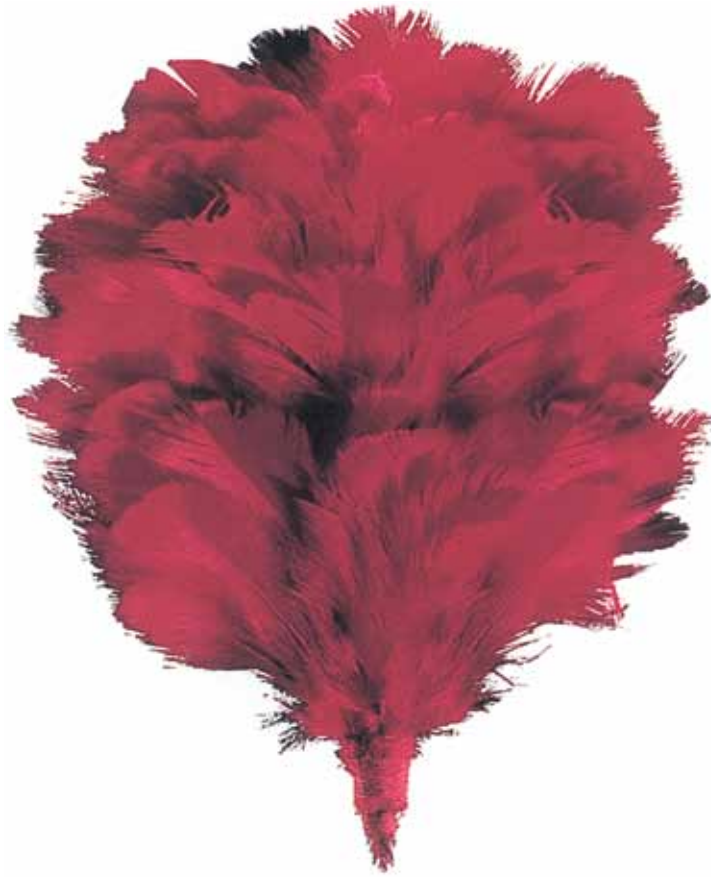


No. 111
May 2011



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 Black Watch curlers at the Highland and Lowland Brigades' Bonspiel held in Perth on 31 March 2011.
They won the Highland Brigade Cup for the first time since 1993.*



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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*

**May 2011
No. 111**

Published for The Black Watch



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Editorial

In the last edition of the magazine the important issue of the Strategic Defence and Security Review was highlighted and we had hoped that by now, there might have been some clarity on how antecedent Headquarters would be affected. That is not the case and the earliest we will hear any news is now after the publication date of this edition. The Army is to reduce to a manpower ceiling of 94,000 by 2015 and 50% of the forces currently based in Germany are to have returned to the UK by then, with the remaining forces being withdrawn by 2020. The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland have not yet been affected by the current announcements and they remain at Fort George focussing on their Mission Specific Training in preparation for their second tour in Afghanistan.

At the same time as this was unfolding, officers and soldiers of the Black Watch battalion were on Spearhead Land Element and in early March were forward based in South Cerney as a result of the crisis in Libya. They were not deployed. The Black Watch were last in Libya when the 1st Battalion carried out a training exercise in 1966 and so some of the more senior Black Watch Association members were reminiscing about those happy days.

The museum saw a fall in visitor numbers in 2010 compared to 2009 but the staff have been busy, continuing to record the artefacts held in the museum onto the database and with the future potential development of the museum in mind, much planning is being carried out. The Friends of the Black Watch Castle and Museum have held a number of launches and events, including lectures in Balhousie Castle.

The Appeal Committee have written a report on their achievements and you should read that in full.

Finally, with the continued support of the MOD to antecedent Headquarters in doubt, the Regimental Trustees have passed a number of responsibilities across to the Regimental Association. The Chairman of the Association has written a Foreword to the Association notes, explaining the views of the Trustees of the Black Watch Association and what contingency plans they have in place to ensure that the Association remains meaningful and vibrant and able to carry out its most important role of providing timely welfare and benevolence to Black Watch officers and soldiers and their dependants. Since the merger of the 1st Battalion into the Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Association has been reinvigorated and the small staff in the Association office have planned and carried out a large number of successful regimental events. I am sure that we all hope that will continue for many years to come.

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 Regiment 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.

Bulk orders are supplied at a rate of £4 per copy. Individual copies are sent out to permanent subscribers, both in the UK and abroad, at a subscription rate of £8 annually for UK subscribers, £14 annually to Europe and £16 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", Home Headquarters, The Black Watch, Balhousie Castle, Hay Street, Perth PH1 5HR, and those interested in the Gift Aid Scheme will, on request be provided with the requisite forms for completion.



Regimental and Battalion News

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Lieutenant Colonel R R E Lindsay** on his selection to command 2 SCOTS in July 2012.

To **Lieutenant Colonel J C Roddis** on his selection to command 4 SCOTS in September 2011.

To **Major M E Munro** who commanded A Company 3 SCOTS, on his selection for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

A short service of dedication was held at the Dunfermline War memorial on Monday 28 February 2011 to mark the addition of Corporal Tam Mason's name to the town's memorial.

His family, the Lord Lieutenant of Fife, the Provost of Fife, members of the battalion and a strong contingent from the Association gathered on a cold but sunny day. Corporal Mason died of his wounds, sustained in Afghanistan, on 25 October 2009.

The Dundee Courier marked the event and quoted the poetry of Robert Service.

*"Give me to live and love in the old, bold fashion
For I hold as a simple faith there's no denying
The trade of a soldier's the only trade worth plying
The death of a soldier's the only death worth dying".*



Corporal Mason's name has been added to the Dunfermline War Memorial.

THE ELIZABETH CROSS

The families of the following Black Watch Soldiers who were killed in action or died on operations have been presented with the Elizabeth Cross:

Name	Date of Death	Theatre of Operations
Private W Shaw	19 November 1952	Korea
Second Lieutenant A Rattray MC	8 May 1953	Korea



This photograph shows (from L-R) Second Lieutenant Donald Black MC, Major Angus Irwin DSO MC, Second Lieutenant Alex Rattray MC and possibly Sergeant Gait DCM inspecting a Chinese Burp Gun.

Donald Black was awarded his MC for his actions whilst in command of the foremost platoon during the Battle of the Hook during the period 14-19 November 1952. Angus Irwin, commanding A Company was awarded the DSO and Alex Rattray was also awarded his MC for his courage and actions during the battle. He was subsequently killed in action on 8 May 1953. His brother Alastair was presented with the Elizabeth Cross at a ceremony held in November 2010. Brigadier Adam Gurdon attended the presentation on behalf of the Regiment. Sgt Gait was awarded his DCM for his courage and leadership during the same period of 16-19 November 1952. He was later commissioned into the RMP.



The presentation of The Elizabeth Cross to Mr Alastair Rattray the brother of Second Lieutenant Alex Rattray MC took place in November 2010. From left to right; Mrs Alastair Rattray, Mr Alastair Rattray and Brigadier Gurdon. (Note the painting of the Battle of The Hook).



Margaret Dow and Avril Dow (niece of Private William Shaw) hold the Elizabeth Cross.

THE FUTURE OF THE RED HACKLE MAGAZINE

Readers will note that the magazine is slightly shorter than normal. There are a number of reasons for this; due to increased printing and postage costs the magazine has run at a loss for about 12 months. The Trustees of the Association made the decision not to increase the subscription until the future of the MOD staff becomes clearer but that in the meantime, we should look to reduce the number of pages and hence the cost of printing and postage. This has occurred at a time when the battalion are very stretched and we have been asked to alleviate the workload placed on them. We hope that by July, the Association Trustees may have greater clarity but any decision they take may lead to an increase in the cost of your subscription, a reduction to one magazine a year or even a different format of magazine.

NAMING CONVENTIONS

In a recent letter from Regimental Headquarters of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel stated that the only acceptable titles to be used when referring to a battalion were as follows; the title in full ie The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland or the abbreviated title 3 SCOTS. The use of the original abbreviated title "Black Watch, 3 SCOTS" was not to be used.

FRIENDS OF THE BLACK WATCH CASTLE AND MUSEUM COCKTAIL PARTY 21 JULY 2011

The Regimental Cocktail Party is undergoing a degree of change and from 2011 onwards will be run by the Friends of The Black Watch Castle and Museum. This year it is to take place at Balhousie Castle on Thursday 21 July 2011.

CURLERS WANTED

The Black Watch curling club are looking for new members to join to take part in matches against the Argylls and Highlanders. All ranks are encouraged to "volunteer" and training will be arranged to ensure you can take to the ice with confidence. The matches are relaxed and enjoyable events, the emphasis being placed on comradeship.

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL BATHGATE

Readers may wish to be aware that the wooden pagoda at the Korean War Memorial near Bathgate is to be demolished and will be replaced by a brick built replacement. The money to carry out this task was raised by the Korean Veterans.

A BLACK WATCH STAINED GLASS WINDOW

The Editor received an e mail from Nicholas Orr a retired officer of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards who served with The Black Watch Battlegroup in the 1980s. He drew my attention to a Black Watch stained glass window in St Columba's with New Lendal Church in York.

The church originally built for the Presbyterians in 1879 records that "Scottish regiments continued to play a lively part in both services and the social life of the church. The Black Watch band was a favourite".

The 2nd Battalion was stationed in York from 1896-1898 before moving to Aldershot and then the South African War. The Archivist was not aware of this window's existence.



The Black Watch window displayed above the Nativity window in St Columba's with new Lendal Church in York.

MAJOR GENERAL NORMAN ROGERS RAMC

Readers may be interested to see an extract of an obituary published in The Daily Telegraph.

"In June 1944 Norman Rogers took part in the Normandy landings as RMO of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch. He was twice Mentioned in Despatches but was also wounded in the leg and evacuated to England. He rejoined the 1st Battalion and served with it until the end of the campaign.

After the war he was demobbed and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons but he rejoined the RAMC in 1956 serving until 1973. He later worked as a civilian consultant surgeon in BMH Iserlohn and BMH Munster. He died on 19 February 2011".

THE BLACK WATCH (ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT) OF CANADA

Readers will wish to be aware that in 2012 The Black Watch of Canada celebrate the 150th Anniversary since their formation in 1862. The Regimental website is www.blackwatchcanada.com where details of events can be found.

THE TRANSVAAL SCOTTISH

The Transvaal Scottish regret that they have been unable to send an update for this edition.

CURLING REPORT – 2010/2011

This season has been a mixed season for the Regimental curlers. At the end of 2010 the Regiment once again took on The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders for the Macrae Cup. Each side produced three rinks but the Black Watch was beaten by a relatively large margin. In the New Year the first of what we hope will be an annual match against the The Highlanders, was played. Each side produced two teams but The Highlanders were too strong and won quite easily. Hopes were, therefore not high for the Highland and Lowland Brigades' Curling Club Bonspiel in March. This was due to take place on 17 March in Perth but with less than twenty four hours notice it was called off because the ice was unplayable. It had not recovered from the Junior World Championships which had just been held there. As a result the Bonspiel was hastily rescheduled for 31 March. This meant the teams from all the Regiments had to be rejigged. While the Black Watch still managed to field three rinks, the Highlanders and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders had to reduce their rinks to two. The Lowlanders produced one rink albeit a different one to that picked for the original date.

The Black Watch Rinks were:

Black Watch 'A'	Black Watch 'B'	Black Watch 'C'
David Montgomery	James Duncan Miller	Jamie Montgomery
Peter Sutton	Tim Usher	Jamie Erskine
Roddy Riddell	Duncan Cameron	Alex Stewart
Alan McEwan	Willie Coupur	Philip Halford-Macleod

Each match was to be played over six ends. At the end of their six ends in the first of the matches Black Watch 'A' and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 'B' were tied (6-6) and each side had won three ends; thus it was up to the skips to throw a stone. David Montgomery 's stone was inch perfect and closer to the middle of the house than his opponent but by the closest of margins; thus he was declared the winner. The 'B' team was sadly beaten by Highlanders 'B' but the 'C' team overcame the much fancied Highlanders 'A' team. As a result, the 'A' and 'C' teams progressed into the 'High Road' Pool while the 'C' team went into the 'Low Road' Pool. In the next series of matches, Black Watch 'A' overcame Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 'B', the 'B' team beat the Lowlanders while the 'C' team began very slowly and never managed to catch up with the Highlanders 'B' team who eventually held on to win by one shot. Thus to the finals. In a very exciting match Black Watch 'A' came from behind to beat Highlanders 'B' to win the overall competition – the first time the Regiment has done so since 1993 when the skip was... David Montgomery! The 'C' team was not just playing for pride and beat the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to come third overall and because of the shot differential, were adjudged to have beaten the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 'B' team in the play offs. The 'C' team was curling for the cup in the 'Low Road' and while it was extremely close until the last end, lost out to Highlanders 'A'. However, all in all it was a successful Black Watch Day.



The Black Watch C Team came third overall.

As well as curling for the Regiment during the season, Black Watch curlers have also curled for the Highland and Lowland Brigades Curling Club in the matches against the New Club and The Royal Company of Archers (which also included a number of Black Watch curlers). The match against the New Club was lost but the Highland and Lowland Brigades' Curling Club did beat the Royal Company.



The winning Black Watch team at the Bonspiel are presented with the Highland Brigade Cup, last won by the Regiment in 1993 when the skip was a much younger David Montgomery.

While there is a core of curlers within the Regiment, we are keen to encourage more people to take part. It is always satisfying to beat our opponents, but 'comradeship' is what these matches are all about and it does not matter what rank you are/were in the Regiment, do let us know if you are interested in giving it a go.

The Black Watch Heritage Appeal, The Regimental Museum and Friends of the Black Watch

THE REGIMENTAL TRUSTS AND PROJECT BALHOUSIE

The main news from Project Balhousie is that we have successfully passed the stage 1 phase of our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. We have bid for £750,000 and this amount has been set aside for us provided that we can pass stage 2. This will involve much further detailed work but we are quietly confident that we shall pass muster. That we have reached this stage so successfully is in no small measure to the Chief Executive Alfie Iannetta, to his team in Balhousie and to the efforts of the Executive Committee led by Jamie Montgomery. It is too soon to break out the celebratory drinks but their hard work has put us in a very good position with a growing prospect of realising our dreams for Balhousie and the Museum. Meanwhile the appeal continues to make progress: if we succeed with the Lottery application we shall be within striking distance of achieving the target we set. There will still be a gap but applications to other charitable trusts and, we hope, further generosity from our many supporters in and beyond the Regimental family will help us to close that gap. So fingers crossed!

On another more prosaic but important subject, readers probably know that there are four Black Watch charitable trusts: the Black Watch Association, the Black Watch Regimental Trust, the Wavell Appeal and the Museum Trust. The Association is of course free-standing and has its own governance arrangements. Hitherto, and for good reasons, the other three trusts have been the responsibility of a single body of trustees (the Regimental Trustees). Over the years this has worked very well but the progress of Project Balhousie

has caused us to consider whether it remains appropriate for the same trustees to be responsible for all three trusts. There are two principle reasons why we do not think we can continue as before. The first is that it is clearly not good practice for the same people to be responsible for taking decisions in respect of different trusts whose respective aims and objects, though related, are in various ways different one from the others and between which some form of conflict of interest might arise. The second reason is that as Project Balhousie proceeds we need to be able to demonstrate to the professional museum world and to the Heritage Lottery that the trustees possess, between them, the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to make a success of the Museum and its business. Many of us may think that the current and previous teams of people involved have made a pretty good job of it and so they have. But we are now into the business of persuading others and we have to admit that none of the current team is professionally qualified in many of the disciplines that will help to project Balhousie into the top league.

Furthermore we have decided for sound business and governance reasons to convert the Museum Trust into a private charitable company limited by guarantee. This is not as dramatic as it may sound but it will allow us to undertake commercial activities more easily and at less risk either to the trustees or to the Museum itself.

So from 1st August there will be a slightly different governance structure for the trusts other than the Association. Brigadier Garry Barnett will become chairman of Regimental Trustees looking after the Regimental Trust and the Wavell Appeal. He will be joined by

a small team of serving and retired Black Watch officers. The new Museum Trust Board will be chaired by General Alistair Irwin, joined by some of the current Regimental trustees (all former Black Watch officers), supervising as now, the work of the Executive Committee and joined in due course by new trustees bringing museum and commercial expertise to the team.

These changes will not have any noticeable effect as far those not immediately involved are concerned; and it will be clear that there will continue to be firm Black Watch control on the activities of all three trusts, even as some non-Black Watch trustees gradually come on board in the Museum Trust.

Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin

THE BLACK WATCH HERITAGE APPEAL AND CASTLE DEVELOPMENT HERITAGE APPEAL

I am very pleased to announce that amidst extremely tough competition, our Heritage Lottery Funding application has been passed through Stage 1 of their 2 part process. As we explained in the last edition of the Red Hackle, given the excellent results delivered in fundraising so far, coupled with the approval of our ambitious development plans, the Trustees decided to increase our financial bid from £500k to £750K. This higher figure has now been accepted by the Heritage Lottery Fund and we now move on in the developing of our Stage 2 application in the knowledge that over 80% of the bids that pass the Stage 1 process manage to secure the funds applied for.

We are also pleased to report that we have passed the £2 million milestone in funds raised and pledged to our Appeal. This represents a very successful result so far, given the recent economic climate and we are grateful and very proud that the most significant percentage of the total has been donated by our Regimental family.

As well as preparing our Lottery bid we are working closely with a few major Charitable Trusts and we are hopeful that by the end of this year we will have all the required funds available to enable us to commence building work. However, we must be mindful that the fundraising sector is more competitive now than ever and any further financial support we can receive from readers of this magazine would be very much appreciated.

CASTLE AND MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT

The latest plans for Balhousie Castle can be seen by visiting our website www.theblackwatch.co.uk We are very close to submitting our planning application and work continues through our Property and Museum Working Party Committees to ensure that we have robust costings in place to present to the Regimental Trustees in July. We are confident that we have designed a new extension to the Castle that will not only double the size of the available space but will offer long term security and care to our wonderful collection and archive. There will be a new classroom, meeting room and exhibition room to enhance our learning facilities, a new lift shaft and lavatories to improve our facilities and disabled access, as well as a new shop and cafe that will enhance the visitor experience and provide an income for the museum.

We have been encouraged by the many visits to the museum by members of our Regimental family to see the model of our new development. The feedback we have received from them and from other visitors has been extremely positive.

We plan first to work on providing extra parking facilities in the new car park, then move on to build the new extension and once this has been done we plan to open the extension for visitors. We then expect to close the museum to carry out the modernisation of services and install new cases and displays and we expect the whole development to be completed in time for the busy tourist season in 2013.

Alfie Iannetta, Chief Executive, The Black Watch Museum Trust

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Acquisitions

The Museum has been lucky enough to receive some interesting objects over the past few months. Of particular note is Sir John Moore's writing case, generously donated by Ian Munro. The writing case has three secret compartments. It is most likely made from satinwood from the West Indies, where Moore served under General Sir Ralph Abercromby. Moore is best known for his military training reforms and his death at the Battle of Corunna during

the Peninsular War. The writing case was presented to General Anderson in 1796. Our thanks go to Major Colin Innes for arranging this donation.

Major Innes was also kind enough to donate a mahogany cigar box, of Indian design and manufacture. The item was made for Lieutenant Colonel S A Innes, DSO and dated to circa 1922, when he commanded the 2nd Battalion in India. His initials are engraved on the inside of the lid.

Afghanistan

A new museum display, dedicated to the recent deployment of 3 SCOTS to Afghanistan, is now on exhibition at the Museum. We plan to continue to tell the story of The Black Watch, in its current form as 3 SCOTS, in the coming years.

Oil paintings

In Autumn 2010 we were involved with the Public Catalogue Foundation and their project to photograph all the oil paintings in public ownership in the UK. In three days (one at Fort George and two at Balhousie) all of the oils in our collection were professionally photographed. The project was a great opportunity for the Museum to have its oil paintings photographed. Ultimately, the images will be available for use by the Museum, for use as we see fit but the



New acquisitions – the Moore and Innes boxes.



The new Afghanistan exhibition at the Museum.



The launch of the Friends in Fife.

project will also provide an avenue for art lovers to access the collection, online and in catalogue format.

Website

The Black Watch website has been upgraded and is online now. The new look site incorporates feedback from visitors and staff, to give the pages a visitor focus and make content easier to find.

Redevelopment plans

The redevelopment plans for the Castle and Museum have been widely publicised. The development of the Castle will include an extension that will provide premier visitor facilities. The redevelopment project will also involve a major redevelopment of the Museum. The redevelopment will give us the opportunity to update the Museum galleries and displays, to explore new themes and give the Museum a new lease of life. The redevelopment of the Museum will be in keeping with the building and the collection, reflecting the history of The Black Watch.

Emma Halford-Forbes

FRIENDS OF THE BLACK WATCH CASTLE AND MUSEUM – SIX MONTHS ON

Six months on from the launch of The Friends of the Black Watch Castle and Museum and the Museum has held a very successful Winter Lecture Series. The series was so successful that we had to repeat our final lecture due to the demand! Many Friends attended these lectures and enjoyed them.

The Friends Committee has organised and hosted two events during March, which have attracted new visitors to the Museum. The first event was a 'Valuation Day at the Castle' held on 10th March in conjunction with Shapes Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers. The team of experts from Shapes spent the day examining and valuing a wide variety of paintings, antiques and works of art brought in by Friends and members of the public for an Antiques Road Show type of day. Friends enjoyed free entry to the museum and had two items valued for free. Emma Scott, Shapes Regional Development Officer and valuers Richard Longwill, Dr Duncan Thomson and Hamish Wilson were delighted to visit the museum and to see such a wide variety of possessions brought in during a very busy day. Everyone

left a little wiser about the story of their possessions and some left with the knowledge they could be little bit richer! The Friends and Shapes team enjoyed the day so much that we are already planning future events together.

Our second event, a keynote lecture, took place on the evening of the 17th March at Perth Museum and Art Gallery. Major Colin Innes presented a lecture on the life of Sir Thomas Graham KB 1748-1843. The evening began with a reception at which wine and canapés were served. Major Innes was welcomed by Major Ronnie Proctor and thanked by Sarah Riddell-Webster. The lecture included discussions on Sir Thomas Graham's early life and his role as an agricultural moderniser, his marriage to the former Honourable Mary Cathcart, his military career and his time as an MP. In the museum foyer, display cases containing objects which belonged to Sir Thomas Graham were on exhibit; these had kindly been lent by a relation of Sir Thomas Graham who was attending the lecture. The evening was enjoyed by all those that had an interest in this well-known Perthshire land owner and soldier.

