



The Journal *of the* Royal Highland Fusiliers

(Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment)

2010 Edition



2 SCOTS on Ex GRAND PRIX in Kenya – April 2009



CO 2 SCOTS presents a badge of rank to a local soldier.



Lt Oladjins on the prowl.



Soldier cooling down.



"Band of Brothers." 2 SCOTS soldiers take a break.



"Medic!'" Soldiers carrying a casualty.



Lt Laura Evans AGC, Det Comd with an orphan.



Awaiting.



Pte Nicola Fulton AGC jogging at Archers Post.



The Journal of
**The Royal
 Highland Fusiliers**



2010 Edition

Editor:

Capt K Gurung MBE

Home Headquarters
 The Royal Highland Fusiliers
 518 Sauchiehall Street
 Glasgow G2 3LW
 Telephone: 0141 332 5639 / 0961
 Fax: 0141 353 1493
 Email: journal@rhf.org.uk
 Regimental Website: www.rhf.org.uk

Published by



METHOD PUBLISHING
 Sutherland Press House, Golspie,
 Sutherland, Scotland KW10 6RA
 Telephone: (01408) 633871
 Fax: (01408) 633876

Editorial Matter and Illustrations:
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Design and Typography:
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For the next Edition, please forward Articles, Notes, Photographs and Letters to HHQ RHF by 18 Jan 2011. Text to be in Microsoft Word (Font – Times New Roman, Size 12). Photographs to be in JPEG and should have captions – please do NOT embed photographs in text. If possible, please send them in CDs by post or by e-mail to reg.sec@rhf.org.uk

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 Major Jim Kerr and his son Fusilier Tony Kerr in Kenya.

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Royal Colonel

HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York KG

Representative Colonel

Major General W E B Loudon CBE

Regular Units

Home Headquarters RHF

518 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3LW

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

Glencorse Barracks, Milton Bridge,
 Penicuik, EH26 0NP

Territorial Army Units

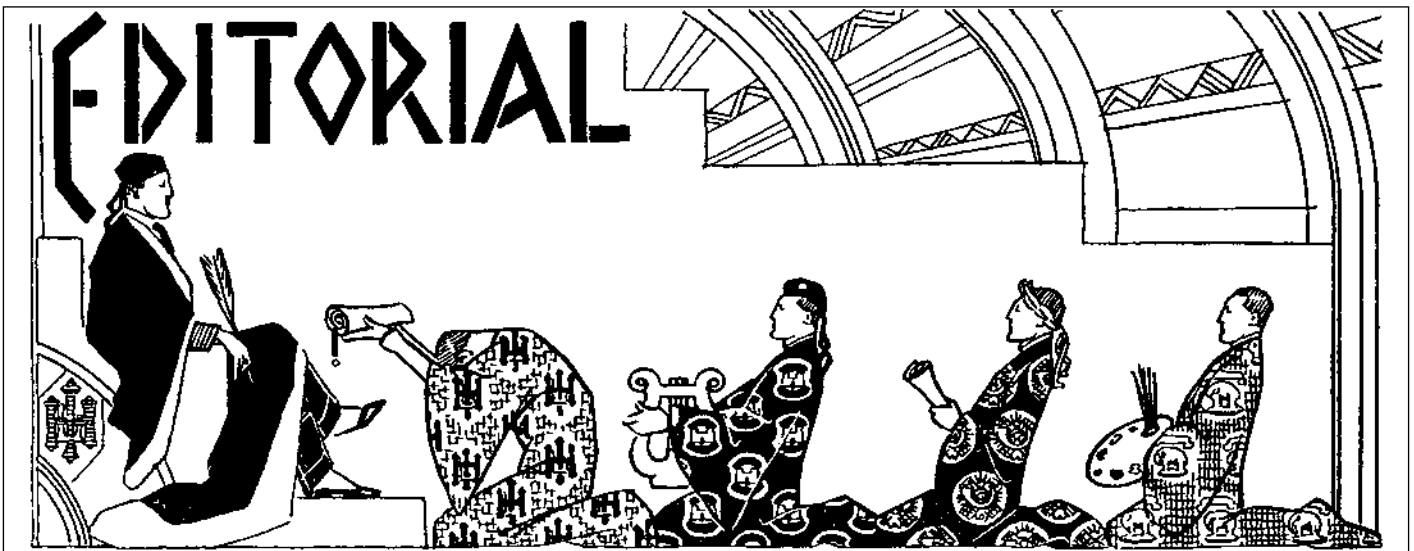
The Lowland Regiment
 6th Battalion, The Royal
 Regiment of Scotland

Walcheren Barracks, 122 Hotspur Street, Glasgow G20 8LQ

Allied Regiments

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

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



Foreword

As we look back over recent months we see that the Army has had another tough year of fighting. The high profile of its operational employment has put the British Army firmly in the national spotlight. Recent opinion polls and welcome home parades show that public regard and respect for its performance is at unprecedented levels. Paradoxically this is manifest at a time when first-hand contact with an Army heavily deployed overseas and concentrated in large and often remote garrisons at home is difficult to achieve. Such isolation sets it apart from the communities that support it and our job in the wider Royal Highland Fusilier family is to do what we can – through our involvement with cadets, the Regulars, the Territorial Army and branches of our Veterans' Association – to bridge that gap.

The Infantry has borne 74% of Army killed in action or died of wounds and 67% of all Army casualties on recent operations. And, with our own Battalion returning to Afghanistan later this year for its second tour, I hope we will all continue to rally round assisting Home Headquarters with its duties of emotional support to families affected by the scars of combat, with raising funds for benevolence and running on some of the amazing initiatives such as 'parcels for troops' which took place when the Battalion was last in Afghanistan.

During 2009, the 2nd Battalion trained in Kenya and Otterburn on battalion-level exercises – I will leave you to judge which was the most popular – and spent a considerable amount of time supporting other units preparing for operations. In a year which was immensely busy for them they still found time to host a medal parade in early June, run the Rowallan Targe, organize one of the best inter-company boxing finals I have seen in recent years and give support to Colonel Bobby and the team from Home Headquarters with the Laying Up of Old Colours at the Scottish National War Memorial (SNWM) on 27 November 2009. I am most grateful to those of you who were able to come along that day, especially to the eight

previous Commanding Officers and twelve former RSMs who served under the Colours that were presented by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Margaret in September 1978. I am also deeply grateful to Brigadier John Drummond who read the lesson before the Colours were laid up and to Lieutenant Colonel Ian Shepherd and the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion who did so much to ensure that the Colours were laid up with style and decorum.

The veteran association branches have been active on number of fronts; from assisting with a Tattoo in Inverness, to organizing an excellent Assaye/Inkerman Ball at Ingliston and helping to fly the flag at the various Remembrance Day ceremonies around Scotland and at the Cambridge Branch. You represent such an important strand of the golden thread and I am grateful for your continuing support. Please keep up all the excellent work that you do to help bind us together.

I could not close the foreword to this edition of the *Journal* without mentioning the passing of Major General Stuart Green. He was Adjutant of the Battalion at the time of the 1959 amalgamation and he helped the Commanding Officer to ensure in those early days that the 'best traditions' of both Regiments would be carried forward in the Royal Highland Fusiliers. The legacy of those efforts was that for nearly 50 years the 1st Battalion and its sister Battalion in the Territorial Army, set a proud, passionate and professional example to others, both in the Army and in our Regimental hinterland. General Stuart remained an inspirational figure throughout that story and he will be much missed.

The Battalion will be in the thick of it from the autumn of this year in Afghanistan and I am sure you would all join me in wishing its new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Dougie Graham and his men; God speed and safe return in the Spring of 2011.

Major General W E B Loudon CBE



The Colour Party entering the Scottish National War Memorial, Edinburgh Castle – 27 November 2009.

Honours and Awards

OPERATIONAL AWARDS

The Operational Honours List for service on operations in Afghanistan and Iraq was announced on 19 March 2010. The following officer received an award as shown:

Afghanistan

OBE

Lieutenant Colonel S J Cartwright – CO 3 SCOTS



Location of Serving Officers

Representative Colonel: Major General W E B Loudon CBE

Deputy Representative Colonel: Colonel N T Campbell

1. General Staff List

Colonel N T Campbell – Asst Director Plans HQ APHCS

Colonel P A S Cartwright OBE – Asst Director Cbt Eqpt, Eqpt Div, HQ LAND

Colonel P K Harkness MBE – Asst Div Director ICSC(L), Defence Academy Shrivenham

Colonel D C Richmond – COS HQ LWC

2. Former RHF Officers in Other Appointments

Colonel A L Reid OBE – ACOS G3 HQ HRF Lille

3. Regimental List

Direct Entry Officers

LIEUTENANT COLONELS:

A D Johnston MBE – Chief Influence HQ UKTF

A C B Whitelaw – SO1 J5 CTO PJHQ

W A Common – Dep Garrison Comd HQ Warminster Garrison

N H De R Channer – SO1 G7 Ex Planning Staff HQ ARRC

J Garven MBE – SO1 COS Jt Staff Div J3 HQBF Cyprus

A D Middleton MBE – BLO GE FD BLO Germany (Cologne)

D N M Mack – CO Sp Bn HQ ARRC

N R M Borton DSO MBE – SO1 Org Plans DACOS HQ Land

C L G Herbert OBE – CO 1 SCOTS

S J Cartwright OBE – SO1 J3 Land PJHQ

D S G Graham (Late A&SH) – CO 2 SCOTS

D G Steel – CO MCTC

E A Fenton – CO 3 SCOTS

MAJORS:

N B V Campbell – COS HQ Catterick Garrison

P Hutt – SO2 JF READINESS, J7 PJHQ

A J Fitzpatrick MBE – SO2 Offrs SCOTS, MS Offrs Cbt, APC

C A Ramsay (Late KOSB) – 2IC 2SCOTS

M P S Luckyn-Malone – SO2 FUTA 3 Unit Trg Adviser OPTAG

T J Cave-Gibbs – Coy Comd RMAS

A Bayne (Late RS) – OC FSp Coy 2 SCOTS

A S J Douglas (Late KOSB) – SO2 G1 51(Scottish) Bde

N D E Abram – OC B Coy 2 SCOTS

P G B Strudwick (Late RS) – OC C Coy 2 SCOTS

S R Feaver – OC F Sp Coy 5 SCOTS

J D Loudoun (Late KOSB) – OC A Coy 2 SCOTS

T H C De R Channer – SO2 Liability Ops DGS MOD

N G Jordan-Barber – OC HQ Coy 3 SCOTS

P A Joyce – OC A Coy 1 SCOTS

T A Winfield – SO2 Pers Prog, Comd Plans HQ LAND Upavon

F A L Luckyn-Malone – SO2 STAR (GROUND) 6th (UK) Div York

N J L Brown – SO2 G1/G4 Plans/EPH HQ 102 Log Bde & Sig Sqn Gutersloh

CAPTAINS:

R R Keating – SO3 G3 CTS Comd GOC Theatre Tps HQ

D D J Mackinnon (Late HLDRS) – Instr RMAS

O T G Bowen – 2IC B Coy 2 SCOTS

N P Bridle – SO3 DGS, MOD

J A Reid – SO3 G2 52 Bde

R R D McClure – SO3 G3 O&D/CTS HQ 2 Div

C M Wood – Int Offr 2 SCOTS

M J Munnich – Adj 7 SCOTS

L A M J Velasco (Late KOSB) – RSO 2 SCOTS

B O'Neill – CI Mor Div, Sp Wpn Sch, Warminster

R S Montgomery – Instr Recce Div, LWC

J R L Savage – OC Mortars 2 SCOTS

L Curson – Ops Offr 2 SCOTS

V T Gilmour – Adj 2 SCOTS

A M Sweet – OC Recce FSp Coy 2 SCOTS

J A French – German Language Trg

M J Rodger – SO3 O&D, HQ Inf

M D Kerr – Instr Pl Comd Div Inf Battle School Brecon

G W Muir – ADC to Comd Fd Army HQLF

D E Reed – 2IC C Coy 2 SCOTS

J B McVey – Trg Offr 2 SCOTS

C M Wood (Late KOSB) – IO 2 SCOTS

O W Bridle – ADC to GOC HQ 2 Div

A N Lassoued – 2IC A Coy 2 SCOTS

LIEUTENANTS:

A G Lipowski – OC ATK 2 SCOTS

A R Gill – Instr PCD, Inf Battle School, Brecon

D J W Morgan – Pl Comd 1 ITB ITC Catterick

I Curren – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS

M D Oladjins – DOLSU Army Language

J D House – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS

2nd LIEUTENANTS:

B S E Davey – Pl Comd 1 ITB ITC Catterick

C K Law – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS

M A Dobson (Late AGC) – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS

G C MacGregor – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS

J M Collinge – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS

M C Dowds – Pl Comd 2 SCOTS



R Rowlands – P1 Comd 2 SCOTS
 T N Lambert – P1 Comd 2 SCOTS
 J T Philips – P1 Comd 2 SCOTS
 H R Warring – P1 Comd 2 SCOTS
 J N MaKinnon – PCBC/P1 Comd 2 SCOTS
 P E R Seligman – PCBS/P1 Comd 2 SCOTS

Late Entry Officers

MAJORS:

J E B Kerr MBE – OC HQ COY 2 SCOTS
 S G WEMYSS (Late HLDRS) – QM 2 SCOTS
 G A McGown MBE – COS GSV IPT, DG LE,
 DE&S, Abbey Wood

CAPTAINS:

A T Grant – Coy Capt SCOTS Coy ITC
 Catterick
 R C Welsh (Late RS) – QM(T) 2 SCOTS
 J K Law – SO3 Sldrs SCOTS, MS
 Sldrs Cbt, APC
 W G A Hunter – MTO 5 SCOTS
 D McCutcheon – MTO 2 SCOTS
 G R Hogg – RCMO 2 SCOTS
 W Barrie – UWO 2 SCOTS

Location of Serving Volunteer Officers

COLONEL:

J L Kelly MBE – Cadet Colonel 51 (Scottish) Bde

LIEUTENANT COLONELS:

S W Burns TD – Unposted List
 H Grant TD – CO Tayforth UOTC
 R Doyle – Unposted List

MAJORS:

J M T Allen – Glasgow & Strathclyde UOTC
 S J R Bollen TD – OC BRAT 51 (Scottish) Bde

CAPTAINS:

P C MacDonald BEM – RTC(S)
 A Blair – PSAO C Coy 6 SCOTS
 D McInally – OC B Coy 6 SCOTS
 D H Coulter – PSAO 52 Sig Sqn, 32 Sig Regt(V)
 J Donald – OC B Coy 6 SCOTS
 J Coombes – Unposted List
 A I Campbell – 2IC C Coy 6 SCOTS

SUBALTERNES:

A P Wickman – LONDONS

The Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum

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

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 Website: www.rhf.org.uk





Letters to the Editor

Major (Retd) A S Robertson
10 Crawford Place
Ladybank KY15 7NX
Fife
11 December 2009

Dear Editor,

MUSICAL NOTES

If ever I heard euphemism, the Army Review styled 'Options for Change' has stuck in my mind as a classic example. In case *Journal* readers have forgotten, that review deprived almost all infantry regiments, ours no exception, of their cherished Regimental Band. The RSF, HLI, (and later RHF) Bands had not only provided fine music on and off parade, but band members had also played an important part in the social and sporting life of the battalions. The lights in the Band Block were finally extinguished when 1 RHF left Oakington for Fallingbostal.

There was of course one exception: no axe fell on that protected species known as Her Majesty's Brigade of Guards and The Blues & Royals. *The Daily Telegraph* of 10th December carried a long feature, noting that the Band of the Coldstream Guards, veteran recording artists, had made it into the Top 20 with *Heroes*, its first for Decca, released on 30th November. The Band's Director of Music was quoted at some length: Lt Col Graham Jones, who is none other than he who as WO1 G O Jones MBE ARCM psm was the very last RHF Bandmaster.

Recorded in 1993, the CD made by the Band, Pipes and Drums was aptly titled 'Afore Ye Go' (Bandleader 5102). It opens with R A Y Mitchell's majestic RHF Fanfare, based on the Regimental Call. Besides standard regimental music and other favourites, the disc includes five noteworthy Jones compositions. The photo on the disc cover shows him together with Pipe Major K M Kerr and Drum Major D B Turner.

Yours aye,
Alan

Noel Prowse
Stonelea Cottage
Cotleigh, Honiton
Devon
EX14 9HE
6 July 2009

Dear Sir,

I was very interested to read the article on Alistair Cameron and the reference to his article – "The Fight Against Eoka". With several other members of C Company I was in the truck that was "bombed" and with the follow-up party that chased the bomber as he tried to get away on a bicycle and probably would have succeeded if it hadn't

been for Pte, later Cpl, Furey's marksmanship. Gordon Pender and CSM Short created a highly-trained and tightly-knit company at Kantara and I was honoured, as a National Serviceman, to be part of it – one of the most interesting year of my life and an experience that I shall never forget.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely
Noel

Lt Col C S Winter
Shellachan
Kilchrenan
By Taymult
Argyll
PA35 1HD
17 July 2009

Dear Bobby,

Herewith please find my negative return for the dinner and luncheon. Unfortunately it clashes with a rare breed's sale.

I recently received the *Journal*. A'propos a previous conversation entre nous I see Alastair Mack is still the Editor, and I imagine much helped by you. In any event I thought it was rather good.

I noticed in the *Journal* that there had been a celebration to mark the 50th Anniversary.

Although I was too young to have been in the Regt then, if I had known about it, I would quite like to have turned up. Someone has told me there is an RHF e-mail address which tells one about such functions or events and also when people die. Could you possibly let me know, if indeed that is the case. I don't personally use the computer much, but my wife does. Our e-mail address is: flora@florawinter.plus.com.

I hope you are well. I shall call in and see you sometime. Regards to Kamal and Liz.

Best wishes

Your aye
Colin

(Editor: To all members of Regiment: Please note forthcoming Regimental events/functions are posted in "Events for 2010" under "Home Headquarters & Museum Notices" in the RHF Veterans' Forum website which can be found if you google "RHF Veterans' Forum" in the internet. News of recent deaths/funeral details of veterans' are posted in "The Last Post" under "The Regimental Family" in the same website.)



Obituaries

MAJOR GENERAL R L S GREEN

Those who read the report of the celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Highland Fusiliers in the last *Journal* will have been saddened by the postscript that announced the death of Major General Stuart Green on the 8th of April 2009. His service with the Regiment started on its formation in 1959 with his appointment as the first Adjutant, under Colonel Mike Evetts. It continued through the command of a Rifle Company, C Company, in Iserlohn to Battalion Second-in-Command and eventually, after a tour on the Directing Staff at the Technical Staff College, Commanding Officer of the Battalion from 1967 to 1969 at Fort George. This also covered the celebrations that marked the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment. Ten years later, in 1979, he became Colonel of the Regiment. He continued in that appointment for some twelve years to 1991 which was an unprecedented length of time. All in all, General Stuart was closely involved with the fortunes of the Regiment and one of its predecessors for some sixty-three years.

Robert Leslie Stuart Green was born on 1st July 1925 into a seafaring family. Many generations of his father's family had served at sea both in the Royal Navy and with the family firm of ship-owners based in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Two of his ancestors had served with Nelson and were present at the Battle of Trafalgar. It was therefore no surprise that Stuart originally anticipated a career in the Navy. However, during the Second World War his father was torpedoed twice, once evacuating troops from Greece and then again in the evacuation from Crete. He survived both events to continue with service on the Arctic convoys. Stuart, sensible to the anxiety caused to his mother by these events, chose to volunteer for the Army – when he was just seventeen-and-a-half.

Influenced by a great friend at school who had volunteered for the Seaforth Highlanders Stuart found an ancestor on his mother's side who had served with the Black Watch at the Battle of Waterloo! This was sufficient for him to make that Regiment his first choice. Initially rejected for service on medical grounds he overcame this hurdle and joined the Army in December 1943. He was first posted to Fort George but was sent on for primary training to the requisitioned Campbell's Dye Works in Perth. There he was somewhat upset to find himself "badged" as an Argyll and Sutherland Highlander. However, he was quickly selected for Officer Training and found that he was to be sent out to India with a view to secondment to the Indian Army. He sailed for India on "D" Day the 6th of June 1944.

Stuart received his officer training at the Indian Military Academy at Dhera Dun in the Central Provinces. He was put under pressure to take a commission in the Indian Army but he flatly refused, making sure that he failed the exams in order to *reinforce* his objections. He got his own way and was commissioned into the Black Watch in early 1945. It so happened that the 2nd Battalion of the Black Watch was stationed at Secunderabad, having just come out of Burma where it had fought as part of the Chindit Operation. Stuart found himself in charge of very experienced battle-hardened men most of whom were years older than himself. He was very appreciative of their support and he



often remarked on how kind they were to him and how well they looked after their young officer.

The 2nd Black Watch were converted *en masse* into a parachute regiment and formed part of the Indian Airborne Division. This formation was earmarked to take part in a combined airborne and sea assault on the Japanese forces in Malaya called Operation Zipper. However, the end of the war with Japan came suddenly after atomic bombs struck on that unfortunate country and the operation was cancelled. Thereafter the 2nd Black Watch found themselves deployed in aid to the civil power to assist in trying to maintain order during the partition of India. The unrest even included a mutiny by part of the Indian Navy which was put down by the 2nd Black Watch and the Indian Army. Stuart accompanied the Commanding Officer of the Black Watch, Colonel John Benson, in a somewhat nerve-wracking walk into the Indian Naval Barracks to receive the surrender from the local senior Indian Naval Officers.

After another few months in India Stuart was posted to the 5th (Scottish) Parachute Battalion in Palestine which was also attempting to keep the peace in that unhappy land. He spent much of his time patrolling the railway between Haifa and the Border with Egypt to stop the Jewish terrorists from blowing up the track. Stuart himself was blown up in a jeep on his way back from Haifa one day but luckily everyone in it escaped with only minor injuries. It was in Palestine that he had his first taste of staff work when he was attached to Brigade Headquarters. The 2nd Parachute Brigade moved from Palestine to Ludgershall on Salisbury Plain and then on to Germany. It was there during a Brigade Exercise that Stuart made his last (and nearly-disastrous) parachute jump. A mix-up in signals from the ground controllers



caused Stuart and two others to leave their aircraft before their Air Dispatcher, seeing that no one was dropping from the other aircraft in the formation, had stopped anyone else from jumping. With the wind gusting at 60 miles per hour all three landed heavily and were injured – finishing up in the Military Hospital in Hamburg. Stuart damaged a shoulder and a leg. These injuries were to plague him in later life. While serving with the Parachute Regiment Stuart had been offered a regular commission in the Highland Light Infantry which he accepted. So in August 1948 he reported to the Depot at Maryhill Barracks in Glasgow and from there went on to join the 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry at Fort George. That Battalion had also just returned from Palestine to take up the task of Highland Brigade Training Battalion.

To enjoy being stationed at Fort George a car is essential. Stuart acquired a pre-war Lagonda not long after arriving there. That car awakened an interest in things mechanical which eventually steered him toward the technical staff. As might be expected in a car of vintage character it was of uncertain reliability. However, as an admiring crowd in the Inverness Station Yard discovered, the imperious command “Push my car” would be obeyed without demur by those who had just stopped to stare. Much of the film *Proud Heritage*, which told the history of the Highland Light Infantry, was shot at Fort George. Stuart was detailed to lead the charge of the French cavalry in the scenes depicting the Battle of Waterloo. Unfortunately his horse, hired from the local riding stables, turned out to be the slowest of the bunch so Stuart finished up “leading from behind”. (This amused him – but not the film director.) Service at Fort George also gave Stuart the opportunity to renew his links with the sea. He enjoyed being captain and helmsman of the Highland Brigade so-called yacht, a decommissioned clinker-built fishing boat, named *The Black Bird*. His dashing handling of the boat in the Moray Firth certainly scared some of the subaltern officers press-ganged into the crew.

After two years as the Highland Brigade Training Battalion the 1st Battalion left Fort George and reformed as an infantry battalion at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh before moving on to join 19th Infantry Brigade at Colchester. Stuart was given the command of the Anti-Tank Platoon armed with seventeen-pounder anti-tank guns towed by Oxford carriers. This again re-inforced his interest in heavier weapons and mechanical vehicles. But it was also in Colchester that Stuart met his future wife, Nancy Collier. They became engaged in April 1951 and planned to marry in August. However, 19 Brigade was part of the Army Strategic Reserve and extensive manoeuvres upset their plans. The wedding was put back to October. But then on the last day of Exercise Surprise Packet the Battalion was warned for an operational deployment to the Middle East. So it was that five days after their wedding Stuart flew out to Tripoli with the rest of the Battalion. After a few days there the Battalion flew on to El Aden and moved into tented accommodation in Tobruk. In Tobruk the Battalion formed part of a force for an operation called Rodeo Flail. The British Government wanted to counter the unrest in Egypt at this time and planned to move a force along the coast road from Libya into Egypt to secure Alexandria. Fortunately for Stuart and the Battalion this plan fizzled out and with the connivance of the Commanding Officer, Colonel Roddy Rose, Stuart was able to get Nancy out to Tobruk. Peter and Angela Larg had also got married shortly before the Battalion had left England. Nancy and Angela travelled out together and the two young married couples were able to share a very basic

house used by a salvage expert employed in recovering sunken ships and munitions from Tobruk harbour.

