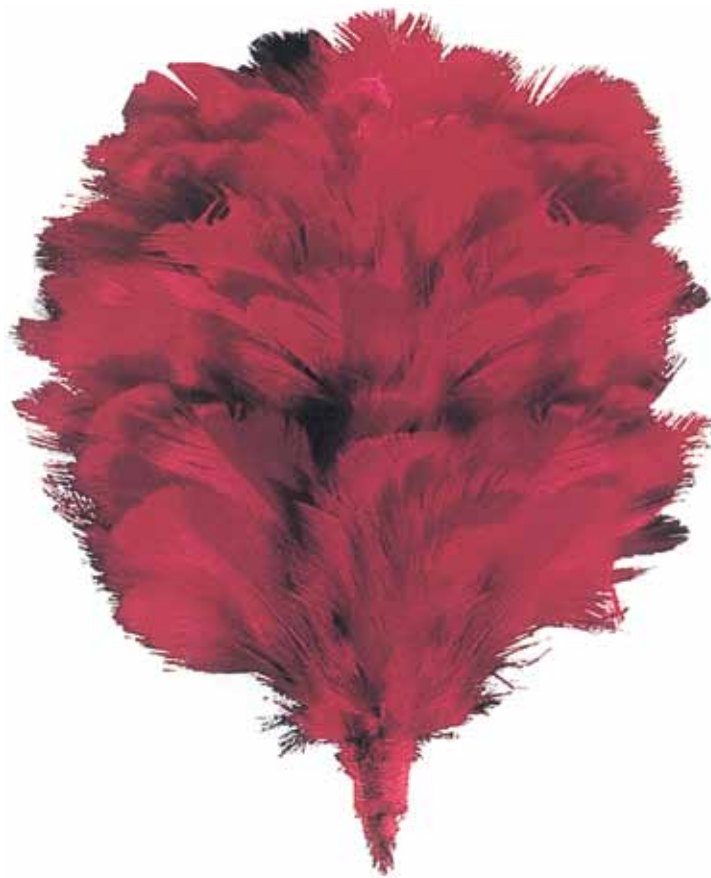


No. 112
November 2011



THE RED HACKLE

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THE RED HACKLE

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



Fifteen 2nd World War veterans representing all battalions of the Regiment gathered in Perth on 21 May 2011 to be honoured by the Association.



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THE RED HACKLE



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

**November 2011
No. 112**

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Editorial

In the May 2011 edition of the magazine, a report into the future of the Regimental Headquarters and Home Headquarters structure was awaited and 5 months on, the report has not been issued. For the MOD and Association staff it has been business as usual in what has proven to be a very busy period. In May the biennial Aberfeldy Muster Parade was held for the third time since its inception. It was preceded by a memorable dinner for surviving 2nd World War veterans; in June a contingent took part in the National Armed Forces Day in Edinburgh and were then delighted to meet the Association's Royal Patron; then on 2 July, fifty men from the Association marched behind the Old Colours of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) as they were marched off parade during the presentation of New Colours to The Royal Regiment of Scotland; and finally, the Regimental Reunion was held on 23 July on one of the few sunny days we have enjoyed this summer.

The Black Watch battalion have completed their final Mission Specific Training and will have deployed to Afghanistan by the time this edition is in print. The Advance Party deployed in early September and the Main Body will be complete in Theatre by late September after a 9 month training package. They have been reinforced by 50 Pioneers from the Royal Logistic Corps as well as by 24 Territorial Army soldiers to ensure that they deploy at full strength. The battlegroup has also taken under command four extra Rifle Companies.

In addition the battalion have taken part in the New Colours Parade held in Holyrood Park in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen when six of the seven battalions of the new regiment were presented with their New Colours. They then held a further parade at Fort George on Saturday, 3 September which was attended by the Royal Colonel, when the Colours were paraded before the battalion and their families.

The weather in Scotland over the summer has been pretty dismal and that may have affected the number of visitors who have come to the museum but planning for its upgrade is under way and will be dependant on receiving the Heritage Lottery Fund Grant as well as other grants from private Trusts. A full report has been written by the Appeal Committee.

As we look ahead to 2012, the Association is planning to hold a dinner in Perth or Dundee to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Hook. Whilst the aim will be to invite as many Korean War veterans as we can, the dinner will be open to Association members of all ages. The planning date for that event is 17 November 2012 and Association Branches are asked to give this event priority in their calendar of events. The second major event planned for 2012 is the Laying Up of the 1st Battalion Colours and those of the 1st/51st Highland Volunteers which is likely to take place on the same date as the Regimental Reunion on Saturday 23 June 2012.

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

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

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

Bulk orders are supplied at a rate of £4 per copy. Individual copies are sent out to permanent subscribers, both in the UK and abroad, at a subscription rate of £8 annually for UK subscribers, £14 annually to Europe and £16 annually Worldwide by Airmail. A Gift Aid Scheme is available for individual subscribers who are subject to UK tax. The magazine fund benefits from tax reclaimed in this way. All subscriptions should be sent to The Editor, "The Red Hackle", Home Headquarters, The Black Watch, Balhousie Castle, Hay Street, Perth PH1 5HR, and those interested in the Gift Aid Scheme will, on request be provided with the requisite forms for completion.



Regimental and Battalion News

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2012

20 January	Dundee Branch Red Hackle Dinner	Dundee
28 January	Angus Branch Burns' Supper	Angus
4 February	Perth Branch Burns' Supper	Perth
23 March	Fife Branch Rhine Crossing Dinner	Kirkcaldy
16-21 April	3 SCOTS Homecoming Parades	tbc
21 April	Black Watch Association AGM	Perth
21 April	Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Dining Club	Perth
28 April	Angus Branch Supper Dance	Arbroath
19 May	Stoke-on-Trent Branch Annual Dinner Dance	Stoke-on-Trent
13 June	Officers' and their Ladies Lunch	London
21 June	Friends' Cocktail Party	Balhousie Castle (tbc)
22 June	Regimental Golf Meeting	Kinross (tbc)
23 June	Laying Up of Old Colours Parade & Regimental Reunion	Perth/Balhousie Castle
20 October	Angus Branch El Alamein Dinner	Forfar
26 October	Officers' Gathering Dinner	Perth
17 November	Battle of The Hook 60th Anniversary Commemoration Dinner	Perth
30 November	1739 Club Dinner	Dundee
15 December	Officers' Regimental Ball	Perth

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Lieutenant Colonel D R Orr-Ewing MBE** on the award of an OBE.
 To **Major (Retd) A A L Watson** on the award of the LVO as Private Secretary to His Royal Highness The Duke of York. (New Year Honours 2011).

To **Lieutenant Colonel S J Cartwright OBE** on his provisional selection for promotion to the substantive rank of Colonel in 2012. Lieutenant Colonel Cartwright commanded 3 SCOTS from March 2008 to March 2010.

To **Lieutenant Colonel Robin Lindsay** who assumed command of The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland on 31 October 2011.

NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Reilly was commissioned into The Gordon Highlanders (later amalgamated to become The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons)) in 1992. He served in the light and mechanized roles as a junior officer and deployed to Northern Ireland and the Balkans during that time. He subsequently served as an ADC, an RMAS instructor, as Adjutant of The Highlanders and as an SO3 at Headquarters 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division.

Having completed staff training on the Initial Command and Staff Course (Land), he held an appointment at the MOD, working to deliver new communications equipment after which he took command of an armoured infantry company with the 4th Battalion in Germany, deploying with that Company to Iraq. In his subsequent staff appointment, he completed 2 years as Chief of Staff of Headquarters 1 Mechanised Brigade where he was responsible for preparing and deploying more than 4000 of the Brigade's soldiers to Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Reilly is currently attending the Advanced Command and Staff Course at Shrivenham after which he will take



The MOD has announced that the new Commanding Officer of The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland is to be Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Reilly who is due to take command in the Autumn of 2012.

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

Lieutenant Colonel Reilly enjoys country sports and Highland pursuits and he has a young family.

THE HISTORY OF THE BLACK WATCH

In 2008 the Trustees of the Regiment took the decision to commission Victoria Schofield to write the definitive history of the Regiment. Victoria has been given unfettered access to the archives and was helped by Tom Smyth the archivist; she has just sent her proof of Volume 1 (1725-1899) to her publisher (Quercus). The first Volume will be published in May 2012.

It covers all aspects of the lives of the officers and soldiers of the 42nd and 73rd and includes detail from many unpublished documents from both the Regimental Archive and other sources. The story is largely told through the diaries and memoirs of men who served in the Regiment and history is brought alive by their stories and reminiscences.

Victoria Schofield has had a life long love of history (her father was a naval officer and historian) and her writing career began in her third year at Oxford University. In recent years she has specialised in writing about Pakistan, Kashmir and Afghanistan and she completed her first biography in 2006 – Wavell: Soldier and Statesman. She was able to combine her love of military history with her knowledge of the Indian Subcontinent. That book brought her to the attention of the Trustees and led to her being commissioned to write the history of the Regiment.

The history will be published in two volumes, the second being available in 2015. We will publish an extract from the book in May 2012 which will give readers a flavour of the depth of research and the author's style.

COMMISSIONING

The following officers have been commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Scotland and have been posted to the 3rd Battalion.

In December 2010:

Nick Allen-Perry from London, who was educated at Isleworth and Syon School for boys. He then read Politics at the University of Sussex.

Thomas Blair who was educated at Falkirk High School and at Stirling University where he read International Politics.

Chris McRobbie who attended Morrison's Academy in Crieff. He then read Law at Aberdeen University.

Rob Weir from Glasgow attended Bishopbriggs High School and read Politics at Glasgow University.

In April 2011:

Richard Martin is from Devon. He attended Monkton Combe School and Birmingham University.

Christian Voce-Russell was educated at Merchant Taylors' School in Crosby, Liverpool and he completed his degree at Liverpool University.

THE BLACK WATCH REGIMENTAL DEPOT

It is hard to believe but 50 years ago in May 1961 the Regimental Depot at Queens Barracks closed and this photograph of the Permanent Staff was taken after the final parade.

The article in the Red Hackle Magazine of July 1961 recorded the event and stated "The old barracks looking spruce and tidy but slightly worn, seemed to be meditating on its past, on all the soldiers who had sheltered within its walls, on the honours they had won and on those who had passed on having given their all". The barrack gate was locked at 10am on 31 May 1961.

The front row of the photograph show the following – from left to right Piper Blyth, Cpl Rumbold, LCpl Davies, unknown drummer, Sgt Ritchie, CSgt Fenner, WO2 Prescott, Colonel Stan Allison, Major "Nobby" Clark, RSM Shepherd, Major A Gurdon (CO), Captain T N McMicking, Lieutenant C B Innes, WO2 McLean, WO2 Knight, CSgt Walker, Sgt Amis, unknown drummer, Cpl Davidson, Cpl Stoner, Pipe Cpl Anderson.

ELIZABETH CROSS PRESENTATION – SECOND LIEUTENANT DAVID NICOL

Mrs Dorothy MacLellan the mother of Mrs Jeffy Erskine was presented with an Elizabeth Cross by The Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran. Mrs MacLellan's brother, 2nd Lieutenant David Nicol was killed in action in Korea on 8 August 1952. The Red Hackle of October 1952 recorded that he would be remembered

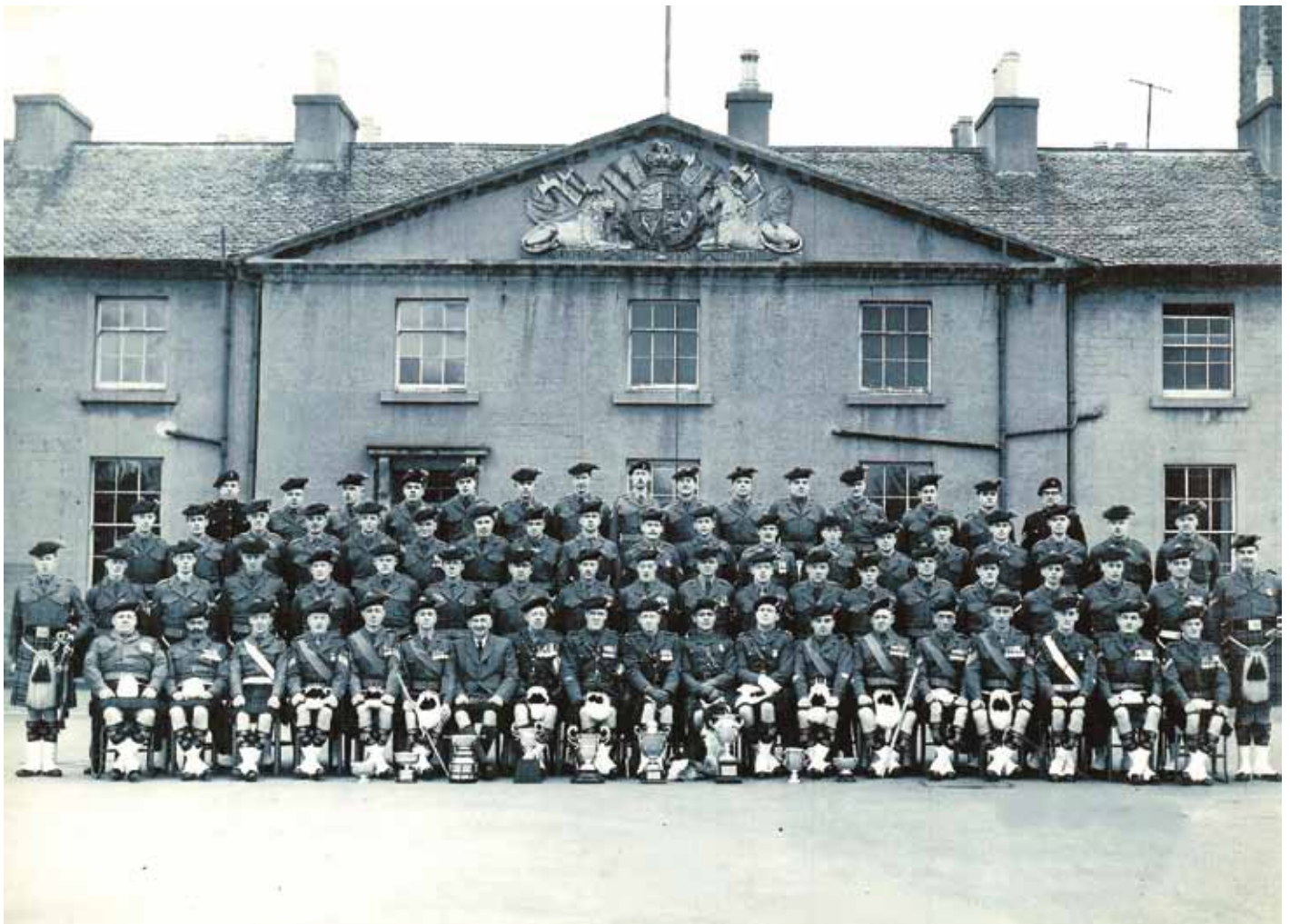
for "his charm and good manners, for his natural all round ability, which inspired respect and loyalty of those who served with him and above all for his constant unselfishness, which never lost him a friend he had made".



From left to right Major Jamie Erskine, Mrs Jeffy Erskine, Mr John Duncan The Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, The Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, Mrs Dorothy MacLellan, Major David Harvey, Councillor Winifred Sloan the Provost of South Ayrshire and Mr Donald MacLellan.

ELIZABETH CROSS PRESENTATION – PRIVATE ROBERT GILLILAND

On Monday 4 July 2011 the Gilliland family were presented with an Elizabeth Cross in recognition of the loss of Private Robert Gilliland, who was killed on 31 July 1952 whilst serving with B Company, 1st



The Permanent Staff at Queens Barracks, Perth May 1961 (courtesy Major R C B Ritchie).



The Gilliland family after the presentation of the Elizabeth Cross.

Battalion The Black Watch on Point 159. Robert is buried in the UN Military Cemetery, Tanggok near Pusan, Korea.

Captain (Retired) Matthew Atkin attended the presentation on behalf of the Regiment and The Honourable Mrs Susan Cunliffe-Lister, Lord Lieutenant of Yorkshire presented the Cross to the family.

COLONEL MICHAEL ANSTICE MC

Michael Anstice, who died in May, was closely involved with the Black Watch at the Battle of the Hook in November 1952. The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards was the armoured regiment supporting the Commonwealth Division and his 4th Troop of B Squadron was supporting A Company on the Hook itself. Here the troop was divided with two tanks on either side of the feature. The tanks sat in prominent positions and provided defensive fire using both their main armament and their machine guns; they were particularly effective firing on fixed lines at night and their accuracy made them deadly long-range snipers by day. They also became frequent targets of shell and mortar fire to the dismay of their Infantry neighbours.

At 9pm on 16 November a very heavy bombardment came down on A Company's position with an infantry assault in strength from three directions. Immediately the tanks were ordered to shell and machine gun the enemy's forming up positions. The fumes inside the tanks were appalling the extractor fan being unable to cope with the rate of firing. This made all the crew members violently sick. They were also being frequently hit by shell and mortar fire. Following a pre-arranged plan the men of A Company withdrew into their bunkers and our own artillery brought down a very heavy barrage onto our own positions on the Hook. A Company emerged from the bunkers and the battle continued and the tanks continued to fire their allotted defensive fire tasks.

At 10pm a second enemy assault was launched. The plan was repeated but this time it required more that A Company to clear the position. B and other companies were brought in to counter-attack and other companies stood to. Michael Anstice's tank was ordered to climb to the top of the Hook to support this. Crushing two administrative vehicles on the way the tank moved off. It reached the top and turned left and started firing along the ridge. Shortly after it was hit by an anti-tank rocket, stopped and set on fire. The driver, Trooper Lewis, was badly wounded. The loader/operator, Lance Corporal Williamson, jumped out and put out the fire. After he and Michael Anstice dragged Trooper Lewis through the hatch into the turret he took over the controls and reversed the damaged tank back down the hill. Trooper Lewis was taken to the Regimental Aid Post and the tank with a relief crew member returned to its original position and continued to support the defence.

For this action Michael Anstice was awarded the Military Cross.

David Arbuthnott and Ian Critchley

APPOINTMENTS – THE ROYAL HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

We have been informed by the Regimental Secretary of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada of the following appointments:

Honorary Colonel – **Lieutenant Colonel Daniel F O'Connor CD**

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel – **Lieutenant Colonel Charles N McCabe OMM, CD.**

Dan O'Connor was Regular Force RCR and also served in The Black Watch commanding the Regiment in the 1990s and Chuck McCabe was Regular Force Black Watch and rebadged in 1970 to the RCR.

A VISIT FROM THE BLACK WATCH OF CANADA

A group of 20 from The Black Watch of Canada visited Scotland in August and were looked after by The Black Watch battalion at Fort George and by the Regimental Association at Balhousie Castle. Gordon Ritchie presented a cheque for £300 to the Appeal Fund on behalf of The Black Watch of Canada.



The group from The Black Watch of Canada Association visited Balhousie Castle in August 2011.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND REGIMENT

The Editor recently received an e-mail from Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Moriarity of the Canadian Forces. He was seeking information on the connection between the Prince Edward Island Highlanders and The Black Watch. The Army List 2005, pre merger, showed the affiliation being extant however contact between the two regiments has been desultory. An extract of his letter is shown below and if any reader has had recent contact with or information about the PEI Regiment they can e-mail Lieutenant Colonel Moriarity on GLENN.MORIARITY@forces.gc.ca.

“The PEI Highlanders amalgamated with the PEI Light Horse on April 1st, 1946 and became the 17th (Prince Edward Island) Reconnaissance Regiment. In 1955, the 28th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment amalgamated with the 17th Recce and in 1958 the unit was redesignated as The Prince Edward Island Regiment (RCAC) – RCAC being Royal Canadian Armoured Corps. We have been an armoured reconnaissance regiment since 1946. Currently the unit consists of a RHQ, Reconnaissance Squadron, Headquarters Squadron and a 25 piece brass and reed band. In keeping with our Highland roots, the band also unofficially has a couple of pipers. In 2007-08 we self-published the first edition of “The Prince Edward Island Regiment Manual – History, Customs and Traditions”.

WEBSITE – UPGRADED ASSOCIATION PAGES

The Association pages on the website www.theblackwatch.co.uk have been upgraded and contain information on News and Events, Office Bearers and Branches, an on line Red Hackle Magazine, a Roll of Honour, a link to the Forum (see below) and a Donations page. Please do look at this and pass any feedback to the Association Secretary.

BLACK WATCH FORUM

The Black Watch Forum has over 1600 members and is a useful tool for staying in touch with topics of interest to the users as well as with Association events and those hosted by The Black Watch Castle and Museum. It is “moderated” by ex Black Watch personnel but you will have to register to join to see all the detail on the Forum.



On 4 June 2011 Joe Center laid a wreath at the Menin Gate in memory of those men of The Black Watch who fell in the Great War.

SANDHURST OFFICER CADET RECORDS ON LINE

The history of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst dates back to 1741 and records of Officer Cadet admissions and commissions for the 19th Century are available on line. Visit www.archive.sandhurstcollection.org.uk. There is a small charge for down loading copies of documents.

THE GENERAL RENNIE BRIDGE

Dr Tom Renouf MM reports that a new bridge over the Domnel in St Michielsgestel has been named after Major General Thomas Rennie. The plaque was dedicated on 25 June 2011.

Many readers will know that General Rennie was killed on 24 March 1945 whilst commanding the 51st Highland Division during Operation COLIN which was launched to clear North Brabant and drive the Germans across the River Maas. He is buried in the Reichswald Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Government has undertaken to provide university and further education scholarships for children of Service personnel who have been killed on active duty since 1990. Information on eligibility and how to apply can be found on the MOD website at; <http://bit.ly/scholarshipscheme>.



(Photograph courtesy of Richard Wilkins/Perthshire Advertiser) – Jackie Robertson ran the Edinburgh Marathon and raised £700 for The Black Watch Association, achieving a personal best time of 3 hours 37 minutes. Her grandfather served with the Regiment and was captured at St Valery and she wanted to honour the sacrifices of the 2nd World War generation. The cheque was presented to Major Ronnie Proctor and Dr Tom Renouf MM.

THE OPENING OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

On Friday 1 July 2011 Her Majesty The Queen attended the opening of the Scottish Parliament and formally opened the fourth sitting of the



Phill Horwood carries the Mace into the Chamber.

**THE BLACK WATCH GOLF MEETING –
SUPPORTED BY THE BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION
AND SPONSORED BY SIDEY LTD AND COOPERATIVE
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The Annual Black Watch Regimental Golf Meeting took place at Kinross on Friday 22nd July 2011 and despite some fairly iffy weather with intermittent showers, a great day's golf was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately operational commitments prevented anyone from The Black Watch Battalion in Fort George from attending. Nevertheless the number of 'other' players actually increased, with



Her Majesty The Queen leaving the Scottish Parliament. In the foreground is the Crown of Scotland and in the background members of The Royal Company of Archers.



The prize winners at the Regimental Golf Meeting held in Kinross on 22 July 2011; Alec Stewart (centre front) supported by his wife Kath organises and runs the event.



WO2 Stewart Malcolm is one of the Scottish State Trumpeters and this photograph was taken during the rehearsal for the State Opening of the Scottish Parliament.



Bruce Osborne (left) and "Snapper" Brannigan the victorious pairs team.

Parliament. Three retired Black Watch men played a part in the ceremony held inside the Parliament building. WO2 Stuart Malcolm the Non Regular Permanent Staff Band Sergeant Major of the Highland Band is a State Trumpeter and played the fanfare "Majestic Steps" as Her Majesty entered the Chamber.

Ex Sergeant Phill Horwood who is the Security Operations Manager for the Scottish Parliament has become the Scottish Parliament's Mace Bearer and he led the procession into the Parliament Chamber. Lastly Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell was on duty as a member of The Royal Company of Archers, to escort both the Crown of Scotland and Her Majesty during the ceremony.

CURLING

The following is the fixture list for the 2011-2012 curling season:

- 4 November 2011 Match v The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
- 13 January 2012 Match v The Highlanders
- 8 February 2012 Highland and Lowland Brigades' Curling Club v The New Club
- 8 March 2012 Highland and Lowland Brigades' Curling Club Bonsel
- 22 March 2012 Highland and Lowland Brigades' Curling Club v The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers)

New curlers are always welcome. Anyone interested should contact the Regimental Secretary.



Billy Whytock with the winners prize (note the Green blazer!).

some taking part for the first time; so the meeting continues to flourish. We hope that we will be able to welcome a contingent from the Battalion back again next year.

We were delighted once again to receive the support of a great number of people. Our headline sponsors from Sidey Ltd and the Coop Funeral Care offices at Glenrothes and Dunfermline play a tremendous part in ensuring that the golf remains affordable for everyone taking part while providing some excellent prizes. The Kinross Golf Courses offer us an excellent service, along with a reduction in fees for which we are very grateful. The Black Watch connections in all of these organisations are, of course, instrumental in providing or enabling, the support to be given which is very much appreciated. Last, but not least, the Regimental Association lend us first class support which we hope will continue for many years to come, as we carry the Black Watch name proudly forward.