The Friends Committee have a calendar of events for the rest of the year. To find out more about this, our day to day activities and how to become a Friend, contact 01738 638152, e-mail friends@the-blackwatch.co.uk or visit the website at www.theblackwatch.co.uk

On becoming a Friend, benefits include free admission to the museum, invitations to special Friends events (tickets payable at reduced rates), 5% discount in the shop, updates and newsletters and the eligibility to wear a Friends tie or lapel pin. The committee are working towards creating 'Welcome Tours' for new Friends members. The welcome tours will provide a unique opportunity to be guided through the museum whilst receiving a warm welcome to the Friends.

The Friends now have over a 100 members and this number is steadily growing with new members joining every week. Since our launch we have bestowed 5 Honorary Memberships; Fraser Brown, (Education Service), Jim Turpie, (volunteer), Mrs Frances Melville (Provost of Fife), Mrs Margaret Dean (The Lord Lieutenant of Fife) and to John Letford (The Lord Provost of Dundee). The Lord Provost of Perth, John Hulbert will be presented with Honorary Membership at Balhousie Castle on Friday 8th April.

The Friends thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at our future events.

Sarah Riddell-Webster, Leanon Blackhall

Correspondence

gomezsas@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Editor

PRIVATE ROBERT "ELKIE" CLARK

I am a friend of Private Davy Calder, whose nickname was Harry. Harry would like to get in touch with another ex Black Watch soldier called Robert "Elkie" Clark. Both served in A Company in Korea and Davy was demobbed in 1954 having been wounded in action.

If you can help, please e mail me at the above address.

David McArthur

Stone House Cottage
Worcestershire

Dear Editor,

PIPERS VS PEACOCKS

I dare to say that your Barometer, indicating that it was a bad week for peacocks, was pretty good news around here. However, it is not always essential to catch a marauding peacock before ejecting it. Some years ago, two of the beautiful, but unpleasant, birds adopted us, and their raucous voices and indiscriminate eating of some of our more lovely plants found us aching to pull the trigger. One day, by chance, we were entertaining the members of the Birmingham Branch of the Black Watch Association in our garden. They brought two pipers, who played from the top of one of the towers in our walled garden. The peacocks took flight and have never reappeared, unable to compete with such fine music.

For a real infestation of peacocks, one might need a whole pipe band.

James Arbuthnott

Editor's Note: This letter first appeared in the October 2010 edition of Country Life.

13 High Street
Auchtermuchty
Fife KY14 7AP

Dear Editor,

THE ROYAL CHAPEL WINDSOR GREAT PARK

This summer I had been allowed to visit the Royal Chapel in the centre of Windsor Great Park, where I met the verger. I noticed that he wore on his wrist a Black Watch Afghanistan band.

"You must be Black Watch", I said. "Yes, I'm Arthur Barty, 144 Squad, Queens' Barracks, Perth, 1960 with Captain Innes".

Arthur told me that he had served with the Black Watch for 15 years in Cyprus, Germany and the UK. Later in September, I was at Pisa airport when someone called my name from behind me. I turned and found it to be David McMicking. I mentioned that I had met Arthur Barty. He remembered that Arthur had been driver to Tony Lithgow, when the latter commanded the 1st Battalion, and then driver to Andy Watson.

In 1975 Arthur Barty left the Black Watch and became driver to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. He was to remain her driver for 27 years.

Arthur Barty showed me around the Royal Chapel which had been built in 1825 for King George IV. My mother's grandmother's grandfather, Charles Richard Sumner, had been the King's chaplain at the time, which was why I had been interested in seeing the church.

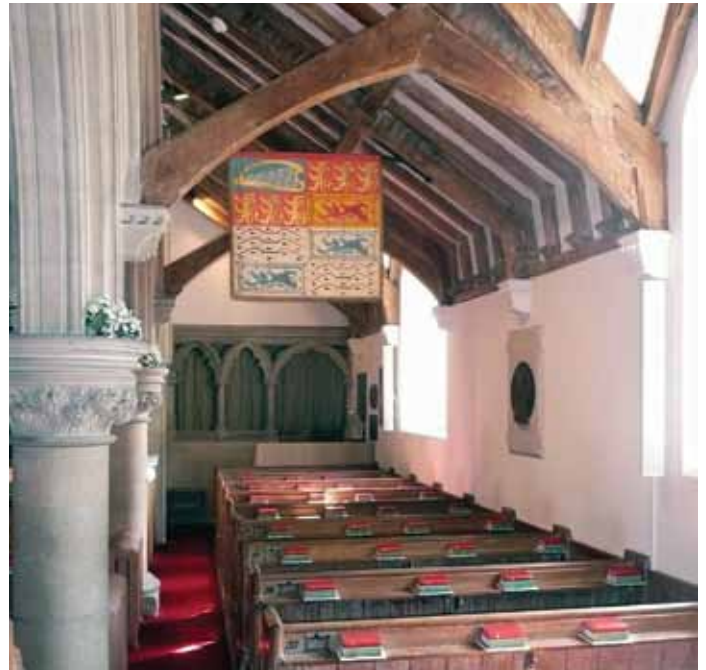
The church was extensively remodelled in 1852 by Queen Victoria. It is still the church for the residents of Windsor Great Park. The Queen worships here when she is staying at Windsor Castle.

In the south aisle of the church there is a memorial for the Queen Mother and her banner hangs above it. The Queen Mother died in 2002 and Arthur Barty still missed her as he remembered his 27 years of service. She had died at Royal Lodge, only 200 yards away. The Lodge had been her home at Windsor since the time that she had married the Duke of York before the Second World War. Indeed, during the War, the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret had made the Lodge their home.

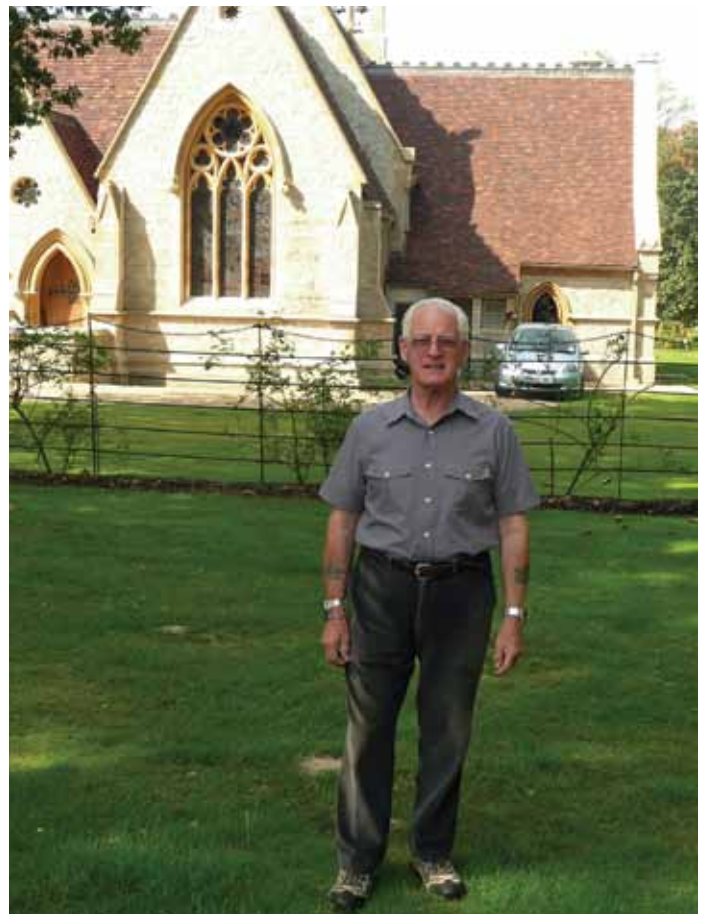
Arthur now prepares the church for worship and he never knows when the Queen will be there, until security arrives with sniffer

dogs. Arthur and his wife now live in a grace and favour house just outside Windsor Great Park.

Ruari Halford-Macleod



There is a memorial to Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother in the south aisle of the Royal Chapel under her banner.



Arthur Barty outside the Royal Chapel, Windsor Great Park, where he is verger. He joined the Black Watch in 1960 and served for 15 years, ending up as the Commanding Officer's driver. When he left the Army he became the Queen Mother's driver and served her for 27 years.

St. Andrews
Fife

Dear Editor,

HIGHLAND BRIGADE GOLFING SOCIETY

In the November 2010 issue of the "Red Hackle", the Society is twice described as the "Highland and Lowland Brigade Golfing Society".

Notwithstanding the amalgamation of the Highland and Lowland Brigade Clubs, the Highland Brigade Golfing Society remains a distinct club with its own constitution, administration and fixture list. Membership of the Society is open to all officers who have served in a Highland Regiment or associated T.A. battalions, or are serving or who have served in any Highland Battalion in The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

New members to the Society are always most welcome, regardless of golfing ability!

John Rankin, Captain H.B.G.S

121 Edgecliff Road
Woollahra
NSW 2025
Australia

Dear Editor,

ANCIENT HISTORY RE-VISITED

I thought I would let you know of a mistake in the November Edition of The Red Hackle Magazine. I noticed on page 62 that in the piece headed "A Bit of Ancient History" that Forbes Taylor thought that I had become Colonel of The London Scottish – not so!

When 6BW folded I was appointed to run 12 Div Battle School at Khalkison on the island of Euboia where we shared the barracks with the Lovat Scouts. When the Battle School closed I became the 2ic of the Lovat Scouts and for 6 weeks I was acting CO at the age of 23. I remember well the young officers and still keep in touch with Colin McIntyre. In due course, post war, I was a Company Commander in the London Scottish until 1952 when I was commissioned into the Australian Army.

Incidentally Peter Taylor (see article "Arms and the Man") was my instructor when I volunteered to join the 70th Battalion (Young Soldiers) The Black Watch at Milton Hill, Monifieth before I was selected for RMC OCTU.

Donald Ramsay

7 Guthrie Crescent
Markinch KY7 6AY

Dear Editor,

VETERANS' SALUTE

Recently a friend of mine sent me the history behind the placing of the right hand over our hearts at funerals and remembrance services.

He was surprised to learn that we are actually placing our hand over our medals.

At the salute at the Cenotaph or Wreath Laying Ceremonies on Remembrance Sunday, veterans will place their right hand over their 'Left Side' – many believing that they are placing their 'Hand over their Heart' in Respect or Remembrance of their 'Fallen Comrades'. This is not strictly correct.

The 'Veterans Salute to their Fallen Comrades' originated in London on Armistice Day in 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

At the same time, a funeral procession accompanying the remains of the "Unknown Soldier" halted at the Cenotaph during the ceremony, before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for interment.

Those present included many senior officers from the Royal Navy and Army as well as many Victoria Cross winners.

The ceremony concluded with a March Past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guards' Regiment conducting the ceremony, (faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men, all wearing rows of medals), decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that "No matter what honours we may have been awarded, they are nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice".

Rev Alex Forsyth

Accountants to The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

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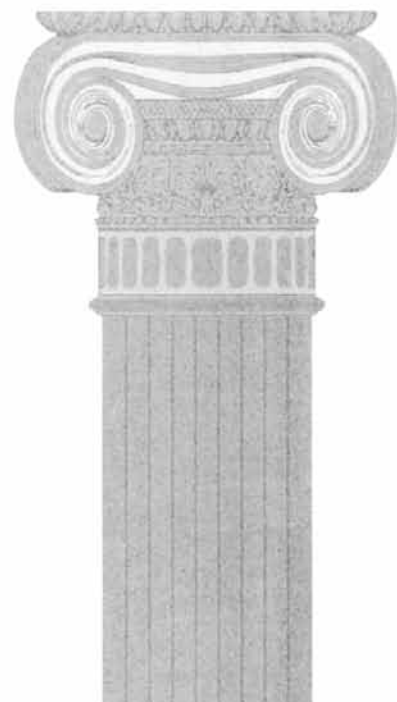
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Book Reviews

STALIN'S SECRET WAR

The NKVD on the Eastern Front – by *Rupert Butler*
ISBN 184884053-5 Pen and Sword
RRP £19.99

For readers who wish to know more about Stalin and how his tyrannical regime maintained its iron grip on power, this is a well researched and written book. The greatest achievement of the Soviet state was the Red Army's victory over Nazi Germany. The victory was attained at an almost unimaginable human cost and often the Soviet soldiers and civilians had not only to fear the Germans but also the utterly ruthless police organisation that used terror to control every aspect of army and civilian life.

The NKVD had its roots in the oppressive days of the Tsars and was created under the guiding hand of Lavrenti Beria, the NKVD chief. The NKVD waged a merciless campaign against dissent and defeatism and was ordered to counter the threat of treachery and collaboration. No one was trusted – even Red Army soldiers who had fought their way out of enemy encirclements were treated as traitors.

During the 1930s the NKVD acted as judge, jury and executioner, implementing Stalin's ethnic cleansing and genocide programmes. The NKVD controlled the GULAG and those who were not executed as political opponents, became a convenient source of slave labour. Brutality was the hallmark whether they were dealing with their own people, Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians or Poles.

Reading this book, it is hard to comprehend just how many people were murdered by the NKVD but I was struck by the fact that even in our every day lives there are people who cannot deal with dissent or disagreement. But even the once arrogant and all powerful Beria was executed in 1953, humiliated as a non person and stripped to his underwear.

The author finishes the book by reminding the reader that in the post war era the NKVD was merged with another security organ to become the KGB and its successor is now the FSB. He correctly states that the Soviet Union is still to come to terms with its own past. Only recently did they accept responsibility for the Katyn massacre.

The book can be ordered on line from www.pen-and-sword.co.uk. By entering code 103001 into the voucher box the book can be bought for £15.99.



PIPERS OF THE HIGHLAND REGIMENTS, 1854-1902

Compiled from Regimental Sources, Records of Highland Gatherings, Official Documents and Various Publications
Attributed to the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria

by *R H Crawford*

This book is the result of many years' research. Dick Crawford is an American, who has specialised in collecting medals awarded to Pipers of Highland Regiments.

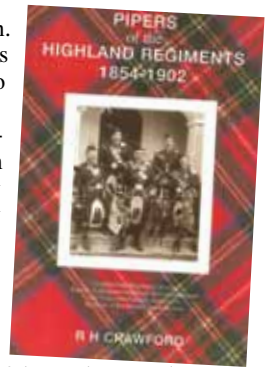
Although there had been pipers in the regiments from the earliest days, they were listed in *Muster Rolls* as drummers. Pipers were officially recognised by an Army Order of 28th January 1854, which allowed for a Pipe Major and five Pipers. The regiments concerned were The Black Watch, the Highland Light Infantry, the Seaforth Highlanders, The Gordon Highlanders and the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. This is not a history of piping in the army but a Nominal Roll of those who served as pipers in the regular army. Mr Crawford has provided a short biography of the Pipers whom he has identified, who served as regular soldiers. The Volunteers are treated in Appendices. The information is more sketchy.

As the senior Highland Regiment, The Black Watch is well represented. It should be noted, first of all, that the 73rd (Perthshire) Regiment did not have pipers until 1881, when the unit became the 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch. There are short biographies of some 116 pipers of The Black Watch. Some examples of the personalities involved – William Ross, the first official Pipe Major in 1854, then appointed Sovereign's Piper to Queen Victoria, a position he held until his death in 1891; James Campbell, served in the Ashanti Campaign, who became Ross' assistant and succeeded him as Sovereign's Piper to Queen Victoria and then King Edward VII: Pipe-Major John McDonald. Served in the Ashanti Campaign, composer of *The Back Watch March to Coomassie*. Nick-named *Coomassie John*, he was still recruiting during the First World War; Piper James Honeyman,, Ashanti Campaign, composer of the tune "*Lord Alexander Kennedy*"; Piper James Weatherspoon, DCM, Ashanti Campaign; Pipe-Major John Keith, 2nd Battalion, served in the Boer War, DCM, First World War; Pipe Major George Thom, 2nd Battalion, Boer War, wounded at the Battle of Magersfontein and served with the 1st Battalion in the First World War. He was the piper whose image was used on the front cover of *The Red Hackle* for many years. There are a host of other interesting characters, who served in The Black Watch.

This is an essential research tool for those interested in the history of pipers.

Savannah Publications, 90 Dartmouth Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3HZ. (Web-site: savannah-publications.com) ISBN: 1-902366-44-1. Hardback. At £60.

Tommy Smyth



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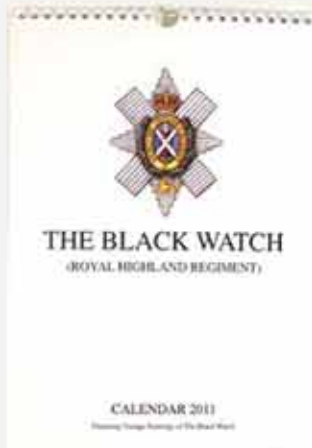
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Obituaries

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID ROSE MACNEIL CAMPBELL ROSE DSO*

Lieutenant Colonel David Rose who died on Sunday 24th October 2010 aged 98 won his first DSO in 1940 while serving as a Captain with 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) in British Somaliland. The award of a DSO to such a junior officer was unusual in those days. The British withdrawal from Somaliland without (as FM Lord Wavell put it) incurring a “large butcher’s bill” had been criticised by Winston Churchill which may have made the award of any higher decoration for individual gallantry politically unacceptable even had his actions merited it.



British Somaliland was defended by a small British force mainly composed of colonial forces with The Black Watch held in reserve. Five Italian brigades stiffened by Black Shirts and supported by air, armour and artillery soon forced the main British force to withdraw towards Berbera having fiercely defended the only natural obstacle – a dry *wadi* called The Tug Argo.

The Black Watch with a single anti-tank gun was at Barkason and acting as rearguard and was left very short of ammunition after a long day’s fighting. Rose, commanding the forward company, was at severe risk of being cut off so he counter-attacked leading his Jocks down the hill in a furious Highland bayonet charge. Despite being wounded in the shoulder, he continued to lead the attack by stuffing his arm into his belt to stop it flopping about! The Italian forces broke and fled and many of their native levies being shot down by Black Shirts who had been lurking in their rear. The enraged Highlanders pursued the enemy for some 1500 yards and left them so demoralised that they offered no further interference to the Battalion’s withdrawal under cover of darkness. The evacuation of the whole British force and civilians was skilfully achieved by the Navy despite the limited port facilities and very bad weather.

Born in 1912, David Rose was the third of four sons born to Brigadier John Rose CIE (Highland Light Infantry and 1st King George’s Own Gurkha Rifles) and Constance née Campbell of Dunstaffnage. All four brothers pursued distinguished military careers serving with great gallantry and all survived the war more or less intact. The eldest (Rhoddy) commanded 3 different Battalions of The Highland Light Infantry winning a DSO and MC and the second (Angus) distinguishing himself with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Malaya and Singapore. The youngest brother (Neil) served in the French Foreign Legion winning both Croix de Guerre and Medaille Militaire avec Palme before being severely wounded at the Mareth Line.

The four “Wild Roses” were brought up near Taynuilt in Argyll where they developed a love of fishing and shooting and, by all accounts, added a certain liveliness to local social occasions! Following an undistinguished education at Glenalmond, David passed into Sandhurst in 1930 and became a JUO before being commissioned into The Black Watch despite having no family connection with that Regiment. The Rose family association was with the Highland Light Infantry which Rhoddy had already joined. Their father (very much a Brigadier of the old school) insisted that each son should apply to a different regiment to avoid any conflict between the call of duty and filial loyalty in time of war.

Early Army service in Scotland included a period spent on the Royal Guard at Balmoral. To this day, guarding the Royal Family on holiday not only generates intense loyalty and affection from all those Scottish soldiers lucky enough to experience it but also tends to produce some amusing anecdotes. At that time, King George V was Colonel-in-Chief of the Black Watch and was nearing the end of his reign. He had a reputation for being a stern monarch but this did not invariably apply. When the King discovered the two subalterns of the Guard (David Rose and Michael Young) helping themselves to a bottle of champagne which had been specially left out for himself at the Ghillie’s Ball, instead of being very angry, the regal punishment was to require that both young officers should dance with the Queen and then come to shoot with him the next day! However while shooting, a stern reproof was earned when Rose’s over-enthusiastic Labrador retrieved a grouse from immediately behind the King’s butt:

“My bird I think, Rose!”

Not wishing to be deprived of one of his small bag and knowing the King was very proud of being a superb shot, Rose (not without some trepidation) replied:

“No, Sir, it must be one of mine... it’s a runner!”

After a snort and short pause, the gruff reply came back: “Proper little courtier aren’t you Rose? All right – I suppose you can count it as one of yours!”

Those balmy, inter-war years were marked by a relaxed military training schedule which left young officers with plenty of time for a lively sporting and social life in Scotland and England. The family had moved from Argyll to Woodbridge in Suffolk so sailing yachts of many shapes and sizes on the River Deben and West Coast of Scotland was added to his list of outdoor sports. Army pay was still very low and any young officer’s finances tended to be highly precarious. Even living frugally, a subaltern’s mess bill usually exceeded his pay by about £2-3 a month, so a private income was essential to survive in nearly all regiments. However like many before him, David Rose discovered various ingenious ways to save money. One was to sleep in the cool room of the Turkish bath at the RAC club after dancing in London before catching the milk train back to Colchester.

His active service started when the Battalion was deployed to Palestine in 1938. The troopship docked at Tangier allowing time for a run ashore and whilst visiting the *souk*, Rose was somewhat surprised to recognise his youngest brother dressed as an Arab and begging! Sadly Neil’s life and unconventional military career was never properly recorded – *Beau Geste* would have seemed boring by comparison.

The military situation in Palestine in 1938 was much the same and just as difficult as it is today. The British army was struggling to police Arab resistance to the widespread illegal Jewish immigration. Rose’s military career was nearly ended early over his refusal to apply extreme collective punishment which he deemed unacceptable. When the brigadier refused permission for him to retain a written copy of the orders, Rose refused to apply the punishments. Only the loyal support of two senior Regimental officers prevented a direct confrontation with the brigadier and probable court martial.

Following Somaliland, he attended Staff College in Haifa where he often avoided his studies preferring various unauthorised military expeditions. He never got caught but had two near escapes. The first was when he was marooned at sea on a cruiser before undergoing a severe enemy air attack near Crete following a change in naval orders. On the second, he personally accepted the surrender of Sidon when he was supposed to be studying many miles away.

Soon after he took up his first staff appointment in Cairo, news came that the 2nd Battalion had suffered 70% casualties during their attempted break-out from Tobruk. Emergency reinforcements were urgently required, so he returned to the battalion as Adjutant. Later he was posted to Burma to command one of the two Black Watch columns in the second Chindit campaign. There he was wounded again in the (other) shoulder but managed to continue in command behind Japanese lines for some weeks before severe blood poisoning forced his evacuation and a long period of convalescence.

