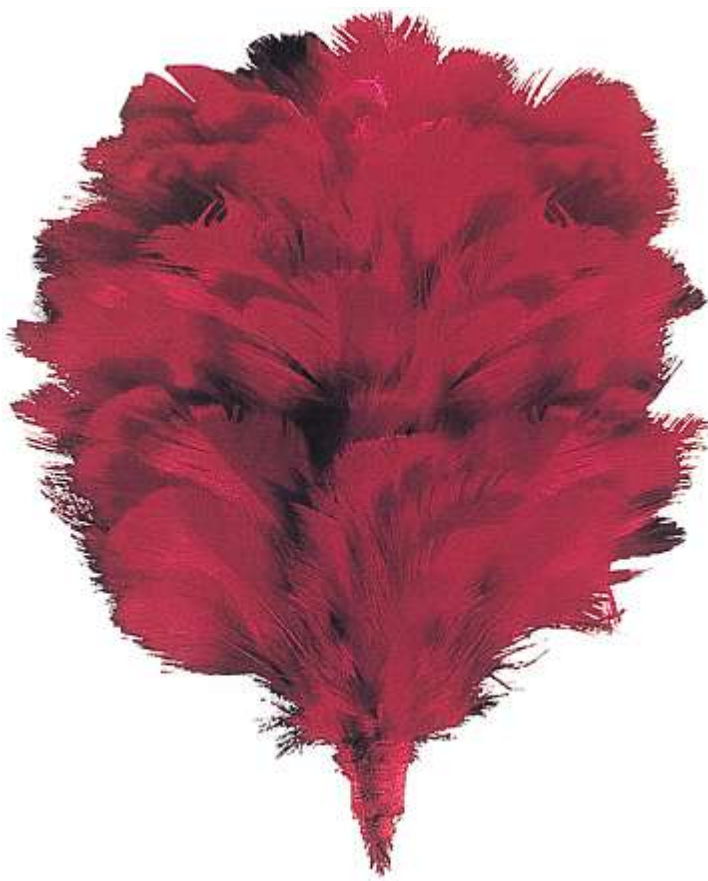


No. 162
November 2016



THE RED HACKLE



DOUNESIDE HOUSE

ROYAL DEESIDE

Treat yourself and your family to the perfect highland holiday. You've earned it.

THE PERFECT HIGHLAND RETREAT IN THE HEART OF ROYAL DEESIDE



Fresh clean air, great hospitality, breathtaking views and so much to do. Treat yourself to the perfect highland holiday at Douneside House, a charming Scottish country house offering holidays subsidised by The MacRobert Trust for all serving and retired officers of the armed services and the reserves. Perfect for young families with excellent facilities including spa, pool, gym and indoor games area.

For reservations and details of our special offers available throughout the year, contact us on **+44 (0)13398 81230** or email **manager@dounesidehouse.co.uk** - See independent reviews on tripadvisor.co.uk/douneside.

ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT IS AVAILABLE TO THOSE ON R&R OR POTL



THE MACROBERT TRUST



DOUNESIDE HOUSE, TARLAND, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB34 4UL SCOTLAND
WWW.DOUNESIDEHOUSE.CO.UK +44 (0)13398 81230 INFO@DOUNESIDEHOUSE.CO.UK

No. 162

42nd



73rd

November 2016

THE RED HACKLE

The Chronicle of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), its successor

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

The Affiliated Regiments and The Black Watch Association



Jock Torrie of The Black Watch Association holds one of the 5,000 ceramic poppies that made up the display Poppies: Weeping Window which was exhibited at Balhousie Castle from 30 June to 25 September 2016. 120,529 people visited Balhousie Castle to view the poppies. (Courtesy D C Thomson)



DEDICATED LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

Providing legal advice for over 100 years
Proactively serving the Armed Forces:

- ▶ **Family, Child & Matrimonial Law**
- ▶ **Property Conveyancing**
- ▶ **Property Shop & Estate Agency**
- ▶ **Wills, Powers of Attorney and Executry**
- ▶ **Commercial Law**
- ▶ **Injury & Compensation Claims**

MN

MUNRO & NOBLE
SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS
www.munronoble.com

26 Church Street, Inverness IV1 1HX
T: 01463 221727 E: legal@munronoble.com

Accountants to The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

For over 60 years the primary concern of Morris & Young has always been to provide sound business advice which is truly appropriate to the client's needs. In order to achieve this it is vital to understand the commercial objectives, structure and nature of each client's business and/or their personal financial aspirations.

Our clients range from private individuals to public limited companies who require a rapid response to take advantage of new opportunities and whose activities may present major tasks requiring specialist knowledge.

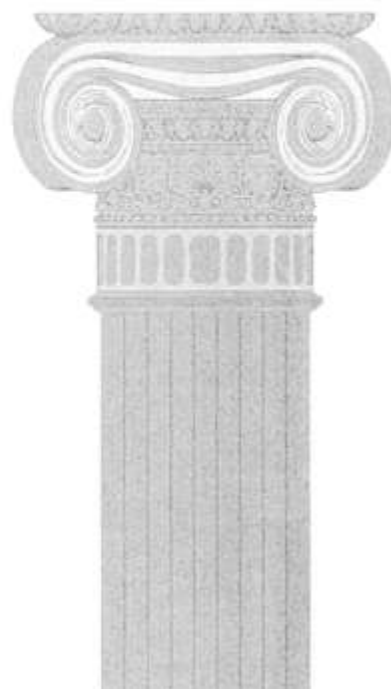
Long connections with **The Black Watch** give the firm a genuine understanding of the needs of those connected with the Regiment.

For a copy of our brochure and/or a no obligation consultation contact Peter Young.

6 Atholl Crescent, Perth PH1 5JN
Tel: 01738 626257
Fax: 01738 630845
e-mail: info@morrisandyoung.co.uk

Registered to carry on audit work by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland and authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for investment business.

MORRIS
&
YOUNG
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



THE RED HACKLE



*The Chronicle of
The Black Watch
(Royal Highland Regiment)
its successor
The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion
The Royal Regiment of Scotland
The Affiliated Regiments
and
The Black Watch Association*

**November 2016
No. 162**

Published for The Black Watch



METHOD PUBLISHING
Sutherland Press House, Golspie,
Sutherland, Scotland KW10 6RA

Telephone (01408) 633871
Fax (01408) 633876

to whom all enquiries regarding
advertising should be addressed.

Editorial Matter and Illustrations
© Crown Copyright

Design and Typography
© Method Publishing 2016

Contents

Editorial	3
Regimental News	4
The Black Watch Museum and Friends of The Black Watch.....	13
Book Review.....	17
Correspondence	18
Obituaries	20
Articles	28
The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	35
51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.....	49
HMS Montrose.....	53
The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada	54
204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery	56
Black Watch Battalion Army Cadet Force	58
Association News	61

Editorial

The Poppies: Weeping Window display took centre stage for the staff of Balhousie Castle and in the twelve weeks it was in Perth, 120,529 people of all ages visited. The shop, café and museum all benefited from this and it is hoped that the Castle and Museum have become better known to a large number of people across Scotland. Over a hundred people volunteered to become Poppy Partners. They acted as guides and they met the public and answered questions and were invaluable in the overall management of the display.

The commemoration of many of the battles fought in 1916 were interwoven with the Poppies display and the Association members have been an important ingredient to the success of the services held to remember the many men of the Regiment who were killed in 1916; the Battles of Sannaiyat, Longueval, High Wood, Beaumont Hamel and the Somme have all been commemorated.

In July the Black Watch Battalion and a detachment from the Association went to France and took part in the interment of the remains of Lance Corporal Morrison who was killed serving with the 1st Battalion in January 1915. His remains were found in 2014 as well as a spoon bearing his Regimental number. From this information i.e. the number, his family were traced and by using DNA samples it was proved that it was indeed Lance Corporal Morrison.

The Battalion have had a busy summer and have been operating together for the first time in many years. Field firing and a test exercise on Salisbury Plain Training Area were the culmination of the training for this year. They now have a chance to draw breath but in 2017 the Battalion will move to a higher state of readiness. A change of command took place on 6 October 2016 and Lieutenant Colonel Alasdair Steele handed over to Lieutenant Colonel Rob Hedderwick who was commissioned into The Black Watch in 2000.

Since 2006 there have been many changes in the affairs of the Regiment and the last six months have seen some of the final moves of this complicated process. The Regimental Trust and the Wavell Appeal Fund have both been wound up and Brigadier Garry Barnett has stepped down from all the Trusts and Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin has handed over the post of Chairman of the Museum Trust to Major General Mike Riddell-Webster.

The opinions expressed in the articles of the magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Regimental Association or the MOD. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient.

"The Red Hackle" is published every six months in May and November. Contributions large and small will always be welcome. They should be typewritten in double spacing on one side of the paper only. Photographs, cartoons and sketches of Regimental interest are also welcome and will be returned if requested.

All material for inclusion in the various issues must reach the Editor not later than 1 April and 1 October respectively.

From 1 January 2013, bulk orders are supplied at a rate of £7 per copy. Individual copies are sent out to permanent subscribers, both in the UK and abroad, at a subscription rate of £14 annually for UK subscribers, £30 annually to Europe and £30 annually Worldwide by airmail. A Gift Aid Scheme is available for individual subscribers who are subject to UK tax. The magazine fund benefits from tax reclaimed in this way. All subscriptions should be sent to the Editor, The Red Hackle Magazine, Balhousie Castle, Hay Street, Perth PH1 5HR, and those interested in the Gift Aid Scheme, will on request be provided with the correct forms for completion.



Regimental News

DATE	FORECAST OF EVENTS 2017 EVENT	LOCATION
14 January	Edinburgh Branch Ceilidh	Edinburgh
20 January	Dundee Branch Red Hackle Dinner	Dundee
28 January	Angus Branch Burns Supper	Forfar
4 February	Perth Branch Burns Supper	Perth
8 March	London Branch AGM and Lunch	London
17 March	Association Trustees and Executive Committee Meeting	Perth
24 March	Fife Branch Rhine Crossing Dinner	Kirkcaldy
21 April	Melvin VC Ceremony	Kirriemuir
29 April	Association AGM	Perth
6 May	Edinburgh Branch Al Basrah Dinner	Edinburgh
13 May	Highland Branch Aberfeldy Dinner Night	Inverness
21 May	Aberfeldy Muster and Lunch	Aberfeldy and Kenmore
26 May	Friends' Cocktail Party	Perth
12 June	Officers and Ladies Lunch	London
16 June	Regimental Golf Meeting	Muckhart
17 June	Reunion	Perth
17 September	Fife Branch Alma Lunch	Kirkcaldy
7 October	Perth Branch Croix de Guerre Dinner	Perth
27 October	Association Trustees and Executive Committee Meeting	Perth
27 October	Officers' Gathering Dinner	Perth
10 November	Balhousie Castle Remembrance Service	Perth
12 November	Cenotaph Remembrance Parade	London
23 November	London Branch Dinner	London
16 December	Officers' Regimental Ball	tbc
tbc		
19 December	Perth Branch Christmas Buffet and Drinks	Perth

THE REGIMENTAL HISTORY – VOLUME 2

Although the title of the second volume of the regimental history, which has been researched and written by Victoria Schofield, has not been confirmed, it will be published in the Summer of 2017.

CHANGE OF COMMAND – THE BLACK WATCH, 3rd BATTALION THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

On 6th October 2016 Lieutenant Colonel R S J Hedderwick took command of The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland from Lieutenant Colonel A F L Steele.

Lieutenant Colonel Rob Hedderwick was commissioned in 2000 after being educated at Radley College and Newcastle University and

joined the 1st Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment). His early career included tours of Kosovo, Iraq (Op TELIC I & 4) and Northern Ireland as the Close Observation Platoon Commander. In addition to this he also deployed to Afghanistan as the Task Force Helmand Operations Officer with Headquarters 52 Infantry Brigade.

After promotion to Major, he commanded Alpha (Grenadier) Company, The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland from 2011 to 2013 which included Op HERRICK 15 and three months as Commander of Her Majesty's Royal Guard. Staff appointments have included a tour in the armoured vehicles procurement team and two and a half years as Military Assistant to Director Capability in Army Headquarters. Promoted in 2015, he assumed command of the Battalion in October 2016.

He is married to Charlotte and has three children, Florence, Sholto and Isabella.



Lieutenant Colonel R S J Hedderwick took command of the Battalion on 6th October 2016.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the late Dr Tom Renouf MM on the award of the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2016.

To Captain A McEwen on the award of the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2016.

To Lieutenant Colonel A D MacGillivray on his selection for promotion to Colonel.

To Lieutenant Colonel R F Sandford on his selection to command HQ Regiment ATC Pirbright in August 2018.

To Major (for Lieutenant Colonel in 2017) W A Colquhoun on his selection to command ITC in November 2018.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Black Watch Battalion Army Cadet Force.

To Major K Douglas, Major S Truscott and SSI Kirkland on the award of the Lord Lieutenant's Meritorious Service Medal.

To Cadet Sergeant Major William Rae and Cadet Sergeant Michael Robertson who were appointed to be Lord Lieutenant's Cadets for Fife and Perth and Kinross.

REGIMENTAL AND WAVELL TRUSTS

Brigadier G C Barnett as Chairman, and the Trustees of the Regimental and Wavell Trusts made the decision to close both Trusts and to pass the remaining funds to The Black Watch Association and The Black Watch Museum Trust.

This was authorised by the office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and the remaining funds from The Regimental Trust were passed to the Association.

The funds from the Wavell Trust were passed to the Museum Trust.

COLONEL OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

It has been announced that Her Majesty The Queen has agreed the appointment of Major General R B Bruce CBE DSO of The Royal Regiment of Scotland in succession to Major General J M Cowan CBE DSO with effect from 2nd July 2016.

BATTALION SUB EDITOR

The Battalion Sub Editor for this edition of the magazine is Captain L W Hawke.

THE BATTLE OF SANNAIYAT: 22nd APRIL 1916

By Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin KCB CBE

Editor's Note: On Friday 22 April 2016, the Battle of Sannaiyat was commemorated at Balhousie Castle and Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin read the narrative of the battle.

The battle we commemorate today had its origins at the end of 1915. On the 3rd December the 6th (Poona) Division of the British Indian Army under General Townshend reached the town of Kut located in a great loop on the River Tigris where it is joined by the Shatt el Hai river. The force soon found itself surrounded and besieged by the Turks. In the early weeks of 1916 various unsuccessful attempts were made to break the siege by advances upstream from the east. The so-called First Battle of Kut, in fact a series of engagements, began on the 5th April 1916, and marked the final British attempt to break the siege and rescue the 10,000 men trapped there.

The relief operation was under the command of the allegedly resolutely unpopular General George Gorringe. His force numbered around 30,000 men, roughly matching the Turkish forces opposed to him.

Despite some limited success astride the river at Fallahiyeh and then Bait Isa in the first two weeks of April, Gorringe had still not been able to break through to Kut, some 15 miles away as the crow flies. Commanded by Khalil Pasha, the Turkish grip was too strong and his forces had already inflicted significant casualties on the British as they had tried to force their way through. By now news had reached Gorringe that the Kut garrison's supplies would finally run out on 24th April after which they would have to surrender, so a final attempt was planned for the 22nd.

The objective was Sannaiyat on the northern bank of the Tigris. Because of the nature of the terrain, it was not possible for more than one brigade to attack at once. The job was given to 19 Brigade supported by the Highland Battalion, made up of the remnants of 2nd Black Watch and 1st Seaforth Highlanders both of which had suffered very grievously during the abortive relief operations in January and February and had to be amalgamated to create a single viable battalion.

On 22nd April the attack was launched. Once again, the Turks were in too strong a defensive position and despite getting into the front line trenches, the assault forces could not hold their position. According to the Regiment's History of the Great War, 'The supply of grenades, always meagre during these operations, had run out, and the majority of the rifles had become so clogged while the men were wading through the deep mud that the bolts jammed and the rifles could not be fired. Nearly all the officers had fallen, and it was evident that the impetus of the attack was at an end.'¹

The Highland Battalion was reduced to a 'mere skeleton.' Among the 124 Black Watch men we honour today, two were killed in France – George Bremner of the 5th Battalion and William Paton of the 7th Battalion. Amongst those who fell at Sannaiyat were twin brothers, David and George Anderson. Another who took part in the battle was Lieutenant Brykie Cumming who had written home on the eve of the battle saying: *'My Dearest all, How goes it? The heat here is pretty annoying and the dust appalling. Beyond a certain liveliness there is nothing doing. We occasionally give the Turk a hot time with shells etc, and yesterday had a fine bombardment. The fireworks are all on our side as he has next to no artillery....please send some writing paper and also envelopes which won't stick owing to heat. Not foreign thin ones... heaps of love to you all and heaps of kisses. The heat makes me rather fatigué. Your ever loving son Brykie. P.S. I am just trusting that God will be as good to us all as He always has been and that I may be returned to you safe and sound by His Own Goodness and Mercy.'*² His prayers were not answered for he too was killed at Sannaiyat.

According to General Sir Neil Ritchie, who was present at the battle, the casualties were such that by the end of April he found himself, then a junior 2nd Lieutenant, as the senior officer of The Black Watch left in that theatre of war. *'The conditions were extremely unpleasant, the flies unbelievable'*, he reported.³

No further attempts at relief were made save for a final, desperate effort to send supplies through to Kut aboard an armoured supply ship: this also failed. This sealed the fate of the force which, at last out of supplies, surrendered unconditionally to the Turks on the 29th April 1916, seven days from today 100 years ago.

1 Wauchope, History of The Black Watch, I, p.229. 2BW casualties: 10 officers and 321 men; Seaforths: 9 officers and 233 men.

2 Lt A.B. Cumming, 2BW, to My Dearest All, from The Trenches, 21 Apr 1916, p.48, BWRA 0924.

3 Gen Sir Neil Ritchie, 2BW, Recollections, p.16, BWRA 1025.83.



Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin reads the narrative of the Battle of Sannaiyat.



Members of the Association place crosses on the Great War "Memorial Wall".



Alistair Duthie plays the Lament and the Branch Standards are "dipped".



**Dingbro Inverness & Perth Branches
would like to support
The Black Watch**

Our fine and outstanding Regiment



Supporting Today's Widows

www.armywidows.org.uk

Email: info@armywidows.org.uk

0300 666 0136

Registered Charity No: 1127291

KARACHI COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVE CEMETERY (CWGC)

A relative of Colonel David Arbuthnott, whilst travelling in Pakistan, visited the Karachi CWGC and found two Black Watch graves. The 2nd Battalion were based in Napier Barracks Karachi in 1946.



A general view of the Karachi Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery.



The grave of Lieutenant J MacL Wormwell who was attached to the Royal Garhwal Rifles. He had been granted an Emergency Commission in December 1945 and died aged 20 on 15 December 1946.



The grave of Private Horsfield in the Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery in Karachi. He drowned at Manora whilst swimming. He was serving with the 2nd Battalion and his death is recorded in the January 1947 Red Hackle Magazine.

THE BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION AGM 2016

At the Association AGM held on Saturday 23 April 2016 amendments to the Constitution and Rules were proposed and adopted.

To allow members of the Association to have a record of the amendments that can be inserted into their Constitution and Rules, they are published below.

It is recommended that you cut out the amendments and insert them in the Constitution and Rules booklet.

BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION AGM AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES

In accordance with rule 35 (Alteration of Rules) of the Constitution and Rules, Members approved the following changes to the Constitution and Rules at the 2016 AGM.

To insert a new paragraph 1a;

As a result of the donation made at the time of the dissolution of The Black Watch Regimental Trust Fund, the Trustees and Executive Committee of the Association may also make grants to The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland for its improvement, efficiency, benefit or for the welfare of the battalion.

Insert a new paragraph 6c;

To apply funds for the improvement, efficiency, benefit or welfare of The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, in accordance with the general spirit of the Black Watch Regimental Trust Fund's original purposes.

At paragraph 7h;

Delete Black Watch Wavell Appeal Fund **Insert** The Black Watch Museum Trust.

At paragraph 40;

Delete Wavell Appeal Fund **Insert** Museum Trust Fund.

THE BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION APPEAL TO ALL DEMOBILIZED AND DISCHARGED MEMBERS OF THE BLACK WATCH

Editor's Note: An envelope of documents was recently donated to the Museum and inside the envelope were many London Branch Dinner cards which included menus and programmes of entertainment from the 1920s and 1930s and up to the 1960s. Also enclosed was the original appeal for men to join the newly formed Association and the first set of Rules of the Association dated 1920.

They are both reproduced below in their original form with spelling and grammatical errors.

The first copy of the Red Hackle Magazine published in April 1921 records notes from Branches in Auchterarder, Crieff, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Kirkcaldy, Leven, London, Montrose, Perth and St Andrews. The Central Committee noted that at the end of 1920 membership was increasing rapidly;

Officers – Annual Subscribers 150

– Life Members 366

WOs, NCOs and men – Annual Subscribers 2716

– Life Members 440

The Finance Committee dealt with 114 applications for relief and 98 grants were made. The Association also successfully placed members who were incapacitated in the Great War, in cottages, in which they lived rent free. These cottages were provided by the Scottish Veteran's Garden City Association (now rebranded as Houses for Heroes).

As the result of a decision made in autumn 1919 Dunalistair House, The Black Watch Memorial Home, had been purchased and was undergoing refurbishment, all paid for by public subscription. The amount raised by April 1921 stood at £42,000.

Nearly 100 years later the Association continues to support Black Watch veterans and their families.

Appeal For Men To Join The Association (1919)

Have you joined The Black Watch Association yet? Do you know what it is and what it does? It comprises all Officers and Other Ranks of every Battalion of The Black Watch. It helps place men in employment; it helps the man who is down on his luck; it helps the dependants of men who have served and given their lives in the Regiment. Last, and not least, its duty is to keep the "Red Hackle" always in the position it holds to-day – the glorious and respected emblem of Scotland's oldest and most famous Highland Regiment.

It is almost 200 years since the Regiment was raised, and in nearly every campaign since then The Black Watch has borne a heavy and honourable share of the trials and privations, as long lists of glorious dead and many honours and awards bear witness.

During the Great War the traditions of the Red Hackle have been most worthily sustained, not only by the few hundred men our pre-war organization allowed, but by 76,000 men who have left home and comfort to do their bit under the most appalling death-dealing conditions human ingenuity could devise.

Nearly 8,000 paid the price of victory with their lives. We, who are left, owe it to them to keep up the traditions and record of The Black Watch, the Regiment they loved. There is no way in which you can carry out their wishes better, than by joining the Association. Through nearly five years of war, Scotland read with ever-growing pride of the deeds of her sons in every theatre, but of none was she prouder than of those performed by her oldest and premier Highland Regiment.

The Black Watch and the Red Hackle are names loved and respected by friends and feared by foes; they stand for Honour and Glory. Will you carry on the traditions of the Regiment and join The Black Watch Association. If so, **DO IT NOW.**

Rules Of The Black Watch Association (1920)

Rules

1. Title – The Association shall be known as "The Black Watch Association."

2. Composition – Composition of the Black Watch Association.
(a) The Governing body – Patron, HIS MAJESTY THE KING: President, The Colonel of the Regiment; Vice-Presidents, The Lords Lieutenant of Perthshire, Fife and Forfarshire; the Lord Provosts of Perth and Dundee; The Officers Commanding 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions The Black Watch and Highland

Cyclist Battalion; six others may be elected annually; Chairman to be elected every three years; Honorary Treasurer, Officer Commanding Depot, The Black Watch; Secretary, a paid Secretary.
(b) A Central Committee consisting of any of the above, one other rank from each of the above Battalions, and one representative from each branch (who may be the Hon. Secretary).
c) A Finance Committee consisting of the Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, and five others. Three to form a quorum. Two signatures will be required to operate the funds.

3. Branches – In addition to those branches existing at Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Perth and Sydney. N.S.W, branches will be established by the Central Committee where they consider necessary in the Empire. Each Branch will be managed by the Committee consisting of a President, Vice-President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer, which last two offices may be conjoined. All to be elected by the Branch. Two members shall retire annually, but will be eligible for re-election. Two signatures of the Branch Committee other than the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer will be required to operate the funds. An Honorary Secretary will be nominated by the Commanding Officer of each Battalion. All ranks serving at the Depot are eligible to become members of the Perth Branch.

4. Objects of the B.W.A. – 1, to cement the true comradeship and good-fellowship of all ranks which existed when serving with the colours, and to uphold the glory and high traditions of the old regiment in which all have served or are serving. 2. To help destitute comrades or dependents of deceased comrades who are in adverse circumstances. 3. To assist in finding employment for our comrades. 4. To encourage recruiting and ensure that young men joining the colours shall in every way be worth of following those who have made our famous regiment what it is. 5. To make the 5th January each year a "Red Hackle Day", and where possible have some form of local re-union of Black Watch Men.

5. Membership – All Officers, W.O's, N.C.O.'s, and Men who are serving or who have served in any battalion of The Black Watch (which includes Regular, Service, Special Reserve, Territorial, and Volunteer Battalions prior to 1906) are eligible to become members.

6. Honorary Members – Any person resident within the 42nd Recruiting Area, or if residing elsewhere, and in any way connected with the Regiment, may become an Honorary Member subject to the approval of the Branch Committee concerned and subject to Rule 15.

7. Subscriptions – Officers, past and present, 5/- per annum or £2.10/- as Life Member. To be paid to the Treasurer, Central Committee, in all cases. Serving W.O's, N.C.O.'s, and Men, 2/- per annum or £1 as Life Member. To be paid to the Treasurer, Central Committee, before 5th January each year through the Honorary Secretary of their battalion. Other Members 2/- per annum or £1 as Life Member. To be paid to the Branch Treasurer by 31st December each year and placed to the credit of the Branch.

The above mentioned subscriptions are a minimum, but it is hoped that all members who are in a position to do so will contribute larger amounts. Subscriptions of members will be entered by the Branch Hon. Treasurer or Secretary on a card, which will be retained by members, in case they wish to transfer from one branch to another. Any member one year in arrear of payment of his subscription subsequent to 1919 will be liable to be struck off the roll of the Association. Members thus struck off the roll shall have no claim on the funds of the Association, nor will they be entitled to any refund of their subscriptions.

8. Funds – The Funds of each Branch will be managed as their Committee may direct. Accounts shall be audited within 21 days of the last payment on 31st December.

9. Accounts And Roll Of Members – Each Branch shall submit not later than 31st January annually a statement of accounts for the receding year ended 31st December, together with a roll of Members and Honorary Members and their addresses.

10. Meetings Of C.C – The Central Committee shall meet in April and October each year at Perth as may be arranged by the Chairman and Secretary, and as often in addition as may be required. One Member from each Branch should attend. The travelling expenses of the Branch Member attending and 10/- to cover loss of wages will be defrayed from the Central Funds. This will be increased to £1 for Members coming from London Branch.

11. Annual Statements – The Central Committee shall issue annually

a Statement of the Association Accounts as soon as practicable after the receipt of Branch Statements.

12. Alteration Of Rules – Any Branch proposing the alteration of a rule shall give one month's notice of the alteration in order that all Branches may be enabled to discuss the proposed change.

13. Annual General Meeting – The Annual General Meeting will be held at the H.Q. of one of the Branches on the last Saturday in April each year, commencing at Perth for the year 1920. At every Annual General Meeting it will be announced where the Meeting for the following year will take place. The Branch at which the Annual General Meeting is held will make all necessary arrangements and take the opportunity to assemble as many of its Members as possible to meet the Central Committee. At each Annual General Meeting the President or one of the Vice-Presidents of the Central Committee will preside.

14. Right of Appeal – If any Member considers himself to be aggrieved by the action of a Branch Committee, he may appeal to the Central Committee whose decision shall be final.

15. Benefits – Honorary Members are not entitled to any benefits from the funds.

16. Red Hackle Day – The 5th January will be known as "Red Hackle Day" being the anniversary of the day on which The Black Watch by their conspicuous bravery at Guidermalden in the year 1795 won the Red Hackle. It is hoped that on this day such festivities as concerts, dances, etc., or any other form of entertainment will be held by Battalions of the Regiment and Branches of the Association.

16a. – A Miniature Red Hackle will be worn on Red Hackle Days and on such social and other occasions as Branches may consider advisable. The Hackle will be worn behind and above the Association Badge on the left lapel of the coat, and is not on any account to be worn without the Association Badge.

17. Association Badges – Any Member is entitled to wear the badge of The Black Watch Association, which it is hoped will be worn at all meetings and re-unions of the Association.

18. Investment of Donations – Any donation to the Central Fund of £100 and upwards shall be invested, unless otherwise allotted by the donor.

19. Annual Report – An Annual Report and List of Members will be issued by the Secretary before 1st April each year.

The Constitution and Rules of the Association were most recently rewritten by the Association Vice Chairman, Lieutenant Colonel R M Riddell and were adopted in April 2012. Copies can be sent out from Balhousie Castle if you do not have your own.

THE NATIONAL MALAYA AND BORNEO VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Between 1948-1966 the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom, together with Commonwealth Forces, fought campaigns in South East Asia which had long lasting and beneficial effects on the peace of the region. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of operations.

In Malaya, attempts by Communist terrorists to seize power by force were defeated and Malaya and Singapore gained their independence. Following this, in the Borneo territories, attempts by Indonesia to subvert Brunei and to prevent the formation of Malaysia, by provoking insurrection were similarly defeated.

Peace came on 11 August 1966; a peace that brought an end to the strange undeclared war in Borneo, a war that rarely hit the headlines.

Although The Black Watch did not serve in that Theatre of Operations, individual officers and soldiers did and three were killed.

Lieutenant John Nigel Rolls Hoare MC – 12 November 1949 (attached to 1st Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders).

Lance Corporal George MacKay – 12 November 1949 (attached to 1st Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders).

Captain Roland Burch Tarleton – 12 April 1952 (attached to 5th Battalion Malay Regiment).

The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Association (NMBVA) was founded on 1st June 1994. Its motto is "Bono Animo Este";

Be of good courage. Its aims are to bring together in true comradeship those who served in Malaya, Borneo, Republic of Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, during the Second World War, the Dutch East Indies Insurrection, the Borneo Indonesian Confrontation and thereafter in the above countries.

THE HONOURABLE ALEXANDER JAMES YOUNGER

Sandy Younger, the second son of the 3rd Viscount Younger of Leckie and brother of the late former Secretary of State for Scotland died aged 83 on 21 July 2016. Although he was commissioned into the Argyll and

Sutherland Highlanders he served with the 1st Battalion The Black Watch in Korea and was wounded after a very short period in the front line.

He attended the 50th Anniversary dinner of the Battle of the Hook but sadly ill health prevented him attending the 60th Anniversary dinner.

He was a director of a number of publishing companies and was Managing Director of Robert MacLehose & Co Ltd from 1968-1977.

EARL OF STRATHMORE AND KINGHORNE

Michael Glamis, the great, great nephew of the late Colonel-in-Chief died on 27 February 2016 and his eldest son Simon Patrick Lord Glamis succeeded to the title and is now the 19th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne.

On 20th September 1998 the Colours of the 1st Battalion (1975-1996) were laid up in the presence of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother at Glamis Castle. The parade involved both the 1st and 3rd (Volunteer) Battalions and the late Earl received the Colours into Glamis Castle for safe keeping.

BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION GOLF MEETING

By Major (Retd) Alex Stewart BEM

The annual Black Watch Association Golf Meeting was held at Muckhart Golf Club on 17th June. We had another very successful meeting despite some pretty poor weather. Nothing puts off the stalwarts of The Black Watch and everyone taking part thoroughly enjoyed the day and the challenges thrown up. That said, perhaps there were a couple of players who enjoyed the day less than others – more to follow.

We very much hope that we can get some more players joining us from the Black Watch Battalion next year and in the future. Sadly only one player this year was able to take part due to their commitments. Nevertheless, it was great to see so many of the same old faces turning up – and equally good to see some playing for the first time. Anyone who has taken part is encouraged to spread the word about this excellent fixture which is strongly supported by the Black Watch Association and our headline sponsor Sidey Ltd.

