave the tasks and deployments began; A Coy sent a platoon to Malawi to assist the Platoon Commanders Division (PCD) final exercise, B Coy deployed to the Falklands as the Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC) over Christmas, and D Coy assisted the UKSF selection escape and evasion exercise. The Battalion also began to convert to the BOWMAN radio system, the Mortar Platoon conducted a Scotland based cadre and a demanding JNCO cadre was run. In November and December the Black Watch bid farewell to Palace Barracks and moved from Belfast to Fort George, Inverness.

If this was not enough at the beginning of November the Battalion was tasked to provide the Small Scale Focussed Intervention Battle Group (SSFI BG). Due to continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan some of the UK's usual high readiness troops will be unavailable during much of 2008 and thus to ensure there is no capability gap and that some contingency forces remain available, the SSFI BG has been formed. This task will put the Battalion at a reduced notice to move to deploy to any trouble spot across the world for a 3 month period. The battle group is vast, with some 18 attached elements. The Battalion has had to re-role to the light role in just 5 weeks from a standing start – a massive undertaking by any measure. For those not previously based in Northern Ireland, it must be appreciated that resident Infantry battalions are not equipped or scaled as a normal mainland light role infantry battalion. Therefore, concurrently to a unit move the Battalion has travelled the length and breadth of the UK to gather some 200 vehicles and trailers,

and a unit's worth of BOWMAN radios to Fort George. Preparation of individuals has been just as significant; on arrival at the Fort many have been taken either straight to the ranges, out on exercise or to the Medical Centre for an injection! The Battalion will deploy imminently on test exercises to Otterburn and South Cerney at the beginning of February in order to assume the role in time.

These Exercises will be the first time the whole Battalion has been together for approximately 20 months due to A Coy and 15 PI's deployments to Iraq.

Once the role as the SSFI BG has been assumed, and if we are not deployed anywhere, the Battalion will finish the BOWMAN conversion started in Belfast. Only at this point, Easter, will there be an opportunity for everyone to catch their breath and begin to find some form of routine in the Battalion's new home for a few years. This will, however, be short lived, as the preparation for Ex GRAND PRIX in September 2008 gets underway as we also undertake Ceremonial Duties in Edinburgh, a JNCO Cadre in June and Battalion CAST in July. 

B COMPANY – "HAPPY BOOTS – PATROLLING WITH THE PENGUINS"

by Major A G Tait

As the good people of the Falkland Islands celebrated the 25th anniversary of their liberation and remembered the sacrifices made by the British Task Force on Remembrance Sunday, B Coy from 3SCOTS were finally leaving Belfast. B Coy was deployed as the Falkland Island's Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC) or RIC for short. Whilst media attention quite rightly focuses on the British Troops deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq there are still also approximately 1,500 Service Personnel based in and around Mount Pleasant Airfield on East Falkland. The British Forces South Atlantic Island's mission is to deter Argentinean aggression and reassure the local population of

the UK's commitment to protect their sovereignty. Commanded by a 1* their remit stretches from the Ascension Islands near the equator down to the South Sandwich Islands and includes forces as diverse as the Antarctic Survey Ship HMS ENDURANCE, an F3 Tornado Squadron and an Infantry Company which for November and December 2007 was B Coy.

We took over from B Coy, 1 PWRR (an Armoured Infantry Company) and handed over to F Coy, Scots Guards (a Public Duties Coy fresh from guarding the HRH at Balmoral). To bring us up to the mandated strength of a Rifle Coy Gp, B Coy was reinforced by 15 Platoon from D Coy, individual volunteers from

C Coy and Sigs PI, MT and Catering detachments. Whilst the Coy had to spend Christmas away, we also missed out on the chore of the Arms Plot move to Inverness and so bid an early farewell to Belfast in late autumn, moved families over to Inverness and made the 8000 mile journey into the South Atlantic just in time for their summer. The snow storms that greeted our arrival did not enhance the "hard sell" of the positive aspects of the Falklands deployment that myself and CSM McGilp and had given the Jocks. They in turn announced their arrival to a stunned and packed NAAFI with a stand up Braveheart themed X factor sing off against the departing English Infantry Coy. Meanwhile,



CSgt Colville was entertaining the Officers' Mess with some fine piping to accompany a Somme Remembrance Dinner Night, and the B Coy Officers managed an impromptu tartan fashion parade with four different types of Mess Kit between the five of them. By Sunday morning, there was no doubt in Mount Pleasant Airbase; the Jocks had arrived.

The Falklands Tour is renowned as being something of a 'G1 graveyard' where the operational aspect rubs sometimes uneasily with a joint mostly rear echelon based deployment. There is a very strong Joint Services Police Unit presence every night in (nearly) every Bar in the base and the Infantry Company frequently find themselves in front of the Wg Comdr and the Command WO to explain minor infractions of the strictly enforced rules. Whilst we were confident that B Coy would rise to the operational challenge of being the Infantry Coy in the Falklands the CSM and I were acutely aware that we would be judged and remembered on how the Coy behaved on the rare occasions when it was actually in camp: we needed a cunning plan. Our handover with F Coy was between Christmas and New Year and I wanted to ensure that we got as many of the Coy back for Hogmanay as possible. Whilst F Coy and the HQs had agreed to this, the RAF Movers were concerned about us taking up so many seats on the only flight between Christmas and New Year. We therefore deployed with the real prospect that we may have to leave a PI behind to cover New Year, but how would we decide which one? Although not entirely inspired by "Celebrity Strictly Come Dancing", "The X Factor" and "I'm a Celebrity Get me out of here", the B Coy Inter PI Competition had pretty high stakes in the Falklands. As CSM McGilp put it; "Fellas, it's quite clear, win the competition and book your seats home for the New Year party in Scotland; lose and stag on with the Jock Guards in the South Atlantic. Does anybody not understand or need a better incentive?" There were the usual Inter PI Competition events; fitness, shooting, signalling and medical tests, Section Patrol Reports, Section Regimental History Presentations and a new test,

unique to the Falklands, something with a twist; the drama file. Every time the CSM or I had to put our tabs into the Wg Comdr or the Command WO to explain a drama, points would be deducted from the PI's score. It did not take the Jocks long to adapt to life in this military version of Hogwarts and 15 PI rapidly found themselves in front of CSM McSnape shedding points as they did so.

The six week deployment was split into three phases; a three way Platoon rotation, an Adventure Training/Battlefield Tour week and the Joint Coy Exercise at the end. The Platoon rotations were: manning the Quick Reaction Force for the Airfield, Section level Patrols throughout the Falkland Islands and PI live firing up at Onion Ranges. First onto QRF were 6 PI and a young PI Comd relished his first Operational Command renaming the QRF block and accommodation from the rather dull but appropriate nickname of "Tin City" into the much more dynamic and glamorous, "Fort Gladstone". Apart from being poised to respond to any incident on base, the QRF also carried out Joint VCPs and patrolling with the Joint Services Police Unit which the Jocks used as a good opportunity to make useful friends and contacts. The QRF also provided Instructors for the Ground Defence Force training which was conducted each week to ensure that everybody on base, regardless of service, had the basic military skills to be able to defend the base, if attacked. Despite an initial reluctance, the Section Commanders soon rose to the challenge of making Squadron Leaders and Petty Officers leopard crawl and fire and manoeuvre repeatedly until they got it right. The QRF was called out to take part in a Joint Exercise to deal with an unscheduled landing of an aircraft at the airbase. 7 PI who were in the role at the time rose to it admirably, chasing the offending C130 down the runway and surrounding it with bristling firepower and calm efficiency as the Police units dealt with those on board.

The Section Patrols were the highlight of the tour for many of the Section Commanders and Jocks, and for many this was the first time they had

either undertaken a long patrol, led a patrol or for most Section Commanders; both. The PI Comd and Sgt manned the Operations Room, set Patrol J2 and CIMIC taskings, booked land clearance and resupply but the Section Commanders were responsible for the rest. For most Section Commanders this was the first time they had given a set of orders since their JNCOs Cadre and for LCpls Morrison and Kyle that had been only been a few weeks earlier. The Patrols carried live ammunition, HF Comms, all their food and water and were mostly inserted by helicopter. Most patrols lasted 5 days with a resupply (some from C130 air drop) in the middle and they ranged all over both East and West Falklands and many of the outlying islands. Whilst the primary task was to deter and reassure with an overt military presence the Sections found themselves operating in some of the most remote landscapes in the world amongst penguins, sea lions and a whole variety of wildlife that a tourist would have to pay thousands to get anywhere near. The Sections struck a good rapport with the locals they met, although the Falklands is the only place in the world where a British Squaddie is actually welcomed, they particularly warmed to the Jocks. Various CIMIC tasks were conducted ranging from helping with the shearing, fence and wall repairing through to clearing outhouses and barns. 6 Platoon were lucky enough to have a Section aboard the Falklands Island Patrol Vessel, HMS CLYDE for a week during their patrols phase. Apart from discovering the utility of sea sickness pills, LCpl Morrison took his Section on Dolphin Patrols (so called because they attract schools of dolphins who play in the wake of the boat) by Rigid Raider to Recce remote coastlines before being dropped off to regain their land legs and conduct a 3 day patrol. They were replaced by LCpl Sinclair's Section who had already conducted their Land Patrol, but who were grateful for the onboard Medics attention for sunburnt faces and blistered feet prior to them conducting more Dolphin Patrols on the journey back round to Mare Harbour.

The PI Live Firing phase up at Onion Ranges made use of the best live

firing ranges that the British Army still has. The camp at Onion itself is only accessible by foot, helicopter or BV and Sgt Rennie, Cpl Wedgewood and Pte O'Sullivan headed up the PRT based up there for three weeks with the OC, CSM, CQMS and PI Sgts bolstering for the actual PI Attacks. PI Comds and Sgts were able to use their Live Firing Brecon qualifications to the full; running CQB, grenade, individual, pairs, fire team and Section Attack Ranges. The whole Coy (including both LCpl Marr and the very wary Pte Johnson (our AGC SPS clerks)) went through these ranges with everybody throwing at least one live grenade. The culmination of the live firing package was the PI Advance to Contact Range, followed the next day by a PI Deliberate Attack Range. For all three PI Comds and Sgts this was the first time they had been able to carry out their appointments in the field since training and they all rose to the challenge, quickly gaining confidence in their own abilities. During the PI Attacks it was clear to see a real spirit amongst the PIs as their training was brought together and a real pride in the way the Jocks conducted themselves, gladly crawling through the many rivers that provided perfect cover during the attacks. Full battle procedure was conducted for the PI phase and all three PIs achieved Collective Performance Level 1 for their efforts. 7 PI were lucky enough to round off their Deliberate PI Attack by calling in Emergency Close Air Support from the F3 Tornados in real time with high explosive live ammunition, with Jocks getting on the net to talk direct to the F3 air crew.

Exhausted from the three PI rotations the Jocks had deserved a well earned break with trips to the capital; Stanley, Berthas Beach and Gypsy Cove to see the penguins and Adventure Training, but the highlight of the week was the Tumbledown Battlefield Tour. We were privileged to have retired Major Simon Price who works for the Regiment and our Padre David Anderson. Major Price commanded Right Flank Coy from the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards on Mt Tumbledown in 1982. The whole Coy (less the QRF) walked the route the Scots Guards took with Major Price



LCpl Bruce gives orders



Cdr Price, Captain of HMS NOTTINGHAM greets Maj Tait as he brings the RIC on board with 2Lt Russell



WO2 (CSM) McGilp gives a few pointers to the Naval Gunnery Officer



Cpl Wedgwood at ENDEX climbing back onto HMS NOTTINGHAM for the journey back to West Falkland



Maj (Retd) Price taking B Coy on the TUMBLEDOWN Battlefield Tour



The improved L109 Grenade in action



LCpl Birrell descends from HMS NOTTINGHAM into the LCVPS for the covert night amphibious landing on East Falklands



7 Pl and the Adv Party from F Coy, SCOTS Guards at the TUMBLEDOWN memorial

delivering an electric commentary on how the Battle was conducted. It was truly humbling to stand where he had stood, 25 years earlier, as an Acting Major, Commanding Right Flank Coy in an action in which one of his Pl Comds was awarded the Military Cross and a Pl Sgt the Military Medal. The tour was completed by a Service of Remembrance on top of Mt Tumbledown next to the monument with the plaque bearing the names of those that had fallen. This plaque was duly polished (as is the tradition) by the youngest soldier present, in this case eighteen year old Pte Durie. The Padre delivered a moving and poignant service with Major Price reading the words of remembrance and Cpl McCarthy playing the "Crags of Tumbledown" as we all remembered the fallen. It made all of us really stop and think, and appreciate the enormous scale of the military task that Right Flank Coy had achieved with very similar soldiers and equipment to B Coy. It brought sharply into focus what we would shortly be doing on our Company exercise.

Ex CAPE BAYONET is the climax of the Falklands deployment and it

was split into a 48 hour Infantry Coy phase and a 5 day Joint phase. The Infantry phase started with a 12 km tab in full kit into a hasty harbour. After confirmatory orders the Coy conducted a night time 6 km insertion (including a deliberate river crossing) into an FUP which 15 Pl had secured. As dawn broke at 0330 hrs the .50 Cal Heavy Machine Guns lit up the darkened sky with tracer rounds and 6 and 7 Pls launched across the Line of Departure to break into an enemy position at the base of the Mt Starvation Ridgeline. 7 Pl destroyed their positions with grenades before providing additional fire support for 6 Pl to destroy their objectives and suppress a depth position. 15 Pl were called forward and after a set of QBOs launched to destroy the first of the depth targets. 6 Pl were then launched to destroy the final depth positions with 7 Pl providing fire support throughout. As the sun emerged from behind the Mountains the Coy conducted a Re Org prior to launching an Advance to Contact to clear the ridgeline all the way up to Mt Starvation. As the Pls echeloned through Suppress, Attack and Reserve,

the Coy fought its way up the ridgeline destroying enemy bunkers with grenades, eventually securing the high ground as the sun was high in the sky. B Coy had done its first dismounted live firing Coy Attack in a long while.

An 18 km extraction tab over difficult terrain, in fighting order and without a cloud in the sky followed, and the heat was relentless. 6 km in we had sustained 3 casualties through heat injuries and a Sea King was called in to extract them and bring in a water replen. The rest of the tab turned into "man test" as bodies that were used to Armoured Infantry and Northern Ireland were re introduced to the realities of operating as a Light Role Infantry Coy. The Infantry phase concluded with a TCV pick up and a move back to Mount Pleasant to start the Battleprep for the Joint phase and our embarkation onto HMS NOTTINGHAM. The following morning's sick parade took its toll with 24 soldiers unable to deploy initially due to injuries from the first phase. Many of these were blisters, lower limb and back injuries. Our two newest recruits, Ptes Greer and White fresh from ITC Catterick only



a week earlier were not amongst the casualties. Both completed the exercises without any medical attention, fitted straight into their Sections and got stuck into the attacks; proof that AFC Harrogate and ITC Catterick work.

The Joint phase of the Ex was to test the ability of the RIC to Force Project onto West Falkland and integrate Joint Fires to defeat enemy there. The remaining members of the Coy were split into two composite PIs; Callsigns 10 and 20. 10 were inserted by helicopter onto West Falkland to recce enemy positions and secure a beach head for the rest of the Coy. 20 and Coy HQs embarked on HMS NOTTINGHAM, a Type 42 Destroyer and sailed around to Second Creek on West Falkland. Under cover of darkness the Coy cross decked onto Landing Craft and conducted a covert beach landing before going into a hasty harbour. Whilst the Coy was moving to conduct a deliberate Attack against the first enemy location a pair of F3 Tornados were overhead, newly promoted Lt Gladstone and Pte Jones talked the F3s onto the enemy positions and they were continually strafed as the Coy prepared for H Hr. The F3s broke away only to allow HMS NOTTINGHAM to fire in Naval Gunfire Support as B Coy launched into a deliberate live firing attack; Joint (Air, Land and Sea) integration of fire at the tactical level.

The Coy then went into a deliberate harbour, dug in

shellscrapes and began the Battleprep for the final attack. Cpl Wedgewood and LCpl Culligan's Sections Close Recce Ptl's were inserted tactically by Sea King at last light, whilst LCpl Bruce, LCpl Morrison and LCpl Taroga's Section conducted OPs onto the enemy positions throughout the following day. LCpl Grime's snipers were sent in to destroy enemy command and control in a preliminary attack and produced an impressive five confirmed kills. With excellent information and intelligence on the enemy a regenerated B Coy conducted a 6 km night insertion into a secured FUP and launched a deliberate attack at dawn with .50 Cal Heavy Machine Guns providing Fire Support. Sadly the Naval Gunfire Support was not available, but B Coy secured the first set of objectives and prepared to launch into a hasty attack onto a depth position. Sunray removed himself from the fight to host the Brigadier who had come to visit and allowed Lt Colquhoun to take command of the Coy for the successful final attack and the conclusion of Ex CAPE BAYONET.

On Christmas Day the Jocks were served their Christmas Dinner by the Officers and Seniors and we were joined by the advance party from F Coy Scots Guards. The RAF Movers had worked out a way to fly the whole of the Scots Guards in and all of us out on one air bridge and so we were all able to extract prior to New Year back to a very cold and

wintry Fort George. Although we did not have to use the results of the Inter Platoon Competition (7 Pl won) it had proven very effective. Not one single significant G1 drama on the whole tour, something of a record for an Infantry Coy in the Falklands. We achieved Collective Performance Level 2 as a Coy, fulfilled all our operational tasks and made the most of the Battlefield Tour, Adventure Training and sightseeing opportunities.

Highlights of the tour for many was seeing the penguins, actually doing our Infantry job at all levels of command and the satisfaction of knowing that we nailed a pretty cheeky set of Live Firing exercises. For me the two highlights were having my own personal TEWT on Mt Tumbledown from the Coy Comd who had actually done it for real and commanding B Coy doing a live firing attack with F3 Tornados and Naval Gunfire in Support. Finally a big thank you to Major Simon Price and Padre David for coming 8,000 miles to visit us and making our Mt Tumbledown tour so memorable and the PRT commanded by 2Lt O'Sullivan from A Coy without whom we would not have been able to conduct such challenging live firing.