After the war he married Lady Jean Ramsay, the younger daughter of the Earl of Dalhousie and their postings together with a young family included time on the military mission in Cairo and as a Brigade Major in Tripoli before he was recalled at short notice from command of the Regimental Depot in Perth to take command of the 1st Battalion shortly before its departure for Korea in 1952.

By then the Korean War had entered its static phase and conditions were not unlike the trench warfare of WW1. In letters written at the time, Rose expressed his misgivings at the responsibility of taking so many young and nearly untrained National Servicemen to war with a few battle-trying regulars to guide them. After incurring a steady trickle of casualties, the Battalion was ordered to take over “The Hook” (a prominent salient in the front line) from the 6th Battalion, US Marine Corps. The US Marines were in a bad way having been fought to a stand-still by repeated Chinese attacks over a period of days and the American CO’s parting words to his successor were “I’ll give you just 24 hours, Dave!”

In fact the enemy did not attack for three weeks. This allowed the Battalion time to repair the position and develop new defensive tactics – specifically to dig and dig deep to survive the Chinese artillery and human wave attacks. With Royal Engineer assistance, deep tunnels were excavated in each company position giving protection from the enemy bombardments and allowing the soldiers to take cover if overrun by the enemy. With his men safe in their tunnels, Rose could then call for airburst artillery to be brought down on our own positions to break up the enemy prior to clearing the trenches with the bayonet. By aggressive patrolling in front of our lines and deploying the few tanks available in a highly unconventional but effective way, The Black Watch managed to hold the Hook when the major Chinese attack finally came. The Regiment still suffered many casualties in the fierce fighting but things could have been very much worse. Aggressive defence proved its worth and the Regiment held the position again a few months later in the Third Battle of the Hook. In recognition of his inspired leadership, David Rose was awarded a Bar to his DSO.

The Black Watch was then ordered to sail straight to Kenya to assist in suppressing the Mau Mau uprising. National Servicemen were mostly unmarried and were only required to serve abroad for 2 years but many of the Regulars had suffered years of family separation during the 2nd World War and Korean deployment. Rose believed it essential that, if this cadre of experienced officers and senior NCOs were to be retained, they should not suffer any further family separation. He made himself very unpopular with his superiors and the War Office by insisting that the Battalion's families should be flown out to Kenya to join their husbands. Movement authority was only given reluctantly following considerable political "string-pulling". Luckily in those days influential politicians could still be met on grouse moors and Rose made best use of his contacts. Approval was also given for new anti-insurgent tactics. The Kikuyu tribe was being intimidated into providing most of the Mau Mau recruits so they were collected from vulnerable rural locations and housed in protected villages. Similar tactics were being used successfully in Malaya at about the same time.

On return from Kenya he handed over command of The Black Watch and was posted as Chief Instructor to the Small Arms School at Hythe where the new Self Loading Rifle was just being introduced into service. Persuading the Army old guard to accept a new approach to marksmanship training proved to be a major challenge. It soon became clear that this struggle and his earlier clashes with authority meant that he was unlikely to get promotion in a peacetime Army and so he retired to Scotland where he enjoyed a long retirement shooting and fishing and creating a garden. As an Honorary Member of the British Limbless Ex-Serviceman's Association, he spent the last years of his life in the BLESMA Home in Crieff. His wife predeceased him and he is survived by a son and daughter and 5 grandchildren.

Major H R Rose

David had a very refreshing personality. He rarely accepted conventional wisdom and thrived on doing things the simplest way possible, with excellent results. This trait made him the bane of any superior in headquarters, most of whom he genuinely thought were dunderheads.

Often his original thoughts on a subject would save lives. On his arrival in Korea, he vigorously questioned the efficacy of carrying out relief in the line at nightfall resulting in the soldiers being in a strange place, in the pitch dark, with no idea where their arcs of fire were. By carrying out relief at dawn, everyone had 12 hours to get to know their areas of responsibility.

It was David's idea that on Coronation Day in 1952, the battalion should fire a "feu de joie" as the Queen was crowned in Westminster Abbey. His Signal Officer, David Arbuthnott, managed to get every platoon in radio contact, the idea being that at the moment critique, on the order to fire, the platoons would fire tracer at 45 degrees from the right of the line to the left and back. Miraculously it went very well, although an anxious Brigade Duty Officer rang to ask where the attack was coming from. Failure to tell Brigade and the subsequent angry reaction, did not disrupt the Battalion HQ Mess settling down to suckling pig for dinner.

David was in his element in Kenya and very soon established an effective patrol programme against the Mau Mau. He quickly established very good relations with the Kenyan settler farmers.

On arrival as Chief Instructor at the Small Arms School at Hythe, he was amazed to find everyone still shooting at great big 4 by 4 rectangular targets. He quickly introduced the much more realistic figure targets, much to the irritation of the diehard Director of Military Training.

On retirement only David could become an expert at skinning chinchillas. He became so good at this, that other breeders sent their carcasses to him from all over the country.

David's charm allowed him to get away with many unconventional ideas. He enjoyed sailing close to the wind regardless of the consequences and those who had to pick up the bits. His instinctive loyalty to all his friends got him into hot water; when an Officer attached to the Kenyan Regiment threw a smoke grenade into the Officers' section of the train taking the Battalion from Nairobi to Mombasa it wounded Scott MacDonald, Earl Nicoll and Brian Harries. The Staff at Headquarters including the GOC demanded to know the name of the culprit. David never let on for a long time. Typical.

Brigadier A B D Gurdon

There have been some splendid official obituaries in The Times, Telegraph and local Courier which no one could fault but I thought that perhaps I could add something of a more personal note, or, in his phrase, "off the record".

I first served with him in Duisberg in 1948 when he was the "Third-in-Command" to Bernard Ferguson whose Second-in-Command was Pat Campbell-Preston. I was one of a small group of Adjutant, Intelligence Officer, and Signals Officer who used to sit round him in the Mess, in the field on exercises, or in the club and roar with laughter at his hilarious stories. We were always quickly joined by a much larger group.

We all thought he was incredibly laid back, arriving in barracks in time for 'elevenses' in the Mess which usually meant coffee or a gin and tonic. He wore black rubber soled shoes and not the regulation brogues and thus demonstrated his individuality and confirmed our opinion that here was a heroic officer who was relaxing after a hard fought war and was recovering from two wounds and the horror of being a Chindit leader.

Who could forget his tale that as a subaltern duty-officer at Maryhill, Glasgow in 1932 he was told by the mess waiter that the CO's wife, Mrs Chalmers had phoned for help as the CO was apoplectic on finding himself locked inside the lavatory of his quarter. David told Private Smith, the waiter, to phone the Pioneers for back up at the double, before doubling off himself to the Chalmers', where, after some discussion about the possibility of rolling cigarettes under the door, he decided to shoulder down the door only to find himself propelled onto the CO's lap. At that instant the Pioneer Sergeant and three Pioneers reported for duty (at the gallop, out of breath and with much stamping of feet) with axes held at the 'high port'. This and other tales were told with full actions, facial expressions and with the various voices mimicked.

David was always full of life, laughter, enjoyment of the good things of life and always looked on the humorous side of his soldering. He was a good raconteur and very amusing. Some of his stories, though, are simply incredible. It is unbelievable that he argued with the King as to whose bird it was that had been picked by a Labrador.

He was very experienced having seen active service in Palestine, Somaliland, the Western Desert, Italy and Burma before finding himself in Korea taking over a Battalion of very young National Servicemen with a stiffening of regular soldiers. Despite this, his command post officers consisted of four out of six who have never heard a shot fired in anger. I remember him saying "the Battalion is so green, so untrained" and hearing him tell people how to recognise the sound of British, American and Chinese gunfire. Modest and always prepared to help out the young, David was a magnificent leader.

He was also very prepared to take on inefficient staff at Brigade or Divisional level and to point out sloppy or inefficient work anywhere – even in other Battalions.

On one of the many Corps or Divisional exercises, which were important for the reputation of Battalions and their CO's, as Intelligence Officer I went to a Brigade Orders Group at Sennelager with Bernard Ferguson, who commanded 1st Black Watch. The orders were for a Brigade night attack and I busied myself with marking the map with boundaries, start lines, code words and just had time to take notes. On the way back in the Humber Box car and just as we arrived at the Battalion's assembled Orders Group, Bernard saw a French 'poilu', stopped the car, got out and shouted back at me "Ian, you give out the orders for the Battalion's night attack". I said to David Rose that I was shifty at this order and that the task was probably well beyond me. He said "Bernard won't be back for hours as he'll be practising his French". "Don't worry, we'll do it together as you've got the maps and notes". With that he settled himself against a tree and we hacked out the orders and in half an hour he gave out impeccable orders to the

company commanders and supporting arms, who at that time were all battle hardened and highly decorated. This seemed to be an example of his honesty, unflappability, help to juniors and competence.

On more relaxed exercises at Vogelsang in the Belgian Sector, South of Cologne, I took a number of photographs, one of which shows David with a glass to his mouth as first light breaks over the ruined village. My annotation to the photo says simply "Dawn"!

Back in Duisberg in 1949 a number of us were ordered to Vogelsang to take part as extras in a Two Cities film to be directed by the celebrated James Bond director Terence Young. David was tall, good looking, with a voice that would bring life to the pulpit or battlefield – in fact the director had difficulty in deciding whether he should be cast as the padre addressing the Welsh Guards before battle or the General Officer Commanding The Guards Armoured Division speaking to a group of officers on a spiritual theme. The General rôle won. The wardrobe department had both rôles covered. That department fitted us out with battle-dress blouses appropriately with Guards' Armoured Division flashes, Welsh Guards' ensigns badges of rank and a sprinkling of MC ribbons; we were allowed our own battle dress trousers. David was masterly as the General. Sometime later whilst back in London for the Regimental Dinner, we all went to the cinema in Leicester Square to see the film "They were not divided". The wives and girlfriends who accompanied us were outraged to be taken to a war film in which none of us appeared except David and a half profile of Alec Renny-Tailyour who was the first officer to be killed in Korea. I remember, too, that we enjoyed the exotic haversack lunches provided on our three day stint by Two Cities Films and that the Battalion's drivers who had ferried us to and fro did star in the film as members of the Highland Division waving on the Welsh Guards tanks into battle.

I understand that in Kenya David ordered that wives be trained in pistol shooting by the senior weapon training NCO and that when passed out as proficient, ordered they be issued with a revolver. Jean Rose refused saying "I would only lose it and then poor darling David would be Court Martialed". When asked what she would use if attacked at her remote house by the Mau Mau, she held up a string shopping bag containing a brick. An instance of David's determination that everyone should fight and he trained to do so.

After his retirement we came to see quite a lot of the family as they lived at Huntingtower and we lived at Charlesfield, Fask. Later when they moved to Trian, Comrie we were often taken round the garden where he was planting hundreds of rhododendrons (obtained from who knows where), making roses climb up trees and beautifying a burn by planting water loving plants on its banks. He and Jean invited many of us to memorable picnic parties there, to which all were invited – house guests, children of all ages, dogs and even ponies. They were splendid hosts with David his amusing irrepressible self, master minding the whole event and enjoying the laughter of the young.

Pinks and I were invited to a 50th celebration lunch only to find that we were the only non relatives there for the others were the Dalhousies, the Montroses and Ancasters. David was a great family and Black Watch man and our inclusion stemmed from the fact that he had served under Pink's father and uncle, both of whom he greatly admired and that he had known her since she was a three year old at Colchester and Glasgow.

David was a great friend of James Ancaster whose Scottish estate and seat of Drummond Castle were more than near neighbours, for he often asked David to produce local guns to shoot his grouse and pheasants. Thus it was that I was asked several years running on David's say so. On the most memorable day I was asked to bring my son Bruce "and would we shoot the next day too"? We shot 365 grouse I recall; memorable indeed. On another occasion it was decided that David, Angus Irwin, Malcolm Wallace and I would be picked up at various cross roads for transport up to the RV at Glenartney. As the Land Rover stopped to pick me up and as I climbed into the back there was a gale of laughter from some guns from Grimston, Lincolnshire. I asked "what was so funny"? The reply was "at each pick up point we embus moustachioed look-alikes wearing the same type of tweed suit"!

He was a great family man who doted on his son Hugh and daughter Mary and was so proud of them and their children but Jean's health was failing. Nothing daunted, David took on many of the household chores including the cooking at which he became quite an expert.

When Jean died, David visited old west coast haunts and friends including the islands and had amusing tales to tell of the people he met as an author (for "Off the Record" had been published) and for that purpose had bought a new car. On the day after he bought it he came down to our house saying "Ian, come and see my new red coupe" (pro-

nounced Koo-pay!). He told me his family had told him it was entirely unsuitable and to take it back to Grassicks Garage.

He handed over Trian to Hugh and his family and after a period of modernisation moved into a farm house in the grounds of Trian which was eminently suitable being compact, warm and with a conservatory facing South overlooking the garden. We were invited during the building stage to see, comment and applaud. He was so pleased with the bothy and the ease with which the grandchildren could pop down to see him and tell of their doings. He relished being able to read, write and cogitate there (and to cook for friends).

When he became too infirm with problems in his legs, he moved into the Blesma Home in Crieff. When we visited we always found his mind and willpower as strong as ever. Although he enjoyed the company and bustle at Blesma he really enjoyed going into the garden to be alone in the small summerhouse where he could think about world affairs, his long and interesting life, his country sports and other interests, his family and religion.

Thus ended the life of this good looking, flamboyant, inspiring leader. An amusing, irrepressible and hugely courageous Black Watch Officer. The end of an era.

Colonel Ian Critchley

LIEUTENANT PHILIP JAMES MURRAY PRAIN

Philip James Murray Prain was born on 14th November 1936 in Dundee. He was raised in Ceres, Fife, and was educated at Wellesley House Prep School and then Eton, where he was an Oppidan Scholar. After finishing Eton, Philip followed in the footsteps of his great uncle, who served with The Black Watch in WW1. He attended Eton Hall and was commissioned into The Black Watch as a National Service Officer, serving with the 1st Battalion in Berlin, from 1955 to 1957 and subsequently with the 4/5th Bn TA from 1957 to 1965. He was a great supporter of the London Branch of The Black Watch Association, joining the Executive Committee in 1994 as one of the Branch Auditor's, a role he retained up to the time of his death. It was a task that he carried out with diligence and great efficiency. He was also a Member of the Royal Company of Archers, the Queen's Bodyguard in Scotland.



Upon completing his National Service, Philip resumed his studies and went up to Cambridge to read Law at Clare College. He then took his Bar Exams to qualify as a Barrister, although he never actually practiced law. Instead he became a financier and had a distinguished career with Kleinwort Benson for 38 years. He worked in different capacities from Project Finance to heading up the Charities & Pensions Department, including 4 years spent in Hong Kong as the Director of Kleinwort Benson. During his time in the City, he developed a reputation for being "one of, if not the most decent and ethical bankers that existed" – a phrase not generally associated with bankers today!

His later career was affected, to an extent, by a major operation in his early 40s to remove a brain tumour. This fortunately proved to be benign and Philip made a full recovery but the operation permanently affected his hearing and speech.

In spite of this, he continued to pursue his interests and involvement with the wider community. He was a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Founders and served as Master of the Worshipful Company of Founders in 2006. He defiantly overcame his speech problems to make regular public speaking appearances, including speaking at the Mansion House.

He was also appointed Chairman of the Dogs Trust. He applied his commercial experience and personal love of canines to the cause and sought great pleasure from visiting the many Dogs Trust kennels across the UK.

Philip was a member of the Board of Directors at the East London Small Business Centre, was a trustee for both St Clements Danes Holborn Estate (Care Homes for the Elderly) and Westminster Amalgamated Charity and was a loyal supporter of Community Links. He was also involved with the Finance Committee for the British Red Cross and Treasurer for All Saints, Margaret Street where he worshipped regularly.

As a result of his Military Service in Berlin, Philip developed a life-long love for travel and experiencing different cultures. He was always planning a trip to some far flung, often less traveled destination. A trip that clearly made a great impression on him was one that he made to the Falkland Islands in November 2008 (his notes of this appear in this edition with the London Branch notes) and, most recently, he and his wife traveled to Papua New Guinea and sailed across the Atlantic.

In his later years he also discovered a talent for croquet and regularly represented the Hurlingham Club in tournaments.

Despite spending most of his education and adult life in England, Philip was definitely a true Scot at heart and very proud of his involvement with The Black Watch.

On the 18th December 2010, aged 74 years, Philip died unexpectedly of acute Leukemia, which had been diagnosed less than 48 hours earlier. A memorial service was held in February 2011 at All Saints Margaret Street, London. Over 400 friends and family turned up to say farewell – testament to the respect, trust and friendship that he evoked from everyone who met him. His friends and family universally described Philip as “the last of the true gentlemen”. He was courteous, charming, polite and gentle and would always give his full attention to whomever he was talking to. He showed a genuine interest in everyone – “he thought the best of people and in return they thought the best of him”.

Philip is survived by his wife Susan, his daughter, Philippa, and grandson, Ivor and he will be greatly missed by all those who had the good fortune to know him.

Jim Keating

CAPTAIN F T BELL

Captain Frank Bell MBE who served with the Tyneside Scottish died on 27 March 2011, aged 92. He was for many years President of the Newcastle Branch of The Black Watch Association. A full obituary will be published in the next Red Hackle Magazine.

ALEXANDER ANTHONY ANDERSON

Alexander Anthony Anderson was born on 24 August 1924 and was raised on a family farm in Bathgate, West Lothian. He died on 10 January 2011.

He joined the Homeguard in 1943 and was promoted to Lance Corporal. He also sat and passed the exams for flying training in the RAF but because of a long waiting list signed up for The Black Watch instead. A talented football player he kept goal for Black Watch and Army teams but at some stage he was selected to join No 5 Commando. He served in Europe, North Africa and the Far East reaching the rank of Sergeant.

After the war he trialled for Hibs but joined the Lothian and Peebles Constabulary gaining the nickname of “Stick Anderson” for his no nonsense approach. He retired in 1975. Alex is survived by his wife Jean who originally came from Perth.

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) R M Riddell

ALAN BAILLIE

Alan Baillie died at Fourhills Nursing Home, Glasgow on 19th January 2011, aged 80. He was born in Glasgow and did his National Service with the 1st Battalion in Korea. After leaving the Army he pursued a career in the motor trade.

The following is from Peter Johns, one of Alan’s friends, ““Alan was one of my ‘young men’ (as I like to remember them). He was one of 54 members of the Signal Platoon in Korea and was a Company Radio Operator as well as being a ‘Line Man’, i.e. ‘laying’, ‘replacing’ and ‘fault finding’ on the Battalion Line Communications. This could be, and often was, a hazardous undertaking but nothing got him down and he would cheerfully get on with any task dealt to him. Alan was well liked and a staunch member of the Signal Platoon who always took pride in what they achieved.”



He continued his proud association with The Black Watch by regularly attending reunions at Balhousie Castle in Perth and thoroughly enjoyed meeting up with his old friends.

Alan is survived by his wife Eleanor and daughters Aileen and Susan and 2 grandchildren.

Susan McBride

GEORGE BROWN

George Brown was born in 1924 and was originally from Braehead Lanarkshire. He died on 23 November 2010 in Shrewsbury after a long battle against leukaemia. He joined The Black Watch in 1940 as an underage soldier and spent some time at Queens’ Barracks before badly injuring his ankle. He was not fit enough for war service and was discharged in 1942 and then worked as a miner.

He was married to Marion for 59 years and will be greatly missed by all his family.

If anyone who served with George in The Black Watch has any photographs of him would they kindly contact the Editor?



Sandra Smith

PIPE MAJOR CHARLIE CLARK

Charlie Clark died aged 71 on Christmas Day 2010 after a short but brave fight against serious illness.

Charlie or Chay as he was known to his family, was born in 1939 and came from Brechin where he was employed as a coach sprayer and he was a member of the Brechin Pipe Band before he joined the regiment in October 1958. On completing his training in 133 Squad at Queens’ Barracks he joined the 1st Battalion en route for Cyprus.

Charlie was an accomplished piper and as a member of the Pipes and Drums he took part in the North American Tour in 1963 and played at the White House in front of President Kennedy and later, with the party that played at the president’s funeral.

By the time the battalion moved from Warminster to Minden in West Germany he had been promoted to Pipe Corporal in a Pipe Band which had many talented pipers. Shortly before the battalion returned to Scotland, Charlie was demobbed at the end of his nine year engagement.

After a short spell in civilian life he re-enlisted and joined the Scots Greys who were stationed in Edinburgh prior to their amalgamation with the 3rd Carabineers. He retained his rank of corporal however, he found that he could not settle and just after the 1st Battalion was posted to Hong Kong he rejoined the Pipes and Drums and stayed with them until they returned to Colchester in 1974.

He again realised that he would not be able to fulfil his ambition to be Pipe Major of The Black Watch and therefore transferred to The Royal Scots where he eventually became Pipe Major succeeding another ex member of the regiment namely Paddy Moorcroft who was a contemporary of his in The Black Watch.

Charlie was a quiet and unassuming man who got on with life. He was a very accomplished piper who ensured that those under his care achieved the same high standards as he set himself.

Charlie and his wife Winnie were happily married for forty seven years with two children, Fiona and young Charlie. Sadly young Charlie also died recently and our sympathies go to the extended family.

Major (Retd) R J W Proctor MBE

RICHARD (DICK) COOPER

Dick died very suddenly of a heart attack whilst out walking near his home in Perth on New Year’s Day 2011. Dick who would have been eighty five years old in March was born in Wednesbury, Staffordshire and enlisted into The Black Watch in 1944. After completing his basic training at Queens’ Barracks, he was posted to the Second Battalion in India and carried out parachute training along with the rest of the battalion; he then joined the Pipes and Drums and learnt to play the pipes. By the time the battalion had returned to Scotland after the partition of India and Pakistan, he became a Corporal Piper. He played on the parade awarding the Freedom of Perth to the Regiment in 1948 and was also in attendance at the laying up of the Old Colours in Perth.



He married Nancy a local girl in 1951 and settled down in Perth where their only son, David was born and brought up. On leaving the Regiment he was employed by the Glass Factory in the Crieff Road as a supervisor of the glass blowers' furnaces.

Dick became a widower six years ago and David emigrated to Australia, however being an independent person he managed on his own until his untimely and sudden death.

Major (Retd) R J W Proctor MBE

BOB CROSS

Sergeant Bob Cross died on 7 December 2010 after a short illness. He completed a 22 year career in the Band of The Black Watch and was a talented accordion player. Many officers will remember dancing reels to his playing.