The poor weather, which has been a feature for most of this summer, played a part in the competition. Nevertheless there was still some excellent scoring by several players but nobody more so than our champion golfer. David Thomson, at 77 years young, managed to score a gross 79 which is outstanding in any company. Nobody could touch him on the day but Rory McIntyre, who won the best Net with a score of 69 and Dave Smith, who had the best Stableford with 38 points, both gave it a good go! Overall, the golf was played, as always, in the right spirit and everyone attending had a great time meeting up with old pals and enjoying a fine day's golf in the beautiful surroundings of the Ochils. In the afternoon, we played a 9 hole team Texas Scramble and the winning team was Gary Liddell, Wink Greer and Toosh McCarroll. It was also pleasing to see the team in second place included Simon Dunn from Sidey Ltd and Col (Retd) Alec Murdoch the Chairman of the Black Watch Association. Of course they were ably assisted by Alan McDougall. There were, of course, the usual novelty prizes thrown in for good measure.

It was suggested above that maybe some did not enjoy the day as much as others. And this is a salutary tale for those of you out there who believe that golf is a non-contact sport or, perhaps, not even a sport at all. Allan Cammock was about to tee off on the 14th hole when the group behind were coming up the 13th. This group included Dougie Graham who had hit a slightly wayward drive on to the 14th. Dougie spotted his ball but also spotted Allan on the next tee so he decided to stay in the relatively safe cover (he thought) of the trees. Luckily for Dougie, just as the ball was struck, he turned his back to dislodge some debris from his teeth, otherwise the ball which hit him on the back of the head would have hit him square in the face causing immeasurable damage. (Authors Note: I can already hear the jokes about the improvements that might have been made.) As it was, Dougie sustained a nasty cut to his head which required immediate first aid and, subsequently, hospitalisation. Luckily for him one of the Muckhart members, Mrs Jan King was on hand to provide the immediate treatment required and she stayed with Dougie until the ambulance arrived. After a night in hospital and scans which confirmed that he does indeed have a brain, Dougie was allowed home to convalesce. He is clearly fully recovered as a group of Black Watch golfers (Dougie and Allan included) prepare to head off for a mini golf tour in Spain!

There are, of course, people to thank for their support with the Regimental Golf. Firstly, the Association Trustees who pledge a

healthy subsidy which enables planning for the event to go ahead with confidence. Without this promise of support, we could not even get off the ground. Secondly our sponsors. Sidey Ltd have been our headline sponsor for a number of years now and it is hard to imagine us going forward without them – their support has been invaluable, even more so this year, and enables us to provide the prizes for the competition and much more. And finally, the golfers themselves. Many travel great distances to take part, and a few (quietly in the background) provide additional prizes to support the day. All are welcome, and if they come bearing gifts, even more so!

The event has become an important date in many calendars and for many Regimental golfers it is the highlight of their year. It is not just the golf but the tremendous comradeship felt and enjoyed by those taking part and for most, the latter is the most important aspect. Next year's event will take place again at Muckhart on 16th June 2017. This is an excellent day with full catering and can be enjoyed by Black Watch Association members and serving members of 3 SCOTS. Full details are contained at <http://www.societygolfing.co.uk> by going to Access your Society area and entering the username 'blackwatch' and the password 'fortytwa'. Anyone who is not already listed as a member on this site but would like to play, or just to be added for future years, should get in touch with Maj (Retd) Alex Stewart at akstewart42@btinternet.com



The Main Prize Winners from left to right Simon Dunn, Sidey Ltd, Dave Smith, Dave Thomson, Rory McIntyre, Col Alex Murdoch and Maj Alex Stewart.



Dogie Graham recovering after being struck by a golf ball.

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

On the 12th of March 2016 a memorial to The Black Watch soldiers killed during the Korean War was dedicated at Loch Kinellan, Strathpeffer. This had been the brainchild of Kenny Stewart, a Black Watch soldier who served in Korea with the 1st Battalion. Sadly he died a few weeks before the dedication could be carried out (see obituary on page 17 May 2016 Red Hackle Magazine).

The Reverend Peter Donald, the Honorary Chaplain for the North East Scotland Branch of the British Korean Veterans Association conducted the ceremony which was attended by amongst others Harold Davis, another Black Watch Korean War veteran who cut the ribbon. Lieutenant Angus Bullen and Pipe Major Alistair Tripney from Fort George also attended the Service of Dedication.

The seven ton stone came from Duran Croft, Achterneed which is where Kenny Stewart was brought up.

The family were sent a very personal letter of condolence by the Korean Defence Attaché in which he expressed that all Koreans feel immense gratitude toward the brave veterans who fought to secure the freedom and prosperity that the people of the Republic of Korea enjoy today.

None of this would have taken place without the hard work of the Stewart family.

THE RAIN (KOREA 1950) from Pick and Shovel Poems

Editor's Note: Whilst this poem may have been published in the Red Hackle Magazine before I thought that the poem, written by Sergeant Ian Kaye of The Black Watch, would remind readers of the battle soldiers faced against the elements let alone the enemy whilst serving in Korea.

THE RAIN (KOREA 1950)

The rain obscuring distant hills
The blinding rain that soaks you through, and kills
The cooking-fires at birth

The rain that trickles slowly down your neck
The pouring rain, the sodden kit, and mud that wrecks
A fighting-man's morale

The rain that soaks the soldiers' bed
The living rain that patters gently on the dead
And fills their eyes with tears

The rain that rusts the tanks and guns
The steady rain that drips off tangled wire, and runs
In rivers down the trench

The rain obliterating guardian flares
The midnight rain that makes the watchful sentry stare
At silent shifting shadows

The rain never will you e'er forget
The streaming rain that foiled each hoarded cigarette
And blurred the precious mail

The rain beats now on cosy cottage walls
The friendly rain that makes each one of us recall ...
But they who share the hearth know not



The Korean War Memorial by Loch Kinellan was dedicated on 12 March 2016. The inscription reads "Remembering Those Who Died In the Korean War 1950-1953" and "Time May Pass and Fade Away but Memories Will Always Stay, You Will Never Be Forgotten".



Pipe Major Alistair Tripney plays a lament.



From left to right. Three Korean War veterans Harold Davis (BW), Adam Mackenzie (A & SH) and Alec Dickson (RN) after the dedication of the Korean War Memorial at Loch Kinellan.

CURLING

By Major JMK Erskine MBE

The curling season will soon get under way and the matches for 2017 are as follows:

2016		
18 Nov	BW v A&SH	Perth
2017		
20 Jan	BW v Hldrs	Perth
9 Feb	H&LBCC v The New Club	tbc
16 Mar	H&LBCC v The Royal Company of Archers	tbc
23 Mar	H&LBCC Bonspiel	Perth

GAPS IN PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SPOUSES

Those who have accompanied spouses and civil partners may have been unable to work while abroad and therefore did not pay National Insurance contributions. Gaps in contributions can

substantially reduce your state pension. As the new State Pension is based on the National Insurance record, the credit covers contributions missed by periods spent abroad dating back to 1975.

- You are/were married/civil partner of a member of the armed forces.
- You went with them on an overseas posting after 6 April 1975.
- Class 3 National Insurance credits help to fill gaps in your National Insurance record and count towards your State Pension.
- https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/553598/ni-credits-armed-forces-partners.pdf

UNCLAIMED PRESERVED OR DEFERRED PENSIONS

Each year thousands of pensions go unclaimed. Many service personnel leave long before they are entitled to draw their pension or Early Departure Payment (EDP) scheme benefits. **Veterans UK** ensure that pensions are paid when due, *but do not keep track of those who leave with preserved or deferred pensions*. To avoid delay in receiving your pension, claim 6 months before it is due.

AFPS 75 preserved benefits are payable at age 60 or 65. Part of the pension can be paid at age 60 but if so, it would be reduced. These pensions were introduced to the Regular Armed Forces on 1 April 1975. To qualify you had to be age 26+ when you left, with 5 years service over the age of 21 for officers and over 18 for ORs. In 1978 the five years was reduced to two.

AFPS 75 comprises a taxable annual income and lump sum three times the annual income. Veterans may think that these sums are so small and not worth claiming. However someone who left in April 1978 with a preserved pension of £800 would now have a preserved pension of £4,263 and a lump sum of £10,353. To claim fill in AFPS form 8 and send it to the address on the form.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/service-personnel-and-veterans-agency-spva-pensions-forms>

*Perth and Kinross
is proud to be
home to the
Black Watch
Museum and
Home
Headquarters*



*Delivering Quality
to the
Heart of Scotland*

RIFT

£35 million in tax refunds for the Forces: choose to be part of the success.



We've now reclaimed over £35 million in tax refunds for service personnel for the cost of their travel to temporary postings, food and Mess Dress.

Don't assume it's not worth the hassle and paperwork to claim what you expect might be a small tax refund. The average first time claim (which can cover the past 4 years) is worth £2,500 and £600-800 per year afterwards.

Darryl Campbell, 27, ex-Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was unaware he'd overpaid tax. Within weeks of choosing to contact RIFT, he received a cheque for £3,214.

"I heard about RIFT before I left the Army, a mate on the barracks told me I might be able to claim as he'd got some cash back. I phoned up just after New Year. The process was so quick and easy, I had my money at the end of March. First thing I did was to book a holiday to Ibiza, but I got enough money to pay off a bit of a loan and it helped me move into a new flat too."

Jan Post, Managing Director at RIFT says, "People would be shocked if they realised how much tax they may have overpaid over the years that's sitting with the taxman. It could be back in their own pockets within weeks – but they need to make a claim to get it.

People under financial pressure are missing out on funds that could make a huge difference, and it isn't fair. With busy lives, service personnel rarely have time to deal with masses of paperwork. We specialise in protecting people, so it's particularly satisfying to help our Armed Forces who protect every one of us."

So don't get bogged down in the fiddly details. Sit back and deploy RIFT to head into action on your behalf. It's your money and we'll fight to get it back for you.

RIFT is the only tax refunds company to have been awarded the ServiceMark for outstanding customer service by the Institute of Customer Service, so you can be sure you're in safe hands.

Take charge of your finances and choose to get in touch today.

When paperwork
is the last thing
on your mind.

We'll bring your
£2500 tax refund
back safely.

Supporting

ABF

THE SOLDIERS'

CHARITY

RIFTrefunds.co.uk/MOD

Call us on **01233 628648**

Details of the legislation RIFT claim under can be found on www.HMRC.gov.uk under section 336-339 of ITEPA 2003. We operate under this legislation to ensure that no one is exposed or receives a refund they are not entitled to.

The Black Watch Museum and Friends of The Black Watch Castle and Museum

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Chairman: Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin KCB CBE
(Until 22 September 2016)
Trustees: Major General Mike Riddell-Webster CBE, DSO
(Chairman from 22 September 2016)
Mr James Watt
Colonel A Murdoch TD
Captain Angus Ferguson
Mr Sean O'Reilly
Chief Executive: Anne Kinnes

SUMMER 2016 AT THE CASTLE AND MUSEUM

By Anne Kinnes, Chief Executive

When I was writing to you in April we were waiting with anticipation for the Poppies; Weeping Window to begin in earnest. We had many weeks of hard work ahead getting the grounds ready, laying paths, erecting a marquee that would give us an additional 60 seats in the cafe, organising car parking and recruiting Poppy Partners and that was all before the Poppies even arrived.

We recruited our army of 120 Poppy Partners who have come from the length and breadth of Scotland, age 16 to 81 and from all walks of life. We gave them two hours training, kitted them out with bright red polo shirts and matching jackets all emblazoned with the words "Poppy Partner – how can I help you?", a radio and most frequently asked questions booklet; off they went meeting and greeting our never ending stream of visitors. Today as I write ten weeks into the installation, we have welcomed over 93,000 visitors. To put this in perspective our annual footfall last year was 72,000 with an average at this time of year of 80 to 100 visitors per day. We are now welcoming around 1400 visitors per day. Quite an achievement. Our aim is to reach 100,000 by our final day on 25th September!

All areas of the Castle and Museum have benefited from our extra visitors; we added Highlight Tours to our Museum offering,

we extended our gift range in the shop and added twice as many seats in the café. The first week was a shock to the system especially the first Saturday which was our busiest day to date, with 2,200 people visiting the display. It felt like it would never end – our "new busy" very quickly became the norm and we are all enjoying the buzz of seeing Balhousie Castle full of visitors.

We also currently have The Last of the Tide Exhibition Portraits on display. They form part of the Royal Collection which is on display until 4th November. The Last of the Tide showcases twelve portraits of veterans of D-Day, commissioned by HRH The Duke of Rothesay following his attendance at the 70th anniversary of D-Day in France in 2014. Twelve leading painters were selected for the commission, amongst them were Jonathan Yeo, James Lloyd and Stuart Pearson Wright. The portraits pay tribute to some of the extraordinary men that played a role in the Allied invasion of Normandy.

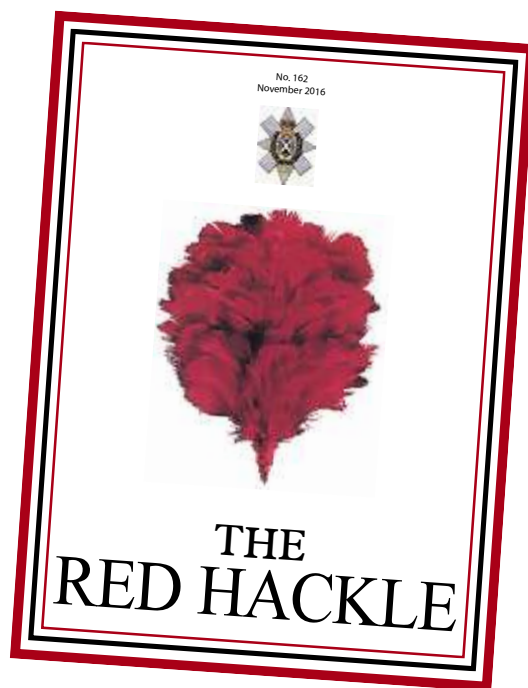
And now, 'What next?' I keep getting asked. We are having a life size replica First World War trench built in the grounds at the beginning of October, this will be an integral part of our schools programme and will be delivered by our new Learning and Audience Officer Shonagh Lowerson-Head. We have had a lot of interest from schools with bookings coming in already; as far as we know, we will be the only site in Scotland currently offering this experience.

It would be wrong of me not to mention that Emma Halford-Forbes has left the Museum after eight years and that Nicola Moss has moved to a new post in St Andrews. I thank them for their hard work and dedication whilst working at Balhousie Castle.

Our Christmas gift range will be introduced gradually into the shop with Christmas shopping nights planned in December and a Winter Family Festival planned for Saturday 2nd December, 2016. Of course our Award Winning café will be offering Festive lunches throughout the month of December.

We look forward to welcoming you in the coming months.

If you would like
to advertise in the
next edition of
THE RED HACKLE
please email
admin@
methodpublishing.co.uk
for details.



POPPIES: WEeping WINDOW

The photographs in this section are in the main a selection of those provided by 14-18 NOW and we are grateful for their use. They show the display, visitors to the display and the Poppy Partners.



The artist and designer. Tom Piper, Designer (left) and Paul Cummins, Artist (right).





FRIENDS OF THE BLACK WATCH

By Sarah Riddell-Webster

2016 has been a busy year for *The Friends*. Last November there was a very successful trip to the battlefield of the Battle of Sheriffmuir lead by Ruari Halford-MacLeod. Against all the odds the party survived the battlefield without getting rained on. The visit took place at exactly the time of year that the actual battle was fought, enabling the visitors to experience firsthand just how cold and miserable it must have been. Ruari Halford-MacLeod was an extremely knowledgeable leader who had prepared well for the trip so everyone came away not only well informed about all aspects of the conflict but also having enjoyed a jolly good lunch at the Sheriffmuir Inn. In the spring, Derek Mowatt gave a group of *Friends* an extremely interesting tour of St Johns Kirk in Perth, a church with a long association with The Black Watch. There was a great deal to see and Derek was very well informed on all aspects of the church, particularly the regimental connections and memorials. For those fit enough, the tour concluded with a visit to the bell tower where there is an extremely impressive array of bells. Fortunately we were not up there when they struck the hour. We then went out through a small door onto the walkway around the spire to see the very fine view of Perth, it would have been better if there had not been a short snow storm while we were out there.

In the last year *The Friends* have run 17 lectures covering a very wide variety of subjects, many of which I reported on in the last edition of *The Red Hackle*. In September Carol Parry and Dr Elaine Morrison talked about *The Scottish Womens' Hospital*, a group of very plucky female doctors and nurses who deployed to France in 1914. At that time women were only allowed to serve with the British army as nurses but not as doctors. These ladies treated soldiers of many nationalities, but mainly Serbians as they set up a hospital in Serbia in 1916. A very interesting lecture that told of a different side to conflict. Probably the most popular lecture in the last few months has been that given by Dr Niall Barr in August on *The Black Watch at El Alamein*. Dr Barr is a senior lecturer at The Defence Academy, Shrivenham, who has written a comprehensive history of the Battle of El Alamein. What Dr Barr did not know when he stood up to speak was that in the audience was a veteran of El Alamein. Other military subjects that have been covered in recent months are *The Road to St Valery*, *The Battle of Gettysburg* and *Scottish Regiments on the Somme*. We have also had a number of lunch time lectures, one from Sophie Nicoll about Tayside Archaeology and two that discussed art works that have been on display at Balhousie this year. Artist Alison Kinnaird talked about her wonderful art installation 'Unknown' which filled the special exhibition room in the Spring. Recently Deborah Clarke came from The Palace of Holyroodhouse to talk about *The Last of the Tide* D Day portraits that have been on display in the Wavell room all summer. Two of the paintings in the collection are of Black Watch Veterans Brian Stewart and Tom Renouf.

There is a comprehensive lecture programme in place to take us well into next year, two of which might be of particular interest to the Regimental family. In April we have a lunchtime lecture on *The Victoria Cross* detailing the award to Charles Melvin VC of The Black Watch. In September 2017 Victoria Scofield will talk about the second volume of *The Highland Furies*, which will just have been published. All lecture details can be found on the web site at www.theblackwatch.co.uk or on the printed calendars available at Balhousie Castle.



Some of the Friends who climbed the St John's Kirk Bell Tower including Alex Murdoch, Torquil MacLeod and Rosemary Pitcaithly.

MUSEUM NOTES

By Richard McKenzie

Every now and again an object is donated which takes the collective breath of the collections team away. This recently happened when the museum was contacted by a lady wishing to know if we would be interested in a wooden cross she had in her garage. On further investigation the item she was talking about turned out to be the original grave marker of S/43045 Private J Nairn of the 14th Battalion The Black Watch, who was killed in action on the 10th September 1918, just 54 days before the ceasefire, which marked the official end of the Great War.

James Nairn, the son of Andrew and Margaret Nairn, who lived in Sawmills Cottage, Blair Atholl, initially enrolled in the 6th Battalion Black Watch, and was given the initial Army Number 3399. He was posted to France on the 29th August 1915 and continued to serve with the 6th until, most likely, his wounding on the 20th March 1916. After recovering he was posted to the 8th Battalion, probably because the 6th were up to full strength. He was again wounded on the 29th January 1917, after which he appears to have been posted to the 14th Battalion.

Already a veteran of three years on the Western Front, Private Nairn was to see his last action on the 9th of September 1918, when his battalion attacked the German trenches on the Ronsoy Basee Boulogne Ridge. This high ground totally dominated the local area and allowed the Germans to target the British lines very effectively. This, combined with the poor nature of our trenches, as well as a concentration of enemy snipers, meant that this was a very dangerous sector for the British.

The attack was set for early in the morning of the 9th but confusion over orders meant that it was delayed. Furthermore the artillery barrage which would assist the attack had to be postponed but news of this never reached the Battalion. As a consequence the men of the 14th, some 400 in total, along with other battalions attacked the ridge line with no preliminary bombardment to soften up the defences. The result was disaster. C Company, along with soldiers from the Somerset Light Infantry, managed to creep up to the German lines, and began to cut the wire. At this point though they were seen and the Germans opened up with machine guns and rifle fire. C Company, and its supporting B Company, found themselves virtually surrounded and facing annihilation. Ordered to retire they fought desperately to disentangle themselves from the German defenders. Eventually managing this they got back to their own lines but were shocked to find that of the original attackers, fewer than a quarter had returned.

The tragedy for Private Nairn was that he survived this attack but was killed the next day, when his battalion were being reformed in the village of Longavesnes behind the lines. This was a fate suffered by many during the First World War, and the reasons for the death can range from artillery shelling to grenade accidents; indeed this writer knows of one soldier who was kicked to death by a mule whilst in a rest area.

Having died in an area behind the lines, Private Nairn was given a burial with full military honours and the cross, still displaying damage on its top from where it was hammered into the ground was placed on the grave. Following the war's end the Commonwealth War Graves Commission moved his body to the St Emile Valley Cemetery, Villers-Faucon, where his body was reinterred. Following his move, the original cross, with its simple metal plaque recording his name, battalion and army number, was offered to his family, from whom, a hundred years later it was donated to this museum. Because of the passage of time these original crosses became more and more rare. As a consequence it is hoped to be able to put the cross, along with the story of Private Nairn on display in the Museum's temporary exhibition gallery.



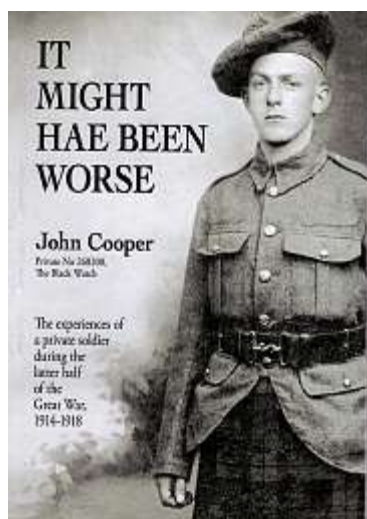
The original cross used to mark the grave of Private J Nairn. The inscription reads 43045 Pte J Nairn 14/R Hldrs 10.9.18.

Book Reviews

IT MIGHT HAE BEEN WORSE BY JOHN COOPER PTE 268208 THE BLACK WATCH

Private John Cooper's memoirs follow his journey from Dundee schooldays to the battlefields of France during the Great War and bring to life in story telling style the places, events and landmarks that define the Western Front. Recruited aged 19 into The Black Watch, Cooper reveals all the pride and passion the Scots took to the trenches; he outlines the training and camp routines, what they ate and how they dressed and lived. The account follows the stark and intimate reality of war as friends fall at his feet and Cooper himself is shot and shelled. Captured in the Spring of 1918 after his forward trench is overrun, he describes his captivity and struggle to survive before the Armistice and his release. This story is one of the best eye-witness accounts of training, marching and fighting in a Highland Battalion.

Discovery Press ISBN 1-84586-241-4 £7.99



It Might Hae Been Worse.

A TEENAGER'S WAR BY JAMES BREARLEY

This book is a tribute to Private James Watson 14428202 5th Black Watch. As an 18 year old Yorkshire lad joining The Black Watch, James had never travelled out of Yorkshire before. The story portrays the experiences of a young soldier facing the traumas of war from the beaches of Normandy through Belgium, Holland and finally into Germany. All the stories are true as they are based on War Records, soldiers' diaries, conversations with veterans of 51st Highland Division and family and friends. The author is a nephew of James Watson.

Mereo Books ISBN 978-1-908374-97-4 £15.00



A Teenager's War.

BLACK WATCH CORNER BY TAM MCCLUSKEY

Tom McCluskey, a former Warrant Officer in The Black Watch, has recently written a detailed chronicle of events and an important chapter in the history of the Regiment. The account covers the period from August to late November 1914. The 1st Battalion The Black Watch who were part of 1 (Guards) Brigade stood firm in the face of an enormous threat by a much larger enemy force, which was better prepared, equipped and in much superior numbers to the British Army. This book highlights the many strengths of the regimental system where brothers and relatives fought together. Conversely due to regional closeness it shares the tragedies that would befall many of those families. The book gives a vivid account of many of the small actions and soldiers' experiences in what was to become known as the Battle of Nonneboschen and which brought to an end the First Battle of Ypres.

Twa Tams ISBN 978-0-9955086-0-6 £9.99



Black Watch Corner.

LETTERS FROM THE FOREST

Peter Grant of The Black Watch has written this book on his military experiences from when he was called up in November 1953 as a National Serviceman until he was demobilised in 1955.

Apart from his basic training, Peter spent most of his service in Kenya during the 1st Battalion's tour of duty during the Mau Mau Emergency. The book gives a good insight into the background of the situation in Kenya at the time of the Emergency and also into the basic training regime at Queen's Barracks prior to deploying to Kenya.

Although the battalion was well spread out in Kenya, Peter who was a member of the Signals Platoon knew what was going on throughout the battalion's area of responsibility and he tells his story through factual and sometimes humorous anecdotes along with letters to family and friends and notes from his diaries.

Regimental characters such as Sergeants Pete (Striker) Johns, Chinky Robertson, and Busty Rice, Captains Adam Gurdon and Alec MacDonald-Gaunt, RSM George (Big Pat) Paterson, Colonel David Rose and many others are described in lifelike detail. A good read for all who have served in the regiment.

Peter Grant Publications ISBN-13: 978-0-9955378-0-4 £10.00



Letters from the Forest.

Correspondence

West Ferry
Dundee
DD5 1JP

Dear Editor

Readers will have noted in the Regimental News section of this magazine that The Regimental Trust Fund and The Wavell Appeal Fund have been wound up and that the funds from the former Trust have been transferred to The Black Watch Association and from the latter to The Black Watch Museum Trust. This has simplified the governance of the Trusts and added responsibilities to the recipient charities.

The Wavell Appeal had very similar objectives to those of the Museum Trust Fund but included the provision of offices and meeting accommodation for the Association and a regimental centre for the benefit of serving and past members of the Regiment.

Readers will also have read that the Association Constitution has been amended to allow grants to be made to The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The transformation over the past ten years has been complex, involving a number of charitable trusts and trustees but throughout Brigadier Garry Barnett has been closely involved.

In 2003 when he stood down as Colonel of The Black Watch and President of the Association I am sure he envisaged a quiet life in Guildtown with occasional social visits to Balhousie Castle. On the contrary, he rose to the challenge of the reorganisation and played a leading role in the "privatisation". He was recalled to chair The Regimental and Wavell Trusts and to be a Trustee of the Black Watch Museum but with the winding up of the Trusts he has now stood down from the Board of the Museum.

As Association Chairman and a Regimental Trustee during his period of Colonelcy I have witnessed the tremendous contribution he has made. He has worked tirelessly for the Regiment and is always on hand with wise advice when consulted. There are few events he does not support. He believes that "The Black Watch is the best club you can belong to". It is better and stronger for his lifelong dedication and commitment.

A Murdoch TD

Burgh Croft
Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP13 6PU

Dear Editor

INSTALLATION OF THE GOVERNOR

In the May 2016 Edition of the Red Hackle Magazine, the author of the short article about the Installation Parade, when describing part of the parade wrote, "which has been followed as long as memory can recall".

Readers might be interested to know that when General Sir Neil Ritchie was installed in 1945, there was some confusion about procedures because no one could remember them from pre-war days. Whereas it was generally known what happened (Lieutenant Colonel David Rose who was Key Bearer in 1937 or 1938 helped), no one knew what should be said.

It so happened that the Staff Officer in Scottish Command was Major E S Walker of The Black Watch who told me that he and Lord Lyon made it up there and then. Walker, an Australian, in about 1959 got command of 2nd Battalion Aden Protectorate Levies before retiring to Australia.

I understand that the words they co-wrote are still used today.

Adam Gurdon

Dear Editor

BALLYSILLAN MEMORIAL

Older readers will remember the incident when in 1971 three soldiers from the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers were

murdered by the IRA. Dougald McCaughey, 23 and brothers John and Joseph McCaig aged 17 and 18 were off duty and were lured by young women from Belfast City centre to the isolated White Brae off the Ligoniel Road.

A memorial was formally dedicated on 31 May 2016.

There was a good turnout of soldiers from all the Scottish Regiments, especially the RHF, and Joe Singleton and I attended on behalf of The Black Watch.

George Center



Joe Singleton (left) and George Center laid a wreath at the newly dedicated Ballysillan Memorial on 31 May 2016.

Beverley Simon
SO3 Commemorations 2
Defence Business Services
Joint Casualty and Compassionate
Centre
Imjin Barracks
Gloucester
GL3 1HW

FUNERAL SERVICE OF LANCE CORPORAL JOHN MORRISON, 1ST BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH – WEDNESDAY 27 JULY 2016

I write on behalf of the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre Commemorations Team to offer my sincere thanks for the Black Watch Association's invaluable support to the recent burial of Lance Corporal John Morrison 1st Battalion The Black Watch which took place at Woburn Abbey Cemetery, Cuinghy on Wednesday 27 July 2016.

At all times the professionalism and deportment of the team was exemplary and I know that all who bore witness to the ceremony were exceedingly impressed. The level of dignity and gravitas that was afforded to the burial ceremony as a direct consequence of their contribution was both extremely fitting as well as moving and has left a lasting impression on all who witnessed the occasion. Your freely given support was invaluable and very much appreciated. They were also extremely supportive during the press conference and family meal prior to the burial.

Please will you pass on my warmest thanks to them all for making it the special day it was for everyone who attended. On a more personal note, it was a pleasure to have met them!

Beverley Simon

His Honour Judge David McEvoy QC
Melcombe Lodge
16 Peachfield Road
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 4AP

17 Craighouse Terrace
Edinburgh
EH10 5LH

Dear Editor

A ROLLS ROYCE EXPERIENCE

Dear Editor

I was saddened to read in the Obituaries of the death of Judge Ronald Angus Ropner Stroyan QC and Nicholas Tatton-Brown.

Judge Stroyan, QC as a relatively young Recorder used to come to sit at Birmingham Quarter Sessions and in the early days of Crown Court also sit there to help with the excessive amount of work listed. As a young and inexperienced barrister I appeared many times in front of him. He was always courteous and extremely fair. Unfortunately, I was unaware he had served in the 5th Battalion. This piece of information might have helped my clients!!

With regard to Nicholas Tatton-Brown, our service dovetailed by a few weeks in 1958 at Redford Barracks before he went up to Cambridge and the Regiment went off to Cyprus. However, I did have the pleasure of meeting up with his attractive and charming sister in 1963 on board the old Queen Mary bound for New York. She was going to Harvard and I was on my way to San Francisco. Later we did spend a few days at Hyannis Port. In 1969 she married a barrister, Rodger Bell, who was appointed a High Court Judge in 1993.

His Honour David McEvoy QC

At the Regimental Reunion at Balhousie Castle I was fortunate enough to win a prize in the raffle. The prize was an hour-long drive in a Rolls Royce and was donated by Major David Noble whose car it is. We arranged a time and place to meet and when he came to pick me up, we decided to go to Rosslyn Chapel, which is about 30 minutes from where I live. It was a lovely day for a drive in the countryside and such a luxurious way to travel. I had been there a few times before and it was exciting to see it all again. Major Noble insisted on paying the entrance fee. On returning to my house we were able to have coffee and talk over our respective service in the Regiment.

It was a wonderful prize for me to have won and I would like to thank Major Noble for donating the prize.

Bryan R Elliot



Major David Noble and Bryan R Elliot outside Rosslyn Chapel.

If you're a member of the Armed Forces, or the husband, wife or civil partner of someone in the Armed Forces, you can register to vote either as a Service Voter or as an ordinary voter. The way you choose to register to vote is up to you and will depend on your personal circumstances.

If you're based overseas, or expect to be posted abroad in the next year, it makes sense to register as a Service Voter. This allows you to be registered at a fixed address in the UK even if you move around. A Service Voter registration also lasts for five years, so once you're registered, you shouldn't have to worry about it while you're busy overseas.