Our Falklands deployment was also the swan song of CSM McGilp. We bid a fond farewell to Capt "Kiwi" McGilp as he commissions into the Army Air Corps and wish him all the best with 16 Air Asslt Bde. He will be sorely missed. 🇫🇰

3 PLATOON A (GRENADIER) COMPANY – THE EXPERIENCE OF SUPPORTING THE PLATOON COMMANDERS' DIVISION FINAL EXERCISE IN MALAWI, OCTOBER 2007

by 2Lt T O'Sullivan

Having just rejoined the Bn after PCD, I was eager to deploy on exercise with my new platoon (3 Pl). Sooner than I had thought OC A Coy had called me into the Coy office and talked through the requirement for Bn to support a company level exercise in Malawi, as it happened, supporting PCD. The exercise was to be the final test exercise for the newly commissioned platoon commanders. A four week light role infantry exercise

with 5 days live firing and twenty-four hours R&R at the end. The workload for Pl HQs and the Jocks was tough for we had many criteria to complete and few days to do it. With my head in the clouds clutching at straws and newly delivered from Brecon, Sgts Taylor and Leathley came to my aid. Sgt Leathley and I spent many a long night in Belfast's NAAFI putting together training programmes that would bring the Jocks up to the

requirement before we deployed. Many things would need to be considered including fitness, freight and flights.

The first step was to attend a brief in Brecon during September where we would meet the exercise Director and learn of the various moving parts of the exercise. Having been briefed to death and given a small rainforest of papers to complete we left for home and the onslaught of preparation.



3 SCOTS



LCpl Winter & Ptes McFadden, Todd & Nisbet in Malawi



LCpl Bain & Ptes Murphy, Duguid, Smith 93 & Brown 98 on top of Simba Rock



Our first problem was finding a training area where we could revise and confirm some key skills with the Section Comds and the Jocks. Sgt Taylor took it upon himself to find such a place and within a few days we had secured the Palace Barracks training area. At first sight it seemed like a small horse paddock with little or no training value at all but, as the ground was broken down and with a little amount of imagination it turned into close jungle with long grass and several enemy positions including allowing for a 'PI camp attack'. We were able to spend a few days on the training area and what at first seemed trivial ended up building the confidence of all in the PI. One problem still ensued, we were a couple of men short in meeting the orbat requirement, but once word had filtered round to the other Companies we had many volunteers and 3 PI were lucky to be joined by LCpls Bain, Davidson Sautu and Pte Mulase.

With training finished, two miler runs complete, a 29 strength platoon and a newly appointed PI Sgt in the shape of Sgt Letson, we set out from Belfast to Heathrow and on to Malawi. The Jocks full of anticipation and dread met their PCD counterparts.

As soon as we landed we were checked, counted and bussed to the game reserve that we would operate from. After a thoroughly uncomfortable journey over some pretty barbaric roads we arrived at our destination, a small

bungalow called 'The Youth Hostel'. With no down time the troops were debussed and instructed to get into green kit. The expression of tiredness and grief was rife and perhaps with good reason. The weather we were told was on the change and a rainy patch was supposed to be incoming, concurrently the Sect Comds were dishing out section kit and radios.

At this point the three Black Watch Sections were split down and sent to the PCD Pls and had their first experience of meeting whole sections made up of 'Bonds' (BW slang for officers). As promised when the administration was complete everyone was able to finally get their heads down. In the meantime Sgt Letson and I were having our roles (as yet unknown) explained to us. We were firstly to look after our PI but secondly we were to act as recce guides, leading the Platoon Comds to their lines of departure. On the side we would also be used to offer some low level training to the Malawian Defence Force who were acting as the PCD enemy.

The first phase of the exercise was the RSOI phase, a three day operational training package to rehearse role specific operations and tactics. One of the major operations rehearsed was the camp attack, a platoon assault consisting of several moving parts and taking an enormous amount of command and control. The Jock section commanders




LCpl Hanlon feet up in Malawi

came to the forefront in this phase in demonstrating the sometimes direct way that the situation needed to be controlled unlike their counterpart's polite requests and hints.

The exercise continued along a similar vein and although the phases of war changed, the Jocks were continually praised for their ability to 'crack' their admin and show a good strong knowledge of low level skills and drills. In practise The Black Watch Sect Comds swept up attacks that without their command ability would have taken an unnecessary amount of time and would have cost more ammunition and stores than necessary.

The Jocks direct approach to soldering was somewhat of a shock to some of the PCD students but it was not long before most of them had begun to appreciate the wealth of experience that these young men had to offer. Some less than others however and it took our more vocal Section Comds (LCpl Hanlon) to sort out an ambush rehearsal that was going badly wrong, whether the young PI Comd knew it or not.

The live firing phase was something to look forward to and asking the Jocks afterwards confirmed the training value of using live ammunition. There were several missions and tasks that the Jock Sects headed up including the infamous 'Russian Trench System'. This was a three hundred meter trench with thirty enemy positions and ten grenades per PI. The potential for injury was massive and this only seemed to make things more exciting. This phase concluded with somewhat of an air of relief that the exercise had come to a close. For some of the Jocks the longest exercise they had done previously was their five day final exercise during their training at Catterick but, at no point did this become apparent. All members of the PI galvanised into a whirlwind of action. Sect Comds kept their teams in good order and at this level they provided a vital learning element for the PCD students who mostly up until this point had not served among real soldiers or indeed commanded the 'Jock', they had all now experienced the privilege! 



Pte Todd in the 'bush'



THE HIGHLANDERS 4TH BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

BATTALION NOTES

Hot on the heels of achieving CT4 in BATUS, 4 SCOTS recovered to Fallingbostal in September for a well earned period of...more work. Leaving D Company in Canada to play OPFOR, the battalion squeezed in some late-summer leave and embarked upon a wide ranging, varied and, some might say, eclectic selection of activities.

A Company deployed the Pipes and Drums to the Kremlin Zoria Military Music Festival in Moscow

and followed this up swiftly with a performance at the state banquet in Buckingham Palace in honour of the visit of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. Their adventures are recounted in a separate article. The remainder of the company launched upon a variety of cadres including Warrior gunnery, Tactical Intelligence and Enhanced House Assault in preparation for the upcoming deployment on Op TELIC. A fair amount of RAAT was flying around

and most members of the company have 'copped a bit' at some time in the last five months. The year was rounded off with running the 7 Armoured Brigade Skill At Arms Meet. Post Christmas, A Company have upped the tempo with pre-deployment training beginning in earnest.

B Company, augmented by additional manpower from across the battalion, fired straight into pre-deployment training for Op HERRICK,



Lt MacNair



LCpl Morrison



Enhanced House Assault in progress



CSM Support Company gives CGS The Brief



where they deploy in February 2008 to reinforce 16 Air Assault Brigade. The OC made himself immeasurably popular with his obsession with early morning PT and a packed programme of rangework and battle exercises saw the company hone their already sharp skills to a new high standard. At the time of writing the company has just deployed for a final battlegroup and brigade exercise, fully integrated with 3 PARA, on Salisbury Plain. A (very) short period of R&R will follow and then, by the time you read this, they will be taking the fight to the enemy in Helmand Province. We wish them well, and a safe return.

Support Company have gone into suspended animation with their manpower subsumed into the other companies to allow an upscaling of their orbats to meet the enhanced requirements of both Ops HERRICK and TELIC.

D Company was held back in Canada for a little longer than the rest of the battalion in order to play 'OPFOR' for both 1 RRF and the SCOTS DG. Upon recovery to Germany the company sent a platoon on the COTAT 'Enhanced House Assault' cadre. The course used 'simunition', essentially a high powered form of paintball ammunition fired through normal weapons, which has the advantage of both marking where the rounds hit and bringing tears of pain to the eyes of the target. This

course was the first occasion when the 'Green Army' has used this type of ammunition, and it proved to be a valuable training aid. The course was a great success, although not all participants could get to grips with the demands of house assault: Hldr 'Charlie' Morton still bounces off doors, but at least he does it with style now.

Despite a hectic schedule, wider battalion life has striven to enjoy some vibrant social events. In an unprecedented display of sporting prowess, the Officers' Mess retained the Assaye Day football trophy against the Sergeants' Mess (much the obvious ire of WO2 Ronaldson, CSM Support Company). The Officers' Mess sporting excellence continued with the Bobby Jones Golf Trophy being won by the Unit Welfare Officer, Capt Christie, following a tortuous 9 holes at the Hohne Military Golf Course. Matchplay took so long that the aspiration to play 18 holes had to be abandoned mid afternoon as turf flew, balls were lost and innocent bystanders found themselves diving for cover. You may draw your own conclusions from the result about the industry of the Welfare Office! Following a strong performance in the Brigade Boxing Night, the year's sporting events were crowned by the battalion rugby team becoming British Army Germany's Rugby XV champions in a hard fought match in Paderborn.

The year was rounded off by the traditional Jocks' Christmas Lunch which included not only the chefs' cake competition but also the blanket competition where each platoon was invited to decorate a G10 blanket with a scene reflecting the year. Fighting off stiff competition from the likes of the Mortar Platoon (who focused on their OC's FIBUA-with-a-difference in Canada), the title was taken by the Signal Platoon with their rendering of Billy Smart's Circus, set in a suspiciously Canadian looking scene and with Homer Simpson stood at the door. The Battalion 2IC seemed to be the only one not to make the connection. The Sergeants' Mess held a very successful Christmas Ball and both they and the Corporals' Mess held their annual Burn's Supper in the New Year.

The last six months has, like much of the rest of the field army, been a hectic and at times uncertain one for 4 SCOTS. We remain, however, fully focussed on the approaching Op TELIC 12 tour and supporting Op HERRICK this summer, with pre-deployment training now in full swing. As always, the professionalism, determination and rough humour of the jock enables the battalion to ride the uncertainty and we look forward with alacrity to the challenges ahead, be they in Iraq, Afghanistan or anywhere else we might find ourselves. 

PIPES AND DRUMS – THE KREMLIN ZORIA MILITARY MUSIC FESTIVAL AND THE STATE BANQUET IN HONOUR OF THE VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH OF SAUDI ARABIA

by The Pipe Major, Sgt MacDonald

The unfortunate side of being in the Pipes and Drums is that it occasionally takes you away from the military exercises that we all love and thrive upon. No really! Such was the case as we prepared to board the RAF flight from Calgary back to Germany to prepare ourselves for the Kremlin Zoria Military Music Festival in Moscow.

Luckily, due to RAF flight 'schedules', we had a three day stopover in Brize Norton on the way back from Canada, allowing the boys a bit of down time after three weeks on the prairie and a

chance to get the fingers going and learn the music for the Show. After a little panic over the collection of visas from the Russian Consulate in Hamburg, followed by more panic over the pickup of the flight tickets two days beforehand, we eventually made the journey to Moscow, via Frankfurt, along with the Pipes and Drums of the Scots Guards. All in all, the British forces were well represented with 1 and 3 SCOTS, 2 RGR, The RAF Pipes and Drums and The Royal Corps of Signals attending alongside ourselves. We all

converged upon Domodedovo Airport simultaneously and piped ourselves out to the waiting buses in front of national TV crews.

The actual event itself was laid out along similar lines to the Edinburgh Tattoo, with virtually the same number of spectators attending. In place of The Castle Esplanade, however, was Red Square, overlooked by The Kremlin, St Basil's Cathedral and Lenin's tomb. All of this provided quite a dominating backdrop! The local Muscovites didn't quite know what was happening



The Massed Bands play Red Square under the walls of the Kremlin

when they first heard the bagpipes tuning up for the rehearsals, but they soon became accustomed to the sound, and the Pipes and Drums item drew the largest round of applause in the show and also a great amount of interest outside the arena.

A sightseeing tour of Moscow was organised for the bands, and also a guided tour inside The Kremlin: well worth the visit if you ever get the chance. One thing that became apparent over the course of the trip was that Moscow is not easily navigated, especially after a couple of beers! Needless to say, we did try and sample a little of the local hospitality, but long walks back from bars were not to be recommended and finding a taxi could prove harder than finding the bars in the first place!

After seven days it was time to return to Fallingbostel, laden down

with wooden dolls, Russian hats and the odd bottle of vodka. The Kremlin Zoria had been a great success, performing to sell out crowds each night and attracting a great deal of media interest, both in Russia and internationally. The organisers now hope to make this an annual event, and hopefully we may be able to perform again there sometime in the future.

Hot on the heels of our arrival back in Fallingbostel came preparation to play at the state banquet for the visit of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia at Buckingham Palace.

We moved to London on the Sunday night prior to the banquet in order to allow us to meet up with the attachments required for the event. We were lucky to be granted the assistance of PM MacKenzie from Inverness ART, LCpl Reid from

Aberdeen BRT in addition to Cpl MacGregor and LCpl Simpson from The Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming.

State banquets are highly prestigious events, usually held at Buckingham Palace, where key VIPs from both nations are in attendance in addition to both The Queen and, in this case, King Abdullah. It is traditional to have 12 pipers from the same regiment play around the table, similar to mess night but on a much bigger scale! The real effort lies in keeping the 12 pipers, in a straight line, on the same beat without the aid of the drum corps. The state banquet was a great privilege, and a fantastic experience for the junior members of the band. It was a welcome opportunity to reunite as one large corps, an opportunity that does not often happen in today's army. 🇬🇧🇸🇦



THE ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS 5TH BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

BATTALION NOTES

Our OP HERRICK 8 Pre-Deployment Training finished last week and, at the time of writing, we start to deploy in less than 4 weeks time. Needless to say, there have been substantial 'late-breaking' changes to the Battalion's laydown in theatre, but in a dynamic operation, where the enemy most certainly do 'have a vote' this is only to be expected. So, the confirmatory recce for CO and the QM(M) is now in fact an initial recce for the BGHQ and D Coy deployment; the challenge being that the Battalion starts to deploy one week after we return. Twas ever thus!

Our preparations have gone extremely well; there is never enough time nor resources but we have made the most of what has been available and the personal and collective foundations are truly set to meet the challenges of Afghanistan. The key event in our preparations was EX TROPICAL STORM, a Battlegroup exercise in Belize. As ever, Murphy had his hand in our deployment with our flights coinciding with the arrival of a series of hurricanes across Florida and Central America causing inevitable delays; this allowed some to sun themselves on the beaches around Miami while the hurricanes passed and others to languish in the less sunnier or glamorous climes of South Cerney; but we all arrived in reasonable order in the end. The Battlegroup then spent 34

continuous days in the field during the Belize wet season and were thoroughly tested under arduous environmental and tactical conditions. The focus was at Coy Group and Battlegroup level for both live and dry training and all the sub-units acquitted themselves superbly. The exercise culminated with a 10 day FTX run by HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade to assess us against Battlegroup level collective training criteria, concluding with a 7km Battlegroup, live-firing, battlerun supported by artillery and mortars. Superb! The hard-work of the previous 8 months really paid off and we left for R and R with significant plaudits from the Brigade and BATSUB training staff.

On a less positive note, you will all have heard about the 17 jocks who failed the CDT on return from R and R. I won't dwell on this save to say that each of these young men was warned of the risks and of the inevitable CDT on their return yet they still personally each made the wrong decision and have now paid the price. What we must focus on is that fact that the remaining 500 passed the test and that the poor judgement of 17 must not detract from the superb efforts and achievements of the Battalion throughout the preceding year.

There was no respite on our return. Two working days after the last flight arrived back from Belize, we started our formal pre-deployment training

(PDT) with the in-barracks package and a plethora of individual courses. The courses continue even now and the PDT rolled into a Confirmatory Exercise at Stanford in November/December, an excellent Brigade study period at Colchester, a Battlegroup live firing battlerun at Otterburn supported by Attack Helicopter, Support Helicopters and mortars and latterly a 2 week Brigade Mission Rehearsal Exercise on Salisbury Plain and Sennybridge in Jan/Feb – ideal environmental preparation for a summer in Afghanistan! On reflection an excellent package constrained only by the serious paucity of UOR equipment that has been highlighted quite enough by the media.

So what do we look forward to? BGHQ and elements of MSp Coy are now to deploy to Musah Qaleh (MSQ) in the NW of Helmand to command a Battlegroup comprising sub units ranging from a CVR(T) Sqn (HCR), to a Warrior Coy (4 SCOTS), to an Estonian Armoured Infantry Coy, and a Mastiff Coy (2 SCOTS) among others; A Coy Group will deploy to FOB DELHI at Garmsir (GMR), the southern-most sub-unit in the Brigade; B Coy Group will deploy to the Provincial capital Lashkar Gar (LKG); and D Coy Group will now deploy to a new FOB in the Danish BG AO, FOB KEENAN. Meantime, echelon will be fully employed keeping all the plates spinning at Camp BASTION (BSN),



Adjt and Fish



1 Platoon lessons jungle style

trying to sustain a Battalion spread from the NW of Helmand to the far South.

Back at Canterbury we have made real progress both with the City and the

Barracks: all the jocks' accommodation will shortly have been refurbished and it is likely that the WO's and Sgts' Mess and Officers' Mess accommodation

will also be refurbished by the time we return from Afghanistan. Due to the hard work of the Welfare Officer and the Wives' Committee we have also received substantial grants from a variety of sources to refurbish and refurnish the Welfare Centre. And we have been offered by the City Council, and have accepted, the Freedom of the City of Canterbury. This is all great news, reflecting both a growing acceptance that investment in the barracks is long overdue and a groundswell of public support for the Battalion and the Army at large in Canterbury. We hope to hold the Freedom Parade before Christmas on our return from operations. 🇫🇷🇩🇪🇮🇹🇪🇸



From L-R: Pte Connelly, Cpl McNeil, Pte Davidson, Pte Ritchie – all loving the river crossing training, especially Lachie “the Fish” who just loves water (and jungle in general)



2 Platoon at the Mayan Temple

KIRK NOTES

by Rev Colin Macleod (UB) Padre

These past few months have been a busy and fulfilling time. Ministry has continued in various ways across the Battalion and the work goes on of reassuring many that they will not ignite in a ball of flame if they set foot inside Church!