After he left the Army he worked for the Civil Service and lived in Kidderminster where for a number of years he was Director of the Wyre Forrest Youth Band.



ANDREW FLYNN

Andrew Flynn was born on 21 December 1950 and died aged 61 on 15 January this year. He served in 1 BW for 9 years from 1968-1977. He was in the battalion for the whole of his service in Kirknewton, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Colchester and Ballykinler. Of course he had other frequent visits to Northern Ireland, mostly Belfast during his service. Most people will remember Andrew as 'Dan' Flynn, 'Ginger Dan' or even 'Old Dan'. He was a very recognisable character in the battalion serving initially in A Company but moving to the Signals Platoon. He was small, wiry, with a shock of ginger hair and distinctive glasses. A not untypical Jock.



I first met Andrew in 1974 and he quickly became a solid loyal and life-long friend. He called a spade, a spade and nobody was ever left in doubt what his opinion was, which often meant he came across as being grumpy. However, he had a keen sense of humour and a ready chuckle was rarely far away. Andrew was a true and loyal friend and he was a dedicated Black Watch soldier. Sadly he fell foul of the reductions in the Army which took place in the 70s when battalions were overmanned and harsh cuts took place, otherwise there is no doubt in my mind that he would have served for a full 22 year career.

After he left the Army, Andrew worked for a short time with Marconi but he then worked in the paint shop in Rosyth Dockyard and finally as a Security Guard in Edinburgh. Andrew was also very active in the Trade Unions and the Labour Party while at the Dockyard. He put his heart and soul into everything he did and was, at various times, on the committee of the Rosyth ex-Servicemen's Club, the Sportsman Bar and, latterly, Rosyth Bowling Club. A keen football supporter he had been known to follow Celtic, Rangers, St Johnstone and Dunfermline at various times in his life. A true 'football' fan it all really depended on his mates at the time which is where his true loyalties lay. Andrew was a good friend and he will be sadly missed.

Alex Stewart

DAVID HIGH

Born on 19 December 1932 Dave High died aged 77 on 26 November 2010. After leaving school he joined Briggs of Dundee and was then called up for National Service with the 1st Battalion. He served in Korea and during the Battle of the Hook.

He married in 1957 and then moved to Glenrothes. In his latter years he was registered blind and he also had to battle a terminal cancer. He was a positive thinking man who had a twinkle in his eye. He will be missed by many people especially his family.



ED KEAR

Mr Ed Kear died recently aged 85. A native of Arbroath, he attended Arbroath High School and joined The Black Watch in November 1944. He served in Palestine and Egypt (4th Battalion) and was demobbed as a Sergeant in 1948.

He worked for Websters in Arbroath before joining Sievwright and Dickson as an auditor. He was a public spirited man being President of Arbroath



Rotary Club and he was involved with the Arbroath Improvement Trust and Friends of Arbroath Infirmary.

He is survived by his wife and three children.

PETER LAING

Pete Laing died at home aged 72, on the 2 October 2010 after a long and brave fight against a serious illness.

Pete was born in Kirkcudbright in 1938 and then moved to Arbroath in the 1950s. He joined the 1st Battalion in 1956 and served in Berlin, Edinburgh and Cyprus. On returning to civilian life he held numerous jobs, mainly in park and ground maintenance, up to his retirement.

He met Valerie in Edinburgh and they were married in 1961 and had 49 happy years together. They had 2 children Linda and Andrew and two grandchildren all of whom were much loved by Pete.

Pete was a member of Arbroath Royal British Legion and a founder member of the Angus Branch of The Black Watch Association and a great supporter and attendee of the Branch meetings. Every Christmas he would manage to obtain goods from the local supermarket to put in the pensioners Christmas parcels.

It was a great pleasure and honour to have known Pete who was a kind hearted and gentle man who will be missed by all those who knew him.

Major R W J Proctor MBE



DENIS MACHER

Denis Macher who was born on 21 May 1951 in Kirkcaldy, died aged 56 on 2 March 2008. He was in Hindenberg Squad at SID Glencorse and passed out in July 1970. He served in Northern Ireland and Hong Kong and left the Army in 1974.

He trained as an ambulance driver and then as a nurse working variously in the Isle of Man and Birmingham but latterly in the town of his birth, Kirkcaldy. Denis had three children Steve, Karen and Denise and will be greatly missed.



THOMAS MILLAR MELVIN

Tam Melvin was born in Perth in 1945 and educated at Queen Victoria School Dunblane. In 1961 he joined the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Oswestry as a Black Watch Junior. He passed out from there in 1963 and joined the 1st Battalion which was then the Demonstration Battalion at Warminster. He was posted to 15 Platoon D Company.

Tam was a keen rugby player a sport which we had learnt at Queen Victoria School and he played for his company and the battalion.

After a spell in Delta Company he moved to the Anti Tank Platoon and gained promotion to Sergeant. He served in Minden, Cyprus (UN Tour), Kirknewton, Hong Kong, Colchester (including two tours in West Belfast) and Ballykinler. He left the Regiment in 1976.

He settled down in Warminster and was employed as a bus driver and then lorry driver. He then became a financial advisor. A great family man, he spent much of his time with his children and grandchildren and supported them fully.

Although he became unwell he managed to fit in a visit to Balhousie Castle last year and it was a great pleasure to meet him again and talk about our days in the Junior Leaders and with the 1st Battalion.

His funeral took place on the 23rd February at Warminster and was attended by Colonel Ian Ker, Allan Hamilton, Jimmy Simpson and Dougie Stuart who played the pipes.

Tam was a kind caring person who will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Major (Retd) R J W Proctor MBE



JAMES OGG

Jimmy Ogg died in Forfar on 4 February 2011 in his 93rd year. He was a native of Forfar and on leaving school worked in one of the local jute factories. He joined the 4/5th Black Watch (TA) before the Second World War and went with the 4th Battalion as part of the BEF to France. He subsequently served with that battalion in Gibraltar after Dunkirk and St Valery until he was transferred to the 2nd Camerons in 1943. After a spell in Italy he was posted to the 11th Indian Brigade Headquarters as a member of staff and served the remainder of his service with that unit in Thessalonika, Northern Greece until his release in December 1945.



On returning to civilian life Jimmy followed in his family's footsteps and gained employment on the railways and worked as a maintenance man, with responsibility for track and other maintenance throughout the North East of Scotland. He retired from British Rail in 1982.

He joined the Angus Branch of The Black Watch Association when it was reformed in 1999 and was a regular attendee at Branch meetings and events until first his wife's, then his own illness prevented him from attending.

Jimmy was married to Margaret who predeceased him by a year. They were a devoted couple who had no children however wider members of the family kept in close touch.

Jimmy was a great character who enjoyed the simple things in life and will be sadly missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Major (Retd) R J W Proctor MBE

ARCHIE J M PICKLES

Archie Pickles died on 17 October 2010 aged 93 in Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. Born on 5 January 1916 in Halifax, he then served in the 1st Battalion from 1940-1946 reaching the rank of Corporal. After the war he worked in the carpet industry holding various positions. When he retired he was Assistant Transport Manager of Homfray Carpets Group. He was also a very keen bowler and held a number of positions including President of the Halifax Bowling Association.



Lieutenant Colonel R M Riddell

ROY REYNOLDS

Roy was born in Birmingham on 11 August 1929 and died in Victoria, British Columbia on 28 November 2010, aged 81. He enlisted in The Black Watch in 1946 as a junior bandsman and served for some six years. He played the clarinet and sax and he trained under the direction of Bandmaster L.H. Hicks undertaking tours of South Africa (1950) and of Australia and New Zealand (1951). On demobilisation, he continued his musical career with several big bands, including Ken Mackintosh and Carl Barriteau. In 1965, after a chance meeting with a former colleague, he decided to emigrate to Canada and enlisted in Strathcona's Horse. After the amalgamation of this unit with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Roy was selected to play in the Central Band of the Canadian Armed Forces, where he was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer. On his second demobilisation, his musical career took off and he joined the Stan Kenton Band with which he travelled the world. The culmination of his career was a standing ovation in Carnegie Hall, New York, after one of his solo performances. Roy kept in touch with The Black Watch and travelled to Blackpool from Canada on a number of occasions for Band Re-Unions. Our sympathy goes out especially to Val, his partner in music and life, and to his daughter and grand-daughter.



WILLIAM ROBERTSON

Bill died on 8 February 2011, aged 92. He joined the 2nd Battalion in 1936 slightly before his 18th birthday. He was trained at Queens' Barracks and was then posted to Palestine before being involved in the fighting in British Somaliland. In October 1940 the battalion moved to Crete and in May 1941 it withstood the German assault at Heraklion before being evacuated by the Royal Navy. After this Bill spent some time in hospital with malaria.

In October 1941, Bill who was still serving in the 2nd Battalion, went into the besieged fortress of Tobruk and took part in the failed breakout in November 1941. The



battalion sustained very heavy casualties. Another withdrawal by sea and then in February 1942 the battalion left Syria bound for India.

A period of jungle training was interrupted by being used to suppress riots in West Bengal in August 1942. Bill did not deploy with the Chindits but returned home in December 1944.

He then settled in Pontefract (his wife's home town) working in the building trade. He returned for a brief spell to Scotland working as a miner in St Michael's Colliery near Kirkcaldy but then found work at the Post Office in Pontefract. He worked there for 32 years.

He taught drumming in the Pontefract Caledonian Society Pipe Band and he and his brother Tom started a local Collieries FC.

He was happily married to Gertrude (he pronounced it "Gerrrrrrrude") for many years and had 2 daughters (Pat and Alison) and his much adored grandchildren.

I spoke to Bill once or twice by 'phone and he struck me as an amusing and gentle man and I am sure he will have left a large gap in many people's lives.

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) R M Riddell

ROBERT SPEED

Bob Speed was born in Perth on 1st December 1929. He worked as a farm worker in Ardgath, Glencarse prior to joining the 1st Battalion from 1945-1947. After leaving the Army he then worked as an agricultural mechanic before starting on the buses with McLennans and later Stagecoach where he worked until he retired in 1994. Bob died on the 23rd March at home in Errol.



CHARLIE WEST

Charlie West was born in Montrose on 7 August 1915 and joined The Black Watch on 11 October 1930. He underwent his basic training at Queens' Barracks and was posted to the 2nd Battalion, becoming a drummer in the pipe band. He moved with the battalion to Palestine in 1937 and remained there until July 1939. He returned to the UK and purchased his discharge before joining the RAF.

On joining the RAF he was posted to West Freugh, near Stranraer before moving to Cranwell. Trained as a technician he worked on fighters and bombers. Charlie got married over a 24 hour leave pass and was posted to Palestine in 1943 and was stationed outside Jerusalem, where he remained until the end of the war. He retired in 1965 having reached the rank of Chief Technician.

He finally retired in 1970 and settled in England but he enjoyed his visits to Scotland and particularly to the museum at Balhousie Castle. He was immensely proud of his roots and looked back on his time in The Black Watch with great affection.

Charlie died on 26 August 2010.



G West

MARY MORGAN

Mary Morgan died in Perth, aged 89. She was the daughter of a Black Watch soldier and married a Black Watch soldier. She was active in The Black Watch Womens' Guild, both in Glasgow and Perth and was President of the latter Branch until its disbandment. She will be remembered by many of the "Old and Bold" as for many years, she and her ladies ran the Tea Tent at the Annual Re-union. She was an enthusiastic supporter of The Black Watch Heritage Appeal.

DEATH NOTICES:

We have been notified of the following deaths;

JOHN CARROL ex Sergeant of The Black Watch and Royal Engineers TA and Secretary of the Dundee Black Watch Social Club died on 30 October 2010.

DAVID BURNHAM HUNTER

DOUG MCFARLANE of Perth died Saturday 20 November 2010.

WILLIAM MCCOLL died on Tuesday 16 November 2010.

KEITH REDRUP - Keith Redrup who served in the Regiment died of cancer in July 2007. He joined the Black Watch in 1945 and was discharged in the rank of Corporal in 1957. Whilst serving he completed and passed both the Commando Course and the Parachute Course.

GEORGE SINCLAIR CARTER - former 1st Battalion Korea veteran, died on 12 February 2011 in New Zealand.

MAU MAU RIFLES

Introduction

Mr Alexander Farmer visited the Museum during 2010 and then informed the staff that he had been present at the ambush and capture of the Mau Mau rifles now on display in the Museum. This is his story.

Born in Dundee in 1931 he was called up for National Service in 1949. This was deferred due to his studies at College and it was not until 1951 that he joined. To join the Regiment of his choice (he wanted to join the Pipes and Drums) Alexander had to sign up to 3 years with the Colours and 5 with the Reserve.

He underwent his training at Queens Barracks and Fort George and was promoted to "Draughting Corporal" for the troopship "Empire Fowey" but with other "Draughts" he was taken off the ship and attached to the KOSB in Hong Kong, spending 3-4 months laying barbed wire defences on the Chinese Border. He eventually travelled on via the "Empire Pride" to Japan to join the 1st Battalion and docked at Kilindini in Kenya in August 1953. What follows are in his own words.

Background

I cannot be certain of the year but it is most likely to have been in 1954 because the Battalion only landed in Kenya in the latter half of 1953, coming straight from Korea around the time of the signing of the truce.

The Pipes & Drums were kept at platoon strength and were used as a rifle platoon frequently. I was a Tenor Drummer (Cpl). The Drum Major was Roy Dear and we had a liaison officer appointed to us from the Kenya Police Reserve – Captain McKillop. I remember the name because his family owned a well known brand of jam and marmalade products. The Battalion's main home was in an ex Italian POW camp at Gilgil although, like all the other platoons, we moved around quite a lot, when not playing at some function or other.

Remote farms were issued with a Verey Pistol and different coloured flares and each had a specific colour code pattern to set off in the event of trouble. Mobile units stood at readiness and would rush off when the sky lit up. Other times, when Intelligence suspected something might happen, small groups of 3-4 men were sent to spend the night at that particular farm. Nothing ever happened on the times that I was involved but it was a pleasant change from camp life and camp food.

The Rifles

I think the Aberdare Mountains are approximately 13,000 ft high and take a few days to get used to. Fortunately we had been up for a while and had become fairly used to it. Captain McKillop had received intelligence that some sort of activity might be taking place so he and the Drummie took me and my section to place an ambush. Some names come to mind, Privates Rogers, Skinner, Robertson, Grieve, Henderson and probably two others. The men were armed with the relatively new lightweight or jungle .303 with the flash eliminator and a Bren Gun but no grenades. I had a Sterling 9mm, which for some reason we called a Patchett. (*Editors note: an Australian SMG*).

The site selected was a slight swale (a gentle dip or fold in the ground) on a slope facing downhill. To our right, the forest ended and



A selection of weapons captured during the Mau Mau Rebellion including the rifles.

a small path emerged, headed across our front and disappeared into another part of the forest. We had been positioned in mid to late afternoon and of course, had only cold rations although it is possible we may have had tins of self heating soup. I'm not sure. Night fell and it was cold, the clouds were scudding about quite briskly so the faint moonlight was fitful. We settled down as best we could with the men taking turns on watch on the Bren. I was lying very close (almost under) the Bren so that gunner just had to drop his hand to reach my head or shoulder. I am fairly sure that the gunner was Private Robertson.

When he saw, or heard, whatever it was in front of him he should have nudged me, but didn't. Not that it made any difference to the end result. Instead of being jerked out of a fitful doze by a nudge, I woke to the chatter of the Bren and a handful of hot empty cases down by neck.

Everything was just a blur then, everyone on their knees blazing away at the group of screaming, shouting, terrified Mau Mau who were approximately 40-50 yards away. There may have been some return fire but I doubt it. Like many incidents of its kind this was over very quickly and I doubt if it lasted a full minute.

By coincidence the moon was now completely hidden and it was very dark indeed but the false dawn was not very far off. When we had a glimmer of light I took two men to see what we could find. My fleeting glimpse of the group makes me think that there were more than a dozen although I can't be sure. It was fairly obvious that they were a supply group because we found quite a large amount of food (dried) plus, of course, those two rifles. They were both loaded with a .303 round dated 1947 and both showed pit marks where attempts had obviously been made to fire them. The marks were all over the place and one or two had actually hit the firing cap but I think the rubber bands had not been strong enough.

Very soon after dawn, transport rolled up with welcome food and a very young subaltern who was so new to the Battalion that I did not even know his name. At one stage he was keen to see if the rifles could be fired but a nervous corporal tactfully suggested that it might not be safe to try.

The officer had brought two trackers with him and, as it was now full light, we were to try and follow up. I had never seen trackers at work before (except via the medium of Hollywood) so this was very interesting. Most of the Mau Mau had disappeared in the direction they were originally taking and even I could follow their trail as it was so obvious.

We must have hit some because there was blood but the trackers kept indicating that more and more individuals were peeling off and eventually the last track petered out. It was well into the afternoon by now and we spotted a remote farmhouse on a hilltop, which we made for, and were warmly welcomed by the elderly couple there (home cooking). They, like most others, had a radio and messages were sent which resulted in us being picked up and returned to camp.

Tailpiece

Mr Farmer was flown home and demobed in 1954. He married in 1957 and then worked for the Ugandan Government as a water engineer from 1958 before moving to Botswana in 1970, finally returning to Scotland in 1990.



Private Alexander Farmer.

EDINBURGH OLD AND NEW – A PAINTING BY DAVID OCTAVIUS HILL

On 10th December last year, I was fortunate to join Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell, my brother Malcolm and Andrew Hamilton to listen to a lecture in Edinburgh about a wonderful picture in the National Gallery of Scotland, which features many soldiers from The Black Watch. The picture is entitled “Edinburgh Old and New” and was painted in about 1846/7 by David Octavius Hill who came from Perthshire.

The lecture was given by Mr Allan Carswell, formerly Director of The Scottish War Museum at Edinburgh Castle and by Helen Smailes, Senior Curator of British Art at the National Gallery. I am very grateful to the National Galleries for permission to use the image of the picture.

David Hill was born in Perth in 1802. He became a fine artist who produced *Sketches of Scenery in Perthshire*, some of which still often appear in antique shops. At one point he produced illustrations for the editions of Robert Burns’ poetry, but perhaps his most famous picture is “The Disruption Assembly in 1843” at which he was actually present. This depicts the horror on the faces of those who sought to leave the General Assembly and subsequently formed the Free Church of Scotland,

David Hill is also well known for his association with the engineer and photographer Robert Adamson, from St Andrews. Between them they pioneered many aspects of photography in Scotland. Their “calotype” process allowed them to produce a wide range of early photographs of Scottish luminaries but the pair also photographed ordinary working folk, such as the Newhaven fishwives and action photographs of soldiers.

When Queen Victoria first came up to Scotland in 1842 there was great rejoicing and David Hill decided that a view from Edinburgh Castle, showing the Royal Standard fluttering in the breeze would make a fine memento of the event.

But what was so fascinating was that almost at the beginning of the lecture we attended, we were told that the Black Watch were never there at all. As the picture was actually painted during the period

1846-1847, it is almost certain that D.O.Hill included soldiers of The Black Watch because, in his, and many other people’s view at that time, The Black Watch were the most famous and colourful Scottish regiment, who had recently distinguished themselves in the Crimea and in suppressing the Indian Mutiny. So he chose them rather than the actual Edinburgh Castle garrison troops in 1846 who were the Gordon Highlanders.

As a Perthshire man, he would no doubt have had a number of friends in the regiment and so he might have been keen to depict them in his great composition rather than any other regiment. And so it is possible to pick out a group of soldiers in the centre of the picture, including a drummer and a piper, in their red tunics and feather bonnets, gathered around an old man who is reading a newspaper, perhaps giving the latest news from India – for the Mutiny had just finished. One Jock has his knapsack on and the figures 42 for the 42nd of Foot stand out. There is no Officer in the picture but another Black Watch group, of a Corporal and several men, is shown in the bottom right hand corner entering a doorway.

Now you will need to find a magnifying glass to discover these other details but do keep going, for so much is included.

For his masterpiece, David Hill chose a view from the Half Moon Battery of the Castle looking East. On the left of the picture is a group of well-to-do citizens of Edinburgh who have brought out a Persian Carpet for their comfort during their visit to the Castle. This party is thought to be the family of John Miller of Millfield, a prominent railway engineer and also a patron of Hill’s. David Hill includes an artist’s stool nearby to perhaps show that he was a part of the Miller group that day. There is also a coloured servant kneeling down with a red cap and bright jacket and carrying a dishcloth, who may have been looking after the Miller children.

The railway line from Glasgow to Edinburgh had recently been opened so Hill includes the smoke from an engine down in the Princes Street Gardens. He also includes the fine Greek Doric Royal Scottish



Edinburgh Castle.

Academy building designed by William Playfair and erected in 1826 and also the Scott Monument, all clean and new, for it had only been erected between 1840 and 1846.

In the distance, Calton Hill is visible and so too is the River Forth coastline near the Ports of Leith and Granton. The Tron Kirk at the top of Princes Street and at the bottom of the Castle Esplanade is shown and Arthur's Seat and George Heriot's School are clearly visible.

Finally, the great Dutch bombard gun Mons Meg is on the left of the Half Moon Battery and a number of children are clambering over it for fun. This great gun, made at Mons in Belgium in 1457, had been brought back to Edinburgh, at Sir Walter Scott's instructions,

just six year before the painting was completed, it having been held in the Tower of London for centuries. Some of the huge gunstones are shown behind the gun and Mons Meg was capable of firing these some two miles. The old Gun used to stand outside beside St Margaret's Chapel but more recently, as the wooden gun carriage showed signs of wear and tear, it has been kept inside the Castle where it is on show to the public.

So, The Black Watch "was nae there at a!" but men from the Regiment are portrayed, at the centre of a wonderful picture, full of the old and new in Edinburgh in the 1840's.

Major C B Innes

INFANTRY BRANCH SCHOOL – AFGHANISTAN

The Infantry Branch School (IBS) was opened in July 2010 to train the Afghan National Army (ANA) in all aspects of Infantry skills. This is now part of the NATO Training Mission in the development of the ANA and the Strategic Main Effort for the impending takeover of security by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in 2014.

Initially deploying as a Platoon Commander Advisor, my job was to advise the Officer Candidate School instructors and where necessary, teach the students and conduct "train the trainer" (T3) for the ANA Instructors. But on arriving in theatre I was to become the Officer Commanding of the Infantry Basic Officer Training Course (IBOTC), located on the outskirts of Kabul, in a district called Darulaman. This is the area of Kabul where both the King's and Queen's Palaces are located and had seen some of the fiercest fighting during the Russian occupation.