In late February 1952 dock strikes and other civil unrest broke out in Malta and 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry with Stuart and Peter were bundled onto *HMS Cleopatra* to be shipped into Malta to deal with the problems. This was quickly accomplished and calm returned to the island, enabling Nancy and Angela to fly in and continue their married lives. From Malta Stuart returned to the UK to attend a Mechanical Transport Course at Borden and Nancy returned to Colchester to stay with her parents. Around this time Stuart’s lower back started to give trouble probably as a result of his parachuting experiences. An operation proved necessary and, after Borden, Stuart found himself in the Military Hospital at Colchester. This was very convenient as his first child, a daughter Sarah, was born in Colchester. After a spell in hospital Stuart was medically down-graded so did not return to the Battalion in Malta. A staff job was found for him in Headquarters Lowland Division in Glasgow. There the pace of work was such that he was able to study for and pass the Staff College Exam. He also had time to enjoy family life in a small bungalow he was able to hire on Great Western Road. By the end of 1954 he was fit enough to return to duty with the Battalion which had landed up in Bulford in January 1955 after an extended tour in the Middle East. After passing the Staff College Exam Stuart opted to go on the Technical Staff Course at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham. This was an unusually daring and almost a rash decision for an infantry officer, who, by his own admission, had not paid much attention to scientific subjects at school.

The Battalion’s stay in Bulford was very short just about a year. In January 1956 it was off again on another emergency tour to the Middle East, this time Cyprus. Stuart with his experiences in Palestine and India proved to be a very valuable member of a unit that had a large proportion of inexperienced young National Servicemen. Stuart’s handling of various security situations, particularly the aftermath of a grenade attack on the Support Company Officers’ Mess, was to enhance his reputation amongst his senior officers as well as his contemporaries and the rank and file. 1956 also saw the start of Stuart’s two and a quarter years on the Technical Staff Course. He had spent his spare time in Cyprus studying for the course but even so for the first year at Shrivenham he found that he was working up to 11 o’clock most nights. He was proud of the fact that he managed to teach himself Calculus; a subject neglected at school. He stayed the course from 1956 to the end of 1958 and gained the qualification “ptsc”. There was some thought that he should go on to the ordinary Staff College course at Camberley but, with the amalgamation of the Highland Light Infantry with the Royal Scots Fusiliers to take place in 1959, he was persuaded to return to regimental duties at the first Adjutant of the new Regiment.

So it was that in January 1959 the unbeatable team of Evetts and Green steered the early fortunes of the Royal Highland Fusiliers. It was an extraordinary stroke of good luck on a very astute selection process that put these two very different characters together. They became very close friends with a keen appreciation of each others’ attributes – although Colonel Mike was somewhat wary of Stuart’s mischievous sense of humour and was often not sure whether or not he was having his leg pulled. There was the occasion when Stuart suggested that the Regiment should celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of Culloden as the



Regimental Day on the basis that the forebears of both Regiments had been present on the battlefield even if they happened to be on opposite sides. On another occasion when Colonel Mike turned up to take "Haul up" in battle dress, boots and puttees his Adjutant remarked how difficult it was to differentiate him from the accused. (The following day Colonel Mike appeared on Dreghorn Ranges resplendent in Service Dress, trews and spats – much to the surprise of the troops under training!) Stuart continued as Adjutant under the next Commanding Officer, Charles Dunbar, and went with the Battalion to Aden. In 1961 he was posted briefly to a staff job in the Ministry of Defence but was soon selected to attend the 1962 course at the Joint Services Staff College, where apart from learning about the other services he claimed to have mastered the rules of croquet.

In early 1963 Stuart was back with the Battalion in Iserlohn, first of all as a Rifle Company Commander and then becoming the Battalion Second-in-Command continuing the good work that he had started as Adjutant. He was very fair-minded and his knowledge of the Army's selection procedures and career structures was of great benefit to many of the officers and men in the Regiment. There was never any doubt about his opinion which was always expressed in a very forthright manner without any "beating about the bush". After this tour in Germany, with the Regiment, Stuart returned to the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham; this time on the Directing Staff as an instructor and the Infantry Representative. At the end of this period of instructing in scientific subjects Stuart was thrilled to be told that he had been selected to command the 1st Battalion RHF from mid-1967 for two-and-a-half years. He could hardly believe that his take over of the Battalion would take place at Fort George, making it his third posting there. However, with his previous knowledge of the place and its long distance from Glasgow and Ayrshire. Stuart was determined to get the Battalion integrated with the civilian population and to keep all members of the Regiment as busy as possible. This was achieved through various OPMAC (Operation Military Assistance to the Civil Community) projects such as building bridges, levelling ground for sports fields, assisting at agricultural shows and even blowing up old airfield runways. Teaching all ranks new skills was covered by Adventure Training and included rock climbing, skiing, free-fall parachuting and even gliding. Continuous cadres were run within the Battalion for advanced-soldier training, driving and signalling as well as taking up any vacancies offered on Army courses. In 1968 Stuart took the majority of the Battalion to Gibraltar for a nine-month tour to strengthen the garrison there and to deter any attempt by the Spanish to reclaim the Rock. Nothing very much happened except for one riot by the dockers – which Stuart missed because he was sailing at the time. 1969 saw the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment with celebrations in Glasgow and Ayr as well as recruiting drives to keep the Battalion up to strength. 1969 also saw the Battalion warned for operations in Northern Ireland. Stuart carried out the pre-tour reconnaissance and planning but, having finished his period in command, had to pass the Battalion on to his successor, David Anderson.

After a brief spell in the Military Secretary's Branch Stuart found himself back at Shrivenham, this time as Military Director of Studies responsible for all courses at the College concerned with artillery, armour and weaponry in general. His next posting in 1972 was in the rank of Brigadier as the Senior Military Officer of the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment

at Fort Halstead. He remained there until 1975. Stuart found this work fascinating and was impressed by how much effort was being put into so many secret projects, especially those concerned with counter-terrorist warfare. It was in 1975 that he was selected to be a future President of the Ordnance Board and was promoted to Major-General. He was the first infantry officer to be selected for this important appointment. He stayed at the Ordnance Board until 1978 but was not much interested by any further appointments in the Army and decided to retire. On retirement Stuart became Chairman of a small company call Miltrain Ltd that offered training aids and facilities. But in 1979 he was made Colonel of the Regiment, so after a brief couple of years with Miltrain he resigned to concentrate on his work for the Regiment and to take up a new challenge as the Executive Director of a charity called CARE (Cottage and Rural Enterprises). CARE provides sheltered accommodation, workshops and training for the mentally handicapped or people with learning disabilities. Stuart had joined the Board of Governors of CARE in 1976 but was asked to become the Chairman of the Executive Committee in 1978. His daughter, Sarah, had been in one of the villages since she was 18 so he was very pleased to help with the running of this Charity. Stuart took over and re-organised the administration and selection of staff on military terms. One employee said the he used to go on holiday but now went on leave. Under Stuart's leadership CARE expanded from two communities to eight which were spread from Devon to Northumberland and to Kent. He had a very active twelve years with the Charity and, combined with his duties as Colonel of the Regiment, he did a lot of travelling. He often motored as much as 30,000 miles in a year visiting the communities and also attending Regimental events. His interest in cars was still as great as ever but he gave up owning vintage models in favour of the comfort and reliability of the newer. He was instrumental in setting up an independent charitable trust called the Forbes Trust. This Trust was named after the founder of CARE. It has the long term view of providing financial support for CARE without having to rely on funds from local authorities. In recognition of his charitable work Stuart was made a Freeman of the City of London in 1983.

Even during his busy time with CARE Stuart was very active as Colonel of the Regiment. He had to counter many of the Ministry of Defences schemes to interfere with the Regimental System. He was also very concerned with the selection of potential officers for the Regiment, looking the whole time for quality material. Of course he became very well-acquainted with the Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Margaret. They got on very well together, attending numerous Regimental functions and visits to the Battalion. Princess Margaret enjoyed Stuart's sense of humour and his blunt remarks about events. Stuart admired her very much and was grateful for the keen interest that she took in the Regiment and his work for it. On the 18th of October 1991, Princess Margaret was graciously pleased to present Stuart with a silver salver from the Officers of the Regiment in recognition of his outstanding service as Colonel of the Regiment from 1979 to 1991. It was also in 1991 that Stuart accepted on behalf of the Regiment the Wilkinson Sword of Peace in the City Chambers in Glasgow. This award was made to mark the contribution made by the Regiment in clearing up the aftermath of the terrorist bomb which brought down the Pan Am flight over Lockerbie in December 1988. The Battalion was in Scotland at the time and set up emergency facilities to deal with the bodies and effects of those who were killed in the attack.



In his eventual retirement Stuart became a keen fisherman to add to his other recreations of rough shooting, listening to classical music, collecting paintings, doing crosswords and of course cars. Another hobby was indulging in a little politics as Chairman of the West Wiltshire Conservative Association, this for three years. Sadly towards the end of his life he developed cancer to add to his ongoing physical problems. After amazing his doctors by his resilience and fortitude he finally died peacefully at home at Sutton Veny. A private cremation took place on the 21st of April 2009 and a Service of Thanksgiving for Stuart's life was held at Saint John's Church, Sutton Veny on Wednesday the 27th of May 2009. The service was conducted by the Reverend Haisley Moore, who had been the Battalion Padre at Fort George when Stuart was Commanding Officer. The service was very well attended by past and present members of the Regiment.

Stuart is survived by his wife Nancy, his two daughters and two granddaughters to whom we offer our sympathy and condolences.

EIW

LIEUTENANT COLONEL R WALKER-BROWN DSO MBE HLI



On December 27 1944 Bob Walker-Brown, then a captain in the 2nd Special Air Service Regiment (2 SAS), and 32 all ranks were dropped by parachute behind the enemy lines in the Apennines, north of La Spezia.

SAS operations were carried out in the knowledge that Hitler had issued an order that all enemy commandos, parachutists and other special units captured away from the immediate battle zone were to be shot at once. Any German

officer who failed to comply was himself to be shot.

The operation was code-named "Galia". Flying conditions were dreadful, and the leading aircraft, in heavy cloud, flew straight into a mountainside. During his own descent, Walker-Brown's leg bag broke free at 400ft, smashing his carbine.

Although handicapped by deep snow, rugged terrain and primitive radio communications, he led his men over the mountains, fording hazardous fast-flowing rivers, attacking transport columns, mortaring enemy-held villages, mining roads and ambushing infantry. The Germans were forced to deploy 6,000 troops in a drive to eliminate him.

Some partisans were reliable, despite savage reprisals by the Germans. Others could not be trusted and were not above sending false ground signals in order to steal supplies dropped by air. One guide was summarily shot after he led an SAS patrol into a trap. The nights were bitterly cold, and goat tracks were covered in ice and impossible to use. On one occasion, Walker-Brown and his men struggled up a mountain 7,000ft high after a forced march of 57 hours.

A German captain, found dallying with an Italian girl, was captured. With Bob Walker-Brown's pistol at his back, he was forced to lead the way across the Gothic Line at night using old shepherds' paths. Two enemy patrols were encountered but their forced "escort" got them through undiscovered.

Walker-Brown dodged the dragnet and personally accounted for many of the substantial casualties inflicted on the Germans. The citation for his DSO paid tribute to his "unparalleled guerrilla skill and personal courage" in keeping his force intact in a two-month mountain campaign in the depths of winter. His fellow troop commander in Italy was captured with his signaller. Both were shot.

Robert Walker-Brown, the son of a Scottish surgeon, was born at Sutton Coldfield on April 9 1919 and educated privately.

At the outbreak of war he was mobilised with the Royal Engineer TA Reserve before transferring to the Highland Light Infantry (HLI) and joining the 2nd Battalion in Egypt in 1941. He was wounded during the Battle of the Cauldron in the Western Desert in June 1942 and was captured by the Germans. After three months in a PoW hospital at Lucca he was transferred to Campo Prigionieri di Guerra 21 at Chieti in the foothills of the Apennines, north-east of Rome.

The Italian guards were alert; there were microphones in the cells, and three attempts to build escape tunnels were discovered early in 1943. An Italian officer confided that a successful attempt would result in the camp commandant's departure to the Russian front and that the guards would not hesitate to lob grenades down any hole they discovered.

The blocks were surrounded by flagstone and cement paving leading to an 18ft perimeter wall with sentries, searchlights and trip wires. Cautious investigation by Bob Walker-Brown and his comrades revealed a lifting ring giving access to a storm-drain sump which led to a brick chamber about 4ft deep and 15 inches square. It was close to the perimeter track that was patrolled by armed carabinieri.

A very small officer was equipped with a poker and inserted, despite his protestations, into the sump with instructions to remove enough of the bricks to open up a larger chamber. Contact was maintained by a code of taps on the sump lid and a rota of PoW sentries was organised to give warning of the approach of a patrol.

Shift work was established and two, later three, tunnellers went down after the morning muster parade. Spoil was rolled into balls and packed into the walls of the ablutions hut. A prismatic compass that had escaped several searches was used to keep the direction of the tunnel on the correct bearing.

The guards were becoming increasingly suspicious. Snap searches slowed the work but after three weeks 20ft of tunnel had been dug. Of a camp complement of some 900 officers, fewer than 40 were engaged in escape attempts; and the sight of naked, clay-covered men jumping through the windows of the ablutions hut caused resentment among those who saw these activities as a threat to a peaceful life.



After five weeks, the end of the tunnel was close to the wall and a deep level chamber had to be dug to get under the foundations. After further digging, the tunnellers struck a main sewer.

This had to be opened up to help dispose of the soil, but the air was so foul that there were several cases of fainting, and an improvised oil lamp flickered out after 20 minutes. For some time, all work was carried out in complete darkness until an air pipe had been made from Red Cross food tins, sealed with clay and completed with an air pump fashioned from a tin and an old boot.

When the guards found escape rations and home-made compasses, more snap searches were introduced. By this time, six men were in the tunnel. Six non-digging officers pretended to be ill in bed and their names were handed to the Italians each day on a nominal roll. Dummies were placed in their beds and they paraded to cover the absentees. After four months' digging, the foundations of the wall had been breached and the tunnel measured some 140ft. A breakout chamber was built but, as final escape preparations were being made Italy surrendered, and the camp was taken over by a company of German parachutists.

When their commander ordered an assembly for the immediate evacuation of the camp, Bob Walker-Brown and a number of PoWs hid in the tunnel and waited underground for several hours before breaking out at night.

With two companions, he headed south and walked for 10 days, moving only at night, fording rivers and dodging enemy patrols. They were recaptured briefly by a section of German infantry but got away when they came under fire and reached the lines of a battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment and relative safety on October 5 1943.

Appointed MBE for his escape, Bob Walker-Brown was posted to an infantry training centre at Aberdeen, but he soon became bored and joined 2 SAS at Prestwick. Sent on a parachute course, he landed on the roof of a double-decker bus full of Wrens on his first jump.

On September 1 1944 he was dropped as "stick commander" with a troop of armed Jeeps into the Forest of Chatillon, north of Dijon, to reinforce No 1 Squadron, 2nd SAS, commanded by Major Roy Farran.

Over France, they ran into heavy flak and his aircraft was damaged. Running in over the drop zone, one man was killed when his static line parted and Bob Walker-Brown, who jumped next, was relieved to see his canopy open.

With their machine guns, Brens and mortars, they were a formidable force and took part in an attack on the German garrison which occupied the chateau at Chaumont.

Bob Walker-Brown wrote afterwards: "Tracer, ball and armour-piercing shells were flying all over the place. German reinforcements soon appeared, so we pulled out leaving brewed-up vehicles, smouldering fires and, according to the French, 110 casualties. We lost one killed and two wounded." The forest cover, country roads and tracks were used to launch a series of ambushes before the party returned to England later in the month.

After the war Walker-Brown rejoined the HLI but subsequently served with 21 SAS as training major and 22 SAS as second-in-command before commanding 23 SAS. He then served with the Defence Intelligence Staff before retiring from the Army in 1964.

His many friends delighted in his political incorrectness, occasional cussedness, intolerance of idleness and mischievous sense of humour. He was grappling with new languages, digital photography and the intricacies of computer science at an age when many would opt for a less exacting life. Settled in Wiltshire, he was a keen angler and fished the Avon and the Wylde.

Bob Walker-Brown died on August 16. He married first, in 1955, Leonie Hossack. She predeceased him. He married secondly, in 1996, Helen Leeming, who survives him. There were no children.

Telegraph (Published 17 Sep 2009)

MAJOR WILLIAM STOBIE HLI/RHF

Bill Stobie died on 28th April 2009 after a spell of serious illness, preceded by a period of indifferent health, testing his considerable patience and precluding his attending several regimental events at which he would never otherwise have been marked absent. With his passing, the Regiment lost one whose record of service with the 1st Battalions of the Highland Light Infantry and the Royal Highland Fusiliers as NCO, Warrant Officer and Officer is surely unequalled in recent times.



Born into a farming family in 1918 at Glenduckie in the north of Fife, Bill more than once declared that but for the outbreak of war, he would have become a farmer. That trait showed itself in the gardens he cultivated in various unpromising overseas postings, and lastly in the fertile soil surrounding their house in Cupar where he and Ina settled after he retired from the army. As it was, he was called up to the Black Watch in September 1939. By 1945, he was in the Highland Light Infantry, and it was then that Ina and he were wed in Cupar.

His qualities soon recognised, he rose through the HLI ranks, training many recruits at Maryhill Barracks. A little later, he had the training of Potential Officer Squads at Fort George when it was the Highland Brigade Training Centre. Those who then passed through his hands included several who became officers in his own regiment. They never forgot the high standards expected by Sergeant Stobie! Skills of a decidedly different stamp were to be called upon in a posting as Instructor with the Officers' Training Corps at the University of Oxford.



With 1st Bn HLI, Bill Stobie served in Colchester, Cyprus and Egypt's Canal Zone. Then it was back to Bulford with the Battalion in 1954, a tour interrupted by the emergency tour in Cyprus to help deal with EOKA, the Greek-Cypriot terrorist organisation. He was by then a Warrant Officer Class 2, a memorable CSM of more than one company. After the briefest of stays in Scotland, 1st HLI next moved to Lüneburg which subsequently proved to be its final posting. As RQMS to QM Jimmy McMillan, Bill was invited to apply for a commission. Commissioned in 1957, he returned to 1st HLI as MTO. In that key appointment, he soon gained a reputation as a fierce defender of his MT Platoon, from whom he demanded the highest standards of personal turnout, driving, and vehicle maintenance, repaid by their occasional marginal impudence, always testing the boundaries in the best Jock tradition, but with an underlying strong loyalty. Following the Amalgamation of 20th January 1959, 1st RHF enjoyed the continued expertise of Bill Stobie as MTO in Edinburgh, Aden, Malta, and, apart from a short break at Glencorse, yet again in Iserlohn. Those who served in these postings will readily recall that battalion transport ranged from an assortment of wheeled vehicles to Humber armoured trucks and Saracen APCs. For just under two years in 1962-64, Bill was Quartermaster of 5th/6th HLI, his only actual QM tour, when he made many friends. The German tour of duty was interrupted for six months in 1965-66 when 1st RHF moved to Cyprus as part of the UN Force, the only time that Glengarry and ToS were supplanted by the pale-blue beret. Bill Stobie served there also, but not as MTO.

His Regular service over, he and Ina settled comfortably in Cupar. For a short spell, Major Stobie's experience was put to good use as Executive Officer of Dundee ACF. However, having trained successive generations of regimental drivers, it was little wonder that he soon gave it up, working instead as a driving instructor on his own account for close on twenty years. In these years Bill taught mothers, fathers, and their sons and daughters, making many friends in Dundee and Fife in the process. The *Fife Herald/St Andrews Citizen* of 15th May carried a tribute to him with particular reference to the many whom he had taught to drive.

On 6th May, a sunlit windless day, there was a large attendance of regimental and local friends for a brief service in Cupar, followed by interment at Dairsie Cemetery, both conducted by Rev William Bristow, former Padre of 1st HLI in Lüneburg, with whom Ina and Bill had never lost touch. Pipe-Major Alastair Duthie from Perth who had served in RHF and Black Watch played the 74th Slow March as the party took their places and Flowers of the Forest after the burial. Following pronouncement of the Blessing, he played the 10th HLI Crossing the Rhine. Amongst those invited to hold cords at the graveside was former Fusilier Alec Lockhart, a member of the MT Platoon in Aden, 1960.

Ina and Bill Stobie stand out in the minds of those who knew them for their unfailingly warm hospitality to all, particularly to young officers of which this writer was but one. It is on behalf of HLI and RHF alike that we extend sincere condolences to Ina, who has specially asked through this notice to say how greatly she felt supported by the presence of so many old regimental friends.

ASR

CAPTAIN T O GOODALL TD Croix-de-Guerre HLI

Captain Tom Goodall was born in Glasgow in 1916 where he was also educated – at Glasgow Academy. After leaving school he went South for a few years, working with Fairey Aviation. In 1938, however, he returned to Glasgow, joined the Territorial Army and was commissioned into 6 HLI. He was with 6 HLI when it was embodied for War in 1939 and went to war with 6 HLI when its Division, 52nd Lowland, landed at Cherbourg on 8th June 1940 as part of the 'Second BEF'.



6 HLI was in the 157th (Highland Light Infantry) Brigade which was the spearhead of the Division. After its move south-east in motorised transport the Brigade dug in near Faverolles on 13th June and was under attack the next day. The Germans, although supported by heavy mortars and with tanks captured from the French, were held up for a time but eventually began to break through at various points. That night a fighting withdrawal was successfully conducted.

The Second BEF was then ordered to evacuate from Cherbourg. It had to abandon much of its stores, vehicles and equipment. Tom's Regimental Kilt was left in France. After holding the approaches to the Port to the last 6 HLI embarked for England on the 18th.

It is not known whether Tom ever managed to discharge his revolver at the enemy. If he did, it is hoped that he had managed to exchange its .45 soft lead bullets for some of the nickel-plated ones hastily issued in 1940. Although the use of soft-nosed bullets had been banned by a nineteenth-century Geneva Convention, this restriction had been ignored, as far as revolver ammunition was concerned, by the Enfield ammunition factories. It was not ignored by the Austrian Corporal. He had threatened to shoot any British Officer found with these illegal rounds in his possession.

Tom then trained with his Division in Mountain Warfare – which hardly prepared it for its initial fighting in 1944. This, in Holland, was often below sea-level. However, Tom himself, although often under fire, had no opportunity in 1944-45 to discharge his pistol (now a .38 revolver) in anger. Because of his many abilities and power of organisation he had been posted to the Brigade Staff.

Nevertheless, it was Tom who after the capture of Bremen in 1945 took the formal surrender of two German Generals and about 30,000 troops. Not long afterwards an action of his may have prevented another cascade into War, a possible World War III. The Brigade had halted not far from Lubeck on the Elbe, on the other side of the river was some of the Red Army and in the centre of the river was moored a string of barges containing various desirable supplies. Who was to have the barges? Tom's suggestion



was that the Russians would have every second barge and the Brigade the first (or vice-versa). This amicable solution was adopted by both sides. There was no battle over the spoils.

After the War, because Tom had been a pre-1939 Volunteer, he was fairly soon out of the Army. He then worked for the Bakelite Company and later became a Director of Small Sons, Engineers. Although also a Director of the Merchants' House in Glasgow and a General Commissioner of the Inland Revenue, he also found time to attend the Annual Reunions of the 6 HLI Officers – and was a passionate (and successful) advocate of having the Reunions made into All-Ranks Reunions.

During the War, in 1941, Tom found time to marry the love of his life, Miss Mabel Gilmour. Their daughter Maureen was born in 1944 when Tom was far away in Europe. And as Tom was ever a family man, when he 'retired' in 1981 he set up in business with Ronnie his son-in-law (and worked on until he was 83). He would also write weekly letters to his and Mabel's grandsons and loved to go out to buy presents for not only Maureen but also for all the young ladies in his ever-growing family. Alas, it was only five years after his final 'retirement' that Mabel died.

Both during and after his working life Tom was an ardent fisherman and a keen golfer – as well as being a good bridge player and later a weekly player of snooker with his friends. He was also an Elder in Hyndland Parish Church, even after he and Mabel had moved to Bearsden in 1968.

There are very many people who miss Tom, not only Maureen and her sons, not only Tom's four great-granddaughters and others of his family, including his sister-in-law Isobel, but also many business associates, members of his Church and fellow-golfers (and fellow-snooker players). There are also many more, especially among the survivors of 6 HLI. To the latter he was not just an Officer whose first concern was for the well-being of his soldiers but a much-respected military colleague.

CAPTAIN J C MUIR MC HLI

Jim Muir, who died on 18 February 2010, aged 90 after a short illness was an inspirational leader to whom many are indebted. A Scout, a sailor and a soldier – ranked in his own order of preference – he served each of his callings with distinction and by his example set a standard for others to strive to achieve.

In his quarter century as a leader in Scouting in Scotland he helped transform the approach to adult life of many a teenage Glasgow boy. His interpretation of the writings of Baden Powell may not always have concurred with his woggled superiors; plus, in these protective days, Health and Safety would forbid most of his adventures for boys.

