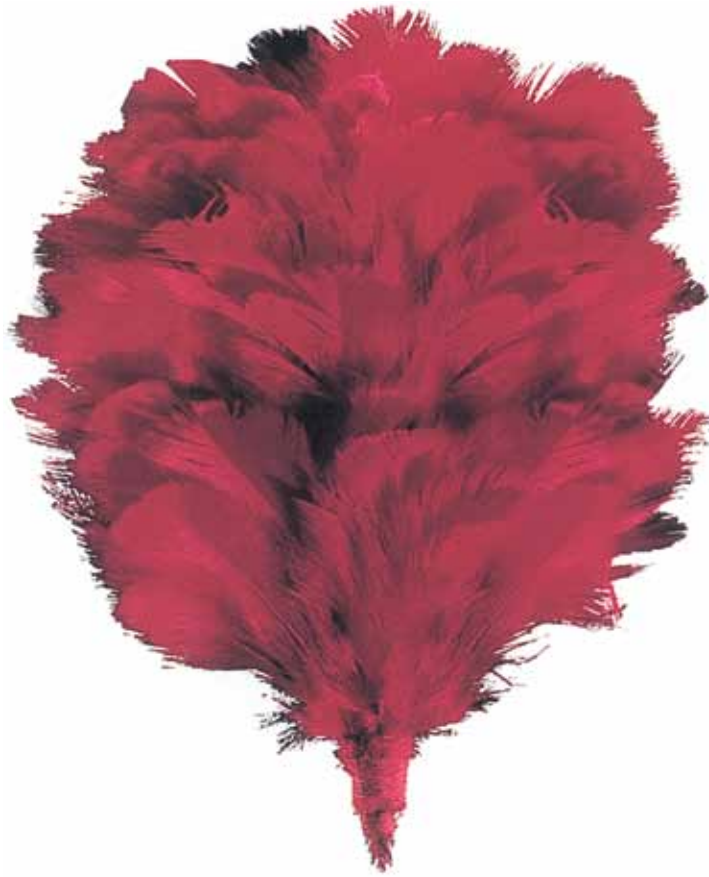


No. 113
May 2013



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 clay model of the statue that is to stand at Black Watch Corner in Belgium was unveiled in Edinburgh on 3 April 2013. It will commemorate the over 8,000 officers and soldiers of The Black Watch who were killed and over 20,000 who were wounded during the Great War. The artist, Mr Alan Herriot is pictured with the Chairman and some of the Association members.



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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 2013
No. 113**

Published for The Black Watch



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

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

From 1 January 2013, bulk orders are supplied at a rate of £7 per copy. Individual copies are sent out to permanent subscribers, both in the UK and abroad, at a subscription rate of £14 annually for UK subscribers, £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 correct forms for completion.

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Editorial

The highlight for the Association in this period was the commemorative weekend for the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Hook and the Korean War. 120 veterans and Association members sat down to dinner in Perth on Saturday 17 November; on the Sunday, a special Service of Remembrance was held in St John's Kirk (Perth) which was attended by veterans and their families and that was followed by an excellent lunch in the George Hotel. At the London Branch Dinner, Korean Veterans were similarly honoured.

Much progress has been made by the Trustees of the Association in the commissioning of a bronze statue of a Black Watch Sergeant, dressed in the uniform of the Great War period. The statue will be erected at Black Watch Corner, 3 miles east of Ypres. It will commemorate firstly, the sharp action near Polygon Wood, during the final days of the First Battle of Ypres (November 1914) that involved the remnants of the 1st Battalion, where the Kaiser's Prussian Guard was held by the BEF. Secondly, it will commemorate the over 8,000 officers and soldiers who were killed and over 20,000 who were wounded during the Great War. Lynn MacDonald in her book "1914; Days of Hope" said that the powers that be, with one eye on posterity, named this series of actions including that at Black Watch Corner, "The Battle of Nonne Boschen". She added tellingly "it was here that the battle was won. It was here that the battle – and the war itself – was nearly lost".

This has taken considerable amount of work and coordination with the Belgian authorities, as well as the artist and foundry where the statue is to be cast. The statue will be over 2 metres tall and will stand on a plinth of granite, again measuring over 2 metres in height.

The Regimental family should keep 3 May 2014 clear in their diaries and it is hoped that buses will be provided to take Association Members and their families to Belgium.

The dedication of the statue will be the first of a number of commemorative events being run by the Association; in 2015 the Dundee Branch will hold an event to commemorate the Battle of Loos; in 2016 the Fife Branch will commemorate the battles on Vimy Ridge and the Angus Branch will lead in 2017, marking the centenary of the awarding of the Victoria Cross to Private Charles Melvin at the Battle of Istabulat in Mesopotamia. In 2018 the Perth Branch will commemorate the awarding of the Croix de Guerre by the French Army to the 6th Battalion following the Battle of Tardenois.

The building work at Balhousie Castle started in September and at the time of writing the project is 6-8 weeks behind schedule but a full report about the project and the plans for the museum are included in this edition. The "Friends" of The Black Watch Castle and Museum are still seeking members as well as volunteers and again a report of their activities is included in the magazine.

The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland recently learned that they are to remain at Fort George for the foreseeable future and that has been well received. The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland will move from Edinburgh (Dreghorn) to Belfast; The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland will remain at Glencorse and The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland will return from Germany and move to Catterick in 2015; and finally The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland are being reduced to Company strength and will fulfil a Public Duties role.

The Black Watch battalion has focussed on preparation for their role as the United Kingdom Contingency Force. Change seems to remain the watchword as the size of hackles are to be standardised across the new Regiment and the change of Battalion titles still remains to be actioned later in the year.



Regimental and Battalion News

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2013/2014

2013

19 June	Officers and Ladies Lunch	London
20 June	Friends' Cocktail Party	Perth
21 June	All Ranks Golf Competition	Kinross
22 June	Regimental Reunion	Perth
12 October	Perth Branch Croix de Guerre Dinner	Perth
19 October	Angus Branch El Alamein Dinner	Forfar
25 October	Officers' Gathering Dinner	Perth
7 November	London Branch Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
8 November	Balhousie Castle Remembrance Service	Perth
10 November	Remembrance Sunday	
21 November	London Branch Dinner, Victory Services Club	London
30 November	1739 Club Dinner	Dundee
21 December	Officers' Regimental Ball	Perth

2014

17 January	Dundee Branch Red Hackle Dinner	Dundee
25 January	Angus Branch Burns Supper	Forfar
8 February	Perth Branch Burns Supper	Perth
3 May	The Unveiling of The Black Watch Memorial to commemorate the action at Black Watch Corner (Nonne Boschen) Belgium and the more than 8000 officers and soldiers who gave their lives in the Great War.	

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Major (Acting Lieutenant Colonel) A M Philp** on his selection for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 2013 and command of the Infantry Training Centre in November 2013.

To **Major N K G Tomlin** on his selection for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 2013.

To **Major A V Cooper** on the award of a MBE in the Armed Forces Operational Awards List No 40.

To **Major (Retd) JMK Erskine** on his appointment as Commandant of The Black Watch Battalion of the Army Cadet Force in the rank of Colonel.

MRS JANET TELFORD

By the time this magazine is published in May 2013 Mrs Janet Telford who has served the Regiment loyally since 1996 will have left her MOD post. As a result of the reorganisation of RHQ SCOTS, Janet's post was disestablished.

I am delighted to say that Janet will now work as part of the Association staff on a part-time basis.

We owe Janet a great debt of gratitude as she has held the post of Administrative Officer during a period of unprecedented change and activity; the 1st Battalion's deployments to Kosovo and Iraq, the "Save the Regiment" Campaign, 3 SCOTS deployments to Afghanistan and finally the disestablishment of Home Headquarters.

BATTALION SUB EDITOR

Captain H W Gladstone has handed over his duties as the Battalion Sub Editor of the Red Hackle Magazine to Major C M B Broadbent. It is largely due to Captain Gladstone that the quality of the four editions he was involved with were so high, during what was a difficult period in the development of the new regiment.

RETURN FROM BRITISH SOMALILAND

Mr Moore from Australia recently sent the photograph of soldiers of the 2nd Battalion on board ship and returning to Egypt in August 1940, having taken part in the campaign in British Somaliland. The Regiment does not hold another copy of this fascinating picture which will be placed into the archive. The photograph was taken on board HMAS Hobart on or about 19 August 1940, having sailed from Berbera. Mr Moore's father was a seaman on board HMAS Hobart.



Some of the 2nd Battalion return from British Somaliland to Egypt in August 1940.

KENYA EMERGENCY

Peter Grant a member of the London Branch, who served in the 1st Battalion (Signals Platoon) from 1953-1956 in Kenya, Crail and Berlin, is planning to write a book covering his experiences as a young soldier in Kenya. He is keen to hear from other members of the Regiment or families to hear about their experiences both good and bad. Please contact Peter at peter.grant@talktalk.net.

After leaving the army he joined a small firm of Consulting Engineers specialising in Building Services where he became a Partner running the financial and admin side. The Practice obtained most of its work overseas which entailed regular travel to Ghana, Nigeria, Libya, Cyprus and the Near East and the USA, visiting local offices and negotiating with clients. The Practice was taken over and after a few years acting as a Start Up consultant to new businesses he joined a national Insurance Company where he was responsible for managing a sales team.

After retiring he became involved with his Clan Society and its origins. He has subsequently written papers covering Medieval Scottish history and is now researching a book covering his experiences in Kenya.



Peter Watson at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey.



Peter Watson lays a wreath on the grave of Lieutenant G F Morrison at the El Alamein War Cemetery. He travelled to Egypt to take part in the 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the battle.

VETERANS CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME (VCTS) TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

Transport for London offer concessionary travel for some veterans. The eligibility is as follows:

1. The eligibility criteria for the VCTS are agreed with the Ministry of Defence.
2. To be eligible for the VCTS, you must be the named recipient of an ongoing pension or guaranteed income payment under the United Kingdom's War Pensions Scheme or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. You must not be in receipt of an equivalent concession such as a Freedom Pass issued by a London Borough.
3. Transport for London may check the eligibility of applicants for the VCTS with the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA).
4. You do not need to be resident in the UK to be eligible for the scheme.

Full details can be found at:

www.tfl.gov.uk/termsandconditions/23082.aspx



A small Black Watch team attended the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on 8 November 2012 including Mr Jo Hubble (left), Lt Col Tim Coles and Mr Joe Roberts.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER NORMAN SAILES

On 15 January 2013 the Daily Telegraph carried an obituary of Lieutenant Commander Norman Sailes. He was a Fleet Air Arm pilot who was decorated (DSC) for his part in Operation Judgement, the last air raid in the war in Europe. The obituary stated "At 5pm on May 4 1945, 44 Avenger and Wildcat aircraft of 846, 853, and 882 Naval Air Squadrons, flying from the escort carriers Trumpeter, Queen and Searcher, dived from a clear blue sky on the U Boat base at Kilbotn

in the fjords of Arctic Norway, five miles south of Harstad. The base consisted of the former Fred Olsen line North Sea passenger ferry Black Watch (converted to a depot ship) and three heavily armed flak ships, surrounded by numerous anti aircraft guns on the hills around the fjord.

Sailes was senior pilot of 853 Squadron and had helped to plan and lead the attack. Black Watch received 7 direct hits and exploded; U-711, which was alongside the depot ship, was damaged by two near misses and later sank."



The MV The Black Watch was sunk by British aircraft on 4 May 1945 and this model is held in the Museum Collection.

CAPTAIN DAVID FAIRLIE MBE, KCHS – ROYAL SIGNALS

Captain David Fairlie was the Brigade Signals Officer at Headquarters, 29 Brigade in 1951-52. He was a great ally of the 1st Battalion during their tour during the Korean War. Originally from Myres Castle, Auchtermuchty in Fife, he died on 16 January 2013.

MAJOR BASIL HEATON RA

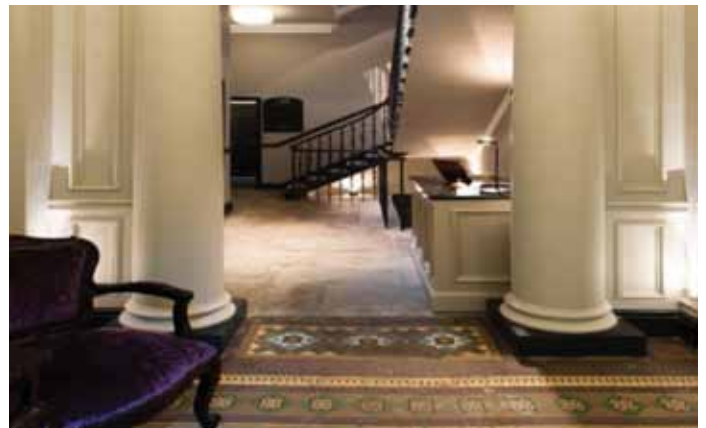
Major Basil Heaton died in 2012 aged 88. A veteran of D Day, he was posted as Adjutant to 14 Field Regiment as part of the Commonwealth Division in Korea. In November 1952 during the Battle of the Hook, one of the Regiment's Forward Observation Officers supporting The Black Watch called up Heaton on the wireless and asked for fire support from the whole Divisional Artillery. This was to break up an attack from a mass of Chinese infantry. The Forward Observation Officer said afterwards that Heaton's quiet calmness had made an "unforgettable impression" and certainly the effects of the Divisional Artillery saved many Black Watch lives.

A BLACK WATCH CLUB REBORN NO 11 BRUNSWICK STREET, EDINBURGH

Older readers will remember that The Black Watch once owned a Club in Edinburgh. It was situated in Brunswick Street but was sold some years ago. Built in 1822, the property was first occupied by Lady Erskine and then a succession of ministers of the Church of Scotland. In the 1930s it became The Black Watch Club. The current owners are very proud of the connection to The Black Watch and have refurbished the hotel so that it is now of Four Star quality.

The menu is made up of some of Scotland's best local ingredients and Hamish and Susan Grant are offering 20% off all bills at the hotel be it morning coffee, afternoon tea, lunch, dinner or an overnight stay.

Visit www.no11brunswickst.com or call 0131 557 6910.



Entrance Hall and Reception area of No 11 Brunswick Street.



A kilted ex Sgt Jock McInnes has just returned from a charity expedition to the Sahara raising money for special needs children and young adults in Scotland. A serial fundraiser he raised over £4,000 taking his total raised to over £1,000,000.



FOR SALE

An attractive statue of The Black Watch memorial at Aberfeldy; it is mounted on a black wooden plinth and is 15 inches tall. It comes complete with a travelling box but the statue would benefit from a professional clean. Offers over £350 should be made to Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell, RHQSCOTS-Heritage-SO2@mod.uk

Left: The silver statue of the Aberfeldy memorial.

FOR SALE

Gilbert Ferguson (Tailors) of Canal Street in Perth has a Regimental Tweed suit for sale. It has never been worn. The suit has the following measurements: Chest 44 inches; Height 5.11 inches; Waist 36. The suit can be altered and that cost is included in the price of £300. Phone Mr Ferguson on 01738 638089.

CURLING

At the start of the 2012-13 curling season there seemed to be much going for the team with a good pool of curlers to draw on. The first match was, as usual, against the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders with the Macrae Cup being the prize. Unfortunately our most experienced skip, David Montgomery, had to pull out at the last minute. However, that loss cannot be the only reason for the thumping the Black Watch received although the final score, 7-32, did not reflect the closeness of some of the ends. However, once again, the Macrae Cup had to be taken back to Stirling Castle. The teams for this match were:

RINK ONE	RINK TWO	RINK THREE
Jamie Montgomery	Selby MacDuff-Duncan	Tim Usher
Will Henderson	Roddy Riddell	James Duncan Millar
Peter Allen	Duncan Cameron	Alan McEwan
Jim Sandilands	Hugh Rose	John Twine

On 11 January 2013 the Regiment curled against the Highlanders, a match that for the last two years the Highlanders have won. Each

side provided two rinks and curled against each of the opposition rinks for four ends before curling another four ends against the other rink. The final result was that the Black Watch won 16-8. In terms of games, the Black Watch won three and peeled the other. However, mention must be made of what Jamie Montgomery described as his 'inspired' shot but which the opposition skip described in very different terms. Throwing the final stone of the second end in his first match, Jamie Montgomery was facing the prospect of losing the end by three stones. His shot went in a very different direction to that which it was meant. It hit several stones which in turn had a knock on effect and resulted in the Black Watch winning that end by two stones. Inspired-possibly! Lucky-probably! The teams for this match were:

RINK ONE	RINK TWO
Jamie Montgomery	James Duncan Miller
Alex Erskine	Selby MacDuff-Duncan
Alex Beveridge	Alex Stewart
John Twine	Alan McEwan

The Black Watch was presented with the Munro Cup by Ruari Halford-Macleod who has had it resurrected for this match. It was noted the last time the Black Watch's name was on the cup was in 1997!

The Highland and Lowland Brigades Bonspiel was held in Perth on 21 March. The Regiment fielded three rinks and Philip Halford-Macleod, the President of the Club, had his own rink. In the first session the 'A' Rink curled against A and SH 'C' and had a comfortable win 7-2. The 'B' rink lost 2-8 against A and SH 'B' while the 'C' rink also lost against Lowlanders 'A' 2-7. The second session was held after a rather rushed lunch. The 'A' team was beaten by A and SH 'B' 1-9, the 'B' team beat Lowlanders 'B' 4-2 and the 'C' team lost against A and SH 'A' by a score of 2-7. At this stage the BW teams had won two matches and lost four and no team was in the running for the top prizes. However, in the third and final session, each team covered themselves in glory and won. The 'A' team beat a Royal Regiment of Scotland team based on the Black Watch Battalion by a score of 5-3, the 'B' team beat A and SH 'C' comfortably 9-1 and the 'C' team beat Lowlanders 'B' convincingly by 15-1. Meanwhile Philip Halford-Macleod's rink was going very well and ended the competition in second place to the Highlanders 'A' team. For the record the BW rinks were:

BW 'A'	BW 'B'	BW 'C'
David Montgomery	Jamie Montgomery	James Duncan Miller
Selby MacDuff-Duncan	Tim Usher	Jamie Erskine
Alan McEwan	Roddy Riddell	Duncan Cameron
Hugh Rose	Malcolm Innes	David Noble

In addition to the Regimental matches, a number of Regimental curlers played in matches for other teams including for the Highland and Lowland Brigades Club matches against the New Club and Royal Company of Archers. If success is determined in results it has been a fair season. However, if success is determined by the interest shown in curling, the support given to it and the fun had from it, then it can probably be deemed to have been a good year. Let's make next season even better.



Cadets from the Tyneside Scottish Cadet Detachment were visited by the Rt Hon Jim Murphy, Shadow Secretary of Defence on 14 March 2013. Four members of the Detachment attended the Cadet Piping Camp in Inverness in April 2013.



On Sunday 2nd December 2012 people from across Fife made their way to Markinch Parish Church to attend the annual SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen's Forces Help) Carol Service. The Revd Alex Forsyth, the minister at Markinch pictured with Mr Davie Thompson and a cadet from The Black Watch ACF Battalion thanked the volunteers whose support on the day made this event possible and such a great success. £320 was raised for SSAFA funds.

THE DEFENCE DISCOUNT SERVICE

The MOD has launched a new Defence Discount Service, as part of the Armed Forces Covenant, in recognition of service in the Armed Forces.

The Defence Discount Service is open to members of the Armed Forces community, including serving and Reserve personnel, Armed Forces veterans, spouses/partners of Service personnel, and bereaved spouses/partners. It is also open to MOD Civil Servants, members of the Cadet Forces and NATO personnel serving in UK-based posts.

Many high profile companies are engaged with the Defence Discount Service: Vodafone, KFC, Vue Cinemas and a number of major supermarkets, clothing stores and technology companies.

They are offering discounts on cars, laptops, supermarket shopping,

holidays and mobile phones. The list is growing and it's anticipated that many more companies will now come forward to add their support to those already committed to helping make life a little easier for the Armed Forces Community.

A wide range of discounts and privileges can be accessed online immediately.

A privilege card is also a key part of the new Defence Discount Service and later this year it will be made available to members for a small cost, making it easier for people to access discounts in stores and online.

To find out more about the Defence Discount Service visit www.defencediscountservice.co.uk, keep up to date with their news by liking their facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/defencediscountservice> or follow them on Twitter @discounts_mod.

The Black Watch Heritage Appeal and Museum Redevelopment

Last year, the Museum Trustees gave the final go ahead to proceed with the Castle and Museum redevelopment.

We are so grateful to the Regimental Family for the generosity shown in supporting the Heritage Appeal in so many ways whether it is financially, the giving of their time or moral support.

This defining decision to commence the project would not have been possible without your help.

Our fundraising is still on-going to ensure that we can secure a firm financial footing for the Castle and Museum. We have a number of fundraising initiatives including the sponsorship of Museum rooms, display cases, artefacts and our very successful buy a brick scheme.

At this point we are planning that the Museum will open in June this year and we are busy working on our events programme for recognising supporters of the Heritage Appeal, this will be finalised when we have the exact day of the grand opening.

We look forward to welcoming you all in enjoying the experience that our new Museum and supporting facilities will offer.

Castle and Museum Redevelopment

Since the last update published in the Red Hackle the construction site has been a hive of activity. Our Contractor, Clark Contracts have encountered some difficulties in meeting with their timetable and are currently forecasting that the works should be complete in order that we can open to the public in June. The major factor in their programme being extended has been the delay in the arrival of the uniquely designed feature support beams. This was out of our control and although frustrating, the beams are now in place and the visual effect is stunning.

The internal works in the Museum are almost complete with the rooms opened up, decorated and now being fitted out with display cases and specially designed carpentry. The extension is now wind and water tight and it's fantastic to see all the rooms within the new build taking shape.

Over the coming weeks we will see the fit-out works commence for the café, kitchen and retail spaces as well as the installation of rolling racking in order that we can store, protect and conserve our wonderful Black Watch collection.

As the Museum has been closed to visitors since September, The Black Watch Association and MoD offices as well as Museum staff and shop have relocated to temporary offices in the car park. We would like to thank all involved for their help and support in coping with difficult



Exterior of the new extension.

conditions through the winter during this disruptive period.

Although we have been closed to the public we have still enjoyed members of the Regimental Family and Volunteers popping in to support us and check on the progress being made with the redevelopment.

We would also like to thank the staff and management team at North Inch House Balhousie Care Group, for their help in hosting our Winter Lecture Series and as a venue for Museum and Black Watch Association meetings.

As ever, we welcome any questions or enquiries from anyone who wishes to find out more about any aspect of the redevelopment project; our Facebook page and Website are regularly updated so you can see the latest developments online.

Alfie Iannetta

The Black Watch Museum

t: 01738 638152

e: aiannetta@theblackwatch.co.uk

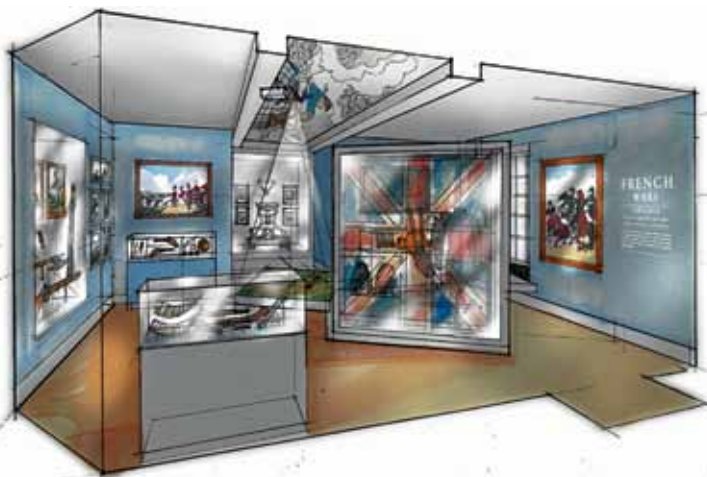
w: www.theblackwatch.co.uk

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Since the Museum's closure at the end of August the mainstay of work has been completed on the inside of the existing building: building work has been completed to open up galleries; electrics have been rewired



Interior of Museum Café.



Proposed visual of the French Wars Gallery, with the Colours encased in the centre.



The Black Watch on the Western Front
by Lady Butler.

and lighting has been installed; walls and ceilings have been repainted; floors have been uncovered and finished; shutters have been made good and windows repainted. The exhibition fit-out contractor began work on site at the beginning of March and will install exhibition cases, exhibition furniture and hardware before handing over the Museum at the end of May.

Work continues on bringing together the final pieces of the new displays, including label text and audio-visuais. The Museum Team have been working with the mount-maker to create individual mounts for items on display.

Conservation

During the Museum's closure and redevelopment, several items

from the collection have been conserved before being redisplayed in the new Museum, including:

- The Napoleonic War Colours – these have been mounted by the conservator and will be redisplayed in the new French Wars Gallery
- *The Black Watch at Bay* by WB Wollen – the painting will be redisplayed as a focal point in the new café
- The Stewart of Shambellie sword – the sword of Lt Col James Stewart will be redisplayed in the new Museum
- A pair of portraits of the Murray Menzies brothers by John Saint-Helier Lander – these paintings will be displayed together in public for the first time in the new Museum.

The paintings can be viewed online on the BBC's Your Paintings website (bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/) and images of the mounted Colours can be seen on our Facebook page.

Volunteers

Due to restrictions over access to the building and the collections, some of our volunteers have had to take a break during the redevelopment project. However, our NADFAS Uniform group, who make padded hangers and calico bags for the uniforms, have managed to relocate during the closure and meet monthly in the home of one of the group members. We're very grateful for their commitment to the task and to Catherine Erskine's hospitality.

Our pipe banner restoration group have taken a break from their regular work to carry out some remedial work on the recently-retired Regimental Colours, which are to be displayed in the new Museum.

The Museum Team are looking forward to the Museum reopening so we can welcome back our current volunteers to their roles. In addition, a new tranche of volunteers has been recruited, including several collections volunteers, who will start work later in the year.

Temporary Exhibitions

The Museum Team have been busy planning the temporary exhibition programme for 2013/14, and this will be published shortly. The new temporary exhibition gallery will show a changing programme of exhibitions each year, highlighting art and artefacts from the collections, as well as touring exhibitions, and exhibitions linked to key dates in Black Watch history. The opening exhibition will feature photography, art and prints from the collections in store, including Lady Butler's *The Black Watch on the Western Front*.

Events at the Museum

Our Learning and Audiences Officer has been busy programming events and workshops for the coming year. There will be talks, reenactment events, children's workshops, family craft days, demonstrations and more to look forward to. We are also looking forward to hosting several evenings of music in our lovely new café area. Through these events we hope to help people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with the collection and the history of the Regiment, as well as encourage the local community to become regular users of everything Balhousie Castle has to offer.

The Museum Team

e: museum@theblackwatch.co.uk

t: 01738 638 152

w: www.theblackwatch.co.uk

FRIENDS OF THE BLACK WATCH

Looking forward to the future

With the reopening of The Black Watch Castle and Museum imminent, the Friends are gearing up for this significant day and the exciting future ahead. We are working on the production of our new leaflet and additional membership benefits such as a 10% discount in the Museum shop and Café. The Friends have developed the new logo which you can see at the top of this article. We hope this makes the Friends organisation instantly recognisable within the Museum and the local community.

To date the Friends have been required to hold the majority of our events out with the Castle. This has been due to the lack of space and facilities. As a consequence the Friends Events Committee has tended to work as a separate organisation to the Museum team. With the reopening of the Museum, this will change. The Friends Events Committee will work closely with the Museum team to help arrange and run a diverse programme of events within the Museum aimed at all ages and interests. For those of you with young family there will be family drop-in events. Film and music performances, workshops and lectures are just some of the events we can look forward to. Friends will continue to receive a discount of up to one third on all ticketed events within the Museum.

Following the success of our first Friends trip last year, we have planned our 2013 trip to the Regimental Museum of The Royal Highland Fusiliers in Glasgow. This will take place in May/June and will be a unique opportunity for Friends to be given a guided tour of the Museum which describes the story of two famous Scottish Regiments, The Royal Scots Fusiliers (RSF) and The Highland Light Infantry (HLI) which were amalgamated in 1959 to form The Royal Highland Fusiliers (RHF).

In January the Museum held a successful Volunteer Open Day. We are very grateful to the Royal George Hotel in Perth who provided us with the venue free of charge. I was glad to see several of our Friends there putting their names forward to become Volunteers and keen to become involved in the redeveloped Museum.

The Friends income is generated through annual subscriptions, events and donations. We have used this income in many ways to support the Museum, for example, our sponsorship of a display case and our plans to provide translated guide books to our non-English speaking visitors. In the redeveloped Museum we will help to finance the special exhibitions which the Collections Team will host twice a year. The first exhibition will highlight artworks from the Museum's sizeable collection of prints, photographs, sketches and watercolours. Many of these pieces have never been displayed in the past and we are excited to be able to showcase them for the first time. Selections from the Museum's impressive collection of original Royal photographs taken by well-known photographers such as Vandyk and Dorothy Wilding will be on display. Alongside these images will be original pieces by artists including Joseph Lee, Richard Simkin and Robert Gibb. The Friends was formed to support the Museum and the financial support of exhibitions like this one is a very tangible way of us fulfilling that aim.

I thank you all for your support over the previous years and look forward to seeing you in the future at Balhousie Castle.

Sarah Riddell-Webster, Friends Chairwoman

Correspondence

ratray@attglobal.net

Dear Editor

I attended the Korean War 60th Anniversary Commemoration weekend and thought that readers might find the letter below to be of interest. It was written by my brother Alex on Christmas Day 1952 to my mother. He was killed 5 months later on 8 May 1953.

Alastair Ratray

Christmas Day – 1952

“My dearest Mummy

We’ve been having a wonderful day, and all the Jocks are terribly merry, singing songs way into the night. The day started at 8am, (instead of 0630), and we had a carol service at 11, which was great fun, with a Jock choir and harmonies. Then the Jocks had a Christmas lunch, with turkey, the Queen Mother’s Christmas puddings, WVS chocolates and sweets, *Daily Mail* beer and cigarettes, and nuts and cake and rum punch and heaven knows what. We had two enormous tents strung with Christmas decorations, Christmas trees and streamers, and benches and tables scrounged from somewhere. Last night a party of very merry Jocks came to the Mess and insisted on singing carols to us – ‘Holy Night’ in very, very slow time, and then they couldn’t think of anything else for the moment, so they sang it again in even slower time. Then they remembered something of ‘Good King Wenceslas’ (first version), and ended with a rousing version of ‘The Forty Second’. Finally they stumbled out, and fell down the steps outside – and everybody was in a thoroughly Christmas mood.

Before I go any further I must thank you for the absolutely wonderful Christmas parcel you sent, which is now in various forms of use. Really though, people at home are giving us a wonderful Christmas, as those who have no relations have been sent presents and parcels anyway. Oh, I only wish you were all with us, and then that would complete everything.

I must stop, as a party is about to start but I hope you’re all having a whale of a Christmas, as we are at the moment.

Your loving
Alex”

Burgh Croft
Burgh
Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP13 6PU

Dear Editor

I thought I would let you know about a minor error in the November 2012 Red Hackle. In the article about Her Majesty The Queen’s visit, the magazine states that “2012 was the 50th anniversary of leaving Queens Barracks and taking over Balhousie Castle”.

Having been OC Depot (Freddie Burnaby-Atkins having gone off to Portugal), I actually planned and executed the whole process, once I was told by Scottish Command that Queens Barracks was to close in March and all recruits training to move to Stirling Castle. With Stan Allison’s help we soon found some rather sleepy Sappers in Balhousie Castle who had something to do with property surveys and they told us they were leaving. We quickly applied and it was agreed that it should become the Black Watch Depot. All this was happening in 1961. My diary tells me:

- March 8 Last Guest Night. Present – N McMicking, K Arbuthnott, James Oliver, Chick Thomson, G Dunn, A Rowan Hamilton etc
 - March 9 Thank you party for all Tradesmen who had served the Depot
 - March 10 Final parade for Keith Arbuthnott. Marched out of barracks to lunch given by Provost etc – speeches pm. Farewell cocktail party
Private dinner party
1700 waved goodbye to Jocks as they left for Stirling
- Obviously there was a great deal of press coverage whose cuttings

I have. By the end of March 1961 I was away taking the Staff College exam and leave before going to 6KAR in Dar Es Salaam.

I suppose Stan Allison and Nobby Clarke did the actual move. Within a year or so Queens Barracks was a roundabout!

Adam Gurdon

20 Grampian Avenue
Auchterarder
Perthshire
PH3 1NY

Dear Editor

On the first night of the Alamein battle I was commanding a Company of the 5th Cameron Highlanders which was on the left of the Highland Division. The 7th Black Watch had orders to cross the same start line behind us and to pass through our position when we had reached our objective. After reaching our objective, I heard the pipes and fearsome battle cries of the Black Watch coming towards us and fearing that some of them might mistake us for the Germans, I had our piper play Pibroch of Donald Dhu to mark our presence, and all went smoothly.

I was therefore very interested to read an article in the papers in October by Peter Watson about the 7th Battalion battle and through your Association, I was able to get his telephone number. So, on the night of the 23rd October 2012, I was able to ring him up and make contact exactly 70 years after this event. He assured me that all his men had been thoroughly briefed and that we were in no danger, but I still think safety was the better policy! It was a great thrill for me to speak to someone in the 7th Battalion after so long a period and I think rather unique.

