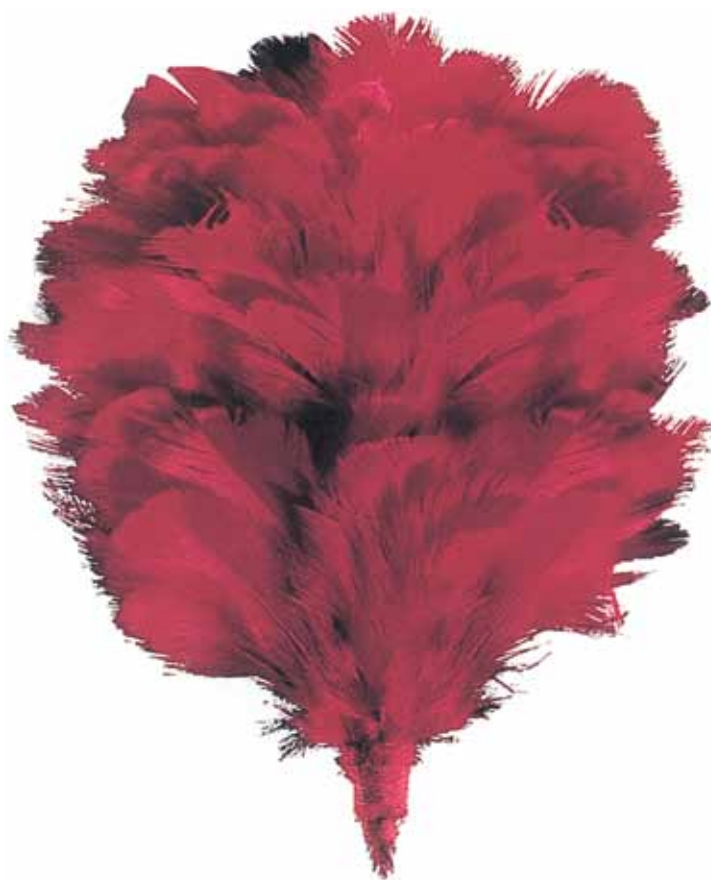


No. 122
November 2012



THE RED HACKLE



their future starts here

Boarding
Boys & Girls aged 9 to 18

Scholarship Dates:

Sixth Form

Saturday 17th November 2012

Junior (P5-S1)

Saturday 26th January 2013

Senior (Year 9/S2)

Monday 25th – Wednesday

27th February 2013

Forces Discount and
Bursaries Available



STRATHALLAN
Opportunities *for all* to excel

For more information or to register please contact
Felicity Legge T: 01738 812546
E: admissions@strathallan.co.uk

www.strathallan.co.uk

Forgandenny Perthshire PH2 9EG

Strathallan is a Scottish Charity dedicated to education. Charity number SC008903

No. 122

42nd



73rd

November 2012

THE RED HACKLE

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



*The Old Colours of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch and 1st Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers were Laid Up in Perth on 23 June 2012.
This was the final military act in the life of both Regiments.*

Contents

Editorial	3
Regimental and Battalion News	4
The Black Watch Heritage Appeal, The Regimental Museum and Friends of the Black Watch	8
Correspondence	12
Book Reviews	13
Obituaries	14
Articles	22
The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland ...	33
51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	55
The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada	59
The Tyneside Scottish	60
Angus & Dundee Battalion Army Cadet Force	61
Black Watch Battalion Army Cadet Force	64
Association News	68



Delivering Quality
to the
Heart of Scotland

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

Accountants to The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

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

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

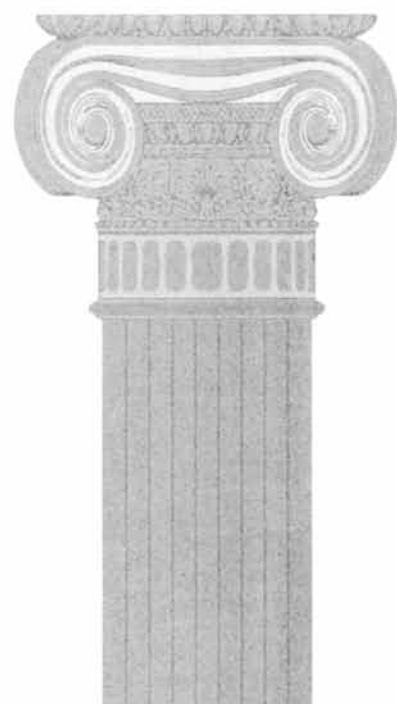
Long connections with **The Black Watch** give the firm a genuine understanding of the needs of those connected with the Regiment.

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

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

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

MORRIS
&
YOUNG
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



THE RED HACKLE



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

**November 2012
No. 122**

Published for The Black Watch



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

Telephone (01408) 633871 Fax (01408) 633876
to whom all enquiries regarding
advertising should be addressed.

*Editorial Matter and Illustrations © Crown Copyright
Design and Typography © Method Publishing 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.

From 1 January 2013, bulk orders are supplied at a rate of £7 per copy. Individual copies are sent out to permanent subscribers, both in the UK and abroad, at a subscription rate of £14 annually for UK subscribers, £14 annually to Europe and £16 annually Worldwide by airmail. A Gift Aid Scheme is available for individual subscribers who are subject to UK tax. The magazine fund benefits from tax reclaimed in this way. All subscriptions should be sent to the editor, "The Red Hackle, Home Headquarters, The Black Watch, Balhousie Castle, Hay Street, Perth PH1 5HR, and those interested in the Gift Aid Scheme, will on request be provided with the correct forms for completion.

Editorial

Over the last 8 years, the Regimental Family have witnessed and lived through a period of unprecedented and unwelcome change brought about by the rebalancing of the Army to achieve the Future Army Structure (FAS). This resulted in the removal of the single battalion Regiments and the forming of The Royal Regiment of Scotland and last year, at Holyrood Park, our old Colours were marched off parade in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen. On 23 June 2012 the final military act in the life of the Regiment was executed. The Laying Up of Colours Parade and Service which took place in Perth brought to a close 267 years of history and it was fitting that the final parade should be held on the banks of the River Tay 272 years after the first muster at Aberfeldy. As well as the Colours of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), those of 1st Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers were also Laid Up. The latter Battalion was originally formed from the famous Black Watch Territorial Battalions, the 4th (City of Dundee), 5th (Angus), 6th (Perthshire) and 7th (Fife) as well as from other Highland Regiments.

Led by a massed Pipes and Drums, the parade numbered well over 450 marching personnel and between 800 and 1000 people attended the Church Service which was held beside the 51st Highland Division Memorial on the North Inch. The Regimental Family turned out in force and the whole day was carried out with great dignity and style. The occasion was greatly enhanced by the presence of a strong detachment of The Black Watch of Canada, including the Honorary Colonel, Colonel Daniel O'Connor and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Bruno Plourde. They all looked resplendent in No1 Dress and reminded us of better days. A full report and copies of the sermon and speeches are recorded in this Edition.

The parade and service were followed by the launch of Volume 1 of the new Regimental History, "The Highland Furies". Victoria Schofield the author gave a short talk and was on hand to sign copies of this most well written and researched history. We now look forward to 2015 and the publication of the second and final volume. At the same event Colonel O'Connor presented a picture to the Museum. It celebrated the 150th anniversary of the formation of The Black Watch of Canada. Running concurrently with the Book Launch, a very successful Reunion was held in the Bells' Sports Centre. It was so successful that the bar had to be re-stocked on no less than three occasions!

On 6 July, Her Majesty The Queen as part of her Diamond Jubilee celebrations visited Perth. Accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh and looking happy and relaxed, Her Majesty was welcomed by Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin, Chairman of the Regimental Museum who duly invited her to unveil a bronze plaque to record the occasion. Colonel Alex Murdoch, Chairman of the Regimental Association presented some of the staff and Association members and she was briefed on the planned building works and shown some artefacts which have Royal connections. The visit only lasted 20 minutes but was a memorable occasion.

The builders have arrived in force, the development of the Wavell Gardens to create a car park was completed in early July and the Museum was closed to the public from 1 September with a planned reopening date of April 2013.

The long awaited announcement on the reduction of the Army and how it would affect the Royal Regiment of Scotland was made in early July. Whilst Royal Regiment of Scotland plans were well advanced to finally remove antecedent Regimental names from the current battalions, political expediency trumped their intentions and Scotland's Infantry escaped quite lightly. Because of the Independence for Scotland debate it was only the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the 5th Battalion, that was affected, being reduced to Company (Balaclava Company) strength and confined to a Public Duties role in Scotland.

As part of the planned restructuring under the terms of Army 2020, RHQ of the Royal Regiment of Scotland based at Edinburgh Castle has decided to reorganise its outstations to no longer reflect antecedent regimental areas, rather to direct its influence to the three population "hubs" of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. Each of these offices will look after community relations, now known as Community Engagement, within a defined geographical area of Scotland, thus disbanding the MOD office, amongst others in Balhousie Castle. Significantly, Representative Colonels' are no longer responsible for providing the interface between the antecedent regiments and their named battalions and Major General Riddell-Webster has now been reappointed Deputy Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. He has written an article as a Deputy Colonel of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, expanding on the reasoning behind the decisions and their implications.

Under this new arrangement, there is no longer a Regimental Secretary of The Black Watch and the baton for all Regimental events has been passed to the Regimental Association office. It is hoped that all the normal social and sporting, as well as welfare activities will be sustained well into the future. There will inevitably be further change and as the Association Office is only manned for three days a week, you may not always get an instant response.

In the last Editorial I reported the death of Lieutenant Colonel John McGregor MC and sadly I must now record the death of another well known and respected 2nd World War veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Freddie Burnaby-Atkins, who died in June.



Regimental and Battalion News

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2013/2014

2013

18 January	Dundee Branch, Red Hackle Dinner	Dundee
26 January	Angus Branch Burns Supper	Forfar
2 February	Perth Branch Burns Supper	Perth
3 March	London Branch Edward's VC Ceremony	Chigwell, Essex
6 March	London Branch Lunch and AGM	Royal Hospital Chelsea
22 March	Fife Branch Rhine Crossing Dinner	Kirkcaldy
20 April	Association AGM	Perth
	WOs' and Sgts' Dining Club Dinner and AGM	Perth
11 May	Highland Branch Aberfeldy Dinner	Inverness
18 May	Officers and Ladies Lunch	Perth (tbc)
19 May	Aberfeldy Muster	Aberfeldy
19 June	Officers and Ladies Lunch	London
20 June	Friends' Cocktail Party	Perth (tbc)
21 June	All Ranks Golf Competition	Kinross
22 June	Regimental Reunion	Perth
12 October	Perth Branch Croix de Guerre Dinner	Perth
19 October	Angus Branch El Alamein Dinner	Forfar
25 October	Officers' Gathering Dinner	Perth
7 November	London Branch Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
8 November	Balhausie Castle Remembrance Service	Perth
10 November	Remembrance Sunday	
21 November	London Branch Dinner, Victory Services Club	London
30 November	1739 Club Dinner	Dundee
21 December	Officers' Regimental Ball	Perth (tbc)

2014

Late April or 3 May	The Unveiling of The Black Watch Memorial to commemorate the action at Black Watch Corner (Nonne Boschen) Belgium and the more than 8000 Officers and men who gave their lives in the Great War.	
---------------------	--	--

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Brigadier J M Cowan DSO OBE**, on his selection for promotion to the rank of Major General and command of 3rd (UK) Division in April 2013.

To **Major D E J Kemmis-Betty** on the award of a MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2012.

OP HERRICK 15 OPERATIONAL HONOURS LIST

The following officers and NCOs have received awards for service in Afghanistan:

Lieutenant Colonel E A Fenton was awarded a Distinguished Service Order for his "gallant leadership".

Sergeant (now Colour Sergeant) Daniel Buist was awarded a Mention in Despatches for "placing himself in the line of fire and for leading his men through ground heavily seeded with Improvised Explosives to secure a vital position".

Colour Sergeant (now WO2) Smith was awarded a Mention in Despatches for "exemplary leadership and unstinting gallantry by reversing a potentially dire situation when his patrol came under attack in a carefully planned enemy ambush".

Sergeant S Leslie was awarded a Mention in Despatches for "daring leadership and exemplary courage during a complex and dangerous withdrawal in contact".

ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND – DEPUTY COLONELS

As part of the reorganisation of Royal Regiment of Scotland the appointment of a Representative Colonel for each battalion has ceased.

From 1 September 2012 Major General M L Riddell-Webster DSO has been appointed a Deputy Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Scotland along with four other officers.

COMMISSIONING

Second Lieutenant Alexander Deck was commissioned into The Royal Regiment of Scotland in August 2012. He has been posted to the 3rd Battalion. He graduated from Bristol University having read Geography.

OFFICERS COMMISSIONED INTO THE BLACK WATCH (ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT)

AND STILL SERVING ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2012

After The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) were merged into the Royal Regiment of Scotland we published a list of all those serving in the Regiment on 27 March 2006, the day before the merger. There were 75 names. Since then 36 officers have retired and as at 1 September 2012 the list consists of 39 names:

Maj Gen M L Riddell-Webster

Brig J M Cowan

Col R J K Bradford

Col L R MacDuff

Lt Col A J Aiken

Lt Col M J F Ewing

Lt Col R R E Lindsay

Lt Col A D MacGillivray

Lt Col D R Orr Ewing

Lt Col J C Roddis

Lt Col B M A Wrench

Maj J R P Bailey

Maj C M B Broadbent

Maj D W Bruce

Maj T J O Carmichael

Maj B R Collis

Maj W A Colquhoun

Maj N Colquhoun

Maj A J Colville

Maj A V Cooper

Maj B Cooper

Maj D C Close

Maj S P Dallard

Maj R S J Hedderwick

Maj D J Kemmis-Betty

Maj T J Petransky

Maj A M Philp

Maj J S Prowse

Maj R P Reid

Maj R F Sandford

Maj D M Sheldrick

Maj N K G Tomlin

Maj R W J Walker

Maj A R W Watson

Maj M A N Williamson

Capt W E Johnson

Capt J Kerr

Capt J E Kelmanson

Capt S G Small

SCOTTISH NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL

Patrick Anderson of Letham in Forfar has advised HHQ that his uncle, Lieutenant P W Anderson who served with the 8th (Service)



Lieutenant Patrick Wright Anderson photographed in Arbroath on home leave during August 1915 prior to going overseas with 10BW.

and 10th (Service) Battalions and later the Royal Flying Corps, has had his name included in The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) Roll of Honour for the Great War. This is 91 years after his death. The Roll is held in the Scottish National War Memorial. He died on 2 November 1921 as a result of wounds sustained in action on 27 June 1918.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

A short service of re-dedication took place on 25 May 2012 near the 51st Highland Division Memorial on the North Inch in Perth.

A commemorative plaque which once was fixed to the Cooperative Society building on Scott Street and then on a wall of the Perth Royal British Legion Memorial Club in the Skinnergate, was moved to the Garden of Remembrance. The names of those included on the plaque had worked for the Co-operative Society. The Black Watch names listed are:

1914-1918

John R Brough
James Gordon Griffiths
Archibald Forbes Haston
James Alexander Kippen
George McLaughlan
John Taylor

1939-1945

Harold Walker

RADLEY ARMED FORCES FUND

In keeping with Radley's long tradition of supporting Service families, the Radley Foundation, in partnership with Downe House and St Mary's Calne, has recently created a new bursary scheme called "The Radley Armed Forces Fund".

The Fund will help finance the education of sons and daughters of Service personnel killed or wounded while serving their country.

Its creation was inspired by the loss in Afghanistan of two Old Radlians, Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Thorneloe MBE and Lieutenant Dougie Dalzell MC and by injuries to Captain Harry Parker.

For more details email: anthonyrobinson@radley.org.uk or visit www.radley.org.uk.

BLACK WATCH WIVES' ASSOCIATION

A number of Black Watch wives held a reunion in the Queen's Hotel in Dundee. This was the third "gathering" and 68 attended the evening. Organised by Doreen Bruce Begg, Major Bob Ritchie was their invited guest.



The third annual Black Watch wives' gathering was held in Dundee.

CURLING 2012/13

The dates for curling matches in 2012/13 are as follows:

9 November 2012 BW Vs A&SH to be held in Perth
11 January 2013 BW Vs Hldrs
6 February 2013 Highland and Lowland Brigade Club Vs New Club
7 March 2013 Highland and Lowland Brigade Club Vs The Royal Company of Archers
21 March 2013 Highland and Lowland Brigade Club Bonspiel

Major J M K Erskine MBE will send out details of all the proposed matches.