The youngest of three, Jim Muir was born in Glasgow on 14 October 1919, four months after his father had died at sea. After primary school he boarded for six years at John Watson's School in Edinburgh, with his final two years at Hillhead High School in Glasgow, before joining the Post Office Telephones.

As the news from the Continent deteriorated, he enlisted in 1938 in the Territorial Army with the Royal Artillery. Selected

for Officer Training on the Isle of Man with one month at Sandhurst, he declared the infantry was his first choice and this with the Highland Light Infantry. As luck would have it, the 71st HLI needed a Signals Officer and reasoned that surely someone who worked for the Post Office had to be suitably qualified. He was commissioned into the HLI in 1939.



His war almost ended prematurely; during the battalion's three years of training in the U.K. interspersed with coastal defence, he suffered his first injury. While on exercise a rope strung between two trees removed him from his motorbike to hospital in Catterick. It was while recovering he became engaged to the nurse. This was not to be: no sooner had romance flourished, and his injuries had mended, than he was sent 200 miles away to the south. The 71st HLI were in the final stages of preparation to cross the Channel.

Quite early on in the advance towards the Rhine he was wounded with two bullets in the leg. Jim Muir, now an acting Captain, argued that he could still drive and thus remained on active service: being recognised shortly after with a Mention in Despatches. Five weeks later, and now walking, he was returning through dense woods carrying a captured German wireless-set with his batman as escort. The pair stopped to take breath in a ditch and heard within yards in the wood beside them, the sound of clinking metal and one or two German voices.

Knowing that if the pair stood up to move off they would be discovered, Jim Muir called-out in his best comic-book-learned German, "Hande-hoch!" "Kommen sie mit".

The metallic-clinking stopped. There was silence but no movement. The worried Scotsman called out, "Schnell." Again and louder "Schnell! Schnell!"

The effect was dramatic. A German soldier, hands-held-high, stepped out and on to the track. Leaving the radio in the ditch, Jim Muir stood tall and looking over his shoulder as if to an armed retinue hidden in the trees behind him, instructed the frightened German to advance. He did – closely followed by 26 others. The last to emerge from the shrubbery was a Sergeant Major who spoke perfect English. Still signalling to his imaginary support in the trees behind, Jim commanded the hapless 27 to stack their weapons to one side and stand in single file to the front.

With one of the captured carrying the radio and a bemused batman bringing up the rear the column continued on the remaining one-mile journey to battalion headquarters. For this



and other accumulated “minor episodes, which really bear no reflection on me, I was given the Military Cross”.

Back in Glasgow and employed again by the Post Office he was restless and quickly fell prey to the persuasions of the Scout Troop where for three months as a seven-year old he had been a Cub Scout. Thus, started his 26 years as a Scout Master with the First Glasgow Scout Group, founded in 1907 and the first-registered Scout group.

Scouting was to become his life and his family. Last October, 41 of his boys from half-a century before celebrated with Jim his 90th birthday. He had filled their formative years with adventure and challenge, under the framework of his interpretation of Scouting for Boys. Each boy was a self-sufficient member of a team enthused by demands on capabilities they did not know they had.

You made your own rucksack; hike tents replaced communal ridge-pole tents; foreign tours by bus and under canvas to Spain, Portugal, Madrid, Rome and Moscow; pony-trekking and sailing; swimming on Saturdays; every year two-week summer camps plus individual patrol camps; and then there was the Larig Ghru. As soon as you reached the age of 14, you were expected on the last weekend of September to walk from Blair Atholl to Aviemore, a distance of 52 miles over Scotland’s highest mountain pass, camping two nights in two-man tents and cooking proper meals. A tradition that continued at First Glasgow long after Jim first demitted office in 1966.

He did not leave Scouting, only Scouting in Glasgow and that but briefly. In a trimaran he had built, he sailed for Dar-es-Salam on a two-year contract extended to five with the Tanzanian telephone service. On arrival, the welcoming party included a Tanzanian in Scout uniform who informed him he was expected to form a Scout Troop: his services had been volunteered in advance for him. Within a week 80 boys assembled in an empty school hall and the troop that Jim was to run for the next five years was formed.

In 1970 his work contract was completed. On his return to Scotland, the First Glasgow was waiting for him and for a further eight years, he was back in uniform, first with the Cubs, briefly, and then as a Scout Master again until he finally retired in 1978 at the age of 59.

“What now?” Jim Muir must have said to himself. Sailing. He moved his home to Rosneath on the Gare Loch where he could devote more time to sailing and building the boats he sailed, invariably catamarans or trimarans. As the years marched on, sailing became a spectator sport. This he saw as a bonus, “Is not adversity simply a challenge?” It gave him time to return to his love of photography. Somewhere there will still be the pre-war Voigtlander camera with a built-in range-finder, which he would use to confirm the triangulations when Scouts were measuring the height of trees.

Jim Muir is survived by his elder sister May in Australia, and with nephews and nieces in Australia and Canada. But it is a much wider family that he leaves behind; a family of his own making in this country and in Africa who are privileged and grateful for his life and example.

CAPTAIN I A MUNRO MC RSF

Ian was born on 3rd March 1922 at Altcar Rifle Range, where his grandfather (a former King’s Shot at Bisley) was the Musketry Instructor. Ian’s first clear memory was as a 4-year-old being saluted by an armed sentry. He won a scholarship to Christ’s Hospital, Horsham and always planned to be an Army Officer.



He left school in 1939. He was advised by a Royal Marine Officer not to volunteer immediately but to take a civilian job so he would have something to return to if wounded, prophetic advice. In May 1940 he attempted to join the LDV before the Prime Minister had finished speaking, much to the confusion of the local policeman who had no idea what to do.

Shortly afterwards he volunteered for Army service and after basic training was sent to 3 London Scottish. They were in an anti-aircraft role and he spent a year at various locations around southern England including Windsor Great Park.

He attended Pre-OCTU at Wrotham, Kent, every activity concluded with a ‘sickener’ of a run up and down the North Downs. This was excellent for fitness but also meant that all the kit had to be cleaned of a strange chalky mud before the next parade. (By chance he was to live nearby in the 1960s and he discovered that this mud was equally frustrating to a gardener!)

He attended OCTU at Mons and he was then posted to 6 RSF as a Platoon Commander. The Battalion were preparing for D-Day with a series of major exercises. In early 1944 he was posted to 44 Brigade HQ as a JLO, partly due to good standard of French and German, but also because the previous officer had consumed the Brigadier’s supper and gin!

On D-Day he was in Worthing and watched the aerial armada pass over and he then embarked from London docks. On D+6 he was the first officer from 15(Scottish) Division (15(S)Div) to arrive in Normandy.

The ‘green’ 15(S) Div went into action in Operation EPSOM on 26th June against the 12th SS, (Hitler Youth). Losses were heavy from all the regiments that now form the Royal Regiment of Scotland, but a 6-mile salient was achieved including Hill 112, this was known as the ‘Scottish Corridor’. Sadly, after about a week, this had to

IACB



be abandoned, but this operation assisted the Americans to break out during July. In later years he was a regular visitor to the Bayeux/Cheux area, especially the St Manvieu War Commission Cemetery.

During the summer he was promoted to IO and returned to 6 RSF. After defeat in Normandy there was limited German resistance as the liberating army progressed across France. However, as they entered Belgium and the autumn approached the fighting intensified. On 15/9/44, 15(S) Div were asked to establish a bridge-head across the Escaut/Junction Canal. Although they were not told, one of the main purposes was to draw in the German reserves including The Herman Goering Division, prior to the airborne assault on the bridges to Arnhem. He organised the boats to maintain a crossing, at times almost unaided. He was recommended for an immediate Military Cross. He was also proud to have been the first officer into the town of Tilburg, having discovered a lightly-defended route.

He was wounded by an anti-personnel 'S Mine' in November and returned to UK with nine wounds including serious damage to his upper legs. After several months in hospital, he was posted to 10 Infantry Holding Battalion as Adjutant, based at Redford Barracks near Edinburgh. He was in this post on VE Day and until he was demobbed.

He married Sheila Williams, a war time ATS Officer, on 16/8/47. They had three children. Sheila predeceased him in 2003. After the War he returned to work for Spiller's Animal Feeds until 1965, when he moved to Pilkington Bros (Fibreglass), retiring in 1983.

He had always been a Poppy Collector but in retirement he took on additional British Legion roles including local Branch Chairman, and he remained Vice Chairman of the Branch Poppy Appeal Committee until his death. He was also very active in taking school assemblies to explain about the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance. He was Chairman of the 6 RSF Old Comrades Association until dwindling numbers forced it to close. He was made an Associate Member of the Royal Scots-Southern Association and Wessex Paras, and he enjoyed the social events of the Not Forgotten Association, including the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties. He was active in the local branch of the Normandy Veterans' Association and he returned to Europe for pilgrimages to the battlefield sites in Normandy and beyond.

He attended the National Cenotaph last November and he became increasingly unwell over the winter with kidney failure. He had planned to return to Normandy for the D Day commemorations but he was too frail. However on his last significant outing he witnessed the 'Project 65' runners leave from Tarrant Rushton on their 65-mile run to Pegasus Bridge.

He died on 1st August 2009 and over 200 people attended his funeral at Wimborne Minster, including representatives of all the military organisations that he had been associated with.

REVD J G MORRISON MBE MA CF

James Morrison died in Cambridge on 12th November 2008, shortly before his 93rd birthday. It is with regret that only now has it proved possible to record a fitting tribute to him. His lasting legacy to the Royal Highland Fusiliers is the Regimental Hymn which he wrote within the first year of the Regiment's life, and even earlier the Regimental Collect upon which the hymn is based. Both have become very familiar to all ranks of our Regiment.

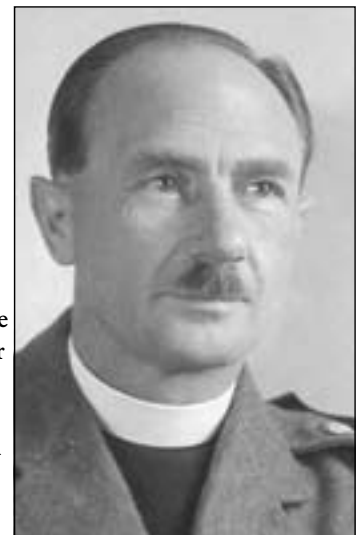
According to *Regimental*

Standing Orders of the Royal

Highland Fusiliers (Robert Maclehose and Co Ltd, The University Press, Glasgow, undated, but probably 1960) at Section XVIII (Ecclesiastical), the Collect was written by Padre Morrison, then of 1 RSF at Shorncliffe in November 1958. It was submitted to the Colonels of both the old Regiments and approved without amendment by the Chaplain General to the Forces the same month. It was taken into use on 20th January 1959, the day of the Amalgamation. Set to the tune *Rhu Vaternish* in the arrangement by the then Bandmaster WO1 R A Y Mitchell, it is believed that the hymn was first sung at a Service in Aden in 1960 shortly before Padre Morrison left the Battalion for his next appointment, having been promoted Lieutenant Colonel. He and Unit Education Officer 2Lt Angus Robbie RAEC, due to depart on the same flight, sang an amusing farewell song of their own devising to the delight of assembled Mess members. Graduates of the same university, they had struck up a close friendship.

James Gilbert Morrison was born in 1915 at Falkland, in the Howe of Fife, where his father was Free Church minister. Soon afterwards, the family moved to Aberdeen where James grew up, attending Robert Gordon's College and Aberdeen University, graduating as Master of Arts there in 1937. He then went on to study theology at Edinburgh's New College, where he played hockey for the University. Having completed his studies in 1940, but too young for RChD, he volunteered for service with Church of Scotland's Huts and Canteens. In France, he and other staff were cut off by the German break-through at Sedan, but luckily made their way to Dunkirk and evacuation by destroyer. Ordained in 1942, he joined RChD. After a short posting with the Royal Scots, he was posted to 7th KOSB in Orkney, where he met Jean, who was serving in WRNS. They were married in May 1944.

When 7th KOSB became part of 1st Airborne Division as glider-borne troops, James Morrison was with them in September 1944, landing safely and later moving towards the town in Operation Market Garden, which has entered popular awareness with the 1977 film 'A Bridge Too Far'. Throughout the fighting, he was with medical staff of the Regimental Aid Post as it moved through a succession of buildings, never far from the firing line. After the MO had been captured while trying to evacuate walking wounded, he was for a time in charge of the RAP. The last RAP was in a small house where the owners and their pregnant daughter were sheltering in the cellar. Many years later, when James Morrison





was officiating at the annual Arnhem Memorial Service, a woman approached him, saying, “I was that baby about to be born when you were in our cellar”.

When the decision was made to withdraw, the final order failed to reach the RAP. James Morrison and some medical staff stayed with wounded men until the Germans arrived, taking them all prisoner. He spent the rest of the war in a PoW camp. Released, he was posted back to Orkney as Senior Chaplain to Orkney and Shetland Defences. ‘Home’ for Jean and him was one end of a Nissen hut on a disused airfield, – the other end being the Officers’ Mess! In 1948 there followed a posting as Staff Chaplain at HQ BAOR (at Bad Oeynhausen) where he was a stalwart of the HQ hockey team. After a home posting to Aldershot, he was sent to Malaya in 1955, serving at HQ 17th Gurkha Division/ Overseas Commonwealth Land Forces. For services to the army community there he was gazetted Mentioned in Despatches in May 1958. During the time James Morrison was in Malaya (where he first encountered 1 RSF), Jean remained in Langholm, from where their sons Hugh, Alasdair and Graham went in due course to boarding school. This writer is indebted to Hugh for many important details.

It was on his return from Malaya that James Morrison joined 1 RSF, later with 1 RHF as already mentioned, a much loved and respected Chaplain, loyally supported by his wife Jean, a school teacher. During the first two/three RHF years, one of this writer’s chores (forbye keeping the Officers’ Mess Scrapbook) was holding the Church Account and providing barely adequate harmonium accompaniment for Battalion Church Services on occasions when a section of the Band was not available to do a proper job of it. For these reasons, he came to know Padre Morrison well, recalling that in Edinburgh, the Padre’s regular driver, Fus Bone, a National Serviceman, was a skilled carpenter by trade and made a fine set of church furniture for St Margaret’s Garrison Church at Redford during the course of 1959.

Padre Morrison’s last formal connection with RHF was in September 1969 when he was invited to preach at a service in Glasgow Cathedral, part of 10th Anniversary Celebration. We had not seen him since Aden, but he had served in Catterick, and at HQ Southern Command. After a posting to HQ BAOR at Moenchen Gladbach, he retired from RACHD in 1970. Under the auspices of the Church of Scotland, he went for a year to look after a small church in Cyprus. Then, in 1972, he was appointed minister of the Scots Church in Rotterdam by the Overseas Committee of the Church of Scotland, remaining there for eight years, when he retired from full-time ministry on reaching the age of 65, made MBE in 1980 for services to the British Community in Rotterdam. Thanks to the present minister and the former Session Clerk of that congregation (established in 1643), the writer has had access to the *In Memoriam* notice circulated at the time of James Morrison’s death, in which heartfelt praise is expressed for his work as an excellent pastor to all, and gratitude for invaluable practical leadership he and his wife Jean gave during difficult times which saw costly repairs needed to the 1952 building, and additional demands placed on church usage.

Back in Scotland, Jean and James Morrison settled first in Kirkpatrick Durham near Castle Douglas, had a few years in England, then returned to Castle Douglas. Ministers being thin

on the ground, it was not long before he became actively involved in the Presbytery of Dumfries and Kirkcubright as a supply minister, often taking services at Kirkgunzeon, a tiny church off the A711 between Dumfries and Dalbeattie. Failing health ultimately persuaded him and Jean to move to Cambridge in 2006 so as to be nearer their family. But it was Kirkgunzeon that James Morrison chose as his last resting place, his funeral conducted by friend and former Presbytery colleague the Rev Gordon Savage to whom this writer is also indebted. To Jean, as to Hugh, Alasdair, Graham and their extended family, we belatedly convey this sincere expression of sympathy.

ASR

(Footnote: In April 2010, Padre James Morrison’s family generously gave to the RHF Benevolent Association the sum of £50K to be used to help soldiers and their families of the Regiment wounded or killed in the present and future conflicts. This very generous legacy reflects Padre James Morrison’s gentleness of character and generosity of spirit remembered by all those who served with him.)

CQMS LEONARD HENSON HLI

Len joined the Highland Light Infantry in February 1932. This was a few months before he was eighteen, but as Len had falsified his age by one year, he avoided having to begin his service as a Boy Soldier. After his Recruit Training in Maryhill Barracks he joined 1 HLI at Citadel Barracks in Dover.



Although he had taught himself to play the pipes (his Scoutmaster had bought him a set from a pawnshop in Belfast for thirty shillings.) he was not allowed to join the Pipes and Bugles. He, having been born in Manchester, was not a Scotsman – nor had he done the customary Boy’s Service to become a Piper. But because Len was very bright he was trained as a Signaller. He classified as a Regimental Signaller in 1933.

For immediate family reasons he transferred to the Army Reserve in 1934 and became an Auto-Mechanic. (Before his enlistment in 1932 he had completed his Apprenticeship as an Electrician (with Duckworth’s in Manchester).) Then came 1939 and War with Germany. On 16th August Len was back with 1 HLI – then at Fort George.

Over to France went 1 HLI. At the end of the ‘Phoney War’ 1 HLI advanced into Belgium but then had to take part in the retreat that ended (for 1 HLI) at Dunkirk in France. But while the bulk of 1 HLI were evacuated aboard HMS Fidget on 31st May 1940, Len was evacuated from Belgium by HMS Salamander.

Back home 1 HLI trained in various capacities before the 1944 Landings in Normandy. By then Len was Battalion Transport Sergeant under Captain Teddy Vale. Off he went on the long advance from Normandy to Antwerp. Antwerp was reached



on 9th September with *all* the Battalion's Transport complete. This, described in *Proud Heritage*, IV, 316 as "an unusual experience in the campaign", was all credit to Len (and Captain Vane) and was so recognised by the High Command. Among Len's papers is a Commander-in-Chief's Certificate signed by B L Montgomery, 21st Army Group.

Next was The Ardennes and then the Reichswald Forest Battle. In April of that year (1945) Len was promoted to Colour Sergeant as CQMS A Company. He also then managed, if not before, to become A Coy's Piper – perhaps unofficially. Someone, either Len himself or one of his Drivers, had earlier 'found' a set of Royal Scots Fusilier pipes in or beside an abandoned slit-trench. Whatever, Len hung on to them, even when he was later transferred to The Glasgow Highlanders. (After the War 1 HLI was off to Palestine without Len.)

After his Demobilisation in January 1946, Len returned to his electrical skills, later becoming an Engineer with the North West Electricity Board and Energy Services Engineer to the Lancaster City Area. In the meantime he made good use of his pipes. He trained a group of girls who were daughters of some of the Lancaster Moor Hospital staff, and out emerged the Lunesdale Girl Pipers. Under Len's tutelage – and transported in his mini-bus – they had tour after tour in France and Belgium.

But Len had not forgotten the HLI. He would often appear, and of course pipe, at the HLI WOs' and Sgts' Reunion Dinners and also at the All-Ranks HLI Reunions. Although the latter Reunions were largely of the 1 HLI War Veterans', Len turned out on another HLI occasion. A monument commemorating the capture of Cheux in Normandy by 10 HLI in 1944 was to be unveiled in Cheux in 2004. When Len was asked to come and play for the handful of the Tenth who would be there he volunteered – at his own expense.

Not only was *The Tenth HLI Crossing The Rhine* played by Len to march the handful on to the ceremony but he'd also played a little earlier to very great effect. Despite his being about to be 90, and his legs having been in callipers during his earliest years, Len had formed up in the outskirts of Caen and played and played – and marched and marched.

Len and the Tenth had disembarked that morning from the cross-Channel ferry that terminates near Caen, had 'bussed into Caen and would in the late afternoon take the public 'bus into Cheux. How to fill in the intervening time?

There appeared to be no left-luggage places nearby, but the problem was suddenly overcome. Len's beautiful music persuaded a charming young lady in a nearby travel agent's to look after all the Tenth's paraphernalia.

So, after they'd had the Caen version of breakfast (and had also found stronger sources of reinforcement), the Tenth set off. Would they find a cemetery – or a museum – or somewhere to lunch?

This was soon resolved. Len had played them down each street not only with the very beautiful *Tenth HLI Crossing The Rhine* but with the bulk of the 1 HLI Company Marches; when they passed by a factory someone rushed out to invite them to join

a party inside it. Food, wine and lots of whisky! No need to go further or do anything else – except listen to Len piping to thank their hosts.

Len had, during his period in the Army Reserve, married Edna, in 1938. In 1942 his daughter Anthea was born and in 1947 his son Malcolm. But fate has been more than unkind to Len. His father was killed in the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and Malcolm was murdered in Northern Ireland in 1971. Malcolm was no soldier like his father and grandfather but was a civilian, a BBC Transmission Engineer. He had been about to repair or replace a transmitter destroyed by some of the traitors that call themselves the IRA, but the remains of the transmitter had been booby-trapped by the same murdering gang.

Not only had Malcolm too been a superb piper but Len would himself return to Northern Ireland every February to play a Lament and lay a wreath. It was as a result of this that yet another tragedy struck. Len was in a severe car accident near Dumfries and lost his left eye. Even this did not stop Len's supporting his old Army colleagues and his new ones – or the considerable repair work he did for his Church. Nor did it stop his piping. Len was, as he had been from the outset, imperturbable.

Len is survived not only by his wife Edna but also by Anthea and by Anthea's daughters Karen and Gail. Len played at all their weddings, and there are now four great-grandchildren Emma, Jamie, Alex and Daniel. They and all Len's friends sorely miss an honourable man.

PIPER ARTHUR MOONEY RHF

Arthur began his military career as a Royal Scots Fusilier. He enlisted on 21st August 1958. This was almost exactly five months before the Amalgamation of the RSF with the HLI, but even then Arthur was in an 'amalgamated' unit. The HLI had left Maryhill Barracks about that time to train their recruits in the RSF Depot in Churchhill Barracks, Ayr, where Arthur too did his Basic Training. So Arthur was a *Fusilier* member of the mixture. But as he was not initially RHF, he described himself in his Record of Service not just as 'Private' or 'Fusilier' but, as in the old RSF and HLI way, as 'Piper'.



His first Battalion station was in Edinburgh, where the Amalgamation took place on 19th January 1959. Not long after this Arthur joined the Pipes and Drums and was soon off to Aden with 1 RHF where he earned his first Medal, the GSM with the Arabian Peninsula Clasp. Next was Malta for almost two years – with, for Arthur, a short tour in Benghazi – and then he was back to UK for less than two months. Next was Iserlöhn for almost a year and a half and then six months in Cyprus – as part of the United Nations Force. Here he was



awarded the United Nations Medal with the Cyprus Bar. Back in Iserlöhn he transferred to the Mortar Platoon – and was briefly a Lance Corporal. This was only *briefly*; Arthur was too much of a character to find much delight in brow-beating his friends. After just over a year in BAOR Fort George was his next posting. From there he was back in UK for the remaining three months of his 9-year engagement with the Colours. Almost all of this was with 1 RHF.

He had before his Service worked for R Y Pickering (Wishaw) Ltd but returned to become a joiner with the Lanarkshire Council. This was only for a little time. The rest of his working life was with W Irvine's Coaches (Law by Carluke) – until ill-health forced Arthur to retire. However, Arthur had earlier, in 1969, persuaded the very attractive Marilyn to marry him. It was an unbroken marriage. They had two daughters, Donna and Michelle, and then *five* grandchildren.

In civilian life Arthur was not only a Standard-Bearer for the British Legion and a member of the HLI Lodge but

also continued his contacts with the RHF. These contacts were not only at Fusilier House in Ayr but also on most of the 'Battlefield Tours' run by Major Willie Shaw MBE RHF. On these Arthur was often accompanied by Marilyn, and she must have been as impressed as much as all of us were by Arthur's appearances at the Tour's Parades. Arthur would carry the OCA's Standard and did so not only with aplomb but was invariably encased in *gleaming* leather and wearing sharply-creased MacKenzie trews. He did the same on the 2009 Tour reported in this *Journal*.

But this report is almost empty. It is difficult to describe what Arthur was really like. In simple terms he was a loyal and trusted friend, possessed not only of extreme courtesy to all he met but also of a very sharp wit that endeared his friends to him. All that knew Arthur, including those that briefly served *under* him, miss him sadly. How even more miss him do Marilyn, Donna and Michelle and his grandchildren. (We hope that some of the latter will sometime blow his pipes with equal verve.)

DEATHS REPORTED FROM ERSKINE AND ELSEWHERE

23910825 Mr Peter Bloor (HLI from 15 Jun 1960 to Sep 1982) died in Sep 2009.

Mr George Brown (Discharged from the Army 28 June 1945) died on 08 Dec 2009.

3137199 Mr James Brogan (RSF 27 Feb 1941 to 16 Oct 1941) died on 28 Dec 2009.

3309379 Mr John Bryson (HLI 06 Mar 30 to 1938) died on 06 Nov 2009.

3314121 CSgt Bob (Robert George) Chisholm (HLI /RHF 06 May 1938 to 1961) died on 02 May 2009.

2064334 Pte William Alfred Norris (HLI) died on 03 Apr 2009.

Col William Hume Marshall (RSF/RAPC) died on 27 Apr 2009.