Scoring was pretty impressive and the golf courses themselves were in excellent condition despite the fairly heavy rain which had fallen over the preceding days and the weather on the day. Billy Whytock finally freed himself up to play after a few years absence but proved he had not spent all of his time at work. He produced a very impressive gross score of 75. Equally impressive was the best nett of 69 by Allan (Snapper) Brannigan who won the Alan Mutch Memorial Cup. This was particularly pleasing for Snapper as he and Mutchie were great pals. The Stableford prize was won by Jamie Montgomery who scored 27 points on the back nine to a total of 39 points. The assembled audience at the prize giving were delighted to hear the announcement that Jamie's handicap will be severely reduced for next year's competition. Best Officer was Bruce Osborne and Best OR was Jock Crowe.

The afternoon round was a Greensomes Pairs competition which is always keenly contested. Two golfers obviously on form (Osborne and Brannigan) just beat Neil Elder and Pete Graham to the main prize. However, the performance of the day must go to Alex Murdoch and Colin Innes who teamed up to a very impressive 4th place despite being far and away the oldest pair in the field!

We were delighted to welcome Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell who joined us for lunch and Jim Lees and Wright Beveridge from the Coop who came along, not only to take part but to help with the presentation of prizes. Another terrific day in the Black Watch Regimental calendar which teed us up nicely for the Reunion the following day. We look forward to many more to come and any other golfers out there who would like to take part can register their interest by sending an email to Major Alex Stewart at 51X-G1-Disc-SO2@mod.uk.

THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE – NINE GRUMPY OLD MEN

On Monday the 20th of June 2011 a group of nine Black Watch Veterans all ex Signals and Recce Platoon set off from Dundee to take on the Three Peaks Challenge of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Mount Snowdon in aid of the Help for Heroes charity. With an average age of 62 they did themselves and the Black Watch proud by completing the challenge in 61 hours 30 minutes. The team suffered



The Three Peaks Team of Bill Finegan, George Ireland, George Wood, Billy Adamson, Phil Yeaman, John Donaldson, Mick Madden, Eddie Ireland, Hugh Beattie

only one casualty on Ben Nevis, after a fall on the way down but this was soon remedied with some swift treatment and pain killers. It was a wonderful experience for us all, one which in retrospect we all enjoyed and we hope to do something similar in the future. We have managed to raise £5513.90 and would like to thank everyone who donated money to this event.



The 65th Anniversary gathering of the 5th Battalion Douvre Club was held in Perth on 25 June 2011. Members were joined by three St Valery POWs and other Highland Division guests. (Courtesy of Perthshire Advertiser)



Ruari Halford-MacLeod presented to The Royal Regiment of Scotland a pipe banner from the Clan MacLeod Society. It was donated to the 3rd Battalion in memory of the late John MacLeod of MacLeod the 29th Chief who served with The Black Watch in Kenya as a National Service officer. It was received by Lt Col E A Fenton and PM Grisdale.

FOR SALE

The following books are available for sale from The Black Watch Association:

The Black Watch, The Record of an Historic Regiment, Archibald Forbes (1896 Edition) £25.

Volume 1 (of 3). A History of The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions) 1914-1918 £30-£50.

The Royal Highland Regiment, The Black Watch 42nd and 73rd Medal Roll 1801-1911 £20.

Illustrated Histories of the Scottish Regiments Book No 1 The Black Watch by Lt Col Percy Groves, Illustrated by Harry Payne £100-£120.

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

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Acquisitions

The museum continues to receive donations every week. Our most recent acquisitions include items belonging to the late James Wolfe-Murray and his father, Malcolm Wolfe-Murray, including uniform and photographs. Over the last few weeks we have also received many campaign medals, uniform items and photographs from the First World War.

Volunteers

Our volunteers continue to make an invaluable contribution to the work of the museum. Our collections volunteers have been continuing with the reconciliation project and updating the museum database to ensure the collection is ready to be moved during the re-development.

Winter Lectures

Our second Winter Lecture series started on 29th September with a Keynote Lecture from Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The series will continue during October to March with evening and afternoon lectures at the Museum on a variety of topics, including: Paintings at Balhousie; Surrender at St Valery, 1940; Fontenoy and The Black Watch; two lectures on the history of firearms used by the Regiment; and the Battle for Goch, 1945. Please contact the Museum for more details and to book tickets.

Redevelopment plans

The redevelopment plans for the Castle and Museum are gathering pace. The Museum Working Party, chaired by James Watt, has been leading the Museum part of the redevelopment plans. The Museum Working Party includes the Museum staff and the Project Curator, Allan Carswell (for-

merly of the National War Museum at Edinburgh Castle). They have been working with an exhibition designer – Studio MB, based in Edinburgh – to develop the layout of the new museum. While the redeveloped museum will use modern techniques, it is key that the design of the galleries and displays should continue to reflect the character of the topic and be sympathetic to the nature of the building.

THE FRIENDS OF THE BLACK WATCH CASTLE AND MUSEUM

The news continues to be good at the one year point. The Friends have had a stupendous start, probably rather better than it could have ever have hoped, when the project started. For this we must thank our energetic and diligent Chairwoman Sarah Riddell-Webster, James Watt, who guided us through the legal morass of setting up the charity and Leonor Blackhall, our efficient Committee Secretary. This was all being done in tandem with the not inconsiderable workload being generated by the Heritage Lottery Funding application. An AGM will be held on 9 November 2011. A Friends' tie and lapel pin have been devised, produced and are available for sale from the Museum Shop. An entertaining list of events has been established, which is a key to attracting visitors to the Castle and Museum.

To date the Friends have enlisted 191 members and it has set itself the target of 300 by April 2012. Some of the Friends have had recent connections to the Regiment, some go back several generations and some have no connections at all but want to support the legacy of the Black Watch. Our youngest members are teenagers and we have members who come from as far afield as Germany, Western Australia, Johannesburg and New Jersey. The Friends hope that they will recruit more volunteers, who will help run events or become elected to the management committee. In the meantime particular mention should be made of David Thomson, Jim



Visual for proposed Empire Gallery in the redeveloped Museum, covering the period 1815-1914.

Turpie and Willie Coupar to whom the Friends are most grateful. We need however more volunteers and particularly supporters who are prepared to encourage the public to come to the Museum.

The annual Black Watch Cocktail Party was held on the 21st of July but for the first time under the auspices of the Friends. Over 200 tickets were sold at an event that took place in the Wavell Memorial Gardens. We were delighted to see our sponsor Mr Steve Brown of Steve Brown Electrical was present. The evening started overcast and damp but as it went on, conditions improved so that guests were able to venture from under the marquee. It was enhanced by the music of the Perth and District Pipe Band. The Cocktail Party is now firmly in the annual calendar.

The Winter Lecture Series will occur monthly starting in October and cost members of Friends £1.50 each per lecture They are a continuation

of last winter's programme, which included young speakers from the Museum staff Richard MacKenzie and Jill von Millingen, who performed very creditably. Speakers this winter are Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin, our President, talking on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Past and Present, Ruari Halford-MacLeod on the Surrender at St Valery in 1940 and Breaking the Siegfried Line; the Battle for Goch in 1945, Brigadier Charles Grant on Fontenoy 1745 and Major Ronnie Proctor on Firearms from the Brown Bess to modern times. These lectures are informal, informative and fun; a very pleasant way to spend a congenial afternoon with friends. There are however only 20 seats available so book early for each talk.

Lastly there comes a plea. The Friends would love to have more members of the Association join the Friends. There is a mistaken view that if you are a member of the Association, you have already done your bit and paid your membership fee. Joining the Association and joining the Friends are different matters but can overlap. The Association is about comradeship, looking after our old comrades and remembering past experiences. The Friends is however about looking forward and fostering the legacy of the Black Watch, so that it resonates in the future. The Friends needs the former members of the Regiment to join in order to keep its military authenticity. This is important as the Scottish infantry and the Black Watch in particular, face an uncertain future.

Remember phone 01738 638152, if you want to know more about the Friends or e-mail friends@theblackwatch.co.uk.

THE BLACK WATCH HERITAGE APPEAL

Appeal Update

We are very pleased to report that our Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application has just been reviewed very positively at the Stage C level and we have now been given the green light to proceed towards our final application. We will submit our £750K bid in early December and we will learn the result of the decision in early March 2012. An incredible amount of work has gone into compiling our application and special thanks must go to Emma Halford-Forbes (Museum Manager) and James Watt (Museum Working Party Chairman) for getting us to the stage we are now. We were encouraged by the feedback given to us by HLF as they clearly recognize that our Museum currently offers an excellent range of activities to our visitors; our Education Outreach Service run by Fraser Brown and Major Ronnie Proctor is unique and ground breaking in the way we interface with schools and that we have a first class infrastructure at the Museum that can only be enhanced by our ambitious plans.

In tandem with our Lottery bid we have been working closely with a few major Charitable Trusts and I am very pleased to announce that we have just been awarded a £300,000 donation from the Gannochy Trust in Perth. This donation matches the figure donated by the Forteviot Trust and it is very encouraging that the two major local Charitable Trusts are supporting a project in the heart of their region and our historical recruiting area.

We are now approaching a crucial point in our project in which we need to ensure that we have enough funds in place to cover all the anticipated costs that our project will incur. As of September 2011 we are working to a funding gap of around £500,000 and much effort will be devoted to bridging this gap in the next few months with an appeal bulletin and mail-shot later in the year detailing further corporate and private sponsorship options.

CASTLE AND MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT

The latest plans for the Castle extension and the Museum redevelopment were approved for planning permission in July this year and our application has been lodged with Perth and Kinross Council.

We have been encouraged by the number of our Regimental family who have visited the museum to see the model and plans of our new development and the feedback we have received from them and other visitors is extremely positive.

We are hoping to commence work in the Spring of next year and this will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the RHQ and Museum moving to Balhousie Castle. Our project will begin with the building of the new car parking facilities, move on to the construction of the new extension to the Castle and then finally the redevelopment of the Museum itself. We are still working to the timeframe of the whole complex being completed for the busy tourist period in 2013.

All the plans are available for viewing on our website www.theblackwatch.co.uk but please remember that we are always happy to share all the details of the project with you here at the Castle with detailed plans and a model available to view.

Alfie Iannetta, Chief Executive, The Black Watch Museum Trust



The Friends of The Castle and Museum lapel pin.



The Friends of The Black Watch Castle and Museum tie.

HEATHERGEMS

Handcrafted from Natural Scottish Heather

Thistle Brooch

£14.75



Heart Bracelet

£14.75

Bead Pendant

£16.50



2012 Calendar

£6.50

The Black Watch

(Royal Highland Regiment)



Calendar

2012

Featuring Drawings and Paintings of The Black Watch.



New Multi Terrain Pattern Combat Kit Bear

£40.00



Balhousie Castle

Christmas Card

£0.60

Or 10 for £5.50

Reversible Jacket

£45.00



Ammo & Co

Cufflinks

£18.50

Also Available in Desert & Temperate Combat Kit.



The Black Watch

Museum Shop



Lambs Wool Scarf
£19.99



Cashmere Scarf
£35.00



Red Hackle Scarf
£19.99



Tartan Ties
£14.99



Red Hackle Cap
£24.99

Also Available in Black
Watch Tartan



Small Umbrella
£7.99



Golf Umbrella
£13.50

These are a sample of the items available from The Black Watch Museum Shop. Orders can be placed via:

- Email :shop@theblackwatch.co.uk
- Tel: 01738 783 743
- Post: The Black Watch Museum Shop, Balhousie Castle, Hay Street, Perth, PH1 5HR
- Or by visiting our web shop : www.theblackwatch.co.uk/shop/

Prices are correct at time of going to print.

Correspondence

norman@maestromusicinternational.com

Dear Editor

SERGEANT ROBERT FORSYTH CROSS

I was saddened to hear of the death of Bob Cross. I first met him when I joined the Battalion in Hong Kong in January 1973.

An outstanding musician he played an important part in maintaining the high standards of the Regimental Band where he was the key member of the Scottish Country Dance Band and a very proficient trombone player. Prior to joining the Army he was a member of Jimmy Blue and his Country Dance Band, often appearing on Scottish television. He had a tremendous sense of humour and was never short of a joke at concerts where he performed as a soloist and his version of 'Donald Where's Your Trousers' always proved popular with audiences all over the world.

Norman Rogerson

2 McFarlane Croft
Letham, Forfar
Angus DD8 2GB

Dear Editor

WATERLOO CAIRN – HILL OF TOR ALVIE – INVERNESS-SHIRE

On reading the article in the May 2011 Edition of the Red Hackle Magazine concerning the church window in York I thought that readers would be interested to learn of another memorial which may not be well known.

On the summit of the Hill of Tor Alvie, close to Loch Alvie in Inverness-shire stands a memorial called the Waterloo Cairn. Erected by the "Most Noble Marquis of Huntly" on 16 August 1815, it commemorates the lives of Sir Robert Macara of the 42nd Regiment or Royal Highlanders and Colonel John Cameron of the 92nd Regiment or Gordon Highlanders and "their brave countrymen who gloriously fell at the Battle of Waterloo".

Macara was actually killed on 16 June 1815 at the Battle of Quatre Bras whilst commanding the 42nd and he was the son of the Reverend Mr Macara of Fortingall, Glenlyon in Perthshire.

Patrick W Anderson



Waterloo Cairn.

Editors Note: Pat Anderson's uncle (also a Patrick) served with the 8th and 10th Battalions of the Black Watch and the RFC. He died of wounds sustained during the war, on 2 November 1921.

19 Bloom Court
Livingston EH54 7AQ

Dear Editor

RITCHIE CAMP, KIRKNEWTON

I was amused to read that the Government have decided to reopen Ritchie Camp, Kirknewton. In 1968 as we were leaving Minden in BAOR we were informed that our next posting was to be in Kirknewton.

We were the first regiment to come to Kirknewton and it had been vacated by the US air force. A whole raft of married quarters had been built but we were very saddened to find that Kirknewton was a tiny village, with one Public House and Post Office and was situated in the back of beyond. There was no easy way of commuting and for the soldiers to get over the Forth Bridge and beyond was nigh on impossible.

After four years we were posted to Hong Kong and it was planned to leave the barracks empty but at the last minute it was to be kept open to allow the Argylls to reform.

Most Scottish regiments at some time were accommodated in these barracks and the general feeling was that the camp was too far out of the way and that trying to commute was difficult and single soldiers had great difficulty and expense in getting out.

By 1985 we were back in Kirknewton for a two year tour but it was then decided to close the camp down and the married quarters were sold off. We then moved on to Redford in Edinburgh allowing the camp to empty and to be sold.

The general opinion was that it was a good move to shut down the camp in Kirknewton as it was not a popular posting for unmarried soldiers... and here we are 43 years later with Redford and Dreghorn Barracks due to be closed and a new Barracks to be built at Kirknewton. Is this really a wise decision?

R Ritchie

19 Bloom Court
Livingston EH54 7AQ

Dear Sir

BLACK WATCH WIVES ASSOCIATION

Some of the wives of the Regiment have formed their own Association and now plan to meet annually. They recently held a successful evening event in Dundee and have plans to meet on 19 November 2011 in Perth and at the Queens Hotel, Dundee on 30 June 2012. The latter event is being organised by Doreen Begg Bruce (doreenabruce@hotmail.co.uk) and if you wish to attend, then please contact her.

R Ritchie



Some of The Black Watch wives enjoying a reunion in Dundee.

Flat 2
Tindal House
10-12 Keyberry Park
Newton Abbot
TQ12 1BZ

Dear Sir

THE BLACK WATCH IN NEWTON ABBOT

I thought you might be interested to see the photograph of a group of loyal Black Watch men who meet regularly in Newton Abbot. The photograph shows Charlie Barker (left) who whilst a retired member of the REME proudly wears a Red Hackle behind his REME badge. He served for 9 years and then worked for Rolls Royce. Harold Mudge

enlisted in 1951 and joined the 1st Battalion in Berlin and then served in Hamburg, Korea and Kenya. I completed my basic training at Fort George in 1951 and served in Buxtehude, at the Depot and in Korea before being commissioned into the RAOC for a 3 year commission; and finally David Mudie who served in the Regiment from 1952-54. After training at Fort George he spent 6 months in Hong Kong preparing extensive, defensive wire belts on the border with China before being posted to 1BW in Korea and joining the Signals Platoon. He also served in Kenya.

J Wormwell



The Newton Abbot team of Charlie Barker (left), Harold Mudge, Jeremy Wormwell and David Mudie.

Peter.grant@talktalk.net

Dear Sir

RHINO PATROL

I was saddened to learn of the death of David Severn but it did bring to mind a lighter moment we had “enjoyed” whilst in Kenya in the 1950s.



A Company Kenya – An unlucky Eland.

In the early days of our tour we had problems with rhinos whilst on patrol, to the point where instructions were issued on Part One Orders on what action to take when confronted by a charging rhino. Whoever wrote that order had never met one face to face and I think I could claim a record hundred yards sprint on one patrol.

The orders were to the effect that we were not to climb the nearest tree or run off in all directions but to let the animal charge and then stand aside at the last minute – the rhino was considered to be very short sighted and its reactions would be too slow to see you jump aside; well that was the theory but few were prepared to put it to the test.

On one memorable patrol the call went out, ‘Rhino’ – chaos and everyone climbed up a tree, unfortunately the same one. Left at ground level was one Captain Severn quite put out but he stood his ground and achieved instant fame for kicking the beast as it went past at 25-30 mph. The theory was proved and patrols tended to stay more intact that is until faced by a buffalo which was a much more serious problem and not quite so slow as the rhino.

There is rather a good cartoon of an incident involving a buffalo in the April 1954 Red Hackle. One buffalo was killed and one Land Rover BLRd!

Peter Grant

Inchlaggan
Ardoch
Murthly
Perthshire PH1 4HB

Dear Sir

LOST SHOOTING STICK RETURNED FROM SOUTH AFRICA

In 2007 Mr Len Henning contacted RHQ from his home at Wilderness in South Africa asking whether there were any relations of “Colonel Innes, Fairmount, Perth”. He explained that he had recently acquired a shooting stick with that name engraved upon the shaft. Major Ronnie Proctor immediately contacted me and I then managed to email Leonard Henning to make further enquiries.

At first I wondered whether it could possibly have once belonged to my Grandfather, Colonel Sid Innes who lived at Fairmount and who served in South Africa with the 2nd Battalion in the Boer War 1899-1902. The shooting stick seemed rather too modern and so I thought perhaps my father, Lieutenant Colonel Berowald Innes, could possibly have inherited the stick and might have taken it abroad and mislaid it in South Africa.

I think the latter possibility was the right solution, for my father went out to Rhodesia in 1965, shortly after that country’s unilateral declaration of independence from the UK and he must have lost the stick then.

Len Henning was marvellous and insisted that the shooting stick must be returned to the Innes family, if at all possible. His daughter, who lives in Cumbria, was out on holiday at Wilderness and very kindly agreed to bring the stick back and a few weeks later, I was able to collect the trophy, which is still in very good condition and is often in use.



Major Colin Innes and Mr Len Henning and the shooting stick.

Len Henning is now well into his 80s. His family came out to South Africa from Lippstadt in Germany in 1765 and he is regarded as the family historian. Once he was an Army Cadet in an East London Scottish Troop who wore Murray of Atholl tartan and later he was a Gunner at the end of the War. He remembers watching the Pipes and Drums of The Black Watch parading down Oxford Street in East London.

Len Henning rang me up to say that he was coming up to Perth in June this year and hoped that we could meet. We duly did so and I was able to thank him once again for returning the stick. After touring Balhousie, where Colonel Roddy Riddell and Len had a long talk about affairs in South Africa and where Len was very interested in all that he found in the Museum, I took him up to see a bit of the Highlands via the Sma' Glen and Amulree to Aberfeldy in order to see the Black Watch Monument and I gave him lunch in the Weem Hotel before I put him on a train South that afternoon.

Colin Innes

Inchlaggan
Murthly PH1 4NB

Dear Editor

**MR IAN MUNRO –
THE SIR JOHN MOORE WRITING CASE**

In the last edition of the magazine you published the short article about the Sir John Moore writing case but it was not made clear

that the donor, Mr Ian Munro was a National Service Officer in the Regiment from 1948-50. He served in Berlin under the Command of Lt Col Bernard Fergusson and then spent most of his later life working in East Africa. He is a loyal member of the London Branch of the Association.

Colin Innes

Unit 239 Hillcrest Place
159 Street-77A Ave
Edmonton
Alberta
Canada T5R 5X6

Dear Editor

THE BLACK WATCH REUNION

Having never attended a Black Watch Reunion and having been away from Scotland for 15 years, I had the great pleasure and honour of attending this year's event.

Many people were hugely welcoming and even though my period of service wearing the Red Hackle was relatively short I was made to feel part of the regimental family.

I would encourage ex Black Watch men of all ages to get involved in the Association; they will not regret it.

John McDermid

Accountants to The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

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

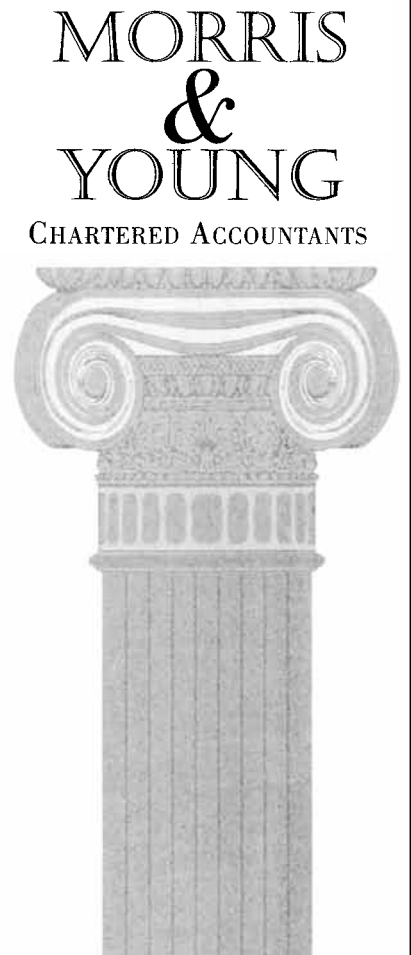
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Long connections with **The Black Watch** give the firm a genuine understanding of the needs of those connected with the Regiment.

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Book Reviews

BLACK WATCH DANCES AND DANCE MUSIC

The Ruthven Collection "Black Watch Edition" of Scottish Country Dances is a well produced CD that is played by the Colin Dewar Scottish Dance Band.

Rob Sergeant who served in the Regiment in 1957 has had a life long love of Highland and Scottish Country Dancing but now aged 72, he is more involved in producing dances with his friend Colin Dewar.

Track 2 "Gus's Reel" was written to commemorate Sergeant Gus Millar who was killed in Helmand Province in 2009. His father is the drummer in the Colin Dewar Band and the tune was written as a pipe tune so that it could be played whilst serving soldiers were on parade.

Track 3 "Tribute to the Black Watch 2004" was written to commemorate those who lost their lives in Iraq in 2004.

Track 4 "Strathspey for The Black Watch" was written to celebrate Scotland's best known Regiment and can be played as a pipe tune but has a dance tune and dance that is seen and heard on dance floors across the world.

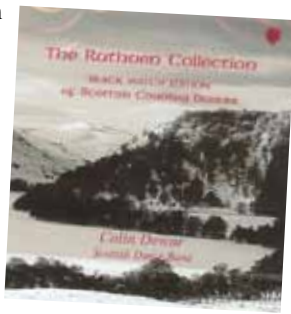
Track 5 "Never Again" is named as the last of Rob Sergeant's 50 dances he has written during his busy life and finally –

Track 6 is the "Kandahar Reel" which now needs no real introduction but was written by two serving officers, Captain Andy Colquhoun and Captain Rob Colquhoun and is danced to Mr Jamie Forrester's Helmand Highlanders.

The CD is being sold in aid of The Black Watch Association and costs £10. It is available from The Black Watch Shop but there are only a few of the original copies left.

Rob Sergeant had danced since the age of 8 and on joining the Regiment in 1957 had looked forward to a long career but an accident and injury sustained whilst teaching the foursome reel in the billiards' room at Queen's Barracks put paid to that aspiration!

He has subsequently written 50 dances, has represented the Scotch Whisky Association, taught dancing at Queen Victoria School and performed at Gleneagles Hotel and around the world. With the support of Colin Dewar's Band he hopes to donate £2,500 from the sale of this CD to The Black Watch Association.



BLACK WATCH

**Liberating Europe and catching Himmler –
my extraordinary WW2 with the Highland Division –**

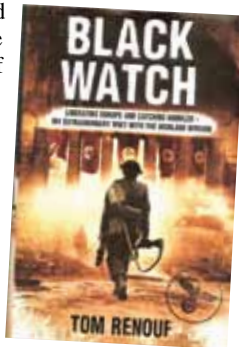
by Tom Renouf

ISBN978-1-4087-0271-0

Dr Tom Renouf MM is a well known and respected regimental character who has done much over the years to ensure that the deeds of the 51st Highland Division, during the Second World War, should not be forgotten. Whilst the title of this book is Black Watch it is dedicated to the "memory of the fallen comrades of the 51st Highland Division". It is part autobiography, part a social history and part a history of the 51st Highland Division.