Charles A Cameron

11a Italias Street
Erimi Gardens
4630 ERIMI
Cyprus

Dear Editor

LIMNI CAMP CYPRUS 1958

I read in the Cyprus Mail the other day that our old camp at the Limni and Copper Sulphate Mine is going to be built over and turned into a Golf Resort. The intention is to build two eighteen-hole golf courses and a 180 bed international hotel and spa; they are also going to build an unspecified number of upmarket villas. Limni Mine which is just east of Polis on the south west coast of Cyprus was the site of our camp when the battalion first arrived in Cyprus in November 1958. We took the camp over from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and I am sure that some of your readers will recall Danny Kaye’s evocative poem: ‘*The Ballad of Limni Camp*’, the first verse of the poem is as follows:

*‘I hear the distant holler of the Pakistani Wallah,
As he stumbles o’er the guy ropes in the dark:
Carrying tea and precious rolls to poor hungry souls...
Whilst the pieards on the airstrip start to bark.
The silent brooding hills; and the forest dark and still...
The lines of tents and the ship out in the bay;
As the Duty Piper playing (and the BOS is swaying!!)
“Char up Johnny! Pukka cheesy rolls to-day”.¹*

I was on guard one night at Limni and just after midnight I wandered into the cookhouse to warm up. The cookhouse operated 24/7 and with all the diesel burners going it looked like a scene out of hell. There in the midst of the smoke and flames was Danny Kaye, Jack Banot and others whose names I can’t remember, eating egg banjos; they had just staggered in from the Sergeants’ Mess. I also remember Danny (sadly he is no longer with us) breathing whisky fumes all over me and with egg yoke dripping from his chin, reciting the whole of *The Ballad of Limni Camp* which he had written; this was of course before it was published.

When I arrived in Cyprus in 1993 I visited the site of our old camp which was situated on the high ground just to the east of the mine

complex, all that was left of the camp was the two cookhouse chimneys sticking forlornly out of the ground. The mine was closed down in the early seventies. The last verse of Danny's poem is as follows:

'You'll laugh the thought to scorn; if ever it was born...

But I will wager you a Fiver; that I know...

How in days to come, you'll be bragging to your Son;

Of Soldiering and Limni, in the rugged long ago!!'

I expect for some of us who served at Limni Camp those many, many years ago might just have done that.

H K Phillips

¹The Ballad of Limni Camp was one of a collection of poems written by Ian (Danny) Kaye in his book titled 'Pick and Shovel Poems'.

Dear Editor

**LANCE CORPORAL JOHN MCHARDIE BEATON
5TH BATTALION, BLACK WATCH**

We're in the trenches noo,

Wi the weather just a treat,

There's nae mair shiverin wi the cauld

An nae mair soakin' feet.

John Beaton from Kirriemuir was killed in action on Sunday 9th May 1915, one of 150 casualties incurred by the locally recruited battalion as it crossed 400 yards of open ground to the German Front Line at Ypres. Like many soldiers serving in the Great War, John was an amateur poet and a few days before his death had composed a poem entitled "*We're in the Trenches noo*" which he sent home to raise funds to provide comforts for his companions.

The poem was printed and in less than a month after John's death, copies were distributed by the Kirriemuir Boys Brigade, realising the handsome sum of £21.7s. 4d (the equivalent of 6 months average wage in 1915) towards the 'comfort fund' for parcels of cigarettes, chocolate, puddings and tobacco for the men at the front.

Poignantly a year after John's death his sister Maggie from Winnipeg sent a poem in Memoriam to the local Press to commemorate her brother's death. Two weeks later on the 26th May 1916 another of the Beaton's children, Archie, was killed in France, serving with the 29th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force. Archie had enlisted 2 days after learning of the death of his young brother John. David, an older brother who also enlisted at that time, served in France with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and survived the War.

The story was revealed when Margaret Gray of Sydney Australia wrote to the Westmuir village website saying she had a copy of John Beaton's poem. Further research by H Humphreys on behalf of the website www.westmuir.org.uk and by Richard Watt of the *Dundee Courier* disclosed that a William Beaton of Ottawa had recently

donated several books to Southmuir School in Kirriemuir. William is the nephew of John and Archie and he too had copies of the poems and other family memorabilia. A commemoration to John Beaton and recordings of two of his poems, have now been adopted by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as part of its Centennial commemorations and can be viewed at:

<http://www.cwgc.org/microsites/le-trou-aid-post-cemetery-fleurbaix.aspx>

paratas@xtra.co.nz

Dear Editor

COLONEL CLIVE FAIRWEATHER – KOSB

I received an email from The Black Watch Association about the early death of Clive Fairweather from cancer. What is not generally known was his contribution to the success of the Northern Ireland Patrol Group (NIPG), by 1BW at Ballykinler during the mid-70's tour.

NIPG did not have a good reputation when 1BW took over. As commander my role quickly went into finding jobs for the then Colour Sergeant Mike Smith and his excellent team of soldiers. Incrementally, as Mike's teams succeeded, better jobs followed.

But there were issues of senior officers not being convinced of the NIPG concept i.e. soldiers could not be trained to carry out surveillance work for long periods – and the role of the Recce Platoon in infantry battalions was under threat.

Clive was G2 Int at HQNI. He was enthusiastic about NIPG. There is always a moment in the life of new organisations where it turns the corner on the road to success. NIPG's moment was a presentation given to senior officers. The presentation was suggested to Clive who used his influence to persuade the right people to come and he had a big hand orchestrating the event; Clive would have been a musician if he had not joined the Army – he told me. Thus we had a short video (very new medium then), a playlet produced and directed by Owen Humphreys; Owen might have gone on to Bollywood except all salutes were executed by the left arm, on screen. The presentation was a success and NIPG later morphed into Close Observation Platoons (COP) and became an established organisation, by the time the Battalion left the Province.

However the Army has recognised in its doctrine, since then, the importance of reconnaissance/surveillance albeit now in a more sophisticated form.

Clive went on to command 1 KOSB in Berlin at a difficult time in the history of his Regiment and later became the Scottish Divisional Colonel.

Richard Parata

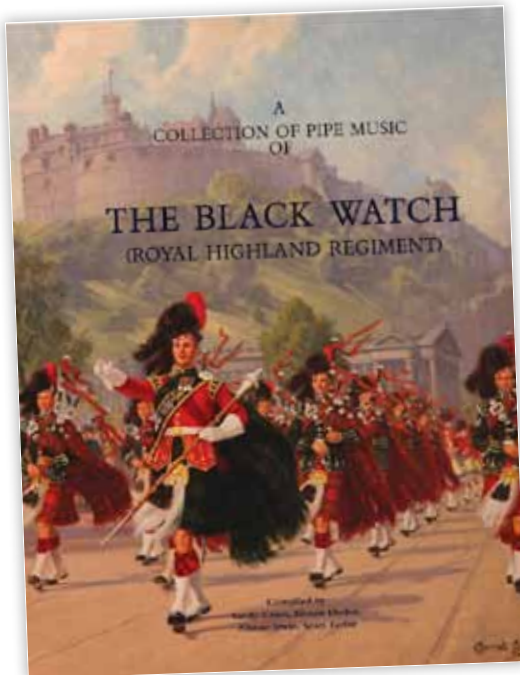
Book Reviews

THE BLACK WATCH COLLECTION OF PIPE MUSIC

The publication of the long anticipated '*Collection of Pipe Music of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)*' took place in December 2012.

Many years in the making, this beautifully produced, illustrated book is now complete and available for purchase. It is a tribute to over 260 years of Black Watch piping. Established in 1739 the Regiment introduced the tradition of piping into the life of the British Army and the Regiment remained at the forefront of that tradition until its merger with the other Scottish infantry regiments to form the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Originally conceived by Major Colin Campbell the project to produce this book has at last been completed by a Black Watch team consisting of Colonel Sandy Cram, Pipe Major Alistair Duthie, Sir Alistair Irwin and Pipe Major Scott Taylor with much valued input from many others.

This collection of over 250 tunes is the first substantial record of Black Watch pipe music ever to be produced. It includes tunes composed by Black Watch men, tunes whose titles have an association with the history of the Regiment and tunes that formed part of the daily routine and traditions of Black Watch regimental life. It includes favourites such *The Queen Mother's Century* by Pipe Major King, for 10 years the personal piper to Her Majesty; the tune commemorates Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's 100th birthday in 2000, her 63rd year as Colonel in Chief The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment).



The core of the book lies in the tunes themselves, each supported by a short text explaining the significance of the title or the composer. The value of the collection is further enhanced by a wealth of interesting background information, including an insight into the early days of piping in the Black Watch, the roles of the pipers and drummers in the life and work of the Regiment, and a fine selection of colour and black and white illustrations.

HRH The Duke of Rothesay, who succeeded Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother as Colonel-in-Chief, states in his foreword, "I was delighted to learn of the project to create this collection of pipe tunes associated with the Regiment – a long overdue record of its proud piping heritage. I trust that it will inspire future generations of pipers to step forward, eager to help carry a great tradition forward into the future." The book contains a tune especially composed for the book in His Royal Highness' honour by Major Steven Small, Director of the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Drumming.

The Collection of Pipe Music of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) is now available for purchase exclusively from The Black Watch Museum shop. The standard version costs £39.95 and, on a first come first served basis, a limited edition of 50 deluxe leather bound versions is priced at £75.00.

t: 01738 783743
e: shop@theblackwatch.co.uk
w: www.theblackwatch.co.uk

FIGHT, DIG AND LIVE –

The story of the Royal Engineers in the Korean War

By George Cooper

This book is written by General Sir George Cooper GCB MC DL who was commissioned into the Royal Engineers just before the end of the Second World War. He was awarded the MC as a Troop Commander in Korea where he supported amongst others, the 1st Battalion The Black Watch on the Hook and his final military appointment was as Adjutant General.

The book focuses on the part played by the Sappers in the Korean War but is a fascinating read as he traces the background to the conflict and demonstrates the resourcefulness of the Royal Engineers as they were forced to improvise because of the extremes of climate and terrain. Whether building roads or defensive positions, laying and arming mines or fighting as Infantrymen the Sappers proved their worth and were awarded a CBE, an OBE and eight MBEs, two DSOs, thirteen MCs, eight MMs and a DCM but 42 men were killed and many hundreds were wounded.

Chapters 10 and 13 are of particular interest to The Black Watch as George Cooper describes in great detail the conditions that faced the battalion on The Hook. Adam Gurdon, David Rose, Tony Lithgow, Derek Halley, Alec Rattray (see the article on the painting of The Hook) and David Haugh who died in the author's arms are all mentioned at various points in the narrative.

Subjects such as R&R, life in Reserve, propaganda and counter propaganda and the lighter side of soldiering bring a rounded picture of what life was like for officers and soldiers in Korea. It is well illustrated with interesting photographs. For anyone with an interest in military history I would recommend this book.

Pen and Sword

ISBN 9781-8-488-46-845



JOCKS IN THE JUNGLE –

Black Watch and Cameronians as Chindits

By Gordon Thorburn

This is an account of the Second Chindit Expedition of 1944 in which Andrew Thorburn, the father of the author, served. He was originally a Black Watch man, having done his training at Queen's Barracks and then being posted to the 10th Battalion. He was one of a draft of 120 Black Watch men, who were posted to the 1st Battalion, The Cameronians, as was Fred Patterson (see *From Rattray and Beyond*). He also gives an account of the 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch. Some years ago, he interviewed the late Bill Lark, Jim McNeilly and David Rose (three Black Watch stalwarts!), whose comments bring the story to life. He emphasises the lack of medical facilities. Indeed he asserts that the Chindits were "unwitting volunteers in a gigantic, disorganised, unintentional medical experiment".

This book complements the account of the 2nd Battalion in Burma, given by Douglas Ross in *The Black Watch and the King's Enemies*. It is essential reading for anyone interested in the Campaign.

ISBN 978-1-84884-792-7

Barnsley: Pen & Sword Military, 2012 £19.00

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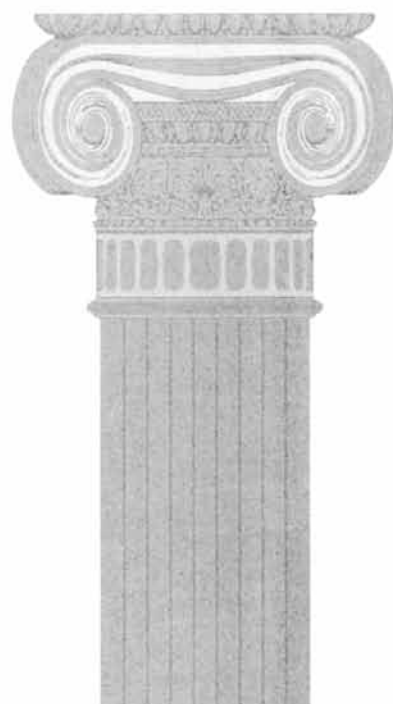
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Obituaries

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETER CARTHEW MBE

Peter Carthew and I became friends as soon as he joined the battalion in Berlin in August 1950. Our paths crossed at regular intervals until about 1968.

Peter was always smart and made a point of being a good and fair disciplinarian. All things for him were either white or black and he could be intolerant of the "in betweens". He was always much respected by those under his command, who appreciated his straightforwardness and with it, his sense of humour.

Peter and I had a mutual interest in wildlife and in particular, wildfowling. We began our wildfowling together shooting snipe and duck on the sewage farm at Gatow, Berlin.

He agreed to be the best man for my marriage to Gillian in August 1958. All was going well until on the Tuesday of the wedding week he met and instantly fell in love with a young widow called Vivienne. By Thursday he was engaged to her. And a wonderfully happy marriage it turned out to be BUT our CO Jack Monteith had no premonition of this and as he was unused to events of this speed being possible or ethical, sent for Peter and I on my wedding day to tell Peter that what he had done was so irresponsible that he could no longer have him take on Adjutant from me before we left for Cyprus in November. Further he told me that I would have to go to Cyprus until I could hand over to my brother Robert. We both waited until after the wedding to tell our ladies the news.

Peter did a Staff job in Cyprus before becoming Adjutant of the 4/5th Black Watch in Dundee in 1959. At that time with Peter in Dundee and me in Perth our 5am wildfowling took off again. One day Peter shot a goose which fell into the Tay – he stripped off and swam to collect it. On his return to the riverbank he demanded much rubbing down and much whiskey.

Peter was a very successful and popular Company Commander. He ended his career as the Military Attaché in Helsinki where he and Viv were extremely happy in spite of the difficult language.

In retirement they first settled near Andover then to a beautiful Manse in Fife before finally moving to their home near Crickhowell.

Peter's most distinguished contribution to the Black Watch was undoubtedly his command of the 3rd Mortar Platoon in Korea. His platoon was highly trained and efficient. To the despair of the RSM his platoon fired over 4000 rounds in support of the Hook Battle of 18/19th November 1952. Peter and his platoon made a major contribution to the successful outcome of that battle. It was very sad that he was unable to travel up to Perth for the Hook Commemoration Dinner last November.

A B D Gurdon

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETER CARTHEW MBE

Peter Carthew was born in Normandy on 26 April 1929 and died at Crickhowell on 19 November 2012.

He was the grandson of Brigadier Carthew-Yorstoun who commanded the 2nd Battalion in the Boer War; his father Brigadier M A Carthew briefly commanded the 6th Battalion in 1940 (and went on to be Chief Liaison Officer BAOR); his son Jonathan served as a regular officer in the 1st Battalion from 1981-1986; an unusual family record of service even for the Black Watch!!

After Winchester and Sandhurst he was commissioned into the Regiment on 22 July 1950, joining the 1st Battalion in Berlin in 1952 and then to the war in Korea where he gave outstanding service as Mortar Platoon Commander. In 1955 he was ADC to the Governor of Kenya Sir Evelyn Baring. We lived next door to him in Dundee when, as



Adjutant of 4/5 Black Watch, he enjoyed having his first married quarter with Vivien and the opportunity to live in the Regimental area and to indulge his passion for shooting and fishing. Later we looked after his spaniel, Moses, when Peter was posted to the staff of 3 Commando Brigade based in Singapore but at that time, were engaged in the "confrontation" operations in Borneo. Having handed back Moses to them in Buckeburg, we next served together when he was my Second-in-Command on two emergency and one five month operational tour in Northern Ireland; this was a busy time with recovery from Gibraltar, three return trips to Northern Ireland, the Freedom of Aberfeldy and a major exercise in Scotland. His common sense, humour and initiative in making sure that the whole team worked in unison were a great support to me; after this final spell of Regimental Duty he had two staff jobs in the UK, before (in 1997) his appointment as Defence Attaché to Finland; I spent a few days with him in Helsinki where he was a great success having established a close friendship with the Chief of the Armed Forces; a happy three years to end his Army career.

He continued to keep a close interest in The Black Watch but was sad that, after over 100 years of continuous service by the Carthew family there was no Regiment to honour or support. Peter was a very special man with impeccable manners and a sense of fun; he set for himself and expected of others the highest standards. He will be remembered with great respect and affection by us all.

Andrew Watson

ROBERT HENRY DUNDAS COLT

Robert died at his home in Whitsome Laws near Dunns on the 31st of December 2012. He was born on the 3rd of May 1918 at Laws House, Whitsome Laws Berwickshire. He was educated at Loretto School Musselburgh and during these years learned to fly a Tiger Moth. He left school in 1936 and joined the Shell Company in 1937. It was in the same year that Robert decided to join the London Scottish. During his early service, he represented the Battalion at the Army Military Day games at White City, both in the long jump and the hurdles. In 1940 he was posted to France, serving with the Tyneside Scottish (Black Watch) where he was



unfortunately captured on the 20th of May that same year. He was warned by a French cyclist that the Germans were coming his way, but not trusting anyone at that time, Robert decided to have a look for himself and was soon surrounded. He was transported to a camp near Salzburg where he spent a year, before again being moved to an underground fort in Poland. After about four months the Germans decided to move him to a camp near the Swiss border and that is when his adventure began. On route by train, Robert and two others decided enough was enough and jumped train but unfortunately one man was hurt during the escape. They managed to avoid detection for ten days but were caught trying to board a train in Munich. Deciding that Robert may be too hard to handle he was sent to Colditz on the 8th of August 1941 until being liberated on the 16th April 1945. His last year in the Army was spent as a Town Major near Hannover and when he was eventually demobilised he returned to work for the Shell Company where he served in China and Kenya. He left Shell in 1952 but decided to stay on in Africa, settling back in Kenya as a Coffee/Dairy Farmer. He married in 1972 and had a step daughter, a son and a daughter of his own. He retired from farming in 1983 and moved back to his roots at Whitsome Laws. His funeral was conducted on the 22nd of January 2013 at the village church of Foggo where the Fife Branch provided a Guard of Honour, which was gratefully appreciated by the family. To quote from a family letter. "Thank you so much for making all the

heartfelt effort to attend the funeral of my most wonderful Step Father. Without you we could not have made a service to match a send off that he so deserved. You brought with you all the qualities of comradeship,, dignity, bravery, honour, respect and thanks giving”.

R Scott

ANGUS OGILVIE

Angus Ogilvie, who died at home on 4 November 2012 aged 76 after a short illness, was brought up at Pitmuies in Angus and educated at Cargilfield (Edinburgh) and Rugby. He was commissioned into the Regiment as a National Serviceman in 1955 and served with the 1st Battalion in Crail and Berlin. After commanding a platoon in B Company, he spent his last months as Assistant MTO, a post for which he was particularly well suited; he was joint 2nd in the Berlin Independent Brigade Motor Cycle Trials Novices Class in 1956 and developed a lifelong passion for cars. He was also a member of the Brigade Hockey Team and of the 1956 Battalion Shooting Team which won the Brigade Shooting Competition.

After National Service, Angus studied agriculture in Edinburgh where he met his wife Mimi. Married in 1962, they had recently celebrated their Golden Wedding. In 1963 they set up their family home at Lingo in Fife and he became for many years a stalwart member of the Regimental Golf team for the Highland Brigade Spring and Autumn meetings. Golf was perhaps his first sporting love; he was for 45 years, a member of the R and A, playing regularly at St Andrews twice a week. He was also a keen sailor, skier (on both snow and water), fisherman, stalker and shot, while spending many evenings at the bridge table. In all his sports he liked to win but was magnanimous in defeat. He also found time to manage the farm, be a dedicated family man and father of four boys and to be an active member of the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers). He will be much missed by his many friends.

Duncan Cameron

JOHN FINDLAY ANDERSON

John Anderson died aged 67 in St John's Hospital, Livingstone on the 27th January 2013 after a long period of illness which resulted in him being hospitalised for the last three months of his life.

John joined the Regiment in 1964 and after his basic training was posted to the 1st Battalion then stationed at Elizabeth Barracks in Minden, West Germany. After a spell in a Rifle Company he was posted to C (Fire Support) Company as the Company Clerk. He took part in the 1966 – 67 UN Peace Keeping tour in Cyprus. Like many of the young men in the battalion he got into various scrapes but he never let this get him down and continued to give of his best. He returned with the battalion to Kirknewton but once he was married he decided to leave the Army and left for civilian life in 1968.

He became an HGV driver and remained in this employment until he had to retire through ill health.

R J W Proctor

JAMES (JON) BURNS

Jon Burns died aged 38 on the 1st of November 2012 at his home in



Cowdenbeath. He was born in Dunfermline on the 31st of December 1973 but was raised in Cowdenbeath. He joined The Black Watch and served in the UK including Northern Ireland, Canada and Hong Kong. On demobilisation Jon returned to his roots and started work with Cartmore Building Supplies and continued to work for them for ten years. A real family man, if Jon wasn't camping on the back lawn with the kids he was taking them up North for the fishing. Always up for a lark he was often the heart and soul of any party or function he attended. Fitness also played a big part in Jon's life and he liked nothing better than getting away to the Gym and testing himself so as to stay in shape. One of his sayings was you are not here for very long, so make good use of your time while you can and I think that he lived that to the full. He was a member of the Fife Branch and attended while his health was good and he liked nothing better than having a chat with those he served with about the good times and the bad. His parting gift to the Regiment he loved, was the opportunity to donate to the Association on the day of his funeral; Black Watch to the end.

R M Scott

ALFRED DONALD

Alfred Donald was born on 26 May 1919 at Partick, Glasgow, where he spent his early years. After leaving school he worked as a coalman before joining The Black Watch in April 1939, serving throughout WW2 in both the 1st and 7th Battalions. He was in France from early October 1939 until late January 1940 and then, in June 1942, went with his battalion to the Middle East, where he fought throughout the desert campaign, including the decisive battle of El Alamein. His medals included the Africa Star with the 8th Army clasp. The battle noise, particularly the bombardment at El Alamein, caused damage to his ears and in later life he was profoundly deaf as a result.

On returning from North Africa in April 1946 Alfred was billeted at Tongham, near Aldershot, where, at a local dance, he met and fell in love with Phylis. Alfred was discharged from the Army in the rank of Sergeant in July 1946 and he and Phylis married on 14th September that year. They remained in Surrey, where Alfred worked mainly in the building industry and, over the next few years, he and Phylis had five children, three boys and two girls (and subsequently 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild).

Throughout his life Alfred remained extremely proud of his time in The Black Watch, always attending Remembrance Parades wearing his bonnet, tie and BW blazer and, for several years, he was a member of the London Branch of the Association.

Alfred died on 6 February 2013 at the age of 93 and is survived by his wife Phylis. This proud old soldier will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Jim Keating

MERVYN HENRY ELIAS

Mervyn Elias who died recently served in the 6th Battalion in North Africa, Italy and Greece during World War Two. Like many members of the reformed 6th Battalion he came from South of the border but not from the Potteries and Midlands as many of the reinforcements did, but from Wales. Like the other adopted Scotsmen he took to the customs and traditions of the Regiment like a duck takes to water and became more Scottish than many indigenous Scots.

Mervyn was posted to the Carrier Platoon and drove a Bren Gun Carrier which was the work horse of the battalion and was always in the thick of the action delivering ammunition and vital stores around the battlefield and numerous other tasks. He was wounded on the 3rd of July 1944 during the battalion's part in the advance to Florence in the area of Foiano. After recuperating from his wounds he was back



in control of his Bren Carrier and involved in the heavy fighting across Italy from Florence in Tuscany to the Adriatic Coast on the East of the Italian Peninsula. By the 13th of December after much rumour and counter rumour the battalion was bound for Greece sailing from Tarranto. He took part in all the operations against the ELAS Forces in Greece and by the 18th of June 1945 the battalion was placed in suspended animation. Mervyn was then drafted into the Argylls who were then serving in Palestine; this was where he finally finished his service.



Settling back in Wales when he was released from the Army, Mervyn never forgot his Black Watch roots and became a member of the Stoke Branch of the Association looking forward to the Newsletters but not managing to attend many of the functions. He would keep his family enthralled by his tales of service with the regiment.

Our sympathies and condolences go to his surviving family.

R J W Proctor

PETER FISHBOURNE MBE JP

The Scottish Legion News reported the death of Peter Fishbourne of Eyemouth who died in August 2012. He served with the Regiment in Cyprus and Greece, attaining the rank of Sergeant Instructor.

DEREK HALLEY

Derek Halley died on the 18th of January 2013 in his eightieth year. He was a great Black Watch man and friend to many and will be sadly missed.

Derek was born and brought up in Crieff after the Great Depression and before the Second World War. He attended Morrison's Academy and on completion of his education he declined the offer to work in his father's business and opted for a life in the open air in Glen Lochay where he enjoyed the outdoor life as a shepherd and made many friends. His time in his Highland paradise was cut short by the letter from the War Department informing him that he was called up for National Service and that he had to report to Queens' Barracks to join The Black Watch. Although Derek only served two years in the Regiment, the experience stayed with him for the rest of his life but only acknowledged for the last twenty years. On completion of his training at Queen's Barracks and Fort George, his leadership and strength of character were spotted and he was promoted to Corporal and Derek found himself bound for Southampton to embark on the troop ship Empire Fowey to join the 1st Battalion who were then in Korea. On the completion of the battalion's tour in Korea he sailed with them to Kenya and took part in the Mau Mau Campaign.



His experiences in Korea and Kenya affected him and he never forgot the human cost of colleagues who fought and died in the terrible conditions and the vagaries of weather in Korea. This in later years drove him to write a very readable book on his experiences as a National Serviceman titled "The Iron Claw" which was a best seller in the Museum Shop until stocks ran out. Books had been written by officers in the Regiment of their experiences but Derek was one of the few NCOs to do so and his former Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel David Rose, who wrote the foreword commented; "that it was an excellent book and an accurate and graphical account of the battalion's part in the Korean War".

On return to civilian life he met and married Ann to whom he was happily married for more than fifty years. Their daughters Jane and Trudyann were born and they moved into an old Manse (later to be

named Alba) which after much work became a lovely home for the family. After several employments in which he was always successful, Derek set up Crieff's first garden centre which was a great success and went from strength to strength. Derek immersed himself in all local community activities and was Past Master of his local Masonic Lodge, a member of the Crieff Royal British Legion and the Angus and Perth Branches of The Black Watch Association. Although he was very ill he attended the Korean War Commemoration weekend in mid-November 2012 and enjoyed himself meeting up with old comrades.

His popularity within the community, The Black Watch Association and with people from further afield was manifest by the large turnout at his funeral service at St Michael's Parish church on a cold wintry 25th of January.

Derek will be a man who will be remembered as one who would go out of his way to help anyone, a great family man who doted on his children and grandchildren and who put everything he had into whatever he did. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a mischievous smile and will be sadly missed by all those who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing him.

R J W Proctor

BILL KEIR

Bill Keir was born in Aberfeldy on the 4th of March 1920, growing up there and never straying far from the town. He saw much more of the world after enlisting in the 1/6th Black Watch, in March 1939. A veteran of Dunkirk, Tunisia, Monte Cassino and Greece, Bill admitted he had a few lucky escapes, being wounded three times. After the war and now married, he returned to his old job in the maintenance department of Fisher's Laundry. In the early 1950s he took a job driving a builder's lorry and moved to Pitlochry. Always a 'grafter', one job was never enough for Bill, and he also worked part time in the Telephone Exchange, eventually being offered a full time position, and working there till the Exchange was automated. He then took up as a 'postie' and was a familiar and friendly face for many years on the Dalnaspital run, while at nights and weekends he worked driving taxis. On retiring Bill took up golf, which he enjoyed for many years. He returned to Aberfeldy in 2009 and kept active, pursuing many interests. He was often to be seen out in his buggy, in which he was as fearless as he had been driving his bren carrier. Proud of his Regiment to the end, Bill died after a short illness, on 19 November 2012 and he will be greatly missed by his family and all who were privileged to have known him.



Mike Haigh

WILLIAM McDONALD

William McDonald died at home on 21 December 2012 aged 88 after a long illness.

William enlisted in the Black Watch in 1943 and was posted to Queens Barracks Perth. He became an instructor there at Number 8 Infantry Training Centre and was promoted to the rank of Corporal.

In 1945 he was posted to the First Battalion Sierra Leone Regiment attached to the Royal West African Frontier Force and served in Africa and India. He was promoted to Colour Sergeant. In 1947 he went to Number 95 Polish Repatriation Camp in Stewarton as CQMS and was demobbed later that year.

After leaving the army he became a Central Buyer for the Owen group of stores. He was always involved in raising money for good causes and gave freely of his time and energy helping others.



In later years he joined the Stoke-on-Trent Branch of the Black Watch Association and the newly formed Chorley Branch where he was a very active member serving as Chairman and then Hon Secretary. He organized the itinerary for the annual November visits to the Cenotaph.

William was also involved with the Formby Branch of The Royal British Legion and was made Vice President in appreciation of his service to them.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn and two sons Ian and Alan.

WILLIAM GILMOUR MCINNES

William Gilmour McInnes died on the 24th of March aged 83 and his funeral took place at Grantsable Cemetery, Polmont on Tuesday 2nd of April 2013.

William served in the Regiment in Germany after the Second World War and was employed as driver to Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Ferguson who was then commanding the 1st Battalion. Always smart and well turned out he was selected as a member of the Quarter Guard to welcome the then Colonel of The Regiment, Field Marshall Wavell when he made his last visit the battalion. As a token of gratitude for all the hard work and loyal service as Commanding Officer's driver, Lieutenant Colonel Ferguson presented William with a signed copy of his book: "Beyond The Chindwin" which William treasured all his life and still is treasured by his family.

William is survived by his wife Margaret to whom he was happily married for 63 years, their sons Duncan and Gilmour, daughters Jean and Margaret and their children.

R J W Proctor



HENRY THOMSON MOONEY

Henry Mooney died on the 8th of December 2012 in Belfast which had been his home since he married his late wife Isabella in 1947 where they had 63 long and happy years together. Henry was born in Glasgow in 1920 and grew up there. He joined the Royal Artillery as a regular soldier and by the start of the Second World War found himself in India. By the time the Second Battalion arrived in India he was attracted to a notice on the Battery Notice Board looking for volunteers to join an experimental unit which in fact was the Chindits. Henry thought that this would be much more interesting and far easier than carrying out repetitive gun drills so he put his name forward.

He soon found himself transferred to the Second Battalion where he underwent a strenuous period of training in Jungle Warfare before embarking on operations with 42 Column. He told me on one of his visits to Balhousie Castle that he thought he was in for a cushy time and received quite a shock when he found himself in The Black Watch and in the Chindits operating behind enemy lines. However he would not have changed it for the world and was very proud to be a Black Watch soldier, despite being wounded in the arm and lying wounded for three days resulting in him catching Malaria. During a stay in hospital he met Lord Mountbatten who had succeeded Field Marshal Wavell as Commander in Chief in the Far East and was greatly upset when Lord Mountbatten was murdered by the IRA in 1979.

Henry was a great character who had lived life to the full and is sadly missed by his family.

R J W Proctor



HARRY MORGAN

Harry died on 20 January 2013. He was born in the Everton District of Liverpool in November 1925 and attended the local school. When war broke out in 1939 Harry was evacuated but did not settle in well to his new environment in the country. A month later his parents took him back to Liverpool and his father found him employment with Roneo Duplicators and Stamp machines. By 1941 he was working as a messenger at the Liverpool Stock Exchange during a time that Liverpool was subjected to heavy enemy air raids. Harry enlisted as a Fire Watcher with the Civil Defence and was on duty on the top of the Liverpool Stock Exchange Buildings during the many air raids giving him his first taste of active service and war time action. It was during this time that he met his childhood sweetheart Emma who lived in the same street.

Aged sixteen Harry volunteered to join The Black Watch but because of his age was placed on the Territorial Army Reserve however by November 1942 he was embodied into the Regiment and reported to Queen's Barracks, Perth. Whilst undergoing his training he met and made many friends which lasted a lifetime.

On completion of his training he was posted to the Tyneside Scottish and in June 1944 was transferred to the 5th Battalion The Black Watch in the 51st Highland Division. He fought in a Rifle Company through some of the heaviest fighting of the war including Caen, the Falais Gap, the Corridor through Holland, the Ardennes, the Reichswald, Goch and the Rhine Crossing.

By 1947 Harry was back at Queen's Barracks and served there until his demob in 1948. It was here that he met Bunty his late wife and mother of their two sons Ian and Alistair. He and Bunty set up home in Perth and he was employed as a postman working his way up the ranks and then moved to the Bank of Scotland in St John's Street in Perth. He and his family moved houses several times before settling down in the Craigie area of Perth.