Dougie (Tony) Girdwood (RHF) died on 06 May 2009.

Tam Weaver (RHF) died on 02 Jun 2009.

Pte Bobby Martin (HLI) died on 06 Jun 2009.

Sgt Thomas McCracken (HLI) died on 23 Jun 2009.

WO2 Jim Cowie (RSF/RHF/RAPC) died on 30 Jun 2009.

Sgt Stuart 'Gus' Millar (3 SCOTS/Ex RHF (Mortars)) killed in action in Afghanistan on 31 Aug 2009.

Maj Colin Alexander MacKellar (HLI/GH) died on 15 Aug 2009.

Ian Millar (HLI – Pipes & Drums) died on 25 Sep 2009.

22218436 LCpl Joe Walker (HLI/RHF 1945 to 1974) died on 11 Oct 2009.

WO2 Eric McIntyre (RSF/RHF) died on 27 Oct 2009.

WO1 (RSM) Donnie Campbell (GH) died on 08 Nov 2009.

John Meechan (Meeky, Madrock) (RHF) died on 27 Dec 2009.

Billy Linwood (RHF 1964 to 1973) died on 04 Jan 2010.

Sgt Colin Richardson (HLI/RHF) died on 06 Jan 2010.

Edward Kerr (HLI/RHF) died on 08 Jan 2010.

RQMS Stuart McIntyre (52 Lowland Regt/GH) died on 13 Jan 2010.

William (Billy) McDougall (Cameronians/RHF) died on 20 Jan 2010.

Sgt David Wilson (GH) died on 15 Feb 2010.

Pte James Smith (10th HLI) died on 04 Feb 2010.

Raymond (Doods) Prentice (52nd Lowland Regt) died on 15 March 2010.

Fus Ian McLachlan (2 RSF) died on 29 Mar 2010.

Pte Arthur McFayden (HLI) died on 26 Mar 2010.

Maj Bob Oswald (52nd Lowland Volunteers) died on 22 Apr 2010.

Sgt Donald (Paw) Brown (RHF) died on 07 Apr 2010.



Regimental Miscellany

FOOTNOTE: CAPTAIN J C MUIR MC HLI

This is not an obituary. Captain Muir's Obituary has been published in *The Glasgow Herald* and *The Daily Telegraph*, and it has also found its way into *The Journal*. We have a little more information from other sources.

Captain James (or Jim) was 20 when the Second World War began. Despite his being in a "reserved occupation" he enlisted at once. He was a rather competent Telephone Engineer, but his choice was The Highland Light Infantry. He immediately went to an OCTU – but the immediately-subsequent details of his service are now obscure. (They wouldn't have been if his own carefully-written 'Record of Service' did not somehow disappear from someone's files.)

However, in 1942 Lt Col E J Montgomery, then CO I HLI, made one of his better decisions. He appointed Captain Muir to command the Signal Platoon. The Battalion went to war (again) in 1944 and soon, at the outset of 1945, Captain Jim was awarded the Military Cross. Exactly what for has been difficult to find out. Captain Jim himself had two explanations: one was "It came up with the rations"; the other was "It was Signals Officer's week."

We wondered, though, if it was anything to do with his capture in the Reichswald Forest. There was Captain Jim, although Signals Officer, not *behind* the line of battle but in enemy hands. Whatever, his captors soon realised that their position was untenable. About to assault them was IHLI. "I'm sorry, Herr Kapitan," said their commander, "but we must leave you."

Or it might have been to do with a half-remembered story in

which Jim returned from a recce with a string of surrendered German soldiers. However, this, if true, is more likely to have happened close to the War's end – and the Reichswald Forest Battle began in February of that year. The recommendation for Jim to be awarded the Military Cross is dated 21 Jan 45.

This, which came from the redoubtable Lt Col Torquil Macleod DSO, CO 1 HLI from 1942 to the beginning of 1945, tells much more but could not mention the Reichswald incident, which was later, and has no report of the string of prisoners. Extracts from its two paragraphs are: "At all times in action he has shown exemplary coolness, skill and energy. Whenever his linesmen ... have a particularly difficult line to lay, he accompanies the party ... often ... under fire. ... On one occasion when a Coy was advancing ... he took a route through uncleared woods and approached the objective from another direction only to find the leading elements [of the Company] engaging an enemy M.G. He immediately engaged it himself and caused the enemy to withdraw forthwith.

"..... During the operation leading up to the crossing of the WESSEM Canal ... lines suffered regularly from enemy fire ... giving a great deal of extra work, much of it under fire, to the linesmen. His presence and example on such occasions encouraged all ranks Finally he was wounded by a sniper when carrying out a recce of the line routes to the fwd Coys His conduct and energy have far exceeded the ordinary calls of duty."

Whether or not Captain Muir was fortunate to escape captivity in the Reichswald or returned from a recce with a number of surrendered Germans, Torquil Macleod's writing shows that Captain Muir undoubtedly deserved the MC he was awarded.

Associations and Clubs

THE ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS REGIMENTAL BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

1. Annual Report:

In the year 2009, the Regimental Benevolent Association awarded, to individuals, Grants-in-Aid totalling £46,000. We are, as always, indebted to the Army Benevolent Fund and Poppyscotland for their continued support, they often match our grants to individuals and in many cases exceed them. This year alone both organisations provided top-up grants to the value of £52,800 bringing the total grant-aid provided to alleviate the distress and needs of our ex-soldiers and dependants to £98,800.

As far as the general reasons for asking for help is concerned there is overall no particularly new trend. However it does appear that there is an ever increasing need for the acquisition of household items, eg washing machines, fridge-freezers, beds, bedding, carpets, curtains and general kitchen appliances. Debt, as always, is to the fore in many of the cases we handle.

At Christmas, monetary gifts of £20 were distributed to ex-soldiers in hospitals and care establishments. The Regimental Secretary Colonel Steele and the Benevolent Association Secretary Major Kenyon visited 'Erskine' on 14 December 2009, to hand out Christmas gifts to the twenty ex-members of the Regiment in the care of 'Erskine'. The dedicated nurses and general staff members are a credit to their profession.

None of our work would be possible without the dedication and voluntary contribution of SSAFA Forces Help who investigate and validate the majority of cases presented by our members and to those who help with the weekly Grants Committees. We greatly appreciate the selfless contribution they make to our work.

2. How to apply for Assistance:

All requests for Grants-in-Aid should first be addressed to SSAFA – Forces Help Branch/Division nearest to the applicant's home. If in difficulty the nearest Royal British Legion Office or DSS office will assist.



A representative of SSAFA – Forces Help will make contact and will meet the applicant to determine the facts of the application.

A written report along with the application form will then be sent to The Regimental Benevolent Association for consideration.

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

Any grant awarded will be sent to the SSAFA-Forces Help investigating branch who will personally pay the agency providing the service of need.

THE ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2009 (13th to 22nd May 2009)

This took off on the Wednesday and got back to Glasgow (and Ayr) on the next but one Friday – and did so perhaps 49 strong.

There's no need to go through the details at length, except to praise the *Führer* and be grateful that Bob Douglas was as managing as ever (and to note that the once-feared WO2 Danny Daniels was not only with us but had dragged along not only his very obedient son but also his very lovely daughter).

Arnhem was our first port of call, but the night before there was drinking (by all of us) and piping (by Les Womack and Ken McKinney) and singing (especially from the lovely Helga). (It was only the drinking that didn't suffer from a somewhat noisy background.)

The Museum at Arnhem was "closed", so we made do with a visit to a cemetery (which had many Glider Pilot Regiment Graves and many graves of the Poles who landed and fought at Arnhem). We then went to the Royal Engineers' Memorial, which reminded us of the many Sappers who died rescuing what was left of Roy Urquhart's Airborne Division after its attempt to capture the Arnhem Bridge. (If only the US General Patton

had commanded the would-be supporting ground troops! Roy Urquhart's battle to take 'a bridge too far' (reached by Lt Col Frost's Parachute Battalion) might have been made use of and not so many lives wasted.

Saturday was the usual Liessel Parade (followed by much drinking in Asten), and the next day was Rudesheim.

Monday was different. We were the guests of The Support Battalion, The Allied Rapid Reactionary Force, a Battalion graced by no less than 27 Bonnet-Badges. This, which we visited last year, was not only still commanded by Lt Col D N M Mack, RHF (Sorry, SCOTS) but was again great fun.

It's under strength – about 374 of an Establishment of 445 – but there's plenty there (*if* its members work double-shifts). There are two Transport Squadrons, one Pioneer Squadron and, of course, a vast HQ Squadron – Royal Engineers, a REME LAD, some equally-expert Caterers, a Radio Troop, the QM's Department and many more.

Anyway, we set off to meet them. We hadn't got our own coach (Our European rulers had *demande*d that our coach-driver, David Swinton must be off the road that day!), but Sp Bn had mustered no less than **three** mini-buses – one driven by Sgt D F J Todd RLC (an ex-COLDSTREAM) and the others by LCpl J G Sykes and LCpl M T Gibbs, both RLC.

First was a stop at Bn HQ for welcoming words from the CO and then a most informative briefing by Major J P Craig PWRR, the 2IC. Next was off to see 14 Transport Squadron in the Field, at Elmpt where we were shepherded and guided by WO2 (QMSI) S Blakemore APTC and greeted by various gentlemen of the RLC, Major Kevin Haigh commanding 14 Tpt Sqn, Lt Matt Lees, WO2 (SQSM) S D Pagett and SSgt P K Murphy. This was in a small 'town' of large (and some very large) tents surrounded by at least two perimeter-fences of barbed wire. It can house an entire Corps HQ and requires as much electricity as a small town. The electricity, which is produced by an army of mobile generators, furnishes heat (for, *inter alia*, hot water by the mega-gallonful), lighting and air-conditioning, the last for the huger tents. The enclosures also house at least a brigade of mobile showers, laundries and



Visit to Royal Engineers Memorial Monument at Arnhem. Left to Right: Les Womack, Bob Douglas, Mrs McIlwraith, Mr McIlwraith, Ken McKinney.



Members of 15 Scottish Division paying their respect at Oosterveek Cemetery, Arnhem.



port-a-loos. (Emptying the latter is, in peace-time at least, contracted out to a commercial firm.) (There is also at least one 'smoking tent'.)

And the catering the enclave contains! The Catering Troop or Platoon is about 30 strong, mainly Chefs but with its own drivers and storemen, and about half were deployed that day. They were under command of their Commander, WO1 L Walker RLC. The food, which was cooked on large gas burners (which are years ahead of the old No 1 Burner), was quite fantastic in quality, quantity and choices. It was not only the most appetizing that we have ever consumed in the field but could more than compare with anything we have ever enjoyed indoors. And on top of it we were treated to a live demonstration of pancake making, the commentary by LCpl S N Bright RLC and the work done by LCpl A N Golding RLC. Some of us even got sampling the very tasty results.

In the interests of hygiene there were not only plentiful hand-washing facilities but paper plates and bowls (not a mess-tin in sight) and, of course, throwaway plastic cutlery and cups. (We wondered – but didn't find out – as to how many load-carrying trucks were required to transport even a few days' supply of the paper 'crockery' and plastic cutlery etc.) In the inner enclave where the cooking was, there was very good coffee, not only *au lait* but also black! (Coffee and tea were plentiful in other locations but not black coffee.)

The amazing thing is that the entire 'small town' can be erected, tents, fencing and everything else (water and power etc), within a 'window' of seventy or seventy-two hours! Those of the Support Battalion engaged in other tasks at the time must be grateful. *Every* soldier on the ground 'builds' the 'town' irrespective of his or her Trade or Specialism. All are, however, fortunate in that the Elmpt enclave is only shifted (and re-erected) when the Generals want to play soldiers elsewhere.

Among other things, many of us were given rides in the Tractor of a Combat Support Tanker, a massively-engined 12-ton vehicle (even heavier when armoured) which is designed to pull a 38.5 ton tanker-trailer containing 20,000 litres of fuel. Luckily the trailer wasn't with us when we were careered around the countryside by Cpl B K Sweeney RLC. Luckily too we were not only seat-belted but also briefed – to duck *before* any tree-branch inserted itself inside the swaying cab. (To bring home this point Cpl Sweeney had kept at least the *passenger*-window open). This tree-branch onslaught happened fairly often, so we were also glad to have noted that nearby was a mini-RAP, one womanned (and commanded) by Cpl E Wolliter RAMC.

Then came a close-up of a Leyland DAF Drops (or DROPS, which stands for Demountable/Rack/Off-loader/Picker-up (or something)), a very large truck with various off-loading and on-loading capabilities). It is fed (and unfed) by a rather superior kind of fork-lift truck which can only be driven by a Driver with a very special licence. Not even the *Führer* was allowed to have a fork-lift go. (Major Bill Mathews *helped* to dissuade him.)

But he didn't mind – and neither did we. The one 'Drops' or 'DROPS' we saw close-up was not only manned by Pte S R Saxton

RLC but also womanned by the diminutive Pte J Llewellyn RLC. (The Support Battalion's motto is "Speed is the essence.")

We also saw a very well laid-out selection of mines. The anti-personnel versions were most superbly explained by SSgt N S Haynes RE, but there wasn't enough time, as far as we remember, to expound much of the vehicle-mines. We recognised, however, some of the blinds on display – and hoped that the ones that weren't empty had expired.

What followed was equally interesting. SSgt Steve Sinar had laid on a coterie of experts engaged in location/clearance procedures – some of which we'd seen earlier. How patiently they 'surveyed' the ground in which they were in the process of making discoveries! Some of them were soon off to Afghanistan to 'practise' their talents – and help to win the 2009 'Panther's Claw' battle. Whether IEDs or just the cables laid to detonate them, we came away sure that the young experts would soon discover both. (Off they went to Afghanistan soon after May 2009 – and victory was declared on 26 July 09!)

What we came away with, when we were driven back to the WOs' and Sgts' Mess of the ARRC HQ, was that all day we had seen a bunch of expert soldiers as closely-knit as *any* Battalion or Regiment. But they had not only a 'Battalion' or 'Regimental' bond or spirit; each one of the soldiers (Privates. Corporals, Sergeants, WOs and Officers) that we met, seemed to be bonded by virtue of their various (and many) expertises. They were keen on their job and enjoyed their service with the Support Battalion. (Alas, when their CO, Lt Col Donald, wants to entertain his WOs and Sgts the ARRC HQ Officers' Mess is not open to them. So Lt Col Donald finds an Officer's Mess that is. He has no difficulty in doing so. He picks one from an *active* Formation, not one composed of pen-pushers.)

The Old Boys, the Veterans', loved this day. They had been with *soldiers*, soldiers as enthusiastic as *some* of them (once) had been – and spotlessly turned-out!

They equally enjoyed the end of the day. WO1 (RSM) S J Williamson RA had invited us into his Mess, and there we were most hospitably entertained. (Even the CO came!) Nor did we have to walk back to Cassels House. LCpl M T Gibb fell in again and shuttled us (*three* trips!) back home.

That night Willie sang – attempting (unsuccessfully) to out-do Helga and Morag.

The next day was a very fascinating trip to Vogelsang. Not only had the Sp Bn suggested this but we were conducted by the ever-patient WO2 Blakemore.

Wednesday was back to Iserlohn (where Willie met Hanna!), and that night we even got Willie singing *Coulter's Candy* – and then took refuge in getting Helga to sing. The next day was the usual sad day (for some of us) but we got away on time, stopped for lunch at Volendam and got to Europort.

The *Pride of Hull* took us home, we disembarked – and drove north. After a couple of delays, one to have a super lunch and the other to do whatever I have forgotten, we got to HHQ, left the Ayr contingent still on board, and went home.



GLASGOW BRANCH OF THE RHF VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

The Glasgow Branch of the RHF Veterans' Association had its inaugural meeting on the 27th June 2008. Subsequently the Branch was presented with a Regimental Standard which was then officially blessed at Glasgow Cathedral.

Over the last two years the Glasgow Branch has grown from strength to strength.

The Secretary of the Branch, Steff Stevenson and the Committee members have organised various events culminating in the 50th Anniversary (1959-2009) Parade and Celebration in Glasgow on 01 Feb 09. The event consisted of parade, church service at Glasgow Cathedral, march from the Cathedral down to the City Chambers, civic reception and further celebration at Glasgow Hilton Hotel.

The turnout on that day was to say the least, unexpected – almost 700 RHF members past and present were on parade! The City of Glasgow did us proud as usual and laid on an excellent civic reception at the City Chambers. Steff, then, organised a further “meet and greet” at the Great Ballroom in the Glasgow Hilton Hotel – a slide presentation showing 50 years of the Regiment was shown and a few tears were shed by some of the Old and Bold.

More recent events included the Armed Forces Day which is now an annual event at George Square. In 2010, after this event, the RHF Veterans' will hold a disco and buffet at the Iron Horse Public House.

We had a fantastic Christmas Party at the Goodyear Club, Drumchapel and we have already booked the venue for the 2010 Christmas Party.

Burns' Supper at HHQ was another great night; good food and drinks were consumed, songs were sung and poems recited – an excellent night!

Full programme of events has been planned for 2010 and beyond; Steff will hand over as Secretary in June 2010 at our AGM. Special thanks to the Committee members, Rab Crossan (Treasurer) Jacko Jackson, Riki Roe (Entertainment) and Shugey Gracie (Bar) for all their hard work and support to the Branch for the past two years.



Glasgow Branch Burns' Supper – Top Table.

AYRSHIRE BRANCH OF THE RHF VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Honorary President:	Major (Retd) W Shaw MBE
Honorary Vice-President:	Mr R Stevenson
Chairman:	Mr James McMillan
Vice Chairman:	Mr Roger Hamill
Secretary:	Mr Gordon Reid BA
Treasurer:	Major I S MacKenzie

The business year commences the last Sunday of each April, on which the Annual General Meeting takes place. In 2009 two stalwarts did not stand for re-election because they were retiring: Captain H M McAulay, PSAO B Coy 6 SCOTS, had been Treasurer for 6 years and Dick Stevenson who had been Secretary for 12 years. The members showed their appreciation by presenting them with engraved salvers and many votes of thanks.

At the April, May and July meetings the members competed for the Thomas Oliver Murray Memorial Slavers for darts, won by Dougie Ferguson, dominoes, won by Davy Mooney and pool, won by Jim McMillan, respectively. Oliver Murray was a Malayan vet with the 1st Battalion RSF. He had been a member of the OCA for a number of years. When he passed away in 2007, his family donated the salvers in his memory and to promote camaraderie and friendship.

In the month of June the OCA held the Summer Dance and Buffet, in partnership with B Coy 6th SCOTS. This dance brings together the young men and woman currently serving in B Company, regular attendees of the OCA and their families, and those members who can't attend as often as they would like, due to distance or infirmity. As always it was a great night, with Jimmy McGerty leading the way with his dancing skills.

July was a busy month. As well as the Pool Salver, we had the Ayr Armed Forces Day and following our regular meeting on the last Sunday, we had a Games Afternoon with the Ayrshire Yeomanry OCA, which we won again.

Armed Forces Day was very special; it incorporated the RAF and *HMS Gannet* receiving the freedom of South Ayrshire and all the services on parade being invited to a civic reception in Ayr Town Hall. The weather was perfect: a lovely bright and warm summer's day. Those on parade included: the British Legion, RSF OCA, “B” Coy 6th Scots, HMS Gannet and RAF contingents and the Scots Guards Association. The route was packed with a throng of people showing their appreciation. In the High Street they were 15 deep on each side. The reception was 1st class; Provost Sloan and her council colleagues were very generous hosts.

In August and September at our regular monthly meetings we played for the John Edgar Trophy for dominoes and continued to take forward our arrangements for the Burns' Supper in January. John Edgar had been a real stalwart of the association and when he passed away a number of years ago, his wife donated the trophy.

In October the members of Forehill Bowling Club were our guests. This has been long standing fixture. Each year we visit them in the Spring and they visit us in the Autumn when the bowling season has finished. It was a great afternoon with a buffet and a few drinks.



Ayrshire Branch Burns' Supper.

November is traditionally a busy month. On Remembrance Sunday we had a great turnout to join the parade in Ayr which was very well represented by each Arm of Her Majesty's Services and again supported by the people of Ayr to the extent that it was uplifting. Gordon Reid, Secretary, laid the wreath at the Cenotaph and Jim McMillan, Chairman, laid the wreath at the RSF Memorial in the RSF sunken garden overlooking the Firth of Clyde

The November monthly meeting is always enjoyable. There is a Christmas Lucky Dip and everyone gets a few drinks to help along the afternoon. We then had a break until our 2010 Burns' Supper.

Our Burns' Supper is the hottest ticket in town on the Burns' circuit. It being in Ayr, birthplace of the Bard, the artists are top class. Under the auspices of the CO and RSM of 6 SCOTS who let us use the facilities, it is our major dine out. Our principal guest was Col Bobby Steele TD DL. Haggis Ceremony: Address by Roger Hamill, Piper Rab McQuade, Immortal Memory by Gordon Reid, Tam O' Shanter by Bobby Hogg, Recitations by Major A McNally and Major J Donald, Soloist in Song by Tony Barton. We also had two very honoured guests who both served in the 6th Battalion RSF in WWII: Mr L Womack and Mr R Douglas. During his toast to the artists, Major Shaw informed the company, that it was one of the best Burns' Suppers he had been to.... and he's been to a few.

We look forward to 2010 with anticipation always mindful we are but custodians of the OCA and to serve as a beacon to those who wish to engage camaraderie and friendship.

HIGHLAND BRANCH OF THE RHF VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Tam Paton
Vice Chairman: Nicky Fitzpatrick

Happy New Year to you all from Highland Branch! The Highland Branch has had a busy and enjoyable year with regular visits to Ness Bank Church (where our standard was blessed in 2007). The Branch was involved in the Armed Forces Day parade in the end of July 2009 which was a great day. This was followed by a BBQ with the families back at the community centre in Wimberley Way which is run by 3 SCOTS (BW) to whom we are grateful for the use of the centre for our monthly meetings and functions.

The day after the function the members were involved in assisting at the Inverness Tattoo, carrying out stewarding duties, which lasted over six days – it gave the members a chance to show off their medals and trows, and to parade with our standard each evening. A job well done to all who took part. We have been asked to assist in 2010 as well.

The latter part of 2009 saw the Branch having a busy four to five weeks over November and December; starting off with Remembrance Day Parade in November; then a week later our customary visit to Ness Bank Church; later that month eight members travelled down to Edinburgh Castle for the Laying Up of the Colours and followed by an outstanding afternoon (lunch and drinks) in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of 2 SCOTS in Glencorse Barracks – it was a great day had by all.

Early December also saw the members involved in route lining through Inverness for 3 SCOTS (BW) Homecoming Parade.



The year was finished off with an internal games night. This was a great night with great food and raffle prizes. A great night had by all who managed to attend.

Good news of Big Harry who suffered a stroke at the beginning of the year and after a long year in hospital, finally got out on good behaviour. We wish Harry and Helen well for the future.

Looking forward to 2010 I can see yet another busy year ahead for the Branch, we are looking at another visit to the Battalion in Glencorse Barracks in the near future and numerous parades and duties to perform. We will certainly be kept on our toes, more of which will follow in our next *Journal* notes.

Lastly, our thoughts are with the Battalion on their forthcoming tour of duty in Afghanistan at the back end of 2010 – we wish them well and a safe return home. That's all from the Highland Branch of the RHF Veterans' Association and until next time, keep safe.

SOUTHERN BRANCH OF THE RHF VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Willie Murray
 Vice-Chairman: Cammy McDonald
 Treasurer: Kev Loy

Welcome to the Southern Branch of the RHF Veterans' Association's first newsletter.

It has been a long time coming and with the sterling work and dedication of Willie and Cammy, we had our first meeting on 11th September 2009 and in attendance at this first meeting were Davy McKenna, Cammy MacDonald, Jim McGhee, Willie Murray, Kev Loy, Jim Heenan, Tam McKelvey, Mat Weir and finally myself Sanny Reid.

From a humble beginning of nine of us at the start, in the last couple of months we have been joined by a few more of the Auld and Bold; Adam Brogan, John Murphy, Billy Clinton, Big Steph Maden, Brian Low, Michael King, Craig Baker, Robbie Robertson, Owen Little, Tony Little and not forgetting the ever supportive wives and partners; Cheryl McKenna, Ellen Brogan, Iona Murray, Cherry Loy, Lillian Hamilton and Kim MacDonald.



Members of the Southern Branch.

And so we move on to 2010 with hope of the Southern Branch becoming established, we have now arranged our first function which will take place on 3rd of April 2010 at the Royal British Legion Cub, Histon.

It has been great to see so many old friends and catch up on what has been happening in their lives since leaving the Regimental family (RHF) and sit and watch how everyone has slipped back into their wonderful sense of humour.

There is not much more to say except a few thanks to Cammy, Willie and of course the Royal British Legion.

All at the Southern Branch are looking forward to 2010 and the hope that we will be joined by more of the Auld and Bold. Anybody wishing to come along to the meetings please get in touch – all welcome.