MISSING BATTLE HONOUR

Whilst carrying out some research, the Regimental Secretary noted that the Battle Honour "Le Transloy" was missing from the list shown in Part 1 of the Army List 2005 and it is assumed has been missing from the Army List for some years. "Le Transloy" is currently shown on the Battle Honours board in the entrance of the Museum and should appear in the list of Great War Battle Honours after Thiepval.

The battle was fought from 1-18 October 1916.

THE BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION GOLF MEETING

The Annual Black Watch Association Regimental Golf Meeting took place at Kinross on Friday 22nd June 2012 and despite the atrocious weather during the Summer, we just about stayed dry on the day. The golf courses held up very well indeed and a great day's golf was enjoyed by all. We were delighted to welcome a contingent from the Battalion back again this year with their safe return from Afghanistan and this boosted our numbers up to record levels.

We were also delighted 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, both morally and financially without which the competition could not survive. We hope this will continue for many years to come as we carry the Black Watch name forward.

As to the golf itself, scoring was very impressive indeed and the wide array of prizes went to some deserving winners. Corporal Paul Stewart from the Battalion picked up best scratch with a score of 73; Dave Thomson proved that age is no barrier to success with a tremendous nett score of 68 to win the Alan Mutch Memorial Trophy; and Iain Coupar scored a very credible 38 points to pick up the Stableford prize. Best officer on the day went to Alex Stewart and the best OR prize was won by Kev Winton. This was a keenly contested competition, with a full entry and the bar, in terms of the standards of play, was certainly raised this year to unprecedented heights! The only question is whether that can be maintained in the years to come.

The afternoon round was a Greensomes Pairs competition which is always great fun, pretty relaxed, but nevertheless competitive. Alan McDougall and Stuart McCrae came out on top this year with a score of 40 points closely followed by Pete Graham and James Purce. Of course the best thing about all of this was that none of these four had won in the morning so the prizes were well spread around.

We were delighted to welcome our Representative Colonel, Major General Mike Riddell-Webster who came along to present the winners with their prizes and we are very grateful to General Mike for giving up his valuable time. We were also pleased to have Wright Beveridge from the Coop and Simon Dunn from Sidey 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.



Dave Thomson the winner of the Alan Mutch Memorial Trophy.

PIPER IAN FERGUSON

Ian Ferguson served in the 1st Battalion from 1946-52 and took part in the first Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 1950 as well as being chosen as one of the pipers to play at King George VI's funeral in 1952. The full complement of 16 pipers under Pipe Major Jenkinson and 11 drum-



Ian Ferguson dressed in his piper's uniform.



Ian Ferguson 60 years later at Edinburgh Castle.

mers under Drum Major Roy were on parade playing the cortege from Windsor Station to St George's Chapel.

Now aged 85 and living in Tranent he attended the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo with his family on 4 August 2012.

TUNES AND FLOWERS

The photograph shows the statue that is situated on the North Inch in Perth and commemorates the 51st Highland Division. It also shows the words of a poem beside the monument which were written by Mr Andrew McGeever. Mr McGeever's father a veteran of the 2nd World War died recently and his obituary appears in this Red Hackle Magazine. The late Mr Frank McGeever was a staunch supporter of the Regiment and members of the Fife Branch attended the funeral to honour an old soldier.



Tunes and Flowers – 51st Highland Division Memorial in Perth.

TYNESIDE SCOTTISH DETACHMENTS IN NORTHUMBRIA ARMY CADET FORCE

Major Eytan Parker, the Battery Commander of 203 (Elswick) Battery, 101 (Northumbrian) Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers) has informed the Association that he has started two Tyneside Scottish cap badged detachments in Northumbria Army Cadet Force. The first is based on Kingston Park and the second on Heaton Manor School and he is keen to ensure links are maintained with both the Tyneside Scottish and The Black Watch.



Cadets from the Tyneside Scottish Cadet Detachments recently attended a Heritage Open Day at St Cuthberts Church in Bedlington.

IMAGES – The Editor is most grateful to the following people who have kindly let him use their photographs in this edition of the magazine; Mr George Brown, Mr George McLuskey and Mr Frank Proctor.



Could you spare some time?

We are looking for volunteers
to give a little time to help the
servicemen and women who have
given so much for our country.

If you think you could help, visit
ssafa.org.uk/volunteer

Registered Charity Nos 210760 Est. 1885 and SC038056

SSAFA FORCES
Help

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

THE BLACK WATCH HERITAGE APPEAL

In late March, the Museum Trustees' gave the final go ahead to proceed with the Castle and Museum redevelopment. This defining decision was made possible due to the determination, effort and support of a great many people, who over the years have given so generously of their time and supported the Appeal financially. We are eternally grateful to you all.

As the funds pledged by individuals and Charitable Trusts continue to come in, the initial target has been reached. However, we continue to actively fundraise, to ensure that we can secure a firm financial footing for the Castle and Museum.

Castle and Museum Redevelopment

The site has seen a major transformation take place since the contractors "Clark Contracts" started work in early May. The foundations of the extension were commenced in May with the new car park being completed in July. The Museum closed the doors to the public on the 31st August ending the day with a volunteer BBQ. In early September, the decant and storage of the museum collection was completed. The Black Watch Association office and Museum shop have relocated to temporary offices in the car park and the MOD staff are temporarily located at Queen's Barracks. The next stage of the project is phased over the next seven months with the projected schedule being:

November to March 2013	Continuation of building work, internal fit out of Museum, cafe and retail area
March to April 2013	Exclusive previews of the redeveloped Castle and Museum to Regimental family, Black Watch Association, Friends and supporters of the Appeal
April 2013	Official opening of Museum. Date to be confirmed

The museum staff team continue to work through the redevelopment phase but will soon move from the Castle into temporary office space.

We welcome any questions or enquiries from anyone who wishes to find out more about any aspect of the redevelopment project as well as regularly updating our Facebook page and Website so you can see the latest development on line – www.theblackwatch.co.uk – or by contacting the Museum:

t: 01738 638152 e: museum@theblackwatch.co.uk



Completed car park July 2012.

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Museum Redevelopment plans

The past six months have been incredibly busy for the Museum as we prepared to close the Museum for the refurbishment and preparing the new exhibitions for when we reopen.

This past month the key task for the Museum Team was to execute the decant of the collection from the Museum in to temporary stores and prepare to hand over the existing building to the contractor. The existing building is now being renovated before the exhibition fit-out starts later this year.

With regards to the new displays, we continue to work closely with the Project Curator, Allan Carswell (formerly of the National War Museum Scotland), and the exhibition designer to develop case layouts, text and graphics.

Learning & Audiences Officer

In June 2012 we welcomed a new staff member to the Museum Team. Rebecca Berger has taken up the new post of Learning & Audiences Officer. Over the coming months Rebecca will work to develop both formal and informal learning provision at the museum and explore ways to bring new visitors to the site. The extension to the museum currently under construction will house an education room, providing the facilities for a full events and education programme. When the museum reopens there will be activities and workshops for all ages on a regular basis.

Acquisitions

Donations to the Museum continue apace and in June this year we were honoured to be presented with a painting by The Black Watch of Canada. The painting was presented by Colonel Daniel F O'Connor to Sir Alistair Irwin, Chairman of The Black Watch Museum, to mark the 150th anniversary of The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada.

Volunteers

Our volunteers have been working on various projects, from documentation of the objects and archived material, to general maintenance around the museum.

Over the summer, the Museum Maintenance Team organised and inventoried the medal collection currently in store, ensuring that the medals are stored, labeled and documented correctly.

Another volunteer has been working on updating old and undocumented loans, some dating back 70 years.

Our biggest volunteer effort came in the first week of September when the Museum collections were decanted to temporary store. Volunteers from Scottish Water's corporate volunteering programme, and volunteers from The Black Watch 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, joined Museum staff and other volunteers and put in a huge effort to get the work done in the week between the Museum's closure and the hand over to the contractor.



Clearing of building site June 2012.



Digging foundations July 2012.



Extension site August 2012.



Volunteers and staff who took part in the museum decanting in September.

Events at the Museum

The 2012-13 Winter Lecture Series is about to start, with a talk on the Battle of Magersfontein by Dr Derek Patrick on October 9th. Tickets for all talks are available from the Museum. This winter, the series will be held at the North Inch Care Home, as the building work going on at Balhousie Castle will make it impossible to continue to use the Castle as a venue until we re-open in Spring 2013.

As well as our successful Winter Lecture Series, we have developed a series of family events which have proved extremely popular. We have welcomed children to our events over the past two years to explore and be inspired by the museum collections, through a varied programme of crafts and activities. These events continued until the end of the summer, and included activities relating to military pipe bands and The Black Watch's role in maritime tradition.

The Museum Team

e: museum@theblackwatch.co.uk

t: 01738 638 152

w: www.theblackwatch.co.uk

THE FRIENDS OF THE BLACK WATCH CASTLE AND MUSEUM

The Friends of The Black Watch Castle and Museum have just passed their second anniversary and I am glad to say that the membership numbers continue to increase steadily. We have run three major events

this year for the members and all have been well attended and thoroughly enjoyable.

Towards the end of May, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Fenton came to the AK Bell Library in Perth to give a lecture about the Black Watch Battalion's recent deployment to Afghanistan. For those of us that only get news of progress in Afghanistan through regular news channels, it was fascinating to hear first hand how the Battalion had been operating on the ground and how closely they lived and worked with the local forces. We are most grateful to Lieutenant Colonel Fenton for giving so generously of his time and also for giving us such an interesting and informative lecture.

In June we put up a marquee beside Balhousie for the annual Friends Cocktail Party. As wet weather goes, it could not have been more torrential or persistent. However, that did not deter our guests and over 200 people helped to turn a very damp evening into an extremely good party. It was particularly nice to have a good sized contingent from Fort George.

The Friends, once again, took over the lecture theatre at the AK Bell Library, this time to hear Victoria Schofield tell us a small part of the process she has been through in researching and writing the first volume of the Regimental history of the Black Watch, *The Highland Furies*. Victoria opened our eyes to the huge task undertaken in researching information for the book. The material was not all just hidden away in Balhousie, some of it came from far flung corners of the world. I am most grateful to Victoria for giving us a very interesting taster of the comprehensive history that she has written: I hope that once volume two is published she will come back and talk to us again.

One of the aims of the Friends is to support the museum and I am glad to say that with some of the money we raised in our first year we were able to purchase a large display cabinet, which will be in the museum when it reopens next year. The money we raise this year will go towards translation booklets for foreign visitors to use when they visit Balhousie.

At our AGM in September it was agreed that we would offer all paid up members of the Black Watch Association a 50% reduction to the cost of a single Friends membership, making it only £1 per month or £12 a year. I hope this is an offer that many will take up. There will be lots going on in Balhousie Castle when it reopens and by being a Friend you will be informed about and included in much that is happening.

The Friends are a vital part of the Balhousie project, so don't miss out, join us today at: www.theblackwatch.co.uk/index/friends or e-mail: friends@theblackwatch.co.uk or call Leonor Blackhall on 01738 638152.

Sarah Riddell-Webster, Chairwoman



Painting presented by the Black Watch of Canada to the Museum.



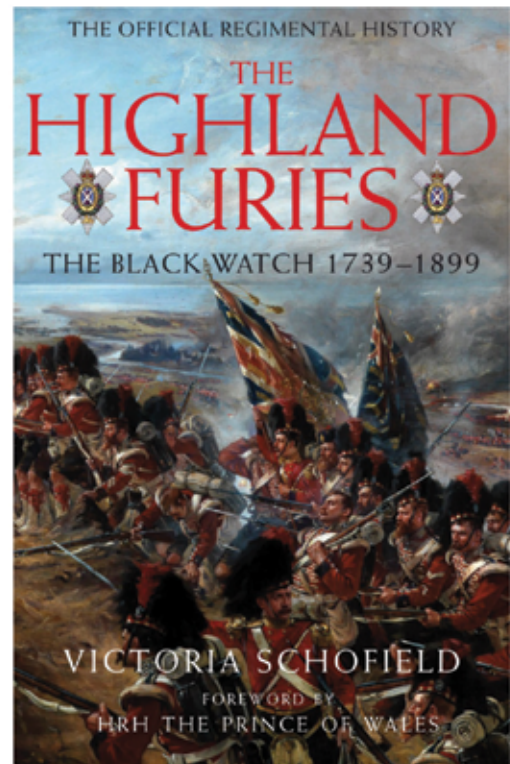
The Black Watch

Museum Shop

Book Description

As the oldest of the Highland Regiments, The Black Watch has an enviable roster of Battle Honours and a mystique born of repeated service on behalf of King, Queen and country. On the strength of her acclaimed biography of Field Marshal Earl Wavell, the regimental trustees commissioned Victoria Schofield to write this, the first volume of her magisterial history of the The Black Watch, and have fully cooperated with her as she traces the story of the Regiment from its early 18th-century beginnings through to the eve of the South African War at the end of the 19th-century. Originating as companies of highland men raised to keep a 'watch' over the Highlands of Scotland, they were formed into a regiment in 1739. Its soldiers would go on to fight with extraordinary bravery and élan in almost every major engagement fought by the British Army during this period, from the American War of Independence, the Peninsular Wars, Waterloo, the Crimea, Indian Mutiny to Egypt and the Sudan. Drawing on diaries, letters and memoirs, Victoria Schofield skilfully weaves the multiple strands of this story into an epic narrative of a valiant body of officers and men over one-and-a-half centuries. In her sure hands, the story of The Black Watch is no arid recitation of campaigns, dates and battle honours, but is instead a rich and compelling record of the soldier's experience under fire and on campaign. It is also a celebration of the deeds of a regiment that has played a unique role in British history and a vivid insight into the lives of the many remarkable figures who have marched and fought so proudly under its Colours.

Each book has been signed by the Author.



RRP—£35.00

Special Offer

£20.00

10 % off all orders*

Enter **rh1012** as a discount code in our web shop ,
quote it over the phone or at point of sale in store.

*
Not including postage costs, friends memberships or museum admissions.

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.

The Black Watch Museum Shop will be open Mon - Fri 0900 - 1700 throughout the redevelopment of the Museum



Lambswool Scarf - Available in
Red Hackle , Black Watch &
Royal Stewart Tartan

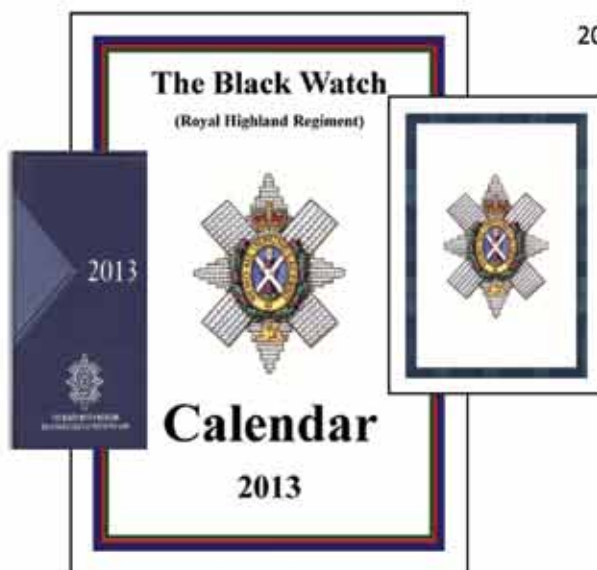
£19.99

Cashmere Scarf - Available in
Black Watch & Royal Stewart
Tartan

£40.00

2013 Diary

£4.99



2013 Christmas Card

£0.60 each



T-Shirt With Battle Honours

£9.99

2013 Calendar

£7.00



Hoodie With Battle Honours

£25.00

Correspondence

Balnaboth Steading
Finzean
Banchory AB31 6PA
Tel: 01330 850 768

Dear Editor

Thanks to a letter published in Issue No 112 (November 2011) from Jeremy Wormwell, after 66 years I have been able to establish contact with Jeremy, the brother of my friend John Wormwell. John and I served in the same platoon from January 1944 to December 1945. We both joined G Company of the 28th Training Battalion in Palace Barracks, Belfast which trained young volunteers. Colonel Ian Critchley was in another platoon. The training was of the highest standard. Many of the recruits had been in the Home Guard and cadets. The NCOs were mostly pre-war Regulars who had fought in North Africa or Burma. They were like uncles to us – no sarcasm or bullying and a swear box in the Barrack Room. More than 25 recruits were going to The Black Watch, the most popular Regiment for recruits from all over the UK, so we petitioned our Company Commander to arrange for the Pipes and Drums of The Liverpool Scottish to take part in our Passing Out Parade.