The memories of his early life and upbringing are well written and interesting, as is his story as a soldier and Junior NCO in the period after D Day and up to the end of the war. It is personal and leaves the reader in no doubt about what it was like to be a soldier in all weathers, in all terrains and facing a determined enemy. There are some interesting insights into leadership in war and every soldier's "bank of courage".

Whilst readers not connected to the Black Watch would not notice some of the errors, a few have crept into the book. An example is referring to Colonel V.C. Holt who was in fact Lieutenant Colonel (Alwyn) Vesey Holt and was often referred to as Vesey Holt. In addition there are a number of spelling mistakes in the Select Bibliography and elsewhere in the book. Finally, the modern historian requires to see the source of an author's material and that is not covered.



Tom has recorded in a most personal way a period of what was a grinding war and we owe him and his comrades a huge debt of gratitude. This book will help to ensure that the deeds and sacrifices of the "Fighting" 51st Highland Division are remembered long after the final "last post" of this gallant generation.

The book is published by Little, Brown Book Group and costs £20 and can be purchased from the Museum Shop.

NIGEL AND CORONA

by Colonel David Thornycroft

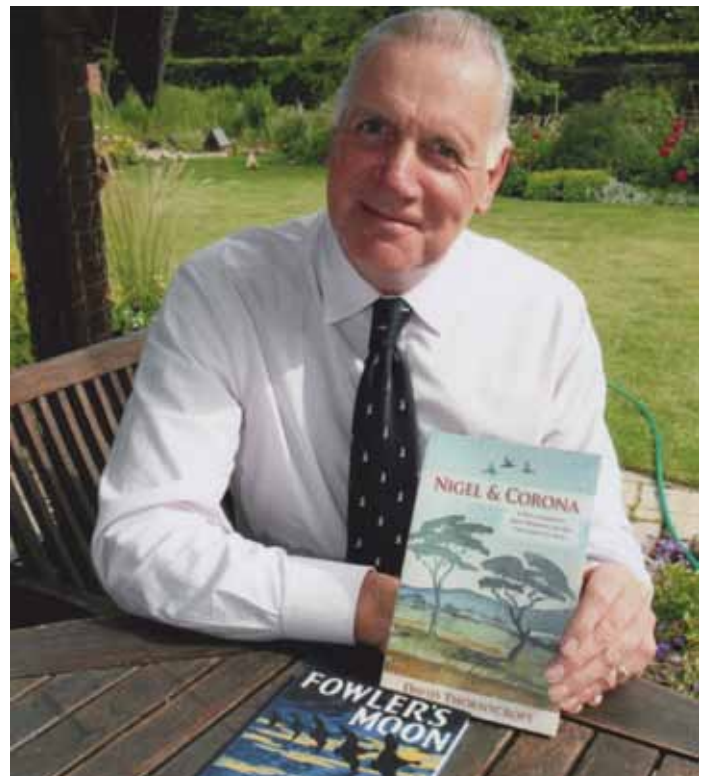
ISBN 978190478426.5

Captain Nigel Thornycroft was captured at St Valery in 1940 with the rest of the 51st Highland Division. He spent the next five and a half years in prison, apart from odd days of freedom he achieved by being a serial escaper. After one attempt he fell into the hands of the Gestapo and spent three months in solitary confinement. To take his mind off his troubles, he wrote a book, on loo paper with the stub of an illegal pencil, describing longingly the wide open, windy landscapes of the Norfolk coastline, where he used to shoot geese before the war.

The book was published after the war under the title "Fowler's Moon", illustrated by his wife Corona's line drawings. It became something of an icon among English wildfowling and it has now been republished, together with a short biography of Nigel and his equally remarkable wife Corona by their nephew, Colonel David Thornycroft. The book describes their comparatively privileged upbringing in England, their wildfowling exploits, their war, and their post-war adventures in Africa, struggling to create a 6,000 acre farm out of nothing, whilst bringing up five sons with an odd combination of the freedom of Africa and the strictness of Edwardian England.

They had to go to war again during the Rhodesian struggle for independence. Nigel survived an ambush and Corona was beaten up and left unconscious on the floor by so-called war veterans. There is a story of strong self belief and self reliance in the face of considerable hardship, leavened by a love of wild places and wild creatures. Their Zimbabwean neighbours may have been puzzled by the unwaveringly stiff upper lip with which they faced the world, but they felt enormous admiration and affection for them, and their story is worth the telling.

The books can be obtained either singly or as a pair from Coch-y-Bonddu books on www.anglebooks.com as well as from larger sites like Amazon or Blackwell's.



Colonel David Thornycroft with his book "Nigel & Corona".

Obituaries

CAPTAIN FRANCIS TURNBULL BELL MBE

It is with regret that we report the death, on the 27th March 2011, of Frank Bell, our Branch President and friend. Frank had suffered from failing eyesight for a number of years. This severely restricted his ability to attend the Branch but not to wander unaccompanied about Gosforth High Street.

Frank was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle and worked in the City prior to the Second World War. He joined the Tyneside Scottish in 1939 at the age of 21 as a Second Lieutenant and ending the war in the rank of Captain. During his service in Burma, he was responsible for a contingent of African troops and became embroiled in the Battle of the Admin Box. His African troops disappeared during the night, but resurfaced the following day when they discovered that there was nowhere else to go.

Following the war, the Foreign Office was fortunate enough to obtain his services and he spent some time in Africa exercising his diplomatic skills. Eventually, he transferred into the Nigerian Civil Service and was instrumental in establishing proper rules of conduct and departmental organisation within the embryo government. Retiring at 55, Frank returned to Newcastle and eventually joined the Association, becoming Vice President and subsequently President.

He was a member of a little known Church organisation, dedicated to the consumption of good alcohol and the pursuit of lively argument. More churches should have such groups. He had a lifelong passion for rugby football and was a keen supporter of Gosforth RFC.

Frank died during his 93rd year, leaving us with nothing but good memories of a perfect gentleman who had many special gifts. Branch members attended his funeral service and the interment of his ashes at a later date. Our condolences go to his two surviving sons and to their families.



Malcolm Dunn

Captain Frank Bell was a wartime soldier and a Territorial Officer, who on the outbreak of war was commissioned into the Tyneside Scottish. He later served in the 4th Battalion The Black Watch, commanded a Company of The King's African Rifles (KAR) in Burma and after the war served with the Parachute Regiment (TA). He did not deploy to France in 1940 with the Tyneside Scottish but underwent further training in Scotland as well as Home Defence duties before a move to Ireland with the reformed Tyneside Scottish.

He successfully underwent training with the Army Commandos in the Highlands of Scotland but was then posted to the 4th Battalion The Black Watch in Gibraltar before undertaking jungle warfare training in East Africa with the KAR. He learnt Swahili during his time in Kenya but then took part in the operations in the Arakan as part of Slim's Forgotten 14th Army. Commanding East and West African soldiers he suffered the privations of operations, fighting the Japanese and was involved in the Second Battle of the Admin Box.

At the end of the war he returned home and for a short time worked in his pre-war job as an electrical engineer before successfully applying to join the Administrative Wing of the Colonial Office.

Newly married to Dorothy, in 1950 he set sail for Tanganyika and a new life. His first son Jeremy was born in Dar es Salaam and then in 1952 he was posted for 3 years as Senior Auditor to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands (now known as Kiribate and Tavalu).

Their final posting was to Nigeria where they were to stay for 17 years. On independence in 1960 he was asked to stay on to help and became a Nigerian Civil Servant. His last job was as Deputy Auditor General for the Western State. On his return to the UK he was awarded the MBE for services to the Commonwealth and his knowledge of Nigeria was much sought after by different Government agencies.

A second post war career began and for 10 years he worked as the Office Manager for the Washington New Town Development but he was also greatly involved in the development of the Open Air Museum at Beamish.

A keen and talented sportsman, he was present at a Newcastle Falcons past players' dinner in 2009 and was the oldest club member by 10 years.

Frank was a gentleman who was highly respected by those who knew him and he was part of a generation that sacrificed much in their own lives for our benefit. He was hugely proud of his service in both the Tyneside Scottish and The Black Watch and was for many years President of the Newcastle Branch of The Black Watch Association. He is survived by two sons Jeremy and Anthony.

Jeremy Bell

ANGUS SUTHERLAND MACDONALD

Angus or Fair Angus as he was known by many people in the Regiment, died aged 51, in Perth on 7 April 2011. He was born in Kenya in 1959 where his father was serving with The King's Regiment but his childhood was spent in Perthshire. He went to Fettes College and was commissioned from Sandhurst in April 1980 joining the 1st Battalion in Werl, West Germany. He joined at the same time as AAS MacDonald (another Angus) and to avoid confusion, they were quickly christened "Fair Angus" and "Red Angus" based on their hair colours.



He commanded 14 Platoon in Delta Company throughout his 3 year Short Service Commission, mastering the art of Armoured Warfare but also completing the deployment to West Belfast from December 1982 to May 1983.

He played hockey and rugby for the battalion and took part in inter company boxing. Whereas many officers would try to lose gallantly in the first bout, Angus had a tenacious streak in him and despite advice to the contrary, he went head to head with a bruiser and narrowly lost.

As a platoon commander, he was fit, rugged and determined and he worked hard for his soldiers but he did have a streak that was sceptical of authority. He was good fun in the Mess and he was his own man.

He did various jobs after leaving the Army, his last as a successful healer.

He was diagnosed with cancer in early 2010 and despite a brave fight, he died in the hospice in Perth. He is survived by his daughter Catherine.

JAMES WOLFE MURRAY

I first met James when I was seventeen, playing cricket during the summer holidays. He was playing for Eton Ramblers against Glendelvine. He was an opening bowler and I opened the batting for Glendelvine – and he fancied his chances, for he recognised at once, that this batsman was about to become his rabbit; for years thereafter it was the same old story, be it golf, shooting or fishing. He excelled at them all with a fierce competitive streak and so a friendship was established for the rest of our lives.



We joined up for National Service at the same time at Queens Barracks and did our basic training together and then on to Eaton Hall for four months, eventually being posted back to the Depot as subalterns.

We missed the last draft to Kenya by two weeks and so we remained at the Depot as "training subalterns" mainly supervising recruits at the rifle range at Kinfauns.

It was a glorious summer in 1955 and there were fires on the grouse moors in the Aberfeldy area and so much of our time was spent taking recruits to dig fire ditches, in other words, field training! The various owners of the moors invited us at weekends to tennis parties and for a period it was party after party.

We joined the 1st Battalion at Crail in October 1955 and the two of us were assigned to D Company under the command of Scottie McDonald and Richard Hoare was the Company 2i/c. The battalion was posted to Spandau Barracks in Berlin at the end of 1955 and James came in to his own. We were in Berlin for almost a year and he appeared to spend most of his time playing golf and playing cricket for the Combined Services,

Berlin. Because Berlin was an isolated island within the Russian zone, the cricket involved playing units in the Rhine Army and so they were touring throughout the British Zone and having a whale of a time. I know because I had to take on part of James's duties!

He loved his National Service and was a good supporter of regimental functions. He played in the Regiment's Martin Holt Cup team for over 50 years in the Highland Brigade Golfing Society's Spring Meeting and for many years in the annual Cricket match against the Argylls.

After National Service he went to Worcester College, Oxford to read law. He played several games of cricket for the University and he claimed that he dismissed Peter Richardson, the then current England opening bat, when playing against Worcestershire. He left Oxford in 1959 with an honours degree in Law and joined Morgan Grenfell as a Management Trainee. In 1961 he joined Distillers Ltd as an Export Management Trainee and throughout the following twenty five years he held a variety of senior management positions including Managing Director of Haig Whisky. The Distillers Company was taken over by United Distillers in 1987 and he finished up as Strategic Affairs Director for International Affairs concentrating on South America.

While on a trip to Latin America, he met Cristine Debbaudt and in due course he brought her back to Scotland. They were married in 2003 and lived near Melrose.

Cristina is an accomplished golfer and equally competitive; I played many rounds with them and there were occasions that I might not have been there as they did battle with one another.

James had a rod on the Tweed at Dryburgh and fished there every Thursday. Salmon could not feel easy while he was there! He played golf regularly at Muirfield and, indeed, he recorded a good score in a competition two weeks before he died.

I have lost my best friend and he will be sadly missed by many people especially his wife Christina and his family.

Ronnie Adam

COLONEL DONALD MCINNES RAMSAY OAM

Colonel Donald McInnes Ramsay was born and educated in Scotland and died on Friday 8 July 2011 in Australia. His family had an Isle of Skye background. After graduating from the Royal Military College (UK) OCTU during World War 2 he was commissioned in The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) and saw active service in Italy and Greece including the Cassino Battles. He was Mortar Platoon Commander and OC Support Company in the 6th Battalion.

He completed his war service as a Major, acting Commanding Officer of The Lovat Scouts but was then a Company Commander in the London Scottish before he transferred his commission to the Australian Regular Army in 1952 and served with the Royal Australian Regiment on operations against terrorists in Malaya. Most of his service in the 1960's was in Papua New Guinea (PNG) where Colonel Ramsay was the founding Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment based at Wewak in Northern New Guinea and for three years he was responsible for the New Guinea Border with West Irian. Colonel Ramsay resigned from the Army to accept the offer of the appointment of Managing Director of the largest export import company in Papua New Guinea owned by the local people. They sold \$1,000,000 worth of coffee in 1973 but he returned to Australia with the coming of independence in PNG. From 1979 until 1994 he was the Special Duties Officer (non-academic assistant to the Principal) at The Scots College, Sydney. He continued there as a part time consultant until 2003. He was a Rotarian and was a former member of the Council of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. He was also Welfare Chairman of the Royal Australian Regiment Association in NSW, Australian representative of The Black Watch Association and Planning Chairman of the Australia Papua New Guinea Friendship Association. In 1994 he was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary International for his help and assistance with projects in PNG. He was a former Vice President of the Commonwealth Day Council in Sydney and former New South Wales (NSW) representative of the Gap Organisation concerned with school-leavers one year job exchanges between Australian and British students. In 1994 he was also honoured by the Celtic Council of Australia for work in promoting Scotland in Australia with the post nominal title of D Ua-Duana Uisel, Gaelic for "a man of distinction". He had been a member of the Masonic Order since



1942. In 1996 he received a further distinction of being appointed Patron of the Guards Association of NSW and became a member of the Battle for Australia Commemoration Committee. He was awarded the Medal (OAM) in the Order of Australia in 2001.

Donald is survived by his wife Elizabeth and a daughter Morag, to whom we send our heartfelt sympathy. We have lost a great friend and supporter.

RMR

When 6th Battalion The Black Watch was disbanded many of the officers and ORs were sent to the Lovat Scouts, which was still on active service in Greece because of the civil war there. The Lovats' CO, Lt Col Donald Cameron of Lochiel had gone home, so 23 year old Major Donald Ramsay of The Black Watch assumed command of the regiment for a few weeks, until the arrival of the new CO. Donald then became 2IC. To a teenage 2nd Lieutenant like me, he was an incredible figure. Strong and silent and apparently in complete control of everything. I hardly dared speak to him. Only his chubby schoolboy features and pink cheeks betrayed his age. His human side was demonstrated by his devotion to the enormous St Bernard dog that accompanied him everywhere. It had supposedly come from Yugoslavia, which threatened us from the north, and Donald had predictably named it "Tito". It slobbered over all the Mess chairs. Donald loosened up when flamboyant Scots Guards officer Digby Hamilton took over as CO. I and my Squadron Commander, former actor Peter Glass, were ordered to get up a Christmas show and Donald appeared as part of a "barber's choir". At the Lovat's farewell Officers v Sergeants New Year's Day football match, Donald donned an extraordinary costume and put down 2-inch mortar smoke across the Sergeants' goal to conceal the Colonel's attack in a jeep. Sadly, I did not see Donald very often after the war but he was a kind, genial and sociable person.

Forbes Taylor

Christopher Dawson formerly of 4/5th Camerons who knew Donald in Australia has written and added some more details about Donald's life:

On transferring to the Australian Army in 1952 he served with the Victorian Scottish Regiment and later the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, including operations against the communist terrorists in Malaya (1955-57). In 1964 he became the senior instructor in tactics at the Jungle Training Centre at Canungra in Queensland. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel during the Vietnam War and was sent North to raise a second battalion of the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment at Wewak in Papua New Guinea. He had three years of immense pressure as Moem Barracks was built in the jungle, without the benefit of a working port or access roads. The battalion had the responsibility for the border with Indonesia. In later life he strove to ensure that the Papuan and New Guinean soldiers were given due credit for their service between 1942 and 1945. He was seen as a great friend of the indigenous forces and he stood up for their rights. Donald was born in Glasgow on 10 January 1923, the son of a shipyard manager Charles Ramsay and his wife Grace McInnes but he spent most summers on Skye at his grandfather's home, where he learned to speak Gaelic.

At Scots College he was employed to "put the Scottishness back into the College" and he was a much admired figure for 25 years.

Christopher Dawson

Note from Editor

WO1 Alastair Saunders attended Donald's Memorial Service and wrote to the Editor explaining that it was Donald Ramsay who found him the job at the Scots College. Donald organized interviews and sponsorship to allow Alastair and Joan to move from Kuwait to Sydney in January 1984. He described him as a great friend and a staunch and true Scot who was proud of his heritage and his links to The Black Watch. He was also known at Scots College as very polite, impeccably dressed and as a thorough gentleman.

MAJOR DAVID BULLOCK SEVERN

David was born in London on 10 November 1926 and brought up at The Old Rectory, Ewell, near Oxford. His father Sir Claud Severn was an eminent Colonel Administrator who served in Hong Kong and Malaya and was Colonial Secretary in Hong Kong from 1911 – 1925. He went to Horace Hill Prep School and then on to Winchester. Aged 18, and being a cousin of Bernard Fergusson, David wrote to him and asked for support



as he went through Sandhurst (in 1946) to get into The Black Watch. He found himself posted however to the Berkshire Regiment and had to contact Bernard again to get things unscrambled. In 1947, David initially received an Emergency Commission in the Regiment and was posted to Berlin.

The Officers Mess soon gave him his nickname "Baloo the Bear," after the Rudyard Kipling Jungle Book character, for David was rather a large and slow moving chap. However he was very clever, generally completing The Times crossword in about 20 minutes and being able to sort out any problem to do with radio communications or electricity and being a very quick accountant who helped many with their double-entry Company accounts.

He served for 26 years in the Black Watch and I was with him several times. More recently, when he moved to Elie, I knew him as fellow Member of the R and A at St Andrews, where David had been a Member since 1960. He loved the Club and played regularly in matches until the last five years or so, after which he played bridge with his friends every week.

David served in Korea and in Kenya in the early 1950's and then from 1954-1957 he was Adjutant of the 6/7th Battalion The Black Watch based in Perth. David loved that job for as a bachelor he lived in the very comfortable Officers Mess at our Regimental Depot at Queen's Barracks in Perth and where he and the other Officers received much hospitality from local people to shoot, fish or to play golf, tennis or bridge. I was posted to the Depot as a Training Subaltern at that time and observed David's liking for good food and wine and I heard many of his stories. He was then, as he remained afterwards, a lovely character, a true gentleman, much admired by the Jocks and liked by his brother Officers.

I then served with him in Cyprus. Shortly after we arrived, the Emergency ceased and so the battalion had very little to do. I remember David was ordered to set up a Beach Camp. He constructed an excellent theatre in the hills and we were able to watch Pathe News and some very funny films. Each weekend some 200 Officers and men were able to camp in tents by the most beautiful bay and drink to our hearts' content – until at 2300 hrs David ordered that a bugle be sounded and everyone had to spend the next five minutes in the sea. How we sobered-up but we did not cause trouble in Nicosia.

In 1960, David served in Berlin and was a member of the Black Watch Athletics team which won the Army Athletics final at Aldershot. He and I were the Hammer throwers and we won our event but we never managed to produce our very best throw on the day, otherwise we might have beaten the Army record by some ten feet.

David then managed to have another Scottish posting from 1961-1964 when he was seconded to the St Andrews University OTC as their Training Officer. Here his golf handicap improved to about 9 or 10 as far as I can remember. He hit the ball a long way and was always envious of another player who could drive further down the fairway. He would then hold his driver at the end of the handle, flex his muscles and whack the ball very hard in an attempt to outdo all his playing partners!

From 1964 and for some nine years, David served with the Trucial Oman Scouts, before he retired from the Army in 1973. He commanded D Squadron. Louis Wilkes, his Second-in-Command for three years paid this tribute, "He was a very kind, intelligent, calm and really generous and hospitable man who was deeply respected by the Jundi (local tribesmen). He loved to read the latest papers, normally with a large gin in one hand and with his very smelly pipe in his mouth. He taught me a lot about life."

When he retired, David stayed on in the Middle East for many years, working as the Liaison Officer with Mr Easa Moosa who had a very big motor business and other contacts in the Gulf Area. He later spent much time in Spain for he was a Member of the Sotogrande Golf Club and he regularly house-sat Bruce and Mary-Elizabeth Hamilton's Villa every winter out there. He had a bit of a stroke a few years ago which left him a little slower but he remained the same friendly chap whom we will always remember. He died aged 84 on 18 July 2011.

Colin Innes

THOMAS AITCHISON

Mr Thomas Aitchison of Bermuda died aged 95. He served in North Africa with the Regiment having originally joined the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

WILLIAM ANDERSON

Bill (Andy) Anderson lost his fight with illness on the 9th of September 2011. Bill was born in Kelty on the 15th of March 1942 and except for the time he spent on his military service he lived the rest of his life working in the area. As a boy Bill attended school in Kelty but he left school early and worked alongside his father in the local Lindsay Colliery. He remained working underground until 1959 when he decided to give the Services a try and it was at this time his love for the Regiment started. After enlisting, Bill found himself in Queens Barracks Perth where he was squadded for his basic training into Army life. On completion of his training he was posted to Cyprus to join the First Battalion. A huge jump in adventure from the quiet Fife village, to the tightly restricted but equally exciting life of Cyprus. During his time in the Battalion, Bill served in Cyprus, BAOR, UK, Malaya, Gibraltar and Hong Kong. He was only too keen to talk to others about their experiences at meetings and get together. On demobilisation Bill returned to his home village and to the mines until their closure. He soon found alternative employment with a local fabrication company and he was to remain with them until his untimely death. The Fife Branch carried out his wishes by bearing him to his final resting place and witnessed his much loved Blue Bonnet being buried with him thus ensuring that when he meets his maker he will be properly dressed! He will be missed and talked about for a long time by his family and many friends in the Fife Branch.

R M Scott

VALE ROBERT "BOB" CAMPBELL

Bob Campbell, died in Adelaide on the 22nd April 2011 at the age of 76. He was born on the 20th August 1934 in Kelty in Fife, where the family lived in one of the "coalminer's rows".

At the age of seven, Bob started to learn the chanter and it was from this moment he developed a passion for the bagpipes. He left school at an early age to take up an apprenticeship in upholstery but dedicated all his spare time to the local pipe band, Kelty and Blairadam. Aged 17, the band with Bob playing, won the Grade 2 World Championships and was placed third in the Open Championship of the World and immediately promoted to Grade 1.

By the time Bob was 18 both his mother and father had died and he was called up for National Service. He took the opportunity to join the Black Watch. After completing his recruit training at Queens Barracks (for which he was awarded a certificate for best all-round recruit) his piping proficiency was quickly recognized and he was asked to join the band where he learned highland dancing.

He was then posted to the 1st Battalion in Kenya during the Mau Mau rebellion. During the 18 months Bob served in East Africa the Pipe Major of the band was sent home due to sickness and he was appointed acting Pipe Major in his place.

Bob was especially proud of being selected amongst eight pipers to play for a banquet hosted by the Queen for the first Communist President to visit the United Kingdom. That same year the King of Denmark paid for the Edinburgh Tattoo to be performed in Copenhagen.

Bob had only just finished his National Service when he was recalled by the Army. He had a choice of returning to Berlin with the Black Watch or joining the Gordon Highlanders who were engaged in active service in Cyprus. Bob chose active service and spent the next four months with the GORDONS in the Troodos Mountains searching for Greek Cypriot terrorists, members of EOKA.

The adventure and excitement of Bob's army years made it difficult for him to settle down into civilian life, so he made the decision to emigrate to Australia.



Bob arrived in Tasmania in 1960 and moved to Melbourne before settling in Adelaide. His passion for the bagpipes was such that wherever he went he found a band or a band found him. He became the Pipe Major of the Port Adelaide Caledonian Society Pipe Band. Here he met his future wife Judy and they were married in 1969.

In 2006 Bob and Judy went back to Scotland and during this trip Bob finally got his most prized possession, a silver mounted set of bagpipes. He had waited his entire life for them and could not contain his excitement. He played and played them, never putting them down until very recently when his illness started to take hold.

He was a very generous person and his friendly and caring nature and his contribution to the piping and highland dancing community, will long be remembered.

LEONARD CRANSTON

Leonard Cranston died on 25 July 2011 aged 90. He spent four years as a Prisoner of War in Stalag 3D and 4G. The latter was at Oschatz in Eastern Germany. It was a work duty camp and contained over 4,000 prisoners who worked on farms and in factories. After the war he worked as a bricklayer and then for Dunlop in Coventry before working for the Council.

Sadly, Regimental records do not record any more detail about Leonard other than his discharge date of 28 December 1945.