Although he was demobbed in 1948 he immediately enlisted into the 6/7th Battalion The Black Watch (TA) and later transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps (TA) and on the reorganisation of TA in 1967 he became part of Headquarters (Black Watch) Company, 51st Highland Volunteers where he remained until his retirement in 1990 as a Warrant Officer Class Two (SQMS). He had given almost 48 unbroken years' service to his country.

Sadly Bunty died in 1998 and he moved to live in Scone. He kept himself busy with his various pursuits and was a great supporter of the Association and carried out audits of the regimental accounts for the Assistant Regimental Secretaries. Fate was to have a kind twist for Harry as he was reunited with Emma his childhood sweetheart of so many years ago by an article in a national newspaper and they were married in 2003. The newlyweds moved to Emma's home in Gloucestershire and came back to Perth to attend Regimental Functions and meet up with old friends.

Harry was a real gentleman in every sense of the word and a true friend and will be sadly missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

R J W Proctor

JOHN RICHARD MURRAY

John Murray was born on 19 February 1925 and lived in South East London. As soon as he was old enough he joined the Army Cadet Force (Royal West Kent Territorials) and then on 5 January 1943, aged 18, he signed up to join The Black Watch, 400 miles from home.

After basic training he was posted to the 1st Tyneside Scottish, then stationed in Hamilton. A move to Southwold and training as part of the 49th West Riding Division followed.

John was selected to take part in the Honour Guard at Thetford Station for the visit of The King prior to D Day.

After the D Day Landings he was involved in the Battle of Rauray where 1st Tyneside Scottish took many casualties including John who



was seriously wounded by a mortar shell. He lay on the field of battle for 12 hours and was at some point hit by machine gun fire. At a Field Hospital his right leg was amputated below the knee. Back in England he then spent a further 7 months recuperating from his wounds.

He suffered from his wounds for the rest of his life but he never gave up living life to the full.

He trained as an accountant, played golf and was a wonderful father. Generous with his time he was prepared to help charitable and non charitable clubs and organisations.

He was a member of the Stoke-on-Trent Branch of the Association and returned to Normandy with the Tyneside Scottish in 2008.

He was a proud Black Watch man and Normandy veteran but sadly he suffered from dementia for about 18 months and he died on 4 January 2013.

Colin Murray

GRAHAM MUSSELL

Graham was born in Epsom, Surrey on 30 April 1936. He died on 12 November 2012 on the Highland Chieftain train returning to Scotland after marching at the Cenotaph in London the previous day.

He joined The Black Watch in January 1955. During the summer of 1955 he was posted to the Royal Guard at Balmoral. In January 1956 he was posted to Berlin. He was demobbed in January 1957 and became a Loss Adjustor with a US firm.

Graham returned to Scotland on his retirement and was an enthusiastic member of the Perth Branch of The Black Watch Association. He is survived by his wife Anita and a son and daughter.

ROBERT O'BRIEN

Robert O'Brien, always known as OB, died at the beginning of the year after a long and hard battle against severe illness. His funeral took place at Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh on the 15th of February and was attended by a great number of his former Black Watch colleagues, friends and his family, showing how popular, well liked and respected he was.

OB joined the 1st Battalion in 1971 whilst it was stationed at Kirknewton and was a member of 14 Platoon D Company and deployed to Northern Ireland as a rifleman.

He joined the Army fairly late in life being 26 years old when he enlisted and always had a mature head on his shoulders which had a steadying influence on the younger members of the platoon. This showed on operations in Northern Ireland and later in Hong Kong, when D Company along with the rest of the battalion, was tasked to dig out bodies after a terrible land slide covered a local shanty town below the Lion Rock. Many inhabitants were killed and this affected some of the younger members of the platoon and OB's maturity helped to steady them. He was selected to go on the first Korea Honour Guard furnished by the battalion from Hong Kong in 1972 and was selected to take part in many of the ceremonies where a small number of the guard had to carry out ceremonial duties such as folding a very large "Garrison Flag". This was carried out in front of numerous United



Nations, Korean and US senior officers and dignitaries and in front of the whole parade comprising of UN, Korean and US Troops.

Promotion soon followed and he worked his way through the ranks and different employments to become the Officers' Mess Colour Sergeant in Berlin. This was quite an onerous and responsible task as the Officers' Mess was the show case of the Battalion for the numerous high ranking visitors both military and civilian who visited. In 1989 OB took up a recruiter's post at which he excelled with his cheery, friendly and outgoing manner.

On leaving the Army he immersed himself in his family, work and hobbies; he was a loving father to Angela and Robert and to his grandchildren. He attended the Annual Reunions at Balhousie Castle when time and his health allowed. He was a good Black Watch Soldier who will be sadly missed.

R J W Proctor

GEORGE OSBORNE

George Osborne who died on 8 July 2011 enlisted in 1948 in Lincoln and served in the Army until November 1957. He served with the 1st Battalion in Duisburg and Berlin and was a piper in the Pipes and Drums however we do not know anything further about his Army career.

On leaving the Army he had a number of jobs and in retirement lived in Spain and America before returning to Peterborough in 2008.

WILLIAM SHAW

Willie died in the Queen Margaret Hospital on the 9th of March 2013 after a long illness. Willie was born on the 1st of March 1949 in Valleyfield and it was there he spent the first part of his life. Willie as a boy went to the Torryburn Primary School and then went on to Kings Road High School in Rosyth. On leaving school, Willie like most people at that time, went

to work in the local mines but he soon got itchy feet and decided to try the Army and in particular The Black Watch. So it was off to Aberdeen and basic training. On completion of his course he joined the Battalion and joined Bravo Company. He served in Kirknewton, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Colchester, Northern Ireland, Catterick, Belize and Werl and was a stalwart member of the Mortar Platoon. He left the Army in 1985. There are many stories about the Big Man but none of them bad; he was a prankster, nothing more and he just liked to have some fun. On arriving home he tried his hand at Taxi Driving but moved on to security at the Naval Dockyard Rosyth and remained there until his unfortunate stroke which led to his early retirement. Willie was also a family man and the family were very important to him. He had six children of his own which then led on to grandchildren and great grandchildren. He often said to me I have my family and my Regimental family, what more can you want? He was a stalwart within the Branch and attended as many parades and functions as his time would allow. He loved to wear the Blue Bonnet and Red Hackle and was a good ambassador for the Branch and the Regiment.

R M Scott



WILLIAM HAROLD SHENTON

Harold Shenton was born on the 16 February 1927 in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

After leaving school he went to work at Twyford's Sanitary Ware until he enlisted into the Army in 1945. He joined The Black Watch and served with the 6th Battalion in Italy for about six months; the battalion were posted to Athens in Greece where he completed his service.

In Athens he met a young Greek lady who he married and at the end of his service they returned on Stoke-on-Trent.

He returned to his old job with Twyford's Sanitary Ware until his retirement and moved back to Athens to spend time in the sun.



Following a short illness Harold died in October 2012 aged 85 and was buried in Athens. He was a loyal member of the Stoke-on-Trent Branch.

DAVEY SPACEY

Davey Spacey passed away at home in Pontefract, West Yorkshire on the 22nd January 2013 aged 65 after a long illness. He joined the 1st Battalion in Minden and subsequently served in Kirknewton, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Colchester and many tours in Northern Ireland. By the time Davey left the army he had attained the rank of Corporal and was a Section Commander in B Company and latterly the Provost Corporal in Ballykinler in 1976.

Although he left the Army to give his family stability he never forgot his Black Watch past and was very proud to have been a member of the Regiment.

Davey and Kath were married for 41 years and had four children, three of whom were born in the Regiment and the fourth in Pontefract where they settled down. We offer our condolences to Kath and her family. Davey was a good Black Watch Soldier who will be sadly missed.

R J W Proctor

Kath has asked that her address be published to enable any of her former Black Watch friends get in touch;

Mrs K Spacey
40 Huntwick Crescent, Featherstone, Pontefract
West Yorkshire WF7 5JQ

EDWARD CHARLES SPICER

Edward Charles Spicer died earlier this year aged 88. Due to his mop of red hair he was given the obvious nickname, "Ginger" whilst serving with the Regiment and in civilian life.

Edward served in North West Europe in 1944 and was wounded in action in Belgium. His wounds necessitated his remaining in hospital for a long period and he was eventually discharged from the Army in December 1945.

Two years later he married Phyllis who has survived him but they did not have any children.

Charles spent the remainder of his life in the Portsmouth Area and was employed as a representative for a company of Hampshire Metal Finishers.

Although he lived away from the Regimental Area he was proud of Black Watch service.

R J W Proctor

LANCE CORPORAL SEVANAIA TABUA

Lance Corporal Tabua enlisted into the Army on 17 March 2000 joining the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), in Fallingb., Germany. He was a reliable and conscientious soldier, deploying to Kosovo and Iraq, and he became a valued member of the Reconnaissance and Close Observation Platoon in Northern Ireland, Kenya and Afghanistan. A fit and extremely accomplished sportsman on the rugby field, he was also a respected member of the Fijian community. A true friend to many, he was trusted by all, maintaining a real sense of dedication to both his work



and his colleagues. Having been shot during Op TELIC 1 and then injured by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) during Op HERRICK 10, he refused to give up and would always seek to be back in the thick of the action. His determination was never more evident than in his fight against cancer over the last two years in Inverness. Unfortunately, Lance Corporal Tabua died early on 27 Dec 2012 in Gartnavall Hospital, Glasgow, after losing that last and longest battle.

Lance Corporal Tabua was repatriated to Fiji to be buried in his family's cemetery.

JIM WALLACE

Jim Wallace was a loyal member of the Regiment from the time we were together in Basic Training at Queen's Barracks in 1954 until the end of his days. After training, we went different ways but met from time to time at odd moments until the penultimate time when he was (as far as I can remember) a Colour Sergeant in the TA. I was long out of the army by then and we were able to revert to the names we originally used. The last time I met him was in Princes Street Gardens where a large crowd were listening to Brigadier Barnett's appeal for the retention of the Regiment. Jim was as distressed as the rest of us at the proposed changes and if it had been appropriate for us old soldiers to storm Parliament waving our broadswords, I am sure that he would have been in the front rank.

He was one of the nicest and most genuine people I have known in my life and will, I am sure, be missed by his family and many friends. I share in their sadness.

Tim Usher

JAMES WALLACE

Jimmy Wallace a stalwart of the Regiment died on Sunday 6th of January 2013 after a short illness. His funeral service took place on the 15th of January in Scone Old Parish Church of which he was an Elder and was very well attended.

Jimmy grew up in Perth and was called up for his National Service in 1954 and after completing his basic training at Queen's Barracks joined the Second Battalion in Crail. After a train journey to Southampton he, along with the battalion, boarded HMT Delwara on a ten day voyage bound for British Guyana. Apart from many on board suffering from sea sickness in the Bay of Biscay, the battalion kept fit by taking part in on board pursuits such as running around the deck of the ship four times which was a mile. The Delwara was too large a vessel to berth in Georgetown and Jimmy and his compatriots disembarked in Trinidad and completed the journey to British Guyana by air, landing at Atkinson's Airfield. In March 1956 the Battalion returned to Edinburgh and Jimmy returned to civilian life.

He obtained employment with British Rail and was employed for the remainder of his working life as a signaller and manned the signal box on the Perth to Dundee line on the Perth side of Kinfauns. His time with the Second Battalion had an effect on him as he joined the 6/7th Battalion (TA) soon after his demob and remained in the battalion and its successor battalion the 51st Highland Volunteers until he had to retire aged 55. Most of his TA service was spent in Headquarters Company and he was latterly promoted Colour Sergeant looking after the battalion's ration account which was a task that required dedication, intelligence and attention to detail. He was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for his long and devoted service and the TA Efficiency Medal with two bars.

Despite being a dedicated TA soldier who was away many weekends he was a loving husband to Gladys and doting father and grandfather to his children and grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

R J W Proctor





© Simon Williams

Queen Victoria School, Dunblane (Scotland)

Wendy Bellars, Head

Queen Victoria School is a co-educational and tri-Service boarding school fully funded by the Ministry of Defence to provide stability and continuity of education for the children of UK Armed Forces personnel who are Scottish, have served in Scotland or are members of a Scottish regiment.

All necessary expenses for each pupil are met by the Ministry of Defence, and we have a particular mission to care for those families who could not otherwise afford boarding education.

Because tuition and boarding costs, uniform, books, stationery and most other items of school expenditure are met by the Ministry of Defence, the financial contribution asked of parents is very small; currently it is £1,212 per annum. The contribution covers only non-essentials and helps to make boarding life more pleasant for the pupils; it allows us to provide newspapers and satellite TV in the houses, for example, as well as contributing towards the costs of transport for school outings. Service benevolent funds are very supportive of the school, and can assist those families who are unable to meet some or all of the parental contribution.

If your child comes to QVS (as we are known) he or she will be part of a pupil community made up entirely of the children of Armed Forces personnel. That sort of mutual understanding and support is invaluable, especially when parents are posted overseas or on long unaccompanied tours. All of our pupils have at least one actively serving parent when they enter the school.

Our main intake is into the Scottish system's Primary 7 year; there is no exact equivalent with the English system, but most of our P7 intake are aged ten when they join us. That said, there is a wide age range within the year groups. Many of our pupils have come from educationally disrupted backgrounds as they have moved from school to school and education system to education system, according to their families' postings.

After children whose parents have been killed or injured in Service, priority in admissions is given to children whose parents are likely to be posted frequently during their child's time at the school. We also try to allow siblings to attend QVS together.

Academically, the school regularly achieves pass rates at Standard Grade and Higher, which are well above the Scottish National Averages.

Games and outdoor activities are important parts of life at QVS. Rugby and hockey are the main sports, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is pursued at all three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. We have a beautiful setting in some 45 acres of countryside on the edge of Dunblane, much of which is given over to games pitches and recreational areas.

The ceremonial aspects of school life are central to QVS. Marching as part of the school on one of our six Parade Sundays a year, and on Grand Day – the final day of the academic year – is one of the proudest moments of a Victorian's life (as well as that of his or her parents)! The Pipes, Drums and Dancers of QVS are internationally renowned, having played at tattoos both at home and abroad, most recently in The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2012.

Dunblane is on a main rail line to Glasgow and Edinburgh, and within easy driving distance of the majority of Forces bases in Scotland.

There is no substitute for visiting a school, meeting its pupils and staff and picking up the atmosphere. If you would like to know more before travelling to Dunblane to visit us, however, please request a DVD and further information from the Admissions Secretary, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane FK15 0JY, or via our website www.qvs.org.uk



WE NOW KNOW WHERE TOUMBOUCTOU IS

By Lieutenant Colonel T J O Carmichael

About 219 years after Mungo Park, the intrepid Scots explorer, was making his way through this region, suffering from dreadful privations, I was phoned by APC Glasgow on a Friday to ask how competent I was in French. On the Monday, having said it was ok, I had been selected to be the British Liaison Officer to ECOWAS for Operation NEWCOMBE in Mali. To gain more background to the situation other than that available in the press 'le système-D', the regimental network, came into play. ECOWAS, the Economic Community Of West African States, had nominated a headquarters and force troops from the surrounding countries of West Africa to deploy to Mali. It was to operate in support of the French intervention to protect the Malian state from being over run by insurgents from the north of the country. Emails back from Colonel Ronnie Bradford, British DA in Addis, Colonel Sandy Wade, working with the African Union and also based in Addis and from David Kemmis-Betty, all came to my help. Names and information from contacts linked into the background of web-searching before I travelled down to Chilwell for pre-deployment training at the Reinforcements Training & Mobilisation Centre. There was then a morning at PJHQ, two snowy nights spent with Colonel Bruce Russell, now Director of Staff at JFHQ and, on 12 February 2013, I flew via Paris to Bamako. Since then I have been here for slightly over six weeks working as the British Liaison Officer to the headquarters of the African led Force In Support of Mali, or AFISMA, the title of the deployed ECOWAS force.

The UK provided the use of a C-17 transport aircraft and a Sentinel R1 aircraft in support of the French mission, Operation SERVAL. The troops for Operation SERVAL comprise French forces drawn from those based across Africa as part of French foreign policy, as well as from Metropolitan France. They had begun arriving in force from 11 January 2013, moving forward of the capital, Bamako, to the north and onto strategically important airports such as at Sévaré. Since then, as has been widely reported and analysed on a variety of news sites such as BBC or the English language Al Jazeera, Op SERVAL has been successfully interdicting insurgent forces which have fought with tenacity and complexity. Its ground forces have been supported by French air interdiction.

The AFISMA force elements are drawn from the national armies of 15 nations from across West Africa, all of which, except Chad are members of ECOWAS. Their state of readiness to deploy was varied. It had not been planned for the Force to assemble in Mali until September 2013. Having then to react fast, as the insurgency in the north gained momentum, the Force began to assemble in Mali from mid January 2013 and was at over 80% strength in late March 2013. Its headquarters is based on a nucleus which had been maintained in Abuja, under the auspices of ECOWAS, for just such a contingency.

Britain is committed to support the French operation SERVAL achieve its objectives, as the British Prime Minister has stated. The role of the UK LO is to further that support. The Foreign Secretary's visit on 4 March demonstrated to the member nations of ECOWAS how Britain, although not contributing directly on the ground with more than a liaison officer was able to bring to bear more support for the cause, politically. Other, subsequent visits by British officials have clarified how Britain would assist the force. Thus far, late March, it has not been possible for me to travel beyond the local area of Bamako; there has been no necessity for it and the security situation precludes it. However, on a daily basis I visit the staff branches in the Headquarters and other offices in Bamako, whether speaking French or English, to ascertain what developments have occurred and how or whether Britain or, on a different scale, its LO could assist.

Concurrent to setting up the AFISMA HQ and deploying its force elements via road and airport points of entry into Mali has been the conception and establishment of the EU Training Mission (EU TM). Its task is to train the Malian Defence and Security Forces



Lieutenant Colonel Tim Carmichael the UK LO having briefed Nigerian DA, Brigadier ASH Sa'ad, and AFISMA J7, Ghanaian Colonel Moses Ayree in Bamako.

to the standards of a modern army and associated organisations, including the police, gendarmerie and national guard. Lieutenant Colonel Jamie Melville, now of the AAC but an erstwhile officer in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (from the days in 1984 with us in BATUS when 1BW was in Werl) is its Executive Officer. He has been instrumental in pulling the headquarters and training structure through the teething problems of a multinational military structure, starting from absolute scratch to be able to start work in early April. The EU TM has its headquarters in Bamako and the actual training centre, now being manned with up to 400 military personnel from across the EU (some twenty-two nations from Estonia, Latvia, Greece to name but a few), at Koulikoro to the East of Bamako by approximately 60kms. He reliably informs me it is reminds him of "Cultybraggan a la Niger". Training started as planned on the 2nd of April after only launching the Training Mission on the 18th of February. The initial plan is to take four battle groups over 15 months, putting each one through a training programme the aim of which will be to ensure the Malian Army is once again trained, oriented and motivated to support its democratically elected government in providing security for its population.

Bamako stands on the River Niger, about a fifth of its length from its source in Guinea. The river is already huge at this point and provides the city with a constant supply of hydro-electricity. It's a sprawling, bustling city of approaching 2 million inhabitants. It retains its smattering of low-rise colonial era buildings in the old city centre as well as having some impressive modern Ghadafi funded buildings housing the ministries and the parliament nearer the river on the north bank. Developers have yet to resume building a huge, thwarted business area around the US Embassy, the work and associated funding having stopped with the military coup in March 2012. Three bridges span the river to less developed boroughs which are then transected by roads leading to the airport and further south. It is the dry season at present and the mosquito problem is low, but with the onset of the rainy season, in June, the problem reportedly becomes worse, but the daily temperature is moderated from regularly being 42°C as recorded by the British support team at the airport.

The local language spoken by the Bamakois is Bambara; some of its roots trace into French and the rest is from its own, longer inheritance. You pick up a few of the frequently used expressions to exchange with the guards and occasional stall holders. Local

languages also play a role in the communications across the headquarters. Hausa, spoken extensively in Nigeria, is used between groups who only speak French or English, for instance the Chadians and the Nigerians, and then a common language to Ghana, Ivory Coast and Liberia is spoken in the logistics office to overcome the same shortfalls. Having two official languages in the mission, it is very evident that each language group is making strenuous efforts to be able to use the operational language of the other. For instance, a Sierra Leonean officer is speaking French to a standard he had never dreamt of five weeks ago.

From the outset of planning the intervention, on 20 December

2012 the UNSCR 2085 had authorised military action. The UN has been courted to take over the mission to ensure that military intervention is reinforced by an inclusive political process leading to elections and a return to full civilian rule. In consequence, the UN's presence and intentions are a frequent source of conversation and work. In mid April it is expected that the UN Security Council will vote on a resolution whether or not to adopt the mission in Mali. Concurrent to that level of diplomacy and power politics, here in Mali the AFISMA HQ and force elements continuously prepare to take on the responsibilities expected of them as their operational capability is honed.

THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR – COMMEMORATIVE WEEKEND 17-18 NOVEMBER 2012

"I can well remember the night of 18 November 1952 when my battery fired over 4,000 rounds onto the Black Watch position on the Hook" These were the words of a Royal Artillery officer and his memories of that tumultuous night were fresh in his mind 60 years after the event. He also said that he would raise a glass to The Black Watch on 18 November 2012 as he could not join in the commemorative weekend that was held in Perth to honour many of the surviving members of the Regiment who served in Korea.

The weekend was divided into three events; a dinner at the Mercure Hotel in Perth which was open to all Korean War veterans as well as members of The Black Watch Association; a kirk service to remember those who died or were wounded or who had died since the war and finally, a lunch for the veterans and their families as well as for widows.

48 Korean War veterans and 70 Association members attended the dinner and Colonel Alex Murdoch, Chairman of The Black Watch Association welcomed everybody to the dinner. Colonel David Arbuthnott replied on behalf of the Korean veterans and we all enjoyed an excellent meal. Pipe Major Alistair Duthie entertained the company to some excellent piping which included all the Company Marches as well as a selection of tunes from the Korean War era. His second set included:

March	Heroes of the Hook (Pipe Major A Hain)
Slow Air	Hari Dong (arranged by Pipe Major A Hain)
March	Tribute to The Black Watch Heroes of Korea (Drum Major H Dunn)
Strathspey	Royal Highlanders Farewell to Ireland
Reel	The Rusty Gun
March	Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother (Piper I Rintoul)

I must also mention that Alastair Rattray travelled north from Kent to attend the dinner. His brother Alex was killed in May 1953 and you can read more about this in a short article that follows this one.

The church service was then held at St John's Kirk and was conducted by the Reverend Alex Forsyth, the Minister of Markinch Parish Church and onetime Padre of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion. Lessons were read

by Brigadier Adam Gurdon and Mr Harold Davies and Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell and Major Ronnie Proctor read out the names of those who died in Korea. It was a moving service with the theme of the sermon being "Don't forget to remember".

A lunch for about 120 veterans and their families was then held in The Royal George Hotel and we were delighted that Mrs Elizabeth Irwin, Mrs Bridget Lithgow, Mrs Sue Moncrieff and Mrs Jenifer Davidson were able to join the party. Mr Bob Manning MM proposed a toast to the wives of the Regiment.

The veterans, many of whom were National Servicemen, were honoured by The Black Watch Association for their service, 60 years after the November 1952 Battle of the Hook.

The following were in attendance:

Col the Hon David Arbuthnott, Mr Ronnie Balfour, Mr Ronald Bisset, Mr William Bohme, Mr Jim Bridges, Mr John Chalmers, Mr John Cooney, Mr John Cottrell, Col Ian Critchley, Mr Harold Davis, Mr Jeff Dawson, Mr Thomas Dignam, Mr Sandy Donald, Mr William Duff, Mr Harold Dunn, Mr Glen Edwards, Mr James Fleming, Mr Tom Gardner, Brig Adam Gurdon, Mr Derek Halley, Mr Albert Harrington, Capt Colin Harrison, Mr Jo Hubble, Mr John Jackson, Mr Sam Kemp, Mr Finlay MacKenzie, Mr Kenneth MacMillan, Mr Bob Manning, Mr Leslie McColl, Mr Ian McIntosh, Mr Joseph McIntosh, Mr Thomas McKay, Mr James McLachlan, Mr Lawrence McLaren, Mr George Myles, Mr Hugh Meilsen, Mr Geoffrey Nelson, Mr Alistair Rattray, Mr William Rodger, Mr Fred Sankey, Mr John Smart, Mr James Smith, Mr Paul Standen, Mr Adam Stewart, Mr Norman Topliss, Mr Jim Turpie, Mr James Watson, Mr Derek Wilson, Mr James Wright.

The following Korean veterans also attended the lunch on Sunday 18 November 2012:

Mr Andrew Glassford, Mr Archibald McLean, Mr David Reid, Mr David Skea.

The following Korean veterans attended the London Branch Dinner held on Thursday 22 November 2012:

Mr John Bowles, Mr John Eason, Brig Adam Gurdon, Mr Jo Hubble, Mr Larry McLaren, Mr Bill Parr, Mr Joe Roberts, Mr Ken Stewart.





COMMEMORATION SERVICE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK WATCH IN KOREA – 18th NOVEMBER 2012

Editor's Note: This is the text of the address given at St John's Kirk Perth by the Reverend Alex Forsyth.

Back in August 1969 the Bee Gees had a number one hit, that had a memorable title, 'Don't forget to Remember,' was their plea.

Today we 'Don't forget to Remember' as we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the involvement of our regiment in the Korean War.

Why do we commemorate this involvement? This is part of the regimental history that defines us. This is who we are. This is what we are. This is where we have been. This is where we served. This is what we have done! And this is what we have sacrificed. The Battle of the Hook, one of our Battle Honours helps us not to forget to remember.

As you get older remembering becomes more difficult.

Albert Einstein couldn't remember his own telephone number. He said that he never remembered anything that he could look up.

Rolling Stone, Keith Richards has admitted that he sometimes forgets how to play some of the Rolling Stones' songs. He said, "Sometimes during the first few bars of a song I forget how to play it and sometimes I can't remember the words."

I guess we have all had days when keys – mysteriously went missing. I guess we have all had times when we were unable to recall the names of people we've known for years and there were times when we have gone out to the garage and then wondered why.

In one of the travel books dealing with the United States the author tells how one day when he was checking out of his hotel in Arizona. He noticed a native American sitting quietly in the reception area.

As he paid his bill, he said to the manager, "What's the story of the old Indian sitting in reception? He was there when I arrived and he is still there."

"Oh" said the manager, "that's 'Eagle Cloud.'"

He's a Navajo chief. This hotel is built on an Indian reservation and part of the agreement is to allow the chief and his family free use of the premises and its facilities.

They call him 'The Navajo that Never Forgets,' because he has phenomenal memory. He is 92 and he never forgets a face. In fact he can remember the slightest details of his life."

The travel guide took all this in and as he was waiting for his taxi decided to put the chief's memory to the test.

"Good morning," he said, receiving only a slight nod of recognition in return. "What did you have for breakfast on your 21st birthday?"

"Eggs," the Navajo chief said without even looking up.

As he walked out of reception to continue his travels in the 'Sunset State,' the travel guide was clearly impressed.

On his return journey he checked in to the same hotel and was amazed to see 'Eagle Cloud' sitting in the same chair in the reception area. So he walked forward to greet the old Indian chief, "How!" he said.

Without a single pause, without skipping a beat, without looking up, the Navajo chief replied, "Scrambled!

Eagle Cloud may never forget but what about us?

The Bible tells us to remember:-

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. (Exodus 20:8)

Remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them. (Numbers 15:39)

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years. (Deuteronomy 8:2)

Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you. (Deuteronomy 15:15)

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth. (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master. (John 15:20)

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus how he said that it is more blessed to give than it is to receive.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (II Corinthians 9:6)

Remembering is at the heart of the gospel: 'do this in remembrance of me,' Jesus words at the last supper.

'Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom' – some of the last words uttered to Jesus on the cross.

In Biblical times remembering was important to God's people because in those days there were no printing presses and few scrolls. There were no books, tapes, records, computers, magazines, flyers, internet, e-mail, digital photographs, video cameras, newspapers, text messages, iPods, Facebook or Twitter.

Few people could read or write, therefore your personal history, your community's history, your country's history and for that matter your regiment's history had to be remembered.

These things were committed to memory and passed on from generation to generation by word of mouth.

It was this oral tradition, this remembering, this recalling, recollecting and reciting of their history, that strengthened the spiritual identity and defined the responsibilities of the people of God.

This is partly why remembering is so vital in our time. In an age of rapid consumerism, political expediency and short-term solutions, we do well to dwell on what it means to remember and what responsibilities this remembering the past brings to the present and the future.

In the dark days of 1940, Winston Churchill said, "We are fighting by ourselves – **but not for ourselves.**"

Remembrance is not merely a sentimental or regretful recollection. It's about present responsibilities and future duties. It is about a mystery in which the past, present and future are all bound together.

Remembrance, then, is not an act that simply brings memories from the past into the present. It is, rather, an invitation to re-make, re-create and re-new the world.

Remembering the past gives us a proper perspective on the present. Knowing where we have come from, knowing our family tree, our regiment's history and heritage and our country's story, adds to our knowledge of who we are, how we got here, how we are to live and what we should be about.

It gives us a proper self-awareness and a valuable insight into understanding ourselves.

So today's a day for remembering – the service given and the sacrifices made 5,500 miles away in Korea. And this remembering of the past is an important part of our responsible living in the present.

Last year I took the funeral of Jamie, an old soldier who was also a good friend. He was an amazing man. He joined the army as a young teenager. From private soldier he worked his way through the ranks to Major and he served his country in one way or another for nearly fifty years.

Before he died he said, 'Padre three things have scarred me for life. – wine, women and war!'

In the war, he couldn't forget, he had seen terrible things happen to friends and comrades. He was traumatized. When he came home he was faced with indifference. And so he hit the bottle to dull the psychological pain. He had post-traumatic stress and didn't know it.

Then his first wife died young from breast cancer and that made things worse. His second wife divorced him because of his alcohol problem and then Elaine; his third wife who had been brought up in a Fife Mining village with four brothers sorted him out.

After their first date he never drank again, never touched a drop after he met Elaine. – 'Three things scarred me for life, Padre, – wine, women and war,' and the war that scarred him was the Korean War.

Jamie was one of more than 80,000 British soldiers, many of them National Servicemen sent to Korea after 16 weeks training.

The Korean War was called, 'The Unpopular War,' or 'The Forgotten War,' probably because it was overshadowed by the Second World War that preceded it – and the Vietnamese debacle that followed it.

Jamie couldn't forget it and it hadn't forgotten him. It scarred him for life.

On 25 June 1950 the invasion of South Korea by the Communist North launched one of the bloodiest conflicts of the 20th century.

The seemingly limitless man power of the Chinese-backed North was thrown against the colossal military capability of the United Nations backed South.

It was the first major military engagement between the Western Democracies and Communist Dictatorships. It was the closest our world came to nuclear war apart from the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962.

At no other time since the Second World War has the United States and China met on the battlefield. This so called 'Forgotten War' was in fact a brutal war with casualties running into millions.

It is estimated that around 10 million people died during the Korean war.

USA – 142,000 killed, Other United Nations States – 17,000 killed. The South Korean Army 273,000 killed. The United Kingdom lost 1,139. The Black Watch lost 66 men and we had 198 wounded and 13 were taken prisoner.

On the other side Communist military casualties were horrendous: 620,000 North Koreans killed and almost 910,000 Chinese.

In addition, nearly three million North and South Korean civilians were killed or injured and practically all of North and South Korea was devastated.

No wonder Jamie and many like him were scarred for life.

So on a day like today when we remember our regiment's involvement in Korea, we remember there is a 'dark side' to life.

We remember that war is hellish.

We remember that God's intention for all his children is justice, peace and righteousness. And that the only justification of war is the achievement of justice, peace and righteousness.

We remember that we have Armed Forces who believe that that is their "raison d'être" – the reason for their existence.

We remember that peace was won by the courage and commitment of veterans and the service and sacrifice of our fallen – individuals like Jamie who was scarred for life in that war.

I once heard a recruiting sergeant put it this way to group of young ashen faced computer fatigued recruits – "There are ten personal characteristics," he said, "that define the soldiers who have gone before you:

Courage, discipline, integrity, loyalty, respect, dependability, endurance, enthusiasm, decisiveness and duty.

And then he added – You also need a sense of humour, a thick skin,

mental strength and willpower. You need to be physically fit, because you need to be able to carry nearly your own weight in your Bergen.

And most important of all – if you are scared of spiders go home to your mother now.

Today when we are not forgetting to remember we also remember, that the Reveille always follows the Last Post. The night is long, the pain and suffering of conflict is hard and invites despair and like the Psalmist (Psalm 130) 'De Profundis' – "out of the depths we cry out to Thee O God. It is then we remember God's promise to us. That promise is that a new day will dawn".

Our faith teaches us that death is not an extinguishing of the light but a putting out of the lamp because the dawn has come.

As the Revelation of St John says, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things have passed away."

This is the point of commemorating the 60th anniversary of our regiment in the Korean War.

This is a time not to 'forget to remember' and it is a time to realize we have a responsibility to those who died, half way across the world, to continue the struggle to establish justice, peace and righteousness.