Armistice Day 2010.

Captain Atholl Stewart and Captain Brian Baxter in Afghanistan.



Captains Stewart and Baxter training in wintry conditions.

The IBOTC is an eight week course; we advised and trained the ANA Officer Instructors and students in the delivery of a programme of Instruction to develop the ANA Infantry Officer, ready for his first deployment. The Coalition staff attached to the IBOTC were 4 UK SNCOs and 1 United States Marine Corps 1st Lieutenant, who was the Second-in-Command of the IBOTC. The courses overlapped at week 4 with a capacity of 125 men per course. Train the Trainer was also conducted by the Coalition staff to enhance the ANA instructors. We initially started as mentors but when I left, were stepping back to advising the ANA instructors. This was clear progression.

The courses ran with 1 week in camp teaching theory, then a confirmatory week of field training to ensure that they had grasped the subjects being taught. The course had its challenges but with patience and persuasion, training does take place. The ANA have a different mindset and it is much easier for the Coalition staff to adjust to the (within reason of course) ANA pace of life, rather than the other way round. Week 7 is the Live Firing week (this in itself had its challenges), where the students were taken from Fire Team to Platoon Attacks and week 8 was their Confirmatory Exercise. With the training area being new to the Infantry Branch School, it was being developed by the Coalition staff with the building of a Forward Operating Base (FOB) and Patrol Bases (PBs) to allow the ANA to train in the use of these. There are issues with using the training area; not only the security of it but also the threat of "legacy mines" from various campaigns in this area from years gone by. The training area was at the foot of a 10,000 foot mountain which was often covered in snow. This had the added danger of "legacy mines" moving during heavy rain or snow melt.

This job was highly challenging but also rewarding and clear progress is being made.

Captain A Stewart



Captain Brian Baxter, Captain Rob Colquhoun, Captain Atholl Stewart and RSM Duffus with Queen's Palace in the background. Captain Colquhoun and RSM Duffus were attending the Advanced Counterinsurgency Leaders Course in January 2011.

THE RETURN TO KOREA NOVEMBER 2011

When I first contemplated a return visit to Korea my first thought was am I getting too ancient for this at 84 and was it fair to drag my wife Pearl (who is over 80) along? From the minute of our arrival these thoughts were banished by the way we were treated; we were looked after with the utmost courtesy and yes, honour, which left a lump in one's throat. It was genuinely given from the top Korean Ministers to the people in the street; we were all left with the feeling that the Koreans have never forgotten and never will forget what was done for them.

They packed the nine days with an itinerary that was breathtaking. First of all we were installed in probably the most sumptuous hotel in Seoul. On the very night of our arrival, still travel weary, we were entertained to supper and drinks by HM Ambassador Martin Uden and his wife Fiona and Brigadier David Greenwood, Military Attache, and his wife Lyndsey. They were the epitome of what Ambassadors should be. They were gracious, helpful and entertaining.

We were taken to many old battle sites including those of the Australian, Canadian and New Zealand Forces as well as to Gloster Valley to see their memorial. At each immaculate site, wreaths were laid and a short service conducted in memory of the fallen. Gloster Valley was particularly moving as you felt yourself in the untenable position they had been in. Unfortunately, our escorts couldn't get us close to our old positions although we enjoyed looking across the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) trying to piece our 60 year old memories together to picture what it was like.

We were taken by bullet train to the UN Military cemetery at Pusan (sitting in the train having a nice meal looking at a TV screen that's telling us that the train is doing 225 mph). At the cemetery we found an immaculately tended garden and graves which are looked after by totally dedicated staff. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment at the New Memorial on our plot, which is a large bronze lion. At the cemetery and the battle sites, we were ably escorted by the very friendly and likeable British Military Attache Brigadier David Greenwood. Looking at the names on the grave-stones brought back the memory of a lot of faces from 58 years ago.

In the Museum and Remembrance Hall a lot of the units were commemorated by their insignia or plaques and as we were not represented I arranged with The Black Watch to send a plaque to the supervisor in charge of the Museum.

On Remembrance Day, which coincided with the G20 Summit, I was given the honour of escorting the Prime Minister David Cameron and laying a wreath on behalf of the Nation with him at the Korean War Memorial in Seoul. Uniquely there were four Prime Ministers present on that 11th hour of the 11th day. It was a very moving occasion. As I was involved for some time in the preparation and escorting of the PM, my wife was at a loose end but I needn't have worried as she was extremely ably taken care of by the Ambassador's wife Fiona.

At the banquet that was held for us and chaired by the Korean Ministers and the General Officer Commanding UN Forces, Four Star General Walter Sharp CDR of UNC/ CFC/USFK, six of us were presented with the 'Ambassador for Peace' medal.

I have only briefly touched on some of the packed itinerary of the 9 days. Suffice to say that we are left with the profound feeling of what the Korean people think of the veterans. Nothing was too much trouble. Everything one could think of was catered for and my last word of thanks must go to the delightful young lady, our personal mentor and guide, who asked that we call her Sophie (her real name would be difficult for us to pronounce, she said!).

Would I go back? I wish I had gone back years ago!

Peter (Striker) Johns



Striker Johns with the Prime Minister on 11 November 2010 at the Korean War Memorial in Seoul. Ronald Balfour, Derek Halley and Birrell Davidson also went to Korea in November 2010.



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

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Battalion has remained on Spearhead (SLE) these past six months, handing over finally to 3 RIFLES on 10 March 2011. Our only near-deployment was right at the end with a 2 week period of forward mounting at South Cerney on heightened readiness should we have been required to support non-combatant evacuation operations in Libya. In the end we were not required but the Battalion did a great job deploying the length of the country in very short order, coordinating the arrival of 18 different units to make up the battle group, as well as recalling 3 SCOTS soldiers from courses in Germany, UK and Northern Ireland

Of course in addition to SLE our main focus in the past few months has been preparation for Op HERRICK 15. We are now confirmed as the Combined Force Battle Group in Nad-E-Ali (South), or CFBG NDA(S), one of the four UK Battle Groups that are Ground Holding in Helmand. This will be a challenging and demanding area to dominate, but one where there is real opportunity through our tour for significant progress towards the goal of an Afghan lead in the counter-insurgency fight. The Battalion is delighted with this of course, as we stay together as a coherent group, with three 3 SCOTS Rifle Companies, a Recce Platoon, Mortar Platoon, and 2 Fire Support Groups (an amalgam of

the Machine Gun and Javelin anti-tank platoons) and take under command a rifle coy from 1 PWRR and one from 1 YORKS, both based in Sennelager with 20th Armoured Brigade. It is 20 Armoured Brigade, commanded by Brigadier Patrick Sanders that we will work for in Helmand and we have already begun the integration process with our Jocks and commanders attending crew training schools and the hierarchy attending conceptual study periods over in Sennelager.

Our takeover date in Theatre is early October, thus we will start the deployment in around mid-September. The training progression while demanding is well paced, with company level confirmatory exercises in May, combined arms live firing in June and a BG field exercise in July – thankfully between each we have a few weeks to rebalance and take some down time, essential if we are to arrive fresh on the tour rather than exhausted from the training! The period since Christmas however has seen the Battalion mostly split to the four winds, as individual driver, gunnery, commander and specialist skills courses have been condensed into the early part of the year to allow the maximum number of soldiers to be available from May-July so we get the most out of the collective training events.

I plan to conduct a series of home area pre-tour briefings in June and July, aimed at the wider families of the Jocks and those of influence in the community who will be critical to supporting us and the families while we are deployed.

In amongst all else that has been going on, we have managed a fair amount of sport and adventure training, both locally at Aviemore and also entering in December a snow boarding team and in January a Telemarking team for the Army Cups, the latter under Major Al



The Duke of Rothesay presented a dirk to the Battalion and in November 2010 an inter section competition was run on the Ben Wyvis training area; Cpl Sims and his winning team.



The Commanding Officer promoting LCpl Sims in the field for his winning performance on the Duke of Rothesay's Patrol Competition.



LCpl Brown with the Duke of Rothesay's Dirk.



CSgt Fairweather briefs a team commander during the competition.

Steele doing really well, notably as the only infantry team taking part. The football team got to the semi-finals of the Community Cup, losing on the penalty shoot-out to 9 Regiment AAC. The rugby team also reached the semi-finals of the Army Cup but lost to 21 Signals Regiment as sadly too many of the 'A' team were elsewhere on pre-deployment training. Company boxing was held in early December and we entered 10 boxers in the 19 Light Brigade competition in Belfast on 27 January, coming 3rd out of 6 overall, behind 2 RIFLES and 2 YORKS who have been in training since last summer. Red Hackle Day and Burns Weekend were well attended and really successful events and were very welcome opportunities to gather as a Battalion.

Manning is on the up. In March we are receiving 62 RLC Pioneers from the ARRC Support Battalion as riflemen and drivers for the tour; recruit inflow sees 100+ arrive from Catterick between April and September and hopefully around 30 TA from 7 SCOTS in mid June. We have 4 new platoon commanders at PCD at the moment who will join us in April (2Lts Allen-Perry, Lawrence, Blair and McRobbie), as well as 2 passing out of RMAS in April who will join us in August (2Lts Martin and Voce-Russell).

Within the next month Major Rob Hedderwick will assume command of Alpha (Grenadier) Company, Major Andy Richards takes over Delta (Light) Company and Major Roddy Williams who was previously 'spare' due to under-manning has taken over B Company. Our new Battalion 2IC, Major Harry Clark is in the chair. His predecessor Major Andy Tait is moving to Kenya. The new QM(T) Major Gary Tait is in post, as is Capt Harry Gladstone as the RSO after completing his course and Major Colin McInroy assumes the post of QM(M) in early May.

Major Dave Bruce moves from QM(M) to be OC HQ Company and the Battle Group Logistics Officer for the tour and QM(T) Capt Brian Cooper is going to be the QM(M) of 2 RGR based in Shorncliffe; great news for him and the Regiment exporting its talent. On the recent Pink List published on 24 February, Major Matt Munro, who commanded Alpha (Grenadier) Company until last summer, was selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Recently selected for promotion to WO1 was WO2 Mathieson, who will become RSM of Aberdeen UOTC and in the RQMS selection board WO2 Colville was selected for RQMS(M) 2 SCOTS and WO2 Marshall, currently CSM Bravo Company will be RQMS(T) of the Battalion here early next year. Successful at the Colour Sergeant – WO2 board was CSgt Fairweather and CSgt Pratt who have done exceptionally well in a very competitive field.

We look forward to a busy but well paced summer of Mission Specific Training, more of which and the outlook for the tour will be provided in the next Battalion update for The Red Hackle.

EXERCISE TELEMARCK HACKLE 2011

By Captain Alex Phillips MC

Team: Major A Steele (Team Captain), Captains J C Kerr and A J Phillips MC, Sgt Rodgers, LCpl Wedgwood, LCpl Hattan, LCpl Jamieson and Pte Kidd.

The 2011 British Telemark Championships were held once again, in Rauris, Austria. The event which is centrally organised by the Army Telemark Ski Association (ATSA) acts as the Army and Inter-Services championships as well as an opportunity for selection for the GB team. The Battalion was able to send a strong team of eight competitors, six of whom who were new to the sport of Telemark skiing.



"Ski The Watch" The Telemark ski team.

We departed from Edinburgh following a brief delay due to the heavy snowfall, eventually landing in Munich and travelling on to Rauris linking up with our advance party of Captain Kerr, who shamelessly secured the best accommodation in the hotel for the team. We soon settled in and were quick to dominate the ground in true Jock style, securing a fantastic reputation with the local population.

The first few days skiing were spent learning and developing the art of Telemarking under exceptional instruction. The team progressed well and as the seeding race approached it was clear the team had produced at least some talent, despite the spectacular wipe outs that were a common feature of jump training. Lance Corporal Jamieson was the master!

Following the seeding race the team was split into two with Captain Kerr and Major Steele competing in the championship races, while the remainder entered the Novice races. Both the Championship and Novice categories competed in four races; The Classic, The Sprint Classic, The Grand Slalom and The Mountain Race.

The Classic race is a course of up to 40 gates including a rap (a banked 360 degree turn) and a jump which sees racers clearing a distance of some five metres to avoid penalty points. Once the rap has been completed, competitors must skate around the rap. This is where races are often won or lost. The Sprint is the same lay out as the Classic race but reduced to make it a 'sprint'. The Giant Slalom is a traditional race involving up to 40 gates and a jump. The final event was The Mountain Race, an event in which racers use skins to make their way uphill and off piste, around a turning marker at the top of the mountain and back down to the start via a number of gates.

The team performed exceptionally well winning three bronze medals, one silver, one gold and achieving victory in the Team Mountain Race, a race which encompasses all the challenges of Telemarking; uphill skinning, cross country skiing, downhill racing and physical endurance. The final most prestigious of awards received was the Chairman's Trophy; this was awarded to the team for its display of sportsmanship, esprit de corps and effort both on and off the slopes.



LCpl Jamieson tackles the Novice Jump prior to "wiping out".



LCpl Wedgwood "skinning" uphill during the Mountain Race.



Major Steele on the championship Giant Slalom.

Telemarking is a fantastic sport and should be attempted by any skier looking for a new challenge. It tests even the most competent alpiners and allows a different approach to skiing. It is an opportunity for individuals to get away and develop out with the military environment and the battalion has the foundations of a strong team for the future and one that can compete at Army level.

Finally, we must thank our fantastic hosts in Rauris, the ATSA organisers and Major Steele for organising the exercise. We must also congratulate Major Steele on his invitation to join the GB development squad... Ski The Watch!!

BATTALION BOXING

By Major R A D Williams

On Thursday 9th December the battalion held a boxing competition with GOC 2nd Division, Major General Shaw, as the guest of honour. Training had begun on our return from Exercise ASKARI THUNDER in September. The battalion received superb support from the RSM's father, Mr Albert Duffus (a former Queen's Own Highlander who runs a local boxing club – the Lochside ABC in Forres), which included both the loan of a ring and allowing the boxers use of his training facilities; without such support it is unlikely that the night would have gone ahead.

The prelims and finals were very nearly cancelled by the severe weather which almost prevented the officials getting to Fort George. As a result of this, the prelims were slightly compressed and some boxers had to fight twice in one day... no mean feat and particularly frustrating for Private Bernard (A Company) who won his first fight but was then injured in his second.

The finals themselves were a great success and started with a truly impressive skills bout between two local amateur boxers. Thankfully both the Officers and Sergeants' Messes were represented, so the Jocks were able to watch both Sergeant Copeland (D Coy) and Captain Phillips MC (C (F Sp) Coy) lose (gallantly!) to Private White (C (F Sp) Coy) and Lance Corporal Hanway (C (F Sp) Coy) in the Middleweight and Super Heavyweight finals respectively. Detailed results are displayed below. Particular thanks must go to the RSM, the Chief Clerk,

Colour Sergeants Ward and Blythe, Sergeant (RAPTCI) Rogers and Corporal Patterson who, between them, ensured that the boxers were trained and that the night ran smoothly.

Light Welterweight: Pte Phillip (A Coy) beat Pte Bain (B Coy)

Welterweight: Cpl Wells (B Coy) beat LCpl Goldsworthy (B Coy)

Light Middleweight: Pte MacKenzie (A Coy) beat Pte Kyle (D Coy)

Middleweight: Pte (now LCpl) White (C Coy) beat Sgt Copeland (D Coy)

Light Heavyweight: Pte Gracie (D Coy) beat Pte Black (D Coy)

Cruiserweight: Pte Smith (B Coy) beat Pte Fraser (B Coy)

Super Heavyweight: LCpl Hanway (C Coy) beat Capt Phillips MC (C Coy)

The Battalion Boxing Night was followed in January by the Brigade Boxing finals which took place in Northern Ireland. The Battalion sent over a total of 11 boxers but, despite very spirited bouts, were only able to get two boxers into the finals. Commiserations to Private Court (B Coy) who had his fight stopped. Private Smith fought an exceptionally hard battle against a young officer from 2 YORKS but was lucky to secure a majority decision in his favour. Well done to all the boxers who worked exceptionally hard in ensuring that the Battalion were well represented and came away having demonstrated that boxing remains the 'soldiers' sport'.

THREE ROUNDS A MINUTE

By Lieutenant Seligman

"Black powder shooting, sir? What is it?"

"Well these guys have got some really old weapons, and they fill them with old-style gunpowder and spend all day blowing targets to bits..."

I may have reached "old-style gunpowder" in that sentence before there were no hands left to raise. Choosing who to bring was simply a matter of selecting from among the volunteers, those who were in my platoon – who says you can't have favourites?

The Strathpeffer Rifle and Pistol Club have a self-built range just outside the village of Strathpeffer, a short drive from Fort George. Mr Ned Larkin, the Chairman, had invited us to bring a group of soldiers to learn about and fire their collection of muskets, carbines and pistols. The date was set and forth we went, across the Moray Firth in two cars on the first day of sunshine we had had for a while.

There is little that I can say that is not embarrassingly grateful. The members of the club had turned out in force to greet us and welcomed us with such hospitality that even the sternest Jock unbent. They taught us about their beautifully maintained collections patiently and without demonstrating a hint of the worry that they must have felt passing them into our hands. Each man fired every pistol, musket and carbine, all of which were muzzle loaded using powder, wadding and shot manufactured by members of the club.

It is hard to imagine a day that could have been more thoroughly enjoyed by the group. We had a taste of what it must have been like to load and fire a Brown Bess musket at the battle of Salamanca, to cut down baddies with a six-shooter in the Wild West and to duel with pistols on Wimbledon Common. There was even a barbecue.

All that remains is to thank Mr Larkin and all the members of the Strathpeffer Rifle and Pistol Club for their hospitality and generosity, and to recommend to all that they have a go if they ever get the opportunity!



Standing: CO, CSgt Ward, LCpl Goldsworthy, Pte Black, Pte Phillip, LCpl White, Pte MacKenzie, Pte Duthie, Pte Smith, Capt Phillips MC, GOC 2 Div, CSgt Blythe.

Kneeling: Cpl Patterson, LCpl Hanway, Sgt Copeland, Cpl Wells, Pte Fraser, Pte Kyle (TBC), Pte Bain (TBC), Pte Gracie, Chief Clerk.



Pte Black on the attack against Pte Gracie.



Some of the weapons fired at the Strathpeffer Rifle and Pistol Club.

FAMILIES' DAY

In October 2010 C Company organised the Battalion Families' Day which was given a Fijian theme and held at Cameron Barracks. Lance Corporal Taroga was in charge of the Fijian side of the event and after a lot of thought and planning, sent Lance Corporals Soqeta, Ratumaises and Mocevei all the way down to Leeds to pick up the necessary ingredients for the Fijian food and drink. Meanwhile Colour Sergeant Blyth and Corporal Baxter had filled a van with crates of beer and wine (and the odd can of coke!), and OC C Company – Major Luckyn-Malone, had seen to the organisation of putting all the stands and tents up in Cameron Barracks.

Thankfully, the weather was fine and the event started with a brief history lesson on Fijian culture given by Lance Corporal Taroga. This was followed by most of the Fijian soldiers demonstrating a traditional Fijian dance in traditional Fijian costume. Concurrently the Fijian wives were tending to the Lovo meal which translates as "earth oven" – amongst the food was chicken, pork and fish all cooked Fijian style! And of course there was a little bit of Kava to drink too.

Cameron Barracks soon became a hive of activity with most of the families coming along. The BBQ laid on by the Regimental Catering Warrant Officer, Mr Boyle, was superb and of course Corporal Baxter's beer tent did a roaring trade. The children were kept entertained, either by watching the football competition, the rugby competition or seeing some of the many stands around the camp. If they weren't entertained by the Jocks of C Company who had put up numerous stands including Heavy Machine Guns, Grenade Machine Guns or Javelin, there was "Bubbles the Clown" for the youngsters. Sergeant Rogers also put together a kids' competition involving all sorts of whacky races and Sergeant Fitzpatrick and Corporal Benson brought along the "A-Team" van (eventually) of AGAI 67 – the

Battalion's very own celebrity rock band who, on this occasion, were joined by Drum Major Murray.

Thankfully the weather held and despite taking a few knocks during the rugby competition, the Commanding Officer took the salute at the end of the day, from The Golden Lions, who had jumped into Cameron Barracks from 5000 feet flying the Royal Regiment of Scotland flag for all of Inverness to see.

THE EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY REELS BALL

By Second Lieutenant Towler

The good news is that despite the frenetic pace of life at Fort George all ranks are still finding the time to enjoy themselves, especially the young officers! Four members of the Officers' Mess were lucky enough to be invited to the Edinburgh University Reels Ball (originally set up by Captain Rob Colquhoun) which took place on Friday 11 March 2011 at "The Hub" in Edinburgh. The Ball was held in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund The Soldiers' Charity and was a great success and raised in the region of £7000 for this deserving and worthy cause. It was extremely kind of the university to extend this invitation to the Mess and Captain Jonathan Kerr, Lieutenant Robert Stewart and Second Lieutenants Tim Towler and Jamie Tait were the chosen 'foursome'. They thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to demonstrate the Kandahar Reel which was very well received, unlike their subsequent approaches to the fairer sex. The dancing prowess of the officers attracted much comment, in particular Lieutenant Stewart's 'pas de bas' and Second Lieutenant Tait's savoire-faire of the travelling step. Clearly much has been learnt and reinforced by the Adjutant's reintroduction of weekly dancing practice and it is hoped that those members of the Mess attending the Caledonian Ball will also be demonstrating the 'Kandahar Reel'.



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

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Commanding Officer:	Lieutenant Colonel EC Chelsea
Training Major:	Major TJO Carmichael
Adjutant:	Captain MJ Munnich
Quartermaster:	Major DW McCallum MBE
Regimental Operational Support Officer:	Captain A McEwen
Regimental Sergeant Major:	WO1 D Yarrick

The Battalion has been in good fettle over the winter, un-afflicted by the seasonal cuts which budgeteers habitually tend to impose on the TA in anticipation of an overspend which never materialises. Our contribution to operations has continued unabated with men and women deployed on Operation HERRICK 13 with 2 and 5 SCOTS. Others are about to deploy on OP HERRICK 14 and the next large contingent of Individual Reinforcements preparing for HERRICK 15 is still undergoing unit level training prior to formal mobilisation in May. The majority of them will deploy as riflemen and on other combat tasks, integrated with their Regular counterparts in The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

October saw us involved in a successful spread of adventurous training activities across the Highlands, during superb weather. Coordinated by Captain Alan McEwen, the events were company based; A and HQ Companies were at the Kingussie Hut, able to participate in hill walking, climbing, mountain biking and kayaking; other companies were at Rothiemurchus Lodge. As a lead-in to the more demanding physical training to develop stamina which has been a theme of all subsequent training events, the weekend was followed by a military skills weekend involving distance and weight in the hills above Dunkeld on the Atholl Estate.