John Wormwell pictured on Pre-OCTU in Wrotham, Kent.

Those of us not going straight to OCTU joined A Company of the 10th Battalion at Dalton-in-Furness in June 1944 under Lt Col Purves-Russell-Montgomery and Major Eric Mathew (later 5 BW). CSM Donald Bain Fraser had his beady eye on potential officers. Our Platoon Sgt was McNulty, a former Hibs player and one of the best instructors I have ever known. There were others characters, Dundonians Sgt Buggy Ross and Sgt Phillips from 4/5 BW, Cpl Alan Low MM (Sicily) 5 BW from Forfar and Cpl Taylor who had been with 2 BW in Somaliland, Tobruk, Crete and Burma. We held them in great respect. In September 1944 we moved to Lockerbie and were privileged to serve under Lt Col Chick Thomson and Major John McGregor MC, both 5 BW. Initially, 10 BW was composed of BW and Seaforths but later we were joined by BW and Argylls from 8 ITC at Perth and Kinfauns Castle who had been trained by the legendary Colonel Vesey Holt and RSM Andy Drummond. The discipline and morale was of the highest order. Over a period of 10 months I never knew of any man in my company having to be put on a Sgt Major's Special (AFB 252) or being AWOL from Embarkation Leave before going to Normandy or Burma. Those who served in 10 BW will have memories of the arduous Langholm Circuit on snow-covered hills, long marches to Wanlockhead for training in street-fighting and to Longtown in Cumbria for training in forests and river-crossing.

In May 1945 John and I went to the Pre-OCTU in Wrotham, Kent. We celebrated VE Day in Maidstone as London was Out of Bounds. We sailed from Gourock to Bombay on the Troopship "Monarch of Bermuda". We were in hammocks on the Troop Deck. Several of us in Highland Regiments volunteered to be the permanent Kit Bag Guard in the bowels of the ship where we were more comfortable and independent although we resented intrusion by Amateur Dramatics rehearsals. We travelled from Bombay to Dehra Dun in Northern India by Troop Train for three days on wooden seats. We did not mind as we were young and it was exciting to be in an exotic country after war-time restrictions in the UK. On arrival in Dehra Dun we were introduced to the splendours of the British Raj as the Indian Military Academy maintained the standards of Sandhurst. Our Passing Out Parade was taken by Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck with the exhortation that "The honour of your Country comes first and foremost, the honour and welfare of your men comes second and your own comfort and well-being come last". We were commissioned

into The Black Watch but attached to the Indian Army as there were no vacancies in the 2nd Battalion. John was posted to the elite Royal Garhwal Rifles whilst I joined the 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles. John was tragically killed on the North West Frontier in early 1946.

I have the fondest memories of John as an outstanding soldier and a true friend and comrade. It was with the greatest pleasure that I have contacted Jeremy, through The Red Hackle. He has kindly sent me photographs of my service with John in India.

I have been privileged to end my service, as I started, wearing The Red Hackle again between 1991 and 2003.

Alastair Rose

Editors Note: Alastair's son Captain Alec Rose recently served with the battalion in Fort George and amongst other tasks organised the battalion Homecoming Parades.

2 Monenna Crescent, Scone
Perthshire PH2 6NG
Tel: 01738 551076

Dear Editor

WHERE ARE YOU NOW

I wish to get in contact with Andy Anderton who served with the 1st Battalion The Black Watch in Korea possibly in the MT 1950-1955?

He married a girl from Inverness and then joined the RASC in 1956 and became a staff car driver in London. He visited me at my home in Wood Green on 28 September 1956 and because my best man did not turn up, he stepped in for my wedding on 29 September 1956. The last I heard was that he was an HGV driver.

If anybody knows anything at all please contact me at the above address or telephone number.

R A Manning



Does anyone know where Andy Anderton is living?

paddy@nicollgroup.co.uk

Dear Editor

I thought it might amuse our readership to see a picture of my boat, Black Watch, leading Her Majesty up the Thames during her River Pageant in Henley in July.

Her Majesty later commented on the boat's name but HRH Prince Philip may have been more interested by the River Nymphs on board.

Paddy Nicoll



Captain Paddy Nicoll's boat Black Watch, leads Her Majesty up the Thames during her river pageant in Henley.

Dear Editor

I would like to find the whereabouts of Jimmy Waugh whose home was in Auchtermuchty. Jimmy and I were recruited in 1950/51 at Queens Barracks, Perth. I would dearly love to return his wonderful hospitality; I served in Delta Company in BAOR, Kenya and Scotland.

Ex 22773122 Pte Ron Leader

3SCOTS-Adjtd@mod.uk

Dear Editor

BAXTERS' 10KM CORPORATE CHALLENGE

Following a wager between the Adjutant and the RSM, the Battalion entered three teams into the Baxters' 10km Corporate Challenge in Inverness on Sunday 30 September 2012. In glorious sunshine and a carnival atmosphere, several thousand runners set off and amongst them eighteen members of the Battalion run-

ning for Erskine Hospital and the Royal Regiment of Scotland Association. As predicted, WO2 Graeme Parker scooped the fastest individual time with 38'19", leaving the Acting Battalion Second in Command Major Andy Richards and RSM WO1 Scott Shaw trailing in his wake at 40'42" and 41'07" respectively. Individual times were irrelevant however as the fastest four runners from each six would count towards a combined team total to see who was the fastest between the Officers, Sergeants and Corporals Teams. Despite the respectable times all round, and some close competition in places, the Sergeants' Mess proved that experience can more than make up for the vigour of youth. The Sergeants' Mess finished 2nd overall averaging 43'14", beaten only by a pro-select team running for the sponsors. A podium finish was just out of reach for the Officer's Mess averaging 44'00" and close behind some the Corporals' Mess averaging 44'57".

I must thank Colour Sergeant McBride for organising the runners and as he is discovering, corraling the officers from Battalion Headquarters is not an easy task for CQMS Headquarter Company.

R Colquhoun



Standing from left, Captain Colquhoun, Captain MacKenzie, WO2 (CSM) Beaton, Captain Phillips MC, Cpl Ross, Cpl Gilbert, Major Richards. Kneeling, WO1 (RSM) Shaw, WO2 Parker, C/Sgt McBride, S/Sgt Marshall, S/Sgt Carpenter.

Book Reviews

BITING THE BULLET

By Anne Yuill

ISBN 978-0-9571257-0-4

This is a "gentle" book written about Reg Tallentire from County Durham and his family and whilst it is his life story it covers a short period when Reg underwent his training at the Queen's Barracks in 1942 and then served with 6 BW. He was transferred to the London Scottish and served in North Africa and Italy and finished his service as an Argyll and Sutherland Highlander in Palestine.



Obituaries

LIEUTENANT COLONEL FREDERICK BURNABY-ATKINS

Colonel Freddie Burnaby-Atkins, probably the last surviving member of the First Battalion, captured at St Valery with the Highland Division in May 1940, died in Cirencester Hospital on 16 June. A much loved Black Watch soldier, Chairman of the London Branch of the Association for more than fifty years and a father figure in the Regiment.

Freddie Burnaby-Atkins was born on 9 November 1920. After prep school at Lambrook he went to Eton. He joined RMA Sandhurst in August 1939 but with the war imminent the course was cut to only 16 weeks. He was commissioned into the Black Watch on 31 December 1939. This was, in his view, one of the most important events in his long life; he was both honoured and surprised to have been accepted by the Regiment and apart from his family, his Regimental service remained his inspiration throughout his 92 years.

On 5 May 1940 he joined the 1st Battalion on the Maginot Line in the Saar (under command of the French). He had been there for only 5 days when the Germans attacked. It is perhaps not generally appreciated how much fighting the Highland Division was involved in during the next 4 weeks; The Black Watch having been in constant action for 10 days, were then sent right across France from Metz to the Somme. In Northern France they dug in by day and withdrew every night, with virtually no sleep and suffering many casualties. It was during this time that Freddie's platoon mounted a highly successful counter attack which the French failed to support. It was unfortunate that during this whole time they were under the nonexistent leadership of French generals who were incompetent and defeatist. When the Division reached St Valery the beaches were in range of the German artillery and Admiral Ramsay could not risk adding to the already massive loss of warships, so with no chance of evacuation and a shortage of ammunition and supplies, capture was inevitable.

The Prisoners of War (POWs) had a long march to the Rhine with little or no food or shelter and then by barge to his first Camp at Laufen. Nineteen year old Freddie was to spend the next five years in prison and was to demonstrate the strength and humour in the face of adversity which was typical of him throughout his life. Freddie was one of the youngest and he, according to Martin Gilliat and the other subalterns, kept more senior ones amused with their antics but also the more senior officers took them under their wing. There were many interesting and talented characters in the camp; Roger Mortimer (the Coldstream Canary with the secret radio), his great friend John Surtees of the 60th (always known by his prison number 1204), Martin Gilliat (later Private Secretary to the Queen Mother) and of course all the Black Watch officers. A number of his fellow POWs became his most valued friends after the war. Two quotes from his fellow prisoners: John Surtees; "a wonderful person to live with and is remarkably patient with me" and Desmond Parkinson; "I honestly don't know if I would have survived without him". Much of his time was spent in planning an escape which he eventually did in September 1941 with Fitz Fletcher of the Rifle Brigade and Angus Rowan-Hamilton. They lost contact with Angus who got into Switzerland but Freddie and Fitz after 10 exhausting days, moving by night and hiding by day, were captured only a few hundred yards from the Swiss frontier. In the last days of the war and after an exhausting trek through Southern Germany, when the column was strafed by American fighters, killing and wounding several of his friends, Freddie was eventually flown home by Dakota on VE Day. Towards the end of the year he was with the 4th Black Watch in Palestine (commanded by Chris Melville) fighting the Jewish terrorists. In July 1946 he was posted to India where he spent two historic and fascinating years as ADC and later as Comptroller to the Viceroy Field Marshal Wavell and the final months of the Raj with Lord Mountbatten; this last period was an unhappy time both for the staff at Government House and the whole country. Martin Gilliat who was on the Viceroy's staff at that time said of Freddie "he is always the person who is turned to when any new or awkward visitor has to be put



at ease". During his tour two other Black Watch officers were on the Staff; David Walker (author of *Geordie*) and Bruce Fortune (son of the General captured at St Valery with the Highland Division). From India he was thrilled to join his beloved Regiment in Germany under the command of Bernard Fergusson (his instructor at Sandhurst). His next posting was in Perth as Adjutant of the 6/7th Battalion. He then spent nearly 4 years with the 2nd Battalion in Germany and British Guiana. After RAF Staff College and a staff appointment in Nigeria he was delighted to be given command of the Regimental Depot in Perth. There followed 3 years as MA in Portugal. Freddie did much to improve our relations with our oldest ally and by many visits ensured that he had a detailed knowledge of (the then) numerous Portuguese colonies in Africa and Asia. Bernard Fergusson, then persuaded him to come to New Zealand as Comptroller of the Governor General's Household; Freddie accepted through loyalty to an old friend but the decision was no help to his career as he was out of sight and out of mind of the MOD for three vital years.

His final job in the Army was Defence Attaché in Morocco during which time he visited the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar: as he and the family left the Rock, the Pipes and Drums played them off on the quay side; he said that it was one of the occasions in his life he would never forget. He returned to the UK to retire having been abroad for ten of his last twelve years service.

He was soon to meet Martin Gilliat again, who told him that Princess Margaret's Private Secretary was leaving and that Freddie would be ideally suited for the job, so in less than two weeks he was appointed on a salary of £1200. But it was a tricky period and after he left he spent the years till his retirement with the Security Service and vetting old Cabinet papers.

In retirement Freddie was far from inactive. Chairman of the London Branch of the Association, Chairman of the local Branch of the British Legion, SAAFA representative and Church Warden and he maintained a very close and active interest in the Black Watch "family" and regularly attended Regimental functions. He was deeply distressed at the amalgamation of the Scottish Regiments, not only because, after so many years of devoted service, he felt excluded from the new organisation, but he also much regretted that 3 SCOTS were no longer associated with Perth, Angus, Dundee and Fife and had seemed to have no individual identity.

He was married in 1951 to Jennifer Lawrence (daughter of Lord Oaksey who, as Lord Justice Lawrence, presided over the Nuremberg War Crimes trial in 1947). He had four children and nine grandchildren.

He was a real character, much loved by everyone in the Regiment. With immaculate manners, great charm and an outrageous sense of humour he will be greatly missed by all of us.

A L Watson

A "FREDDIE" STORY

I consider myself extremely lucky to have been posted to Queen's Barracks in March 1959 just as Freddie took command.

During my time there we all did a great deal of shooting! Once, Freddie and I were invited to shoot with an extraordinary millionaire called Francis J Brown, known as The Pineapple King, who rented Lord Mansfield's Moors. Mr Brown lodged in half a floor of Gleneagles Hotel while in Scotland with his girlfriend, a very beautiful Hawaiian, called Miss Love.

On this particular day, Freddie and I arrived at 8.30am, met the other guns, had a couple of "warmers" laid on by Mr Brown and set off. One of the guns was the headwaiter at Gleneagles who found himself in a very unfamiliar environment.

As the day progressed we realised that the headwaiter had not let off a single shot and it was decided that probably he did not know how to release his safety catch. Should we say something or not? Colin Innes's father thought we should but Freddie, in the next butt, thought the swinging gun should stay safely as it was!

The last drive was memorable in that there was a sudden blast from the headwaiter, whereupon he promptly disappeared and one dead grouse lay on the grass beside him. In a flash Freddie was out of his butt, helped him to his feet, brushed him down while loudly

congratulating him on his fine shot and his eventual triumph. Only Freddie would know how to handle this situation with such aplomb. There was no loss of face only sheer shared happiness in the success of a fellow man.

A B D Gurdon

Editors Note: Readers may wish to refer to an article written by Freddie which appears on page 20 of the May 2005 Red Hackle Magazine. It describes a platoon attack he carried out on 30 May 1940.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN GRAHAM MONCRIEFF

John Moncrieff died on 11 September 2012 aged 83. Born in Edinburgh on 31 August 1929 he attended Bellhaven Hill in Dunbar and Eton before starting at Sandhurst in January 1948. He was commissioned into The Black Watch in July 1949.

He joined the 1st Battalion in Duisberg and served there, as well as in Berlin and Buxtehude before returning to Crail (Fife) and the build up to the Korean War. He was Intelligence Officer throughout the Korean War and during the Mau Mau Campaign in Kenya. He was mentioned in Despatches for gallant and distinguished service in Korea.

He then enjoyed a short break at The Black Watch Depot (March 1954-December 1955) before returning to the Battalion for a year as a Company 2IC.

A posting as Brigade Major (157 Inf Bde) followed Staff College, before he spent 15 months as a Training Major in Aden operating with the 2nd Battalion Federal Regular Army (South Arabian Federation). He was a Company Commander in Warminster and Minden, served as a GSO2 in Singapore before returning as Battalion Second-in-Command in Kirknewton and Gibraltar.

In 1970 he attended the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer and he then held various GSO1 appointments in the South West of England. His final appointment was as Acting Colonel SD at Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces from October 1976-February 1977.

He had an active retirement and was involved in sheep farming on his estate in Sutherland and looking after an arable in-hand farm at Kinmonth. He worked for Churches Action for the Homeless and The Priory of Scotland of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. He served on the Glenalmond College Council and was a member of The Royal Company of Archers. He held many other voluntary posts.

Aged 73, he qualified as a Munroist having climbed all 284 Munros in Scotland. In his younger days he had climbed the Matterhorn (4477.5 metres). John was a keen rifle shot both in the military and civilian events and he enjoyed deer stalking.

John married Sue (Martin) in 1966 and had 2 children (Andrew and Mary). He was a hard working, loyal and conscientious officer who very much deserved his MID for his gallant action in Korea.

R M Riddell

John Moncrieff was a man of high principles and great determination. He imposed a strict regime on others but was as hard on himself. His sense of duty is probably best illustrated during the 1st Battalion's year in Korea. John was the Intelligence Officer and, whenever the Battalion moved to a new position, he would personally reconnoitre every 'friendly' minefield to make sure that its exact position was known and properly marked. During this same period his intelligence summaries were painstakingly and meticulously prepared to the great advantage all who relied on them. David Rose, his Commanding Officer said of him: "a good lad and a great help to me. He is a great one for finding out information but that is his job".