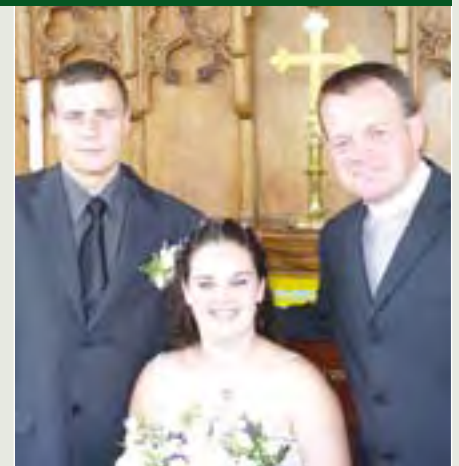
In 2007 we had the privilege of 9 families coming for baptism. These Sundays are definitely a highlight in the life of the Church and the singing is always that little bit more memorable!

There have now been two Battalion weddings here in Canterbury with Private Prichard Park marrying Lynn just before we deployed to Belize for Exercise Tropical Storm.

While the Kirk remains the focal point of ministry among the Battalion

the ongoing work of supporting soldiers and families goes on in many other ways. There is the Values & Standards package to deliver to all soldiers, when time allows, as well as meeting new recruits and taking services with the Battalion when we are away from Howe Barracks. The Battle Group Field Service in Belize was one such highlight, even though there were complaints that we only had one singing! It remains my dream to one day preach the perfect sermon which is proving to be an elusive achievement...

Preparations to deploy with the Battalion on Herrick 8 are now well under way where the aim will be to ensure pastoral support is available to all. It will be a team effort with 8



Private Foy B Coy & his new wife Robynne, whose wedding was the first from the Battalion in the Howe Barracks Kirk.

Chaplains forming the Brigade team.

All are most welcome to our services at 11am each Sunday. 🇫🇷🇩🇪🇮🇹🇪🇸



Lt Bevan calls for some pants to fit his Platoon Runner during a live jungle Company attack



Combat Clerk, LCpl "The Disappeared" Chindendere is found alive and well after going MIA during a live Company attack at Warcop!



During a live Company attack in Belize, OC A searches for a pound coin he dropped earlier. Cpl Duncan keeps watch for the CO



2IC A Coy and LCpl Gracie have another constructive discussion about comms on the OPTAG exercise!



A Coy Group after the OPTAG exercise – a small but potent force!



G4 doesn't stop for the rain. Pte DOBINSON, LCpl RAVULO keep on going



B Coy orders in the rain



Sgt DICACCA & Maj CLARK, also known as 5 Scots Chuckle Brothers



PT for Afghanistan – who keeps moving the top?



B Coy Riverline Ops – Use anything you can find, we're going down!



Pte's Hancock & MacDonald, taking a little rest.



Pte Dick aims high with the ladies. (Lacey Turner from Eastenders)



Chefs create works of art with food – Spiderman



Cpl Davidson, checking the grip of Sir Henry Cooper



10 Pl Massive at the Caracol ruins



A thin Lt Trickey and Cpl Carnegie after 5 days on hard routine in the J



Cpl Wood and Sgt McPhail in Belize



Cpl Carnegie ponders the finer points of life



LCpl MacAuley's section posing at the Caracol ruins



Pte Lafferty – Super Soldier



LCpl Whitehead on route to the 'Far' during SCBC



LCpl Wood and Ptes Hepburn and McQuade enjoying a drink of Coke



Pte Magarahon – ready for anything



Pte Wood readies his section with Pte Boag in the foreground barely able to contain his excitement



Pte McQuade in a desperate attempt to get off the exercise drinks river water



The range safety team at Warcop having a crazy time



Sgt Carter OC D, CSM and Mr Trickey at the Caracol ruins.



CSM and OC D Coy at the top of a Mayan temple



The Delta Company Chippendales

The 11 PI Massive at the Caracol ruins





Pre-Belize we had a 'When in Rome' party which was a huge success. All dressed up for the occasion interestingly by rank. Coy Comds came as tribunes and the CO was of course Julius Caesar



Any time, Any where, there is always a time for a game of golf for the QM and his mates



Padre and QM staff visit local kids home



Sgt Monteith, Sgt McFadden, CSgt Andrew, Sgt Allock



NEW RECRUITS

30011792 Pte Boyle



30011792 Pte Boyle comes from Clydebank. Prior to enlisting he was employed as a Landscape Gardener. Looking for

something different and with more of a challenge and the opportunity to travel he joined the Royal Regiment of Scotland. His hobbies include football and swimming and he is an avid supporter of Celtic.

30018391 Pte Campbell



30018391 Pte Campbell comes from Tullibody and attended Lornhill Academy. Prior to enlisting he was employed

with Argos and completed a 2 year Fire and Rescue training course. He joined the Royal Regiment of Scotland with the intention of maintaining the family link as his grandfather was an Argyll and to gain a full career and promotion as quickly as possible. During his spare time he enjoys hill walking and swimming.

25239117 Pte Coakes



25239117 Pte Coakes comes from Callander, Stirlingshire. Prior to enlisting he was employed as a labourer and

Landscape Gardener. He joined the Royal Regiment of Scotland regiment for better career prospects the opportunity to travel and the challenges offered from a military career. His hobbies include football music and socialising.

25239117 Pte Cunningham



25215822 Pte Govan



25215822 Pte Govan comes from Falkirk and attended Larbert High School. He has always been interested in a military career and joined his local infantry regiment. He

maintains the family link with the Regiment by joining his brother Steven who also serves in the battalion. He hopes to take advantage of the excellent career opportunities offered by the army and travel the world. His hobbies include football and socialising.

30017774 Pte Haggerty



30017774 Pte Haggerty comes from Glasgow and lived in Edinburgh for a large part of his life. Having left Springburn Academy he was employed in a furniture warehouse before enlisting.

He enlisted looking for a career that offers variety, the opportunity to travel and good promotional prospects. His hobbies include rock climbing, music and meeting people.

25238285 Pte Haywood



25238285 Pte Haywood comes from Banknock and attended St Modens High School. Prior to enlisting he attended college and then decided to enlist. He joined the

Royal Regiment of Scotland with the intention of gaining a full career and the opportunity to travel. He hopes to also take advantage of the promotional prospects offered by the army. During his spare time he enjoys skateboarding, music and socialising.

30011788 Pte Hunter



30011788 Pte Hunter comes from Denny and attended Saint Modens High School. He enlisted straight from school having

always wanted to join the Army and the Scottish infantry. He is looking for a full and challenging career that offers the opportunity for promotion and the chance to travel. In his spare time he enjoys playing football and socialising.

30011794 Pte Inglis



Prior to enlistment he was employed as a fishmonger. He has always wanted to join the army and to follow in the

footsteps of his big brother, Big Willie. He hopes to gain a full career and climb the promotion ladder. He enjoys all sports but is particularly keen on cricket.

25071041 Pte Irwin



25071041 Pte Irwin rejoined the Army having previously served with 1 KOSB. He rejoined because he missed the camaraderie and the challenges

that army life has to offer. His interests include football, swimming and boxing.

30012546 Pte Logan



30012546 Pte Logan comes from Glasgow and completed phase 1 training with the Royal Marines before being discharged with a

broken hand. He rejoined because of the lack of career prospects in civvie street and missed the challenges offered with a career in the military. During his spare time he enjoys playing golf and football.



30011175 Pte MacLellan



30011175 Pte MacLellan comes from Oban. Prior to enlisting he was an apprentice joiner but wanted more of a challenge and some adventure. He is a keen footballer and avid supporter of Glasgow Rangers.

30014554 Pte McGee



30014554 Pte McGee comes from Greenock where he attended Greenock High School. He was employed in a variety of jobs before

enlisting. He joined the army looking for good career with plenty of variety prospects and the opportunity to travel and decided to join Scotland's infantry regiment. His hobbies include fast cars, motorbikes, football and boxing.

30011793 Pte McGowan



30011793 Pte McGowan comes from Dumbarton and attended our Lady And St Patrick College where he studied mechanics. He joined the army because he is

looking for a challenging and full carer and opportunity of travel.

25227703 Pte McKenzie



25227703 Pte McKenzie comes from Clydebank. He attended collage and studied catering and worked at KWIK Fit prior to

enlisting. He joined Scotland's infantry regiment to have a full and challenging career and climb the promotional ladder as soon as possible. His hobbies are rugby and swimming.

25225685 Pte McLean



25225684 Pte McLean comes from Clydebank and attended St Andrews High School. He joined the Royal

Regiment of Scotland straight from school looking for adventure and a challenging career. His hobbies include football, music and socialising.

25528205 Pte McLeod



25228205 Pte McLeod comes from Falkirk. After attending Falkirk High School he was employed in an ASDA

warehouse. He joined Scotland's infantry regiment with the intention of gaining a full career and promotion as quickly as possible. During his spare time he enjoys playing football and socialising.

30020613 Pte Naude



Pte Naude comes from South Africa and always wanted to join the British Army and travelled to the UK at his

own expense specifically to join the British Army. Prior to enlisting he was a member of the South African Armed Forces and also worked in mining. He hopes to widen his knowledge and experiences before returning to South Africa to study either security or project management. His hobbies include rugby, socialising and Afrikaan music.

30035856 Pte Peace



30035856 Pte Peace comes from Dumbarton and rejoined the Army having previously served with 1 KOSB. Having been employed as a trainee electrical engineer

he missed the military life style and the variety that the military life style had to offer and decided to rejoin. His interests outside work are football and boxing.

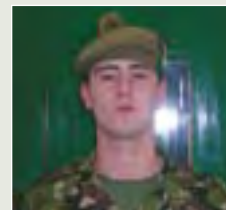
25226180 Pte Reid



25226108 Pte Reid comes from Strachur near Dunoon. Having completed his education at Dunoon Grammar

School he spent time being employed in his local Post Office before enlisting. During his spare time he enjoys taking part in all sports and was a regular member of the Strachur Shinty Team

25234269 Pte Slaven



25234269 Pte Slaven comes from Johnston and attended Johnston High School. Prior to enlisting he was

doing an apprenticeship as a roofer and tiler. He joined The Royal Regiment of Scotland for better career prospects the opportunity to travel and the challenges offered from a military career. His hobbies include football music and socialising.

30014623 Pte Taylor



30014623 Pte Taylor comes from Glasgow and attended Loudon Academy. He enlisted into the army on

completion of his education. His reasons for joining the army are the opportunities to travel, and the prospect of a full and challenging career with plenty of variety. During his spare time he enjoys playing football and badminton.

30012101 Pte Thomas



30012101 Pte Thomas comes from South Shields near Newcastle. He was keen to continue the

family links to the regiment as he is the nephew of WO2 Colin McFarlane. Prior to enlisting he studied Uniformed Services and decided to enlist looking for adventure, travel and a career that offered excellent promotional prospects. His hobbies include supporting Newcastle United and collecting train sets.



52ND LOWLAND 6TH BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

CO'S OVERVIEW

The period since the last Journal article has, characteristically, been somewhat hectic.

It seems incredible that we are now planning for the return of Bremen PI from Kabul – it feels like only yesterday that they left, however by the time this goes to print they will be home enjoying their well-earned POTL. They have done an outstanding job in Kabul and they should be very proud of what they have achieved in their time on Op HERRICK 7. We will be shortly switching our focus to the next operational deployment, which in a TA time-scale is not too far away. There will be enough time for us to re-charge our batteries however and allow our personnel to get back into the zone for deployment.

We have also turned our attention to the planning for Ex SUMMER CHALLENGE 08 which will be our main effort for 2008. The entire Battalion will be involved in some way and for the summer months we will effectively re-locate to Inverness and Cameron Barracks. We are looking

forward to strengthening links with the Regular Battalions during this period, but especially with 3 SCOTS who will be settled in the Fort by the time we arrive.

Another focus will be the restoration of our Pipes and Drums. Our Pipe and Drums got a better offer on the civilian circuit and, save for a couple of stalwarts, left for civilian life en masse. Although numbers are pretty low we are actively searching for pipers and drummers.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate WO1 (RSM) Cochrane on successfully gaining his LE Commission. His first appointment will be as MTO 1 SCOTS where I am sure he will be a resounding success.

There has been a significant amount of change in the Permanent Staff too. WO2 Stuart replaced WO2 Cowan as Trg WO. We wish WO2 Cowan the very best of luck in civilian life and thank him for the amount of sheer hard work and enthusiasm that he injected into the Battalion. As one



Pte Bryson, Kabul Foot Patrol, Oct 07

green hackle left, another two arrived – WO2 McKinnon replaced WO2 McCormack, who has returned to 2 SCOTS as Ops WO, as SPSI C Coy, and



Bremen PI Kabul, Dec 07




CSgt Armstrong fresh from Kenya has replaced Sgt Healy (who has also returned to 2 SCOTS) as Assault Pioneer PI PSI. We also welcome WO2 McNab who has taken the reigns of SPSI A Coy – WO2 McCormick has also left the Army after 22 years of outstanding service. We wish him all the very best and feel fortunate to have had him attached to us. Finally, CSgt Young moved back to 2 SCOTS and did a straight swap with A/CSgt Murray

who is now firmly in the chair as Sigs PI PSI.

We also welcomed Capt Tom Pounder recently back from the SADF and now acting OC of C Coy. There are three new CSM's; WO2 (CSM) Hogg (B Coy), WO2 (CSM) Stewart (C Coy) and WO2 (CSM) Liddell (HQ Coy). We bade farewell to WO2 (CSM) Duncan and WO2 (CSM) Cavanagh who have decided to retire.

The other major events this year were the visit of HRH The Princess

Royal and the Colonel of the Regiment to 6 SCOTS during our ATD at Warcop. More of this later.

It is unfortunate that I have to end with some very sad news. In the early hours of 02 January 2008, our RAO(V), Maj Jim Mutch, sadly lost his battle to cancer and passed away. Jim had been in the TA for countless years and was a committed, loyal, able and much-liked Officer. We will miss him very much and our thoughts go out to his family. 

MAJOR JAMES MUTCH TD 1952-2008

It is with sadness that we report the death of Maj Jim Mutch, RAO (V) of 52nd Lowland, 6 SCOTS. Jim was diagnosed with cancer in late October and died in Marie Curie Hospice, Edinburgh on 2nd January 2008.

Jim Mutch was a 'Buchan Loon' who was born in Ellon and grew up in Strichen and Esslemont. He had a very successful civilian career with the Clydesdale Bank, for whom he worked for 36 years, rising to his final position as Business Banking Manager at the Regional Business Centre in Edinburgh.


Jim's military career started as a Jock with 1/51 Highland Volunteers in

February 1972. He was to serve nine years in the ranks, rising to full Cpl, before being granted a probationary commission on 17 Oct 81. Jim chose to combine his civilian financial expertise with his military service and in due course became unit paymaster of the Queens Own Yeomanry.

On 1st April 1990 Jim was posted to 2/52 Lowland. He was to serve the unit as Paymaster and RAO through its various name changes of Lowland Volunteer, 52 Lowland Regiment and 6 SCOTS until his death on 2nd January 2008.

Jim was a well liked and committed member of the unit and of the Officers


Mess. He performed his duties quietly and efficiently. He was instrumental in the transfer of the unit Service (non-public) Funds to PAXTON and became something of a resident expert with the software. His role as voluntary mess wines member was perhaps not always as successful but he soldiered on despite being the butt of some light-hearted jokes at every mess function about the standard of the wine.

Jim's wife, Isobella, died suddenly in May 2006. He leaves behind a daughter Caroline and three grandchildren. To them we offer our sympathy in the sad loss. 

VISIT OF GENERAL A J N GRAHAM CBE, COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

The day immediately after our Royal Colonel's visit, the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General A J N Graham CBE, visited us. Again this was the first visit to the Battalion of the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Colonel of the Regiment received a short brief on ATD before visiting the exercising troops. He was then given a more detailed brief on the Battalion by key BHQ Staff before having an office call with the Commanding Officer and being taken for a quick pre-dinner run by the CO, Adjutant and RSM.

In the evening General Graham was the principal guest for the Officers' Mess Dinner Night. A fantastic meal, accompanied by excellent playing from the Regimental Band was followed by outstanding piping and an opportunity for our Colonel and the Regimental Secretary to meet all the Officers. 



Officers' Mess Dinner ATD Warcop Oct 2007



VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL KG KT GCVO TO 6 SCOTS – 27 SEP 07

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO visited 6 SCOTS on 27 Sep 07 in her capacity as our Royal Colonel. The visit took place at Warcop during our Annual Training Deployment. This was the first time that HRH had visited 6 SCOTS since it adopted its new title and ORBAT since Formation Day.

Our initial concerns about a lack of Jocks were immediately put to rest when our Royal Colonel was met by the Honorary Colonel, Commanding Officer and the Regimental Sergeant Major. HRH made her intent quite clear – she wanted to meet and speak to every single soldier that we had, regardless of how long it took. In the end a 2½ hour visit lasted nearly four hours and every member of the Battalion on ATD met the Royal Colonel. Thankfully the weather on the ranges held up and the visit passed without incident.

At the end of the visit, HRH graciously participated in a



Hon Col, CO and RSM greet the Royal Colonel, 27 Sep 07, Warcop

photograph with a combined Officers', and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants Messes. This will take pride of place in

both Messes for many years to come and we look forward to her continued support to the Battalion. 🇬🇧🇨🇦🇮🇪



Royal Colonel with the Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs



BREMEN PLATOON – OP HERRICK 7

by Lt D Fisher, Platoon Commander

As we enter 2008, it serves as a timely reminder for me to reflect on all that has been achieved throughout the operational deployment of 6 SCOTS at the NATO International Security Assistance Force Headquarters in Kabul. We are now entering the fifth month of our deployment and consolidating in order to accommodate our replacements in February. We have built up a good working relationship with our counterparts in the Macedonian National Army and worked hard to maintain the effective security of HQ ISAF.