If you're based in the UK and are unlikely to change address or be posted overseas in the next year, you can register as an ordinary voter.

As you probably know, most people vote in person by going to a polling station in the UK but don't worry if you're abroad at the time of the election or have another reason why you won't be able to vote in person on the day - you can apply to vote by post or by proxy (someone voting on your behalf).

The voting age for Scottish elections has been permanently lowered to 16.

If you are under 18 years old and turn 15 by 30 November 2016 and living with a parent or guardian who is a member of HM Forces, living in Scotland or would be living in Scotland if your parent or guardian were not based overseas, then you can register as a Service Voter. Your registration will be renewed every year until you turn 18. Please contact us for a registration application form.

Want further information on registration or voting?

Phone the Freephone Helpline on **0800 393783**

e-mail: ero@highland.gov.uk

or write to the Electoral Registration Officer,

Moray House,

16-18 Bank Street,

Inverness IV1 1QY



Obituaries

JOHN COGHLAN MBE TD

John was born in Smallheath in Birmingham and died on 1st June aged 93. He showed a keen interest in sports from his early days whether it be kicking a football in the streets of Smallheath, becoming a West Midlands champion at tennis, playing football for his university side or having a trial with Wolverhampton Wanderers.

He was granted an Emergency Commission in September 1943 and served during World War 2 with the 6th Battalion The Black Watch and latterly with the Airborne forces, in Italy, Greece and Palestine. He saw action at Monte Casino and in Greece and he was present at the St David's Hotel in Jerusalem when it was blown up.

He went to Birmingham University after the war and then at Loughborough College to become a specialist teacher of physical education.

He then found a job at Worksop College in the early 1950s where he taught French. He also ran the Physical Education Department and the Combined Cadet Force. In his capacity as Commanding Officer of the Combined Cadet Force he organised "arduous training" expeditions to France, Norway and Greece. He was awarded the MBE for his work with the Combined Cadet Force.

In 1965, he was appointed to the newly formed Sports Council to establish its presence and operations in the West Midlands Region. In 1975, he was appointed to the post of Deputy Director for the Sports Council.

Tony Coghlan



ANTHONY DALDY

Anthony Daldy died on 23 May 2016 aged 81. I knew him very well when we were both teenagers. I lived along the glen at Tulchan, Glengalmond and Ant's parents lived at Glengalmond College, where his step-father, F.G.Daldy, was the Sub Warden and where Anthony was a pupil. He was a huge, good looking fellow who seemed to dwarf me and yet, I was just about 6 foot 3 inches then. He had carried the big drum in the Glengalmond Pipes and Drums, played rugby and was a good rifle shot. We saw a great deal of each other during the holidays and I well remember shooting rabbits with Anthony and passing on some of the safety precautions my father had instilled in me when first I was given my BSA .22 rifle. Anthony also helped us on our farm during the annual harvest.

He was keen to do his National Service and duly joined The Black Watch Depot in Perth in June 1953 and later found himself sent out with a draft of newly passed-out recruits to the 1st Battalion, then serving in Kenya. I have learnt from his brother Officers, John Rankin and Colin Stewart-Sandeman that he made a very promising start to life with the Battalion, playing rugger for them, for he had been in the second row with Ronnie Adam in the Glengalmond XV. He had also been very keen to learn Swahili and succeeded in a very short time, where others had barely begun. He loved Kenya and took a great interest in its natural history. He soon bought a small Ford Prefect in order to get out and about whenever possible.

Nicknamed Tony Daldy in the Battalion, he was posted to D Company under the command of Major Claude Moir and with Captain Richard Haw as the Coy 2IC. I know he loved his National Service with the Regiment, for had he not done so, he would have told me and I suppose I might have worried about joining-up myself.

He joined 1 BW sometime after they had arrived out in Kenya. Almost immediately he went out on a Forest Patrol in the Aberdare Mountains to investigate Mau Mau activity in the local area; this patrol was under the command of another officer. Soon after he arrived he was sent out on another patrol, this time with him in command. His patrol was ambushed and after the incident was investigated, Tony Daldy was awarded a Queen's Commendation for Bravery, at the same time as another officer in the Battalion, 2/Lt Duncan Grassie, also received that award.

The circumstances of the action appeared in the London Gazette published on 6th April 1954. In brief, the citation described how on contact with a Mau Mau ambush, Daldy, who had been hit in the arm, immediately threw a grenade and continued to attack the enemy using his Patchett sub-machine gun. He was again wounded, this time much more seriously in the stomach, before his patrol helped put the Mau Mau to flight. He then refused to be carried back to Camp on a stretcher due to the very difficult nature of the country and he showed great endurance during the long trek back to base. His courage won the admiration of his men and set a fine example for others.

His injuries left him unable to join in all the main duties falling to the Battalion and he was given a job at Battalion Headquarters until he fully recovered. By the time the Battalion returned to the UK at the end of their operational tour he had recovered in Kenya and when he was then demobbed at the end of his National Service.

On leaving the Army, Anthony was recruited by BOAC as a management trainee. He later went to Northern Rhodesia where he became a District Officer. Later he farmed sheep in Wales and Devon and subsequently moved to Canada with his family. He leaves five children and ten grandchildren.

He died in Cornwall this Spring. He was a Member of the Society of Friends, the Quakers, who looked after him wonderfully in his last illness. He had an enquiring mind and was interested in other people and new ideas in the world.

C B Innes

CAPTAIN DAVID VICTOR FORTUNE

David Fortune died on 27 June 2016 (aged 69) following a serious heart attack two years ago.

David's grandfather, Major General Sir Victor Fortune, was one of the few officers to survive the Black Watch Corner battle at Ypres in 1914. He fought through the rest of WW1 unscathed rising to command the 51st Highland Division at the start of the Second World War when it was captured at St Valery. His son Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Fortune (David's father) joined the Regiment in 1939 and despite being severely wounded in North Africa continued to serve rising in his turn to command the 6/7th TA Battalion in Perth in 1962.

I think I first met David as a toddler when we were living next door to each other on the 'patch' in post-war Germany - his mother Sue told me we fought like cats! I got to know him better later in life when, as teenagers in Perth, we did the usual things that teenage boys do (mainly chasing girls and shooting as I recall). However David who had been educated for a time at Winchester had a rather different approach to life's challenges. He could never have been called conventional neither in his attitudes nor his interests nor his dress nor his hair style. In fact soon after he joined the Battalion in Minden, The Red Hackle records that 2Lt Fortune was still searching for "Herr Kutt"!

His main recreation was playing the guitar: he was largely self-taught and spent many hours closeted in the smallest room in the house where he often practised. He teamed up with Jamie Graham, another guitar-playing contemporary (son of A&SH General Freddy Graham) and together they used to play in the Perth Folk Club. David even went to London for a time to see if he could break into the pop music industry but his career was limited to a single record "The Poacher" issued with a band named 'The Harriers'.

After attending Mons Officer Cadet School in 1965 and gaining a short service commission, David (with his guitar) joined the Black Watch in Minden where many who served then will remember his musical performances in full Blues uniform at the All Ranks dance or more informally at Company 'smokers'. From Minden, he deployed with the Battalion first to Libya and then to Cyprus on a United Nations tour. It was there that I was attached to his platoon (14 Platoon D Company) while stationed at Kseros Bridge near Ktima adjacent to a Greek National Guard outpost.



The local Turkish village at Mandria Caves was deemed to be under threat from the Greeks so one evening David decided that we should go down to meet the Turkish village headman on a confidence-building visit. In fact the 'headman' turned out to be a fairly young and strikingly attractive Turkish lady. I recall that both young officers were completely smitten by her hospitality and her charms. We left somewhat reluctantly after a very convivial party, gallantly promising to come to her immediate rescue should any danger threaten. In fact our assistance would probably have been quite superfluous because as we drove away, we noted that the village was very well-guarded by her own fierce-looking militia.

In 1968 David left the Black Watch to join the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop and undertake his flying training. He survived a crash in a Chipmunk and, when qualified as a helicopter pilot, he joined the Royal Scots Greys air flight at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh. His subsequent postings included Northern Ireland and Sharjah and he ended his service in 1972 at Tidworth, flying for the 14/20th Hussars flight.

David's first job in his civilian career was with Jardine Matheson in Hong Kong but he managed to continue to fly a helicopter there for the Hong Kong Defence Force. At that time, The Black Watch was posted in Hong Kong and we saw him regularly in his new civilian guise. He returned to London in 1975 to work in various enterprises such as floor manager for BBC TV Outside Broadcast and project manager for the Royal Pavilion at Jeddah Airport. Many of his jobs involved overseas travel and he was always on the look-out for import opportunities – among which furniture, fires and BBQs featured at various stages. He was also a skilled woodworker and a highlight of his work in bespoke joinery was a contract to design Margaret Thatcher's kitchen.

His last military service began in 1990 when he joined the Territorial Army Air Squadron – a highly select band of former regular, helicopter pilots which had been formed in Scotland. He enjoyed ferrying senior officers around their farthest-flung outposts and it was during this time that a refuelling incident earned him the dramatic nickname of "Fireball Fortune"!

In 1982 David married Claire Stratton who is more usually known as 'Wombat'. Their two children Emily and Hector were born shortly before they moved to Dalswinton in Dumfriesshire in 1993. The last time I saw David was at the dedication ceremony for the Black Watch memorial at Ypres which he attended with his brother Johnnie and son Hector. We were all there at Black Watch Corner to commemorate the Regiment's dogged defence of that small piece of ground 100 years before; a battle in which his grandfather had played such a significant part. David was indeed a son of the Regiment.

H R Rose

SIR DAVID LANDALE KCVO

Sir David Landale was born on 22nd May 1934 and died on 25th March 2016 aged 81. He was a businessman, landowner, and countryman who was brought up at Dalswinton in Dumfriesshire. He went to Eton and Oxford before doing his National Service in the Black Watch. Both his great uncle Major General Sir Victor Fortune and his uncle Major General Neil McMicking were in the Black Watch during both World Wars so it was natural that he should follow them.

He was posted to Duisburg in Germany. At that time the battalion was commanded by Colonel Bill Bradford. During his time in the Regiment one of his tasks as a young officer was to take the Pipes and Drums around the schools in England and Scotland. When he had completed his National Service he joined Jardine Matheson in Hong Kong, a company of which both his father and grandfather had been Taipan (Chief Executive in modern parlance). He worked for Jardines in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand and Japan. On the death of his father in 1970 he took over Dalswinton and the family estate. He took a huge interest in all that was happening there and became a progressive farmer and very interested in forestry.

In 1973 he returned to Scotland with his family to live at Dalswinton and became involved in a number of significant challenges, to which he brought his business experience.

In 1973 he bought the island of Gigha off the Mull of Kintyre. During his time as proprietor he developed a nine bedroomed hotel,



restored holiday cottages, improved Achamore House and oversaw the running of the renowned National Trust garden. He also set up a large fish farm on the island and modernised nine dairy farms which continued to produce a high quality cheddar cheese. His intention always was to create employment for the Islanders.

In 1987 he was appointed Secretary to the Duchy of Cornwall. His business experience and understanding of the country was to prove invaluable. He played a very important part in establishing Poundbury, a modern urban extension to Dorchester, which embodied many of the Prince of Wales' design principles and now is home to 2500 residents.

Duchy Originals was another initiative which he established with the help of Walkers of Aberlour.

Sir David's commitments with the Duchy made him take the somewhat difficult decision to sell the island of Gigha. He had loved and nurtured the island during his time there and by the time he sold it he had established it on a firm business footing.

Another of his many roles was to help a dear friend and neighbour in Dumfriesshire, Maggie Keswick Jencks, who was dying of cancer, to fulfil her dream of building Maggie Centres near to hospitals. She wanted these to provide a haven of support, love and care both to the families and sufferers. He did this with great skill and zeal and continued to help establish it after her death. There are now over 20 through the United Kingdom.

A further project in which he took great pride was the Crichton University Campus in Dumfries, which is now part of the Universities of Glasgow and Paisley.

In 2008 he became Vice President of the Appeal for the Black Watch Museum at Balhousie Castle in Perth with the task of raising £3.5 million. He gave very generously of both time and financial support.

He was President of the Royal Agricultural Society (1994), a Deputy Lieutenant for Dumfriesshire and a member of the Royal Bodyguard of Scotland.

He married Melanie Roper in 1961 and had three sons, Peter, who now lives at Dalswinton, William and Jamie. Melanie was always a tremendous support to him throughout his business life and continued to be after he retired to Bankhead on the Dalswinton Estate. They were both very family orientated and were frequently gathering together the hugely extended family for celebrations of some form or other at Dalswinton. While they were in Hong Kong they always gave a very warm welcome and great hospitality to many in The Black Watch when they were serving there.

Sir David will be remembered always as being kind and considerate in everything in which he was involved.

D J McMicking

MAJOR SELBY MACDUFF DUNCAN MBE

Field Marshal Slim often commented that a commander should never forget the smell of soldiers' feet. The Field Marshal would have approved of Selby as he never forgot the importance of caring for his soldiers.

His father Hector was a distinguished Black Watch officer and indeed his family ties with the Regiment stretch back into the 1850s so it was probably inevitable that Selby would follow the same path. Initially educated at Cargilfield he then attended Fort Augustus Abbey School, a male St Trinians, where as one of only two non Catholics, life would have been testing.

As he didn't initially achieve the requisite amount of A Levels for officer training, Hector marched Selby into the Inverness Recruiting Office and enlisted him into The Gordon Highlanders on an O Type Engagement. He served in the ranks rising to the rank of Lance Corporal; this is where he really learnt his craft and why he had such a clear and firm but compassionate understanding of Jock and Jock Thomson's bairns.

Having gained both sufficient formal and informal qualifications, plus a UN medal from a tour in Cyprus, Selby gained entry to Sandhurst on the newly organised Standard Military Course 1 which merged the old Mons Officer Cadet School and two year Sandhurst Course. He was then commissioned into The Black Watch in 1973 where he was taken under the firm wing of Major Colin Innes who was commanding A (Grenadier) Company in Hong Kong. Thereafter



his career followed that of a typical young officer before he became Adjutant of 1/51 Highland where later in his career he was a most effective Training Major.

Marriage followed to Moira, his first wife and the birth of Robert and Julia, along with a posting to Wales. Shortly afterwards he was promoted to Major and placed in command of HQ Company on a Northern Ireland tour.

Subsequent postings took him to Zimbabwe and Zambia. However duty required him to return to HQ Scotland where as a Grade 2 Staff officer he was awarded a well deserved MBE for his handling of a number of high profile ceremonial events.

But wilder shores called and in 1995 Selby sought a posting to Northern Iraq and Southern Turkey as a Local Lieutenant Colonel in a US led force, succouring Kurds. More overseas postings were to follow including Oman and then as of 2IC The Gibraltar Regiment.

After 37 years service he decided to go soldiering no more. Hanging his trumpet in the hall in 2007 he and Kate, who he married in 1996, along with their daughter Alice moved to Banchory where he started a second career as Project Manager on Fasque and Glendye estates where he became ace at VAT regulations and the legal position of bats, let alone qualifying as a Duke of Edinburgh Award instructor.

His death was sudden, sad and untimely. How best might we remember him?

As a Company Commander living in the Berlin Mess his subordinates are unanimous in reflecting that he was a quiet but firm influence in many areas of Mess life.

His six month spell running St George's Cay in Belize, where he honed his many water sport skills was a highlight in his Regimental Service, or we might also remember in 1991 a Training Major's office equipped with a steam powered computer where he learnt IT and made everyone else addicts to Castle Masters – an early clunky computer gameor as a founding member of The Aberfeldy Horse Back Lancers' Reel Club.

He loved outdoor activities such as skiing and windsurfing and he was a most stylish curler.

R A H Nunneley

DR THOMAS RENOUF MBE, MM, L.D'H

Dr Tom Renouf died on 26 June aged 91; he was awarded a Military Medal in the Battle of the Rhine Crossing in Germany in 1945 and subsequently had a distinguished career as a research scientist and teacher.

In March 1945 Renouf, who was serving with 5th Battalion The Black Watch (5 BW), took part in the forced crossing of the Rhine. During the assault, the leading company was held up by intense and accurate machine gun fire short of the village of Esserden.

Renouf, then a lance-corporal in command of a section, realised the vital importance of continuing to push forward and, ignoring the heavy fire, worked his way up to the nearest machine gun post. He hurled a grenade at it and charged in himself and killed or captured the enemy. His company then came under withering fire from a group of houses close by. Renouf feared that they would take very heavy losses unless quick action was taken and, entirely on his own initiative, he led his section across 70 yards of open, bullet-swept ground to attack these houses. Having forced an entry into the first of the buildings, he killed or took prisoner all the enemy inside and went on to clear the rest of the area of resistance. The citation for the award to him of an Immediate MM paid tribute to his magnificent dash and inspired bravery which had made a vital contribution to the success of the operation.

Thomas Joseph Renouf was born on March 28 1925 at Fisherrow, Musselburgh, East Lothian. He was educated at Musselburgh Grammar School. Always known as Tom, he was captain of the 1st XV which was undefeated under his captaincy.

In 1943, Renouf enlisted in the 2nd Battalion The London Scottish. He was later posted to the 1st Battalion The Tyneside Scottish (Black Watch) and on D-Day + 4, landed in France. He was involved in the



breakout from the beachhead at Bréville, near Caen. On 1 July 1944, the Tyneside Scottish were disbanded after the Battle of Rauray and he volunteered to serve with the 5th Battalion The Black Watch. He was wounded at Mauny (see article in Red Hackle Magazine November 2013) in late August but recovered and fought through France, Belgium and Holland and took part in the liberation of La Roche-en-Ardenne in the Battle of the Bulge during the bitter winter of 1944-45.

He was promoted to Lieutenant in June 1945 and was demobilised the following year. After working on building sites and with the Electricity Board, he went up to Edinburgh University where he gained a PhD in sub-atomic particle theory. He then spent eight years at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, before returning to Scotland to take up an appointment as a research scientist at Edinburgh University. He finished his academic life as a teacher of Physics at St. Margaret's School for Girls.

Renouf was an accomplished pianist and also played the clarinet and guitar. He enjoyed singing as well as playing popular songs from his childhood. He was fiercely proud of the 51st Highland Division and he along with General Sir Derek Lang and others in the 51st Highland Division Trust took a leading part in the design of the memorials to the 51st Highland Division. Together with his close friend, Alan Herriot, and help from the Army, they commissioned and transported monuments, including full sized bronze statues, and dedicated these to fallen comrades. The memorials include the piper and child statue on the South Inch in Perth, a statue of a piper at House of Bruar, a memorial at La Roche-en-Ardenne as well as the memorial at St Valery-en-Caux.

In 2014, he was awarded the Legion of Honour by the President of the French Republic. Later that year, he made his last pilgrimage. Together with a small number of veterans, he went to Gennep, Holland, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the town's liberation by the 51st Highland Division.

His portrait was painted as part of *The Last of the Tide*, an exhibition commissioned by Prince Charles and was exhibited in London in 2015 and at Balhousie Castle in 2016. In June this year, he was appointed MBE. His memoirs were published in 2011 under the title *Black Watch*.

Although Tom was in many ways a quiet man he had a very strong character. He achieved an extraordinary amount in his life and he was proud of his service in The Black Watch and the 51st Highland Division.

R M Riddell

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALASTAIR ROSE OF EARLSMILN

Alastair Rose was born on 22 February 1926 in Glasgow when his father John Rose was farming near Strontian. His family moved to Bunessan on Mull where he lived until he was ten. This period developed his great interest in Scottish dancing and piping. Early memories were of ceilidhs in the village hall chaired by Brigadier General Cheape of Tioran, who had commanded the 7th Battalion at Beaumont Hamel in November 1916. The music for the dancing was played on fiddles and the melodeon and the whole hall reverberated with the sound of tackety steel lined boots.

In 1936, after his mother died, he moved to London to be brought up by his paternal Aunt Leslie.

He attended Eaton House Prep School and the City of London School. In 1940 his school was evacuated to Marlborough where he joined the school Officer Training Corps and the Wiltshire Home Guard. He gained a place at Oxford University in 1943 but instead enlisted into The Black Watch.

After basic training in Belfast, he joined the 10th Battalion in Barrow-in-Furness. His company commander, Major John McGregor MC, had distinguished himself at Alamein and Wadi Akarit. He was promoted to Lance Corporal and then selected for a commission. Sent to The Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun, his passing out parade in August 1945 was taken by General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

Commissioned into the Black Watch, attached to the Indian Army he volunteered to serve with 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles. In August 1946, he took part in operations in Calcutta to restore order after mass atrocities were committed in communal violence between Hindu and Muslims.

In March 1947, he was recalled to Scotland to train recruits at The Black Watch Depot in Perth, before a posting to the 1st Battalion



in Duisburg. As the Battalion were usually confined to barracks in the evenings, he together with a corporal who was an expert highland dancer, used to teach their platoon the Foursome Reel and the Argyll Broad Swords dance.

In December 1948 he was posted to 1st Battalion 7th Gurkha Rifles in Seremban and he was to serve in the Brigade of Gurkhas until 1975. This included operations in the Malayan Emergency. He retired from Regular Service and held various staff appointments at Army HQ Scotland and in Edinburgh.

His final full time position was Staff Officer Cadets Scotland dealing with CCF and ACFs including planning the CCF Central Camp at Cultybraggan. He was Secretary of The Army Cadet Force Association Scotland until 2005 organising an annual shooting competition at Barry Buddon and various ACF sporting competitions. He was Honorary Colonel of The Angus and Dundee Battalion and Honorary Secretary of The 51st Highland Division Officers' Club.

In August 2003, he moved to Finzean, Aberdeenshire.

He married Elizabeth Garrett, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Garrett DSO OBE Royal Marines in St Andrews Cathedral, Hong Kong on 3 April 1951.

He thoroughly enjoyed attending the Black Watch Association Gathering at Fort George a few weeks before he died on 2 September 2016. Elizabeth, daughters Elspeth and Catriona and son Alexander survive him.

Alec Rose

CAPTAIN PETER SIMPSON

Peter Simpson died aged 90 in Bassetlaw Hospice, Nottinghamshire on 3rd January 2016. Although he was born in Maud, Aberdeenshire his family had long connections with Fortingall, and they returned there early in 1931. In his youth he suffered badly from chronic asthma and his education was severely disrupted by ill health. His determination to improve his condition led eventually to superb fitness and a high level of competence on the pipes. Home tuition, mostly from his parents, led to examination success and he entered Glasgow University to study agriculture. Once there he was eventually passed fit for Army service and he gave up his studies after a year to enlist at Queen's Barracks. He was commissioned in May 1945 and posted to the 2nd Battalion. He served in India and Pakistan and completed parachute training – he commemorated this with a tandem freefall over the Lincolnshire countryside 50 years later. He returned to Perth with the Battalion in 1948 and was discharged as a Captain in June that year. He returned to his studies, although this time he enrolled at Edinburgh University, graduating in 1950.

After graduation he farmed at Glenfarg for 12 years, during which time he married Dr Sheila Reid and they had 3 children. In 1962 he moved to England to take up a position with ICI and he remained with them for the rest of his working life. He specialised in liquid fertilisers and agrochemicals and their application, and retired in 1987 as director of a major farming subsidiary. He was retained as a consultant and occasional lecturer by The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester until the end of the century.

In retirement he married for the second time, travelled the world, and wrote 2 books, including the highly regarded *Independent Highland Companies 1603-1760*. He lived an incredibly full life – he was a soldier, farmer, agricultural specialist and innovator, raconteur and after dinner speaker, and an avid traveller to the end. He died, very reluctantly, after a short illness and is survived by his wife, Judith, and by his three children. His son David served in the Royal Scots as well as with the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion The Black Watch.

D G Simpson

CAPTAIN JAMES (DAN) UPTON

Captain Dan Upton died on 5 June 2016 after a long illness. He was aged 82. On arrival in 2 BW in British Guiana in 1954 James was very quickly renamed Dan by the Jocks. His pronounced chin strongly resembled that of Desperate Dan of Beano fame; and Dan he remained for the rest of his life. He quickly entered into Regimental life and acquired many friends. He was amusing, slightly outrageous but always good company.



He returned to UK from British Guiana with the 2nd Battalion before it disbanded in 1956. He then disappeared to Cambridge for three years, only to re-appear in 1 BW in Cyprus as signals officer in 1960. By then he was newly married to Eve. He and Eve stayed with Ann and I in our house in Larnaca for ages until I politely had to tell them to find a house of their own. He became Adjutant of 6/7 BW in 1962 and left the Army in 1964.

He went into forestry in the Borders but that did not really succeed. He moved back to London and became involved with Loyds – a not entirely successful episode of his life.

Dan was a staunch supporter of the London Branch of the Association and took part in the march to save the Regiment. Stories of Dan are legend and most unprintable. One worth relaying was an event some years ago when he had a stroke and collapsed on the street in London – a passing policeman and an off duty nurse saved his life and got him to hospital. As a gesture of gratitude he took the officer and nurse to lunch one day. Dan who always had an eye for the girls, was much taken by the attractive nurse. He thanked her profusely for giving him the kiss of life only to discover that it was the policeman who had performed that duty!!

Dan was a kind and generous man. Although he had a comparatively short spell in the Regiment, he is well remembered as a great Regimental character.

R T T Gurdon

PRIVATE CONOR MCPHERSON

Conor McPherson was tragically killed during training on 23 August 2016. He joined the Army on 11 May 2014. He successfully passed his basic training at the Infantry Training Centre (Catterick) and joined his Battalion, the Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland in February 2014, becoming a rifleman in Alpha (Grenadier) Company. He served in the United Kingdom and completed exercises in Kenya and in France.

Picking the 3rd Battalion was not the obvious choice for a Paisley man, but Private McPherson had decided it was the one for him and set his mind on joining. So detailed was his research that he caught out one of his instructors on reaching his first major milestone in recruit training. Whilst there was no way he was going to win any prizes for his marching that day, he knew more about the Black Watch's history than even the person asking him the questions! This small example says a lot about Conor. Naturally inquisitive, he loved learning, took his job seriously and knew his own mind. It also reminds me that drill was not his forte!

Having finished recruit training, he threw himself into Battalion life with the same enthusiasm and determination. Always the first to volunteer to take on new tasks, Conor would often ask to repeat training so keen was he to be the best that he could be. Not all aspects of soldiering came easily to him but by sheer hard work and his knack of picking up things quickly, he became a real asset to his Company. He seemed to thrive on being given extra responsibility, no less so when he became a driver of our new Foxhound vehicles. Ambitious but humble, Conor had his sights set on becoming a junior leader next; and he would have made a very good one. He loved trying out new things and had an insatiable thirst for knowledge. He read a lot; politics, military history, training, nutrition, no subject was off limits and he amused his friends with the many ideas this prompted. Some, like his daily serving of oats, endured; others like the weights gathering dust under his bed, did not! Quiet and reserved to many, to those that knew him well, Conor was a loyal friend with a rapier wit. I suspect that this was part of the reason he was so popular within his Platoon and that he would do anything to help out his peers. On one occasion he even volunteered to spar with a friend who was training to be an amateur boxer, despite not knowing the first thing about the sport!

Whilst he enjoyed a night out with his friends, he would often turn down the offer in favour of going home. He had a very close and supportive family who he talked about often and there was clearly nothing he enjoyed more than spending the weekends and leave with them.

Utterly genuine, selfless, kind and compassionate, Conor was a real credit to them. We are all devastated about his tragic and untimely death and with his family's loss. Private McPherson was a rare breed, and I am extremely proud to have served with him.

A F L Steele



WILLIAM ARCHIBALD

Bill Archibald died aged 84 on the 11th of June at Whitehills Hospital Forfar after a prolonged period of illness. He was brought up in the Arbroath area and on leaving school was employed working on the land.

He enlisted as a 3 year man in early 1953 and after basic training at Queens' Barracks, was posted to the 1st Battalion as they arrived in Kenya in August of that year. Serving first in a Rifle Company then with a small group who specialised in tracking, Bill was later selected to join the Motor Transport platoon and became a member of the One Ton Section.

In 1955 on the Battalion's return from Kenya, he was selected to be part of the Royal Guard at Ballater which was commanded by the then Major A O L Lithgow MC. Part of Bill's duties included collecting and delivering the laundry from Balmoral Castle to and from a laundry in Aberdeen in his 1 ton truck. On one occasion after collecting the laundry there was a commotion as HRH Prince Charles had gone missing, on hearing a noise Bill looked into the back of his truck to find the missing member of the Royal Family coming out of a laundry basket! Later during the Guard, Bill was introduced to The Queen Mother and he often talked about this as a highlight in his life.

On finishing his time with the Regiment he worked in the construction industry where he put his skills as military driver to good use. He was employed as a plant operator until his retirement.

Bill was a founder member of the Angus Branch of The Black Watch Association and was a regular attendee and supporter until prevented by illness. He was a very quiet man who gave the impression of being quite dour but under that exterior there was a very warm hearted, honest and generous man with a dry sense of humour.



R J W Proctor

FRANK BAILLIE

Frank Baillie who was known as Bugs joined the Army at the age of 15 and was selected to join the Infantry Juniors Leaders Battalion (IJLB) at Oswestry, Shropshire which was the home of the future Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers of the Foot Guards and Infantry Regiments of the Line, where he remained until he was seventeen and a half.

Frank passed out from the IJLB and joined the 1st Battalion in Kirknewton in the late 1960s. Because of his accent he was often questioned as to why he chose to join The Black Watch; his answer was always the same and he would reply that he "wanted a bit of quality in his life".

His NCO potential was soon recognised and he was selected for promotion early in his career; after successfully completing a JNCO cadre in Kirknewton he was promoted to Lance Corporal and moved to A Company.

He undertook several tours in Northern Ireland whilst serving in A Company before he was posted to the Mortar Platoon. He then attended a Mortar Platoon Sergeants' Course at the School of Infantry, Netherhaven returning to the battalion with a very good B grading.

The Mortar Platoon became his home for many years and he was a specialist of some experience later becoming the Mortar Platoon Second-in-Command during the battalion's tour as a Mechanised Battalion in Werl, West Germany.

After promotion to Warrant Officer Class 2, Frank was then posted to 1/51 Highland (Volunteers) as SPSI where his mortaring skills were in great demand. Returning to the 1st Battalion during its second tour at Kirknewton, Frank was selected to become Second-in-Command of Buzzard Ops which was the Air Operations Cell at Bessbrook in South Armagh, during the Battalions 1985 – 1986 Op Banner Tour. Bessbrook was reputed to be the busiest heliport in Europe at that time with two hundred flights going in and out in a twenty four hour period and he could be relied upon to support the Air Ops Officer (Buzzard) 100 per cent.

On the Battalion's move to Berlin, he was appointed TQMS, an appointment he held for three years covering the battalion's tours in Berlin and Ballykinler in Northern Ireland. This appointment entailed



the accounting for all the battalion's war fighting material which was quite an onerous and responsible task.

As a young man Frank was a keen sportsman and was selected to become a junior Oxford United Player but opted to join the army instead. He won his Colours for football in the IJLB and played for the battalion first eleven until a serious leg injury prevented him from playing again. Although the injury never properly healed he continued his interest in the game and coached the battalion boys football team and at Company level.

Towards the end of his regular army service Frank applied for, and was successful in gaining employment as Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) RQMS at Bristol University Officer Training Corps where he served until he retired.

He was always positive, professional and loyal and he had a great sense of humour. He will be missed by the many people who had the pleasure of serving with him.

M Smith and R J W Proctor

ALEXANDER CAIRD

Sandy Caird served from 1974 to 1977. He died suddenly at his home in Kingoldrum near Kirriemuir on the 1st of April 2016 aged 59.

Sandy, a member of the Angus Branch suffered from ill health for a number of years but attended Association events whenever possible.

He kept in touch with former comrades through the internet, the Black Watch Forum and Angus Branch Facebook page.