In happier times this same attention to detail was apparent in all that he did, resulting in success both in his military life and in his relaxations. He was a good rifle shot both with service and sporting weapons and it was prowess such as this which led him to rather solitary pastimes which he seemed to prefer to 'running with the crowd'. He was not a party man and this preference stood him in good stead for such things as the Staff College exam which he passed at the earliest permissible age.

He was a careful man, careful to keep himself fit, careful to keep himself up to date and careful to maintain the high standards that he set himself.

D Arbuthnott



JOHN ROBERT CHARLES ARMSTRONG

John Armstrong passed away on Tuesday 19 June 2012. His very well attended church service was held at the Maresfield Parish St Bartholomew's Church in Sussex. Amongst the tributes, that of his sister, Bridgette, who spoke of John's harrowing childhood in a Japanese prison camp in Hong Kong during the War. John himself occasionally told of his skill in catching flies which, he claimed, assisted in his diet, thus contributing to his survival in the camp.

John was commissioned into The Black Watch on 28 February 1956. He saw active service with his Regiment in Kenya during the Mau Mau emergency and this included difficult times in the Aberdare mountains. John's time with The Black Watch and the great comradeship were very much part of his memories which are indeed evident with the numerous photographs of himself in the kilt or the Aberdare. Many of these were displayed at the Maresfield Church including in the service hymn sheet with John in his Black Watch uniform.

After National Service, John joined Lloyd's in London and specialised in marine insurance. He adored fishing and threw out a good salmon fly cast. He was a useful man with a shotgun and hit a straight ball in golf.

John leaves his wife Fiona, his son Lorne and his stepson Alistair.

Colin McIntosh



CAPTAIN THE HONOURABLE HEW DALRYMPLE

Captain the Honourable Hew Dalrymple died on 24th May 2012 at the age of 102. Hewie was born at Lochinch Castle and was the second son of the 12th Earl of Stair. After Eton he embarked on a career in the City, first in Edinburgh and then in London; being a countryman through and through he did not relish a city life. With a world war looming he joined the Territorial Army and was commissioned into the 4/5th Battalion The Black Watch. After a short spell as General Sir Victor Fortune's ADC, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion where he was in action first in Crete, where the battalion repulsed an early German airborne invasion and then in North Africa, where at Tobruk the battalion suffered heavy casualties. From North Africa the Battalion moved to India, where, with characteristic initiative, he found time to stalk Bara Singh Deer and shoot Chakor in Kashmir, before being asked to partake in Big Game hunting as the guest of the Maharajah of Jaipur. Later when commanding a Company with the Chindits in Burma he was badly wounded in the hand and had to be evacuated under pretty awful conditions, first to Delhi and then Bombay before returning to Britain. After a number of operations he convalesced at Kildonan, not far from Ballantrae, which was to be his home for the rest of his life.

Hewie was a resourceful person from an early age and when returning from prep-school at the end of the term, there was no one to meet him in Glasgow to take him across the city. However a friendly porter came to his rescue and was persuaded to take his trunk with him riding on top down to St Enoch. There, having neither ticket nor money to travel to Castle Kennedy, he persuaded the ticket office to send the bill to his father at Lochinch. Imagine that happening today!

After being demobilised he made a life at Ballantrae; he married Mildred nee Egerton and helped bring up five step children as well as their son, Robert. He was, despite his wound an excellent shot but above all an outstanding fisherman. Owing to his crippled left hand he was not able to tie his flies with the same dexterity as he used to and in any case tying flies was a waste of time, so he equipped himself with two rods one with a small fly and the other with a larger one to suit the conditions; he was seldom seen to change a cast and it is said that he landed twelve salmon on the same fly before even considering a change of cast or fly.

In his retirement he shot a lot and fished even more and involved himself with country life in general. Even well into his nineties he would be seen trimming a hedge or looking after the river bank. He was much loved by all. He is survived by three of his step children and his son and daughter-in-law who have built up the business, especially the farming enterprise, into a major concern.

E Orr-Ewing

Editors Note: Readers may wish to refer to the two articles written by Hew Dalrymple in the May and November 2010 Editions of the Red Hackle Magazine.



COLIN IAN McINTYRE

Colin was granted an Emergency Commission in The Black Watch in April 1946 but he was born on 27 January 1927 in Buenos Aires where his father ran a cotton factory.

After his military service he studied at Harvard (1950) and then joined the BBC in 1952, remaining with them for 30 years. Starting in the Newsroom of the BBC External Services, he became one of the youngest chief sub editors. He later trained as a producer and served as a correspondent at the UN during the Suez and the crisis in Hungary.

In 1974 he was appointed the Ceefax Editor and oversaw the introduction of this fledgling service that later attracted an audience of 22 million viewers and inspired teletext services around Europe.

Colin was mentioned on page 62 of the November 2010 edition of the Red Hackle Magazine by Forbes Taylor (London Branch) in that he served as a Platoon Commander in the Lovat Scouts, serving in Greece and later in Palestine.

He died on 22 May 2012.

A fuller obituary appeared in the Daily Telegraph on 28 May 2012.

R M Riddell

MAJOR J M P WALKER

Mungo Walker died on the 24th of August 2012 aged 83.

Born in Kenya on 17 February 1929 he was sent to Elstree Prep School aged 8 and he both enjoyed the school and it gave him a sound education. In 1940 it was decided that he should return to Kenya where his mother was alone on their farm at Thika. His father was serving with The King's African Rifles in Ethiopia. Aged 11, he set sail on the SS Matiana from Liverpool, in a convoy which was dispersed by U Boat action. He enjoyed his 6 week voyage via Nova Scotia and the Cape Verde Islands, round the Cape to Nairobi.

Five years of schooling at the Prince of Wales School in Nairobi allowed him to enjoy wonderful sport and developed his shooting and fishing skills.

He returned to the UK in 1947 and was commissioned into The Black Watch in July 1949. His first five years of service was spent in Germany and then in 1954 he set sail on the troopship Dilwara to British Guiana.

Later whilst serving with the 1st Battalion in Cyprus, Colin Innes recalled how Mungo was "one of the nicest and kindest officers in the Regiment and that he was much loved by his fellow officers and the Jocks".

He was a most talented sportsman and was an outstanding tennis player and cricketer. He started the Regimental polo team in Cyprus and as a golfer he got prodigious length with his drives but the ball did not always land quite where planned!

In early 1964 he decided to retire from the Army; he was looking for new challenges. The decision was very hard for him because he knew he would miss that extraordinary family spirit that is engendered in an elite unit, where all ranks senior or junior are held in respect and affection by others.

By far the most important aspect of his life was Diana and his family and Diana's first posting as an Army wife was to British Guiana where she lived in a wooden house, in the tropics and below sea level. They enjoyed a long and happy marriage.

Mungo will be remembered as a dedicated and enthusiastic member of The Black Watch, as an outstanding athlete and as a man with an infinite capacity for kindness and friendship.

This obituary is an extract from the eulogy prepared by Major General A L Watson for the Memorial Service held on 27 October 2012.

WILLIAM McKENZIE WOOD

Bill Wood died on 22 June 2012 aged 90. Born in Montreal on 17 March 1922 he was educated at Upper Canada College and McGill University. Aged 21, he was an officer serving in The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada. He survived the battle for Verrières Ridge in Normandy but was later captured in Belgium becoming a POW in Germany.



After the war he was called to the Quebec Bar, studied economics at Cambridge and French at the Sorbonne before joining the Canadian Department of External Affairs and enjoying a distinguished diplomatic career.

ALEXANDER ANDERSON

Mr Alexander (Big Eck) Anderson was cremated in Kirkcaldy on the 24th of July 2012. Alec was born, the son of a miner, in Witbank, Transvaal, South Africa, but lived in Lochgelly, Fife from the tender age of one and a half. The family's early return to Scotland was due to the untimely death of his father in the Transvaal. Alec attended the Lochgelly South Primary and then the Lochgelly East Secondary School before leaving to become an Iron Moulder's apprentice with the Lochgelly Iron and Coal Company. Alec during his working life, worked for the Council, the Comrie and Seafeld Collieries and the Aluminium Foundry. Early in his working career Alec was called up to do his National Service and it is during this time that his love for The Black Watch began. He served in the 1st Battalion in Korea during the Korean War. He was very proud to have served with the Regiment and was a regular attendee at our annual reunions in Perth. He said Korea was a life changing experience and although he served faithfully and diligently, he was happy to come home to Lochgelly. His happiest moments were when he was surrounded by his family and friends and I know he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

R Scott



PETER BIRKETT

Peter Birkett 1st Tyneside Scottish and 5th Battalion The Black Watch died on 30th July 2012 aged 91 years.

HMS Greyhound lay offshore and there seemed little chance of reaching her, hundreds, indeed thousands of men were waiting to be picked up by the small craft which were working the inshore waters.

It had started on 2nd May 1939, when a young Peter Birkett came to the surface at Hamsterly Colliery in County Durham, at the end of his shift. "Birkett, report to the Gateshead School Hall at seven o'clock tonight," he heard shouted. "OK Charlie" he shouted back "Sergeant to you Birkett." He was in the 9th Battalion the Durham Light Infantry of the Territorial Army. By a quirk of fate, in September 1939 this unit spawned the 12th Battalion DLI (TA), which metamorphosed into the 1st Battalion Tyneside Scottish, The Black Watch (RHR) and with two rattles on the drum they were in France in April 1940.

After a bit of a "Cooks Tour" via Arras and Ficheux, where an ill-equipped and largely unknown Tyneside Scottish managed to hold up a largely unknown Erwin Rommel and his tanks for a period of several hours armed with little more than rifles, bayonets and bloody mindedness. The remnants of the Tyneside Scottish then made their way to Dunkirk. The 19 year old Peter decided to swim out to Greyhound. Somehow, he made it and was hauled on board.

Having landed back in the UK and ticked the appropriate box on the officially provided post card, Peter was eventually reunited with the remains of his battalion. Of nearly 700 men, 180 were dead, 400 were POW's and between 110 and 140 had made it back to British shores. Eventually, re-equipped and reinforced, mainly from the Black Watch, the battalion went to Iceland where they remained until December 1941. Returning to Wales on Christmas day, the Tyneside Jocks got down to serious fitness training. It was here that Lieutenant Colonel A J H Cassels took command of the Battalion. He would end his career as a Field Marshal and left an indelible mark on the men of the Tyneside Scottish.

June 12th 1944 saw the Battalion returned to France and on 1st July the Germans made a determined attempt to breach the British line at Rauray, just south of Caen. As luck would have it, they had chosen the hinge between the 49th and 15th Divisions, a position held by the 1st Battalion the Tyneside Scottish. The attack failed and the enemy lost over 30 AFV's. Peter was serving in the intelligence section. General Montgomery said of the battle of Rauray, "..... The depleted Tyneside Scottish stood firm



against the two panzer divisions. Had the Germans reached the beaches, the war would have been over."

Peter moved into the Caen sector and apart from the shelling, complained mainly about the mosquitoes which were annoying most of the lads. On 15th to 18th August, the Tyneside Scottish made its last assault in Normandy on Mezidon. The battalion was broken up at the end of August with the Tyneside Jocks going mainly to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and 5th Black Watch. The 5BW would be Peter's home until the end of the war. With this battalion, he would help in the capture of Le Havre; move into Holland; have to get out in a hurry when the dykes were blown by the Germans and then, enjoy a short leave in Antwerp where two of his comrades were killed by a flying bomb. Late December and early January saw the battalion involved in the Ardennes. "We were going east as the Americans were going west," he said.

On 22nd March he did a reconnaissance of the Rhine crossing area with the CO and on his return to the battalion was sent on UK leave, returning in early April. After that, it was steady progress north and a victory parade in Bremerhaven. (He made it sound easy)

Upon discharge in August 1946, Peter started to court the young lady next door and married Nina on Christmas Eve 1949. They would remain married for the rest of his life, a period of 63 years. Peter had not wanted to return to the mine, however, he needed a job to make headway with Nina and determined to make the best he could of matters. He studied and passed his Colliery Deputies examination, becoming an Overman. As the coalfields shrank, he became a Deputy responsible for the salvage of equipment from closing collieries in the Durham area. After retirement, Peter busied himself working with the WVS on their meals on wheels project and was also involved, along with Nina, in the transport of underprivileged children to and from holiday accommodation in various locations.

Peter leaves his widow, Nina, two children, Colin and Nina, grandchildren Mark; Garry; Ian and Adam and a great-grandchild Aaron. They should take comfort in knowing that Peter was loved and respected by all who knew him and it is no chance thing that friendships made with those who he helped to liberate during the war, both French and Dutch, have endured until the present day. The Branch has lost its historian and a stalwart member. He will be remembered by us all.

Malcolm Dunn

PETER WILLIAM BROWN

Peter William Brown died on 15th May 2012 aged 86. He was born and raised in Stamford, in Lincolnshire and he joined the 7th Battalion at the end of December 1944 and saw action in the Reichswald Forest as part of Operation Veritable where he was subsequently wounded and evacuated to a Canadian Military Hospital in Goch. Before reaching full fitness he served at Camp 2228, the largest POW camp in Belgium. At the end of the war he served at the British Army HQ in Bad Oeynhausen where he spent nearly 2 years as a clerk. His wife Kathleen joined him as part of the first group of wives to go out to Germany after the war and they returned to Fort George in early 1947.

Peter was demobbed in 1949 and returned to Stamford. He gained a degree in Civil Engineering and built his own bungalow in 1966. He had a passion for learning and gardening and was devoted to his family. He was strong and kind, with an energy that encouraged and inspired those who knew him. Generous and open hearted, he was the patriarch of his family, but a part of his heart always remained with the Regiment.

BILL CLEMENT

Bill Clement MBE died on 17 June 2012 aged 89. He was described as an inspirational teacher who spent his life educating young people in the pursuits of piping and Scottish Country Dancing.

Known as "Clem" he was born in Perth on 25 March 1923 and despite ill health he had the drive and ambition to overcome missed educational opportunities by attending evening classes.

Aged 18, he started his career in The Black Watch, perfecting his piping skills and ending up as Pipe Major of the 10th



Battalion. In 1944 he was encouraged to assist in a "workshop" at Lockerbie Academy and this made him realise that he wanted to teach piping and dancing. He spent 55 years as a teacher and connected to Wallace Hall Academy in Dumfriesshire and was an Atholl Highlander for 52 years. In 1948 he became piper to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and served as Society Chairman from 1996-1998.

In July 2008 Bill was awarded the MBE for his services to piping and Scottish Country Dancing. He is survived by his wife Atsuko who he married in 1986.

Bill was a man who made his mark in the world of piping and dancing and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

R M Riddell

MALCOLM (MICK) ANGUS CUNNINGHAM

Mick Cunningham was born in Hackney, to Scottish parents on the 18th August 1926 and was educated at The Royal Caledonian School where he began to learn to play the bagpipes from the age of six.

In 1942 aged sixteen he joined The Black Watch as a boy piper and took the Oath of Allegiance and the King's Shilling; much to his surprise he found that the shilling was not a "freebie" and that he was expected to buy a razor, soap and shaving brush with it!

On reaching seventeen and a half he joined Man's Service and after completing his basic training he was posted to the 1st Battalion in Germany as "A" Company Piper. He volunteered to serve with the Argylls in Korea and was then posted to the 2nd Battalion in Germany and remained with them in British Guiana and Edinburgh until the 2nd Battalion was merged with the 1st.

Service in West Berlin, Edinburgh, Cyprus where he became Provost Sergeant, Scotland and Warminster followed.

Whilst at Warminster, Mick was sent on a Regimental Signals Instructors Course at the School of Infantry Signals Wing at Hythe where he achieved a very good "B" Grade which was to have an effect on him in the future. He returned to the Battalion and was appointed Signals Platoon Colour Sergeant which was no easy task as the battalion was spread over a large area as Demonstration Battalion and he had to account for and maintain signals equipment from as far afield as Warminster, Knook Camp, Netherhavon, Mons Officer Training School and Hythe. On the battalion moving to Minden, West Germany he played a pivotal role in ensuring that we "were ready for war", as the then Commanding Officer often quoted, by ensuring that the aging communications equipment was kept serviceable.

Later that year, the battalion was one of the first units in BAOR to be issued with the then new AFV 432 and Mick ensured that the new vehicles were installed with the correct amount of radio equipment and that all were in working order.