Some of the jobs we do are inevitably perceived as less glamorous, such as 'staggering on' in the Sanger's. However, the 'Jocks' have all done well to stay focused and remain in relatively good spirits. In the run up to Christmas, some much appreciated parcels arrived with all manner of cakes, sweets, goodies and kind messages, providing an essential and much needed boost during the festive period. The chefs were able to turn their hand and produce a relatively good Christmas Day dinner, which gave the guys a chance to relax and enjoy the fare a little.

Of all our tasks, without doubt the most enjoyable and challenging has been conducting foot patrols in Kabul city. Here, we have worked closely with our interpreters to foster and harness a relationship with the local communities. A 'softly, softly' approach has been adopted and sees the 'Jocks' wearing TOS with helmet carried. This has helped to create our own Scottish identity on the ground and the recognition that it is Scotsmen

patrolling here. This has not gone unnoticed by the locals, who comment favorably.


The foot patrols serve as a welcome break from the more mundane, but nonetheless necessary tasks. The locals seem genuinely glad to see us on patrol. We make a point of interacting, shaking hands, talking and playing with the local children as often as we can to build up a rapport.

We have also had an opportunity to carry out joint patrols with Kabul City Police and have been accompanied by the media. These have all went well and gave the Jocks a chance to become TV stars, stealing a few minutes of precious airtime on a busy TV network. I have managed to capture a few and will share on my return.

As I reported previously, COMISAF, General Dan McNeill has taken a genuine interest in our soldiers and all the feedback disseminated from COMISAF and the others who have had occasion to interact has always been in a resoundingly positive manner. High praise indeed.

As we approach the Bard's birthday on 25th January, I am in the process of organising a Burns Supper. My NCO's have already been given their poems and recitals to learn and I am sure the Jocks will take great delight in listening to their animated renditions of the Bard's best. What better way to round off the tour than to celebrate the life and works of perhaps the greatest Scot ever.

"It's comin' yet for a' that an' a' that,

That man tae man the world o'er shall brithers be for a' that!" 

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51ST HIGHLAND 7TH BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

SUMMER CHALLENGE

by Pte Martyn Coulter

Two words to sum it up: "An adventure".

There have been a lot of reports and write-ups on how much of a success the TA Summer Challenge was over the summer of 2007. A great many of them seem to have been written by officers discussing how recruits pass their training. However a rather limited amount of them have been written by any of the recruits that took part on Summer Challenge 2007. So when I was asked by my OC to write a report on my thoughts about Summer Challenge, I jumped at the chance.

I have been in the TA for just under a year now. The reasons why I wanted to join the TA are much the same reasons as are mentioned in the television adverts; looking for an adventure and a break from everyday mundane civilian life. I also wanted to join the TA because I am a people person, rather than a paper person. I have previously

worked as a life-guard and a Door Steward working in a team as well as for the public, and I love the uncertainty day to day events of both jobs. When I was 16 I had a job in an office as a junior in administration. I saw my hot warm summer fly past me while being stuck in a wee stuffy office. I vowed from that day that I would never work in an office 9 till 5 when I could be outside having fun. Ever since then I have been looking for jobs that are different. I wish to have a career in the Police and I thought the TA would be great as a building block to get in and help with my chosen career. A chance to brush up on my communication and leadership skills, and run about all day getting fit, and get paid for it ... what more can anyone ask for?

The time came round again in early 2007 to start looking for a summer job, and once again

joining the TA was sitting in the back of my mind. However being a full time student studying Law at university, I did not think I had time to do the training that was needed to become a soldier. While working one Saturday night, I was talking to a client of one of my pubs. He turned out to be an ex regular soldier. At first our conversation was based on his time in the Army and the operational theatres that he had been in, and it then it moved onto what I wanted to do. I told him that I was interested in joining the TA to get a feel of what the Army has to offer however my long term goal was to join the police. This is when he informed me that Summer Challenge was on this summer in Inverness. I realised that I could be living in the field, training in first aid, firing weapons and getting fit, but most importantly I would be getting paid for it. Another bonus was that I would be staying in barracks and so I would not have the stress of finding accommodation and food.

I went home from work at 4 that morning, straight on to my computer and found more about Summer Challenge 2007. I read the advert; it sounded amazing and just what I was looking for. Being out side in the summer and getting paid to keep fit and get a tan. So I applied.

Unfortunately, whether I applied very early in the recruiting scheme or whether I just kept on missing the phone calls, it seemed like ages until I herd anything about Summer Challenge. And I began to get quite anxious as I needed some sort of money to get me through my final year of university, plus I had the added stress of exams looming. However I finally received a letter from my local unit asking me to go in for an induction day.

I did not know what to expect so I thought I would go in with a fresh hair cut and a suit to impress. I am sure that there were many



Summer Challenge 2 Section



sniggers as every one else was in casual clothes. We spent the morning listening to Sergeants telling us about life in the TA and what we could expect our futures to be if we joined. I remember my eyes just getting wider and wider thinking why on earth I had never thought about this sooner. This was me through to the bone. I was asked that day if I would like to be sworn in and start my TA life that day over a good lunch of mince and tatties, which was the best I had ever had. I could not wait, so after my medical I jumped at the opportunity and swore my allegiance to the Queen in front of the Major. It was a proud moment for me.

However before I went on Summer Challenge I had to complete my TAFS (TA Foundation Scheme) one and TAFS two. And even before that I had to finish off my 3rd year Law exams. Fortunately my exams finished just 3 weeks before Summer Challenge was about to start, so there was little hanging around for me. It did mean that I had the added stress of making sure I passed my TAFS to go on Summer Challenge TAFS one went with out hitch so to speak. My Sergeant Major instructed the small group of us on how to march, then salute, then march and salute at the same time, which saw me almost fall on my face a good couple of times. TAFS 2 was in Edinburgh and actually made me think about not wanting to continue my training. All I can remember doing is marching, marching and more marching. One day it was hot and then the rain came. Soaked through to the skin, with boots that had not been broken in so I also had blisters but I remember thinking that this is them testing you.

THE BIG DAY

The Big Day came and I got up early in order to make it into the barracks. I was sharing the taxi with a friend I had already met in the TA and who is now one of my best friends. He was slightly younger than me but in

the same boat, anxious and nervous about the next 7 weeks and what it would have in store for us. However I wasn't as anxious as him, as I had been living away from home since I was 17/18 so leaving to stay in barracks away from home did not bother me.

We arrived at the barracks and met the rest of the guys who would be joining us from our unit for the next 7 weeks. They were all a good bunch of guys. On the bus there were many anxious faces, as there was about a dozen of us from the same unit heading up, some of whom I had never met before. I think most of us were anxious because we did not really know what to expect in Inverness. We were all bricking it to an extent. However we made one pact. No matter what happened we would look out for each other. I suppose that was one of the best things we could have done. As one of the older boys, I was able to help from time to time some of the younger ones who found it tougher than us living away from home.

When we moved into the barracks, I had my mate with me on my left sharing my locker and a lad that I had become mates with on TAFS two to my right so I felt quite comfortable. However it was a daunting task for many having to share a locker with someone you did not know. This put a lot of guys off at the start especially in a room of 22. But that was a part of Army life, character building as we would always be told by our superiors. We were stuck with it and just made the most of it.

That day we were also introduced to our Colour Sergeant and Sergeant Major, we were told what to expect over Summer Challenge. The Colour Sergeant was a small man, but well built, and was slightly fiery. I knew just looking at him and listening to him that he was going to be a good guy, a good joker. However the Sergeant Major was slightly more worrying, slightly younger than the Colour, slightly taller as well but twice as wide. I remember thinking

to myself to watch out for him. Then we saw the RSM and a lot of faces turned white immediately. This man was tall and built like a tank, he had a piercing stare that made you sit or stand upright. He had a fantastic presence over us all. We felt like true recruits.

Later that day we were split into our sections and introduced to our Sergeant and Corporal. My Sergeant was a Highlander, an excellent teacher, very open and told it straight. He seemed to get on with everyone in the camp and he took us for skill at arms classes, which were always a good crack. He was also very big in to discipline. He went out of his way to make sure that we were happy and adjusting to the new life. As well as this he was also a very experienced soldier, who spent the next couple of weeks letting us into all the little secrets of living and surviving as a TA soldier.

As well as our Sergeant we had a section Corporal. The Corporal in charge of our section was from my unit back home which made things easier in the first couple of days. He was also a fantastic teacher and very laid back, so respect for him immediately flourished, similar to that for an older tougher wiser brother. We got on well with our Corporal so much so he and another Corporal would frequently come in asking for equipment, the odd pen or the odd iron, or just sit on the ends of our beds telling stories. To this day we are still very good friends.

There were a lot of younger lads and they came from all walks of life. Some of them were students like me. They tended to stand out more in the crowd, as they were more confident than the other lads, as well as sometimes more arrogant. There were also a lot of guys who had just left school and they were learning to stand on their own two feet for the first time. I remember the infamous 6 section. This was a group of mismatches that never seem to grasp the concept of good admin; they would always be



running out of the barracks late, dressed in the wrong kit or running in the opposite direction from the class room.

The days seemed to last for ever. We were up early in the morning for breakfast and going to bed late, and within a couple of days I found that I was full of energy. I felt that this life was better than the student and work life that I had been living. I was, for the first time, truly excited about everything I did; I was learning new skills, getting fit and getting a tan. I remember looking at my account for the first time after the pay went in and I was amazed at how much I had been paid, for doing what felt like relatively nothing because I was having so much fun. There were rifle classes, fist aid classes, CBRN (Chemical Biological Radiation and Nuclear) training as well as PT. It was amazing and exhausting fun. And then came section attacks.

SECTION ATTACKS

Section Attacks were one of the best bits of Summer Challenge, apart from bayonet training which I will mention that later on. We were introduced to section attacks at the end of the first week. I remember they were in a big cows' field full of what cows do best, and a bog. We were guaranteed to get wet just walking through it as in some places mud was up to our knees. With mud and water everywhere, firing blanks from our rifles and using smoke grenades and drill HE grenades, it was amazing. We did section attacks all day drying off in the sun watching the other sections. We went back to the field to do them several times through Summer Challenge. I remember with my Corporal, I was usually put as the grenade man, which I felt was the hardest job of them all. It involved me moving round with the Corporal as he laid a fire base, then crawling through all the mud and muck in the field to throw a grenade in the enemy trench and then open fire. It was always hard work and with a Corporal screaming

at you to keep on going, whilst out of breath and with the adrenaline pounding, crawling through smoke and mud, it was amazing.

Another good lesson I remember was being gassed by CS gas, which makes you cough, splutter and your eyes water like nothing ever has before. No matter what anyone says and how to prepare your self, it does not help much the first time when you get gassed. I remember taking off my gas mask and being asked my number, rank and name. I took a deep breath and did not feel anything. However I could taste something, an almost smoky taste. I thought nothing of it; it was easy I thought to myself. Perhaps I was one of those in a million who does not feel the effects of it. I opened my mouth to speak still thinking there was nothing to it. Then BANG I was knocked for six, almost instantly as I began to speak. I started coughing and my eyes were burning, my nose was running down my face and I struggled to say everything. Then I was thrown out of the hut to allow the wind to blow off the gas and to try and work out what had just happened. I loved it.

CIC

The CIC instructors came at the end of week 4. The first thing they did when they arrived was to take us into the classroom and make us all re-sit our tests. After that the Captain told us to pack up our kit as we would be moved around in the barracks. We were not happy with our section being changed. However looking back on it, it was probably for the best as it brought into our sections those lads who had joined the rest of us for the two weeks to do CIC.


My section was reassigned a new Corporal. Luckily for us he was another Highlander. He started off with the rest of the CIC staff being cold as ice; however we later were able to warm him round. We spent 4 days out in the field where we were taught more advanced survival techniques. This was absolutely mind blowing. The amount of

knowledge that this man had was amazing. And the stories that he would come away with would make everyone laugh.

The best part of CIC by far was the bayonet training. All of us were looking forward to it. However we did not expect what actually happened. We helped set up the training area at Fort George and then were told to start running. We first of all started running round the ranges and then crawling. Then we were taken over the road to an area that was covered in large pebbles. Then to the sea. And we went in it, a good couple of times. After that we were taken back to the training area to start stabbing sandbags as though our lives depended on it, shouting "Kill, Kill, Kill" and working ourselves into a frenzy. It was very scary looking back on it, but no less enjoyable.

Before we knew it was the end of CIC, and we were all stood to attention as the Captain congratulated all those who had passed. Then something happened that I will remember for the rest of my TA career and beyond. Our Section Corporal called us over and shook all of our hands, congratulating us for passing CIC and wishing us good luck in our careers that followed. And then it hit me; I was now a trained Private soldier in the Territorial Army.

LOOKING BACK

Looking back on Summer Challenge 2007, I am amazed that I had not undertaken something like that sooner. It was by far the best experience of my life so far. It gave me a great sense of achievement and insight into life in the Army and what it has to offer. There was an overwhelming feeling of pride which I still feel today being part of the TA. I am still in the TA, training to become a Mortarman on the 81mm mortar. As well as this I am hoping to go away with the TA to Poland in the summer and possibly do a tour with 3 SCOTS in Afghanistan early next year. 



EX SUMMER LEADER

by OCdt Paul McGuinness

Personally I found the transition from civilian to military life a reasonably comfortable one. Being a student, the early mornings were a bit of a shock to the system however within a few days of Summer Challenge I felt right at home.

I thoroughly enjoyed my 4 weeks at Summer Challenge in Inverness where I completed all my basic training. From not knowing the first thing about soldiering, I became proficient in areas such as weapon handling, map reading, first aid, CBRN, and I also noticed a vast improvement in my fitness and endurance.

From Summer Challenge I went on to Summer Leader in Aberdeen to complete Modules 2 and 3 of Officer Training, which lasted just over 4 weeks. Thinking back, a couple of phrases stick out in my memory: "a sense of urgency" and "stop minging it!". It just so happened that my Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Mclellan from the RLC, was also a PTI. So if anybody messed up they were in for a lot of phys!

Module 2 began with a lot of classroom work where we were

introduced to things like BATCO and the Orders and Estimates process or an officer's bread and butter as we were so frequently told. The days were long and tiring, especially if we'd had the pleasure of one of Sgt Mclellan's inventive PT sessions, but at the same time we were enjoying ourselves and the atmosphere was always relaxed and jovial.

We also spent time in the field at Barry Buddon which I found the most enjoyable part of the module. Navigation exercises, night recce patrols, advances to contact, rolling platoon attacks were but a few of the many activities we managed to fit in. The module culminated in PRACTAC 1, which involved delivering your orders with a model you had to make yourself, to an examining officer.

However it wasn't all hard work. We managed to have a couple of theme nights in our mess which were organised by our own appointed mess committee. I remember the Port and Cheese night was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by both the students and staff. There were even a few mess games towards the end of the

night and needless to say the students won every time.

After a well earned day off, we left for the Blackdog training area to the North of Aberdeen to begin Mod 3 – a gruelling 9 days in the field to be tested on everything we'd learned in Mod 2. The module started with an all night navigation exercise covering 23 km with a command task at each of 5 checkpoints while carrying full kit. It was bucketing down with rain and I was unfortunate enough to be carrying a 351 radio with spare battery along with all my soaking kit! My back was in a bit of pain by the end of it.

By night we would do a recce patrol which involved "tabbing" for miles in pitch black 'til usually about 0200 or 0300. First light was approximately 4.15am so once you'd done your stag duty you were lucky if you'd had an hours sleep! By day you would tab to an enemy position and conduct a platoon attack. Unfortunately the enemy position always seemed to be on top of a very steep hill covered in heather and fern waist deep, so by the time you got to the top, attacking an



HRH with CSgt Taylor 2




enemy position was the last thing you wanted to do.

Like Mod 2, Mod 3 finished with PRACTAC 2. It was then time for the end of course dinner. Everybody smartly dressed, plenty of alcohol, great company and good laughs made it a night to remember. And a game of mess rugby at 3am left me a few bumps and bruises to remember it by as well.

Summer Leader was without a doubt the most challenging thing I have ever done in my entire life. The exhaustion and sleep deprivation made it nearly impossible to operate and even think straight at times. There were times where I honestly thought I couldn't go on any longer (as I'm sure many of the other students felt), however I just had to grit my teeth and get on with it. I feel

I am a much stronger person for it and that there's nothing I can't achieve if I set my mind to it.

The course itself in my opinion was a huge success due to the great efforts put in by Majors Fitzpatrick and Ward, and all the other staff that helped make the course possible. I would like to thank them for contributing in my training to become an army officer. 

REGIMENTAL PAINTING – ALAMEIN COY – OP TELIC 9

Following the recent return of ALAMEIN Coy from Iraq in support of Op TELIC 9, 7 SCOTS commissioned a painting by the celebrated war artist Hugh Beattie to commemorate what was a very successful, rewarding and thankfully safe tour. Col. Allan Lapsley, then Dep Comd 51 (Scottish) Bde, made the initial introductions, and also extremely generously donated a most impressive frame. The painting takes pride of place within the Ante Room at Queen's Barracks in Perth.


The painting depicts a patrol from ALAMEIN Coy on the outskirts of Basrah stopping to check one of the many

river crossings in the city. Troops are dismounting from their vehicles to provide protection to those troops tasked with checking the crossing point.

The exploits of ALAMEIN Coy have been detailed in previous articles both in this journal and also in the battalion's antecedent Regimental journals, but in summary comprised a TA Rifle Coy deploying in the Force Protection role initially within Basrah itself, subsequently moving out to the airport to conform to the rebalancing within theatre.