RONALD CROWTHER

Ronald Crowther who was known as "Knocker" died aged 78 on 25 June 2011. He served in the 1st Battalion between 1951-1953 serving in Korea and then on returning to civilian life he was involved in the fishing industry. He was a member of the Stoke-on-Trent Branch.



JIM (PADDY) DILLON

Paddy Dillon who died earlier this year in Hastings was one of the Regiment's great characters and was well liked and respected by all those who had the pleasure and good fortune to serve with him.

Paddy came from Southern Ireland trained at the Highland Brigade Training Centre and then embarked for India and with most of the men in his draft joined the 2nd Battalion who were training as an airborne parachute battalion for the liberation of Malaya from the Japanese occupying forces. However the abrupt end to the war in the Far East came about as a result of the dropping of the Atom Bombs and the battalion remained in India until after "Partition".

He joined the 1st Battalion on the disbandment of the 2nd and remained with them throughout the Korean War and the Mau Mau Emergency where he was employed as Colonel David Rose's driver. He left the army in 1954 but a short time later re-enlisted and was posted to the reformed 2nd Battalion at Atkinson's Field in British Guyana. Always smart and well turned out he was well known because of his easy going attitude and trademark pencil moustache.

Although he had spent his fair share of time in a Rifle Company he spent some years in the MT Platoon as a driving instructor where his relaxed attitude made him a great success with a great number of pupils passing their tests in Warminster and in Minden. He was posted to 51st Highland Volunteers in Perth in 1967 as the Commanding Officer's driver and drove both Colonel Ian Critchley and Colonel David Arbutnotth during their tour of command. He retired from the army in 1971 and moved to Hastings where he found work with the MOD and settled down. He last visited the 1st Battalion in late 1985 when they were carrying out pre Op Banner training prior to their deployment to South Armagh.

Paddy still then had the twinkle in his eye, pencil moustache and good natured way which endeared him to all those who knew him and for which he will always be remembered.

Ronnie Proctor and Bob Ritchie



BOB DUPLESSIS

Bob Duplessis who served with The Black Watch of Canada during the 2nd World War was severely wounded during fighting in France. He was a keen supporter of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Dining Club and was hugely proud of his Black Watch connections. He died in Canada on 23rd July 2011.



THOMAS GORDON-SMITH

Tom was born in Manchester on 3rd January 1925. Before signing on, on a Duration of Emergency engagement he worked for the Ford Motor Company as a Turner's Improver. He served in the Home Guard from January 1941 until November 1942. On his enlistment paper he expressed a desire to serve in The Black Watch. He reported for training to 58 Primary Training Wing on 17th December 1942 and was then posted to 8 Infantry Training Centre Perth on 27th January 1943.



On completion of his training, in April 1943 he was posted to 1st Battalion The Highland Regiment (a holding unit) and then in July 1943 transferred to the Highland Light Infantry and was posted to 2nd Battalion The Glasgow Highlanders and went with them to North West Europe on 16th June 1944. He was wounded in the legs in September 1944.

In July 1945 he returned to the UK on transfer to 4th Battalion The Black Watch and went with the Battalion to Palestine. He was promoted Corporal in January 1946. In May 1946 he transferred to the Military Provost Staff Corps, was promoted Sergeant and posted to 57 Military Prison and Detention Barracks. He returned to the UK in March 1947 and was demobilised in June of that year.

He rejoined the Ford Motor Company starting on the shop floor. He quickly rose 'through the ranks' to be appointed a Plant Manager and was given the task of setting up and opening the new Ford plant at Halewood. There followed the period of strikes in the motor industry. During this time Tom always managed, with foresight, to have gearboxes available when required. This ability to 'strike break' brought him to the attention of Henry Ford Jr and also resulted in visits to his plant by the Duke of Edinburgh and the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. There is little doubt that Tom would have progressed further but very much to the disappointment of Henry Ford and the company hierarchy, Tom decided in 1982, at the age of 57 years, to retire.

Ford's loss was The Association's gain because he then gave of his time to the Stoke-on-Trent Branch (and later the Chorley Branch). He became one of the 'Parade Sergeant Majors' of the 51st Highland Division Veterans Pilgrimages to Normandy, Holland and Belgium. He was also for many years the Parade Sergeant Major of The Black Watch contingent at the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony at the Cenotaph in London. He regularly attended the annual Black Watch Association Reunion and that of The Glasgow Highlanders. He was a very special person and he will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

We extend our condolences to his wife June and his adopted family.

A McKinnell and G Ross

PETER GRAHAM

Peter Graham died in Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline, on 13th May, aged 78. He had served with the 1st Battalion The Black Watch, in Korea and was present at the Battle of The Hook in November 1952. He later served as a Territorial with the 6/7th Battalion in Fife in the late 1950s. He worked for the National Coal Board in Cowdenbeath. He was active in the British Korean Veterans Association.



Tom Smyth

SYD MATHER

I first met Syd in 1999 when we formed the Angus Branch of The Black Watch Association and was straight away taken by his character and willingness to roll up his sleeves and get stuck in. No matter what the task, Syd was there whether it was helping to run the stall at The Arbroath Seafest, to raise money for the Branch, organising a Games Night in Montrose Royal British Legion, helping with parcel deliveries at Christmas for elderly Branch Members in the Montrose area or recruiting new members for the Association. He could always be relied upon.



It has often been said that you can take the man out of The Black Watch but not The Black Watch out of the man. This was certainly true in Syd's case. He only served as a two year National Serviceman in Kenya and Crail. After completing his basic training at Queen's Barracks he was posted to the 1st Battalion in Kenya during the Mau Mau Emergency and was present when Lord Archie John Wavell was killed on 24th December 1953. He became the driver for the then Major Angus Irwin who had recently been awarded the DSO in Korea a year before and fondly recounted his days being batman and driver to "Red Angus".

When the news broke about The Black Watch being merged into a larger organisation Syd was one of the most fervent and outspoken opponents to this proposal. His talent for gaining media attention was soon recognised by the committee formed to save the regiment and he was soon travelling around the country with others, highlighting the folly of what was to happen. He managed to get Michael Howard to publicly state on television that he would rescind any decision made by the incumbent government. Sadly the incumbent government of the day was given another term in office and Michael Howard's promise could not be put to the test.

Outwardly Syd often gave the impression of having "a devil may care attitude" and always spoke his mind irrespective of who he was talking to. Once you got to know him, you found that he was a man who respected others and had great sympathy for those who were not as fortunate as himself. This trait was very evident at the monthly Association Welfare committee meetings which he attended regularly.

Ena his partner of many years predeceased him but he continued to live life as best he could without her love and support. Syd was a colourful character who died on 16 April 2011 as he was preparing to go to The Black Watch Association AGM. His passing leaves a void in the ranks of The Black Watch Association and he will be sadly missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Ronnie Proctor

DAVID MITCHEL McKAY

David was born on 29 June 1947 in Lochee Dundee and joined the Army in the late 1960s, hoping to serve with The Black Watch but after a year of wearing the Red Hackle he was medically discharged suffering from suspected epilepsy.

That year made a lasting impression on him and he was very knowledgeable about the regiment and had a wide range of books about Scotland's history from which he was able to quote. He was a great collector of Black Watch statues and figures and he had more on display in his flat than in the shop in Balhousie Castle! He died in Roxburghshire House Dundee on 30 September 2011.

FRED MATTHEWS

Fred Matthews who was a resident at the Crieff BLESMA Home died on 20th June 2011 aged 91. Born on 22 August 1919 in Newcastle he left school aged 13 to work as a milk boy before moving on to a hard physical job in a paving stone plant before he joined the Army. He served with the 7th Battalion in the UK and was later wounded in North Africa, losing one leg above the knee, the other being badly damaged. He took up a desk job and discovered a real skill in administration and analysis of information. He progressed as a local government officer eventually working as a project planner



on the initial M62 project and also on the rebuild of the A9 through the Drumochter Pass.

He had married in 1941 whilst on leave and he and Nancy enjoyed 65 years together. Ill health forced his retirement and he moved back from Tayside to his native North East. He became a leading light in his local BLESMA Branch, receiving two citations and a welcome invitation to a Royal Garden Party. His last few years were spent happily in the BLESMA Home in Crieff.

ALEXANDER MELDRUM ALLAN MELVILLE

Alec Melville died aged 93 on Friday 1st April 2011. He served with the 7th Battalion in World War 2 in the Middle East, Sicily and North West Europe.



JIM MILLARD

James Michael (Jim) Millard died just short of his 82nd birthday on 13th June 2011. He was born in Clent, Worcestershire, on 29th June 1929 and developed a love of music at an early age, learning to play the clarinet and violin as a teenager.

In 1946, at the age of 17, his love of music took him into the Military Band of the Black Watch and this, for a young bandsman, meant travel and excitement. When in Berlin with the 1st Battalion just after the 2nd World War, Jim met Inge. Their friendship developed and became a lasting one and they were married in Dudley in 1955. Initially they lived in Crail before moving back to Berlin with the Battalion.

In 1957 Jim transferred to the Band of the Irish Guards – where he was known by his second name of Michael – and he and Inge moved to London, where their daughter Martina was born in 1958. He continued to serve with the Irish Guards for the next 21 years, travelling all over the world and reaching the rank of Band Sergeant. In 1979 the number and size of military bands was reduced and Jim was required to take redundancy.

After leaving the Army he joined De Beers, working for them until finally retiring in 1999. However, his love of music remained strong and he helped form a Band of retired military musicians (and often played under the direction of Lt Col Duncan Beat LVO, well known as a former Bandmaster of the Black Watch and Director of Music of the Band of the Scots Guards).

Sadly Jim became ill with emphysema and pulmonary thrombosis in 2009/10. His condition deteriorated, resulting in his death in Purley, Surrey, on 13 June 2011.

Jim Keating



JOHN WATSON MITCHINSON

"Jack" enlisted at the age of eighteen in March 1944 and joined the 1st Battalion that year, staying with the battalion until his discharge in January 1948. In March 1945 together with the 5th and 7th Battalions, Jack took part in the crossing of the Rhine. His unit occupied the village of Esserden but a carefully laid ambush meant that the Battalion came under heavy fire. Jack's platoon occupied a farmhouse from which they put up a spirited defence. During the action three babies were born in the cellar of the farmhouse, a boy and twin girls. Some years later, on the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Holland, Jack was touring the battlefields of Holland and Germany and he mentioned the incident to the Dutch tour guide, who told him that the boy who had been born during the battle was now the farmer of the establishment and he would try to let him know that they had met.



Jack was very proud of his time with the Black Watch but for some years he had suffered with respiratory problems which prevented his attendance at the Branch.

A Guard of Honour was provided and a Piper was present at the funeral service. To his widow and his extended family, we send our sympathy and love.

M Dunn

JOHN MURPHY

John (better known as Jock) Murphy died on 25 July 2011 in Livingstone after a long period of ill health which had included the amputation of both his legs.

Born in Lochore in 1949, he worked in the local pit until he joined the Army aged 17. After basic training at Bridge of Don he joined the battalion in Minden in 1966 before moving to Kirknewton in March 1968. He then completed the various tours of Northern Ireland that became the bread and butter of service in the late 1960s and for his whole career.

In Hong Kong he joined the MT Platoon and then in Colchester he was promoted to Lance Corporal but the formal JNCOs Cadre was not really his forte. He trained as a Qualified Driving Instructor and by the time of the move to Werl he was promoted to being Support Company's MT Sergeant. His final posting with the battalion was Berlin and then he spent his last 6 months in Warminster where he retired and transferred to the Civilian Security staff.

Jock enjoyed life and called a spade a spade and both these characteristics could get him into bother but he was a genuine and well liked man. His wife Sandra predeceased him and he is survived by his three children, Andrew, Joanne and John.



TOM OLIVER

Tom Oliver was born on 9 September 1925 in Grays, Essex, where he spent his childhood years and passed the 11 plus examination to attend Palmers College in Grays. Tom was a true Essex man, as apart from the time he spent in the Army he lived and worked there his entire life.

Tom served with the 4th, 6th and 7th battalions of the Black Watch between 1943 and 1946 before spending a short period with the Lovat Scouts prior to his discharge late in 1946. He was a veteran of D Day and the Normandy landings and reached the rank of Corporal.

In January 1947 he married Vera, who was a Grays girl, and they proudly celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 2007 with their son Peter and his family.

After the War Tom worked for Fords as a metal finisher at their Dagenham factory, a job he held for many years until being made redundant as a result of worldwide reductions in the motor industry. After redundancy he took a job closer to home in West Thurrock, where he and Vera had moved to after their marriage, working for Ashby and Horner, a well-known Essex carpentry company. Tom worked there until he retired in 1990.

Tom told me on more than one occasion that one of the best days of his life was 6th July 2005, when he and Vera went with other London Branch WW2 Veterans to attend a Reception at Buckingham Palace hosted by HRH Prince Charles. They were both very proud to have spent time talking to Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall and to have enjoyed lunch in such spectacular surroundings – a very special day for them both.

In later years Tom suffered from angina, but always managed to retain his sense of humour, a great love for Vera and his family, and an enormous pride in having served in the Black Watch. His health declined and he died – in Essex – on 2 April 2011 at the age of 85.

J Keating



STEWART PACKETT

Stewart Packett served in the 1st Battalion from 1958-1967 and was at one stage Captain Willie Dudgeon's batman. He served as the Delta Company Runner before joining a Piping Cadre and the Pipes and Drums. His last job in the Army was working in the Battalion Officers Mess in Minden.

On leaving the Army he settled in Stoke-on-Trent and worked for British Telecom. He joined the Branch Pipe Band until he was badly injured at work.

He died aged 71 on 15 April 2011.

ROBERT B STRACHAN

Bob Strachan died in Roxburgh House, Dundee on 15 May 2011. He was one of the later Second World War conscripts. On leaving the Army he trained as a librarian and was meticulous in his record keeping as this account of his service shows.

Bob was conscripted in December 1944. He underwent basic training in Queen's Barracks, Perth and was then posted to The Black Watch at Kinfauns Castle. He received 10 weeks infantry training and was transferred to Milkbank Camp, Lockerbie for advanced training.

He joined the reformed 4th Battalion near Swansea, initially at Penclawdd and then C Company at Mumbles.

The Battalion were preparing to go to the USA to train for active service in the Far East. He was given embarkation leave from the 5 to 20 June 1945 but on returning, the surrender of Japan meant the cancellation of the task. He was then given embarkation leave from 8 to 21 November. In December they embarked for the Middle East. He then served with the Battalion in Palestine until the Battalion was disbanded on the 25 May 1946.

He was transferred to GHQ Middle East Land Forces where he served until his demobilisation on 28 December 1947.

Bob then worked as a librarian for Dundee City Council and in 1955 joined D C Thomson. He held a variety of positions with them; librarian, Frank Russell's Book Shop, Prestel and sales and marketing. He retired in 1991. He married Evelyn in 1951 who predeceased him in 2001. They are survived by their daughter Rhona and grandsons Kevin and Mark.

He was a member of the Palestine Police Old Comrades Association and used to claim that he was one of their younger members.

Bob was a keen badminton player and member of Downfield Golf Club. He remained involved socially although illness prevented active participation over the past year.

Alex Murdoch



ALAN WEBB

Alan (Spider) Webb died in Glenfield Hospital, Leicester, aged 79, on 3rd July 2011. He was born in Birmingham on 31st July 1931 and joined The Black Watch at the age of 14 as a junior Bandsman, serving for some 12 years. He was the only flute and piccolo player in the band. In 1950, at the age of 18, he was chosen to attend a one year course at the Army School of Music at Kneller Hall, Surrey. He also trained under the direction of Bandmaster Laurie Hicks and took part in the Band Tours of South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. After he left the Army, Alan returned to Birmingham, where he settled down and became manager for Chubb Alarms. He then moved to Northampton, where he met and later married Edna. They were married for 21 years.



He was a keen bowler and was active as Captain, and later President, of Earl's Barton Bowls and Tennis Club. He kept in touch with The Black Watch and travelled to Blackpool on numerous occasions for Band Re-Unions, where he enjoyed meeting old friends.

Alan's funeral concluded with "The Black Bear" as he went home to Barracks.

JOSEPH WELCH

Joe Welch died in Gateshead on 18th August 2011 at the age of 92.

Joe joined the 1st Battalion Tyneside Scottish, The Black Watch (RHR) in 1939 and, like many of his comrades in Territorial Army units, struggled to obtain a level of efficiency with demonstration weapons. Armed with rifles, bren guns and a few anti tank rifles, the Battalion left for France and was tasked with the repair of airfields whilst their training continued. Eventually, the Battalion came face to face with Rommel at Ficheux, where a determined defence delayed the German armour for over five hours. One company was only in it's seventh week of training and many of their weapons were demonstration only. It is known that, during the general withdrawal, Joe Welch carried a wounded comrade, together with his equipment and rifle, for a distance of more than three miles. He was lightly built and did not give the impression of that kind of ability.

Retrained and re-equipped, it was back to France in 1944 and Joe took part in the 1st July Battle of Rauray, where the Tyneside Scottish won a Battle Honour for their part in stopping the Panzers. On the disbandment of the Battalion in September 1944, Joe went to 5th Black Watch, where he stayed until the end of he war.



On the post war reformation of the Tyneside Scottish as 670 LAA, Joe was back wearing the Red Hackle for many years. He was Chairman of the Newcastle Branch of the Association and a very popular member of the Branch. Following the death of his wife, Joe's health declined and for the last few years he has been unable to attend Branch events.

A Guard of Honour from the Branch attended his funeral.

Our thoughts go out to his family as we remember many happy hours spent in Joe's company.

M Dunn

DEATH NOTICES

We have also been informed of the following deaths:

WILLIAM BROWN

Bill Brown has died aged 77. A former Inspector and head of Tayside Police Traffic (Central Division) he served with the 1st Battalion in Korea and Kenya.

"ECK" DINGWALL

Corporal "Eck" Dingwall who served in the 1st Battalion in the 1980s and 90s. He was a Junior Soldier at Bridge of Don and spent many years in the Signals Platoon of 1BW. On leaving the Army he worked for Scot Rail.

JOHNNIE "WHITE SOX" WILKINSON

WO2 Johnnie "White Sox" Wilkinson was a committed and loyal Territorial Army Soldier in both 1st/51st Highland Volunteers and 3BW. At one stage he had 2 sons and a daughter serving in A Company of the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion. He had a great character and always had a ready smile on his face whatever the circumstances.



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THE BLACK WATCH – A LONG FAMILY CONNECTION. EDMUND WHITEHEAD AND THE MACDUFF-DUNCANS

Early summer, 2009. My sister and I were visiting the farmhouse where our late grandparents had spent the majority of their lives. Walking down the driveway, we met one of their neighbours. We explained that we had been given the opportunity to see if we could find anything of interest to us in the house, following our Grandmother's death. The conversation drifted towards our Grandparents and their respective characters. The neighbour made one striking comment about our late Grandfather: "He was very Black Watch!"

During the clearing of the farmhouse, a number of old photographs were found. My father and my aunt instructed me to take the photos to Balhousie Castle, and, eventually, I did just that. One picture was donated and several others were scanned and returned to me. When I collected the returned photos, Tommy Smyth, the regimental archivist, asked me to write a few lines on my family's connection with the regiment, a connection that was first established in 1857.

Grandfather, Major Hector Charles Beveridge Macduff-Duncan, served with 6th Black Watch from shortly before the outbreak of war in 1939 until he was wounded in North Africa nearly four years later. Before the war, Grandfather had been a poultry farmer in Strathearn, and the proprietor of a day old chick hatchery. He was born in Edinburgh in May 1913, to Charles Macduff-Duncan, younger of Damside, and Mabel Barry Whitehead, the second of the three daughters of Lieutenant Colonel Edmund Whitehead. Whitehead's career ended with a civil service appointment, but began with the 42nd Regiment of Foot.

Edmund Whitehead was a Kentish man, born at Barming, Maidstone in October 1839. He was the fourth son of a gentleman farmer. His eldest brother, who would become Sir Charles Whitehead, was the first agricultural adviser to the Privy Council and a technical adviser to the Board of Agriculture. Edmund's other brothers variously entered the church, farmed, or emigrated to establish a life in the new world. Edmund chose the soldier's life.

It always puzzled me why a Maidstone boy would join a Highland Regiment. The mystery is easily answered, though. The regiment was stationed in Dover from June 1856 until August 1857. The Indian Mutiny had just started, on 10 May 1857, and the jewel in the crown of the Empire was at risk. Edmund answered the call and purchased his Ensign's commission on 22 May 1857, when he was seventeen years old. In August, the regiment sailed for India, where they were involved in quelling the Mutiny. The regiment remained in India (at various places) for some time before returning to Scotland in March 1868. The Regiment then moved to Edinburgh Castle in October that year, where they were to remain until November the following year.

Edmund, who had obtained his Captain's commission on 18 August 1869, was living in the barracks at the Castle when he married, in October 1869, Georgiana Sarah Carr, eldest daughter of Staff Surgeon Major George Carr, formerly of the 71st. Georgiana was born in Canada, and had lived in the West Indies and Ireland before her father retired to Glencross, Edinburgh in March 1862, with the Honorary rank of Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Scotland. When Edmund first introduced Georgiana to his family in Kent, (presumably when the regiment was based at Aldershot or Devonport between 1869 and 1873) his cousin, George Ridley Milles, noted in his diary,

"Mrs Edmund is a very good-looking, stylish girl with a large fund of sociability & fun, with a slight Scotch accent, & of course proud of her baby [Edmund L'Estrange Whitehead, 1870-1945, later Lieutenant Colonel, Royal Garrison Artillery, DSO and Bar] which, as a great favour, she brought down to shew me in its night-gown: & which of course, (& it is,) a very fine boy."¹

Whitehead thereafter followed his regiment to West Africa, where he was wounded at the Battle of Amoafu on 31 January 1874, during the Ashanti Campaign. Not long after that (on 30 September 1874) he pur-

chased a Major's commission and transferred to the 40th (which would become The Prince of Wales' Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment) after the Cardwell Reforms) where he remained until he retired on 13 July 1887 with the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Mabel had been born in Puchmurry, India, in October 1883, when her father's regiment was moving from one station to another. Legend has it that she was born in a moving bullock cart on dusty road somewhere in the Indian Highlands.

On 1 May 1889, the London Gazette confirmed that Colonel Whitehead had been appointed to a position as a member of the Executive Council, and as Chief Magistrate, of Heligoland (otherwise known as German Bight), a wind blasted island in the North Sea, just off the German coast. It seems probable that he went to the island shortly after his retirement. He was certainly on the island in December 1888, when the new Governor, Arthur S Barkly, arrived to take up position. Barkly's wife later published her reminiscences of her time on the island and recalled her first sight of Heligoland.

"For some time the little steamer could not approach the anchorage, but battled with the waves; at last, the sea went down a little, and the captain managed to steam into harbour safely; the sturdy crew of English coastguardmen, somehow or other, lowered us into the



Captain Edmund Whitehead.

¹Diary of George Ridley Milles, 1846-1874, quoted in Letter from Charles G T Evans to R S Macduff-Duncan, dated 23 October 2000



Hector C B Macduff-Duncan (1913-93).

lifeboat and rowed us ashore, where the Chief Magistrate, Colonel Whitehead, formerly of the 'Black Watch', was waiting to receive us. All the officials were with him, and most of the inhabitants of the island, bearing lighted torches, which had a weird and picturesque effect. It was Christmas Day."²

The position was seen as a safe colonial post, so Whitehead was devastated when he was ordered to leave the island on 10 August 1890, after receiving, in essence, only ten days notice, following the signing of the Heligoland-Zanzibar Treaty on 1 July 1890. The personal financial implications of the end of British rule on Heligoland were catastrophic, as Whitehead now had no income with which to support his large family. Barkly tried, unsuccessfully, to get him a position with the Executive Council on Gibraltar. Edmund exchanged fruitless correspondence, airing his grievances with the Colonial Office for the remainder of his life. Ultimately he secured an annual salary of just £50. He sought a lump sum in compensation, but the Colonial Office did not answer his letters. In August 1891, he was offered £200 in settlement of his claim. Edmund took the offer as an insult, and wrote to the Colonial Office to complain that the amount was totally insufficient. Arthur Barkly had died in September 1890, aged 47. Whitehead retired to London, where he died on 22 August 1896, aged only 57. Both men were broken by the sense of betrayal they felt towards the State that they had both so loyally served throughout their working lives.³

Edmund's widow, Georgiana, returned to Edinburgh shortly after her husband's death to be close to her mother and her siblings. Mabel was only 12 when her father died, and spent her teens and twenties in Colinton, near Edinburgh. In 1912, aged 29, she married Charles Macduff-Duncan, the youngest son (but eldest surviving) of Perthshire merchants and lairds. Hector was born in 1913, followed by a daughter, Betty, in 1916 and another son, Colin (known as Bobby, later Major, Royal Scots, MC) in 1918. Hector, for a variety of reasons, favoured his mother's character over his father's and, when war was expected in June 1939, he was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the 6th Battalion, The Black Watch, his maternal grandfather's regiment.