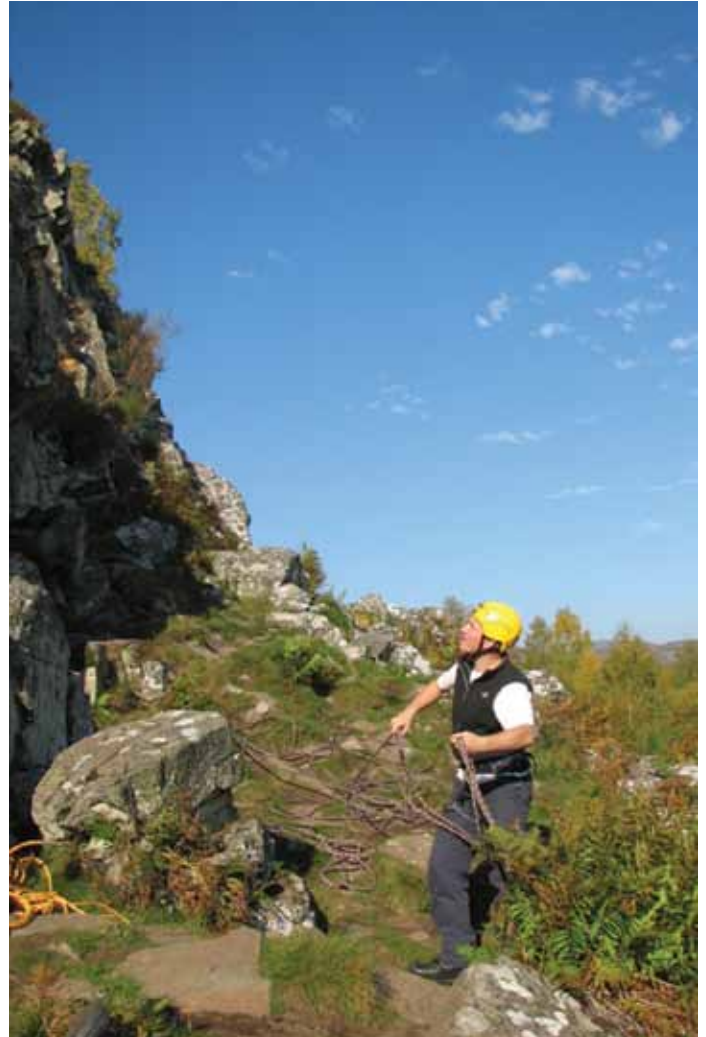
The weekend was well attended from across the Battalion. It enabled the companies to resume tactical training which then led into the specific training of Individual Reinforcements for current operations. As their contribution to the training, A Company (Dundee) provided training and practice to the remainder on mortar target indication.

Part of the preparation for operations in Afghanistan is cultural awareness training. To maintain as wide a knowledge base as possible the training was opened to All Ranks from across the Battalion. It was led by Captain Ian Bunce, RSO, who had deployed with 3 SCOTS as an Influence Officer on HERRICK 10. He was assisted by Captains Mike Dunnigan, Acting OC A Company while Major Richard Barker is deployed on HERRICK 13, and Andrew Wallace, 2IC D Company in Dumbarton, both of whom deployed on HERRICK 10. A very sound series of presentations was delivered to an audience of about 70 All Ranks. Through the good connections of the Commanding Officer we were then able to complete the briefing with an extremely well delivered talk from Rory Stewart MP. Rory was able to give, in his unique manner, an illustrated, anthropological account of the differences between the tribes and their languages, a background of their varied histories and culture and a refreshingly frank response to questions, based on his linguistic ability, his odyssey and his time served in Kabul. The officers then rounded the evening off with a dinner night in the Dundee TA Centre also hosting the Honorary Colonel, Brigadier Charles Grant.

Looking at our training cycle and activities, the funding is now controlled by a process called the Graduated Commitment Mechanism. Depending on the proximity of our next operational commitment and the number of people in preparation training for it, so the forecast funds are made available by the Personnel Support Command to us. The impact is twofold; on the one hand funding is more accountably directed at operational preparation. On the other there is a divergence of training and attendance between those who are available for the next operation and those who are not. The jury is out as to whether this is going to be beneficial to the long term provision of Individual Reinforcements to operations.

However, in the immediate future the mobilisation training continues to May. Before then, in mid April, the Battalion will be undertaking an endurance exercise in the Perthshire hills around the Sma' Glen and

Glen Turret, the aim being to test the physical training that all have been undergoing and to practice navigation at all levels across long distances in some of the finest country there is.



Cpl McNiven of A Company preparing to run a climbing activity near Kingussie.



Soldiers from 7 SCOTS including Sgt MacKenzie and Pte Annan of A Company, on top of Cairngorm in October 2010.



The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada

For the Regiment 2011 is unfolding as a particularly good and fruitful training year, with high attendance at all parades and events so far.

A Company participated in the Brigade Annual March & Shoot Competition. The Black Watch team, lead by Sgt Devin Batchelor, won the honours of the event. All team members performed the only way we know how, through the application of superior skills in musketry, physical fitness and an unbreakable team spirit.

Particular notice should be given to the troops' stellar attendance and performance at the Remembrance Day parade as we represented the largest contingent from Brigade. As usual the Pipes and Drums, out in full force, providing nothing less than an outstanding performance, were appreciated by the veterans and the general public.

For the second year in a row, we celebrated the Christmas Regimental Dinner by welcoming our Canadian Football League champions, the Montreal Alouettes, bringing with them the famed Grey Cup. The cup was donated by our Governor General, the Earl Grey in 1909 for rugby football and eventually represented Canadian football. The Earl Grey was the grandson of the 2nd Earl, Prime Minister of Britain. All enjoyed their presence and generosity as they shared their experience and expressed their gratitude and support for the Black Watch and Canadian troops overseas. They brought gifts for members of the Regimental family present and for our soldiers deployed to Afghanistan.

As the winter months settled in, we shifted our training to winter warfare. The Black Watch contingent, under the command of Lieutenant Chris Leone, deployed for eight days in Northern Quebec, where the troops reacquainted themselves with the challenges of winter operations. They lived in a tent bivouac, trained in survival skills, conducted range shooting, and trained in search and rescue, all in temperatures ranging from minus 15 to minus 45 degrees centigrade. Our soldiers enjoyed their experience and brought back with them a new respect for this sometimes unforgiving environment.

The unit is also actively involved in the national and international scene. We currently have eight soldiers participating in the last rotation of Canadian combat deployment in Afghanistan, some of them now on their 2nd and 3rd tour. Sergeant Enrique Munizaga, an Afghanistan veteran, was selected to carry the Canadian flag in a pre-hockey game

show in St Louis, Missouri. He will soon be followed onto American soil by the Black Watch Pipes and Drum and three of our serving Afghanistan veterans, when they will be performing during a gala and parade in Los Angeles. The Regimental delegation will represent the Canadian Forces and the Canadian soldiers in that Hollywood community sponsored event.

Last but not the least, the Unit held a fundraising dinner on February 12th. The event aimed at raising funds for a special 150th Anniversary project for the non-commissioned members. The dinner highlighted our traditions that originated from officers and other ranks of the Black Watch, the link to our Regimental history, and the importance of the "Highland" community in Montreal's cultural and military history. Our Guest of Honour, Mr Peter McAuslan, President of the St Andrew's Society of Montreal, eloquently highlighted the strong ties that have existed between the Regiment and Montreal. All guests, military and civilian, left the event with a new appreciation of our history and the contribution to the Canadian identity.

The Regiment is in splendid shape, boasting an effective strength of 180 members and a training attendance rate of more than 90%. We are now preparing for the next training cycle and for the 150th Anniversary celebrations in 2012 with all the activities that will highlight this long and proud period of service.

Ne Me Impune Lacessit

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) G T Lusk



Sgt Devin Batchelor (left), team leader of the March & Shoot team, received the winner's cup from Lt Col Henry Gjourdi (right), director of the competition and CO of the Canadian Grenadier Guards.



The Montreal Alouettes visited the Armoury, bringing with them the famed Grey Cup.

The Tyneside Scottish

As the Permanent Staff Administration Officer of 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery in Newcastle upon Tyne, I am delighted to have been the author of our regular six-monthly bulletins to The Red Hackle Magazine for the past eleven years. I feel a genuine sadness that this is to be my final submission but I know that my successor, Captain Chris Devlin, will keep readers regularly updated. He is a REME officer who now moves into a Gunner post; he knows the Battery extremely well and WO2 Dryburgh, whom many of you will remember, has supplied him with an officer's bonnet fittingly lined in REME colours!

Whatever his origin and that of anybody either serving with or associated with the Tyneside Scottish Battery, all are well aware of our strong link with, and affiliation to The Black Watch, if not in detail then in broad outline. The very sight of our head dress (your head dress) with the Tyneside Scottish badge elicits all manner of questions and observations, the answers to which involve the wearer delivering if not a lesson in recent military history then a convincing explanation. Members of the Battery have pride in their association with The Black Watch whose proud and noble history is known better than most. We hope that, over the years, Red Hackle readers will have gained a knowledge of Tyneside Scottish affairs, past and present and will feel a degree of satisfaction that the Tyneside Scottish Battery is numbered amongst them.

As for 'affairs' since our previous report, we have been as active as ever. Ex IRON STORM, a two week joint Surveillance and Target Acquisition exercise with 269 Battery, at Catterick and Otterburn in October was most successful, with the final week's phase being beefed up with the inclusion of additional assets such as Apache helicopters, MLRS and 105 mm Light Guns. Twenty one members of the Battery attended and enjoyed a thoroughly useful annual camp. The fourth of the Regiment's 2010 annual camps (it is rare to hold so many) took the form of a courses camp which six of our number were able to attend and gain career qualifications. Shortly after that, on 29 November 2010, we were visited by The Rt Hon Julian Brazier MP, a member of the Defence Select Committee who was visiting TA Regiments nationwide, in order to make assessments and judgements in connection with SDSR. This was the day that the snow started and we managed to extract him from his hotel by Landrover and transport him to the TA Centre. It was a successful visit by a MP with 13 years service as a TA officer. The Lord Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne visited us on Remembrance Day and on our first February drill night when she presented WO2 (BSM) Andy Loader with a Clasp to his Volunteer Reserve Service Medal.

Christmas came and went. The All Ranks' Party in December was an excellent function, brilliantly organised by Bombardier Chris Hussey and ably assisted by Lance Bombardier Laura Moore to whom congratulations are in order following her recent promotion. The Battery has been involved in many weekend exercises during the recent period, notably a joint STA training weekend with 269

Battery in Leeds, Ex YORKSHIRE CLAN which, despite the name, took place at our own TA Centre. Ex MAGPIE THUNDER, a key regimental firing weekend took place on the Otterburn Training Area in March, which the Battery supported in full measure with our Surveillance and Target Acquisition assets complimenting the MLRS firings. All that (with a couple of MATTs qualification days thrown in) has contributed to quite a busy period for us all. Recruiting goes on apace and we are ahead of our 2010/2011 recruiting target. Gunners Johnathan Duddin, Domanick Hoben and Paul Walsh are welcomed to our ranks. Well done to Sergeant Andy Sharp and Bombardier Lorraine Toward for keeping their foot down on the recruiting pedal.

We look forward to welcoming home Staff Sergeant Davie Barrass and Gunner Dan Holbrough who return from Op Herrick 13 and wish Gunner Paul Telford all the very best as he prepares for his approaching trip to Afghanistan with 53 Battery of 5th Regiment RA. Major Bill Murray now rejoins the Battery as BC, taking over from Major Tim Pennett who has stayed for only six months, en route to his 2IC desk at RHQ in Gateshead. He has been at the helm during a hectic period, albeit on a temporary six month basis. We thank him for all he has done. Major Murray's arrival follows three years at 203 Battery; he is very well known here, having been a member of the Battery for many years up to BSM and then return-



Major Bill Murray recently took command of 204 Bty.



Bdr Jeff Japes in warlike mode, has now transferred to 106 Regt RA(V).



The Lord Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne presents WO2 Loader with a Clasp to his VRSM.



The Lord Mayor with Major Tim Pennett and Sergeant Paul Morris during her visit to the Battery.

ing several years ago as Battery Captain. Some say that his glee is such that he is like 'a dog with two tails'!

It has been sad to bid farewell to Bombardier Jeff Japes who has transferred to 457 Battery of 106 Regt RA (V) in Southampton, having moved South with his job. He has done so much for 204 Battery during his time with us and we thank him for it. On 22 February

2011 he was fittingly awarded a Lord Lieutenant Certificate at a Ceremony in the City.

So the Tyneside Scottish Battery cracks on; just like the illustrious Battalion to which we are affiliated – we strive and we survive. It was always thus and it will be ever so. I wish you all the very best of good fortune in the future as I retire as your Newcastle upon Tyne correspondent.

Angus and Dundee Battalion Army Cadet Force

Although Cadet 150 concluded in November 2010, Angus and Dundee Battalion have not rested on its laurels. 2010 was an extraordinarily busy year, with the Officers and CFAV's (adult instructors) working way above and beyond what is expected of them.

Since Christmas everyone has been working very hard behind the scenes, even more so, in this volatile economic situation that we find ourselves in. However, with true British grit and determination, we have found that both the adults and cadets have continued to embark on training and being trained.

REMEMBRANCE

It is heartening that all walks of life continue to support our courageous servicemen and women in whatever conflict they may find themselves in, around the globe. So it is no surprise that cadets are an integral part of Remembrance parades.

The Festival of Remembrance, held in the Caird Hall, Dundee is an important time for the cadets who vie to take part in either the Muster or carrying a Banner. This is even more impressive for the cadets, especially those who wear the Hackle as they appear on the same stage as the 'Black Watch' contingent from the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

We were privileged in 2010's Muster, to have two Chelsea Pensioners attend the event. One was originally from Dundee and the other from Fife, something that Lance Corporals Danny Martin, George Boyle and Adult Instructor Mark Lamb were quick to pick up for a photo opportunity.

150th FINALE

Friday 19th November 2010 saw the battalion hold their Cadet 150 Finale Supper in Oliver Barracks.

Adults, officers and guests were invited to attend this function to say 'farewell' to the year celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Army Cadets.

The supper was also a time to present two cheques to other organisations close to our hearts. One cheque was presented to retired Colonel, Jake Hensmen of SSAFA and the second cheque was presented to three members of 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' to help pay for another guide dog.

BURNS SUPPER

The annual Burns' Suppers were held on separate dates. The Instructors' Adult Supper was in the Panmure Hotel in Monifieth on January 22nd whilst the Officers' Supper was held in Monifieth Golf

Club on the 28th January. A good night was had by all, although neither event finished on the day they started!

ADVENTURE TRAINING

Although the Battalion have not been able to take part in much adventure training this year, around 30 cadets were fortunate to be able to go to the Nevis Ski Area at the end of January.

Major Rod Thomson, who happens to be the Battalion's Duke of Edinburgh Officer, had previously taken cadets to practice on the dry ski slope at Condor, Arbroath. The first training session on the slope was outstanding as the slope became thick with snow.

A COMPANY

A Company, is one of six Black Watch Detachments in the Angus area, along with two Royal Artillery Detachments who parade together at company weekends held at Barry Buddon. The last time they all met up was also a sad occasion in November as the family of Cadet Corporal Andy Crowe, outstanding athlete from Brechin BW Detachment, came to say thank you to the Battalion for giving Andy the chance to be a cadet and to do something that he thoroughly enjoyed.



Cadet Colour Sergeant Darren Scott "on promotion".



Cadet Sergeant Michelle Forbes receives her stripes.

Andy who was 15, died very suddenly of a brain haemorrhage. He had hoped to become a Royal Marine and trained hard every day to try to achieve his aim. He will be sorely missed as he was well known throughout the Battalion.

On a more uplifting note Cadet Corporal Michelle Forbes and Cadet Sergeant Darren Scott also of Brechin BW Detachment, were promoted to Cadet Sergeant and Cadet Colour Sergeant respectively by Captain Matthew Whatley. Andy would have been very proud for both of them.

B COMPANY

B Company has six BW Detachments and one Parachute Regiment Detachment. Adults and Cadets are recruited mainly from the City of Dundee and also train together at weekends at Barry Buddon. The last weekend saw Cadet Sergeant Natalie Small promoted to Cadet Colour Sergeant and Cadet Corporal Andrew Smith promoted to Cadet Sergeant by Colonel Andrew Cassidy. Both Natalie and Andrew are from the Angus and Dundee Pipes and Drums Detachment; they were also presented with their Four Star Badges, excellent achievements for both of them.

Another well deserved promotion was made to Cadet Colour Sergeant Rikki Henderson from Monifieth who was the appointed Cadet RSM.

DEPUTY BRIGADE COMMANDER'S VISIT

An important VIP visit for all cadets is that of the Deputy Brigade Commander, Colonel Coull. The surname gives a clue to how cold the day was and after walking round the various events that were taking



4 Star Badges for Sgt Andrew Smith and CSgt Natalie Small.



Newly appointed Cadet RSM Rikki Henderson with the Commandant.



NCO Cadre 2011.



Newly presented Flags for A Company (CSgt Darren Scott), B Company (RSM Rikki Henderson) and C Squadron (CSM Dylan Etchells).

place that day at Barry Buddon, the Colonel eventually decided to don his jacket (we thought he was just being brave – he hadn't realised just how cold it was) and speak briefly to those on parade.

The tour included talking to Adults on the prospective Officers Cadre, potential Instructors Cadre and a Cadet NCO Cadre. The cadets also took part in drill teaching practices, something that the Colonel commented on, as he stated that the standard of drill was on par, if not better than some regular units!

He also presented the three senior cadets from A and B Company and C Squadron with their own Company flags.

INDIVIDUAL EVENT

Grove BW Detachment is based in part of Broughty Ferry Castle, Dundee. It is under the command of Captain Margaret Brown. The Detachment has grown from nothing to 20 cadets in two years and is on the up. This is due to taking on new projects that help to project and promote the Detachment.

One of these projects was a 'social exercise' which gave Cadets the opportunity to attend and experience a 'Regimental Dinner'. The cadets were very excited about this opportunity and on the 5th

March, 17 of them accompanied by Captain Brown, SI Mark Lamb and PI Jennifer Martin and guests, Colonel Andrew Cassidy, Major Andy Waterston, SSMI Michael Pascoe and Cadet RSM Rikki Henderson, enjoyed a fantastic meal at Piperdam Leisure Centre. Captain Brown said,

"I was both moved and proud and couldn't have hoped for a more perfect evening with the cadets looking resplendent in their evening dress and with their impeccable attitude and behaviour. This is one exercise that they want to hold once a year and one that I will be happy to organise."

BATTALION PERSONALITIES

Two 'unsung' members of the battalion are Lt Danny Massam and RQMS Mickey Douglas who are both ex regular soldiers. Danny is Dundee's Cadet Administrative Assistant (CAA) and Mickey is CAA for A Company.

They manage the Cadet Properties within their locations and disseminate initial site risk assessments, carry out monthly inspections of internal and external areas in respect of fixtures and fittings and provide the cadets and adults with uniforms, equipment and stores. We couldn't manage without them!



Grove BW Detachment at Piperdam in March 2011.

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Black Watch Battalion Army Cadet Force

Inevitably the first events to be reported in this edition of The Red Hackle took place before the last one was circulated. Such is the nature of the cadet world that there is always something going on and the notes are always playing a game of catch up.

The Brigade Cadet Military Skills competition took place on the last weekend in September and Major David Gill was once again charged with training and taking the Battalion team to the competition. The team came from throughout the Battalion and comprised Cadet Sergeant Anderson (Perth Viewlands) the Section Commander, Sergeant McKay (Dunkeld) Second-in-Command, Sergeant Foley (Perth Viewlands), Sergeant Kilday (Perth RLC), Corporal Sinclair (RLC), Corporal Gray (Crieff), Sergeant Cooper (Auchterarder), Corporal Miller (Dunfermline), Corporal S Stewart (Glenrothes Viewfield) and Corporal J Stewart (Glenrothes Viewfield).

The cadets were tested in all elements of fieldcraft, navigation, first aid, military knowledge, mapwork, shooting and were given a command task to complete. This year the competition was more stretching than in the past. The team came first in the Obstacle Course and did particularly well in the shoot after a Battle Run and they fired from 300, 200 and 100 metres. In the end the Battalion came third overall, the winners being 1 HIGHLANDERS with Angus and Dundee Battalion pipping us for second place.

In the first week of October, the last event in which the Battalion participated to mark Cadet 150 took place. Over one hundred cadets from Burma and Ypres Companies paraded for the Provost of Fife, Frances Melville and the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Fife, Sir John Gilmour in front of the County Hall in Kirkcaldy. In addition all the Battalion banners were carried and the Pipes and Drums provided musical support. After the inspection the cadets marched round the town and past the Provost and Vice Lord Lieutenant who took the salute. The cadets then fell out and were treated to an excellent buffet luncheon before the Commandant and the Provost each spoke and exchanged gifts. As well as expressing the Battalion's gratitude for the support it was given in Fife the Commandant reminded everyone that it was very appropriate the Battalion was marking Cadet 150 in Kirkcaldy because that was where the first ever cadet detachment formed up.

The Battalion shooting team once again went to Bisley in October and acquitted itself well. Individually Cadet Corporals Boag and Fennell were paced in the top 50 shots and the former went on to shoot for the Army Cadet Force in the Inter-Services Team. Korea Company were third overall in the inter detachment competition but won the



Cadet Lance Corporal Megan Campbell in Canada on an exchange visit.

Clay Target competition with Burma coming second. Subsequently Cadet Corporal Boag was one of eighteen cadets from throughout the United Kingdom selected to go to Canada in August 2011 with the British Cadet Rifle Team (The Athelings). This is the first time a cadet from this Battalion has been selected for this honour. Furthermore Cadet Corporal Fennell was selected to go on an exchange visit to Canada in 2011. These selections are a great reward for the hard work the individuals put in but also a reflection on the dedication of Lieutenant Charlie Tough and his team of adult instructors.

At the start of November, the major activities revolved around Remembrance Sunday and associated activities. The Battalion was well represented throughout the Regimental area and the cadets played their part in collecting for Poppyscotland. Towards the end of November the Battalion held a training day for the senior cadets before activities were curtailed because of the bad weather that began on 26 November and which did not improve until the end of December. Cancelling events is never satisfactory but perhaps the saddest decision was to cancel a concert in St Andrews at the end of November when our newly formed military band was going to put on its first performance. The year ended with a bag pack taking place in Morrisons Supermarket in Glenrothes, the proceeds of which went to Help For Heroes and SSAFA.