The majority of the Coy have now returned to training with 7 SCOTS, and

the Battalion is currently sending more of its Jocks to support 5 SCOTS, with another significant mobilisation next year in support of 3 SCOTS – the new era of ever closer relationships between the Regiment's Regular and Territorial Battalions is now well established, and working to mutual benefit. For reference, and indeed credit where credit is due and well deserved – the artist's details:-

J Hugh L Beattie
14 Dalmore Rd
West Dulwich Studio
London
SE21 8HB 





INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE CATTERICK – 1 YEAR DOWN

by Cpl W S Gold 1 SCOTS

One could, perhaps, understand my apprehension when I was told that I was returning to the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick (ITC). After all, as a recruit, I did swear that I would – *never* – go back. However, this time it would be remarkably better, so the RCMO assured me – I was going back as an instructor!

My introduction to ITC was in the form of the mandatory 2 week Train-the-Trainer package and some choice horror stories courtesy of the rumour spin machine. This left me (and many of my colleagues) wondering if I would ever reach the end of my 2 year posting at ITC without severely blemishing my career prospects. The recruit ‘monster’ was a dangerous animal that needed to be treated very carefully!

Thankfully there wasn’t much time to reflect on my two week metamorphosis from the hard life at the coal face in Iraq to the patient, professional instructor and role model as I was thrown right into the start of a Combat Infantryman’s Course. The first 6 weeks of this course are crucial. It’s at this point where the recruit either decides to become a soldier, or intimates his notice to terminate. The pace of proceedings at Weeks 1 to 6 is very fast and there is very little time for anything else but civilian/soldier conversion!

The remainder of the 26 week course is spent attempting to enrich and inspire the recruits with everything infantry. I soon realised that the horror stories were just that, stories. The recruit in general, although potentially

a monster is perfectly manageable and trainable if the emphasis is on inspiration. The job is challenging and a fine example of this was trying to help a recruit, Pte Connelly, overcome his fear for heights. There were occasions when it took every trick in the book of persuasion to coax him up an obstacle or into a helicopter but gradually, he began to overcome his fear, he improved greatly over the course of the 6 months. When Connelly and the remainder of the recruits in his platoon finally passed out it was an extremely rewarding experience for me.

Being an avid outdoorsman I was soon to realise that being posted to Catterick offered other very big advantages namely wing shooting and fishing. The Scots Coy RCMO, WO2 Lamont introduced me to this



Cpl Gold 2500m above sea level in Corsica



INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE

part of Catterick and at the height of the shooting season I found myself accompanying him on various pheasant and duck shoots. Having a well stocked trout pond within spitting distance of my accommodation meant that every spare moment was spent improving my fly fishing skills with the added bonus of a fish every now and then. I have consequently broken a personal record for my biggest fish when I landed a 16lb Golden Trout. It also meant that various barbecues in the garrison including the Scots Coy function were supplied with fresh trout!

Performing in front of a camera was probably the last thing that I thought I'd be doing in the Army. During my time at ITC Tony Kirkham, head of the arboretum at Kew Gardens was producing a documentary on "Trees that made Britain" in association with BBC2 and one of the programmes was on how the Army uses trees. Our task was to carry out a section attack with Tony as the grenadier. It went off quite well but for the fact that he took a long time to recover from having to leopard crawl during the final assault.

Adventure Training is one part of the Army that I've always wanted to participate in but due to operational commitments it has not always been possible. Whilst at ITC an opportunity arose for me to take part in an expedition to conquer the GR20, renowned to be the most gruelling mountaineering expedition in Europe, it involves trekking over the mountains from the North of Corsica, a French Island in the Mediterranean, to the South. It was certainly very challenging and involved us trekking a total of 237KM over 14 days, ascending a total of 10,635M and descending 10,011M carrying bergans of around 30Kg. Most of the trek took place between 1000M and 2500M above sea level. The views were stupendous and I can say that the aim of adventure training was achieved as my colleagues and I were at times well out of our comfort zones. The expedition was aptly concluded with 4 days well deserved R&R in Nice including a day in Monaco walking the route of the famous Monaco Grand Prix. Completing the GR20 was coupled with an enormous sense of


achievement but I hardly had time to reflect due to the fact that as soon as I returned to Catterick I assumed the position of 2IC for another adventure training package.

This time we were heading off to Briancon in the Sierre Chevalier valley in the French Alps to tackle the numerous and daunting Via Ferrata routes. Via Ferrata is similar to Rock Climbing but the routes are clearly defined with cables and metal ladders which are attached to the rocks. This doesn't, by any means, take away from the feeling of sheer terror when one finds one's self hanging from a cliff, 300M from the nearest available ground! Yes, Adventure Training had achieved its aim again by keeping me well out of my comfort zone. However, being lead by the extremely calm and capable Capt Jeffrey gave significant peace of mind which complimented a thoroughly enjoyable 2 weeks.

As can be imagined my return to Catterick was tainted with accusations that I was a skiver as I had just spent 6 weeks of the summer in various parts of France, made more evident by the well established sun tan. It was worth it! Again there wasn't too much time to think because no sooner had I returned I was preparing to take a team of instructors from ITC to teach and inspire the cadets from The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Army Cadet Force at Altcar Training Camp. This would be the first time that I had anything to do with Cadets and I was suitably impressed with what they

achieved in the 2 weeks of summer camp. We were involved with teaching section attacks, ambushes and occupation of the harbour. We assisted them with the obstacle course and it was great to see some of these really young cadets tackling obstacles that must have seemed terrifying. I was especially impressed with the 30KM expedition that had to be completed in order for the cadets to be promoted to 4 Star, the highest grade they can achieve. This expedition takes place over 3 days and they carry all of their food, clothes and tents on their backs. They are also expected to navigate legs of the expedition on their own. An ideal place to recruit tomorrow's soldiers!

Once again, I didn't have much time to settle back in to Catterick without being whisked away to help with range safety or to lead sections through their final live attack at Warcop. As I'm writing this I'm preparing to deploy to ITG Pirbright to assist with a Soldier Pre-conditioning Course for female soldiers. This will be the first time that I will be working with non infantry cap badges so should be a learning experience!

Well, my first year at ITC has been extremely busy but I have had the opportunity to be involved in a wonderful array of activities both in and out of work. It has been both extremely challenging at times but equally as rewarding. If my first year at ITC is anything to go by, I've a great deal to look forward to in my second year. 



Pte Connelly faces his fear of heights as he boards a helicopter



THE BAND OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

LIST OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS 2008

January

31st Concert Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh

February

28th Concert Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh

April

21st Royal Gun Salute Edinburgh Castle
26th – 27th Mull Folk Festival Isle of Mull

May

3rd Ulster Rugby Sevens Belfast
10th Lord Mayor's Parade Lisburn
15th General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Arrival Ceremony Holyrood Palace
16th – 21st Guard Mounts Edinburgh Castle/Holyrood Palace
28th Scottish National War Memorial Edinburgh Castle

June

2nd Royal Gun Salute Edinburgh Castle
2nd – 6th Guard Mounts Edinburgh Castle/Holyrood Palace
10th Royal Gun Salute Edinburgh Castle
21st Queen Victoria School Concert Dunblane
30th Arrival Ceremony for Royal Week Holyrood Palace

July

1st – 4th Guard Mounts Edinburgh Castle/Holyrood Palace
27th SSAFA T in the Park Fundraising Concert Edinburgh

August

1st – 23rd Edinburgh Military Tattoo Edinburgh Castle Esplanade 

The Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland performing at the Kuala Lumpur International Tattoo 2007 – Capt (DOM) Paul Wilman taking the salute





KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL TATTOO 2007

THE BAND OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

by LCpl Steve Potter

It's Saturday 25th August and after 26 performances, the last night of the Edinburgh Tattoo. Jubilation! Leave, oh no, a trip to Kuala Lumpur to look forward to instead! Just enough time to go home, get some sleep and pack our suitcases and get back into work for the overnight coach trip to London Heathrow. The Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland plus two additions, Musn Mark McLauchlin from the Royal Irish Regiment Band (who joined us in November) and CSgt Dave Nelson from the Lowland Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland (TA) left Edinburgh for Heathrow. On arriving at the airport, we were met by Pipe Maj Jason Sumner and three other pipers from 4 RTR.

Checking in all Bands' equipment and luggage was done in record time and with no flight delays, we were on our way to Malaysia. We were flying with Etihad Airlines from the United Arab Emirates, probably one of the best airlines I've travelled with. With video screens on the back of seats, ample leg room and excellent food, the flight was very comfortable. Oh, forgot to mention, free drinks also! It took fourteen hours flight time to reach Kuala Lumpur split up by a two hour stop in Abu Dhabi. With Malaysia being seven hours in front of GMT, the jet lag was quite bad.

We arrived in Kuala Lumpur sometime Tuesday 28th and took an hour's drive to our Hotel, the Grand Seasons. This was to be our home for the next two and a half weeks with 35 floors and six lifts to contend with, housing all the participants in this year's Kuala Lumpur International Tattoo (KLIT). To our dismay, we were booked into double rooms, but only for the first five days. Some topped and tailed, some slept on the floor and others just put up with it. The first couple of days were used to acclimatise to the soaring temperature and humidity; about 33-40 degrees. Our first job took place at a shopping mall. The Band dressed in their pristine white jackets, plaids and kilts and performed a varied



Cpl McAteer

programme to a slightly bemused audience. Let's face it; they had probably never seen anyone dressed like this before! One of the pieces, Lord of the Dance, featured our new friend Mark 'Snowy' McLauchlin who is also known as 'Chuckie' to his Band in Ireland. For the record, he seemed to prefer 'Snowy!' To 'enhance' the Band's performance, 'Snowy' performed his very own version of Irish dancing; it's debatable. Volunteers from the audience, (press ganged more like!) participated in Mark's rendition of Lord of the Dance.

The Tattoo rehearsals started in earnest with 13 Bands from all over the world trying to stake their claim. Some of the more memorable moments were the Pakistan Band chanting their countries name on the march off and the Pacific Fleet Ceremonial Band based in Hawaii, playing Dixie and waving to the crowd on their march off. The Maori Cultural Group from New Zealand in their cultural costumes performed the Haka. There were many praises for our Band mainly due to our dynamic expression on the march. I was asked how this was done and replied, "Just play what's on the paper;" needless to say she wasn't very happy. The Tattoo performances took place

over three nights in sweltering heat to capacity crowds of 16 to 20,000. Socially, one of the highlights was being invited to a party night with the Maori tribe; they wouldn't let you sleep till 5am! They referred to us as 'Pommies in skirts' as fifty percent of the band are English.

The food was quite difficult to cope with as the staple diet was mainly white boiled rice and chicken of some description; I normally quite like it but not three times a day. Mind you, you don't see any overweight Malaysians, maybe they don't like fish head curry either, we'll say no more. China town was probably the most frequented place, as you could purchase goods at knock down prices; especially to us 'Jocks' as haggling became very natural. There was easy access to the city centre mainly by monorail stopping at major tourist sights such as K.L Tower, Petronas Twin Towers and water gardens etc. Overall the hospitality was superb and I met some of the nicest people I have had the pleasure of knowing. The journey home was made longer by a nine hour stop over in Abu Dhabi but we could delight at the pride generated by participating in the very first Kuala Lumpur International Tattoo. 



ARMY PIPING AND DRUMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007

The 2007 Army Piping and Drumming Championships were won by The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, with Pipe Major Alan Johnston, The Royal Dragoon Guards, emerging as Champion Piper and Drum Major Neil Sloan, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, retaining his title as Champion Drummer. The Champion Bugler was Drum Major Andrew MacGregor of 152 (Ulster) Ambulance Regiment.

The competition, held at The Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming in Edinburgh, was attended by over 80 competitors representing fifteen Regular and TA Units. This year's event also incorporated the Army Cadet Force Annual Competition, thus including all aspects of military piping and drumming.

Numerous separate events were run over the two days, from Novice through to Senior Piping as well as Bugling, Solo Drumming and Band competitions.

Having completed both March Strathspey & Reel and Medley disciplines, the Overall Band Champions and winners of The Edinburgh Military Tattoo Silver Plate were The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland under the

direction of Pipe Major Stewart Paton. "It's a great chance to see how the band compares to other Regiments," he said, "we are all thrilled to have won."

The Saturday activities included all of the solo piping and the bugling competitions. The Confined Piping (confined to those who don't yet hold the Army Pipe Major's Certificate) started early in order to get all of the competitors through before lunch. The winner of the Piobaireachd and the March Competition was Ppr Gibbs (The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland) with very solid performances. JUO McTaggart of Aberdeen UOTC won the Strathspey and Reel.

The Senior Competitions (for holders of the Army Pipe Major's Certificate) attracted 22 entries. The Piobaireachd is seen as the premier event in all solo piping competitions and this was won by Pipe Major Neil Hall, the Senior Pipe Major in the Army, playing the tune "Too Long in this Condition". Mr Tom Spiers, one of the adjudicators, commenting on the standard said "There were a lot of very good tunes played and it was a close competition."

The Novice competition was strictly for those with very little experience, this was won by Sig Forbes of The Royal Corps of Signals with a very commendable performance.

In the afternoon, the first prizes in the Senior March and Senior Strathspey & Reel events went to Private Andrew Carlisle (2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment) and Pipe Major Alan Johnston (The Royal Dragoon Guards), respectively with strong performances on finely tuned and well set up instruments. This win, together with his 3rd place in the Piobaireachd and 2nd place in the March won Pipe Major Johnston the overall Army Champion Piper accolade. He later commented "I am delighted, it has been a very good competition with strong performances in each event."

The Open Hornpipe & Jig event was once again comprehensively won by Private Andrew Carlisle (2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment) with a virtuoso performance.

Commenting on the day's events Major (Retd) John Allan one of the judges and former Director of Army Bagpipe Music, said "it's always nice to be back at the School and also good to see that the standard of Army Piping has continued to improve steadily."

The solo drumming events took up all of the Sunday morning with WOCdt Spalding (Tayforth University OTC) winning the Novice event.

The Open drumming was won by Drum Major Neil Sloan, (The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland) successfully defending his crown with another excellent performance.

This was the first event to be held in the new state-of-the-art Practice Hall which provided an improved setting with better acoustics and more space for spectators. The standard was very high and it was clear that a great deal of preparation had gone in to getting the players and the instruments ready for the competitions.

On presenting the prizes, Major General David McDowall MBE, General Officer Commanding 2nd Division, congratulated all competitors, judges and ASBM&HD staff for the standard of the competition. He also thanked the spectators for their vital support in adding to the atmosphere of the event. 🇬🇧🇮🇪🇨🇰🇩🇪





ARMY PIPING AND DRUMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

2007 RESULTS

Senior Piobaireachd

1st	Pipe Major Neil Hall	The Royal Regiment of Scotland
2nd	Pipe Major Roderick Weir	The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
3rd	Pipe Major Alan Johnston	The Royal Dragoon Guards
4th	Pipe Major Willie McIntyre	Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps

Senior March

1st	Private Andrew Carlisle	2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment
2nd	Pipe Major Alan Johnston	The Royal Dragoon Guards
3rd	Pipe Major Willie McIntyre	Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps
4th	Officer Cadet Allison	Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps

Senior Strathspey & Reel

1st	Pipe Major Alan Johnston	The Royal Dragoon Guards
2nd	Pipe Major Roderick Weir	The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
3rd	Private Andrew Carlisle	2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment
4th	Lance Corporal Simpson	The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

OVERALL CHAMPION PIPER

Pipe Major Alan Johnston

The Royal Dragoon Guards

Open Hornpipe & Jig

1st	Pte Carlisle	2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment
2nd	OCdt Cadet Allison	Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps
3rd	Ppr Gibbs	The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
4th	PM McIntyre	Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps

Confined Piobaireachd

1st	Ppr Gibbs	The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
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2nd	Cpl Burns	The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
3rd	LCpl Lindsay	The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
4th	LCpl Gordon	1st Battalion Scots Guards

Confined March

1st	Ppr Gibbs	The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
2nd	JUO McTaggart	Aberdeen University Officer Training Corps
3rd	OCdt Burnside	Tayforth University Officer Training Corps
4th	OCdt Edwards	Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps

Confined Strathspey & Reel

1st	JUO McTaggart	Aberdeen University Officer Training Corps
2nd	Pte Dalton	The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
3rd	Pp Gibbs	The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
4th	Cpl Burns	The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Novice March

1st	Sig Forbes	The Royal Corps of Signals
2nd	Tpr Hodgson	1st Royal Tank Regiment
3rd	LCpl McNicoll	1st Royal Tank Regiment
4th	LCpl Shaw	1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment

Champion Bugler

1st	DM McGregor	152 (Ulster) Ambulance Regiment
2nd	Cpl Grant	The Royal Regiment of Scotland
3rd	Sgt Thomson	The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
4th	DM Murray	The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Novice Drumming

1st	WOCdt Spalding	Tayforth University Officer Training Corps
2nd	Tpr Dunlop	1st Royal Tank Regiment
3rd	Rgr Doran	1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment
4th	Tpr Daulby	1st Royal Tank Regiment

Open Drumming

1st	DM Sloan	The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
2nd	Cpl Grant	The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
3rd	LCpl Phillips	The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
4th	OCdt Sharpe	Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps
5th	DM Murray	The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
6th	DM Alexander	The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

OVERALL CHAMPION DRUMMER

Drum Major Neil Sloan

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

Mini Bands MSR

1st	The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
2nd	The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
3rd	Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps

Mini Bands Medley

1st	The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
2nd	The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
3rd	Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps

ARMY CHAMPIONS

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



ARMY BAGPIPE SCHOOL GETS NEW FACILITIES

The Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming in Edinburgh recently opened a new, state-of-the-art practice room and accommodation block.