Hector saw his first action in France and Belgium in 1940 and was evacuated at Dunkirk on 1 June 1940. Colonel Madden quotes the following account of the evacuation in his history of the 6th:

"Sitting at the entrance to the quay were various military police checking men through quite calmly, while the ships' crews appeared to worry not at all. When I got on to the quay there were four ships alongside – one destroyer, two ships which appeared to be of the peacetime

cross-channel size and a tiny little affair flying the White Ensign which looked highly insecure.

Which to choose was the question? First ideas were the destroyer – an unwise choice as the Boche made a speciality of bombing them – but it had pulled out before we could reach it. The two bigger boats looked too good a target and so the little submarine-chaser, or whatever it was, was chosen. Accompanied by my group of 40 men and an officer still carrying a tea set in a parcel for his mother, I boarded the Kingfisher, as its name was found to be."⁴

In his obituary of Hector in the Red Hackle, Colonel Madden explains that "[o]ur turn to embark did not come until June 1st and for some reason, which I never discovered, there were no small boats operating that day. So we had to walk to Dunkirk [from Nieuport], a distance of about 10 miles, Hector was reputed to have done that walk carrying a box containing a tea set as a present for his mother. I cannot after all these years be sure if that is true or not but I think it is and it was certainly just the sort of thing Hector would have done."⁵

The 6th were then posted to the Isle of Wight, for defence duties. There is a rather well-known photo of a platoon on bicycles with Hector at the front. They were the anti-tank platoon! The Battalion were stationed at Selkirk and Hawick and in the south of England between June 1940 and March 1943, when they were sent to Tunisia to join the 4th Division.

Whilst the 1st, 5th and 7th Battalions, with the rest of the 51st Highland Division, were approaching from the West, the 6th were tasked with confronting Rommel and the German Army from the East, and securing an important road junction called Peter's Corner close to a hill called Sidi Medienne. This was the 6th finest hour of the war to that point, and on the night of 26 April 1943, they were able to gain possession of the hill at Sidi Medienne, and hold it over successive nights. Hector received a Mention in Despatches for his part in the action.⁶

Hector, along with the two other Company Commanders, was severely wounded by shrapnel during the battle for Sidi Medienne, and would spend the next year in hospitals in North Africa and in England, and the rest of his life disabled and in pain. The pain was, usually, borne lightly, and he always delighted in telling me, over lunch, when I was a child, that when they removed his casts and dressings, so many maggots fell to the ground that the nurse fainted! Hector spent the last year of the war working for the Scottish Office, liaising between farmers and landowners whose land had been requisitioned for the training of troops, and the War Office, who were due them compensation for their losses.

After the War, Hector married my grandmother, Muriel MacCurrach, whom he had met whilst they were both working in Elgin. They lived in Lasswade for a while, whilst he completed his work for the Scottish Office. Thereafter, they returned to the north of Scotland, where he purchased a farm on the Black Isle, where they lived and worked for the rest of their lives. In honour of his Regiment, the dining room carpet in the farmhouse was dyed the same shade of red as the hackle,



South Armagh 1975-1976. Selby Macduff-Duncan served in the 1st Battalion and Army from 1972-2007. From left to right LCpl Fotheringham, Maj Macduff-Duncan, WO2 Smith, Pte Shaw, (centre) Cpl Sutherland (front) LCpl Cameron, Pte Balmer, Pte Grover.

²Barkly, FA, *From the Tropics to the North Sea*, Roxburgh Press, 1898, quoted in Drower, G *Heligoland: The True Story of German Bight and the Island that Britain Betrayed*, Sutton Publishing, 2002, p 102-103

³Ibid. p. 126

⁴Madden, B J G, *A History of the 6th Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment 1939-1945)*, D Leslie, 1948, p.15

⁵Madden, B J G, *The Red Hackle*, No. 932, August 1993, Obituary of Hector Macduff-Duncan, p.6

⁶Madden, *A History of the 6th Battalion*, supra, p.25

and the dining chairs were upholstered in Black Watch tartan. I remembered being bribed to join the regiment as a child. Grandfather: I'll give you these Smarties if you promise me you will join the Black Watch when you grow up. Me (aged 6): Yes, Grandfather! The Smarties were duly consumed, but I've reneged on the rest of the deal, and become a lawyer instead!

However, my father did not renege. Colonel Madden's obituary of Hector concludes, "[H]e was very Black Watch. One of his great pleasures was to know that his son was serving as a Regular Officer in the Regiment." In 1973, Selby Charles Macduff-Duncan joined the 1st Battalion. His long career has only recently finished, so perhaps discretion should be exercised and his service should not be analysed just yet!

My father served in Northern Ireland, Hong Kong, Colchester, Catterick, Belize, West Germany (where I was born: fortunately my mother did not have to have me in the back of a bullock cart, as Mabel's mother did), Canada, Wales, Edinburgh, Perth, Zimbabwe, Northern Iraq, Oman, Gibraltar and, most glamorous of all, Lossiemouth. I am sure I have forgotten somewhere! He usually jokes that he has served from Far East to Far West: from Hong Kong to Canada, and all points in between!

He was awarded the MBE (Mil) for his role in organising the VJ Day anniversary celebrations in Edinburgh in 1995 and the state visit of King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway that year. My father will be known to many. He retired in 2007, exactly 150 years after his great grandfather joined, and is now working for a landed estate in Aberdeenshire, as a Projects Manager.

All of those who know the Black Watch know that it is a family institution. Many others will have just as long and proud a heritage of service to the Battalion and its predecessor Regiments within their families. Ours is just one such story, and I hope that this short article achieves the brief given to me by Tommy, of "write something about the connection between the M-Ds and the Whiteheads and the BW for the Red Hackle!"

My Grandfather was fiercely proud of the Black Watch and often spoke of his service with it. He was, as both his neighbour and Colonel Madden said, "Very Black Watch". I hope this article is an appropriate memorial to him.

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Robert Macduff-Duncan

COMMEMORATIVE DINNER FOR VETERANS OF THE 2ND WORLD WAR SATURDAY 21ST MAY 2011

On Saturday 21st May 2011, the Chairman of The Black Watch Association hosted a successful and enjoyable Commemorative Dinner in Perth for fifteen Black Watch veterans of the 1939-45 War. At the outset of the planning process the Trustees had not realised the full importance of what was proposed but on the night we had half of our known veterans aged between 84 and 96 and they represented every battalion and every Theatre of Operations that the Regiment had fought in. The veterans from the seven wartime battalions of the Regiment helped to win 62 Battle Honours fighting in France, Holland, Germany, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Crete and Burma.

The veterans who attended were;

Mr J Bamford	10th Battalion
Mr I Burch	1st, 4th and 5th Battalions
Lt Col F J Burnaby-Atkins	1st Battalion
Col I R Critchley OBE	4th and 7th Battalions
Mr R J Dane	7th Battalion
Mr D Dewar	5th Battalion
Mr A Forrester	2nd Battalion
Mr D Hutton	2nd Battalion
Mr E Morris	6th Battalion
Dr T Renouf MM	5th Battalion
Mr D Roger	4th and 5th Battalions
Mr G G Ross	1st Battalion
Mr A Simmonds	6th Battalion
Capt N A Topliss	1st Battalion
Maj J P Watson MC	7th Battalion

In addition Major G A S Cox (6th Battalion) and Mr T Smith (4th Battalion) were unable to attend on the night of the dinner.

Brigadier de Broë-Ferguson welcomed the veterans and in his speech said,

"Madam President, Ladies & Gentlemen

On behalf of the Regimental Association may I offer a very warm welcome to all our guests here tonight, who served with the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 10th Battalions, during the Second World War.

To assemble a "full house", all under one roof, is historic and much credit must go to the Secretary Major Ronnie Proctor who started organising this dinner in the autumn of last year; but also to you all for making the journey to join us here in Perth.

To remind us all; the 1st and 2nd Battalions were the two Regular Battalions, the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions were the Territorial Battalions and the 10th Battalion was a Holding Battalion but as the war progressed, 1,377 officers and soldiers were killed, many more wounded, so soldiers from all over Scotland and England, particularly from Stoke-on-Trent and Tyneside, reinforced the 'Gallant Forty Two'.

At the first recorded meeting of The Black Watch Association in 1919 chaired by General Sir John Maxwell, he opened the proceedings by welcoming those present in the following speech: "We are gathered together here today to discuss the future of The Black Watch Association in this the 46th year of its existence. In the Great War now happily over, the armed forces of the Empire have played a glorious part.

When all have acquitted themselves so well, we of The Black Watch can truly be proud of our magnificent war record in practically all theatres of war of importance.

Before this War we were Scotland's premier Highland Regiment and our record stood second to none. We never were, and I hope never will be, an advertising Regiment; we prefer to let others judge us by our deeds. But as Colonel of the Regiment, and as one who has had opportunities of hearing the opinion of others, I can assert that the reputation of the Regiment never stood higher.

Each and every Battalion has covered itself with honour and glory. Scotland and the Empire are proud of her sons, and the Red Hackle is well known, feared and respected all over the world."

I fear I can't better that, other than to say that the same thing could have been said sixty-six years ago by the Colonel of the Regiment, Field Marshal Lord Wavell, at the end of the Second World War.

It is indeed extraordinary that from amongst so very few who have joined us here tonight, you survived the battles of St Valery, British Somaliland, Crete, El Alamein, Tobruk, Wadi Akarit, Tunis, Sicily, Cassino, Burma, Normandy, the Reichswald and the crossing of the Rhine, adding glory and honour to our illustrious name.

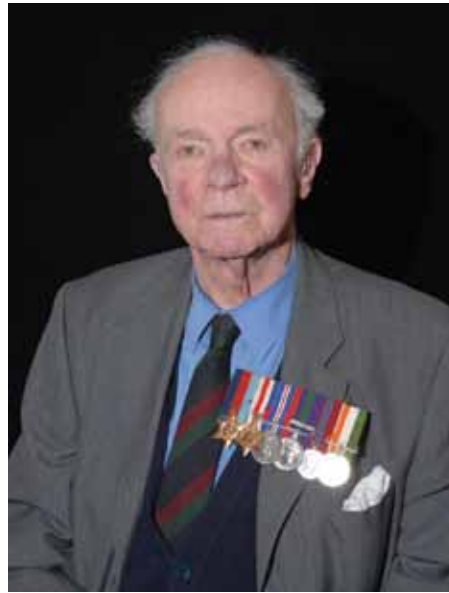
On the 2 July this year the Regimental Association will be on parade in Edinburgh to receive from Her Majesty The Queen our old Colours, emblazoned with those unforgettable names known to us all; and we will be able to say that on 21 May 2011 "*we dined with men who marched with The Black Watch and earned for the Regiment those historic battle honours*".

Gentlemen we salute you.

Ladies and Gentlemen – May I invite the hosts to stand and drink a toast to our Regimental World War II Veterans.



*Mr Ivor Burch.
(1BW, 4BW, 5BW)*



*Lt Col F J Burnaby.
- Atkins (1BW)*



*Mr Roland Dane.
(7BW)*



*Mr Andrew Forrester.
(2BW)*



*Mr Dave Hutton.
(2BW)*



*Dr Tom Renouf MM.
(1TS, 5BW)*



*Mr George Ross.
(1BW)*



*Mr Arthur Simmonds.
(6BW)*



*Mr Ernie Morris.
(1BW, 4BW, 5BW)*



*Mr Doug Roger.
(4BW)*



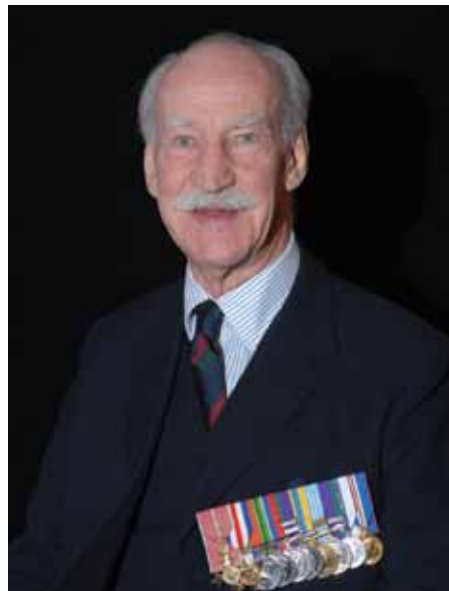
*Capt Neil Topliss.
(1BW)*



*Mr Dan Dewar.
(5BW)*



*Maj P Watson MC.
(7BW)*



*Col IR Critchley OBE.
(1BW, 2BW, 7BW)*



*Mr John Bamford.
(1BW)*

ABERFELDY MUSTER PARADE

Sunday 22 May 20011

The following day the veterans mustered with the rest of the Regimental Family at The Black Watch Memorial in Aberfeldy, to commemorate the 272nd Anniversary of the raising of the Regiment. On a blustery day, a congregation of about 175 souls listened to The Reverend Alex Forsyth conduct a short open air Kirk Service beneath the memorial and close to the site of the Regiment's first muster in May 1740.

The Chairman welcomed the congregation and during the service lessons were read by Major RJ Proctor MBE (Psalm 20), Lieutenant Colonel RM Riddell (Ephesians Chapter 6) and Lieutenant Colonel FL Beattie MBE (St Matthew Chapter 5). After the lessons had been read the Padre gave his sermon;

Picture the scene. The new minister is twenty-something. It's his first charge. He has several ex-armed forces personnel in his congregation. Three are elders. It is his first Remembrance Sunday.

After the Service, the minister joins the congregation in the hall for morning coffee. One of the elders, a doctor, who had served in the first Iraq war, joined the minister in the coffee queue. "Good sermon, Padre," he said, "but how is it that you managed to get through the whole thing without any mention of the First World War or the Second World War?"

"I wasn't born," the young minister replied, "and I wasn't there".

"Ah well", replied the doctor, "you're going to have the same trouble at Christmas and Easter! – You weren't born and you weren't there!"



Mr Ernie Morris and Arthur Simmonds of the Stoke Branch.



Mr Dave Hutton.



Dr Tom Renouf and Doug Rogers.



Mr Jo Hubble.



Pipe Major Alastair Duthie plays Lochaber no More.

Today we commemorate the 272nd anniversary of the formation of the Regiment in 1739. Clearly we weren't there!

But it is not so long ago! In the New Testament a generation is forty years. If you come from long liveders your grandfather's great-grandfather could have been here 272 years ago. The fact is our regiment is a family affair and a territorial affair. No matter we weren't there and we weren't born – our forebears were there and we belong here because we are today's part the regimental family.

So today we remember the founding of our regiment, the formation of our regiment and the fortunes of our regiment.

Today we remember those of this regiment killed in the conflicts and wars in this and the last century. Remembering them needs no more reason than that of respect for the incredible sacrifices they made.

No one here served in the First World War. There is not a veteran left. On the 25th July 2009, Harry Patch, the last living soldier who fought in the trenches of the Somme in the First World War died.

He was the last physical link to a conflict that saw two armies bogged down in the mud of Flanders and northern France for more than four years.

Harry Patch was conscripted into the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry at the age of 18.

He trained as a machine gunner before embarking from Folkestone in May 1917 en route to Reims. On his 19th birthday, he found himself in the trenches.

He arrived on the eve of what was to become the last, and one of the bloodiest, British offensives of the war, the Third Battle of Ypres, better known as Passchendaele.

The battle lasted three months and gained just five miles of ruined ground at the cost of more than 300,000 British casualties.

During the First World War, over 60 million European soldiers were mobilized. It resulted in over 40 million casualties including approximately 20 million military and civilian deaths. In France alone there are 3 million allied war graves.

The Black Watch lost 8,000 men in that war.

So there are no veterans here from the First World War but there are folk here who served in the Second World War and there are men here who served in Korea, Kenya, Cyprus, Germany, Northern Ireland, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan.

We remember those who gave their lives in the Second World War. It lasted 6 years and involved 56 countries and cost 50 million lives, including 20 million Russians, 400,000 British, 250,000 Americans and 6 million Jewish people.



Men of the Black Watch battalion.



Major Peter Watson MC.



CO 3SCOTS (L), Padre Alex Forsyth and the Chairman of the Association.



Wha dares meddle with me?



Some of the Second World War veterans at Aberfeldy.

Since the Normandy landings British forces have been on active service 75 times.

Since the Second World War the only year that did not record the death of a British soldier on active service was 1968.

The fact is that since 1945, more than 16,000 British service men and women have been killed on active service in these conflicts up to the present day.

In Iraq 179 British service personnel lost their lives and 365 have been killed in Afghanistan so far.

Recently a group of academics and historians compiled some startling statistics: Since 3600 B.C., the world has known only 292 years of peace! During this period, there have been 14,351 wars large and small, in which 3.64 billion people have been killed. The value of the property destroyed is equal to a belt of gold around the world 97.2 miles wide and 33 feet thick.

Since 650 B.C., there have also been 1,656 arms races, only 16 of which have not ended in war. The remainder ended in the economic collapse of the countries involved.

All of us here know what modern warfare entails. General Sherman was right – “war is hell.”

Today ours is a debt of gratitude that entails remembering the sacrifice others in our regiment made to ensure our freedom and that demands not just remembrance but also a commitment to justice and peace.

Last year I buried an old friend. He had been in the army since he was a young teenager. He saw action in Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Aden and Northern Ireland. In one way or another, he gave nearly fifty years’ service to this country. I served with him for fifteen of those years. The last time I saw him was in the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh. He knew he was dying and so I was given orders as to how his military funeral should be conducted. The last thing he said to me was, “At the funeral say one for me padre.” Like many here he always said that when he knew I was getting ready for a church parade. Then he added this, “and pray for peace.”

“Say one for me and pray for peace.”

Ghandi was right, “Peace is not something that you wish for. It is something that you make, something that you do, something that you are, something that you give”

The Black Watch was formed to keep the peace in the Highlands. Over the years, it has fought to establish peace, create peace, maintain peace, and preserve peace.

Peace is something we pray for and work for and then we get on with it. Always remember we should never ask the Lord to guide our footsteps if we are not willing to move our feet.

Everyone here knows the Black Watch Motto – “No man provokes me with impunity.”

If you watch NCIS on Sky television you’ll know that ‘Semper Fi’ is the motto of the United States Marine Corps. Semper Fi is the shortened version of the Latin motto ‘Semper Fidelis’ – Always Faithful.

Remember our reading from Ephesians – May God help us all to stand firm ... and with the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit... the shield of faith, may He enable us to extinguish... the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Why?

So that in this regiment as our history so clearly shows we are “Fidelis ad Mortem,” – Faithful unto Death.

Amen.

The Regimental Collect was followed by Pipe Major Alastair Duthie playing Lochaber no More and Johnny Cope.

At the end of the service the Commanding Officer of the Black Watch battalion gave the assembled company an update on the busy programme they have faced and now face as they prepare to deploy to Afghanistan in September 2011. His speech was met with a round of applause and the rain held off long enough to allow most of the main body to get into their transport and head off to The Kenmore Hotel or the Grantully Hotel for a warming lunch and a drink.

I think that many of us who were lucky enough to attend felt honoured to have met at least some of the fine men, drawn from across the United Kingdom, who in six weary years of war did so much to enhance the reputation of The Black Watch. As the Chairman of the Association said in his speech that on the 27th of September 1919 at the first AGM of our modern Association the Chairman Sir JG Maxwell said, “We are not an advertising Regiment: we prefer to let others judge us by our deeds”. What extraordinary deeds this small band of veterans achieved during their service and will this be the last time they meet?

Editors Note: I am indebted to Mr Dick Goodwin who has supplied the majority of images used with this article. His website is www.dickgoodwin.co.uk.

FAREWELL TO THE BLACK WATCH COLOURS

“A wee tear may be permitted, I hope!”

When the ten companies of the 43rd Regiment assembled on the links of Musselburgh at the beginning of April 1743 the Edinburgh *Evening Courant* thought they were –

“the best-looking Foot Regiment in the service”.

On Saturday 2nd July 2011, in the spectacular setting of Holyrood Park and in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, the Old Colours of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) were marched off parade for the last time. Fifty members of the Black Watch Association provided the guard that marched behind the Colours and a large number of the Regimental family, including the former Colonels of the Regiment Major General AL Watson CB, Brigadier GC Barnett OBE and Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin KCB CBE, were able to watch the parade from the stands. There was no doubt that the applause grew to a crescendo as the “Watch” approached the saluting dais. And in the poignant words of 91 year old Captain Peter Watson, MC; “A sad, sad moment when the awful and fearful moment came – a wee tear may be permitted, I hope!”

The Colours had been presented by our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on 26 September 1996 in the grounds of her home at Birkhall and had since accompanied the 1st Battalion to Hong Kong, Iraq and Northern Ireland and the Black Watch battalion to Afghanistan. The most recent Honours and the last to be graciously awarded to the Regiment in June 2005 by Her Majesty the Queen was the Theatre Honour for Iraq 2003 and the Battle Honour Al Basrah but they had not been added to the Old Colours. The Colours were carried on parade by Lieutenant RJ Stewart (Queen’s Colour) and Second Lieutenant C McRobbie

(Regimental Colour). The escorts were WO2 K Stacey and Colour Sergeants R McBride and R Tollan.

Those on parade for this sad but historic event were;

Brigadier EN de Broë-Ferguson MBE (1BW), J Anderson (1BW), JJ Barton (1BW, 4/5BW and 51 Highland), A Black (1BW), Colonel RJK Bradford (1BW), D Close (1BW), Major B Dickson (1BW), A Duthie (1BW), D Gilzean (51 Highland), J Glenn (4/5BW), J Gordon (1BW), Captain T Graham (1BW), K Grant (1BW), Lieutenant Colonel APL Halford-MacLeod (1BW), J Herd (1BW), D Hutton (1BW), M Jamieson (51 Highland and 3BW), Lieutenant Colonel J Keating OBE (1BW), A Lackie (4/5BW), G MacDonald (51 Highland), A MacDuff (1BW), T McLuskey (1BW), JB MacDougall (1BW), R McIntyre (1BW), L McLaren (1BW), Major DJ McMicking LVO (1BW), Lieutenant Colonel J Menzies (1BW), R Mitchell (1BW), K Murphy (1BW), JB Nicoll (1BW), Captain BM Osborne (1BW), J Paton (1BW), Major RJ Proctor MBE (1BW and 3BW), Lieutenant Colonel RM Riddell (1BW and 3BW), Major RCB Ritchie MBE (1BW and 2BW), Lieutenant Colonel RI Rose TD (1BW and 51 Highland), G Ross (1BW), J Sandilands (1BW), RM Scott, (1BW), G Seath (1BW), R Simpson (1BW), Lieutenant Colonel M Smith MBE (1BW), JJ Smith MBE (1BW), D Thompson (1BW), J Torrie (1BW), AB Wade (1BW), WD Whytock (1BW and 3BW), Brigadier DR Wilson CBE (1BW), G Wood (1BW), R McC Young (51 Highland).

Before the Old Colours were marched off, Her Majesty had presented Colours to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions of The Royal Regiment of Scotland in what was thought to have been the largest single Colours Parade ever held. Twelve New Colours were paraded and eighteen Old Colours were marched into history.



The Old Colours are marched off parade before the presentation of the New Colours.



Her Majesty acknowledges the salute of The Black Watch "Old Guard".



The Colour Party forms up before the final March Past.



On the March!



A fine body of men.



The Colours and the Association Members.



THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL

Many readers will have visited the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle but many younger readers may not even know of its existence. I hope that this short article and photograph will encourage you to visit this unique memorial to Scotland's War dead. The Memorial commemorates nearly 150,000 Scottish casualties of the 1914-18 War and over 50,000 in the 1939-45 War and campaigns since 1945.

The architect Sir Robert Lorimer and 200 Scottish craftsmen transformed a barrack block into a Hall of Honour, a place of record where the names of the dead are on permanent display. Every branch of the Armed Services and their civilian auxiliaries is represented.

On entering the Hall of Honour, the memorials of 8 Scottish Regiments will be seen on the opposite north wall, with 4 further Regiments in the south-west and south-east bays to left and right. At the left (west) end is the Flying Services memorial, and at the right (east) end that of the Royal Navy. In the south-west bay are memorials to the Merchant Navy, women's and nursing services, the Indian Army and Chaplains; in the south-east bay, memorials to the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Yeomanry, Commonwealth and other forces. Above runs a frieze of the names of principal land battles of 1914-18. The stained glass by Douglas Strachan depicts, on the south wall, the four seasons with scenes of the nation at war; other windows are dedicated to women's services (south-west bay), Flying Services (west), Royal Navy (east) and engineering and armaments (south-east). The floor is of granite from Ailsa Craig, an island off the west coast of Scotland.

North of the Hall of Honour through wrought-iron gates is a stone-vaulted inner shrine or apse, a place of quiet pilgrimage and thanksgiving. A green marble stone of remembrance rests on the highest point of the volcanic rock on which Edinburgh Castle is built. On top of the stone is a wrought-steel casket guarded by four bronze angels, the gift of King George V and Queen Mary, containing the scrolls with the names of the 1914-18 dead deposited on the opening day in 1927. Over the casket hangs the oak figure of St Michael, captain of the heavenly host. Round the walls is a processional bronze frieze of over 100 living

portrait figures by Morris and Alice Meredith Williams, depicting every kind of uniform and equipment used in 1914-18. The stained glass here, also by Strachan, is richer and more spiritual in theme.