He was short in stature but big in his support for the Regiment; he was held in great affection by his comrades and this was shown by the large turnout at his funeral service at Park Grove Crematorium on the 13th of April 2016.



R J W Proctor

DOUGLAS TOCHER FEARN

Douglas Tocher Fearn known as Dougie was born on 13th May 1934 at Rosebank Farm Arbirlot in Angus. He died on 1st of September 2016 at Catterick Garrison North Yorkshire aged 82.

Born on a farm he followed his father's profession and in time became a proficient plough man; his love of heavy horses never left him.

In May 1952 when he was eighteen, he was called up for National Service. After the completion of his basic training at Queen's Barracks he was then posted to the 1st Battalion in time to serve in Korea and then Kenya to assist in quelling the Mao Mao uprising. Dougie then joined the Army Reserve.

In 1961 Dougie re-enlisted into the 1st Battalion and remained at Queen's Barracks before being posted to Cyprus, Warminster, Minden, Cyprus, (2nd tour), Kirknewton, Gibraltar, Lubeke, Hong Kong, Colchester, Shorncliffe and Catterick, not forgetting his numerous tours of Northern Ireland.

He was demobbed in February 1980 and remained in Catterick. He served with distinction and was a great ambassador for the Black Watch throughout his career. He served in a Rifle Company, MT Platoon, the Regimental Police and finally within the Battalion Clothing Store.

A true gentleman and family man. His late pleasures in life were a 50th Wedding anniversary card from Her Majesty the Queen and having his medals mounted with a Black Watch badge and a red hackle which he treasured.

G McCormick

WILLIAM GALLOWAY

William who was known as Tich, died in the Victoria Hospital Kirkcaldy on the 5th of July 2016. He was born on the 22nd December 1953 in Kirkcaldy and stayed a "Kirkcaldy Boy" all his days.

It was during his youth that he contracted a serious arthritic condition meaning he spent almost two years in hospital. Being a fighter he overcame this disability to the extent he passed his medical for the Army and joined The Black Watch in December 1971. Tich sailed through his training



at Glencorse Barracks and then found himself winging his way to Hong Kong to join the Battalion.

Tich started his battalion career in Bravo Company but undertook a Piping Course under Pipey Anderson. This new career might have halted before it began as Tich only had nine and a half fingers, but as the Pipey pointed out, "Yi dinnie need that wan onywi". Tich passed the course and remained with the Pipe Band and served a tour in Northern Ireland with them. Unfortunately his past started to catch up with him and he left the Battalion on a Medical Discharge in 1976.

On leaving he took up employment as a miner and then when the pit closed, worked for Nairns Linoleum.

Soldiering was in his blood and as a result he found himself back at Hunter Street and assisting the local Cadets as an Instructor. He was also an established piper with Burntisland Pipe Band and loved to practice at the back door to the joy of his neighbours. He was a popular man who was loved by his family and his friends. I know he will be sadly missed.

R M Scott

WILLIAM HILL

Willie Hill was born on the 20th of June 1938 near Tannadice in Angus and was one of three children of George and Lillian Hill. The family later moved to Charleston near Glamis where he attend Glamis Primary School and then Newtyle Secondary school where he was awarded the Dux Medal for his academic prowess.

On leaving school, Willie carried out an apprenticeship with a local joinery firm and after qualifying as a cabinetmaker worked for other well-known firms in the local area and Dundee, producing high quality furniture for some of the top hotels in Scotland.

Willie served in the Regiment as a National Serviceman and in 1958 moved to Cyprus with the 1st Battalion. A skilled footballer before he joined the Regiment, Willie played for a number of local Junior Football Teams and was quickly spotted by Major Nobby Clark the Quartermaster at the Depot where he played in the Depot football team alongside notables such as Jim Baxter. On his arrival in Cyprus (the 1958 tour) he was quickly selected for the Battalion football team which won numerous trophies and competitions. He kept himself fit whilst serving in the Regiment and continued to do so throughout his life.

In 1964 he married Isobel and they had 52 happy years together with three children and latterly 4 grandchildren. In his retirement he travelled and looked after his garden which was always immaculate.

Willie was diagnosed with a serious illness and died shortly before his 78th birthday on 25th March 2016. He is sadly missed by his family, friends and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

R J W Proctor

DAVID IMRIE

David Imrie was born in Edinburgh on 16th October 1926. He joined the Black Watch as a Regular soldier on 11th October 1944; initially badged General Service Corps he completed his basic training and was drafted to the 6th Battalion The Black Watch in May 1945. The Battalion were stationed in The Central Mediterranean Force (CMF), later renamed Middle East Forces (MEF) and saw service in Greece as part of the Stabilising Forces during the internal disputes regarding government changes in that region.

He returned to the UK in 1947 before being posted to the 2nd Battalion in BAOR and thence to the UK as a Sergeant in 1952. He was demobbed that year.

David re-joined the Army enlisting into the RAOC in May 1958. He served in the UK, BAOR, Cyprus and Hong Kong. He left the Army in 1971 and was accepted as an In Pensioner in the Royal Hospital in May 2006. He was immensely proud to be a member of the Sergeants Mess of the Black Watch. He died on the 4th of June 2016 and was piped to his final resting place by the London Branch Association Pipe Major, Chick Mackie.

Mike Smith



WILLIAM GEORGE KENNEDY

Bill was born on 17 October 1938 and died on 7 July 2016 aged 77.

He was brought up and went to school in Ayrshire.

He left school aged 15 and by the age of 20 he decided to join The Black watch.

After a tour of duty in Berlin he returned to Edinburgh, and in January 1958 he met Sylvia; by October they were married. Bill was then deployed to Cyprus and Berlin once again.

On leaving the Army he and Sylvia set up home in Birmingham and started their family but in 1965 they moved to Guisborough. They had five children.

Bill worked at Blacketts Hutton but in 1969, after a terrible accident he had part of his skull replaced by metal. He then became a joiner and he followed that trade until he retired.

Bill was a loving, caring, family man who fought for 6 years with cancer. He will be greatly missed.

Julie Kennedy



JOHN SANDGROVE L'ECOYER KING

John died on 11th July 2016 aged 91.

He was born in Middlesbrough in 1925. His father was a Minister and, this no doubt, helped provide John with that attitude of acceptance of events which was part of his character. On leaving school he became a trainee in, what was to become, Northern Dairies.

He joined the Tyneside Scottish in 1943, aged 18 and went with the Battalion to Normandy in June 1944. Following the Battle of Rauray, the Tyneside Scottish battalion, no longer having sufficient men to form a viable unit, were disbanded and sent to various units in the Highland Division. John, along with his good friend Tom Renouf, was sent to 5th Black Watch, where he remained until the end of the war. For most of his active service, he was a Sergeant and was regularly acting as Platoon Commander during that long haul to Germany. John was twice wounded during the Northern European Campaign, returning to duty, on each occasion after a short period of convalescence. John was commissioned in 1945.

John was probably the oldest Tyneside Scottish veteran left in the Branch, certainly the oldest still in regular contact. I say this in the full knowledge that we had lost Tom Renouf less than a fortnight prior to John's death. They had served together throughout the war and remained good friends for the rest of their lives, meeting regularly in Wooler for a meal and chin-wag.

Following the war, John returned to his former employment, moving to Newcastle shortly afterwards where he joined a local rope making firm, which was absorbed into British Ropes.

Despite his experiences of warfare, his generosity of spirit and his humanity were in no way diminished; always finding the good in others and bearing his own afflictions without complaint. He was a thorough gentleman to the extent that, in his late 80's, he asked "permission to be excused" from standing with the Guard of Honour at the funeral of our Branch President.

He recently received the Legion of Honour from the French Government for his war service. Brenda his wife and his son and daughter survive him.

M Dunn

TIM MACLEAN

Tim Maclean died recently in Australia aged 93. He joined the Regiment in 1942 and after training at the Queen's Barracks, which at that time was known as Number 8 Infantry Training Unit, was posted to the 10th Battalion (a training Battalion) which was then stationed at Barrow-in-Furness.

Training continued and those who were of age to serve overseas awaited posting to one of the Black Watch Battalions. The Scots Guards however were looking for recruits to fill the ranks of the newly formed

Guards Armoured Brigade and trained soldiers from all of the Scottish Regiments who were five foot nine or over were fair game to be pressed into this new organisation. As Tim fitted the bill he was made to swap his TOS for a peaked cap and spent the war in the Scots Guards.

At the end of the war he returned to The Black Watch and was posted to the Depot at Queen's Barracks as MT Corporal.

Serving as a Sergeant in Korea and Kenya, he eventually returned to Queen's Barracks as a Training Sergeant and ensured that the high standard of training of both National Service and Regular Recruits was maintained. His career continued with spells of Regimental duty and "E" postings.

The first time I met him was when he visited the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Oswestry. He was a very smart Recruiting Sergeant with lots of medals and made a great and lasting impression on a very young Junior Lance Corporal. He finished his service as MT Colour Sergeant and saw the battalion move from Warminster to Minden. He was then selected to serve on the Long Service List in various appointments, finishing as a CQMS at Headquarters BAOR.

On completion of his army service Tim became a member of the Headquarters Guard Force in Rheindahlen and worked there with his lifelong friend ex RSM Ken Prescott.

He then emigrated to Australia with his wife to enjoy his retirement. He will always be remembered as an approachable and kind Senior Non Commissioned Officer who made a lasting impression on those who had the privilege of knowing him.

R J W Proctor

JOSEPH ERNEST MCINTOSH

Joe McIntosh died on the 6th of April aged 84 at Ninewells Hospital Dundee after suffering a short illness.

Joe was born, brought up and educated in Edzell, Angus and on leaving school served his time as an apprentice painter with a local firm and later became self-employed.

He was called up to do his National Service with the Black Watch and served in Korea and was demobbed prior to the 1st Battalion's move to Kenya. He took part in all the engagements including the Battle of the Hook which left a great and lasting impression on him. He was very proud to have served in the Regiment in Korea and was very honoured to receive a certificate and medal from the government of South Korea for his service during the Korean War.

Joe was one of the founder members of the Angus Branch and whilst in good health he attended and participated in all Branch activities, he was also a member of the Korean Veterans Association. He was a strong and vocal supporter of the Save the Regiment Campaign and took part in all the marches to retain the Scottish Regiments which were held in Scotland.

He organised the annual Remembrance Service at Edzell War Memorial and woe betide the person who did not follow Joe's sequence of events. Keeping the War Memorial and surrounding area in good order was another one of his self-imposed duties.

Joe met Ella his wife at the dancing in Kirriemuir where in the 1950s, good Scottish Country Dancing was guaranteed. Not long after this they were married.

Joe was a keen footballer in his younger day and also kept himself fit by playing badminton and in later years bowls. He is another stalwart who will be sadly missed.

R J W Proctor

CLARK MCNAMEE

Clark McNamee who was known as Radar joined the battalion in Ballykinler (1989-1991) and served in Delta Company. He later transferred to the MT Platoon and became an experienced and much valued asset as he gained a plethora of driving licences and vehicle servicing qualifications.

He was no angel and routinely met with the RSM after a weekend drama but he was a loyal Black Watch soldier.

He was an experienced JNCO who served in the UK, Northern Ireland, Germany and Iraq. On leaving the Army, he was dogged by ill health. For a time he lived in Poppy Court in Perth but then moved to Fife. He died aged 47 on 14 July.

R M Riddell



JAMES MACKENZIE SIMPSON

James Simpson died on 30th April 2016 aged 97. He was born during the final months of the First World War and was raised in the Clepington Road area of Dundee.

On leaving school he found employment in a Dundee advertising agency and by 1939 had moved to Valentines as a commercial artist.

He enlisted into the 5th (Angus) Battalion The Black Watch and was soon recruited into the Pipes and Drums as he had played the pipes in the Boys Brigade pipe band. He became the piper for D Company and took part in all the engagements in North Africa from the Battle of El Alamein to Sfax in Tunisia and was the only one of the six Company Pipers who reached Sfax unscathed.

On the 1st of August 1943 James received shrapnel wounds at the Battle for Sferro Ridge in Sicily and was invalided to Algiers. On his recovery he volunteered to join the fairly new unit, the Special Air Service and remained with them until October 1945 and then moved once again on their disbandment to the Parachute Regiment where he remained until he was demobilised in 1946.

On completion of his service he returned to Valentines in Dundee and then moved to DC Thomson's Art Department in 1957. He was promoted to the position of studio manager which he held until he retired in 1982.

On his retirement he and his wife Myra relocated to Broughty Ferry, sadly she died in 2012. He is survived by his twin children Methven and Janice.

R J W Proctor

ROBERT SIMPSON

Rab Simpson died very suddenly on the 28th May at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee aged 79.

Rab was born in Glasgow on the 20th of February 1937. At the beginning of the Second World War he was evacuated with his family to Arbroath where the family settled and he grew up. He attended Arbroath High School where he was awarded the Higher Art Prize for outstanding illustrative and graphic work.

After leaving school and entering the workplace Rab was called up in 1955 for his National Service in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, spending most of his time in Libya. On demobilisation in 1958 he returned to Arbroath to work as a weaver. He later joined the 4th/5th Black Watch and served three years as a drummer in the Pipes and Drums before re-enlisting into the Regular Army in 1962.

Carrying out his basic training at the combined Black Watch and Argylls' Depot at Stirling Castle he joined the 1st Battalion at Warminster in November 1962. He and Brenda were also married in 1962 and went on to spend 54 happy years together.

Taking part in the North American tour of 1963 and playing at the White House in front of President Kennedy was one of the highlights of Rab's time with the Regiment and one of which he was very proud.

When the 1st Battalion moved to Minden, West Germany in 1964 Rab and Brenda moved into married quarters, however Brenda decided to move back to Scotland for the birth of their first child Veronica with Rab continuing to serve with the battalion in Germany and then Cyprus during the United Nations tour in 1966-1967.

Later their son Neil was born and Rab then left the army and returned to civilian life working for a period at the NCR in Dundee before attending Dundee college as a mature student and then Duncan of Jordanstone College of Fine Art where he gained a 1st Class Honours Degree. He then obtained employment as a Graphic Designer whilst Brenda became manager of a veterans' sheltered housing complex in Broughty Ferry.

On retirement Rab became a founder member of the Angus Branch of The Black Watch Association where he was very active, attending all meetings and functions. Along with fellow Angus Branch members Bob Mitchell, Bob Inglis and Bill Tindal under Museum Director Lieutenant Stephen Lindsay he led on the design of the 1st World War room and produced a very authentic WW1 trench complete with gunfire effects, whizz bangs and gun flashes. He took part in other projects includ-



ing the painting of Captain Fergus Bowes Lyon at the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt in September 1915. The figure of "Fred" the 1882 Black Watch sentry which greeted the numerous visitors to The Black Watch Museum was another example of Rab's work. He designed the art work of the annual Angus Branch El Alamein Dinner, Burns Supper and Branch Standard Rededication Service programmes. He also produced a series of paintings accurately depicting the different forms of dress throughout the regiment's history which are hung in The Black Watch Club in Arthursstone Terrace, Dundee.

All his work shows great attention to detail and deep knowledge of the regiment's history.

He also kept up his side drumming skills and was a leading member of Dundee's Fintry and District pipe band where he not only played the side drum but taught younger members of the band and a local Boys Brigade Company the art of pipe band side drumming.

Rab was a quiet and unassuming man who gave a lot to the regiment in many ways; he was also a loyal friend who will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

R J W Proctor

TOMMY WARD

Tommy Ward died suddenly at home in Dundee on the 1st of September 2016, aged 77. He served in the 1st Battalion, from 1955 to 1966 as a drummer in the Pipes and Drums.

Whilst serving in the Battalion, Drum Major Roy Dear a fellow Dundonian kept a fatherly eye on him, as Tommy who was always cheery and a great morale booster was known to get into scrapes. He fell foul of various RSMs such as George (Big Pat) Patterson for playing Reveille from his barrack room window in Berlin when he had slept in as Duty Drummer to playing "Taps" the US Army Retreat Call instead of the Last Post, when the battalion was encamped in the desert outside El Adem airfield in Libya in 1965.

Tommy was one of the best buglers and side drummers in the battalion and won the Commanding Officer's Silver Bugle on a number of occasions. The winner of this prize was also given the honour of being appointed the Commanding Officer's Bugler who accompanied the Commanding Officer on all formal occasions and parades.

In February 1961 whilst the Battalion was serving in Cyprus the Drum Corps of the Pipes and Drums entered into the Brigade Bugling Competition, which was hosted by 2 Para who were stationed at Polimidia. The Black Watch drummers swept the board, with Tommy coming first in the individual competition and winning the Brigade Bugling shield much to the chagrin of the Paras and Devon and Dorsets the other regiments in the Brigade.

Leaving the Regiment in 1966, Tommy moved to the Royal Highland Fusiliers where he attained the rank of Corporal Drummer before he left the army in 1977.



1st - Dair. Ward.

After he left the army he was engaged in various employments and was for some time a self-employed landscape gardener. He was a regular attendee at Association functions and events and kept in touch with his former comrades.

Tommy was a real regimental character who will be sadly missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

R J W Proctor

GREGORY BYRON DAVID WILLIAMS

Greggs, died suddenly on the 1st of July 2016 aged 27; his funeral took place at Kirkcaldy Crematorium and was conducted by the Black Watch Association Padre, the Reverend Alex Forsyth.

Greggs was born in the BMH Munster on the 12th March 1989 and was the eldest of a family of four whose younger siblings looked upon him as their protective big brother. He was a confident youngster who loved being outdoors.

The family after living in different parts of the UK finally settled in Kirkcaldy where Greggs attended Dunearn Primary and Kirkcaldy High School. He was a very fit young man and when he left school he wanted to join the Army and spent 6 months on a Military Training and Education course at college. On completion of his course in May 2006 he went to Catterick to carry out his basic training and then joined The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland at Palace Barracks, Belfast where he was employed as a driver.

Missing his family and home life he left the Army in 2008 a decision which he later regretted as he realised that he missed the camaraderie of Army life however he continued to keep in touch with his Black Watch pals and talked about his time in the battalion.

He tried several jobs before deciding to resume his former education and was near to completion of Sport and Fitness Management Course when he died.

R J W Proctor



The following deaths have also been recorded;

Nicholson Forbes died in early 2016.

John Thomson of Ceres, Fife recently died aged 82. He was a National Service soldier in the 2nd Battalion between 1952 and 1954.

Tom McKay of Cockenzie died in 2015.

Alfred Bordass died in early 2016. He was a member of the Regimental Band.

James MacGregor Shanks died on 23 February 2016. He was a Korean War and Kenya veteran.

Ian Ross died on 15 September 2016 in Kirkcaldy aged 57.

Eric Charles Brown of the London Branch died in 2016 aged 89.

THE INTERMENT OF LANCE CORPORAL JOHN MORRISON, 1st BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH (ROYAL HIGHLANDERS)

By Captain N J T Coles

It is not every day that you hear the pipes playing in the quiet streets in the village of Béthune in Northern France. However, on 27 July 2016 Padre Stewart MacKay led a service for the burial of Lance Corporal John Morrison in Woburn Abbey Cemetery, Cuinchy where John Morrison's body has been laid to rest with full military honours. There are eight other Black Watch soldiers who lost their lives during the First World War buried in the same cemetery.

Lance Corporal Morrison's remains were found by a farmer in November 2014 after a chance discovery of a spoon engraved with his regimental number. After months of hard work the MoD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) traced Lance Corporal Morrison's family through DNA and contacted his 90-year-old nephew, Dr Ian Morrison of Dingwall.

Current serving members of Charlie Company from The Black Watch battalion had the privilege of forming the burial and firing parties for this very unique occasion. Led by Major Martin Stanning, the group set sail from Hull on the overnight ferry to Rotterdam with members of the band from the 6th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland before making their onward journey to the Cuinchy for the final rehearsals.

On the morning on the 27 July, people gathered in the small cemetery to mark this memorable occasion. As the burial party carried the coffin through the cemetery, in the still of the morning, those that had congregated for the service realised the significance of the event. Finally, 101 years later a soldier was being laid to rest with his own headstone. Roughly eighty people (French and British) attended the service including the Mayor of Cuinchy, and members of the Black Watch Association who had volunteered to be Standard Bearers. Amongst the congregation were two of Lance Corporal Morrison's great nieces and one great nephew, in addition to other members of his family.

Brigadier Alastair Aitken (Deputy Colonel SCOTS) and Colonel A Veitch (British Liaison Officer to the French Land Forces) read the lessons while Padre Mackay gave the Address. 'The Anthem for Doomed Youth', by Wilfred Owen was read by Lance Corporal Morrison's great nephew which was a particularly moving moment in the service. The cemetery was lifted with the French national

anthem in the concluding moments which reminded us all how many local people were at the service. Those that attended the service were subsequently hosted at a reception in the village hall where the Mayor of Cuinchy, Brigadier Aitken and JCCC all spoke about the remarkable event.

Lance Corporal John Morrison was born on 14 November 1885 at Tomintoul, Banffshire. He was 29 years old when he was killed in action serving with the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch on 25 January 1915.

John was the fourth of a family of seven children born to his parents, John and



Lance Corporal Morrison.



The Black Watch Battalion Bearer Party.



The Black Watch Association and French Standard Bearers at Woburn Abbey Cemetery.



Brigadier Alastair Aitken (Deputy Colonel SCOTS) lays a wreath on the grave of Lance Corporal Morrison.



Soldiers of The Black Watch Battalion and family members who took part in the Service at Woburn Abbey Cemetery.

Margret, between the years 1882-1893. His father worked as a gamekeeper who by the early 1890s was employed on the Brodie Castle Estate, Forres, Morayshire, where he eventually became the Head Gamekeeper.

John followed in his father's footsteps and also became a gamekeeper. At the outbreak of the war, he was employed on the Ardrornish Estate at Morvern, Argyllshire but decided to volunteer and travelled to Perth to enlist with The Black Watch on 7 September 1914.

After completing less than three months of training, John was sent to France and to Flanders, disembarking on 2 December 1914. He joined the 1st Battalion in the field the following day as one of a draft of 150 men to help rebuild the battalion as a fighting unit. It had suffered huge losses during the First Battle of Ypres that had subsided only ten days or so before.

Just days before Christmas 1914, the Battalion along with others of the Division, received orders to redeploy from Ypres to the then southernmost part of the line held by the British Army at Cuinchy. This was to counter an anticipated advance by the enemy. On the morning of 25 January 1915, four enemy mines were detonated in the notorious Brickstacks sector of the front and the line held by the Coldstream and Scots Guards was overwhelmed by a concerted attack.

Three companies of The Black Watch along with other reinforcements were thrown into the line in a desperate attempt to stabilize the position. It was during the bitter fighting that ensued that John became one of the 59 fatalities suffered by the Battalion that day.

Following his death, his parents received a letter from one of his comrades describing his last moments:

'The attack was fierce, and John got a bullet in the leg. Nevertheless, he crawled to the assistance of his officer, also wounded, and was in the act of helping him to remove his pack when he was fatally shot. He was promoted to Lance Corporal only a few days before.'

The officer concerned, 2nd Lieutenant Lewis Willett, elaborated further on the circumstances of John's death in a separate letter to his brother:

'Some gallant fellow crawled up to me shortly after I was hit, and attempted to assist me off with my pack, but owing to the nature of my wound, I was unable to turn my neck sufficiently around to see who it was. I heard he was hit, and asked him if it was so. He replied: "Yes Sir"; and when I inquired later, I received no reply, but could just touch his hand by reaching back, and found he was dead. From the sound of his voice I thought it was your brother, who was in my Platoon, and I hoped it wasn't so, and that I had made a mistake, for he was one of my most valued men...His end was a gallant one, and his was a peaceful conclusion to a career, which had he been spared to prolong it, he could have looked back on with the justifiable pride of one who has done his work well.'

Before Lance Corporal Morrison's remains were recovered, his name was commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial along with the names of 53 of his other comrades who were also killed in action on the same day but have no known graves.



Mr Brian Smith lays a wreath on behalf of The Black Watch Association.

END OF AN ERA – THE LAYING UP OF THE NEW ZEALAND SCOTTISH REGIMENT COLOURS

By: Brett Pierce

Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles (QAMR) travelled to Dunedin to Lay Up the New Zealand Scottish Regiment Colours at the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum on Saturday 16 April 2016.

The parade consisted of the Colour Party dressed in traditional Highland Regiment uniform and was escorted by a guard of a hundred soldiers made from QAMR, members of 2/4 Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, the New Zealand Army Band, a piper, Light Armoured Vehicles and ex NZ Scots members.

The parade began by exercising the NZ Scots Freedom of the City for the last time, marching through the streets of Dunedin with Colours flying, drums beating, and swords drawn. The parade was challenged by the NZ Police outside the Dunedin City Council chambers in the Octagon before continuing to the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum. At the Settlers Museum the parade was reviewed by His Worship the Mayor of Dunedin, Dave Cull before the Commanding Officer of QAMR, Lieutenant Colonel Gibbons, handed the Charter granting the NZ Scottish Regiment the Freedom of Dunedin back to the Mayor. The CO then handed the NZ Scottish Regiment's Colours to Jennifer Evans, Director of Toitū Otago Settlers Museum, and they were carried into the museum to the tune of Auld Lang Syne played on the bagpipes by Bruce Keddie, an ex NZ Scots member.

Lt Col Gibbons said that while it was a sad occasion to see the final vestiges of the NZ Scottish Regiment handed over to the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum, it would ensure a strong tie between the NZ Army and the City of Dunedin that will endure.

"Toitū Otago Settlers Museum will preserve the Colours, and ensure that they continue to be a focus of local pride and interest for many generations to come", he said.

The NZ Scots Association held a dinner on the evening following the parade.

Although armoured units traditionally have Guidons, the NZ Scottish Regiment, Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps were authorised to carry Colours in acknowledgement that it was originally formed as an infantry unit.

The NZ Scottish Regiment inherited the Battle Honours of the 2nd NZ Divisional Cavalry, 2 NZEF and the Colours were presented to the Regiment in Linton Camp on 23 February 1963 by His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Bernard Ferguson, GCMG, DSO, OBE.

The NZ Scottish Regiment was formed in 1939 as an Infantry unit of the Territorial Force (TF), recruiting soldiers throughout the country. Only men of proven Scottish birth or descent were recruited into the Regiment.

In 1943, the Regiment was disbanded due to manpower shortages only to reform again in 1949. In 1963 the unit was reduced, this time to two reconnaissance squadrons, 1st Squadron located in Burnham and 2nd Squadron located in Dunedin, with both units drawing their TF elements from the Christchurch and Dunedin areas.

In the early 1970's the NZ Army purchased the M113A1 Armoured Personnel Carrier. As a result both units eventually changed from the role of reconnaissance to Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadrons retaining a combination of Regular and TF personnel. Further change occurred in 1982 when 2nd Squadron's role changed to that of Anti-Armour with the unit being equipped with wheeled vehicles and 106mm Recoilless Rifles.

The NZ Scottish Regiment was disestablished in 1990 and the Chief of Defence Force formally disbanded the unit in 2013. With the disestablishment of the unit in early 1990 the Regular Force personnel were moved north, complete with M113A1s, to form the basis of Wai/WEC Squadron, 1 Armoured Group. The remaining TF element of both Squadrons combined to form what became the NZ Scottish Squadron, as part of 4 Otago Southland Regiment. The Squadron consisted of Squadron Headquarters and 1 Troop located in Dunedin, and 2 Troop located in Burnham with the role of wheeled Medium Range Reconnaissance. 4 Otago Southland Regiment amalgamated with 2 Canterbury, Nelson-Marlborough West Coast Regiment in 2012 to form 2/4 Battalion, and this link was acknowledged with members of 2/4 Battalion providing members to the 100 soldier guard at the Laying Up of the Colours.



CO of QAMR, Lt Col Hamish Gibbons, leads the 100 soldier guard through the streets of Dunedin (John Cosgrove).



Colours on parade outside Toitū Otago Settlers Museum (John Cosgrove).



Presentation of NZ Scots Colours in 1963 by HE the Governor General, Brigadier Sir Bernard Ferguson.



The Colour Party parade before Toitū Otago Settlers Museum (NZDF).

DEDICATION OF THE CHINDITS MEMORIAL WHITE CITY, MAWLU BY 77TH BRIGADE 17 MARCH 2016

By Jeremy Archer, Trustee of the Burma Star Association

Editor's Note: In the May 2016 edition of the Red Hackle Magazine we printed copies of images of the Chindit Memorial at White City. The Black Watch Association made a financial contribution to the appeal and in March 2016 representatives of the new 77th Brigade including Brigadier Alastair Aitken attended the Dedication Service.

The new 77th Brigade was formed in 2014 and is named after 77th Indian Infantry Brigade, which was commanded by Orde Wingate in Burma in 1943 and also formed part of a much larger Chindit operation the following year. The new Brigade has adopted the column structure and operational traditions of the old 77th Brigade and also the flash of the *chinthe*, the leogryphs that protect Burmese temples, which inspired Orde Wingate to give the Chindits their name. With the nature of warfare constantly changing – and the enemy ever harder to identify – special techniques have had to be developed. As cyber warfare, intelligence gathering and subterfuge move centre stage, so 77th Brigade has a key role to play. It was therefore very fortunate and appropriate that Brigadier Alastair Aitken and the party from 77th Brigade, who were on a Battlefield Study tour of Burma (now Myanmar), were able to hold a brief ceremony of dedication of the new Chindits Memorial. This is an edited extract from a trip report by Jeremy Archer, formerly of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, a military historian, author and Trustee of the Burma Star Association, who was with the 77th Brigade party.

“We arrived in Mandalay on Tuesday 15th March and the following evening boarded a chartered private train – nicknamed the *Chinthe Express* – for our two-stage journey north, far from the usual tourist trail. On arrival at Mawlu Station we were met by the members of the Mawlu Heritage Trust, their friends and their families. These included twenty delightful schoolchildren, the first of whom held a fine bouquet of roses, which she thrust into the welcoming – and rather surprised – arms of the Brigadier, while their proud parents kept them in order from the second rank. From the station, where there were almost as many armed guards as members of our party, we were escorted to a hall, in which there was an excellent Chindit exhibition, complete with specially printed posters, audio visual aids and many original items, including an aluminium glider pilot's seat. It was all rather overwhelming. We learned later that much of the credit rests with Win Shwe (aka Ko Chake), his close friend, Nyo Ko Naing, an authority on George Orwell in Burma, and the nascent Mawlu Heritage Trust. There are now realistic hopes that 77th Brigade will support the Mawlu Heritage Trust in its endeavours to honour *White City* and the Chindits with a Chindit section in their proposed historical and cultural museum, thus encouraging tourists to visit relatively remote Mawlu.

“From Mawlu, we were taken in a convoy of SPVs to Henu, the site of the *White City* stronghold, so called because of the parachutes that festooned the surrounding trees in the spring of 1944. *White City* was established by Brigadier Mike Calvert and his 77th Indian Infantry Brigade after a furious hand-to-hand battle on Pagoda Hill, where Lieutenant George Cairns earned a posthumous Victoria Cross. We had a remarkable view of the crucial railway line, the light aircraft strip, from where the Stinson L-5 *Sentinels* evacuated casualties, and the Douglas C-47 Dakota strip, where supplies and heavy equipment were brought in. In this instance, sitting astride the main Japanese logistical artery, while dominating the ground of tactical importance, made eminent sense to the strategists in our party. Turning paddy fields into airfields, often through the use of sympathetic local labour, was a practical and logical strategy, after which bulldozers, anti-aircraft guns and artillery could be flown in, thus bringing the *White City* stronghold to fruition. 77th Indian Infantry Brigade, 3rd West African (Nigerian) Brigade and 14th British Infantry Brigade all fought valiantly to defend this hard-won territory.