The £3.5m complex at Inchdrewer House, Colinton Road includes single rooms for students and an acoustically engineered practice room. The new facility was opened by Major General Andrew Graham, Colonel of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and Director General of the Army Recruiting and Training Division, under whose command the School falls.


The School previously had dormitories for 20 men at a time with no facilities for pipers and drummers to practice in the evenings after classes:

“It was like something you might remember from National Service days, if you can remember that far back,” said Director of Army Bagpipe Music, Captain Stuart Samson.

“There was nowhere to do homework or to practice,” he continued. “This will make a huge difference. People will now want to come and spend six months on courses and the output for the Army and quality of piping will be so much better.”

General Graham was equally enthusiastic: “Military music is primarily for soldiers to march into battle to. You can see it on Passing Out Parades,” he said. “People seem to get several inches taller when they are marching to the pipes and it is fundamental that we keep this tradition alive. The contribution this will make to the tradition of Army piping and drumming will be immense.

“The new improvements will ensure that this most traditional form of military music will be taught to soldiers for generations to come.”

The School teaches all levels of piping and drumming courses from novice level to Pipe Major and Drum Major for all Regiments with pipers and drummers, including The Royal Regiment of Scotland, Scots Guards, Irish Guards, The Royal Irish Regiment, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Royal Tank Regiment, The Royal Dragoon Guards, The Queen’s Royal Hussars, The Royal Gurkha Rifles, The Royal Artillery and The Royal Corps of Signals. 



Accommodation and Practice Hall



Accommodation Block



General Graham



Staff Mini Band in Practice Hall



ARMY CADET FORCE THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

1ST BATTALION THE HIGHLANDERS ARMY CADET FORCE

Commandant: Col M MacBean MBE
 Deputy Commandant (East): Lt Col C Woolley
 Deputy Commandant (West): Lt Col R Hemmings
 Cadet Executive Officer: Major D Grant

PROMINENT EVENTS:

SCOTTISH CADET MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

September 2007, found the Bn training team hard at work, bringing the Bn Cadet Tactical Team up to speed after the school summer holidays. A team selection weekend at the beginning of the month was followed by two hectic weekends polishing up the various military skills to get the team ready for the challenges of Scottish Cadet Tactical Competition (ACF). The last weekend in the month found the team (which comprised of members from all the mainland Companies) and trainers heading for Garelochhead Training Camp. After a closely fought competition, the Bn team were the winners of the competition.

SGT A MacDonald,
 SGT R Dey,
 RSM C Boyd,
 CPL I MacLennan,

CPL R Clarke,
 CPL G MacLean,
 CPL D MacDonald,
 C/SGT K Forsyth,
 C/SGT E Tiffen,
 L/CPL C Sinclair.

LORD LIEUTENANT'S CADET

Thursday, 25th Oct 07, saw the last of the current Lord Lieutenant's Cadets being presented with her parchment. This took place at Fort Augustus, where in front of her detachment, mother and local dignitary's, Cdt C/Sgt Emily Tiffen receiving her presentation from the Lord Lieutenant, Cameron of Locheil. Displays of cadet activities were also laid on and a buffet.

ADULT TRAINING WEEKEND

The adult training weekend held at Dingwall training centre in December 2007, was focused on qualifying courses. The weekend also saw our customary training dinner, during which the recently retired Training

Major, Andrew Morrison, received a presentation of a 'Fine Twelve Pointer' painting. The Sports Officers, Maj Brian Blackley and C/Sgt Robert Woolley, received commendations for their actions, while en-route to a national sporting event, when they came across a serious road accident and organised the cadets to safeguard the scene and treat the casualties.

1. An Adult First Aid qualification course was run with twelve students, all of who qualified.
2. The Bn also ran an Introduction to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award course, which had 26 students on it. If we had had two more students on this course, it would have given us a record of having run the course with the most students on it. The ACF provided high-powered instructors for this course, with Lt Col's Ed Sandham and Mike Gerrish travelling from south of the Border, and Maj Neal Dunn (Chairman, ACF DofE Scotland) making up the team.



The Team display their prizes (07 SCMSC team)



C/Sgt Tiffen receiving her parchment. (07 10 – Lord Lt presentation)



The Bn TSA, WO2 Bruce Folley and the Bn DoF Officer, Capt Bart Lucas also assisted with the instruction, and both received novice instructor's certificates. Two of the students (Maj Marian Tait and C/Sgt Coltart) were also nearly as well travelled as the instructors, having come from the West Lowland Bn ACF, at Ayr.

Bn RE-ORGANISATION

On 1 Jan 08, the Bn re-organised

with several detachments changing Company's, the changes were;
Ardersier and Culloden transferred to Moray Company.
Fortrose transferred to Inverness Company,
Brora transferred to Caithness Company.

FORECAST OF EVENTS

The main events in the next six months will be;


4 May 08

Laying up of the old Bn Banner at Strathpeffer Church, where our Padre, Maj Ivan Wallace is the minister. Various other celebrations are also being planned for the same weekend.

21-22 Jun 08

Inter Company Tactical Competition.

5-18 Jul 08

Annual Camp at Swynnerton, Staffordshire. 

2ND BATTALION THE HIGHLANDERS ARMY CADET FORCE

ANNUAL CAMP

The 2007 Annual Camp was held this year at West Camp in Benbecula the headquarters of the one time Royal Artillery Range Hebrides. Some 200 Cadets from throughout the Battalion area accompanied by over sixty Adult Instructors and officers travelled to Benbecula. For almost all the Cadets and most of the Adults it was their first visit to the Hebrides so travelling on a car ferry was a new experience for the majority.

While at Camp the Cadets carried out the usual training and testing as laid out in the APC manual but it was not all work, adventure training activities such as mountain biking, canoeing and blow carting an activity suited to Benbecula as there is never a shortage of wind to fill the cart sails were arranged.

The Cadets were also able to experience helicopter flights courtesy of The Army Air Corps.

The Battalion would like to extend their thanks to the staff at MOD Hebrides for the excellent facilities and support they provided.

NEW COMMANDANT

The first day of December marks the retirement of Battalion Commandant Col David Taylor.

Taking over from Col Taylor will be Lt Col Norrie Donald BEM the present Deputy Commandant. Lt Col Donald is a well- kent face in Army Cadet circles having started his ACF career as Training Support Officer with The West Lowland Battalion in Glasgow in 1996. In 2002 he became Deputy Commandant of 2 Highlanders on his return to his native Aberdeen.

Lt Col Donald spent a lifetime in the Gordon Highlanders, joining in 1961 until he retired 30 years later having attained the rank of Major. He was awarded the BEM in 1978 and holds the VRSM. He also has the distinction of being the first of only two GORDON's WO2's to have been commissioned since the war.

In his day job Colonel Donald is The Highlanders Assistant Regimental Secretary based at Home Headquarters in Viewfield Road Aberdeen. Taking

over the role of Deputy Commandant is the present training officer Major James Ramsay.

The Battalion congratulates both officers on their promotions and wishes them every success in their new posts.

ROAD SAFETY

Road Safety Grampian, a partnership between Grampian Police Road Safety Unit and Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, were delighted to be able to assist the Army Cadet Force on Saturday 8 December at a Road Safety Initiative held at the Cadet Training Centre, Boddam. The Cadets aged 14 to 17, some who have already started to learn to drive, were instructed in various aspect of road safety and driving responsibilities. The Cadets also took part in a practical demonstration using a brake reaction timer which highlighted their reaction time and the simulated overall stopping distance of a vehicle being driven at a particular speed.

Sergeant Neil Morrison, said, "We were only too happy to be able to



Photo shows the roof being removed from the car by Grampian Fire and Rescue Service. In the background Constable Jim Gill explains to the assembled Cadets what is happening



Swimming team medal winners. Left to Right – Cdts Louise Mac William, Khara Riddell, Connie Tawns

assist with this event, providing the Cadets with an important Road Safety message. The fact that the group were able to hear from both the Police and Fire Service about the dangers and consequences associated with driving can only serve to reinforce the importance we place upon road safety. The ‘real time’ simulation involving all three emergency services to extract an injured driver from a crashed car, strengthened the message and generated a lot of discussion amongst the group.”

Watch Manager Myles Murray, Grampian Fire and Rescue added, “Road Safety Grampian provide a number of educational inputs to a variety of groups and organisations. It is hoped that by providing each audience with an overview of what ultimately could happen following a collision, fewer motorists will be involved in serious or fatal crashes and the traumatic consequences faced by everyone concerned will be reduced.”

2 Highlanders Battalion Army Cadet Force are grateful to Grampian Police, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service and Scottish Ambulance Service for their assistance at this Road Safety Initiative.

SPORT

This year the Battalion competed in a number of sporting events and brought a few medals back to the North East of Scotland.

Among 18 Cadets who attended the Scottish Athletics Championships in Grangemouth was Sgt Daniel Chisholm from the Turriff Detachment, winner of the Boys 400 metre sprint and gained 2nd place in the High Jump. The girls also contributed to the medal tally with Cdt Stefanie Antliff from Banff coming 2nd in the Discus competition and L/Cpl Anna Bailey gaining the Javelin competition Gold Medal for

both the Battalion and Scotland. L/Cpl Bailey went on to represent the Scottish National Team in Grantham returning with the national Gold Medal.

The swimming team travelled to Glasgow to compete in the Scottish Championships and did the Battalion proud once again clutching a tally of 5 Gold and 1 Silver medal on their return. Cdts Louise MacWilliam and Connie Tawns both of Aberdeen and Cdt Khara Riddell of Buckie were selected for the Scottish Team to compete in the National Championships at the Royal Military College Sandhurst. Unfortunately Cdt Riddell could not compete but Cdts MacWilliam and Tawns were awarded Silver medals as part of the Scottish Relay Team.

MUSIC

At a recent awards ceremony at the Cadet Training Centre in Boddam Cadet James McPetrie [13] of the Aboyne Detachment was among a number of Cadets to be recognised for their achievements.

Cadet McPetrie a member of 2 Highlanders Army Cadet Force pipe band is the first cadet in the Battalion to achieve 3 star level in music. He was also honoured to be chosen by the Battalion Officers’ Mess members to play at a Dinner marking the retirement of their Commandant, Colonel David Taylor. James played a tune, heard by an audience for the first time, and entitled “Colonel David Taylor TD” which was composed by George Neish, Pipe Major of The Battalion Pipe Band in honour of the retiring Commandant. 🇬🇧



Cadet McPetrie is served “The pipers dram” [or in this case Irn Bru] by Col Taylor



Cadets pictured as they disembark from the MV Hebrides at Lochmaddy in North Uist



Padre Thomas Bryson is shown the way by SMI Rodger when he calls in to see cadets taking part in map and compass lessons



Cadets on the 400m range under the watchful eye of SSI Harry Porter



Senior Cadet Instructor Sgt Lawson Royal Engineers Detachment passes on his fieldcraft knowledge and skills



Colin and Colleen the Battalion mascots made it to their fourth camp. Here they are comforted by S/Sgt Fraser and Sgt Danielle Murray. Colin just had the hump because he was cold



Cadets taking part in kayaking during one of their fun days. The cadets are under instruction from Lt Milne



L/Cpl Sean King from the Royal Engineers Detachment under instruction from SI McKee



Staff Sgt Graham Fraser grins "I've got a signal" as he phones from a Hebridean hillside to find out what his exam results were



BLACK WATCH BATTALION ARMY CADET FORCE

PIPES AND DRUMS DISTINCTION

Cadet Lindsey Kay and Cadet Julie-Marie Hynd from the Black Watch Battalion ACF were recently awarded their BTEC First Diploma in Music by the Lord Lieutenant of Fife, Mrs Margaret Dean. This is the first BTEC for music to be awarded in Scotland and for both the girls to gain a distinction is a great achievement. This is the equivalent to 4 Standard Grades at level 1.

The BTEC First Diploma in Music has been designed to develop a basic understanding of music as a profession and combines both technical skills with practical elements and research.

To achieve this diploma, cadets have to demonstrate an understanding of all aspects of performance including solo and ensemble work and how to manage rehearsals. They also learn how to market, budget, advertise, programme and publicise a music event.



Cadets Lindsey Kay and Julie Marie Hynd with the Lord Lt of Fife

LORD LIEUTENANTS' CADET 2007-2008

Cadets and Instructors from Glenrothes, Ballingry, Cowdenbeath, Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy turned out to Honour Cadet Sergeant Aaron Nash. Cadet Sgt Nash has been awarded the Lord Lieutenants Cadet by Mrs Margaret Dean the Lord Lieutenant of Fife. Company Commander for Ypres Company, Major Ewan Marshall said "Cadet Sgt Nash has achieved the highest honour a Cadet can attain within his Battalion through his hard work, dedication and exceptional leadership skills.

Mrs Dean said, 'It is always a pleasure to visit the cadets. They are well presented and always work hard. They are a credit to their Battalion and their instructors. I am very proud to be able to present Cadet Sgt Nash with this appointment, to receive such recognition is a great personal achievement and thoroughly well deserved.'

As a Lord Lieutenants Cadet, Cadet Sgt Nash will not only act as an ambassador for the Black Watch Battalion ACF but will assist the Lord Lieutenant with her ceremonial duties over the next year and will get to rub shoulders with the great and the good during this time. 🇬🇧🇨🇪🇩



Cadet Sgt Nash receiving his award



ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS BATTALION ARMY CADET FORCE

INTER CADET CLAY TARGET COMPETITION

The first Armed Forces Cadet Championships took place at the Larkhill Garrison Club at the end of August. Fifteen teams travelled from all over the UK, including Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man, for the two days of practice, instruction and then a 50-bird four-man flush and 50-bird sporting over five stands competition. Well done to our Battalion team who came 6th out of 14th in this event. Team members, all from Lochgilphead Detachment, were: Alistair and Callum Nicol, Alan King and Geordie Hunter. Congratulations go to Geordie Hunter who was third equal top gun with 30 hits from a possible 50 for the Sporting 50 discipline. Plans are underway to enter this year's competition and hopefully come back with some more good results.



Excellent results came from all our members during the competition



The Battalion clay target shooting team at Larkhill

ACFA SCOTLAND SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

September saw the Battalion entering the above championships held at Tollcross, Glasgow. We had a large number of Cadets representing us in the following categories: Junior Boys, Junior Girls and Senior Girls. The team worked extremely well and were rewarded with a large number of podium results, too many to list. Through these excellent results we have retained the Junior Boys Trophy and Cadets; Cameron Yeo, Elliot Roy and the Smith triplets have been selected to represent ACFA Scotland in the National Finals held at RMA Sandhurst in October.

BATTALION MILITARY BAND

In April of 2006 a new page was written in the history of ACF music in Scotland.

Under the direction of SSI Michael Garner and SI Robert Cowan and by kind permission of the Commandant, Col Campbell, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Bn ACF formed and established a Military Band. Now two years on the Band continues to grow. Last December following on with the success of the Christmas Concert in 2006, the Band put on another festive show. This time the event was held at the superb Devonvale Hall in Tillicoultry. Along with guest musicians from the Borneo Band and Bugles of Durham ACF the Band performed a vast array of music from all genres, from movie theme tunes such as the Band's signature, Pirates of the Caribbean, to Scotland the Brave. The night was not without its drama however, when LCpl Arron Henderson, from working hard all



The Buglers from Durham ACF performing with our band



The band after a very successful Christmas concert



Our Pipes and Drums playing together with the band



day and the heat of the stage, collapsed. Almost immediately fellow cadet, Cdt Darren Harrison leaped into action with his first aid to help his colleague. Although dramatic this incident was not serious but is an example of why the ACF exists. After a short recess to make sure that LCpl Henderson and the rest of the Band were OK they returned to the stage.

As OC of the Band, Major Eric Wallace has said 'we do not have two separate Bands we are one' and so representing the Pipes and Drums were Pipers, Cdt Reardon and Cdt Butler along with Cdt/Sgt Bindon who performed a set of traditional pipe music and also the Regimental Marches and Highland Cathedral. The pipers being only beginners showed no hesitation and performed a great set enjoyed by all.

A change of pace was added when the Durham Buglers, some of the best in the ACF, performed in concert with the Band with some Light Infantry pieces. It was this added performance that really set off the concert, and we thank Durham ACF for taking the time to assist us in this concert.

By the end of the performance the Band had managed to raise £1101.53 for the Scottish Poppy Appeal and for the Band Fund. As the Band goes from strength to strength, we look forward to a new year of performances and events like this one. Details of upcoming events will be posted on the Battalion website; www.argyllacf.co.uk

CLAY TARGET QUALIFIED

11 Adult Instructors and Officers of the Battalion recently completed the ARA Clay Target Safety Officers and Instructors Course held at Lochgilphead CTC and Arrochar Gun Club. Course officer Major George Garman from Hants



AUO Charlie Nicol receives coaching from Maj George Garman during the Clay Target instructors' course

and IOW ACF kindly came up to instruct the students on shooting techniques and safety. Having such a large number of adults now qualified in this will allow us to give the Cadets another activity to try within the Battalion.

ANNUAL CAMP 2008

Planning of our yearly summer camp is now underway. This year we will be at Barry Buddon near Dundee. A full report will be in the next issue. 🇬🇧





CHIEF PETTY OFFICER MARTIN BARMBY

After 21 years exemplary service in the Royal Navy, Chief Petty Officer Martin 'Barney' Barmby has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) by Vice Admiral Adrian Johns.

Helensburgh man Barney's award has been made for his tireless work with Cadet Forces over the years, as well as his support with the Rebalancing Lives initiative and the Royal Naval Association.

Based at HMNB Clyde with Submarine Qualifying Course (SMQ) (North), Barney has served previously on HMS Otter, Opportune and Vigilant during his career and is now a phase two instructor teaching tomorrow's submariners.

His MSM, presented at a ceremony on board HMS Victory in Portsmouth, was awarded for his voluntary work, particularly with Cadet Forces, about which he is passionate. He was joined at the ceremony by his parents Jack and Joan Barmby and partner Diane.