He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two and moved for the last time, to the Signals Wing, School of Infantry, Hythe as Quartermaster Sergeant Instructor where he remained to the end of his service.

During this time he met and married Julia and looked towards a second career and finally decided on joining the Royal Fleet Auxiliary after passing both the entrance exam for the employment in the Diplomatic Service and the Radio Officer's course.

Service all over the world followed and through his hard work, so did promotion. He and Julia also managed to start a family; Katrina was born in 1973 and Malcolm followed in 1975.

In 1982 Mick served in the South Atlantic during the Falklands War and he was probably unique in that he was awarded the Korean War Medal and the South Atlantic Medal.

He retired from service to both King and Queen after a period of 44 years, aged sixty. He and Julia then bought and ran a shop in Telford for the next 15 years finally retiring aged 75. In retirement he moved to Cornwall. He never forgot his regimental roots and attended reunions in recent years.

R J W Proctor

NORMAN DEWARS

Norman died on the 14th of June in Ninewells Hospital Dundee. He was born on the 20th of January 1941 in Arbroath and as a boy attended both the Parkhouse Primary and then Arbroath High School. On leaving school, Norman started his working life in the Parcel Office in Arbroath station before moving on to try his luck at the salmon fishing on the Tay at Perth. He joined 4/5th Battalion The Black Watch and by this time changed jobs yet again to an aerial erector with Reekies. His time with the TA gave him a taste of life as a soldier and so in 1964 he decided to become a Regular with The Black Watch. He completed his 22 years serving in NI, BAOR and both the Middle and Far East and boasted he enjoyed every moment of it. He was strong willed and had an equally strong work ethic and was not frightened of a day's hard work. On leaving the Regiment, he took up employment with Conton Medical Instruments and remained with them until his retirement. An avid reader, he was a sociable, hardworking uniquely caring man who loved his family, his friends and his Regiment. He was also a regular attender at Association functions and could fit into company with ease. I already miss the wee man and I feel sure all who knew him will have similar feelings. Rest easy my friend.

R Scott



WILLIAM WATSON FAIRWEATHER MM

Bill Fairweather died in Arbroath on 7 May 2012 aged 96. Born in Usan in 1916, he first worked as a farm labourer until joining the 2nd Battalion in 1936. After training at the Depot and a spell at Maryhill Barracks he moved with the battalion to Palestine.

It was in 1938 he took part in an action for which he was awarded the Military Medal. The citation read:

"At Brit Mashir Ob on 16 October 1938 this young NCO displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

During the action he led his section with conspicuous energy and determination and, though wounded in the leg, continued for a further period of 2 hours in command of his section until the action was broken off.

The action of this section resulted in the withdrawal of the enemy, although every effort was made to get round his flank."

He served with the battalion in British Somaliland, Crete, Tobruk, Syria and then India and Burma, before returning to Scotland as a training instructor in January 1944. He was demobbed in 1945 holding the rank of Colour Sergeant.

After leaving the Army he became Arbroath Town Officer and Bar Officer to the Sheriff Court, posts he held until 1981.



CHARLES KELLY

Charlie (Shotgun) Kelly died on 21 April 2012 aged 58. Shotgun was in the 1st Battalion from 1971 until 1977 and served in Hong Kong, Colchester and Northern Ireland. He was a well known character in the Battalion especially in Delta Company where he spent most of his time. A good soldier and better friend you could not ask for by your side. Shotgun had various jobs after he left the Army but most of them were as a carer to people disabled or with learning difficulties (such was the nature of the man). He even learnt to write Braille. He was an active member of the Black Watch Club in Perth, a member of the Perth Branch and the Black Watch Domino team. Sadly Shotgun did not enjoy the best of health in his later years but would still try to attend any Black Watch functions. They say you don't know how popular you are until your gone, well it was standing room only at the church and crematorium.



Jim Sandilands

ROBERT KERR

Robert (Wee Bobby) Kerr died on the 15th of August 2012 in Glenrothes Fife. Bobby was born on the 26th of December 1923 in Glasgow and he enlisted in January 1942. During his wartime years he saw action in Italy, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany. He was demobilised but in 1947 he decided to re-enlist. He then served in BAOR, East Africa and latterly Cyprus. He was a mortar specialist and in 1964 on final demobilisation he was CSM Charlie (Support) Company. He then worked for The Sun Life Assurance Company and remained with them until his eventual retirement. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

R M Scott



PIPE CORPORAL WILLIAM HENRY LARK

We have belatedly learnt that Bill Lark, a 2nd Battalion World War 2 veteran, died in August 2011.

Born in Manchester in 1921, he enlisted in Dundee in 1939 at the age of 17: having told the recruiter his real age, he was instructed to "walk around the block; when you come back, you'll be 18." He did so and proceeded to join the 1st Battalion at Dover. However, it was when he joined the 2nd Battalion in Palestine that Pipe Major Rob Roy took him into the Pipe Band as Bill had learned to play the pipes in the Boy's Brigade in Manchester. He served with the battalion in the fighting against the Italians in British Somaliland (July 1940) and the Germans in Crete (May 1941), and survived the difficult Royal Navy evacuation when over 200 members of the battalion were killed. In October 1941, Bill sailed with the rest of the battalion into the besieged fortress of Tobruk and took part in the celebrated break out on 21st November that cost the battalion dearly; 25 officers and 300 men were killed or wounded. An artillery officer who saw this action wrote: "I class this attack of The Black Watch as one of the most outstanding examples of gallantry combined with high-class training that I have ever seen. Not one of us there will ever forget such supreme gallantry". After a foray into Syria against the Vichy French, the 2nd Battalion embarked as part of the reinforcements sent to oppose the Japanese. Bill took part in the 2nd Chindit Expedition with 42 and 73 Column (March - August 1944) and in the final attack at Lebu he played these two columns into battle, his pipes having been dropped into the jungle a week before the end of the Chindit Campaign. On his return to Scotland, he was hospitalised in Edinburgh Castle to recover from malaria before finishing his service as a Corporal Squad Instructor at Kinfauns Castle.

On demobilisation he worked as a plumber before becoming an Assemblies of God minister in Dundee. Bill moved south with his wife and daughter, via Derbyshire, to Devon, where he served as the Padre and Welfare Officer of the Tiverton Branch of the Burma Star Association and became friends with the Branch President, the Hon Mrs Rowcliffe, daughter of Field Marshall Viscount Slim. Despite his move south of the border, he remained a regular attendee at the Regimental Reunion and often visited Crete, representing the Regiment at various memorial services. He, along with Dave Hutton and Jim McNeilly, were "consultants" when the museum diorama on Crete was being designed and also accompanied the 1st Battalion's battlefield tour there in 1995.

Bill subsequently returned to Crete many times to visit local friends, becoming a recognised figure there and even providing a voice recording for a small local museum's display on the battle for the island.

Bill continued to play the bagpipes until the age of 88, encouraging and teaching younger pipers in the Devon area. In response to the Army's proposed limit on pipers' practice sessions due to health and safety concerns, he was quoted on the front page of the Daily Telegraph as saying the new rules were "ridiculous" and that: "The pipes should be played loudly. That's how they inspire soldiers and scare the enemy." In later years, he was the main carer for his wife when she suffered from dementia but always retained a positive outlook on life and enjoyed reminiscing about the camaraderie of his army days. Bill



is survived by his daughter, Kate, and grandson, Simon, whom he also taught to play the pipes loudly. In a strange quirk of history, Simon shared a room in his London barristers' chambers with a relative of Sir Arthur Wauchope, who was High Commissioner for Palestine when Bill had piped the guard on and off duty at the High Commissioner's residence in Jerusalem.

At Bill's funeral, Archie McIntyre, the Hereditary Piper to Clanranald, played Amazing Grace and The Flowers of the Forest in the church and at the graveside.

R M Riddell and Simon Hodgett

HENRY McCUTCHEON QGM

Sadly Harry McCutcheon died on the 27th of May 2012 aged 70 after a long and brave fight against illness.

Harry a native of Perth finished his time as an apprentice butcher and reported to Queen's Barracks on Red Hackle Day in (5th of January) 1960 to start his basic training. On completion of this he joined a draft bound for the 1st Battalion in Cyprus.

After a period in a Rifle Company he returned to his former trade and was employed as a Regimental Butcher in the Quartermaster's Platoon. On the Battalion's return to UK, Harry was attached to D Company at the School of Infantry at Warminster.

Like many other Jocks, Harry met a young lady from Warminster and he and Liz were married in 1963 before the Battalion moved to Minden in West Germany.

His leadership qualities were noticed and he took part in the first Regimental Junior Non Commissioned Officers Cadre to be run in Minden and passed with flying colours. Further promotion to Corporal soon followed and he returned to Cyprus for the 1966-67 UN tour of that then troubled island. He continued to serve with the battalion in Kirknewton, Northern Ireland, Hong Kong (where he was appointed Provost Sergeant) and then Colchester where he was promoted Colour Sergeant and commanded 20 Platoon in Support Company.

In 1974 when the Battalion was deployed in West Belfast, Harry showed extreme courage and calmness during a gun battle near the Glenowen in the Turf Lodge and narrowly missed the capture of a gunman who escaped in a white car "with a peppermint stripe down the side of it". He was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for his part in this action and presented with the medal by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at the Presentation of New Colours on 3rd May 1975 at Colchester.

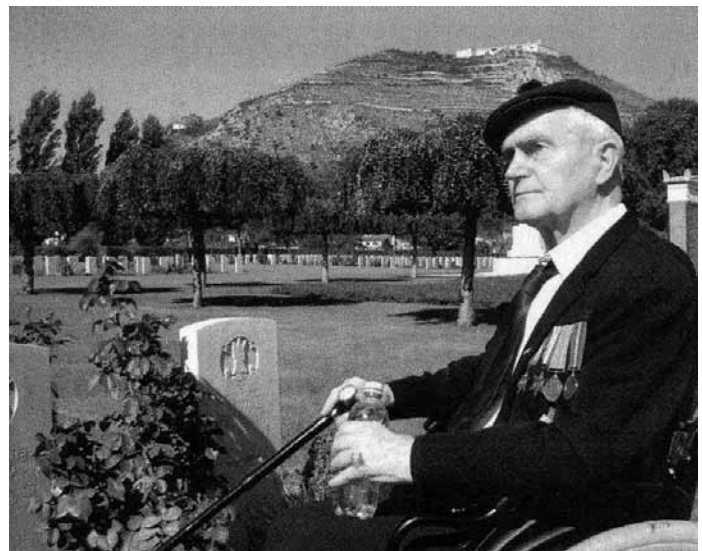
He returned to West Belfast in 1975 and on hearing that the Battalion was to return to the Province for an accompanied eighteen month tour he decided to put his family first and left the regiment on the 31st May 1976. He returned to his native Perth with Liz and their family and held several employments until ill health forced his retirement.

Harry was always a good regimental soldier and very proud to have been a member of The Black Watch; he was a loving and caring husband, father and grandfather who will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

R J W Proctor

FRANCIS (FRANK) MCGEEVER

Frank was born at 1430 hrs on the 10th of September 1918 in the mining town of Burnbank and died exactly 94 years later at 1430 hrs on the 10th of September 2012. He spent his formative years in Burnbank and although he had done very well at school, moved to Fife to take up employment in the Coal Mines. Times were very hard for all at that time so at the age of fourteen Frank started in the Valleyfield Colliery. Frank was a clean living man who never smoked or drank and kept himself fit and healthy. Just before the outbreak of the 2nd World War, Frank joined The Black Watch; throughout his life he was very proud to be identified with the Regiment. He served in France, Gibraltar, North Africa and Italy. All fighting was tough but his lasting memories were of Italy and in particular Monte Cassino; Frank summed it up by saying it was First World War tactics fought with Second World War weapons. Some months after Cassino and in the area of Rimini, his section came under fire and his Section Commander was hit. It was during his efforts to rescue his friend that he was wounded. The shot hit and shattered his sciatic nerve rendering him unable to move. Frank was then taken



to Naples and eventually home to the UK where after months of operations and rehabilitation he was forced to use a calliper. On his return to Fife, he qualified as a carpenter and French Polisher. He also married and started to raise a family.

A proud soldier became a proud family man who would help those in need at the moment of asking. He will be missed by his family, his friends and his church.

R M Scott

DAVID MYLES

David Myles died on the 20 September 2012 at Ninewells Hospital Dundee after a short period of illness. He was 80 years old. He was born and brought up in Arbroath but he and his wife Rita also a native of Arbroath, settled in Brechin along with their children where he had been posted as a PSI with the 4/5th Battalion.

After serving his time as a joiner, he joined the Regiment in 1951 as a National Serviceman and after his basic training he was posted to the reformed 2nd Battalion which was stationed in Colchester. He served with the 2nd Battalion in BAOR, British Guiana and Scotland before joining the 1st Battalion in Berlin. He signed on as a regular soldier much to the consternation of Rita, when he was a training Corporal at Queen's Barracks and completed a full twenty two year engagement and he and his family moved with the battalion until he was posted to Brechin.

A good shot he always represented his Company during battalion shooting competitions and he was an occasional member of the Battalion Shooting Team. He had a great sense of humour and often played practical jokes on his friends and was respected and liked by all who knew him.

He spent time in the Signals Platoon and his last employment in the 1st Battalion was CQMS Support Company when the battalion had returned from Minden to Kirknewton in 1968. His final posting as Q PSI to 51st Highland Volunteers, in Perth, saw him running a large clothing store where he was responsible for the clothing and uniform for eleven companies of TA soldiers stretching from London in the South, to the Orkney and Shetland Islands in the North. At that time the Jocks still wore the uniforms of the old Highland Regiments such as The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

On his retiral he moved into the family home in Brechin and was employed as a MOD Policeman at RAF Edzell until it's closure as an American Base; he was then employed as a carpet fitter and as a shopfitter and joiner until he retired. Sadly Rita became ill and Davie gave up his part time employment as a lollipop man to become her carer until she died. He was a real gentleman who will be sadly missed.

R J W Proctor



ROY PAGE

Roy Page served in the Regiment during the 2nd World War but his initial training and wartime experience was as a member of the Middlesex Regiment.

Born in Ely, Cambridgeshire on 17 January 1926, his childhood passions were football and fishing, passions that remained part of his adult life. He served in the Home Guard until old enough to join up, training as a mortar specialist and joining the Middlesex.



He took part in the fighting in France, Belgium and Germany, crossing the Rhine in a canvas boat, his platoon was swept downstream for a mile by the strong current. It was as a result of heavy losses within his own Regiment that Roy was then posted to The Black Watch. Later in the war he was wounded and lost his hearing in one ear and was then posted to Haifa, running a large cold store that fed the forces in the Middle East and Africa.

In 1945 he was recalled to the UK for glider borne training for the invasion of Japan but the war ended before he left Egypt.

Roy played football for the Army and after the war was offered a professional trial for Birmingham City but he chose to return to run his father's butchery business in Ely.

Roy led a full and fulfilling life and he will be missed by his family and friends.

ALAN MACKAY RADLEY

Alan Mackay Radley, who was called up to serve for the Black Watch in Korea, was born near St Andrews in June 1932. He lived a great part of his life in Perth, moving there around 1963.

He was called up for his National Service in 1951 after it had initially been deferred to allow him to finish a gardening apprenticeship.

In Korea, he served with C Company and was wounded in the ankle and chest by shrapnel but remained in Korea. The injury to his ankle bothered him for the rest of his life and affected his football playing skills. However, he once famously scored three goals all from corners in one game! He did however continue to progress at golf, at one point having a handicap of six.

After his return from Korea, he worked at Strathkinnes and then for Fife Council's Parks Department and was one of the gardeners that helped create Craigtoun Park, by St Andrews. Other jobs included working for General Sir Thomas and Lady Riddell-Webster in Coupar Angus, Aitken Nurseries and then Russell & Greer in Perth, finishing with his retirement in 1992 from the firm of Perth house builder Geoff Brown.

In later years, he became a domino player and was a well-known face in the teams of both the Kirkside and the Ex-Serviceman's Club.

Alan lived in the centre of Perth before moving to the Tulloch area of town where he spent the last 17 years of his life with some of his family close by.

Just weeks before he passed away, Alan enjoyed an 80th birthday celebration with close family including his sister, Moira, where he was able to demonstrate his legendary sense of humour in an event he thoroughly enjoyed. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.