“It is always humbling to visit places where great bravery has been demonstrated – by both sides – particularly when the ground has scarcely changed in the intervening period, as at *White City*. The Mawlu Heritage Trust and local dignitaries were present in impressive numbers when a brief service of dedication and commemoration took place on O.P. Hill. This

small hill is just across the road from Pagoda Hill and both were within the perimeter of *White City*. Brigadier Alastair Aitken unveiled a ‘faux’ Chindit plaque on a memorial on which the cement had set only that very morning. Sadly, the bronze plaque itself, which was specially cast in England, had been detained by Customs in Yangon, so the resourceful Nyo Ko, a graphic designer and member of the Mawlu Heritage Trust, printed and mounted a photograph of the plaque which saved the day! I understand that all has since been resolved and that the plaque is now in place.

“After a brief but very welcome visit to a tea-house in Henu, we returned by vehicle to Mawlu and re-boarded the *Chinthe Express* for our onward journey north to Namkhwin, the site of the *Blackpool* stronghold, before visiting Mogaung and Myitkyina, from where we flew to Yangon and thence home.”



O.P. Hill and Pagoda Hill from the north.



The Chindits Memorial on O.P. Hill.



77th Brigade party and local dignitaries on O.P. Hill.



KoChake, Nyo Ko and Brigadier Alastair Aitken with a plaque.

VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

By Lieutenant Colonel N K G Tomlin

Editor's Note: This article should have been published in 2014 but was misplaced. Because of its importance it is published in retrospect. As well as the 2005 article on OP BRACKEN a full description of the National Memorial Arboretum was published in November 2009.

During the latter part of 1st Battalion The Black Watch's second deployment to Iraq in as many years, it operated outside the British area under American command in North Babil, based in Camp Dogwood. The Black Watch was required to provide an element of the outer cordon for the US Forces operation to clear Fallujah of insurgent resistance. It was a unique deployment that brought to bear unparalleled pressures on all ranks and put the Battalion at the centre of national debate concerning British policy in Iraq. Many of the events that took place during Operation Bracken (October–December 2004) were a first for the British Army as it subsequently embarked on 10 years of operations that would be characterised by: extreme courage; high intensity operations; public scrutiny; parliamentary debate; and casualties.

During the deployment five soldiers were tragically killed and many others were severely injured. The five soldiers killed in action were: Private Kevin McHale; Sergeant Stuart Gray; Private Paul Lowe; Private Scott McArdle; and Private Pita Tukutukuwaqa. Earlier in the tour, whilst the Battalion was serving in Basrah, Private Mark Ferns had also been killed in action.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the deployment, on 1st December 2014 Lieutenant Colonel Neil Tomlin, who was the Battalion's Adjutant at the time of the 2004 deployment, visited the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. At the Armed Forces Memorial, which contains the names of all servicemen who have died on duty since 1948, he dedicated a memorial cross on behalf of The Black Watch to those listed above and placed it below their names. He also took time to remember those members of The Black Watch killed in action before 2004 and those who have been killed subsequently serving as members of The Black Watch Battalion.

Anyone who wishes to read more about Operation Bracken should refer to the May 2005 edition of The Red Hackle magazine which has a detailed account of the deployment. The two photographs are of Lieutenant Colonel Tomlin standing at the Armed Forces Memorial below the six names of those who died in 2004, and again next to the names on the Basrah Memorial Wall which once stood outside the British Headquarters in Basrah.

"Nemo me impune lacessit"



Lt Col Tomlin lays a cross below the Memorial Wall.



Basrah Wall Memorial.

BLESMA MEMBERS' WEEKEND 2016

By Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keating

The first weekend of June 2016 was, for members of the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (Blesma), a weekend full of sunshine and enjoyable activities. In excess of 160 members, many with their partners, gathered at the Chesford Grange Hotel in Warwickshire for a whirlwind programme of activities and interesting and stimulating talks by Blesma members who had taken part in some quite incredible feats of courage and endurance during the previous twelve months: rowing the Atlantic (Row2Recovery) and the Dakar Rally (Race2Recovery) to name but two.

Having been involved with Blesma for many years and having helped Black Watch Association member Kenny Grant join Blesma after his below knee amputation in 2015, I phoned him to make sure that he was booked in to attend. Having established that he was, I undertook to introduce him to as many other members as possible during the course of the weekend and to get him involved in some of the activities. He met members recently returned from the Invictus Games in America and others selected to go to the Paralympics in Rio. What greater examples could a recent amputee want to get inspired, and motivated to forget about his limb loss and get on with living life to the full?

Much of the activity was social and Kenny was able to make several new friends during the course of the weekend while enjoying a beer or two during the excellent meals laid on by the hotel. He also took part in some of the activities held in the hotel grounds. I regret to say that, despite several years in the 1st Battalion shooting team, Kenny was much better than me at the clay pigeon shooting but I think I had the edge on him when it came to the archery!



Kenny Grant (right) and Jim Keating on the Archery Range at the Blesma Members' weekend.

The weekend finished with a great BBQ on the Sunday evening and members vowing to return again in 2017 to meet up with friends old and new. I know there are five ex-Black Watch members who are amputees and members of Blesma but if other ex-Service amputees read this who would like to join please contact the author at JmKtng@aol.com or on 01584 819961. Hopefully this short article might encourage the other four to get their names in for the 2017 Members' Weekend too.

When Kenny arrived at the hotel he knew only three people there, me and two of the Blesma Support Officers. When he left he knew dozens and was inspired to get more involved with Blesma. So if this article has piqued your interest simply log onto Blesma – The Limbless Veterans website to learn more about the Association and how you too can get involved.



Kenny Grant enjoying the clay pigeon shooting.

IMAGES FROM A PIPER'S CAREER

Pipe Major Sandy Hain who was Pipe Major of the Second Battalion up to its disbandment sent in a number of photographs. They show his father Andrew, who was a piper in the Highland Cyclists' Battalion during the Great War, as well as others of Sandy during his army career.

The photograph of the Pipes and Drums of both the 1st and 2nd Battalions who were performing at the 1957 Edinburgh Tattoo is unique in living memory as it is the only time that both battalion bands had played together.

Sandy now aged 83 lives in Ohio.



Cpl Sandy Hain, showing his winners medals for the Piobaireachd, March, Strathspey and Reel and Jig at the Highland Brigade Gathering Dunblane 1952.



The Pipes and Drums of the 1st and 2nd Battalions at Edinburgh Castle 1957 – Front Row: 5th from left Pipe Major Jock McNicoll (1BW), 6th from left Drum Major Roy Dear (1BW), 7th from left Pipe Major Sandy Hain (2BW), 10th from left Piper J Hume (1BW), 3rd Row, 2nd from right Piper J Anderson (2BW), later Pipe Major of the 1st Battalion.



The 2nd Battalion Pipes and Drums in British Guiana.



Pipers on the Pipe Majors' course Edinburgh Castle in 1952 – second from left Pipe Cpl Sandy Hain.



Pipe Major Sandy Hain at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 1957.



Piper Andrew Hain, Highland Cyclist Battalion 1914; he later formed Cupar Pipe Band and became Pipe Major.



Pipe Major Sandy Hain at Kinfauns Castle 1952 talks with a group of young English girls to whom he was teaching the finer points of country dancing.



Pipe Corporal Sandy Hain (left) teaching the chanter to learner pipers at Queen's Barracks, Perth 1952.

LOUIS FLOOD – ARCHIVE PHOTOGRAPHS

Editor's Note: In the November 2015 and May 2016 Editions of the magazine we published some of Louis Flood's photographs from the 1950s, 60s and 70s. This will be the final selection of his images to be published.



CSM Smith and Sergeant Oldham photographed on the North Inch show off the new uniform in February 1959.



Mixing the Christmas pudding at Queen's Barracks. From the left; Cpl Rumbold, Maj Nobby Clark, Maj AD Rowan-Hamilton and Sgt Thomas.



The "Sporran dispute", September 1953. CSM Smith holds the new "Purse Highland No 13" which replaced the hair sporran for a number of years. It was not popular.



Korean War Veterans possibly looking at souvenirs of the war February 1953.



A bugler sounds a call at Crail May 1952.



Nobby Clark serving Red Hackle Day lunches at the Depot January 1956.



Recruits packing for Cyprus in July 1960 try on a jungle hat.

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



BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Commanding Officer:	Lieutenant Colonel A F L Steele
Second-in-Command:	Major J Reid
Adjutant:	Captain T J H Towler
Operations Officer:	Captain C M Treasure
Intelligence Officer:	Captain C G Voce Russell
Regimental Sergeant Major:	WO1 K Stacey

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

There have been many highs and some lows over the last few months but it is testament to the huge commitment, character and resilience of the battalion that we have now successfully completed our conversion to Light Mechanised Infantry. I am particularly grateful for all the support we have had along the way, not least of all from the Association.

Summer got off to a flying start with a visit from our Royal Colonel on 27 April 2016. Due to the pace of battalion commitments, it was the first time the Duke of Rothesay had been able to visit for a number of years. The day began with his pickup in a Foxhound from Inverness airport, and whilst he seemed to enjoy the experience, I don't imagine he'll be replacing his fleet of Range Rovers anytime soon! Spirits remained high despite the dreich weather and it was very clear that His Royal Highness shared his grandmother's fondest for the Jocks, their families, the cadets and the Association. In fact, he spent so much time speaking with them that the programme very soon wasn't worth the paper it was written on! His visit concluded with a number of medal presentations, and the promotion of RSM Marshall to Captain and RQMS Stacey to WO1 to take his place.

A Company were first to finish the conversion in time to deploy on Exercise Wessex Storm 16/3 in June as a Company Group, with a platoon from Bravo Company and Machine Guns from C Company. As part of the Scots Dragoon Guard's Battlegroup, the exercise provided a dress rehearsal for our own deployment later in the year and all those involved brought back a wealth of invaluable knowledge and experience. They returned to the Fort the week before summer leave and with whole battalion in one place for the first time since January, we took the opportunity to compete for the Maxwell Shield. The culmination of the event was on Ticonderoga Day where a number of cadets, Regimental guests and Association members looked on to see The Golden Don triumph. The week concluded with a tremendous Beating Retreat followed by 'Fort Fest', the battalion's answer to Glastonbury!

Summer leave followed for most, with the exception of those involved in the burial of Lance Corporal John Morrison. Members of Charlie Company had the honour of providing the guard for a full ceremonial burial on 27 July 2016 in Cunchy, 101 years after he was killed in action fighting with the 1st Battalion The Black Watch. It was a very poignant and special day.

On returning from leave, the battalion had only a couple of days before deploying on Exercise Wessex Storm 16/4. With a company from the RIFLES, a Squadron of SCOTS DG and numerous other attachments, the Battlegroup's ranks swelled to almost 800 soldiers and 250 vehicles. The majority spent the first two weeks in Otterburn for the Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise and it was on the first day of training there that Private Conor McPherson was tragically killed whilst conducting night firing. He was a terrific individual and will be sorely missed. It has been a dreadful experience for all those involved, especially for his friends and family, and whilst it will take a long time to fully get over his death the battalion is on the mend.

I am immensely proud of the way the battalion and in particular A Company responded under such difficult circumstances; not just the determination with which they continued the live firing package but also the Field Training Exercise that followed on Salisbury Plain. The latter was not only the first time the battalion had operated together since 2013 but the first time the Companies had had a run out as Light Mechanised Infantry sub units. The final Battlegroup attack onto Imber represented the culmination of seven months hard graft. To have converted in half the recommended time, with little supporting doctrine and such taut resourcing, demonstrated the thick vein of quality that runs through the Officers, Warrant Officers, NCOs and Jocks of this battalion; their efforts were remarkable.

Imber was my first objective on exercise as a platoon commander and was the last as a CO. It has been a tremendous honour to command the Battalion over the last two years through Operation VOCATE, Operation TOSCA and our most recent conversion. I am immensely proud of what has been achieved. As I depart, preparations are now well underway for overseas exercises in Kenya and Jordan next year. Aside from these, the battalion will remain at readiness throughout 2017.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Returning from Easter Leave, the focus of the staff in Battalion Headquarters was the handover of a number of appointments and the establishment of the team that would take the Battalion through the Combined and Staff Training Exercise (CSTTX) and then onto Ex WESSEX STORM. Major Jim Reid returned to the Battalion as Second-in-Command whilst Captains Voce Russell and Treasure assumed the roles of IO and Ops Officer respectively, with WO1 Stacey fulfilling his destiny and becoming the Regimental Sergeant Major.

With the new team assembled we headed out onto the local training area to run a three day planning exercise, giving us our first chance to fully understand what the Headquarters will look like and how it will operate in the Light Mechanised Infantry role. This set us in good stead for CSTTX, which provided us with an excellent opportunity to build upon these lessons and also to go a step further and practise working alongside our attached Arms. After moving down to Warminster, we used the first week to conduct a practice planning cycle and then hit the ground running in week two, completing three planning serials which the Battalion, then executed on the simulator system. The whole experience was hugely beneficial and it was a fantastic opportunity to get the new team up and running before Ex WESSEX STORM.

Upon returning from CSTTX our attentions shifted to the approaching summer leave and what better way to end the first half of the year than with the Regimental Highland Games and a week of events celebrating and showcasing the battalion? For the second year running the Royal Regiment of Scotland Highland Games was hosted as part of the Inverness Gala. Teams were entered by the 1st, 4th and 7th Battalions as well as our own battalion team. Thanks to Pte Aurelien's unusual but highly effective High Jump technique and Major Jim Reid selflessly stepping up at the last moment to compete in the relay, we secured 1st place and took home the trophy.

The successes of the weekend set the mood for our Open Day at Fort George the following Tuesday, in which we welcomed a number of guests including former members of the Black Watch and future members in the form of the Black Watch Army Cadet Force. Though we were experiencing a traditional Fort George summer day (similar to a monsoon), the weather could not dampen the spirit of the Jocks who competed in a variety of challenges to win the Maxwell Shield. Our guests were treated to a spectacle of strength, stamina and determination – and that was just watching Captain McRobbie devour four turkey rolls! The Jocks competing in the Land Rover pull, Highland wrestling and caber toss were no less impressive and the Games culminated in the gun-run as the closing event. For a few minutes the sun even shone on BHQ's gun run team, picking out their bright yellow t-shirts as they dashed along the battlements, their gladiatorial efforts securing them a solid last place in the concluding event. The well-deserved victory went to The Golden Don and with the prize giving over, we bid farewell to our guests and set our sights on the All-Ranks Ball the following Thursday.

Fort Fest, the Battalion's answer to Glastonbury, provided the perfect way to finish the week. A fusion of live bands, burgers and cans of lager; good fun was had by all and the Jocks got an insight into what BHQ thought qualified as 'festival wear'. One officer, who shall remain nameless, was described as having stolen his outfit "from his father's, father's wardrobe – if his grandfather bought all his clothes in the PRI". And on that scathingly critical note, we departed on some well-earned leave to recharge our batteries before Ex WESSEX STORM and to ruminate on our wardrobe choices.



The Royal Colonel arrives at Fort George in style.



The Royal Colonel inspects the Quarter Guard during his visit to Fort George.



Captain R J Stewart (right) hands over the post of Ops Officer to Captain C M Treasure.



Battlegroup orders during training on CSTTX.



The CO meets the Black Watch of Canada Association Pipe Band.

THE OFFICERS' MESS

President of the Mess Committee: Major MP Stanning
 Mess Secretary: Captain C McRobbie
 Mess Treasurer: Captain I Walker

Not forgetting our lovely ladies the Mess held its annual Ladies' Dinner Night in which Mrs Stanning swept through the bucket reel to secure a place in the final and eventually secure victory for the Stanning household. It was a set-back in the confidence to many Mess members that resulted in immediate remedial PT under Lt Kelly.

In support of the Poppy appeal a group of individuals paid for the privilege of the Fort George Experience. Alas it did not involve a house swap for the subbies over the weekend but the Mess did come together to host one of the best weekends in recent memory. With a day on the ranges, some clay pigeon shooting and a fine Blues dinner night the "Subbies" demonstrated that their on-going social development program is working well. As with every great endeavour however there were casualties and following some fierce competition ankles may have been damaged. Thankfully the "Patch" doctor showed great sympathy and was more than happy to escort her husband to A&E the next day for a catch up with her work colleague!

HMS Sutherland graced the Highlands on her way home from a NATO exercise in the North Sea and invited members of the Battalion to visit the ship and enjoy the Senior Service's hospitality. Needless to say our brave warriors performed admirably, retiring only after fully pushing the ships G4 re-supply system in the Ward Room until it unfortunately broke.

With such high tempo training and operations the regular churn has been slightly higher than normal. We welcome in Majors Curson and Smith who have taken over Bravo and Delta Companies respectively, as well as Major McKay who takes over as the new Padre. Leaving us at last is Captain Dobson who moves to Warminster and returns to his old love, the Mortars, whilst also moving closer to his new fiancé. Major Bayne follows him to Warminster where he will have the un-enviable task of developing the next generation of young officers on both Junior Officers' Tactical Awareness Course (JOTAC) and the Captains' Warfare Course (CWC). We look forward to seeing the results bloom over the coming year. Of particular note Bobby Stewart has joined the dark side and retired his hackle in favour of being a civilian.



Captains Walker and Towler enjoying a Blues Night.



Health and Safety rules are just suggestions.



Captain Deck trials the new mounted recce vehicle.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Presiding Member: WO1 (RSM) K Stacey
 President of the Mess Committee: WO2 (CSM) I Carlisle

It has been a busy period over the last few months. WO1 (RSM) Kev Stacy has now taken over as the Presiding Member. However, due to the tempo of Battalion life at the moment, we have only been able to fit in one function since the RSM's dining in. The Mess held their Summer Ball at Bogbain Farm, with a western theme. A lot of hard work by Colour Sergeant Carnegie and his team ensured the event was a success.

The Mess has had a makeover recently. Overseen by the PMC and his team, the new Aberfeldy Lounge has been established. The Sports Bar has had a new lease of life and the main bar will soon be completed.

The Mess welcomes back Colour Sergeant Tommy Blair, returning from a post with the 6th Battalion and CSM Malcolm Wilson, who has returned to take over as CSM of Alpha Company. We also welcome WO2 John Harding, who has joined us on attachment from 1st Battalion The Royal Irish to assume the post of Mortar Platoon 2IC.

We offer our congratulations to now WO2 Buist and CSgt Blake on their promotions and wish them the best of luck as they take over Charlie Company CSM and Recce 2IC respectively. We also congratulate Sergeant Leye on the birth of his daughter and Sergeants Lawaci, Powell and Ross on receiving the Long Service and Good Conduct medal.



Sergeant Smith drives his computer on CSTTX.



The Commanding Officer promoting WO2 Buist as he becomes CSM of Charlie Company.



CSgt Bowe conducts an after action review with 5 Platoon.

CORPORALS' MESS

President of the Mess Committee: Corporal Palmer

The Corporals' Mess has been working hard on the build up to Ex WESSEX STORM. This has included the in barracks training, including training on the vehicle fleet, as well as exercises across Scotland. The Corporals have put countless hours into developing the low level skills and drills that will make Ex WESSEX STORM a success. After the exercise we will all be looking forward to enjoying some October leave before getting ourselves ready for a number of functions; the Christmas Ball and Burns Night are both in our sights.

The Mess would like to welcome LCpl McCarthy (7 SCOTS), Cpl Gonsales, Cpl Forbes (ITC Sp Bn), Cpl Mcfadden (ITC) and Cpl Rae (Brecon). We congratulate Sgt Ritchie, Sgt Gilmore, Sgt Wishart, Sgt Morrison and Sgt Cruickshanks who have all recently been promoted. We would like to say farewell to LCpl Thorn, Cpl Creighton, Cpl Millar, Cpl White, LCpl Shields, LCpl Knox, LCpl Mumby, LCpl McDonald, and good luck to LCpl Rokoduguni on his transfer to 1 YORKS.

Finally we extend our thanks to Cpl McTernan, who has now finished his tenure as PMC. This post is now held by Cpl Palmer.

ALPHA (GRENADIER) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major B O'Neill
Second-in-Command:	Lieutenant A Pearson
Company Sergeant Major:	CSM M Wilson
Officer Commanding 1 Platoon:	Lieutenant A Gibson
1 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Bellshaw
Officer Commanding 2 Platoon:	Lieutenant A Bullen
2 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant McMaster
Officer Commanding 3 Platoon:	Lieutenant E Mitchell
3 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Mackie

1 Platoon and 3 Platoon spent two weeks in April rotating through Norwegian Lodge in the Cairngorms. 3 Platoon led the way with two and half days carrying out navigation training, beach games, hiking, swimming, and culminating in NCOs vs Jocks and Officer paintball on the way back to the Fort. After a quick high-five, 1 Platoon shot off south, eager to catch the good weather that had started off the week. Both platoons were ably catered for throughout by Private Morris who served huge quantities of barbecue, breakfast, and quality chicken mayo sandwiches. The massive common room of Norwegian Lodge and its projector and speakers set the scene for two great nights of platoon games and discussion.

The culmination of recent company level training was a long range strike near Dalbeattie. The company group was fleshed out by the Machine Gun Platoon, commanded by Lt Kelly. 'Kelly's Heroes' became a staple of Light Mech life within the Grenadiers. Before the Company could get to grips with the strike, a greater challenge lay before them – driving the Foxhound and RWMIK+ vehicles to the exercise area, 259 miles away. Orchestrated by Lt Pearson we only departed Fort George twenty minutes late!

After a ten hour ride down the A9 the Company arrived at the exercise area more or less in one piece. The Company then conducted a dismounted attack, starting at 05:30, onto the objective. With an insurgent enemy controlled by Corporal Hunte, attempting to delay the Company's advance, the going was tough for the Grenadiers but victory was achieved in the end.

From the lessons of this strike the Company progressed, with the Battalion, onto CSTTX in Warminster. This took the form of a huge warehouse containing dozens of 'pods', all of which had linked computer terminals that allowed the 'player' to operate a vehicle or a section of soldiers in a virtual world. The Army had paid for the Jocks to play video games of their own jobs for two weeks!

The training value provided by this facility was superb, as it enabled the Battalion HQ to plan and execute full battlegroup level operations, the companies to deliver those operations, and the Jocks to practise and establish SOPs without the possibility of damaging real vehicles.

With victory on the virtual battlespace achieved, the rest of the Battalion departed back to Fort George, but not the Grenadiers, who had another two weeks to enjoy the English sunshine! The Company, with attached machine guns and 6 Platoon from Bravo Company, was attached to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Battlegroup for their Ex WESSEX STORM at the end of June and early July, on Salisbury Plain.

The two weeks of the exercise were split into a week of company battle exercises and a final week of battlegroup lead operations. The Jocks really drove the eight tonne Foxhound to its limits on Salisbury Plain, with some excellent but inadvertent power slides from Privates Curry and Mackie.

The final action of the exercise was a delaying action over two rivers, with the Grenadiers being the last friendly forces left on the enemy bank of the final river, facing an entire enemy battlegroup – clearly our reputation had got ahead of us in this action! What ensued was a valiant fight which saw run and gun tactics employed by the Machine Gun Platoon, The Senior Highland Platoon playing a game of tag with a Scimitar around a woodblock and 3 Platoon making good use of a General Custer style wagon circle. Throughout all of this not only was the OC coordinating the tactical action but also being made to listen to Private Mackay's nature watch commentary from top-cover position: 'look out for that wee black chicken sir' with the OC's reply of 'that's a peacock Mackay!'

It's been a busy six months but also a fun and professionally developing period. The Grenadiers continue to push forward the understanding of Light Mechanised Infantry in the battalion as a whole.



Soldiers of 1 Platoon on Exercise WESSEX STORM and working with the SCOTS DG Battlegroup.



Mrs Catherine O'Neill and her family meet The Royal Colonel.



A Company tug of war team pulling during the Maxwell Shield Competition.

BRAVO COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major L Curson
Second-in-Command:	Lieutenant A Atterbury
Company Sergeant Major:	CSM Gray
Officer Commanding 5 Platoon:	Second Lieutenant N Hannay
5 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Simpson
Officer Commanding 6 Platoon:	Lieutenant Liddell RM
6 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Smith
Officer Commanding 7 Platoon:	Second Lieutenant C Howie
7 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Watt

With Easter leave behind us the Company buckled down to ensure it met its goals ahead of Ex WESSEX STORM. This has seen the Jocks build their abilities across a spectrum of activities; from the conceptual development of the Battalion Study Day to the physical challenges of our own company exercise. Through it all there has been a continuous push to qualify enough drivers and commanders on a variety of vehicles. This has seen a large number of Jocks gaining their Cat C licence. Throughout, the Company has been cheerful and professional and is now looking eagerly ahead to deployment on Ex WESSEX STORM after summer leave.

On the 2nd of May, Bravo Company deployed on a two week training exercise designed to develop both mounted and dismounted skills. This was the first time the Company had access to a platoon's worth of Foxhounds and the Jocks were keen to see what they could do with them. The first week saw the Company split into two platoons and allowed two days with and two days without the vehicles. Initial impressions were good, particularly with the Boiling Vessel (BV) in the back allowing for constant brews. The vehicles offered commanders a new tactical challenge as there is limited doctrine and SOPs are under constant review. Nonetheless both platoons adapted quickly, not least because the Foxhounds offered a level of comfort rarely enjoyed by Light Role Infantry.

The second week brought a move to Galloway Forest and a slightly more complex environment to operate in. Again both platoons were given time with the vehicles to test them across new terrain. Galloway Forest is renowned for its rain and difficult terrain however the weather proved to be spectacular and contributed to an excellent week training. The exercise culminated in a company attack on an abandoned quarry. The attack proved attritional from the outset with the OC (Major Andy Bayne at the time) killing himself off 36 hours before the attack even started. This theme carried into the attack with Lt Tom Liddell also choosing to take the day off after the first position. Despite the chain of command falling by the wayside, the Jocks cracked on and took the objective in quick time, a successful end to a productive 2 weeks training.

A running theme of the last 6 months has been the acquisition of Cat C licenses in support of gaining Foxhound driver qualifications. This has stretched the resources of the Company and there have been days when we've only had a section on parade due to the numbers committed elsewhere. Despite this we've achieved a great deal and it's a good reward for the Jocks to get a valuable qualification. There are two Foxhound courses, one aimed at drivers and the other at commanders. Both feature some challenging elements such

as the off road and night driving tests. Driving with night sights on can be extremely difficult and highlights some of the complexities we will face on exercise. Both courses also demonstrated the capability of the vehicle on and off road.

On the 12th of June the Company deployed with the remainder of the Battlegroup to Knook Camp for CSTTX, an exercise designed to test the headquarters predominantly but with some excellent opportunities for company level training. The training is entirely simulated on computers controlled by the soldiers, leaving many to comment on the similarities (or lack thereof) to the video game Call of Duty. The exercise tested our ability to move a company's worth of vehicles tactically, alongside improving our conceptual understanding of the capability of the Battlegroup. Highlights included watching Sgt Smith struggle with the dismounted computers; he was less than pleased when one of his simulated soldiers got stuck in a doorway! Despite the limitations the Company returned to Fort George a far more confident unit, having learned a great deal in two short weeks.

There has been some opportunity for the Platoons to get away to build cohesion. 5 Platoon took a day to visit Balhousie Castle in order to learn about the history of Bravo Company and specifically the traditions of 5 Platoon. This proved to be an excellent day with everyone enjoying themselves in Perth and returning with an increased appreciation of the legacy they have inherited. The Company also seized the opportunity presented in being in the South of England for CSTTX to visit Thorpe Park. This was a fun day out and was a welcome break on a tiring exercise.

This quarter has also seen some fantastic sporting achievements. Lance Corporal McCallum was selected for the Army Ice Hockey team and represented them in several fixtures. He now hopes to build on this to become a regular player next season. The Company has also contributed a number of boxers to the Battalion team. LCpl Meldrum and Pte McDonald represented the Battalion at the Regimental Boxing Night on 1 July. Both performed to an extremely high standard and showed courage and determination in the ring.

In the lead up to summer leave the Company has been split, with 6 Platoon under Lt Liddell deployed with Alpha (Grenadier) Company to support the Scots Dragoon Guards Ex WESSEX STORM. Meanwhile 5 Platoon has been equally busy in Fort George, deploying with Delta (ISR) Company to RAF Spadeadam and conducting a Transition to Live Fire Tactical Training (TLFTT) package. The Company reconstituted on 18 July ahead of the Battalion Week. This week proved to be an excellent chance to bond the Company back together and everyone left for summer leave in high spirits, ready for the challenge to come.



LCpl Broatch, LCpl Murray, Cpl Stott, Sgt Simpson, LCpl McCallum and LCpl Kennedy of B Company at Holyrood Palace.



Pte Chalenga of B Company acts as Section Commander giving Quick Battle Orders.



B Company enjoy a day out at Thorpe Park.

CHARLIE (MOBILITY SUPPORT) COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

Officer Commanding:	Major MP Stanning
Second-in-Command:	Captain DF Hamilton
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 D Buist
Company Quartermaster Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant W Carnegie

The Savages have been spread to the four winds from pipers in the Oman to machine gunners on Salisbury Plain. Although busy, we have strived to make it a successful and productive six month period. The Pipes and Drums in their Assault Pioneer role have completed JCB courses and other cadres in preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM. They have done a spectacular job upholding their reputation playing throughout Scotland and abroad in addition to being heavily involved in 'Royal Week' in Edinburgh. The Machine Gun Platoon have successfully converted onto RWIMIKs and supported the SCOTS DG Battlegroup as a warm up to the Battalion's run out in August. The Mortar Platoon grasped the opportunity to conduct live firing in Warcop and began their integrated relationship with the 7th Battalion spurred on by WO2 Harding.

WO2 Kevin Blackley left the company after two years to seek hotter climates in Afghanistan, as he takes up the post as WO1 Mentor at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy in Kabul. Company Sergeant Major Danny Buist steps into the driving seat to take the Company forward for Ex WESSEX STORM and beyond. Elsewhere in the Company LCpl Jay Wallace has left the CQMS staff and transferred back to D Company and Cpl 'Q' has met the selector's eye as his replacement.

On completion of EX WESSEX STORM the Company will bid a fond farewell to Major Martin Stanning who departs to Shiverham with his family after a year in command. He will hand over to Major 'Shug' Wilson. Colour Sergeant Billy Carnegie will move across the parade square to become the new Training Colour Sergeant and Colour Sergeant Bowe will step into his shoes.

The Company is pleased to welcome back a few soldiers who have spent some time in the civilian wilderness and missed wearing the Red Hackle: Cpl Jose, LCpl Farmer, Pte Craig, Pte Murray, Pte Hall.

MORTAR PLATOON

Officer Commanding:	Captain NJT Coles
Second-in-Command:	WO2 J Harding
Platoon Sergeants:	Sergeant Steele, Sergeant Ellis, Sergeant Kyle, Sergeant Mortley

During a busy time of preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM, while members are pulled in all directions to gain the required qualifications for deployment, the Platoon fought hard for a few days live firing in Warcop to refresh basic skills as mortar sections. Warcop was as true as ever, one minute it was blissful sunshine the next minute it was snowing!

The Platoon has focused their attention over the last few months on HUSKY driving qualifications. LCpls Peebles and Scott have worked relentlessly delivering courses, in addition to ensuring at least one HUSKY remains road worthy and can be used for teaching. This has proved more difficult than one would expect!

As well as signals and driver training courses, members of the Platoon escaped to Barry Buddon for a week of Live Firing before deploying to Warminster on CSTTX (or Narnia as the CATT staff referred to it as). The Platoon eagerly awaits the arrival of more HUSKYs so that crew training can commence before deploying in August.

The Platoon had been chosen to form the burial and firing party for LCpl J Morrison a WW1 veteran whose body was recently identified. He was given a full military burial in Woburn Abbey Cemetery, Cuiinchy.

The Platoon welcomes the arrival of WO2 John Harding as the new 2IC. He returns to Fort George having previously been in Inverness while serving with 1 Royal Irish and is a real attribute to the Platoon.

Congratulations to Cpls Taylor, Leith and Salter on their promotions to Corporal and to LCpl Simmons on promotion to LCpl. The platoon bids farewell to LCpls Shields and Thorn and Ptes Jackson, Chuma and Turner wishing them luck on their next adventures and welcomes LCpl Farmer back to the Battalion and into the Platoon.