On the day after Pearl Harbour, Warner Brothers were filming "Yankee Doodle Dandy". The cast listened as President Roosevelt announced on the radio that the United States was now at war with Japan and Germany.

At that point the director Michael Curtiz came on the sound stage with James Cagney. They all listened in silence for the American national anthem to finish.

As the women dabbed tears from their eyes and the men were struggling to keep it together, Curtiz said in his best Hungarian accent:

"Now, boys and girls, we have work to do. We have had bad news, but we have a wonderful story to tell the world. So let's put away sad things and begin."

Whether like Jamie, you are scarred for life or not, that's the challenge we face on a day like today.

May the past not hinder us, nor the present overwhelm us, or the future fill us with fear.

As the Psalmist said – 'So even to old age and grey hair – O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation and your power to all those – to come.

(Psalm 71: 18)

Amen



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The Hook "By kind permission of the Corps of Royal Engineers".

CUNEO PAINTING

On Sunday 18 November 2012 Alastair Rattray, the brother of Alex Rattray MC who was killed in action during the Korean War, presented a print of the Terence Cuneo painting entitled "The Hook" to the Museum. Terence Cuneo CVO,OBE RGI (1907 – 1996) was a well known and respected artist, famous for scenes of railways, horses and military art. He was also the official artist for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 and after 1956 was renowned for including a small mouse in his paintings.

This print depicts the scene just before the second Battle of the Hook in May 1953. In the foreground can be seen Lieutenant Alex Rattray MC of The Black Watch and Lieutenant George Cooper a Royal Engineer Troop Commander. They are discussing the building of defensive obstacles and bunkers to protect the soldiers of A Company who were in the positions closest to the Chinese. You should note the patrol exiting the trenches through a "trench door".

The first Battle of the Hook had taken place on the night of 18/19

November 1952. The Chinese had attacked in overwhelming force and many thousands of rounds of Chinese and British artillery and mortar fire were brought down onto the Black Watch defensive position. Hand to hand fighting took place but by 19 November the enemy had been beaten back. Lieutenant Rattray was awarded the Military Cross for his courage and leadership during this battle. He was subsequently killed in action on 8 May 1953. Lieutenant Cooper (RE) was awarded the Military Cross and achieved high rank in the Army as the Adjutant General.

During the Korean War 6 officers and 60 soldiers died, as well as 7 officers and 191 soldiers being wounded. The Battle Honour The Hook 1952 and the Theatre Honour Korea 1952-53 were awarded to the Regiment.

The original painting, commissioned by the Royal Engineers was completed in 1976 and now hangs in the Royal Engineers Officers' Mess at Chatham. The trademark mouse is at the bottom of the painting; just below a barbed wire coil is an ammunition box with its lid ajar. The mouse is looking out from between the lid and the box.

DON JUAN OR CAPTAIN JOHN CAMPBELL

The question has always been – was Don Juan or was he not – in The Black Watch? The answer is probably yes, but a doubt remains. He is mentioned in A Military History of Perthshire 1660 – 1902 with two companies of volunteers which were "under the command of Captain Campbell of Kinloch and Captain Mungo MacPherson, late 42nd", in 1803. While this seems to clinch the matter, it does not quite make it final, as "the late 42nd" may, of course, just refer to Mungo MacPherson. There has been an abundance of John Campbells in the Regiment over the years and 16 are recorded in the book, Officers of The Black Watch 1725-1986.

What is clear is that "Don Juan", as John was later called, was in a Highland Regiment for several years, then left in disgust partly, at least, because he could not bear to wear the kilt any more.

His father Charles had left Scotland in 1729 to look for gold in Brazil, which he seems to have found in some measure in the mines of Pompeo, Minas Geraes. This move was clearly prompted by a letter from his uncle Colin, who was already installed in that province

and said that there were fortunes to be made. We have a photocopy of that letter, dated 15th October of 1728. Charles married in 1746 in Spain one Dona Eufrasia Maria Ferreira, said to be a Braganza, of the Ferreira de Eca family and the niece of the Bishop of Oporto. Much research has gone into her antecedents and the tradition seems to hold good – or mainly so. Eufrasia was said to have been a postulant, in a nunnery in Portugal at the time of her marriage to Charles and thus the marriage, which was clandestine and took place over the border in Spain whence they had fled, was not well received by the Church nor, apparently, by the Portuguese monarch of the time. They were banished to Brazil, which seems to have been no hardship, at least to Charles, as he had already established himself there successfully and his wife was said to have been given a good slice of land as part exchange for her Portuguese property. Speculation suggests that Charles had got wind of the 1745 rebellion and was on his way home to take part, perhaps hearing the news of its failure while in Portugal. Eufrasia seems to have been his consolation for the humiliation of Culloden in which one of his

brothers, John, served throughout in Roy Stewart's Regiment and died in 1746 perhaps as a result of his tribulations.

What was decidedly not cheery news was that the Church, being greatly offended at being robbed of a nun, but in particular at the clandestine marriage, demanded as a penance, that any second son of the union, would train to become a priest and then remain as such for the duration of his days. Gregory, the second son who duly arrived, was thus sent to Oporto for training, but it was said that his ship sailing out of Rio de Janeiro to Lisbon and then Civitavecchia foundered and he with it. In fact, he survived and hid himself away until he returned to Brazil many years later. The evidence for his return to Brazil is written, in his own hand, in his Book of Offices – still extant.

The Church, while expressing regret at the apparent loss of Gregory, demanded that the third son be sent for priestly training. This was John, later to become known as "Don Juan" to his friends in Scotland.

John went to Oporto, was installed in the seminary and hated it. His main complaint was that the priests were venal and scandalously immoral. He prevailed upon his father to extract him from his training, which was certainly done without the connivance of the Church and decided to go for a military career – and hence, we think into The Black Watch or anyway a Highland regiment. This might be around 1785-90. The Church now seemed to have been enraged and plotted vengeance.

Charles returned to Scotland, without his wife who had died, with his first son Joseph, leaving behind two daughters in Brazil. John was by now serving in the Low Countries, but joined his father and brother at Kinloch after a few years.

Charles had great trouble in establishing his identity and claim to his property but finally prevailed upon the Lyon Office.

Both brothers later stated that the local RC priests had speeded the demise of Charles and in the process barred them from any final farewells, to the extent that they had to threaten to knock down the bedroom door to gain access to the last rites. Joseph and John abandoned the Catholic faith in a public announcement at the funeral.

Joseph became the Laird. John, or "Don Juan" was later to claim that Joseph was also murdered by a priest but he was unable to convince the authorities that a crime had been committed. He spent an inordinate amount of time looking for clues to the man who had visited the house

on the night that Joseph was found dead in his chair and whom John had allowed to enter the house "and had been too engaged in trying to close the door against the wind to notice the identity of the man." Joseph had sent John a message, via a servant, to say the visitor was someone well-known to him and that he should not wait up.

"Don Juan", was considered very eccentric. He wore Portuguese dress, a large broad-brimmed hat and a cloak and carried a cane. He was fastidious about his indoor wear, which was apparently very old-fashioned for the time. He was obviously a dour, rather formidable man, who spoke English with a marked accent all of his life and often muttered to himself in Portuguese. His wife, Anne Trapaud, a daughter of John Campbell of Melfort, a Black Watch officer and later Governor of Fort George, clearly went in awe of him, as did his children, who were too intimidated to even ask any questions about his life in Brazil. He was a splendid horseman and all the small boys in Dunkeld used to turn out to watch him ride in, complete with Hessian boots, on his stallion on market days. He seems not to have had many friends and some of these would arouse him to expletives by mischievously asking him what he thought about wearing the kilt.

By some quite extraordinary chance, I came across a story in a penny-dreadful about Don Juan, written by a policeman. In 1936 a girl, Anne, was playing in Princes Street Perth, when she saw someone standing at the end of a lane dressed in a long black cloak with one end thrown over the shoulder, a broad-brimmed hat and carrying a cane or light sword. He was only visible for a few minutes then seemed to vanish. In 1978 Anne in the course of conversation with her daily help discovered that the latter had a friend living in Princes Street in a tenement, just near the lane where Anne had met the vision. The friend had also encountered the same ghostly figure and enquired from a local woman who this apparition might be. The reply was "Oh, that is all right, that's just the Spanish ghost." It was thought that "Don Juan's" obsession with finding the murderer of his brother, might have accounted for his being tethered to this world.

So was Don Juan, or was he not, in The Black Watch? If anyone has any information leading to the confirmation or otherwise of this question, I will give them a dram – or several.

C J K Campbell

OUR OLD REGIMENTAL DEPOT – QUEEN'S BARRACKS, PERTH

"The best posting during my 28 years service in the Regiment was the two years I spent as a Training Subaltern at our own Regimental Depot at Queen's Barracks, Perth and at the Combined Black Watch and Argyll Depot at Stirling Castle, the year after Queen's Barracks closed down in 1962, 50 years ago. I had also previously been a Jock at the Depot carrying out my Basic Training in 1954/5, before going on to RMA Sandhurst.

Major Bob Ritchie also served at the Depot as a Jock completing his basic training in 1953 but he was a Corporal Weapon Training Instructor in 1956-58 and later still a Squad Sergeant in 1959. We served at the Depot together twice and so I contacted him and he has contributed a great deal to my story. He agrees with me that the Depot was a really good posting.

It is difficult to imagine where the Depot used to be, for Perth has developed so much over the past 50 years. The front gate of the Depot was on that sharp corner of Dunkeld Road, still called Barrack Street at its junction with Atholl Street, directly opposite the side of St Ninian's Cathedral. A high wall ran back along Dunkeld Road nearly as far as St Catherine's Road and then followed around to the Town Lade, whence it returned to run along Longcauseway Road. The Depot Gymnasium and Drill Hall were on the East side of the Lade and next to that was Highland House, the HQ of the 51st Highland Division.

The centrepiece of the Depot was the Main Square on which all drill parades were carried out. At the North end of the Square was the Officers' Mess, a fairly basic but still impressive late Georgian building, on the pediment of which was the very fine carved Coat of Arms of King George III. This artefact has been preserved and has been installed in the new Queen's Barracks TA Centre. The Regimental Museum was also housed in the Officers' Mess until it was moved to Balhousie Castle.

Around the Main Square were two-storey, stone built Barrack Buildings, the NAAFI, the Sergeants' Mess, various offices and Married Quarters for the Permanent Staff. Then there was the Guardroom, outside which the Cawnpore Gong used to be mounted and on which timings were duly rung out.

There was a Sentry Box by the Main Gate Guardroom and opposite this, across the road, was the WOs' and Sergeants' Hutted Accommodation. Behind these huts stretched eight more wooden buildings containing the Cookhouse, the Medical Centre, the Corporals' Mess, Stores and accommodation for Holders and Drafts.

The Depot buildings were first built in 1794, at a time when a large number of barracks were being erected in the United Kingdom. Perth had largely been garrisoned by the cavalry. Later, a number of English and Scottish Infantry and Cavalry Regiments occupied the Barracks and in 1873 the place was finally converted into Infantry accommodation. In 1881 the Depot finally became the home of The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). So, when it closed, the site had seen the Army in Perth for over 180 years and with a Black Watch connection for at least 80 years.

Nowadays a large part of the Depot site is occupied by the multi-storey Tayside Police Headquarters, the BP Garage, two Fast Food restaurants in the St Catherine's Road Shopping Centre and a housing scheme close to the Cathedral. There is a plaque recording the former presence of the Queen's Barracks Depot on the walls of Police HQ.

I was very sad that the Depot closed because, along with all the Scottish Regiments at that time, each had its own regimental Depot and all were able to train their men to the same Army Standards but we were also able to instil in them that very personal and special regimental spirit which must be far harder to do when all our Jocks nowadays are trained at Catterick in England.

But, I had to admit that the Queen's Barracks Depot in Perth was



Lieutenant C B Innes with 2 squads on a route march outside Aberfeldy (1960).

quite small and that it was literally just outside the original walls of "Auld" Perth and centrally situated within the fast expanding City-for Perth was a City in 1962-and, to everyone's great joy, was re-granted City Status this year. In spite of its very central position, the Depot was a popular part of the Perth scene and the Regiment was generally held in high regard.

The task of the Depot at Queen's Barracks was to be the family home of The Black Watch. At times during World Wars I and II, it was the main base for all the many Battalions of the Regiment which were raised in those two great emergencies, but in my time it was the base for both the First and Second Battalions and also the RHQ of the 6/7th Battalion (TA). Recruits for these Battalions were given Basic Training which generally lasted ten weeks and involved young men being instructed in Drill, Weapon Training, Fieldcraft, Map Reading, Gas Training and First Aid and were given an introduction to the history of the Regiment.

There was a 10-target 300 yard Range at Kinfauns where recruits were introduced to the No 4 Rifle, the SMG and the LMG, with which the infantry were armed in the 1950's. We used to mount a red flag on top of a little tower, on a hill above the Butts in order to warn people to keep off the range but all those motoring along the road to Dundee could see when we were firing on the ranges. Further shooting training and final classification was carried out at Barry Buddon Training Camp where many a week was spent teaching men camouflage and fieldcraft skills and the first night exercises were carried out.

We also used to do some of our fieldcraft training on Kinnoull Hill and here I must tell a story from my own basic training days. Sgt "Busty" Mitchell was my Squad Sergeant, a great big man, a former Battalion boxing champion and a man who loved a drink and a party. "You Innes, come over here", he said as we stopped training for a short smoke. "Do you hear that cockerel in that garden? Well, I want you to leap over that fence and get it, put it in your denim jacket and bring it to me for my wife to cook for dinner". "But Sgt Mitchell, I am a local lad, if I get caught, I will never live it down", I said. "Get over laddie or you'll be in front of the CO and get a number of days CB (Confined to Barracks) for disobeying my command". Well, thank goodness the people who owned the house and the chicken run were not about, for I stole the chicken.

We also used the North Inch for athletics training, PT, football and other sports. Again, I remember my Squad being formed up, 17 of us, in a long line and then we were numbered off. "Right, pay attention", said Sgt Mitchell, "you see that Monument at the end of the Inch by the River Tay? Right, you lads, what you are about to do is double down there and read the inscription on the Monument and remember

the word corresponding to your number, ie Number 13 remembers the 13th word. Move Now!

Well we doubled down and tried to work it all out. Back we came and started to read out the words 1-17 but someone always made a mistake and we were sent all the way back down again. I then showed my amazing potential officer qualities by forming up our squad in front of the blessed monument and we carried out a practice and then ran back to do it again correctly for our beloved Sergeant!

The Depot used to enter for many of the UK Minor Unit Smallbore Rifle Competitions and .22 Postal Competitions and won many prizes in these events. They also entered Depot teams in the annual Highland Division Rifle Meetings.

We had a very old RAMC Colonel who was the Depot MO. I remember my Squad, on our second day of training, being marched down to the Medical Centre. The old Colonel said we were all to receive a Schick test and also three other TAB injections. He had an assistant orderly who tried to keep pace with the Colonel who injected us all at a rapid rate. One or two Jocks passed out, I remember and, as a Potential Officer, I thought that I must never do that. I focused my attention on one of those Eye Test Cards, where the numbers at the top were very large and then they reduce on each succeeding line. All the letters disappeared but I did not faint!

Bob Ritchie and I trained many National Service Squads. It was very interesting for the majority of chaps accepted that they had to "do their time" and they buckled down to training well. There were some "bolshy" individuals who had probably never done a day's work before and had certainly never played any sports or ever had to move fast in their lives. Yet, within a few days these "hard men" saw the fun of the training and liked the comradeship of the others in their Squad and soon became good soldiers. By the time of the Passing out Parades, there were few who had not enjoyed their basic training. I look back on that period as a great experience and I keep finding others who remember those ten weeks so well.

Private Jim Baxter, the Rangers player, joined the Regiment for his National Service at Queen's Barracks. He was allowed to play matches for Rangers and often flew off to Belgrade or Paris for a vital game. He was a really good recruit and, of course, a wonderful football player. On finishing his training in Perth, Scott Simon, the Rangers' Coach, came to visit the Depot Adjutant and begged him not to post Jim Baxter out to the 1st Battalion in Berlin, so that he could play more regularly for the Glasgow team. We also had Buck McGarry of St Johnstone serving in the regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Stan Allison was the Administrative Officer at

the Depot. I went to see him once to have a Motor Mileage Claim signed. To my surprise he signed it with a rubber stamp which read "R.A.Bulloch, Lt Col". I said, "Colonel Stan, why do you not sign these forms yourself?". To which question he replied "Now don't you start asking any more questions, those silly b----s at Highland District have been accepting that rubber stamp signature for ever. But Colonel Archie Bulloch commanded the Depot from 1921-1925! Apparently there was very little for him to do in those days, so he went up to live at his home at Tomatin and left his Staff to sign routine matters with what was then a new idea-a rubber stamp.

One young recruit arrived at the Depot, a Private Lightbody, who revealed that his previous career had been as a Chef at the L'Aperitif Restaurant in Edinburgh. I was the Officers' Mess Food Member at the time and I quickly arranged with the Adjutant Captain Gurdon, that Lightbody should be posted to the Officers' Mess for his two years National Service, instead of going out to Berlin. We fed extremely well in that Mess.

The Officers at the Depot had a wonderful time. Perthshire being a very social County, local landowners and friends of the Regiment asked

Officers to take part in every event during the year. I remember inspecting a Squad of Jocks on the Square just before we were all to move off in a 3-tonner for a ten-mile route march. The Adjutant's window flew open, "Mr Innes, come over here quickly will you". I went over and Captain Adam Gurdon said "Colin, go up and change into your shooting kit as soon as you can, Lord Forteviot is one gun short, the CO and I cannot go and we must accept and you love shooting, so off you go". "But Sir, I have a route march". "No, No, hand over to your Squad Sergeant-its much more important to be at Dupplin".

The Main Gates of Queen's Barracks were finally closed by the Quartermaster, Major Nobby Clarke, on 31st May 1961 and shortly afterwards the whole barracks was razed to the ground to allow for an inner ring road to be built and several other establishments. I led the party of about 90 Jocks, who were still half way through their basic training, to Stirling Castle, where for a couple of years a Joint Depot with the Argylls was established. And then, for many years, all the Highland Regiments carried out their basic training at Bridge of Don Barracks, Aberdeen, which then became known as the Highland Brigade Depot."

C B Innes

THE STENBERG PICTURES

"When serving in Minden 1967/68, I approached the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Earle Nicoll, with the idea of the Battalion commissioning an artist to record the Dress, Weapons and Vehicles in use at that time in Germany. I had come back to the Battalion from Dundee where I had been Adjutant of the 4/5th Battalion The Black Watch (TA) for two years, during which time Lieutenant Colonel David Carnegie-Arbutnott and I had thought it appropriate to commission a picture, painted by Mr Ron Stenberg, of Colour Sergeant Nobby Clark of the TA Battalion. This wonderful picture shows C/Sgt Clark in Battledress Blouse and the kilt standing on the edge of the Powrie Brae War Memorial and also showing Powrie Castle and a distant view of the River Tay.

Ron Stenberg is now 93 and is living in Auckland, New Zealand. In the 1960s however he was living in Wormit (Fife) and working as a Lecturer at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and it was there that I first contacted him. I am going out to New Zealand in February next year and have already warned Ron that I am going to look him up at his home in Birkenhead, Auckland.

Having won many plaudits for his 4/5 BW picture, Ron Stenberg was very keen to do some more military paintings. I arranged with Lieutenant Colonel Nicoll that he should come out to Minden for ten days and that he should be given access to all parts of the Battalion to record the dress, weapons and vehicles we were using at that time.

Ron got on famously with everyone and impressed us all with the speed in which he could quickly sketch a scene and then record the colours of the uniforms of the vehicles and background vegetation, so that he could paint a fuller version either in the office we gave him in the Barracks in Minden or when he got back to Dundee.

In the picture of the Dress of the Battalion, we were amazed how accurately he depicted the uniforms but even more impressed by the clarity of each individual portrayed. One can easily find Andrew Hamilton in Review Order, Tom Brodie in Jersey Pullover Order, David Fortune in Friday Morning Dress, RSM David Grant and his Pacestick, Piper Murray, Drummer Floan and a Pte Glover in denims.

In the picture showing the Battalion's weapons and vehicles, one can spot Cpl (later RSM) Berry and Vince Carlton



Ron Stenberg.

as part of the MFC Group with the Plotter Board. Ron Stenberg loved going out in the FV432 armoured vehicle and really enjoyed painting the tactical scenes. One can see the Jock armed with the SLR, a Ferret Scout Car and crew, a GPMG Pair, a Wombat Team and an Infantry Section dismounting from the rear of an FV 432.

It is now 50 years ago since these paintings were assembled into two collages – something in which Lieutenant Colonel Earle Nicoll and RSM David Grant (a man from Dundee like Ron) took a great interest and they soon had two most interesting records of dress and weapons of the 1960s.

Ron gave me a number of other sketches that he made at the time in Minden and these I have handed in to the Museum some years ago. One which I particularly remember is of a Band Rehearsal taking place with several musicians playing away conducted by the Band Sergeant Major.

I have been in touch with Ron Stenberg ever since the 1960s and I can vouch for his continuing keenness for the Regiment. There will be many of us who bought copies of his drawings and he has left us a very interesting historical record for the Museum.

C B Innes



The painting of Piper Bert Murray from Glenrothes appears in the collage.



This picture of the late Private Floan was also used in the compilation painting by Ron Stenberg, showing uniforms of the Regiment.

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

COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

The Battalion is in great heart and although we have been as busy as ever, we have enjoyed a varied and challenging six months. We have recently assumed our latest role as the United Kingdom's Contingency Battalion, which has focussed our training over recent months but we have also been working hard to reinvigorate some of our more basic infantry skills. It has been a period in which we have become more certain about our future role and in which we have been confirmed as Fort George's residents for the foreseeable future.

First, let me turn to the future. The Black Watch Battalion, has been directed to form a *Light Protected Mobility* capability as part of the Army restructuring in the post Afghanistan era. It is an exciting prospect that places us in one of the new adaptive brigades, mounted in the Foxhound vehicles that have proven so capable in Afghanistan. We will move to come under the command of a reformed (deployable) 51st Scottish Brigade, along with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards as a *Light Cavalry* regiment, and two light infantry battalions: The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and a Rifles battalion. The changes to our structures have already begun and will continue over the next eighteen months or so, during which time we have to master the art of becoming mechanised infantry, whilst also reforming nascent skills such as assault pioneering; there is a lot to do.

Alongside the direction to change our role, it was also confirmed that we would be remaining in Fort George and that has been very welcome news indeed. Inverness provides us with fabulous community support and the area gives us some wonderful and challenging training opportunities. The Fort will never compare with some of the newer barracks that the Army inhabits and it is a long-haul for the weekly commuters travelling from Fife and Perthshire but it is iconic and it is absolutely right that it is inhabited by a battalion with a strong Highland heritage. Best of all, now that we know we shall be staying here indefinitely, we can finally start to make some home improvements. The Quartermaster has already been hard at it, delivering significant changes to our base including the double glazing of the accommodation blocks and a plan to completely overhaul the junior ranks' Red Hackle Club.

The Battalion is now being held at high-readiness in its UK contingency role, a task that will define our next six months. Our task is to provide assistance to the Civilian Authorities in times of national crisis and our calling could be to respond to natural disasters like floods, to containing public disorder, or reacting to the outcome of a terrorist act; we are the Government's quick reaction force. It may be that we have a quiet time but we have been busy preparing for the broadest array of eventualities, and we sit ready at the end of the phone should we be required. Our training has required a change in mindset, having spent the last four years focused on operations in Afghanistan but it has been a welcome one and it has been valuable to reconsider the prospect of uncertain operations.

As part of our recent training, the Battalion deployed to conduct a six day exercise to confirm our ability to contain public disorder. The Companies pitched against each other in a rotation, providing both the security and the disorderly forces. For some, the art of rioting came a little too easily but we managed to avoid breaking ourselves, even when our Fijian front row took the chance for some rugby tackling practice in advance of the team heading off to compete in an international Sevens Competition.

We followed our two weeks in November spent live firing and completing the Duke of Rothsay's inter-section patrol competition with a real focus upon our core infantry skills. The Sniper Platoon has endured some extraordinarily tough weeks qualifying new members in the most demanding weather conditions, whilst the Reconnaissance Platoon and Fire Support Groups have been away extensively, training new batches of specialists. The Rifle Companies have been hard at it too, with hours on the ranges shooting and training to live and fight in the most demanding circumstances. Battalion Headquarters has also managed to decamp for periods to practice its decision making from the depths of a dark, rain battered tent. And we have all managed

to remember quite how debilitating our chemical suits are by having a sports day encumbered by our protective equipment. We hope that all of this training will pay dividends when we pitch ourselves in a test exercise against the resident enemy force on Salisbury Plain in June.

Our Pipes and Drums have just returned from an acclaimed three month tour of the United States of America and Canada. The band toured with the musicians of the Scots Guards to deliver performances at more than sixty different venues, interspersed by hours in coaches travelling from State to State. I have received fulsome praise for their show, which I was also lucky enough to see over the course of a quick visit. There will be plenty of tales of their time away but I was thoroughly amused to hear of a busking piper in Las Vegas (who happened to be wearing a red hackle) having his drones tuned for him by a passing Corporal. The busker was exasperated by the act and challenged our man to play if he thought he could do better, which he did, and he could! The busker gracefully accepted defeat and he attended the evening show as a guest of the band. Our band shall be competing on the games circuit this summer and I really hope that you have the chance to see them, because they are playing superbly and going from strength to strength.

In September we shall host an inaugural Royal Regiment of Scotland Highland Games, in the inspiring setting of the Fort. Our vision is to see each battalion come and contest a traditional array of events including piping and dancing competitions, hammer throwing, caber tossing, a gun run and tug o' war, and cross country races. We are planning in earnest now and working to select our teams so that they can practice throughout the summer to ensure we do well in the arena. We really hope that the day will be one that the Associations can join us in, to support the contemporary battalions and to enjoy a Highland spectacle in the best of company.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I have to report that LCpl Sevanaia Tabua died at the end of a long battle with cancer over Christmas leave. Tabs, as he was known, was a formidable soldier, who had served the Battalion with aplomb for twelve years, during which time he suffered a gunshot injury in Iraq and was caught in an IED explosion in Afghanistan. His long and hard-fought battle with cancer only served to show his bravery and determination right to the end and he will remain an inspiration to us all because of it. Everyone in the Battalion is hugely appreciative of the funds that the Black Watch Association provided so that we could send a full funeral party back to Fiji to bury him with the honours he deserved.



BATTALION HEADQUARTERS OVERVIEW

The Battalion has been marching full speed ahead to prepare for the assumption of the UK Contingency Battalion role in March 2013. During this time, the Battalion has conducted a two week period of live firing in November, and a Public Order package in February. This phase has certainly kept everyone on their toes and has given the Battalion a new focus, now that Afghanistan is behind us.

In early October 2012, the Battalion was asked to support 2 SCOTS deployment to Afghanistan in the Spring of 2013 and 40

members of the Battalion began an intense training period to prepare themselves for this deployment. In November they moved to Edinburgh to be closer to 2 SCOTS and to focus them on the task at hand. This proved to be a big impact upon the Battalion, losing such a large number of soldiers and it was with a sigh of relief that prior to Christmas leave it was confirmed that they would no longer be required.

Ex WARCOP HACKLE saw the Battalion deploy to Warcop, Cumbria, for 2 weeks of live fire training and to take part in the Duke of Rothesay's patrol competition. Two weeks out of camp and away from emails is a great tonic and it is always an enjoyable time when the battalion is away and able to focus on our core skills as Infanteers. The Battalion had conducted preparatory shooting in the weeks leading up to the exercise on the Fort George ranges, and on arrival at Warcop, we were able to get straight into some high quality shooting.

The highlight of the exercise was the Duke of Rothesay's Patrol Competition, which was organised and executed by WO1 (RSM) Shaw. This proved to be a real challenge for all involved. The rugged terrain proved to be particularly unforgiving but the inclement weather added an additional layer of complexity. Eight man sections had to navigate around the training area, visiting a number of checkpoints where they were tested on their military knowledge. This included medical and regimental questions, including some excellent renditions of regimental pipe tunes by Lieutenant McRobbie.

The weather made navigation particularly difficult with, at times, visibility down to no more than a few metres. Good map reading was the order of the day, requiring every member of the section to be on his game and assist with the careful planning of the route. Battalion HQ spent the two days of the competition visiting the sections and it was an excellent opportunity to witness first hand the fantastic work being done by the junior commanders in the battalion.

The final two days of the exercise were spent conducting platoon attacks, under the control of the Training Officer, Captain James. The ranges proved to be challenging and rewarding, and the Battalion benefited greatly from the exercise, helping to identify areas for improvement but highlighting the outstanding work being done at all levels.

We held a Cocktail Party in November to thank members of the community who do so much to assist us whilst we are at Fort George. These events are very popular and it is always good to further enhance the bonds which we have with the local area, particularly as we are set to remain at Fort George on a permanent basis.

The run up to Christmas is a congested period and Christmas Week for the Battalion could not come quickly enough. This is an enjoyable period, particularly as the year before the Battalion was deployed in Afghanistan. The Jocks' Christmas Lunch is for many the highlight of the week and there is no doubt that the Jocks take great pleasure in being waited upon by the Chain of Command.

After the Christmas stand down, training began again in earnest. As part of the UK Contingency Battalion role, we have to be proficient in Public Order duties. Under the Training Officer, the Battalion conducted Company level training at RAF Kinloss in preparation for a larger confirmation exercise. For many, Public Order was a completely new experience, whilst for others, it provided the opportunity to spin tales of the baseline!

The Battalion deployed for six days in mid-February to Catterick, to conduct a Public Order confirmatory exercise. Any exercise always helps to galvanise the troops, particularly in the high tempo and stressful environment of Public Order. The Battalion passed with flying colours and when not involved with the Public Order exercise, the companies spent time conducting and revising basic skills of living in the field.

The Battalion is now fully trained and prepared for the role which lies ahead. Though an uncertain one, it continues to provide a focus for the Battalion and in the margins we have the time to conduct a whole range of activities which during the HERRICK period we have not had the fortune to do. The Battalion is looking forward to a succession of adventure training trips and in May the battalion Rugby team heads to Belgium to play in the Flanders Open 10's tournament.

In December we welcomed Major Drew Dunford as the new RAO, having previously served with the Black Watch between 2001-03 in Fallingbowl. We said goodbye to Captain Harry Gladstone who has taken up a role at the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). He will be sorely missed.



The Commanding Officer and his Company Commanders at the Ladies Dinner Night. From left to right – Majors Hedderwick and Broadbent, Lt Col Reilly and Majors Richards and Reid.

THE OFFICERS' MESS

President of the Mess Committee:	Major J A Reid
Mess Secretary:	Captain R J Stewart
Mess Treasurer:	Captain H W Gladstone

The Officers' Mess Membership has remained relatively stable over the last six months after we put the turbulence of the summer posting period behind us for another year. New arrivals have consisted of a fresh cohort of young officers. They were hungry for the challenge of commanding Jocks after learning the theory while on the Commissioning Course and the Platoon Commanders' Battle Course. For some of the more seasoned Mess members it was less about embracing their new brother officers and more about the relief brought by the addition of new names to the Duty Officer roster! A warm welcome is extended to 2Lt Zac Smyth, 2Lt Alex Deck and Lt Craig Treasure.

Arrivals of a different nature have been eagerly anticipated on the patch as Rob and Shuna Colquhoun celebrated the arrival of their first child Jack. Next door there was similar good news as Rob and Lotty Hedderwick had their third child Isabella, a new sister for Florence and Sholto. Jim Reid's wife Ishbal also had a new baby girl, Kirsty, a sister for Mairi. Finally Christie and Kate Broadbent have also added to their family with the happy arrival of Elliot, a little brother for Charlotte. Many congratulations to them all.

Due to the busy summer commitments in 2012 the Battalion had postponed its annual Cocktail Party and Beating Retreat and it was not until 29 November that we finally had the opportunity to hold the event. The evening was an entertaining and sociable one with the Mess members being joined by around 100 invited guests from as far afield as Ballater and Perth. We were entertained by the Pipes and Drums Platoon who took the opportunity to showcase their program for their upcoming tour of the United States. High points of the evening were the excellent Fijian Choir and some very talented Highland Dancing from young soldiers who had only been dancing for a month prior to the event.

As always Christmas proved to be a very good time to bring people together in celebration. Readers will be pleased to hear that the tradition of the livers-in going to the married quarters to sing Christmas carols continues as does the hospitality afterwards. Another tradition that we proudly continue is the observation of Red Hackle Day in January, with the Mess this year doing its bit by running a games night against the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Sadly we lost on our home territory but the Mess members are assuaged somewhat with the thought that we will only need to wait another year for the rematch!

As is always the case, people move on. And so we say a fond farewell to Captain Harry Gladstone after a long period at Regimental Duty. The Mess is losing a stalwart member who has consistently contributed to the smooth running and high standards we pride ourselves on. Thanks go to Harry for all of the hard work he has put in as Treasurer and we wish him and his family all the very best for the future. Bobby Stewart is off to Headquarters 3rd (United Kingdom) Division and our warm thanks go to him for his time as Mess Secretary. An unglamorous task however one that he completed with dedication and commitment. Rob Hedderwick has been posted to Army Headquarters in Andover and we wish him luck with the new challenges ahead.



