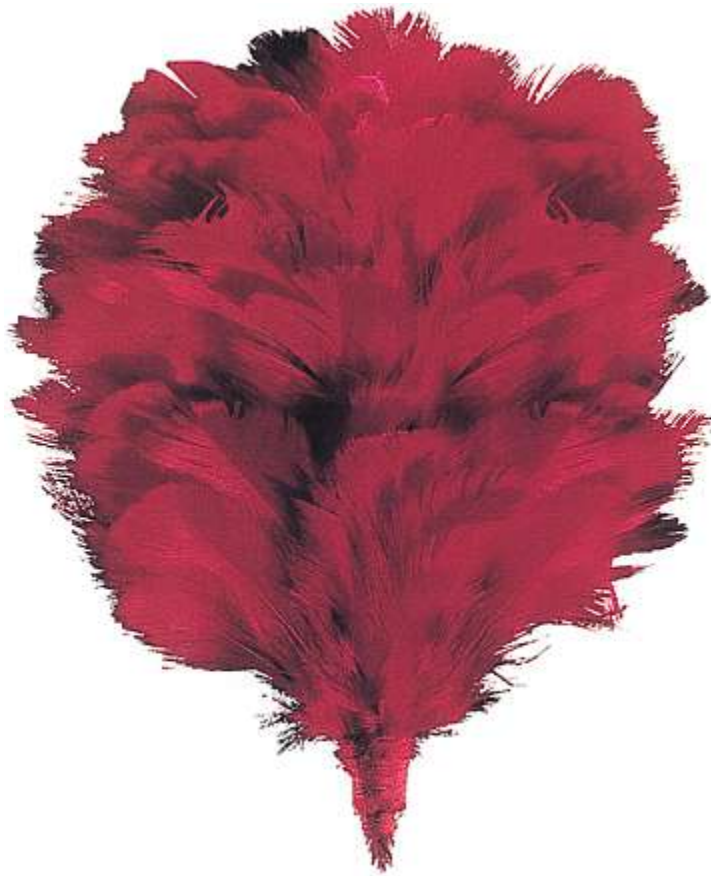


No. 182
November 2018



THE RED HACKLE



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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*



The Royal Colonel, His Royal Highness The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay visited Fort George on Friday 28 September to present medals to members of the Battalion who had deployed to Iraq. He is seen chatting to the Battalion Second-in-Command, Major Nick Colquhoun. CSM Coupar of C Company looks on.

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Left to right: Siobhan Weller, Les Fryatt, Kenneth Kwogyenga – Charity beneficiaries

THE RED HACKLE



*The Chronicle of
The Black Watch
(Royal Highland Regiment)
its successor
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and
The Black Watch Association*

**November 2018
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Editorial

This edition of the Red Hackle magazine has an interesting number of articles some of which focus on the 100th anniversary of events that occurred in 1918; the second part of "Perthshire to Picardy" follows the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion through to the end of the Great War and in an article called "A Grave Apart", the family of 2Lt David Burns who was killed on 30 September 1918 with the 8th Battalion, explains why he was not buried in a War Graves Commission cemetery. Iain Adams – Cairns has brought us into the late 20th and early 21st Centuries as he has researched Black Watch men who have been trained as pilots and lastly Major Jamie Campbell has written of his experiences after he left the Army but found himself in Vietnam, as the Americans withdrew hastily from a very messy war.

The Great War has dominated the events that the Association has taken part in; Memorial Services at Balhousie Castle focussed on the start of the last great German offensive of March 1918, the Lys offensive of April 1918 and the Battle of Tardenois in July 1918. John Glen of the Angus Branch represented the Regiment at Arras and Lieutenant Colonel Mike Smith represented the Regiment at the Menin Gate ceremony commemorating the 90th anniversary of the great pilgrimage when over 11,000 veterans paraded in Ypres. Lastly, the Perth Branch of the Association held a successful Centenary Croix de Guerre Dinner in Perth.

The Museum has had a busy summer and is currently hosting the "There But Not There" exhibition. In addition the Association has funded a project to scope the efficient cataloguing of the artefacts held by the museum so that it can meet the exacting standards of modern management.

Lastly, The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland returned from a successful tour training Iraqi forces at Al Assad airbase. They then carried out a number of novel marches in the old Black Watch recruiting area; Forfar, Dunfermline and Perth all enjoyed a parade that encompassed the traditional "Colours Flying and Bayonets Fixed" as well as FOXHOUND vehicles and patrolling soldiers showing off modern infantry equipment.

The major event for next year is the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the formation of The Black Watch Association. This will take the form of a Kirk service and lunch which will be followed by the Reunion and will take place on Saturday 15 June 2019.

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 2019	FORECAST OF EVENTS 2019 EVENT	LOCATION			
9 January	Friends Lecture – Original letters from the 1918 Armistice	Balhousesie Castle	15 April	Angus Branch AGM	Forfar
12 January	Edinburgh & Lothians Branch Red Hackle Night	Edinburgh	April (Date TBC)	London Branch AGM	London
22 January	Friends Lecture	Balhousesie Castle	27 April	Association Annual General Meeting	Balhousesie Castle
26 January	How to trace a soldier	Forfar	11 May	Edinburgh & Lothians Branch	Edinburgh
1 February	Angus Branch Burns Supper	Forfar	18 May	Al Basrah Lunch	
2 February	Dundee Branch Red Hackle Dinner	Black Watch Club, Dundee	TBC	Highland Branch Aberfeldy Dinner	Fort George
6 February	Perth Branch Burns Supper	Perth	(Date TBC)	The Not Forgotten Association Garden Party	London
23 February	Friends Lecture – The First Battle of the Atlantic	Balhousesie Castle	10 June	Officers' and Ladies' Lunch	Caledonian Club, London
1 March	Dundee Branch AGM	Dundee	14 June	Black Watch Association All Ranks Golf Meeting	Muckhart Golf Club
14 March	Association Trustees and Executive Committee Meeting	Perth	15 June (am)	100th Anniversary of the formation of The Black Watch Association and the final Service of commemoration to the dead of The Great War	Balhousesie Castle
17 March	Friends Lecture – The Paris Peace Conference and the making of a New World Order	Balhousesie Castle	15 June (pm)	Regimental Reunion	Balhousesie Castle
22 March (TBC)	Perth Branch AGM	Perth	June (Date TBC)	Royal Hospital Chelsea Founders Day	Chelsea
	Fife Branch Rhine Crossing Dinner	TBC	3 August	Highland Branch, Inter Branch Games Day	Community Centre, Inverness Fife
			15 September (TBC)	Fife Branch Alma Ladies Lunch	
			22 September	Angus Branch Standard Rededication	Forfar
			5 October	Perth Branch Croix de Guerre Dinner	Perth
			19 October	Angus Branch El Alamein Dinner	Forfar
			25 October	Association Trustees and Executive Committee Meeting	Perth
			25 October	Officers' Gathering Dinner	Perth
			7 November	Field of Remembrance, Westminster	London
			8 November	Balhousesie Castle Remembrance Service	Perth
			10 November	Cenotaph Remembrance Parade	London
			21 November	London Branch Dinner	London



A gathering of Black Watch Commanding Officers at Edinburgh Castle.

GATHERING OF BLACK WATCH COMMANDING OFFICERS

History does not relate whether it has ever happened before, but it will certainly never happen again. On the evening of Saturday 6th October 2018, nine officers who had started their careers in The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) and their wives, gathered in the Governor's Quarter in Edinburgh Castle, prior to having dinner in the Laich Hall, in the Royal Apartments in the Castle. They were joined by the Governor, Major General Mike Riddell-Webster, Brigadier Robin Lindsay, Commander 51 Highland Brigade, and by the Reverend Neil Gardner, who was the Padre of the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong in 1993-94.

It is possible that, in the days when The Black Watch was a multi battalion Regiment, that there was such a gathering. Today, the very fact that it was possible is as the result of the formation of the Royal Regiment of Scotland and the posting policy that ensures that only our very best officers get selected for command. Combine that with a period where we were lucky enough to recruit an extraordinary stream of talent and today there are nine officers in command. A number of them commented that the last time that they had been gathered together was in the days before deploying to Iraq in 2003; truly a reassembly of the Officers' Mess in Fallingbowl.

The dinner commenced with a grace by the Reverend Gardner, which went as follows:

Lord as we gather now to dine,
Bless to us our food and wine,
Still wider send your blessing down
On all the Forces of the Crown:
But most of all if it's no hassle
We offer a plea from the heart of the Castle,
That with extra special blessing you'll tackle

All those who wear or once wore the red hackle.

The officers present were:
Lieutenant Colonel Campbell Close
Lieutenant Colonel Will Colquhoun
Lieutenant Colonel Alex Cooper
Lieutenant Colonel Rob Hedderwick
Lieutenant Colonel Julian McElhinney

Lieutenant Colonel Nick Ord
Lieutenant Colonel Rob Sandford
Lieutenant Colonel Matt Sheldrick
Lieutenant Colonel Neil Tomlin

CENTENARY YEAR

Born on 8th October 1918, Ex Sergeant Geordie Reid was already a trained motor mechanic when he was called-up to serve in The Black Watch at the beginning of the Second World War in 1939. He carried out his basic training at Queens' Barracks in Perth and was then posted to the 10th Battalion of the Regiment which had just been formed in 1940 and which became a Training Battalion, based in the UK, training men as reinforcements for other Regular and Territorial battalions overseas.

As a qualified mechanic Geordie was initially posted to the Battalion's MT Platoon where he was quickly promoted to responsible positions including that of driver to the Commanding Officer, Lt Col Keith Purvis-Russell-Montgomery, OBE of Kinross. Geordie remembers driving "Monty" all over Scotland and England; the Battalion served initially as the Orkney and Shetland Defence Force, before being posted to training duties in Montrose, Brechin, Thurso and Barrow-in-Furness.

Geordie reached the rank of Sergeant before he was demobbed in Stewarton in Ayrshire in 1946.

He worked initially at his father's farm, Middle Gourdie, near Spittalfield before joining Macdonalds, an agricultural transport firm, where he drove a float all over Scotland. He also worked on the Dunkeld Park Farm herding Aberdeen Angus cattle before finally joined the Tarmac Company, working on improvements to the A9 Road, before he retired in 1980.

Not for him the quiet life however, for Geordie has been an Elder at the Church of Scotland's Dunkeld Cathedral for 57 years and last year was presented with a special Certificate of Continuous Service to the Church, by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, The Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr.

Geordie is still very much bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. He still drives his car safely around his home village in Murthly, where he still lives on his own and where he is a very well-kent old character.

He must be one of The Black Watch's oldest soldiers.

The Association arranged a birthday party for Geordie on Wednesday 10 October 2018.



The Association arranged a birthday party for Geordie Reid on Wednesday 10 October 2018. He is seen with Roddy Riddell, Colin Innes and Jamie Montgomery (the grandson of Geordie's one time Commanding Officer).

CONGRATULATIONS – HONOURS AND AWARDS

To Brigadier M S Jameson CBE on the award of the KCVO in The Queen's Birthday Honours List. He is currently President of The Black Watch Association.

RE-UNION and AGM



Lt Col Jim Keating and Brig Duncan Cameron catching up before the AGM.



Malcolm Dunn, Fraser Brown and Cuddles Adams at the AGM.



The Re-Union was held in Perth on Saturday 16th June and Mrs Anne Amos, Mrs Ann McMahon and Mrs Winnie Kennedy helped sell raffle tickets from the safety of the Waterloo Room. The rain was torrential and the march from Rose Terrace to Balhousie Castle was cancelled for the first time in many years.



Lunch after the AGM was held in the Drill Hall at Queen's Barracks; Maj Peter Burnett, Mr Peter Young and Maj Jamie Erskine deep in conversatio.



Maj John Monteith, Mr Billy Whytock, Mr Willie Barr, the Chairman and Maj Brian Cooper all attended the meeting.

BLUE BOOK AMENDMENT

Owners of the Blue Book (Officers of The Black Watch 1725-1986) will wish to note that on page 13, the fourth Colonel of the Regiment should be Sir Hector Munro of Novar, Bt, KB, not Munro of Foulis.



Private Gary McKay plays his pipes beside "Poppy" an eighteen foot high bronze statue of a horse that was unveiled in Inverness. "Poppy" is a tribute to the millions of horses, mules and donkeys killed during the First World War. The statue was moved to Ascot and was officially unveiled in June 2018 (courtesy of Gary Anthony).

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

A short Service was held on 9 August 2018 at the National Arboretum to dedicate a Royal Regiment of Scotland (SCOTS) memorial stone. The descriptor makes reference to the proud heritage that the new Regiment carries forward and the golden thread that links the new Regiment to its antecedent regiments. The cap badges of the antecedent regiments are engraved on the base of the memorial. Mr Norman Rogerson attended the Service and represented The Black Watch.



Mr Norman Rogerson (third from left) represented The Black Watch Association at the dedication service at the National Memorial Arboretum.

EDITOR AND BATTALION SUB EDITOR

The Editor of the magazine remains as Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell and the Battalion Sub Editor is Captain James Farrall.

CHRISTMAS CARD 2018

The Regimental Christmas card for 2018 is entitled "Departure of the Highland Brigade" and shows a soldier of the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment of Foot bidding farewell to his family as the Brigade depart for the Crimea. It is a print from the Regimental collection. The original was painted by Thomas Duncan R.S.A., A.R.A. and was published by Alex Hill on 18 June 1855. Each card will cost 72p



Christmas Card 2018.

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

Kenny Grant has recently returned from taking part in the British Limbless Veterans Team's trip to New York as guests of the Wounded Warrior Project and Soldier Ride.

The event entailed the six British Limbless Veterans participating in cycling seventy miles through the city, including the crossing of the Brooklyn Bridge and also visiting the site of the Twin Towers and a tour of the 9/11 Museum. Swimming also took up part of the group's weeklong visit and meeting up with members of The American Legion and the fifty members of the Wounded Warrior project from the US.

Kenny who served twenty two years in The Black Watch and was an Army Athlete throughout the 1960s and 1970s held the Combined Services ten kilometre record and successfully competed in long distance events as far afield as Malta, West Germany, Hong Kong, Belize and the UK.

Kenny lost a limb through circulatory problems two years ago and joined BLESMA shortly after where he has been an active member and participant. He was very honoured to take part in this project where he and the other British veterans were able to meet up with their counterparts from the US.



Kenny Grant took part in the British Limbless Veterans Team trip to New York.

A REGIMENTAL CURIOSITY

Volume 2 of the Officers of The Black Watch includes the following entry: "BRETT. Hon, M.V.B., O.B.E., M.V.O. (T.F.); 6th Perthshire Bn; Capt, 8/2/11; A.P.M in Paris during 1914-18 War." Maurice Vyber Baliol Brett (1882 – 1934) was the second son of Reginald Brett, 2nd Viscount Esher. In 1911 he married Zena Dare (born Florence Harriette Zena Dones) (1887 – 1975). She was a singer and actress best known for appearing in Edwardian musical comedy. She retired from the stage after the wedding and three years later, on the outbreak of war in 1914 she nursed the wounded for three years in Mrs Vanderbilt's American Hospital in France. Meanwhile her husband Maurice, officially appointed Assistant Provost Marshal in Paris and living in his father's flat there, was in fact said to have run a small spy ring, known as the Intelligence Anglaise, supplying information to his father in the War Office.

In 1926 Zena returned to the stage. Her final role was as Henry Higgins' mother in the original London production of My Fair Lady which ran from 1958 to 1964, Zena being the only one of the lead performers to stay for the whole run. She died aged 88 in 1975.

INVITATION TO A PARTY

By Jim Keating

Everybody loves a good party and on Tuesday 22nd May, together with some 6,500 other guests, a good party is exactly what five members of the Black Watch Association got.

General James Cowan, Colonel Ian Critchley, Lieutenant Colonel Col Jim Keating, Pipe Major Chic Mackie and Mr John Bowles all received invitations to HRH The Prince of Wales's 70th Birthday Patronage Celebration in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. It was a truly beautiful day; the sun was shining and although we were a tad early for HRH's actual birthday (he will not be 70 until the 14th November 2018), we were pleased to be in the Palace grounds in the warmth of early summer, rather than the autumn chill of mid November.

If you care to research the large amount of detail to be found on the Internet about Prince Charles, you will learn that he is the Royal Patron of countless charities and the arts, environmental groups, military organisations and many, many more from throughout the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. First and foremost though is the Prince's Trust which he founded in 1976. So it is little wonder that we were rubbing shoulders with representatives from this hugely

diverse range of organisations filling the Palace gardens that day. There were of course representatives from The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada and other military groups of all three Services from home and abroad. We were not short of folk to chat to, reminisce with and reflect on shared experiences.



Chic Mackie, John Bowles, Colonel Ian Critchley, Major General James Cowan and Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keating all attended the Royal Patron's Garden Party in May 2018.

To make the party go with a swing we were entertained by a Guards' Band and refreshed with iced drinks and all the usual tea party delicacies, including strawberries and cream. It was a hot day so ice creams were available (but no jelly!). Late in the afternoon the guests all moved onto the Palace lawns to listen to an excellent speech given by HRH Prince Harry, who only three days before had married Megan Markle and, foregoing a honeymoon, he and his new bride attended the party as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

Prince Harry's speech highlighted his father's achievements, with particular emphasis on youth and the Prince's Trust and touched upon his work and connections with the countless other organisations he is involved with. The speech was delivered faultlessly, although at one point we all thought that he had lost his place, as there was a pause and great rustling of his notes followed by – with considerable emphasis on the B – “that bee got me!” This of course caused considerable amusement for the guests but perhaps not the speaker, although he passed it off well.

Prince Charles has been the Duke of Cornwall and Duke of Rothesay since 1952 and it is the latter title that resonates most with the Black Watch Association, as the toast to our Royal Patron at Association Dinners is to ‘The Duke of Rothesay’. So, on behalf of the Black Watch Association guests who attended his 70th Birthday Patronage Party, we say thank you for a most enjoyable afternoon and take great pleasure in wishing HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay a very happy 70th birthday.

WHY PRIDE IN THE ‘GALLANT FORTY TWA’ WILL LIVE ON

Editor's Note: On 16 August 2018 Victoria Schofield was interviewed at the Edinburgh Book Festival. One member of the audience was Alan Cochrane who writes for the Daily Telegraph. He has kindly let me reproduce his column, written on the following day.

The second volume of the history of the Black Watch is a tribute to its soldiers' service – and sacrifices.

It is still – just about – Scotland's most famous military name and until 2006 it was arguably the country's best-known regiment. That was the year that the Black Watch wasn't so much abolished – or at least that's the official version – but was instead wrapped up into the Royal Regiment of Scotland as its 3rd Battalion, when the “old and the bold”

of former officers and other ranks lost their battle to maintain the regiment's separate identity.

Today those serving with the Black Watch might well be entitled to wear its famous red hackle in their tam o'shanter, but they are, to all intents and purposes, interchangeable with soldiers in the other battalions of the now enlarged regiment, known simply as the SCOTS in Ministry of Defence shorthand.

However, the intense pride retained by most who served, and who may still serve, with the “Gallant Forty Twa” (The Black Watch was formerly the 42nd Regiment of Foot) lives on in heavyweight form with the publication of the second volume of the regiment's history – a hefty 828 page book by Victoria Schofield detailing its history from 1899 to that fateful day 12 years ago when it lost its independence. An earlier volume, also by Ms Schofield, traced its story from its inception in 1739 as six independent companies raised to “watch” – police – the Highlands, wearing their dark, almost black, tartan kilts.

And it was this pride that, as far as this military buff is concerned, always made the Black Watch that most “Marmite” of Scottish regiments; it was either loved or revered, by those who served or were associated with it, or intensely disliked by those with different loyalties. Its alternative title – “The Royal Highland Regiment” and the fact that it always counted senior members of the Royal family among its Colonels-in-Chief helped foster the “wha's like us” attitude of Black Watch soldiers.

King George V and then Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother were recent holders of the rank and led to Ms Schofield conceding at the Edinburgh International Book Festival yesterday: “Yes, there was a touch of jealousy (among other Scottish soldiers) about the Black Watch. They always thought very highly of themselves. The regiment considered itself to be very prestigious”.

And at least in the experience of this observer, there is no doubt that its officers and men – especially the former – thought themselves a cut above their colleagues in other units.

This envy may well have been fuelled, in part at least, by the suspicion that the Queen Mother, who through her Angus ancestry and the fact that her elder brother, Fergus, had been killed during the First World War while serving with the regiment, had helped it escape all the amalgamations of Scottish regiments in the post-war years. But said the author: “I have come across no evidence that the Queen Mother intervened in this way at all”.

Nevertheless, four years after the “Queen Mum” died in 2002, the Black Watch was rolled up into the Royal Regiment of Scotland; her grandson, Prince Charles, is its current Royal Colonel.

This is very much a book for the enthusiast and the Black Watch enthusiast at that, but it does repay study by the casual reader – charting as it does the incredible service and the appalling sacrifices of the men of this regiment down the years; nearly 9,000 deaths from this regiment alone in the First World War.

The battle to save the famous Highland Regiments as independent units was lost in 2006 to the extent that their names are fast being forgotten. If this book helps preserve one of those names, it will have done Scotland a service.



On 18 April 2018 Colonel David Arbuthnott read the narrative at the service to commemorate the Black Watch men who lost their lives at the start of the Lys offensive. His father was serving with the 1st Battalion 100 years ago and was wounded and captured during the German attack.



Captain Paddy Nicoll reads the narrative about the Battle of Tardenois at the service to commemorate the men of the 6th and 7th Battalions The Black Watch, who died during the Battle of Tardenois and the Second Battle of the Marne. The Service was held on the 30th of July 2018. The Battle of Tardenois led to the award of the Croix de Guerre to the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion. Captain Nicoll's grandfather was a subaltern during the battle and was awarded a Croix de Guerre with Silver Star in January 1919.



Captain Alan McEwen attended the Perth City Armed Forces Day flag raising parade at Balhousie Castle on 25 June 2018.

MONTE SCALARI

Anyone travelling south of Florence may wish to visit the memorial erected to commemorate the deeds of the 6th Battalion fighting in Italy and especially the Battle of Monte Scallari.

The memorial is west of Figline Val D'Arno, in the direction of Greve in Chianti. The actual locality is called Saint' Andrea in Campiglia and the post code is 50063 Figline Val D' Arno. The memorial is on the right hand side about two kilometres outside Figline.



Branch Standard Bearers at the Battle of Tardenois Service of Commemoration at Balhousie Castle.



The memorial to the 6th Battalion The Black Watch at Saint'Andrea in Campiglia.

THE CROIX DE GUERRE – A NEW PIPE TUNE

In 2014 the Trustees of The Black Watch Association decided that each Branch of the Association should hold a social event to commemorate one of the major battles of the Great War. As 2018 loomed, the Perth Branch began to focus on the Battle of Tardenois which was a battle fought by the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion in July 1918 and which led to the award of the Croix de Guerre.

The President of the Perth Branch asked Pipe Major Alistair Duthie to compose a tune to commemorate this award and on the evening of Saturday 29 September 2018, Pipe Major Duthie, carrying the ninety eight year old pipe banner of the 6th Battalion, played the tune at the

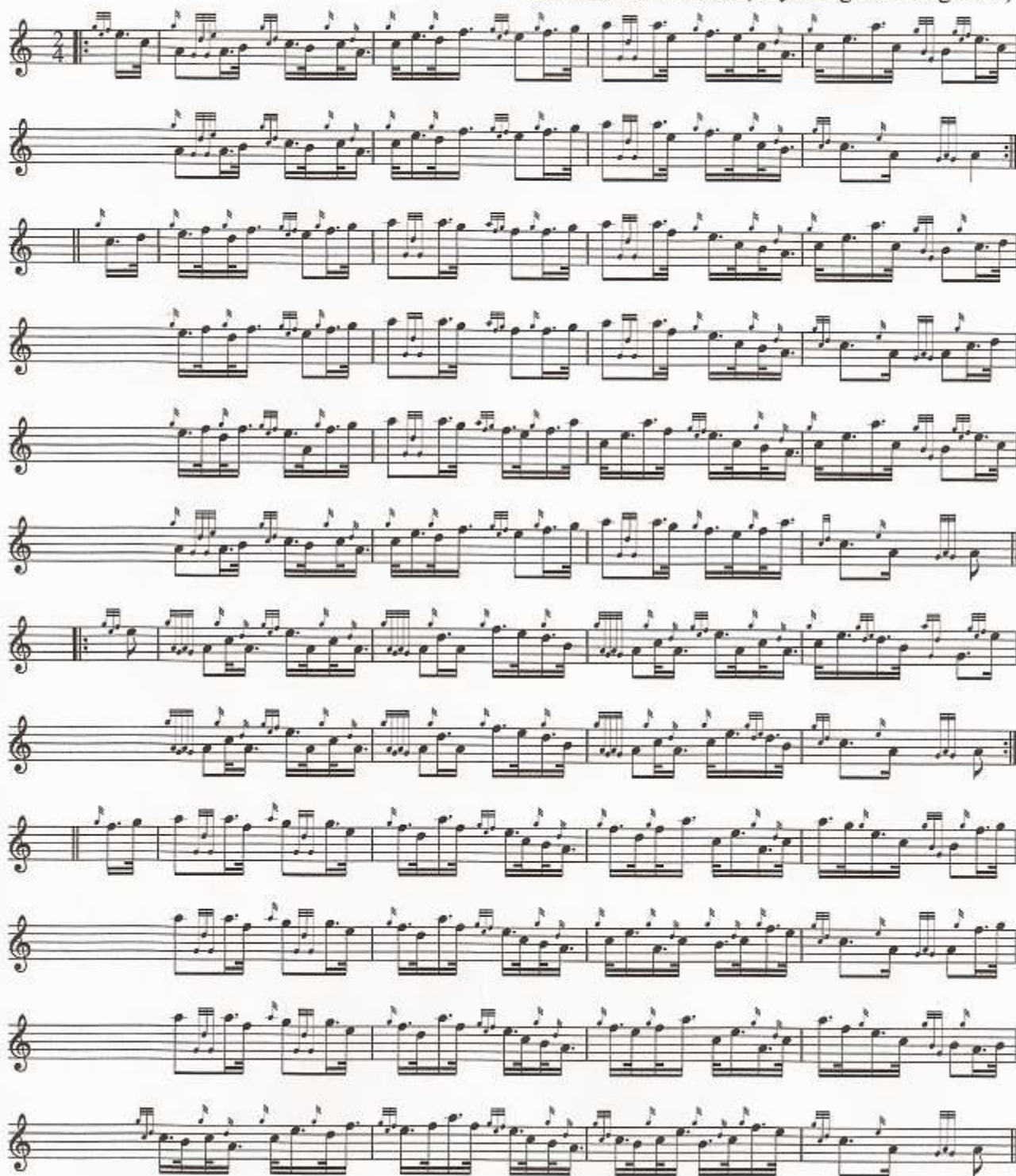
Centenary Croix de Guerre Dinner in Perth. In the audience was the French Consul General in Scotland, Emmanuel Cocher and Brigadier General Herve Bizeul, Deputy Commander of the 1st (UK) Division.

The French Croix de Guerre (literally the Cross of War) was established on 8 April 1915 by the French Government, to recognise acts of bravery by individuals and units in the face of the enemy, specifically mentioned in despatches. The different classes of Despatch may be recognised by the emblem on the ribbon. For an Army Despatch this was the “Palme en Bronze”. Twelve units of the British Army received this award, of which two were Scottish, the 6th Black Watch and the 12th Argylls.

The Croix de Guerre

March

Pipe Major Alistair Duthie
late The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)



Croix de Guerre Pipe Tune.

The Croix de Guerre was awarded to the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion The Black Watch for the actions which took place between 20th and 30th July 1918.

Attached to the French 5th Army as part of the 51st Highland Division, the 6th Battalion took part in the Second Battle of the Marne in 1918, when the advance of the German Army towards Paris was halted and turned into a hasty retreat. The splendid deeds of the 6th Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Francis Rowland Tarleton DSO, during the period 20 – 30 July 1918, culminated after seven days of intense fighting, in the successful storming of a well - fortified and stubbornly defended wood.

During the battle the battalion was reduced to less than 140 all ranks and they suffered grievously. 26 officers were listed as killed, wounded or missing and 428 other ranks were listed as killed, wounded or posted as missing. This battle was known as the Battle of Tardenois and was awarded as a Regimental Battle Honour.

The 6th Battalion was presented with the Croix de Guerre on 12 July 1919 in Paris when the Croix de Guerre was pinned to the Regimental Colour by General Berdoulat.

For many years the officers and men of the 6th Battalion proudly wore the ribbon of the Croix de Guerre on the sleeve of their Battle Dress jackets and as late as 1999 officers and men of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion The Black Watch wore the ribbon on the left shoulder of their Service Dress jackets and officers and SNCOs wore the fourragere (a lanyard).



This Croix de Guerre pipe banner that was made for the 6th Battalion The Black Watch was carried by Pipe Major Alistair Duthie during the centenary dinner held in Perth. It shows the Croix de Guerre with "Palme en bronze" and the pipe banner is on loan to 51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION CURLING

The following matches are planned for the 2018/19 season;

Thursday 1 November 2018	v	Argylls	Perth
Wednesday 9 January 2019	v	Highlanders	Perth
Thursday 28 February 2019	v	Lowlanders	tbc
Thursday 21 March 2019	v	Highland and Lowland Brigade	
		Bonspiel	Perth

In addition we must find the following curlers to represent the Highland and Lowland Brigades Curling Club;

Thursday 14 February 2019 – 2 curlers v New Club

Thursday 14 March 2019 – 3 curlers v The Royal Company of Archers

BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION GOLF MEETING

By Major (Retd) Alex Stewart BEM

The annual Black Watch Association Golf Meeting was held at Muckhart Golf Club this year on 15th June. This was another tremendous meeting played mostly in fine weather with some first class scoring. Muckhart Golf Club proved to be excellent hosts yet again and it was good to see that they have their three nine hole courses fully open after almost a year with one of the courses closed.