The Mortar Platoon in action.



The Mortar Platoon visits Balhousie Castle before travelling to France to take part in the interment of LCpl Morrison's remains.

MACHINE GUN PLATOON

Officer Commanding:
Platoon Sergeant:

Lieutenant W Kelly
Sergeant Lavery

The Machine Gun Platoon have been primarily focused on deploying on both the SCOTS DG Battlegroup Exercise WESSEX STORM, attached to Alpha (Grenadier) Company, and the Battalion's Exercise WESSEX STORM after summer leave.

The Platoon concentrated their training on being able to achieve simultaneous effects whilst maintaining a large rate of firepower on the priority targets. This is achieved by splitting the Platoon into smaller multiples of coupled vehicles and coordinating them through mission command.

The Platoon exercised in Tain and Ardersier, operating in both mounted and dismounted roles. They also deployed on an exercise at Eddingham Castle Works with Alpha Company. After a challenging insertion on the A9 in open-framed RWIMIK+'s, the Platoon offered all the effects we trained for in a successful strike, on difficult terrain.

LCpl Rokoduguni has been performing with the Army Rugby 7s team this season and we all wish him luck in the culmination of their season in the Colorado 7s later this summer.

Ten members of the Platoon visited Pte Miller in Falkirk Community Hospital. He had been badly injured in a car crash. We are hoping this had huge benefit to Pte Miller himself, however, the largest benefit was felt within the Platoon, who were able to visit their friend and see the incredible progress he has made in the last few months. We all hope he continues his recovery and keeps his excellent sense of humour as he pushes towards joining us once more.



LCpl Rokoduguni of the Machine Gun Platoon delivers orders.



The Machine Gun Platoon practise harbour drills.



The Machine Gun Platoon during Exercise WESSEX STORM.

PIPES AND DRUMS

Pipe Major:

Colour Sergeant Tripney

Drum Major:

Colour Sergeant Campbell

Since leaving you in the last edition of the Red Hackle the Pipes and Drums have been involved in numerous engagements, platoon level training and personal development.

The year kicked off with platoon level training in our new role of Assault Pioneer Platoon. This involved a seven week in house cadre that culminated at Barry Buddon for the final test week. The initial six weeks were predominantly low level training, letting the Jocks learn their new skills in the four key elements of the pioneer role; demolitions, survivability, mobility and counter mobility. The final test week was designed to test the abilities of the whole platoon and to show the younger members exactly how the Pioneers could be deployed. During this time Cpl Lowe and LCpl Crawford have qualified as chainsaw operators. Cpl Muir and LCpl McKenna also completed their Assault Pioneer Section Commander course.

On returning from Easter leave the Pipes and Drums switched roles sending a Short Term Training Team (STTT) to Kuwait. The training was requested by the Kuwaiti Army to demonstrate the effect that a well-trained band can achieve. The team succeeded in their objective of developing the Kuwait Forces pipe band, who now speak of the musicians from 'Scotchland' with respect and awe.

After the success of the STTT in Kuwait the services of The Pipes and Drums were once again called upon, this time by the Jordanian Armed Forces to assist in getting their pipe band ready for the biggest parade in the country's history, the 100 year celebration of the Great Arab revolt. The team consisted of two drumming instructors and four pipers whose job was to carry out day to day tuition in music and drill. The Pipes and Drums were also tasked with assembling and tuning 50 brand new sets of pipes and 25 new drums for the parade. This was no easy task as we only had just over a week to do this. The parade itself was a resounding success with

King Abdullah II of Jordan commenting on the great sound and drill of the pipe bands on the parade.

However, it wasn't all work while there. In our time off we had the once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Petra and visit the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea. While there the Platoon embraced the local culture of covering yourself in the Dead Sea mud.

During this time Pte Cordiner and Pte Murray had the opportunity to welcome members of public into Fort George to watch the Five Soldiers Dance Production. Pte Cordiner and Pte Murray played the pipes at the opening of the show each night.

The start of June saw the Pipes and Drums move down to Redford Cavalry Barracks in Edinburgh for five weeks, to take part in numerous parades and marches beginning with a Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle, where the Drummers performed their new and improved 'Drummers Call' for the first time. That weekend the band travelled up to Balhousie Castle to play for the annual Black Watch Reunion, which involved a march from the North Inch up to the Black Watch Museum where we entertained the veterans with music throughout the day. One of these pieces of music was the resurrected 'Ladies From Hell' (Die Damen Aus Der Hölle), named after the nickname given by the Germans to the 1st Battalion The Black Watch during the First World War.

The Pipes and Drums then travelled to Dundee for a concert at the Caird Hall, where they showcased their skills not just as soldiers on parade but a band able to pull off a foot stomping concert in front of an audience of more than 300. The concert was organised in aid of the charity SSAFA and saw performances from traditional Scottish dance groups, comedians and Cadet Corps of Drums.

On Friday the 1st of July, the Pipes and Drums were on parade yet again, this time for the Queen's arrival at the Palace of Holyrood. For some members of the Platoon such as Pte 'Chuck' Norris, this was the first time he had been on parade in front of HM The Queen. The event went smoothly and yet again the Platoon provided the Edinburgh tourists with plenty to snap!

On Saturday the 2nd of July the Pipes and Drums took part in the State Opening of the Scottish Parliament. This involved escorting the crown jewels of Scotland from Edinburgh Castle, down the Royal Mile into the Parliament buildings.

We would like to take this time to welcome back to The Black Watch family the men who found leaving our family was just too much to cope with; Pte's Blair Murray, Martin Craig and Fraser Hall.

Congratulations must be extended to Sgt Alastair Tripney on taking over as Pipe Major and also promoting to CSgt; to LCpl Muir on his promotion to Cpl and Drum Major Allan Campbell on promotion to CSgt. Congratulations to Pte 'Tooth' Wilson and his wife, Cheryl, on their wedding and to Pte Blair Murray and his girlfriend Kimberley on the birth of their son Jack.



Pipes and Drums Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle.



Drum Major Campbell leads the Pipes and Drums at Fort George.

DELTA COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major R Smith
Second-in-Command:	Captain L Hawke
Company Sergeant Major:	CSM Carlisle
Company Quartermaster Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant Pratt

In the previous few months Delta Company has been working towards developing the ISR concept. This started off with the crew training required to operate the RWIMK+ vehicles. Not only do we require training for all the vehicle commanders and drivers but the crew must also undergo a bespoke training package to operate in the vehicles. Under the instruction of Sgt Pratt the entire Company completed a four day training package focusing on the tactical use of the vehicles, and the necessary safety precautions that are required. As soon as everyone was qualified we quickly moved into our Company Exercises. The first saw us on Tain Air Weapons Range for two weeks, practicing and developing our SOPs and culminating in a Company level raid. Next we spent a week at RAF Spadeadam, accompanied by 5 Platoon from Bravo Company, where we practiced operating with a rifle platoon, carrying out deliberate attacks and obstacle crossings. Between these two exercises we spent two weeks on CSTTX with the Battalion in Warminster.

We congratulate Sergeant Major Buist on his promotion and appointment as CSM of Charlie Company and welcome his replacement as Company Quartermaster Sergeant, Colour Sergeant Sean Pratt. We would also like to congratulate the entire Company on winning the Maxwell Shield Competition.

Although it has been an extremely busy few months, the hard work of the Company has made the ISR concept into a developing capability. We can now take this forward onto Exercise WESSEX STORM, further developing the utility of an ISR Company.



Major Rob Smith and CSM Carlisle of Delta Company hold the Maxwell Shield.



Delta Company on exercise at RAF Spadeadam with 5 Platoon attached.

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

Officer in Command: Captain J Fish
 Second-in-Command: Colour Sergeant Brady
 1 Section Commander: Sergeant Wilson
 2 Section Commander: Sergeant Passifull

The RWIMK + vehicle has been the home of the Anti-Tank Platoon over the last few months. Drivers and commanders have been working long hours to get qualified. As a result we can confirm the vehicle is wet, windy and at times uncomfortable but none the less a great bit of kit. Training on the vehicle and its weapon systems has been on-going, all in preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM.

Training has been fast paced and the learning curve steep as we combine with the Snipers and Recce to develop our ISR capability. We have been on several exercises across the country, including Tain and RAF Spadeadam, completing live firing packages and tactical exercises against a live enemy provided by 5 Platoon. Following all this training we are now fully qualified and ready to go for the challenges after summer leave.

The Platoon continues to grow and has seen an influx of members over the last few months. We have welcomed Colour Sergeant Brady who has taken over from WO2 Buist, as well as Sergeant Passifull, Corporal Morrison, Corporal Tod and Lance Corporal Ross. We bid farewell to Captain Walker and welcome Captain James Fish as the new Platoon Commander.



Pte Raoba of the Anti Tank Platoon receives his medal after the Battalion 7s team came 2nd in the SCOTS, 7s competition.



A soldier of the Anti Tank Platoon provides top cover on Exercise at RAF Spadeadam. In the background is a replica Russian Surface to Air Missile system.

RECCE PLATOON

Platoon Commander: Captain A Deck
 Second-in-Command: Colour Sergeant Blake

The beginning of the year was spent qualifying individuals to drive and command the Platoon's new(ish) RWIMK+ vehicles. This process is not as straight forward as it might initially sound, requiring the

soldier to first pass a Category C theory and practical test, before undertaking a two week RWIMK+ driving course.

In May, with our drivers newly qualified, the Platoon deployed with the rest of Delta Company to Tain, in order to conduct a two week live firing concentration and platoon level training exercise. Tain, being very flat and featureless, is not natural terrain for the Recce Platoon, however it did prove ideal for live firing the Heavy Machine Gun. Everyone enjoyed the challenge of trying to fire off 32,000 rounds of ammunition in those few days! The following week was spent revising various low level drills as well as learning some new mounted skills, which were further put into practice when the Platoon deployed on exercise again in July, this time to RAF Spadeadam. This training was more Company level focused and allowed us to hone our skills further, prior to Ex WESSEX STORM, especially in our task of developing a target in preparation for its handover to a Rifle Company. Above all, it taught everyone that when driving a vehicle with no windscreen or roof, you can never be wearing too much warm kit!

The Platoon would like to welcome Captain Deck as the new Platoon Commander and would like to congratulate Colour Sergeant Blake on his promotion.



The Recce Platoon live firing at Tain.

CIS PLATOON

Regimental Signals Officer: Captain C McRobbie
 Regimental Signals Warrant Officer: WO2 Tollan
 CIS Platoon CQMS: Colour Sergeant Hastings
 CIS Platoon BSM: Colour Sergeant Dowdles

The Platoon has spent a considerable amount of time sharing its knowledge with the rest of the Battalion, developing wider capability before refocusing on its own skills and drills. An exercise in Tain followed by deploying on CSTTX quickly shook off the cobwebs and reinvigorated the inner geek of many within the Platoon. Whilst there has been a considerable amount of work completed, the social grace of the Platoon is in a strong position.

Time has flown and with it some of our members have moved on and become civilians. We wish Sergeant Ross and Corporal Cochrane all the best in their endeavours and hope to see them at future engagements down south. We congratulate Sergeant Milne and Private Cameron on convincing people of sound mind to walk down the aisle to say 'I do'.

It has been immensely satisfying to see the CIS Platoon develop and grow over a very short period of time. In the last year there have been more individuals qualified as signallers across the Battalion than in the previous four; this is testament to the drive and determination of the developing core of capable soldiers that are thriving within a complicated and demanding role. As the Platoon looks forward to completing Ex Wessex Storm it also looks forward to continuing its revival and welcoming in the next batch of future Signals Ninjas.



CSgt Dowdles of the Signals Platoon relaxing whilst on exercise.



Sgt Milne looking happy at the wheel.

SNIPER PLATOON

Platoon Commander: Colour Sergeant Hunter
Platoon Sergeant: Sergeant Sims

It has again been a busy period for the Sniper Platoon, split between getting the relevant people qualified on vehicle platforms as part of the conversion to our new role and getting people through a pre course in order to attend the Sniper course later in the year.

During conversion training the Platoon has pulled together and had a good few run throughs as part of the new ISR Company, providing the fix and strike capability on exercises in Tain and RAF Spadeadam. The Platoon is now firmly focussed on the final preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM, where we will look at testing our newly developed tactics using the vehicles to get us where we need to be to provide that crucial capability.

The Platoon returned from CSTTX in Warminster having again proved themselves in not only the find, fix and drip feeding of vital information, but also our key precision fire support effect which was timely and battle winning. In the near future the Platoon looks forward to taking delivery of the new sharpshooter weapon which will be given to all sniper pair number twos, increasing the pair's firepower and ability to have a semi-automatic weapon with a punch.



CSgt Hunter checks the snipers scores.



Snipers in action – LCpls Boa and Drinkwater live fire in Tain.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Officer Commanding: Major T Christie
Company Sergeant Major: CSM Weir

The last six months has proved to be a period of flux for HQ Company. The MT Platoon has been especially busy running the courses required to convert the Battalion to its new Light Mechanised Infantry role. In support of the MT has been the LAD, also working at a full head of steam, so that the vehicle platforms are ready at all times for training.

This long spell of training has tested Headquarters Company and Battalion Headquarters alike. The QMs Department supplying the demands of the MT and LAD to keep the fleet rolling and Battalion HQ getting stuck into all the planning required for the next phase of training, Ex WESSEX STORM.

The Company has had to say goodbye to both the OC and CSM, with Major Brian Cooper off on tour and WO2 Taylor moving to the Training Wing. Replacing them are Major Tobias Christie recently back from a post in South Africa and CSM Craig Weir, back in the Battalion after a posting at the Mission Training and Mobilisation Centre.

With Ex WESSEX STORM up and running, the vast majority of the unit deployed in England and the Rear Operations Group in place, Fort George has become a quieter place.



Cpl Beattie of HQ Company competes in the tug of war.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

Quartermaster: Major S MacKenzie
Quartermaster (Technical): Captain I Houston
RQMS (M): WO2 G Hannah
RQMS (T): WO2 J Fraser

April saw the preparation and delivery of the Battalion and then Brigade study days where the QM's Department set up stands explaining in detail the roles of B, A1 and A2 Echelons. Credit must go to RQMS Jimmy Fraser for the work that he put in to A2 Echelon. His detailed brief left all attendees in no doubt about his ability to waffle! April also saw the departure of RQMS Stacey, taking up the role of RSM and the arrival of RQMS Graham 'H' Hannah. We are all in no doubt that the new RSM will invigorate all ranks.

May saw the Department support Captain Rab Loudon (RCMO) and a group of LE Officers on the North 500 cycle ride; I am sure Rab will articulate the pros and cons of nappy cream in a future article. May also saw the closure of our ammunition bunker due to a long awaited refurbishment. Credit must go to Corporal Noel Beattie in moving the considerable quantities of ammunition to Kinloss within tight timelines, an achievement not to be underestimated.

In June we sent Staff Sergeant Beddoes, Lance Corporal Cameron and Private Minto-Junior to Warminster in preparation of the Command Staff Tactical Training Exercise (CSSTX); Knook Camp was the base for the duration and to say the camp was basic was an understatement. RQMS 'H' Hannah joined the group during the first week post his RQMS course and eagerly made the best of what assets they had use of to make the stay as comfortable as possible. June was also the month that the QM's Department finally completed the new 'Jocks' Games Room' situated above the Red Hackle Club. The room now has a re clothed snooker table, blue tooth enabled HiFi system, free view TV, darts, table tennis and table football.

In July the Battalion participated in the Regimental Boxing competition and the QM (OC Boxing) would like to congratulate the five Battalion boxers who took part in what was an excellent night. We also took control of the new armoury complex, a much needed upgrade that will allow us to hold and maintain our increased entitlement of weaponry and sighting systems.

The Department would like to extend a warm welcome to Captain Ian Houston, who joined the team just before WESSEX STORM.



CSgt Bright aka 'The Giraffe' at the SCOTS 7s tournament.



The QM's Department packing for EX WESSEX STORM.

MOTOR TRANSPORT PLATOON

Motor Transport Officer:	Captain A Cunningham
Motor Transport Sergeant:	Sergeant Harkness
Driver Training Cell:	Corporal Gilmour, Corporal Stevenson, Corporal Thomson
	Lance Corporal McGarvey
	Corporal Aitken
	Corporal Brown

Having just returned from CSSTX at Warminster the team are in good spirits. Private Wood had a minor disagreement with the Battalion coach and a concrete post on the way out of camp which was won by the aforementioned post. Corporal Aitken attempts to hold down more posts than a Scottish hill farmer and Private Jones celebrated his birthday, though the Platoon was unaware his birthday was on a leap year!

The main effort on the horizon at the minute is Ex WESSEX STORM which has the Platoon at full stretch ensuring the Battalion's drivers are all up to date with our new fleet of Protected Mobility Vehicles. With some of them at over £1 million each, the MTO has had more than the odd sleepless night, however, with the work of Corporal Thomson and the other Battalion Driver Maintenance Instructors the level of expertise demonstrated by the Jocks is nothing but impressive.

With summer leave fast approaching the team are looking forward to some well-earned rest and time at home with their families. The remainder of 2016 promises to be as busy and exciting as ever with opportunities for all and the MT Platoon will continue to lead the way. Finally I would like to say a fond farewell to Sergeant Davie Roy who has left the Platoon for a posting to Saudi Arabia and to Private Wood who has left the Army; we wish them both well.



Captain Allan Cunningham (left), the MTO and Corporal Lowe supervise work whilst on exercise.

UNIT WELFARE OFFICE

Unit Welfare Officer: Captain P Naismith
Unit Welfare SNCO: Sergeant Trickovic MBE
Unit Welfare NCO: Corporal Simpson
Unit Welfare Clerk: Mrs Rhoda Mills

Having waved off Captain Allan Cunningham to become MTO, Captain Paul Naismith took up the reins of the Unit Welfare Office and galloped into one of the biggest and most prestigious visit events the Battalion has had in a while. The arrival and hosting of HRH The Duke of Rothesay was an event that the Battalion had been planning for a long time and the soldiers and families thoroughly revelled in Prince Charles' visit.

More recently we participated in the Regimental Highland Games and the Inverness Highland Games and Gala, where we had our own Regimental hosting area, which catered for all competitors, soldiers and their families with close to 600 people using our facilities. On the same day a plucky bunch of ladies from the Wimberley Wives Club managed to scale the UK's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, at a height of 4,414ft. It was an excellent effort by all the ladies who took part. We have many events planned over the summer and in readiness for the Battalion deploying on EX WESSEX STORM – almost immediately after summer leave. We look forward to continuing to deliver welfare support for all soldiers and their families in the near future.



The Duke of Rothesay meets some of the wives.



The successful Wimberley Wives Club members who climbed Ben Nevis.

CATERING PLATOON

Regimental Catering Warrant Officer: WO2 (SQMS) M Philip
Platoon Sergeants: Sergeant Powell and Sergeant Leye

Exercise Scotland Combat Caterer 2016 (Ex SCC 16) was the name given to this year's Army Field Catering Competition within Scotland. This event provided an ideal opportunity for the Army Chef to showcase their skills in a familiar yet competitive environment using the Operational Field Catering System (OFCS). This was used as a staging event to identify Scotland's representation at both Army Sustained 2016 and Joint Caterer 2016. The event was held at Fort George Barracks and open to all Regular Army chefs.

The Exercise was split into three phases and consisted of three man teams. The first phase was a loaded 6 mile march carrying 15kg, the second phase involved an assault course which included a gun run, followed by a catering phase using OFCS and ten man Operational Ration Packs. The Battalion team consisted of Lance Corporal Watts, Private Morris and Private Clitherow, and to say that the chefs involved had done us proud is a huge understatement. They won the first two phases of the competition and come joint runner-up on the catering phase; a huge triumph considering the talent on show. The team were a credit to themselves, the Platoon and the Battalion. Equally noted was the commitment by the remainder of the Platoon for the setup, maintenance throughout, and collapse of the event.

Occupationally, the Platoon has witnessed many commitments including a variety of different functions, exercises and duties. These began with the dining out of the RSM and dining in of his successor. The event took place in the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess with an outstanding meal provided by Corporal Roseru, Corporal Gabriel, Lance Corporal Watts and Private Morris. Other commitments have seen the Platoon providing support to the companies when conducting CT1 training throughout Scotland. Corporal Roseru provided support to 2 Med Regt on Ex ASKARI SERPENT and a number of the Platoon provided support to both unit and sub-unit Adventure Training excursions.

As summer dawns, the Platoon will bid farewell to Lance Corporal McCombie and his family on assignment to 3 RHA in Newcastle. We congratulate Corporal Roseru who has been selected for promotion to Sergeant and will take up a SNCO position at 1 SCOTS in early autumn. The Platoon would also like to congratulate Sergeant Leye and his fiancée Louise who are now proud parents of daughter Ailbhe. Births seemed to be the theme of the period as Corporal Gabriel and his wife Corinne are also proud parents of their second child Roland.

All in all this period has been both challenging and rewarding. All members of the Catering Platoon have proudly lived up to their Motto 'We Sustain'!



The judging panel sample the food during Exercise Combat Caterer.

KIRK OF THE BLACK WATCH

Padre:

Padre Stewart MacKay

Between transitioning to the Light Mechanised Infantry role and Ex WESSEX STORM there has been much opportunity for me as the new Chaplain to catch up with the Battalion within Fort George and well beyond. Thus far I have travelled to northern France for the burial of a Black Watch soldier killed in action in January 1915. LCpl John Morrison was buried with full military honours in Cuinchy War Cemetery on 27 July 2016. The occasion was a sad reminder of the extent of the losses of the First World War, and a visit to the Monument to the Lost in Thiepval the following day reinforced that realisation. It has engraved on it the names of more than seventy-two thousand soldiers whose remains were never found or identified. The occasion was as powerful as it was sad and it was great to see some from the Black Watch Association, as well as young soldiers currently serving, come together in recognition of the bond that will never die that is bound together by the spirit of the Regiment to this day.

Continuing on the theme of remembrance, the Golden Don (Delta Company) gathered in the Battalion Kirk to remember the fateful day in the Battle of Aubers Ridge in which the Black Watch battalions present suffered 874 casualties. It was a day in which Black Watch soldiers exhibited much bravery with two being awarded the VC for their actions; David Finlay and John Ripley. It struck me whilst researching this battle that many other sacrificial acts of bravery would have taken place that are not recognised or remembered in such a way. For example, Private Albert Money of the Royal Rifles Corps remembered the actions of a Black Watch soldier who saved his life. He had been shot through the hip and was attempting to return to his own line when he got stuck in some wire entanglement. He said it was a Black Watch soldier who came to rescue him by disentangling him, then carrying him to his line before going over the top and doing the same with several others who were injured. Private Money later reflected in his journal, "I will never forget his bravery and his kindness... I am sorry that I did not ask his name..." Who he was will likely forever remain a mystery to us. But his actions continue to be remembered, and these speak of the continued commitment that soldiers are called upon to make when they come to serve on operations. Christ said that he came, "that we might have life, and that we might have it abundantly". Peace and justice, therefore, continues to be a worthy cause to fight for. And the good news is that there is always hope beyond such times of carnage, so that we can be sure that our sacrifices are not in vain and that those who do pay the ultimate price will always be remembered.

I have enjoyed getting more involved in some sport within the battalion. I have joined in some of the morning PT, played in an inter-company rugby sevens tournament, visited Alpha Company on Adventure Training and have been appointed Running Officer. Later on in 2016 there'll be some dates going in the diary for the start of an Adventure Running Club, which will involve going to various locations around the country and, adorned in suitable gear, going running around challenging and enjoyable off road routes.

A closing verse to reflect on from Hebrews 12, verse 1: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.*



Padre Stewart Mackay and Lieutenant Alastair Gibson at the top of Ben MacDui.



The Padre conducting the service for the interment of LCpl Morrison in Woburn Abbey Cemetery.

EXERCISE WESSEX STORM

From mid August until the end of September the Battalion took part in Ex WESSEX STORM. This five week exercise consisted of a live fire package on Otterburn Training Area and dry training on Salisbury Plain, culminating in a battalion level phase. The majority of the training conducted since the return from Op TOSCA has consisted of vehicle training and the preparations for Ex WESSEX STORM. This was the Battalion's opportunity to put the training into practice, and to complete our conversion to a Light Mechanised Infantry Battalion.

The move to Otterburn Training Area was conducted in multiple phases. First, the support elements and range teams moved to the area to complete the necessary pre exercise administration. Second, the vehicle fleet of Foxhounds and RWIMK+s deployed. En route they visited Perth, Kirkcaldy, Dundee and Edinburgh to show our new capability to the public. Finally, the main body of soldiers moved to the training area ready to begin the live fire package.

The first week consisted of Company led ranges. Each Company conducted live fire ranges varying from individual fire lanes, to platoon attacks. This was a great opportunity for the platoons to work on their low level skills and conduct their final assurance checks prior to the next phase of the exercise. During this week we also worked to integrate our attachments. This included 7 Field Troop from 21 Royal Engineers, and D Battery and the Air Troop from 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery.

During the second week Alpha and Bravo Companies each participated in their own Company live fire exercise. Charlie and Delta Companies sent soldiers to support each of these exercises. These Company exercises allowed the Rifle Companies to operate with the Support Company assets, including the Machine Gun, Assault Pioneer, Sniper, Recce and Anti-Tank Platoons. These exercises also coordinated Company actions with live artillery fire and engineer support.

For the third week the Battalion moved to Salisbury Plain Training Area. Split between the accommodation at Knook Camp and Westdown Camp we linked up with our attached companies, A Company 3 RIFLES and B Squadron SCOTS DG. We also received further attachments from the Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Intelligence Corps and Royal Military Police.

During the third and fourth week we conducted Company led Battle Exercises, under the watchful eye of the exercise directing staff. These exercises included operations, in urban areas, reconnaissance operations, rural operations and deliberate attacks. All of this training was conducted using TES kit, a system designed to attach to weapons, soldiers and vehicles to indicate the effectiveness of weapons and the likelihood of casualties. Think of laser tag but on a far bigger scale.

The fifth week was our final exercise phase. This meant the entire Battlegroup, all 760 people, would exercise together. The exercise began with a sixty km road move, followed by an obstacle crossing over the River Avon and an advance to contact on a live enemy provided by 2 SCOTS. The Battlegroup then conducted an attack and hasty defence of Copehill Down Village and a night raid against a high value target. Finally we crossed the River Berrill and conducted a deliberate attack against Imber Village.

After the final conclusion of the training serials, the Battalion then moved into the recovery week. Saying goodbye to our attached Arms, we began the process of vehicle maintenance and preparations for the return journey to Fort George.

Throughout the entire exercise the Jocks proved that the hard work over the past months on the conversion had been worth the

effort. We successfully operated in a Light Mechanised Infantry role, achieving success in all of our missions. The Jocks showed the highest levels of professionalism and worked their hardest throughout a long and difficult exercise, showing nothing less than the standard that can be expected of the Jocks in the Black Watch Battalion.



Battlegroup planning during Exercise WESSEX STORM.



Major Rob Smith considers traffic management as a second career.



Light Mechanised Infantry tactics being practised on Salisbury Plain.

CATERAN YOMP 2016

A ‘yomp’ as we know in the military is described as a long distance march! The Cateran Yomp is a 54 mile challenge over the Perthshire hills in Black Watch country and aims to raise money for The Soldiers’ Charity (Army Benevolent Fund). The Battalion entered three teams to take part in the endurance challenge amongst other military and civilians teams. In a similar manner to deploying on exercise the teams received their safety brief, conducted mandatory kit checks (including orange whistles) before putting up tents in the rain as the light was fading.

The rain did not cease during the night and as we rose to hear the water beating down on our tents the prospect of 54 miles in 24 hours was not too appealing. However, with our stomachs filled with a hearty breakfast and donning the Red Hackle we were fired up and were

pipied off the start line. 54 miles to go! Throughout, we were very well supported with regular food stops, hot drinks and medical care and of course stunning views. The rain turned to drizzle and some spoke more than others. There were hares and there were tortoises in the group but the most fitting moment of the event was that we crossed the finish line together in 19 hours and 3 minutes.

All those that took part in the event left with a medal and a t-shirt to distract them from the blisters and tired legs before stiffening up on a ten hour coach journey to Warminster for CSTTX. It was a tremendous effort by all those that took part and should become a regular battalion event.



The team led by Captain Coles at CP1 on the Cateran Yomp.



Pte Croll, Capt Weir and Sgt Steele enjoy their last smile before stepping off into the unknown.

51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland



BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Commanding Officer:	Lieutenant Colonel PGB Strudwick
Regimental Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) MJ Fairweather
Second-in-Command:	Major J Anderson
Executive Officer:	Major WAB Wright/ Major D McCallum MBE
Quartermaster:	Major J Pearson
Regimental Administration Officer:	Major PJ Ward
Adjutant:	Captain TH Blair
Regimental Operations Support Officer:	Captain A McEwen MBE
Regimental Career Management Officer:	Captain BS Baxter
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant:	WO2 (RQMS) S Lawrence
Regimental Operations Support Warrant Officer:	WO2 L McDowall

BATTALION OVERVIEW

The summer period for the Battalion has been particularly noteworthy on several fronts. We have continued to work hard recruiting and training civilians and soldiers from across the Highlands in military skills and adventurous training and we deployed to Croatia, on Exercise SAVA STAR. This exercise was designed to train and assess the soldiers at Company level which it achieved successfully. The Battalion has conducted numerous smaller military skills exercises, involving fieldcraft, navigation and communications training on Strathmore Estate. Training is well underway for the Cambrian Patrol competition with a section taking part. Adventurous training has also played a key part, with diving, hill walking, mountain biking and two sailing expeditions conducted.

Caberfeidh Platoon, the Recruit Training Platoon, is going from strength to strength with 100 recruits at various stages of training; they are being nurtured through the training pipeline before moving into a trained position. Planning for next year's Company strength overseas training exercise has already begun. Called Exercise ROMAN STAR, it is likely to be a training consolidation exercise for Caberfeidh Platoon.

We were the lead unit for the Stirling Military Show, organising and conducting a highly successful event, thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. Military and civilian engagement was the key theme throughout, with Stirling Council, HRFCA, Police and the Fire Service all contributing to the running of the event. We have been given the "honour" of planning next year's show, mainly due to the success of this year's event!

We continue to engage with the community we recruit from and we are maintaining and developing new ways that will benefit individuals, employers, the local community and the wider country through Army Reserve Service.



The Recruiting team visit Springbank Distillery in Campbeltown.



Captain Tommy Blair, Adjutant and WO1 (RSM) Fairweather at the Weeping Window at Balhousie Castle.



The Pipes and Drums play in Stornoway.



Highland Band parade in Normandy.

ALPHA (FIRE SUPPORT) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major A Cameron
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 S Woods
PSAO:	Captain R Reid MBE
RSUSO:	Captain M Dunnigan
Anti Tank Platoon Commander:	2nd Lieutenant S Adkin
Mortar Platoon Commander:	WO2 L Penrice
Rifle Platoon Commander:	2nd Lieutenant R Hand
SPSI Dundee:	Colour Sergeant I Grant
PSI Aberdeen:	Colour Sergeant S Mitchell
CQMS (FTRS):	Colour Sergeant J Twine
CQMS (Res):	Colour Sergeant G McKenzie

A (Fire Support) Company has managed, again, to work on from the previous six months of hard work and training in order to prepare for the latter half of 2016. On the recruiting front, the recent establishment of Caberfeidh Platoon will undoubtedly help retention. This coupled with the hard work of Sgt Wade and his recruiting team has made a great difference. New recruits, ex regulars and UOTC Officer Cadets are performing well in their training which only bodes well for the Company as we move from OP FORTIFY to retention as the Battalion's main effort.