Barney is an Adult Instructor with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlander Battalion of the ACF



in Helensburgh, as well as the Combined Cadet Force at Bridlington School, his own former school.

He said: "Working with Cadet Forces is a privilege. They follow the same values as the military – service, leadership, teamwork and discipline – giving them a sense of achievement in all that they do. Many thanks to Wing Commander Sue Shilladay RAF VR(T) contingent commander of

Bridlington School CCF for nominating me for this award."

In his award recommendation, WO Glen Bridgeman said: "CPO Barmby is dedicated both to his personal role and to the well-being and future of the service.

"He is a passionate submariner who will do all in his power to maintain, promote and instil the standards, principles and ethos of the service."

Well done Martin. 

ANGUS AND DUNDEE ARMY CADET FORCE

A dramatic run of victories in the ACF National Hockey 2007 at Bell's Sports Centre, Perth, made the girls' hockey team from Angus and Dundee Battalion champions of Scotland.

The all-conquering Taysiders, starring players from Dundee, Carnoustie and Montrose, did not concede a single goal in their path to the final, beating Glasgow and Lanarkshire Battalion 1-0, 1st Battalion the Highlanders from Inverness 1-0, demolishing West Lowland from Ayrshire 3-0, and finally dumping Glasgow and Lanarkshire 1-0 by a single goal scored with the last flick of the ball.

Those who found the net on the road to the top were Corporal Cara Clark, Kirkton (2), and Lance Corporal Amy Higgins of the Pipes and Drums (4, including the heart-stopping last-second goal in the final).

Not content with hockey glory, the Senior Girls' Football Team of Angus and

Dundee Battalion repeated the feat by becoming Scottish champs.

The new ACF Scottish Champions, definitely not playing like lassies, beat the Argylls Battalion 4-1 in the final, wrapping up a steady ascent to the top, having been leaders in their group.

On the way they inflicted a massive

9-0 defeat on one Battalion from whom more might have been expected on a football pitch – no names, no pack drill, but think Old Firm!

The victorious squad comprised Staff Sergeant Kerry Lamont and Lance Bombardier Jenni Robertson from Montrose Royal Artillery; Corporal



Former Honorary Colonel Mrs Frances Duncan thanks Col Cassidy and the Mess after receiving her brooch and statuette



Hockey: back, left-right, Reanna Holt, Jenni Robertson, both Montrose RA; Cara Clark, Kirkton BW, Dundee; Gemma Nicoll, Panmure BW, Carnoustie; front, Ashley Murray, Montrose RA; Amy Higgins, Pipes and Drums; Lara Duncan, Royal Engineers, both Dundee; and Paige Stewart, Panmure BW, in exultant mood with the cup and their winners' medals

Cara Clark and Lance Corporal Keren Kennedy from Kirkton Black Watch, Dundee; Gnr Katrina Thoms and Gnr Stacey McLean from Arbroath Royal Artillery; Cdt Natalie Burns from the Carnoustie-based Panmure Black Watch Platoon; and Cdt Jodie Williamson from the Dundee-based Medics.

Cadets from Angus showed the rest of Scotland a clean pair of heels at the ACF Cross-Country National Championships in Edinburgh as well.

Cdt Jordan Dale of Kirriemuir took the Individual Gold Medal in the Junior Boys class, followed by Jamie Dean and Craig Yates of Arbroath Black Watch Platoon with Silver and Bronze respectively.

Cdt Danielle White of the Scottish Yeomanry Troop lifted the Individual Bronze for the Junior Girls.

Tayside also figured prominently in awards at the Cadet Forces' Piping and Drumming Championships in Inchdrewer House, Edinburgh, at the weekend.

In the piping, Corporal Gemma McCartney took the Black Watch Cup for Novice March for Angus and Dundee Battalion, with fellow Dundonian Lance Corporal Jason Joiner third.

Cdt Connor Stephen of Dundee took the Queen's Own Highlanders Cup for Intermediate piping; and in the drumming, Cdt Rebekah Locherty of Dundee was second in the Novice Snare, with Corporal Debbie Smith, also Dundee, in third place.



CSgt Emma Price receives her Lord Lieutenant's Cadet Certificate from Lord Provost John R Letford, JP, Lord Lieutenant of the City and County of Dundee

Corporal Debbie Smith, who is a Drum Major "to trade", also won the Novice Tenor – and the KOSB Cup – with Dundee colleague Lance Corporal Amy Higgins third.

Lance Corporal Brogan O'Rourke of Dundee took third place in the J McKenzie Shield for Open Tenor Drumming, behind two Fifers.

As autumn 2007 shaded gradually into winter, Remembrance Weekend

brought its usual "double whammy" of public duties for members of Angus and Dundee Battalion.

The Saturday saw scores of cadets out in central Dundee selling poppies for Poppyscotland (or the Earl Haig Fund, for readers of a certain age), and the following day members of B Company and C Squadron marched in the now-traditional parade through Monifieth to the Battalion Church, St



Lance Corporal Brogan O'Rourke (foreground) and Corporal Debbie Smith (back) at practice during the annual Piping and Drumming Concentration at Cameron Barracks, Inverness



Rule's, with the local Legion Branch, led by the Battalion Pipes and Drums.

The weekend before, the Pipes and Drums put on a widely-acclaimed performance at the British Legion's Festival of Remembrance in Dundee's Caird Hall, where many members of the 1800-strong audience said their playing stole the show— some veterans were even singing along!

The pipers and drummers also had the honour of playing Highland Cathedral with the Band of HM Royal Marines Scotland, thus stopping the audience in their tracks once again.

For Colour Sergeant Emma Price of B Company, personal fame beckoned when she marched on at the end of the Muster at the Festival of Remembrance, at the head of the Lord Lieutenant's Cadets.

Traditionally the Lord Lieutenant's Cadets are the finale to the Muster of service and emergency organisations personnel on the steps behind the band, and Emma, representing Dundee, was one of several from the city and the Counties of Angus and Perthshire.

The office of Lord Lieutenant's Cadet is an honour, and a very high one, but it is not a sinecure, as the holder of the office – signified by the award of a special badge and a certificate – acts as an ADC to the Lord Lieutenant on State and major civic occasions.

Such cadets are only appointed by recommendation after exemplary careers in the Cadet Forces and after the most searching scrutiny of the applications.



Lance Corporal Keren Kennedy forsook the Battalion Remembrance Day Parade to head the British Legion marchers, pushing her grandfather, RAF veteran Peter Stewart, accompanied by her Aunt Gwen

Harris Academy pupil Emma, a senior member of Angus and Dundee Battalion's Pipes and Drums, is something of a special achiever, as she holds the rare and much-coveted grade of Master Cadet, the highest pinnacle of Cadet attainment – there is a stiff selection process even to become a candidate for the award, far less achieve it.


At the Battalion Officers' Mess Burns Supper, the Mess dined out their former Honorary Colonel, former Provost of Angus Mrs Frances Duncan.

Commandant Colonel Andrew Cassidy paid tribute to Col Duncan's enthusiasm for seeing the cadets progress through qualifications and

through the ranks, and thanked her for her support, before presenting her with a silver Black Watch brooch as a personal memento of the Battalion.

Cadet Sergeant Darryl Barr of Monifieth Black Watch Platoon then presented Col Duncan with a bronze statuette, on behalf of all the cadets.

The statuette, depicting a cadet in full kit, is inscribed "To Colonel Duncan, with respect and thanks from all the Cadets of Angus and Dundee Battalion ACF".

A visibly moved Mrs Duncan thanked the Battalion for their gifts and expressed her pride in being part of an organisation which offered so much opportunity to young people. 

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS BATTALION ARMY CADET FORCE

The Battalion has had an extremely busy year and all too soon the planning starts again for Annual Camp 2008. Altcar is a very popular camp as it has excellent facilities for the Cadets with ranges and training areas close by. There is also the added attraction of Southport just a short train journey away.

Annual Camp 2007 was held in Okehampton, Devon which was quickly renamed Soakhampton by the Cadets due to the amount of rain that fell in two weeks. The Officers and Adult Instructors showed Great Spirit in lifting the morale of soggy Cadets; the sailing package was always a winner as they were wet anyway. Camp this year also

saw the start of an annual exchange visit with the Latvian Jaunsardze. 20 Cadets and two Adults from Lothian and Borders Bn took part in the Latvian Camp and enjoyed many teamwork activities. The experience gave the Cadets an insight into the activities and cultures of a former Eastern European State. In exchange the Latvian Jaunsardze joined in and enjoyed all the activities that the Lothian and Borders Bn Cadets undertook including sailing, shooting and the Climbing Wall. They also experienced Bovington Tank Museum, Plymouth Naval Base and Woodland Theme Park. Both sets of Cadets thoroughly enjoyed each others

company. There were many broken hearts and promises of future visits!

In June 2007 Cadets from Lothian and Borders Bn ACF won the Scottish National First Aid Championship. Team 1 won the ACF Trophy, and also took the Trophy for overall highest score of the Competition. In addition LCpl Hughes achieved the highest Reserve score of 30 and walked away with an additional medal. The Cadets were commended on the smartness of their drill when collecting their Trophies.

Battalion Shooting is going well and the team went to Bisley and won the Argyll Cup which is awarded to the best team from Scotland. The team is



Cadets and Col David Tobey DACOS HQ Land

organised and trained by SMI Murphy who sadly must leave us this year having reached retirement age. He will be a huge loss. A big thank you to "Tam" from all the Bn.

Cadets from Lothian and Borders continue to do well on the sporting front and Cadets Brown and Smillie were selected to represent Scotland at the UK National Swimming Championships. Both the Senior Boys

and Senior Girls teams did very well in winning their respective groups at the Scottish Swimming Championships.

In September the Military Skills competition was held at Garelochhead and the Bn was represented by Cadets from C (City of Edinburgh North & East) Coy who came a credible third. The competition is being held on Castlelaw Training area in 2008 and hopefully home advantage will see us coming even higher in the medals!

Another loss to the Battalion this year is SMI John Thompson who has been instrumental in building the Pipes and Drums Detachment. He is however leaving on a high after the Cadet Force Pipes and Drums Competition 2007 in October where the Bn carried off 3 first prizes. The Open Snare Royal Scot Cup was presented to Cdt Mark Hastings. The Band Competition, The Highlanders Cup was won by the Pipes and Drums Detachment and the Gordons Cup for Bearing and Turnout was won by Cdt Mark Hastings. Cdt Cpl Mackintosh came 2nd in the Drum Major

competition and Cdt LCpl David Turnbull was 3rd in the Intermediate Junior.

The Battalion held its first official Open Day on 28th October 2007. Our Lords Lieutenant, several MSP's, Councillors, Chief Superintendents, Commander 51 (Scottish) Bde, the Cadet Colonel and the Chief Executive of Lowland RFCA all gave up their time on a Sunday to visit the Battalion. The day was hosted by the Cadet Commandant, Colonel David MacFadyen, who gave the dignitaries an insight into the Bn before letting everyone loose to look at Stands manned by Cadets and Adult Instructors. Stands covered command tasks, weapons, fieldcraft, adventure training, archery and the Climbing Wall. At lunch time the Cadets and Adult Instructors guests joined in the fun and along with the Dignitaries were given a Beating Retreat by the Pipes and Drums Detachment. The salute was taken by Captain David Younger LVO The Lord-Lieutenant of Tweeddale; he then kindly gave out the trophies, medals and awards. E (Midlothian) Company



Cadet Sgt Allison appointed Lord Lieutenant's Cadet by Mr Patrick Prenter CBE – Lord Lieutenant Midlothian



Pipes and Drums Detachment with well earned certificates

carried off the Lucas Tooth which is the trophy presented for the best overall Company in all competitions that year. Two Cadet Force Medals were presented to Captain Tracey Turnbull and SMI Graham Mann and the Clasp to the Medal was presented to Lt Martin Roache. Two very special awards were given out which were the Awards for Commendable and Meritorious Action which were awarded to the Battalion First Aid Officer, Captain Karen Cassidy, and WSI Alison Ketteringham. Following a coach accident on the M6 they gave immediate First Aid assistance, rang the emergency services, organised traffic control and had the presence of mind to take command thus preventing further danger to life.

In December 2007 the Battalion was finally able to take over its new Detachment in Loanhead. The Lord Lieutenant of Midlothian, Mr Patrick Prenter CBE, formally opened the Detachment on 15th December and at the same time appointed Cadet Sgt Allison as his Lord Lieutenant's Cadet. As a surprise Cadet Sergeant Allison was also promoted to Colour Sergeant. This was a day that he will remember for a long time to come. The Lord Lieutenant also gave out BTEC awards to the Pipes and Drums Cadets and APC Star Certificates to Loanhead Cadets. The Detachment is a great asset for the



Annual Camp 2007 – on the day it was not raining

area and the Battalion and a platform to build on for the future.

The Battalion has many events to look forward to, not least the presentation of the Lifesaving Medal from the Priory of Scotland Order of St John's to three Cadets from Penicuik. This is the first time the medal has been awarded in over 60 years. The Cadets, Liam Dugan, Aaron Moore and Daniel

Sturrock are to be awarded their medals on March 14th for their actions in saving the life of an ice cream man shot in the abdomen whilst doing his rounds, The Prior of the Order of St John Scotland, Colonel Sir James Stirling of Garden KCVO CBE will present the medals.

There will be photos of this event and more news in the next issue – till then keep "Inspiring and Achieving".



HOME HEADQUARTERS THE ROYAL SCOTS (THE ROYAL REGIMENT)

Regimental Secretary: Colonel R P Mason Tel: 0131-310-5016 Fax: 0131-310-5019
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Captain W G Sutherland E-mail: rhqrs@btconnect.com

As an inevitable consequence of the events of 2006, there have been a number of actions that we have been taking over the last year to bring the rump of the Regiment up-to-date.

CHANGES TO THE MUSEUM

The Regimental Museum was closed for two weeks so that we could make some alterations to the displays. We have made additions to the World War I cases and increased our coverage of World War II. We have brought our story up-to-date by acknowledging the demise of the Regiment and the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Behind a graphic we had, for some time, a mannequin (nude save only for brogues and hose) which has now been exposed as we have acquired a set of uniform of the new Regiment in which to dress him.

MONUMENT UNVEILED

About 75 members of the Regimental family gathered to witness Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal unveil the final additions to our Regimental Monument in West Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. The work included the addition of the GULF 1991 Battle Honour, the updating of the Battalion locations on the base course and a stone plaque beneath the existing one, the wording of which is:

On 28 March 2006, 373 years to the day since King Charles 1 signed the Warrant to raise the Regiment, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) merged with the other surviving Scottish Infantry Regiments to form The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Our unbroken history and service to Sovereign and Country lives on the 1st Battalion of the new Regiment.

We also added a bronze plaque to commemorate the event and the 23 years that Her Royal Highness had been our Colonel-in-Chief.

LAYING-UP COLOURS (1)

Colours were presented to the 8th Battalion at Glencorse by HRH The

Princess Royal in 1950. When the battalion amalgamated with the 7th/9th in 1967 these Colours were lodged in the Officers' Mess at Glencorse where they remained until the barracks ceased to have a training function when they were recovered to the Museum. They were finally laid-up in the Council Buildings in Peebles in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal as part of a larger visit programme organised by the Lord Lieutenant.

LAYING-UP COLOURS (2)

Before the Japanese attack on Hong Kong, the 2nd Battalion sent their Colours and other property to Singapore for safe-keeping. As we now know, Singapore was overrun and the Colours lost. In 1948 new Colours were presented to the Battalion but in the following year the amalgamation of our two battalions took place. However the 2nd Battalion Colours remained with the 1st Battalion and were never laid up. In October it was decided to correct this anomaly and these Colours are now displayed in the member's entrance-hall at The Royal Scots Club.

HISTORY BOOK

In 2001 we published "Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard", a 2-volume history of the Regiment which covered from our

formation in 1633 to 2000. The third, concluding volume, subtitled "Last Post and Reveille" was published in November and covers the final years from 2000 to 2006 and also extends to 2007 to cover the transition to the new Regimental structure.

WWW

The final piece of the jigsaw (for the moment) has been to modernise and update our website. It is now much more user friendly and we can add and delete items ourselves easily (even the Regimental Secretary can do it!). Go to www.theroyalscots.co.uk 



Laying up of 8RS Colours



HRH unveiling the plaque on the monument



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ROYAL SCOTS CLUB

The Royal Scots Club, located in the heart of the Georgian Edinburgh New Town, was established in 1919 and was founded as a memorial to the 11,162 members of The Royal Scots who gave their lives in World War One and as a rallying place for all members of the Regiment.

The Club owes its being to Colonel Lord Henry Scott who was born in 1868, fourth son of the sixth Duke of Buccleuch. He was educated at Eton and Oxford, joined the Third Militia Battalion The Royal Scots, and served with them as a Major in the South African War, 1900-1902. He commanded the Third Battalion from 1905 to 1912. In WW1 The Royal Scots provided over 100,000 officers and men of whom more than half were killed or wounded, seven VC's were awarded and Lord Henry Scott was Mentioned in Despatches seven times. After service in the War, he instigated the founding of The Royal Scots Club and performed the role of Chairman of Trustees from 1919 to 1944.

The Club came to Abercromby Place in 1922 and Captain W Clark MC, a former RSM and QM, was appointed the Club's first full time Secretary. The sudden influx of many servicemen of all ranks, however worthy, was viewed with trepidation by the neighbours in this, one of Edinburgh's most prestigious residential areas. Large townhouses, occupied by the social elite and staffed with domestic servants were still prevalent. However Captain Clark was up to the task. Most members addressed him as "Sir", possibly reflecting the high proportion of former other ranks amongst the membership. Strict rules were laid down regarding behaviour and dress and these were vigorously enforced.