As stated, the scoring was good and normally, someone comes out of the pack with an outstanding round to claim the top prizes. This year we had several outstanding rounds with Allan Brannigan picking up the Scratch prize for the second year in a row. Gordon (Killer) Kennedy took the best Net prize, winning the Alan Mutch Memorial Cup, while the best Stableford prize went to Angus Watson. In the afternoon, we played a 9 hole team Texas Scramble and the winning team was Gary Liddell, John Husband, Michael Snape and Gordon Kennedy. There were, of course, the usual novelty prizes thrown in for good measure, with Steve Thomson proving to be the hardest golfer of the day, playing the most golf.

Our grateful thanks go again to the Association Trustees who effectively underwrite the event with their pledge of a healthy subsidy. This enables planning for the event to go ahead with confidence. Secondly, to our sponsors Sidey Ltd and Red Hackle Security. Their generous support enables us to buy some excellent prizes, as well as keeping the costs down for the golfers and minimising the cost to the Regimental Association. Suffice to say we are extremely grateful to our sponsors for their continued support. Of course we would be nowhere without the participation of the golfers. They travel from far and wide, none more so than Billy Gibb who again travelled from Dubai. It is always great to see the regulars turning up but it is even more encouraging to see some new faces each year and this year was no different. Sadly, we had no participation from the battalion, mainly due to the deployment in Iraq, although we did have three serving men from the Reserve Forces. We hope that the battalion will be able to send a strong contingent for next year's event. As I write these notes, we are hosting the Red Hackle Cup at Burntisland Golf Club on Friday 5th October 2018. This is the second running of this competition which we hope will be an annual event. We have the promise of a large group of battalion golfers turning up fresh from their golf tour in Spain. They will be keen to take off some of the prizes this year having left all of the winning in the inaugural event to the Association members.

The Black Watch Association Golf Meeting is an important date in many calendars and a number of Regimental golfers have already signed up for next year. While the golf was impressive in parts, it cannot compete with the level of banter and abuse flying around which is always the case when a gang of old pals meet up. It really is just as it was when they were all serving together in the battalion and long may this continue.

Next year's event will take place again at Muckhart on 14th June 2019. This is an excellent day's golf with full catering and can be enjoyed by Black Watch Association members and serving members of The Black Watch Battalion, 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 alex8608@btinternet.com.



Winners at the All Ranks Golf Meeting are from left to right Major David Bruce, Major Angus Watson, Alan "Snapper" Brannigan, Gordon "Killer" Kennedy and Major Alex Stewart.

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

MUSEUM NOTES

To conclude the centenary programme The Black Watch Castle and Museum is hosting an art installation, 'There But Not There' from 11th August until 11th November 2018. This project will be linked to the 'There But Not There' national initiative to educate all generations about the sacrifice made by so many people during the First World War.



The cover of the programme for the "There But Not There" exhibition.

The display features a 6ft outdoor "Tommy" sculpture with thirteen transparent silhouettes placed throughout the museum creating a poignant remembrance trail for visitors. Each silhouette commemorates and tells the story of a small number of Black Watch soldiers who displayed courage and bravery during the First World War. This emotive experience includes an exhibition which shares artefacts that have been kept for years by soldiers' families as a way of remembering the fathers, sons, brothers, cousins and uncles who did not return from the Great War.

The There But Not There project involves communities and heritage organizations purchasing "Tommy" silhouette figures as a means of remembering those who lost their lives during the First World War. The Museum has purchased thirteen silhouettes; twelve have been placed amongst the exhibits and each of them represents an individual officer or soldier who was killed serving in the Regiment during the war. Short biographies of each of these men have been written in a booklet which visitors can use during their visit.



The 6' sculpture in the grounds of Balhousie Castle (image by Gary Baker of GB Photography).

The thirteenth silhouette has been placed in the temporary exhibition, also entitled "There But Not There", in front of a panel on which is written all of the names of those Black Watch soldiers who lost their lives during the First World War. The exhibition also focuses on the stories of several other men who were killed in the war as well as the artefacts that their families preserved to remember them by.



A silhouette in the Great War Gallery that commemorates Captain Talbert Stevenson MC and bar (image by Gary Baker of GB Photography).

The exhibition will be on display until the 11th November 2018 and will be replaced by a display entitled "We Will Remember Them", which will focus on the Dunalastair Memorial Home and other contemporary forms of remembrance.

The Museum's Guided Tours have been busy, especially over the summer months. This has continued even after the holidays due to our current 'It Is On' offer, whereby visitors can enjoy a guided tour and afternoon tea for £12.00 per person. 350 of these were made available in early August and they quickly sold out.

The Museum's replica First World War Trench has continued to be a popular attraction. Between the end of May and the time of writing it has received 845 visitors, which represents a large increase on the number from the same period last year. We are looking to recruit new trench volunteers soon, to ensure that it can be opened on an even more regular basis.

We continue with our memorial services and a total of 8356 crosses have been placed on the wall. There are 605 crosses still to be placed.

A team of up to ten volunteers have been working alongside the staff in the Archive and collection working on a variety of tasks aimed at rationalising and improving access to the archives. This work relates directly to action points derived from the Archive Report of the Black Watch Castle and Museum. These particular projects include the identification and compilation of a catalogue for the library and creating a database of Black Watch men who served during the First World War.

Learning and Access

As well as in the running of our usual schools' workshops, a team of volunteers have been assisting the Learning and Audiences Officer in the development and delivery of new learning opportunities. The first of these is a session which focuses on the 'Highland Identity' of The Black Watch and the Regiment's links to the 1745 Jacobite Rising. The second is a workshop which looks at how people, past and present, have remembered the First World War.

Furthermore, volunteers helped in the running of the Museum's Summer Programme and played an active role in delivering the Museum Explorer's Club, Hands-On History and Crafts at the Castle activities.

Events

On Saturday 19th May we held our Festival of Museums event entitled Jacobites and Redcoats: Battle for the Highlands. For this family event, we worked with the Alan Breck's Volunteer Regiment re-enactment group who ran a series of Jacobite and Redcoat skirmishes and drill displays in the Castle grounds. In addition, children made broadswords, muskets and targes during drop-in craft activities and visitors took part in special themed object-handling tours and family-friendly gallery trails. Over 60 people attended the day and the event received very positive feedback.



Redcoats at Balhousie Castle.

We ran a busy family events programme over the summer holidays. A Museum Explorer's Club session was held every Saturday, with activities focusing on topics such as cooking in the trenches, team work and the Battle of Amiens. Furthermore, we held weekly craft and object handling sessions which enabled visitors to take a closer look at the equipment, costumes and weapons worn or used by Black Watch soldiers. Finally, we offered a programme of weekly trail sheets; each trail focused on a particular part of the collection, such as portraits and thus encouraged families to look at the Regiment's history from different angles.

In total, 169 individuals took part in our summer activity programme, an increase of over 50% on last year's figures.

Formal Learning

So far this year, 606 pupils have visited the Museum or taken part in our Outreach Programme.

In May, we ran trials of a special Jacobite workshop which had been put together for Moncreiff and Milesmark Primary Schools. During the session, pupils looked at the tactics and weapons used during the 1745 Rising as well as the links between The Black Watch, the Highlands and the Jacobites. Both schools were very positive about the workshop and so we are looking to formally make it part of the schools learning programme.

In the week before the summer holidays, we released details to local primary and secondary schools about our We Will Remember Them workshop, which is being run alongside the There But Not There display. During the session, pupils will consider how people past and present have remembered the First World War. They will then go on to make their own memorial poppy, inspired by the Poppies: Weeping Window installation that was resident at the Castle in 2016. So far, nine schools and 267 pupils have signed up to take part in the workshop, which will be on offer between September and November. Furthermore, we have received several other bookings from schools for more general sessions focusing on the First and Second World Wars. As such, between September and November 2018, we are looking to engage with around 500 pupils.

Archive Cataloguing Project

This project has been funded by The Black Watch Association and the initial aim is to compile at least twenty archival catalogues to improve both the organisation and the use of the archives and access for researchers. A catalogue is a structured list, organised in a specific way, which is easy to understand and gives all records unique codes. It invariably involves reorganising records and their physical or virtual storage.

This will enhance the management and integrity of the archival collections. It will then allow us to assess the total number of catalogues we need to compile and the time and resources this would require. Currently it appears there are a minimum of 200 catalogues to compile and a maximum of about 800.

Tailpiece

Lastly we have some new members of the Museum team. The Project archivist is Jenny Marshall and Carol-Anne Mackenzie has joined us as Learning and Audience officer.

Our beautiful Queen Mother Room has hosted several Weddings over the summer both the wedding breakfast and the service itself. Not only did the room look beautiful with tables named after famous battles and dressed with Black Watch silver but the grounds too were looking fantastic in the Summer sunshine.



*The Queen Mother Room prepared for a wedding
(image by Gary Baker of GB Photography).*

THE FRIENDS OF THE BLACK WATCH CASTLE AND MUSEUM

By Sarah Riddell-Webster

Over the past four years the Friends lecture programme has followed the centenary of the First World War with lectures covering many of the main battles and campaigns of that terrible war. Those lectures have been brought into focus by the memorial services that have taken place in the grounds of Balhousie Castle as crosses have been placed at the memorial wall to remember the Black Watch men that fell. I hope that the lectures have helped to clarify in people's minds those events and the significance of them to so many people.



Our lectures have not just covered matters on land. In April this year we were delighted to welcome Doctor Andrew Gordon from the Defence Academy, Shrivenham, to give a lecture marking the centenary of the Zeebrugge and Ostend Raids in April 1918. Doctor Gordon is an expert on maritime warfare and author of the highly acclaimed book *The Rules of the Game: Jutland and British Naval Command*. It was fascinating to hear Doctor Gordon describe the strategic situation with particular reference to the U-boat war in 1917-18, the gate-keeping role of the Dover Patrol with its huge defensive minefields, the role of Bruges as a naval base and the two canals connecting it to the North Sea. Doctor Gordon also looked at the impact of the German Army's 1918 Spring offensive (Kaiserschlacht). Professor Gary Sheffield had talked on that subject the previous month, and the effect it had had on the plan to block the canal entrances at Zeebrugge and Ostend and the execution of that plan.

In May we were firmly back on land with a fascinating lecture given by Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Willie Coupar on the incredibly complex subject of Allenby's advance in Palestine. After two unsuccessful attempts by General Murray to take Gaza, Allenby took over. He conducted a most successful campaign leading not only to the capture of Gaza but to the taking of Jerusalem and most of present day Syria. In stark contrast to the Western Front, this was a campaign of effective use of force, surprise and mobility. Lieutenant Colonel Coupar is a master of this subject and delivered a lecture that those of us with no prior knowledge of the campaign were able to understand and grasp. By looking at each battle and campaign, often in isolation, it can sometimes be difficult to relate to the bigger picture and global matters. However, with the arrival in our lecture hall of Professor Sir Hew Strachan in June, we were given a master class in the global perspective of the economics of the war. The American entry into the war, the effect of war on world trade, the way in which the Germans had probably always been doomed to lose once they committed to fighting on two fronts simultaneously and even if they were only fighting on one, if a quick victory was unobtainable. It was a very different and completely fascinating perspective of the war at the strategic level.

The July lecture was very different to those that we had had earlier in the year. Major (Retired) Hugh Rose delivered a really enjoyable and interesting lecture about the Bagpipe Music of The Black Watch. He was supported by Pipe Major Alistair Duthie. This lecture gave those of us that were not in the Regiment a glimpse into the regimental day and the crucial part that the Pipers played in it. The sound of the Duty Piper playing would be to young officers and men like the chiming of a clock to the rest of us. Major Rose explained the history behind many of the tunes that we all know so well and why, where or when

they were played. Pipe Major Duthie then played each one, finishing with *Lights Out* as he walked out of the Castle. This was a trip down memory lane for many of the audience and brought a few tears to the eyes as they remembered times of old.

Having dipped our lecture toes in the water with Doctor Andrew Gordon and The Royal Navy in April, early September saw us looking to the skies to mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of The Royal Air Force. We were delighted to welcome Doctor Alastair Noble, who is deputy of the Air Historical Branch in Northolt, and Air Vice-Marshal Ross Paterson, Air Officer Scotland. Doctor Noble told us the story of the early days of the Royal Flying Corps and how by combining with the Fleet Air Arm, The Royal Air Force was formed in April 1918. Doctor Noble particularly focused on the very significant roles played by the Scots men who were pioneers in the world of aviation. During the peak of the Second World War there were as many as 95 airbases across Scotland. During the question and answer session at the end of the lecture Air Vice-Marshal Paterson brought the audience up to date with the RAF of today. The large number of retired RAF members in the audience were keen to hear of the RAF's involvement in current Middle East operations and also the advent of the drone to modern warfare.

Later in September we were brought right up to the present day when Lieutenant Colonel Rob Hedderwick, Commanding Officer of The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland came to tell us of the Battalion's recent tour of duty as part of Op SHADER, Britain's contribution to the Coalition fighting the Islamic State. It was extremely interesting for all of us in the audience to hear how things have changed in that field of operation since The Black Watch Battle Group deployed on Op TELIC in 2003. I think possibly one of the most surprising things we learnt was that every soldier needed a visa to deploy; how times have changed! Lieutenant Colonel Hedderwick delivered an outstanding lecture about current operations in a language that those of us who do not understand military acronyms had no problem following. Now that so much of what the British Army is doing in Iraq is not part of the 24 hour news feed we are all so used to, it was very interesting to get a first-hand report.

The lecture programme for the rest of the year and well into next year, is in place and full of variety so I hope you will find something that will interest you. For full details go to the Museum's website www.theblackwatch.co.uk.

Thank you to all those who continue to support us; we could not give the help we do to the Museum without you. To those of you who are still to join, we would welcome you. Please pick up an application form next time you visit Balhousie Castle or, even easier, join on-line by going to the website www.theblackwatch.co.uk and click on the Friends section.

LECTURES December 2018 – March 2019

<p>Base Details: Surveying the Literature of the First World War 5th December 2018</p> <p>6:30 drinks reception 7:00 lecture commences. Tickets £10 non-members £8 Friends. A lecture by Gill Plain, Professor of English Literature and Popular Culture at The University of St Andrews. The trench poetry of which Owen and Sassoon are the most famous exemplars has come to stand as shorthand for war writing. But is it the whole story?</p>	<p>How to trace a soldier 22nd January 2019</p> <p>6:30 drinks reception 7:00 lecture commences. Tickets £10 non-members £8 Friends. Richard Hunter, The Black Watch Museum Archivist, will give an introductory lecture designed to help those who may know next to nothing about their military ancestors but would like to try and find out more. The lecture will include one or two anecdotes about the rewards, perils and pitfalls of pursuing the service career of your ancestors.</p>
<p>Mud Blood and Bandages: The RAMC on the Western Front 12th December 2018</p> <p>6:30 drinks reception 7:00 lecture commences. Tickets £10 non-members £8 Friends. Historian Andrew Robertshaw will look at how the Royal Army Medical Corps coped with the conditions of the Western Front and treated and evacuated the wounded. What role did women play in this process? Was it just 'luck' that kept you alive?</p>	<p>The First Battle of the Atlantic 6th February 2019</p> <p>6:30 drinks reception 7:00 lecture commences. Tickets £10 non-members £8 Friends. Professor Phillips O'Brien of the University of St Andrews will talk about the Atlantic U-Boat campaign of WW1 and the prolonged naval conflict between German submarines and the Allied convoys in Atlantic waters which reached its peak in 1917 and 1918.</p>

**Original letters from the 1918 Armistice
9th January 2019**

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences.
Tickets £10 non-members | £8 Friends.

Dr Norman Watson will give an illustrated talk built around his remarkable collection of unpublished letters from 11 November 1918 which record and explain what actually happened on the day the Great War ended. This is the Armistice remembered by those who were there and by the anxious families who waited and wondered if their loved ones had survived.

**PLEASE BOOK ALL LECTURES IN ADVANCE BY
TELEPHONE OR IN PERSON**

**The Paris Peace Conference and the making of a New World Order
14th March 2019**

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences.
Tickets £10 non-members | £8 Friends.

Professor Peter Jackson of the University of Glasgow will discuss the Versailles Peace Treaty of June 1919. The German delegation were shocked at the severity of terms and protested at the contradictions between assurances of the armistice negotiations and the reality.

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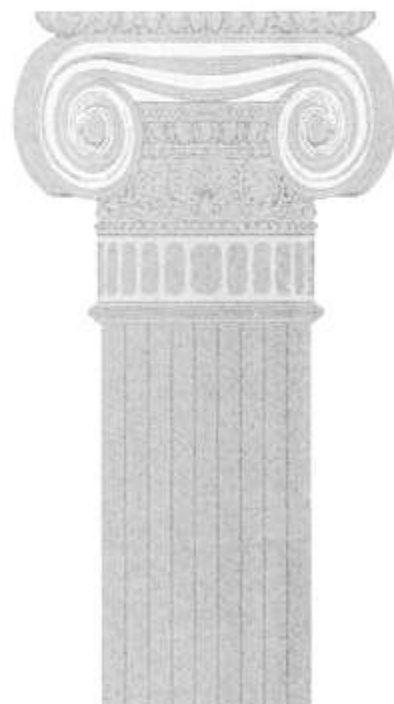
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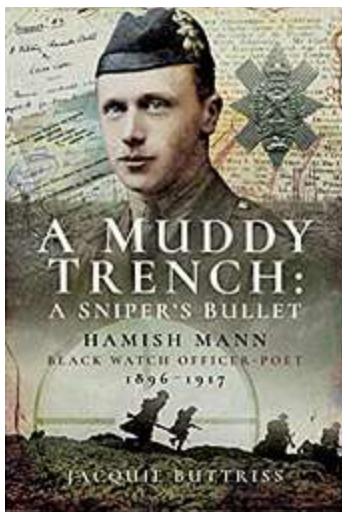
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Book Reviews

'A MUDDY TRENCH: A SNIPER'S BULLET'



In April 1965, the following letter was published in this magazine:

"In a recent 'Red Hackle' you asked about undiscovered poets in the Regiment and I venture to bring to your notice 2/LT A. J. (Hamish) Mann who served in the 8th Battalion from August 1916 until April 1917, when he was killed at the Battle of Arras.

"I remember him as a fresh coloured, fair-haired young man, popular with his fellows ... something of a character, who refused to take things seriously, even the senseless idiosyncrasies of a higher command gone mad for blood. ... Reading his work induced strange, nostalgic moments. Some of his poems were really good. They had of course to be read in the spirit of the times in which they were written, for it was an heroic age.

There was a rich promise in Hamish's life which, like so many others of his day and generation, was not to be allowed to develop."

The recent discovery in a Scottish attic of a wooden chest, unopened for 100 years, revealed a treasure trove of eloquent trench diaries, letters and poetry. The author was the very same Hamish Mann, a young Black Watch subaltern killed just five days after his 21st birthday.

Thanks to Mann's outstanding literary gifts and prodigious output, a new book, *'A Muddy Trench: A Sniper's Bullet'*, re-lives his fateful journey from the declaration of war to his service with 8th Black Watch on the Somme.

The daily hardship and trauma he experienced at the Front were shared with countless thousands of his comrades. But Hamish's extraordinary gift was his ability to record the traumatic events and the range of his emotions, writing often in his dug-out 'by the light of a guttering candle'.

A century on, thanks to the discovery of his writings, Hamish's tragically short life can be celebrated and his literary legacy given the recognition it so richly deserves.

In the following excerpt from this book, Hamish prepares for battle by writing a poem, to fire himself up, ready to inspire his beloved men of 'Fighting 14' Platoon. He then describes a traumatic night on the Somme – a night that would haunt his thoughts for the rest of his short life.

The Zenith

Today I reach the zenith of my life,
No time more noble in my span of years
Than this, the glorious hour of splendid strife,
Of War, and cataclysmal woe and tears.
All petty are the greatest things of yore,
All mean and sordid is my dearest lay;
I have done nothing more worthwhile before ...
My hour, my chance, my crisis are today!

"After dark, at 8.30 that evening, 18th October 1916, three companies of the Black Watch put the plan into action as they struggled to climb up the muddy parapets, between the streams of murky rainwater

overflowing into the trench from the battlefield. The heavy rain had poured down all day and many of the men found it almost impossible to get footholds on the soft clay and slithered back down again into the mud. Hamish did all he could to raise his platoon's morale and encouraged them to keep trying. He led the way, scrambling up with great determination and valour, and they all managed to follow him out. Once over the top, Hamish led his men across the mire, round the rain-filled shell-holes and barbed wire of no-man's-land, through the sheets of rain, dodging enemy fire as they approached the right-hand end of Snag Trench to relieve the victorious but exhausted Camerons.

This was only the beginning of Hamish's worst nightmare, as he described in his notebook:

Snag Trench

That newly captured trench I shall never forget, nor the anguish I felt as we filed slowly in, through the clinging mud in the misty light of the moon. It was the most repellent sight I have ever seen, and the absolute horror of it was not in any way lessened by the splendid atmosphere of noble sacrifice that reigned everywhere.

It was almost impossible in many cases to distinguish between the dead and the living, so motionless did the latter lie in their exhaustion, after the terrible work of taking the trench. Some of the bodies were dreadful, seated on the floor of the trench in natural positions, their faces fallen back, upturned, ghostly-white, cheeks sunken, teeth gleaming through the grin of death that had parted their pale lips.

Others were face-downwards, clots of blood on their uniforms, gashed and bedraggled, half sunk in the mud – just as they had fallen in that last supreme moment. A few were terribly mangled. One had had his body from the waist upwards blown completely away, and the poor, pitiful legs were lying against the sloping paradors of that unspeakable trench.

Wounded were littered everywhere, and it rent one's heart to hear them moan and rave in the delirium of their suffering, or cry aloud as someone stumbled against them in the dark. It was impossible not to do this, for many of these wretched men were almost smothered in the sucking slime that formed the bottom of the trench. Some were rapidly dying; some – alas! – had already 'gone berserk' from wounds, fatigue and exposure.

Still we filed along, all but sickened by the nauseating stench of decomposing human bodies, a distinctive smell which is even now in my nostrils.

Dead Huns, too, were everywhere, the grey of their tunics assuming a weird aspect in the struggling light. The arm of one Boche was hanging by a mere thread, and the woeful expression on his face signified that not much longer would he have to endure his agonies. A tot of rum sent the blood tingling through his veins for a spell – like a flame that spurts up the chimney for a moment and then dies down for ever.

Another was sitting in a scoop in the back wall of the trench, his legs protruding, one foot smashed to pieces, the blood showing through the bandages. Every time anyone came near, he braced himself for the kick which many had unwittingly inflicted upon him as they tripped over his sodden legs.

Hamish and his men in D company settled in as best they could manage for the night, but the rain accelerated to torrential proportions and conditions were atrocious, with very little shelter to be had. Worse still, those few maimed enemy soldiers with any vestige of consciousness, started sniping at them in the dark. Though Hamish's writings make it clear that killing the enemy, even in self-defence, was abhorrent to him, his hard training and the prevailing conditions forced him to make a quick decision. It was either lose his own men or stop the enemies' sniping. He gave the order and the night air filled with rifle-fire as they

dispatched those of the wounded Huns who had not been able to exit the trench when the Black Watch had arrived.

Hamish's account continues:

All these sights, and the indescribable horror of the whole scene, were accentuated as the dawn came stealing over the sky – reluctantly, as though unwillingly disclosing the terrors which the night had endeavoured to conceal.

Before Day had shed its full light upon that ghastly scene, the men set about the grizzly task of digging half-buried men out of the trench and giving them as decent a burial as the battlefield permits. This, I think, is one of the most gruesome performances in a gruesome business. It is not pleasant to hack and plod away round a body which is not only of extraordinary weight (for dead men weigh like statues of lead), but which also exhales a smell that is overpoweringly repulsive.

In the half-light, these burying parties; were dimly outlined, tugging at the decomposing corpses, trying to pull them out of the earth, which appeared to consider them her rightful property. At last they were freed and heaved over the parapets. A shallow hole was excavated, and the job eventually completed

'Dead men tell no tales,' people say. But they are wrong – terribly wrong. They speak to me, and I cannot help but listen to them. The tale they tell is too revolting to write here ... and there are those who could not understand ...

The following morning, relieved from front-line duty, the men of the 8th Battalion made their weary way back behind the lines, in desperate need of rest and reorganisation. Hamish had to tell his men that there was no transport for them, so they would have to march back to their old bivouac, on the east side of High Wood. They were cold, wet, very tired and hungry when they set off, and the mud was so thick on the ground that it was like marching through treacle. It took them eight hours to march the four miles from the trenches to High Wood, pulling one foot after the other out of the oozing mire.

Thanks principally to the "much to be feared" Scottish Highlanders – the Camerons and the 8th Black Watch, the attack had been a success and Hamish's battalion had been triumphant in fulfilling their orders by gaining enemy ground, holding the line and exerting full control in Snag Trench. But, as ever, it was an expensive victory in terms of the 191 Black Watch casualties during this one action, including 23 lives lost."

'*A Muddy Trench: A Sniper's Bullet*' will be published in early November 2018, to coincide with the centenary of the Armistice.

CRETE THE BATTLE FOR HERAKLION 1941

by Yannis Prekatsounakis



Many readers of the Journal will be very aware of the part played by the 2nd Battalion in the defence of Heraklion from 20 May 1941 until the evacuation of Crete. Victoria Schofield covers this period in some detail in the second volume of the Regimental history but few books have been written in any detail about the battle for Heraklion.

Many Black Watch men are mentioned and the diary entries of Lieutenant Gerald Barry are of particular interest as are the recollections of Corporal Dave Hutton.

The author has had access to Greek, Allied and Axis sources and so there is an added dimension to anything that has been written in the past. The author has studied the battlefield in some detail and thus gives the reader the opportunity to understand actions and incidents by examining what happened on the ground. There are many personal stories and many that bring out the tragedy of war; he mentions in some detail the deaths of the three von Blucher brothers.

Good maps and a wide selection of photographs (many from German sources) bring the book to life.

I would recommend this book as it has been very well researched and explains the battle from a completely new perspective. The German photographs are of particular interest.

ISBN 978-1-911096-33-7

THE SCOTTISH SOLDIER'S STORY

by DC Thomson Media



The Courier newspaper has a history that spans more than 200 years and throughout they have reported on events both good and bad. The Great War was one of the events that shaped the world in which we live and the Courier have produced a book with words and pictures that charts the war and its effect on the Home Front as well as the war on the land, in the air and on the seas. It focusses on Courier Country.

It tells the story of local men who served in the Army and particularly The Black Watch, but those who served in the Royal Navy and the Royal Flying Corps, which later became the Royal Airforce. War poetry and war art and volunteer nursing are also covered in the 145 pages.

ISBN 978-1-84535-735-1

Correspondence

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Dear Editor

I imagine all readers of the May 2018 issue will, like me, have found Brigadier Wilson's obituary on Joe Hubble both informative and deeply moving. As an insignificant National Service subaltern in 1BW (1956-58) in Berlin and Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, serving under Colonels Mick Baker-Baker and Jack Monteith and the redoubtable Adjutant Adam Gurdon, I well remember Joe (Cpl Hubble in those days) and we all held him in high regard. In recent years I have been delighted to see Joe, captured on TV, at his annual march past at the Cenotaph; it reminded me of BW days.

I hope the Brigadier will not be offended if I point out one inaccuracy of which he would understandably be unaware. He says Joe was "a Freeman of the City of London, an honour within the Black Watch that he shared only with FM Earl Wavell." No: I am, and was, also a Freeman of that City.

I was educated at the City of London School, the only surviving public school in the City after WW2, and when I left I was able by research to reveal some new facts on the school's founder. In the middle of Basic Training (October 1956) in Queens' Barracks, Perth, Captain Eddie Orr-Ewing granted me a 72-hour pass to go back to my school for its Lord Mayor's Prize Day, and there I gave an eight minute oral declamation I'd memorised, "in praise of John Carpenter", the school's founder who in the 1420s was Town Clerk to the famous Dick Whittington. The 1956 Lord Mayor then awarded me the Freedom of the City in thanks.

I am all the prouder of that honour, now I know I have shared it with Joe Hubble and Earl Wavell.

Yours sincerely
Mick Bond

Hampton
Middlesex
TW12 2EL

Dear Editor

LIEUTENANT COLONEL A C BRODIE DSO OBE MC

I much enjoyed the hilarious article about Alec Brodie in the May edition. I served with him in both the First and Second Battalions and greatly admired him for his kindness, courage and eccentricities. I remember, numerous stories about Alec and wondered if a few might give a flavour of this amazing man.

In Palestine in 1938, in a row of thunder boxes; a Jock was asked by his neighbour what he thought about "that chap Brodie". This would

not have been remarkable were it not for the fact that it was his platoon commander asking the question The Jock hastily dressed and rushed to the company office and reported "Mr Brodie has gone mad".

Later, in contact with Arab terrorists, Brodie gave the order "those to the right of the moon, fire to the right of the moon and those to the left of the moon, fire to the left of the moon. Fire!"

In February 1945 at Goch in the Siegfried Line, the story goes that when leading his Company and holding a basketful of grenades, he threw many through the windows of enemy occupied houses. Unfortunately, one rebounded and wounded him and later he was again wounded by a sniper. On a stretcher, as he passed the Commanding Officer on his way to the RAP he shouted "not quite a VC but a bloody good DSO".

Alec was wounded many times and was never in action for more than 2 months; on one occasion on a motorbike with his gallant batman McInnes MM he was wounded on the backside as he had failed to put his Sten gun in the safety slot: even after the war, when he was serving with the HLI in Palestine, he was wounded in the shoulder

In Hubbelrath in 1953 acting as Commanding Officer on a signal exercise he was determined to put some realism into the exercise; when asked by HQ Guards Brigade for a situation report, he said he was under intense gun fire and imitated the noises of the guns; he then ordered me to cut the only cable we had to Brigade HQ, as if it had been cut by enemy artillery. It took many hours for the Royal Signals to re-establish communications as Alec had selected a comfortable farm house way outside the Brigade boundaries. Again in Hubbelrath, he decided to get driving lessons from the MT sergeant who also had to advise him on the purchase of a second hand Mercedes. On his first drive out of the barracks he hit Nigel Noble's car; rushing back to the Commanding Officer Neville Blair, covered in sweat, he announced that he had hit Nigel. The CO went white until he realised he was talking about a car.