WOs and Sgts Mess Inverness 5Km Team Attack winners WO2 Parker, SSgt Carpenter, CSgt McBride and WO2 Beaton.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

It has been a very busy time for the Mess with several changes to the Committee and the normal comings and goings of Mess members. This period in the year also saw considerable planning taking place for important functions which are reflected on below.

On the 12th December 2012, the Battalion held the annual Christmas lunch for all the junior ranks in the Junior Ranks' restaurant. After an excellent lunch provided by the Battalion chefs, a couple of drinks and a few flying "tatties" the Commanding Officer addressed the troops and congratulated them on an outstanding year gone by.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants then invited the Officers to the Mess for Christmas lunch. The invite was carried on into the evening with all returning for an evening of "games". After a fair bit of socialising in the bar, the first part of the night's proceedings was the raffle of Christmas themed cakes that were baked and designed for a competition by the chefs of the Battalion. There was a heady atmosphere with both Messes getting stuck into the bidding which resulted in the cakes being raffled, with Major Broadbent successfully bidding £155 for a Christmas cake. WO2 Parker ran around the Fort 71 times, totalling 51 miles on the same day for charity, raising a considerable sum of money.

Then the games began. With a slow start for volunteers for the game "Peg Face", a little extra alcohol was administered to ease the more modest members of the Messes which developed into some hotly fought battles in the "indoor assault course", "space hopper jousting" and "pin head" (all very imaginative names I'm sure you will agree!). The tone of the evening was set very early on and was maintained throughout the night with maximum games participation and a lot of banter! The evening resulted in a close victory to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. It was a very successful night, which was enjoyed by all who attended and the Sergeants Mess would like to thank the Officers for their first rate sportsmanship although revenge was promised when the Officers invited us to their Mess for a similar night the following month!

Christmas Ball

By CSgt Mitchell

After receiving the Warning Order to organise the Christmas Ball along with Sgt Roy Brown (who was posted out shortly after), CSgt Mitchell soon realised that there wasn't the full three months to plan, book and confirm the night and this was all reinforced further as other commitments saw CSgt Mitchell deployed on cadres and live firing camps.

With all Mess functions being held either in the Gym or Mess, we immediately started to source an outside venue which was not made easier to organise when deployed to Otterburn and Warcop! The one that came up trumps was the Kingsmill Hotel, Inverness. Although when Mess members were informed of the plan, the most common question received was "How much for a drink!?"

The evening was planned with a minimum of fuss approach; the aim was for Mess members to come along after a few warm up drinks in the Community Centre, grab a seat with their friends and "hae a gid feed an' a swally". The tables were full of wine, beer

and cider and it wasn't long 'till the traditional kitties were being put together!

After a very nice meal and some sweets from the Candy trees, we kicked things off with the Raffle and the cash tree. Notably the RSM won the 40" LED TV and kindly donated that to the Mess.

After the formalities, it was time for the Mess to party! Whilst it was a shared venue with local banks and businesses, the Mess held its own on the dance floor and sloshed its way through the night to DJ Ray-Vone as he spun his wheels of steel.

Overall, it was a successful night; even more so for the prize winners! The Mess had a well needed laugh, release of steam and enjoyed some good food.

Burns Supper 2013

By WO2 (CSM) Fairweather

This year, as many others have found, Battalion commitments meant that attention to other areas may have slipped somewhat. The preparations for the Burns Supper were moving more slowly than what would have been classed as comfortable, however, with a couple of weeks to go, it all came together as usual. (No flapping required at all – honest!)

The event kicked off with the 'Meet and Greet' on Thursday, 24 January 2013 with a few of the guests showing up for what is normally a reserved event before the Friday night.

There were fewer guests than normal this year. With this lower attendance, it allowed us to break from the norm and have the Burns Supper in the Mess. This brought a completely different atmosphere to the evening; it seemed 'cosy'. With the tables a little closer together, the banter flowed from table to table, as did the whisky which I think made a better atmosphere during the evening.

The evening's poets put on a first class performance. This was highlighted by WO2 (CSM) Jimmy Fraser's rendition of Tam O'Shanter. Many, including Joe Hubble remarked that it was the best recital they had heard of that poem, which is itself a feat to learn due to its vast content.

Overall it was a really successful weekend and all due to the hard work of the committee, chefs and poets, with many other great talking points including the food, mess staff and of course the guests.

I now look forward to sitting back and enjoying next year's event.

CORPORALS' MESS

Presiding member:	WO1 (RSM) S Shaw
PMC:	Cpl R Wedgwood
PEC:	Cpl R Ellis
Bar Manager:	CPL R Cochrane

It has been a busy period for the Corporals' Mess. The ambitious programme of development has come to a conclusion as we have finished the upgrades to the Mess with a new games room at the rear of the building and we also have put in a set of DJ equipment; it is now fully open every night, Monday to Saturday. The introduction of tea and toast at NAAFI break bringing us into line with the WO's and Sgt's Mess continues to be a success.

In November, we deployed as a Battalion on Exercise WARCOP HACKLE where we conducted live firing platoon and company level training and a section patrol competition. All Mess members took part with those in charge of a Section being reminded what it means to lead a section. Of note, the Duke of Rothesay's Patrol Competition took place over 2 days with a number of check points and a march and shoot at the very end. It was hard work but Cpl Bruce's section from the Recce Platoon won with LCpl Wilkie's section from 1 Platoon, Alpha (Grenadier) Company coming second; so many congratulations to them both.

In December after the hard work of exercise, the Mess focused on end of year social activities and we had our Christmas Ball in the Kingsmill Hotel, Inverness. The planning and preparation for this was headed up by Cpl Steele of the Mortar Platoon. The evening itself was a real success with entertainment provided by a local DJ and food and drink provided by the hotel. Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun and enjoyed the night immensely.

After a well-earned Christmas leave, the Mess continued a number of social events with Red Hackle Day proving a success. Later in January, attention was turned towards our Burns Supper which was held at Fort George and the planning and preparation was led by Cpl Peacock. Having been handed this hot potato at quite short

notice, he pulled off an awesome weekend with the first night being the Mess member's night, consisting of characters and poems – and our fill of alcohol! The Saturday evening was the wives' night which again proved to be very successful.

In February we found ourselves deployed again as a Battalion on Exercise HICKORY HACKLE to test our skills and drills in preparation for our United Kingdom Contingency Battalion (UKCB) role. We were tested in low level skills and drills and also Public Order where we practised the use of baselines and snatch vehicles.

The Mess has also been taking part in wider community activities and recently entered a team into the Inverness 5km "Team Attack" where they performed fairly well – next year we'll aim to beat the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes! Cpl Wedgwood also ran the Inverness marathon and raised money for various charities.

The Mess committee has now changed over with Cpl Smith (D (Light) Coy) taking over as PMC, Cpl Wishart (MT Platoon) taking over as PEC and Cpl Culligan (A (Grenadier) Coy) taking on the Bar. Thanks go to the outgoing committee who worked hard to get things back up and running and we look forward to the new committee ensuring the Mess continues to grow. Indeed plans are already in place for some key events: There is to be a Summer Ball headed up by LCpl Qualobulawasakabara (RP Staff) which will be "Island Theme" and which already is set to be a good night. There are plans in place for a Cpl's vs Sgt's Mess Games Night in the near future, the Christmas Ball in December and the Burns Weekend in February 2014; all set to be held at Fort George.

In conclusion, it has been an eventful reporting period with the hard work of the committee and Mess members paying off. There is clearly much to look forward to over the next 6 months.

A (GRENADE) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major Hedderwick
Second-in-Command:	Captain Towler/Captain Stewart/ Lieutenant C McRobbie
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 Fraser
Company Quarter Master Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant Anderson
1 Platoon Commander:	Lieutenant Voce Russell
1 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Welshman
2 Platoon Commander:	Second Lieutenant Smyth
2 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Sharp MC
OC FSG ALPHA:	Captain Halliday
2IC FSG ALPHA:	Colour Sergeant Mitchell
FSG Sergeant:	Sergeant Brady



Platoon Sergeants unite – Sergeants Welshman (left) and Sharp.



LCpl Wilkie looking good.

I hesitate to mention Her Majesty The Queen's Royal Guard again having written at length about our time in Ballater in the last edition of The Red Hackle but as it lasted until November 2012, and was such an extraordinary experience, I feel that it warrants a final paragraph. After Her Majesty's departure in early October, the focus switched entirely towards supporting our Royal Colonel, HRH The Duke of Rothesay. The stalking increased to six days a week and the Backnagairn beat had to cope with the additional pressure of working to a new ghillie, one who knew the ground better than anyone – HRH The Duke of Rothesay himself! Our final act was to line the street for his departure from Birkhall before we ourselves packed up and re-deployed to Fort George. The efforts of the whole Company throughout the summer were fantastic. By the end, many had spent eleven out of the last fifteen months away from their homes but not once did the commitment or effort levels wane. For attached elements the culmination of the Royal Guard also meant the return to their parent Companies; we are hugely grateful for all their hard work and support.

As enjoyable as The Royal Guard was it felt good to be re-united with the Battalion and head down to Cumbria to participate in Ex WARCOP HACKLE, a live firing package on Warcop ranges. Swelled by many new arrivals in the Company, it provided a fantastic opportunity to revise our core skills as Infanteers and we conducted live firing up to platoon attack level. Midway through the package we paused to compete in the annual Duke of Rothesay Section Patrol Competition; an arduous thirty five kilometre course with military stands along the route. The Grenadier teams all did well, in particular Cpl Culligan's section which finished second in the main competition and LCpl Wilkie's section which won the march and shoot element.

After three weeks of Christmas leave we returned ready to undertake training to become the UK Contingency Battalion in March 2013. This potentially could involve the Company fulfilling a number of tasks nationwide as part of the defence contribution to UK resilience and so the preparation has had to be reasonably generic. We have accumulated a mass of driving licences and conducted public order training in the eventuality that we are deployed to support the civil police in some fashion. The pinnacle of this training was the aptly names Ex HICKORY HACKLE! It is always reassuring to see the relish in the eyes of the Jocks when they are given a solid baton and told they are allowed to hit other people without having to stand to attention in front of the CSM the following morning – for the likes of LCpl Nisbet and Pte Buie it is almost akin to having a second Christmas! Despite public order being a skill the Battalion have not had to master for some years



Pte Stevens new approach to dating.



Pte Kumar attempts to chat his way past Lieutenant Voce Russell.



Sgt Sharp takes a break.

now, it would seem the enthusiasm for the task has not diminished an iota! Although perhaps unlikely that we will deploy under the auspices of being the UK Contingency Battalion, the role has afforded the Company training resources that we would otherwise not have had and we are only too happy to grasp them. With the focus of the Battalion no longer either Afghanistan or Iraq it is key that we remind ourselves of the skill sets required to be a light role Infantry Company; we must be robust, durable and able to fulfil any of the missions or tasks associated with being Infanteers and it is refreshing to be able to have the time to address skills that have been understandably neglected over the last decade.

Against this backdrop there have been other activities ongoing which have kept us out of trouble. Cpl McFadden, Cpl Davies, Pte Withington and Pte McLaren conducted two months of Mission Specific Training so as to be prepared to reinforce 1 Mechanised Brigade – they were eventually stood down just prior to Christmas. 1 Platoon again dusted off their drill boots and deployed to Edinburgh to conduct Public Duties. Although this visit was only for forty eight hours they still conducted themselves with panache and their customary swagger. A composite training team from the Company deployed to Kirkcudbright to train GPMG, HMG and GMG gunners from across the Battalion and WO2 Fraser and Cpl Davies are busily planning another Games night for the British Legion in Fort George. While everyone else was working hard, Captain Stewart headed off to Brazil to represent the UK Armed

Forces at a counter-insurgency symposium. He is still being suspiciously tight lipped about his three weeks in Rio although there are credible rumours of diplomacy being taken to the extreme!

It has been a pleasure to welcome CSgt Mitchell, Sgt Brady and the rest of their Fire Support Group to the Grenadiers. I am pleased to say that they will be a permanent addition to A (Grenadier) Company as the Battalion re-structures to meet the Army 2020 vision. They bring with them their heavy weapons ability and will make a vast difference to the intrinsic firepower of the Company. We also welcome 2Lt Smyth to the fold. Fond farewells are bid to both Captains Towler and Stewart who have both held the mantle of Company 2IC in the last six months. Both have given sterling service to the Company. Lieutenant McRobbie steps up from commanding 2 Platoon to take on the role. Congratulations are due to CSgt Anderson who has been selected for promotion to WO2 and Cpl Carpenter for his promotion just before Christmas. I will end by saying my own farewell. It has been a tremendous honour to have been the custodian of the Grenadiers for the last two years; the Company spirit remains as strong as ever and they continue to be a very special bunch of men. They are well set to deal with whatever lies ahead of them.

BRAVO COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major J A Reid
Second-in-Command:	Captain R C W Doughty
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 M J Fairweather
Company Quarter Master Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant C Weir
5 Platoon Commander:	Second Lieutenant A Deck
5 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant B A Young
7 Platoon Commander:	Lieutenant I Walker
7 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant A Wells
OC FSG Bravo:	Lieutenant R M J Martin
FSG Bravo Sergeant:	Sergeant L J Walker

Bravo Company has been focusing on our core infantry skills as we prepare for the UK Standby Battalion Commitment whilst also keeping a weather eye on the Army restructuring that lies ahead. Readers familiar with the Journal will have been aware of the article “The Implications of Army 2020” written by Major General M L Riddell-Webster DSO for the November edition. At the tactical level some changes have started to filter down, including the introduction of a Fire Support Group (FSG) into each of the Battalion’s Rifle Companies. The FSG concept grew out of the task organisation of the Anti-tank Platoon and the Machine Gun Platoon for current operations. The implementation of Army 2020 has resulted in 6 Platoon becoming a FSG Platoon integral to the Company. It will be equipped with the Javelin Anti-tank weapon, the 40mm Grenade Machine Gun and the venerable and effective General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) in the Sustained Fire role.

Ex WARCOP HACKLE

When not on operations we train and so in November 2012 we deployed for a fortnight to Warcop Camp on Exercise WARCOP HACKLE to conduct our annual live field firing package. At the time the Company was somewhat under full strength as Lieutenants Martin and Walker and about half of the Private soldiers had volunteered to train for and potentially deploy to Afghanistan in 2013. Lieutenant Walker’s article outlines this commitment below. Their secondment did however give opportunities for others to work one level up. Platoon Sergeants commanded the platoons and this trickled down to allow some of the more senior Jocks to be given the experience of commanding fire teams for the first time.

The first week concentrated on low level skills and the Company conducted battle lessons and exercises in the lee of the ‘Helm wind’; the United Kingdom’s only named wind, on the bleak Murton Pike. On extraction from this training area some vehicle tracks were made on the grass outside a cottage in Murton. The follow up repair work by members of the Company G4 team so impressed the owners they were invited in for tea. The conversation was interesting and displayed an in-depth local knowledge from both sides of the fence; military users of the training area and locals. One talking point was the former village pub that has now been converted into a house. The hosts spoke of their mirth that ironically, it was now occupied by Methodists – Pte Stott misheard that it had in fact been taken over by ‘Methadone users’ – not quite the same thing and not typical of the idyllic but windswept Murton!



B Company Jocks test their drills.



B Company scatter the riotous Grenadiers during Public Order training.

We continued our training with the field firing package. This was the first opportunity since our return from Afghanistan to use good British training areas with plenty of streams and ditches to crawl through; that age old test of who has the courage and guts to adopt a fire position in the best cover available in spite of personal discomfort!

Over the middle weekend of the Exercise, the Battalion ran the Duke of Rothesay's Patrol Competition. Section Commanders navigated their sections over tough terrain through a series of stands designed to test their military skills. Although the Company did not win, there were some notable performances with Cpl Winter's section finishing fifth out of twenty two teams. The second week of field firing continued with section attacks culminating in platoon live firing. The exercise provided a good run out for the Company and enabled some worthwhile development of Junior NCOs. A Company Smoker was held in Warcop Camp the night before our return where Pte Brown's excellent stand up comic attributes were unveiled to the Company HQ. Many commented that he could put some professional comedians to shame.

Training for Op HERRICK 18

By Lieutenant I Walker

Multiple One Commander:	Lt R Martin
Multiple One Second-in-Command:	Cpl MacFadden
Multiple Two Commander:	Lt I Walker
Multiple Two Second-in-Command:	Cpl Durie
Multiple Three Commander:	Sgt Roy
Multiple Three Second-in-Command:	Cpl Davies

In late autumn 2012 whispers of a manpower request to support a deployment on Op HERRICK 18 in April 2013 started circulating through the windy corridors and alleyways of Fort George where fighting men have long huddled for shelter from the bitter winter winds. Low and behold the Jock's ability to sniff out a rumour was reaffirmed as the Battalion was asked to provide 48 men to train alongside 2 SCOTS for a potential deployment to Afghanistan.

Volunteers were asked for and in spite of our recent return from operations, there was an excess of applicants all too willing and eager to deploy. The volunteers consisted of a large number of younger officers and soldiers who arrived at the Battalion too late for deployment on HERRICK 15 and were spoiling for their chance to be proved in combat. Also there were a number of recently promoted Lance Corporals who had been on operations as Jocks but now wanted to command on operations for themselves.

We began our training in Fort George by getting ourselves up to the required standard to start Mission Specific Training (MST). This involved a 2 week condensed package of Mandatory Annual Training Tests (MATTs), equipment consolidation and resolution of the welfare issues you may imagine arise when potentially sending someone on operational training at short notice. The three Multiples (a 16 man fighting unit optimised for Counter Insurgency Operations) were then moved down to Dreghorn Barracks in Edinburgh to be closer to 2 SCOTS who were assisting our training. Immediately the Jocks' eyes lit up when they realised how close to the bright lights of Edinburgh they were going to be living and working!

Assistance from 2 SCOTS consisted of provision of instructors, facilities and weapon systems such as the sharpshooter rifle and combat shotgun. The commute provided its own opportunity as we either travelled to Glencorse Barracks by coach or in keeping with long held traditions of the area, walked over the Pentland Hills. Not only did the Jocks get fitter but they also gained some qualifications that will stand them in good stead for their future. All 48 members of the 3 Multiples became qualified team medics, a third of the men took short language courses in Pashtu and the rest became proficient in every weapon system they may have been expected to come across in Afghanistan.

In spite of leaving Fort George behind we made use of the Battalion field firing camp in November 2012 and attended Ex WARCOP HACKLE as a formed body. This allowed us to achieve all the live fire training required without having to move to Lydd ranges on the South coast with the remainder of the units warned off for HERRICK 18.

Luckily it wasn't all work in Edinburgh. We managed to find several gaps in the training cycle to build up the social cohesiveness of our "band of brothers". One such gap allowed us to take the men to Laser Quest in Penrith. All the Jocks enjoyed themselves but some more so than others. Pte Scott of 7 Platoon was so eager for the ensuing laser battle that he ran face first into a wall in the first 10 seconds of the game. This resulted in one broken nose and much mocking from the rest of the Jocks.

Unfortunately for those eager to deploy, it was announced just before Christmas leave that there was to be a troop reduction in Afghanistan and we were to cease preparations for the deployment. Even though we didn't deploy on HERRICK 18, I know that each of us benefited from the training, the experience making them stronger as soldiers and more valuable to their parent platoons on their return. I am confident that had we deployed, the men would have worked extremely hard and upheld the reputation of the Regiment and the Battalion while on tour.

Ex HICKORY HACKLE

By Second Lieutenant A Deck

The Battalion's deployment on Exercise HICKORY HACKLE was the culmination of the Public Order element of our training, leading to the assumption of the UK Contingency Battalion role. For Bravo Company it started with a low level rural operations shake out, which saw us deploying onto Catterick training area on a cold February night. The Company immediately established two hasty (and very cramped) platoon harbours and after some quick patrolling revision settled into routine. The next day was focused on low-level section skills such as the construction of range cards, section attacks and establishing patrol harbours. In the evening, section strength recce patrols deployed under cover of darkness to confirm the presence of the enemy within the Company area. Once intelligence had been collated, estimates conducted and orders issued, both 5 and 7 Platoons launched simultaneous deliberate attacks onto the enemy positions. On the whole, this short time in the field proved a good opportunity to refresh skills that many had not used for some time.

The second phase of the exercise saw the Company move to Whinny Hill FIBUA Camp to conduct Public Order training. After a quick



7 Platoon receive expert advice.

revision session, 5 and 7 Platoons alternated through platoon level Public Order battle exercises. With the knowledge that they had a warm building to sleep in at night the Jocks needed little encouragement to get stuck into the CIVPOP rioters provided by Alpha Company. The Exercise progressed to Company level operations with 15 Platoon attached to Bravo Company. The OC gave orders for the platoons to establish blocks at three road junctions within the village in order to intercept a hostile crowd. The attention of the crowd soon turned to the security forces, so orders were issued for the platoons to disperse the crowd through some carefully choreographed manoeuvres. The Public Order phase of the Exercise concluded with two further Company serials, which saw Bravo Company separating a fighting crowd and driving a hostile group away from the police station. After being put through our paces it was time for Bravo Company to don their tracksuits to take over as the resident rioters. Unsurprisingly, many of the Jocks were naturals at this and provided a realistic opposition for Charlie (FSp) Company. Company HQ also got involved; it was not uncommon to see the OC flying into the shield lines (although it took photographic evidence to persuade him that he was indeed putting in the odd flying kick). The Company Second-in-Command also demonstrated a readiness to riot and received numerous baton strikes for his efforts. In one instance, every member of the advancing shield team detoured past the fallen officer in order to dispense a friendly plastic baton strike. His threshold for pain seemed only to be rivalled by Pte Collins, who seemed to get a strange enjoyment from it.

In conclusion there are as ever a number of parish notices to make. Congratulations are due to Major Reid and Ishbal on the birth of Kirsty, Private Hamilton and Terri-Lee on the arrival of Rosie; Private Elliott and Leah Devine on the birth of Dylan Elliott, Private Kanyenda and Elisah Mtete on the birth of Kai and finally Private Chuma and Lessa Simbota on the safe arrival of Nathaniel. We wish their families every blessing for the future.

Also worthy of a special mention is the promotion of Privates Kelly and Vulaca to Lance Corporal and also Lance Corporals Nicholson and Simpson to Corporal after their successful completion of the Section Commanders Battle Course at Brecon.

CHARLIE (FIRE SUPPORT) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major C M B Broadbent
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 (CSM) Beaton
Company Quarter Master Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant McCulloch
Reconnaissance Platoon Commander:	Captain T Towler
Reconnaissance Platoon 2IC:	Colour Sergeant Taylor
Reconnaissance Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Pow
Fire Support Group Commander:	Captain A Jackson
Fire Support Group 2IC:	Sergeant Roy
Fire Support Group CQMS:	Colour Sergeant Mitchell
Mortar Platoon Commander:	Captain M Dobson
Mortar Platoon Second-in-Command:	Sergeant Bright
Mortar Platoon Sergeant:	Corporal Mortley
Sniper Platoon Commander:	WO2 Smith
Sniper Platoon Second-in-Command:	Sergeant Muncie
Pipes and Drums Platoon Pipe Major:	Colour Sergeant Grisdale
Pipes and Drums Platoon Drum Major:	Sergeant McLaughlin

In the last edition of the Red Hackle I wrote that the period had been one of contrasts for the Savages and that we were entering a time of

regeneration for our specialist skills in order to support the Battalion better. This is indeed what we have been concentrating upon, with Charlie (Fire Support) Company focusing on developing our core support weapon skills as well as our core infantry skills. It has by no means been a quiet time. Whilst key activity for the Company has been our Recce, Sniper, FSG and Mortar Cadres, we have also been involved in battalion wide training events and the normal battle rhythm of an Infantry Company. Separate articles from each of the platoons will give more specific details and so I will concentrate here on an overview of some of the bigger issues.

As more than likely readers will be aware, work is well underway for restructuring the Battalion to come in line with the Army 2020 Orbat. Specifically, this sees each Rifle Company with an integral Fire Support Group (FSG) platoon. With the FSG concept having grown out of the task organisation of the Anti-tank Platoon and the Machine Gun Platoon for current operations, each FSG Platoon is equipped with the Javelin Anti-tank weapon, the 40mm Grenade Machine Gun and .50 cal Heavy Machine Gun. By them being integrated back into a Rifle Company, they will immediately enhance the capability of the Company group. We have chosen to adopt the model earlier and consequently there is an ongoing, managed release of the FSG to each Rifle Company: Alpha (Grenadier) Company received theirs in November 2012, Delta (Light) Company is scheduled to receive theirs prior to summer leave in 2013 and Bravo Company in the Autumn of 2013. This will mark the end of Charlie (Fire Support) Company having total control over the assets of an FSG; but the requirement remains for us to retain a "dotted line" regarding the coordination of centralised FSG training (cadres, ranges, etc). It is a developing situation and one that we look forward to being in the forefront of influencing.

In November 2012 we had our first run out as a Company for some time, deploying for a fortnight to Warcop Camp on Ex WARCOP HACKLE to conduct our annual live field firing package. Whilst the first week concentrated on low level skills with the Company conducting battle lessons and section attacks by day and night, the second week concentrated on firing the various weapon systems and occasionally in support of Rifle Company serials. In between the weeks, the Duke of Rothesay's Patrol Competition focused the Section Commanders on leading their sections over tough terrain and through a series of stands designed to test their military skills. It was quite a shock to some but everyone gained a considerable amount from it – if not simply reminding us what it is like to walk around with cold, wet feet in the middle of the night, during a cold winter evening in the North of England! There was fierce competition but I am proud to say that Cpl Bruce's section from the Recce Platoon won first place – a great achievement and accolade for the Savages!

Christmas leave was well earned and a welcome break but the focus soon turned to preparation for the United Kingdom Contingency Battalion (UKCB) commitment. In a welcome change, we have been tasked with standing alongside the Rifle Companies as a formed Company to be tasked accordingly. Consequently, there have been many, many Orbats and task orgs drawn up, revised and revised again – which WO2 (CSM) Beaton thoroughly enjoys! The additional training requirement has been welcomed with the old sweats tipping the lantern about "the good old days" of Public Order training. Indeed, the Company deployed on Ex HICKORY HACKLE in February 2013 which was the culmination of the Public Order element of our training and validation for the Battalion prior to the assumption of the UKCB role. The opportunity to let off steam as an angry CIVPOP was excellent and the entire chain of command took the opportunity to get involved. I think that some of the Jocks will not be able to look at the Company Commander in the same way again! Once this phase was complete, we deployed for a short time onto the ground which allowed us to revise some rusty light role infantry skills before we then took our turn of standing on the base line. This was the highlight of the week and the Company were the epitome of controlled aggression. Good work from all and I am confident that if called out in this role, we would not let ourselves down.

Of particular note has been the Pipes and Drums tour of the United States of America. As part of the Columbia Artists Management Inc (CAMI) led tour, and playing alongside the Band of the Scots Guards, Captain Halliday, Pipe Major Grisdale and Drum Major McLaughlin led the P&D for three months, criss-crossing the US and playing at different venues nearly every night. It was quite a gruelling task! Having



Charlie (Support) Company at Warcop Ranges in November 2012.

been lucky enough to visit, I can assure readers that the Pipes, Drums and Dancers of this Battalion stole the show each and every time. There has been plenty of coverage of this tour on the internet and I encourage you to view their performance via YouTube.

In conclusion, the reporting period has been filled with various activities. We have deployed on exercises, are restructuring to meet future needs, we are standing next to the Rifle Companies as a distinct Company Group for UKCB, we have supported our soldiers on numerous courses ranging from education, promotion, SCBC, PSBC and specialisms, we have undertaken numerous cadres to continue to regenerate the needed support weapon capabilities and expertise and individuals have been posted out of and into the Company. It is safe to say that it neither dull nor quiet within Charlie (Fire Support) Company. Forward the Savages!!



Major Broadbent enters into the spirit of the training

RECCE PLATOON

Recce Platoon Commander: Captain T Towler
 Recce Platoon 2IC: Colour Sergeant Taylor
 Recce Platoon Sgt: Sergeant Pow

After the excitement and inevitable disruption that a busy summer period supporting the Battalion's commitments to the Royal Guard and Op OLYMPICS died down, the pace of life did not drop for the Recce Platoon. Always on the hunt for opportunities to maximise training, the chance to enter a section into the 2012 Cambrian Patrol provided just such an excellent opportunity for the Reconnaissance Platoon to return to its primary function. Despite the very limited time for preparation, the team commanded by Captain Stewart and managed by Sergeant Pow put in a strong performance, scoring highly on the stands and receiving a certificate for completion. We will be back stronger and

better in 2013! The competition was not without its casualties however, and then Captain Stewart having faced the worst of the Brecon weather, decided he required an extended break from the rigours of the recce environment and has now left to take up his new post as ADC to GOC 3 (UK) Division.

Following the Cambrian Patrol, the platoon took advantage of a much needed opportunity to return to basics; completing the Battalion live fire concentration, Ex WARCOP HACKLE. This saw us detached to D Company and progress up to platoon level live firing, providing the opportunity to assess the quality of the new recruits to the platoon received from the Rifle Companies. However, it was the Duke of Rothesay's Section Patrol Competition which proved the highlight of the exercise. The Recce Platoon entered 3 teams into the competition and for 36 hours they battled each other and the remainder of the Battalion in completing a number of military skills stands before the final march and shoot. As is often the case this final serial proved decisive in the overall outcome of the competition and congratulations must go to Cpl Bruce and his section who came first in this gruelling competition, ensuring that the Duke of Rothesay's Dirk returned to the Recce Platoon and that we are the people to beat for next year!

Having subsequently departed for a well earned Christmas leave, the platoon arrived back at Fort George on the 6 January 2013 refreshed and ready to complete the Light Recce Patrolmans Cadre. Overseen by the new Platoon Commander, Captain Tim Towler and run by Colour Sergeant Taylor and Sergeant Pow, the cadre successfully qualified new additions to the Platoon and more widely, the platoon for Recce operations. Whilst we can control the programme, one thing we cannot do is control the weather and the final exercise conducted on Ben Wyvis was particularly demanding, creating a true sense of achievement and "bragging rights" for the newer members of the platoon.

Congratulations must go to LCpls Ritchie and White who have promoted to Corporal over this period, as well as Ptes Putherer, White and Cameron who have been promoted to Lance Corporal. At the time of writing Captain Towler has successfully completed his Light Recce Platoon Commanders' Course, and we await his return in time to start preparing for the challenges facing us during the remainder of the year.



Cpl Bruce of the Recce Platoon and his winning Section of the Duke of Rothesay's Competition.



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SNIPER PLATOON

Sniper Platoon Commander: WO2 Smith
Sniper Platoon Sgt: Sgt Muncie

The Sniper Platoon has undergone a major transformation over the last few months. As has been stated by OC C (FSp) Company, the overall aim for training within the Company is the regeneration of capabilities and we have very much benefitted from this. Having started this period under the command of the Recce Platoon, it was identified that the Snipers were crying out for their own identity. Consequently, under the brief stewardship of Captain Eltringham before he moved to 2 SCOTS, a development programme was created with a number of exercises designed to train and progress the platoon in the art and skill of sniping. Whilst Captain Eltringham set this in motion, the arrival of WO2 Smith and Sgt Muncie (the latter fresh off his Sniper Commander's course) allowed this and the administrative requirements of running a platoon to continue. We were also able to re-orbat as a separate entity within C (FSp) Company.

With that in mind, it was with a relatively junior but extremely enthusiastic platoon that approached Ex WARCOP HACKLE, the Battalion Live Fire concentration in November 2012. After the relative comforts of supporting the Royal Guard at Balmoral and Op OLYMPICS, being reintroduced to field soldiering was a welcome return to green life and the subsequent Duke of Rothesay's Patrol Competition proved both physically and mentally demanding for those members of the platoon fortunate enough to take part. The physical demands of patrolling across the moorland of the Pennines in what can only be described as difficult weather conditions ensured all who stayed the course had a real sense of achievement and it is to Cpl Arnold's credit that his scratch section turned in such a strong performance. The exercise and patrols competition provided the perfect catalyst for the new members of the platoon, fresh from the Rifle Companies to gel and reacquaint themselves with the basic field skills that would provide the building blocks for the forthcoming sniper cadre in January 2013. Also, having



Cpl Hattan instructing Cadre students on the finer points of adopting a firing position.

conducted a number of introductory shoots on the awesome .338 rifle, they were able to fully support the platoons during their live fire packages, which included platoon attacks by day.

Having returned from a well-earned Christmas leave, the work of regenerating the sniper capability within the Battalion continued with the platoon deploying for 6 weeks to Barry Buddon training area in order to conduct the long anticipated Sniper Cadre. For those that think sniping is easy you should think again. It is no easy task to become a badged sniper and this cadre was no exception. Under WO2 Smith



Sniper Cadre students crossing the river to begin their final Badging test stalk.



L/Cpl Boa preparing for a day as a walker in the snow.

and Sgt Muncie, it soon became clear to those who had a doubt, that only the highest of standards would impress the training team and although all returned to the Battalion better soldiers, only two individuals were eventually badged. It is to their professional credit that they achieved this and should be impressed with what they have achieved. Others came close to the mark and so as I write, a second cadre is being conducted under quite extreme weather conditions on Ben Wyvis; so we hope to be able to bring more news of an increase in our numbers in the next edition. That said, whilst we require to develop the numbers within the Battalion, this will not be at the expense of quality and if it takes longer to gain the right quality of individual through, then so be it; the Battalion will be better for it in the long run.