COLIN VAUGHAN

Colin Vaughan died on 1 May 2012 after a short illness. He was born in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent on 2 May 1928, the second of nine children. After serving as a cadet in the North Staffs Regiment, he enlisted into the 2nd Battalion Black Watch Regiment in December 1945. After initial training, he was posted to India in October 1946 until returning home in March 1948. In August 1949, he was again posted overseas to FARELF (Hong Kong) where



he was stationed for 3 years. He left the Regiment in April 1953. He was a founder member of the Stoke-on-Trent Black Watch Association Branch and served on the Committee throughout. One of his proudest moments was attending the unveiling of the Queen Mother Gates at Balhousie Castle. He was also fortunate to represent the Branch on several occasions at the Remembrance Parade in London. As a member of the Black Watch Pipe Band, he learnt to play the pipes, and spent many years performing at local events and Association gatherings. For most of his working life he was a telephone engineer for BT and had a long and healthy retirement. He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 54 years, his son Robert and daughter Alison.

ANDREW WILSON

Andrew Wilson, known to his friend as 'Black Angus' because of his jet black bushy eyebrows and hair, was born in Woking in 1941 but was brought up in Milnathort where he worked locally as a shepherd before joining The Black Watch in 1963. Black Angus did his basic training at Stirling Castle then performed in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo that year as a highland dancer before joining the Battalion in Warminster. Service in Minden followed where he achieved a sort of fame by surviving a fall from an open window on the second floor of a barrack room – having mistaken it for a door – with no more than a broken jaw. Always quick to see the funny side of life Black Angus laughed it off. Although a non smoker he could always be relied on to produce a tin of rolling tobacco as a section 'pacifier' just when things were becoming fraught in the back of the vehicle. Training in Libya and a tour with the Battalion in Cyprus as part of UNFICYP followed as did service in the United Kingdom and Ireland. After 12 years service he left the Regiment and was involved in running pubs and later he worked as an insurance man. He died on 6th May 2012.



F Brown

We have been notified that the following Korean Veterans who served with the 1st Battalion have died:

Mr George Burrell from Freuchie
Mr Robert Doyle from Dundee
Mr Alexander Easton from High Bonnybridge
Mr Alexander Edmiston from Kirkcaldy
Mr Derek Hall from Australia
Mr John Owens from Luton
Mr A Sorrell from Downham Market

We have also been notified of the following deaths:

Mr Sandy Cuthbert, a long standing Dundee Branch member and Second World War veteran

George R Donaldson of Newton of Gorthy near Methven who served with the 6th/7th Battalion died in May 2012.

Dr Sam Gilks was RMO in Korea.

Hamish Liddell a well known Pitlochry solicitor, he was commissioned into The Black Watch and served with the King's African Rifles in East Africa, Sri Lanka, India and Burma.

Andrew Davidson who was the second Viscount Davidson was a public servant and Government Minister. He served with 2nd Battalion in British Guiana as a National Service Officer. The Times described him as a man with an agile mind and a winning manner when he carried out the demanding duties of Deputy Chief Whip in the House of Lords from 1986-92. He died on 20 July 2012 aged 83.



**Honour the ones who didn't come home.
Help Erskine care for the ones who did.**

ERSKINE
Proud to care

Erskine has been providing care, accommodation and employment for ex-Service men and women in Scotland since 1916. We depend heavily on the generosity of people like you to continue doing the valuable work we do. So please give whatever you can.

To donate, visit www.erskine.org.uk or call free on 0300 123 1203.

Erskine is the trading name of Erskine Hospital.
Scottish Charity Number SC006609.



MUNRO & NOBLE

SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS

Providing legal advice for over 100 years

Proactively serving the Armed Forces:

- **Family Law**
- **Executry & Wills**
- **Estate Agency**
- **House Sale & Purchase**
- **Other legal Services**
- **Financial Services**

phone Bruce on

01463 221727

Email: legal@munronoble.com

www.munronoble.com



EX-SERVICEMEN FORM FIGHTING BODY!

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

The Royal British Legion Scotland, New Haig House, Logie Green Road, Edinburgh EH7 4HR Tel: 0131 557 2782

THE IMPLICATIONS OF ARMY 2020

*By Major General M L Riddell-Webster DSO, Deputy Colonel,
The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

You will have heard and seen much in the media about the announcement of the Army's restructuring plan. I do not want, in this article, to go into the detail of that restructuring other than to say that the Army of 2020 will consist of some 84,000 men and will be organised to form "Reaction" and "Adaptable" forces. Whilst much of the detail has still to be worked through and many decisions have yet to be taken, I thought that it might be helpful if I laid out some of the implications for The Royal Regiment of Scotland as we move to the new structure.

Firstly, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland is to be reduced to Company strength and is to be a Public Duties Company in Edinburgh.

Secondly, all battalions are to retain their antecedent names. The names are to be moved from their current place in front of the battalion number and placed in brackets after the name. Thus, "The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland" will become "3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (Black Watch)". The timings of the introduction of this change are not yet clear and need to be cleared formally. No doubt this further change to our naming convention will be of regret to many, but it is something that The Royal Regiment of Scotland has been told to do; the Army Command Group has given clear direction that this is to be the way names are to be. Accepting that that is the case, we should at least be glad that our name still features in the Army's orbit.

Future locations are not yet clear. The Army is trying to cope with a number of initiatives simultaneously and is trying to work out, in tandem with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, where all three Services are to live as they all restructure and as the Army withdraws from Germany. This complicated process is made no easier by the requirement for the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to find considerable savings; all part of balancing the Ministry of Defence budget. Decisions on locations are further complicated by the new roles that will be undertaken by battalions. Facilities such as garages and other technical accommodation will inevitably influence the final laydown. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation are keen to move out of single unit sites, such as Fort George because they are more expensive to run but it is not yet clear that they will be able to achieve this with all sites and so the future of The Black Watch Battalion at Fort George remains another unknown. It is likely that we will be there for a few years yet!

The roles that the Regiment will undertake in the future are also very important. Given that the new "Reaction Forces" will be much smaller than the current Brigade structure, the principle being applied is that, as a 4 battalion Regiment, we should be allocated one battalion in the "Reaction Forces" and three in the "Adaptable Force". As this article goes to press, the announcement has just been received that the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of The Royal Regiment of Scotland will be in the Adaptable Force and equipped as Light Infantry, Light Infantry and Light Protected Mobility respectively. The 4th Battalion is to be in the Reaction Force and equipped with, initially, the Mastiff vehicle and eventually, with the new section vehicle. This means that the 3rd Battalion will be equipped with the new Foxhound vehicle, which is now on operations in Afghanistan and is proving very successful. The Regiment should not be displeased to have a majority of the battalions assigned to the "Adaptable Force". It is likely that, short of another major conflict, the "Adaptable Force" is going to be the part of the force structure that deploys on short term deployments around the world as the policy of being engaged in Defence Diplomacy activities takes hold. It is likely that we will see those battalions engaged in activities such as short term training teams, assisting with the delivery of education and many other forms of short term engagement; all challenging and interesting activities that the Army can now expect to be engaged in. The announcement sees the Battalion changing to its' new structure in 2013/14, but it is unlikely that the equipment or the location will change in that time frame; they will take longer.



*Foxhound will be used by the 3 SCOTS in its new role as a
Light Protected Mobility Battalion.*

Concurrent with the Army 2020 announcement, there has been a challenging Civil Service Early Release Scheme imposed, which has forced the reorganisation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland's Regimental and Home Headquarters. Many of those who have served The Black Watch so well and for so long, will be leaving and the decision has been made to close all the Home Headquarters. Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness will become "Outstations" of RHQ SCOTS which will give The Royal Regiment of Scotland the geographical coverage and some small presence. In principle, all staff less those in Glasgow and Inverness, will move to Edinburgh. This will leave The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) with a Balhousie Castle and Museum that is a truly Black Watch institution, probably by about March-April 2014. The risk here is that The Black Watch and its Association and Museum will become increasingly divorced from The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland and the broader Royal Regiment of Scotland. The Royal Regiment of Scotland is well aware of this and, as part of restructuring the new Regimental Headquarters is taking steps to establish a post with specific responsibility for reaching out to the Antecedent Associations and trying to ensure that we all remain connected and in touch. The Royal Regiment of Scotland is also working hard to ensure that it starts to record its' own heritage properly and to ensure co-ordination between the old and new.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland has made one other significant change to the governance of the Regiment recently and that is the dis-establishment of the Representative Colonels. Instead, there will be a number of Deputy Colonels, who will make up the Regimental Council. This change has been made for two main reasons; firstly there are a number of able senior officers (such as Brigadier James Cowan) who have not been being involved in running The Royal Regiment of Scotland and who will now be asked to be members of the Council and, secondly, it has already become difficult to match Representative Colonels to Battalions, as our brightest and best have commanded Battalions other than their antecedent regimental battalions. The exact roles of the Deputy Colonels have yet to be fully defined, but roles will be based on a functional rather than a battalion basis.

I am very conscious that much uncertainty remains but I hope that this short article will at least have given you an idea of the overall direction of travel of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Much timing remains unconfirmed but all that I have described is for implementation between 2013 and 2020; much will depend on how the extraction of the Army from operations in Afghanistan goes. The key will be to ensure that we keep The Royal Regiment of Scotland and The Black Watch Association as well connected as we can and that we maintain our links with The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland as well as we can over what is likely to be a difficult and uncomfortable period of change.

EXTRACTS FROM THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

*By Lieutenant Colonel DMF Singer RAMC, Regimental Medical Officer
The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

Lieutenant Colonel Del Singer was the RMO to the Black Watch Battalion during OP HERRICK 15 and as a result of an article in the Times Literary Supplement which regretted the lack of writing and poetry emerging from the conflict in Afghanistan, he responded with some poetry which was published and was then asked to write two freelance articles. The first was written at Christmas (2011) and the second in about February 2012. His aim was to provide a small insight into life on current operations with suitable literary references that would appeal to the readers of the Times Literary Supplement.

The articles are reproduced by kind permission of the Times Literary Supplement and of course the author.

This poem was published separately and was inspired by a Drone strike coordinated by the Battle-group Ops Room; “computer planes” are the name given to Drones by the insurgents:

Transmitted Live

It is on task.
We never know his name
But he has been Positively Identified
Walking in the sun we watch him
On screen, on line, follow his final trajectory
The walking dead transmitted live.
Above, sightless and soundless our proxy circles
A technical kill haunting the poppy fields
Far beyond comprehension – simply a computer plane.
He hears nothing, strolls on in sandals
Felt perhaps, only a sudden breeze
The herald of our cutting edge.

Christmas 2011

This isn't the trenches, and it is not 1914. But still there definitely seems to be a general lifting in morale here in Helmand Province, now we are in the festive period. Perhaps it has been the raised spirits of the few who are getting home for Christmas.

I am aware that we are wandering into cliché territory here, of unofficial ceasefires and football games with the enemy. But we shouldn't get our hopes up, the Taliban are unlikely to indulge us in a kick-around followed by an exchange of rum and chocolate. It has been a feature of this conflict that the only seasonal exchanges are kinetic.

Some lift in mood is welcome though, now winter is under way, it's minus six at night and the tent presents a bleak prospect for getting dressed in at dawn. Today brings a clear and bright morning and the first sunlight on the walls of our base lend it a romantic aspect – not a phrase routinely attached to the architecture of modern warfare. We have taken up a location in the ruins of an old mud-brick fort occupied by a previous British army, in 1880, much of whose walls and turrets still remain. For some, this Ozymandian relic is a reminder of past forays, but I have found it strangely reassuring, rendering this corner of a field not quite so foreign. What, I wonder, will we leave behind? After all, the imperial project is no longer ours, and as the Iraq war finally comes to an end one can't help reflecting on how we ended up here, again.

Sweep-step, sweep-step, A scan for the unbidden Prints followed with exactness The darkened earth – a show? Ever since I arrived in Afghanistan on my first tour in 2006, I have tried to write some poetry reflective of the experience. One way of looking at it is as a poetry logbook. Some of my lines work better than others. It is impossible, at times, to avoid veering towards the gory detail. In this case – in a poem I called “Ground Sign” – I tried to draw an analogy between an IED (improvised explosive device) awaiting a trigger and an unborn child, the soldier with the metal detector and the doctor “sweeping” for signs of life inside a mother's womb. The low metal content devices are, for obvious reasons, the most dangerous.

The unborn lies, gestating, confined nurtured on the digest of war Awaiting the awakening footfall A biological trigger, low metal content... It is as I am entering my medical facility to pick up my kit that the shouting starts. At the front gate, a car horn is sounding and the guards are starting to run – never a good sign. I stick my head back out and follow the line of the Gate Sanger's guns which have swung round. Something is moving

rapidly towards the metal barrier. For a moment, I am fixed. My facility is built to take all but a direct hit and drive-in attacks are a persistent threat, so the prudent thing to do would be to step inside, but still I am straining to see what's coming in. The familiar sight of an Afghan Police Ranger and its uniformed driver produces an initial relaxation but this is immediately reversed by what catches my eye in the rear of the truck: a local adult clutching a child. Even from this distance I can see the blood. They are being waved on and I know where they are heading.

Between the screaming of the child and my initial efforts to slow the flow, I manage to get some details through the interpreter. Despite the progress made by the local health services, it remains the case that the police will often seek out our facility if they feel that injuries are too severe for them to deal with. This puts us in a difficult position – if we treat, further confidence is lost in the local clinics; if we don't, further good will is lost.

The children make a disproportionate showing in the figures here and an eye for pressure plates and vehicles is essential to survival. It is apparent that this child's injuries are too severe to refuse, so we push on. By now, my medics have joined in and are working with me on the child. They are all on at least their second tour and have done this before, often on their friends.

After the bleeding has been controlled, things are easing up. It's quite a jump-start to the day – not really what I need before eight o'clock. The request for MEDEVAC has gone in and once we are content things are stable, we get the child off to the Italian NGO-run hospital – the only facility in the area that is up to taking over.

I am still rewinding the child's treatment as an internal critique as I hurry along with my kit. On balance, we did a fair job, but I am now running late for my patrol. Today the patrol I am joining is moving by armoured vehicle but nonetheless we are fully decked in body armour, knee pads and helmets. The areas protected have not changed from Xenophon's day, only the projectiles. The extra layer is welcome even if the weight is not. Besides, they work: I've seen them stop a round (though the bruising is impressive).

We are off to a small base about 10 kilometres north. I am along to do some checks and run a clinic for the soldiers there. On arrival, it is apparent that the festive spirit, at least, is in good health, despite the rather brutal surroundings. The juxtaposition of razor wire and tinsel is an odd one. After a chat with the commander over tea, I see those waiting.

None of the cases is too serious, mainly just the attritional effects of austere living and patrolling for four months. Those from this unit who have been more seriously hurt are gone, some recuperating at home, remembered with a mixture of envy and sympathy, others with reminders closer at hand in the form of improvised memorials. It is the season's ghosts that seem to wake our memories of them and remind us of what we miss most. Some soldiers I see badly miss being home, but a significant minority cite getting involved in fire-fights as a genuinely positive alternative to enforced family gatherings.

Seasonal reflections on shared and separate pasts produce some of the more warming moments in that they frequently inspire soldiers to reach into their own cultural rattle-bags. This has already produced carols in the traditional European style but also, more devoutly, in the Fijian, which when sung to the accompaniment of a ukulele definitely help to take the chill out of the air.

The return journey jolts along an alternative route – our counter-play in the game of cat and mouse. We need to get back for dinner not least as I and the other officers are serving “the Jocks”. It remains a wonderfully widespread tradition in the British Army that Christmas dinner is served up by the officers and SNCOs to the junior ranks, and one well kept in this most traditional of regiments. The hardened bunker used for dining has been decorated as well as our resources will allow, and a laptop has been wired up to bring us some seasonal tunes. It won't be quite the same without a beer to go with it, but not least for the novelty of the most feared Sergeant Majors waiting on the most junior of soldiers, it always proves to be enormous fun.

Later on, I might get time to work on that poem: Delivered up to dust, to smoke, to screams, To be plucked from an afterbirth of limbs, Contact with the earth severed Cradled, brought to his mother... The imagery still troubles me – would something less harsh be more effective? For a moment, I have to remind myself that this is not the trenches, and it is not 1914, and that today's child survived.

Today we have a service to mourn another dead soldier. According to Thucydides, the question of how best to conduct these ceremonies occupied a good deal of thought in antiquity, and despite the events of the past ten years, they still present us with dilemmas. Experience in Britain has demonstrated vividly how this subject can fall prey to emotional expropriation, becoming a fulcrum for opposing views on recent conflicts.