It did not take anyone very long to regain their momentum once the weather had improved and the New Year had begun. The first major event of 2011 was the annual training day for adults followed by the Burns Supper. Major Ewan Marshall put together a busy programme for the day which set the scene very well for the rest of the year. The Burns Supper was once again organised by Major Ian Taylor and Major Kathy Douglas. The guests included our Honorary Colonel and her husband, Wing Commander Martin Henderson, Deputy Chief Executive of Highland RFCA and Lieutenant Colonel Galloway, Commanding Officer Scottish Transport Regiment. Staff Sergeant Christie addressed the haggis while Under Officer Grant Gill gave the Immortal Memory. Staff Sergeant Steven Mackenzie paid tribute to the Lassies and then his sister, Sergeant Sammy Mackenzie, replied on their behalf. Sadly their sibling loyalty was so strong we learnt nothing new about either of them. After a game of Irish Bingo the serious part of the evening began with the Ceilidh. It was exhausting. However, possibly the highlight of the evening was the musical accompaniment. The newly formed military band under Robert Cowan played throughout dinner and was quite magnificent. Not to be outdone the Pipes and Drums played at the end of dinner and as the Honorary Colonel stated, they seem to get better and better each time they play.

As well as the routine activities the cadets, either as individuals or in groups, have taken part in a myriad of events throughout this



The Burns Supper Top Table. Back Row. Lieutenant Colonel Galloway, Wing Commander Henderson, Mr Steven Smith. Front Row. Lieutenant Colonel Erskine, The Honorary Colonel & Colonel Passmore.

period. Being involved in the local community is an important part of cadet life. In September cadets from Glenrothes, Newburgh and Kinross took part in the moving rededication of the Haig Memorial Garden in Ladybank. The Kinross cadets also helped out at a coffee morning in aid of The HMT (His Majesty's Transport) Lancastria Association – an association of veterans who survived the sinking of the ship on 17 June 1940. Cadet Corporal Megan Beveridge entertained the guests on her bagpipes and was even asked to play Twinkle Twinkle Little Star on them. Bulb planting at health centres and helping park cars at local shows are just two further examples of the type of activity the cadets have been involved in with the local communities.

The OUTREACH projects which Major Douglas Pover and Lieutenant Emma Marshall ran in 2010 in Perth and Kinross, and Fife with much assistance from a number of adults and cadets were once again a great success. A special dinner was held at the end of the year by the teams at the Ballathie House Hotel to mark Cadet 150. The guests included the Lord Lieutenant for Perth and Kinross, Commander 51 (Scottish) Brigade, the Provost of Perth and Kinross and his wife as well as representatives from the Police, the local authorities and the head teachers of the schools involved in the project. The head teachers each gave a short presentation and explained the value of the project but it was the talks by two cadets who had been through OUTREACH, Cadet Sergeant Scott MacGregor and Cadet Corporal Megan Campbell that really confirmed the success and importance of it.

Looking ahead, at the outset, 2011 may seem to be rather quiet after last year when we celebrated Cadet 150 in so many ways. However, that would be wrong. So much has been planned and the enthusiasm of the cadets is almost difficult to keep up with. Inevitably, in today's climate, the budget of the Army Cadet Force is being scrutinised. As a battalion we will not be exempt from any scrutiny, however, as a Youth Organisation, the Army Cadet Force is a very strong brand, a great force for good and we are proud of being part of it.



Black Watch Cadets Andrew Anderson, Zack Howison & Douglas Smith visit the "Western Front" at Balhousie Castle.



A recruit group pictured at Balhousie Castle.

meth'od (mthd) *n.*

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

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



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Association News

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FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION

Association Members will recall that at the AGM in April 2006, immediately following restructuring of the infantry and the merging of the 1st Battalion with all the other Scottish infantry battalions, General Sir Alistair Irwin our former President, stood aside so that the Association might have a breathing space to reorganise itself, to reflect the new situation and to rewrite its Constitution & Rules. Although the relationship between the old and the new is evolving and the rewriting of the Constitution & Rules is still to be completed they will, I hope, reflect, not only the original aims and objectives of our founders but will also provide us with the flexibility to meet future challenges as they occur.

We are immensely honoured and proud that HRH The Duke of Rothesay agreed to become our Patron and last year, Lieutenant Colonel Roland Rose the Chairman of the Welfare Committee, had the honour of presenting his Committee members to him when he visited Balhousie Castle.

We have, inevitably been affected by the credit crunch, in that initially our investments in the Association Trust shrank dramatically and the income it provided was proportionally reduced but I'm pleased to say that our investments are slowly climbing back close to their original value. But the point I wish to make is that through careful husbandry the Welfare Committee has been able to ensure that as many, if not more, applicants have been provided for from Association funds during this difficult time and the Committee deserves great credit for achieving this satisfactory situation.

As I write, Lord Provost John Letford, the first of the Vice President's to be appointed President of the Regimental Association has held that office for nearly a year and I know that all those of you who have had the pleasure of meeting him will know how lucky we have been for the wonderful way he has represented The Black Watch. Earlier in the year he was the only President of a Regimental Association of an antecedent regiment to be invited by the Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Scotland to the first meeting of Association Chairmen and his contribution was important and thought provoking.

Since 2006 I can't think that membership of the Association, just under a thousand, has increased significantly but we have encouraged greater participation in an increasing number of events. The annual parade from the North Inch to Balhousie Castle at the Regimental Reunion is well attended and always produces a good spectacle of red hackles for the local press; the biennial Aberfeldy Muster to celebrate our formation in 1739 is gaining in popularity by the year, so much so that we find difficulty in seating everybody for lunch in the Kenmore Hotel; and the refurbishment and rededication of the Boer War monument in Edinburgh and the Powrie Brae Memorial, the latter in the presence of our Royal Patron, have both been well attended, memorable, regimental family affairs. So, at present, there is no indication that the popularity of the Regimental Association is diminishing, rather the opposite is true.

There has been concern that our relationship with The Black Watch Battalion is gradually cooling and for obvious reasons that may indeed be true. Restructuring has been significant and lines of allegiance have changed dramatically so we should not, in my view, really expect it to be any different but readers may be interested to hear of my most recent visit to the Battalion.

In December last year I was invited to Fort George to present to the winner of the B Company individual skills competition, the

presentation kukri. For those who can remember exercise *Safari* in 1969, 1BW, stationed at the time in Kirknewton, was deployed to the Jungle Warfare School at Jahore Bahru in Malaysia. At the end of the deployment the Gurkha section from the 10GR Demonstration Company presented B Company, commanded by Major Colin Campbell, with a kukri which was subsequently used to present annually for proficiency in individual infantry skills. As the 2ic of that Company, having just returned to 1BW from Brecon where I formed the new NCO's Tactics Division, and later as OC B Company in 1975 and again in 1982 I perpetuated the competition and was delighted to see it being run in exactly the way we ran it before, with the same energy and enthusiasm. The kukri was even presented at a company "smoker", the way we always used to do it.

During a three day visit I watched the Kukri Competition in an almost continuous snow storm; section and platoon battle procedure training for Afghanistan; demonstrations of support weapons equipment (I believe the modern expression is awesome) and the P & D. I was briefed by the Commanding Officer Colonel Ed Fenton and the Second-in-Command, Major Andrew Tait on the Battalion's commitments and operational training programme and I was wined and dined continuously in the Officers' Mess, where I met a number of potential officers on their first visit to the Battalion; I visited the Sergeants Mess and finally the Smoker which everyone from the CO and his wife and the RSM attended, all the time looked after by OC B Company, Major Al Steele and Captain Harry Gladstone, whose idea for the visit it was. I'm most grateful to everyone who played a part in this memorable occasion.

What I got from this was that as time passes and officers and soldiers move in and out of the Battalion it may not be possible to hang on to the outward signs of Black Watch regimental tradition but this was certainly one example of retaining a Black Watch company event and I've no doubt that the inter-company Maxwell Shield and the Bald Cup will continue to be competed for in the same old way.

ASSOCIATION FORECAST OF EVENTS

2011

22 May	Aberfeldy Muster	Aberfeldy
16 Jun	Officers and their ladies lunch	London
25 Jun	National Armed Forces Day	Edinburgh
2 Jul	Royal Regiment of Scotland New Colours Parade	Edinburgh
22 Jul	Regimental Golf Meeting	Kinross
23 Jul	Regimental Reunion	Perth
15 Oct	Croix de Guerre Dinner	Perth Branch
15 Oct	El Alamein Dinner	Angus Branch
28 Oct	Gathering Dinner	Perth
10 Nov	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
13 Nov	Remembrance Day Parade	London
17 Nov	London Branch Dinner	London
19 Nov	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Dining Club	Perth
26 Nov	1739 Club Dinner	Dundee
16 Dec	Officers' Regimental Ball	Perth

2012

20 Jan	Red Hackle Dinner	Dundee Branch
4 Feb	Perth Branch Burns Supper	Perth

THE BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is a brief account for the period 1st January to 31st December 2010, of the income, grants and donations made by the Association through the work of the Executive and Welfare Committees.

Firstly, the Association received through:

Donations, annual subscriptions and legacies	£50,904
The Army Benevolent Fund	£17,325
Invest Income	£89,747
Other income	£421
TOTAL	£158,397

The Association then distributed by grants	
To a total of 80 welfare cases	£32,910
e.g.	
£ 500 towards shower installation for BW veteran	
£ 500 towards BW widower cost of living in Zimbabwe	
£ 500 towards purchase of household goods for BW family	
To a total of 44 cases for holidays	£11,850
(These are mainly for widows and the standard grant is £250 plus Veterans' Pilgrimage to Korea)	
To a total of 6 cases for Education	£2,800
To eligible pensioners at Christmas	£4,385
(A £25 present; QVS School Children get a £15 book token)	
For the upkeep of memorials	£2,387
Red Hackle magazines to soldiers & Pensioners	£2,936
TOTAL	£57,268

The Association also made donations totalling £20,000 to other Charitable Organisations such as Erskine Hospital (£2K), Scottish Veterans Residences (£2K), ABF – The Soldiers' Charity (£10K), Combat Stress (£2K), Veterans Scotland (£2K), BLESMA (£1K) and SSAFA (£1K).

There were administrative costs of £43,304 including salaries and fees, postage, AGM expenses, funeral costs, travel expenses and sundries.

ANGUS BRANCH

President:	Lieutenant Colonel Fred Beattie MBE
Vice-President:	Major David McMicking LVO
Chairman:	Major Ronnie Proctor MBE
Vice Chairman:	Mr Peter Tindal
Branch Secretary:	Mr Tom McCluskey 01382 801013 e-mail: tam7578@blueyonder.co.uk
Treasurer:	Mr Jim Penny

Where has all the time gone? It seems only yesterday that we were writing notes for the Autumn edition of The Red Hackle magazine and now the annual summer events are looming closely towards us.

Last year's organisation of the pensioners' and widows' Christmas parcels was dealt with by the Branch President Lt Col Fred Beattie in his usual efficient manner and he was ably assisted by his usual team



Cheque handover by members of the Angus Branch to Lippen Care. Back row left-right Bob Inglis, Bill Tindal, Dr Peter Dick, Jim Anderson Bill Carr. Front row left-right Jock Paton, John Symington (Lippen Care) Bob Mitchell. Photo courtesy of D C Thomson.

of helpers; Jock Paton, Jim Lawson, Jim MacEwan, Norrie Dewar and John Gordon. Thanks must also be offered to Fred's wife Olive who shopped around and ensured that we obtained good quality items at very reasonable prices. It is gratifying to note that this small annual token is appreciated by all recipients.

The main event of the past period was the annual Burns Supper which again was a sell out and a great success. Home grown talent was used this year and Peter Tindal's rendition of Tam O'Shanter with illustrated slides was both unique and most enjoyable. Bob Mitchell gave an excellent Immortal Memory with much of it in verse which he composed himself, I am sure that Bob will be coming to the fore again next year. Peter Snaddon our Branch Piper piped in Posey Nancy (alias Syd Mather) carrying the Haggis and then played an excellent selection of music later in the evening. Jim and Frances Sandilands hilarious Toast to The Lassies and reply was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all. Billy Whytock's word perfect recitation of the Soldier's Return and John J Smith's poignant



Angus Branch Christmas hampers from left-right Jock Paton, Jim Lawson, Bob Mutch, Syd Mather, John Gordon, Mrs Olive Beattie, Jim McEwan, Norrie Dewar, Lt Col Fred Beattie. Photo courtesy of D C Thomson.

toast to Absent Friends rounded off a very enjoyable and successful evening. Musical entertainment was provided by the singing duo of Peter Dick and Bill Carr and our Branch Chairman addressed the Haggis and chaired the evening with his usual quick witted banter. Jim McEwan managed to employ a new team of caterers from Arbroath and the quality and quantity of traditional Burns Supper Fare could not be faulted. The Branch decided that the small profit made from the Burns Supper should be donated to Lippen Care which is a local charity that helps fund the palliative care unit in Whitehills Hospital in Forfar.

At the time of writing we are preparing for the annual Spring Supper Dance which will again be held in the Royal British Legion Clubrooms in Arbroath. This has proved to be a popular event in the past and we hope to emulate the success of previous years. We are looking forward to the biennial Muster at Aberfeldy in May and the lunch afterwards as it is nice meeting up with old friends again.

Work is going on behind the scenes in the planning of the proposed Black Watch Corner memorial in Belgium. The idea was the brainchild of the Branch Secretary, Tom McCluskey however the Branch Vice President, Major David McMicking and Branch Chairman Major Ronnie Proctor are heavily involved in the project.

The next Branch Banner Rededication Service will take place in Brechin Cathedral in early October followed by Sunday lunch in the Royal British Legion Clubrooms, Brechin. The annual El Alamein Dinner will be held in Forfar on the evening of 15th October in the Royal British Legion Clubrooms.

On a sad note we must report the death of two of our Branch stalwarts, Peter Laing of Arbroath and Jimmy Ogg of Forfar both of whose obituaries are printed in this magazine. Both Peter and Jimmy were regular attendees of Branch meetings and activities and they will be sadly missed by us all.

DUNDEE BRANCH

The Angus Branch held their annual El Alamein dinner in Forfar on 23 October and this was attended by several Branch members, including Roland Rose and Willie Barr.

The Branch was also asked to assist in selling poppies from the Poppy Scotland caravan at the City Churches on 11 November and Dave Ritchie, John Sutherland, Jimmy Culearn and others presented themselves for duty. It was heartening how generous the public are in their support for this appeal.

The Armistice Parade was held as usual this year at the 4/5th Battalion statue on Powrie Brae. There was a large turnout by not only Branch members and A Company of 7 SCOTS but also of politicians of all persuasions, as well as the general public. A Regimental wreath was laid by Major Jim Conners. Hospitality was laid on at the Black Watch Club and several members then retired to the bar at Oliver Barracks to continue the movement.

The Branch held its Annual Red Hackle Dinner at the Black Watch Club in Artherstone Terrace on 21 January 2011, with a good attendance. We welcomed General Irwin, Lord Provost John Letford and Majors Tim Carmichael and John Stevenson. General Irwin spoke about the Regiment and Major Ronnie Proctor spoke about the Association. We also welcomed, as we do every year, several of our comrades from the Liverpool Scottish, who also joined a large Branch contingent at the A Company Burns' Supper the following evening.

The City of Dundee Combined Ex-Services Committee held a dinner on 19 February to welcome General Irwin as its Honorary President and to thank Lord Provost John Letford for all his assistance to the Committee. Willie Barr, Roland Rose, Dave Ritchie and Joe Devlin represented the Branch.

A contingent from the Branch i.e. Lieutenant Colonel Roland Rose, Major Dave Ritchie, Major Jim Conners and Messrs Willie Barr and Kenny Grant, attended the Fife Branch Annual Dinner in Kirkcaldy on 26 March. We bid a sad farewell to Johnnie Carol long serving Branch member and Chairman of the Black Watch Club.

Future Events

Laying of Crosses	City Churches	31 October 2011
Armistice Parade	Powrie Brae	13 November 2011
Red Hackle Dinner	Black Watch Club	20 January 2012

The Branch continues to hold its monthly meetings in the Black Watch Club in Artherstone Terrace on the last Sunday of each month at 12.00. All serving or ex members of the Regiment are welcome to attend.

FIFE BRANCH

Over the past few months, the Branch has had some significant events to attend. Apart from our normal meetings, we met in the village of West Wemyss, on Sunday the 23rd of January to support the community in remembering a tragic accident which occurred in the early years of the war. During this unfortunate incident, five men lost their lives when a mine broke lose from its moorings and was drifting towards the village. Five men attempted to secure the mine but it detonated killing all of them; the youngest was a boy of 15. The service was held in the local Kirk by The Reverend Wilma Cairns and on its completion, the congregation and other groups met on the shore. A Memorial in the shape of a Mine and carrying the names of the villagers was unveiled by the Laird of Wemyss. Refreshments were provided by the community after the event, giving Branch Members a chance to mingle and chat.

Some five days later we donned our Bonnets again, this time meeting in the Kirkcaldy Town House to launch the Friends of The Black Watch. Once again a fair number of veterans paraded along with



Some members of the Fife Branch at the West Wemyss Memorial.



The Fife Branch Rhine Crossing Dinner was held on 26 March.



Methil war memorial rededication.



Fife Branch members help celebrate John McRae's 100th birthday.

the local dignitaries, namely The Lord Lieutenant, Margaret Dean, The Provost of Fife, Francis Melville and General Sir Alistair Irwin. Honorary Memberships of the Friends were presented to our guests by Sir Alistair and Lieutenant Colonel Philip Halford-MacLeod. It was a very worthwhile evening.

We had our own Branch Meeting in Hunter Street and David Thompson was elected as Minutes Secretary; George Wood was also elected News Letter Editor.

The Rhine Crossing Dinner was the next event on our Branch agenda (26th March) and we had sixty eight members who attended. We were entertained on the night by Captain Ruari Halford-MacLeod, the brother our own Colonel Philip, who gave a short resume of the history of the 7th Battalion's operation crossing the Rhine. The piping for the evening was provided by Pipe Major Robert Barnes of the Methil and District Pipe Band. The next day, Sunday the 27th March the Branch met for the rededication of the Methil War Memorial. The memorial is in the form of a Black Watch soldier which added to the significance of the occasion.

Mr John McRae

On the 16th of November 2010, members of the Fife Branch were invited along to the Methilhill Bowling Club to help celebrate the 100th Birthday of Mr John McRae.

John was born into a Fife mining family in 1910 when King George V was on the throne and Winston Churchill was MP for Dundee at Westminster. John's father Daniel, although a miner, did serve in The Black Watch during the First World War and this may have played a part in the moulding of John's future. As a young man he showed a talent as a musician and on leaving school aged 14 joined the Methilhill Pipe Band as a piper. Although he followed his father and his mother (yes his mother) into the mines, his heart was never in it, as he had a hankering to see the world. After five years, including the 1926 General Strike and the closure of some local mines, he saw this as his chance to make the change. He thought about the Royal Navy but decided to follow the family tradition and join The Black Watch. He served from 1930-1937 achieving the rank of Lance Corporal. Some of his ambitions to see the world came to fruition through serving in the Battalion Pipe Band, as this took him to Finland, Monte Carlo and France.

On demobilisation in 1937 John reached a deal with the Pipe Major and purchased his pipes for the grand sum of Five Pounds. His son Ken still plays them today in the Methil and District Pipe Band. Not wishing to go back to the mines he decided to take employment as a Postman. He was just getting settled into civilian life when on the horizon, the dark clouds of war were gathering over Europe. War was inevitable and ex-Regulars received their call up papers. John found himself in the 4th Battalion and was soon on his way to France as part of the Expeditionary Force. It was during his time in France that he was to be transferred into the 1st Battalion where fate intervened yet again. The 4th Battalion were evacuated but the 1st Battalion as part of the 51st Highland Division were cut off and trapped at St Valery en Caux.

Running short of food and ammunition there would be no escape from St Valery and John remembers vividly where he was at the time of the surrender. He was in a cemetery. He later saw General Rommel take the surrender from General Fortune. He found himself one of 8,000 prisoners from the Highland Division that were force marched through

Belgium and Holland and on to very cramped barges taking them up the Rhine into Germany and from there into Poland and elsewhere.

The conditions during this phase were indescribable and in his camp they had 6 latrines to furnish 1,500 troops and dysentery was rife. It was some time before Red Cross parcels got to the camps but when they did; it made life a little bit easier to accept. Eventually they were put to work on the land, in factories and his pet hate, the mines. Luckily he was employed on the land. Germany was losing the war and the delivery of Red Cross parcels was beginning to dry up. Work became much harder in the bitter cold winter, which took its toll on those in the camps. On top of this hardship there was the bombing and strafing by the Allied aircraft and on one occasion, John remembers having to dive for cover as they attacked a railway station.

After the war he returned to Methilhill and his old job as a postman, eventually ending up as Assistant Inspector in Leven Post Office. He married in 1955 and in turn, started a family always living in the area of the Methilhill village. Although his wife died in 2000, John still lives by himself in the village and is supported by his family and many friends. A very keen gardener he remains active in his greenhouse and his vegetable patch.

Even aged 100 John manages daily walks and visits to the Bowling Club for a wee dram in the company of his many friends.

John has had a remarkable, eventful, brave and courageous 100 years and we can only thank him for his contribution to our Regiment.

We in the Fife Branch were honoured to be invited to help him celebrate this wonderful occasion.

THE HIGHLAND BRANCH

The Highland Branch continues to recruit with our latest edition being W02 Colin Gibson who has secured an FTRS contract and is currently employed as one of the Brigade Health & Safety Officers stationed at Fort George. Colin completed his regular service at Warminster as DSM Anti Tank Wing.

The main event of the year was our November Ladies' Dinner Night in the Royal British Legion Club Inverness; we had visiting members Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Roland and Maureen Rose, William and Christine Barr, Captain Alan McEwen, Shaun Dryburgh and Jim Baird. Jim and Gwen Turner returned to the fold – it has been a long time since they attended a Black Watch event. Colin and Ursula Russell made the guest list complete, travelling from Glasgow. The popular band called AGI 67 made up of serving soldiers provided the entertainment for the evening. We had 30 couples attending which we hope to build on for our Aberfeldy Dinner in May.

On the visit front the Chairman, Scott Bell and John Anderson attended the Dundee Dinner in January at the Black Watch Club. This was a fantastic evening and our Branch members were looked after extremely well. We would like to thank the Dundee Branch for their kind hospitality and look forward to next year, I think!