On leaving the inner shrine there is the figure of Reveille over the entrance door by C d'O Pilkington Jackson, who also designed all the lettering in the memorial, many of the badges, shields and trophies, and the medallion to The Earl Haig at the east end of the Hall of Honour.

A Roll of Honour for The Royal Regiment of Scotland has now been placed in the memorial and contains the names of the one officer and seventeen soldiers killed since March 2006.



*The Black Watch bay in The Scottish National War memorial in Edinburgh Castle. It commemorates the 566 Officers and 9459 Other Ranks who gave their lives for King and Country in the Great War. The Colours of the 2nd Battalion (1911-1937) are also displayed in the bay.
(Image Courtesy of the Trustees SNWM).*

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

Over the last 5 months, the Battalion has been firmly engaged in Mission Specific Training (MST) for Operation Herrick 15. Training for Afghanistan has changed dramatically since the Battalion's last deployment with the most notable improvement being the early battle-grouping of attached personnel, allowing a close knit team to evolve. Unfortunately many training events have been in the south of England and even Germany, involving plenty of time on the road.

3 SCOTS Battlegroup will take responsibility for the district of Nad-e-Ali in Helmand Province, a large and strategically important district with a population of over 100,000. To service this area we will be a large organisation of 8 subunits. In addition to our 3 SCOTS companies, we have been joined by A Company 1 YORKS, A and C Company 1 PWRR, B Company 2 MERCIAN and a company of Estonians.

The first major event of MST was a two week period in late March at the Combined Arms Staff Trainer (CAST) and the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT) in Germany. The Battlegroup deployed by road to Sennelager with WO2 McSeveney providing entertainment for the bus in the form of 15 non-stop episodes of the 'Spartacus' series on DVD! Once at CAST, we were able to refresh staff skills last practiced on exercise in Kenya while learning new procedures for Afghanistan. We also integrated a number of new members of the team such as Major Harry Clark, taking over as Battalion Second-in-Command and Major Mark White reinforcing the HQ from the ARCC Support Battalion. We also welcomed two new Company Commanders; Major Rob Hedderwick to Alpha (Grenadier) Company and Major Andy Richards to command Delta (Light) Company.

Both the planning and execution phases were tested with the emphasis during CAST on planning and at CATT, on the execution of the

plan. The execute phase of the exercise was made all the more vivid with the inclusion of incidents which had occurred recently in Theatre. The weekend between CAST and CATT gave us an opportunity to sample the surrounding area of Paderborn with one notable cultural trip, led by Major Fergus Luckyn-Malone, visiting Wewelsburg Castle, a Renaissance castle used by the SS during WW2.

Much of the early part of MST has been characterised by the "dreaded" driver training. On deployment the Battalion will have a huge range of vehicles each with an impressive amount of protection from the range of threats in Helmand. This advantage comes at a cost to a huge number of the Battalion who spent a considerable amount of time travelling between Fort George, Northern Ireland and the Crew Training School in Germany to learn how to drive, command or fire the crew served weapons. Somewhat terrifyingly a lot of our 18 year Jocks are now fully qualified to drive up to 22 tonnes of metal on the UK's roads!

These vehicle crews then deployed to Castlemartin in Wales for a week of live firing in May. Crews spent one day completing qualifying shoots on the heavy machine gun and grenade launchers before forming up as packets and moving along a battle lane. They were tested on their reaction to certain incidents such as small arms fire and mine strikes as well as practicing their base defence drills during a night firing exercise.

The first major collective training event saw the battlegroup deployed to Stanford Training Area at the beginning of June to take part in the Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX). The focus was on Company operations but within a battlegroup context. A, B and D Companies



LCpl Durie fires on the shotgun range during Exercise WARCOP HACKLE.



Exercise PASHTUN LIGHTNING – Sgt Sharp MC takes a lesson on the Heavy Machine Gun.



Cpl Muncie leads his section forward.



An Orders Group during CAST.

accompanied by A Company 1 YORKS, deployed into two Forward Operating Bases (FOBs), with two Companies in each FOB. The exercise was a considerable improvement over our previous experiences of the CFX and allowed the CO to view his subunits and allocate them specific areas within our future area of operations. The announcement of Company tasks for the tour followed shortly after this exercise.

Following the CFX, Major Jordan-Barber took the lead on a week of live firing on Warcop Training Area in order to meet many of our pre-deployment entry standards. Warcop enabled the Battalion to conduct firing which could not be conducted at Fort George due to range limitations, as well as sweeping up training 'stragglers' who may have missed mandatory shooting due to the plethora of driver and individual training courses. Background activities included C-IED training, dry compound clearance drills and medical training. Warcop enabled the Battalion to reach the start state to deploy to Otterburn for a dismounted live firing exercise in late June. At Otterburn an external range team allowed the

chain of command to focus solely on being trained with each rifle company moving through a four day rotation supported by the full range of Mortars, a Fire Support Group (FSG) and Attack Helicopter.

The Presentation of Colours to the Royal Regiment of Scotland followed shortly after Otterburn with a significant degree of concurrent drill rehearsal and preparation of kit. A and B Companies, supported by HQ Company, turned around rapidly to provide two guards which necessitated both Companies concluding a demanding live firing exercise with an overnight trip to Edinburgh to start rehearsing the parade. This was no mean feat and was remarked on by both the Chief of the General Staff and the Colonel of the Regiment in his speech. Although it would be invidious to single anyone out for particular praise, the Pipe Major must be congratulated for leaving the hills of Otterburn, having supported B Company with his FSG, to support the Colours Parade a day later with an immaculate Pipe Band. A good example of the modern Pipes and Drums in action. The Parade saw a total of 14 Colours and six battalions from the Royal Regiment of Scotland on parade for the first time since its formation in March 2006. The Old Colours will be laid up at Balhousie Castle in a separate ceremony in 2012.

The final rehearsal exercise prior to deployment was conducted on Salisbury Plain in early August. Every element of the Combined Force exercised as they would operate in Theatre, with Companies in their individual areas of operation. Battlegroup Headquarters was tested concurrently, allowing us to rehearse the transition to a scenario where security is provided almost completely by Afghan forces. The Afghan Local Police were simulated by retired Ghurkha soldiers and elements of the Afghan National Army (ANA) were actually provided by Afghans, some of whom were serving ANA soldiers. The Battlegroup was supported by a Company of soldiers from the BIHAR Regiment of the Indian Army and we welcomed our 22 TA soldiers from 7 SCOTS and 6 SCOTS for the duration of the exercise and integration for the tour. Ultimately we



Drum Major Alexander (ex Black Watch) as Senior Drum Major leads the parade into Holyrood Park.



The 3 SCOTS Guard marching to the parade ground.



The Battalion's Pipers with Pipe Major Grisdale (left).



The CO and RSM await inspection before the Presentation of New Colours.

left Salisbury Plain and went on Summer Leave with the confidence that every man in the Combined Force is ready to deploy.

The first week of September, immediately following leave, became christened "Battalion week" and allowed everyone to come together, with our families, prior to deploying to Afghanistan. An all ranks barbecue, hosted by Headquarter Company, was held on the Wednesday followed by a Cocktail Party and Beating Retreat on the Thursday. This gave an opportunity for the Battalion to thank key individuals from Morayshire and Inverness, including members of the police, local landowners, teachers and parents who have supported the Battalion over the previous year. Guests were treated to an immaculate Beating Retreat by the Pipes and Drums and three songs from the Fijian choir. Finally on the Saturday during the Families Day, HRH The Duke of Rothesay took the salute, as we trooped our New Colours and he then toured the various stands and activities meeting the entire Battalion in a more informal setting. It was a great day with the emphasis very much placed on our families; even the rain held off. Both the Corporals' and Officers' Messes held successful pre deployment parties that evening.



The Colours are marched past HRH The Duke of Rothesay and Brigadier Riddell-Webster.



Major Bruce and HRH The Duke of Rothesay talking to Cpl Tarogo.



A Company march past.



HRH The Duke of Rothesay inspects B Company.



Major Roddy Williams, Captain Cameron and B Company march past.



LCpl Wishart and his daughter.



Capt MacKenzie received his MSM from HRH The Duke of Rothesay watched by his wife Jen and son James.



All Ranks BBQ; Pte Stewart, Cpl Berg, Pte Macdonald, LCpl Carpenter.



Sgt Atkinson, Claire Atkinson and daughter Sophie at the Families Day.



The Corporals Mess Farewell Ball – Cpls Wishart and Passiful and LCpl O’Gorman.



The Pipes and Drums performing at the Officers Mess Summer Ball.



The Commanding Officer receives a cheque from Brian Urquhart the Chairman of Inverness Clachnacuddin FC following a charity match. Also in the picture are Lance Corporal Coll (Holding Clach pennant) and Private Ross McConnell (Holding 3 SCOTS plaque).



The Guard of Honour at Capt Phillips' wedding. From left to right: Capt A Colquhoun, Capt A Halliday, Capt A Heighton-Jackson, Capt M Stanning, newlywed Mrs Joanna Phillips, Capt R Doughty, Capt J Kerr and 2Lt J Tait.

The deployment will see the Battalion spread out over a series of Patrol Bases, Checkpoints and outstations throughout Nad-e-Ali and supported by a small contingent in Camp Bastion under the Quartermaster. Our first priority will be to continue the good work conducted by 45 Commando. The primary focus of our tour will be on the transfer of lead security to Afghan forces with the additional challenge that different areas of the District are at varying stages of stability. Our challenge will be identifying the correct time and place for this transfer while defeating the insurgent. Our friends and families can be rest assured that the past ten months of training has left us confident in the ability of every soldier in the Battalion and of our batlegroup, comprised of many different capbadges, to come together as a cohesive unit.

RUGBY

The Rugby team have had a strong "Sevens" season playing in the Maclaren, Dreghorn and Lochaber Sevens. Our strongest performance was in the Lochaber competition which was won for the second year running. We also progressed as far as the semi final in the Army Community Cup. The annual tour to Manilla was a great success with the team coming fourth overall. The team performed well, despite stronger competition than in previous years.

Congratulations must go to Private Raoba for being selected to play for the Army Rugby 7s.

FOOTBALL

By Captain Harry Hood

The first notable achievement of a busy season saw the battalion football team reach the last 16 of the Townergate Wilson Army Cup. They played ITC Catterick in the first round and won 7-3 after extra

time. The second round at Fort George saw a fantastic performance to defeat 5 Regiment Royal Artillery 3-1. The third round tie played away against 9 Regiment Army Air Corps proved to be a tense affair. 9 Regiment were managed by Captain Paul Dargavel the former 3 SCOTS manager and this added an additional edge to the game. With the game tied at 0-0 after 90 minutes, the following period of extra time still failed to produce a goal and the game went to a penalty shoot out which 3 SCOTS lost 3-4. The efforts of the football team in this competition should not be underestimated and the reputation of 3 SCOTS Football Club had been greatly enhanced thanks to some very good displays.

We entered two teams in the Alloa Athletic 7-aside tournament held at Recreation Park. Despite travelling through the night on completion of the CFX, both teams showed no signs of fatigue and qualified through the group and knock out stages to reach the finals of both the Champions and Europa Leagues. The Champions League final saw us unluckily lose 0-1 to 1 SCOTS in a dramatic encounter which went right to the wire. The Europa League final saw 3 SCOTS come from a goal behind to eventually beat 2 SCOTS 2-1 with goals from Corporal Gillon and Private McConnell.

In addition to competitive Army matches, we have also played numerous friendly matches against local and national teams. These games against teams playing in well organised and established leagues, have given us an excellent opportunity to play at a higher standard and has greatly enhanced the performance of the team as a whole. Games against Inverness Clach and Lochgelly Albert raised over £900 for charity and the game against Raith Rovers at Starks Park was watched by the Scottish Football First Division Manager of the year John McGlynn who was full of praise for our performance.

All these achievements are doubly impressive given the priority of Mission Specific Training for Afghanistan. The future for the FC is very promising and season 2012-13 will see the team enter as many competitions as possible on return from Afghanistan.

GOLF – AHLUWALIA CUP

By Colour Sergeant Tollan

The Ahluwalia cup was played at Kinloss Golf Club on Monday 5th of September 2011 with a good turnout of 37 members of the Battalion participating in the event. Some handicaps were questionable but will be refined on return from Herrick 15! The day was split up into four competitions with the team competition in the morning won by Corporal Stewart and Captain Cameron; runners up were Colour Sergeant Tollan and Tommy Dingwall (Kinloss Golf Club). In the afternoon the competition was split in three with the Stableford competition for the Ahluwalia cup; this was won by Lance Corporal Purce, the net competition was won by Sergeant Winton and Corporal Stewart won the Scratch. The "most golf played" was Lance Corporal Montgomery in the morning and Lance Corporal King in the afternoon! The event was closed with drinks in the clubhouse. The Battalion Golf Society now looks forward to a tour to be set up on return from Herrick 15 and another Ahluwalia Cup in 2012.

TARTAN CASSINO

By Lieutenant Stewart

Ex TARTAN CASSINO was a charity cycle ride that raised over £28,000 for four Service Charities. The team of six cyclists from the Battalion cycled 1750 miles from Monte Cassino, Italy back to Edinburgh Castle raising money for Help for Heroes, Erskine Hospital, The Royal Regiment of Scotland Association and The Black Watch Association.

The idea for the challenge came initially when Sergeant Richard Clark MC met a soldier who had been awarded the Military Medal at the Battle of Cassino whilst serving with the 6th Battalion, The Black Watch. Sergeant Clark and his Platoon Commander Lieutenant Bobby Stewart (both keen cyclists) developed the idea during some down time during Ex ASKARI THUNDER where the charities were chosen to help injured soldiers both past and present.

The plan was to complete the ride within 14 days, travelling an average of 125 miles a day through Italy, Switzerland, France and the UK. Training for this event was made more challenging by the onset of snow during the winter and Mission Specific Training courses. Any spare moment the team had would be spent training, attending race nights throughout Scotland, packing kit or fundraising.

On the 18 March 2011 the team departed Edinburgh for Rome. The team consisted of Lieutenant Bobby Stewart, Lieutenant Andrew Heighton-Jackson, Sergeant Richard Clark MC, Lance Corporal Rudaridh Wedgwood, Lance Corporal Kevin Paterson and Lance Corporal David Paterson. The support team consisted of Sergeant Muirhead, Lance Corporal Lewis Montague, Mike Dickinson (Help for Heroes Scotland co-ordinator) and Otto Koota (photography student from Pitlochry). The team were met in Rome by the support team who had driven the two support vehicles kindly donated by Captain Jonathan Kerr's father at Eurohire, as well as all our equipment and bikes.

The team had a few days to allow final preparations in Cassino. General Sir Alistair and Lady Irwin, one of our patrons, had flown over to Rome to see us off from the start. The Sunday provided the opportunity for the team to reflect on the sacrifice that our forefathers had made during the Second World War and in particular at the Battle of Cassino. General Irwin laid a wreath on our behalf and was able to explain in great detail The Black Watch's contribution to the battle.



Cycling through the Alps during Exercise TARTAN CASSINO.



The Exercise TARTAN CASSINO Team – LCpl Patterson, LCpl Montague, Lt Heighton-Jackson, Sgt Clark MC, Cpl Wedgwood, Lt Stewart.

Monday 21 March saw the culmination of 6 months of planning, preparation and training as the team set off on the first of many miles. To begin with, time seemed to drag and although every member of the team questioned their involvement, as each mile, day and country passed, the finish seemed closer and more achievable. It is hard to describe the euphoric high the cyclists would feel at the end of each day, although physically and mentally exhausted. It would be a welcome relief to see the support team who were a constant source of morale but more importantly food. It was calculated that each day we were burning in excess of 6,000 calories.

Lance Corporal Kevin Paterson's father, Bobby Paterson, had arranged The Newcastle and Tyne Pipe Band to play for us as the team arrived at the TA centre in Durham. It was a great welcome so close to the finish and late on Sunday 3 April the team arrived at Dregghorn Barracks. The next morning as the team cycled the last few miles to Edinburgh Castle there were a whole host of emotions from relief that the ride was over, excitement at seeing friends and family and pride in the achievement that not only had the team completed a massive endurance event but we all knew that we had helped to raise £28,000. It was at that point the hours of training, planning and pain throughout the event all seemed worthwhile.

I am sure all the team would agree that the event would not have been possible without the support team, family, friends and all the businesses that helped us in some way but as importantly all those who donated money.

The talk of what challenge to do next was already discussed as we were on the ferry crossing the English Channel. Ideas were suggested from swimming the English Channel, to 'pedalling' around the UK to cycling across America.

PRIVATE ROBERT MCLAREN MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT 11 JUNE 2011

Following the success of last year's event, the family and friends of Private Robert McLaren organised a second memorial football tournament on the Isle of Mull and once again members of the Battalion were invited to bring a team to take part. The date was 11 June 2011, exactly two years after Private McLaren's death in Afghanistan. The venue was the Garmony Rugby Club which readers of this magazine may recognise as the scene of Rugby Sevens glory for the Battalion. The sporting expertise in play on this occasion however would better support the mantra that 'it's not the winning that counts but the taking part'.

The team mainly from Alpha (Grenadier) Company, led by Lance Corporals McFadden and Nicholson, travelled down from Inverness after work on Friday 10 June and after negotiating the single track roads and West Highland ferries, arrived in Bunessan to an impromptu party.

Captain Colquhoun and Warrant Officer 2 (CSM) Stacey travelled down on Saturday morning having successfully hijacked a piper in the form of Private McDonald from the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Ball the night before. On arrival on Mull, in glorious sunshine, the team was in a sorry looking state: quiet, wan and lethargic. Against the stunning backdrop of the Sound of Mull and the green hills of Morvern, they were soon motivated to put mind over matter by some equally colourful encouragement from the touchline by non playing executive Lance Corporal Nicholson.

Around the Jocks some fine teams from all over Argyll were warming up, including members of the Oban High School team that had won the Scottish Schools Cup two years running with Private McLaren. The competition was going to be fierce but the battle most feared was getting over the dehydration!

Although beaten in the first game, Lance Corporal Hutton made some impressive runs and inspired his colleagues to keep up the attacks right to the close. Unfortunately this was followed by a second and then a third defeat against strong competition. In the final game though, to the wild jubilation of the crowd, the team managed to score not one but two goals: a twofold improvement on last year! Fitness and enthusiasm however proved to be no match for the skill on the other side and the final whistle blew 4-2.

After the last match, Mrs Linda McLaren presented a prize to the winning team and also a trophy for the Player of the Tournament to Lance Corporal Scott McFadden, whose efforts in goal had been enough to get him roped into playing for one of the other teams as well! Although enough balls went passed him to keep the Jocks at the bottom of the table, he had saved many more thanks to a somewhat imperfect rush defence!



Piper McDonald in Tobermory.



Proud losers with Cpl McFadden's Player of the Tournament Cup.

The tournament was followed by a ceilidh in Bunesan Hall and on the way there, the team laid a wreath and paid their respects at Private McLaren's grave. Once in the hall, Private McDonald impressed the islanders with his piping and joined the band for a few sets. Private Spring was also noted for his enthusiastic interpretation of a reel. The dance was well attended and once again the local community were loud in their support for the Jocks and grateful for the continued link between regiment and island. In all the day raised almost £2000 for Help for Heroes.

In the morning, as the mist began to lift off the lochs, Captain Colquhoun raised the piper and Private Smith for company for a second, separate event in the North of the Island. After a beautiful dawn drive (enjoyed by one), we were in Tobermory and ready to pipe the start of a round Mull cycle ride in aid of Help for Heroes and the RNLI. By 0745, the peaceful morning scene over Tobermory harbour was shattered as McDonald began playing and soon after participants of the Mull Cyclosporitive began to arrive. The McLarens started the race and to the skirl of the pipes, the cyclists departed to tackle the 42 or 87 (unfortunately not 73) mile race. By mid-morning the rest of the team had arrived and cheered in the first cyclists to return. This event drew large crowds and the Jocks helped collect for the two charities as McDonald continued to pipe for all he was worth. This was another hugely successful day with over £14,000 raised for the two charities. The organisers were particularly grateful for the provision of a piper given the busy schedule of the Battalion and many of the 114 cyclists said that it was an amazing addition to hear the pipes encouraging them on to the finish line.

Hopefully there will be another tournament to enjoy next year and although the Battalion football team would almost certainly provide better competition, the link between members of Alpha (Grenadier) Company and the people of the Isle of Mull is as strong as ever.

Captain R J Colquhoun

EULOGIES

PRIVATE MARK CONNOLLY

8 JUNE 1986-14 MAY 2011

Private Mark Connolly died in a tragic accident in Germany in May 2011.

Born in Methil, Fife, he enlisted on 13 October 2005 joining the 1st Battalion The Black Watch in Palace Barracks in the Spring of 2006. He took part in The Royal Guard which he thoroughly enjoyed and later deployed to Iraq with A Company for a six month tour.

In November 2007 the battalion, now part of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, moved to Fort George to begin their training for deployment to Afghanistan in 2009. He married Stacy on 27 February 2009 in Perth, a month before he deployed.

During this tour he was wounded by an IED blast that killed his close friend and colleague Private Robert McLaren.

Mark was above all things a family man. He was loyal and dedicated to his friends and he was known as a good professional soldier with a keen sense of humour and he will be greatly missed by his family and fellow soldiers.



LANCE CORPORAL DARREN LACKIE

26 APRIL 1989-3 APRIL 2011

Lance Corporal Darren Lackie died whilst on holiday but he was known as one of his peer group's high flyers and attracted admiration from the Jocks and his Commanders alike.

He joined the 1st Battalion The Black Watch and served in Northern Ireland and deployed with 3 SCOTS to Afghanistan in 2009. He relished the challenges and uncertainties of the Aviation Assault role and whilst serving in 6 Platoon B Company he was involved in some of the most ferocious fighting of the tour. He showed immense physical and moral courage as well as professionalism.

He completed his JNCO Cadre in 2010 and was promoted as one of the top five students. He will be remembered as a decent, hard working and professional soldier who displayed the many attributes of a high grade Junior NCO.



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

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel EC Chelsea
Second in Command: Major RJ Barker
Training Major: Major JR Anderson
Adjutant: Captain FS Reeves
Quartermaster: Major DW McCallum MBE
Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 SR West

As with much of the rest of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, the summer of 2012 has been focussed on operations and the presentation of New Colours. Following additional training and preparations, 7 SCOTS mobilised 26 soldiers to serve on Op HERRICK 15, many destined to deploy with The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and welcomed home 20 soldiers who had served with 16 Air Assault Brigade during Op HERRICK 13. As 3 SCOTS head off overseas, 2IC C Coy Captain Alex Rose has been appointed as 2IC Rear Party and should again become a regular sight at Fort George.

7 SCOTS joined its sister battalions from across the Royal Regiment of Scotland to be presented New Colours by Her Majesty The Queen in the grounds of Holyrood on a spectacular, sunny Scottish summer's day. For many in the Battalion, the build up training provided a slightly unusual, but highly enjoyable, Summer Camp in Redford Barracks as TA soldiers and officers were squeezed into available No 1 Dress and drilled to meet the standard required of such an historic event.

This period coincided with announcements from the Government of greater cuts to the regular Army whilst attempting to expand the Reservist element of the British Army. There has been a corresponding shift of emphasis onto recruiting for the TA which has hitherto remained a problem for individual unit COs. Now the Army's recruiting machine is kicking in behind the CO and 7 SCOTS' Regimental Operations and Support Officer Captain Alan McEwan is working hard to coordinate what we do with them. This summer has seen a TA advertising campaign alongside a Scottish Infantry marketing surge and the initial results appear to be modest but optimistic. The coming years will undoubtedly see huge change in the make up, size and possibly legal set up of the UK's Reserve Forces. The next few years will be exciting times for the TA although at present there are numerous questions with few answers!



The CO, Lt Col Chelsea and RSM, WO1 West are briefed by WO2 Billy Easton.



Old soldiers reunite; Capt (Retd) Ramsay Macdonald and Capt 'Spats' Baxter in Dalbeattie during Exercise SCOTTISH BUZZARD.



Soldiers of the 3rd and 7th Battalions who took part in the GPMG Cadre at Keith TA Centre.

Despite an impressive turnout for the Colours Parade, the main training event of the year for the Battalion was Exercise SCOTTISH BUZZARD. This was the 51 Scottish Brigade TA training concentration, held in a somewhat sodden Dumfriesshire, that commenced with basic infantry cadres; Major Barry Henderson (OC D Company) commanded the Patrols Cadre in the Galloway Forrest, Colour Sergeant Ward held a basic Signallers cadre in Dumfries TA Centre and WO2 Daniel Williamson conducted a GPMG Cadre in Keith TA Centre. The latter was enhanced by the participation of 6 soldiers from 3 SCOTS and it was good to see the red and purple

hackles working alongside each other again. The final part of the exercise progressed on to an All Arms Field Training Exercise in the old Dalbeattie ammunition Depot complex. For most of those who participated this will be remembered for rain in biblical proportions and unexpected 'river' crossings!

With the Summer Camp complete, recruiting will remain at the centre of our attention in order to try to lift our manning up to what our establishment allows. On a slightly longer timeframe, we will soon be ramping up again to identify and train soldiers, NCOs and officers to deploy with their Regular counterparts on operations in Afghanistan.