So what do we do here, where they were killed? Today's service is one that will be repeated across all bases in Afghanistan, large and small. For us, the observance is abstract. As is often the case in a force of 10,000, he is unknown to us. But such is now the adopted procedure, that we stand while words are said in praise of his brief military career, and our Padre attempts the difficult task of expressing something meaningful couched in multi-faith terms. It is a form not without pathos but, given the anonymity of the deceased, liable to bathos too. Only rarely is the tension released by unintended moments of surreal lightness, of a eulogy struggling to be heard above a competing chorus of Apaches and Adhans.

Not all our casualties on this tour have been of the same kind. For some, combat hits the mind, rather than the body. That there are not more cases is mainly down to the mutual support of comrades – that and a culture among young men in which any mental pathology is seen as a weakness, best suppressed or somatized. Soldiers also cite the incidental therapy of our search dogs. Far removed in character from the fighting beasts that Julius Caesar recorded the British using, these dogs of war are in the main delightfully energetic spaniels. We have several regulars at our base. To see them being walked of an evening lends a peculiar air of normality to this place, like a patch of Hampstead transposed to Helmand.

As the time for the vigil nears, I recall one such recent casualty brought to me after he had been found wandering at night, armed and looking for insurgents within his patrol base.

As the Medical Officer for a forward mounted Battle Group in the Helmand Valley, I am the first point of referral for such cases. My initial task is to decide whether he is fit to continue fighting or whether the risk he presents outweighs that of removing a soldier from an already taut red line. He earnestly believed that people were trying to kill him, and he was terrified. Like a Yossarian for a new war, he was caught in the paradox that people here are indeed trying to kill him. So does his reaction make him the only sane one of us? He had enough insight to see the irony of his fears, but unfortunately not enough to suppress them, and the stress of fighting had now given them free rein. His demons were composed not of the insurgents we see fleetingly between compounds but of a more personal enemy, flitting in and out of a hypnagogic haze.

I walk on towards the vigil site. We are now loitering with mixed degrees of intent around the flags and gabions of the HQ bunkers which face the central memorial bearing the names of those killed locally, surmounted by a cross of spent shell casings. The sun, bright white, offers some relief from the biting wind which, fresh off the Hindu Kush, has corralled us into huddles and snaps the Union flag and the Saltire. As with many funerals, those not personally bereaved often use such gatherings as an opportunity to catch up, to chat and to renew those friendships which require the impetus of social obligation. This is always welcome, as the tempo of operations here leaves little chance for social meetings even in a small location such as

ours. As befits the occasion, we are turned out as well as our situation will allow – shirts and Tam-o'-shanters with red hackles donned.

But many of us feel awkward; there is a vague sense of guilt, as if at attending a funeral to which one has not been invited. Should I be feeling more? It may be a generational gap but a lack of acquaintance with the deceased does seem to sit easier with the younger officers and soldiers. Is it, I wonder, a pre/post Diana split – in 1997 many of our soldiers were only five years old. To the young men from the martial tribes of Fife and Fiji who make up this battalion, it may be simply another parade. When you are eighteen and in a conflict you tend not to dwell on death – it's something that happens to others. With no personal attachment to this dead soldier, I reflect that Pericles probably got it right when he argued against individual memorials for the fallen in the war against Sparta, seeking instead a solitary, combined service. We of course have such a day, November 11. And how, I wonder, will the War on Terror, the only convenient collective for these conflicts, be remembered and written about? Training for and deploying on operations for these wars in Afghanistan and Iraq has now occupied over a quarter of my life, so how would I, could I, tackle this with any perspective? We have lacked any great war poets to record and express our experience. Might this be a function of our military recruiting? War does not create great poets, but great poets are sometimes conscripted to war.

The Afghans remember their war dead as a nation. But in a way that reflects the shifting nature of the country's identity, the focus for remembrance itself is also shifting. Until recently, it centred on a commemoration of Malala, the heroine of the Battle of Maiwand.

Fought in 1880, just to the north-east of our base, it is remembered as a particularly bad day for British forces. The date is now associated with an older generation, however, with younger Afghans looking to Martyrs Day held on the anniversary of the death of Ahmad Shah Massoud on September 9, 2001, two days before the events that led us here.

The mourning of war dead by the Taliban is less clear; some are local, while many are from Pakistan, but either way they lack the freedom to commemorate their loss openly. Still, as we have repeatedly witnessed, due care is taken of remains even by anti-Taliban villagers who, in keeping with Islamic tradition, methodically collect body parts for burial. But for us, gone are the days of Brooke's soldier enriching a foreign field. We have not buried our soldiers at the site of battle since the Falklands conflict, and for the foreseeable future are unlikely to do so again. It seems that with empire gone, no overseas location will ever feel familiar enough to leave our dead there, so home is now the only acceptable reliquary.

The Sergeant Major has given the word and we are shaken from our social groupings to form in ranks. Such gatherings are always laced with an underlying tension, vulnerable as they are to attack either from insurgents or, especially since the burning of Qur'ans, to a rogue attack from the adjoining Afghan Army base. Readings from the Padre and Commanding Officer follow, both Christian in tone but suitably abstract. The service is finished off by the Regimental Sergeant Major reciting Binyon: "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old...". A minute's silence follows, then the command is given to move off. As I stroll away, I ponder the fate of my young Yossarian; he will be returned home – perhaps the removal of the strain will effect a cure? But I suspect that unlike the rest of us shortly to finish our tour here, his enemies may prove more dogged in their pursuit.

70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN

The 23rd of October 2012 marks the 70th Anniversary of the start of the Battle of El Alamein. The 1st, 5th and 7th Battalions were all involved in the battle and Major Peter Watson MC is thought to be the only surviving officer who took part.

Peter was interviewed by the Daily Telegraph in 1992 for the 50th Anniversary of the battle and I have reproduced that article below:

"The din of the artillery barrage began at 2140 hours, snapping an uneasy hush. The moon – Monty's Moon, we called it – made the desert shine.

Thousands of men had shuffled quietly into battle formation, five yards apart to minimise injuries from shell or mine blasts. There had been some ribaldry among the Jocks about Montgomery's message, his talk of our place in history, but as the time approached everyone was absorbed in his private thoughts. I have never known such intensity of purpose.

I wasn't ready for the noise of the big guns; I think my tin helmet must have flown six feet in the air as the world erupted in sound and light. I thought, "My God, this is it". All the preparation in Britain, the sea voyage round the Cape, the weeks of training in the desert, going over the same things again and again until they were instinct – now we had to do it for real. And the wonderful thing is I don't think there was a man there who doubted that we would win.

As an Intelligence Officer my role was to advise the CO on the axis of the battalion's advance. It had to be precise – by compass bearing across the featureless desert, paced out against the clock to keep us behind the "friendly fire" barrage but not so far behind that Jerry had time to get himself organised. Some idiot asked if I wanted a swig of whisky and I said "You must be joking".

We were rained on by shells and flak and flying sand, but the battalion was like a machine, rolling forward, unstoppable – a remarkable feeling. I didn't feel the shrapnel go through my palm. I just thought it odd that my compass hand suddenly swung sideways. Then I noticed the blood and the dent on the compass, but it was still working, so I pressed on. There were some far worse walking wounded than me.

Then someone told me my breeches were bloody – another splinter had hit my backside and I hadn't felt that either. The worst moment was lying in a dug-out beside my friend, George. One minute we were chatting, the next I heard a grunt and he was a goner, just like that.

We reached our objective, the Miteiriya Ridge, in the first light of dawn. The two forward companies had lost so many men they were reformed into one, but spirits were high; these were tough men, miners and agricultural workers lots of them, and I was never so proud of being a Scot.

We started digging in and it was then I realised I was weak, probably from loss of blood. When the CO said he was sending me back, I resisted, but he told me I would be no more use as a soldier if Jerry counter-attacked. I remember feeling quite ashamed, as if I was letting everyone down”.

Peter Watson was later awarded the MC and was promoted to Major. After the war he became a shipping broker. Now aged 92, he lives in Claygate, Surrey.



Major Peter Watson MC, probably the only surviving Black Watch officer who fought at the Battle of El Alamein attended the Laying Up of Colours Parade in June 2012.

“A REQUIEM TO THE FINEST OF REGIMENTS” THE LAYING UP OF COLOURS OF 1st BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH (ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT) AND 1st BATTALION 51st HIGHLAND VOLUNTEERS – DRUMHEAD SERVICE, NORTH INCH, PERTH, 23 JUNE 2012

On the 23rd of June 2012 the final ceremonial act in the life of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) and 1st Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers took place in Perth on the banks of the River Tay.

The day was planned around a parade through the City of Perth, followed by the act of Laying Up the Colours. The Parade formed up near the South Inch and consisted of a strong Pipes and Drums made up of pipers and drummers of the The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Perth and District Pipe Band, 51st Highland, 7th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Black Watch of Canada and the Angus and Dundee Cadets. They were followed by A (Grenadier) Company, The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland who also provided the Colour Party carrying the Old Colours of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch; the next participants were a detachment of 51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland who carried the Old Colours of the Territorials and then a detachment of The Black Watch of Canada looking resplendent in No1 Dress were led by their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Bruno Plourde.

Next in the order of march were the Guard provided by the Association which was planned on a figure of about 150 but as time passed at the Forming up Point, the numbers grew to over 250 in the marching contingent and many hundreds more watched from the sidelines. They were followed by a very smart detachment from Queen Victoria School made up from the sons and daughters of Black Watch men. And last but not least, two very strong marching detachments from the Angus and Dundee Battalion and The Black Watch Battalion Army Cadet Force completed the line up.

The Parade marched along Tay Street where Brigadier GC Barnett as a senior, former Colonel of the Regiment took the salute. He was flanked by Mrs Georgiana Osborne the Lord Lieutenant of Angus and President of The Black Watch Association and by Councillor Grant the Provost of Perth. Also in attendance at the Saluting Dais were Brigadier Melville Jameson (Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross), Lieutenant Generals Sir Alistair Irwin (former Colonel of the Regiment) and Andrew Graham (Colonel The Royal Regiment of



The VIPs flanked by two QVS Stick Orderlies.



The Massed Pipes and Drums lead the parade.

Scotland) and Colonel Daniel O'Connor (Honorary Colonel The Black Watch of Canada) and Brigadier Charles Grant (Honorary Colonel of 51st Highland); and finally, Major General Mike Riddell-Webster the Representative Colonel of The Black Watch battalion.

The service to Lay Up the Colours was then held on the North Inch beside the memorial to the 51st Highland Division. Between 800 and 1000 members of the Regimental Family were welcomed by Brigadier EN de Broë-Ferguson the Chairman of The Black Watch Association and the church service was led by the Reverend Alex Forsyth and Canon Peter Allen. The Vice Chairman of The Black Watch Association, Lieutenant Colonel RM Riddell gave an address covering the history of both sets of Colours. The Colours were handed over from the Colour Ensigns to four former RSMs of The Black Watch and 1st/51st Highland Volunteers and then Brigadier de Broë-Ferguson said, "These consecrated Colours, formerly car-

ried in the service of The Queen and Commonwealth, I now deliver into the hands of the Museum of The Black Watch for safe custody". Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin, as Chairman of the Museum Trustees replied "I receive these Colours for safe custody in to the Museum of The Black Watch". The Colours were then marched off parade to the strains of Old Lang Syne. The Regimental Lament "Lochaber no More" was played by Pipe Major Duthie and then a rousing three cheers for the Regiment concluded the service. The Colours have been "Laid Up" in the Museum of The Black Watch.

In true Black Watch fashion, the day was one of style and dignity and not a little emotion. 272 years after the Regiment first mustered on the banks of the River Tay near Aberfeldy in May 1740, the final military act was carried out also on the banks of the same river. As one retired Black Watch officer remarked;

"The Parade and Service were a Requiem to the finest of Regiments".

WELCOMING ADDRESS – BY BRIGADIER E N DE BROË-FERGUSON MBE CHAIRMAN THE BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION

Ladies and Gentlemen

That this solemn event is taking place here in Perth on the banks of the River Tay, 272 years after the first muster of the Regiment – also on the banks of this same mighty river, – is no mere coincidence.

As we have just marched through the town to show off our Colours to the public for the last time, so we remember the raising of "The Black Watch", to use its country name, on 25 October 1739. – And how Colonel Robert Munro of Foulis subsequently assembled ten independent companies at Tay Bridge, close to what became the town of Aberfeldy, and took the first steps, – also in a public place, – to forge them into a Regiment of the Line.

But it is about the Colours in particular, – how they changed in appearance in the early days and those that were actually carried in action that I wish to say a few words – and I'm now in no doubt that my work has been made infinitely easier by the research that Victoria Schofield has done to produce her magnificent Regimental History, – *The Highland Furies*.

Notwithstanding the picture on the back of your Order of Service, showing Robert Munro of Foulis at the Battle of Fontenoy, Flanders in 1745, it would seem that no authorised standard, – or otherwise, – was awarded by Royal Warrant to the Regiment until 22 July 1758, when the title "Royal" was also granted, – just fourteen days after the Battle of Ticonderoga.

So with communications as they were, neither the title "Royal" nor the presentation of Colours could, it seems, have been awarded for the Ticonderoga action. But we do know that by the Autumn of the following year the Colours had actually been presented to the 1st Battalion 42nd Royal Highlanders, in North America.

In 1767 the Regiment left North America, embarked for Ireland and in December 1768 the Royal Highland Regiment was authorised to bear on its Colours the King's cipher within the garter, – with the crown over it in the centre, – and under it, the device of the Most Noble Order of the Thistle – with the motto known to us all –

Nemo Me Impune Lacessit.

(No one provokes me with Impunity)

These original Colours were deposited in the Tower of London in the Grand Storehouse, presumably for safe keeping, but rather alarmingly they were destroyed by fire in 1841.

The new Colours, presented in Edinburgh in 1802, the year after the Battle of Alexandria, were the first to bear the new distinction of the Sphinx superscribed Egypt. These Colours would see the most continuous fighting of any stand, in the battles of the Peninsula War and at Waterloo, now looking rather frail, hanging in Balhousie Castle.

In 1839 Colours presented to the 42nd in Dublin were the last to carry the same centre badges and Battle Honours, – and the Regimental number in Roman numerals on top corners, as in 1844 Army Regulations altered the badge on the Queen's Colour to the crown with our Regimental number XLII in the centre and the Battle Honours carried on the Regimental Colour. These were the Colours that were taken to the Crimea in 1854, depicted so vividly in Robert Gibb's wonderful painting of the Regiment storming the heights of the Alma and called *Forward Forty-Second*. – They were subsequently carried throughout the Indian Mutiny and the action at Bareilly in 1858 was the last battle the Regiment fought in which the Colours were carried under fire. In 1872 a memorial to the fallen since 1739 was unveiled and those same Colours were laid up at Dunkeld Cathedral.

This day, – the 23 June 2012 is a day we will all remember. The day when we witnessed The Black Watch Colours on parade for the last time.

Ladies and Gentleman may I extend a very warm welcome indeed to you all and especially to The Black Watch of Canada, the oldest Highland Regiment in Britain's former Dominions founded, as it was, in 1862.



Major Rob Hedderwick commanded A (Grenadier) Company and escorted the 1BW Colours.



No 1 Guard was commanded by the Association Chairman, Brigadier E N de Broë-Ferguson.

ADDRESS BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL R M RIDDELL VICE CHAIRMAN THE BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION

In the 18th and 19th Centuries, Colours were a rallying point for a Regiment and as Battle Honours were added over the years, they reinforced the sense that previous generations of officers and soldiers had endured hardship and suffering and had laid down their lives in the service of the Crown and the Regiment. The Colours served as a reminder of that valour and fighting spirit and during its history, The Black Watch gained 164 Battle Honours.

I want to briefly talk about the Colours of the 51st Highland Volunteers and those of The Black Watch that we are Laying Up today.

51st Highland Volunteers

The 51st Highland Volunteers were born out of the many Highland TA Battalions which fought with such distinction in the Great War and the Second World War. The Black Watch, the Seaforth, Camerons, Gordons, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the Lovat Scouts and the London Scottish and Liverpool Scottish are all names that were synonymous with service and courage.