We continually look for opportunities to hone our shooting skills. With the support and encouragement of our Company Commander, we are able to exploit opportunities to participate in the culling of deer on some of the local estates. Not only is it a great way to practice our skills in a different environment, it also demands that our professional skills of fitness, noise discipline, camouflage and marksmanship principles are brought to the fore – combined with being on the hills out of the Fort, it's a winning situation for all!

Before we sign off, congratulations must go to Pte Power who has successfully promoted to L/Cpl, and to L/Cpl Peebles on the birth of his daughter. As ever, a number of personalities have left the platoon for pastures new; we wish Cpl Arnold all the best for his posting to ITC and hope that Pte Fisher enjoys a successful transition back to civilian life.

FIRE SUPPORT GROUP

Following a long summer spread to the four corners of the kingdom serving various worthy causes, early autumn saw a period of con-



Private Spears and Private Rogerson on the Gun Line with their Heavy Machine Gun.



Firing the venerable GPMG in the SF role.



FSG stretching off prior to a gun run – Kirkcudbright.

solidation in which the Fire Support Group reformed as a single entity under the joint command of two newly appointed Support Platoon Commanders, Captain Andrew Halliday and Captain Alex Jackson. With almost no time to take stock and draw breath, the Battalion post-operational reorganisation brought a large cohort of eager volunteers into the FSG fold, all hungry for new skills and fresh challenges.

And so, in early October the FSG decamped to Otterburn Training Area for a seven-week cadre. With a team of thrusting young blades, namely Cpls Carmichael, Bergh and Reddington, taking on the lions share of instructional duties, the Jocks were schooled in the handling and tactical employment of the Javelin anti-tank system, the General Purpose Machine Gun, the Heavy Machine Gun and the Grenade Machine Gun. As well as providing inexperienced members with a comprehensive induction into their chosen trade, the cadre also presented the opportunity to revise old heads in the fundamental skills of the FSG. Long hours spent mastering the weapon systems in the classroom were enlivened by regular physical training, with both Platoon Commanders competing to deliver the most punishing workout. The month long skill at arms phase was followed by a tactics phase that culminated in a challenging final exercise, covering the full spectrum of dismounted FSG operations. Thanks to the dedication of the training team and the hard work of the Jocks, the cadre was a resounding success and set a high benchmark for all future collective FSG training.

No sooner had the Platoon returned to Fort George than we deployed on the annual Battalion live firing camp in Warcop. Although nobody seemed particularly chuffed to be returning to this part of the world and yet another soul-destroying transit camp so soon, the Jocks welcomed the opportunity to vent their frustrations during a week of heavy weapon ranges. This was the first opportunity for most of the new members of the Platoon to fire the Heavy Machine Gun and Grenade Machine Gun, having learnt to strip and assemble them blindfolded during the cadre. The huge smiles that spread across the faces of the firing detail said much for the value of the training and the standard of morale within the Platoon and I'm pleased to report that the high spirits matched the quality of marksmanship. Post-Warcop, the FSG was again restructured into two distinct Platoons, one remaining in Charlie (Fire Support) Company and the other subordinating to Alpha (Grenadier)



The combined Fire Support Group.

Company. With Captain Halliday heading to the United States as OIC Pipe Band, CSgt Scott Mitchell was taken away from his familiar habitat of Charlie Company and handed the control of the rebranded FSG Alpha.

Overall, this has been an extremely hectic yet productive period for the FSG. With much debate surrounding the future structure and deployment of fire support assets within the Light Protected Mobility role, I am confident that both exciting times and challenging tasks should be expected in equal measure.

PIPES AND DRUMS USA TOUR 2013

OIC Tour: Captain A Halliday

Pipe Major: CSgt Grisdale

Drum Major: Cpl McLaughlin

The Pipes and Drums have recently been privileged to take part in a three month tour of the United States. This has been organised by Columbia Artists Music Inc (CAMI) and has been undertaken with the Band of the Scots Guards. Together, they have performed specially arranged music which takes in the splendour of the British Isles and takes the audience on a musical journey through Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England. It also showcases our Highland dancers who have always gone down well with those sitting a little too close in the front rows! This tour has by no means been easy; whilst there has been some well-earned downtime, the routine has often seen them perform nearly every night they have been away and usually in a new venue. So the scale of The Black Watch Pipes and Drums USA Tour 2013 has been epic. Nearly 30,000 miles across most of the United States have been driven by bus, 59 performances successfully held and tens of thousands of theatre patrons spectacularly entertained.

What met us in the USA has been overwhelming. Standing ovations at every venue have been the norm. As musicians it simply cannot get any better. We started our tour at the magnificent Kimmel Centre for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. With a hundred foot high ceiling and an interior designed to enhance the acoustics of musical instruments, covered entirely in Macore wood fins, mahogany and cork, we could not have asked for a better place to begin.

New Jersey and Pennsylvania followed this. We found some time in amongst the crammed schedule to visit New York and took in the eerie sombre atmosphere of 'Ground Zero' and Captain Halliday bore witness to the tremendous dancing ability of Pte Craig on a night out.

In some ways we are almost better received in the USA than we are back in the UK. One night in Newport News, Virginia the band chanced upon 'Toby Keith's' Bar and Grill after a performance. A very well known Country musician, we were met by a Herculean 'Cowboy' bouncer at the entrance who seeing our Military IDs, insisted on free beers, burgers and entry for everyone. Humbling and inspiring in equal measure.

We have experienced the fact that in South Carolina things are a bit different. It was here that the Mayor and a few city councillors informed

the Pipe Major that 'they were the law' in response to a question about whether 'moonshine' was illegal or not. Suitably chastened and in no doubt that it was illegal, but that is immaterial when you run the State, Pte Archibald celebrated his 21st birthday there. Suffice to say he was made to wait at the entrance to a bar by yet another behemoth of a man, until the clock struck midnight before his epic 24hrs birthday began. We are still not sure whether 'moonshine' was involved in the birthday celebrations but we are pretty certain that he will not forget his birthday anytime soon.

We met more Major Generals than the British Army possibly has in it! And when one Major General stands up and 'orders' the 2000 people in the audience to give us another round of applause and another Major General lovingly embraces his wife during our performance of 'Amazing Grace' you know you did well.

Our promised travels to Canada did not disappoint either. Captain Halliday unwisely decided, whilst watching the Super Bowl in Toronto with Dave Mack and the RSM of the 48th Highlanders, to belittle a very attractive young lady for wearing earmuffs. Sadly for him, the sum result of his walk home later that night was blistered ears as a result of the -17 degrees centigrade that he was met with! Not to be outdone though, the smaller but no less impressive city of Ottawa served up a healthy -30 degrees on the night we visited. Never before have we witnessed the need to park your bus inside or leave it idling all night, just so it starts the following morning!

The warmer climes of Texas, the Mid West and California also impressed all. Distinctly different to any other State we have visited, Texan hospitality was evident everywhere we went. Perhaps the most touching moment came in Beaumont. A few hours prior to the performance, whilst walking through the foyer of the theatre, Captain Halliday came across a glamorous older lady wearing an old Black Watch enamel pin on her blouse. She recounted how she had met the members of The Black Watch Pipes and Drums in 1997 on a previous tour of the USA. The real beauty of the seemingly unremarkable story lay in the fact that she met them on the evening she took her, now deceased husband, for his first glass of wine after a year of treatment for cancer. She was so impressed by the compassion of the band members coupled with their sense of good fun that she kept the enamel pin and subsequently visited Fort George and the Highlands in the mid 2000's. As Captain Halliday and Pipe Major Grisdale bid her farewell at the end of the show it emerged that she was still one of Texas' most prominent and wealthy business women. She had not thought to mention that, only to show her appreciation for a group of men she first met one night 16 years ago.

In Las Vegas, we welcomed the Commanding Officer Captain Halliday found himself entertained in a penthouse room at the Cosmopolitan Hotel overlooking the Bellagio fountains, Pte Archibald spent most of his evening trying to outrun one of the pipers and the Band Sergeant Major of the Scots Guards found an unknown and very naked woman in his bed upon opening the door of his hotel room on our arrival at our own fairly rustic hotel. It was not quite a rerun of



Captain Halliday in America with Senior American Officers.



'The Hangover', but it had its moments. Pte Noble reaffirmed his love of Van Halen and Kiss, but sadly picked the only tattoo artist in Vegas with an inability to draw straight lines. Pte McKenna entered into a Tabasco Sauce eating competition with the Commanding Officer and Cpl Campbell managed to ride a mechanical bull for 27 seconds – simply remarkable.

Sadly Vegas passed quickly and the beaches of San Diego welcomed us. All too quickly the tour took us up the coast to the outskirts of Los Angeles where Captain Halliday had the good fortune of being 'tackled' by three generations of women from the same family...suffice to say the star of the family was none other than June Lockhart. Any eagle eyed film buff will remember her from the original 'Lassie' and 'Lost in Space' films. Still glamorous and with a razor sharp wit she charmed all the band members.

But the highlight of the visit to California must surely have been the journey to San Francisco and the epic Golden Gate Bridge. In amongst the fabled Pacific Coast mist we got a few rays of brilliant sunlight displaying the city in all its glory. It was difficult not to imagine yourself as Steve McQueen racing along its streets.

Our daily travels were made possible by a small group of people. Namely Marya (as in Mariah), Jeremy, Gabe, John and Alison. Marya proved the heartbeat of the tour. She was the Tours very own Jackie – the woman who all made it all happen. Jeremy was the Pipes and Drum's bus driver. He has become an expert on 'Braveheart', 'Band of Brothers', 'Act of Valor' and 'Superbad' and in turn made us firm fans of American football. Gabe the driver for the Band of the Scots Guards became our very own Mexican 'homey' negotiating us through the tricky bits of American cities.

John meanwhile was our truck driver and Alison our production manager. Both tough, resourceful and always there to help us out.

The Tour was a great success, a fantastic experience and proof that The Black Watch, its men and its special brand of camaraderie, history and ability to entertain and make friends everywhere, still have currency. Long may this unique tour continue.

MORTAR PLATOON

Mortar Platoon Commander:	Captain M A Dobson
Mortar Platoon Second-in-Command:	Sergeant Bright
Mortar Platoon Sergeant:	Corporal Mortley

Having deployed to Earls Court over the summer in support of D Company's tasking to provide venue security to the indoor Olympic volley ball, it was with a degree of anticipation that the Mortar Platoon approached the return to 'Green' training provided by the Battalion Mortar Cadre in September. Due to the recent high tempo within the battalion it was decided that the cadre would be split into both theory and practical phases; the former occurring at Fort George and the latter integrated into the battalion Live Fire Exercise (Exercise WARCOP HACKLE). This decision not only greatly reduced the soldiers' nights out of bed but also provided time for Captain Dobson to attend and pass his Platoon Commander's course at the Support Weapons' School (SWS).

With both the Platoon Commander and 2IC away, the Cadre provided an excellent opportunity for the junior commanders to take the lead, with Cpls Ellis, Kyle and Ross taking responsibility for the two week "Numbers" Cadre and Cpls Mortley, Stewart and Steel the subsequent Executives Cadre. Both cadres were a considerable success with the Numbers element qualifying 12 new mortar men in the operation of the 81mm Mortar, whilst the Executives element generated four new ACPOs and refreshed the skills of all the Platoon's qualified MFCs prior to the live firing phase.

The Platoon live firing provided an excellent culmination to the Cadres, allowing the Platoon not only to complete their annual weapons assessment but also expose individuals to realistic command appointments as observers in preparation for future career courses. During this period, the Platoon also found time to enter three teams in the Battalion patrols competition, and although they didn't trouble the leader board, all should still be commended for their individual efforts; a particular mention should be made of Cpl Ross who managed to complete the course with his section intact.

Post Cadres, the focus has been on preparing to support the C (FSp) Company commitment to the Battalions' United Kingdom



The Mortar Platoon range staff try to keep out of the wind and rain.

Contingency Battalion (UKCB) role. This has seen a slight change in OrBat as we looked to mirror a more conventional platoon force laydown for Public Order (PO) training. The subsequent training conducted at RAF Kinloss proved a great focus for the platoon, exposing many of the more junior members to their first taste of a Public Order situation (the FSG must be rewarded with a mention here for the ease in which they slipped into role as a rioting crowd!). It also greatly increased individual confidence prior to Exercise HICKORY HACKLE, where it became a source of great pride that although the B Company CIVPOP feared the speed of the FSG and 13 Platoon base lines, it was the weight and ferocity with which the Mortar Platoon's blows rained down that caused real panic!

It hasn't all been Hickory sticks and cadres though and professional development has been high on the agenda. As part of the regeneration of our capability, Cpls Ellis, Kyle and Ross have over this period all completed their Mortar Advanced Course. Of particular note is that Cpl Kyle gained an instructor recommendation flying the flag for the Battalion. LCpl Watson has also successfully completed his Mortar Standard Course and is looking forward to operating as an MFC B in support of the Rifle Companies. Outside of work, the Platoon continues to support the Battalion's sporting calendar and a special mention is given to Cpl Stewart who continues to play Army Golf and LCpl Vasunakasi who this season has been a regular in the Infantry Rugby team. The Platoon would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sgt Porter for his hard work and wish him the best of luck as he leaves the Army for the challenges of the Maritime Security world. Goodbyes must also be made to Ptes Anderson, Menzies and Smith who all leave the platoon to try their luck in civilian employment.

DELTA (LIGHT) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Captain Paul Seligman
Second-in-Command:	Gapped
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 (CSM) Wilson
Company Quarter Master Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant Barrie
13 Platoon Commander:	Lieutenant Tait
13 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Bavadra
15 Platoon Commander:	Lieutenant Treasure
15 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Hunter

After the excitement of a summer spent at Earls Court providing the Venue Security Force for the Olympic indoor volleyball event, it was a welcome return to routine at Fort George for Delta Company.

Immediately on the horizon was Exercise WARCOP HACKLE, a live firing exercise which would require our section and platoon commanders to delve deep into the dusty corners of their memories to remember those offensive tactics learnt on the soggy slopes of Sennybridge Training Area whilst at Brecon. Many of the Jocks had not participated



Corporal Lavery and his section who came third in the Duke of Rothesay's Section Competition.



LCpls Clement, Johnstone and Brown demonstrate period weapons at the Culloden museum.



Delta Company on the ranges during Exercise Warcop Hackle in November 2012.



Sergeant Bavadra pictured during Exercise Warcop Hackle.



Lance Corporal Vinibobo prepares some extra rations during Exercise Warcop Hackle.

in any 'down in the mud' infantry training for some time and excitement was in the air. Furthermore, the sections had the Duke of Rothesay's Patrol Competition to look forward to over the weekend in the middle of the exercise.

All three sections performed excellently with the experienced Corporal Lavery leading his troops to a very creditable third place in a tough competition. The ground over which the competition was run was steep and wet and the weather less than kind. All three sections came in without dropping a man, a feat unique to Delta Company and all troops showed enormous resilience and determination to succeed. The next Patrol Competition is due to be a platoon effort – let's see how the Platoon Commanders measure up to Corporals Lavery, Everett and Smith!

The live firing was also excellent, if a trifle muddy. There is little that a Jock delights in more than firing live rounds and many thousands were expended over a variety of ranges so that an enjoyable time was had by all.



The GPMG Gunner uses the wet route.



15 Platoon restoring order during Ex HICKORY HACKLE in February 2013.

Once Warcop was completed, the next focus was the Christmas period which the Company threw itself into with gusto – unsurprising for men who spent last Christmas in Nad-e-Ali. With nights out in Inverness, games nights in camp and family events on the “Patch” it was truly wonderful to be back in the Fort during the festive season. The Jocks’ Christmas Lunch in the cookhouse, served according to long tradition by the officers and senior NCOs, was almost the last act before Christmas leave.

Eventually, with sore heads and overfull bellies, the Company returned to face 2013. With the United Kingdom Contingency Battalion (UKCB) commitment looming, first up was Exercise HICKORY HACKLE, an exercise in the techniques used to control public disorder. One of the few things in the world that is better than firing live rounds is being given the opportunity to have a pop at another Company and training in the run up to the exercise was fierce. In Whinny Hill, the urban operations training village in Catterick, Delta Company gave as good as they got both when wielding sticks and shields and when acting as the civilian population throwing wooden bricks. The experience was enormous fun and an excellent training opportunity. It has not all been work though; the last six months has seen Delta Company’s Private Rokoduguni selected for the Army Rugby Under-23s team. He has played in several matches against service and civilian teams and will soon play for the Combined Services team against Oxbridge at Twickenham in the match immediately preceding the Army vs Navy match.

Since the last edition, Delta (Light) Company has said farewell to Major Andy Richards, who has moved to Battalion Headquarters, Lieutenant Nick Allen-Perry, now in command of a platoon of recruits at ITC Catterick and Sergeant Torrance, who has taken up a post as

a Permanent Staff Instructor with 7 SCOTS (our sister Reserve battalion). We have been delighted to welcome Lieutenant Treasure and Sergeant Bavadra to the Company. Finally, we are looking forward to welcoming our new Company Commander, Major John Bailey, who is returning to the battalion after a few years at Staff College and 19 Brigade.

The next big event will be Exercise GOLDEN WRATH, in which we will deploy to Cape Wrath to practise more traditional infantry skills. Company HQ is looking forward to dusting off the ponchos and feeling nostalgic about Brecon! The summer will also include a few opportunities to mount guard at Edinburgh Castle and, best of all, a chance to spend the warm months at Fort George and enjoy all that the Highlands have to offer.

HQ COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major J Howe
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 (CSM) Dunn
Company Quarter Master Sergeant:	CSgt McBride
G1098 JNCO:	Cpl Peacock
Arms Kote JNCO:	LCpl Brown
Accommodation Storeman:	Pte Thomson
Company Clerk Senior:	Cpl MacGregor
Company Clerk Junior:	LCpl Matin

HQ Company continues to flourish despite the plethora of changes that have taken place over the last months. We have said farewell to a number of individuals who have gone on to new assignments including the RSO (Captain Harry Gladstone). Harry was a man of many talents and was often utilised as the battalion photographer, Kirk Pianist and Black Watch historian. We wish Harry, and everyone else who have left the Company our best wishes for the future. At the time of writing these notes, Major Howe is preparing for a new role as Quartermaster of this Battalion with the current Quartermaster, Major Colin McInroy swapping places to become the new OC. Handover notes will be short and importantly there will not be far to travel for either party to discuss any legacy issues!

CO’s PT on a Friday morning for the Battalion is a fantastic experience enjoyed by all members of the company; indeed we compete well with the other sub units within the Battalion. The CO has encouraged his PT sessions to be tough and extremely competitive with the winning Company normally being awarded a “prize”, usually in the form of an additional day off. The one time we were in a position to take first place, the Sergeants’ Mess Manager, Sgt Davie Muirhead aka ‘The Memory Man’ forgot the ‘two words’ he had to memorise in order to complete the task. Unfortunately, these two words proved too difficult for him to remember, thus ensuring the Company failed to secure a coveted 1st place! To be fair to Sgt Muirhead, he redeemed himself in the eyes of the OC through his efforts and excellent hospitality at the fantastic Burns Supper held in the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess. That is another story and probably not one for this forum!

All departments within the Company keep the Battalion moving; each has been busy and you will gain some insight into this when reading the reports from a number of departments. It is fair to sum up by saying that it is never a dull day in HQ Company.

QUARTERMASTER’S PLATOON

Quartermaster:	Major C McInroy
Quartermaster (Tech):	Captain G Hogg
RQMS (M):	WO2 Cunningham
RQMS (T):	WO2 Marshall

While there has been some fundamental changes happening within the Army, the one constant you are guaranteed is the QMs Platoon. We have been pushing harder to improve life here at the Fort for the benefit of all and a notable recent success is that we managed at last to get wireless internet (Wifi) installed within Fort George. This has been a fairly high hurdle to get over and has included the help of many outside agencies; thanks and well done to all involved. This has improved life for all individuals living within the walls! There has also been some improvements made to the ‘Red Hackle Club’ and the programme will continue for the foreseeable future. Significantly, there was also the much awaited news that finally came in early March through the Ministry of Defence’s Future Basing Plan announcement that the Battalion will remain at Fort George. We anticipate that this will no



CSgt McBride the CQMS, receives a cake for his birthday.



HQ Coy Accommodation Storeman Pte 'Tommo' Thomson keeping warm.



Main Deployed.



Sgt Winton giving clear direction.

Platoon whether this be within the newly fitted BOWMAN Classroom in the Training Wing at Fort George or the deployed headquarters. The Platoon has also had the opportunity to support the SCOTS Regimental Training Team (SRTT), during periods of Potential JNCO and Pre-Brecon cadres during the first quarter of 2013.

This has also been a very busy period in relation to Information Technology equipment and its management. Significantly, we have rolled out across the Battalion, the Microsoft Office SharePoint System (MOSS) which is a newer, updated way for managing and storing the huge amounts of information generated. This has certainly caused CSgt Andy Braid some sleepless nights and very busy days but it has been worth it, as its implementation has been a great success with information being more easily shared and distributed

around the Battalion, saving time and ensuring electronic ways of working are understood better. CSgt Mark Shearer and his band of 'merry' men are to be commended for their hard work within the CIS store with the onslaught of the new stores accounting systems MJDI (Management of the Joint Deployment Inventory) and JAMES (Joint Asset Management Engineering Solutions). This has been a very busy time for them. Cpl Ross and LCpl Murphy both attended the Application Specialist course in sunny Blandford towards the end of 2012 and their new found knowledge of the BC2T (BOWMAN training classroom) has become invaluable during recent periods of Staff Training. All of the Company Detachment Commanders have had their first run out of their Company Command Posts and this has been a very educational time for both the Detachment Commanders and Company chains of command.

There has also been a recent surge on driver training for the Platoon and congratulations are to be given to Ptes McPhate and Olaleye on passing their Cat B licences and Pte Russell on passing Cat C. Further driver training is planned to be rolled out for those within the Platoon without licences. The most "lucky" man within the CIS Platoon has had another stint in hospital; Pte Seath while attending the potential JNCO cadre in Edinburgh was taken into hospital and had his appendix removed! Whilst an extreme way to get off a course, he will be back on the road soon enough and hopefully recover in time for the next potential JNCO cadre!

Inevitably, there have been a few changes within the Platoon since last we updated the wider community. Captain Harry Gladstone has moved to become the Ops Offr within Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) Support Battalion. We would like to thank him for all his hard work and support to the platoon; he and Katie will be greatly missed. The Platoon would also like to congratulate them both on the birth of Geordie (the Wee G). Sgt Bronwen Collins has moved on to Aldershot within the recruiting world and best wishes are passed to her for the future. Cpl Chris Bonnar and his family have made Catterick their home for the next couple of years as Cpl Bonnar assists in the training

doubt begin to see much needed infrastructure improvements to the Fort now begin to roll out as our future is secure.

The QMs Platoon has as normal been busy; we converted our accounting procedures to a more upgraded system called MJDI with Cpl Harris in the lead and RQMSs Cunningham and Marshall having had a few sleepless nights overseeing the transition, although Sergeants George Benson and Davey (ma tent) Finlay have been taking this in their stride! Ex WARCOP HACKLE allowed Corporal Pratt to get on with his day job, whilst the QM(T) Captain Glenn Hogg was looking for him to attend Physical Training in the Gym.

A new Equipment tracking system named JAMES, kept the QM(Tech) on top of his game, although he has been keeping others on their game having implemented the age old 'stables' parade which has kept the MT platoon from sitting about drinking coffee all day, and is gearing the Battalion towards our future Protected Mobility role and the vehicles which we will receive in the near future.

As always, there have been a few changes; we said farewell to Corporal 'Turtle' Derek Wallace who will long be remembered and never forgotten especially for his 'going away' present. Lance Corporal Morgan who, at a fairly furious pace, was replaced by Lance Corporal 'Gaz' Marshall, (shortly to attend his Tailors course in Deepcut), was again replaced by Corporal 'twitch' Catto, who was posted in from C (FSp) Company. Major Colin McInroy has swapped with Major Jamie Howe from Quartermaster to Company Commander, Headquarters Company, so he has only moved about 50 yards and can still cast a beedy eye on the goings on! Lance Corporal Sammy O'Gorman continues to be the 'jack of all trades' getting himself qualified in most areas within the QMs world. We welcome back Sergeant Hammy Hamilton from sick leave and he is back in command of Corporal 'slug' Sloane who has ably kept the Clothing store 'open all hours'. Finally, well done to Corporal Davey Finlay on his recent promotion – you are finally now at the same dizzy heights as Corporal Harris!

With recent basing announcements, there is much to be getting on with. The day job is as busy as ever despite the numbers slowly dwindling in establishment figures. However the QMs Platoon as ever continue to offer help and guidance, wherever and whenever required – and always with a smile!!

CIS PLATOON

Regimental Signals Officer:	Captain HW Gladstone/ Captain N Drapper
Regimental Signals Warrant Officer:	WO2 Tollan
CIS PI CQMS:	CSgt Shearer
Bowman Systems Manager:	CSgt Braid
Platoon Sergeant:	Sgt Winton

The CIS Platoon has been well employed during the winter period assisting in the preparations towards the United Kingdom Contingency Battalion (UKCB) role and Battalion Staff training. The shift towards 'Green Army' training and the roll out of the BGHQ and BOWMAN tent has presented itself with an abundance of training days for the CIS

of the new recruits coming through ITC; we hope to see him again soon. Cpl Morgan Gilbert has moved on to training the Royal Signals TA. LCpl Allan Stewart has left the platoon and the Army to gain a career in Marine Security; we wish him and Andrea all the best for their future. LCpl Wilson and Sig Brabbs have both learnt of their future postings and plans are coming together for them moving onto bigger things within the Royal Signals world. Sig Brabbs is to be congratulated on passing his Class 1 course and fingers crossed, also his potential JNCO cadre so that he can get his foot on the first rung of the ladder. We wish them good luck. On a personal note, congratulations must go to Cpl Paterson on the birth of twins Eli and Kayden. Finally, Captain Drapper (RSO Des) has recently been for his first trip to Fort George and has been given his introduction to the CIS Platoon, his roles and his responsibilities. He is looking forward to joining us in June 2013.

Overall, it has continued to be a busy time. The skills and qualifications required to operate such technical communications equipment and information technology demonstrate that the platoon continues to be a place for motivated and capable individuals who are also required to undertake the same training as those within Rifle Companies. We continue to look forward to the challenges of supporting the Battalion in the many exercises and commitments over the Spring and Summer.

TRAINING WING

Trg Offr: Capt J James
Trg WO: WO2 Parker
Trg Sgts: Sgt Dowdles
Sgt Leslie
Trg Cpl: Cpl Wedgwood

Don't just train, inspire

After many years of neglect, the Training Wing has been reinvigorated with new life providing focus on establishing an asset that can deliver soldiers the best opportunity to pass carrier courses and at the same time provide facilities to enable training across the Battalion. The Training Wing has been at the forefront of much of the Battalion's main activities since Op HERRICK 15, providing support to ranges, pre section 21C courses, pre-Brecon courses for both JNCOs and SNCOs and training a cohort for a potential deployment on Op HERRICK 18. Other activities have included platoon attack ranges for Ex WARCOP HACKLE and the delivery of Public Order (PO) training for Ex HICKORY HACKLE. Sadly, Sgt Leslie will soon be leaving the team for civilian life and we all wish him well in his future career.

This recent reinvigoration has seen the Training Wing delivering training to a high standard but has also allowed staff finding time to support Battalion Rugby and Cross-Country activities. Of particular note has been WO2 Parker's epic effort to run for 12 hours around Fort George for MFR's Cash for Kids charity. The total distance was 55 miles (72 times around the Fort) and he raised over £2500. Well done indeed!

The Training Wing is now firmly the shining light and inspiration for all training within the Battalion, and with a strong team and clear direction, will go from strength to strength. We look forward to engaging with the Companies to assist in their training needs and to ensure the Battalion's soldiers are supported and prepared as best they can be.



The Training Officer lying down on the job.



WO2 Parker leading the charge.

CATERING PLATOON

People do not always fully appreciate the hard work that the Catering Platoon does on a daily basis, seven days a week. Having completed a busy and high tempo summer period, just a glance at the Battalion's Forecast of Events confirmed that the tempo was in no way about to ease up!

The months of September and October 2012 saw the continuation of the Catering Platoon's commitment to The Royal Guard at Balmoral. This is always a busy period for the Platoon with a number of prestige functions such as The Ponyman's Ball, The Ghillies' Ball and also catering for the Commanding Officer who paid a visit and was hosted by the Officers of Alpha (Grenadier) Company. As a chef, compliments are always reassuring and the chefs who deployed throughout this period were very highly praised.

The annual Battalion Week, held in late September, has traditionally always been an event that would see the Catering Platoon pushed to its limits. This was no different with manpower split between The Royal Guard, support within Fort George, chefs seeking to squeeze in some much needed summer leave and individuals on courses. The Battalion Week began with the combined Officers and Sergeants Messes dining out of Lieutenant Colonel Fenton. Whilst we worked hard, a fantastic evening was had by all and the meal that the then Commanding Officer received was still receiving rave reviews in the weeks that followed. Things really started to hot up in the kitchen for the rest of this week with the onslaught of a BBQ for the entire Battalion, the Officers Mess and then Warrant Officers & Sergeants' Mess Summer Balls – all in the space of four days and with a reduced Catering Platoon and endless renditions from the RCWO of the Royal Logistic Corps Motto "We Sustain"!!

October saw the return of those chefs who had deployed with Alpha Company, all happy to have returned, looking forward to some summer leave and much deserved time with family and friends. The Catering Platoon welcomed Pte Carter to the department posted in from 4 SCOTS. Pte Rupacha was given the great opportunity of a 3 day work placement in Edinburgh with Campbell's Prime Meats, where he was instructed in advance butchery skills and came back bursting with knowledge that he wanted to pass on. A great experience with much gained by both him and this platoon.

Christmas was fast approaching which is always a testing time of year for the platoon. The 51 Brigade Christmas Cake Competition was the first commitment to be given attention by all those who had been nominated to enter a Christmas cake. Much to our delight Cpl Armstrong came home with the winning cake in the Senior category! The Jocks Christmas lunch was hailed as a massive success and well received by everyone. The Officers and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess held a combined lunch later that afternoon followed by the auctioning of the Christmas cakes that were recently entered in the competition. There were 4 cakes auctioned in total and with the top bid on one of the cakes being £150.00 (generously received from Major Broadbent), they raised £400.00. All money was doubled by the Commanding Officer and then donated to WO2 Parker's chosen charity, Cash for Kids.

Christmas leave was very well received and thankfully all chefs were fully rested and raring to go again just in time for the celebration of Red Hackle Day. The day consisted of supporting functions in all three Messes and was another challenging but very successful day supporting the Battalion in celebrating a tradition! Sadly it was time to say farewell to LCpl Harper on posting and to Pte Rupacha, posted on a very well deserved promotion. Fortunately replacements have come in the form



Cpl Carlile and Pte Akerman showing off the Christmas Cakes at the 51 Bde competition.

of LCpl's Coates, McCombie and Pte Walker; all three are warmly welcomed to the department. Potentially the most challenging weekend within a Scottish battalion was soon upon us, as it was time to celebrate Scotland's most famous Bard, Robert Burns. The Wives' Club kicked off the celebrations, quickly followed by the Warrant Officers & Sergeants' Mess, the Corporals' Mess and due to the success of all the Burns suppers, our team was also asked to support the Highland Branch of the RHF Association's Burns Supper. After weeks filled with copious amounts of haggis and brewing Athol Brose, the Burns celebrations finally came to an end and proved another massive success for the Catering Platoon!

It's not all working within a comfortable barracks. February saw us supporting the Battalion's Public Order training which was being held within Kinloss Barracks. Most recently, our last commitment has been the Battalion's deployment on Exercise HICKORY HACKLE, which was another great opportunity to show the Battalion what our chefs are capable of, outwith the normal environment. It was also a great chance for the chefs to get back to basics and cooking in a field kitchen, with limited resources, for many hungry Jocks!

In short, it has been another very busy, challenging but also a very rewarding time for the Catering Department which has proven its motto "We Sustain", over and over. We look forward to what the Spring and Summer months have to offer.

BATTALION GOLF

OIC Golf Society: Major Jamie Howe
Golf Society 2IC: WO2 Robbie Tollan
Golf Society Secretary: Sgt Kev Winton

Members:

Maj Mark Friend	Sgt Eddie Nicol
Capt Glenn Hogg	Cpl Paul Stewart
Capt Euan Gorrie	Cpl Chaz Ross
Capt Jamie James	Cpl Alan Pratt
Lt Chris McRobbie	Cpl Aaron Sloan
WO2 Paddy Marshall	Cpl Phil Davies
WO2 Alan Dunn	LCpl Barry Thomson
CSgt Mark Shearer	LCpl James Purce
Sgt Stu Anderson	LCpl Steven King
Sgt Jim Will	Cfn Stevie Oliver

The formation of the Golf Society is now complete and the members are looking forward to the start of the new season in April 2013. Although the Society has been in existence for years, it has fallen away slightly due to the Battalion's busy operational tempo. Despite the extremely successful trip to Spain last year after our return from Afghanistan, there have been limited opportunities for the Golf Society to participate in any structured golfing activities. Now that we are experiencing a scheduled period of stability the members are growing in number. The Golf Society has been offered the use of the facilities at the local Nairn Dunbar Golf Club at a much reduced price which is an exceedingly generous offer by the Club. The Nairn Dunbar Club Secretary, Mr Jim Gibson has been magnificent in his support to the Battalion and the Club has now been adopted as our 'home club'. In addition, the Golf Society has been well supported by the Commanding Officer and has been assisted financially to purchase five golf memberships at Nairn Dunbar available for use by all members of the Society. Money was also

made available to purchase some new golfing equipment for use by those members of the Battalion who don't own any golf clubs.