The embassy in Beirut where he was Military Attaché was in the line of fire between the two rival insurgent groups. He said there had been much shooting and that "if he had been standing on the dining room table in the embassy he would have been shot straight through the head."

This is just a small selection of many tales. Perhaps it's just worth mentioning that when Alec stayed with his old friends the Pilchers, he fell asleep in the bath which was typical, and although he tried unsuccessfully to mop up with every available towel and mat they were amused and unsurprised.

There was no one like him. He was a very wonderful man and a very gallant Black Watch officer

A L Watson
Major General

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Obituaries

LIEUTENANT COLONEL A P L HALFORD-MACLEOD

Philip Halford-MacLeod died on 31 August 2018 after a long illness. The eldest son of a diplomat, he was born in Baghdad on 28 April 1942. His childhood was spent in Europe and the Middle East. Educated at Twyford and Winchester College he entered RMAS in 1960 as a cadet in Dettingen Company. He was commissioned into The Black Watch in December 1962, joining the 1st Battalion in Knook Camp before deploying to Malta. He went up to Magdalen College Oxford in 1963 having won a place from RMAS to read modern languages. This proved very useful in future years. He was an accomplished oarsman, competing for his school, RMAS and his college. He came down from Oxford in 1965 returning to the Battalion in Minden. He deployed to Cyprus as part of UNFICYP in 1967 guarding the Green Line separating the Greeks in the south of the island from the Turks in the North.



After service in Minden where he became RSO he was posted to the Scottish Infantry Depot in 1968 at Bridge of Don where he was to meet his wife, Alison. In 1969 he rejoined 1BW as RSO in Gibraltar and after returning to Kirknewton in 1970 deployed on an emergency tour to Belfast at a time of heightened tension. In 1971, Philip and his now growing family, including Seamas and Rory the two white terriers, moved to Perth as the Adjutant and latterly Training Major with the 51st Highland Volunteers. Annual Camp in Cyprus coincided with the 1974 Turkish invasion of the Pan Handle. It was made very clear, very quickly that the Highland Volunteers, despite being over 600 officers and men in strength, fully armed but without a single live round amongst them, were not to be used operationally as the MoD moved to make sure UK interests were protected.

Following Perth, Philip was posted to HQ 3 Infantry Brigade as GSO3 Int (A) initially in Lurgan and then Portadown. There, he worked closely with the Brigade Major, H Jones before returning to 1BW in Ballykinler in 1976. He took up command of HQ Company with CSM Charlie Quin and his 2 I/C, Torquil MacLeod at his side. Despite the best of efforts, CSM Quin refused the invitation of becoming a MacLeod.

Yet another move in 1979 followed, to HQ BAOR in Rheindahlen as the SO2 G1 Security dealing with amongst other things SOXNIS sightings. 1981 brought him back to 1 BW, this time in Werl as OC A (Grenadier) Company, probably one of the highlights of his Army service. He, with the support of Jimmy "Ag the Bag" Atkinson, led a very happy and professional Company. Full of characters, the Company enjoyed his little eccentricities; the King Edward cigars, the BATUS baseball cap, and yet more dogs. Battlegroup deployments to BATUS were times of great happiness where he enjoyed the simple life of soldiering on the prairie. The Grenadiers were grouped with B Squadron, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. This was a relationship he was very proud of and was a very happy and dynamic combination. Philip's famous war-cry on the net "Tally Ho the Grenadiers!" was heard by many. It was one of his signature marks that told everyone how proud he was of A (Grenadier) Company.

He then became Battalion Second - in - Command. In this capacity he served under Garry Barnett and latterly Edward de Broë-Ferguson with Ronnie Proctor as RSM. The battalion was called upon to showcase the infantry in BAOR. Staff College Demonstrations, Ex LIQUID CHASE, an NBC trial and test exercise all came on top of operational commitments to Northern Ireland. When deployed in Belfast (December 1982 – May 1983) he was asked why he did not carry a rifle on patrol. He answered that carrying a pistol made speaking to the local population easier; he did not feel like he was shoving an SLR in their faces. As PMC he was often asked to repair Mess property that had become a casualty of games in the Mess. He was skilled working with his hands. He produced the Battalion Pantomime "Jock and the Beanstalk", a seminal piece of artistic creativity that gave everyone in

the battalion a chance to make fun of everyone else....even the RSM. He was a dedicated and active member of the Black Watch Kirk Session.

His time at 1BW quickly drew to a close. In 1983 Philip went to Battle Group Trainer in Sennelager as the SO2 Infantry. At that time he was a most experienced Teeth Arm Field Officer and a master of manoeuvre warfare. Philip advised and guided numerous commanding officers during his time at BBGT. After promotion in 1985, he commanded the Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps. He enjoyed being back in Scotland and the academic environment helping young people to fulfil career ambitions for the future. He had an enduring mantra for the OTC: "One can be a captain in the Army, a captain in the reserves or a captain of industry" and many of his former officer cadets owe their success in part to his energy and wise counsel.

In 1989 Philip was appointed as the Chief of Staff, Scottish Division. He was the architect of the "Big Blaw"; at that time, it was the world's biggest gathering of pipers and drummers carried out in front of seven Royal Colonels on Horse Guards Parade. This was a spectacular event and it was felt by some that he did not receive the recognition he deserved. In 1991 he moved to HQ Scotland to run the Scottish Action and Support Team in the Options for Change Phase 1 and 2 to help redundees, of which he was one himself, transition to civilian life. He left the Army in 1993 after 33 years service.

After a short spell in tourism he became the Schools' Liaison Officer for Scotland, a job he much enjoyed preparing many young school leavers for a career as an officer in the Army. At short notice Philip then moved to become the Universities Liaison Officer continuing his interest in developing the potential of young people to whom he proved to be an inspiration in their quest to pursue military careers.

In his spare time, in addition to painting lead soldiers, curling, and walking his dogs he became Commandant of the Black Watch Battalion ACF. It gave him much satisfaction to be able, yet again to encourage young people to fulfil their potential.

Moving to Fife in 1993 meant that he could be in Scotland and within the Regiment's recruiting area. As President he gave his full support to the Fife Branch of the Black Watch Association, as he did during a short spell as Chairman of the Black Watch Museum taking much time and energy to set up the "Friends of the Black Watch".

Like everyone he had his disappointments. However, his greatest satisfaction came from helping those for whom he felt responsible to achieve their ambitions whatever they were.

Philip was a devoted family man and a man of deep Christian faith who was justly proud of his three children. His two sons followed him into the Army. His daughter inherited his gift of languages.

A larger than life figure he made many lasting friends. An outgoing and jovial person he lived life to the full and he was at all times courteous. 'Forward the Forty Second!' he would cry and so we must go on, but the world is a poorer place without the likes of him.

Jamie Halford-MacLeod

Philip commanded HQ Company during the 1st Battalion's first Northern Ireland residential tour in Ballykinler from July 1976 to February 1978. This appointment was, however, much more challenging that it may sound; he was effectively the base camp commander throughout the operational tour and had many responsibilities additional to those normally associated with command of HQ Company. These included particularly the wellbeing of wives and families while husbands were out of camp on operations, also looking after the welfare of off-duty single soldiers in camp. He coped with all the demands thrown at him with infectious and good humoured enthusiasm.

ED Cameron

Although not a member of The Black Watch family, it was my privilege to know Philip Halford Macleod for nigh on 30 years.

Although neither of us could be described as cracking shots we both became members of the Army shoot at Craigiehall and the Pentlands, frequently commiserating one with another "about the one that got away."

I worked as an Administrator at Glasgow University, my old alma mater, after I left the Army, where Philip had commanded the OTC, in which I had served as a cadet several decades previously. All those with whom I came in contact spoke with fond memories of their Black Watch CO.

Curling was another area of contact, both in the Queich Club at Kinross and on the Army meets at Dewars Centre, Perth, where my contribution was more to make up numbers rather than to ensure success. On moving to Perth I developed a keen interest in The Black Watch Museum and it was Philip's idea that I become a member of the Friends Events Committee on which I am still privileged to serve.

All in all, I found Philip to be a charming, honourable man, true to his friends and justifiably proud of his Regiment. He was also highly intelligent with a modern languages degree from Oxbridge – if anything, he somewhat underplayed this aspect of his persona. His slow decline was so sad to see but the courage borne by Alison during this period was remarkable. He will be much missed.

W Coupar

I have known Philip since he joined 1 BW when Nigel Noble commanded in Warminster and he was one of the very first Black Watch regular officers to go to University – in his case Oxford. Educated at Winchester he was more clever than most of us but never tried to demonstrate that he was brighter than his brother officers. He was good with all ranks and was clearly delighted to have been accepted as a Black Watch officer.

Our next time to serve together was when we were in Werl in 1980 - 1983 and from which 1 BW did a tour in Belfast. He was a very competent, caring Company Commander in Germany who recognised the abilities of individual soldiers. He then became 2IC taking over from Stephen Lindsay and had to handle some difficult situations in Belfast, including the death of a soldier from another Regiment when the Commanding Officer was away on R&R.

Very much a people person he was ever smiling and welcoming and after retirement helped at meetings of the Regimental and Wavell Trusts, acting very often as (he described himself) the scribe – writing the minutes. He was also Chairman of The Black Watch Museum for a time.

G C Barnett

GEOFFREY OSBORNE COWPER-COLES

Geoffrey was born on the 13th of March 1929 and died on 21 July 2018 after a short illness.

He was educated at Harrow and was 'called up' shortly after leaving school and was soon undergoing training at Pirbright in the "Brigade Squad". He was granted an Emergency Commission into the Regiment on 28 September 1945 as a Second Lieutenant and was soon to join the 4th Battalion at Swansea. The Battalion was on the point of leaving by troopship, bound for the Middle East and disembarked on 4 December 1945.

Training in Egypt and acclimatisation, took place at Kassasin near Cairo. The Battalion was moved to South Palestine and Geoffrey served at Binyamina, Hadera and Beitlid before the Battalion was ordered back to Egypt for disbandment on 11 May 1946. Officers who had been attached to us were sent back to their parent units. Regulars and potential regular officers were given a choice. Thus several of us said we wanted to go back to Palestine and join the 6th Airborne Division. Four officers, Freddy Burnaby-Atkins, Ian Critchley, Geoffrey Cowper-Coles and Ian Grant-Suttie set off with hope of getting into a 6th Airborne Division, preferably the Battalion found from the Camerons. As luck would have it, we were posted to 1st Battalion The Hertfordshire Regiment on 19 March 1946.

Geoffrey was promoted to Lieutenant on 28 March 1946 and served in Jaffa and Sarafand and took part in the 6th Airborne's Operation "Shark" in Tel Aviv, which searched a city of some 170,000 occupants of whom very many were screened. Over four days from 'D Day' on 30 July 1946, thousands of citizens were put through this detailed screening, with much HAGANA information, weapons, and ammunition gained.

Geoffrey was in Sarafand Camp when the King David Hotel was bombed in Jerusalem. The Commanding Officer of 1 HERTS asked if his Battalion could help in any way but this was refused owing to the intense work to locate and recover casualties and the dead. Colonel 'Socks' Hose DSO, determined to send a reconnaissance party to test the refusal sent his Intelligence Officer, Captain Critchley, who went

up to Jerusalem on a motorcycle. He found all help refused because of the well equipped Royal Engineers, the Palestine Police and Military Police who were guarding forensic evidence and looking for casualties.

Major Burnaby-Atkins was sent to the UK to be interviewed by Wavell the Viceroy and left Palestine, soon to be followed by Cowper-Coles, Critchley and Grant-Suttie. In September 1946 they joined a troop ship at Port Said to find Captain Angus Irwin on board. They arrived at the 2nd Battalion in Karachi on 19th September 1946 and Geoffrey was given a platoon to command and served in Peshawar. He enjoyed the travel (visits to the Kyber Pass and the locations while referencing the Referendum), the peace keeping duties and the basic mountain-warfare training in Cherat.

It was a time of great unrest in Karachi, not helped by the difficulties of the Army run-down, particularly for a Battalion destined to be the last in what became Pakistan. He missed the last parades and the troopship voyage to Perth.

He was awarded the 1939-1945 War Medal and the General Service Medal with clasp "Palestine 1945-1948".

After leaving the army, Geoffrey returned to his London home and worked at Lloyds, with Guinness and as an Estate Agent moving to various houses in Chelsea.

Geoffrey was an officer of the generation who were 'called up' for Military Service, at the end of the war during a time of political and military turmoil and of great struggles in the Middle East, which have ramifications to the present day.

He was a devoted family man. The Times recorded in his obituary "beloved youngest son of Sherard and Constance, dear brother of Sherard and Peter. Loving uncle and good friend to many.

We will remember his sense of service, his charm, and his pride in being in the Regiment evinced by his Red Hackle treasured in a glass case in his house over all these years.

I R CRITCHLEY

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DENYS ROWAN HAMILTON MVO DL

Lieutenant Colonel Denys Archibald Rowan Hamilton MVO DL died on 10 May 2018 at home in Killyleagh, County Down. He was born 26 April 1921 the second son of Brigadier-General Gawain Rowan Hamilton of The Black Watch (1884-1947), by his wife the former Phyllis Frances Agnes Blackburn, [who was a granddaughter maternally of the 13th Earl of Strathmore & Kinghorne]. Denys was the middle of three brothers, and all three joined The Black Watch. Such was their reputation, that it was said that it was too much to have two Rowan Hamiltons in the same battalion at any one time, let alone three.

Denys' army career spanned 29 years. The son of a gallant and distinguished Black Watch officer and with an elder brother already in the regiment, Denys went to Sandhurst straight from Wellington College in August 1939. Two days before war was declared he and his fellow officer cadets were enlisted as private soldiers into the Queen's Royal Regiment, the West Surreys, and in December he was commissioned into The Black Watch after a greatly reduced course.

Initially too young to serve overseas it was not until the end of 1942 that he was able to join the 1st Battalion in North Africa. His Africa Star, Italy Star and France and Germany Star are evidence of the challenging times he faced in the final months of the campaign against Rommel's Afrika Corps, in the landings in Sicily and Normandy, and, as signals officer and 3" mortar officer, in the fighting all the way into Germany. On VE day he had only just celebrated his 24th birthday. Of the three Rowan Hamilton boys, he was the only one not to be taken as a prisoner of war.

From then until he retired in 1967 he seemed to tour the world. After a short spell as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion in Duisburg in Germany he went to Southern Rhodesia to be ADC to the Governor. Here he earned his MVO during a visit by His Majesty The King, not least, by providing his own regimental sword for the Sovereign to tap some new knights on the shoulder; and where he had an encounter with Field Marshal Montgomery that ended in the Field Marshal sending him



home to the UK to help train his troops. However as the Colonial Office refused to pay for his fare and the War Office also being reluctant it fell to Monty to pay for it himself. When Denys reported to the War Office on his return he was told that his file caused more argument and more trouble than any other as the various departments tried to work out who was to pay.

Following Rhodesia, he was sent next to West Africa Command and the Gold Coast Regiment; Perth; then to the Canadian Staff College; post-war Korea; back to Perth; Norway; Cyprus; Dundee to command one of the Black Watch TA Battalions; and finally to the Levant where, in 1964, he began his last military appointment as Military Attaché in Beirut and Damascus. To get there Denys decided that he and the family would go by sea, partly so that they could take the car with them. They embarked, Denys, wife and three young children, changing ships in Genoa en route. On arrival in Beirut, Denys, clearly overwhelmed by the experience of travelling for so long on a ship with the children (the experiences on a troop ship were as nothing to this) the first thing he said to the officer who met them at the docks was: "That's it, no more soldiering for me. I cannot possibly move with this lot ever again!" And so it turned out, despite the Army's vigorous attempts to dissuade him. In 1967 Denys officially became a civilian again.

With this fine and eclectic record of service he was also a great regimental character. With his family connections to the regiment he clearly had a well-defined notion of what was proper and what was not. Younger officers recall a man who could scare the kilt off an otherwise intrepid subaltern but also a man who obviously knew his military business and who, despite the fearsome exterior, harboured a great sense of humanity and a great sense of humour.

With several revered bachelor majors ruling the roost in the Mess in Cyprus, bridge was compulsory after dinner. Denys was a demanding partner and was not slow to berate any unfortunate young officer selected to play with him if he made the wrong bid or played the wrong card. He is remembered for his habit, in the middle of a hand being played, of spreading his cards on the table saying "And the rest are mine". He was probably right but no one ever dared challenge him.

He had high standards too when it came to food. Complaints to the food member in the Mess were frequent and to the point, until the unfortunate officer could at last take no more and responded to demands for more exciting fare by ordering the Mess cook to produce scrambled eggs dyed green. The food member was sacked but there were no more complaints!

He was banned from the Garrison Officers Club in Dhekalia for having disrupted a regular game of Bingo which he considered to be a completely un-officer-like activity.

In more military matters he quite rightly demanded the best of standards in dress and professional skills. When Denys was Second-in-Command, the CO called him into his office to inspect the work of a young Intelligence Officer who had proudly drawn out some sort of scheme on a mapboard. Denys took one look at it, said it was a load of damned nonsense and spun the mapboard back to the young officer as if it were a frisbee and marched back to his own office. The Intelligence Officer in due course became Colonel of the Regiment.

It was from Cyprus that Denys led a small expedition to Libya, to explore the routes taken by the war-time Long Range Desert Group. Communications were not of course what they are today and part of the party went missing for five days, their radio having failed. It must have been an anxious time for Denys having men lost in the desert but on their safe return his reaction was to praise the men for their fortitude and for not giving up. That is the mark of a proper leader, something that undoubtedly Denys was. No wonder he was so well liked and so well respected.

Back in Perth, Denys was appointed president of an exam board at the Glenalmond CCF for what was then known as Certificate A. On the way there he gave advice to the subaltern accompanying him: "Wherever you go always take a dinner jacket with you". "Even to a Certificate A Board?" replied the brave young man to which, unsurprisingly, he received the sort of reply that would be improper to repeat in an obituary.

That same evening at dinner in the Mess the telephone rang just after the officers had started the main course. Denys refused to allow anyone to answer it saying that nothing should interrupt officers while they dined. The Mess Corporal came back to say that it was Lord So-and-So and that unless an officer came to the phone immediately there would be no shooting tomorrow. This of course changed things and we may guess who got the shooting!

On retirement he never lost his interest in his old regiment, writing letters to The Red Hackle on many subjects. This one is typical: "May I call upon my erstwhile subordinate who no longer does anything which I tell him, to restore to the Headdress of the Jocks some resemblance to the Balmoral bonnet? The process", he continued, "of smartening up the rather floppy article issued by Ordnance has transformed a traditional highland garment into a form of cat's dinner dish."

In 1961, after three engagements to others, he married Wanda Annette Maxwell née Warburton, herself the widow of Major Ronald St George Maxwell of The Black Watch. Along with Wanda came four stepchildren: David, Charles, Linda and Ronald, two of whom later joined the regiment (Charles and Ronald Maxwell), but not content with a ready made family, three more children were added: Conta, Louisa and Gawn. Having been brought up himself in a strict Victorian manner, controlling children did not come easily to a confirmed 40 year-old bachelor.

Following his departure from The Black Watch, Denys came to Northern Ireland to take on his ancestral home, Killyleagh Castle, where he became a farmer at the age of 46. This he truly loved and he farmed 250 acres largely by himself. Against the back drop of the Troubles, he could not stand idly by. So he threw himself into local politics, standing for the non unionist/non nationalist Alliance Party as a local councillor for eight years. Indeed on the burning of his effigy in the local village he claimed he had finally made a difference. In 1977 he became the first Alliance councillor to become Chairman of Down District Council. In addition he served as High Sheriff and as a Deputy Lieutenant for County Down. One local councillor admired his Chairmanship: "No meeting lasted longer than it took him to complete the Times crossword".

And of course, despite all the demands on his time, to many later generations of Black Watch officers and their families, he and Wanda were always wonderfully generous and welcoming hosts as the battalion passed in and out of Northern Ireland on successive tours of duty over all those years of the Troubles. Strong in opinion, principled in his actions, intensely proud of his family and his regiment, memorable friend to so many, entertaining and generous host, a man who lived life to the full and thoroughly enjoyed it: this was Denys Rowan Hamilton

Gawn Rowan Hamilton

JIM BAIRD

Jim Baird, a great Regimental character died after a brief but serious illness at Perth Royal infirmary on the 23rd of July 2018, some three months short of his 84th birthday.

Jim one of a family of three was born on the 12th of September 1934 and grew up at Mid Tulleybannoch, outside Comrie in Perthshire and was educated at the local schools. He enlisted into The Black Watch in 1952 for six years and after basic training at Queens' Barracks he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Germany, where he served in Dortmund. He then moved with the 2nd Battalion to Crail and later British Guiana. On the disbandment of the 2nd Battalion he joined the 1st Battalion and took part as a Highland Dancer in the 1957 Pipes and Drums and Regimental Band tour of North America under Pipe Major Jock McNicol who was teaching him the pipes at that time.

He left the army for a short time and worked in the forestry industry before re-enlisting into the regiment. Serving in a Rifle Company he soon gained promotion to Lance Corporal whilst the battalion was serving in Cyprus. At the end of the Battalion's tour in Cyprus, Jim along with four other junior NCOs gave up their seats on the aircraft which was to take them home and decided to do it the hard way, by hitch hiking through Europe wearing civilian clothes and their kilts. All went well until Jim landed badly when jumping from the back of a lorry in Naples and twisted his leg, he was forced to continue the journey home by train to Calais and then from Dover to Comrie in time to marry Mary on the 21st December 1961. They spent 47 happy years together, with son Mark being born whilst the regiment was stationed at Kirknewton in 1968. Mary sadly died in 2008.

Jim continued to serve in the 1st Battalion for the remainder of his twenty two year career and was employed in A (Grenadier) Company, the Quartermaster's Department, the Mortar Platoon and as CQMS



HQ Company. He completed his service as a recruiter in Perth where he settled down. He was then employed as a motor mechanic with Dicksons of Perth before moving back to the regiment as the Civilian Storeman with 51st Highland/3 BW at Queen's Barracks TA Centre in Perth. He also joined the Home Service Force of the TA and later became the Black Watch Battalion ACF RSM and was commissioned before he fully retired and hung up his uniform.

His love of the the regiment continued, as on his retiral from being a civilian storeman he came to Balhousie Castle and became the friendly face to welcome visitors at the front of house along with Jim Sandilands and John Nicol.

Jim was instrumental in the resurrection of the Perth Branch of the Association some fifteen years ago and helped make it the success it is today. A long-time member of the Association Welfare Committee his advice and opinions were sadly missed after he retired due to health issues. Jim was a larger than life character who gave so much to the Regiment and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

R J W Proctor

ALAN BURNETT

Alan Burnett was born in Inverness in 1932 and spent many of his formative years in Kyle of Lochalsh and then Perth.

His first job was as a message boy within the offices of the Railway in Perth but he was called up for National Service. After training at Queens' Barracks he served in Berlin and Korea.

On demob he joined the TA and also worked for Pullars of Perth. He held a number of different jobs over the years and then led a busy retirement.

He was a great family man who enjoyed Scottish dance and bagpipe music and a flutter on the horses.

R M Riddell



HAROLD DAVIS

Harold Davis was born in Cupar, Fife on the 10th of May 1933 and died on the 26th June 2018 aged 85. The war years brought a sense of immediacy to the Davis family as RAF Leuchars was only a few miles from the family home and his father, who was a member of the Home Guard and worked in the sugar beet factory in Cupar, lost his fingers due to an explosion of a device during training. The family then moved to Perth where Harold's parents ran a pub, the Palace in George Street.



A keen footballer Harold declined the offer to work in the pub trade and signed for East Fife Football team and played under Scott Symon who would later manage him at Rangers.

In 1951 he was called up to complete his two year period of National Service and reported to Queens' Barracks to carry out basic training. He was later posted to the 1st Battalion who were preparing to deploy to Korea as part of the British Commonwealth Division. Harold's leadership qualities were soon recognised and he gained promotion to Corporal and was employed as a Section Commander.

He was badly wounded on the Hook position in May 1953 during an enemy raid and immediately evacuated to a hospital in Japan where he was unconscious for ten days before being evacuated to London where he spent a year recovering from his wounds. He then returned to Perthshire to Bridge of Earn Hospital for recuperation and rehabilitation. His determination was noticed by a physio and former Rangers player David Kin who recommended him to Scott Symon at Ibrox. Harold joined the club in 1956 and remained there until 1964 making 261 appearances, alongside John Greig and Bobby Shearer. He continued his football career in both coaching and management with various clubs in Scotland before moving north in 1975 to run a hotel in the Gairloch in Wester Ross along with his wife and son Alan.

He survived a serious car accident in 1998 and went on to write a book along with co-author Paul Smith on his experiences in Korea

called, "Tougher than Bullets" which was published in October 2012. This coincided with the 60th Anniversary Weekend in Perth which was organised by the Black Watch Association and attended by a large number of veterans including Harold who I found to be a kind and generous person who was extremely proud to have served in the regiment.

R J W Proctor

ALEXANDER JAMES DONALD

Alexander Donald died in May 2018 but had undertaken his National Service in the 1st Battalion during the Korean War.

He was in 2nd Lieutenant A J Younger's platoon in A Company which was then under the command of Major ADH Irwin. Corporal Donald was involved in the Battle of the Hook in November 1952 and in a letter sent from his platoon commander to his mother he was given high praise; "in order to become a full Corporal during National Service requires rather more than the ordinary initiative and personality because as you know, with that rank one has command of up to ten men.... we shall be sorry to lose him but I am sure you will be glad to have him home again"

R M Riddell

JAMES FORBES

Jim was born on the 10th of March 1949 and died on the 6th of July 2018. He was educated at Bell Baxter High in Cupar. On leaving school, Jim took up employment as a labourer and after a two year spell decided he would join The Black Watch. After a short stint in a Duty Company, Jim joined the Pipes and Drums and stayed with them for seven years, becoming a very able Highland Dancer. He served in Northern Ireland, Cyprus and BAOR.



On leaving the Regiment Jim took up employment as a labourer once more but still had the Military in his blood, joining the Royal Corps of Transport (TA) and gaining a much treasured H.G.V. Licence. Unfortunately his health deteriorated and he had to retire. He was a member of the Fife Branch remaining a loyal and supportive member until an accident which led to his early death,

R M Scott

PIPE MAJOR ALEXANDER (SANDY) HAIN

Sandy Hain died on the 28th of March 2018 aged 89. He was born in Leslie, Fife on the 27th of September 1928 and was the eldest of a family of nine. His father was an accomplished piper and Pipe Major, his brother and sister also played in local Pipe Bands.

Sandy's first pipe lessons began when he was four years old and his serious studies began four years later. His initial contact with the regiment which lasted all of his life, began when he was fourteen when he joined The Black Watch Army Cadets. He then joined the army when he was 17 at the end of the Second World War and after recruit training was posted to the 1st Battalion in May 1946 in Duisburg, Germany as a member of the Pipes and Drums.



His skill and talent were soon noticed as he was sent on a Pipe Major's course at Edinburgh Castle which at that time was run by the Piobaireachd Society under the tutelage of the famed Pipe Major Willie Ross.

He was later appointed Pipe Major of the Regimental Depot at Queens' Barracks, Perth where he had the opportunity to teach young pipers who were hoping to serve in the regiment. He also had the opportunity to take part in all the local piping competitions and highland games where he won many trophies and put the regiment's name firmly on the map in piping circles.

In 1953 Sandy was appointed Pipe Major of the reformed Second Battalion then based in Dortmund and he served with them until they were again disbanded in 1956. He led the Second Battalion Pipes and Drums at the 1956 Edinburgh Tattoo where they performed alongside the First Battalion Pipes and Drums which is the first and last time this occurred.

Sandy then left the Army in 1957 and moved to the United States

where he remained for the remainder of his life. He was well known in the piping world in the United States where he formed pipe bands, judged at competitions and wrote numerous pipe tunes. He was involved in the compilation of the excellent Black Watch Pipe Collection and kept in touch with the regiment through emails and telephone calls to the Association Secretary right up until he died.

Predeceased by his wife in 2009 he is survived by his daughter Anna, her husband Ian and their family.

R J W Proctor

GORDON KIRBY

Warrant Officer Class Two Gordon Kirby who was always known as Rip died on the 17th of December 2017 and a notice of his death was published in the last edition of the Red Hackle Magazine. He served in both the 2nd and 1st Battalions and also as one of the first Senior Permanent Staff Instructors (PSIs) with newly formed 51st Highland Volunteers at "A" (Black Watch) Company, Rodd Road in Dundee. Always smart and well turned out, Rip was often selected to take part in ceremonial Quarter Guards for visiting dignitaries in the numerous stations in which he served.

During his service in the regiment he served in specialist platoons such as the Signals when he was a Corporal and was also an authority on anti-tank warfare as a Senior NCO both in the UK and in BAOR.

On his final tour with the 1st Battalion he was appointed Company Sergeant Major of A (Grenadier) Company whilst the battalion was serving in Hong Kong and accompanied the Company on Exercise to New Zealand under Major Colin Innes. His cool and unflappable nature, attention to detail and good nature made him a well respected Warrant Officer.

A very keen golfer he always managed to find a good golf course wherever he was stationed and bring back silverware to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

R J W PROCTOR

RAB MACDONALD

Rab MacDonald who served in the 1st Battalion from the late 1960s until the late 1970s died on the 1st of July 2018.

His funeral was private and held near his family home in England.

Originally from Dundee Rab joined the 1st Battalion at Kirknewton and initially served in a Rifle Company. He was always very fit and well turned out and showed leadership potential, which made him an ideal candidate for an NCO's cadre.

He was a keen sportsman and he felt that his future in the Battalion was serving as a PTI in the Gym. After successfully passing the Army Physical Training Course at Aldershot he returned to the Battalion and achieved his ambition.