In conclusion, I would like to wish Kev Loy, our Treasurer all the best on his forthcoming deployment in April 2010 and hope he comes home to his family safe and sound (nobody wants to be the Treasurer). Joking aside, be safe Kev.

To all of the RHF family I hope you all have wonderful Christmas and fantastic 2010.

Respectfully yours
 Sanny Reid, E-Mail: dried@kemfast.com



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

BATTALION UPDATE

CO: Lt Col N R M Borton DSO MBE
2IC: Maj C A Ramsay
Adj: Capt V T Gilmour
RSM: WO1 (RSM) M J McNally

January 2009 to May 2009:

2009 began with the reorganisation of the Battalion to its conventional war fighting ORBAT and the commencement of individual, platoon and company training. This has steadily built up over the beginning of the year, leading to the training highlight, Ex GRAND PRIX in Kenya during April.

Ex GRAND PRIX was a major all arms exercise, involving 700 personnel forming the battlegroup including a light gun battery, engineer field troop and logistic support detachment. The exercise provided progressive dry and live fire tactical training from individual to company level, all set against the amazing natural backdrop of Kenya. It culminated with a battlegroup text exercise run by Headquarters 52 Infantry Brigade, in which 2 SCOTS earned the required Collective Training Level 4, in order to be passed fit for operations.

This important hurdle now positions us to begin final preparation for our next task, that of Spearhead Lead Element (SLE) Battalion, which we assume on 01 August. This requires the Battalion lead elements to be ready to deploy anywhere in the world for a range of tasks at 24-hours notice. We will retain this task until 01 December 09, and it will accordingly be our main focus for the second half of 2009.

The Battalion has therefore had little opportunity to recuperate following the exertions of last year, before the busy training hurdles of this spring. It is hoped that a quiet second half of the year awaits us, so we can return to some of the important fabric-of-regimental-life activity.

Despite the pace, the Jocks have still managed to play a full part in a range of sporting activities. All members of the Battle group undertook some form of adventure training in Kenya, including Safaris, White Water Rafting, Riding and Diving. Cpl Chisholm led a team to victory in the Army Novice Bobsleigh Championships, with some members going on to represent the Army in the Inter Services. The rugby 7s team were runners up in the Army in Scotland 7s championships and gained a very creditable semi-final place in the Army championships. The newly re-energised Battalion football team started their campaign by beating 1 MERCIAN.

The Pipes and Drums, now one of the strongest bands in the Army, also proved their military skills by their performance as

the Machine Gun Platoon in Kenya, led by Drum Major Smith, newly qualified with a distinction from his Machine Gun Platoon Commanders course. They performed a full musical programme in Kenya, the highlight of which was a Beating Retreat at the Muthaiga Club at which the salute was taken by Patrick Fox. They are now preparing to play a leading role in the Tattoo.

June 2009 to May 2010:

The Battalion has now firmly switched its focus to Op HERRICK 13 and is in the full swing of Pre-Deployment Training. The Battalion is now under the flag of 16 Bde but has moved some functional areas to 1 Bde in anticipation of our resubordination in 2011. Driver training is proving a heavy burden but the team and the Jocks are working hard to achieve all that we must. The Battalion is focused, working hard and determined to conduct itself in a manner befitting Royal Highland Fusiliers and The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

To date we have successfully handed over the Spearhead Lead Element (SLE) commitment and secured a Green in our Combined Inspection Week. Special mention must go to the Quartermasters Maj Steve Wemyss and Capt Bob Welsh. The Unit has now been entered into the Land Inspection Competition as a result of such a successful visit. This reflects the hard work put in by the Quartermasters Staff to ensure that standards are set and maintained. The arrival of Maj Jock McGown and Capt Alan Grant will ensure these standards are maintained!

The laying up of the Old Colours was successfully held in the Scottish National War Memorial in November 2009. The venue of the Memorial providing a fitting resting place for so much proud history. We now turn our focus to receiving the new Royal Regiment of Scotland Colours, along with a new Assaye Colour, in 2011 at Holyrood. Discussion must take place as to the final resting place of the final Royal Highland Fusilier Colours.

The Battalion deployed to Otterburn for 6 weeks in January 2010 in support of the 4 Bde CALFEX (Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise). This was a huge undertaking and the Second in Command, Maj Colin Ramsay, and his team took on the whole task in the face of little direction or support. Such was the approach that 4 Bde Commander commended the performance and 40 Commando RM wrote to express their gratitude to the professionalism displayed by 2 SCOTS.

The Battalion has moved to OPCOM 16 Bde has also moved G1/4/8 functional areas to 1 Bde, to whom we resubordinate in 2011. Already the Brigade Commander has shown a keen



interest in 2 SCOTS and we have been working hard to foster a good relationship with our future Brigade Headquarters. Already the Brigade Commander has his eye on Values and Standards, dress and conduct which as a Scottish Infantry Battalion we meet in spades.

Pre-deployment training (PDT) has begun and the Unit is currently feeling the pain as we try to meet the driving requirements required in tandem with Collective Training. The Battalion is now firmly focused on the deployment in September and preparations continue apace.

With 16 Bde we have secured a role as a ground holding Battlegroup and have recently learned we shall takeover responsibility for an area in the Helmand Province. We await exact details of our disposition in our operational area.

2 SCOTS is in good spirits with a good team at the Tiller. Together we are focused on the deployment in September but also keen that our image as a professional and dedicated body is portrayed and maintained.

A COMPANY

OC: Maj J D Loudoun
 2IC: Capt A N Lassoued
 Pl Comd 1 Pl: 2Lt Phillips
 Pl Comd 2 Pl: Lt J D House
 Pl Comd 3 Pl: Lt G C MacGregor
 CSM: J J WO2 Dickson
 CQMS: CSgt Devlin

Our last article as A Company was coloured with Afghan stories and experiences and during the last year we have been equally busy on a training year in various corners of the world.

2008 closed with a deployment to Sennybridge to run a Pre-CCC (Career Course Cadre). A Company deployed complete to gain some quality training on the back of the cadre as well as supporting those preparing to attend career courses. Despite it being a rather icy December the Company took leaps and bounds in consolidating itself and lining up for the many tasks that would follow in 2009. A number of the Company went to Germany on *Ex Snow Warrior* where they were taught to ski by some of the Battalion's own ski instructors.



Cpl Anderson 2 Pl during final attack in Bde FTX.

2009 began with a range package in Barry Buddon; this was one of a number of training exercises preparing the Company for Ex GRAND PRIX in Kenya. Ex GRAND PRIX was a highlight of the year and a chance to forget barrack life and remember why it is we all joined the infantry. It was also a great opportunity to trial the new DTES kit and then conduct after-action reviews with the ability to see exactly what had happened during the exercise. The kit also led to the 2IC's land rover getting hit with NLAW approximately 10 times before even leaving the Company FOB. Almost everyone in the Company managed to take part in adventure training on completion of the exercise, some being fortunate enough to spend a week scuba-diving in Mombasa.

On completion of Ex GRAND PRIX we returned to Glencorse to prepare for Spearhead Land Element and Northern Ireland Public Order Battalion. In preparation for this role the Company took part in a realistic Public Order exercise in Kirkcudbright. For some of the Jocks the training was more realistic than the safety staff would have liked, namely Fus Campbell's pre-empted strike on the petrol inoculators. Fortunately the Company survived some over-zealous baton strikes and petrol bombs from the other companies and concluded the exercise confident and prepared for anything.

After a busy first half to the year the month of August brought A Company a well deserved break as the Company deployed to Kinlochleven for some adventure training. Climbing, kayaking and mountain biking were on offer during the week long trip. Mountain biking was the favourite activity amongst the Jocks even though most of them took a tumble navigating their way down the Nevis Range.

After this well deserved break from barracks the Company deployed to Otterburn for the Battalion's FTX. The Company made good use of several days training. However, most minds, especially the section commanders were focused on the Rowallan Targe Patrol Competition. The competition involved five A Company sections planning and executing an extremely arduous patrol across 64 km of Otterburn Training Area completing a variety of physical and mental tasks on the way. Keeping with tradition A Company performed to the highest standard with every team finishing well inside the top ten, resulting in A Company being placed as the best Company overall. Cpl Higgins commanded his team to second position narrowly missing out on the top spot. To the soldiers' credit everyone who started the competition finished it.

With the Company back from exercise the focus switched to inter-company sports, with boxing and football taking priority. Early-morning boxing and afternoon football dominates the training programme for most of the Jocks. Under the direction of a very enthusiastic Company Sergeant Major Dixon, Cpl Wilson has dedicated his time to ensuring that all those wanting to fight are trained and fully prepared for the Battalion Boxing night. However, even with all the training no one from the Company seems to want to be paired against any of the Fijian soldiers, especially 2Lt Phillips.

The Company has made a positive start to their New Love Cup campaign with a convincing 5-1 win against Fire Support Company. The competition will run into next year but already A Company have set their sights high and are expecting LCpl



2 SCOTS

A Coy



Going native in Kenya.



Northern Ireland Public Order training.



Coy personnel with Bergens at the start of the 70-mile canal march to raise funds for Combat Stress.



"The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen." Coy lined up for Fancy Dress Aerobics for charity.

B Coy



Soldiers pulling a 1300kg naval gun in Ladysmith Swarthkop Challenge.



"Things go better with Coca Cola." Cpl Anderson quenching his thirst in Kenya.



Coy on Castle Guard.



"I want my Mummy." LCpl Philipson in Kenya.



C Coy



Lt Collinge and NCOs of Coy at Mount Kenya.



"Heave!!!" Coy soldiers in Inter-Coy Tug-of-War.



JNCO Cadre.



Former OC, Maj Cave Gibbs taking a breather.

FSp Coy



"Who goes there?" FSp Coy sentries in Kenya.



Machine Gun Pl/Pipes & Drums performing in Kenya – led by Pipe Major Weir (extreme right).



"Now breathe in." Coy soldiers soaking up the sun in Kenya.



Bn 7-a-side football winners.



**HQ Coy/QM Dept/
MT PI/Welfare Office**

6 SCOTS



MTO, Bn 2IC and QM(T) with colgate smile.



The Lowland Band and The Combined Pipes & Drums of the Scottish Universities Officer Training Corps outside the Canadian Parliament.



Sgt Mitchell receives prizes for First Fish Caught and Heaviest Individual Fish from CO 2 SCOTS. The Bn Fly Fishing Competition – 04 Nov 09.



LCpl Peter Bartram (centre) with his two sons, Musician Nicolas Bartram (right) and Musician Martin Bartram flanked by the Mounties in Canada.



Anne Weir and Anne-Marie Neil with Cpl Kev Doust before their jump – they took part in Charity Tandem Parachute jump with the Golden Lions in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.



Tunnel warfare training on Ex MARBLE TOR.



2 SCOTS Officers and SNCOs visit Alex Heron at Erskine Hospital – the visit was organised by the UWO staff.



ACF
Glasgow and Lanarkshire Bn



Canadian Exchange group at the Seaforth Armoury.



OC B Coy presents the Coy March and Shoot Shield to Cpl Josh Wheatley.

West Lowland Bn



Cdt Sergeant Stephen Flynn with Army Proficiency Certificate (Standard Four Star).



Cadets marching at the Menin Gate.

MONTAGE



Pipers Les Womack and Ken McKinney piping at a memorial monument at Arnhem.



Glasgow & Strathclyde UOTC heading towards El Misti, Peru.



"Welcome to our Regiment". Capt Glen Hogg at the SCOTS Recruiting Stand on Armed Forces Day – 27 June 09.



RHF pipers lining up before performing at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2009.



McGregor to better his four goals against FSP Coy in each of the remaining games.

As the year draws to a close, now is a good time to reflect on the personalities who have come and gone during the year. The following personnel have been posted in and out of the Company:

WO2 Stewart from CSM to RQMS BATUK. WO2 Dickson is now in the chair as Company Sergeant Major.
 CSgt Byrne from CQMS to CSM 4 SCOTS and the arrival of CSgt Devlin from instructing at IBS.
 CSgt Morrison to RMAS and Sgt Thompson in as 1 Pl Sgt.
 Sgt Mitchell moved to Chilwell as an instructor.
 Sgt McIlvaney to B Company as 4 Pl Sgt.
 Cpl Sloan from Coy stores to 3 SCOTS.

Finally it is with great pleasure that we celebrate the new arrivals to some of the A Company families. Major Loudoun and his wife Kate celebrated the birth of their second child Fraser in August. Sgt McCormack and his wife Morven have recently welcomed the birth of their third child Isla, and Fus Mclachlan and his partner celebrated the arrival of their first child.

B COMPANY

OC: Maj N D E Abram
 2IC: Capt O T G Bowen
 4 Pl Comd: Lt M D Oladjins
 5 Pl Comd: 2Lt R Rowlands
 6 Pl Comd: Lt M C Dowds
 CSM: WO2 W F Garrick
 CQMS: CSgt C D Scott
 4 Pl Sgt: Sgt D Forrester (Sgt M McIlvaney wef Nov 09)
 5 Pl Sgt: Sgt I Anderson
 6 Pl Sgt: Sgt I J T Muncie

B Coy's activities have continued apace in 2009, after our exercise in Kenya from March until May 09. On return from Africa the Spearhead Land Element (SLE) commitment dominated our lives both in the preparation and training for the assumption of the task, as well as maintaining the capability from Aug until Dec 09.

Although 'UK bound' for the latter half of the year, we have still managed to deploy on a two-week Battalion FTX, as well as supporting many other training exercises for other units across the UK. In between all this we have managed to squeeze in a week of Adventure Training in Kinlochleven (including conquering the 'summer rains' of Ben Nevis), and also giving the Jocks the opportunity to try their hand at sailing for the first time; as 2IC B Coy led a week-long expedition around the Solent on the Infantry Yacht, Fusilier.

As 2009 draws to a close, life continues at pace and within a week of returning from a well-deserved Christmas leave, the Coy will deploy again to Kenya in Jan 10; this time as opposing forces to 3 PARA. Thereafter our attention will shift entirely to preparing for our deployment to Helmand in Oct 10.

The Company congratulates the following soldiers and their partners on the new additions to their families; Fus Ulunasobu,



Lt Matt Oladjins leading from the front in the Ladysmith Swartkop Challenge. Full story in Ex BOER JOCK 2009 under Articles in this Journal.

Fus Namua, Sgt Anderson, LCpl Johnstone, WO2 (CSM) Garrick, Fus Milligan and Fus Griffith.

In addition to the many new recruits who recently joined B Coy, the following personalities are welcomed into the Coy; 2Lt Rowlands (RMAS), Sgt McIlvaney (A Coy on promotion) and Cpl Stewart (ITC (C)).

Finally the Company extends its best wishes to all who have left B Coy over the last period, including Lt Oladjins who attends the Long Language Course in Jan 10 and will become the Battalion's first linguistic and cultural expert in due course.

C COMPANY

OC: Maj P G V Strudwick
 2IC: Capt D E Reed
 Pl Comd 7 Pl: Lt T N Lambert
 Pl Comd 8 Pl: Lt I Curren
 Pl Comd 9 Pl: Lt J M Collinge
 CSM: WO2 C McCormack
 CQMS: CSgt J Curran
 Pl Sgt 7: Sgt S Parker
 Pl Sgt 8: Sgt P Conn
 Pl Sgt 9: Sgt J McKinney

As ever this year has been a turbulent and busy one, with Maj Tim Cave-Gibbs moving onto bigger things at RMAS and Maj Piers Strudwick taking up the reins on the go just as we arrived back in country. This year has taken us the length and breadth of the UK, as well as across the ocean to Kenya. We have had our ups and downs but always the 'Neds' of C Coy have come out on top.



LCpl Boyle C Coy in Kenya.

Before we had left Afghanistan we were already warned that Ex GRAND PRIX was on the horizon, and preparation started in Dec 08. The exercise was hot and dusty taking its toll on a few of our hardened operators. The local population seemed to like our kit – which is understandable – but thankfully after a few terse Glaswegian limericks they were soon on their way. Adventurous Training took our Lt Collinge (the Beckham of the battlefield) and his hearty crew to the top of Mount Kenya, even the ‘Old Man’ Cpl Torrance managed it with only a small complaint of a headache. The rest of us were split between Lake Naivasha and Diani beach. Naturally WO2 McCormack showed us how diving is supposed to be done. The beautiful white beaches were only able to entice a small number of Jocks to the Indian Ocean, but those who were there will bring the rest back next time round. The turquoise waters were a welcome relief after the dry lands of Archers Post, reminding us all of one of the great benefits of military service.

We arrived back to a drenched Scottish summer, which welcomed us to some more preparation for Spearhead Lead Element. Naturally there were a few other obligations which needed fulfilling, one such event was the Rowallan Targe (Section Commanders Skills Competition). Otterburn proved to be a stiff adversary for most of the competitors, but not Cpl Carr, who lead his team to an unrelenting 25-hour romp of the course. Despite a fast time it was a nail-biting finish with Cpl Carr, Fus Ingram, Fus Grant, Fus Toroki, Fus McLellan, Fus Wood, Fus Brown and Fus Hamilton were victorious. Add to there accomplishment Cpl Torrance’s team finished fifth.

Thankfully once we returned from Otterburn we had a little time to prepare for the JNCO Cadre and our final stint as Lead Coy Group on SLE. Seeing the Cadre formed up on the first Thursday before it started in earnest, would have made any man proud. And seeing the anticipation on all their faces was priceless. It could only be matched by the enthusiasm of all heads of sheds coming down to have a look at this fine body of men. The 6 weeks that passed seemed a lifetime to some on the course but it still passed like lightning, and before you knew it we were back in Glencorse parading the successful candidates in front of Brig Lawrence. There were times of tribulation that were always accompanied by a steady state of learning. Fus Eaglesham (B Coy) showed he had the grit to maintain an even keel throughout the cadre and was named as the top student. The support the Coy received from all the departments was a testament to the one team ethos that this Battalion has in buckets and will no doubt continue into next year for HERRICK 13.

C Coy has already started its build up to OP HERRICK 13, consolidating the experience we gained last time out while trying to minimise the changes. CSM McCormack will be moving on and Capt Dave Morgan will be taking over as Coy 2IC. It will be a difficult and important job; one which C Coy will relish with its McDonald’s fighting spirit.

(Footnote: C Coy is sad to say farewell to so many soldiers in December 2009 on cross-posting to FSP Coy. We look forward to seeing you back in the Coy FSG or as section commanders of the future. Good luck.)



FIRE SUPPORT COMPANY

OC: Maj A Bayne
OC Mors: Capt J R L Savage
OC Recce: Capt A M Sweet
OC Javelin: Capt A G Lipowski
CSM: WO2 B Lynn

Mortars Platoon – Ex GRAND PRIX in Kenya (Apr to May 2009)

Together with, and as part of the 2 SCOTS BG (battlegroup), the Mortar Platoon of The Royal Highland Fusiliers deployed to Kenya in early Apr 2009. First out of the door was the OC, Capt John Savage, who found himself once again flying out of the UK to a hot and dusty country exactly one year after his previous departure.

The exercise was the Battalion's opportunity to gain a 'tick in the box' for Collective Training Level 4. This provided the Mortar Platoon with the chance to conduct some varied and challenging training as an independent platoon prior to supporting the Battalion in its running of three arduous Combined Arms Live Firing Exercises (CALFEXs), one for each of the rifle companies.

The OC, who had been sent out to plan the mortar ranges was soon joined by the rest of the Platoon, led by CSgt Stu McIndoe, who were all in fine fettle as they arrived at the Nanyuki Show Ground (NSG) only to be shocked and disappointed to be told that the nice accommodation and showers were reserved for HQ Coy and that the fighting companies would be sleeping at Taraco Farm; a tented village 20 minutes outside Nanyuki.

The Platoon joined Fire Support Company for its initial infantry training at Impala Farm, where the Queen's Safari was the sport of choice between training serials. After a week of infantry life firing the Company moved en masse to Archers Post where it would remain for the majority of the 5-week exercise. The time was to be broken into platoon live firing and mortar training, followed by support to the companies' CALFEXs, and lastly assistance with the Bn Final Training Exercise (FTX).

The live-firing training period was one of the most valuable periods of live mortar training that the Platoon could have asked for. The amount of real estate that was made available surpassed anything that the UK could have provided. The Platoon was able to conduct Quick Action drills along a 3km stretch of road, as well as direct fire shoots and large area illumination missions.

The culmination of the live firing week was a joint firing plan exercise with the Royal Artillery from V Battery, 7 Regt under the very capable command of Maj Iain MacNeill. Sgt Stu Gray and Cpl Eddie Gunn ensured that the mortar line was well-guided; in turn the mortar line worked hard and did itself proud; they adjusted on to all targets faster than the Gunners could, earning itself a justifiably strong reputation for being "On Time, On Target". The mortar fire was effectively controlled by Cpl Brian Cavanagh who adjusted it on to target with his traditional expert eye.

After successfully brushing the dust of the Mortar Platoon's skills and drills, the Platoon, shy on MFC numbers, did its best to provide a pair to each of the rifle companies. With not enough to go around the effort had to be shared. Sgt Rogers headed up the



FSp Coy personnel with "WMD" in Kenya.

MFCs and was attached to C Coy, Cpls Cavanagh and Stasiw to A Coy, and Cpls Kelt and Denovan to B Coy.

The companies were to rotate through a dry training exercise, a period of OC's disposal and the aforementioned CALFEX. The mortar line deployed into the bush for six days in support of the CALFEX and everybody who visited them soon appreciated the efforts that they had gone to, not only to get to the mortar line but also to make it suitable to use.

The CALFEX gave the Mortar Platoon the opportunity to demonstrate their effectiveness and swiftness of engagement to the rifle companies who learnt the benefits of having medium mortars integral to their formation. The CALFEXs tested the MFCs' stamina, as the Bravo MFCs worked tirelessly to keep up with each lead rifle platoon as it rotated through after destroying an enemy position before handing the mantle over to the next platoon. All put in their all and achieved good results for the watchful company OCs.

The mortar line, never to be outdone, managed to trade with a local tribesman and was soon in possession of a freshly butchered sheep (at least that's what they were told it was). Under the watchful and experienced direction of the Fijian contingent of the Platoon, LCpls Rokotuiloma, and Vananalagi, and Fus Ravuravinisali, Tawake, and Vuki, the sheep was soon slow-cooked over an open fire. The result was truly delicious and could only have been bettered with the presence of a cold beer or two.

The MFCs were tested further as the Battalion transitioned away from the companies' training and on to the FTX. Once again the MFCs found themselves in demand as the Battalion was pressed by Brigade against a tough and resolute enemy. Even though the FTX was a dry exercise, the mortar line did not escape hard work and was drafted in to guard the BG HQ; although this was officially against the exercise's enemy there was always the real time requirement to prevent 'friendly' locals acquiring our military equipment.

Ex GRAND PRIX offered the Platoon a great opportunity to train at a level that is not often achieved in the UK. The combination of independent low-level training and high-level joint firing



ensured that everybody in the Platoon was tested to some degree. By the end of the five-week exercise phase the Platoon was very much looking forward to some well-deserved Adventure Training but that is, unfortunately, another story entirely.

Javelin Platoon – The Pre-Career Course Cadre (PCCC)

Capt A G Lipowski

2 SCOTS runs three Pre-Career Course Cadres each year, the aim of which is to ensure students are properly prepared for their relevant career course. Students on the course are preparing for various courses at the IBS and the LWC. Normally these cadres will consist of 20 to 30 students, and a training team of around six.

The course run by Fire Support Company from 03-13 November 2009 ran alongside the PJNCO (Potential JNCO) Cadre in Kirkcudbright, and in Galloway Forest for the exercise phase. In consultation with the IBS and CSgt Devlin (a former Brecon instructor before he was banished to A Coy CQMS stores), the approach we took to the course was to ensure that individuals were of a high standard in their current role and gave them an introduction to what they would be learning on their relevant career course. Therefore the cadre focused on navigation, fitness, command and control and low-level skills.

Only 10 students attended the course, with a training team of five instructors (myself, CSgt Kyle, Sgt Walker, Sgt Lucas and Cpl Wilson for the exercise) and an admin support team (Sgt Thomson, Cpl Murray and LCpl MacLeod). Due to Dundrennan camp being overrun by the PJNCO Cadre and Assaye Platoon, the PCCC was accommodated in Silverhills Camp (the camp in the middle of Kirkcudbright ranges with its own weather system).

Initially, I had concerns about the small number of students on the course, as we would be unable to conduct Platoon level operations on the exercise phase. Other concerns were the lack of currency with the instructors – over four years since any instructor had completed SCBC. However, both these concerns were in fact blessings.

The small number of students allowed for a much better instructor to student ratio, resulting in the training team being able to provide more intimate support to the students. For the exercise phase, it allowed us to focus on more low-level skills, such as navigation (a big area of concern at the IBS) and section-level skills (students can often fail PSBC for being poor section commanders). The addition of soldiers from B and FSp Coy halfway through the exercise allowed us to conduct Two Platoon-level operations at the end of the exercise, with full battle procedure carried out.

The lack of currency in the instructors did however mean a great deal of experience; this experience far outweighed the currency concerns, and gave the students a much broader range of knowledge to learn from.

Overall, the PCCC was a great success, with strong positive feedback from the students. All students performed to a high standard on the cadre and those who were recommended for their relevant career course produced some excellent results; this should hopefully reflect in their performance at the IBS or LWC.