The Society 2IC, WO2 Robbie Tollan, has worked feverishly on behalf of the OIC Golf to get the society up and running and there are a plethora of golfing events planned for the coming season. The season kicks off in earnest for the golfers with the first monthly medal scheduled to take place on 17 April at the Nairn Dunbar course. Handicaps will no doubt have to be scrutinised and adjusted accordingly by Major Howe as there are some members of the Society who feel the need to be economical with the truth regarding theirs!! Without naming anyone specifically, Captain Glenn Hogg (QM (T)) and WO2 Alan Dunn (CSM HQ Coy) will have theirs scrutinised very closely. Having played with both of these members a number of times now it is apparent that they have a radar system on their golf balls as neither of them ever seem to lose a ball!! Indeed Captain Hogg has the best 'foot wedge' in the Battalion ensuring he always has a good lie for his next shot. Although planning is in the embryonic stages it is intended that members of the Golf Society participate in a golfing tour in the heart of the traditional 'Black Watch' recruiting areas in and around the Dundee area in August 2013. This will be fantastic and as well as being fun for the members of the Society, it will also act as a potential recruiting activity as well. Finally the Golf Society plan to enter a team into the Infantry Golf Championships taking place in April/May 2013 to represent the battalion. The team has yet to be confirmed but entering this competition will put us firmly on the Infantry golfing map and a full report of how they performed will be written into the next edition of The Red Hackle. For readers' further information, a rough outline of the planned activities for the Society for this season is as follows (although dates may be subject to change):

Date	Event
17 Apr 2013	Golf Society Monthly Medal
30 Apr – 2 May 2013	Infantry Golf Championships-Catterick
22 May 2013	Golf Society Monthly Medal
12 Jun 2013	Golf Society Monthly Medal
3 Jul 2013	Golf Society Monthly Medal
12-16 Aug 2013	Golfing Exped – Scotland
11 Sep 2013	Ahluwalia Cup
23 Oct 2013	Golf Society Monthly Medal
20 Nov 2013	Golf Society Monthly Medal



Major Jamie Howe utilising the new home course.



CIS Golf outing at Castle Stuart – Cpl Miller, LCpl King, LCpl Wilson and Cpl Ross.

BATTALION RUGBY

Unit Rugby Officer: Capt M A Dobson
Unit Rugby 2IC: Lt I Walker
Head Coach: Capt J James
Kit Man: Sgt Dowdles

Recent operational commitments has made it hard to ensure continuity within Battalion rugby, but the period of stability which we have experienced since returning from Op HERRICK 15 has meant that we can focus on taking the structure from strength to strength. The post Op HERRICK 15 rugby tour to Belgium pro-



*LCpl Tawayaga Inverurie Sevens
Player of the Tournament.*

vided the perfect opportunity for the team to say farewell to the previous Rugby Officer, Captain AJ Phillips MC, who on assumption of his new role as Battalion Ops Officer finds his time at more of a premium. The team has benefited greatly from his time in charge, and this was never clearer than in Belgium. Despite having not played a competitive fixture for over a year, the Battalion were able to field two 10s teams for the Flanders Open, an international competition held in Dendermonde. Although slightly worse for wear from the overnight ferry trip between Newcastle and Utrecht, the rustiness was quickly cleared by a short – but intense – training session on arrival at

Dendermonde RFC. Here it was made quite clear the responsibility the players had in representing the Battalion to an international audience; they didn't disappoint.

The development team comprising several players new to the sport, displayed real courage in fronting up to the physical challenge presented and achieved a commendable 14th place finish out of 40 teams. It was the first 10 though with their Fijian flare and physicality, that really caught the crowd's attention. Commended for both their infectious approach to the game and sporting behaviour, they quickly became the crowd favourites and were so unlucky to lose a close fought semi-final against an invitational ANZAC side, comprising several semi-professional players. Eventually the team finished 3rd overall.

Unfortunately the regular 15s season has been disrupted through a restructuring of the ARUs competitions as they look to widen the profile of the sport further still. Despite this disruption, Lt Walker, LCpls Gasacalayawa, Jamison, Vasunakasi and Ptes Raboa and Rokoduguni all still managed to represent the Infantry in this year's Inter Corps competition with Pte Rokoduguni going on to receive both Army A and Combined Service U23 recognition. We look forward to seeing him compete against an Oxbridge select 15 as a precursor to this years Army v Navy at Twickenham on 27 April 2013.

All that is left now is to look forward to a busy close season that will see a number of friendly games against both 3 RIFLES and 39 Engineer Regiment as well as the Police Service of Northern Ireland. The team will also compete in the UK North Inter Unit 10s, Dreghorn 7s and Highland RFC 7s (Inverness) before returning to Belgium from 16-21 May 2013 to try and better last season's performance. It looks to be a promising year and I look forward to reporting on our progress.

BATTALION FOOTBALL

Team Manager: WO2 (CSM) R W Beaton
Team Coach: Sgt E Nichol
Kit Man: Sgt Currie

Operational commitments have played their part in disrupting our passion for pursuing the sport but under strong leadership, we have continued to compete well. The Battalion football team would like to say a big thank you and farewell to their manager for the past two and half years; Captain Hood left to take up a post at Harrogate. It is fair to say he did an outstanding job with the team and we wish him all the best in his new post.

A new management team of WO2 (CSM) Ross Beaton and Sgt Eddie "Five bellies" Nichol have been drafted in to take over but under the watchful eye of Sgt Scottie Currie. Sgt Nichol is a qualified football coach and will be an invaluable member of the team with him no doubt showing the youngsters how football should be played after he has dusted off his boots!

The football team has had a mixed 6 months, with them firstly winning the 19 Brigade 6-a-side competition in Ballykinler in September 2012, without losing a game and only conceding one goal throughout the tournament. With the closure and disbandment of 19 Brigade, the trophy now has its final place of rest in the WO's and Sgt's Mess. Unfortunately the team then followed this up by being beaten 2-1 by a strong 3 RIFLES team in the Infantry Cup first round; with at least 7 first team members being either on course or deployed in America, who knows what could have been if we had

them all to pick from! Having put up a spirited fight, a 2-1 defeat against probably the favourites for the cup is not too bad. In 2013 we are hoping to enter the Alloa 6s and retain the trophy we won last year against some really good military and civilian teams from across Scotland.

Given the daily commitments of individuals, it has been hard trying to get together the whole squad at the same time with everyone scattered to the four winds. We are going to be able to get the team away to play a number of friendlies in the next few months 2 SCOTS, 2 RIFLES and hopefully 1 SCOTS in Edinburgh which will get the team practiced and back into shape. This is important as the Battalion is about to embark on the "Junior Marindin Shield" after Easter Leave and this will be a 7-a-side platoon competition that was last won in 2001 by C Company. This will involve every Platoon in the Battalion taking part and will involve 2 leagues of 8 with the top 2 teams playing each other for a place in the final.

There is now a great interest in the football team with the Battalion sports day being compulsory and this is bringing a lot of new players for the management team to look at. There have been three of the team put forward for their coaching courses: Cpl Eddie Mortley, LCpl Scotty Scott and Pte Danny Lyons. Given the stability which we now have, the Battalion football team will continue to go from strength to strength and I look forward to reporting on our successes in the next edition of The Red Hackle.

Ex NORTHERN TARTAN DIVE

In January 2013, some personnel from the Battalion were very lucky to be able to participate in a diving expedition to Cyprus. Most of the expedition members were new to diving and for the first time began to realise that it wasn't quite the swan they were hoping for. The risks in diving are significant and those who were new, began to realise that like most Adventure Training it provides an opportunity to test yourself! Mental aptitude and courage are tested in what is essentially, a challenging hobby but more significantly, you become dependent on the equipment, coupled with new found skills within an alien environment; and so the adventure begins.

The first few days were fairly intense, for all 12 of us were diving every day at least twice and some of the keener members of the expedition achieved 3 dives a day. The weather was perfect and despite some medium swells and drizzles of rain we had ideal conditions. As the Ocean Divers were going through their depth progression training we moved between various dive sites each with its own unique interest and progressive experiences. It has to be said that you are not meant to combine physical exercise with diving as it can increase the risk of narcosis and other diving related illnesses but that didn't stop us working hard and breathing heavy. As always effort brings rewards and as we gained more experience the reward came in the form of a dive boat dedicated to us for 5 days!

Boat diving is far less strenuous and more time can be devoted to diving. The joy of dropping directly onto your intended dive site with minimal activity just adds to the fun and adventure. We were once again blessed with ideal weather conditions and one of the most famous and best dive sites in the world was exclusively ours for the next 5 days. The "Zenobia" sank on the 7th June 1980 due to loss of stability, with no loss of life. She went down with 103 articulated lorries, 1 Lada motorcar, 1 Volvo medium wheeled tractor and a large dumper truck. She lies on her Port side in 43 meters of water to the seabed, with her bow facing south. The depth to the side of the wreck is approximately 16 metres.



*WO2 (CSM) R Beaton with
the 19 Brigade 6-a-side winners
shield.*



*The Junior Marindin shield
that will be competed for in
the 7-a-side inter Platoon
competition.*



Pte Cameron takes the leap of faith.



Pte McKie rests onboard the Zenobia 2 dive boat.



Pte Pritchard enjoying life underwater.

The wreck itself is intact; however, the accommodation and restaurant areas are in a poor state, with a lot of debris lying around. The upper car deck is easily accessible, but the trucks inside are constantly moving (spooky I know!). The diving is fantastic with lots of life as it has now

become an established reef. Most of the sea-life sits between 16 and 25 meters so it's ideal for all diver grades. I think we managed to explore all but the most extreme dive sites on the "Zenobia".

The expedition was a resounding success and as a further benefit, there are now 8 newly qualified Ocean Divers, a Sport Diver and a Dive Leader in training as a result! Hopefully this will establish a strong interest within the Battalion and we plan to do more diving – perhaps not in the Moray Firth, but watch this space!

ATTACHMENT TO THE BRAZILIAN ARMY

By Captain R J Stewart

Early on a Monday morning the Operations Officer asked me if I wanted to go to Rio. I was initially slightly confused as to whether Rio was in fact an acronym for an Army Training area somewhere in the UK. By the end of the week I was jetting off to Rio de Janeiro for a 4 week attachment to the Brazilian Army, as the rest of the Battalion was deploying on Ex WARCOP HACKLE.

During my stay I was going to be attached to the Brazilian Joint Centre for Peacekeeping Operations (CCOPAB) on the outskirts of Rio. It is responsible for training soldier and officers from the Brazilian Armed Forces, friendly nations and civilians for peacekeeping operations. The easiest unit to compare it to within the British Army would be the Operational and Training Advisory Group (OPTAG).

The course I was teaching on was the Preparatory Course for Peacekeeping Operations for Officers deploying on United Nations (UN) Operations within the next 6 months. The ranks ranged from Captain to Colonels, with International Officers from Poland, Mozambique and Argentina. The course was divided into three different areas for the Police, Military Observers and Staff Officers.

Thankfully all the lessons were given in English. The training was distributed training from the UN in New York so I was required to learn this doctrine before then teaching it to the students. I was responsible for teaching numerous subjects including: stress management, communications, foreign weapons and negotiation. I was able to draw on my experiences from Afghanistan which the students greatly appreciated. Having worked with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) I was able to assist with delivering the lessons on Mentoring of Indigenous Forces.

The Brazilian Army has two Infantry Battalions and an Engineer Company deployed in Haiti as well as UN military observers deployed across the world on several UN missions. The Brazilian Army is in the process of modernising their military, developing both a Counter Improvised Explosive Device Capability (C-IED) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) capabilities. It is an exciting time for Brazil in the next few years as they will be hosting both the World Cup and Olympics. The military will be heavily involved in the security for these.

I fully embraced the Brazilian culture and was fortunate enough to be taken on numerous cultural visits in Rio de Janeiro. I attempted Samba dancing; however I can safely say that I will be sticking to Reeling. The Brazilians were fascinated by my kilt and the days that I wore it would result in me having to pose for several photographs.

This was a fantastic opportunity to learn about the Brazilian culture and military whilst also being able to impart some of my experiences from my deployment to Afghanistan. I would encourage anyone to visit Brazil and in particular Rio de Janeiro if they are offered a similar opportunity.



Capt Stewart attended a parade at the Brazilian Military Academy.



Capt Stewart pictured in Rio de Janeiro at the Military Academy.



Training of UN students takes place in Rio de Janeiro.

SPEAN BRIDGE COMMANDO SPEED MARCH

By 2Lt Z Smyth

The Spean Bridge Commando Speed March is held every year in March in order to raise money for various airborne charities and involves running 7 miles, carrying 16.5 kilograms in a target time of 1 hour. The history of the event dates back to the first days of Commando training during WW2 when, upon the founding of the Commando Training Centre at Achnacarry House on the banks of Loch Lochy, the would

be commandos were trained extensively in route marches and had to be able to complete 7 miles in under an hour with full battle kit. The route runs from the Spean Bridge train station up towards the Commando memorial before heading down to the banks of Loch Lochy and across the Caledonian canal then up to the gates of the grounds, and finally finishing at the house itself.

Having obtained details of the event later than hoped we were left with little time for training, a fact compounded by two of the team being away on a GPMG cadre and so training was left mostly down to the individuals. With three days to go before the event, we managed to get the team together and do one training run around Ardesier and the fort. Having done a similar distance two days earlier 2Lt Smyth was keen not to over do it so close to the big day and only carried $\frac{3}{4}$ of the weight – a fact which Cpl Wedgewood (trailing close behind) was sure to point out to all passers-by lest anyone think any less of his physical prowess. With the knowledge that we stood a good chance of putting in a respectable effort, we rested for the last couple of days before making our way down on Saturday morning.

Having decided (all being from the same Company) that we would wear our red T-shirts, we had perhaps underestimated just how much we would stand out in a sea of maroon and green – a fact which led one particularly witty chap in maroon to ask if we were route markers. Nonetheless, it did make our teammates easy to spot along the route, not to mention put the fear of God into Cpl Wedgewood's eyes when he thought he was about to be overtaken by Mr Smyth before realising it was a REME runner in red!

As we crossed the line our times were shouted out, and Mr Smyth, cheered through the last 300 metres by Cpl Wedgewood could have sworn (over the noise of Toto's Hold the Line) he heard the timer call out "1:00:00:67". Soon after, LCpls Ward and then McMillan crossed the line and, out of 219 competitors Cpl Wedgewood, 2Lt Smyth, LCpl Ward and LCpl McMillan came 108th, 145th, 147th and 176th respectively.

Alas, having just received the places and timings email from the OIC of the event it transpires that, due to a technical glitch, none of the timings were actually recorded. As a result, if Mr Smyth did indeed come in 0.67 of a second over the hour, then alas we will never know! However, with only two weeks notice, and one training session, a good effort was put in by all.

This is a thoroughly demanding event but one which we shall be encouraging other members within the Battalion to undertake. The scenery alone makes the pain all worthwhile!



The Commando Speed March team led by 2Lt Smyth.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN

By Captain R J Stewart

Saturday 27th October 2012 saw past and present members of The Black Watch gather at Westminster Abbey to mark the anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein. More than 4000 Allied servicemen lost their lives and over 9000 were injured in the battle.

The evensong at Westminster Abbey in London marked seven decades since the battle in the North African desert at El Alamein in 1942. In total it is thought that around 40 British and Australian veterans, were part of the 500 strong congregation.

The Black Watch was well represented by the attendance of Major Peter Watson MC, who had recently returned from making the pil-

grimage to the actual battlefield in the weeks preceding the memorial service. Adorned in blue bonnet and red hackle Major Watson was something of a star attraction to the press who had gathered outside of the Abbey. Major Watson served as the 7th Battalion's Intelligence Officer and was responsible for the rate and direction of advance ensuring that the Battalion remained behind the barrage being inflicted by the Allied guns, this he performed with distinction until he was eventually wounded and evacuated from the battlefield.

Alongside Major Watson were Association members Bill Parr and Henry McKenzie-Johnson, the latter narrowly missed fighting at El Alamein but served with the regiment in Tunisia later in the campaign.

The current generation was equally well represented with the attendance of Major David Kemmis Betty MBE, Captain Robert Stewart and Lieutenant Nicholas Allen-Perry.

The Battle of El Alamein was the first major Allied victory in the war and is seen by many as the crucial turning point in the Second World War. Recalling the importance of the Allied victory at the Battle of El Alamein, Sir Winston Churchill said: 'Before Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein we never had a defeat.'

The German army under the command of General Erwin Rommel had inflicted heavy defeats on the Allied forces in North Africa, forcing them back to the village of El Alamein, about 60 miles west of Alexandria, the Allies had now adopted a hasty defensive position from which they could launch their offensive actions.

On 23rd October General Montgomery ordered a counter-attack with almost 900 guns leveled at the German positions to be discharged at once, hoping to gain the initiative early in the battle and deliver a killer blow to the Germans.

While previously the Suez Canal was threatened and with it Allied access to the rich oilfields of the Middle East, now the Allies were able to press their advantage and eventually push the Germans and Italians out of North Africa.

The Battle of El Alamein did more than simply secure the near vital resource of oil, it gave the Allied armies inspiration for what was to come. Indeed one could see it as the spark which ignited the flame of decline for the Axis armies. The Black Watch were present throughout the Battle of El Alamein with the recently re-formed 1st Battalion joining the 5th and 7th Battalions as part of the 51st Highland Division who arrived in North Africa in August 1942.

The Battle of El Alamein is rightly remembered as one of the greatest clashes of arms in modern history. The British Army acquitted itself with the highest of degrees in spirit, professionalism, courage and determination. Examples and standards were set that still to this day we continue to praise, acknowledge and attempt to emulate.

It was an honour to represent the current Battalion at this prestigious service.



On Saturday 27 October, Major Peter Watson MC and some members of the Association attended a Service at Westminster Abbey to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of The Battle of El Alamein. Two officers from The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland joined the Association members. Pictured are (from left); Lieutenant Nick Allen Perry, Mr Bill Parr, Major Peter Watson, Major Henry McKenzie-Johnston, Captain Owen Humphries, Major David Kemmis-Betty and Captain Bobby Stewart. Peter Watson is one of only two surviving members of the Regiment who are known to have fought at El Alamein.

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

Battalion Headquarters

CO: Lieutenant Colonel P M Little
RSM: WO1 S West
Trg Maj: Captain R Coppard
Adj: Captain J Thompson
Trg WO: Warrant Officer Class 2 Maestri

Headquarter Company

OC: Major K Tait
PSAO: Major S Langdale
CSM: Warrant Officer Class 2 R Bustard
PSI: Sergeant G Early

Alpha Company

OC: Major S Bridgehouse
PASO: Captain R Reid
2IC: Captain JA Valentine
SPSI: Warrant Officer Class 2 G Woolley
CSM: Warrant Officer Class 2 T Parker
PSI Stirling: Sergeant G Simpson
PSI Kirkcaldy: Sergeant C Williamson

With HERRICK 18 just about to get underway A Company have one officer and seven other who that have completed their pre deployment training and are ready to deploy. Captain Dunnigan, CSgt Hamilton, Sgt Thomson, Cpl Smith, LCpl Mclean, Pte Adams, Pte Hetherington and Pte Maxwell. We also have two soldiers deployed on OP TOSCA (Cyprus) who had mobilized for HERRICK 18 but were not required.



Pte Dunn in action.



LCpl Keers makes final adjustments.



From left-right: Cpl Caldwell, WO2 Woolley, CSgt Grant, and Cpl McNiven manning the CP.



CSgt Penrice and the Range Conducting Officer WO2 Woolley.

Our appreciation and farewell goes to Sgt W Taylor after two years as PSI Kirkcaldy; he has moved on from A Company and has left the Army. We would like to welcome Sgt C Williamson who has taken over the Kirkcaldy PSI position. We would also like to welcome 2Lt R Walker and 2Lt J Voigt to the Company as they have both transferred from the UOTC.

We participated in Exercise HIGHLAND SPIRIT on the Ben Wyvis Training Area in November. Contingents from the Canadian and US Reserve Forces enjoyed a demanding exercise, which culminated in a final attack on an enemy compound, where the interesting tactic of assaulting in extended line firing from the hip was used. We hope that later in the year a platoon from 7 SCOTS will participate in a return exercise to the United States.

With the arrival of the new year the Mortar Platoon began training for a live shoot at Warcop Ranges which would take place the last weekend in February. With the limited amount of time, mostly newly trained soldiers and a break of two years since the last shoot, it was quite an intensive build up. By the time the Mortar Platoon deployed to Warcop it was fully manned and trained for the Part 1 shoot; for the majority of the Jocks this was their first mortar shoot and after all the

repetitive training it was quite a buzz to drop their first bombs down the barrel. The Signals Platoon joined us and assisted us with comms (which we still have to borrow from other units) and were given the opportunity to join in the shoot, which they enthusiastically took up. It was bitterly cold and the weather closed in a few times hampering CSgt Penrice the Mortar Fire Controller but by the end of the weekend all ammunition was expended and the Jocks had gained valuable new skills and experience. Over the previous few years 7 SCOTS Mortar Platoon and 6 SCOTS Mortar Platoon have collaborated on shoots, so we were joined by a 6 SCOTS mortar detachment. Hopefully later in the year we can attend their shoot and pool our combined strengths again. We have now been given our ammunition allocation for the next 12 months, which is about 3 times normal so we can now look forward to further more complicated shoots later in the year.

With the mortar shoot completed the main effort in March turned to Bounty qualification so most Drill Nights and a couple of weekends were used to conduct the necessary training and tests. With the Bounty in the bag we focused on preparing for Annual Camp, which this year departs the UK on 20th April. Ex Lion Star 3 is a two week exercise

in Cyprus with Live Firing Tactical training up to platoon strength, a tactical dry exercise for five days and an adventure training package before we fly back.

It has been a busy six months and with more funding coming on line for more equipment and training, things are looking good once again. With the emphasis on recruitment we have seen a dramatic increase in the trained soldiers joining the Company and we have more than 30 soldiers under training.

Congratulations go to CSgt Penrice, Cpl Caldwell and LCpl Keers on their promotions. There have been quite a few postings within the SNCO ranks. WO2 Bustard has moved to HQ Company as CSM. CSgt Grey, Sgt Wade and Sgt Hardie have also moved to HQ Company. CSgt Bennet and CSgt Woods have swapped positions between A Company and the UOTC.

Finally I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and say farewell to Major Stewart Bridgehouse who after a very busy year for A Company has accepted a FTRS contract as QM 225 Medical Regiment. We wish you all the best and many thanks for what you have done for the Company.

The Tyneside Scottish

The Battery has continued to be extremely busy since our last article. The operational tempo has continued unabated, our soldiers are continuing to deploy with our regular counterparts doing the job they have been training for and finally putting it in to practise, an experience they will never forget.

Recently returned from Afghanistan we have Bombardier Brian Borthwick who is enjoying a well earned rest following this tour which is his third in three years and Lance Bombardier Mathew Ramsay who is now heading home following a successful tour. Recently deployed on Op Herrick 17 are Lance Bombardiers Bruno Dos Santos, Alex Holmes and Gunner Michael Friberg. Well done and good luck to them all.

Changes in our recruiting fortunes have started to pay dividends with some quality new recruits joining the Battery. Both new enlistments and Ex Regulars have used the new TA enlistment procedures "on line" following the successful Media campaign "TA Live". We are confident that enlistment applications will continue to flood in and we will resume full manning.

We bid a very sad farewell to a Battery stalwart, SSgt Dave Robinson who has seen lengthy regular and TA service; However he has not

hung up his boots just yet as he has enlisted with the Cadets as an adult instructor and will continue providing an excellent service to a younger age group.

A warm Tyneside Scottish welcome to our new Battery Quarter Master SSgt Scotty Hunter who joins us on an FTRS contract. He immediately donned the Tam O'Shanter and wears it with pride as he is a true Scot from Hamilton near Glasgow.

As we approach the Future Reserves 2020 announcements and the uncertainty it carries with it, we are upbeat and remain confident that the Tyneside Scottish will remain in the ORBAT and continue our historic service.



Lance Bombardier Paul Telford of the Tyneside Scottish on Op H15 his first Operational Tour. He clearly enjoyed himself, so much so, that he has volunteered for a further tour.



Members of the Tyneside Scottish deployed with 5 Regiment Royal Artillery to Afghanistan. They included Sgt Lally (back row on left), LBdr Moore (centre with jungle hat) and LBdr Fowler (on right).



The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada

The Battalion has gone through another exciting and rather busy fall/winter training season. The outstanding support given the Unit from the Regimental family and friends contributed greatly to the final phase of our 150th Anniversary celebrations.

September being described as a rather busy month is a euphemism that brings a wary but proud smile to the faces of the members of the Unit. In conjunction with the beginning of the training program in which we had to provide the leadership and bulk of the troops of one of the infantry companies of the high-readiness battalion, we also said farewell to five of our members that deployed to support the Canadian training mission in Afghanistan and also participated in the last events of the anniversary year.



Canada Post issued a stamp to celebrate the Anniversary of The Black Watch of Canada.



The Honorary Colonel (Colonel O'Connor), the Governor General of Canada and The Honorary Lieutenant Colonel (Lieutenant Colonel McCabe).

In one of the significant events of the anniversary year we performed a Trooping of Colours on 29 September 2012 on Fletcher's Field in Montreal. The Reviewing Officer was His Excellency The Right Honourable David Lloyd Johnston the Governor General of Canada. The parade attracted many prominent members of the political, military and civilian world with a significant attendance from the Regimental family and friends. The event was also special, as it was in the same location a century ago that the Regiment received its Colours from the Duke of Connaught & Strathearn, the 10th Governor General of Canada since Confederation in 1867. Following the ceremony we marched through the streets of Montreal to the Armoury for a dedication ceremony: the Armoury was officially designated as a National Heritage Site by The Honourable Peter Kent, MP, responsible for National Heritage, in the presence of the Governor General.

On the Remembrance Day weekend, the Regimental family gathered in Montreal to remember our fallen comrades and celebrate our Regiment. Our Association Branches, under the superb leadership of Sgt (Ret) Bill Carlisle, organised a well-attended Remembrance Dinner, when more than 240 guests shared a tremendous evening full of joy, reminiscences and comradeship. On the following day there was a large turnout for the Remembrance Service and our "Sea of Red Hackles" on parade. The attendance and the pride demonstrated by all during that parade, clearly sent a message to all that the Black Watch honours and remembers its past and is ready to write the pages of a bright and proud future.

Since its establishment the Regiment has maintained a significant and close relationship with the St Andrew's Society of Montreal, its activities and, more specifically its annual charity ball. This year, the society honoured us by having as its theme the Anniversary of the Black Watch of Canada. Their Guest of Honour was Major-General Mike Riddell-Webster, DSO, the senior serving Black Watch officer in the British Forces. Major-General Riddell-Webster had the opportunity to experience our hospitality and get acquainted with us and Montreal's Scottish Society.

The holidays were already coming fast and the traditional Unit Christmas Dinner and other activities were held and well attended by all with a special thought to our members deployed overseas. It was also the occasion for our Rifle Company to put the final touches to its preparation for deployment with the high-readiness battle group for our annual training exercise. Noble Guerrier was held this year in Fort Picket, Virginia and as it was expected our soldiers were commended for their efficiency in complex scenarios. During that exercise, members of the unit earned a Battle Group Commander's commendation for their performance.

Our Regimental parade on January 31st officially marked the end of the Anniversary celebrations. Our Brigade Commander, Colonel Luis DeSousa, joined us for the event, reviewing the troops and presenting decorations and awards to our members. He praised all present for their contribution to the Brigade readiness and training programme.

In all the last six months were high tempo and a very demanding period for all members of the Unit and Regimental family. The Battalion's mission was, in the last year, to celebrate with pride our



The CO escorts the Governor General during the inspection.



The Colours on parade.

Regiment's history and heritage while meeting our demanding and expanding operational commitments. The Unit rose to the challenge in the only way the Black Watch can, by outstanding professionalism, dedication and respect for our traditions and a commitment to excellence.

Inspired by its history and heritage, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada is in good shape and ready to rise to any challenges that the future may bring.
NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT.



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Replenishment at sea with RFA Black Rover.

HMS Montrose

The Arabian Gulf and Somali Basin are at the same time the world's most important, and yet most unstable bodies of water. The world's oil passes through the Arabian Gulf and the narrow chokepoint which connects it to the Indian Ocean the Strait of Hormuz. The world's sea trade moves from East to West (and back again) via the Suez Canal, a waterway only accessible past the Horn of Africa. The importance to the UK national interest and to international economics of safe transit through this region for commercial vessels cannot be overstated. Planes may carry people, but ships carry cargo and the unhindered access to international waters must be safeguarded. Navies from America and Europe, as well as Japan and New Zealand recognise this and send ships to the region to protect these shipping lanes and uphold maritime security. One of those Navies is the Royal Navy and, in the second half of 2013, the Warship on task in the region is HMS Montrose.

HMS Montrose is a Type 23 frigate, weighing in at 4,500 tonnes and with a crew of 185, and since launch, has been affiliated to the Black Watch. Originally designed as a Cold War era anti-submarine frigate, she has in the last 20 years been upgraded with the latest technological developments in Air, Surface and Sub-surface warfare; she is now definitely a capable and flexible multi-role platform. On a more day to day level, she is also capable of serving in roles as diverse as humanitarian relief, maritime security and defence diplomacy.

Due to deploy to this region in August 2013, she has just undergone

a rigorous and challenging generation package to ensure that the ship and crew are at the pinnacle of their war fighting capability. The first two months of the year were spent conducting Basic Operational Sea Training (BOST) which is designed to take the ship to a level where she is ready to fight and win in any maritime environment in the world. During these eight weeks, a mixture of collective, individual and formation training, the ship is tested materially, and her crew are tested physically and mentally, to get them to the required standard. The Royal Navy's training organisation of highly experienced specialists encourage, train and mentor the crew and expose them to typical and realistic scenarios of the type they could expect to meet at sea and, occasionally, on land too.

The ability to effectively put out fires, stop floods and repair damage has often been decisive in the history of naval war-fighting. However, since the Falklands War of 1982, the Royal Navy has taken something it was once good at and has trained itself to a level where navies of the world look to Britain for the lead on such vital skills. During BOST, Montrose will "suffer" battle damage, floods and fires. Her crew will be killed off by damage caused by the galley catching fire and by missiles hitting the ship. One specific test of this is the 'notorious' F7 exercise which simulates the ship grounding or colliding with an object at sea. To be successful the whole crew must work tirelessly toward the same goal; saving the ship. When most compartments below the waterline of



Chaff anti-missile decoys being tested.

the ship start flooding and some above the water line are on fire only the highest standards of damage control can save the ship.

The ability of the ship to fight was tested every Tuesday and Thursday in BOST during the complex multi-threat exercises, and in one such exercise HMS Montrose took charge of an 11 ship fleet under sustained aerial attack. Such close manoeuvring with some of the biggest and newest ships in the fleet was a cause of considerable excitement for most, and perhaps a little consternation for the Officer of the Watch on the bridge who was tasked with the job of not hitting anything.

Other highlights included a major day-long exercise of disaster relief simulation ashore where 110 of the ship's company and huge quantities of stores were put ashore in a specially designed village (think FIBUA but without weapons), to cope with a hurricane hit, flooded village and rescuing those who survived from starvation, fire, disease and collapsing buildings.

At the end of BOST the ship is at the pinnacle of individual platform training and is looking forward to the next challenge, in the form of a major exercise off Scotland, conducting war games with 60 other NATO warships and over 100 aircraft in the twice yearly Exercise Joint Warrior. This is followed by 2 weeks of live weapons firing, which will allow Montrose to fire her anti-ship Harpoon and anti-air Sea Wolf missiles. During this period a number of Montrose sailors will spend time with the battalion living the "Black Watch dream", to reciprocate the visit of the Jocks to the ship last September. After a 5 week maintenance period to reach optimum levels of materiel preparedness Montrose will sail for Operation KIPION in the summer, relieving HMS Dragon in Theatre.

After working her way through the Mediterranean, the ship arrives in the Middle East at the height of the temperatures there, but, once through Suez, the Ship's Company will spend most of her time in Defence Watches where 50% of the crew are on watch at any time and work 6 hours on, 6 hours off for most periods at sea. The ship will start her patrol and interdict vessels of interest or concern, and at times be near areas affected by piracy (although the Gulf, rather than the Horn of Africa, will be her focus). She will show support to friendly nations through port visits and joint exercises and she will deter those who need deterring by bristling with weapons, a Lynx attack helicopter and 185 well trained sailors. When her relief arrives (a RN destroyer) she will work her way home, probably via the Mediterranean, arriving back in early 2014. As is the case with any deployment of servicemen and women, loved ones will be six months older and the ship's crew will be 6 months wiser. More importantly, they will know that whatever may have happened back home during their time away, they will have spent 6 months in the best ship in the Royal Navy safeguarding the most important and unstable waterway in the world.