By the time the Battalion had moved to Ballykinler in 1976 Rab's talent as a marksman was spotted by WO2 George Scott who coached the most successful Battalion Shooting team of all time. The team was ably commanded by Captain Richard Nunneley and Rab became part of that team being overall winners of the Northern Ireland Skill at Arms Meeting and also doing very well at the Regular Army Skill at Arms Meeting at Bisley.

Rab later transferred to the RAOC as an instructor and then settled in Hampshire. He was awarded a Police Commendation for disarming and trying to detain a violent individual at Winchester Station on the 30th of June 2016. This was typical of Rab who always showed that he was willing to put his head above the parapet and show great courage and support for what he believed in.

R J W PROCTOR

JOHN NIVEN

John was born in St Andrews on the 4th of October 1944 and died on the 21st of August 2018 in Victoria Hospital Kirkcaldy. John (known to some as Jock the Lum) was educated and worked in St Andrews before his enlistment and during his school days was a choir boy with a local Kirk. On leaving school, he took up employment as an apprentice butcher and



served his time until enlisting into the Regiment in 1965. He completed his training in Stirling Castle and was posted to the Battalion in Minden. He served in BAOR, the UK, the Far East, Belize and soldiered in Rifle Companies, the Signal Platoon, a term as the Officers' Mess Manager and a short period in Colchester with the Army Air Corp. Jock ended his service as a Recruiting Sergeant in Dunfermline office and on demob took up employment with the M.O.D. in Stirling and there he remained until retirement. He then fell ill and was given a kidney transplant which gave him a new quality of life. He never forgot this and as a thank you he raised money for cancer charities and was the Secretary for the Fife Kidney Association for many years. His faith played a part in his life and not only was he an elder with the Kirk of The Black Watch but became Lodge Chaplain in his Mother Lodge in St Andrews. Jock was a loyal Black Watch man.

He will be missed by his family and friends in the Fife Branch and wider Regiment.

R M Scott

GEORGE PATTIE

George who was known as Podge was born and educated in the Levenmouth area and although not a member of the Branch was always keen to know what was going on. Podge was the younger brother of Jake Pattie (MT) and when George was called for National Service, Jake decided to re-enlist. The brothers both served in the 6th/7th Battalion and then found themselves in the same squad at Queens' Barracks. On completion of their training they were posted to the 1st Battalion in Cyprus.

Podge was a talented footballer and played for the battalion and the Army team Middle East. He also played for Brechin, Montrose and Dundee United and on leaving the Army got involved in managing football teams.

R M Scott



WO2 (PIPE MAJOR) DENNIS RODDEN

Dennis Rodden was born in Kirkcaldy but brought up in Kennoway where he learned to play the bagpipes from the age of eight. He joined The Black Watch as a National Service soldier in 1954 having had his call-up papers deferred until he had completed his apprenticeship as a motor mechanic. He saw service in British Guiana, British Honduras and Cyprus and as Pipe Major of the 1st Battalion from 1959 to 1961. While still serving with The Black Watch he spent eight years (1962 to 1970), as Pipe Major of The Highland Brigade Depot Pipes and Drums at Fort George (having succeeded the legendary Pipe Major Donald MacLeod of The Seaforth Highlanders) and of The Scottish Division Depot Pipes and Drums at Gordon Barracks, Aberdeen. He spent the final six years of his service as Pipe Major of the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers. He served in Germany and completed three tours of duty in Northern Ireland before retiring from the regular army in 1976 after twenty two years service. Dennis was an accomplished piper who, in his day, was a successful solo competitor around the highland games. He took part regularly in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo where he performed as lone piper on several occasions. His brothers Michael, Alex and Jimmy also served with The Black Watch.

On his return to civilian life, Dennis settled in Kirkcaldy with his family, his wife Mary, who died in 2014 and their two children. He worked with GEC at Mitchelston in Kirkcaldy until he retired and for many years kept up his piping as Pipe Major of the local Scottish Ambulance Service Pipe Band. He also enjoyed an occasional trip to Germany to perform with 'Bleischaden,' the brass section of the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of his cousin Bob Ross their musical director and a fellow Kirkcaldy man. I often enjoyed Dennis's company at the Kirkcaldy United Services Institute,



Kirkcaldy's ex-servicemen's club, and he will be missed very much. He is survived by his daughter Donna and son Brian.

Peter Snaddon QVRM

ANDREW ROBERTSON

Andrew who was always known as Taff served in the Regiment for three years.

After undergoing his training at Queens' Barracks he was posted to the reformed 2nd Battalion in Colchester (1952). He served until 1955 and spent some of his time in the MT Platoon and was at one stage the CO's driver. He was a Lance Corporal.

He was a trained engineer who worked at English Electric in Luton and also at British Aerospace, making parts for guided weapons. He worked in the latter job for 33 years retiring in 1989 when he was 55.

He loved gardening and so set up a small gardening business which he ran for a number of years but in 2002 he gave that up so that he could spend more time with his wife Dawn.

Taff died on 23 April aged 84 and his twin brother Geoff who also served in the Regiment died shortly after on 6 July 2018.

R M Riddell



GEORGE ROSS

George Ross died on the 25th of April 2018 aged 95. George completed basic training at Kinfauns Castle and was initially posted to the 1st Battalion the Tyneside Scottish then later, when the battalion was broken up, was posted to the 1st Battalion The Black Watch where he joined the Assault Pioneer Platoon. In mid October 1944 he was wounded when the battalion was fighting in Holland but returned to duty a month later. He was promoted to Lance Corporal and left the army at the end of the war.

On return to civilian life, he took up his trade as a joiner and worked as a site foreman until he retired. He was always proud to have served in the regiment and attended the WW2 Veterans dinner which was organised by the Association and held in Perth in 2011.

In July 2017 George was appointed to the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur by the President of the French Republic at Liverpool Town Hall.

George had a great sense of fun and he was a larger than life character who will be missed by all his family and friends.

R J W PROCTOR



WILLIAM SPEAKMAN VC

Sergeant Bill Speakman VC, who died aged 90, won the Victoria Cross on 4 November 1951 as a Black Watch Private Soldier serving with the King's Own Scottish Borderers during the Korean War.

Born in Altrincham, Cheshire in September 1927, he left school aged 14 and in August 1945 he joined The Black Watch and served in Germany, Italy and Hong Kong. He was back in Germany when the call came for volunteers to transfer to battalions destined for Korea. When British Forces were mobilised for service in Korea in 1950, Speakman volunteered to serve with the KOSB.

On the morning of 4 November 1951, on Hill 217, North West of Yonchon, the defensive positions held by 1 KOSB were subjected to heavy and accurate enemy shell and mortar fire. This continued for most of the day and in the failing daylight the enemy launched their assault.

Speakman as part of B Company was in the thick of the fighting and he left his own trench armed with primed grenades to support 5 Platoon. The Chinese were a mere 60 feet away over the crest of the



hill and he was able to use his height and strength to throw grenades towards the muzzle flashes. He then took a party of six men and continued to hurl grenades as they tried to clear the ridge of enemy. With total disregard for his own safety and in the teeth of murderous close range fire he led a series of grenade charges up a slope as each successive wave of enemy reached the top of the hill.

Severely wounded in the leg and then in the shoulder, Speakman paused briefly only to comply with a direct order that he have his wounds dressed. With the ammunition almost exhausted and the fighting hand to hand, rocks and ration tins were hurled at the enemy.

At 9 pm, amid an inferno of machine gun and mortar fire, Speakman led a final charge to clear the crest of the hill and hold it while the remainder of the Company withdrew.

An extract of the citation read, "Under the stress and strain of battle, Private Speakman's outstanding powers of leadership were revealed and he so dominated the situation that he inspired his comrades to stand firm and fight the enemy to a standstill". It went on to praise his "great gallantry".

At some stage he transferred to the KOSB. Following his demob in 1953, he later volunteered to serve in the Malayan Scouts and also served as an Arms Storeman with a Squadron of SAS. He rejoined 1 KOSB in 1955 and served in Aden, the Radfan and Brunei.

He did not find celebrity easy to deal with and in 1968 he was discharged from the Army after 22 years' service. He found it difficult to adjust to civilian life and drifted from job to job, eventually selling all his medals to a London dealer for £1500. He lived in South Africa for some years but returned to the UK and in 2015 became a Chelsea Pensioner.

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Coles and Mr John Bowles represented the Regiment at his funeral service, held on 19 July 2018 at The Royal Hospital Chelsea.

R M Riddell

JOE STACEY

WO1 Joseph Stacey, who was known as Joe, died on Wednesday the 15th August 2018 aged 95. Little did he know that when he joined the Army in 1940 that he was starting a military dynasty of some 115 years continuous Colour Service in The Black Watch. Between himself, his two sons (David and Gordon) and his grandson (Kevin), all of whom attained the rank of WO1 (RSM) in different capacities under the same cap badge of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment). It is very unusual for one family to provide three generations to the Army let alone all from one cap badge and all to have reached the rank of WO1 (Regimental Sergeant Major).



I am exceptionally proud of and take great inspiration from those who have gone before me. My Grandfather was a man to whom I looked up to all my life and was a shining example of how to behave and how to live your life. He was very modest but he was a very determined man. If he said he was going to do something then he would do it. He was very much a man of his word.

My grandfather was 55 years old when I was born and I know that he was very active, running marathons up until his late sixties and regularly completing the Oban to Montrose Ultimate Walking Challenge, within the two week deadline. This he did right up until his eighties.

He taught me how to swim in Jordanhill College swimming pool and would regularly collect me from Queen Victoria School for an afternoon swimming in rivers and lochs whilst my gran would always have an excellent picnic prepared for us. I had a great time growing up with my grandparents and I would be regaled with stories about my grandfather being one of the British Army's top trackers out in Malaya. Whilst attached to the Gordon Highlanders he was told that if he remained with them that he would go far, however his heart was with the Red Hackle and he replied that he wanted to return to his beloved 2nd Black Watch. Major (Retd) Grenville Irvine-Fortescue (Gordon Highlanders Secretary) neatly sums up my grandfather's service with input from my grandmother;

1940 - 1946 - The Royal Artillery

1946 - 1949 - 2nd Battalion The Black Watch

1949 - 1951 - 1st Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders

1951 - 1953 - 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders

1953 - 1956 - 2nd Battalion The Black Watch
1963 - 1967 - 1st Battalion Malaysian Rangers
1967 - 1972 - LSL Recruiter at ACIO Aberdeen

Mr Stacey was a draughtsman/toolmaker at the start of the war and he was refused enlistment because of his trade and reserved occupation but he eventually signed up in 1940 when he reached the age of 17 only after crossing the palm of the secretary at his work to put his employment as just a labourer. This allowed him to be called up and he enlisted into the Royal Artillery and at some stage served some time on anti aircraft duties in London during the Blitz.

At the end of the war he transferred to the 2nd Battalion The Black Watch. An opportunity then arose to be seconded to 1st Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders in Malaya in 1949, an adventure, which he could not resist. Whilst with the Seaforth, Joe was very seriously injured when the platoon he was serving in was out on a jungle patrol; they were ambushed and several Jocks were killed along with his platoon commander. He never spoke about this incident. The Seaforth then returned to the UK and after his recovery he then remained in Malaya with 1 Gordons. It was during this period that he married my grandmother in November of 1951. The wedding took place at Changi and my grandmother remembers a number of Gordon Highlanders who were at the wedding. Bandmaster Williams played the music whilst Band Sgt Dougie Thow gave the bride away and Bill Euan was his best man.

He returned to the 2nd Black Watch, which was stationed at Dortmund in Germany (BAOR) and then moved with the Battalion to British Guiana in 1954 until 1956, returning once more to Queens' Barracks. The 2nd Battalion was disbanded in 1956.

He served at Knook Camp as a CSM from 1961 until 1963 before embarking to Malaya again to form the Malaysian Rangers. In 1963 he was promoted to Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Bn Malaysian Rangers (now the Royal Malay Regiment) based in Ipoh and later Kuching (Sarawak) where he had a great influence in the recruitment of local tribesmen who were outstanding trackers to form this new battalion.

In 1967 the family returned to Peterhead whilst he remained in Malaya for a further 6 months as an instructor at the Jungle Warfare School. On completion of this post at the end of his secondment and on completion of his 22 years Regular service, he took up the post of LSL Recruiter at the recruiting office in Aberdeen where he remained for 5 years. Retiring from Army service in 1972 he took up a post in Jordanhill College Glasgow. This we think was because he wanted to be closer to his beloved football team Celtic.

He was a great sportsman and all rounder in athletics and whilst with 1st Gordons played for the battalion football team.

He was a kind, modest and considerate man, who was a great example to many during his service and his family have contributed to the Regiment in so many ways over a sustained period.

Captain Kevin Stacey

I had the pleasure of serving with Joe as a very young Lance Corporal freshly off the NCO'S Cadre and later when he visited the 1st Battalion in Malaysia in 1969 when I was a young Sergeant. Without being condescending he imparted his knowledge to me on numerous

occasions also he showed me where he had taken part in a successful ambush when he was serving with the Gordons.

Joe was a strong character who always led by example. His style of leadership and man management as a Company Sergeant Major in the early 1960s was years ahead of its time. He would have fitted in well as a Warrant Officer in today's modern army. He was respected and looked up to by all who served with him.

R J W Proctor

The following deaths have also been recorded:

Thomas Conn who died on 3 June 2018 aged 90. He served in the Regiment from 1945-1951.

Rab Coull who served in Catterick, Belize, Werl, Kirknewton, Northern Ireland, Ternhill, Hong Kong, Berlin, Pirbright, Inverness and Fallingbostal died on 13 July 2018. He left the Army as a Corporal in 2002 and settled in Shrewsbury.

Bill Cumming who died on 19 February 2018 aged 94. He served in India with the 2nd Battalion.

James Currihan who died aged 98 on 14 July 2018. He served in North Africa, and Italy during the Second World War with the 6th Battalion.

George Ellis died recently and served in Korea with the 1st Battalion.

Tom Gardiner of Falkirk died on 18 June 2018 aged 84. He served from 1951-53 and was a Korean War veteran.

Joseph O'Brien Graham was conscripted on 6 April 1944 and served with the 1st Battalion. He died on 16 March 2018.

Brian Greechan died on 20 September 2018. He served in Werl.

Andrew Hamilton died on 24 September age 83. There will be a fuller obituary in the next edition of the Red Hackle.

Peter McGaughey died in December 2017. He served in the 2nd Battalion in Palestine in the period 1937/38. He was wounded during the fighting in North Africa and after convalescing in Perth he rejoined the 2nd Battalion for the Chindit campaign.

Brian McGrath died on 3 October 2018.

John McKinnon died aged 68 on 5 April 2018. He served in the 1st Battalion from 1970-1984.

Peter Mitchell died on 13 August 2018 age 85. He was Korean War veteran.

Alan Morrison was a former National Serviceman who died in April 2018.

Ian Orcheson died on 9 July 2018. He served in Korea, Kenya and Crail and was a member of the London Branch.

John Frances Pontin died on 9 July 2018 age 94. He served with the 6th Battalion and was a member of the Stoke-on-Trent Branch.

George Robb died on 21 June 2018 aged 86. He served in the 4th/5th Battalion.

James William Robertson served in Korea with the 1st Battalion and died on 14 March 2018.

Geoff Robertson died on 6 July 2018 age 84. He was a member of London Branch and was Taff Robertson's twin brother.

Cyril Sherwin died aged 94 on 24 May 2018. He served in North Africa, during the Battle of Monte Cassino and in Greece.

John (Jack) Spalding who died aged 86, undertook his National Service with the 1st Battalion.

Eric Whitehead died on 3 June 2018 aged 90. He served in the Regiment from 1944-1953.

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PERTSHIRE TO PICARDY – PART 2

By Mr W Young

Editor's Note: Readers will recall that in the May 2018 Edition of the magazine we published Part 1 of this article that focused on the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion, The Black Watch whose courage in the fighting at Bois de Courton in July 1918, earned the award of the Croix de Guerre in October 1918. The author of this article is the grandson of Major Thomas Edwin Young TD who served with the 6th Battalion.

The area in which the 1/6th fought is now part of the Newfoundland Memorial Park and is a memorial to the Newfoundlanders who lost their lives in the war. It is not difficult to find the trenches that they occupied and to cross the former "no man's land" to "Y" Ravine and beyond, down a track, the village of Beaumont Hamel. There are three cemeteries in the Park – "Y" Ravine, Hawthorn Ridge No 2 and Hunters Cemetery, the latter believed to have been named after the Reverend J M Hunter, the chaplain to the 1/6th. Twenty three men of the battalion are buried here. One particularly poignant grave, in Hawthorn Ridge No 2, is that of Lance Corporal Andrew Hutcheson of Auchterarder, who is commemorated on the same headstone as a soldier who died on the opening day.

The 1/6th carried out a further two spells in the trenches before the end of the year, losing a further three Other Ranks. Private William Forbes was the last fatality dying in a Casualty Clearing Station at the village of Contay on December 20th 1916. By the turn of the year its strength had fallen to 17 Officers and 428 Other Ranks, or roughly 50% of the strength when it landed in France. In the 19 months the battalion had lost 16 Officers, 52 NCO's and 246 soldiers killed and approximately 20 Officers and 580 Other Ranks wounded. Had this altered the composition of the 1/6th – the answer must be an undoubted yes. In the period 1914-16, 66% of those killed were either born in Perth or the county as a whole, in 1917 the figure fell to 32% and in 1918 to 9%.

However, whatever the composition of the Battalion it remained one which its' parent county could be extremely proud of and it continued to be involved in the fighting on the Western Front.

In 1917, until the middle of March they were involved with training, route marches, railway construction and for relaxation, football matches. They did not have to be in the line to suffer casualties, as on 11 April, when some 4 miles back, they had 21 men killed and 28 wounded by shelling. The battalion took part in three of the major battles that

year – Arras, 3rd Ypres and Cambrai, in the process of which a further 561 casualties occurred.

1918 was to prove both traumatic and momentous for the battalion. In March the Germans launched their "Michael" offensive which hit the battalion hard and while recuperating in a "quiet" part of the line they were caught by another attack – "Georgette". These two battles cost them a total of 27 officers and 858 other ranks.

July saw the 1/6th moved south to near Rheims as part of XXII Corps which was sent to assist the French. On 19th July the Battalion took its place in the front line in the Bois de Courton, and on the next day attacked, and in the following ten days saw heavy and costly fighting in the type of country which they had not experienced hitherto. However despite the conditions and casualties the battalion was ultimately successful and captured many prisoners, ordnance and three dogs! It is worthwhile recording here, part of battalion orders issued before the battle – "All ranks will be warned that the attack will be made before the eyes of the French Army and it is expected that they will maintain the prestige of the British Army". This they achieved if not surpassed. The 1/6th Battalion added a further battle honour, Battle of Tardenois (Bois de Courton) and were awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French Army. Only two Scottish Regiments can boast that honour; The Black Watch and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The battalion continued to serve at the front until the end of the war but this action above all was their greatest achievement.

My Grandfather left the TA sometime around 1919 but continued to be involved in the welfare of former servicemen, being one of the founders of the local branch of The Comrades of the Great War, which evolved to become the British Legion, of which he was County Chairman and also a national Vice President. He was also twice elected as Provost of Auchterarder. My father served with the 6/7th battalion as a piper in the inter war years and was one of the signatories of the scroll which was presented to the Regiment on the occasion of it being given the Freedom of Auchterarder.

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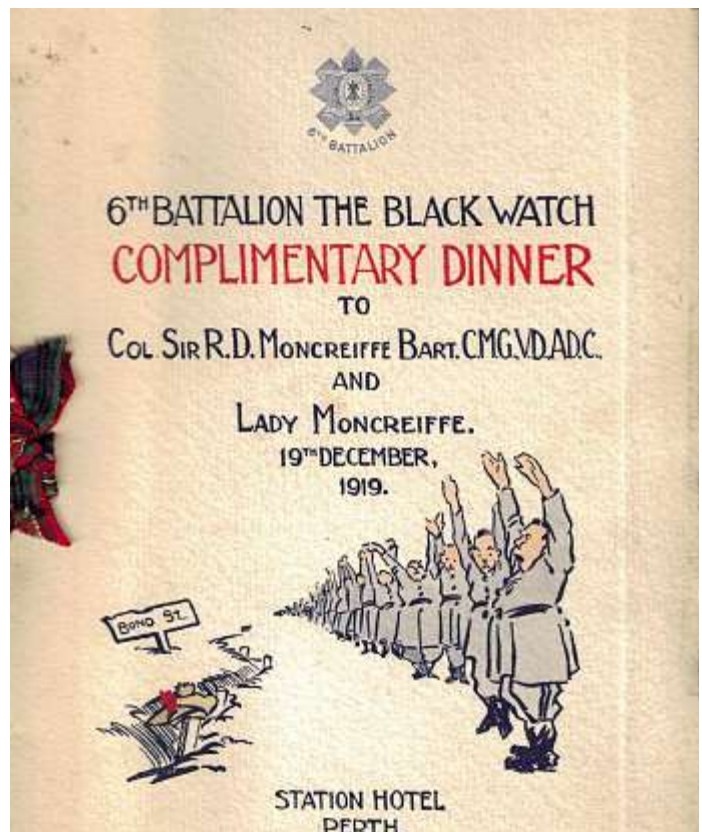
Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-19, Pt 46 The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders)



Hunter's Cemetery near Beaumont Hamel was possibly named after the 6th Battalion Padre. The 51st Highland Division statue is in the background.



The three headstones in Hunter's Cemetery; Pte Donald McCallum from Comrie, Sgt David Martin from Coupar Angus and Pte W Reader from Yorkshire were all killed on 13 November 1916.



The programme for the 6th Battalion Reunion Dinner in 1919.

A FAREWELL TO WAR VIETNAM 75

By Major CJK Campbell

Author's Note;

I retired from Regimental service in 1972, and after a year of foreign travel decided to give some time to Save the Children Fund (SCF). In reply to an advert I applied for a job as a trainer in a vocational capacity in Malaysia. On arrival in London I was told the job had gone – would I go to Vietnam instead? I would. My task would be to act as an administrator to a small team in the North of South Vietnam, based in Hue and operating in Qang Tri, the area immediately to its North.

Like many Voluntary agencies SCF in those days, because of its relatively small size, was able to give limited funds to any endeavour in support of the Third World, and this factor was readily understood by its donors. The important principle was to participate in an appropriate manner to crises and equally important, to maintain credibility both with its donors and the recipients of aid, if matters cut up rough. Thus SCF's commitment to Vietnam consisted of mobile medical teams based in Hue, Danang, Qui Nhon, with a base in Saigon. It was a small contribution, and there were many other voluntary organisations operating throughout the country also, making contributions. Somewhat unusually, SCF had incorporated its sister organisations in the provision of its staff, and we had amongst us medical staff from the UK, Norway, Australia and New Zealand. We, of course, employed local Vietnamese, mainly for purely administrative tasks, and very good they proved to be. At the time I arrived in Hue the service provided was relatively simple – doctors and nurses going to centres of refugees to deal with day to day matters of medical complaints – little more than a daily surgery, seen by many refugees as much a social gathering as a medical necessity. We had excellent relations with the refugees, but, it has to be said, there was always an edge to proceedings as it was almost impossible to decide who was friend and who was foe among those attending the clinics or indeed elsewhere.

As the Vietnam war ended some 43 years ago, I have been asked to give a resume on its causes, duration, and outcome before relating my own experience in the final days when South Vietnam collapsed before the all-conquering North.



Major Jamie Campbell worked for Save the Children Fund after he left the Army and was based in Vietnam at the time US Forces were withdrawn. This picture shows him in Limini in Cyprus. He served from 1956 to 1972.

From a rather elderly atlas I see that Vietnam, once known as Anam, Cambodia and Laos became French possessions in 1883 following a century and more of Jesuit missionary influence. This was after a long succession of wars between China and Vietnam culminating in the latter's independence in 1428. Like many of the colonies following the "day of infamy" when Japan launched its massive raid on Pearl Harbour in 1941, Vietnam fell to the Japanese invasions which followed.

After the defeat of Japan in 1945, the French returned to take up where they had left off in a country dominated by Buddhists and to a lesser extent Catholics both permeated by a strong element of Communists. The Vietnamese under Ho Chi Minh, backed by Russia and China, scored a resounding victory over the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 after an eight year struggle. The country was divided by an agreement in Geneva into two separate halves - the North under the Communist regime, and the South under a Vietnamese government bolstered by the United States which it was hoped would cater to the Roman Catholic and Buddhist elements of the population. This became known as the "Operation of Passage to Freedom" and involved almost a million Catholics from the North being forced to the South, and almost as many Communists being transported to the North. The line dividing the new countries being drawn at more or less the 17th Parallel. Hue marked the northerly limit of the South and Saigon became the capital. It was never intended that the arrangement made in Geneva would be a permanent solution but rather an interim one leading to a review in 1956 when it was hoped that unification might take place. Of course, the division of the country caused a tremendous upheaval from both halves of the country to their preferred regime and in the South, the setting up of a puppet government under nominal Vietnamese control, strongly supported and dominated by the United States. For this purpose the US chose one Ngo

Dinh Diem, an influential Catholic as President who paid off any competition there may have been before taking his post. This support had not been envisaged at Geneva but there was no possible way that the US could be left out of the equation, as a succession of US Presidents were to decide. This was not the first time that the US had supported the anti-communist elements as it had been pouring vast sums of money towards the French cause up to 1954.

To understand the US point of view towards the Communist threat, we have to go back to the Second World War. The US saw the collapse of European colonialism in the Far East as only a disaster as far as the consequences went for their influence in destroying the power of Japan. Their dislike of colonialism harked back to their own history of the 18th century when they finally got their independence from Britain. While the British fought in Burma, very much on the back foot, America's prime concern was to support Chiang Kai Chek as the declared anti-communist representative of China. It was a lost cause as Mao Tse Tung was later to prove conclusively when he and his communist regime became the dominant power. This is not, for one moment, to say that the US did not support the former colonial powers in their struggles with Japan- indeed without its huge resources of manpower, provision of armaments and spectacular victories especially at sea (and in the UK's case the provision of air support, the war would never have been won; but it was very much with the Communist threat in mind that the US viewed the future. The Korean war only added fuel to their fears, in which the UK and many other countries of the free world also played their part, and no doubt subscribed to what became known as "the domino theory".

This theory said in essence that the collapse of one country to communism, would act as a starter motor to the next, just as dominoes when lined up on their ends would, when given a push start a chain reaction ending in the collapse of all. They saw the enormous influence of China and Russia on the Vietnamese war efforts and they had every reason to believe their doctrine held good and that Thailand might be next to succumb. They were not alone. Australia and South Korea became willing participants, partly because they were also heavily funded in their efforts by the United States. Britain's contribution was mainly to provide the SAS on covert operations, and in those days the publicity of the SAS was rather less than today's and little is known of their contribution though it was considerable.

To the wider world watching events in the Pacific, "Pax Americana" seemed to be worthy of every support. President Kennedy had launched the Peace Corps in 1961 and an idealistic American youth were ready to give their time and often their expertise, not only to Vietnam but to other countries of the Third World. The US Army undertook the training of an army for South Vietnam, to be known as the ARVN. Millions of dollars were expended on both rural and urban projects which would clearly benefit the Southern peasants, many of whom lived in the forests of South Vietnam. Every effort was made to woo the peasants and to protect them from their communist brothers because, despite the massive diaspora many of the latter remained in their villages where they had fought against the French. US Army personnel were stationed in remote villages with the set purpose of conducting confidence building measures to gain the full support of the villagers and the Montagnards, a separate ethnic group who were to become firm allies of the new regime. Meanwhile Ho Chi Minh from his base in Hanoi watched these events and decided to bide his time before launching any further attempts to reunify Vietnam. He changed the name of his supporters to Viet Cong from Viet Minh in recognition of their communist identity. Rather less well known were the deeds of the president of South Vietnam President Ngo Dinh Diem. Although from an aristocratic Roman Catholic family, thought to be popular with the Southern inhabitants of that persuasion, as well as the Buddhist element, he set about eliminating any opposition he could find. He is credited with getting rid of powerful criminal gangs that had plagued the South but he was unable to prevent the corruption of those he had chosen to join his government. He was not himself above suspicion of trying to line his pockets at the same time. It was not a propitious beginning.

The US Army initially more or less confined itself to training and specialist military work. They studied Britain's success story against the communists in Malaya and applied the relevant principles to their work in Vietnam. There was, however, a fundamental difference in the make-up of the two countries. The insurgents in Malaya had been Chinese communists; those in Vietnam were native to the country. What was more was that there was no way of telling who was a friendly Vietnamese, and who was not, (i.e. the Viet Cong) and it was perhaps

this factor, more than any other that led to a frustration that was to end in disastrous cases of war crimes.

Interference by a succession of American Presidents from President Kennedy to Nixon, sometimes on the advice of their military advisers, sometimes off their own bats, ensured that policy was often changing. To bomb or not to bomb, Laos or Cambodia and especially where the Ho Chi Minh Trail was concerned were cases in point. This trail was a series of tracks, paths, and latterly some tarmac road that ran from North to South Vietnam down which flowed the North Vietnamese Army, sometimes heavy equipment and weaponry. Many soldiery walked all the way down the Ho Chi Minh trail carrying with them all they needed for perhaps months at a time, then to exist in caves in the forests until needed for an assault on South Vietnam, or on American/South Vietnamese forces sent to eliminate them. Particularly hated was the use of napalm and other chemicals, used by the Americans to defoliate the heavy forest cover and in the process burn to death any insurgents, taking insufficient regard of who was friendly and who was not. The frustration of the US forces became acute and led to indiscipline among several units, finally escalating into such incidents of "fragging" or the killing of commanders who showed poor leadership or rash behaviour while on active operations. Senior commanders went to considerable lengths to cover up such incidents and some would say they often failed in their duty to advise the US Presidents in a considered manner of what was happening. Perhaps it was the disbelief that a country of peasants such as Vietnam could ever overcome the power of the US that kept US commanders and indeed Presidents, believing in their own omnipotency. Some seemed unaware that the manpower of Ho Chi Minh's forces was a bottomless well and that body counts of dead Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army were fairly meaningless indicators of how the war was going.