Between 1927 and 1957 the Club prospered and in 1948 had 4,543 members. By now it had grown to occupy three townhouses, No's 29, 30 and 31 Abercromby Place. However changing attitudes meant that by the end of 1957 membership had fallen by some 1,500. At the same time

the Trustees were faced with rising costs and increased maintenance expenses. The Constitution of the Club was therefore amended to allow members to come from units affiliated to the Regiment as well as allowing sons of Royal Scots or sons of members of the Club past and present to join. The result was that, for the time being the fall in membership numbers was arrested.

Over the next fifteen to twenty years the Club prospered, albeit through some difficult times. In the early 1980's the Trustees decided to lease out No 29 to generate a source of revenue. The building was converted into offices and let to accountants Deloitte, Haskins and Sells. Around the same time Lady Associate Members, who were wives or widows of members, were admitted. By 1983 membership numbers had fallen to 1,300, which included 57 lady associate members. In 1986 the Trustees appointed a sub committee to examine the future of the Club. They came up with a blue-print which



A dining room



Hepburn Suite



A superior bedroom



Meeting room



included upgrading the central heating system, re-carpeting and redecorating the main rooms, creating a new lounge bar and upgrading the dining room and kitchen, providing en-suite facilities to 5 bedrooms and converting the basement and sub-basement into a health and fitness club, the latter coming to fruition with the opening of the Flying Scot Club in 1988. By 1996 a major refurbishment programme started when the Trustees took back No 29 Abercromby Place and converted the space from offices into superb overnight accommodation and meeting rooms. This was followed by the refurbishment of No's 30 & 31 and resulted in the Club as it is today.

Members now enjoy the facilities of 20 en-suite bedrooms, a snooker room, a members' lounge and library, 6 excellent meeting and event rooms, and a comfortable lounge and cocktail bar. The Institute of Directors has a Corporate Membership whereby their members can enjoy the facilities of the Club, hold meetings and take advantage of the overnight accommodation. The



The Royal Scots Club

number of members has now grown to over 1,500.

The Royal Scots Club now operates an open membership policy and applications are welcome from both private individuals and corporate bodies. All service and ex service personnel enjoy much reduced subscription fees. In return the Royal Scots Club offers preferential rates for overnight accommodation, special members' prices in the cocktail bar and for lunches and dinners in the beautiful dining room, private meeting and dining rooms available

at reduced rates, free wi-fi connectivity in the member's lounge and library, a regular programme of social events and access to a network of reciprocal clubs in both London, the rest of the UK and throughout the world.

A membership information pack is available from Janet Grant, Membership Secretary, The Royal Scots Club, 30 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6QE, Tel 0131 556 4270, e-mail membership@royalscotclub.com. Full details are also available at www.royalscotclub.com

HOME HEADQUARTERS KOSB

Home Headquarters you may think might be a "sleepy hollow" now that there is no 1KOSB and there is a Regimental Headquarters in Edinburgh. Quite the contrary as we continue to look after nearly all aspects that we did before the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland and indeed the Royal Scots Borderers. Benevolence, The

Borderers Chronicle, Museum, Historical Enquiries, Association matters are just a few of the items that keep us very busy.

The establishment has changed in so far as Theresa has stood down as the E1 to become our part time E2. Allison has taken over as the E1 and Ian has also been promoted to E1(Museum). Old Borderers will remember Jimmy Mercer. He has

retired from working at the Torness Power Station but now comes in to HHQ as a Museum Volunteer which is a great help.

All Borderers are more than welcome to pay us a visit. We are still very much the hub of the old Regimental family.

CGO Hogg
Regimental Secretary

THE HIGHLANDERS' MUSEUM AND THE HIGHLAND HERITAGE APPEAL

INTRODUCTION

The Highlanders' Museum is the real gem at Fort George and it is of course a memorial to those who have served in the Regiment since the 18th Century. That is why the collection in the Museum must be properly conserved and cared for and should be understood by those who visit it. It should also serve as a shop window for today's Battalion.

Over the past 2½ years the Museum Management Committee has been considering how best to develop and improve this very special Museum – certainly one of the best of its kind amongst Military Museums in the country. Whilst this Committee has been deciding upon aims and objectives; acquiring extra accommodation; selecting, appointing and supervising a project

management team; the Highland Heritage Appeal has continued to raise funds for the Museum and is about to launch Phase 2 of its campaign. Responsibility for the running of the Appeal was subsumed by the Museum Management Committee at The Highlanders' Joint Trustees meeting in April 2007. This is the story of what has been done so far and what we are trying to achieve.



DEVELOPMENTS AT FORT GEORGE

In September 2006 the Museum took over the tenancy of the former Pipes and Drums Practice Rooms from the resident Infantry battalion (then 1st Bn The Royal Irish Regiment). Latterly they had been used as the Recce Platoon Offices and Stores. These buildings – which are immediately behind and adjoining the Museum – comprise a large practice room, an office, two stores and lavatories. In addition there is a good sized courtyard between them and the Museum. There is much potential.

Until the transfer of real estate took place it has been extremely difficult to execute any developments at the Museum such as increased display areas, improved research and library facilities and an enhanced shop. Now we have the space to be able to do so.

MUSEUM UPGRADE PLAN

In anticipation of taking possession of the Pipers' rooms, the Management Committee had invited The National Army Museum to produce recommendations which would enhance the interpretation of the collection and provide a better shop. Furthermore Lt Col Angus Fairrie, who was curator from May 1978 to 2004, produced his own development paper. Both documents were discussed at length by the Museum Management Committee who then invited professional project teams to present their solutions.

IMPLEMENTING "UPGRADE 25" – PHASE 1

Studio SP Ltd of Edinburgh was selected as the project management team. It has already designed and project managed for The Gordon Highlanders Museum, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Museum and for the National War Museum in Edinburgh Castle.

The project is being overseen by the Museum Development Committee – a sub committee of the Management Committee – which includes Angus Fairrie. The aim is to upgrade the museum at this 25 year stage thus it has been christened 'Upgrade 25!' Whilst maintaining the Museum's unique atmosphere, Upgrade 25 will:

- Improve conservation and care of the collection
- Improve the interpretation of the collection
- Generate income through an improved shop
- Create a better library and education centre
- Increase its support to the battalion's recruiting effort
- Improve accessibility

Of particular urgency is the improvement of the heating and lighting systems which do not meet modern conservation standards and are contributing to the gradual deterioration of some elements of the collection. A failure to meet new standards set by the Scottish Museum Council would mean a failure to achieve accreditation as a museum.

It is the intention that Phase 1 – which has been endorsed by the Regimental Joint Trustees – will be completed by the Spring of 2008. Phase 1 includes the conversion of the Pipes and Drums Practice Rooms (now known as the Annexe) into the new library and offices. The Curator's workshop will move down to the present library and the present workshop will be prepared to become the Queen's Own Highlander Room in Phase 2. This last move will in turn allow the creation of a much improved shop in the present Queen's Own Highlander Room at the front door. Phase 1 will also see an improvement in IT support and conservation systems in the upgraded areas.

PLANNING UPGRADE 25 – PHASE 2

Whilst Phase 1 is underway, the Development Committee and Studio SP will be working on Phase 2. In order to help with funding, a submission will be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund in early 2008. The HLF Committee sits in May each year and we would hope to be supported to the tune of 30%-40% of the total project cost – a lower figure than has been granted in the past, but the Olympic Games factor has apparently kicked in already! Phase 2 will include a complete upgrade of heating and lighting systems throughout the Museum, better interpretive panels in the entrance hall, in each room and

in each case; a bigger and better shop and re-carpeting and redecoration throughout. The enhanced shop and its merchandise should help the Museum to become a little more self sustaining. The entrance hall will then have more space for introductory interpretive panels and a much improved display about the present Highlanders' Battalion. But all these actions are improvements and upgrades – not major changes to the overall style and ambience of the Highlanders' collection.

THE FUTURE AT THE FORT

Throughout all these deliberations over the upgrade of the Museum, we have been conscious that there could be changes to the Army's use of the Fort and the military bases in Inverness. If more real estate were to become available, the Regimental Joint Trustees and the Museum management Committee would most seriously consider acquiring more space.

Whatever the MOD's requirements, there is no doubting that the Fort is a superb heritage site in the Highlands which will be visited by an ever increasing number of people. We work closely with Historic Scotland at Fort George who has been extremely supportive throughout. As many will know, the National Trust for Scotland is greatly improving its Visitor Centre at Culloden and Inverness is planning a new Museum. This will mean an increase in visitors interested in a network of historical sites in the area.

HIGHLAND HERITAGE APPEAL

That most successful Highland Heritage Musical Event, held at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea in June 2006, was well reported in the Summer 2006 edition of The 'Highlander'. This event, so well run by Brigadier Nick Ridley and Colonel Andrew Duncan, raised £90,000 for the appeal.

The generosity of those at Chelsea and over the past three years means that the Appeal's Fund currently stands at £230,000 with £206,000 pledged or covenanted over the next 7 years. This is a magnificent foundation on which to build. The Fund is an endowment fund the interest on which goes some way towards paying staff salary and honoraria



costs and improvements to the Museum collection including elements of Phase 1 of the Museum Upgrade.

We now need to launch a Phase 2 of the Appeal to help raise the £750k required for Phase 2 of the Museum Upgrade. We hope that the HLF will give the Museum a significant grant, but £750k must be our target – and by February 2010. Phase 2 of the appeal will be launched in December. It will seek donations and legacies primarily for the Upgrade Project fund but it will still encourage people to donate to the original endowment fund if they wish to do so.

This Phase 2 of the Appeal will go out to a much wider audience at home and abroad. The Regimental family will be especially important. It will need to be even more proactive than the initial Appeal and the campaign will include a variety of fundraising events. A fundraising executive is currently being recruited to manage the Appeal and he or she will be supported by a revamped Appeal Committee.

CONCLUSION

The Museum is a wonderful collection which now needs an upgrade in

Chairman of the Highland Heritage Appeal

Major General JCOR Hopkinson and Major General The Hon SHRH Monro (from 1 Dec 07)

Museum Management Committee

Major General The Hon SHRH Monro	Chairman
Brigadier CS Grant	Chairman (from 1 Dec 07)
Lieutenant GS Johnston	
Lieutenant G Latham	Museum Director
Lieutenant Colonel IJ Murray	
Lieutenant Colonel RJ Towns	
Major MRM Gibson	Regimental Secretary
Provost R Wynd	Provost of Inverness
Professor S Fraser	representing the Principal of UHI Millennium Institute
Mr I Lakin	Chairman, Gordon Highlanders Museum
Mr H Cheape	Curatorial Advisor
Major R Balfour	
Mr P Finlayson	Chairman, Highland Branch
Mrs N Maclean	Historic Scotland
Mr K Hunter	Curator
Mrs M Grant	Secretary

conservation, in interpretation and in research and shop facilities. It is right that it be properly maintained both as a fitting memorial to those who have served the Regiment over hundreds of years and continue to do so today but also because it must continue to be a very fine museum to visit, to learn from and to appreciate.

Enormous gratitude is due to those who have so generously supported the Appeal, to the various Committee Members and especially to the staff and volunteers at the Museum. We are all going to have change up another gear over the next couple of years! 🇬🇧

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS MUSEUM

OVERVIEW

In the pursuit of excellence and for the great name of the Gordons, the Museum team continues to extend its services, engage new audiences and raise the profile of the north-east regimental family both past and present. Following the completion of the £1.2 million renovation project in 2006, new projects and partnerships have evolved and 2007 has proved to be another buoyant year.

The season started with a frenzy of media interest and eager visitors making their way through the Museum doors to view the annual exhibition and open-access armoury. On March 28th, Brigadier Charles Grant OBE launched the season and the temporary exhibition *The Golden Thread* with a powerful and poignant speech on the illustrious past of our regimental forefathers and the pride of our current serving regiment.

Mounted to mark the first anniversary of the formation of The Highlanders, 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, the exhibition included historic and contemporary uniform from the regimental collection and the serving Battalion along with personal testimonies from its members and film footage from the Freedom of The City ceremony. For the youngsters a range of kids' activities including a dressing-up section and *Golden Thread* kids trail also accompanied the exhibition.

Less than two weeks later, *The Armoury* was launched; a new purpose built publicly accessible storeroom designed to house and display the Museum's weapons collection. The £50,000 conservation-grade storeroom – one of the Museum's most ambitious projects to date featuring the entire firearms and edged weapon collection

is furnished with floor-to-ceiling armoured glass cases and motion-activated lighting. Thought to be the only open-access armoury in the UK, the project has attracted the attention of visitors and museum professionals near and far. Generously funded by Dominion Technology Gases, the new facility makes a major part of the Museum's collection accessible to the general public.

And not only the weapons collection – the store also houses the vast majority of the Museum's medal collection and features a public workstation and desktop computer linked to the Museum's full catalogue of artefacts and archives. The improvements made to the digital records in recent years are now coming to the fore, and with the addition of the new public access terminal, huge strides are being made to the public accessibility of the regimental collection.



CREATIVE LEARNING PROGRAMME

Providing stimulating accessible displays and galleries is very much at the heart of the Museum's practice, but this alone is not enough to sustain and develop visitor attendance. The Museum's programme of special events and activities is a vital part of the audience development strategy designed to attract local people and tourists.

This year over 65% of Museum visitors attended for the first time and 60% had no connection with the Regiment. These are heartening statistics, as we must do more than simply preach to the converted. The ongoing quest to connect the past and the present and make the regimental history meaningful and relevant to this generation makes

the creative learning programme a central part of the Museum's long-term planning. The activities hosted this year have not only engaged a broad section of the community, many of whom would otherwise not have visited, but have also encouraged repeat visits. Since the launch of the programme in May 2006 more than 3000 people, young and old, have benefited from workshops and activities hosted by the Museum.

Activities have included art and craft classes, kilt-making and bagpipe workshops, a soldier skills club led by the Recruiting Team of The Highlanders 4th Battalion, Indian dance classes and poetry workshops. Thanks to funding from The Friends of The Gordon Highlanders Museum, *The Wee Gordon's Kids Club* was also established

this summer, with kids between the age of 5 and 12 enjoying a series of themed activities focused on the Gordon Highlanders. *Wee Gordon* shirts, badges and bags formed part of their club membership and the programme proved a huge success with kids and parents.

FORMAL LEARNING

On the formal education front the Museum's revamped WW2 workshop for primary school children has gained praise from the education authorities and in March this year, the Museum launched a new WW2 Resource Pack for teachers. Designed to assist teachers in the delivery of cross-curricular learning activities around the theme of WW2, the pack was developed by the





GH Museum Armoury



GH Museum I Lakin and C Grant

Museum's Education & Development Officer, Aurélie Bureau in association with Aberdeen City Council with funding from Big Lottery.

The cover of the pack was a project in itself. The illustrated artworks were created by secondary pupils from six Aberdeen schools, inspired by testimonies of Gordon Highlanders and local war veterans. The stories also provided the stimulus for the content of the pack and the cross-curricular lesson plans and activity sheets covering science, art and design, drama, English language, mathematics and environmental studies. The quality of this resource sets a benchmark for future practice and demonstrates the Museum's commitment to providing quality learning tools and services.

THE ARMY CADET FORCE

As the Museum's programme has evolved, so too has its partners. This year saw our connection with The 2nd Battalion, The Highlanders, Army Cadet Force strengthened when Chairman of the Museum, Ian Lakin was appointed Honorary Colonel. An official ceremony at the Museum was conducted by Lord Lieutenant, Peter Stephen on July 13, 2007, which was attended by the press and a number of representatives from the ACF. Ian Lakin is one of the first non-military Colonels to be appointed to such a role and is delighted to support the work of the ACF.

The Cadets first official engagement with the Museum was at the annual fundraising event, *Beating Retreat*, in September. The professionalism and charisma of those present clearly demonstrated what a credit the ACF is to the community.

COLLECTIONS CARE

Over the last two years collection care at The Gordon Highlanders Museum

has also developed in leaps and bounds. With the vast majority of the collection now meeting good conservation standards and around 80% of the collection having been photographed and formally assessed, the rich resource of regimental treasures is now secure for future generations.

To ensure the collection continues to be improved and measures are put in place for its ongoing preservation, a number of collection care training workshops for volunteers have taken place in recent months.

Leading the way on best practice the Museum has brought specialists on preservation and conservation to the Museum. Focusing on the care of weapons, paper and textiles, a range of workshops were created, not only for the benefit of Museum volunteers, but also other museum professionals and members of the wider community.

In January, the North-east Conservator for The National Trust for Scotland led a workshop on general conservation and in April The Royal Armouries, Leeds, Head Conservator led a workshop on weapons. June was also a busy month for collections care with a paper and photographic workshop led by The Scottish Conservation Studio.

During the summer the Museum brought training in this area to the youth during a weeklong workshop entitled *Young Curators Week*. Introducing the basic principles of curatorial work to a group of youngsters, this experimental project produced incredible results.

With a core team of trained collection care volunteers now in place, a major production of padded coat hangers, rare book jackets and handmade conservation uniform covers are in production much to

the credit of Collection Care Officer, Deborah Dunning.

RESEARCH SERVICE

Under the direction of our lead researcher, Major Malcolm Ross, the research service at the Museum has, quite simply, been revolutionised in recent years. A committed team of knowledgeable volunteers have made their way through over 940 enquires this year alone, compared with an average of 300-400 in previous years. The quality, consistency and professionalism of this service are reflected in the high level of public donations.

Research volunteers are also taking a proactive approach to improving cataloguing and storage of rare books and archives, and are making a significant contribution to the profile and effectiveness of the library and research facilities.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

In recognition of the local men and women who have volunteered tirelessly over the last 10 years, the Museum introduced a new plaque this year as part of its volunteer acknowledgement scheme. Presentation scarves, ties, brooches and tiepins are awarded to those serving 3 and 5 years respectively, but that pool of dedicated volunteers also contains many who have served 10 years and more.

Around 50 of the 160 strong workforce now have their names permanently on display on the new plaque that was unveiled in May. A constant reminder to all who pass through the Museum doors that the success of the Museum is very much dependent on the consistent support and service of its unique volunteer workforce. 🇬🇧