Recce Platoon – The role of the Sniper Platoon on Ex GRAND PRIX

LCpl McKinney

Prior to deploying on Ex GRAND PRIX it was decided that the Sniper Platoon would be integrated in to the Recce Platoon to help strengthen the four-man teams. This proved to be a great success, as well as logging and reporting on the enemy's strengths and movement we now had the direct fire capability as and when required.

One of our first tasks was a force on force against the Javelin Platoon who deployed during daylight to set up their Observation Posts armed with Command Launch Units (CLU). Later that night the newly-formed Recce/Sniper ISTAR groupings deployed to fight through the arduous terrain, having to use the ground to our advantage against the thermal capability of the CLU. Armed with only CWS we managed to pinpoint two of the three positions that night, with the third being identified at first light using the x40 Leopold spotting scope before withdrawing undetected.

When we changed over to the Company battle runs the fun really began for the snipers. I was attached to A Company and the OC knew exactly what he had been given and used us to our full ability working us to the bone. On one particular attack we were pushed on to the high ground to flank the night before to hunt out pockets of enemy, prior to A Company commencing their Advance to Contact. Using a (PLF15C) laser rangefinder I was able to call in accurate indirect fire onto the enemy positions giving OC A Company freedom of movement to manoeuvre his rifle platoons.

As the Company continued their advance, the snipers remained on the high ground providing flank protection and a live feed of the lay down of the enemy positions. We were also able to provide early warning of a roadside Improvised Explosive Device which we had been positively identified using our Leopold scopes. This use of the snipers resulted in A Company being the fastest and most effective through the attack and sustained the least number of casualties.

On a separate live attack a rifle platoon had been faced with a fortified compound and a Russian trench system complete with a Medium Machine Gun sentry position. Again the Company Commander used the snipers effectively in his plan; myself and LCpl Dunlop conducted a map study, inserted on to a flank into a position of over watch and immediately set about prioritising and ranging the enemy's positions. On H hour minus 1, the sentries were neutralised up to 940m away allowing the Company to carry on their advance.

To summarise it was a good exercise and we were kept busy throughout; in addition to having the opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the new .338 suite we were able to finely hone our shooting and observation skills. We also had the added bonus of calling in 155mm artillery.

More importantly we proved that snipers are an integral Battlegroup asset who can provide accurate and timely information to the CO and Company Commanders resulting in the defeat of the enemy and reducing the number of casualties within the Rifle Companies.



HQ COMPANY

OC: Maj J E B Kerr MBE
 CSM: WO2 (CSM) Huxter
 CQMS: CSgt Muir LCpl Thomson (AGC)

The word 'busy' is synonymous with every article written by the HQ Coy Departments and it comes as no surprise that we find ourselves penning the next *Journal* edition having not fully read the last edition. As previously mentioned we are busy and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. As we prepare for a well earned Xmas leave period we are running up a few Courses Of Action (COAs) with regards to support to 4 Bde CALFEX (Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise) to be held in Otterburn (OTA) in early Jan 10. This event will see the vast majority of HQ Coy support 4 Bde through a series of demanding ranges in their preparation for Afghanistan. Followed by our own Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) starting in March 2010 for HERRICK 13 alongside 16 Air Assault Bde.

The tempo of HQ Coy in 2009 has been quite demanding but equally rewarding. In early Mar 09 the Bn 2IC managed to slot in a Command And Staff Trainer (CAST) focusing on conventional operational planning in preparation for Ex GRAND PRIX in Apr-May 09 in Kenya. The Battalion shortly deployed and was tasked to train and develop an effective BG (Battlegroup) in a fast-moving, complex, multi-agency, combined arms in a high intensity environment. In order to achieve this multi-task requirement HQ Coy was split four ways across the Kenya training area IOT to provide the logistical footprint from the main G4 hub located at Nanyuki Show Ground (NSG). The echelon under the command of the QM Maj Steve Wemyss supported MPala Farm, ODL and Archers Post training areas simultaneously. This was a hard and at times a gruelling exercise equally from a planning phase within BG HQ to the final delivery by the Fusiliers on the ground. I can confirm there has been no significant change to the harsh environment and the extreme heat, plus the odd beastie roaming around the open plains of Kenya. What has changed is a superb Adventure Training package had by all: thanks to the RCMO Capt Dougie McCutcheon in arranging the Battle Group (BG) AT package that took place in the following resorts:

- Lake Navasha: Hill Walking, Abseiling and Rock Climbing, Mountain Biking.
- Sagana: Kayaking, Mountain Biking, White Water Rafting.
- NSG: Overnight Safari, Camel and Horse Trek, Diving:
- Nairobi: BSAC and PADDI Open Water Course.

As we returned to Glencorse barracks with our "Army Tans" we quickly found ourselves in the last few weeks on taking on the Spearhead Land Element (SLE) and Northern Ireland Public Order (NIPO) commitment. Much work had to be done prior to our exercise in Kenya allowing the AGC to finalise our documentation on our return. Ex FIRST FLIGHT was a major validation/inspection that takes place at Joint Air Movement Centre (JAMC) South Cerney for the Battalion and the attached arms within the SLE BG. As expected HQ Coy BG HQ, QM, MT, LAD and AGC involvement in preparation for Ex FF and the assumption of the SLE BG task has been commendable. The Battalion handed over the SLE commitment on the 14 Dec 09 to 1



WO2 (CSM) Huxter and OC HQ Coy Maj J E B Kerr MBE.

Royal Irish, allowing the QM(T) and MTO to prep and back-load 76 SLE vehicle assets, well that's another story.

Shortly after taking on the SLE commitment the Battalion was subject to its formal annual Combined Inspection Week (CIW) formally known as LSI & ECI. This took form with a large team descending on the Battalion for a week and inspecting all accounts. As HQ Coy has 70% of the Battalion's equipment on charge this event consumed the Company's manpower weeks prior to the inspection date. The Battalion received "Greens" all-round and HQ Coy Sub Unit Commanders all played a major part in achieving this outstanding achievement.

As I put closure to the year 2009 none will forget the intense training challenges that HQ Coy has endured. The year 2010 will have major hurdles and personal challenges as we prepare and undergo our own operational training for OP HERRICK 13. Regardless of rank within HQ Coy, personalities change but the company ethos of the Battalion will continue to thrive and the Company spirit is carried forward for new challenges ahead in the year 2010.

QM DEPARTMENT

QM(M): Maj S G Wemyss
 QM(T): Maj R C Welsh
 RQMS(M): WO2 P C Marshall
 RQMS(T): WO2 M Beggs

The gentle stream of normality once promised after Herrick 08 has vanished under the ever growing mountain consisting mainly of the "stuff" in between. This has been a hectic 12 months for the department. As you flick through the pages of the *Journal* there will be photos of numerous activities and events none of which would have occurred without a considerable and determined effort from the G4 team. Early in the year we moved the Bn to Kenya and sustained them in the field for a lengthy period, supplying tons of ammunition, water and rations. even pandering to their every need supplying ice cream in the middle of the Rift Valley at Archers Post where temperatures exceeding 40c.



QM Dept with a local team (not Celtic) in Kenya.

Before we even returned from Kenya the planning of our next venture had started. Spearhead Lead Element involves all the preparation for an overseas deployment and mission without pressing the execute button, unless of course called upon to do so. Central management of equipment across the army releases equipment to user units just in time to complete the task at hand. This means collecting the gear from other units scattered across the UK and assembling it in Glencorse for the duration of our commitment and culminates in a short Exercise to confirm that all is present and correct. Thousands of miles driven and a good deal of teeth sucking produced the result and we were ready to deploy again.

The combined inspection week is a rigorous serial of inspections and audits across the Bn focused primarily on the G1 & G4 disciplines. During this event the G4 team are singled out for special attention and are subject to not only the Equipment Care Inspection but a full Log Support Inspection and Force Health Protection Audit to name but a few of our visitors. With the G4 engine already running hot recovering from the Kenya experience and a substantial haul of new equipment gathered from across the UK we squared up to the prospect of an intense period of external Audit and Inspection. The preparations, internal inspections and rehearsals were meticulous, no area was neglected and attention to detail became the theme across the department. The results speak for themselves and for the first time in many years all G4 disciplines were graded "Green" in all areas and the department attracted favourable comment from the visiting inspection teams. This is no small achievement and sets the bench mark for others to follow.

Sustaining and maintaining this posture is not so easy particularly with ever mounting distractions. These

distractions included further deployments to Otterburn in order to conduct the Bn FTX and the Rowallan Targe. This was quickly followed by the PJNCO Cadre at Kirkcudbright and the Galloway Forest. At the same time as Coy Gp deployments to Salisbury Plain in support of Ex Wessex Warrior and Druids Dance. All these commitments stretched the G4 chain but never looked like breaking it. Sustaining multiple deployments and operations at this high tempo requires a well organised experienced and professional team where the input of each and every man is vitally important. The team proved to be more than a match for the task, dedicated and hard working they all put in a shift and never once looked overwhelmed or down-trodden.

Time marches on and the internal churn of personalities has been difficult to keep pace with. We have had a number of our Key Personnel within the Platoon moved on within a short period of each other. This has made for a challenging but interesting change of pace within the G4 chain. We firstly say good luck to RQMS T now WO1 (RSM) McKenzie who has moved to AFC Harrogate, also we say a fond farewell to Sgt "Smudge" Smith who has moved from Ammunition Senior NCO to take up his new post as ACIO Irvine, we would also like to thank CSgt "Billy" Anderson who has transformed the G1098 Store into a well-oiled establishment! and best wishes after 22 years service to him and his family as he has been fortunate enough to have been selected for a FTRS post in March within Glasgow Army Territorial Centre as CQMS. We also say our good luck and best wishes to Sgt "Gerry" Nicol who after 22 years has taken the brave steps for a career change and already successfully passed his electrician course which he has already put into practice within a few members of the Regiment's houses, "Paid for in Advance of course". Lastly we say goodbye



to Sgt “George” Neil who after 22 years and a lot of effort within the Tailors Shop, which since his departure now resembles the hours of a Seven Eleven. Our best wishes to him and his family as he goes into business with WO2 “Billy McGregor”. Their Tailors Shop is a stone’s throw from Redford Barracks where they will no doubt make their mark. Needless to say with the mentioned changes there have been promotions and we welcome the promotion to Sgt John Wyper who moves on to Ammunition SNCO and double congratulations (and celebrations) to him and his wife on the birth of their son, Tarrin.

With all of the above mixed with the SLE commitment life has never been dull and as I write we are full steam ahead with preparations for the Inter-Company Boxing Finals, Biennial Board Of Officers, Jock’s Christmas Lunch heading into a well-deserved short break before kicking off again in early Jan 10, this time to be deployed to Otterburn training area to support 4 Brigade pre-deployment training package. As ever we will attack the new challenges as part of 16 Air Assault Brigade in the New Year as only 2 SCOTS can.

MT PLATOON

MTO: Capt J K Law
 2IC: Sgt S Boyd
 Driver Trg: Cpl J Stewart, Cpl Douglas and Cpl Mathew.
 Daily Details: Cpl McGill, LCpl Clark, Fus Buist and Fus Sinclair
 WFM/Serviceing: Cpl Cpl McMeeken, LCpl Curran, Fus Grimley, Fus Vuataleva.
 Stores: Cpl McMahan, Cpl Imrie, Fus Wilson and Fus Docherty

“Tell him to phone me, because the answers NAW!”
 Some folks think that we are a small unit of taxi drivers. Standing in the flanks, wearing a “hands free” mike, awaiting another call to come in that begins with *“Any chance of a hire car mate?”* *“Naw”*, *“sorry mate, any chance of a 4 Tunner?”* sorry I meant a Lannie, cos *I’m taking 17 blokes to the ranges in 5 minutes.....*

I’ve never been in a job that is governed by so many regulations. These regulations are turning the Platoon into dull people. There isn’t any room for manoeuvre; it’s either **AYE** or **NAW**. Let me explain further....

The MT Platoon is still the same strength as the “auld and bold” will remember it as. Only one slight difference from the old days is that we don’t have a Warrant Officer as the 2IC. Clearly this will change with the role, hence why other Regiments still have one. I’m not complaining as my only experience with auld MT WO2s is that they are either in the pub or on the golf course or taking RENLEAVE. I say this with my tongue firmly pressing against my cheek.

The Platoon is split into 3 departments with a full Cpl heading up one each. All just as busy as the other but the main effort changes as per our forecast of events and direction from Battalion Headquarters. Since the last *Journal* the focus has been on all three.

Driver Training

This area has changed a great deal. Like the old days, no longer do the Jocks need to serve a lifetime before they get a driving

cadre. Currently the Jocks will only serve a few months before they get a cadre. Most leave basic training with a provisional licence and some also turn up in the Battalion with their theory pass certificate. As the readers will realise, a Category B driving licence is the basic requirement to drive a car in civilian street. This alone will not allow the young soldier to drive a landrover. Cpl Jimmy Stewart is the subject matter expert and he follows a set sequence, of which I think will give the “auld yins” a giggle:

- Provisional Licence applied for via DVLA.
- Category B Theory Test (Circa 2 weeks).
- Category B Driving Course (Circa 1 week).
- General Service Vehicle Conversion Cadre (2 weeks).
- FMT 600 Driving Permit issued.

The very young soldier is now qualified to drive a military landrover without a trailer.

- Category E for B Driving Course (Circa 1 week).

The young (‘ish) soldier is now qualified to drive a military landrover with a trailer.

- Category C Theory Test (Circa one week).
- Category C Driving Course (Circa one week).
- General Service Vehicle Conversion Cadre (2 weeks) (if not already passed).
- FMT 600 Driving Permit issued (if not issued at the category B stage).

The “not so” young soldier is now qualified to drive a DAF 4T Truck without a trailer and without troops as the rear passengers.

- Category E for C driving Test (Circa one week).

The “auld” soldier is now qualified to drive a DAF 4T Truck with trailer.

Readers should note that to be qualified to drive most of the in-service vehicles, our soldiers require a minimum of a Category C Licence. Although most in-service vehicles look like small odd-shaped landrovers from the outside, the reality is that they are very big and heavy hence why the C Licence is required.

The young driver then quickly gains bags of driving experience. In one minute he can be driving troops to the local ranges in a DAF 4T, then next he’s off to Afghanistan driving a Mastiff PV supporting fighting troops against the Taliban. Thereafter he can be in Kenya driving a prehistoric fleet that resemble “Dads Army”. The young soldier needs to bank experience quickly and within a very short time can accumulate a vast amount of driver’s hours. Driver’s hours is another matter, burden and drama ...that’s for another *Journal*.

Daily Transport Details

I can wholeheartedly say that you need someone that resembles a “grumpy old man” to run this department. I’ve got one and Cpl Watson (aka Big Wattie) is it. I personally spent a day in his environment and I quickly found how capable I was of using the most profane language towards others. There were words coming out my mouth that I didn’t even know I knew. My telephone manner has since improved. The wee darlings in the Battalion



"We come in peace, take us to your leader". Members of MT Platoon.

phone up to book hire cars, mini buses, coaches or various forms of green fleet. The catch being that they didn't even know when they want the vehicle or how long for. In some cases they don't even know who is driving it. We try and give the wee soldiers three options; not dissimilar to "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire". They usually opt to phone a friend.

Another giggle is when the wee darlings don't even hold the required licence. Or better still, he/she has a licence but was banned for speeding or drunk driving the day before.

After all this a brand new hire car goes out to a wee soul and he returns it looking like something from downtown Basra. With a predictable excuse of "It wisnae me, Sir" or something from "Little Britain" like "Aye but naw but naw but aye!"

Cpl Ray McGill and LCpl Clark have recently taken over the details role. This department is the hub and must be open every day, all day to facilitate the transport requirements of the Battalion.

Whole Fleet Management (WFM) and Routine Vehicle Servicing

Like the MT Details, this area must remain functional at all times. A great deal of time is spent liaising with the new In Barrack Equipment Support Team (IBES). This is a civilian team that takes up to 80% of our daily vehicle servicing from Glencorse to complete. This allows time for our LAD to catch up on their outstanding leave or practise their 5-a-side football skills in the MT yard. If anyone identifies a REME soldier from 2 SCOTS socialising in Glasgow or Edinburgh, remind him that there is work to be done and send him back to base.

Cpl Ray McGill has just recently held this department over to his twin Cpl Craig McMeeken (aka the Chuckle brothers) and thank goodness their performance isn't gauged by facial looks.

Our Unit Holdings (UH) is reducing and the old soldiers amongst you will understand that there isn't enough fat in the system for all units to hold every vehicle. We hold various assets to facilitate company training but if we need additional vehicles we need to seek assistance from WFM. There is a three-month lead time and the funny thing is that I couldn't tell you what I'm doing in three minutes, thus forget three months – enough said!

I'll leave Health & Safety, driving standards and general MT management until the next *Journal*.

Since the last *Journal* the MT lads have been extremely busy. They've participated on various exercises including the highlight of the last 12 months, Ex GRAND PRIX in Kenya. Out with the main events, the Platoon has been net contributors to every activity that the Battalion has participated in. They may not run an 8 minute BFT or smash the CFT record but they are extremely competent and incredibly versatile, albeit within the MT environment.

As usual I will end with the normal "Cheerio" and "Congratulations" to the following:

"Cheerio" to:

- Sgt Power – off to the recruiting world. Only a few skeletons left in various cupboards but no show stoppers. (Joking).
- Cpl Watson – to the JAMES team as an Acting Sgt.
- LCpl Miller – discharged but he already knows that he's better in than out, so give us a call to get back in.
- LCpl Brown – discharged and we hope that he's not distressing anyone with those great conversations. No need to call us – we'll call you.
- Fus Jaeger – discharged and like LCpl Miller, he will quickly realise that he's better in than out. "Just make that call".
- Fus Main – discharged.....only a matter of time. One phone call and it will be as if you never left.
- Fus Moore – posted to E and you should remain there.

"Congratulations" to:

- Cpls Imrie, Douglas and Mathew on promotion.
- Cpl McMeeken, LCpl Clark and Fus Wilson on the birth of their new babies.

UNIT WELFARE OFFICE

UWO: Capt W R Barrie
 Asst UWO: CSgt McGhee
 Welfare NCOs: Cpl A R Weir, LCpl J P Barclay and
 LCpl W Wilson

The passing of another year means it is time to reflect on what the welfare staff has achieved since our last *Journal* entry. The welfare manning has remained consistent since the Battalion's deployment and return from HERRICK 8. This continuity means that the team is well tested, has a wealth of experience and is best placed to provide the Battalion with the best welfare support needed to meet its needs. The only change to manning during this period has been the introduction of Capt Walter Barrie who replaced Capt Watty Hunter as the UWO. Capt Hunter has since moved on to become the MTO at 5 SCOTS in Canterbury. Scots Corner bar takings have dropped significantly since Watty has moved on, especially during the showing of Glasgow Rangers matches. Both Watty and son Steven are Rangers daft and both propped up the bar on many an occasion to watch football matches. The welfare team wish the Hunter family all the best for the future.

Scots Corner Community Centre is the home of the welfare team and it is a fantastic facility that would be the envy of most Battalions' UWOs within the Regiment. It has everything under one roof, main function hall, cafe, bar, internet suite, gym and various rooms for youth clubs and mother/toddler groups. It also has plenty of office space to bring together the Welfare team, our HIVE Officer, Mrs Brenda Boyd, the Community Development



The WWO team outside Scots Corner Community Centre.

Workers (CDWs) Mrs Dawn Muir/Mr Craig Jefferson and our very own local MOD Beat Officer PC Helen Rogan.

The main aim of the Welfare staff is to provide primary welfare support to all 2 SCOTS soldiers, their families and dependants. The team have provided quality personal and community support throughout the year, especially during Battalion deployments such as Ex GRAND PRIX, Field Firing at Otterburn, and numerous Coy Group deployments throughout the UK. This support has been provided with a determined “can do attitude” that is now synonymous with the 2 SCOTS Welfare team. The Welfare JNCOs are proactive and have organised and supported a number of events such as the charity tandem parachute jump for two wives in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund, a charity coffee morning in aid of the MacMillan’s Breast Cancer Appeal, a visit for 2 SCOTS Offrs and SNCOs to Erskine Hospital, Weegi/Fiji Day, Laird Trophy and a number of Scots Corner functions; Football on TV, BBQ, Disco, Deal or No Deal, Quiz Nights, Halloween Night, Guy Fawkes Night, St Andrews Night and Christmas parties. All events were very successful and those in aid of charity raised a considerable amount of money.

Brenda, the HIVE Officer, continues to provide a great information service to soldiers and their families with local knowledge on amenities, entertainment, leisure and sporting events. Dawn and Craig have delivered a fantastic community support programme by organising youth clubs, dance classes, summer residential adventure outings and numerous day trips to events such as M&Ds Fun Park, Ice-skating at Murrayfield, skiing at Hillend, swimming at Wester Hailes, visit to Blair Drummond safari park, pantomime in Edinburgh and many more activities. They have also organised the Kids’ Halloween, St Andrews and Christmas parties which were a great success. There is also a homework club run by Mrs Gemma McNamara every Monday evening funded by the Caledonia Trust. PC Helen Rogan has been keeping a watchful eye on the speed of vehicles with an initiative using a digital speed display boards to remind all drivers that 20 is plenty when driving around our SFA estate.

Since the Battalion’s arrival in Glencorse in Apr 2006, the Scots Corner cafe was run by two wives, Mrs Anne Weir and Mrs Anne-

Marie Neil, both had become part of the fixtures and fittings during handovers/takeovers and property checks. At the start of this summer, both decided to hang up their pinnies and close the cafe, mainly due to Anne-Marie leaving because husband Sgt George Neil had completed his 22 years Colour Service. This was a great loss to the community and in an effort to thank the ladies for their hard work and dedication, the Welfare staff organised a charity tandem parachute jump with the Golden Lions in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. Anne and Anne-Marie managed to raise over £200 and thoroughly enjoyed the experience which was fairly emotional for Anne-Marie when she finally returned to hard ground, I will not repeat what she said. We wish Anne, Anne-Marie and their families all the very best for the future.

The Wives Committee has now been established with its own constitution and regular meetings, headed up by the Commanding Officer’s wife, Mrs Amanda Borton. After 4 months of Scots Corner café being closed, the Wives Committee quickly re-established it with a number of volunteers: Mrs Amanda Borton, Mrs Gill Abram, Mrs Karra Boyd, Mrs Jude Dickson, Mrs Sonia Barrie and Mrs Charlotte McCauley. The cafe is proving very successful again and acts as an important community focal point for all service families. The committee also plays an important role in organising functions and supporting events laid on by the Battalion and Welfare Staff.

The most successful welfare initiative to date has been the Drop-in Centre; Scots Corner is now open Monday to Friday until 2100hrs for service children who attend secondary school – they use the pool tables, table tennis, air hockey table, Sky TV and enjoy the facilities as a place to hang out with friends in a comfortable environment.

The list of events run by the Welfare staff, Wives Committee and CDWs is continual and it is difficult to capture everything organised and supported to date in such a small article. Hopefully, nothing has been missed and everyone has been acknowledged for their hard work in what has been a very busy year. The team are constantly impressed by the families and volunteers that continually support our welfare activities, the team would like to thank you all for the support and wish you all the very best for 2010.



52nd Lowland, 6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland



CO: Lt Col C E Platt
2IC: Maj D Stimpson
Training Major: Maj M Howard
QM: Capt D A Hunter
Adjt: Capt M J C Jeffrey
RSM: WO1 (RSM) M James

It is difficult not to start without mentioning the uncertainty that we have faced over the last year through progressive cuts to the budget and finally severance in October and then just as suddenly reinstatement. It was with some surprise that we (and the chain of command) learned of the planned cuts through the media. The Battalion has risen collectively above the situation and stayed the course. The commitment shown by the soldiers, who for some time continued to train on an entirely voluntary basis, has been remarkable.

The year started with the various shooting competitions. The Bathgate-based Machine Gun Platoon won a notable victory in Match 9 (the TA GPMG(SF) national competition). And A Company followed this success by sweeping the board at the Battalion Skill at Arms Match at Barry Buddon. Unfortunately the Battalion were not able to capitalise on A Company's success in the Brigade Skill-At-Arms Meeting. Sights are set now on achieving a better result in 2010.

The training highlight for the year was company strength annual camp in Gibraltar; with the myriad commitments that we face it is now rare to deploy the Battalion (on camp) as one. Dismounted Close Combat training in the extensive tunnel system of the rock proved a unique training experience for those that took part. The aims and objectives were ambitious: to practise skills, tactics and procedures up to platoon level in preparation for current operations in Afghanistan; to identify and develop key junior commanders in anticipation of the joint LONDONS / 6 SCOTS Company group deploying on Op HERRICK 12; to carry out two Military Aid to the Civil Community tasks in Gibraltar; and finally to conduct some adventurous training. This overseas exercise, the first since 2002, was a welcome challenge for all of the soldiers that participated; they gained an abundance of experience and tactical awareness in operating in this most challenging of environments. They also had the chance to learn about the rich history that the "Rock" provides, with battlefield tours providing an insight to the role it has played in conflict. And the adventure training, mainly water based was most welcome.