Training of the South Vietnamese army (ARVN) was to some extent a success particularly where their marines and airborne troops were concerned. The ordinary soldier was less well regarded, anyway by the Americans who by now had enforced conscription on all young American men above school leaving age. This was known as "The Draft", and was to become the source of bitter controversy as time went on, mainly as it was seen as favouring the intelligent and those who could afford to go to university, who could postpone or even excuse themselves from service. Meanwhile the poor and often the black communities had no choice. This led to lasting quarrels between some American families; particularly those whose fathers had fought nobly in WW2 or in Korea and now looked upon their sons as column dodgers. Some young men even de-camped to Canada to avoid the Draft.

It was perhaps the Tet Offensive of 1968 that shattered any illusions the Americans may have had about the progress of the war. Tet was the most important annual holiday, a sort of Christmas and Easter rolled into one. Normally it would have been celebrated by some unspoken truce between all Vietnamese but Ho Chi Minh was to use this one to test the will and commitment of the South. He mounted a massive invasion of the South. The Americans declared a victory and in terms of a body count of the dead they were proved to be correct. Some 55,000 Viet Cong were killed for the loss of 3,895 Americans and 4954 ARVN troops. It was, however, the scale and ubiquity of the assault that appalled many. Although the lost ground was recovered by the South any sense of a victory was muted.

Meanwhile hostility to "The Draft" increased dramatically in the United States. Veterans returning from the war were sometimes mobbed; demonstrations took place across the country. An American, Norman Morrison burnt himself to death on the lawn of the Pentagon, following a similar death by a Buddhist monk in Saigon. America and many Vietnamese were shocked to the core. Perhaps the tipping point came when publicity from Vietnam emerged to show the My Lai massacre had taken place, when an American unit went berserk in a village murdering many of the innocent population.

President Nixon, deeply discredited by Watergate, was obliged by Congress to withdraw American Forces from Vietnam whilst continuing other support for the South Vietnamese government under the new President, Nguyen Van Thieu who had succeeded Diem. The change of President brought little beneficial advantage to the South, as Thieu proved himself as corrupt as his predecessor. Perhaps more significant was the fact that he was now the military commander in Vietnam which factor became particularly apparent when Ho Chi Minh launched his last all out assault. The extraction of American forces took place in 1973, but about 9000 US civilians remained in the country to support the Vietnamese government. Amongst these were the Consuls of Hue and Danang who became responsible for the safety of voluntary agencies such as our own.

VIETNAM MARCH 1975

I was told that the team should not go to Qang Tri today. There was unusual activity among the Viet Cong. Oh well these things still tend to happen; we will wait for the all clear; perhaps tomorrow. Tomorrow there was no change. The next day matters became self-evident as the refugees started to pass by on their way to somewhere they thought safer. Even the American Consul thought they had a point and the following day I was told to evacuate the staff by road to Danang. Both Vietnamese staff and the "Round Eyes" or Europeans, were loaded onto the Land Rovers and off they went, springs groaning. Job done. By this time out of the woodwork arrived some nuns, the odd priest, and a few prospectors. The Consul loaded them onto the abundant helicopters and off they went. Did the Consul want a bodyguard? "Sure", he said, "Why not! What've you got? Only a rather ancient revolver, said I. "That'll do" he replied. He was just being polite; the place was teeming with the CIA. "By the way, that good looking nurse of yours, I'm hoping to ask her to be my wife. Any ideas?" "Highly recommended" said I (I think he did marry her later, but I never discovered).

Eventually we too flew to Danang. This was premature, so I asked to be allowed to return to Hue to collect the medicines. This was granted – I do love the "Can-do" attitude of the Americans. When we arrived the streets were empty and the occasional shell landed not too far away. "You got twenty minutes", said the pilot.

Back in Danang I met up with my team and the members of the other team that had been working in Danang. The city looked like an ant-heap with bodies moving in all directions, apparently without purpose but most were seeking the safest place of refuge wherever that might be. We were privileged "Round Eyes" somewhat to our embarrassment and were gathered in to a large barn to await evacuation. I was approached by a Seventh Day Adventist and was asked to take over a small clinic because "The Lord had told us to go."- and they did not want to leave a Vietnamese in charge. The irony of the request seemed to have escaped him. The clinic lay some few kilometres back up the road to Hue from where at least one Division of the communists was now on the move. I arrived to find the last members of the staff being paid off and politely refusing to stay on. I could not blame them; it was now "sauve qui peut" (run for your life). I was handed the main office in which a radio had been installed and to my relief an American voice answered my call. I asked how many patients I was supposed to be looking after. The figure was uncertain but I was promised that a doctor would shortly arrive. In a short time a Native American doctor arrived and checked up on the patients and told me, to my relief, that he had sent all of them home.

On looking back at this moment in my life, I was puzzled by, what seemed to be an anomaly in the military situation. Rockets were being fired overhead as we moved through the dark but I am fairly certain that they were not military ones but rather of the type fired on Guy Fawkes night. Ridiculous as it may seem under the circumstances, I have since concluded that they were being fired by Viet Cong participants to cause alarm and despondency among the civil population without doing any actual damage. The Viet Cong had mixed freely with the citizens of Danang all along after all – indeed it was hard if not impossible, to identify them. If scaring the population was their aim, they certainly succeeded on the back of the very real threat now marching down the road towards us.

By now I felt a bit surplus to requirements and wondered if I was meant to do a General Gordon and face the hordes with a monocle and walking stick. I did not fancy the role. Happily the decision was made for me as the American voice returned to say "Hey Limey, you better get out of there, 'cause we are not coming to fetch you." A little matter of no transport I said. Shortly after, a member of my team turned up, and we made off back into Danang.

There must have been about a hundred people milling about in the building that abutted to the shore, which had been chosen as an evacuation centre. Most were "Round Eyes", including our two teams, others were Vietnamese deemed to be at risk and the remainder those whose work is to attend the poor mainly from the remoter areas of the country. A self appointed pianist banged out honky-tonk music and a rather false bonhomie pervaded most conversations. Around midnight people began to filter out of the building in ones and twos destined for a freighter said to be anchored quite far out in the bay. All was done in good order and cheerfully,

or so it seemed. By 0700 it was well light and then finally there were two of us left to watch a spectacle that in other circumstances would have been highly amusing ; those unused to boats trying to row a straight course; in one case at least with only one oar. We did not have to wait long.

A new American face appeared, almost tiresomely ebullient and fit. "Who the hell are you?", he said. We told him. He turned out to be the American Consul for Danang. "Get in that helicopter" he said, pointing to an incoming Huey. He followed us with one or two senior military figures and we took off for, we thought, the freighter. Not so. We moved south and landed in an airfield occupied by Vietnamese marines, who had been more or less disarmed for fear of mutiny. They did not like us, and made no bones about it. All Roundeyes were, in their estimation Americans, and, though, ostensibly we were allies, we were viewed as objects of envy. I had already experienced, back in Hue, having been surrounded by knife-toting soldiery and the occasion had not been to my liking. Among this bunch, at least one sported an ancient rifle. We and the other civilian refugees lined up facing this gang in a comic staged stand-off, like a hopeless spaghetti Western. I observed to my friend that we were in a dangerous position, and unless we had some arms, there was likely to be an incident as the marines were hoping to rob us. Our American Consul, had already taken himself to the other end of the runway with his senior officers and the one remaining CIA man was clearly briefed to look after us. Within minutes a large American car drove up, the boot filled with rifles, two of which were given to us. The marines gave up any plans to rob us and the refugees nodded their approval. I vaguely wondered what our bosses in London would have made of their voluntary agency staff carrying weapons.

Suddenly, our CIA friend announced the arrival of the final plane to leave Danang and what, he almost added, are you going to do about it? The plane could cater for 75 passengers. Well, there must have been about 150 refugees, including ourselves at this end of the runway, so we said half of them should go to the other end. Thus, whichever end of the runway the plane ended up; there should be no fighting to get aboard. Off trouped a fair proportion of the refugees to the other end and as they left we were told to follow them by the CIA man, who was clearly receiving instructions from the Consul. The plane did finally end up at the other end of the runway and our hopes were in vain, as fighting broke out as we arrived. We had underestimated the number of refugees involved, not to mention the marines who had acquired a truck in anticipation of just such an event unfolding and had arrived on the scene before us. In the thick of the fight was the Consul himself, trying to fling unscheduled passengers off the plane? Almost as we arrived, he himself fell off the top steps, and landed at our feet, lying down and gasping for breath. We went up to him and asked what, if anything, he wanted us to do. "Get the plane off the ground," was the reply. So we did, by signalling the pilot to take off, as those still fighting to get aboard gave up the unequal struggle and leapt for the ground. The shrug of the pilot's shoulders said it all, as he revved his engines and took off.

That left a fairly small number of hopefuls to cater to. A jeep drove up and the Consul told us to get aboard, as we turned in the direction of Danang. A rush of refugees followed but I said in all innocence that we were probably going to return to Danang, whereupon the would be passengers drew hastily away. Well where else could we go without air transport? We moved off, now reduced in numbers to the Consul, some very senior Vietnamese army officers,(almost certainly General Truong himself) and the CIA men. We passed a headquarters, busily preparing for surrender, formerly the base of one of the senior officers now fleeing with us and drove to a quiet sector of the airfield, where yet another Huey landed. This time we all piled in and took off bound – we fondly hoped - for the freighter still anchored in the bay. Not so. We flew back to Danang to the Naval Base.

At this point my companion and I rather lost faith in the Consul. He seemed morose and remote and did not welcome questions, bundling himself into a ball and apparently going to sleep. The senior officers looked grave and shifty; as well they might in the light of the military collapse. The navy gave us some tea and remained calm, then night overtook us all. At 2000 hrs the naval ratings present stood up from their desks, picked up their weapons, filed outside the building, and fired – at nothing – into the darkness.

What madness was this? It seemed almost laughable. We did not have long to find out.

Suddenly the base came under artillery fire, and a loud voice cried out "Follow me and run." All of us, Consul, senior officers and others ran for our lives and were guided into underground shelters. By now, we were becoming inclined to think that the leadership had gone mad. The shelling stopped, and the same voice cried out again "Follow me" and off again we went, this time down the slope of the wharf to board a patrol boat. The engines had not been started, the Consul threw himself into a bunk and refused all comment, while we found ourselves seats and tried to make sense of the last few minutes.

The engines started, we put out to sea, and around midnight boarded a warship for the journey back to Camh Ranh bay. What a miracle though, or so it appeared.

It took a long time to understand what had actually happened and it was not edifying.

Records show that the primary cause of the collapse of the South Vietnamese was the withdrawal of both the airborne and marine forces on the orders of General Thieu from the Northern Provinces around Hue to protect Saigon. This had been resisted by General Truong who was in charge of those provinces on the grounds of loss of morale which almost instantly and inevitably, followed. From that moment it was only a matter of time for disaster to be complete.

The Consul, the Army Officers, had been in contact with the North Vietnamese for several days, perhaps even from the beginning. Resistance was spasmodic and ineffectual in this sector and the Americans had probably bargained with the communists not to do any more than conduct a fairly steady advance in return for some light opposition. The advance was however swift and in the

process the American Consulate in Danang had become trapped in a pincer movement. This could have lead to an international incident of grave importance as far as prestige was concerned.

Here is how Frank Snett, a senior CIA operative describes the scene over MR1: (i.e. the Danang area) in the last days of March.

"I saw General Truong's army literally racing into the surf off Danang. They were throwing their arms away and swimming for safety. It was total utter panic. Thousands of soldiers were in the surf.....Within a matter of three or four days the North Vietnamese were able to slice the country in two just north of Nha Trang." Snett was later to accuse the US Ambassador of panicking and having no plan to evacuate the Vietnamese who had helped the Americans. During shameful scenes people were abandoned and a lasting image for many people is of helicopters landing on the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon.

Our exit plan had been made on the hoof. The move back to the Naval Base was the only course open with any chance of success of fleeing the country. The boats were there but so were the refugees and they had to be prevented from swamping boats chosen to put to sea. Hence the naval ratings firing into the darkness to allow the communists to identify the whereabouts of the Consul; hence the artillery fire to scatter the refugees, hence our dive for cover; hence our putting to sea immediately the shelling stopped. Not a very honourable exit by any standards.

I consider it a not unreasonable question to ask when the collusion between the North Vietnamese and the Americans began? Was it days, weeks or months before the final exit? Were the South Vietnamese party to the agreement? It seems highly unlikely. Was this the only face-saving way to end the war which the Americans could see no chance of winning? After all, no American troops were involved in this overwhelming defeat of the South by the North.

BLACK WATCH AVIATORS

By Captain I M Adams-Cairns

Editor's Note: Having edited twenty eight editions of the Red Hackle Magazine, I sometimes wonder where my next set of articles will come from and I am enormously grateful to people who volunteer new information. Iain Adams-Cairns who served in the Regiment was seconded to the AAC and retired from Regular Army Service in 1979 but flew with the AAC (Volunteers) until 2005. He has researched and written a new and interesting aspect of our Regimental history that has not previously been recorded.

This article was written before the news that Major James Arbuthnott had died.

I was already aware that there were a few members of the Regiment who, like me, had volunteered to become pilots in the Army Air Corps (e.g. James Arbuthnott, David Fortune, Iain Thomson and Nigel Laughton) but was idly wondering if there had been many others.

I thought naively that it would take only a few moments to find out from the Regimental network. This worked wonders up to a point but the Regiment did not have specific records and when I went beyond the Regiment, the dreaded 'data protection monkey' raised its ugly head.

In the course of another project at the time, I was researching the Royal Aero Club and happened upon some Black Watch individuals who obtained Royal Aero Club Certificates as early as 1912.

Most early military pilots were trained by members of the Royal Aero Club and many became members. By the end of the First World War, more than 6,300 military pilots had taken Royal Aero Club's Aviator's Certificates. The Royal Flying Corps (RFC), which was part of the Army, was only established by Royal Warrant on 13th April 1912 and ceased to exist when the RFC was amalgamated with the Royal Naval Air Service to become the Royal Air Force on 1st April 1918. With this backdrop, I decided I'd have to go right back to the early days of military aviation.

Luckily, the airhistory website (see below) has nearly 320,000 separate lines of data. I've done my best to distil the 320,000 down to the Black Watch individuals, including those listed as Royal Highlanders and Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, who became involved in early military aviation, even if not all of the Fife and Forfar Yeomanry units later became part of The Black Watch.



Lieutenant Iain Adams-Cairns during his flying training, learning to become one of those magnificent men in their flying machines.

Unlike the RAF and the Royal Navy, the Army has not restricted piloting to officers only and this is still the case today. Subject to the inevitable human error on my part and the acknowledged possibility of errors on the airhistory website, I've compiled an 'RFC and RAF' list which comprises the names of 318 all ranks from the wider Regiment, who served as aircrew and ground crew with aviation units in the early days of military aviation.

The list contains some interesting individuals. Private Edward Gilchrist, acting as an Air Gunner, was killed on a recce mission in July 1917. Cpl C Sturrock, also acting as an Air Gunner, was wounded on a recce in May 1917 and ended up as a PoW in Karlsruhe in Germany. Lieutenant Amyas Borton, CB, CMG, DSO, AFC was wounded in France in June 1915 and subsequently rose to become an Air Vice-Marshal in the RAF!

In a second list, I've detailed the seven Black Watch individuals who later served with The Glider Pilot Regiment.

These brave individuals acted as glider pilots and if they survived the landings, often at night, then acted as infantrymen with the units they had just landed (as an aviator myself, I consider the glider landings so close to Pegasus Bridge during the Normandy landings to rank with any of the greatest feats of airmanship).

One of these individuals, Sergeant Maurice ('Jock') Bramah, who was awarded the Croix de Guerre, initially survived the Normandy landings only to be caught in a subsequent ambush during which he was shot in the lung and ended up in a coma. The Germans left him for dead but he was sheltered by friendly French civilians before being reunited with British troops a month later. He also survived Operation Market Garden (the landings at Arnhem in September 1944) only to die in a climbing accident whilst on leave in Scotland.

The third list details the more recent Black Watch aviators which may be of more interest to current readers of the Red Hackle (ranks shown are as they started the pilot's course):

Capt James Arbuthnott
Lt David Fortune
Lt Iain Adams-Cairns
Lt Iain Thomson
Lt Nigel Laughton
Capt Russell Ross-Smith
Cpl John Stupart

Lt Andrew ('Tosh') Bushby

James Arbuthnott confessed to me recently that he only managed to be accepted for pilot training by using some typical Black Watch initiative. He failed his initial medical because he was deaf in one ear but re-applied. He managed to pass the subsequent medical using the simple expedient of switching the headphones round half way through the audiogram hearing test so that all of the 'beeps' he was supposed to be able to hear were directed to his good ear.

Members of 1BW who served in Hong Kong in the early 70s will recall that David Fortune, who sadly died in 2016, was working there as a civvy and spent many hours in the Officers' Mess when he wasn't flying Alouette helicopters for the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force.

Iain Thomson transferred to the Army Air Corps and using his BW infantry background, commanded an aviation battlegroup before being promoted to Brigadier and becoming Director of Army Aviation. He is currently an expat working in the security industry in Kenya.

Nigel Laughton's flying career was not helped by injuring his back badly in a heavy landing accident while still under instruction on the pilot's course. He soldiered on, including returning to 1BW for a while, until the pain and the necessity for major back surgery effectively curtailed his flying career.

Russell Ross-Smith was Gazelle Flight Commander under Iain Thomson at Wattisham in Suffolk. When he flew the then CO of 1BW, Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn on a recce when 1BW were at Queen Elizabeth Barracks in Pirbright, he received a parking ticket from RSM Keith for his pains!

John Stupart and Tosh Bushby still fly helicopters professionally. In John Stupart's case, he flies an air ambulance in Scotland and has met a few Black Watch veterans while out on jobs and a few have visited the base when he's been at Perth.

For my part, I still fly helicopters in a private capacity. When 1 BW were stationed at Ballykinler in Northern Ireland in 1977 and I was flying helicopters from an Army Air Corps base at Long Kesh, I flew a large number of the officers in the Battalion at various times. On one occasion I even flew four Black Watch officers together in a Gazelle helicopter, even if it was difficult to hear the radio because of all the banter over the intercom!

BLACK WATCH PERSONNEL WHO FLEW WITH THE ARMY AIR CORPS SINCE 1957

(sources: Museum of ARMY FLYING and Iain Adams-Cairns)

SURNAME	FORENAMES	RANK	D of B	SERVICE NO	SERVICE HISTORY
Arbuthnott	James Francis	Capt	27.04.1940	465722	Course 195 (03 July 1967-15 March 1968)
Fortune	David Victor	Lt	18.11.1946	479795	Course 204 (08 July 1968-21 March 1969. Died 27 June 2016)
Adams-Cairns	Iain Michael	Lt	30.08.1951	493522	Course 244 (18 August 1975-28 May 1976)
Thomson	Iain Robert	Lt	20.02.1958	504514	Course 280 (29 March 1982-03 February 1983)
Laughton	Nigel Ewan Felix	Lt	12.10.1965	523380	Course 327 (02 April 1990-07 December 1990)
Ross-Smith	Russell Alexander	Capt	07.11.1965	524776	Course 336 (10 June 1991-14 February 1992)
Stupart	John Daly	Cpl	04.10.1970		Course 374 (17 December 1996-20 March 1998) Left Army in 2015 and flies civilian helicopters
Bushby	Andrew Ross Pearson (Tosh)	Lt	17.07.1971	544294	Course APC 32 (17 November 1999-23 March 2001) Now flies A109s and twin Squirrels for Atlas Helicopters

Afternote: during the production of the lists I've mentioned, I obtained considerable help from The RAF Museum at Hendon; Dr Marjolijn Verbrugge MA, archivist at The Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop; The Royal Aero Club and an awesome amount of detail compiled by the remarkable Andrew Pentland on the website: www.airhistory.org.uk). To all of them, I'm extremely grateful. Any errors or omissions in the lists I've produced are mine alone.

The lists are contained in a single Word file now held by the Museum. If anyone wants a copy please contact Lt Col Roddy Riddell at vicechairman.bwassociation@btconnect.com or email me: iadamscairns@binternet.com. For those who want greater detail, I'd recommend www.airhistory.org.uk

If anyone finds errors or omissions in the lists, please inform me or Lt Col Roddy Riddell.

A GRAVE APART

By Lieutenant Colonel R M Riddell and Mr R Whitfield

Editor's Note: Major James Arbuthnott sent me an e mail from Dick Whitfield, a nephew of 2nd Lieutenant David Chalmers Burns who was killed on 30 September 2018 whilst serving with the 8th Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders).

David Burns was killed during what is described in the Wauchope history as "The Advance to Victory". The 8th Battalion, as part of the 9th Scottish Division, was East of Ypres and were to take part in an attack by the Second Army, in conjunction with the Belgian Army. Zero hour was planned for 5.30 am on 28 September and the initial objective was the Belleward Ridge.

David's diary recorded the following:

26th September 1918 – Preparation for stunt. Went to Holy Communion and Confession two days ago. I am ready for anything. "Give us strength, O Lord!"

28th September 1918 – "Over the top at 5.30 am. Show went like clockwork. Tons of Jerrys with wind up, many prisoners. Advance of 8- 10 Kilos"

29th September 1918 – Show continues. Roulers today's objective. RFA lying just behind in open fields"

David was killed the next day and letters from his Company Commander and Commanding Officer explained the circumstances;

"He was killed on September 30th near Slyps Wood, not far to the East of Slypskapelle, about eight miles east and slightly south of Ypres. He was hit by a bullet, probably from a machine gun (whilst) leading his men, and died within seconds without speaking. He was buried by a party of our own men under the direction of Rev Kennedy the Roman Catholic Chaplain attached to 7th Seaforths. Probably he will communicate with you. The grave was marked and map reference taken: the pioneers are making a cross to put over it. I was most deeply grieved to hear the news, and I think that I can imagine what it must mean to you. I have lost my best comrade and most promising Officer."

The Commanding Officer also wrote to his parents;

"I very much regret that up until now it has not been possible for me to write to you and tell you how deeply all Officers of the Battalion feel for you in the great loss you have sustained by the death in action of your boy Lt.D.C. Burns. Be really assured we do feel for you. We know how we miss his cheery presence and in some measure that helps us to understand the loss you have sustained.

Until he was killed by rifle or Machine Gun Fire he lead his platoon right gallantly - we were advancing through a wood and he had been hit in the leg. That wound he had just evidently bandaged up when he was hit in the head.

I do not think he suffered any pain from the last wound and his spirit of determined leadership overcame what he felt of the first. His work with the Battalion was of first rate order, and I can personally assure you his powers of command and leadership were reflected in his platoon which was one of the best, and while any of his lads are with it, your lad's memory will not be forgotten in the platoon.

They have done well since your boy fell and I know how much of their success rests on what he taught them and how he led them.

He is buried in a little clearing by the wood where he fell.

Assuring you again of our sympathy I am, Yours truly. W French (Lt Col)"

After the war, David's body was not moved to a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, but reburied close to the Catholic church in Slypskapelle, which is a small village within the commune of the nearby Moorslede. His parents, David and Clara Burns, wanted him to remain there; they visited Slypskapelle and paid for a headstone in the form of a Celtic cross to be sculpted and raised. This is the monument that remains today, and which has been adopted as the village war memorial.

The inscription on the horizontal stone slab reads in Flemish:

'Pray for the soul of D.C.Burns 2nd Lt. Royal Highland Regiment "The Black Watch" Killed in action near this place 30th Sept. 1918 during the advance of the victorious armies restoring liberty to Belgium'

But the inscription in English on the vertical base of the Celtic cross gives an unusual fact:

'.....Born at Valparaiso Chile the 12th October 1898.....' This birthplace, and his early childhood in a large and lively Spanish speaking family was due to his father David, originally from Brechin, working for the Banco de Chile in Valparaiso. His mother, Clara, nee Swinburne, was of Basque origin. After the devastating Chilean earthquake of 1906, the family moved to London. After schooling and Sandhurst, in December 1917 he was gazetted to The Black Watch, largely recruited in his father's county, Angus. David left for the front in July 1918, aged 19, then to join the 8th Battalion. His last letter reads 'In the thick of it, but I feel quite fit and confident. Everything going splendidly. Heaps of love to all'.

The CWGC website records his burial place as "Slypskapelle Plot of Honour". On 30 September this year, the centenary of David's death, a day of commemoration was held by the local commune and the Moorslede Historical Association, and the family were invited. 30 members of the family, with ages ranging from 5 to 87, travelled out for the day, which comprised a reception in the Town Hall, a magnificent lunch, and a guided walk following the line of the battle, with stops for refreshment, music and camaraderie, to the spot near Slyps Wood where David fell. The wood is now restored to pasture, but an oak was planted soon after the Armistice and, as a magnificent 100 year old tree, now marks the spot. Many local people together with a visiting French choir joined the walk, which culminated in a service of commemoration at the Plot of Honour, attended by a local piper, and was followed by further refreshment provided by the Historical Association in a nearby hostelry. They had also brewed a special commemorative beer for the day, with delightful personalized labels showing the picture of David Burns outside the tent. A great beer but at 8% was not to be trifled with! It was a truly memorable occasion.



2nd Lieutenant David Burns (8th Black Watch) pictured outside a tent.



A Belgian piper plays during the day of commemoration on 30 September 2018.

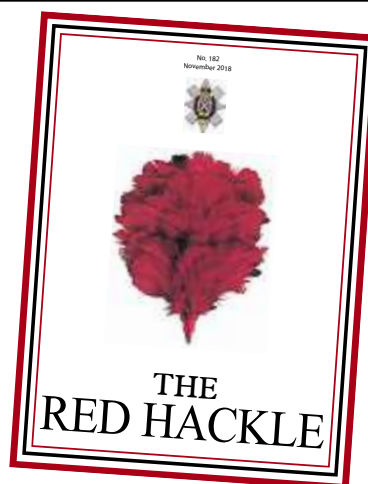


The grave of 2nd Lieutenant David Chalmers Burns in the Slypskapelle Plot of Honour.



The beer brewed in remembrance of 2nd Lieutenant DC Burns was a great beer but at 8% was not to be trifled with.

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



COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

It seems almost unbelievable that six months have already elapsed since the last edition of the Red Hackle! As ever, the battalion has been at full throttle, both abroad and at home, and has enjoyed much success along the way.

In late July our latest tour to Iraq, where we had been protecting a 4000 man coalition airbase and training the Iraqi Border Guard Force, concluded. As ever, the Jocks, NCOs and officers performed superbly, enhancing not only the reputation of Scottish soldiers but also of the British Army. In total over 1200 members of the Iraqi Border Guard Force were trained and the Security Force, found by the A (Grenadier) Company Group, kept a strategic airbase safe for six months without incident. Not long after I wrote the foreword for the May edition of the Red Hackle the battalion was also tasked with packing up all UK equipment in Al Asad Airbase and returning it to the UK. Led by the indomitable Quartermaster (Technical), Iain Houston, and the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Technical), WO2 Carlisle, this was successfully achieved with only a small number of vehicles and pallets left behind for a Logistic Enabler Surge Team to redeploy on Defence's behalf. The battalion left Iraq with plaudits from across the coalition and a sense of real achievement for we have contributed towards the defeat of Da'esh and helped Iraq retake control of its sovereign territory. Pleasingly there are many reasons to be cautiously optimistic for the future of Iraq. Despite the success of the nationalist party in the Iraqi elections, power will inevitably be shared between a triumvirate of power bases, much as it has been over the last five years. The country is tired of conflict and remains united in their conviction to ensure Iraq never allows an organisation such as Da'esh to re-emerge. While that political and military determination prevails the long term prognosis for Iraq remains positive.

Regrouping the battalion under one roof after ten months of it being split between the UK and Iraq has been a relief. We formally closed the Operation SHADER chapter only a few days ago with a medals parade in Fort George, at which our Royal Colonel took the salute and presented many with their operational service medals. Joined by our outgoing Deputy Colonel, Brigadier Alistair Aitken and his successor, Brigadier Robin Lindsay, it was a fitting end to the Iraq chapter and a proud occasion for the battalion and its families.

As part of our regrouping process the battalion has also undertaken a four day tour of our traditional recruiting areas, conducting marches in Forfar, Dunfermline and Perth as well as a parade through the centre of Inverness. All the parades were marvellous, reconnecting with our communities and providing us with an opportunity to showcase some of the excellent equipment at our disposal today. Concurrently, we have sent soldiers far and wide playing sport, conducting adventure training and studying former conflicts. The Training Officer led fifteen soldiers cycling the North Coast 500 route in five days, Lt Tom Thorpe walked the length of the GR20 route in Corsica with twenty five others and Capt Liam Herbert took twenty five soldiers around Belgium and France following the footsteps of 5BW and studying Panzer Grenadier tactics of the Second World War. Perhaps the most arduous of all has been the golf trip to Spain where the battalion's golf team managed to squeeze in five rounds of golf in seven days – exhausting stuff!

And so to the future. Next year we will start preparing in earnest to be the UK's contribution to NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force and with that in mind we have recently turned our attention to honing our conventional warfighting skills. Specialist and Support Weapon cadres have commenced and the Rifle Companies are starting to dust off their light mechanised skills and get back into the swing of light role soldiering. After so long focused on the Middle East and counter insurgency operations it is a welcome change. As a result, 2019 is action packed. A (Grenadier) Company and B Company will head off to train and act as enemy for 2 YORKS in early 2019 and the Battalion HQ will depart to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to perfect its planning ability. Virtual training in Germany, field firing exercises and a period as the United Kingdom Standby Battalion then follow before the battalion is put through its certification exercise on Salisbury Plain in late summer, the final act before the UK declares us

ready to be launched wherever NATO dictates! The year will be both challenging and fulfilling in equal measure.

So, the battalion are well. We have shown again that our ability to perform on operations to the highest of standards remains. Furthermore, there is an array of young talent in the battalion that is inspiring and bodes extremely well for the battalion's future. I remain exceptionally proud to serve alongside such men and women.