The end of April saw the culmination of the Mortar Platoon's training as they joined The Black Watch Battalion on a live fire mortar shoot. With the efforts from the platoon staff and CSgt Grant, the platoon was able to integrate well with our sister battalion with minimal fuss. This provided an excellent opportunity for those within the Platoon and Company and training for next year's shoot will begin again in early 2017. The Company will be hoping to develop further their relationship with 3SCOTS which will enhance their integrated training and capability.

The Company has also been kept busy with a number of soldiers attending courses. Pte Alexander returning from his two week Assault Soldier Course will be an excellent addition to future exercises as he has hands on experience with demolition charges, to boat insertions. CSgt Twine had no qualms completing his quad bike user and instructor course which was put to good use on our annual training deployment, Ex SAVA STAR!

The summer months are always busy and this year was no different. The end of May was the Battalion SAAM where LCpl Burles achieved the best shot award. Lt Hand, CSgt Knowles and Cpl Mather also joined Tayforth UOTC on their annual two week camp to Gibraltar which included OBUA, tunnel fighting, a range phase and an AT package. What was maybe not so attractive was completing the infamous Gibraltar "Rock Run" at 6am! A team from the Company took on the Cateran Yomp in June, seeing them tab the Gold distance of 54 miles. What was a good effort all round was made even better with two of the team featuring in the top 50 and three came in under 65. Many thanks to CSgt McKenzie for the G4 support.

July saw the completion of Ex TARTAN STRIKE focusing on section level tactics, in line with training for the RSM's patrolling competition at the end of the month and our ATD at the end of August. We entered a team into the patrolling competition on the last weekend of July hoping to follow on from last year's success however, the team would have to settle for 2nd place by only one point. A good weekend was had nonetheless which saw teams navigate and negotiate around the Glamis Estate on a 'point to point' format conducting stands at each.

Ex SAVA STAR was the Battalion's annual training deployment to Croatia. A Company did not disappoint and two sections integrated with a squad of Croatian regular soldiers. It provided a unique experience for all to not only work with our regular NATO allies but also in a completely different environment. It also allowed soldiers at all levels to step up and fill any necessary gaps in the platoon, allowing the Jocks to get excellent first-hand experience with the responsibilities of the rank above. Members from the Anti-Tank Platoon also had an opportunity to practice their skills in an important role, providing ISTAR updates and fire support on positions on the final attack.

Looking to the future, the Company has a lot to look forward to. The Corporals' Mess has invited all members of the Company to enjoy an 'Oscars' themed night which is set to be a night of revelry. The Cambrian Patrol team has been training hard over the last 6 months and looks to represent the battalion well in the patrol competition. There are opportunities for skiing and soldiers will take part in a number of exercises on offer.

The Company also bids farewell to CSgt Grant, SPSI at Dundee as he leaves the Army. His hard work in Dundee and with the Mortar Platoon and training has been invaluable. CSgt Mitchell will take over as SPSI in Dundee and we welcome Sgt Barr who with his vast Javelin experience will be a great asset as the new PSI in Aberdeen. We also welcome 2Lt Adkin into the Company who takes over the Aberdeen platoon.



A Company "Gold Medallists" after the Cateran Yomp.



Cpl Jim Mather, 2Lt Rory Hand and CSgt Brian Knowles having completed the "Gibraltar Rock Run".



An Anti Structure Munition (ASM) being used against a built up position during an attack in Croatia.



A night shoot during Ex Highland Thunder.

EXERCISE SAVA STAR

In late August the Battalion deployed on its annual overseas training exercise. The destination this year was Croatia. The aim of the exercise was to deploy the Battalion and integrate with a NATO partner in a number of different environments. The soldiers were welcomed to the Red Earth training area by the Commanding Officer and from there the exercise was split into three distinct phases. Phase 1 involved the usual admin and basic familiarisation and training, welcome briefs, skills lectures and revision and a range package for the Croatian soldiers on British weapon systems; there was a Sunday service from the Padre and the exercising troops received a cultural brief from the Croatian XO.

Phase 2 of the exercise was a six day round-robin of three locations. The platoons took it in turns to rotate through the Skills House, SAVA COMET and Challenging Pursuits phases.

The Skills House saw each platoon revise and practice their Operating in Built Up Areas (OBUA) tactics and techniques. This was carried out as sections, with embedded Croatian soldiers fully integrated with the SCOTS soldiers.

SAVA COMET was an attack lane designed for platoons to practice section and platoon skills and drills ready for company level operations. The platoons were also able to develop their own standard operating procedures and tactics with their Croatian partners, sharing and developing ideas together.

The final element to the round-robin phase was two days based in the picturesque town of Zadar. The focus of this element was to take the soldiers out of their comfort zone and into challenging situations. Diving, hillwalking, cycling and caving provided the platoons with the opportunity to get to know their peers outside of the combat scenario; this would develop unit cohesiveness.

The final phase saw the Company deploy to its harbour location and commence its battle preparation. The platoons conducted recce patrols and reported back, preparing for the final deliberate attack of the exercise. The Company prepared, orders were delivered and rehearsals of drills were carried out. Those taking part were honoured to have the British Ambassador to Croatia along with other guests to watch the orders and drills prior to the attack. All the preparation was clearly put to good use as the final dawn attack went very well. The new platoon commanders and soldiers, operating in a company context for the first time all commented on the usefulness and effectiveness of the training progression and the ultimate culmination of the exercise. Once the debrief and after action review were done, it was back into camp for post-exercise admin and a well-earned shower!

Before heading home, there was time for a final evening BBQ to celebrate a successful exercise and to say goodbye to the Croatian hosts and partners. Everyone enjoyed spending some down time and we even managed to squeeze in a game of football.

Exercise SAVA STAR provided an excellent training opportunity. The skills learned and developed by the troops will be invaluable throughout their military and civilian careers and working with the Croatian Army provided excellent experience.



The combined company including the Croatian contingent.



The RSM, LCpl Hay and Pte Hay visit Knin Castle.



Cpl Tran tries his hand at diving.



A piper plays before a Croatian sunset.



Moving into the attack.

HMS MONTROSE

HMS MONTROSE – IN REFIT/SEACEPTOR

By Lt Cdr C Andrews RN

What do you normally do when you want to upgrade your car due to a change in circumstances? Buy another or become a boy racer and modify it? In a nutshell this has been the question that the Royal Navy has had to ask itself with the change in capabilities being delivered with the new Point Defence Missile System SeaCeptor. The venerable SeaWolf is becoming obsolete due to being initially designed in 1967 and being brought into service in its original form in 1979. Despite a few upgrades over the years, the threat that SeaWolf was designed to neutralise has also evolved meaning that the system can no longer protect the vessels it was designed to. Back to the car analogy; do we build a new vessel to undertake the role of the Type 23 Frigates such as Montrose or modify them to accept the new missile system? The answer from a Value for Money (VFM) aspect is to modify the current vessels as their replacement programme (type 26 & 31 Frigates) will not be ready for another 6 years with a one for one swap of hulls out to 2035. How does this affect Montrose? Rather than manning and bringing the ship into service as discussed in the last submission to the Red Hackle, it was decided that Montrose’s refit be extended and SeaCeptor be fitted.

So what are the major changes? First of all the Silo Magazine needs to be modified and associated SeaWolf equipment removed from the ship. The picture of HMS Argyll (first of class) shows the ship’s silhouette changes significantly with the removal of the SeaWolf missile directors/trackers. The ship’s Command System requires an upgrade and miles and miles of new cabling need to be installed.

TABLE SHOWING DIFFERENCES

SeaWolf	SeaWolf	SeaCeptor
Engine	Blackcap Solid Fuel sustainer	Solid-fuel rocket motor.
Operational Range	(VLS) 1–10 km	CAMM: <1 -25+ km
Speed	Mach 3 (2,284 mph; 3,675 km/h)	Mach 3 (1,020 m/s)
Guidance system	Automatic Command to Line-Of-Sight (ACLOS)	Two way data link. Active RF seeker.

The future now for the ship is to allocate a Ship’s Company and undertake a recovery trials programme during the second quarter of 2017 followed by a return to the Fleet and Operational Sea Training. Of note in the ship’s future programme is the assignment, in late 2018, as HMS Queen Elizabeth II escort during the trials of the new F35 Joint Strike Fighter.

But in addition to the missile system work, the RN has undertaken a number of other modifications ranging from new fridges to new satellite tv. The current Ship’s Company are chomping at the bit to get back to sea and try out the new capabilities.



The SeaCeptor missile showing lateral motor burns to improve intercept capabilities.



A mock up of a SeaCeptor firing from HMS Argyll.



The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada

On May 1st, 2016, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada conducted its annual Church Parade and marched through the streets of downtown Montreal to arrive at the Regimental Church, The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul. In keeping with custom, the Regiment's Colours, along with the Colours of the Bishop's College School Cadet Corps (the oldest serving Cadet Corps in Canada), were presented by the CO to the Minister for placement upon the altar so that our Colours may be blessed once more. The Black Watch Prayer was recited, the CO read the lesson, and the Divisional Padre gave the sermon as a guest minister. The Church was at capacity as is usual for Black Watch Sunday.

Following the return to the Regimental Armoury, the parade was reformed to conduct a Change of Command ceremony. The Brigade Commander, Colonel Dan Chafai, and the Honorary Colonel Dan O'Connor, presided over the passing of command from Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Phare to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas MacKay. Lieutenant Colonel Phare began his service in the Regiment as a boy in the Cadet Corps and took his commission twenty-five years ago. His service was marked by several highlights including two operational deployments to the former Yugoslavia and participation in several domestic operations during natural disasters here at home. The Army will continue to benefit from his talents and experience as he is off to the Canadian Army Command and Staff College in Kingston, Ontario as a member of the Directing Staff. The Regiment wishes to take this opportunity to thank him for his long and dedicated service to Canada's senior Highland Regiment.

The Regiment would also like to take this opportunity to welcome back Lieutenant Colonel MacKay as he returns for his second tour of duty as Commanding Officer. He served as CO from 2005 to 2009 before taking up a post at the Canadian Army HQ. After several years in Ottawa and a deployment to Afghanistan, he has agreed to come back for another stint as CO and insists that he is not doing it just to receive a second Quach cup when he steps down in two years' time!

The Regiment was busy over the summer period with seventeen new members completing their Basic Infantry qualification and several

junior NCOs and officers completing career courses. The Regiment also participated in both the Glengarry Highland Games and the Montreal Highland Games. The Black Watch Tug-of-War Team acquitted themselves well taking third place in the Glengarry games and besting a team composed mostly of city staff and local politicians in a friendly competition at the Montreal games to raise money for a local community centre.

As the Black Watch begins a new training year in September, we are pleased to announce that the Army has directed that our authorized establishment be increased by another platoon. This will give the recruiting company plenty to do this Autumn and certainly the Regiment is very pleased to have formal recognition of our recent success in recruiting and force generating soldiers.



(Front to Back) MCpl Gogo, Cpl Lezetc, MCpl Thompson and MCpl Pryce pull against one of the other Highland Regiments from across Canada in the Glengarry Highland Games as members of the Camerons look on – August 2016.



Lt Cols Phare (centre-left) and MacKay (centre-right) sign the Change of Command scrolls under the supervision of Honorary Colonel Dan O'Connor (left) and Brigade Commander, Col Dan Chafai (right).



The Black Watch Tug-of-War team marches off the field of competition at the Glengarry Highland Games – August 2016.

WORKS BY RICHARD SIMKIN, C.1885

Richard Simkin (1850-1926) is best known for his series of watercolours showing British and Colonial army uniforms, as well as watercolours of army life and campaigns. Because of their high quality and value to collectors, model-makers, and military historians, Simkin's paintings were reproduced in numerous plates and books, including the highly desirable, finely-printed chromolithographs produced in the 1880s and 1890s. Simkin soldiered in a London Volunteer Regiment before attending art schools in Kensington and Heatherley, later finding employment from the War Office, designing recruiting posters. The collection of The Black Watch of Canada consists of seven, signed watercolours, all measuring 11.02 by 14.56 inches, each showing the uniform of The Black Watch at various stages of its history over the period 1742 to 1921. There are three or four figures in each watercolour, in a variety of poses, each figure approximately 7.8 inches tall. The two watercolours shown here, left-to-right, are captioned by Simkin as: 42nd Royal Highland Regiment, 1852; and 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch, Royal Highlanders, 1914. All seven watercolours were presented to The Black Watch of Canada in January 1937 by Lieutenant W.J. MacDougald, Canadian Grenadier Guards. MacDougald had purchased the watercolours in the fashionable Burlington Arcade which opened in London in 1819 "for the sale of jewellery and fancy articles of fashionable demand, for the gratification of the public."



42nd Royal Highland Regiment, 1852.



2nd Battalion The Black Watch, Royal Highlanders, 1914.

204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery

TRACING FOOTSTEPS OF THE PAST

On the 29th and 30th January 1915 The Tyneside Scottish marched from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Alnwick Castle. Here they would form part of the Northumberland Fusiliers and would carry out their training before deploying to the Somme and play their part in the Great War. Throughout the march they carried all of the equipment they required to complete their training.

One hundred and one years later, Reservists from the 101st (Northumbrian) Regiment Royal Artillery, 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery, paid tribute to their ancestral colleagues of the 20th (Service) Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (1st Tyneside Scottish), by taking part in acts of Remembrance. One of the acts saw the Reservists complete a march that would emulate that of the Tyneside Scottish in their build up to the Somme. On the 4th and 5th June 2016 they marched from Kingston Park Army Reserve Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne to Alnwick Castle, with an overnight stop at Eshot Airfield.

Saturday 4th June 2016

In the early hours of Saturday morning, members of 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery paraded at Kingston Park, Army Reserve Centre to collect the kit they would be carrying and needed to sustain themselves for the next two days. Prior to departing they all had a hearty breakfast provided by a Regimental Catering Detachment.

After breakfast, final checks were conducted, bergans loaded on to their backs and the marching troops formed up in two ranks. The Battery was briefed by Sgt Moore. On completion of the formalities the troops were reminded of the reason why they were embarking on this journey. Departing in the early morning gloom and the air filled with the morning dew, the Battery set off on their journey to Alnwick Castle. The gates at Kingston Park, Army Reserve Centre opened and the boots started to pound the pavement, the journey had began.

Not long into the march, the Battery left the streets of Kingston Park behind them and entered the countryside and the sun came out from behind the clouds. After a while they had reached the first of many water breaks, the sun's warmth was beginning to prove uncomfortable, so before setting off again, everyone removed their Combat Jackets and Tam O'Shanter. As the march progressed the Battery bond became closer, crossing fields, woods and travelling down country roads. Each individual would discover new strengths and levels of self-belief as they challenged themselves and encouraged each other. For a lot of the participants this was new ground, with only a handful ever completing a distance like this before. The participants included two brothers, Gunners Daniel Walker and Billy Walker, who themselves are still in the process of completing their soldier training to join the proud ranks of 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery.

No matter what the experience, from the newest Gunner to the most senior officer everyone would feel a form of pain or ache they had never encountered before. Not to be deterred, they held their heads high and continued to pound the varied surfaces. Before they knew it they had completed 30 miles and reached Eshott Airfield. Here they were greeted by the support team and the smell of a well earned Barbeque. Those suffering with blisters were dealt with by Sgt Palmer and Pte Robinson from the RAMC.

After a stretch off, everyone prepared for a relaxing night ahead, with the majority gathering around a paddling pool to cool their feet down. Others would retreat to the warmth of the airfield hut, where the Admin Team had a TV set up for them to watch.

However, it wasn't long before they were in their sleeping bags and asleep, putting the day behind them and allowing their bodies some rest before the next day's events.

Sunday 5th June 2016

In the early hours of Sunday morning, sleep was broken by the dawn chorus and the sounds and smell of the chefs preparing breakfast. People rose slowly, some quicker than others (depending on their age) but all still feeling the aches and pains of the previous day's march. First actions were personal admin; wash, shave, foot admin and then breakfast.

Fuelled up for the day's march the troops would walk another 10 miles. The sun came out early, accompanied by a nice warmth. This leg of the march soon saw them return from the countryside to the streets

of Alnwick. On the march we passed many monuments, remembering past soldiers who had paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The day along with the last 10 miles passed quickly but not before an Ice Cream van could be waved down for all to enjoy a well deserved ice cream. This would be the final stop before the march reached the main streets of Alnwick. However, before entering Alnwick High Street the march stopped to replace headress and form up with the Pipes and Drums leading. The squad set off to the beat of the drums and the words of command from Captain Jack Frost RA. Soon they were marching through the arch and onto Alnwick High Street. Shopowners and customers came out and cheered 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery up to Alnwick Castle. After passing through the castle gates an eyes right and salute was given to The Duke of Northumberland, Lord James Percy, Honorary Colonel of the 5th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. This marked the end of the journey, which emulated that of the Tyneside Scottish back in 1915.

Once at the Castle the Battery was addressed by the Duke of Northumberland, standing in the very spot his ancestor had stood to address the troops, 101 years ago. He said "I congratulate you all on your efforts and the tribute you are paying to your ancestral colleagues from the Tyneside Scottish". After the address the officers and soldiers were dismissed and fell out and made their way to the area where the training for the Somme was conducted.



Marching through the streets of Alnwick.

A PERSONAL STORY OF THE SOMME 100 YEARS ON

By Gunner Rodgers

On Monday 27th June 2016, 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery departed Kingston Park to conduct a Battlefield Study on the Somme, as our ancestral colleagues from The Tyneside Scottish had done 100 years earlier. This is a short account of the journey.

During the Battlefield Study we stopped at several points across the Somme battlefield and were greeted with sweeping fields with poppies; anyone who didn't know the history and what happened there 100 years ago would be fooled into thinking it was quite a beautiful place.

A sombre feeling hung in the air, as the day progressed and we visited memorial after memorial and were given updates on each of the points we visited. We began to contemplate the grand scale of things and how our week would unfold.

Moving on from the memorial visits we then moved to the Lochnagar Crater. In reality the sheer size and scale of the crater took everyone by surprise; it was far bigger than anticipated. We were given the privilege of venturing inside the crater, while scaling the steep sides you got a feel for the scale of the blast that took place there and the planning and preparation required, in the lead up to the 1st July 1916.

We stayed overnight at the crater and took part in a 24 hour vigil, which began with a short ceremony from the Padre, Major Bob Adams RACHD. After the service we took up post at 4 points on the edge of the crater to honour those that had fallen there. The weather was what I had imagined it to be like 100 years ago, it was raining persistently and heavily.

The following morning a ceremony was held at the crater to mark exactly to the minute, the time that the first mine went off. A maroon was fired and members of the friends of Lochnagar blew authentic WW1 whistles. Upon hearing the sound it sent a shiver up your spine and made you picture exactly what happened there and the terrible loss of life that was to ensue.

This is an account of an officer in the Royal Flying Corps who was flying above when the mine at La Boisselle was triggered:

"The whole earth heaved and flared, a tremendous and magnificent column rose up into the sky. There was an ear-splitting roar, drowning all the guns, flinging the machine sideways in the repercussion air. The earth column rose higher and higher to almost 4,000 feet."

It was especially poignant that I was given the honour of laying the wreath on behalf of the Tyneside Scottish at the cross erected in memory of Pte George Nugent whose remains were discovered buried near the lip of the crater on 31st October 1998 and laid to rest in Ovillers military cemetery on the 1st July 2000.

On the 2 July 2016 the Battery visited Fort Eben Emael which was a Belgian Fort constructed to stop the Germans taking several bridges near Maastricht on the Dutch-Belgian border at the outbreak of World War 2. The Belgians at this point were a neutral country and the Germans used superior advances in technology in the form of shaped charges. They also used gliders to attack the fort. We discussed the contrasts between the types of warfare we had studied.

It was also somewhat upsetting to think that all those who gave their lives in the First World War, known then as 'The Great War' or 'The war to end all wars' were oblivious to the fact that only 21 years later another war erupted in which many more died in the pursuit of freedom and the defeat of evil.

Following this trip the experience and history has brought the Battery closer together and having the title of "The Tyneside Scottish" bestowed on 204 Battery is such an honour.

Poem written by WO2 Hillary at the Somme on 1st July 2016

*The mine blew with a thunderous sound, throwing debris far and wide
The time had come to fight, brave men stood side by side,
Brothers, fathers, sons and friends with freedom in their hearts
Early morning whistles blew, the advance about to start,
The soldiers went over the top, walking into hell,
Machine guns firing and all around were bodies of those who fell,
Sounds of battle deafening, whizzing bullets, cries of pain
Those that could, continued on, the ground they had to gain
Thousands fell that fateful day; many still lay where they died
One hundred years remembering, millions of tears we've cried.*



Padre, Major Bob Adams conducts a small service before the 24 hour vigil at the Lochnagar Crater on the evening of 30th June 2016.



Members of 101st (Northumbrian) Regiment Royal Artillery attend the Memorial Service at the Lochnagar Crater on the 1st of July 2016.



204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery.

Black Watch Battalion Army Cadet Force

Honorary Colonel:	The Reverend Professor Norman Drummond CBE FRSE
Commandant:	Colonel J M K Erskine MBE
Deputy Commandant:	Lieutenant Colonel C Hubbock
Training Officer:	Major S Rae
Adjutant:	Captain M McCluskey
Officer Commanding Alma Company:	Major K Douglas
Officer Commanding Burma Company:	Major C Tough
Officer Commanding Korea Company:	Major D Gill
Officer Commanding Ypres Company:	Major S Truscott
Regimental Sergeant Major:	Regimental Sergeant Major Instructor P Cameron
Permanent Staff:	
Cadet Executive Officer:	Major A C M Potter
Quartermaster:	Captain R G Hallum

There is a definite and inevitable similarity between the seasons and the cadet experience. The last notes were written as the long winter nights were drawing to a close and the signs of spring were beginning to show. This was reflected in the level of activity within the Battalion which started to grow in the early months of the year and sprung into life at Spring Camp and culminated in Summer Camp. However, it is hoped the notes below will show that the cadet experience is more than going on camps and the variety of what can be done is almost endless.

SPRING CAMP

The Battalion had been blessed in recent years with good weather for Spring Camp but 2016 was different. It began in damp and drizzly weather but, despite that, the programme that was put together by the Adult Instructors was flexible enough to cope with the conditions. It might have helped if the heating in the camp had been turned on at the outset.

There never seem to be enough Adult Instructors to cover all the activities. This year the Battalion was very grateful for the support from Corporal Culligan and Corporal Gordon from the Black Watch. Their experience and advice to the 4 Star Cadets especially on the Fieldcraft stand was very much appreciated. In addition six members from Tayforth Universities Officer Training Corps supported the various cadres and to them the Battalion was very grateful. There is no point in cadet battalions working in isolation from each other and any sharing of ideas is welcome. Therefore the Battalion was delighted that Sergeant Instructor Ailsa Howie from Angus and Dundee agreed to come on the camp and help with the 2 Star Cadre.

The most demanding exercises at Spring Camp were inevitably the ones run for the 3 and 4 Star Cadets at Blair Atholl. These exercises were both physically and mentally demanding but everyone came through the tests and credit must be given to the Adult Instructors who ran the exercises.

As well as the training and star boards, Major Dowson ran a very successful Leadership Training programme for the senior cadets. This gave the cadets much to ponder and they all benefitted from Major Dowson's experience and well constructed programme.

The Battalion was delighted that the Honorary Colonel managed to visit the camp despite his hugely busy programme. In addition Colonel McFadyen, Cadet Colonel also came to camp.

While the Battalion was at Barry Buddon, the Regimental Band held a concentration at Redford which was a departure from recent years. The facilities were excellent and enabled the cadets to practise in a way they would not have been able to do, had they been at Barry Buddon. Their high point was the concert they laid on in Stockbridge Parish Church at the end of the week. Meanwhile the Pipes and Drums were at their own concentration in Cameron Barracks and took part in a hugely successful concert on their last night.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp was spent at Altcar, a place which the Battalion knows well. The weather plays an important part in camp and apart from the odd shower, the sun shone which meant everyone returned home

looking far healthier than when they arrived. The main events were fieldcraft, ranges and a day spent doing water sports at the Scout Centre in Southport. The Deputy Commandant laid on a fourth activity – a round robin of events which included command tasks, obstacle courses and archery. In addition there were the usual Sports Competitions run by Under Officer Stewart Taylor and a keenly fought Drill competition on the last day of camp. The latter was of a particularly high standard and a huge amount of credit must go to all the Junior and Senior adults who practised and took part in it. For the majority of the week the Pipes and Drums were integrated with Korea Company, while the Regimental Band took part in the activities with Alma Company.

Summer camp is also the chance for companies and individuals to compete for various prizes with the Champion Company being the ultimate trophy. The winners included the following:

Sports Trophy	– Korea Company
Best Shot	– Cadet Sergeant Palmer (Alma Company)
Shooting Trophy	– Alma Company
Fieldcraft Trophy	– Alma Company
Drill Competition	– Korea Company
Champion Company	– Alma Company

Visitors to camp included the Assistant Commander and Cadet Colonel from 51 Infantry Brigade, the Commanding Officer of the Cadet Training Centre, the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive of Highland Reserve Forces and Cadet Forces Association. They all play an important part in our lives and so it was a great opportunity to brief them on the Battalion and for them to chat to the adults and cadets.

CADET COURSES

There is much more to the Army Cadet Force than following the Army Proficiency Certificate Syllabus. There are a multitude of courses which the cadets can attend throughout the year. In the past few months Cadet Company Sergeant Major Andrew McDonald (Perth Black Watch) and Cadet Staff Sergeant James Hunter (Kinross) attended the Senior Cadet Instructors' Course; Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major William Rae (Kirkcaldy) and Cadet Staff Sergeant Robertson attended the Master Cadet Course.

While the number of cadets taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has dwindled over recent years, Cadet Staff Sergeant Mhairi Detheridge (Glenrothes Viewfield) and Cadet Sergeant Holly Aitken (Cupar) attended a special Duke of Edinburgh's Award residential training event in Ballykinler to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Award.

The cadets have also taken advantage of the Cadet Centre for Adventurous Training courses over the last few months. Cadet Corporal Kyle Chapple (Glenrothes Viewfield) went on a Mountain Bike Course while three cadets, Cadet Staff Sergeant James Hunter (Kinross) Cadet Megan Witherspoon and Cadet Jamie Buchan (both Regimental Band) spent a week in Bavaria taking part in a variety of activities.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Before summer camp the Regimental Sergeant Major pulled together a team of cadets from throughout the Battalion to take part in the Drill Competition at the Stirling Military Show on 18 June 2016. Hoping to acquit themselves well, they were delighted when all the hard work was rewarded by them winning the competition and bringing back the Erskine Quaich (not named after the Commandant). Unfortunately the drill team which represented the Battalion in September at the Brigade Drill competition was not able to replicate this result but once again showed what a high standard they had achieved. The conclusion is that Drill is flourishing in the Battalion.

The weeks after summer camp are, in theory, a time for everyone to recharge their batteries but being the height of summer there is so much to be involved in. Shortly after summer camp, twenty six cadets, with a number of accompanying adults went to Fort George to join in the Ticonderoga Day celebrations. Despite a damp start to the day, everyone really enjoyed themselves and they were very well looked after by the soldiers as well as having a chance to discover a bit more about the role of the Battalion. Over one hundred cadets went to the Preview performance of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo at the

beginning of August and about the same number marched through Perth on 21 August with many of the acts from the Tattoo as part of the City's celebrations to mark the 750th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Perth. As well as providing a marching contingent and the regimental band, cadets also carried the Tattoo Banner and the National flags of the respective Tattoo acts. The smart turnout of the cadets was noted by a number of dignitaries. In addition to these major events which took place in the holidays, the cadets also helped out at the Perth Highland Games and 7 SCOTS Open Day.

SPORTS

For various reasons the Battalion has not participated in as many national sports competitions as in the past but at the beginning of the year a number of cadets took part in rugby training and over the weekend 9-10 April Cadet Lance Corporal Davidson (Perth Black Watch Detachment) was part of the ACFSA Scotland Senior team which reached the semi-finals of the National Competition. Towards the end of this period the Battalion entered a team into the Army Cadet Force Association (Scotland) swimming championships. Cadet Blythe Johnston (Regimental Band) was subsequently selected to attend the National Championships while the senior girls relay team came second overall.



ACF Cadets with Edinburgh Tattoo Banners in Perth.

MUSIC

Both the Regimental Band and the Pipes and Drums continue to play at events round the country. At the end of April both bands took part in the ACFA Beating Retreat on Edinburgh Castle Esplanade. This is always enjoyed by those who are invited to attend. The undoubted highlight this year was that for the first time, combined bands played together for the finale. In the summer the Regimental Band played at the Leith Mini Tattoo, an event which was cut short due to the inclement weather and then played at the Award Ceremony for the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Ceremony at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh was there and graciously had a word with the cadets, complimenting them on their musical programme. Not to be outdone the Pipes and Drums played for Her Majesty The Queen at Balmoral at the beginning of August.

AWARDS

Finally the Battalion was delighted when Major Douglas, Major Truscott and Staff Sergeant Instructor Kirkland were awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Meritorious Service Award for 2016 while Cadet Sergeant Major William Rae and Cadet Sergeant Michael Robertson were appointed to be the Lord Lieutenants' cadets for Fife, and Perth and Kinross respectively.



Black Watch Battalion ACF Drill Team at Stirling Military Show.



Cadet Corporal Emma Rosocki leads the Tattoo Pipes and Drums in Perth.



Adult Instructors at Spring Camp.



Cadet Jordan Tucker presenting a SCOTS DG Piper with a Red Hackle on the 750th Anniversary of the Treaty of Perth.



Drum Major, Cadet Staff Sergeant Findlay Hunter of The Black Watch ACF and the Drum Major of the New Zealand Army Band at Perth.



Cadet Lance Corporal (Piper) Ruadhan Scrivener-Anderson and Cadet (Drummer) Andrew Bonnar in the background.



Cadet Staff Sergeant Michael Robertson – study in concentration during a drill parade.



Regimental Band waiting for Orders.



Watersports at Summer Camp.

Association News

THE INTERMENT OF LANCE CORPORAL JOHN MORRISON 27 JULY 2016

The Association Branches were asked to provide Standard Bearers to travel to France to form part of the ceremony to lay at rest Lance Corporal John Morrison who was killed in action in France on 25th January 1915.

So it was that the Standard Bearers from the Dundee Branch – Willie Barr, Angus Branch – Brian Smith, Fife Branch – Rab Young and the Perth Branch – Jack Herschell departed Scotland on Monday 25th July and took the ferry from Hull to Zeebrugge.

On Tuesday 26th July the Standard Bearers conducted a Recce of the location for the Service and later that night they joined several members of John Morrison's descendants (great nieces and great nephews) for dinner at a local establishment. Also in attendance was Brigadier Alastair Aitken Commander 77 Brigade, Major Martin Stanning and Padre Stewart Mackay from The Black Watch Battalion, Colonel Alastair Veitch the British Liaison Officer to French Land Forces and three ladies from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It was a fine night and a pleasure to meet up and chat with John Morrison's relations.

The morning of Wednesday 27th July at 1030 hrs saw the Standard Bearers reporting to Woburn Abbey Cemetery in order to conduct a short rehearsal. At this time they were joined by two Standard Bearers from the French Army and although there was an initial language problem it was very easily sorted out by hand actions and the odd word of command. Everything was looking good for the start of the service which was due to commence at 1100hrs. The Firing and Burial Parties from The Black Watch Battalion and all the other participants and family members were in place and ready to go, when suddenly out of the blue came a third French Standard Bearer who had been sent to participate in the service. In order to avoid a panic, the situation was immediately accepted and an extremely quick briefing was given by his French comrades; not a problem!

The service, which was also attended by many local people, was conducted with military precision however, it was an extremely moving and emotional occasion for the relatives. During the service Brian Smith laid a wreath on behalf of the Black Watch Association. On completion of the service the Association Standard Bearers made their way to the village hall where a reception was being held for all those who attended the service. Our Standard Bearers conducted one final act of dignity and respect for the relatives as they formed a Guard of Honour outside the hall as the relatives arrived. This was greatly appreciated by everyone.