Not all of the Battalion were fortunate enough to deploy to Gibraltar and for those left behind it was Ex SUMMER CHALLENGE. This is a 7-week exercise that takes civilians through to trained TA soldier ready to take full part in Battalion



The Match 9 Machine Gun team train at Barry Buddon prior to the competition.



Tunnel warfare training on Ex MARBLE TOR.



Cpl Hardie takes a rest after a patrol in the Afghan heat.

activity. It provided a rapid inject of much needed manpower; the Battalion is currently some 30% under strength. It appears that we have turned the corner and now have a net inflow of Jocks. This has been quite a challenge given the grim summer in Afghanistan and the difficulty that the TA has always faced with recruiting through a recession.

Company Training has continued at all levels through all the cuts and changes to the programmes and the companies have continued to impress with their resilience and dedication to continue training. Support to Op HERRICK has unsurprisingly been the Battalion's training focus; as four of our soldiers returned from Afghanistan following their tour with 3 SCOTS, we have mobilised the next cohort of 14 who have started the final stages of their pre-deployment training with 1 SCOTS. The training for the next turn of the wheel has already kicked in for OP HERRICK 13 who will be mobilised and deploy with either 2 or 5 SCOTS, and so it will continue as we work in conjunction with 7 SCOTS to support each of the deployments of the five regular battalions.

One of the most publicly visible elements of the Battalion is The Lowland Band. They have played in over 40 public engagements this year, which included a successful tour to Canada which saw them take part in the Canadian State Opening of Parliament as part of their annual camp.

At the time of writing planning continues at pace for a full and active programme for the next year. It will have a strong focus on getting our people ready for supporting operations, whilst at the same time continuing to recruit hard to address the very significant manning deficiency.

Finally it was with great sadness in early July that Maj Tom Pounder, the Training Major (V) and former C Company Commander at Hotspur Street lost his long fought battle with cancer. His infectious enthusiasm for the Army and the Battalion is keenly missed by us all.



6 SCOTS composite copy formed up for Ex MARBLE TOR in Gibraltar.



Allied Regiments

PRINCE ALFRED'S GUARDS

THE DEATH AND BURIALS OF LT COL JOHN FORDYCE, 74TH HIGHLANDERS

Col Piet Hall SM, MMM.

(Prince Alfred's Guards takes great pride in our own past as does the Royal Highland Fusiliers. By means of this short article the story of the death and subsequent "travels" of Lt Col J Fordyce is related)

Of the nine wars fought on the Eastern Frontier of the Cape Colony between 1779 and 1878, the Eighth Frontier war was by far the longest, lasting from 24 Dec 1850 and dragging to a sullen peace in Mar 1853. Known also as the "war of Mlanjeni" after the young Xhosa prophet who was one of the chief instigators of the war and dubbed by the settlers "die Bonte Oorlog" (Dutch for the multicoloured war). The latter, from the fact that there existed a racial mix on both sides. Imperial/ Colonial troops included loyal Khoi Cape Mounted Riflemen, locally raised levies and burger forces and Mfengu (Fingo) warriors.

Opposing them, the Xhosa, general led by the wily Maqoma. Siding with the Xhosa were the Khoi rebels of the Kat River Valley, many of them trained soldiers, deserters from the CMR and the Kafir Police, and a small number of British deserters. Three of the last mentioned died during the attack on the rebel-held Fort Armstrong early in 1851, one by his own hand.

The Xhosa had learnt through bitter experience that it was futile to attack fortified positions or even troops in the open where the British square could be deployed and an attacking force decimated by volley fire. They therefore resorted to guerilla warfare, "set piece" battles being the exception rather than the norm.

One of the theatres of operations during that war was known as the Waterkloof Triangle with apex at Post Retief in the North and base on East/West line joining Fort Beaufort and Adelaide. The Triangle encompassed the Kroomie Heights some 1200m above sea level and 800m above the savannah plains below. The flanks, except to the north, are steep and covered in dense mountain forests while the top is a rolling grassy plain stretching to the Winterberg. It is in this area that for 14 months from Jul 1851, the 74th together with other regiments did most of their fighting.

The son of the very wealthy landowner John Fordyce was born in 1807. He had a deeply religious upbringing and his mother wished him to join the Church. He, however, chose a career in the Army, serving in various regiments and eventually rose to command of the 74th Highland Regiment.

On 6 Nov 1851 one of a number of operations conducted in the area was set into motion. Fordyce, commanding Number 2 of the three brigades, approached the area on the heights known as the Horseshoe; he deployed his force and advanced.

Actively moving about, redeploying the guns and directing his troops, Fordyce fell, a musket ball taking him in the chest passing through both lungs. Stretchered some 900m to the rear he was laid in the shade of the "hospital trees" where he died about an hour later. By late afternoon thunder, lightning and an icy rain caused the operation to be abandoned.

On the morning of Friday 7 Nov 1851, the dead and wounded were placed in unsprung wagons and set off for Post Retief some 25km to the North, the wounded in agony as the wagons jolted over the rough track.

On arrival at the Post, the bodies of Fordyce and Lt Herzel Carey were placed in the post's forage store while rough deal coffins were quickly constructed. As these were borne out, through the South gate, the funeral party dripping wet and covered in mud, presented arms. With the pipers playing the lament, the procession, in slow time, marched the few hundred metres down the track to where the graves had already been dug. Capt Duff read the service while thunder rolled amongst the mountains soon to be joined by the reverberation of the three volleys of musket fire as last honours were paid. The same solemn ritual was followed when Ensign Ricketts of the 91st, wounded during the Oct attacks, and Lt Gordon of the 74th, wounded on 6 Nov, died.

Fordyce's body did not rest for long at Post Retief. He had been a member of the Masonic Lodge in Grahamstown and his fellow masons had asked for the bodies to be reburied in that town.

At 16h00 on 28 Apr 1852, the bodies of Lt Col Fordyce and Lts Carey and Gordon reached Fort Beaufort. The Freemasons had sent coffins from there to Post Retief, the bodies exhumed and the coffins in which they were buried placed in those sent. From Post Retief the bodies had been accompanied by three relays of escorts, the first and last consisting of men of the 74th.

When the wagon containing the bodies reached the Victoria Bridge at the entrance to the town, it was met by four Freemasons – BD Bell Cartwright, Sands and JN Wynne bearing a Union Jack half-mast surmounted by compass and square. The mournful procession moved in silence to St John's Church in the following order – the 74th Guard of Honour, wagon, Free Masons distinguished by blue rosettes, civilians of Fort Beaufort and Genl Somerset and Staff. A service was held at the church. The remains of Lt Gordon who was a Catholic were conveyed to the Military Hospital.

A few days later the bodies were escorted to Grahamstown for burial. On 9 May 1852 the funeral procession formed up on the Drostdy grounds and at 14h00 proceeded down High Street to St George's burial ground, the band playing the Dead March of Saul and at intervals the pipes could be heard.

On reaching the burial ground, the body of Lt Carey was taken to the grave and the burial service of the Church of England read. The body of Lt Col Fordyce was then brought to the grave, the service repeated and his coffin placed on top of that of Carey. The master then threw in the scroll on the upper coffin and each of



The monument to Lt Col Fordyce and those who fell with him on 6 Nov 1851.

the Freemasons then came forward and dropped in a sprig of the Acacia tree.

And yet it was not the end of Fordyce's posthumous wanderings. At the request of his regiment or family or perhaps both he was again exhumed and his remains carried across the oceans to Britain. Exactly when this took place is unknown to the writer.

His final resting place is in Kensal Green Cemetery in London. Marked by a large Portland stone pedestal it is located in the



The "Hospital Trees" where John Fordyce died. The fighting took place about 800m beyond the trees.

North West quadrant three rows from the path side. (See Note 1 below.)

In a St Andrew's Day dinner speech in Port Elizabeth on 5 Dec 1851, a monument for Fordyce was mooted. At a subsequent meeting on 16 Dec 1851 the form of the monument was decided upon and funding to be by public subscription. The memorial, which is of white marble, is to be seen in the Congregational Church in Central Port Elizabeth. The inscription reads:

TO THE MEMORY OF
LIEUT. COL. JOHN FORDYCE
OF THE LXXIV HIGHLANDERS
AND OF THE THOSE BRAVE MEN
WHO FELL WITH HIM IN THE
ACTION OF WATERKLOOF
ON THE MEMORABLE 6 NOV 1851.

THIS MOMUMENT IS ERECTED
AS A TRIBUTE OF RESPECT
AND ADMIRATION BY INHABITANTS
OF THE EASTERN PROVINCES OF THE
COLONY OF THE CAPE OF
GOOD HOPE

Note 1. It would appear from email received by the writer that the inscription on the pedestal gives the date of this death as 1848. This is obviously incorrect.

Sources: Milton, John "The Edges of War"

Mostert, Noel "Frontiers"

Tomlinson, Richard "Lt Col John Fordyce and his Monument (Looking Back Vol 45)"



Officer Training Corps

GLASGOW AND STRATHCLYDE UOTC

CO: Lt Col S L E L Jackman TD RLC
 Trg Maj: Major Iain Gwynne SG (to July 09)/
 Major Bill Lindsay LG
 RSM: WO1 Andy McGuffie SCOTS (to July 09)/
 WO1 Robert Whyte SCOTS

This has been another extremely busy, complex, diverse, fun, frantic and different year for all concerned to say the least. The OCdts of the OTC have undergone a wide variety of military and adventurous training and proved themselves in numerous competitions, done adequately well on the sports field but impressively they have conquered El Misti (5825m)! They have been raising money for charity and had it proved to them that employers really are looking for graduates with that added extra value, exactly what they are receiving whilst in the OTC but sadly had their hopes of becoming rich whilst an OCdt in the Corps completely dashed when pay was turned off in the Autumn. The period also included an excellent Passing Off Parade in April for Waterloo Coy (first years) with the salute taken by Brigadier Tom O'Brien, Director Reserves (Army), a Gun Salute to mark the Queen's Birthday at Stirling Castle, success for the CO and RQMS at the Flora London Marathon and a blissfully warm and sunny Annual Camp at Penhale. We have said goodbye to two of our Corps members and welcomed another, recruiting was at an all time high but in these lean times the Corps was told to reduce to 90% of establishment but the year ended on a high with the return of many past members at the first Corps Alumni dinner for some years and what a bash that was!

Following the annual ski trip to Norway, the year commenced with the Corps Winter Camp at the end of January at Barry Buddon, suitably cold to keep the OCdts bright and alert with the aim of introducing the first years to section battle drills and refresh Ypres Coy (second year OCdts) in Section and Platoon tactics. The weekend training in February continued in the same vein but Ypres Coy training was focused on TEWTS in preparation for their Military Leadership Development Programme 2 Exam which took place in mid-March. On Exam day the Corps rolled out the red carpet as the Commandant RMAS was visiting, Major General Rutherford-Jones, but typically the weather was extremely testing with tents blowing everywhere – although formal lunch with silver was still served to the dignitaries in the VIP enclosure, tents being held down by vehicles! Our Spring Camp followed in April with the blisters from the CFT and the drill square (new shoes!) having just healed as the Passing Off Parade took place to mark the first and second year's achievements. A glorious day with the Pipes and Drums resplendent as ever and the weeks of square bashing paying off for all – yes, even the RSM was smiling! A variety of Special-To-Arms training followed with an assortment of competitions which the OCdts thoroughly enjoy and managed to keep the good name of the OTC in the limelight plus they won the Rifle Match at the Brigade SAAM and the Pipes and Drums were announced as the TA Champions at the ASBM&HD.

Summer Camp in June was the finale for the Training Major and RSM as the last event before they were posted. Not sure



Director Reserves (Army), CO and University Military Education Committee.

whose idea it was to cover the length and breadth of Dartmoor in a four-day final exercise but the OCdts will certainly not forget it and neither will the RMO!

The Summer was packed with the OCdts helping to deliver the Army Careers Exhibition with a main arena event, a Signals concentration at Warcop and a MACC task up in the Highlands replacing a footbridge washed away in heavy rain. The highlight of the year, however, was the expedition to Peru which had been researched, planned and delivered for the Corps by the Senior OCdts and was a roaring success deserving of all the blood, sweat and tears that went into it, inclusive of some major fund raising. The new Training Major and RSM arrived on the scene full of enthusiasm in August and on completion of another successful recruiting period were thrown into 'in year' savings measures and the cessation of pay for OCdts. However, not disheartened the students continued to appear and settled well into the new academic year and a new training year with the main highlights being the Armistice weekend, where the university chapel was so full of parents and families that all students had to stand, and nothing could deter from attendance at the Christmas celebrations as the student skits were not to be missed.



MGB Bridge building at main arena at the Army Careers Exhibition.



Army Cadet Force

B (RHF) COMPANY, GLASGOW AND LANARKSHIRE BATTALION

Major John Robertson, OC B Coy

OC: Major John Robertson
 2IC: Capt Derek Coulter
 CSM: SMI Willie Mackie
 CAA's: Lt Alan Liddell,
 SMI Dinger Bell
 HC & BW: SSI Jimmy McConnell,
 SI Alan Crawford

A Platoon RHF Kings Park:

IC: WSSI Lisa Hay
 Instructor: SI Daniel Dunlop

B Platoon RHF Cambuslang:

IC: SMI Willie Mackie
 Instructors: SI Paul Fagan, SI Davie Brown,
 WSI Ann McCormack

C Platoon RHF Easterhouse:

IC: WSSI Sarah Collingwood
 Instructor: SI Robert Black

D Platoon RHF Pollockshaws:

IC: SSI Robert Campbell
 Instructors: SI Peter Traynor, SI Mark Morrison, WSI Kristy Docherty

E Platoon RHF Beardmore:

OC: AUO Billy Lannigen
 Instructors: SI John Swan, WSI Linzi Morrison, SI Paul McBride

F Platoon Maryhill:

OC: AUO Jenny Lake
 Instructors: SI Ricky Thompson, WSI Jenny Noonan, SI Alan Long

Quite a few changes to the ORBAT in this year. We've lost one of our Head Cooks and Bottle Washers, SI John Galbraith to the Pipes & Drums Detachment, a move, which has increased the IQ of both units. Lt Bernie Sweeney has hung up his holster, and is away to the ATC – we wish Bernie all the best in his new adventure. An inter-company transfer has seen Young Dinger Bell moved to D Coy. We welcome SMI Willie Mackie to the Company who has taken command of B RHF and the post of CSM. AUO Jenny Lake has moved from B RHF to fill the vacancy at F RHF. A warm welcome to all my other additions.

At the Lean Cup Air Rifle Competition, E RHF Beardmore were pipped at the post being placed Runners-Up – they finishing with equal points with A Troop RA and just missing out in the shoulder-to-shoulder shoot off by 1 point!! Wow, fantastic stuff from both teams. A wee mention for A RHF Kings Park who were placed 3rd.

Sunday 1st February the Company were privileged to take part in the 50th Anniversary Parade and Church Service. All the cadets who took part were thrilled when the three Colours of RHF were paraded by 2 SCOTS during the procession.

The Company Training Weekend at Dechmont CTC in February consisted of APC Assessments with 24 Basic passes and 18 One Star passes helping to increase the Company's end of year stats.

A return to Warcop for the Battalion Easter Camp is always a hive of activity with small bore and full bore shooting high on the agenda. Some good scores posted, resulted in Classification badges being awarded. The Company's 5s and Tug-of-War produced some fine tussles. Results: E RHF Beardmore were Boys 5s Winners, and Girls 5s Winners were B RHF Cambuslang, Tug of War won by C RHF Easterhouse. At Warcop the results of the Inter-Company Trophy was announced with B Coy winning.

May was up to Garelochhead Adventure Training. Cadets undertook Bronze D of E Award hikes – they left Douglas Pier, Loch Long, up to Lochgoilhead, up over Coilessen Glen, through the Ardgarten Forrest, pitching at Ardgarten, next day round to Arrochar finishing at Creagan Sithe – a good auld walk, a guarantee to clear the cobwebs. Over at the canoeing were six cadets who achieved the British Canoe Union One Star Award for Open Boat, and six cadets gained One Star for Kayak. A lot of hard paddling required achieving both. The rest of our merry band climbed, abseiled, bouldered, and mountain biked to their hearts content.

During June an ascent of Ben More by 2 Cadets L/Cpl JoJo Williams and Cdt John Paul Donnelly both F RHF Maryhill, the Deputy Commandant Lt Col Niall Archibald and RSMI Lynette Brough, accompanied by Capt Alex Sweet OC Recce Platoon 2 SCOTS and nine Jocks, resulted in the summit being a very busy place on Armed Forces Day.

The weather conditions certainly restricted the views but did not dampen the sense of achievement of reaching the summit. LCpl



At the summit of Ben More.



A RHF Drill team.

JoJo Williams commented on how much practical map reading he had gained from Col Archibald. Cdt John Paul Donnelly remarked how tired he was, but it had been worth the effort.

Annual Camp was spent at Sywnnerton, a camp that is becoming well-known to the Battalion now. A brisk start to the fortnight competing in the Inter-Detachment Competition with A RHF Kings Park winning the Drill section,

With E RHF Beardmore second, the overall placing; E RHF runners up, A RHF 3rd. The Company moved out to Leek to take part in more AT (Adventure Training) and with the Roaches just a stone's throw away a chance to get on to some classic Grit Stone – well-spent days away from the main camp.

Once back in camp it was a return to bread and butter; Fieldcraft, Skill-at-Arms, Shooting, Drill, Obstacle Course,

Command Tasks, First Aid – the list is endless. The weather was kind to us this year which is a bonus. During the Drumhead Service the Company provided the Banner Party, a task carried out with great pride.

Camp highlight this year has to be the issue of the new Cadet A2 Rifle – how much easier did it make the running of the FX, if you've experienced the old Cadet GP, you will sympathise. The A2 is already a great addition to the Cadet Armoury.

September, the Coy represented the Battalion at 51 Brigade Military Skills Competition which lasted well over the 3 days at Garelochhead. Our team were happy that their overall scoring had improved – thanks and well done!

In October it was the Bi-Annual Canadian Exchange. Capt Derek Coulter Coy 2IC, two Instructors, SMI Willie Mackie, B RHF Cambuslang, WSSI Lisa Hay A RHF Kings Park and five cadets from the Coy, CSgt Ashley Kerr, Cpl Mary McElinney, A RHF Kings Park Sgt Johnny McGarry E RHF Beardmore, CSM Stacey Vickers, CSgt Andy MacDonald, F RHF Maryhill accompanied the main party to visit the Seaforth Highlanders Cadet Corps in Vancouver.

Capt Derek Coulter reported, "We visited some interesting sites over the 2-week period". The middle weekend of the trip was spent on exercise in the Golden Ears Park with the "Big Brown Bears". This was a great experience and adventure for all involved. They also visited the Seaforth Highlanders Museum,



B Coy Military Skills team.



the 72nd Armouries, military museums, Whistler where the 2010 winter Olympics will be held, an old gold mine, Vancouver Police Museum, and many more great places. A visit to an ice hockey game was a great day with the fights on the rink reminding all the cadets of home!! They also visited four other cadet detachments on the exchange to see how the Canadians train at their detachments.

SMI Willie Mackie has helped with the exchange on their visits to Glasgow. He said, "It was great to be able to visit the friends made over the years through the exchange, the hospitality during the visit was overwhelming." WSSI Lisa Hay said, "The Glasgow & Lanarkshire Canadian Exchange is a great opportunity for Senior Cadets and Adults to interact with new people and participate in new activities. There were plenty of memorable moments from the trip however among my favourites is the breathtaking scenery and the grizzly bears (I don't mean SMI Mackie and Capt Coulter!). I also enjoyed taking a bumpy drive in an old Half Track at the military museum!"

CSM Stacey Vickers remarked, "There was no way I could start to summarise the two weeks spent in Vancouver, words would be unable to do it justice." CSgt Andy MacDonald managed to sum up his experience as "pure quality". Sgt Johnny McGarrys said, "The trip was unbelievable and far too short." CSgt Ashley Kerr said, "Never felt so at home and the people I met were so friendly". Cpl Mary McIlhenny was "totally amazed during the trip". The consensus was that the exchange was an amazing experience for all the adults and cadets who took part. Captain Coulter is looking forward to hosting their return visit to Glasgow in March 2010.

A quick catch-up on some other events; A RHF Kings Park was awarded the Bryce Quaich for Cadet & Community Projects, LCpl David McGatten won the Coy Marksmanship Cup, E RHF Beardmore won the Coy March & Shoot, AUO Billy Lannigan won the Coy Adult Challenge Cup.

Another good year for the RHF Cadets in the Glasgow & Lanarkshire Battalion, but the success and good times enjoyed by the Cadets just does not happen by themselves. A lot of hard work from a lot of people has ensured the success and good times have continued through 2009. I would like to thank ALL who have helped.

WEST LOWLAND BATTATION

2009 was very much a consolidation year for the West Lowland Battalion ACF with both the Commandant and Cadet Executive Officer being new in their posts in late 2008.

The Commandant, Colonel Kevin Connor TD has made changes within the Battalion structure mainly due to the formation of a Support Company. Most people now have clearly defined roles rather than in the past where many had two or three roles within the Battalion structure. Certainly a great benefit to the many volunteers who keep the Battalion going.

Major Ian Mackenzie has now settled into the role of Cadet Executive Officer taking over from Major Bill Mathews. Major Mackenzie's past experience as Quartermaster of Glasgow & Lanarkshire Battalion ACF has helped in the transition period.

Annual Camp 2009

The big event for any cadet battalion is the Annual Camp which, in 2009, was held at Beckingham Training Camp in Lincolnshire. Although only around 240 cadets attended camp (12-year-old cadets were not taken) it went like clockwork. All cadets and adults had a great time and enjoyed all events on offer.

One item that certainly helped in the smooth running was to only have three morning Muster Parades throughout the fortnight camp. For the cadets to be out on the training area for the likes of kayaking or orienteering or the first bullet heading down the range just after 0800hrs was fantastic.

There were a couple of Captains promoted to Major during the Annual Camp period. Alisdair Bunyan took over command of 'C' Company (North Ayrshire) and Kevin Wallace 'D' Company (South Ayrshire). Congratulations to both on their promotions.

The Regimental Sergeant Major, Ricky Ramage completed his two-year appointment as RSM and has now handed over to RSM Campbell Hendry.

On the adult staff side, the Battalion is nearing its establishment. This is the first time in many years this has been obtainable. The Battalion does well in the Sergeants Mess but is still well under strength on the Officers side. Although in the last year we have four new subalterns and we have five undergoing training for Westbury, there are still many vacancies throughout the area.

Life as a Cadet

As always the Battalion takes a group of cadets on an annual pilgrimage to the battlefields of Belgium mainly concentrating on World War One. For many this is a humbling experience with many of the dead younger than the cadets on the trip. Wreaths are laid at significant places like the Scottish War Memorial and Tyne Cote, and the cadets do a Guard of Honour at one of the ceremonies at the Menin Gate.

Each Easter the Battalion runs a Recruit Cadre for those who join the organisation. The main aim is to introduce 12-year-olds to the Army Cadet Force and to get them used to living away from home. For some it is a bit of a shock as they are up at 0600hrs, dressed, boots polished but more so, no 'mum' to run after them. The real gainers are the young people as they meet new friends, some will be for life, as the Battalion has members from Ayrshire, Renfrewshire as well as Dumfries & Galloway.

Senior Cadet Training

One area the Battalion feels it could do better is the retention of senior or older cadets. Many leave at 15 or 16 years old as 'other' interests take over. We now have an officer dedicated to be the Cadet Development Officer. More and more cadets are taking up the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and the BTEC National Diploma in Public Service to give them every opportunity to succeed in their adult life.

For the senior cadets we have now introduced Signals training with more and more becoming competent radio users. In the First Aid front, more are qualifying with First Aid at Work Certificates. They also have their own training weekends covering MOIT and fieldcraft. Cadets are also able to access national governing body qualification in numerous outdoor pursuits.



Senior cadets signals training.

Senior cadet signal training

These additional courses have improved retention of senior cadets and hopefully set them up for life with nationally recognised qualifications. Even in our own Army Proficiency Certificate we have a higher proportion gaining 4-Star with the Cadet Training Teams. Cadet Sergeant Stephen Flynn

from Auchinleck being one – then he was appointed Lord Lieutenant’s Cadet for Ayrshire.

The Future

2010 is Cadet150, the 150th Anniversary of the Army Cadet Force. Whilst it is a year to celebrate we cannot sit back on our laurels. We must get out there and advertise the Army Cadet Force as a worthwhile organisation for young people to try.

We continue to use Craigengillan Estate near Dalmellington as a training area for both fieldcraft and adventurous training. The Estate owner Mark Gibson is keen for all the Army Cadet Force to use his land.

As well as numerous high-profile events during the year, many adults were trained in Heartstart. The Battalion’s intention is for its adults to train people within their communities basic life support. What better advert could the Army Cadet Force have than to enable people to save others’ lives.

The motto of the Army Cadet Force is “Inspire to Achieve” .



Adults launch Cadet150 at Heartstart.



Members of the Tri-Service (Navy, Army and Navy), Cadet Forces at Craigengillan.

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meth'od (mthd) n.

1. A means or manner of procedure, especially a regular and systematic way of accomplishing something; a simple, uncomplicated but professional method for creating a publication; the method of solving problems.
2. Orderly arrangement of parts or steps to accomplish a publication; random efforts lack Method.
3. The procedures and techniques characteristic of a particular discipline or field of knowledge; printing and publishing methods.