Maj R Colquhoun leads the guard and the Colour Party through Dunfermline on Saturday the 15th of September.



Snipers leading the homecoming parade through Dunfermline.

THE OFFICERS' MESS

President of The Mess Committee:
Mess Secretary:

Major Rob Colquhoun
Captain James Farrall

The last six months have seen the Mess spread to the four winds, or more specifically two winds. With the majority of the Mess deployed to Iraq, the remainder under the outgoing PMC Major Curson have held the Fort!

This has been a fairly quiet social period but the Mess came back together for a post tour party. The spectacular Fort George did not fail to provide the setting, with the gates of the Sally Port thrown open, a BBQ concocted by the culinary experts of the Catering Platoon was the perfect tonic to bring the Mess back together. There was no rest for the Committee as it was all hands to the pump to put on the Summer (Autumn) Ball. The Commanding Officer was keen to utilise more of the Fort and again showcase what it has to offer. The Committee accepted the challenge and began what can only be described as a 60 minute make over, that lasted a solid week. Numerous trips to Homebase and B&Q, crash courses on carpentry and table setting culminated in a fantastic party where the Mess and their guests dined under the archways of the Mess, and danced in a smaller marquee

attached to the side. Pre dinner drinks were held in the grounds surrounding the Grand Magazine, a mini band from the Pipes and Drums played a set and a band also threw together a fun disco and some reeling for good measure – all ensured we had a fantastic evening.

As we move into the winter months we are sure Mess life will continue at a pace. We are looking forward to a Ladies' Dinner Night, a Fathers' St Andrews Dinner Night and hopefully some good showing at the Black Watch Association Gathering Dinner in October and the Ball later in December.

There has been a turnover in the Mess as is always the case. We thank Maj Lee Curson for his time as OC B Coy, and PMC. We say farewell and thank you to Major Lee Curson, Captains Doughty, Voce Russell, Treasure, Donovan and Young who leave us on postings and promotion. We also say farewell to Major Gary Wallace, our stalwart of a Quartermaster who is posted to 2SCOTS at Glencorse and Major Jim Reid who is off to Glasgow to manage our careers!! Major Rob Smith heads south of the border with his family and we wish them well. Our final goodbye is to our Padre, Major Stewart MacKay who leaves us and the Army after a long and full career.

As some depart, others arrive. We welcome Messrs Atkinson-Clark, Roberti and Haigh who all take up posts as Platoon Commanders. Captain Andy Muirhead takes over as our engineer, keeping our complex fleet of vehicles on the road; his wife Becky has joined him on the Patch. Major Stu Cochrane takes over as Quartermaster. Major Dave Robertson joins us as he takes over Charlie (Fire Support) Company, reducing his commute considerably from Andover as he can now almost see Ingrid in their home in Fortrose from his office. We welcome and congratulate Captain Kev Stacey on his commission and look forward to all the experience he will bring to the role of Training Officer. Major Finlay Anderson joins us with Lauren, as he takes over Delta (Light) Company. We also welcome back to the Battalion two of the Colquhoun brothers, Nick as the Battalion Second-in-Command and Rob as OC Bravo Company, with their wives Rachel and Shuna in tow. Our final welcome is to William (born in June), son of Captain Will Kelly and his wife Moira – Congratulations!



The Royal Colonel meets from (left to right) LCpl Hall, Pte Norris, Pte Mohammed, Pte Spring.



The Royal Colonel shares a joke with one of the soldiers on parade.



Captain Coles and Mr Fortune representing the Battalion and Regiment at the Highland and Lowland Brigades Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition.



The Royal Colonel accompanied by Major Nick Colquhoun walks to the medals parade. In the background are Brigadier Robin Lindsay (right) and Brigadier General Bizeul, Deputy Commander 1st (UK) Division.



The Operational Service Medal, Iraq and Syria.



The Royal Colonel presents the Operational Service Medal, Iraq and Syria to soldiers on parade.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Presiding Member: Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) KJS Stacey
Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) KJ Pedder
(June 2018- Present)

President of the Mess Committee: Warrant Officer Class 2 (CSM) McCready
Warrant Officer Class 2 (CSM) Ferrier
(July 2018- Present)

This has been a period of transition for the Mess with many members including the RSM still deployed on OP SHADER 6. This has meant the social life in the Mess has taken a back seat.

Whilst deployed the RSM, WO2's Ferrier and Wilson attended a fortnightly AL ASAD AIR BASE Senior Warrant Officers working group/breakfast to discuss the issues within the base and put the world to rights with fellow coalition Warrant Officers from the USMC, US Army, Denmark, France and Norway; not to let the language or cultural barriers get in the way the RSM was keen to share his humour and STRAVA (a fitness app) exploits with our coalition friends, often leading to confused looks or a physical challenge of some sort!!

Congratulations must go to WO2 Nichol on promotion where he will assume the role of the Families Warrant Officer. CSgts Passifull, Runciman and Smith have also been promoted and we welcome Sgts Catto, Connor, Rabona, Gordon, Beattie and Lowe into the Mess.

We have seen many key and popular Mess stalwarts depart for pasture new or make the transition to civilian life, our own WO2 Dave Taylor has made the jump and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours. Sgt Andy Ritchie has departed to shape future Jocks at ITC along with WO2 Danny Buist. WO2 (RQMS) Hannah moves on promotion to WO1 (RSM) of Dundee UOTC along with CSgt Blake who will join him as his golf partner. WO2 John Harding departed for 2 Royal Irish and Sgt Ellis joined the Specialist Infantry Battalion (SPIB) at 1 SCOTS.

On behalf of the Mess I would like to extend a warm welcome to WO1 RSM KJ Pedder, WO2 (RQMS) Aldo Duncan who has arrived as RQMS (M), along with WO2 Dougie Dempster as the Mortar 2IC, WO2 (RAWO) Al O'Neil and the new SSA SSgt John Thompson.

CSgt Arnold has returned from ITC and will take over as CQMS in D Company.

Congratulations go to Sgt Morrison and Becca on the birth of their son Bear, CSgt Smith and Pamela on the birth of their son Arthur Jackson and to WO2 Danny Buist and SSgt Leanne Buist on the birth of Torrun.

The Mess dined out WO1 (RSM) KJS Stacey on his promotion to Captain. Also, dined out on completion of 24 years' service was WO2 Davie Taylor.

We wish them both success as they depart knowing they are welcome to return at any time.

WO1 KJ Pedder was dined into the Mess on the 22nd of September, Mess members were joined for the evening by their wives and partners as we welcomed the new RSM and Joanne his wife. Special praise must be afforded to WO2 Jupp and Sgt Powell for the excellent food provided at both functions.

The Mess will now reconvene as a group and in a social sense, we look forward to the forthcoming KAPE tour in traditional Regimental Recruiting areas and hope to see many former Mess members lining the streets and the new Mess Committee being nominated.



WO2s Taylor and Currie with the former WO1 (RSM) now Capt Stacey.

ALPHA (GRENADIER) COMPANY – SECURITY FORCE (SECFOR) to Al Asad Air Base (Op SHADER 6)

Officer Commanding:	Major OGW Beard
Second-in-Command:	Captain JA Young/Lt M B Gray
Executive Officer (XO):	Captain COT Ritchie (Royal Dragoon Guards)
Company Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 2 Wilson
Company Quartermaster Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant McMaster
OC 1 Platoon:	Lieutenant MB Gray
Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Gray
OC 2 Platoon:	Lieutenant T Fortune
Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant McFadden
OC 3 Platoon:	Lieutenant T Thorpe
Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Wells

The second half of the Company's deployment to Iraq, as part of Op SHADER 6, certainly maintained the pace of the first.

Captain Young moved from Company Second-in-Command to Battalion HQ, covering for Captain Farrall in the Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Office, due to Captain Farrall returning home on compassionate grounds. In turn, Lt Gray, having recently returned from an education course in Cyprus, moved into the SECFOR Second-in-Command position. With the arrival of both Captain Ritchie and Sergeant O'Gorman in Theatre, Lt Fortune and LCpl Mackie could hand over their responsibilities as XO and Tech Sergeant respectively. Poor Captain Ritchie, expecting a warm, sunny and quiet deployment very quickly realised that he was the most desired man in SECFOR (being the one whose job it was to make things happen) and soon found himself rushed off his feet.

Captain Young continued to attend the weekly Key Leader engagements, now in the company of Lt Thorpe and continued to enjoy the food they were served there. Lt Fortune, now finding himself with a greater amount of free time, threw himself into the gym; this culminated in his successfully competing in the 1000 lbs challenge alongside Cpl Salter towards the end of the tour. Lt Gray guided his team in securing and retrieving a crashed drone from the surrounding desert, despite his suggestion to "just use the gunships to blow the thing up".

The Jocks continued to fulfil their SECFOR duties to a high standard, including the usual patrols, sentry duty and checkpoint duties. Their spare time was filled with training in the gym, FIFA tournaments, games of Risk (no one seems to know if Pte Wagner ever actually left the Kufen coffee shop or not), or, in the case of Ptes Newbury and Robertson, informing the Danes and Americans within SECFOR why Scotland is the greatest country in the world. Pte Wilson kept himself preoccupied trying to hunt down and capture any snakes within the base and the CQ's very own "Chuckle Brothers", Ptes Allan and McPhee, kept everyone laughing with their jokes and antics. The World Cup tournament provided plenty of down time distraction for the members of the Company and most nights the Jocks could be heard, in the TV room, baying for England's defeat.



Operation SHADER Coalition Warrant Officers.



The Battalion Security Force in front of a C-130 Spectre Gunship.

As the tour began to wind down, SECFOR began to say goodbye to various members and teams as they returned home or moved onto other tasks. The USMC Ground Sensor team were the first to depart, after months of exceptional work and support to ground patrols. A few months later, the US 2nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Bravo Company (22B) element returned home and shortly afterwards the Danish teams moved to the BPC offices to continue training the Iraqi Army. Subsequently, the US 3rd Cavalry Regiment (3CR) moved in to replace 22B and began their Reception, Staging, Onwards Integration (RSOI) training within SECFOR. As the last month of 3 SCOTS' deployment wound down to a close and the first troops began to return home, 3CR took up more of the SECFOR duties until the handover/takeover was complete. Happy they were leaving Al Asad Airbase in good hands, we began our long journey home, to some well deserved Post Tour Leave and Adventurous Training.

Since returning to Fort George, we have said goodbye to Captain Young and WO2 Wilson; Captain Young has moved to Stirling as SO3 Recruiting and Outreach, whilst WO2 Wilson is now the Ops Warrant Officer in Battalion HQ. A Company is currently enjoying a period of adventurous and low level training, with a view to taking up the UK Standby Battalion role in the New Year and providing support to Exercise WESSEX STORM.

BRAVO COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major L Curson (to June 2018)
Officer Commanding:	Major R Colquhoun from June
Second-in-Command:	Lieutenant T Thorpe
Company Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 2 R Hunter
Company Quartermaster Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant B Smith
Technical Sergeant:	Sergeant B Thomson
5 Platoon Commander:	Second Lieutenant F Haigh
5 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant G Simpson
6 Platoon Commander:	Lieutenant K Nicol
6 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant S Connor
7 Platoon Commander:	Lieutenant J-M Roberti
7 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant R Miller

Bravo Company has reformed after a period in abeyance with roughly half of the Jocks deploying with Alpha Company to support the Battalion's Op SHADER task in Iraq and the remainder grouped into a 'UK Commitments Company' within the Rear Operations Group. While the activities of those deployed on Op SHADER have been detailed elsewhere in this magazine, it is worth hearing from some of those who were left behind, for whom there is often little glory and even less praise.

During the Battalion's deployment, there were several Bravo Company personnel unfortunate enough not to deploy. This didn't hamper their spirits and they used the time wisely to crack some important qualifications. New Jocks fresh from the Infantry Training Centre (Catterick) were loaded straight onto Team Medic and Basic Radio User Cadres to make them valuable assets to their new platoons. There was also a focus on driving qualifications, increasing the Light Mechanized capability of the battalion with some Jocks able to advance from learning to drive to becoming a qualified Foxhound driver in the space of six months.

UK Commitments and trawls to support training and Defence Engagement activity overseas came in thick and fast and some of the Bravo Company personnel, under 2nd Lieutenant Nicol and Sergeant Simpson managed to deploy with 1 Royal Anglian on Ex PILGRIMS PROGRESS. They were used as a 'Hunter Force' for the UK Special Forces Selection SERE (Survive, Evade, Resist, and Extract) Training Phase. This was a chance to brush up on basic soldiering and fieldcraft skills, living in a harsher climate high up in the Galloway Hills, while trying to make life more difficult for Special Forces hopefuls trying to pass

by unseen. For newly arrived Private Murdoch this was a baptism by fire as he was attached to an ISTAR Section from the Royal Anglians who were immediately deployed into Observation Posts over 500m above sea level. Elsewhere, 2nd Lieutenant Nichol was determined to outdo the Royal Anglians and down to the Jocks' ferocious attitudes we managed to catch five more students than any other platoon (although not without a few blackeyes miraculously appearing on both tenacious Jocks and frustrated students). Their performance gained the personal praise from the Royal Anglian OC and a couple of crates of beer for the Jocks.

In June, 5 Platoon supported Royal Duties at Edinburgh Castle which gave the chance for the Jocks to look good for tourists in their No 1 Dress. Privates Sarwar, Ramsay and Keith jumped at the chance to work with the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and loved their month in Edinburgh, while Privates Coull and Smillie volunteered to support Balaklava Company for the Royal Guard at Balmoral, where they remain. Although the guard room continued to be manned and there were other tasks that consumed manpower on a routine basis, there was also a chance for some to undertake Adventure Training. Private Murdoch, motivated by his experiences in the hills of Galloway, managed to gain qualifications in rock climbing and Private Lindsay 50 is now a qualified mountain leader able to take other groups up into the clouds where dreams are made...

So, while the majority of the Battalion was deployed on operations, those left behind didn't wallow and moan. The well motivated and hardworking attitudes of our new Jocks, coupled with the valuable operational experience gained by those who deployed, will carry on into the newly formed teams. Together, they will make Bravo Company a force to be reckoned with once again.

Looking ahead, the focus will shift from individual courses to low level team cohesion, before our driver training begins in earnest. Beyond that we will take the Company to Barry Buddon for two weeks battlecraft in November including live firing to prepare for our dual role on standby for UK commitments and providing OPFOR (enemy) for the 2 YORKS Battlegroup on Ex WESSEX STORM 1 in January-March 2019. Further out there is plenty more soldiering to be done before the Company returns to Ex WESSEX STORM 4 as part of the 3 SCOTS Battlegroup in August-September where we will be validated for our role as a Strike Company in the multinational Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF - part of the NATO Response Force) in 2020. Bringing our sights back to the individual again, congratulations go to Sgt Sam Connor and Cpl Jamie McMillan on their selection for promotion to Platoon Sergeant, Pte Kilgour on the birth of his child and we wish the very best of luck to Sgt Glen Simpson for his RMAS instructor selection cadre early next year.



Corporal Cruickshanks providing sound advice.



Sgt Connor taking the Company back to basics.



The equivalent of a unicorn in the modern day Army - a ten man section.



WO2 (CSM) Hunter trying to hide from the guards and duties list.

CHARLIE (FIRE SUPPORT) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major D M Robertson
Company Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 2 J Coupar
Company Quartermaster Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant J McCarthy
Training Sergeant:	Sergeant R Sharman

Since the last edition, the Savages have not been operating as a fully functioning Support Company, we have been split between deployments on Op SHADER and continuing to deliver the Battle Casualty Replacement Company of the Rear Operations Group in Fort George. On return to the UK, those deployed soldiers enjoyed some well deserved post operational leave before taking part in the homecoming marches and medal parade. In August, the Company reformed under the command of Maj David Robertson, arriving from the Capability Directorate in Army HQ. This has meant bidding a fond farewell to Maj Hugh Wilson, who has moved south of the Border to take over as QM 1 Royal Irish. WO2 Danny Buist also moved on during this period and WO2 James Coupar has now taken over in the CSM's hot seat, fresh from instructional duties at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

With Op SHADER firmly in the rear view mirror and benefitting from an inflow of soldiers to swell the ranks within the new battalion structure, the Company has set about re-establishing its support weapons competencies with great enthusiasm. This is being achieved through a series of platoon-specific cadres, with an emphasis on live firing, and will culminate in a dry training exercise on Warcop training area in November, to complete the new Battle Craft Syllabus. However, this didn't stop members of the Company deploying on various adventure training courses, attending the battalion's battlefield study in Belgium and France and competing in the battalion's Maxwell Shield sports competition throughout September. As we head towards the close of the year C Company has bonded and focussed on its basic soldiering pedigree, ready to face the considerable challenges 2019 is set to bring.

MACHINE GUN PLATOON

Officer Commanding:	Captain L Herbert
Second-in-Command:	Colour Sergeant B Bavadra
Machine Gun Sergeant:	Sergeant J Fay

The platoon has now reformed after many months apart. Amongst the new faces are Platoon Commander Capt Liam Herbert and Platoon Second-in-Command CSgt Bob Bavadra, returning from his CQMS posting in Catterick. In September, following leave and homecoming activities, attention turned to final planning and preparation for the Machine Gun Cadre: an eight-week period where the platoon will conduct live firing and tactical exercises across the UK.

The Machine Gun Cadre commenced at the start of October on Fort George ranges and the surrounding area and will finish in Warcop with a final exercise set to integrate the support weapons platoons in challenging training that will put the machine gunners, new and old, through their paces. The cadre is an arduous but progressive period where the Jocks, under the instruction of the platoon's experienced NCOs, are being taught in detail the skills and drills required to provide the rapid and accurate direct fire support needed to support the Strike Companies in Battlegroup operations.

MORTAR PLATOON

Officer Commanding:	Lieutenant D MacLeod
Second-in-Command:	Warrant Officer Class 2 D Dempster
Mortar Sergeants:	Sergeant B Kyle
	Sergeant G Watson
	Sergeant J Steele

The Platoon bid farewell to Captain Nick Coles, who has moved onto the top corridor to become the Operations Officer and to WO2 John Harding, who has returned to the Royal Irish to become the Training Warrant Officer of their Second Battalion. The Platoon welcomed our new Platoon Commander Lt Dan MacLeod, arriving from Balaklava Company and upon successful completion of the Mortar Platoon Commanders' course earlier in the year. The Platoon also welcomed our new Second-in-Command WO2 Dougie Dempster, who arrived in June from 1 SCOTS. The Platoon also benefitted from a significant manpower boost after the battalion's re-orbat.

In September attention turned back to mortaring, as members of the Platoon deployed on Exercise HIGHLAND RAMPANT LION, integrating with our Reserve counterparts from 7 SCOTS, where we enjoyed a

good week of mortar live firing. The platoon then started the Battalion Mortar Cadre at the start of October at Fort George and the surrounding area. During this period the platoon completed an arduous Mortar Numbers Cadre, where they were taught in depth, the core skills and drills required to use the 81mm Mortar System. Concurrently, the platoon conducted the Mortar Executive Cadre, where selected JNCOs were given vital pre-course training in all aspects of mortaring before going on the Mortar Standard and Advanced courses in the New Year. The platoon is currently in Warcop for the Live Firing and final part of the Mortar Cadre.



3 and 7 SCOTS Mortar Platoon after their live firing camp.



Ptes Toni and Scobbie putting one down the tube.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON AND PIPES AND DRUMS

Platoon Commander/Pipe Major: Colour Sergeant A Tripney

Platoon Second-in-Command/

Drum Major: Sergeant C Lowe

It has been a typically busy period again for the Pipes and Drums, split between deployment to Al Asad Airbase on Op SHADER and back in the UK with the ROG. We have said farewell to CSgt 'Cami' Campbell after 13 years in the platoon, moving to his new role as CQMS of HQ Company and handing over to newly promoted Drum Major Lowe. The band welcomes Pte Saul Bruce - who has seen the light and joined from 7 SCOTS - and Pte Scott 'Sid' Moir, both Drummers, in addition to the arrivals of Ptes McCormick and Sherriffs, currently attending their Class 3 Piping course. Congratulations also go out to Pete and Steph Muir on the birth of their son Lucas (and to James for becoming an uncle).

For many of the younger Jocks, such as Ptes Norris, Wainwright and Bruce, SHADER was their first operational tour and they were tasked with many different roles whilst in Theatre: "We took day to day shifts in the sangers along with the Coalition Forces to maintain the rotations of the sentry. We then undertook the role of QRF, providing quick reaction to casualties, threats etc. We also had the duty of sentry on

the west/main gate, searching personnel and vehicles coming into the base, whilst west tower controlled the barriers. The tour was a good eye opener, especially for the newer members to the battalion but mostly brought us closer together as a unit." (Pte Norris). The latter stages of the tour also included the vital closedown of the base: "I was deployed for the last quarter of the tour to work with the QM'S Department; my role was to pack up and close our part of the camp as we were the last British unit to be deployed to Al Asad." (Pte Bruce). The scale of the operation was a genuine eye-opener to most, highlighting the complexities of operational logistics at reach.

Back on home soil, the remainder of the Platoon shelved their instruments and went back to basics to master their basic Infantry skills and qualify in their operational role as Assault Pioneers. LCpl Hall, along with Ptes McCaskill and McInally, travelled to Gibraltar Barracks to complete the Basic Assault Pioneer course, whilst LCpls Noble and Hall passed the Assault Pioneer Section Commander's course. North of the Border, Pte's Bruce, McCaskill and Moir 26 attended the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming with Pte Bruce passing his Class 2 Intermediate Drumming Course, Pte Moir 26 passing out as a Class 3 Drummer and Pte 'Lexi' McCaskill finishing as top student on his Class 2 piping course - not a bad result, passing off in front of his new OC! External musical engagements continued to flow throughout the year, with one gig providing a reminder never to become complacent: live on national TV and Radio the Pipes and Drums performed at the BBC's 'Biggest Weekend' festival at Scone Palace alongside artists like Emily Sande, Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds and Julie Fowlis (albeit on different nights).

Upon reforming the platoon in August, completion of the homecoming marches and medal parade, the Pipes and Drums has again switched to a focus on 'green' soldiering along with the rest of Charlie Company, embarking upon a challenging Assault Pioneer Cadre split between Weymouth, Barry Buddon and Warcop. Heading into 2019, we intend to rebuild our musical capability with a view to raising the band's external profile once more, in amongst the substantial training commitments. The demands placed upon the band remain considerable and it continues to rely on the goodwill of the rest of the battalion to help sustain its manpower.



Maj Dave Robertson with Pte McCaskill and Pte Moir upon completion of Class 2 Piper and Class 3 Drummer courses respectively.



Pte McCaskill receiving top student (piper) prize at the Army School of Bagpipe Music at Highland Drumming.

DELTA (ISR) COMPANY - BUILDING PARTNER CAPACITY (BPC)

Officer Commanding: Major R Smith until June 2018
Major Finlay Anderson
Company Sergeant Major: Warrant Officer Class 2 Ferrier

Company HQ deployed on Op SHADER 6 as part of the BPC Company. Working closely with Danish Forces in the command element, the triumvirate of Maj Smith, Capt Doughty and WO2 Ferrier worked hard to ensure there was no friction between elements and the training audience.

We thank Maj Smith and Capt Doughty for their hard work on behalf of Delta Company and we welcome Maj Finlay Anderson as the new Company Commander.

SNIPER PLATOON

Officer Commanding: Colour Sergeant Roadnight
Second-in-Command: Sergeant Smith

The Sniper Platoon has successfully concluded their part in the training team mission on Op SHADER 6, training the Iraqi Border Force. Inevitably the Short Term Training Team (STTT) task has a habit of presenting challenges that you aren't expecting (usually due to the host nation) and relies on the resourcefulness and determination of each member of the team to help overcome. I felt very fortunate to have such a highly capable and motivated training team. The instructors provided the Iraqi Defence Force with excellent training in CIED, basic battlefield casualty drills, basic Infantry tactics (tailored to the Border Force role) and marksmanship. The patience and professionalism of all those involved in the delivery of this training was humbling to see. It is worth mentioning that Cpl Stewart built such a good rapport with the training audience that they wanted to keep him and even gave him an Iraqi name.

On return from deployment and after some well deserved leave the Sniper platoon has had an uplift of manning. Unfortunately, we have also had to say farewell to Cpl Cruickshank and LCpl Rakovac, who have moved on to the next chapter in their careers. We wish them the best of luck.

While the uplift was taking place some members of the platoon had an opportunity to take part in some AT and have completed two weeks of open canoeing, taking in some of the stunning scenery that is on our doorstep, gaining a qualification and planning a three day expedition.

Meanwhile those back in camp have been working on the planning and execution of a Sniper Cadre to qualify those that are new to the platoon. It will challenge the newer members over the ten week course and will be a good chance for the existing members of the platoon to refocus on sniping and get back to its core function.

RECCE PLATOON

Officer Commanding: Captain W Kelly
Second-in-Command: Colour Sergeant Blake

The Reconnaissance Platoon has taken a break from field soldiering to deploy as part of a multinational BPC (Building Partnership Capability) Company on Op SHADER 6 in Iraq. A task that required the boys to teach, mentor and develop Iraqi forces. The training was 'designed' to train the forces up to Complex Urban Company live fire by night. It was a very different level of training delivered.

The Platoon was split amongst the Company Training Teams, with instructors used to support the Sniper and Anti-Tank teams. The courses consisted of early starts and training throughout the morning, leaving an afternoon to prepare lessons and get fit in the gym.

The tour was cut short for several reasons, all of which were decisions being made from Command elements in Baghdad. This has allowed us to return and enjoy an extended leave period this Summer.

A re-ORBAT post leave means that the Platoon is in a transitional phase. We salute CSgt Duncan Blake (2IC) and Sgt Andy Ritchie (Pl Sgt) as they have been posted for a comfortable two years working with Tayforth UOTC and ITC Catterick respectively. Also, Cpl Sam Connor has been promoted and moved into B Company as a Platoon Sergeant. Sgt Bellshaw will become Recce 2IC, Sgt White takes over as the senior Platoon Sergeant and Sgt Stewart steps up as junior Platoon Sergeant.

Finally, we will complete a Recce Cadre in Otterburn for six weeks, including a week's Urban training in Whinney Hill. Fingers crossed for rain.

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

Officer Commanding: Captain A Atterbury
Second-in-Command: Colour Sergeant Passiful

Summer 2018 has been an interesting one for the Anti-Tank Platoon. The Platoon has been split, with a majority involved in training the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) as part of Op SHADER 6, while a significant minority remained in the UK with the Rear Operations Group (ROG). With summer leave thrown in it was Autumn before we got back together as a platoon and were able to focus on the Cadre run in October.

May saw those deployed on Op SHADER 6 completing the last of the ISF training courses. We had taken this course through the full 8-week progression and had seen them develop into better all-round soldiers. The course had also allowed lots of time to develop the more junior soldiers, offering excellent opportunities to instruct in a different environment. It was great to see those like LCpls Wallace and Brown who seized the opportunity and delivered some excellent training.

Concurrently there was work to be done in the UK, with soldiers from the Platoon fulfilling a host of tasks in the UK, from supporting UK Ops through to providing the OPFOR for Special Forces training exercises.

July and August offered a period of respite, with nearly everyone (bar a few still with A Coy in Iraq) home and taking some well-earned leave, before hitting the ground running in September. The CO's focus for the month was 'fun' and there was plenty of opportunities, with Jocks doing AT, Sport, KAPE tours and finally the Medals Parade. A great month to get the new Jocks we gained bedded in ahead of a tough cadre in October.

The cadre centred around Otterburn – a fantastic area to get back to the basics of Anti-Tanking in some truly austere and challenging conditions. The Jocks performed excellently, keeping morale high, even when there always seemed to be one more hill to climb. With some platoon events thrown in and a trip to Edinburgh there was also fun to be had, and the platoon emerged stronger and fitter than before.

Looking forward the focus firmly switches to individual training, with driving the priority, alongside well earned promotion courses for some.



An Iraqi Border Guard, happy with the coaching he received from his instructors.



Cpl Jamieson teaching primary survey medical techniques.



Delta Company teaching Iraqi Security Forces on how to conduct Vehicle Check Point procedures.



Soldiers from the Battalion undertook open top canoeing on their return from Iraq.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Officer Commanding: Major B Cooper
 Company Sergeant Major: Warrant Officer Class 2 B Young
 Company Quartermaster Sergeant: Corporal J Taroga

Headquarter Company has been through a period of change over the past few months having worked its way through several Company Quartermaster Sergeant's. As always when the Battalion deploys, HQ Company becomes a lot busier with assets split between forward and rear and the departments pick up the extra tasks.

CSgt Young returned from RMAS to take on CQMS all be it for a short period before taking over from WO2 (CSM) Weir who moves onto Tayforth UOTC. CSgt Cooper has moved from the hectic job of CQMS and takes on the job of Unit Welfare SNCO.

The Company seem to have an ongoing relationship at Skibo Estate and some Jocks enjoyed another day out at the pheasant beating. Whether it is the food or the fresh air that keeps the Jocks going back no one will know but a day walking the hills is one way to get some miles on the legs. The OC is adamant that it is a sheer coincidence that his hobby is shooting.



WO2 Bryan Young, LCpl Buie and Cpl Purce enjoying the garden party.

QUARTERMASTERS DEPARTMENT

From the snowy and windswept UK, to the dry, dusty but equally windswept An Anbar Province of central Iraq and back again, the Quartermasters Department has been busy supporting and sustaining the Battalion on Op SHADER and its subsequent return to the UK. As they say "G4, there's always more" and so it continues to prove.

Recovery, re-organisation and re-balancing has been the Department's main output over the last few months, co-ordinating the withdrawal of all operational equipment and platforms from the UK element in Al Assad Airbase in Iraq, whilst ensuring that the Battalion freight and weapons returned to the UK in time to be prepared for the myriad of upcoming tasks. Following the re-organisation to a more Light Mechanised Infantry conventional shape, the QM's team have been central in supporting the homecoming parades, KAPE activity and the various cadres (Sniper, Machine Gun, Recce, Mortars and CiS) whilst preparing for our external assurance checks.