Some of the 26 TA Soldiers from 7 SCOTS deployed to Afghanistan with The Black Watch battalion.

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The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada



Arms Training.

The Battalion has had a very busy and successful training period and has contributed, with habitual professionalism, to many events and military tasks. From our annual Church Parade in May, where all members of the Regimental family gathered in large numbers, to our contribution to summer Individual Training Camp where the Black Watch distinguished itself in the deployment of the highest number of instructors from Brigade. We are in high spirits and ready to tackle the new training cycle that will bring us to our 150th Anniversary celebrations in 2012.

Summertime marked the period when our soldiers returned from Afghanistan, in high spirits and happy to be with their loved ones. One of our soldiers, Sergeant Bjorn Dittmar, has been awarded a Mention in Dispatches for his gallantry on the battlefield during his tour of duty in Southern Afghanistan. His decoration was presented by the Army Commander, LGen Peter Devlin, during a formal ceremony in May 2011. The citation reads as follows:

"On June 10, 2009, while Sergeant Dittmar's platoon was involved in a firefight in Afghanistan, a soldier in a separate element triggered an improvised explosive device, causing two casualties. Despite heavy enemy fire, Sergeant Dittmar crossed open ground to reach the blast site, where he coordinated the fire support necessary to treat and extract the casualties. With the enemy firing from three sides and attempting to surround them, Sergeant Dittmar's selflessness, leadership and compassion were critical to saving lives."

We were also able to celebrate the victory of our Regimental Tug of War team at the Glengary Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario. The event, which is estimated to be one of the largest Highland Games in the world, hosts the military Tug of War competition that welcomes

representatives of all Highland units of Quebec and Ontario. Under the able leadership of Lieutenant Christopher Leone, the team gave all they had in a truly Black Watch fashion and won the day earning the praises of all present.

Not being left aside by the unit's accomplishments, our Pipe Band won 1st Place at the Almonte Highland Games. To complete an already busy summer season, the band, complemented by pipers and drummers from our Regimental Associations and affiliated Cadets Corps, recorded a new CD. This was the final step of a project that has seen many generations of the Regimental Pipes & Drums, joining together to pay tribute to the rich history of The Black Watch of Canada.

The Regiment is in splendid shape. We are still attracting a high number of recruits from all over and are maintaining our effective strength. Stronger with the arrival of newly trained infantrymen, we are getting ready to participate in the annual training. After having qualified most of our soldiers in the required arms proficiency and physical fitness standards, we are getting ready for the highlight of our training year; deployment on Exercise Noble Guerrier from 1-8 January 2012. This major exercise will take place at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where the participants will have their operational readiness validated by our chain of command. The exercise will be a major challenge for the soldiers and leadership alike. In addition to its normal contribution of soldiers, the unit has been designated to command the Brigade's Battle Group raised for the event. This appointment is a clear demonstration of the trust of our superiors and recognition of the professionalism and proficiency of our Regiment. This major endeavour will also be the activity that will launch our 150th Anniversary celebration year. Is there a better way to celebrate our service to our Canada?

Nemo Me Impune Lacessit



The Pipe Band in California Spring 2011.



Transvaal Scottish

The Transvaal Scottish has had a busy few months. The Companies that were deployed for 6 months in the Sudan and on the Swaziland border have returned. Sudan was a UN sponsored peace-keeping mission while the activity on the Swaziland/South Africa border focussed on the curbing of illegal immigrants entering the country, trying to stop cattle rustling and attempting to arrest smugglers of contraband goods. Both Companies acquitted themselves well and we are looking at further deployments, possibly in 2013.

The regiment is continuing with training and September sees our Junior officers pitting their wits against each other in a Red versus Blue scenario at the training grounds in Potchefstroom. The Shooting Team is doing very well with some excellent places and results in the Gold Cup Competition, as well as in the National Championships. There are now two members in the team with Full National Colours and three members are SA A-team members for Combat Rifle Shooting. The Pipes and Drums of the Transvaal Scottish have yet again won the National Championship and been declared South African Champion Band. The band also participated in the annual South African Tattoo which was held at the Monte Casino plaza in Northern Johannesburg.

Two of our members attended the MilComp and CIOR events in Europe. Lt A Roberts and Sgt LD Daniels jetted off to Berlin then on to Warsaw, Poland to participate in the NATO/CIOR YROW and MilComp respectively. They both did very well and maintained the good name of the Regiment.

We also held the annual Officers' Mess Dinner at the Inanda Club with Colonel Jerry Heal from the Royal Marines as the guest speaker. The WO's/NCO's Mess Dinner was well attended and the annual Regimental Ball held at The Wanderers Club was a roaring success. The "Open Day" in September was a great event with members of the public being allowed access to the museum and to view the newly restored Regimental home. The day wound down with the traditional "braai" and some good music playing.

On the home front the Transvaal Scottish Regimental Association is growing and held a very successful lunch for its' members at The Wanderers Club in Johannesburg. General Roy Andersen SD, SM, MMM, JCD was the guest speaker and enlightened the members on the future and structure of the Reserve Forces here in South Africa.

The Transvaal Scottish Regimental Council is hard at work with the continuing project at "The View", our Regimental home and Headquarters. The ground floor is now almost complete, and the Regiment and its' members are looking forward now to the restoration and upgrading of the upper floor which houses the Regimental Museum. In addition the Council is busy sourcing new kit for the members - no mean task finding a kilt manufacturer in South Africa! Perseverance has paid off, and the first orders for tunics, belts, sporrans and kilts have been placed. We should have a very shiny Company on parade in November for Remembrance Day.

The "Parade Season" is on the horizon so planning and preparation is going ahead. The biggest event on the horizon however is the 110th Birthday to be celebrated in June 2012 and we are planning for this at full pace. The focus will be the Receiving of New Colours planned for the 9th June - this being the closest weekend to the formation date of the Transvaal Scottish - 12th June 1902. We are all waiting to see how many Red Hackles we can get on the ground in South Africa.



S/Sgt L du Plessis at Gold Cup Competition - where did that shot go?



Lt A Roberts (3rd from left) and Sgt L Daniels (with red sash) in Europe.



Maj D van 't Hof - We WILL show our Red Hackle.



"The View" - Regimental Headquarters and home of The Transvaal Scottish.

Angus and Dundee Battalion Army Cadet Force

INTRODUCTION

Once again Angus & Dundee Battalion adults and cadets have been working hard during the last 6 months and not always in the public eye, but none the less, still working hard trying to achieve what seems like 'the impossible'.

Military Skills, Battalion, Company, and Adult Training along with First Aid Courses, sports and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, just a few events and activities that take place at our weekend camps. Out of camp, there are detachment training nights, assistance to either TA or civilian organisations held at weekends or the inevitable 'Bag Packs' for fundraising, not to mention constant recruiting and retention of adults and cadets.

Now the autumn has arrived, (somehow we seemed to have mislaid the summer!) the Battalion are preparing for Remembrance parades. This will start on the 5th November at the Festival of Remembrance which is always held at the Caird Hall in Dundee which is always a tremendous success. This year, for the first time, we will have four banners on parade. Earlier in 2011, A and B Companies and C Squadron were each presented with their own banner. So, along with the Battalion Banner and our two Lord Lieutenant's Cadets, (Cadet CSM Darren Scott (Kirriemuir) and Cadet CSM Natalie Small (Dundee)) we should make our presence known.

During the following week, Cadets everywhere will be out in force collecting for Poppy Scotland which will end with the National Day of Remembrance on Sunday 13th November.

FIRST AID COMPETITION

The Battalion prides itself on the amount of First Aid Training that the Adults and Cadets get through. Although the winning of trophies seems to elude us, it is still quite a feat for one of our two teams that entered the Scottish National Competition, held at Dollar Academy, to have come second. Well done to everyone who took part and the adults who trained them.



Runners up in First Aid 2011.

"DEVIL PUPS"

After last year's Cadet 150 celebrations, everything seems to have calmed down a bit and although busy, our programme has been less erratic. 'A' Company has continued to carry out its normal training activities. Colour Sergeant Adam Deans, Cadet RSM Dylan Etchells both accompanied Cadet Sgt Alastair Turner to America to train with the "Devil Pups" just prior to our Annual Camp. What a fantastic experience for any young person who is looking for something just a little bit different. On arrival in America, they were 'housed' with some very nice people who looked after them very well which included a trip to Florida and the world famous Disneyland. In other words, they were lulled into a false sense of security before being thrown into the lions den of 'Boot Camp'. Unfortunately, Alastair Turner was unable to complete the training due to an injury and came back home on crutches. He was much luckier at Annual Camp as he received both the Sports Trophy and the Endeavour Award on behalf of 'A' Company. Another accolade for the Company was the award of the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate from Mrs Georgiana Osborne to Cadet CSM Darren Scott



Cadet Colour Sergeant Alastair Turner (Kirriemuir) who collected both the Endeavour Award and Sports Trophy.



The Princess Royal talks to Cdt CSM Darren Scott.

(Brechin Detachment). Later in the year, he was invited by the Royal British Legion, Forfar Branch, to attend the visit of The Princess Royal along with her husband to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the RBLs and to celebrate Forfar's success at being the oldest Branch in the world. Darren had great delight in talking to the Princess Royal.

NEW RECRUITS

Encouraging new recruits into the Battalion is an absolute must to ensure its growth and stability. At a recent Training Weekend twenty-one new cadets were put through their paces. Nineteen received their .22 shooting badges. Not a bad result. Now that they have completed their first weekend and have proved themselves, they will be issued their uniform and move on to the next stage of their training.

Also attending this weekend was a group of cadets completing their Junior Cadet Instruction Cadre.



JCIC badges achieved by the 3 Star Board.



.22 badges achieved by some of the new recruits.

CADET VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION ORGANISATION

The last time Rikki Henderson was mentioned, he had been promoted to Cadet RSM. Then, whilst involved with the Cadet Vocational Qualification Organisation (CVQO) he was shortlisted for the 'Duke of Westminster Award' Competition. CVQO is accredited by Edexcel, City & Guilds and the Institute of Leadership and Management. The objective "is dedicated to helping both cadets and instructors of the Cadet Forces get ahead personally and professionally. The qualifications on offer have been designed to show employers and educators the wide range of skills that young people and adults learn in the Cadet Forces". Fortunately for Rikki, he was one of the nine finalists who were invited to lunch at the RAF Piccadilly Club and later was given a guided tour to 10 Downing Street along with Colonel Andrew Cassidy our Commandant and CSM Ted Simpson, Rikki's Detachment Commander.

Prior to flying out to South Africa for three weeks with CVQO on the 15th July, Rikki was promoted to Cadet Under Officer; he stated, "I didn't think the responsibilities and the sense of achievement could get any better! This promotion will help me in my career in the Police force".

Whilst in South Africa, Rikki embarked on an environmental awareness course in Kwa Zulu Natal and undertook a cultural project which involved working with and teaching orphaned children. Other opportunities that Rikki was able to add to his 'experiences' was a visit to 'Rorkes Drift', a walking safari, and adventure training activities such as snorkelling and white water rafting.

Rikki has proved to be an outstanding cadet throughout the whole of his career. Now aged 18, he will become an Adult Instructor. He is also training to become a Special Constable.

ANNUAL CAMP

Over 350 cadets and adults attended this summer's Annual Camp at Beckingham in Lincolnshire. It was a very successful camp and saw a huge number of 'Star Board' passes, cadet promotions and numerous awards. A Company walked away with the Sports Trophy and the Endeavour Award while C Squadron beat B Company to win the Drill and Turnout Trophy. B Company did walk away with the Billet Competition and the George Grant Trophy as well as winning the Champion Company Competition for the second year running.



CUO Rikki Henderson in South Africa.

Padre Andy McAfferty was kept busy this year by making sure that the coffee machine in the Officers Mess was kept full and hot. However, he excelled at both his 'Sunday' and support' jobs. The middle Sunday, we had a Drumhead Service on the parade square, (commonly known as a car park these days). The Padre and RSM organised, for the first time a 'Trooping the Banner'. It was a brilliant sight and the cadets of all ranks thought it was fantastic. One of the smallest cadets in the battalion, Cadet Kirsti-Leigh Hunt (12) from the Grove BW Detachment in Broughty Ferry received a great big aawww as she marched out with the Battalion Banner and handed it to Cadet RSM Dylan Etechells. The Banner was far

bigger than she was but she managed it with great aplomb. She then helped the Padre by carrying out his 'Bible' to the centre where all four Banners were laid out and the ceremony continued. Once over, the Banners were collected by their proud carriers and the whole Battalion marched off. A very well executed event.

Padre McAfferty handed out numerous goodies, mainly Jelly Babies on his nightly morale boosting visits to the 'troops'. The cadets think he is a marvel!



Padre Andrew McAfferty holding a drumhead service at Annual Camp.



Cadet Kirsti-Leigh Hunt handing the Banner to Cadet RSM Dylan Etechells.

Black Watch Battalion Army Cadet Force

INTRODUCTION

Although these notes cover the busiest time of the year it would be wrong not to start with a tribute to someone who, in the short time the Battalion knew him, became a great friend and supporter to everyone. Warrant Officer Class 2 Ian Clark was appointed as the Training Safety Advisor to the Battalion in the middle of 2009 having decided to return to Scotland from Spain where he had retired after leaving the Regular Army. In this role it would have been too easy to have been very rigid in interpreting rules and to have stifled the enthusiasm, training ideas and plans of the adult instructors for safety reasons. However, he was not like that. Without ever compromising his position he always supported the adults in their endeavours and provided guidance in the friendliest of ways if changes were needed to a plan. As a result he gained the total confidence of everyone and his advice was always gratefully received. As a person he was always fun to have around and he had an excellent sense of humour which made him good company. Everyone was saddened to hear at the end of last year he had been diagnosed with cancer but were even more shocked with the speed with which it took hold. Throughout the short time he lived after being diagnosed, Ian continued to be brave, philosophical and kept his sense of humour right to the end. His death came as a terrible blow to the Battalion but far more importantly was the loss to his wife, Jo and their children Livy and Josh. He was a great and proud family man. To them all we offer our deepest sympathies.

SPRING CAMP

Spring Camp is always a busy week with the cadets training for or sitting their various Star Boards and much of the success of the week is weather dependant. Two hundred and seventy cadets and seventy five adults from the Battalion came to camp and all of them could be proud of what they achieved. In addition our numbers were swelled by cadets from elsewhere. The Battalion's newly formed Military Band of twelve cadets and five adults under Sergeant Major Instructor Robert Cowan came to camp for the first time and it, in turn, was joined by musicians of the Sea Cadets and Air Training Corps from throughout the country. The Battalion also hosted thirty cadets and adults who were at Barry Buddon to take part in the Brigade Cadet Target Rifle Course.

As this was its first camp the Band had its fair share of visitors and support throughout the week including musicians from both the Lowland and Highland Bands of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. They came for varying lengths of time to provide the cadets with some tuition. In addition Wing Commander Singleton, responsible for all Air Training Corps music, came for the last three days of camp to assess the standards of his cadet musicians. During camp one of the adult instructors of the Air Training Corps celebrated his 74th birthday. He was visibly moved when the band struck up Happy Birthday and two cadets presented him with a card in front of everyone. However, the Black Watch Battalion was not to be outdone and Major David Gill who also marked his birthday was presented with some flowers and a teddy bear wrapped up in bright pink wrapping paper. He was not embarrassed at all!

On the last day the Battalion was honoured when a number of guests came to see what the cadets had achieved during the week and watched a small musical display by the combined bands. The guests included the Lord Lieutenants of Fife and Perth and Kinross, The Provost and Lady Provost of Perth, Chief Inspector Derek Finnie from Fife Constabulary and Wing Commander Henderson from the Highland Reserve Forces and Cadet Association. During the afternoon a number of presentations were made. Cadet Staff Sergeant Stewart (Stanley) and Cadet Staff Sergeant Docherty (Leven) were given their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award; Cadet Penman (Dunfermline) was given the cup for the best cadet of the Recruits' Cadre and Corporal Marsh (Perth Viewlands) the cup for the best student on the JCIC course. The final presentation was to the Champion Company which was won by Ypres Company. The Commandant also used the occasion to announce that Cadet Sergeant Keillour and Cadet Staff Sergeant McGregor were to be Lord Lieutenants' Cadets for the forthcoming year. It is often quite rightly stated that the Army Cadet Force relies on its adults to succeed and so it was fitting that three adults were recognised for their efforts in front of the cadets. Lieutenant Charlie Tough and Staff Sergeant Kirkland were presented their Cadet Force Medal and Major Douglas Pover was given his third clasp to his Cadet Force Medal. After the presentations, the crowd was entertained by the bands who displayed an amazing repertoire, despite only having been on camp for a week.



Before going into the caves at camp.



The Clay Target Range.



In the caves.



Colonel Kelly and 2Lt Morrissey with Korea Company cadets.

SUMMER CAMP

This year's summer camp was at Warcop to which the Battalion had last been in 2008. That year the weather had been excellent; not so in 2011. This year the Battalion was joined by four adults and forty nine cadets from the Durham and Northumberland Wing of the Air Training Corps. They were split up and totally integrated within the companies. While the Training Officer and Company Commanders had put together a varied and exciting training programme, the elements did their best to disrupt it. Activities such as the assault course, the newly acquired inflatable obstacle course and the climbing tower could not be used to their full potential because of the weather.

There was little time to relax at camp and no sooner had the coaches arrived at Warcop than Burma Company went straight out to the Training Area for a forty eight hour exercise which had been devised by Staff Sergeant Alzamora and Staff Sergeant Girdwood. Unfortunately the weather was not kind and despite what were at times atrocious conditions the Burma Company cadets really showed what can be achieved by having a strong mental attitude. The other companies also had their share of wet weather on their forty eight hour exercises which were all demanding but enjoyed by everyone.

An Adventurous Training package had been put together by Under Officer Baker and included mountain biking, climbing, abseiling and potholing. These proved to be very popular activities. There had been an aspiration for some cadets to go gliding but unfortunately the conditions on the first planned day prevented any flying. Shooting was as always a popular activity and included the 25 metre outdoor range, the clay target range and the indoor DCCT. This camp also provided a great opportunity for the Duke of Edinburgh Officer to take cadets out on a practice exercise and Major Truscott took groups of varying sizes out during the week.

Visitors to camp included Major General Ward, Chairman Army Cadet Forces Association (ACFA) and Lieutenant Colonel Quicke also from ACFA, Colonel Miller, Chief Executive Highland Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, Colonel Kelly, Colonel Cadets Scotland and Captain Wimberley from Headquarters 51 (Scottish) Brigade. It was very good to see them and show them what the cadets were achieving.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

While the camps were the major Battalion events of this period so much more happened and the following is just a snapshot. Shooting continues to flourish. At the beginning of the year Stanley Detachment submitted cards for the News of the World Nationwide Cadet competition and came third overall. The Battalion entered three teams in the Brigade Target Rifle Competition. The 'A' team of Cadet Sergeant Stewart, Cadet Corporals Boag and Fennell and Cadet Lance Corporal McKeown won all three competitions. The 'B' team of Cadet Corporals Kilday and Barnes, Cadet Lance Corporal Wallace and Cadet Bucks came third in the 500m shoot and fifth overall. The 'C' team of Cadet Sergeant Giff, Cadet Lance Corporals McKenzie and Mitchell and Cadet Sweeney came fourth in the 500m shoot and 6th overall. In addition the Battalion had six shots in the top eight individual places and three tied for ninth. This was a truly remarkable achievement.

Unfortunately Cadet Corporal Boag had to pull out of the Athelings team selected to go to Canada this summer because he had a full time job, however, it is hoped he will continue to shoot competitively wherever he is. Cadet Corporal Fennell is proving as good a shot as Cadet Corporal Boag and this summer went to Canada with the Army Cadet Force team.

The First Aid team also continued to do well. On 4 June the Cadet team of Cadet Corporal (now Sergeant) Fiona Crawford and



Majors Gill, Taylor, Douglas, UO Gill, Majors Jenkins and Truscot looking pleased with themselves at camp.



Coming out of the caves.



Major General Wood meeting cadets after a Water Wars Battle at camp.

Cadet Corporal Heather Crawford, Cadets Robertson and Wight not only won the ACF competition but won the overall competition against the CCF and ATC. Cadet Corporal Fiona Crawford gained the highest individual score. In addition the Young Adult team of PI Henderson and Cadet Staff Sergeant Sinclair won their competition.

Sport has played an important part within the Battalion. It has been very encouraging to see cadets volunteer to take part in the various competitions but we have not been able to field as strong a team as we would have liked to have done. However, credit must be given to Staff Sergeant Freeman and Staff Sergeant Carstairs for organising the teams and to the cadets who have represented the Battalion in the ACFA Scotland Championships. In these competitions the male Tug of War team competed well and the girls' hockey team came second. A number of cadets did well enough in the Athletics competition to go to the National Event.

The Military Band continues to impress. In August it, along with a Cadet Drill Team under Sergeant Major Instructor Cameron, took part in the Inverness Tattoo, a smaller event than its big brother in Edinburgh but one that has gone on for almost as long. Without wishing to be biased, they certainly played their part in making the event a success. Not to be outdone by them, the Pipes and Drums went to Halmstad, Sweden to play for the Tall Ships Race.

Major Douglas Pover and Lieutenant Emma Marshall once again organised very successful OUTREACH programmes in Tayside and Fife respectively. They have been well supported by several adults and cadets while the teachers and local authorities have joined in to make the projects truly joint activities. Both of the Lord Lieutenants once again came to the residential phases in their respective counties to witness the success of OUTREACH for themselves.

LOOKING AHEAD

While there is an annual cycle to the training within the Battalion, the Army Cadet Force cannot be accused of standing still. The Battalion is waiting for the outcome of a review into Cadet Forces which may have an impact on the way it is structured. It would be wrong to speculate what the changes will be but an announcement is expected soon. At a local level, however, the Battalion has already reorganised itself. Authority was given to open (or more correctly reopen) a detachment in Pitlochry, albeit linked to The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. As a result the companies have been reorganised so that each one now has



Colonel Kelly and the Commandant with cadets on the range.

five detachments. There may be more changes in the future but whatever is imposed on the Army Cadet Force, it is important to remember it is a hugely successful youth organisation with enormous number of benefits for everyone involved either directly or indirectly.

Afternote: As these notes went to print, the news came in that Cadet Staff Sergeant Anderson (Perth Viewlands) has won the 2011 Claire Shore trophy. This is the prize for the Champion Cadet in the Army Cadet Force nationwide and was competed for over the weekend 2-4 September. This is a huge achievement and a full report will appear in the next edition of The Red Hackle.

Association News

Royal Patron: HRH The Prince Charles Duke of Rothesay KG
KT GCB OM
President: Mrs Margaret Dean, Lord Lieutenant of Fife
Chairman: Brigadier EN de Broë-Ferguson, MBE
Vice Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel RM Riddell

Trustee: Colonel A Murdoch, TD
Trustee: Lieutenant Colonel TA Coles, MBE
Trustee: Major JMK Erskine, MBE
Trustee: Major DJ McMicking LVO
Trustee: Mr W Duncan

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION

At the Annual General Meeting on 16 April this year Lord Provost John Letford JP stood down as President of the Regimental Association and was formally dined out by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Dining Club. By his presence, on numerous regimental occasions throughout his tenure, the support he has given us has been tremendous and we are most grateful to him for his wise counsel, enthusiasm and commitment. We very much look forward to his continued participation as a Vice President.

Mrs Margaret Dean, Lord Lieutenant of Fife was warmly welcomed as the new Regimental Association President for a year's duration. In

mid May she joined us to pay tribute to fifteen regimental veterans at a dinner in the Lovat Hotel. This was followed closely by the Aberfeldy Muster Parade and Drumhead Service and lunch after at the Kenmore Hotel. It was at the lunch, sitting next to the Commanding Officer of The Black Watch Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Ed Fenton, whom she had not met before, that she made her first impromptu speech as President. It was extremely well received by a wide regimental audience including the 2nd World War veterans, a detachment of the regular Black Watch Battalion as well as an excellent turnout from the Regimental Association.

On 2 July Mrs Dean and her husband Brian were again with us, this time at Holyrood Park, to witness the historic but sad occasion of the old First Battalion colours being marched off parade for the last time in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen after she had presented New Colours to six battalions of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Later in July, at the Regimental Reunion at Balhousie Castle, the Association formed up on the North Inch under Major RCB Ritchie MBE



Brigadier de Broë-Ferguson with Mrs Margaret Dean and her husband Brian.



Tyneside Scottish members at the Reunion.



The Warrant Officers and Sergeants Past and Present Dinner held in the Salutation Hotel 16 April 2011 which included the dining out of Lord Provost John Letford JP, President of the Regimental Association. (Photo courtesy: Angus Findlay Photography)



Association members march to Balhousie Castle before the Regimental Reunion.

and lead by the Perth and District Pipes & Drums, marched into the Castle forecourt where Mrs Dean took the salute. She was then presented with a regimental brooch on behalf of all the Association members and received "three hearty cheers" from all those who attended the occasion, not just those on parade. It was a wonderful day, well attended, the sun shone and our President and her husband stayed well in to the afternoon speaking to many members and their families.