[Middle English, from Latin methodus, publishers to the Ministry of Defence since 1964, publications include: Service Community Official Guides in the United Kingdom and Germany, Regimental Journals, Corps Prospectuses, Garrison Magazines, AFF Families Journal, Envoy, Housing Matters, Homeport, Mascot and many others.]



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Home Headquarters

Regimental Secretary: Colonel R L Steele TD DL JP
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Captain K Gurung MBE
Regimental Benevolent Association: Major A D Kenyon

Life continues at its usual fast pace here at Home Headquarters and once again my sincere thanks to our small team – Captain Kamal Gurung, Liz Torrance, Sandy Leishman, Maureen Robertson and our volunteers, David McMaster, Stewart Ferguson, Ken Forsyth, Jim Carrigan, John McPhee, Aimee Burgoyne, Juliet Fellowes-Smith and of course Major Willie (You stole my job!) Shaw continues to provide invaluable support including organising the Battlefield Tour in Germany. I am indebted to them all – without them many important tasks would go undone.

The contribution of our volunteers will become even more significant at the end of March 2011 when our small permanent staff team of five is reduced to three and a half posts as a consequence of the formation of the new SCOTS RHQ. So if there is anyone out there who feels that they could give us some of their time to help in Home Headquarters please contact the Regimental Secretary. Sadly as a result of this review we will lose Captain Kamal Gurung whose attention to detail and knowledge of regulations will be sorely missed.

After the very successful 50th Anniversary on 01 Feb 2009, well reported in our last edition, my main “PXR” point is communication. We need individuals to let us know contact details/e-mail addresses. The more we can do electronically the better as the price of postage is prohibitively high. So I urge everyone to keep an eye on the RHF Veterans’ Forum website and to “cascade” Regimental news/info to friends who may not have access to the internet.

Once again special thanks are due to Alex McDivitt for his tremendous support in organising functions and to Ron Milne for once again keeping the Regimental Secretary out of jail with his accounting advice.

Over the year we have hosted a variety of dinners/lunches and these we are happy to organise for any member of the regiment as well as outsiders, at reasonable prices.

In May the Museum achieved full accreditation with Museum Galleries Scotland, an essential hurdle if we are to continue to receive funding from the MOD. This was the result of much hard work over the year with the final paperwork, a mixture of “SOPs” and “Op Orders” masterminded by Mrs Joyce Steele. Having achieved the required standard we must now ensure it is maintained, hence the need to encourage as many volunteers as possible – for example we are keen to open at weekends and volunteers are the only solution to this problem.

On several occasions we have been delighted to host platoons from 2 SCOTS visiting the museum – an important “SOP” if we are to ensure that our Jocks are made aware of the Golden Thread of their history connecting them to our distinguished predecessors. As always we have entertained many other visitors including some three hundred students from local schools.

In July a team of staff and volunteers took a small part of our Museum Collection to the Great Clan Gathering at Holyrood Park as part of the Home Coming Scotland celebrations.

A tent was set aside for a combined display from each of our regiments and it proved a popular venue for Clansmen and visitors alike particularly as it rained all weekend and our tent was the most comfortable. We met many old friends but the undoubted highlight was when Willie Shaw shot out of his chair and got a grip of the First Minister for the state of his shoes – I am told this is the first time anyone has ever seen Alex Salmond lost for words.

In September Toby Sweeney and the Eastern Branch of the RHF Veterans’ Association organised a very successful Assaye Ball at Ingleston and it was much enjoyed by all members of the Regimental family who attended.

Also that month we took part in “Doors Open Day” in Glasgow. This meant that we opened the Museum on Saturday in accompaniment with other buildings of architectural interest in the City. Manned by volunteers it was a very successful day with many more visitors in one day than we normally get in a week.

At the end of September we held our Regimental Officers’ Dinner and Luncheon at Lincoln’s Inn, London, courtesy of Col David Hills. As usual there were a great many “war stories” swapped old friendships re-established, new friendships made, and both events were much enjoyed by all who attended. In 2010 the Dinner will be held at the New Club, Edinburgh on Fri 03 Sep 2010 and the Luncheon at Glencorse on Sat 04 Sep 2010.

On 27 November 2009 the second last stand of Regimental Colours were laid up in the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle. It was a great day and many Veterans’ present had been on parade when these colours were presented in 1978. It was indeed a memorable day and after the parade guests were entertained at the Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle and afterwards in the WOs and Sgts Mess at Glencorse.

The last stand of RHF Colours (presented in Afghanistan) will be laid up after the new SCOTS Colours are presented in 2011 (date to be confirmed).

That evening many of us enjoyed a Christmas Dinner Dance at the Goodyear Club superbly organised by Steff Stevenson, Rab Crossan and The Glasgow Branch – a fitting end to a great Regimental Day.

Early in the year General Euan presented the Elizabeth Cross to Mrs Rose Gentle here at Home Headquarters in memory of her son Gordon killed in action in Iraq in June 2004. This was done at Rose’s request and we had a short but moving ceremony attended by the Gentle family and several members of the Regiment who served with Gordon.

After a well-earned Christmas break we started the New Year with a bang at a superbly Burns’ Supper run by the Ayrshire Branch, starring a number of well kent cronies. Willie Shaw dropped the Regimental Secretary in Burns’ Statue Square and tells me he last saw him sitting beside the Bard loudly singing “Scots Wa Hae”.

Next on the agenda is the Glasgow Branch Burns’ Supper at the end of February which, if the planning and preparation is anything to go by, is likely to be a huge success.

2 SCOTS have already started their training for their second deployment in Afghanistan later in 2010 and I know I speak for everyone in wishing them all the very best for the Tour.



Articles

EX BOER JOCK 2009 – BATTLEFIELD STUDY AND ADVENTURE TRAINING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Lt M D Oladjins, B Coy 2 SCOTS

As if Ex GRAND PRIX in Kenya was not enough excitement, 22 soldiers from 2 SCOTS immediately preceded it with an expedition to South Africa; aptly named Ex BOER JOCK. Keeping to a very tight schedule the expedition was a combination of Battlefield Study (BS), Adventure Training (AT) and entry in the Ladysmith Swartkop Challenge (LSC). The LSC is a competition celebrating the historical achievements of the Royal Scots Fusiliers (amongst others) during the Boer War. Part international competition, part historical re-enactment, the LSC involves a steep hill, some rope, 22 2 SCOTS volunteers and a naval gun weighing 1.3 tonnes. In 1899 the RSF successfully pulled the gun up Swartkop hill in order to neutralise the deadly Boer artillery. The RSF is an antecedent regiment of the RHF and hence 2 SCOTS and the modern Fusiliers were determined to do their ancestors proud.

The Battlefield Study (BS) aspect of the expedition was very important, especially as much of our funding had come from

52 Brigade and 2 Div to support this theme. The Jocks had read up on the history previously and took a keen interest in the excellent Battlefield tours. On the very first tour at Spion Kop the party had a very close encounter with a female white rhino and her calf. Walking the ground that our predecessors had fought and died for really brought the events to life and provided great historical context. Looking down on the British positions from the well entrenched heights held by the Boers it was easy to imagine the bravery of our forefathers as they advanced into a hail of fire, suffering horrendous losses.

Interspersed with the BS was some AT. The Jocks had a great time white-water rafting on level 4 and 5 rapids on the Tugela River, boarding each other's vessels like seasoned pirates. They then played the part of cowboys during a horseback safari, crossing crocodile infested rivers and open plains just like the Boers had done before them.

The LSC rounded off the expedition perfectly. The Jocks had little training and were of diminutive stature, but they smashed the previous record time set by the Irish Guards. The Lesotho Special Forces (SF) team then beat the 2 SCOTS time with a



Ex BOER JOCK 09 in a snapshot.



squad of giants! Lesotho is a small landlocked country in the highlands of South Africa, and the inhabitants share many characteristics with the Scottish Highlanders of old; hence 2 SCOTS and Lesotho SF got on famously. The 2nd place prize money was donated to a local orphanage and no doubt the rule changes to next year's competition that introduce a weight limit to teams will throw the competition wide open.

Next year 2 SCOTS plan to return to South Africa for an extended period and wrestle the LSC title back from Lesotho, as well as conducting more BS, AT and some charitable work. Special thanks to Charles Aikenhead and Nicki von der Heyde from Campaign Trails and Dave and Jill at EmSeni Camp for making the whole trip so successful.

PLATOON COMMANDING IN KENYA – EX GRAND PRIX 2009

2Lt Mark M C Dowds, B Coy 2 SCOTS

Since joining 2 SCOTS in December 2008, life as a platoon commander has been fast and furious. No sooner had I joined B Coy than I was running transition to field firing ranges and rapidly learning my role both in barracks and whilst training. It was not long before I was truly tested when the Battalion deployed to Kenya in April on Ex GRAND PRIX.

As OC 4 Platoon was running a separate concurrent exercise in South Africa, I deployed with B Coy's advance party as the sole Platoon Commander one week prior to the main body. This allowed us to conduct range recces, plan the initial week of Coy directed training and in the fringes we saw an amazing amount of wildlife. The week was hectic and passed in a blur of paperwork and afternoon runs with the OC (for which we all volunteered of course). However, by the end of the week I was beginning to miss the Jocks and their unique mix of challenges and banter. This feeling was thankfully short-lived and within hours of their arrival at our Battle Camp (AKA: Camp Dixon) we were together as a team again, excited about the various activities that lay ahead.

The first week of training was focussed on conducting live-fire ranges, building on the training that the Coy had conducted at Barry Buddon only a few weeks prior. These ranges saw the Jocks working through from 'pairs' all the way up to, and including, section night attacks and platoon attacks. It was impressive to see how hard the soldiers worked, from the youngest Jock to the Platoon Sergeant, making my job a complete delight. This week also saw us training alongside a platoon from the Kenyan Army. This was a unique experience for all involved: our NCOs acted as range safety for both UK and Kenyan firing and our NCOs were totally aghast and horrified if a single pouch was left open on a B Coy Jock's webbing. However this paled into insignificance in comparison to the 'alternative' 'skills and drills' that the Kenyans employed. I will never forget the look of complete bafflement on the faces of the NCOs the first time we heard the 'count-down' fire control order of "one round rapid fire in 6...5...4...3...2...1 RAPID FIRE!!!" Absolutely priceless.

After the Coy training week we moved from our battle camp to Archers Post. This was where the Coy was really put through its paces. The training consisted of two days Dry Battle Run using the new DTES equipment, before conducting a two day Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise. This was generally considered to be the highlight of the entire exercise; the ranges were well-planned, very realistic and the training value was first-class. It was also the first time I had experienced a range that had live mortar and artillery support, plus the added

firepower of the FSG. These ranges were challenging both on in terms of command and control but also the heat of the African sun meant that the ranges became extremely arduous and it was suicide to try and do anything after 10am on any day. The heat affected a few of the men, with a few minor heat casualties and more than one Platoon Commander feeling less than steady on his feet.

The third phase of the exercise saw the focus shift to Battle Group level and as a result the pace of life which had up until now been hectic, slowed down. After the adrenaline rush of the CALFEX it was a different but equally intense leadership challenge to keep the men focussed for what are the inevitable spikes in activity and lulls in the battle, as your higher headquarters is tested. It certainly afforded me an insight into the amount of planning and coordination required when conducting an attack with three Coy-sized moving parts and all their supporting elements. It was also very insightful to be operating in a far more complex environment that we had done previously on the exercise, with non-conventional threats to consider, as well as local population role players and many different OGDs and NGOs.

The exercise was rounded off with a fantastic Adventure Training (AT) package. By the end of the field exercise I had already got to know the professional capabilities of my men and it was on AT that their characters really came out. On the whole Ex GRAND PRIX was a thoroughly challenging and rewarding experience and a once in a lifetime for many to see such wondrous wildlife. It enabled me to practice the skills and drills I learned in training and allowed me to really get to know my Jocks. A truly invaluable experience.



2Lt Dowds asking for some nav advice.



2 SCOTS ROWALLAN TARGE PATROL COMPETITION

WO1 (RSM) M J McNally

2 SCOTS Rowallan Targe Patrol competition was conducted on Otterburn Training Area (OTA) 22-24 Sep 09. The Rowallan Targe patrol competition goes as far back as 1966 when it was first ever competed for in the Battalion. It is a section commanders competition designed to test the leadership, navigation and military Skills of the Junior Commanders and the Fusiliers within the Battalion.

The competition developed team building within the sections, whilst placing all section members under both mental and physical stress. Throughout the competition sections were required to navigate their way around OTA over a distance of around 70km over demanding and difficult terrain during day and night within 48hrs. As they navigated their way around the training area they were required to visit a number of manned checkpoints (MCP) and RVs. At each MCP sections would be required to conduct a command task, military skills stand or a physical stand at that MCP where they would be scored on their performance during the task.

During the competition sections were tested on the following military skills:

- Navigation by day and night
- First Aid
- C2
- Observation
- Model Building and Military Knowledge
- Vehicle Recovery

The companies fielded as many sections as physically possible and as a battalion we managed to field 23 sections to compete in the competition. Prior to the competition the usual rivalry between the companies was building up and some names of who, they thought, were going to win the competition were being bandied around and the air of competitiveness was clear to see. It was great to see such rivalry and everyone who took part in the competition should be commended for their efforts through this extremely demanding competition.

After the first 24hrs there were a number of section commanders

clearly pushing their sections hard to try and gain some time and distance over the other sections. One of the first sections to start and develop a lead was A Coy C/S A10 Cpl McIlvanney who soon developed an early lead and was also producing some good results at the MCPs. The lead was short-lived as he was required to rest to ensure that he was able to keep his section together. Behind him was C/S C10 Cpl Steff Carr who was starting to gain some ground whilst C/S A10 was resting. Whilst sitting in EXCON with the Battalion 21C we watched as the pin markers got closer and closer then eventually C/S C10 Cpl Carr was leading the pack. He continued to push his section hard and surprisingly they were all in good shape and their feet were all in good order. Towards the end of the competition it was become tight as sections were being deducted penalty points and sections were gaining points for the fastest time, longest vehicle recovery distance and best distance on the PT stand which tightened it all up in the top third of leaders.

After all the penalties, deductions and scoring had been checked and checked again it was clear that we had a winner. C Coy C/S C10 Cpl Steff Carr was the winning section with an overall winning time of 28.00.20 secs an absolutely outstanding performance by him and his section 21C Fus Grant – so well done to both of you for your outstanding performance. Cpl Carr was closely followed by C/S A50 Cpl Bamba Wilson who achieved a finish time of 33.05 secs again another outstanding performance who was closely followed by C/S A30 Cpl Hinges Higgins with an overall time of 34 hrs 25 mins.

During the competition a number of individuals who were singled out for their hard work and outstanding performances were; Cpl Cleland C/S H10 RP Staff who managed to navigate his way and complete the route with a creditable 47 hrs 59 mins with only two members of his section able to complete it with him, Cpl Watts C Coy C/S C30 for achieving the fastest time on the physical stand and C/S H10 Cpl Gunn for achieving the best distance on the vehicle recovery stand.

Overall the competition was a great success and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals for all their efforts in ensuring that the competition went with no hitches at all; Bn 21C, Ops Offr, IO, MTO, RMO, Det Comd, QM (M), RQMS (M), OC HQ Coy, RSO, RSWO, RAOWO, CSgt Kyle and all Stand Commanders.

BOBSLEIGHING JOCK STYLE – EX ICEBREAKER 2009

Cpl Greg Chisholm, B Coy 2 SCOTS

For me, bobsleighbing was something I had watched on television or read about in magazines, not something I ever thought I'd get the chance to do myself. I knew about the Army's participation in winter sports, as a few of my friends had done some of them but it's not something that's publicised as much as, say, football or rugby. Luckily enough our APTCI, Sgt Dy Palmer, was a successful bobsleighter and he introduced it to our Battalion.

Two of our Fusiliers, McKenzie and McClaren had previously been on 'ice camp' to an Olympic track in Igls, Austria, to try their

hand at driving the bobsleigh. Both of them did really well and were told to go back to their Battalion and each find a brakeman to compete in the Army Novice Juniors' Championship. As I was soon to find out, the brakeman's job is to push the bobsleigh which weighs 190kg off of the starting block as quickly as possible so that the final time at the bottom of the track would be reduced. A further task of the brakeman is to stop the bobsleigh at the bottom of the track by yanking on the brake lever which is a lot harder than it looked! I was selected to act as a brakeman for Fusilier McKenzie, whilst LCpl Naqarase was selected for Fusilier McClaren. We also took along Fusilier Nayadravuki as a spare brakeman as injuries frequently happen in the sport (as we found out later) – so it was sensible to have another man stand in rather than to have to drop out of the competition. Once in Austria we immediately started familiarising ourselves with the kit,



learning how to look after it all and get it race-prepared. We also conducted some dry training to get us ready for our first day on the track. We were there for a week so we had five days worth of trial runs before the competition on the Saturday. I can remember the first time standing at the starting block waiting for the light to change; it was the scariest but most exciting feeling I'd ever felt; then we were off and what a buzz it was, faster and faster around the track hitting five-Gs in some of the corners. The track is approximately one mile long and in less than one minute you're at the bottom with your driver shouting 'BRAKE'!!! And then it's all over; heart pumping like mad, your entire body shaking and adrenaline levels sky high.

I found bobsleighbing just like marmite – 'You either love it or you hate it' and for me I was hooked. Through the week we all progressed and the times came down as we got faster start times and faster drive times. Come Saturday we were all well up for it, as the race day nerves kicked in. Everyone was purely focused on one thing and that was winning. We were each to do two runs and the times would be added up at the end. No one really knew who had won as the times are so close with 100ths of seconds in it and then it was announced that Fus McKenzie and I had won. It was a great feeling – only a week before, we had been back in Battalion doing normal duties.

We were asked back to compete for a place in the Army team, which would be held in Italy just two weeks later. During the first two weeks of the Army trials, we were moved around a little to pair us up better and to make the weights more even. This was so that on the third week, when we would compete in the Tri-Service Championships, we would stand the best chance of winning. Finally I was selected for the Army team as a brakeman and I was well chuffed. It had all happened so fast for me. I mean you don't just wake up one day and think to yourself, 'I think I'd be pretty good at that bobsleighbing' and there I was competing for the Army. It was great; three weeks in Italy doing something I'd come to love and meeting a whole load of new people involved in the sport. This time race day was over 2 days with 2 runs each day. My driver was Lamin Deen from the Grenadier Guards and on both race days we had flawless runs. When the overall times came out we finished seventh out of 24 and the Army came second to the Navy, with the RAF finishing third. After the race there were photographers and news reporters all wanting interviews; I ended up in my local newspaper and the event itself had coverage on Sky News. The progression training thereafter is put in place for you if you want it, so you can continue to compete and who knows where it might take you? Some people have ended up in the Great Britain team at the winter Olympics so you never know until you try it and I would recommend it to anyone.

EDINBURGH MARATHON HAIRY HAGGIS TEAM RELAY 2009

– Maj N D E Abram, WO2 (CSM) W Garrick, Fus Watt and Ewan Taylor

A team of four runners, three from B Coy and a civilian, decided to raise money and awareness for Help for Heroes, in memory of the late Sgt Jonathan Mathews, by competing in the Edinburgh Marathon in the form of a relay (the relay competition being named Hairy Haggis Relay). Each leg was broken down into 8.1 miles 5.4, 8 and finally 4.7 miles totalling 26.2 miles.

On the day we met early to ensure we all had our matching running kits and numbers. The atmosphere was buzzing, with other teams and runners alike meeting with anticipation as to what lay ahead. CSM Garrick was at the start jostling for a prime position to put the team (Jog 4 Jon) into a good lead and we were amongst the fastest

15 teams at the change over point. Second up was Maj Abram, already sweating as he waited in the glorious sunshine. Change over complete he was off into the distance. Waiting at the third stage was Mr Ewan Taylor, a 'civvy' on a mission to keep up with the Army lads. Finally the 'glory leg' was run by Fus Watt, who put in a great performance; he had anticipated only a small crowd at the finish and was welcomed by thousands cheering him over the line.

The atmosphere was truly electric, the sun blazing, friends and family waiting and cheering for us all at the end. The day was a great success – we finished in ninth place overall and were the first all male team. We raised a total of £1700 of which a personal donation of £1000 was presented by Jon's wife Shona Matthews. All the proceeds went to Help for Heroes.

The OC, Maj Abram, thought that it was a great day. So much so that B Coy will be running the relay in 2010! They were really pleased with the news.



Ewan (the "civvy") and the rest of the team; WO2 Garrick, Fus Watt, Maj Abram.



RETURN VISIT TO BELIZE AND THE PLACING OF A NEW MEMORIAL BRASS PLAQUE ON THE MEMORIAL CAIRN IN SALAMANCA – IN HONOUR OF RHF AND RDG SOLDIERS KILLED DURING OPERATION IN BELIZE IN 1992

(Editor's Notes: Following is an e-mail addressed to Capt Kamal Gurung, Asst Regt Sec, Home HQ RHF from Harry Mills who made a return visit to Belize in Nov 09 to lay wreaths and install a new memorial brass plaque on the cairn at Salamanca, Toledo District, Belize. The cairn was built in honour of Fus Bruce Luker 1 RHF, Fus Tony McNally 1 RHF, Tpr Shaun Mulroe RDG and Tpr Neville McConnell RDG who were tragically killed in an road traffic accident on a jungle track 2kms south of Salamanca on 18 Dec 92 whilst on an operational tour with 1 RHF in Belize).

Dear Kamal,
Please find below an account of my return visit to Belize to have the memorial brass plaque fixed to the cairn at Salamanca. I hope this will be suitable for the next edition of *The Journal of the Royal Highland Fusiliers*.

After returning to the UK from my previous visit to Belize in November of 2008 I made the decision to arrange this visit and have a suitable brass plaque placed on the cairn which now gives the memorial an identity.

This trip would not have been successful without the help and support from others and I would like to thank them all: to Home HQ and the Regimental Council, RSM McNally of 2 SCOTS who sourced the plaque for me, the whole team at BATSUB for all their kind efforts and to my wife Carla for putting up with me.

My family and I arrived in Belize on the 2nd of November 2009 and settled into our apartment on the outskirts of Belize City, I immediately contacted RSM Steve Cox of BATSUB and made arrangements to meet up and finalise details for the memorial service on the 11th of November and also to have the brass plaque fixed to the cairn. This meeting took place two days later when I found out that the cairn needed some attention due to the adverse weather conditions which they had been experiencing over the year, which left the area waterlogged. The RSM assured me that all was in hand and a small team from BATSUB would prepare the area for the service.



Left to right: Harry Mills, RSM Cox and QM.

On Sunday the 8th of November I attended the Veterans' Service in Memorial Park in Belize City where I met up with RSM Cox. He informed me that himself and a small team from BATSUB had cleared the site and put the plaque in place. The clearing of the site had taken two days of machete swinging and the RSM did resemble someone who had fallen into a wasps nest.

On the 11th of November I met up with the RSM and flight crew from BATSUB and we set off for Salamanca. The weather conditions, on this occasion, were not very good: cloud cover was low and rain was forecast. So in confident spirit we headed south. There was not much to see on route as we flew above the clouds and had the odd buffeting around and then the pilot attempted an approach to Salamanca but on this occasion it was unsuccessful as the conditions were dreadful but exciting (I was thinking, where is that "CAN DO" spirit that I remember the AAC had all those years ago – "probably attached to Health & Safety Executive" sprung to mind). So we flew to Fairweather Camp (formerly known as Rideau Camp) where we landed and refuelled and about one hour later we set off again and this time arrived safely at Salamanca and slightly over schedule.

As I walked to the cairn I realised at that point how much effort the RSM and his team had put into clearing the site for the service. When I saw the cairn and the new memorial plaque in place it brought a tear to the eye and a sense of peace. A small service of remembrance took place and wreaths were laid: the memorial wreath from the Commanding Officer and All Ranks from 2 SCOTS I passed this honour to RSM Steve Cox to lay as I thought this to be a fitting acknowledgment of his efforts. A wreath from BATSUB was laid by the QM and I laid a wreath on behalf of Home HQ, all affiliated Veterans' Associations, friends and families.

Once again thanks to you all for your support and as long as these mature legs work I will visit the cairn over the coming years.

This was a memorable trip for me and I hope it gives families and friends the knowledge that no matter where in the world our lads fall, someone somewhere will hold a candle and remember them.

Yours,
Harry



The Cairn with the new brass memorial plaque, wreaths and Glengarry.

Presentation of Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll



Rose Gentle and family.



Major General W E B Loudon CBE presents the Elizabeth Cross to Mrs Rose Gentle at Home HQ RHF, Glasgow on 18th January 2010.



Major General W E B Loudon CBE presents the Elizabeth Cross to Mrs Gill McDermid at WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Glencorse Barracks on 23rd March 2010.



(Left to right): Major General Euan Loudon, Major Chris Kerr, Gill McDermid, Bernadette McDermid, Kelly McDermid, Laura Kerr, Billy McGregor and WO1 (RSM) Martin McNally.



Laying up of the Colours at Scottish National War Memorial, Edinburgh Castle on 27 November 2009. The Colour Party approaching the Scottish National War Memorial.