The Quartermaster, Maj Gary Wallace, has handed over the reins to Maj Stuart Cochrane and the recently promoted Maj Ian Houston is handing over imminently to Capt Russell as QM(T). Additionally, RQMS Graham Hannah has now been replaced by RQMS Duncan. The Department has also been boosted by the promotion of Cpl Beattie to Sgt as well as Cpl Macivor (RLC) having been selected for promotion to SNCO.

Back in the Fort, improvements to the soldier's facilities and accommodation remains an enduring theme. The multi-use games area is now taking shape and should soon be completed, the recent improvements to the cookhouse and Red Hackle Club have been much welcomed.

It's not all been work focused and we have found time to fit in some Adventure Training in the Cairngorms before returning to take part in the Medals Parade.

Like the remainder of the Battalion the Department is looking forward to the varied and interesting forecast of events for the coming training year and re-focusing on our core Infantry skills. One thing will be certain "G4 always more !!!".

REGIMENTAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

The last few months have witnessed substantial transformation at the 3 SCOTS AGC SPS Detachment. We have welcomed Staff Sergeant Thompson (FSA), Corporal Asiimwe, Pte Cole and have bid farewell to Cpl Ravutia, LCpl Jones and SSgt Buist; as ever outflow is greater than inflow but light is at the end of the tunnel with a new RAO and Det Comd due to arrive in November 2018.

During an eventful and demanding period we have continued to cater to the unit's administrative needs and in support of the multifaceted operational G1 requirements for UK based operations and the Op SHADER deployment and recovery.

Our main effort has been the successful recovery of the unit from SHADER, closely followed by the G1 administration in support of the re-organisation of the Officers and soldiers across the unit.

The detachment has seen further success with promotions, Corporal Simpson to Sergeant, Lance Corporal's Ironside and Rhodes to Corporal; Pte's Bbaale, Al-Mamun and Rai to Lance Corporal; beyond these great successes, the delivery of apprenticeships and Class 1 workplace training books has been constant. With two of our female cohort volunteering themselves for participation in the Women in Close Ground Combat Trials in early September, we aim to do our part in delivering females to fighting units such as 3 SCOTS.

The AGC Triple Crown competition is a 'soldier first' focused event run annually at Worthy Down. LCpls Ironside, Jones and Ptes Al-Mamun and Bbaale represented the 3 SCOTS Detachment, completing the 12 miles' march and shoot phase in a reasonable time.

Pte Jimmy Bbaale has managed to get away on the La Manga Football tour but due to his enjoyment on that, we only thought it fair to then deploy him straight onto Exercise WESSEX STORM with the Royal Irish on Salisbury Plain for four weeks! Pte Lisa Smith (Charlie Coy) has attended a rock climbing AT course which saw her qualified to progress in the sport towards her aspiration of Rock Climbing Instructor; during the course, she tackled all the Scottish Highlands had to offer including foul weather, terrifying ascents and of course a night out by the camp fire on some Highland craggy ledge.

The newly arrived Pte Sydney Cole (HQ Coy) will attend the AGC Summer Adventure Training Expedition to Austria in September having managed to get one, of only a few highly sought after places and Pte Smith will deploy on her Company's Battlefield Tour to France.

We enter this next year with vigour and zeal and we will continue to ply our trade whilst adopting and learning MODNET; The i-Hub is now ours, inheriting this chore from the CIS Platoon, we can only say "Thanks....", arguably the most thankless job in the whole of Defence, i-Hub business is critical and absolutely necessary so keep your e-records organised and compliant.



Capt Paul Brown hands over the Op SHADER Admin Office.



The Battalion AGC Detachment.

UNIT WELFARE OFFICE

Unit Welfare Officer:	Warrant Officer Class 2 E Nichol
Assistant Unit Welfare Officer:	Colour Sergeant C Cooper
Welfare Team:	Corporal R Simpson
	Lance Corporal K Clement
	Private E Tay
Welfare Clerk:	Mrs Rhoda Mills

Having waved off Captain Paul Naismith to the post of 1 SCOTS MTO in Palace Barracks, I took up the reins as Unit Welfare Warrant Officer and continued with the positive work that had been done by the previous Welfare Officer. Capt Naismith invested so much time and effort into the community. On behalf of 3 SCOTS I wish him and his family all the best for the future.

It has been a very busy time within the department with Op SHADER 6 dominating the agenda. We have organised at least one trip away each month to ease the burden that the separation with loved ones may have caused. To date the families have experienced, quad biking, a steam railway trip and a Loch Ness boat trip as well as go karting, visits to the Highland Wildlife Park and to Codonas in Aberdeen.

We have run a very successful Sunday Lunch each month and had nearly 190 people from the community attend the families' barbeque. Looking forward, we will be looking to organise some more community events in the run up to the festive period.



LCpl Clement, Cpl Simpson, WO2 Nichol, Mrs Rhoda Mills, CSgt Cooper and Pte Tay.



The quad biking squad in Aviemore.

CATERING PLATOON

Regimental Catering Warrant Officer:	WO2 (SQMS) Jupp
Platoon Sgt:	Sgt Powell

It has been another busy working period for the Catering Platoon, maintaining our professional, hard working team ethics by assisting the contract with the provision of a high standard of delivery daily within the Home-Base and providing support to the wider Army with varied commitments both operationally and socially.

Although the Platoon didn't deploy to Iraq on OP SHADER, the requests for catering manpower to deploy on external trawls has been high and has seen members of the Platoon deploy on several Exercises and Operations including, EX JEBEL STORM, OP TOSCA, EX SNOWLION and support to the Royal Guard. There have also been a number of low key events that the Platoon have supported including the provision of a few internal and external Adventure Training packages. This coupled with individuals requiring career courses, competing in catering competitions and conducting mandatory training has kept the platoon busy.

During the month of June, a team of chefs headed up by Cpl Stockham competed in EX ARMY SUSTAINER an annual Army Wide Catering Competition held in Grantham. As part of the preparation for this event the team conducted several run throughs on their respective dishes in order to become competition ready. They were judged by the RCWO along with selected members of the Battalion including the QM and the OC. The following individuals were selected to compete and represent the Battalion:

Cpl Stockham:	Individual Hot Sweet
LCpl Deans:	Individual Pasta (1st Place in his event)
LCpl Souter:	Individual Fish (runner up in his event)
Pte Sanders:	Junior Chicken

Cpl Stockham:	Grand Prix event
LCpl Deans	

Recently the Platoon conducted a much-needed break from the stoves and underwent a team building day at a local archery centre, where we took part in the Bowhunter training activity. This saw the Platoon compete against each other, and in teams in numerous archery based challenges including target practice, dinosaur and zombie hunting and to finish off a combat zone challenge shooting each other with specially adapted arrows in a controlled environment. Top archer for the day had to go to WO2 (Robin Hood) Jupp who outscored all on the dinosaur and zombie hunt game. This was followed by a platoon BBQ and a few sociable drinks in town.

As we look forward, the Catering Platoon will provide a first-class service to the Battalion whether it be within the Fort, on exercise or on Operations, as well as supporting the wider Army.



Catering Platoon team building day out. WO2 Jupp, Sgt Powell, Cpls Stockham and Roser, LCpl Souter, Ptes Sanders, Sutherland and Ferguson.



Celebrity chef Simon Rimmer judging LCpl Souter's fish dish.

MAXWELL SHIELD CHAMPIONSHIP 2018

The Maxwell Shield Championship began in 1914, introduced by General Sir John Grenfell Maxwell, late 42nd (Royal Highland) Regiment of Foot. It is an annual inter-company competition, most recently undertaken from the 19th to 21st of September 2018.

This year the competition comprised of 15 events including Darts, Table Tennis, Run-Bike Duathlon, FIFA, Rugby 7s, Risk, Golf, Fishing, 5-a-side Football, Powerlifting, Squash, Basketball, Pool, Croquet and a finale event. All available soldiers took part in at least one event and made sure they cheered on their companies when they weren't. There was also a chance to unwind with a Battalion BBQ paid for from the Commanding Officer's fund. Unfortunately for Headquarter Company, the beached minke whale picked up by the LAD did not count as bonus points towards their fishing team.

Each event was scored at 3 points for the winning Company and 1 point for second place. The company with the most points overall and winners of the Maxwell Shield Championship 2018 is Delta (Light) Company.



The Maxwell Shield was won by Delta Company.



Power lifting formed part of the Maxwell Shield competition.



The gun run was held over the ramparts at Fort George.

Ex BLITZKRIEG HACKLE

Ex BLITZKRIEG HACKLE was the Battalion's battlefield study for 2018. Under the instruction of OC Machine Guns and amateur historian Capt Herbert, twenty eight soldiers deployed for a week to France to study the German invasion of the country in May 1940. Looking primarily from the German perspective, the group was able to learn about the German blitzkrieg tactics and how their mechanised infantry were employed in the Panzer Divisions. The British perspective was explored through the evacuation at Dunkirk and the actions of the 51st Highland Division at St Valery-en-Caux.

First the group visited the Ardennes and the attack of XIX Panzer Corps at Sedan. This included a series of briefs on the conflict and visits to key sights such as the Maginot line and the Ardennes War Museum. The tour then moved north, following the route that the Wehrmacht took to cut off the British Expeditionary Force. With stands at Arras and Calais the group explored how the BEF fell back to Dunkirk, before visiting the port itself and learning about the evacuation, Op DYNAMO. Finally the group conducted a wreath laying ceremony at St Valery, after having walked the positions held by the men of 1st Battalion The Black Watch (RHR) at Houdetot and those of the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders at St Sylvain and Le Tot.



Students on the exercise enjoying a guided tour of a Maginot Line fort.



The group at the National Canadian War Memorial Vimy Ridge.

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RIFT Military Engagement

A big part of our work RIFT involves reaching out to the Armed Forces community. It's how we spread the word about tax refunds and other financial issues. Just as importantly, it's also an opportunity to learn from, and strengthen our support for, MOD personnel.

The RIFT military engagement programme reached new heights this month with the first of a series of planned events designed to provide a platform for members of the military community to share insights into their activities.

The event was held at the RIFT head office in Ashford, and featured presentations and personal accounts from representatives of:

- ✓ The 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles
- ✓ The 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
- ✓ 103 Battalion REME
- ✓ The Army Engagement Group
- ✓ The South East Reserve Force & Cadet Association

This proved a popular event, with RIFT employees welcoming the opportunity to meet with representatives from a variety of military organisations, at different levels ranging from Private to Major. It was amazing to get such direct and personal insight into the day-to-day challenges of military life, to help RIFT staff appreciate the positive impact our services have on your finances, families and lives.

Highlights of the day included:

- ✓ A presentation from our partners ABF the Soldiers' Charity.
- ✓ Martyn Gibbons MBE's moving and inspirational account of the support his family received from the charity after his injury in Afghanistan.

- ✓ Our own Dan Nightingale and Tyler Eliot's feedback on their experience as participants at the RAF Halton Leadership Event in September.

- ✓ A talk on how RIFT supports employees with ties to the military community, from Reservists and Cadets to those with military spouses or families.

- ✓ Round table discussions, in which members of the military community shared insights into different roles and activities; the potential personal and professional benefits to be gained from involvement; and a typical day in the life of a member of the Armed Forces.

The event was such a resounding success, we are already planning our next activity, and we look forward to meeting, and learning from, more of you soon. **You can read more about what happened on our blog.**

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



BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Commanding Officer:	Lieutenant Colonel DM Sheldrick
Regimental Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) D Carter
Second-in-Command:	Major A Rose
Training Major/XO:	Major MJ Pearson
Quartermaster:	Major R Whyte
Adjutant:	Captain SDA McCauley
Regimental Administration Officer:	A/Major PJ Ward
Regimental Operations Support Officer:	Captain AG McEwen MBE
Regimental Operations Support Warrant Officer:	Warrant Officer Class 2 L McDowall (until 30/09/2018)
Regimental Career Management Officer:	Captain BS Baxter
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant:	Warrant Officer Class 2 (RQMS) S Lawrence

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Officer Commanding	Major I Bunce
Company Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 2 J McColl
Motorised Transport Warrant Officer:	Warrant Officer Class 2 D Swash
Regimental Signals Officer:	Gapped
Signals Permanent Staff Instructor:	Colour Sergeant Dempsey
Company Quartermaster Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant Twine

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

At the time of writing my foreword for the last edition of the Red Hackle magazine we were about to deploy to Lydd Training Area in Kent to run an exercise (Exercise DECISIVE DECISION) for approximately 200 Qatari Officer Cadets. With support and advice from OC B Coy 3 SCOTS, Major Lee Curson and his Company Sergeant Major, WO2 Hunter, the exercise went remarkably smoothly. The OCdts, who were used to training in the Qatari desert, deployed into a cold, wet and undulating Cinque Ports rural training area for three weeks. Similar to UK forces, the syllabus was designed to focus on low-level platoon and company tactics, operating from patrol harbours and testing basic fieldcraft. I was hugely impressed with how well the OCdts adapted to and coped with the demanding conditions they faced, especially considering that they were limited to kit and equipment more appropriate to the desert than the British springtime. Nonetheless, the Qatari contingent departed having gained valuable training, whilst from a UK perspective, those involved gained a better cultural understanding of the Qataris and further enhanced the relationship with the Ahmed Min Mohammed Military Academy.

The Battalion sub-units also continued to focus on low-level tactical skills in the run up to and during the annual training deployment. This year consisted of a week of live firing in Warcop including mortars (again with generous support from 3 SCOTS Mortar Pl), with the second week being spent in Galloway forest with 6 SCOTS and other Reserve units. By the end of the two week period, the standard of fieldcraft and tactics had improved considerably and the Battalion contingent gave an excellent account of themselves. However, it wasn't just about the fighting troops; the battalion's G4 chain was tested and performed strongly, displaying the diverse range of skills and qualifications within the unit.

On the 'home' front, we have continued to recruit under Op FORTIFY with the battalion strength growing because of the persistent efforts of the Company recruiting teams. Capt Alan McEwen has continued to be as proactive as ever as the Regimental Operations Support Officer (lead for engagement and recruiting) ably supported by WO2 McDowell who moved on in September when his post was disestablished. It has been particularly good to welcome back LCpl MacNaughton into the Royal

Regiment of Scotland. He last served with the 1st Battalion The Black Watch in Fallingbommel in 2001. He has completed a stint of service with 154 Regiment RLC before transferring across to us. In conjunction with the current Pipe Major, I expect the Pipes and Drums to flourish.



Lt Col Sheldrick exchanging gifts with Major Methkar (Qatari Army) at the end of Exercise DECISIVE DECISION.



LCpl MacNaughton piping in Tunisia.

Lastly, I would like to welcome back those from 3 SCOTS who deployed on Op SHADER earlier in the year. I would also like to thank the CO who, within hours of returning home, addressed the Battalion conference on a Saturday afternoon in Inverness, sharing with us his recent experiences in Iraq.



CO 3 SCOTS at the 7 SCOTS battalion conference.

ALPHA (FIRE SUPPORT) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major A Cameron
Company Second-in-Command:	Captain K Rehman
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 S Woods
Permanent Staff Administrative Officer:	Captain J Langdale
Regimental Sub Unit Support Officer:	Captain M Dunnigan
Anti-Tank Platoon Commander:	2nd Lieutenant A Caddick
Mortar Platoon Commander:	Lieutenant K Wigley
Rifle Platoon Commander:	Lieutenant R Hand
SPSI Dundee:	Sergeant E Mortley
PSI Aberdeen:	Colour Sergeant A MacDonald
CQMS (FTRS):	Colour Sergeant S MacGregor
CQMS (Res):	Colour Sergeant B Knowles

The Company has had another very active and successful six month period with the troops continuing to excel on a number of exercises, competitions and courses. The second half of the training year predominantly focused on preparation for our annual training deployment (ATD) Exercise RAMPANT LION. We conducted three weekend exercises in tandem with Support Weapon training during the summer months to prepare for the ATD. The exercises were productive and proved very worthwhile for all ranks but in particular for our junior commanders, who were well drilled on the battle procedure and platoon level tactics. The Company covered a plethora of skills during the exercises while conforming to the new "Back to Basics/Soldier First and Battle Craft Syllabus".



2 Section preparing to move on Exercise LIONS CLAW – a platoon level training exercise.

Phase 1 of Ex RAMPANT LION focussed on Live Firing at Warcop Training Camp, where the exercising soldiers progressed up to Section attacks. The Mortars were not to be out done also completing their ACMT with some assistance from the Black Watch Battalion.



2Lt Caddick making his intent clear to Sgt Paterson on Exercise RAMPANT LION.

The Jocks have been travelling far and wide to take part in an array of exercises in some challenging roles; CSM Woods travelled to Cyprus on ex JOINT VENTURE a 2* operational level, international and inter-agency HQ exercise as an Operations Warrant Officer. 2Lt Caddick put in a very impressive performance on Ex WARFIGHTER – where he deployed with 3rd (UK) Division in a G3 – 5 role that is normally the preserve of a much more experienced officer. Sgt Naughton, LCpls' Ross and Ash deployed on Ex DYNAMIC VICTORY with RMAS where they received high praise for their enthusiastic and professional approach during their CIVPOP enabling role. We also provided some key personnel on Ex DECISIVE DECISION.

Capt Mike Dunnigan and his team of recruiters continue to spread the word and encourage new faces into the ranks of the Company. Over the last six months we have had some impressive results at all phases of recruit training with Pte's Middleton, Broad, MacDonald and Phillips completing their Combat Infantry Course and all receiving good reports.

We have been engaging with local cadet forces both in the field and during open nights at Oliver Barracks.

To promote our soldiers is a tremendous honour and we have recently seen LCpls O'Rourke and Crawford pick up their first tape and Cpl Henderson his second after respectively completing PJNCOs and SCBC. These promotions are crucial to the personal development of our young leaders but also to the future of the Company. Congratulations also go to Pte Broad who successfully completed AOSB and will look to secure a regular commission in 2019.

Finally, our reporting period would not be complete without some Adventure Training feedback and Sgt McNiven did not disappoint, planning and delivering a Battalion AT package based out of Norwegian Lodge, Aviemore. Sgt McNiven and his team delivered mountaineering, canoeing, mountain biking and climbing over two weekends and a consolidated five day package, challenging all ranks who took part.

Looking forward we will turn our attention to Urban Operations training and more range work over the autumn period and with a busy Remembrance schedule ahead, it will be back to the drill square and some "spit and polish" for all.

ARMY HEARTACHE AT INTERSERVICE FLY FISHING

By WO2 JP Maestri

The Inter-Service Fly Fishing Championships is the event all those who fly fish in the Services want to win. Beating the RAF and the Navy goes a long way to justifying all the hard work that's been put in throughout the year fishing for the Army. As a competition, the RAF have been the dominant force over the last 10 years, so it's always a tall order in trying to knock them off that pedestal but with the Army as reigning champions from the previous year, the RAF would be looking to restore, as they say, "natural order".

Every year the event is held at Rutland water, fly fishing's mecca in the UK, however this year it was changed to Grafham, the RAF home water. Only two Reservists were selected for the Army team, both of whom would be earning their third Caps. I was one of the two Reservists selected.

To dispel any myths around this sport, it is extremely challenging both physically and mentally; you are on the water for eight hours, constantly casting and thinking about tactics whilst manoeuvring around the lake looking for good areas to give yourself and the team the best chance of winning. After a long day on the water the team retreated to the

classroom where the rest of the night would be used to discuss tactics, formulate plans and tie the appropriate flies for the next day.

It's usually a bit more relaxed on practice day because there is no pressure at this point, however on match day it's a different story. Most people don't have the time to eat for the eight hours they are out on the water, moving, casting and trying to beat your boat partner.

After practice day one, there was an hour's window to get an evening meal before going into the classroom, to prepare a plan and to tie flies. Our confidence was short lived as one of the team had lost his "top ten" fly box. We feared the worst and rightly so as the RAF had found the box and used it to their advantage. Now the argument is that some of you may think this is good intelligence gathering and appropriate use of countermeasures, others may see it as underhand tactics. This intelligence was put to devastating use and effect against the Army team.

Looking to other events, I have been selected to fish for the UK Services against the UK Police at the Lake of Mentieth in October. I also made it to the National final this year only to miss out on a Scotland Cap.

If anyone is interested in joining The Army Fly Fishing Federation, please follow the links or contacts below.

www.soldierpalmers.org

Maj (Tfc) R.D Rudd, SO2 G6, 38 (Irish) Brigade

dean.rudd573@mod.gov.uk

Recruitment: Maj Ben Worley

dstlworleybenmaj@x400.r.mil.uk



WO2 Maestri on the water.

THE HIGHLAND BAND, THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND ANNUAL TRAINING DEPLOYMENT 2018 PADERBORN AND SENNELAGER, GERMANY

The 30th June 2018 saw the Highland Band once again join forces with the Lowland Band to perform at the Stirling Military Show as part of 2018 Armed Forces Day. This engagement also formed the first day of the Annual Training Deployment for both bands. The following day, they boarded the coach at Redford Cavalry Barracks in Edinburgh for the first part of the journey.

The bands joined forces, with members of the 150 Royal Logistics Corps Band from Hull, to form the Duty Band for two weeks in Sennelager, Germany. Using the ferry to Rotterdam they arrived on the 2nd of July.

The next day saw rehearsals and training start in earnest, with full concert band rehearsals followed by CEQ 3 (rudiments and history of music) lessons given by the Director of Music, Captain Craig Burns, to the Phase 2 students in all three bands. This was followed by fitness training and a gym induction delivered by Pipe Major Darren Walker. Following breakfast the next day, it was time to do some intensive marching band practice. Two hours on parade in temperatures in excess of 24 degrees was certainly hard work but the band improved dramatically with this intensive training; something which is difficult to do on a weekly basis in the Army Reserve. More concert band practice followed and it was then time to call an early halt to the day, in order to allow the brass quintet to travel to Hamburg for a Royal Air Force dinner commemorating their 100th anniversary. This also allowed the remainder of the band some down time to prepare kit for the forthcoming engagements.

The following three days consisted of more intensive musical and parade drill rehearsals, personal fitness periods, along with MATTs 6 & 7 lectures and tests. All of this training was leading up to the major

engagement of the fortnight - the Paderborn Schutzenfest! This was a community event, held annually in the majority of German towns and cities and the Paderborn event pulled in crowds of up to ten thousand over the two days that the Band performed. The first morning brought the parade to the Schutzenplatz, a four mile march with a ceremony lasting approximately one hour. There were over thirty bands performing on the parade and the Highland, Lowland and RLC Band were privileged to be third in the order of march. They even made the front page of the local newspaper. Following the parade, the band performed several concert band spots at the tent of the 'Western Kompanie', which was the company sponsoring the first three bands on the parade. The bands performed superbly and certainly went down a storm with the viewing public. The roof was positively raised when the two pipers joined with the bands to perform favourites such as Highland Cathedral (which is actually a Germanic hymn tune!), Rose of Kelvingrove, Amazing Grace, and 79th Farewell to Gibraltar. The Pipe Major and Piper Christie were indeed a valuable asset to have alongside the Bands. The second day of the Schutzenfest followed very much the same pattern as the first, although the march and parade started very much earlier, at 0715hrs.

With very little time to recover from two extremely busy days, the band was once again on the road, this time only twenty minutes round the corner to perform a concert for the local community of Hövelhof. This is a community right next to the Army Training Area, and today, instead of the constant noises of tanks trundling up and down that area, they were treated to a musical performance, just to say thank you for their tolerance throughout the year. The programme included the opening overture, 'Orpheus in the Underworld' (which finishes with the famous devil's gallop, or Can-Can to you and I), 'Pirates of the Caribbean', 'Hymn of the Highlands', and of course more pipe tunes with the Band's resident pipers. The music was very well received, and we were lucky to get away with playing only one encore!

And so the band moved on to the next engagement, the 'suspended animation parade' for 17 (Corunna) Battery, Royal Artillery. The first day consisted of intensive parade rehearsals with the Royal Artillery soldiers, all of which took place on the first day of persistent rain of the whole deployment. The following day despite being caught in an extremely rare holdup on the Autobahn, the band arrived on time to march the parade through the barracks in Gütersloh and on to the parade square. The final engagement took place the following day, again in Sennelager, playing for a regimental dinner in the Officers' Mess at Normandy Barracks. This was followed by the long journey home; which meant for some a well deserved rest, but for most, a return to their daily workplaces!

Overall, the annual training deployment was a huge success. The Band trained in all musical aspects of their expected roles, had regular personal fitness sessions, covered two of their annual MATTs training sessions, and the Phase 2 trainees received in depth instruction on all written work expected of them in their Phase 2 examinations. They performed superbly wherever they went and were a credit not only to Army Music but also to the Army Reserves. Tasked with a regular deployment, they proved their worth and to the untrained eye, no distinction could really be made between them and their Regular Army counterparts. The deployment also forms a much more important factor to the Reserve; that of a retention and recruiting positive venture. The Bands can now offer this type of deployment to prospective band members and wholeheartedly sell the Army Reserve life as a worthwhile and rewarding second career.



The Band during rehearsal in Germany.

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HMS MONTROSE

HMS Montrose, proudly affiliated to the Black Watch, has had another very busy period. Having completed her Operational Sea Training, a gruelling 8 weeks of war-fighting and damage control training which culminated in exercises off the West coast of Scotland for Joint Warrior 18:1; we joined the Joint Expeditionary Force (Maritime), the UK-led multi-national contingency task group that stands ready to respond to crises anywhere in the world.

In June, whilst preparing for a short summer deployment to the Baltic Sea, HMS Montrose was 'activated' to shadow a Russian task group of Steregushchiy class corvettes as they entered and operated within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone and in close proximity to UK territorial waters. This 2 week operation was part of the UK's commitment to protecting our borders, maintaining the integrity of our territorial seas and demonstrating, to any foreign Navy, that the Royal Navy remains committed to support for the international rules-based system and is ready to deploy major warships at a moment's notice.

Following withdrawal of the Russian task group back into the Baltic Sea, HMS Montrose regained her original programme and sailed into the Baltic to support Defence Engagement with the Finnish and Swedish Navies - both newly signed-up members of the Joint Expeditionary Force. In Turku, Finland, HMS Montrose took part in celebrations marking the 100th Anniversary of the Finnish Navy, joined by ships from six other Navies from across Europe. Together with the celebrations was the more serious business of developing our interoperability and exercising war-fighting functions during Exercise Baltic Cross; HMS Montrose and her Wildcat

helicopter were pitted against both Finnish and Swedish Fast Patrol Boats hiding amongst, and darting between, the complex archipelagic island chains. The completion of these exercises was marked with another visit, this time to the beautiful historic city of Stockholm, where HMS Montrose was very fortunate to be berthed right in the city centre, within sight of the historic district of Gamla Stan and the hip, modern district of Sodermalm.

Once more in UK waters, HMS Montrose visited Black Watch country when she called in to her affiliated town of Montrose in Angus, where she hosted members of the public onboard, met with local dignitaries and paid tribute to a local hero, Bamse, the Norwegian Sea Dog. It was also the chance to host some of the Black Watch Association onboard, not least the Provost of Angus, Major Ronnie Proctor. Prior to returning to HM Naval Base Devonport, we paid our first visit to the town of Fowey, Cornwall to which she also holds an affiliation.

HMS Montrose now prepares to deploy to the Gulf as the first forward-deployed Royal Navy frigate. She will sail in October through the Pacific Ocean, circumnavigating the globe and flying the White Ensign throughout the Pacific and East Asia before arriving in Bahrain where she will be based until 2022. In a new manning concept for the Frigate force, HMS Montrose will be manned by two crews, a Port and Starboard watch, who will each rotate into the Arabian Gulf on a four monthly basis; the second crew will be formed from the current crew of HMS Monmouth (one of our sister T23 frigates) once they have handed her to Babcock engineers for a two year refit and upgrade to her sensors and weapon systems.



Left to Right: Major Ronnie Proctor (Provost of Angus and Black Watch Association Secretary), Mr Douglas Fitchett (Glencadam Distillery), Commander Conor O'Neill (CO HMS Montrose), Robina Addison (Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Angus) and Mr John Davie Council Officer.



The Black Watch

**(Royal Highland Regiment)
of Canada**

The unit continues to train in its operational mandate and to support various tasks both at the national and international levels. We are also getting ready to commemorate the centennial of the end of World War 1 and participate in many events, both in Canada and in Europe that will commemorate this important anniversary.

The Regimental family gathered once again in Montreal on May 6th for our annual Church Parade. Spirits were high, and all were very proud to celebrate our Regiment's history and traditions. The occasion was also ideal to recognize the hard work of many members of the unit. In addition to the annual awards and medal presentations, the CO and RSM presented nine promotions to the rank of Master Corporal and four to the rank of Sergeant. These new leaders are a more than welcome addition to the unit leadership and will position us to better accomplish our missions.

In early spring, the Regiment received an invitation to attend a garden party on the occasion of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales' 70th Birthday Patronage Celebration. The Regiment's senior leadership, patrons, and selected members traveled to London to attend this unique event in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. All were humbled, and at the same time excited, to be part of such an event. We also had

the rare occasion to share our experience with members of our parent unit, The Black Watch 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. It was a very special and memorable moment for all participants and it highlighted the special relationship that the Regiment proudly maintains with its Colonel-in-Chief.

The Pipes & Drums are continuing their outstanding work in representing the Regiment. One of these opportunities was to send members of the band to participate in the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo in Halifax. Six members of the band traveled to Halifax, under the experienced leadership of our Regimental Pipe-Major, MWO Danny Smith, to live a unique musical and human experience.

As any army unit, recruiting is essential to maintain our operational readiness and generate young leaders for our missions. This year, 2018, is so far an outstanding year for the Black Watch with five new officers, eight junior leaders, and more than forty new recruits joining the unit. We had the opportunity, for the first time in many years, to conduct a basic infantry course where both course cadre and candidates were exclusively from the unit. The result of this situation can only be qualified as a resounding success and we were very happy to welcome these new highland infantry men and women to the unit.