As I have mentioned before, our membership across the board remains fairly steady at about 1,000 members, probably a bit less, but I am immensely encouraged to note how well the various events are attended and I very much look forward to being able to report the same level of commitment to comradeship amongst all those who ever served in The Black Watch for many years to come.

Finally, The Black Watch Battalion have deployed to Afghanistan and I know that everyone will be joining me in wishing them Godspeed and a safe return.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2012

14 January	Angus Branch Burns' Supper	Angus
20 January	Dundee Branch Red Hackle Dinner	Dundee
4 February	Perth Branch Burns' Supper	Perth
23 March	Fife Branch Rhine Crossing Dinner	Kirkcaldy
21 April	Black Watch Association AGM	Perth
21 April	Warrant Officers & Sergeants Dining Club	Perth
28 April	Angus Branch Supper Dance	Arbroath
19 May	Stoke-on-Trent Branch Annual Dinner Dance	Stoke-on-Trent
13 June	Officers and their Ladies Lunch	London
22 June	Regimental Golf Meeting	Kinross
(tbc)		
23 June	Laying Up of Old Colours Parade & Regimental Reunion	Perth
20 October	Angus Branch El Alamein Dinner	Perth
26 October	Officers' Gathering Dinner	Perth
17 November	Battle of The Hook 60th Anniversary Commemoration Dinner	Perth
30 November	1739 Club Dinner	Dundee
15 December	Officers' Regimental Ball	Perth

ANGUS BRANCH

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

Meetings during this period have been well attended by the members. This time has been the busiest since the period we spent campaigning to save the Regiment. Our regular functions; the Burns Supper and the Spring Dance have proved to be popular events since the beginning of the year.

The Branch was well represented at the Aberfeldy Muster in May and this popular and enjoyable biennial event is looked forward to by all Branch Members and their families as it enables people to catch up with friends in a friendly relaxed manner in the beautiful surroundings of

Aberfeldy. This year we were particularly fortunate to share the event with WW2 Veterans from across the UK who attended a celebratory dinner the previous evening in Perth. Our Branch Padre the Reverend Alex Forsyth conducted the Drumhead Service at the Memorial and communed with a higher force to keep the rain away until the service was over.

This year, two fundraising events took place instigated by Pete Tindal and Jock Paton. Peter organised the purchase and sale of wristbands to raise funds for the memorial being planned for Black Watch Corner. This scheme has done extremely well and our top salesman was Jock Torrie.

Jock Paton organised a 'Bring and Buy Sale' in June at the TA Centre, Forfar. Our grateful thanks go to Mrs Terry, Mrs Beattie, Mrs Proctor, Mrs Torrie and Mrs Smart for their help. Jill Inglis and her mother Margaret are also to be thanked for their catering expertise in laying on food at very competitive prices and George Horseburgh and his wife are to be thanked for turning the main Drill Hall into a smart restaurant. The event was supported by The Queens Own Yeomanry. The net result of this hard work was an extra £200 into our funds. It is hoped that next year the event will swell our welfare funds even further. We also thank all those who donated items for the sale.

June and July were also busy months for Branch members as on the 25th of June and the 2nd of July we participated in the Veterans' Day Parade in Edinburgh and Presentation of New Colours to the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Some 42 Black Watch Veterans proudly marched down the Royal Mile and Saluted HRH the Duke of Rothesay our Royal Patron where he took the salute outside the Scottish Parliament building. Although we were the second largest in number to march past we were certainly the smartest with heads wearing Blue Bonnets and Red Hackles held high; it was very gratifying to hear the crowds who lined the streets shout "here come the Watch" and followed their shouts by a loud applause. After a Drumhead service held in Holyrood Park we were fortunate to be introduced to the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay by our Branch Chairman.

Attending the Colours Parade was a sad day for us. It was also sad that we were kept out of the way whilst our Colours were marched off to "Auld Lang Syne" and were delivered to our care out of sight of our families and friends. Our hearts were lightened however; as we marched before Her Majesty with our "Auld Colours" we received a grand reception from the assembled crowd, not only from family and friends but also from spectators around Holyrood Park. Having seen some of the footage of the parade our turnout and bearing was something we should be proud of.

The project to erect a memorial at Black Watch Corner, Belgium has slowed somewhat. This is not due to anything on this side of the Channel. Bruce Walker the sculptor is champing at the bit as well as the steering group consisting of Brigadier Edward de Broë-Ferguson, Major David McMicking, Major Ronnie Proctor and Tam McCluskey. We now realise that the wheels of local government turn just as slowly over in Belgium.

As soon as we get permission from Belgium everyone will soon know about it. One fine result from the fairly quiet newspaper articles of our intentions was a donation of £972.50 raised by Mrs Lynne Cameron and her friends from Muirdrum and Carnoustie. The cheque was presented to John Glen and the Branch made it up to £1000. Lynne visited us at the Reunion with her husband and son and donated a further £50 to the fund.

For the rest of the year we are all looking forward to the Branch Standard rededication in Brechin Cathedral and the El Alamein dinner at the Royal British Legion, Forfar.



Major Proctor and members of the Association meet the Royal Patron during Armed Forces Day in Edinburgh.



The inaugural Fife Branch Alma Lunch held in Kirkcaldy in September 2011.

At our last meeting in September we were delighted to see our President, Colonel Fred Beattie back to his normal self after his illness. No doubt, Fred, will soon be issuing instructions (a la RSM's Detail) for the Christmas comforts to our widows and elderly. Welcome back Fred, from all in the Branch.

PS – We know he will hate this!

DUNDEE BRANCH

The Association AGM was attended by Majors Jim Connors and Dave Ritchie, as well as Colin Adam, Alan Williamson, and John McNiven.

Ten members attended the Regimental Muster in Aberfeldy on 22nd May, with the Branch Standard being carried by John McNiven, the Branch Treasurer.

Several members attended Armed Forces Day in Edinburgh on 25th June, although a rather annoyed Lieutenant Colonel Roland Rose missed the bus, as no-one told him the timing had been brought forward 30 minutes.

The main Branch turnout, for Armed Forces Day, however, was for Dundee's own day on 2nd July, where a very large contingent of veterans, including many Branch members, was commanded by our Vice-President, Major Dave Ritchie.

The Branch was represented at the Friends of The Black Watch cocktail party on 21st July by the Roses, the Ritchies and the Barrs. This year there was a charge for attendance, so the cocktails were very welcome.

A large busload of Branch Members and friends attended the Regimental Reunion at Balhousie on 23rd July, meeting old friends, and making many new ones.

The Dundee Branch inaugurated a Church Service to commemorate the Battle of Loos, which began on 25 September, 1915. This battle is very important to Dundonians as many households in the City suffered loss from this battle, the majority of these losses being Black Watch. The anniversary fell on a Sunday this year, so it seemed appropriate to hold this event and to make it an annual gathering, with the aim of building up to the centenary in 2015. Despite good coverage in the Courier and the Sunday Post, the attendance was slightly disappointing, but we look forward to a larger gathering next year.

Over the last 6 months, our President, Major Jim Connors, has been unwell and unable to attend as many events as he would have wished but he has kept his hand on the tiller via e-mail. We wish him better health in future, and look forward to his more frequent appearances.

We bid a sad farewell to Johnnie "White Sox" Wilkinson, a long serving member of A Company 51 Highland and a member of the Branch who died this summer.

Future Events

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

The Branch continues to hold its monthly meetings in the Black Watch Club in Arherstone Terrace on the last Sunday of each month at 12pm. All serving or ex members of the Regiment are welcome to attend, and all members would be glad to see you.

FIFE BRANCH

It has been busy, busy, busy for the Fife Branch during this reporting period. It all started with our biennial visit to the birthplace of the Regiment, namely Aberfeldy. It was a good day, well attended and lots of old faces to see and say hello too. After the service, we moved west to the Kenmore Hotel for lunch and some more meet and greet, then South towards the Kingdom. Some more boot leather was worn away during the mini Armed Forces Day in St Andrews on the 20th of June. The Provost (Frances Melville) and the Lord Lieutenant (Margaret Dean) inspected the parade and issued badges to both Veterans and the families of Veterans; we then retired to the Town Hall for a Civic Reception. Less than a week later the boots were donned yet again, this time it was the main Armed Forces Day Parade in Edinburgh. We formed up as a combined unit and marched from Johnstone Terrace, up onto the Royal Mile and then down into Holyrood Park where a Drumhead Service was conducted. The kit wasn't to be put away yet. On the 2nd of July the Royal Regiment of Scotland was on parade to receive their New Colours from Her Majesty the Queen and on that same day we were on parade to march behind our Regimental Colours for the last time. It was a sad and moving day for all who took part. Still no respite for the boots, as three weeks later we were on parade yet again to celebrate our Regimental Reunion at Balhousie. A slight change in format, but again a day for renewing friendships and telling the same stories we have told for what seems like an eternity. So now we can put the kit away for a while! Not a bit of it. The Fife Branch decided to hold a Ladies Lunch in Kirkcaldy on the 11th of September, which was attended by 53 members. It was decided the function should become an annual one and as we (the men) have the Rhine Crossing Dinner in March, we should name this lunch the Alma Lunch to commemorate the battle fought on the 20th September 1854 (Forward 42nd fame). On the 24th of September we shall meet again in Kirkcaldy. The names of those killed will be added to the town's War Memorial and a Black Watch wreath will be laid as a mark of respect. Staying on the subject of Remembrance, the Branch has just lost a loyal member to a long illness, namely Bill (Andy) Anderson, he will be sadly missed. Ending on a happier note the Branch has a Games Night against the local TA Unit in Hunter Street on Friday the 7th of October a night where we will try to retain our trophy. The Fife Branch is in good heart and would like to wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a Guid New Year when it comes.

HIGHLAND BRANCH

The Highland Branch has made some progress in securing its own Branch Standard with part funding from the Highland Council Common Good Fund and the remainder was made up from Branch funds. We hope to have it made and with us for the Remembrance Parades in November.

The Branch had members parading at the Armed Forces Day in Inverness and the presentation of the New Colours in Edinburgh. We will also have a large representation at Fort George for the Open day which is to be held on 3rd September prior to the OP HERRICK deployment.

Our yearly Aberfeldy Ladies Dinner was held at the Craigmonie Hotel Inverness in May; William and Christine Barr were our only outside guests due to the date clash with the Aberfeldy Muster. Our own Branch Piper David Robertson played an excellent set and many other requests late into the night.



The Branch members and their Ladies at the Aberfeldy Dinner held in May 2011.



The Chairman squirming at the size of the Quaich being presented by Joe Barbour.



You're a long way from home Mr Hubble.



Gordon & Ellen Kennedy, Lenny & Hazel Shaw and Alec & Caroline Beattie at the Colours presentation Edinburgh.



Tam and Trudie Drummond travelled north for the Colours Ceremony.

We have recruited a few new members over the last month and OC Alpha Company Major Rob Hedderwick will be our latest addition on his return from OP HERRICK; it is good to have a Direct Entry Officer in the Branch and especially one of our own!

The Branch will continue normal business despite our reduced numbers with the current deployment and a large Highland contingent will attend the Dundee Branch dinner in January.

Branch Meetings will be held as follows:

- 13 Dec Monthly meeting
- 10 Jan Monthly meeting

LONDON BRANCH

At this time of year the classic line from 'Oh Danny Boy': 'The summer's gone and all the leaves are dying' would normally provide a fitting background to the writing of the London Branch Red Hackle Notes, but not this time. Just when we thought it was all over and were checking the central heating and airing the winter duvets, summer has returned with a vengeance, with blue skies and warm sunshine reminding us of the many events that have taken place since our last notes, thankfully in fairly similar conditions.

Way back in March 2011 Bill Parr organised the Pte Edwards VC Memorial Ceremony, at the Parish Church, Epping. Turnout was a little down on previous years but it was, as ever, a most fitting ceremony at which Jeremy Hulme laid the wreath. Also in March the Branch AGM

and Lunch was held at the Union Jack Club and was enjoyed by those attending. Numbers for this event remain fairly constant, but given that it is a daytime event, far too low. It is hoped that more members will turn up to support the Branch and enjoy the occasion in March 2012, as we could do with greater support for the AGM.

In early May we held our Branch Executive Committee Meeting at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, which is where we usually go. Unfortunately we were in disarray for a while, as they had just opened a new basement conference room, as well as having an existing basement meeting room, both at opposite sides of the building. The outcome was that, depending on which gate one entered through, some members were sent to one and the remainder to the other. We did eventually get our act (and meeting) together! Also at the Royal Hospital in May, the spectacular Founder's Day took place. HRH Prince Harry took the salute and a sizeable group from the Branch were there to enjoy this colourful annual event.

Scotland then became the focal point for the summer's activities and these are reported in some detail in this edition of the Red Hackle with many supporting photographs but it would be remiss not to make mention of the London Branch involvement. In May two of our WW2



Brig de Broe-Ferguson (London), Charlie Quinn (Dundee), Tam Drummond (London) and Bob Scott (Fife) at the Regimental Reunion.

veterans, Lieutenant Colonel Freddy Burnaby-Atkins and Major Peter Watson attended the WW2 Veteran's Gathering at Perth, followed by the Regimental Muster at Aberfeldy the following day.

Joe Hubble and Peter Grant were in Edinburgh at the end of June for the Armed Forces Day celebrations, Joe to march with the BW veterans and Peter as a spectator. He was able to attract Joe's attention as he marched down the Royal Mile with a call of "you're a long way from home Mr Hubble!" The following weekend several of us made the journey north to participate in the Colours Parade at Holyrood Park. The London Branch was well represented in the marching contingent and there was also a good sprinkling of Branch members among the spectators to witness this regal, colourful and impressive event. However, for all veterans of the antecedent regiments there on that hot summer's day there was a considerable degree of sadness to accompany the deep pride we felt as our Colours were marched past Her Majesty The Queen for the very last time.

Finally, to complete the summer events north of the border, a number of Branch members attended the rescheduled Regimental Reunion at Balhousie Castle later in July.

Meanwhile, back in London in mid July, twelve members of the Branch attended the annual 'Not Forgotten' Association Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. This also took place in brilliant sunshine, making the iced coffee and strawberries and cream doubly welcome. HRH Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, attended with her husband and they spent a long time chatting to the veterans and War Widows. As is usual at this event a number of well-known celebrities also attended, giving those who enjoy talking to the 'stars' plenty of opportunity to do so.

Our final summer event was the Branch Lunch, organised by Joe Hubble, which took place at 'The Albert' in London. Twenty two members attended, enjoying a good lunch and a pleasant afternoon together.

We now look forward to the time of Remembrance in November and the two national ceremonies that take place: the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey and the Cenotaph Parade on Remembrance Sunday. This year the London Branch have responsibility for Black Watch involvement in both of these events and it is hoped that numbers in the marching contingent on Remembrance Sunday this year will be significantly up on 2010, which unfortunately saw a very small Black Watch turnout on Whitehall.

Readers of the Red Hackle may recall that the London Branch notes in edition No 102 of November 2010 included an item by Forbes Taylor entitled 'A Bit of Ancient History'. The following edition in May 2011 carried a response from Donald Ramsay who 'Re-Visited' and updated Forbes' ancient history. I have an apology, as I also received a letter from London Branch member Henry McKenzie-Johnston regarding the article and failed to include it in my last notes. Anyway, here it is now:

A Further Visit to that 'Bit of Ancient History'

"A very interesting 'bit of ancient history' by Forbes Taylor in the November 2010 Red Hackle. Peter Glass, under whom he served with the Lovat Scouts in Greece, was one of my particular friends in the 6th Battalion and I kept in touch with him for many years after he was finally demobbed, when he returned briefly to his pre-war profession of actor. Alas this did not last long and as he ruefully said, it was because he had never been any good as a good looking young 'matinee idol' and had become too old for such parts! He then got employed as a tour escort in the travel industry for some years before getting married, but he died some thirty years ago.

Donald Ramsay was also one of my particular friends, but as he and his wife lived in Australia (where he had a distinguished career) I only saw him occasionally when they come over to the UK on holiday.

But one of the points in this interesting account by Forbes is his reference to being taken "under the terrifying wing of Major Pollock-McCall". I have the fondest memories of dear 'Wuz' in the 6th Battalion and am surprised to find him being referred to as 'terrifying'. True, he could be a strict disciplinarian; but he was one of the kindest men I ever served under, a delightfully, sometimes eccentric, character who loved to give one the impression that he didn't really take war seriously. But he fought several battles in Tunisia and successfully took command of the Battalion at one point during the heavy fighting between Cassino and Florence, before himself being wounded and evacuated to the UK shortly before Florence was reached".

Sadly we have recently said farewell to three Branch members: Tom Oliver, Tom Smith (who was a member of several Branches and for many years was the BW Contingent Marshall at the Cenotaph in London) and Jim Millard. Their obituaries are elsewhere in this edition but we send our sincere condolences to their respective wives, Vera, June, Inge and their families.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE BRANCH

The Branch has had a difficult and distressing period, having suffered more than our fair share of losses to age and illness. Members have provided Colour Parties on three occasions since our last contribution to this publication. Included in the list was Captain Frank Bell MBE, our Branch President. No replacement for the position of President has yet been considered.

Plans for our annual dinner have fallen victim to circumstances, due to difficulties being experienced by the hosting TA unit. Whilst no dinner will be held this year, we do intend to reinstate the event as soon as possible.

A new recruit has joined us from 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery, fresh from deployment in Afghanistan. Dan Holbrough was formally greeted as a Branch Member on 9th September. He either looked very young and well scrubbed or we are all starting to look old and knackered.

Aberfeldy Muster 2011

It had been a long journey, requiring an overnight stay, however, the Newcastle Branch members who were present, considered the journey well worthwhile. Not just as picturesque as our last visit, the snow having left the mountains, none the less, it was a time for meeting old friends and serving members of the Battalion. Lt Colonel Fenton gave a report on the work of the Battalion and emphasised the pride all members felt in wearing the Red Hackle. We were a little damp by the end but were quite pleased with ourselves for being part of a magnificent occasion. Sixteen veterans of WWII were present, including our own Dr Tom Renouf. Tom had recently released a book and was in high demand by journalists seeking interviews.

On leaving the parade ground, at least one of our members was seen to fling himself down and kiss the hallowed ground (he took a tumble) requiring the help of a Lieutenant Colonel to get him upright again. A very emotional and moving experience. Unfortunately, no photographs are available of this particular incident.

Duty done, we headed home, wending our way with a minimal number of stops but a maximum intake of fluid refreshment, until the hills of Northumberland welcomed us with their sunlit slopes.

Annual Reunion

The Branch, as usual, was well represented at Balhousie Castle and most of those present had a wonderful time. There were two exceptions who fell victim to the heat and did not fully recover until the next day. Well, that's their story. The Pipes and Drums played well and it was good to see Jimmy Sinclair performing along with the younger members. No doubt providing a rock of stability based on his many years experience in the piping fraternity. Some of our members marched, although, our Standard was not on parade this year. I suppose that I should accept responsibility, since I knew that Billy Brown would not be with us and forgot to make any alternative arrangements. Sorry.

Our journey home from Perth involved us in the ritualistic stop in Edinburgh, providing an opportunity for those in need to partake of the "hair of the dog" and for their wives to max out the credit cards. After so much excitement in the Capital, it was necessary to stop at a much loved watering hole in the border region to top up our fluids and let the girls have a cup of tea in the tea shop over the road. Nothing's too much trouble when we are taking care of our girls.

Future Events

As usual, we will be laying a wreath on a Black Watch War Grave on the Saturday preceding Remembrance Sunday. Members will also be taking part in the Remembrance Ceremonies at The Jigsaw on 11th November and at Eldon Square on Remembrance Day. The RBL Festival of Remembrance in Gateshead, will be held on 4th November this year.



Jimmy Sinclair still going strong.

PERTH BRANCH

President: Lt Col (Retd) Roddy Riddell
Chairman: Capt (Retd) Alan McEwen
Treasurer: Mr Jim Baird
Secretary: Capt Brian Baxter
Piper: Alistair Duthie

Membership

The Perth Branch continue to look to recruit members throughout the Perth & Kinross area, as well as serving members of the TA and Regular Army. Some of our new members have recently left the Army and it is encouraging to note that these members are attending regularly. Additionally the Committee and Branch Members continue to encourage lapsed members to renew their membership. If you live in the Perth area then you are more than welcome to come along, join and support the Perth Branch. As at the beginning of September 2011, we have 92 paid up members. Membership Forms and Standing Order Forms (only £5 per year for membership!) are available from the Branch Secretary – Brian Baxter or the Branch Treasurer – Jim Baird.

Attendance at Events

The Branch meets monthly in the Ex Servicemen's Club Perth and members have attended the Aberfeldy Muster, Armed Forces Day (Perth & Edinburgh), Presentation of New Colours to the Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Regimental Reunion, Fife Branch Lunch and the Branch Grandtully Hotel Lunch in September.

The annual Croix De Guerre Dinner will be held on 15 October 2011 and the annual Burns' Supper will be held on 4 February 2012.

The Branch Committee and members would like to take this opportu-



Bill Kerr reminiscing with two of the company at the Grantully Hotel.

nity to wish the Black Watch Battalion a successful and safe tour on Op Herrick 15 in Afghanistan.

STOKE-ON-TRENT BRANCH

Since the May edition, we have had a busy time. A number of WW2 veterans attended the commemorative dinner prior to the Aberfeldy Muster, and attended the Muster itself, on 22nd May 2011.

Then, later in the year, there was Armed Forces Day in Edinburgh, which again was well attended by members of our Branch. I did note that Joe Hubble who was right hand man, got on the T.V. again, with the very good coverage of the parade, but the high-light for myself and everyone who attended, was the Presentation of the New Colours to the Royal Regiment of Scotland on 2nd July 2011. This date was a 'never to be forgotten' date in everyone's calendar. Over 650 men were on parade together with approximately 300 Veterans from all the antecedent Regiments. Her Majesty The Queen took the Salute from all on Parade. If anyone has a computer and wishes to see the limited coverage on the 'box' of the presentation, then go to www.youtube.com and put in 'Colours Presentation Scotland' in the search engine and it will show you the BBC Scotland coverage.

The last event of note was the Regimental Re-union held on 23rd July 2011 at Perth.

Appeal on behalf of the Pipes and Drums Band

The Branch Pipes and Drums are a victim of their own success, in the respect that they are recruiting new members on a regular basis. The band are short of equipment, such as kilts, jackets, pipes, drums.

Never forget that the majority of the band's performances are for charitable events and therefore do not get any payment what so ever. Their own equipment is naturally wearing out or does not fit and therefore more is needed.

I would like to appeal to all Association members, that if they have any of the above items, that they are willing to donate to the Band, that if they get in touch with the Branch.

Annual Dinner & Dance 2011

The Annual Dinner & Dance was held on 14th May 2011, at the North Stafford Hotel, in Stoke-on-Trent, and was attended by over 110 members and guests. Captain Owen Humphreys, was Guest of Honour.

Once again the hotel and staff did us proud, with a fantastic five course meal, prepared and served perfectly.

Captain Humphreys gave a fascinating speech, which was followed by the Branch Pipes & Drums, who performed to their usual high standard.

We did have some extra guests during the evening. Newly married Mr Simon and Mrs Kimberley Lawley, who were holding their wedding in another section of the hotel, requested that they be allowed to attend our event to watch and listen to the band.

The bride and groom were piped into the hall by our Jimmy Frazer. They were greeted by all of our members and guests who gave them and all of their wedding guests, a very warm welcome. I don't believe they will forget that memory for a very long time.

A special presentation was made during the evening to our own Secretary, Alex Lackie. The presentation of a Black Watch Association Medal was made by Major Proctor to thank Alex for his long service and exceptional work, on behalf of the Branch.

Other notable guests who attended were Mr & Mrs Terry Allwerthy, who came all the way from the United States of America. They were both thoroughly entertained by members of the 60's Military Band.

Comments made both during and after this event indicated that 'It was the best one ever'. Every year we attempt to make the event better in some way but the success of the event is purely dependent upon your attendance, so, read on to get details of the Dinner and Dance 2012.

Future Events

Burns Night Supper

As yet, we do not have a firm date or venue for the Burns Night Supper 2012, however we are working hard to arrange the details. Details will be published once finalised.

Dinner & Dance

Next year's Annual Dinner & Dance will be held on Saturday 19th May 2012, at the North Stafford Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent (Directly opposite the Stoke Railway Station.)

If anyone wishes further information, Please contact Alex Lackie on 01782 372407.

DON'T LOSE YOUR VOICE - REGISTER TO VOTE

In order to vote you must be registered as an elector. If you are not on the register your views and opinions will count for nothing at election time.

You can and should register to vote if you are not already registered. If you have changed your name, please let us know.

Members of HM Forces and their spouses or civil partners can register either by means of a service declaration or choose to be registered as an ordinary elector instead.

Remember, 16 and 17 year olds who register are entitled to vote as soon as they turn 18.

P.S. Did you know that registering to vote can do more than protect your democratic rights?

It can also help you open a bank account or get a mortgage, loan or mobile phone.

For information on registering to vote:

Phone the Freephone Helpline on 0800 393783

e-mail: ero@highland.gov.uk

or write to the Electoral Registration Officer, Moray House, 16-18 Bank Street, Inverness IV1 1QY

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