The Chairman was also invited to represent the Branch at the Naval and Inverness Rotary dinners held in Inverness. This has helped build new links and enhanced the Branch profile within the Highlands.

While the Branch grows in numbers and stature, the only disadvantage we have is with the Battalion serving members. It is easy to forget how much time they spend away preparing for operational deployment. Their HERRICK slot is not until October 2011 but we have seen the impact of separation since late last year. As a Branch we have organ-



Our Dundee visitors.



Shaun Dryburgh and Lenny Shaw.



The Chairman of The Perth Branch supports the Chairman of the Highland Branch.



Ellen Kennedy and Mary Barbour.

ized parcels and gifts to be sent during their tour with the Branch Secretary Derek Reid providing the postal service.

The battalion's deployment will restrict our Branch Forecast of Events. Other than our monthly meetings we will not be able to hold a large function until their return. Listed below are the dates of meetings up to October this year. We meet at the Black Watch Community Centre, Wimberley Way and all guests are welcome.

2011

Aberfeldy Dinner	21 May
Monthly meeting	14 June
Monthly meeting	12 July
Monthly meeting	19 Aug
Monthly meeting	13 Sep
Monthly meeting	11 Oct

Major John Stevenson

THE LONDON BRANCH

I suspect that other Branch notes may start with an introduction about the long, hard, winter and the ice and snow the majority of Association members will have experienced wherever they live in Britain. But, as spring stirs, we can emerge from hibernation secure in the knowledge that at least we have not had to endure the extremes of horrendous floods, heat waves, earthquakes, tsunamis and nuclear meltdown. So spare a thought for those in New Zealand, Australia and Japan who face long months of hardship as they fight to recover from the devastating events that have recently befallen them.

Before the onset of winter there were several events to occupy the London Branch. Two items that were squeezed out of the November edition do bear mention. The first from our correspondent down under, Ian Forrester, who writes: "Whilst on holiday in Egypt recently I was able to visit the El Alamein Cemetery and pay my respects to members of the regiment who are buried there. In the Memorial Cloister, on a wall 80 meters long, are recorded the names of 11,847 soldiers and airmen with no known grave. I was able to place some flowers at the foot of two complete columns of names of Black Watch soldiers from this episode of the War who have no known graves". And, from John Eason, details of a less emotional event: "Bill and Debbie Parr, Shirley and I attended the Not Forgotten Association 90th Birthday Concert at Buckingham Palace. It was a splendid event, beginning with nibbles and champagne and we had time to chat to the other guests from a wide range of service backgrounds while Princess Anne and her husband moved among us. This was followed by the entertainment, which was way beyond what we had expected. There was music from the Band of the Life Guards, readings by stars such as Hannah Gordon, Robert Hardy and Dame Judi Dench, singing by the Morriston Orpheus Male Voice Choir (conducted by a young blonde lady!), dancing girls, comedy from David Copperfield and much more. This was wonderful stuff and hugely enjoyed by all".

November was, as ever, the busy month for the Branch. There was a good turnout at Westminster Abbey for the Field of Remembrance and members of the London Branch joined



Some Members at the Field of Remembrance.



Cenotaph Parade, on Whitehall. Small but beautifully formed!

the Black Watch Contingent at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. Many of you will have seen the excellent coverage of this small, smart group, ably led by Joe Hubble and with Peter Watson MC as right marker, featured on BBC TV and the National News that day.



*Jenny Barty on the Great Wall of China
– Can they see me on the moon?*

Front centre of the group at the Field of Remembrance is Arthur Barty who unfortunately has not been in the best of health recently, and we wish him well. Arthur is, with just cause, extremely proud of his wife Jenny, who has been undertaking several events to raise funds for The Thames Hospice Care Cancer Fund, in Windsor. Her first was a tandem parachute jump and then, as if that was not demanding enough, a walk along the Great Wall of China that took her to and over the 37 towers. She is currently on a trek in the mountains of Nepal that takes them to 3,500 metres. Some 40 Sherpas will lighten the load and volunteer doctors and nurses will accompany the group to attend to the dreaded aches and pains that are likely to occur (at a 'certain age' and high altitude).

Also in November we held the Branch Annual Dinner at the Victory Services Club. This was wonderfully organised by Ian Howarth, Ian Elphick and Alastair Walters (and of course their hard working helpers) and our thanks also go to David Kemmis-Betty for rounding up several of the Black Watch Battalion officers currently serving at the MoD and to Chic Mackie for his excellent piping.

Branch member Alastair Walters lives not too far from Royston, Hertfordshire, which is where the "Red Heckle" was presented to the Regiment on the 4th June 1795 after firing three rounds in honour of the birthday of HM King George the Third. Alastair decided to carry out some local research and visited Therfield Heath (now rugby pitches and a golf course) on the outskirts of the town, where the Black Watch were quartered, and also the Royston Museum, which has a display featuring the Red Hackle and notes that "the Black Watch were one of the most memorable regiments to be stationed there". Archibald Forbes in his book "The Black Watch, Record of an Historic Regiment" wrote in 1897: "A box containing the Feathers arrived on the Common, which were distributed to the Officers and Men; the Commanding Officer giving a speech on the subject of which the honour of wearing the Red Feather was conferred on the 42nd regiment for their gallant conduct on 4th January 1795 at Guildermansen. The Officers and Men placed the feathers in their bonnets and marched into Royston, and on the evening of



Display case in Royston Museum.

4th June were paid in arrears due for eighteen months, with a caution to keep close to their own billets and be regular".

The Branch has lost two members since our last notes were published: Keith Redrup, who sadly died of cancer and in December 2010, the sudden death of a great supporter of the Branch, Philip Prain, whose obituary appears in this edition of the Red Hackle. Philip was a great traveller and enjoyed holidays 'off the beaten track'. In November 2008 he travelled to the Falkland Islands a journey that clearly made a great impression on him. As a tribute, the article he wrote for the Red Hackle but which, unfortunately, was not published at the time is reproduced below.

Remembrance in the Falkland Islands

(My notes on the Falklands War)

"Following my interest in military history, in November 2008 I spent two weeks in the Falkland Islands. I wanted to see for myself the geography of what I consider to be an extremely interesting campaign and possibly to meet some of the islanders who lived through it. I had timed my visit to enable me to attend the Service on Remembrance Sunday at Christ Church Cathedral in Port Stanley and it was a great privilege to be there. Over 50 veterans of the 1982 war had flown out for the Service which was conducted by the local vicar, the Reverend Dr Richard Hines and the Reverend David Cooper who had been chaplain in 1982 to Colonel H Jones' 2 Para, for which he was Mentioned in Dispatches. Following the Service, the veterans, accompanied by units of the regular forces in the Falklands and by sailors from HMS Iron Duke, marched to the War Memorial where a number of wreaths were laid, including one by the Governor, H. E. Mr Alan Huckle.

Subsequently I was taken by a local guide over the course of the battle for Darwin and Goose Green, starting with the landing of 2 Para at San Carlos, covering the death of Lieutenant Colonel H Jones VC whose incredible bravery in storming the Argentine position (in the course of which he was shot from behind by an unobserved sniper) turned the tide of the battle, and ending with the acceptance of the surrender of a much larger enemy force at Goose Green by the Second-in-Command, Major Chris Keeble DSO.

Another local guide took me to the top of Mount Tumbledown, overlooking Port Stanley, which was captured by 2nd Battalion Scots Guards in the final battle of the war and to Fitzroy where RFA Sir Galahad was so tragically bombed while waiting to land two companies of the Welsh Guards.

My final battlefield visit was to Pebble Island where one of the most remarkable actions of the war took place. Shortly before the main army was due to come ashore, an alert pilot had observed what appeared to be some unknown enemy aircraft on a grass landing strip and this was confirmed by reconnaissance. Accordingly Admiral Woodward ordered Major Cedric Delves, OC of the SAS squadron on board HMS Hermes, to deal with them. On the night selected for the raid the weather was atrocious, even by the standards of Falkland's winters, with gale force winds and heavy driven rain and Admiral Woodward considered a delay. He was reluctant to risk the helicopters which would carry the SAS to the island. Major Delves persuaded him that the weather was in fact ideal for an SAS operation as the enemy would be least expecting them. This proved to be the case. Captain John Hamilton, commanding the assault party, decided to immobilise the eleven aircraft by attaching explosive charges to the front wheels of each one, so that no cannibalisation would be possible. Simultaneously shells were fired by the Royal Navy to land nearby. The ensuing mayhem was the first indication for the 150 Argentine soldiers, who were supposed to be guarding the airfield, that anything was amiss. All was not plain sailing ("everything that could go wrong did go wrong", Major Delves subsequently observed), but during the course of the explosions all 50 SAS were safely checked out by their CSM and returned by helicopter to HMS Hermes, proving the truth of the SAS motto "Who Dares Wins". Major Delves (now Lt General Sir Cedric) was awarded the DSO and Captain Hamilton the MC. Sadly almost half the SAS squadron was killed later in the war in a helicopter accident and Captain Hamilton was killed during operations at Port Howard.

I do not know how many readers who have served there would agree, but I found the Falklands a fascinating place. The natives are exceptionally friendly, the scenery beautiful, especially in November when the plentiful gorse is in full bloom. The history is most interesting and the wildlife, mainly penguins and other birds and seals, is very 'tame', not considering humans to be a threat. It was often difficult to remember that it was all real and not just part of an enormous zoo. Altogether, it was a most memorable fortnight".

After Note: Lieutenant General Sir Cedric Delves KBE DSO is now the National Chairman of BLESMA.

Philip Prain

In beautiful countryside one mile south of the small Cotswold town of Corsham – midway between Bath and Chippenham lies



The Services Cotswold Centre

Any Service family needing short term accommodation, between postings, on retirement, for a break in the country or for Welfare reasons can stay at the Centre.

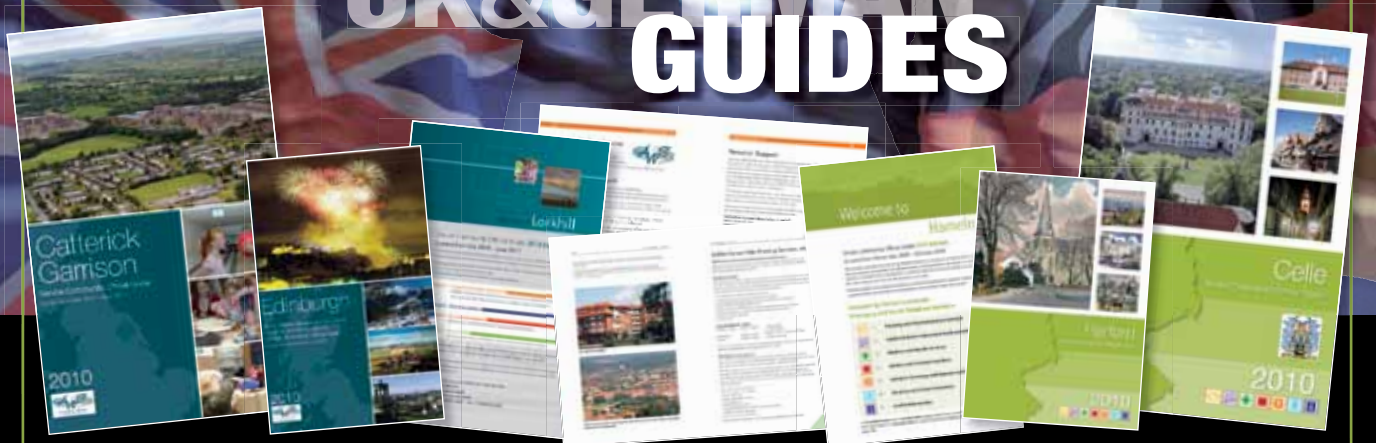
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NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE BRANCH

Recent months have been very quiet, with little happening in the Branch. At the beginning of the year, our normal meeting schedule fell victim to the arctic weather, deep snow making public transport unreliable at best and unavailable for the rest. One elderly member was rescued, late at night, from a snow drift on the roadside, by passing policemen. When asked what he had been doing at that time of night, this intrepid holder of the Burma Star proudly announced that he had been taking his girlfriend home. Whether or not the police should have ignored his plight and left him to his own devices, is still a matter of heated debate over drinks at the end of Branch meetings. Some hold the view that the old Burma Star man would have managed without help, whilst others feel it was a waste of public resources which should have been used on a more deserving case.

In November, Branch members attended a number of Remembrance Ceremonies in the Newcastle area. In particular, representatives paraded at Hebburn Cemetery on the Saturday prior to Remembrance Sunday and laid a wreath at the WWI War Grave of S/27059 Pte F Beckitt, Black Watch (RHR) who died at the age of 41 on 19th July 1920. This ceremony was a continuation of a duty introduced by Paddy Ireland, whilst he was Vice Chairman of the Branch. Eric Armstrong now carries on the job of grave selection and general organisation for the event.

Everyone is getting ready for the return of decent weather and organisation of our trip north for the Annual Reunion is well under way. Those intending to go to Aberfeldy in May, are busily saving their pennies and dodging the Social Secretary who is demanding payment in advance for both transport and accommodation. I am sure that we will all manage in the end despite the financial constraints of the times.



The grave of Pte Beckitt in the Hebburn Cemetery.

PERTH BRANCH

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 Treasurer: Mr Jim Baird (01738 623604
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 Secretary: Capt Brian Baxter (07843 743946
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 Padre: Reverend Matthew Robertson
 Branch Piper: Pipe Major Alistair Duthie

Membership

While Branch Membership remains steady and healthy we would warmly welcome additional members who are serving or have

served in the Regiment, whether Regular or Territorial. Throughout this period the Branch has seen a hugely encouraging increase of ex-serving 'younger soldiers' becoming Members or Associate Members; Clark McNamee, Rab Weir, Sam Morgan (all ex-BW) and Archie McConnell (ex-QOHLdrs). Additionally Capt Atholl Stewart and WO2 Pipe Major Cameron Stevens Canadian Decoration (CD), The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada have recently joined the Perth Branch.

The Soldier's Return

The Branch are extremely pleased to welcome home Capt Brian Baxter safely from Kabul, Afghanistan following a six month deployment, during which his role was to instruct and mentor the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Officers and Senior and Junior NCOs.

*The brave poor sodger ne'er despise, Nor count him as a stranger:
 Remember he's his country's stay, In day and hour of danger.*
 Burns

Croix de Guerre Dinner – Saturday 16 October 2010

This was the second occasion the Branch held a dinner to commemorate the Croix de Guerre (literally the "Cross of War") awarded to the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion The Black Watch on 12 July 1919. It took place in the Queens Hotel, Perth and the guests were Lord Provost John Letford JP, President of the Black Watch Association, Colonel Ian Critchley OBE, Dr and Mrs Tom Renouf and Major and Mrs Ronnie Proctor MBE. Bob Scott and George Wood from the Fife Branch and Norrie Dewars from the Angus Branch were also in attendance. The night was an undoubted success and it is planned to hold this commemorative dinner annually on or about the 3rd Saturday in October.

Highland Branch Dinner – Saturday 6 November 2010

Jim Baird and Alan McEwen were guests of the Highland Branch for a dinner which was held in the British Legion, Inverness. In comparison with most other BW Branches, Highland Branch has a relatively young membership base, probably due to the large number of ex-BW settling in the Inverness area since the Battalion were last stationed at Fort George from 1996-2000. Although it is a Branch in its infancy, it is one whose members clearly know how to host a particularly fine dinner night and party thereafter, with youthful and tireless energy well into the wee small hours.

Burns Supper – Saturday 5 February 2011

The Branch held their traditional, first Saturday in February, Burns Supper in the Salutation Hotel, during which the principal guests were Provost John Hulbert JP and Lady Provost Sara Hulbert. Other guests included Capt Brian Cooper, QM(T) of the the Black Watch battalion and his wife Yvonne, Cammy Goodall (ex-BW Mil Band), Willie Barr, Roland Rose and Kenny Grant from the Dundee Branch and Bob Scott and Bill Gunning from the Fife Branch. Pipe Tunes (first class), toasts (faultless) and recitals (perfect) were given by:

Pipe Tunes	Pipe Major Alistair Duthie
Accordion Music	Ian Anderson
The Loyal Toast	Willie Barr
Toast to our Royal Patron	Bob Scott
Absent Friends	Jim Baird
Address to a Haggis	Jim Sandilands
On Meeting with Lord Dear	Cammy Goodall
The Whistle	Cammy Goodall
The Haggis of Private McPhee (by Robert Service)	Alan McEwen
Holy Willie's Prayer	Alan McEwen

The Branch owes a debt of gratitude to Cammy Goodall, a 'larger than life' Burnisian, much sought after worldwide, who delivered these two particularly interesting Burns works with his very own unmistakable character and style and abundant knowledge and passion.

Fife Branch Rhine Crossing Dinner – Saturday 26 March 2011

Jim Baird, Weir Rankin, Kevin Murphy and Alan McEwen were guests of the Fife Branch at their annual Rhine Crossing Dinner. The impressive and tastefully decorated function room in the family owned Victoria Hotel, Kirkcaldy gave an initial outstanding impression. The company was great, the banter hilarious and the menu truly delicious. After dinner Ruari Halford-MacLeod (brother of Lt Col (Retd) Philip)) gave a thoroughly professional and very informative PowerPoint presentation and talk on the part played by The Black Watch during the Crossing of



The Perth Branch Croix de Guerre Dinner was held on 16 October 2010.

the Rhine in March 1945. Our thanks go to Bob Scott, Chairman and all the Fife Branch members for a thoroughly enjoyable and extremely informative night.

Forecast of Events

Sunday 22 May 2011	Red Hackle Rally – Aberfeldy Memorial
Saturday 25 June 2011	Armed Forces Day – Edinburgh
Saturday 2 July 2011	Presentation of New Colours – Holyrood
Friday 22 July 2011	Regimental Golf
Saturday 23 July 2011	Regimental Reunion
Saturday 15 October 2011	Perth Branch Croix de Guerre Dinner
Sunday 13 November 2011	Remembrance Sunday
Saturday 4 February 2012	Perth Branch Burns Supper in Perth

Branch Meetings

Due to the closure of the War Memorial Club, Perth our April and May monthly meetings are planned to take place in the Ex Servicemen's Club, Perth. This is on a trial basis only and a confirmed future venue, monthly dates, and start times will be announced in due course.

STOKE-ON-TRENT

Burns' Night Super

It is with great regret that this year we were forced to cancel the Burns' Night Supper Dance, which normally is held at the Stoke-on-Trent Town Hall.

This was due to very poor sales of tickets. On behalf of the Association I would like to apologise to anyone who may have been affected by the cancellation.

Plans are 'afoot' to reinstate this event next year at a different venue but with the same fantastic atmosphere. The date and location will be confirmed at a later time, so for our members, please keep your eyes open in the later newsletters.

Look what we have achieved

From the sale of the 'Piper Ted' Lapel badges, our Branch has not only managed to purchase the Memorial Bench, which is now housed at The Longton Cricket Club but we donated the remaining money to the Donna Louise Children's Hospice in Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.



From left to right: Miss Carly Aitkin, Arnold Shenton with Miss Dalders accepting the gifts from Alex Lackie.

Rather than handing a cheque over to the Hospice and the money being engulfed in 'the big pot', we were supplied with a list of what the children wanted and needed. We took great delight in going out and purchasing £600 worth of toys and games for them.

They were presented to Miss Kate Dalders and Miss Carly Aitkin (daughter of one of our members) both from the Donna Louise Trust, by our Secretary Alex Lackie and Chairman Arnold Shenton.

A fantastic time was had by all the staff and especially the children, opening all 46 gifts and as a way of a 'Thank You' from the children, they presented us with a very special card.

It just goes to show, that with a little effort and support from the membership, what can actually be achieved.

Regimental Muster

At least eight of our Second World War members will be attending the Muster at Aberfeldy on both Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May 2011.

Regimental Reunion

The date has now been moved to Saturday 23rd July 2011. This event will be at Balhousie Castle in Perth. The date of this has been moved due to the Armed Force Day parade in Edinburgh. In the past, the Reunion day has been the same as the Armed Forces Day, which has drawn a conflict of loyalty to both events. All our membership has been informed of the changes to the dates and it is hoped that a large contingent from our Branch will attend.

Branch Annual AGM and Meetings

The Branch holds an open monthly meeting, on the second Monday each month at the Longton Cricket Club (Behind the Tolgate Hotel) Longton Road, Blurton, Stoke-on-Trent. This is an open meeting and I invite anyone who wishes to attend to join us. The meetings start at 8.00pm and usually finish around 9.30pm, followed by a small buffet and a lot of chat. The AGM will take place at the same location on Monday 13th July 2011, and again, if anyone wishes to attend, or put their name forward to become a committee member, please notify me by either phone, e-mail or letter, no later than the second Monday in May. New faces are desperately needed!!!

Annual Dinner and Dance 2011

This year's event will take place on Saturday 14th May 2011, at the North Stafford Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent.

The entertainment will be provided by the Branch Pipes and Drums and will continue with live music provided by the 'Good Time Combo'.

Before going to press, we had sold all our tickets and we were looking forward to welcoming Terry Allwerthy from the USA. He is a member of our Branch and former member of the 1950's military band.

Remembrance Day Parades

Firstly, if anyone wishes to attend the Cenotaph Parade in London on Remembrance Day, they should contact the Secretary of the London Branch, Jim Keating.

Secondly, the Branch Pipes and Drums will again be leading the Parade in Newcastle-under-Lyme, on Sunday 13th November 2011. If anyone wishes to attend this Parade, please muster at the Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme by 09.30am.



Alex and Arnold holding the very special card made by the children at the Donna Louise Trust.

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Photograph by Mark Owens, Army

EX-SERVICEMEN FORM FIGHTING BODY!

You may know that an M16 isn't a motorway and that a P45 isn't a handgun but if you want to know where you can find the country's finest - and free - Pensions advice can be found, join the Legion!

The RBLS is open to *all* ex-servicemen and women, and provides a forum and fighting force for all ex-service affairs.

We have hundreds of Branches throughout Scotland who will be delighted to see you. If you're concerned about your future consider joining us.

Please check out our website on: www.rbllscotland.org



The Royal British Legion Scotland offers all sorts of social, sporting and musical events too.

Last year our Pensions Department ensured that thousands of ex-service people in Scotland received millions of pounds in benefits.

80 years of experience proves we have a role - and clout - to help you get the best from life.

No, a UB40 has nothing to do with submarines and an SLR is a camera. Think about us, we're thinking about you.

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& Tartan Green



Navy
& Claret

Mens	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large
Sizes:	5½-7½	8-10	10½-12½	13-14½
Leg Length	16"	16"	18"	18"