The Regiment is still involved in providing troops for international deployments. Capt Loic Baumanns just deployed to Iraq as a member of the multinational HQ in Bagdad and Capt Matthew Cooke and Sgt Matt Ramsey are deploying respectively in Latvia and the Ukraine as part of Canada's missions in Eastern Europe. We wish them the best of luck during their deployment.

Members of the unit and the Pipes & Drums participated in the 41st edition of the Montreal Highland Games. The event was a resounding success with more than 7000 visitors despite the extreme 41C temperature. In one of the main events, the Black Watch participated in the charity tug-o-war competition that raised funds for the Montreal Douglas Hospital Mental Health Program that supports research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. It was a unique opportunity for the unit to support the Scottish community of Montreal and contribute directly to a cause that is close to the heart of all members of the unit.

The last months were busy and full of great opportunities. Fall and the new training cycle is at our door and we are looking forward to new challenges and uphold the tradition of excellence of the Regiment.



Basic Infantry Course was run by Lt Zack Duma, Course Comd and Sgt Matt Ramsey, Course 2IC.



Cpts Hovig Maghakian and Chris Leone, LCol Bruce Bolton, LCol Charles McCabe, LCol Bruno Plourde, RSM Stephen Campbell, PM Danny Smith, WO James Quesnel and Col Daniel O'Connor all attended the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.



Col Daniel O'Connor, LCol Bruno Plourde, LCol Bruce Bolton, WO James Quesnel, Jonathan Birks and soldiers of 3 SCOTS at Buckingham Palace.

ARTEFACTS FROM THE BLACK WATCH OF CANADA COLLECTION BENGAL TIGER SKIN, C.1930

By Earl John Chapman

Some authors regarded tiger hunting as a manly diversion, requiring coolness and a good aim. Others have emphasized how tiger hunting was central to the development of that all-important Victorian trait of character. Whatever the reason, tiger hunting was a popular "sport" in the 19th and 20th centuries. The tiger skin and head shown here was presented to Canada's Black Watch by Sir Neil Methuen Ritchie GBE, KCB, DSO, MC, a trophy he had "bagged" in India in 1931 as a Captain while serving with the 1st Battalion. Ritchie wrote an account of his "Bhopal sensations" during the shoot which was published in *The Red Hackle* in April 1932. Using a double-barreled big game rifle, Ritchie only wounded the animal, forcing a shikari (a tracker and hunting guide) to finish him off but not before one of the beaters had been badly mauled. According to Ritchie, the

tiger measured 9 feet 10½ inches "over the bumps." Sir Neil Ritchie was born in Georgetown, British Guiana (today's Guyana), in 1897. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in The Black Watch in 1914, he retired as a full General in 1951 after a distinguished military career. This spanned both World Wars; he was best known as the commander of the famous British Eighth Army in North Africa and of the XII Corps in North-West Europe during the Second World War. Thereafter, he held various high posts, including that of Governor of Edinburgh Castle. He was a great friend of Canada's Black Watch, having first visited Regimental Headquarters in 1937. On retirement, Ritchie moved to Montreal where he continued his close association with the Canadian Regiment, serving on its Advisory Board. He later moved to Toronto where he died on 11 December 1983. Ritchie presented many other items to Canada's Black Watch, including the Aberfeldy Statuette, a well-executed miniature reproduction of the memorial cairn erected to commemorate the first muster of The Black Watch in 1740. The statuette's importance to General Ritchie can be seen in the small attached plaque: "Presented to Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Neil Ritchie DSO, MC on his marriage by his brother officers in The Black Watch, past and present, 4 December 1937."



Bengal Tiger Skin head – courtesy of The Black Watch of Canada Museum and Archives, photo by Peter Ferst.

Black Watch Battalion The Army Cadet Force

Honorary Colonel:	The Reverend Professor Norman Drummond CBE FRSE
Commandant:	Colonel C G Hubbuck
Deputy Commandant:	Lieutenant Colonel S Rae
Adjutant:	Captain M McCluskey
Officer Commanding Alma Company:	2Lt R Sangster
Officer Commanding Burma Company:	Major R Morrill
Officer Commanding Korea Company:	Major N Murdoch
Officer Commanding Ypres Company:	Lieutenant D Lambert
Battalion Training Officer:	Major K Douglas
Regimental Sergeant Major:	Regimental Sergeant Major T Cameron
Permanent Staff:	
Cadet Executive Officer:	Major A C M Potter
Quartermaster:	Captain R G Hallum

The Battalion has recently returned from their first two week Annual Camp in over 20 years. Wathgill Training Camp in Catterick was this year's venue with excellent Training Programmes being pulled together to provide challenges for all Cadets training in their various Star Levels. This was our first visit to Wathgill which proved to be an excellent facility. Our Green Training took place on the Catterick Training Area and at the excellent Range complex in Wathgill. We were supported during our Green Training by CSM McConnell and Cpl Kerr from 7 SCOTS and Sgt Moir from 51X CTT who all provided excellent training for the Cadets. The Battalion also participated in an exciting AT Package with "Caves and Canyons" who are based in Ingleton, Lancashire. The two day programmes provided caving expeditions, abseiling and watermanship. Our final parade gave the Battalion the opportunity to say farewell to our Padre, Terry Wright, who is moving to South London. Terry was presented with a traditional Quaich at the end of the parade. We wish him well in his new parish. The Cadets were also given some downtime with a trip to Lightwater Valley Theme Park in Ripon. Next year's Annual Camp will be at Swynerton TC near Stoke-on-Trent. We have already sent down a recee party who have returned with positive feedback.

The Battalion also participated in a number of local community events throughout the summer keeping us in the public eye. From Kely Gala Day to Crieff Highland Games, Cadets and CFAVs ran stands and paraded in their local towns and villages. These events continue to give us positive press through social media, allowing us to continue to recruit both Cadets and Adult Volunteers.

THE ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS BANNER PARADE

The SCOTS DG invited the Battalion to participate in their Banner Parade at Leuchars Station in June. The new Banner was presented

to the Regiment by Her Majesty The Queen and the Battalion joined the SCOTS DG and their Association in a march past. Our stand was visited by Her Majesty during the event where she was briefed on some of the activities the Cadets participate in.

COMMISSION BOARD

The Battalion achieved three new Commissions at the recent Cadet Force Commissioning Board. This was the first year the Board has been run outside Westbury and had invited candidates from throughout 51 Brigade to attend. Under Officers Kelly Stark, John Douglas and Jacob Black have now been promoted to Second Lieutenant.

MILITARY BAND

The Band was again visible at High Profile events throughout the summer. They played at the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards Presentation held at Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh in July. The Band also supported the Salute to Perth Parade in August, playing alongside Military Bands from this year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

The Battalion are currently running trials to pick a Military Skills Team to take part in the 51 Brigade Military Skills Competition being held in Barry Burdon. This year we have been fortunate to have support from 3 SCOTS during our training weekends. The Competition involves teams from both the ACF and CCF from across Scotland and will test advanced fieldcraft skills, shooting and undertaking obstacle courses.



The Black Watch/3 SCOTS provide valuable support during the Military Skills Training Weekends.



The Military Band at the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards Presentation in Holyrood Palace.



The Military Band took part in the Salute to Perth Parade.



Cadets and Adult Volunteers from Cupar Detachment meet Her Majesty The Queen.

Association News

Royal Patron:	HRH The Prince Charles Duke of Rothesay KG KT CB OM
President:	Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson KCVO,CBE Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross
Vice Presidents:	Mrs Georgiana Osborne CVO, Lord Lieutenant of Angus Mr Robert Balfour FRICS, Lord Lieutenant of Fife Mr Bob Duncan Lord Lieutenant of the City of Dundee
Chairman:	Major General J M Cowan, CBE DSO
Vice Chairman and Trustee:	Lieutenant Colonel R M Riddell
Secretary and Trustee:	Major R J W Proctor, MBE
Trustee:	Major J M K Erskine, MBE
Trustee:	Major J D Monteith, MBE
Trustee:	Major A A L Watson, LVO
Trustee:	Mr G Hay, LL.B CA
Executive Committee:	Lieutenant Colonel M Smith, MBE Captain A McEwen, MBE Lieutenant Colonel J A Menzies Lieutenant Colonel R I Rose, TD Mr R Scott, JP Mr G Kennedy
Welfare Committee:	Lieutenant Colonel R I Rose, TD, Chairman Major C Gray Deputy Chairman Major R J W Proctor, MBE,Secretary Mr J Devlin Captain T Graham Mr R Scott, JP Mrs I Shivas G Ross Captain A McEwen, MBE Mr W Barr Major B Dickson Mr A Stott

ANGUS BRANCH

President:	Major Peter Burnett
Vice President:	Lieutenant Colonel Matt Sheldrick
Chairman:	Major Ronnie Proctor MBE
Vice Chairman:	Mr Peter Tindal
Secretary:	Mr Steve Reid
Treasurer:	Mr Gordon Millar

This has been another busy and enjoyable period for the Branch beginning with the annual Anzac Day Commemoration in Arbroath. This was well attended by Branch members. We were also privileged to have the Dundee and Fife Branch Standards as well as our own on parade. The Association Deputy President, Mrs Georgiana Osborne and Branch Chairman Ronnie Proctor as Lord Lieutenant of Angus and Provost of Angus respectively, laid wreaths along with General Sir Alistair Irwin, President of The Royal British Legion Scotland, which made it quite a Black Watch event.

The Regimental Reunion was well supported by Branch members despite the heavy rain and the cancellation of the march from the North Inch to Balhousie Castle. The Association Secretary was accused by some of getting soft in his old age by cancelling the march, however most marchers would have taken longer to recover from a soaking and a cold than when they were young men and it was felt that discretion was the better part of valour!

Participation in the Dundee Veterans Day Parade was another enjoyable event. The weather was kind, the speech not too long and seating was provided for the veterans after the Inspection and March Off. Dundee City Council is to be thanked for laying on the event and providing the meal afterwards.

Major Colin Gray should be congratulated on carrying out the duties of Parade Commander with great style and he managed to enthuse all the veterans on parade to put a spring in their step, despite their ever increasing years.

Our Branch Standard Rededication took place in Brechin Cathedral. Lieutenant Colonel Mike Smith, (an away list member) and his wife Linda made the journey all the way north from



The Angus Branch annual Rededication Service was held at Brechin Cathedral (courtesy DC Thomson).

Burnham-on-Sea to attend the service along with his mother Chrissie who attended the Cathedral Sunday School in 1930! We really appreciated their attendance. The service was poignant in two ways as it coincided with the death, forty years ago of Private Mark Carnie who was an eighteen year old Black Watch soldier from Brechin, attached to the Queen's Own Highlanders who lost his life due to an RCIED explosion at Dungannon, County Tyrone in July 1978. We were fortunate to have Mark's surviving sister Rhonna and her husband George attending both the service and the lunch which followed.

The service was also very poignant as it was the final service to be conducted by the incumbent minister of Brechin Cathedral, the Reverend Doctor Roderick Graeme who is moving to pastures new. In his sermon he managed to combine the ethos of The Black Watch Association, the loss of Mark Carnie's life, service to the church and the community and our service to our country as a whole. Brechin Cathedral was a most fitting venue for our Standard Rededication and despite talk of it closing in the future we hope that this is not so.

The Black Watch Battalion exercised its right as Freemen of Angus to march through the County with "Drums Beating, Colours Flying and Bayonets Fixed" on the 14th of September. This was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all Branch members and the public at large. The innovative "Patrol and Parade" of the Battalion stirred the hearts of all who watched and ensured that those who continue to wear our famous and cherished Red Hackle are kept close to our veterans and public alike. The reception in the Royal British Legion Club Rooms was a success and I hope that Forfar Bridies are now a firm favourite on the Jocks' menu. Billy Whytock was delighted when the Chairman asked if he could organise the veterans line up either side of the Saluting Dias and many of the public who were spectating thought that they were to be "fell in" and march behind the battalion as Billy showed exactly how things should be done in a smart, soldier like manner, with bags of humour!

Remembrance Sunday will shortly be upon us and members are encouraged to take part in their local community Remembrance Services, however a number are making their way to London to take part in the Cenotaph parade and no doubt we will hear of their exploits when they return. Tom McCluskey and Anne will attend the annual ceremony at Black Watch Corner in Belgium and lay a wreath on behalf of the Association.

Currently we are planning our next major function which is the El Alamein Dinner which is to be held a week later than normal, due to the Chairman being forced to take his wife on holiday for a couple of weeks. We hope to have El Alamein veteran, John Henderson with us for the evening, his health permitting. Plans are in train to deliver our Christmas Comforts to the elderly members of our Branch and widows also the 2019 Burns supper which should take place on the Bard's birthday, the 25th of January.

R J W Proctor



Mr Billy Whytock and Steve Reid at the Black Watch parade in Forfar.



"Eyes Right". The parade was led by Lieutenant Colonel Rob Hedderwick.



Mrs Georgiana Osborne, Lord Lieutenant of Angus with the Provost of Angus attended and took the salute at the Black Watch march through Forfar on 14 September.



Mrs Georgiana Osborne and Major Ronnie Proctor taking the salute at the Forfar parade.

DUNDEE BRANCH

President: Major (Retd) Colin Gray
Chairman: Willie Barr
Secretary: Colin Adam
Treasurer: Len Mitchell

The 23rd of March saw a few Branch members attend the ever popular Fife Branch, Rhine Crossing Dinner at the Victoria Hotel, Kirkcaldy. A huge vote of thanks to Bob Scott, George Wood, and all members of the Fife Branch who contributed in ensuring we all had another great night. The organisation, the menu, the hospitality, the banter and the piping were all highest standard.

On Saturday 28th April, Jock Menzies and the Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Branch welcomed us to their annual Al Basrah Dinner in the Scots Guard Club and the Apex Hotel. Yet another great night of fantastic food, banter and entertainment.

The Regimental Reunion on 16 June was another event greatly supported by the Dundee Branch with many making it a full weekend of meeting up with "Auld Pals" and enjoying a dram.

On Saturday 23rd June, Dundee held its Veterans and Youth Organisation Day with a number of Branch members joining veterans from other Service Associations marching down Reform Street and taking part in the Parade on the City Square. Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin and the City of Dundee Lord Provost, Ian Borthwick took the salute and inspected the veterans and cadets.

On 18 August we hosted the Inter-Branch Games Day in the Black Watch Club. Organised by John Smith and Ray Lawson, this popular event raised over £2,000 for the Prostate Cancer Charity which was dedicated to the memory of a great Black Watch man of the Angus Branch, John Campbell who recently lost his life to this horrible disease. John's daughter Linda and granddaughter Rebecca were in attendance at the Games Day and on behalf of Prostate Cancer received a cheque from our Vice Chairman, John Smith.

The Angus Branch Standard Re-Dedication Service and Commemorative Service for Private Mark Carnie were held in the Brechin Cathedral on Sunday 2nd September and was supported by Branch members Willie Barr, Jimmy Herd and Colin Gray. After the service we were treated to a fantastic lunch in the Royal British Legion.

On the 8th September, we supported and attended the Sub-Mariners Commemorative Service at City Quay, Dundee.

On 23rd September, Branch members attended the 103rd Battle of Loos Anniversary Service in the Congregational Church, Constitution Road, Dundee which was also supported by the City of Dundee Depute Lord Provost, Bill Campbell as well as Major Ronnie Proctor and his lovely wife Sonia. Thanks to Ronnie for the appearance especially after having such a great night, the previous night at his Angus Provost's Charity Ball held in Glamis Castle which was attended by Roland and Maureen Rose, Willie and Christine Barr, John and Janine Smith, Kenny Grant and Colin and Maureen Gray.

Colin Gray



John J Smith handing over a cheque for Prostate Cancer to Linda Campbell and Rebecca.

EDINBURGH, LOTHIANS' 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

On Saturday 28 April 2018 Branch members and guests gathered in the Apex Hotel Haymarket for the annual Al Basrah Dinner. The company of Major Colin Gray and members of the Dundee Branch was very much appreciated. Throughout the evening Pipe Major Alistair Duthie entertained us with his usual high standard of piping.

A small group attended a memorial service at the Scottish American War Memorial in Princes Street Gardens on 29 May 2018. The memorial was erected in 1927 and funded by Americans of Scottish descent to honour Scots who had served in the Great War.

The Edinburgh Armed Forces Day Parade took place on Saturday 30 June 2018. Regulars, Reserves and veterans mustered in Charlotte Square and marched along George Street towards St Andrews Square Gardens. The parade was addressed by the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh (Right Honourable Frank Ross). On completion of the parade, family and friends joined the marching contingent for a reception and some entertainment. There was an excellent turnout of "Red Hackles" which also included the main dignitaries for the event: Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin, Major General Mike Riddell-Webster and Brigadier Robin Lindsay.

The Scottish Korean War Memorial in Bathgate was opened on 27 June 2000 to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. A recent project to refurbish the Black Watch memorial bench at this site has now been completed. The hard work, craftsmanship and dedication shown by Mr Colin Ballantyne and the support provided by Captain Bob Henry is very much appreciated. The inscription on the bench reads: In memory of all ranks of The Black Watch who served in Korea 1950 to 1953.

Branch meetings take place in the Scots Guards Club, Haymarket and we meet regularly in March, June, September and December. Members also gather for specific events such as Remembrance and Memorial services. Anyone wishing to join the Branch is more than welcome to do so and in the first instance should contact one of the committee members or make contact through one of the members of the Branch. Serving or retired members of The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland are reminded that they are welcome to join. The most recent new members are: Lieutenant Colonel Mark Ewing, Larry Jenkins, Jimmy Grover, Robert Lindsay, Dave Lewis and Drew McKay.

J A Menzies



Atholl Highlanders Tom MacDonald and Pipe Major Alistair Duthie at the Al Basrah Dinner.



Larry Jenkins, Major Alex Stewart and Brian Alexander were all at the dinner.



Ian Beveridge and Jock Hingston at the Edinburgh Armed Forces Day.



The refurbished seat at the Korean War Memorial in Bathgate.

FIFE BRANCH

This has been a mixed reporting period for the Branch; on the one hand we had the joy of our Reunion, the Fife Armed Forces Day in Cupar and the Ladies Alma Lunch. On the other hand we have said goodbye to some good friends. Our long time President, Lieutenant Colonel Philip Halford-MacLeod died. Colonel Philip, as he liked to be known, was held in high esteem and on the day of the Fife Armed Forces Flag raising in Cupar we visited him in Glenrothes. We arrived in Blue Bonnets, medals and Standard to the fore, the only thing lacking was a fanfare and piper! The nurses and staff joined in with the event as most had never seen anything like it before and soon cameras were clicking. I know the Colonel was happy to see us but not wishing to tire him out, we gave our salute and retired. I printed a photo of the day, framed it and placed it on his bedside table where he had a constant reminder of our visit. I will miss the Colonel greatly as we had become good friends over the years but I am now in contact with Alasdair, his oldest son and hope to continue our friendship through him.

We ended the period with our Ladies Alma Lunch and had 49 sitting down to lunch. The ladies, as is now the custom, each received a Black Watch woollen scarf to mark the occasion.

It has, as Her Majesty would say, been a period of ANNUS HORRIBILIS. I can only hope for a happier period when I report on events in the May edition.

Lastly can I thank all the Branch members for their continued support.

R M Scott



Ladies who attended the Alma Lunch in Fife.

HIGHLAND BRANCH

President:	Captain K Stacey
Chairman:	WO2 E Nichol
Secretary:	Mr Gordon Kennedy

Since the last edition of the Red Hackle magazine the Highland Branch of the Black Watch Association have continued to foster comradeship and to further the aims of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) Association but more importantly, to provide support to all those who have served, their spouses or dependants if they find themselves in adverse circumstances.

We held our AGM in the Community Centre in Wimberley Way on the 11th of May. The Committee had a small change over with Mr Joe Barbour being replaced by WO2 Eddie Nichol as Chairman, and Alec Beattie taking over as assistant Chairman. Captain Kevin Stacey continued in post as President as did Gordon Kennedy as Secretary. On behalf of the Association members I would like to thank Joe for his hard work during his tenure as Chairman.

We attended the AGM in Perth and tried to attend as many other Branch outings as possible and we even managed to pull off an away win in a games night at the Dundee Branch. The second away win in succession. We aim to host the Dundee Branch to Inverness for the return fixture in the very near future and give them a chance to restore their honour.

If anyone wishes to join the Highland Branch you can attend the monthly meetings in the Community Centre in Wimberley Way on the second Friday of each month at 1830hrs. It is an informal get together and a chance to socialise with each other and continue the camaraderie and to catch up with or make new friends.

WO2 E Nichol

LONDON BRANCH

President: Major General AL Watson CB
 Chairman: Major AAL Watson LVO
 Vice Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel TA Coles MBE
 Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel M Smith MBE

This year there have been changes within the Committee. The Honorary Treasurer, Charles Taylor, has handed over to David Kemmis-Betty. Two further members have joined the Committee: Rupert Forrest, who will assist in overseeing the accounts, and Richard Cole-Mackintosh. Thanks must go to Charlie Taylor for his efforts over a number of years in managing the accounts. We are very grateful.

We are keen to have more other rank members join us on the Committee. We would welcome any volunteers, with a view to making further appointments at the AGM in April 2019.

We did not hold a Summer Lunch this year. We have felt the loss of Joe Hubble, who was the organiser of this event over many years. We will get back on track in 2019, all being well.

It is always encouraging to herald the start of the Spring and Summer months which kick start the prestigious activities that focus on the capital. Our AGM, held in the London Scottish Army Reserve Centre, Horseferry Road on 4 April was a successful gathering. As a precursor to the AGM, the Executive Committee met to discuss the issues and agenda items. At the end of the meeting we enjoyed a good buffet lunch and are grateful to one of our loyal and generous members who paid for the drinks – a promise he made to the late Joe Hubble. Thank you Dan.

This year we had no takers to attend the Not Forgotten Association Garden Party and unfortunately our nominated Member for Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea had to call off. However, the Branch was represented at our Royal Patron's Garden Party on 22 May and the Red Hackle was seen at Bill Speakman's funeral. The Regimental Association was represented by the London Branch at the Royal British Legion's Hundred Days Offensive centenary commemorative event at Ypres in Belgium on 8 August.

The Royal Patron's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

As one of His Royal Highness, The Prince Charles' charities, The Black Watch Association was invited to our Royal Patron's Garden party on 22 May. This event was attended by the Association Chairman, Major General James Cowan, Colonel Ian Critchley, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keating, Pipe Major Chic Mackie and Korean veteran John Bowles. Also present were soldiers of The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland from Inverness and members of the Canadian Black Watch. Lieutenant Colonel Tim Coles represented the Highland and Lowland Brigades' Club.

William Speakman Victoria Cross (VC) 21 September 1927 – 20 June 2018

On 19 July 2018 Bill Speakman was laid to rest following a well attended (especially by the King's Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB) and dignified funeral service in the stunning Wren Chapel at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. It had been organised by the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association in conjunction with the Royal Hospital. Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales, President of the VC and GC Association, and the Duchess of Cornwall were represented by Major General Toyne Sewell DL, a former Commanding Officer of 1KOSB. Royal representation was present because Speakman was the first VC presented by our current Sovereign.

Tributes from Speakman's family and the Captain of Invalids were warm and reflected his strong family ties and commitment as well as his great character as a soldier and veteran. The Order of Service included the citation for the award of the VC and it is noted that on 5 November 1951, when Speakman carried out his supreme acts of gallantry in Korea, he was a Black Watch soldier attached to the King's Own Scottish Borderers. The London Branch was represented by John Bowles (one of our few remaining Korean veterans) and the Vice Chairman.



The late Bill Speakman on parade at the Cenotaph.

The Great Pilgrimage 90 and One Hundred Days Ceremony Ypres

A decade after the end of the First World War, eleven thousand veterans and war widows made a great pilgrimage to the battlefields of the Somme and Ypres before marching to the Menin Gate in Ypres, on 8th August 1928, for a remembrance service.

The last 100 days of the Great War were critical because the German Spring offensive of 1918 had made considerable inroads; they had deployed their storm troopers to great effect who proved that trench warfare could be breached by specialist infantry and they were desperate to bring about a settlement before the USA committed its considerable ground forces to the battlefield. But they failed. This was mainly due to the fact they ran out of resources, manpower and materiel. The ensuing Allied counter stroke broke the dead lock and started the beginning of the end of the Great War.

Exactly 90 years later, on 8 August 2018, more than two thousand Royal British Legion members carried their standards and wreaths along the same route to the Menin Gate, to commemorate the beginning of the last hundred days of the war, thereby representing an entire generation that served defending their country.



Wreaths laid at the Menin Gate during the Great Pilgrimage 90 and One Hundred Days Ceremony, Ypres.



Lieutenant Colonel Mike Smith meets an old Black Watch friend, Tad Adamson who was also on parade.



Lieutenant Colonel Mike Smith reads some of the messages on the wreaths below the Menin Gate.



The Carnoustie RBL bikers were in Ypres for the parade and met Mike and Linda Smith and Ilene Palgrave.

Looking Forward

The organisation of the special Remembrance weekend this year, to mark the end of the First World War, with an expanded dinner on 10 November at the Victory Services Club, more marchers at the Cenotaph on 11 November followed by a lunch in the Turf Club has fallen on Mike Smith, Ian Howarth and Paddy Nicoll in particular to organise. Their support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Mike Smith

NEWCASTLE BRANCH

Chairman: Mr Nick Turnbull
Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Malcolm Dunn/Mr Peter Dodds

In the last set of notes, I told you of the change in Secretary which had taken place in the Branch. The resignation of the previous office holder had been occasioned by the ill health of his wife, Elsie. Elsie succumbed to her illness and at her funeral, Guards of Honour were provided by both the Black Watch and The Tyneside Scottish Associations. The family were most grateful.

In April, the Secretary and Treasurer attended the AGM of the Association and the Secretary was welcomed by all those to whom he was introduced. He had been a little apprehensive but soon fell into the company of Colin Adam from Dundee who made him feel at home instantly. This was a good introduction to the easy relationships which exist in the regimental family.

A goodly party left Newcastle for the north in June, to take part in the annual Reunion. After a breakfast break in Berwick, it was over the Border and on to Perth. Those fit enough to parade, made their way to the assembly point only to make their way back to Balhousie, considerably wetter than when they set out. The minor discomfort was soon overcome by balancing the liquid exterior with an equally well soaked interior. Arrangements for the reunification of the party in the evening came to grief, due to misunderstandings which no doubt originated in the beer tent. The journey home next day was punctuated by the usual attempts to become insolvent in Edinburgh and to drink the bars in the Borders dry. The first objective was almost achieved, making the second objective a forlorn hope.

The local celebration of Minden Day was enjoyed by those members who obtained the revised arrangements whilst those who did not benefit from the information, missed out. The failure in communications arose in the organising association who will not be named.

Some of our members took a trip to France in September, with the Fusiliers Association. At the time of writing, no report has been received as to their safe return, news of which will have to wait for the May edition.

Owing to the reorganisation of the secretariat, the booking of a suitable venue for our annual dinner became a casualty and we will be unable to host an event this year. The outgoing officer had other things on his mind and neglected to warn the new incumbent of the urgency of the matter.

In November, on St Andrew's Day, a Memorial Bench, situated in Eldon Square, Newcastle, will be dedicated to those members of The Black Watch and the Tyneside Scottish, who lost their lives in wars since 1914. The liaison with the civil authorities is being undertaken by 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery RA (V). It is hoped that we will have support from members of other Associations within the area. The Tyneside Irish Centre will provide hospitality at the end of the official parade, for which we are most grateful.

Malcolm Dunn

PERTH BRANCH

President: Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Roddy Riddell
Chairman: Captain Alan McEwen MBE
Secretary: Ally Alcorn
Treasurer: Frances Sandilands
Accounts Auditor: Major (Retired) Colin Wilson

The Perth Branch is very pleased to report that it remains active and continues to foster comradeship and our members have enjoyed each other's company at a number of remembrance, sporting and social events throughout this period.

Jim Baird died on Monday 23rd July 2018 at Perth Royal Infirmary following a short and bravely fought illness. His funeral was extremely well attended. Jim was a friend to many and was a stalwart of the Branch. He was well respected and was indeed hugely instrumental in its very existence following his retirement from the Regular Army. Jim will be sadly missed.

Several Branch members along with their partners attended a day out to Aberfeldy on Sunday 30th June 2018 to visit The Black Watch Memorial. They enjoyed a good lunch in the Black Watch Inn afterwards.

Our Branch members were delighted to welcome back The Black Watch Battalion to their spiritual home here in Perth on Sunday 16th September 2018. They paraded, Colours Flying and Bayonets Fixed, through the streets of the Fair City following their recent and hugely successful deployment to Iraq. It gave us all a rare chance to see some of the uniforms, weapons, equipment and vehicles currently in use with the Battalion, in addition to providing a unique opportunity to chat with many serving officers and soldiers during a reception held in the Perth Concert Hall after the parade.

Alan McEwen



A Foxhound vehicle was part of the parade as well as soldiers wearing and carrying up to date infantry equipment and weapons.



The Commanding Officer, thanks Councillor Dennis Melloy, Provost of Perth for allowing the Battalion to parade in Perth.



Members of the Perth Branch including Colonel Ian Critchley were on parade, flanking the saluting dias.

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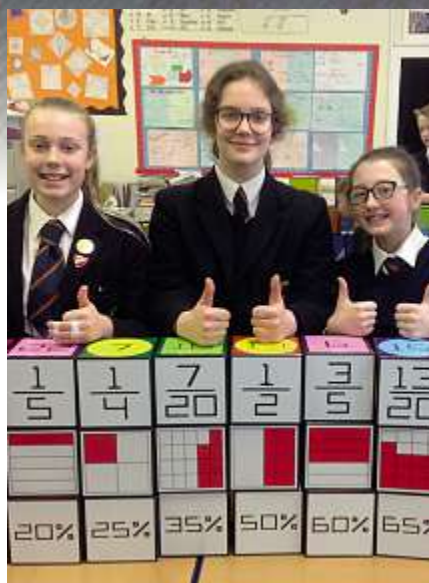
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