On Thursday 28th July the four Association stalwarts booked out of their hotel and commenced their journey back home. They did however, on route, have one other duty to perform and that was attending and participating in a service at the Thiepval Memorial. Each day from 2 July to 17 November 2016, a small commemorative service is being held at the memorial, to mark the 141 days of the Battle of the Somme and it was such a service that our Standard Bearers took part in along with a Piper from The Black Watch Battalion. During this service Willie Barr laid a wreath on behalf of the Black Watch Association.

On the conclusion of this service our gallant quartet made their way to the ferry at Zeebrugge and after another long drive from Hull they eventually got home between 1800-1900 hrs on the evening of Friday 29th July.

The Standard Bearers wish to thank the Association for the privilege in being able to attend and represent the Association in such an important event.

Willie Barr would further like to thank his fellow Standard Bearers for their professionalism and their great company during the five days.

W Barr



The Black Watch Association Standard Bearers stand shoulder to shoulder with their French counterparts. From left to right: Rab Young, Jack Herschell, Willie Barr and Brian Smith.

THE ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

In late September 2016 Maureen Brace retired, having worked for the Association for nearly five years. She had previously worked at RHQ Black Watch. Maureen was pivotal in the processing of the welfare, benevolence and holiday cases and many families have benefited thanks to her hard work. Her successor is Heather Edment who will work alongside Anne Amos.



Anne Amos (left) and Heather Edment both work part time for the Association. Anne is mainly responsible for the production of the Red Hackle magazine and she supports the Vice Chairman whereas Heather looks after welfare and benevolence and comradeship with the Association Secretary.

A collage of nine photographs from the 2016 Regimental Reunion. The photos show veterans in formal uniforms with kilts and sporrans, some in marching bands, and others in suits with berets. They are gathered outdoors in front of a large stone building, with some photos showing them in formation and others in smaller groups.



ANGUS BRANCH

President:	Lieutenant Colonel Fred Beattie MBE
Vice President:	Major David McMicking LVO
Chairman:	Major Ronnie Proctor MBE
Vice Chairman:	Mr Peter Tindal
Secretary:	Mr Tom McCluskey
Treasurer:	Mr Jim Penny

Since the last edition of the notes we have gained a few new members which has reduced the average age of the Branch considerably. We welcome Billy Ramsay, Harry Smith, Major Peter Burnett, Eck Stott and Barry Green to the fold.

The Arbroath annual Veterans Day Parade was re named "The Arbroath Heroes Parade" and took place on the 4th of June. As well as renaming the event, it was also restructured. A parade of veterans marched down the Victoria Park Road, Arbroath with the North Sea on the East side of the road and various demonstrations and static displays including those laid on by The Black Watch Battalion complete with Foxhound Vehicles and modern weapons systems were sited on the large open park to the West of the road. The day ended with a superb fly past and aerial display courtesy of the Red Arrows.

The turnout was greater than expected with over two thousand attending and many old friends were reacquainted. Great interest was shown in The Black Watch Battalion stand and hopefully a few recruits were gained from the Battalion Recruiting Team's efforts.

The Branch was well represented at the Annual Reunion this year and many of the members commented on how much they enjoyed marching behind and listening to the Pipes and Drums of The Black Watch Battalion. Their participation is always welcome. In the evening the Pipes and Drums left Balhousie Castle to take part in the Dundee and Angus SSAFA Concert in Caird Hall where they brought the house down with their very professional performance.

A week later the blue bonnets were again pulled out as a good turnout of Angus Branch members paraded at the annual Dundee Armed Forces Day Parade. The large Veterans Contingent was commanded by Major Colin Gray, President of the Dundee Branch. Angus Branch members commented on how much they enjoyed the parade as the words of command were loud and clear and given on the correct foot! Dundee City Council are once again thanked for their hospitality which was enjoyed by all the participants in the City Hall after the parade.

A visit to the Air Museum at Montrose which was organised by Associate Member, Gordon Millar was well attended and enjoyed by everyone. The visit was very worthwhile and very interesting. Dr Dan Paton the Air Museum Curator and his staff gave us a warm welcome and most informative guided tour.

The Royal British Legion Montrose was our next port of call where we were served up a delicious "High Tea" complete with all the toast, scones and fancy cakes (poufy toutes in the Angus dialect) to go along with a very filling main course. Our Standard Bearers have been in great demand to take part in the various Armed Forces Day events also Brian Smith along with Willie Barr, Dundee Branch, Jack Herschell, Perth Branch and Rab Young Fife Branch all took part in the burial ceremony of Lance Corporal Morrison, who was killed in France and Flanders during the 1st World War. A letter was sent to Association Secretary by the MOD (which is shown elsewhere) thanking and congratulating the Standard Bearers who took part in the burial ceremony for their contribution. The Standard Bearers have also taken part in the various cross laying ceremonies at the Memorial Wall at Balhousie Castle both Brian Smith and John Glen are to be thanked for giving up their free time to do this.

Our Annual Branch Standard Service was held on the 18th of September at Newtyle Parish Church and was again taken by the Reverend Carleen Robertson who is the Minister of both Glamis (where we held last years' service) and Newtyle churches. The Branch is grateful to Carleen and the members of Newtyle Church for allowing us to hold the service in their lovely building. Our guests of honour were the Lord Lieutenant of Angus Mrs Georgiana Osborne and her husband Captain James Osborne along with Mrs Chrissie Maxwell and her husband Graham. Chrissie is the daughter of the late Alfred Anderson who was the oldest man in Scotland and the last surviving member of the Regiment who fought in The Great War. He was brought up in Newtyle and spent most of his life there before moving to Alyth. Alfred died in December 2005 in Newtyle aged 109. We thought it fitting that Chrissie, accompanied by her husband and Branch Member John Campbell from Newtyle lay the wreath at the

war memorial as her father would have known all of those whose names are listed. On completion of the formal activities we then retired to the Royal British Legion, Forfar for an excellent three course lunch. Bob Mitchell is to be thanked for organising the catering and he and Jim Anderson for laying out the hall.

The Chairman was pleasantly surprised and left speechless when he met up with old friends, Major Peter and Mrs Andrea Burnet who have moved from Shropshire to live in Newtyle. Needless to say Peter was signed up straight away and is our newest Branch member.

We are now preparing for the annual El Alamein Dinner, Remembrance Services throughout the County, Pensioners and Widows Christmas "Comfort" boxes and our Christmas Branch Meeting and buffet. The Burns Supper lies not too far away on the horizon.

The Branch congratulates Fraser Brown on gaining a Ph.D. at Dundee University. Dr Brown served in the regiment in Minden and left shortly after the Battalion returned to Kirknewton to attend Stirling University. He then joined 51st Highland and served as Intelligence Section Corporal before he graduated and then trained as a teacher. Fraser is a founder member of the Branch and is a regular attendee at Branch meetings and functions.

The Branch has now got a second author in its midst; Jim Penny our Treasurer who has had two books published was our first and has now got rival, in that Tam McCluskey our Branch Secretary has had his book "Black Watch Corner" published. A short review of the book is shown elsewhere however sales I am told are going well the book would make an excellent stocking filler for those who are interested in the Regiment's history at the beginning of the Great War.

We finish on a sad note, as a number of stalwart Branch members namely Rab Simpson our artist, Joe Macintosh, Bill Archibald and Sandy Caird have died over the last period. We extend our sympathy and condolences to their families.

R J W Proctor



Members of the Association at the unveiling of the Cpl John Ripley memorial plaque in St Andrews.



The Signals and Recce Platoon Reunion was held in Dundee on the 17th of June 2016.



Angus Branch and their guests at the Branch Standard Rededication in Newtyle on 18 September 2016.

DUNDEE BRANCH

President: Colin Gray
Chairman: Willie Barr
Secretary: Colin Adam
Treasurer: Len Mitchell

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday 28th February and it was during this meeting that David Ritchie stood down as Branch President and Colin Gray was elected and voted in to replace him. Willie Barr was re-elected as Chairman, as was Colin Adam as the Secretary and Len Mitchell as the Treasurer.

On the 18th March in Kirkcaldy, the Fife Branch welcomed the other branches to their Vimy Ridge Dinner. In attendance from the Dundee Branch were Willie Barr, Davie Young, Jimmy Connors, Roland Rose, John Smith, David Ritchie and Colin Gray. It was great to see some young Jocks from Fort George joining us for the evening. Another super night was had and a big thank you to Bob Scott and his Committee for ensuring we went home with bellies full of good cheer and food, cheeks sore with laughter and pockets empty owing to the champion of raffle ticket sellers.

The Dundee Branch hosted the Inter Branch Games Day which was held in the Black Watch Club in Dundee on Sunday 3rd April. The day was organised by our well travelled, man of many talents, John Smith who came up with the idea to raise funds for Jock McInnes and his Charity Challenge in Nepal. John on the day was ably assisted by Bill (Gunner) Adamson (Dominoes), Jimmy Kidd (Darts), Davie Young (Pool) and Colin Gray (Scores). The overall winners were our very own team consisting of Alfie Docherty, Ray Lawson, Jimmy Killorn and Willie Milne.

After the bar games, we all transported ourselves upstairs in the Club where JJ Smith had set up video horse racing on the big screen. This was great fun especially seeing some of the faces of those who got caught up in the excitement of each race. Some happy faces (obvious winners) and many not so happy faces (definitely not winners).

After the Horse Racing, JJ Smith and his helpers, Ally Alcorn and Gunner Adamson held an auction of the many items that Jock McInnes had managed to obtain for the event, such as Black Watch memorabilia, sporting memorabilia, the odd bottle of alcoholic beverage and loads more. A super way to raise funds.

Now, throughout the whole day we had the privilege of the company of a very special guest that Jock McInnes had brought along. It was none other than the former Undisputed World Lightweight Boxing Champion, Mr Ken Buchanan MBE. It was a great honour for the Branch to have Ken in our midst. He had freely given up his own time to attend our fund raising event during which he joined in with the team bar games (not a bad pool player) and he also presented the winning team with their trophy which had been generously donated by Graham (Gus) Angus. Ken also presented the Dundee Branch with a signed framed print of his boxing exploits. This gesture was very much appreciated by the Branch members. It is not every day a true sporting legend enters into your life. A huge vote of thanks was given to Ken at the end of this special day. It is hoped that the Inter Branch Games Day theme becomes an annual event and that the Perth Branch run it in 2017.

At the Association Annual General Meeting the Branch was represented by Alex Murdoch, Roland Rose, Jimmy Connors, Willie Barr and Colin Gray. This important meeting allows those attending to receive up to date information regarding the activities and business of the Association as a whole and to see how the other Branches are faring.

On the 7th May, Roland Rose, Willie Barr, Joe Barton, Chris Thomas and Colin Gray attended the Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders' Branch Al Basrah Dinner. This was another fantastic evening surrounded by great friends. The actual dining part of the evening took place in the Apex Hotel and the liquid refreshment element occurred back at the Scots Guards Club. A few songs were belted out before it was time to catch the bus back to Dundee.

The Inverness Branch Aberfeldy Dinner was held at Fort George on 14th May. In attendance from the Branch were Willie Barr and Colin Gray who were accompanied by their wives Christine and Maureen. The venue of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess was excellent. A mouth watering dinner held in the downstairs dining room was followed by a few drinks and great entertainment upstairs in the function room. The entertainment was none other than Ally Alcorn. Yet another fantastic night was enjoyed by everyone attending and once again it was great to see so many auld friends. We are grateful to Joe Barbour, Gordon (Sharky) Kennedy and the Committee for laying on such a successful occasion.

Many Branch members attended the annual Regimental Reunion at Balhousie Castle on 18th June. The members who were able to march, formed up at Rose Terrace and with the Pipes & Drums of The Black Watch Battalion leading; they marched the short distance to Balhousie Castle where they joined hundreds of other Association Branch members, wives, partners and families.

After the Regimental Reunion, Roland Rose and Colin Gray with their wives and Joe Barton, attended the SSAFA Concert that was held in the Caird Hall. This was a great evening of entertainment performed by a multitude of differing performers, some very young, some not so young and some getting on in years but still very sprightly.

The Armed Forces Day Parade in Dundee on 25th June went extremely well and the rain held off just long enough for the ceremonial element of the day to be conducted. The veterans, of which there were many Branch members, were inspected by Major General Riddell-Webster.

The Branch President, Colin Gray represented the Branch at the Royal Regiment of Scotland Boxing competition held at Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh on 1st July. A great competition, fought in the finest of Regimental traditions.

Over the period 25th-29th July, our Branch Chairman in his role as the Branch Standard Bearer attended the ceremony for the laying to rest of John Morrison. Willie's report on this event is contained separately within this edition of the magazine.

On the 18th September, Willie Barr, Vic Herd and Jim Herd represented the Dundee Branch at the Angus Branch rededication ceremony at Newtyle whilst on the same day John Smith was attending the Fife Branch Alma Lunch in Kirkcaldy.

On the 25 September a Commemoration Service for the 101st Anniversary of the Battle of Loos was held in the Congregation Church, Constitution Road, Dundee. The following members from the Dundee Branch attended; Willie Barr, Joe Barton, Herbie Bowden, Arthur Clark, Joe Devlin, Jimmy Edwards, Colin Gray, Vic Herd, Jim Herd, Jimmy Killorn, Roland Rose, Rev David Taylor and Alan Williamson.

In summary, the Branch is continuing to flourish and since the AGM in February 2016, we have had 36 new members join. They are, in surname alphabetical order: Bill (Gunner) Adamson, Ally Alcorn, Graham (Gus) Angus, Chris Baltazui, Andy Barbour, Frankie Clark, Jim (Shorty) Crawford, Barrie Durcan, Thomas Ferguson, Mickey Flynn, Freddie Forbes, Alan Forsyth, Bob Forsyth, Alex Foy, Rab (Gus) Gourdie, Colin Gray, John Hamilton, Eddie Ireland, Jimmy Kidd, Jimmy Lynch, Bob McLaren, Pat McLinden, John Myles, Danny O'Connor, Bob Reid, Shaun (Boris) Reid, Jimmy Russell, Brian Sandeman, Stewart Sandeman, Richard Scroggie, Robert Smith, Chris Thomas, Gary Watson, Stefan Wojnarowicz, Davie Young and Bill Young (Associate Member).

It is sincerely hoped that all these new members as well as the longer serving members continue to support the Branch for many

years to come. Every member is encouraged to attempt to get at least one new member to join the Branch each year.

Colin Gray



Dundee Branch members at the July monthly meeting.



Inter Branch Games Day auction and raffle, Gunner Adamson on the left and J J Smith.



Ken Buchanan's presentation to the Dundee Branch.



Dundee Branch members at Fife Branch Vimy Ridge Dinner.

EDINBURGH, LOTHIAN'S AND BORDERS' BRANCH

President:	Lieutenant Colonel Julian McElhinney
Chairman:	Lieutenant Colonel Jock Menzies
Secretary:	Major Alex Stewart BEM
Treasurer:	Captain Ramsay Macdonald
Events Coordinator:	Mr Rory McIntyre

A beautiful spring morning at Craigiehall Edinburgh was the venue for a Clay Shoot which was sponsored by Legion Scotland. Members gathered to take part in what was to be a very enjoyable event and for some their first experience of Clay Shooting. Coaching was provided by members of the local Lothian's Clay Shooting Team and their expertise was appreciated by all who took part. Competition for top spot was fierce and after a tie for first place, Michael Snape is to be congratulated for holding his nerve and becoming the outright winner. There was a lot of interest and support shown for this event by Association members and it is hoped that similar days can be organised on an annual basis in the future.

On 7 May 2016 Branch members and guests gathered in the Apex Hotel Haymarket for the annual Al Basrah Dinner. Our main guest for the evening was Lieutenant Colonel Ian Foulkes, Commanding Officer of 71 Engineer Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Foulkes deployed on Operation TELIC with the Black Watch Battlegroup and his short talk on his experience of serving with the battlegroup was both interesting and enjoyable, including an emotional moment when he recalled how proud and privileged he felt when he was issued with a Tam O Shanter. We were also delighted to have Pipe Major Alistair Duthie play the pipe tune "Al Basrah" during the piping programme. Pipe Major Duthie played this tune for the first time as the battlegroup crossed the Line of Departure on Sunday 06 April 2006. The support from fellow Association members from Dundee, Fife, Inverness and Perth was also very much appreciated and their company made the evening that little bit more special.

A number of Branch members paraded at the Scottish National War Memorial, Edinburgh Castle on 1 July 2016 to take part in a vigil to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. Built in the aftermath of World War One, this memorial commemorates the sacrifice of Scots servicemen and women from all Armed Services, the Dominions, Merchant Navy, Women's Services, Nursing Services and civilian casualties of all wars from 1914. Throughout the evening of 30 June and early hours of 1 July, a vigil was provided by representatives of the Armed Services and Service Veterans' Groups and Associations. The Reverend Neil Gardner, Minister of Canongate Church, lead a morning service to draw to a close the overnight vigil and also to mark the moment when the Battle of the Somme began on 1 July 1916.

New members to the Branch will always be welcome. Past and present members of The Black Watch 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, are particularly encouraged to make contact. The next main social event will be the "Red Hackle Ceilidh" which will take place in Leith on 14 January 2017.

Finally, but by no means least, congratulations to our President Lieutenant Colonel Julian McElhinney who recently assumed command of 6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. We wish him every success throughout his tenure as Commanding Officer.

J A Menzies



Black Watch and Queen's Own Highlanders Association members assemble for the Clay Shoot at Craigiehall, Edinburgh.



Al Basrah Dinner: Sergeant Major John MacDougall, Mr Brian Elliott and Mr Charles Carruthers.



Al Basrah Dinner: Mr Hugh Beattie and Lieutenant Colonel Roland Rose.



Lieutenant Colonels Julian McElhinney and Jock Menzies stand vigil at the Scottish National War Memorial.



Officers parading for the Vigil at the Scottish National War Memorial. Rear: Lieutenant Colonels David Orr-Ewing and Julian McElhinney. Front: Major Alex Stewart, Lieutenant Colonel Jock Menzies and Captain Peter Sutton.

FIFE BRANCH

The Fife Branch continue to meet on a regular basis in Hunter Street Kirkcaldy with a healthy turnout at each meeting. The first big event of this reporting period was our own Regimental Reunion at Balhousie Castle in Perth. It was a well attended event helped by the weather and the added attraction of the Weeping Window. An open invitation was extended to all the Old and Bold to join The Black Watch Battalion in Fort George for a Highland Gathering on Ticonderoga Day and a big thank you to the Commanding Officer for that. Fife Council requested the Branch join them in the Garden for Heroes in Dunfermline to dedicate a Memorial Stone to John Erskine VC and to unfurl the Armed Forces Day Flag. John was a Sergeant serving with the 5th Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and he was born in Dunfermline in 1894.

Two days later, we were on parade again, this time in Crail Lane St Andrews where the Community honoured Corporal John Ripley VC by placing a commemorative stone outside the house where he lived. The next day it was over the Tay to Dundee to support the City on their Armed Forces Day.

One of our Members, Captain Bob Henry, did a sponsored Bike Ride from the Mull of Galloway to John O Groats in aid of the Autistic Children's Charity a total of 458 Miles.

The Branch welcomed a fair number of new members and hopefully this will continue in the future. On to the other important Event in the Branch Calendar, The Ladies Alma Lunch held in the Victoria Hotel Kirkcaldy with 68 sitting down. It is the custom of the Branch, to invite our widows to the lunch and it was good to see Mrs Val Elder and Mrs Brenda Gow take up their seats. This year the Branch gave a prize of two seats at the lunch to be drawn at the Ladies Reunion in Glenrothes and I am pleased to say, our own Mr and Mrs Pat McLinden joined us for the occasion.

The Branch Standard has been unfurled on many occasions during this period, but I must make a special mention of its trip to France and Belgium under the care of Rab Young. The Branch thanks him for his continued dedication.

Lastly I would like to thank the membership for their continued support, to me this makes it all worthwhile.

R M Scott



Alma Lunch: Hugh and Mrs Beattie, George and Mrs Wood, George and Mrs Ireland, and Mrs Harry Thomas.



Alma Lunch: John and Mrs Atkinson, James and Mrs Atkinson, J J Smith, Willie and Mrs Dickson, John and Mrs Gilfillan.



Alma Lunch: Brian and Mrs McGrath, David and Mrs Robertson, Joe Barton, David and Douglas Kennedy, Rob and Mrs Young.



Alma Lunch: Barry and Mrs McDougall, John and Mrs Reed, Norman and Mrs Ednie, Colin and Mrs Ballantyne.

HIGHLAND BRANCH

President:	WO1 (RSM) Kevin Stacey
Chairman:	Mr Joe Barbour
Vice Chairman:	Mr Donald Etherington
Secretary:	Mr Gordon Kennedy

Life in The Branch continues to run smoothly. At our AGM the members elected RSM Kevin Stacey as Branch President a post to which he accepted with honour, although insisting he be addressed as "El Presidente". There were no changes to the other committee members.

Our Aberfeldy Ladies Dinner in May was a good night and was held in Fort George with the kind permission of the CO and RSM. Our guests this year were Colin Gray and Willie Barr from Dundee and Ally Alcorn and Sandy Clephane from Perth all accompanied by their wives.

Branch members have attended various events throughout Inverness this year with John Anderson parading the Standard whenever it is required. The Chairman and Secretary braved the weather to attend Ticonderoga day at Fort George although as the Chairman never wears a watch he was running late and missed most of the heavy rain. By the time this goes to print Donald Etherington and Alec Beattie will have travelled from Inverness to the National Memorial Arboretum aboard their Harley motorbikes as part of Ride To The Wall, laying a wreath on behalf of The Black Watch. Hopefully Donald will be writing an article for inclusion in the next edition along with photographs.

Membership has remained steady although due to commitments it is not possible to get everyone together at the same time. Meetings continue to be held on the second Friday of each month in the Community Centre Wimberley Way. Anyone in the area who is free is more than welcome to come along and join us.

Forecast of Events

Friday 16th December 2016	Christmas Function Venue TBC
Saturday 13th May 2017	Aberfeldy Ladies Dinner Night Fort George

Joe Barbour



WO1 (RSM) Stacey, President the Highland Branch and his Chairman Joe Barbour enjoy a dram.



Kurt Jose and his family at the Aberfeldy Ladies Dinner.

LONDON BRANCH

President: Major General A L Watson CB
 Chairman: Brigadier D R Wilson CBE
 Vice Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel T A Coles MBE
 Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel M Smith MBE

The Summer months are busy and Branch members participate in various high profile events in London and it is encouraging to see so many members supporting these prestige events.

On 9 June HRH The Princess Royal joined the Chelsea Pensioners on Founders day and seven of our members attended this annual event.

The Not Forgotten Association Garden Party at Buckingham Palace was the next gathering for Branch members and His Royal Highness The Duke of York was accompanied by Princess Beatrice.

A small group headed north to attend the Regimental Reunion at Balhousie Castle. These gatherings have grown in popularity and now represent a mixture of all ranks covering decades of service. It is also enjoyed by many of the wives and partners, and Perth echoes to the tales of the old and bold.

Joe Hubble once again organised an excellent lunch at the Albert and on the 11th of August eighteen Branch members sat down for lunch. Chick Markie and Ian Bowles upped the tempo somewhat by playing the pipes and the entire venue including a group of Japanese tourists were well entertained.

We are delighted to welcome some new members; Rupert Forrest, Russell Ross-Smith and Nicholas Allen-Perry are all most welcome.

We are finalising the details for our annual dinner which this year is named the Somme Dinner. Our Royal Patron will join us at a pre-dinner reception. We also have the many Remembrance events and our AGM in March 2017 to look forward to.

Mike Smith



London Branch members attended the Founders Day at Chelsea Hospital.

NEWCASTLE BRANCH

Having misdirected our notes for the May edition, this is a combined submission.

Our Annual Dinner was held in October 2015 and was very successful. Sir Alistair and Lady Irwin were our Guests of Honour, having made an exceptionally difficult journey to be with us.

An effort on the evening to provide a display of WWI memorabilia was enhanced by a drum from the Fourth Battalion the Tyneside Scottish, which had been presented to the Battalion in 1915. At that time, the Tyneside Scottish Brigade formed part of the Northumberland Fusiliers. The drum was on loan from Mrs Elizabeth Chantler, who has since gifted it to the Tyneside Scottish Association. Unfortunately, our Chairman missed the event for the first time in many years, being temporarily resident in the local hospital, following a fall. More than forty guests were present and entertainment was provided by Pipes and Drums of the Royal Engineers (V).

November saw a number of our members gathered at a War Grave to pay tribute to a Black Watch soldier of WWI. A wreath was laid for S/6663 Pte D L Robertson, who died on the 14th of March 1916. Andy Lambert was a welcome addition to our ranks, being on leave at the time. The following day, being Remembrance Day, a wreath was laid on the Eldon Square Memorial in Newcastle as part of the Civic Ceremony. On the 11th of the month, a wreath was laid at Monckton War Memorial in Jarrow.

A Service of Remembrance was held on St Andrew's Day in Eldon Square. This was arranged by the Tyneside Scottish Association and supported by members of the Black Watch Association; The Tyneside Irish Brigade Association and the Northumberland Fusiliers Association. A

Chaplain from the Royal Marines conducted the service. Those attending were entertained at the Tyneside Irish Club after the parade. This was the second year that this ceremony had been held and is now well established. On a similar line, The Tyneside Irish Brigade Association arranged a Ceremony on St Patrick's Day where tribute was paid to those of the Brigade who fell in the First World War. This was attended by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, representatives of all religious groups in the City and representatives of all of the ethnic groupings.

Particularly moving was a representative of the German Government who laid the final wreath. A buffet lunch was provided at the Irish Club.

We are very pleased to have had Andy Lambert back with the Branch for the past few months and his friend, a former drummer, Nick Turnbull has also joined. Andy has recently been married and will be taking up residence north of the border in the not too distant future.

This year has been a sad time for the Branch, having lost some long serving and much loved friends. Dr Tom Renouf died in June 2016 and was followed very quickly by his good friend John King. They served together and died within ten days of each other.

June saw our merry band of adventurers heading north for the annual Reunion. We arrived in good time, having had a pleasant run from Tyneside. Old friendships renewed and refreshed, the inner spirit reinforced, these Geordie Jocks launched themselves upon the city with the vigour only found in the truly dedicated and educated investigator of brewing perfection. The remnants who reported for the return journey seemed to have achieved the object of their quest and a rather subdued journey to Edinburgh ensued. Upon arrival at the Capital City, the voyagers spilled onto the pavement and headed for Rose Street. Naturally, there were late arrivals at the pick-up point for our continued journey south, involving the exercise of considerable negotiating skills with members of the local Constabulary. One more stop in the Borders at a watering hole of great distinction and we were nearly home. At this point, the Highways Agency managed to block the route south with roadworks. Our driver turned into the hero of the day by finding his way over country roads and various grassy byways to put us on a west to east approach which led us home.

As these notes are prepared for publication, it has become necessary to cancel our annual dinner scheduled for October. It would seem that, the number of events held in October is on the increase and we may have suffered from being at the end of the period. No doubt reasons will emerge and suitable action can be taken to rectify matters for next year.

Malcolm Dunn

PERTH BRANCH

Management Committee:

President: Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Roddy Riddell
 Chairman: Captain Alan McEwen MBE
 Secretary: Ally Alcorn
 Treasurer: Frances Sandilands

The Branch continues to foster comradeship at both Association and Branch events and has enjoyed each other's company at a number of Regimental and social events. Particular thanks must go to those Branch members who have given of their time to attend memorial events at Balhousie Castle, including the Battle of Longueval, 13 and 19 July 1916, the Battle at High Wood, 30 July 1916 (both as part of the Battle of the Somme) and the Poppies: Weeping Window, opening ceremony. It is with Poppies in mind that the Branch are hugely pleased to acknowledge those who committed to Poppy Partners duties; Lt Col Roddy Riddell, Eddie Kulik, Kevin Murphy and George McDonald. The photographs and captions accompanying these notes paint a thousand colourful words.

Raffle ticket takings during the Pre-Reunion social function on Friday 17 June in the Ex Servicemen's Club, Perth raised the sum of £350; our thanks to all concerned for donating raffle prizes and purchasing tickets on the night. Perth Branch members have agreed to hand over cheques as follows:

The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) Association – £150
 Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) The Soldiers' Charity – £100
 Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) – £100

And finally, the Branch was absolutely delighted to learn of the outstanding personal achievement gained by Fraser Brown, who was recently awarded Master of Philosophy (M.Phil. or MPhil, sometimes Ph.M.). Our sincerest congratulations to Doctor Fraser Brown and, of course, Sheila.

Alan McEwen



Graduation Day for Dr Fraser Brown and Brogan Stacey who was accompanied by her father David.



Poppies: Weeping Window Opening Ceremony – Perth Branch members; Alan McEwen, Gerry McCormick, Eddie Kulik, Jack Herschell, Jock McBride, Roy Brown and Tim Carmichael.



Ex A (Grenadier) Company sodgers; Lindsay (Tattie) Shaw, Alan McEwen and Tam Spiers share stories over a cold beer at the Regimental Reunion.



Immaculate Standard Bearers on parade at Balhousie Castle; Willie Barr – Dundee Branch, Brian Smith – Angus Branch, Rab Young – Fife Branch and Jack Herschell – Perth Branch.



Tam McCluskey and Sandy MacDuff at the Somme Memorial Cross Laying Ceremony at Balhousie Castle.



Major Brian Cooper, Warrant Officer Class 1 (SCOTS Command Sergeant Major) Jason Dickson and Alan McEwen enjoy the banter during Ticonderoga Day at Fort George.



Jim Beedie and Kevin Murphy inspecting a 21st Century soldier of The Black Watch Battalion during Ticonderoga Day at Fort George.



George Kennedy, Perth Branch presenting a Black Watch plaque to Pipe Major Brian Scott MacKenzie, following a performance by The Black Watch Association Pipes and Drums of Montreal – Canada at Balhousie Castle on Sunday 14th August 2016.

WHAT INTELLIGENCE DOES SHE HAVE?



FIND OUT NOW
AGENT HANDLER | INTERROGATOR



SPECIALIST INTELLIGENCE DUTIES
DEFENCE HUMINT UNIT

DII: SEARCH 'DHU' | PHONE: 01462 752196 | EMAIL: JFIG DHU OP-SAMSON-MAILBOX



ABF

THE SOLDIERS'

CHARITY

The Army's National Charity

Last year, we spent some £8.4million on delivering grants to nearly 5,000 soldiers, veterans and their immediate families, and provided funding to 88 charities, which deliver specialist support on our collective behalf.



Working with every Regiment & Corps of the British Army.

To donate or to find out how you can support our Charity,
visit www.soldierscharity.org

ABF The Soldiers' Charity is a registered charity in England and Wales (1146420) and Scotland (039189). Registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (07974609). Registered Office: Mountbarrow House, 6-20 Elizabeth Street London SW1W 9RB
Tel: 020 7901 8900, Email: fundraising@soldierscharity.org

facebook.com/soldierscharity



twitter.com/soldierscharity



Image: Ben Rishton & family, Andy Garthwaite and Les Fryatt, Soldiers' Charity beneficiaries

Queen Victoria School



Raising to Distinction

**Admissions Deadline
15 Jan each year**

Queen Victoria School in Dunblane is a co-educational boarding school for the children of UK Armed Forces personnel who are Scottish, or who have served in Scotland or who have been members of a Scottish regiment.

The QVS experience encourages and develops well-rounded, confident individuals in an environment of stability and continuity.

The main entry point is into Primary 7 and all places are fully funded for tuition and boarding by the Ministry of Defence.

Families are welcome to find out more by contacting Admissions on **+44 (0) 131 310 2927** to arrange a visit.

Queen Victoria School
Dunblane Perthshire
FK15 0JY

www.qvs.org.uk