Fire fighter preparing to enter a flame filled compartment.

Angus and Dundee Battalion Army Cadet Force

OVERVIEW

Angus and Dundee Battalion have continued to apply the APC training which enables the cadets to pass their relevant Star Boards. Although there were only two weekends available for each Company/Squadron after Annual Camp last year, the momentum in 2013 has certainly picked up.



SSAFA cheque presentation Sgt Martin and Cpl Downie.

In September, Cadet Sergeant Danny Martin and Corporal Jennifer Downie presented a cheque, along with Don Grieve from Broughty Ferry Musical Society, to Bill Naismith a representative from SSAFA and to Catherine Cowie, a representative from Erskine Hospital. It was organised that everyone would meet outside Broughty Ferry Castle which would be the backdrop for the presentation but when we arrived, we found the castle swarming with film crews. I eventually spoke to a gentleman who turned out to be a director of 'Bob Sergeant', a new TV series that was shot entirely in 'The Ferry'. The main actor was Brian Cox. The director spoke to Mr Cox who agreed to let the photo of the presentation take place but we were to go inside the castle walls to do it and filming would be put on hold. Brian would go and sit in his car whilst he waited for us to finish. We had limited time and one of the 'representatives' was late which meant that we had to leave the Castle

without taking any of the photos. In the end, the photo was taken in Grove Detachment Barracks with the Castle still in the background.

Remembrance week once again was highlighted, as it is every year, with the Festival of Remembrance which is held in the Caird Hall, Dundee. It is a very poignant service with a great turn out of military and civilian emergency personnel and the parade of Standard Bearers. The cadets feel proud and honoured to attend this ceremony every year either as part of the muster, carrying a banner or just being seated in the hall.

From there on, the cadets actively took part in Poppy Collections throughout Angus and Dundee, culminating in various Remembrance Parades. Angus has a parade in every town but Dundee has one main parade with many of the adults and cadets taking centre stage.

Every year the Battalion ends its training with an NCO training weekend. This is so popular that it was decided that it would be for Corporals and above as there are so many of them. On this occasion over 50 NCO's attended the weekend but not to let the Lance Corporals feel let down, another weekend is being organised before Annual Camp.

The weekend content consisted of Duties of an NCO, Career Management, Values and Standards and various discussion groups. During the evening on the Saturday, the NCO's were served a three course meal by the HQ Adults, including Colonel Andrew Cassidy, the Battalion Commandant.

This was followed by an evening of games which was initially met with distaste from a majority of the cadets but was fully embraced once the games started. The cadets were put in teams which became very competitive.



NCO training weekend.



Festival of Remembrance.



Cdt Paige Watson as Octavia Hill and new recruits reciting the history of the ACF.

The games included marbles, jenga and battleships amongst others. Many cadets have never played such games as they are so used to having their mobile phones and computers.

Sunday was mostly spent outside as a Search and Rescue Team from RAF Leuchars came to demonstrate various scenarios using the rescue dogs. This allowed the cadets to take part, something that was appreciated by all.

At the close down of the Battalion for the Christmas festivities, many detachments organised 'chill out' times for their respective adults and cadets. These included cinema trips, adventure training activities and meals in a variety of establishments.

At the end of January Grove BW Detachment had its annual presentation ceremony in St Luke's Church, Broughty Ferry. 28 cadets turned up to see if they would be a recipient of the many trophies and medals on display. Firstly, the new recruits all read out various facts about the Army Cadet Force from its early origins of 1859 to the present day. The aim was to dress the recruits in as many different ACF uniforms as possible starting with Octavia Hill, the founder of the ACF. This privilege went to Cadet Paige Watson (actually going for her 2 Star) who told the audience all about herself and how the ACF came into being. This not only included the cadets, but for many, it was an opportunity to speak in public for the first time. They all enjoyed the experience. Then there was a situational first aid scenario by the 1 Stars and the demonstrations were complete when the more senior cadets did a Rifle Drill Demonstration.

After that the presentations were well received along with other badges and promotions which was promptly followed by the proverbial 'bun fight'.

At the beginning of February this year, B Company organised a



Senior Cadets taking part in an Advanced Drill Cadre.



One of the recipients of the JCIC award.

Junior Cadet Instruction Cadre and First Aid Weekend at Strathmore Avenue in Dundee. This resulted in 10 Cadets, passing their Youth First Aid and 20 cadets passing their JCIC. This was a very successful weekend.

Recently, there have been a number of other events taking place. These have ranged from Advanced Drill Cadres, Banner Training, Fire and Rescue Cadres and SCIC training (Senior Cadet Instruction Cadres).

For the adults there has been Values and Standards Training as well as Introduction to Range Aide Memoires and Exercise Aide Memoires and just recently, there was a SAA weekend at Barry Buddon which was absolutely freezing, however, all the adults managed to pass Weapon Handling Tests in the Scorpion Air Rifle, .22, A2 and LSW as well as taking part in a shooting competition with all four weapons. The whole weekend took a lot of organising by the RSM, Michael Pascoe.

The competition was won by Adult Instructor Staff Sergeant Andrew Whyte from C Squadron who will also be an integral part of the Battalion Shooting Team.

On another positive note, another stalwart of B Company has recently been promoted; Colour Sergeant Willie Reed, an ex cadet has now taken over as OC Pipes and Drums Detachment.



Sergeant Instructor Willie Reed receiving his Colour Sergeant's badge of rank from OC B Company Major George Smith.

Black Watch Battalion Army Cadet Force

Over Christmas and New Year there is an inevitability that the momentum built up over the preceding twelve months slows down. It then takes time to rebuild the momentum and to catch up with those activities that should have been done before the end of the year but were not. And so it was with the Red Hackle Notes. Despite the best intentions of writing them, or at least some of them, during the Christmas holidays, this never happened. Now it is a matter of trying to remember what happened since the last notes were produced, write new notes while desperately doing all the other tasks that were put off at the end of last year.

Apart from a small pause over the Christmas holidays, life in the Cadets has continued at its usual pace. The early part of the Autumn was one of the most intense periods of activity outside camp for some time. Something was planned for every weekend in September and October, whether it was Company weekends, training for and taking part in the Brigade Military Skills Competition, shooting weekends or numerous other activities. This stretched the adults who had to plan and run everything. It was much to their credit that only one event had to be curtailed due to a lack of numbers.

Despite having three training weekends beforehand, the team for the Brigade Military Skills Competition organized by Major David Gill was not finalized until the weekend of the competition. The team which was finally entered was one of the least experienced for a number of years. However, the enthusiasm and effort of the cadets could not be faulted and at the end they were placed 4th out of 9; a very creditable effort.

The Training Officer ran an Inter Detachment Military Skills competition from 19-20 October. It was held on one of those rare sunny weekends of the year and after some fearsome and close competition, Glenrothes Woodside were declared the winners with Kirkcaldy second and Glenrothes Viewfield third. Concurrently and as part of this competition the detachments also competed in the First Aid Competition. Glenrothes Woodside also won this with Ballingry second and Kirkcaldy third.

As has become a tradition, Captain Sue Truscott accompanied by the Commandant, took a group of cadets to Belgium for a visit to the 1st World War battlefields for a week in October. This time the cadets were accompanied by an adult and three cadets from Robert Gordons School CCF. Everyone thought this was one of the best trips they could remember.

Every detachment did its bit in November over the period leading up to and on Remembrance Sunday to collect for Poppyscotland or take part in the various parades throughout the area. This is a very important week in the Cadet's annual calendar. It is a chance for them to not only take part in a significant national event but also a chance to learn about and reflect on the tremendous sacrifices of the past. Collecting for charities was not confined to Poppyscotland. The Deputy Commandant was almost caught out when, two days before Christmas, he rushed into a supermarket in Kinross to do his last minute shopping to find Staff Sergeant Freeman and some cadets helping raise money for Help For Heroes. Fortunately he did manage to find some money to hand over.

The Battalion continues to do well in competitions. Although the Cadet team was unable to compete in the National First Aid competi-

tion, the Young Adult Team came third.

On the sporting front the Junior Boys Football team came second overall in the ACFA competition in October while Cadet Lance Corporal Hutchison of the Military Band swam for Scotland in the relay team in the national competition. Shooting continues to be a popular activity and although no prizes were won during this period, hopes are high that the Battalion shooting team will do well in 2013.

Musically, both the Pipes and Drums and the Military Band have continued to thrive. Mr Stuart Walker has taken over command of the Band Company and his huge experience as a military musician with, amongst others, the Band of the Scots Guards, will be of enormous benefit to the musical prowess of the Battalion. The Military Band, under SMI Bob Cowan, is now well known throughout the area and is in regular demand to play at events. Once again they stole the show at the ACFA Scotland dinner in the Royal Scots Club on 3 November.

At the piping competition held in Redford Barracks in October, the pipers had some success. While Cadet McKay came third in the Novice Chanter, Cadet Corporal Isla Stout came second in the March Strathspey and Reel Open Competition and won the Novice Piobairaeachd competition. There is no doubt she has enormous talent. Being the daughter of Major Jim Stout, the National Piping Executive Officer, may have something to do with this. Members of the Pipe Band also had the great honour of playing at the Berlin Tattoo and Cadet Corporal Isla Stout accompanied her father and a piper from the West Lowland Battalion to play at the ACFA Annual Dinner.

In order to train cadets, there is a requirement for the adult volunteers to be trained themselves and to remain current with their qualifications. Over the last few months adult instructors have taken part in a plethora of internal and external courses which are of mutual benefit to themselves and the cadets. During this period and following successful attendance at the Cadet Force Commissioning Board at Westbury two adult volunteers from within the Battalion were commissioned – the first for some time. They are Second Lieutenants Richard Scott and Jenny Gerrard. What was equally gratifying was the number of adult volunteers who attended a potential officer training day run by the Commandant in November. It is now hoped that, in due course, some of them will be commissioned.

This period normally ends with a report on the Adult Training weekend and Burns Supper. Unfortunately both were cancelled due to the inclement weather. While the decision was right, this was a pity not least because of the hard work that Major Marshall had put into planning the weekend, and Major Taylor and Captain Douglas had put into planning the Burns Supper. It also meant the Battalion was unable to thank Captain Mike Wimberley properly for all he had done over many years as the staff officer in Headquarters 51 (Scottish) Brigade responsible for cadets. He was due to be the guest of honour at the Burns Supper.

Looking ahead, there is much to anticipate. There will be the usual full training programme, a change of personalities in the Battalion hierarchy and the introduction of lap tops to every detachment. Reports on all this and more will appear in the next edition of The Red Hackle.



St Ninians Primary School, Cardenden, Summer Fete (2012) – L/Cpl William Rae (Glenrothes Woodside) assisting with the face painting stand. Cadets helped raise over £1000 for the school.



Glenrothes Woodside Detachment – Winners of the Battalion Military Skills Team – October 2012.



The Battalion party in Belgium – October 2012.



Captain Sue Truscott and SSI Steven Mackenzie shading their eyes in Belgium – October 2012.



Battalion Military skills Competition October 2012 – Archery.



Battalion Military skills Competition October 2012 – Command task.



Cadets in sombre reflection in Belgium – October 2012.

Association News

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ANGUS BRANCH

President: Lieutenant Colonel Fred Beattie MBE
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Chairman: Major Ronnie Proctor MBE
Vice Chairman: Mr Peter Tindal
Secretary: Mr Tom McCluskey, Phone 01382 539420
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Monthly meetings continue to be well attended with members coming from as far afield as Ballater and other areas of rural Aberdeenshire despite the harsh weather and heavy snow that we have encountered in recent months. Hopefully the snow will be distant in our memories by the time these notes come into print.

Due to the closure in the near future of the Strathmore TA Centre and retirement of the Caretaker, George Horseburgh, we have had to move our meetings from the TA Centre in Forfar. This is where we have held our monthly meetings since the Branch was re-formed a total of 180 meetings in all, to the Royal British Legion Club Rooms in Academy Street, Forfar. Our meetings are now held on the first Monday of each month at 1930hrs. We are indebted to the Legion for their hospitality and support to the Branch. At our AGM on the 1st of April we thanked George Horsburgh and his wife Aileen for their help over the years. They were always there and had the Drill Hall laid out for our meetings and Aileen also ran the Charles Melvin VC bar for the drouthy Branch members who wished to slake their thirst at the end of our monthly meetings. George could also be relied on to assist with all our major functions by providing support when needed. They were presented with an engraved Crystal Decanter and pair of matching Glasses. Aileen was also presented with a floral display which was made up by Bob Mitchell's wife Ena for which we are most grateful. We do hope that George will continue to attend Branch Meetings in our new home.

Our annual El Alamein Dinner was a great success and we were fortunate to have Mr John Henderson from Gourdon attending as a guest to our 70th anniversary of the battle dinner. John was a member of the



El Alamein Dinner. Back row – Mr John Glen, Maj D Ritchie, Mr J Anderson, Mr R Mitchell, Mr P Tindal, Mr J Penny, Capt J Osborne, Maj D J McMicking, P/M Snaddon. Front row – Mr J Henderson (Veteran), Maj R J W Proctor, Mrs Georgiana Osborne President The Black Watch Association, Lt Col F Beattie, Mrs E Cook (daughter of Mr Henderson).



Top table guests and branch members of Angus Branch Burns Supper on 26 January at the Royal British Legion Clubrooms, Forfar. Photo courtesy of Photos on Location, Forfar.

5th Battalion and took part in the battle. Our Association President, Mrs Georgiana Osborne the Lord Lieutenant of Angus gave an account of the battle through the eyes of her late father-in-law Major Gerald Osborne. Mr Henderson gave a most lucid speech at the end of the dinner and was presented with Life Membership of the Branch by our Branch President. Rab Simpson is to be thanked and congratulated for designing and producing commemorative Dinner Programmes and place mats and Pipe Major Peter Snaddon for his piping skills.

The Korea Veterans weekend was attend by some of our members and George Myles who is a veteran of that war along with Joe Macintosh a fellow Korea veteran voiced their appreciation and are looking forward to the 70th Anniversary Weekend!

Again our Branch President and his wife Olive organised the distribution of Christmas Comforts to our more senior members and widows. They are standing down from this duty after having faithfully carried it out for a number of years. The Chairman thanked them on

behalf of the Branch for their unstinting efforts in this task by letting those who are not so able, know that they are not forgotten.

Our Burns Supper this year proved to be another excellent evening with a mixture of home grown talent and others from furth of the Branch; Bob Mitchell, Fred Beattie, Peter Snaddon and Peter Tindal recited the Selkirk Grace, Addressed the Haggis, recited Holy Willies Prayer and The Soldier's Return respectively whilst Eric Summers gave The Immortal Memory, Jim Thewliss toasted the Lassies and his daughter replied. Mike Mooney entertained us with his lovely singing and Peter Snaddon our Branch Piper gave us a stirring set of pipe tunes. The evening was chaired by Ronnie Proctor in his usual indomitable and humorous way.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Spring Dance in Arbroath, the Aberfeldy Muster in May and the Annual Reunion in June which I am sure will be well attended and enjoyed by Angus Branch members.

R J W Proctor

DUNDEE BRANCH

The Branch took part in Dundee's cross laying ceremony as part of the Veterans' Contingent, with the Branch Standard being carried by John MacNiven.

Remembrance Sunday 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 (7 SCOTS) but also of politicians of all persuasions and the general public. A wreath was laid by Major Dave Ritchie for the Branch. Hospitality was laid on at the Black Watch Club in Arherstone Terrace and several members then retired to the bar at Oliver Barracks to continue the movement.

The Lord Provost's Ball, the first for the new Lord Provost Bob Duncan, was attended by Lt Col and Mrs Rose, Maj and Mrs Ritchie, and Mr and Mrs Barr.

The Branch held its Annual Red Hackle Dinner at the Black Watch Club on 18 January, with a good attendance. We welcomed General Irwin, Lord Provost Bob Duncan and Lt Col Ian Ballantyne, from Scottish Veterans Residences. General Irwin spoke about the Regiment and Major Ronnie Proctor spoke about the Association. Ian Ballantyne gave a talk on PTSD, which was very enlightening. We also welcomed, as we do every year, several of our comrades from the Liverpool Scottish, who also joined a



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Major David Ritchie presents the Rev Andrea Randall with a Black Watch plaque.



large Branch contingent at the A Company Burns Supper the following evening.

The Branch AGM was held in Arthursstone Terrace on 24th February. The office Bearers elected were:-

Honorary President:	Colonel Alex Murdoch
President:	Major Dave Ritchie
Vice President:	Major Mike Lindsay
Chairman:	Mr Willie Barr
Secretary:	Mr Colin Adam
Treasurer:	Mr John MacNiven

Lt Col Roland Rose, Maj Jim Connors, and Messrs Willie Barr and Kenny Grant, attended the Fife Branch Annual Rhine Crossing Dinner in Kirkaldy on 23 March. This was a fine occasion and we must thank Bob Scott for the organisation of this dinner.

The Branch continues to hold its monthly meetings in the Black Watch Club in Arthursstone Terrace on the last Sunday of each month at 12.00 noon. All serving or ex members of the Regiment are welcome to attend and all members would be glad to see you.

On 3rd February 2013, several members of the Branch, along with the Chairman, Secretary and Assistant Secretary, attended a Communion Service at the Dundee Congregational Church. Also present were Bruce Kelly and Vic Herd from Dundee Combined Ex-Services.

The occasion was the presentation of a plaque from the Dundee Branch as a token of our gratitude for being allowed to hold our now annual commemoration of the Battle of Loos each September in the church.

Branch President Major Dave Ritchie presented the plaque to the Rev Andrea Randall at the beginning of the Service and coffee and biscuits were served afterwards.

The annual Service to commemorate of the Battle of Loos will continue until at least the Centenary service in 2015 and all members of all Branches and any others who wish to attend are welcome to join us.

D M Ritchie TD

FIFE BRANCH

The Branch has continued to hold its regular meetings with the membership numbers increasing every time we meet. This includes Associate Members and we are happy to welcome our first lady member, Susan Truscott who has come to us through the Cadet side of the Regiment. Our first function of this reporting period, was to support the SSAFA Concert held in the Rothes Halls Glenrothes. Not only was it supported by the members, it was organised by Billy Hanafin who I am sure many readers will remember. We then attended a church service in Markinch conducted by Alex Forsyth who is the resident Minister. We had the pleasure of Mrs Dean's company along with Mrs Alison Halford- MacLeod who are both heavily involved with SSAFA. Dundee was our next port of call where we attended the Red Hackle Dinner in the Black Watch Club. It is always good to have cross Branch support and we had an enjoyable dinner with equally good hospitality. Staying on the Tay, it was further up and into Perth for our next wee party, the Perth Branch Burns Supper. Again a good night was had by

those who attended and I think the Bard would have approved of the renditions. Still in a travelling mode we were requested to attend the funeral of Lieutenant Robert Cole in the hamlet of Foggo near Dunns in the Borders. It was a bleak day with snow up to six or seven inches deep but we persevered and got to the Kirk on time. The Colt family fed and watered us well and were over the moon with the efforts we had made on such a miserable day. The Rhine Crossing Dinner was our next big event and on the 22nd of March we had sixty six sitting down to din-



retired Gordon and Queens Own Officers had a wide and interesting bag of questions and scenario's to pitch at the chair. The debate about a Scottish Independent Tri-Service Force certainly opens much more heated debate especially with the recent announcement on the Scottish Basing plans.

Our Secretary Gordon Kennedy has joined the Executive Committee and is looking forward to representing the Branch and contributing to the committee needs. Two Branch members, Donald Etherington and Alex Beattie represented our Branch at the National Memorial Arboretum last year; their visit was part of their Bike Club fund raising event.

Our Ladies annual Aberfeldy Dinner will be held in the Warrant Officer & Sergeants' Mess Fort George in May, a fantastic backdrop for our Dinner and a good opportunity for our members who served in the Fort to return to pastures old.

The Branch FOE is as follows:

11 June	Monthly Meeting
9 July	Monthly Meeting
13 Aug	Monthly Meeting
10 Sep	Monthly Meeting
8 Oct	Monthly Meeting
Nov	Remembrance Parade



Donald Etherington and Alec Beattie sporting their Tam O'Shanters during the Biker gathering at the National Memorial Arboretum.



The Rhine Crossing Dinner.

ner in the Victoria Hotel Kirkcaldy. Again numbers were reduced due to the weather conditions but sixty six was in the end a nice round number. We were fortunate enough to have as our main guest Colonel Alex Murdoch, Chairman of the Association and a contingent of six, headed by Sergeant David Roy, down from Fort George. Colonel Alex gave a short report on forthcoming events, with a mention of the Memorial at Black Watch Corner among them. Lieutenant Colonel Philip Halford-MacLeod said a few words about the Rhine Crossing. Sergeant Roy presented the Branch with a plaque, saying how surprised he was to see such an organised sitting; he also said he wasn't sure what to expect when he came down but it was a pleasant outcome. Some of the Junior NCOs and Pte Brown were so impressed they made enquiries as to how they can join the Branch. On a more sombre note we have also had our deaths and the latest in the same week as our dinner was Big Shawser. Willie had a good send off with lots of his friends and family attending on a snowy day. We now have much to look forward to in the next year or so and I know I am excited about it and I am sure this is shared by the members of the Branch.

R M Scott

HIGHLAND BRANCH

The Branch continues to develop and has enlisted a few more members since our last report. We had Branch members at the Dundee Dinner, Perth Branch Burns Supper and the Korean Veteran's Dinner in Perth. The Chairman and Secretary also attended a Forum on Scottish Independence chaired by Alistair Darling in Inverness. A few



Donald Etherington laying his Wreath.

THE LONDON BRANCH

There was an air of pessimism in our last Red Hackle notes as we worried whether Joe Hubble would be fully mobile, and fit enough to act as Parade Marshall for The Black Watch Contingent at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. Anyone who saw the BBC coverage on TV that day will know that our fears were unfounded and that Joe took up his rightful position and marched the full route from Whitehall to Horse Guards Parade. He was, perhaps, not quite as upright as usual and a walking stick was to hand, otherwise normal service was resumed! Service in fact was better than usual, as several more Black Watch Association members joined the Contingent and our numbers were better than they had been for the past three years. So, well done to all who joined us. Please come again in 2013 when, hopefully, we will continue to swell the ranks. The weather on Remembrance Sunday 2012 was perfect for a parade: crisp and dry and with bright autumn sunshine to make the long wait on Whitehall more pleasant. After the ceremony the majority of the Contingent retired to a local hostelry for refreshment, which was kindly subsidised by the Association. Two Perth Branch members, Kevin Murphy and Graham Mussell, had made the long journey south for Remembrance as they had done frequently in the past. As we enjoyed our refreshment in the pub Graham remarked that he felt a bit queasy but, after a half pint, a hot drink and something to eat he seemed fine and nothing more was said. We were therefore truly saddened to learn that he had subsequently collapsed and died on the journey home the following day, Monday 12th November. We have the following photograph of Graham with some of the Contingent members on parade that day, and dedicate this as a London Branch tribute to him.

Later in November we held a very successful 'Battle of the Hook' Anniversary Dinner at the Victory Services Club and several Korean Veterans who had not been able to go to the Hook Dinner held in Perth were able to attend. Our guest of honour was Brigadier Adam Gurdon



"Dame Flora" owned by Ian McLeod prepares for take off.

CBE, who served in 1BW in Korea, and the evening was much enjoyed by those attending. As ever, our thanks go to Ian Howarth and his team for the organisation and smooth running of the event and to Chic Mackie (who is currently teaching the art of piping to a camel mounted Arab Pipe Band!) for his excellent piping.

For some considerable time now one of our members, Ian McLeod has been lavishing care and attention on the aeroplane he has built, preparing it to soar in the skies above Kent. The type first flew in 1928 and there are many in the United States, some using the original Ford Model A engines. Ian's has a Subaru 1800 cc unit that he converted for the task. The aircraft is named 'Dame Flora' after the McLeod's 28th Clan Chief at the time of his birth (the clan have probably had quite a few chiefs since then!). The photograph shows the test pilot, approved for a 25hour period of test flying, preparing to put Dame Flora through her paces.

Our 2013 Branch Lunch and AGM took place at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in March and we were delighted to be able to entertain in Pensioners David Imrie and John Nicholl to lunch in their own home. On this occasion numbers attending were also up, and we hope to be able to continue attracting members – particularly younger ones – to these functions. There were a couple of changes to our Branch Executive Committee at the AGM. Piers Bishop, who has been the Branch Honorary Treasurer for several years, handed over the post to Charlie Taylor, and John Bowles, a Branch Executive Committee member since 1985, stood down to allow one of our newer and younger members, Richard Clark, to join the Committee. We extend our sincere thanks to both outgoing and incoming members. Although several of those attending had to rush off after the meeting to catch trains we did manage to round up a reasonable number for a group photo.



Graham Mussell (3rd from left) on Horse Guards Parade.



Some of the London Branch members at the AGM which was held at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.



Tom and Trudy Drummond with John Nicholl.

In January I received on the Internet some remarkable WW2 photographs, some of which recorded the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. The images had remained hidden in a trunk for some 71 years. I forwarded these to members of the London Branch and received some interesting responses. I will share the following from one of our Honorary members in the Celtic Pipes & Drums of Hawaii. "My family lived right outside of Pearl Harbor and my brother was old enough to remember the Pearl Harbor attack, so the photos are familiar to me, especially the ones of Wheeler AAF and Battleship Row. I am always reminded of that fateful day every time I drive past Pearl Harbor, or have to do a piping event on Ford Island when driving by the USS Missouri".

Our congratulations go to Tom Drummond who in January was elected as Chairman of the Pevensy and Westham Branch of the RBL. Despite his new duties he still managed to find time to spend the Easter weekend in London with his wife Trudy and, whilst there, managed to persuade John Nicholl to take time off from being photographed by tourists and join them for a quiet drink before they caught the train home.

Sadly we have bid farewell to two more of our members in recent months: Peter Carthew MBE and Alfred Donald both died and the London Branch and the Association were represented at the funerals. Obituaries appear elsewhere in this edition and we extend our sincere condolences to their respective families.

NEWCASTLE BRANCH

Prompted by the request from the Chairman of the Association for an up to date membership list, an epic exercise has been undertaken, the first part of which should come to fruition at about the time this copy is due. Letters have been sent to the last known address of every listed member, shown to be outside of the Newcastle area. Where no reply is received by the end of this month (March), they will be provisionally removed from the membership list. Letters are to be sent to those listed within the Newcastle area, if we have not managed to obtain evidence of their continued existence. The whole census should be completed by the end of April and our membership will, no doubt, be much reduced. We have received replies from as far away as the USA. Readers will no doubt recall that Bob Chantler's mother-in-law, Lilly, was unwell at the time of the November edition of these notes. I have to report that Lilly died early in February at the age of 103. A large congregation was present for her funeral service and the Branch was well represented. Bill Brown is back to regular attendance at meetings although he is still not his old self. Harold Dunn's arm is not likely to heal any further, and the upper arm remains in three pieces, held together with a brace. He is managing to get about and the improving weather should help his mobility.

The Branch laid a wreath on the war grave of Private A Findlay, a WWI Black Watch soldier, in Jesmond Cemetery, Newcastle, on the Saturday prior to Remembrance Sunday. The Branch was also represented at the Eldon Square memorial service on Remembrance Sunday and Tom Dignam laid the wreath.



Charlie McCleary.

Plans have been made for our attendance at the Muster at Aberfeldy and the Reunion in June. A dinner is also planned for October and it is hoped that we will be back to normal activities by this time next year.

On a lighter note, Charlie McCleary was 90 years of age on 13th May 2012. Charlie had an interesting start to his military life; he was called to the Colours on 15th January 1942 and was sent to the 51st Division Reconnaissance Corps, a new unit in the reformed 51st Highland Division. He reported to the City Hall in Aberdeen. From there, he went to the Golf View Hotel in Nairn for three months training (His bunker work is still rubbish). He reckons that the RSM was very strict. In March, they were off to Aldershot to parade for the King and to let him see how lucky he was to have this bunch of lads on his side. After seven days embarkation leave, they were off to Glasgow by train from Kings Cross and boarded a troop ship bound for the Middle East. The travelled round the Cape to Egypt and joined up with the 8th Army in May 1942.

After Alamein, the unit was disbanded and Charlie sported the Red Hackle in the 1st Battalion. He enjoyed a short spell of sick leave in Malta and then popped over to Sicily to visit his relations in the mafia. After that, it was over to Italy and up to Messina. With the rest of the Battalion, he came back to the UK and started preparations for D-Day. He was with the Pioneer Section of Support Company and did a course on mines and demolition. Charlie was wounded and sent

home. Going to Perth upon recovery, he was informed by the great RSM Andy Drummond that he was to stay in Scotland, however, our Charlie had other ideas and was back in France for Christmas 1944 at St Valery. The Battle of the Reichswald Forest followed. Charlie picked up a gunshot wound to his buttock on 22nd of February and was repatriated in March, eventually being given a medical discharge on 9th December 1945.

Charlie enjoyed his birthday party and is in reasonable fettle, although, he needs a bit of TLC from time to time. And why not?

M Dunn

PERTH BRANCH

President: Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell
 Chairman: Captain Alan McEwen
 Treasurer: Mr Winkie Greer
 Social Convenor: Mr Ally Alcorn
 Secretary: Mr Jim Sandilands
 Branch Piper: Pipe Major Alistair Duthie

On the 17 November 2012, Alan McEwen, Jim Baird, Weir Rankin, Winky Greer, Roy Brown, George McDonald, Spats Baxter, Eddie Glover, George Kennedy, Sandy McDuff and Jim Sandilands all attended the Korean Veterans' Dinner in the Mercure Hotel, Perth. It was good to see such a large number of Branch members there and it turned out to be a wonderful evening. Well organised by the Association and in the company of such distinguished gentlemen, it was fascinating listening to the exploits of these veterans. One felt proud and humble to be amongst them.

On the 18th of December we held a get-together in the lounge bar of the Perth Ex Servicemen's Club. Most were breaking up for the Christmas holidays and it gave us a chance to wish each



The Snapper is snapped. George MacDonald and his wife enjoying the Burns Supper.



The guests and some of the Branch Members at the Perth Burns Supper.



Kenny Forbes raises a glass to the Bard.



Alan McEwen, the Duthies, the Sandilands and Pete Tindal.



The Chairman hosts the Deputy Provost Mr Bob Band.

other Season's greetings and exchange presents (we all left empty handed).

On the 2nd of February, we held our Branch Burns Supper. It was held in the Salutation Hotel, Perth and was a marvellous evening. Our guests were Colonel and Mrs Murdoch (Association Chairman) and Councillor Bob Band and his wife Valery, the Deputy Provost. Thanks go to Ally Alcorn in helping to organise the event. Thanks also go to

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The Perth Branch Office Bearers; from left to right – Alan McEwen, Jim Sandilands and Winky Greer.



Perth Branch members attended the Scone Remembrance Parade.

Pete Tindall (Angus) for a wonderful rendition of Tam O'Shanter. We were grateful to other Branches for their support and to everyone who took part in the songs and verse led by Colonel Roland Rose and Spats Baxter.

The Branch AGM was held on 17 March and the current office bearers were re-elected – we must be doing something right or else nobody wants the job! You will probably have noticed that we have acquired a Social Convenor, the great and talented singer Ally Alcorn, so the branch will definitely be in good hands socially.

It is with regret that I have to record the deaths of 4 of our members; Graham Mussell (who sadly died on a train coming back from the Remembrance Parade in London), Jimmy (Yum Yum) Wallace, a stalwart branch member and ex 2nd Battalion, Derek Halley, a Korean Veteran who also wrote the book entitled "The Iron Claw" (A Conscripts Tale) and last but not least, Harry Morgan a 2nd World War Veteran and a staunch supporter of The Black Watch Regimental Association.

Jim Sandilands

STOKE-ON-TRENT BRANCH

President:	Major R J W Proctor MBE
Vice President:	Major P W Burnett JP
Chairman/Treasurer	A Shenton
Secretary:	Vacant

The Branch has had a quiet period but in November 2012 our Branch Pipes & Drums led the Newcastle-under-Lyme Remembrance Day Parade. Eleven Branch Members attended the parade and Mr Barry Thompson travelled from Chesterfield to join us. Three other Branch Members attended their own local parades.

The Pipes & Drums held a Burns' Supper in February at the Village in Stoke and about seventy guests attended this event. The numbers were affected as we had about six inches of snow the night before, which prevented a lot of guests attending.

We are still looking for a Branch Secretary and sadly due to a shortage of Committee members there will not be a Dinner Dance this year.

On Saturday 18 May the Pipes & Drums will be playing at the service around the Cairn of the Monte Cassino Veterans Association at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas Staffordshire; Branch Members will also be attending.

A Shenton



In May 2012 a memorial to all those who fought at the Battle of Monte Cassino was unveiled at the National Arboretum. The Pipes and Drums of The Black Watch Association (Stoke-on-Trent Branch) led the way with Drum Major Arthur Simmonds at their head. Arthur is a veteran of that battle having served in the 6th Battalion.

(Photograph courtesy of The Monte Cassino Society)

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