In the case of The Black Watch our wartime Territorial Battalions were the 4th (City of Dundee) Battalion, the 5th (County of Angus) Battalion, the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion and the 7th (Fife) Battalion. From 1921 until 1967 – with the exception of the war years, they amalgamated to form the 4/5th and 6th/7th Battalions The Black Watch. However in 1967 during a reorganisation of the Territorial Army the 51st Highland Volunteers were created. Four years later in 1971 the unit was split into three battalions and the 1st Battalion was based on Perth with Companies in Dundee, Kirkcaldy, Stirling, London and Liverpool.

Nearly 26 years ago, on the 4th of July 1986, on the North Inch in Perth, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother presented the Colours we are Laying Up today to a very proud 1st Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers. Her Majesty said in her speech “I entrust the Colours that I presented a few minutes ago to your safe keeping, confident in the knowledge that you will guard them with pride and honour. May they serve as a reminder of the valour of your predecessors, and inspire you in your service and loyalty to your Queen, your country and your Regiment”.

There are many of you in the audience today who will recall that day with great pride and since then they have been carried by the 1st Battalion 51st Highland Volunteers, the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion The Black Watch, the 51st Highland Regiment and latterly 51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

I will now turn to the Colours of The Black Watch.

The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)

Formed in 1739 from the Independent Companies, the Regiment first mustered on the banks of the River Tay near Aberfeldy in May 1740. The Regiment forged an enviable and world wide reputation for military prowess in the service of the Crown. From the Battle of Fontenoy in 1745 to Al Basrah in Iraq in 2003, the name Black Watch and the world famous Red Hackle have been an enduring symbol of courage, steadfastness, pride, loyalty and service.

Since October 1739, the 1st Battalion 42nd of Foot or in its more modern form, 1st Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), have been presented with nine recorded “stands” of Colours.

The Colours being “Laid Up” today were presented on 24 September 1996 by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, in the beautiful surroundings of Birkhall, her home on Deeside. They were the last ever presented to the Regiment and carry 50 Battle Honours but do not include the Theatre Honour of IRAQ 2003 or the Battle Honour AL BASRAH which were awarded by Her Majesty the Queen in June 2005.

These Colours have been carried by our 1st Battalion and since March 2006 by the The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Both sets of Colours will be given to the Museum of The Black Watch for safe keeping. Interestingly the Army has laid down that should the Colours at some point in the future, ever be deemed to have completely disintegrated, that their remains should be buried with the staff and lion and crown pole mount, in consecrated ground without any marking.

Just over 150 years ago, Private Archibald McIntosh serving with the 42nd at Bareilly in India recorded that on the 1st of January 1861 the Regiment was presented with new Colours by the Commander in Chief. He said “The Old Colours were on parade for the last time and during the march past they hung mournfully to the poles as if they knew it was their last parade, many farewell glances were taken at them by those who had fought under them in the Crimea”.

I know that many of us who have served under these Colours and under previous stands will feel a great sense of sadness as we say farewell to the last Colours presented to the 51st Highland Volunteers and The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment).

I hope that the Battle Honours won by The Black Watch, some of which are now carried on the Colours of The Royal Regiment of Scotland will sustain and enhance the reputation of a new generations of Scottish soldiers.



The boys and girls of Queen Victoria School.



No 2 Guard commanded by the Association Vice Chairman, Lieutenant Colonel R M Riddell.



The Old Colours are marched on parade for the final time.

SERMON BY THE REVEREND ALEX FORSYTH

Readings

Joshua 4. 1-9

The Revelation of St John 7. 9-17

The Gospel of Matthew 5. 1-16

James Martin and his son Nicholas own an equestrian supplies shop. People travel miles to his shop. It is one of those 'Horses R Us Shops.'

Old James is in his eighties. He is a kirk elder and is one of those men with a bible text for every occasion.

One day a rather suave looking gentleman came into his shop to buy a horse blanket.

James went through to the back shop. He had a pile of blankets all the same price. He brought out a grey woollen blanket and said, "That will be £52."

"You don't understand," the man said. "This is a really fine horse, people admire her, and I want something rather special for her."

So, with deep sighs, old James went into the back shop, and took out a brown blanket from the same pile. "That will be," he paused, "£85." Several of James' friends were sitting at the café section of the shop. They smiled knowingly. They knew all the blankets were £52.

Once again the impeccably dressed gent protested, "No, you see, I want the very best for my horse. Do you have something else?"

James went through to the back shop, more deep sighs, and pulled a burgundy coloured blanket from the same pile, and brought it back, "That will be £152," he said.

The suave stranger paid on his credit card. He left the shop a satisfied customer.

One of James' old friends who had witnessed the transaction asked, "Now what Bible text can you cite for what just took place?"

Without skipping a beat old James said, "*He was a stranger – and I took him in.*"

So what of today. What should our text be?

It comes from the book of Joshua, in chapter four, "*In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean? Tell them... these stones are... a memorial to the people of Israel for ever.'*"

Joshua wants his people to remember the past and prepare for the future. He wants them to remember their history, heritage, identity and achievements, their feats and their faith.

The past – The Israelites had escaped from Egypt through the power and presence of God. They then wandered in the desert with all of its threats and dangers. Sometimes discouraged, there were occasions when they wanted to turn back time, live in the past, return to Egypt and enslavement.

It was a long journey between the Exodus and the crossing of the Jordan into the Promised Land. And there were battles still to come, including the battle of Jericho.

On the whole the generation that left Egypt were long gone. Joshua's memorial stones were for their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and generations yet unborn.

And that's what we are about today. Remembering and honouring the past and preparing for the future.

The last official thing we do as a regiment is what we are doing today – laying up our colours.

Regimental Colours trace their origins through the armies of medieval Europe, Rome, Greece back to Egypt 5,000 years ago. Colours were always treated with great respect. And so they should be.

The Queen Mother presented today's Colours. A military chaplain consecrated them. Inscribed with battle honours, and regimental insignia, when on parade they served as a focal point – representing the honour and traditions of the regiment.

After this ceremony, they will never be on parade, again. They will, however, continue to witness to our history and heritage in our regimental museum.

They will serve as silent reminders of who we are, where we are from, where we have been and what we have done.

Joshua said to them, "*In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean? Tell them... these stones are... a memorial to the people of Israel for ever.'*"

There is a tradition in the Scottish Regiments that the padre wears his host regiment's headdress rather than his chaplains beret. When I was with the regiment, I wore my red hackle with pride.

One day after a church parade one old soldier took me aside. "Padre, I hear your going to one of those three day study conferences.

"Well, he said, "let me give you some good advice. Padre, never ask a man what regiment he's in. If he's in the Black Watch he'll tell you. If he's not in the Black Watch, well – there's no need to embarrass the man!"

We have a proud history. Formed in adversity to serve Crown and Country and maintain peace in the Highlands. Over the years, the regiment has fought to establish peace, create peace, maintain peace, and preserve peace.

The regiment has served and sacrificed the world over. During the First World War The Black Watch served with the 51st (Highland) Division.

25 battalions of the Black Watch fought in France, Flanders, Mesopotamia, Palestine, and the Balkans. The Black Watch lost 8,000 men in that war.

There are old soldiers here who served in the Second World War, and there are men here who served in Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Cyprus, Germany, Northern Ireland, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Black Watch was the last British military unit to leave Hong Kong.

This is who we are. This is our history. This is the heritage that we pass on to the next generation.

According to Cicero, the Roman thinker and statesman, "Not to know what took place before you were born is to remain forever a child."

Sometimes it seems we live in a society obsessed with trivia. From their place in the regimental museum, these Colours will bear witness to the fact that there is more to life than 'Britain's Got Talent.'

These Colours speak of courage, discipline, honour, respect, integrity, loyalty, commitment, duty and self-sacrifice.

Joshua said to them, "*In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean? Tell them... these stones are... a memorial to the people of Israel for ever.'*"

Joshua wanted his people to remember the past. He also wanted them to prepare for the future.

If all we can do is hold on to the past then we believe that there is only the past. Learning from the past and then letting it go is to know that there's a future.

So how do we face the uncertainty of a future that we cannot control, in a world not of our own making, in the face of serious events, international emergencies, political decisions and organizational expediencies?

Like Joshua we go forward in faith and in a sure certain hope. Just like those who came before us.



Padre Alex Forsyth leads the Service, supported by Canon Peter Allen.



Some of the congregation.

When the guns fell silent on the 11th November 1918, all along the 'Front' the Scottish Battalions sang the metrical psalms.

They sang the soldier's psalm, Psalm 121. *'The Eternal God will keep you from all harm – He will keep you safe, and He will preserve your soul. He, will keep watch over your going out and your coming in.'*

Some sang Psalm 124th, 'Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.'

Others sang the 23rd Psalm.

'Yea Thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you O Lord are with me ...'

Joshua said to them, *"In the future, when your children ask you, "What do these stones mean? Tell them ... these stones are ... a memorial to the people of Israel for ever.'...*

We don't know what the future holds – but we know who holds the future.

Amen.



"Three cheers for The Black Watch and the antecedent regiments of the 51st Highland Volunteers".



Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Lindsay hands over The Queen's Colour to former RSM Peter Cameron late the Gordon Highlanders.



The Old Colours after the parade. From left to right Mr Peter Cameron (Gordons), Mr Gerry Kidd (Camerons and QO Hldrs), Major Bob Ritchie (BW), Lieutenant Colonel Fred Beattie (BW).



The Black Watch of Canada detachment.



The march off. Mr Peter Cameron (Gordons), Mr Gerry Kidd (Camerons and QO Hldrs), Major Bob Ritchie and Lieutenant Colonel Fred Beattie.



Tom Smyth the Regimental Archivist and Victoria Schofield the author of The Highland Furies at the Book Launch.

VISIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH TO BALHOUSIE CASTLE ON 6 JULY 2012

The Black Watch family was proud to welcome Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to Balhousie Castle on Friday, 6 July 2012.

This happy occasion was part of The Queen's visit to the City of Perth. This came at the end of her week-long tour of Scotland which celebrated the Diamond Jubilee. During the visit to Perth Her Majesty congratulated all concerned on the restoration of City Status which had been achieved earlier in the year. The strong relationship between Perth and The Black Watch had featured prominently in Perth's application for City Status and this made it even more appropriate that Balhousie Castle was chosen to be part of The Queen's itinerary on the day.

At the time of the visit, building work on our redevelopment project was already well underway. Fortunately the new car park was completed just in time for the day. Then the colourful crowd that awaited The Queen helped draw attention away from the demolition works already in progress elsewhere on the site.

The Royal Visit also coincided with the 50th anniversary of the move of the RHQ of The Black Watch and the Museum from Queen's Barracks Perth to Balhousie Castle.

After an early shower we were blessed with sunshine by the time The Queen arrived. Although only 20 minutes were allowed for the visit we managed to pack a lot in!

The Pipes and Drums of The Black Watch Battalion played on The Queen's arrival. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were received outside the Wavell Gates by Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin, Chairman of the Trustees of The Black Watch Museum, and Major David McMicking. They then escorted Her Majesty and His Royal Highness through a route lined with members of The Black Watch Association and Black Watch Cadets. We were also joined at the last minute by a group from a local nursery school who can be seen in the photographs at the front of the crowd.

General Irwin then presented Brigadier Garry Barnett, Chairman of the Regimental and Wavell Trusts, and Lieutenant Colonel Ed Fenton, Commanding Officer of The Black Watch Battalion to The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were escorted into the Waterloo Room in the Museum where General Irwin presented a temporary exhibition of key items from our Royal collection.

The exhibition consisted of the uniform of King George V Colonel-in-Chief, the von Marientriev portrait of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and items belonging to Captain Fergus Bowes-Lyon, the Queen Mother's brother and Lieutenant Charles Bowes-Lyon, her cousin; both were killed while serving with The Black Watch during the First World



The Queen and General Irwin in front of the portrait of The Queen Mother.



The arrival of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.



Lieutenant Colonel Fred Beattie is presented to Her Majesty The Queen.



The Queen meets Private Stephen Bainbridge.

War. Amongst these items was the regimental broadsword of Charles Bowes-Lyon which had been carried earlier in the week by Major Justin Prowse while Captain of Her Majesty's Guard for her arrival at Holyrood Palace.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were introduced to David Noble, Jamie Montgomery and James Watt, Trustees of The Black Watch Museum and Major McMicking then presented the plans for the Museum Redevelopment.

On leaving the Museum Colonel Alex Murdoch, Chairman of The Black Watch Association, was presented to Her Majesty. Colonel Murdoch then presented a number of members of the Black Watch Association and serving soldiers of The Black Watch Battalion who had been chosen to represent each of the campaigns of The Black Watch since the Second World War:



The Queen in front of the commemorative plaque.

The following were presented;
 Lieutenant Colonel Fred Beattie, who had been part of the team moving RHQ from Queen's Barracks to Balhousie Castle 50 years ago.
 Major George Grant MM (Second World War)
 Major Turpie (Korea)
 David Thomson (Northern Ireland)
 Sergeant Colin Hamilton (Kosovo)
 Allan Stewart (Iraq)
 Private Allan Clunie (Afghanistan)
 Private Stephen Bainbridge (Afghanistan).

General Irwin invited Her Majesty to unveil a commemorative plaque on the wall of Balhousie Castle, celebrating Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and the 50th Anniversary of the Museum.

Flowers were presented to The Queen by Lucy Stewart, daughter of Allan Stewart.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh then made their way back towards the Wavell Gates stopping on the way to speak to several of the crowd lining the route. Pipe Major Alistair Duthie played from balcony of the Castle. As the Royal Party reached the gates Lieutenant Colonel Beattie led a rousing Three Cheers for Her Majesty.



The Queen leaves Balhousie after a happy visit.

Following the visit General Irwin received the following letter from Buckingham Palace.

"The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh have asked me to pass on their sincere thanks to you for welcoming them so generously to the Black Watch Castle and Museum on 6th July.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were touched by the warmth of their welcome and were most grateful for the opportunity to visit the regimental museum, with its many historic links to the Royal Family. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were very interested to learn of the development plans for the Museum and hope that it will continue to play such a central role in the life of its members and the local community for many years to come.

Her Majesty sends her warmest regards to you and everyone else involved in making the visit such a success, and wishes you all the very best in the continuing work of the Black Watch Heritage Appeal."

It had indeed been a memorable visit, and much enjoyed by all who were privileged to attend!

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

HAVE YOUR SAY



A new way to support
our heroes...

 **poppyscotland**
SUPPORTING OUR HEROES



The PoppyScotland Store

Order your official Poppyscotland merchandise online

Online: www.poppyscotland.org.uk/shop

Shop Hotline: 0845 450 8979

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

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS OVERVIEW

The previous edition of the Red Hackle covered the period of our last tour in Afghanistan as far as our Homecoming marches in Fife, Kinross, and Perthshire. Since then, we have embarked on a period of reconstitution, interspersed with support to training those deploying on future tours of Afghanistan, whilst fulfilling three discreet but significant summer commitments; support to the Olympic Games, The Royal Guard and support to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Each of these tasks is covered in greater detail in the Company notes. As a consequence of these commitments, the Battalion has been somewhat fractured but in the margins we have been presented with an ideal opportunity to catch up on a few more relaxing opportunities afforded by Army life including sport, adventure training, and leave.

Following the last of our Homecoming Marches in Perth, the majority of the Battalion embarked on four weeks of leave, returning in early May. At this point we conducted the first of two major personnel reorganisations, in this case reintegrating the Rear Operations Group back into the fold and rebalancing to meet the summer commitments. It is worth highlighting the pivotal role played by the Rear Operations Group in supporting the Battalion during HERRICK 15; whilst for many it may have appeared that their existence consisted of checks and duties, the ROG allowed us to maintain the existing functions of a home base, including support to our families, whilst training and holding a personnel reserve to fill gaps in Theatre when required.

Marking the efforts of those who did deploy, the Battalion held a medals parade in early June. This proved an intimate yet fitting event, with the Commanding Officer, Battalion Second-in-Command and Adjutant presenting the medals in the presence of wives and families. The aftermath of HERRICK was an enduring theme throughout the summer months; a number of individuals attended a major Mission Exploitation Symposium at Sandhurst, held to glean the hard won lessons from the tour, whilst for a significant number of officers and SNCOs closure on our Afghan experi-

ence occurred as we mentored units from 4 Brigade on their final exercises before they deployed on HERRICK 17 in September.

A spate of adventure training took place during early summer, including a golf tour to Spain, a rugby tour to Belgium, a cycling expedition in Europe and a sailing expedition to the West Coast. These expeditions were the product of planning conducted in remote checkpoints across the vast expanse of Nad e Ali – no mean feat. We would like to thank the array of organisations that have assisted with the funding of these expeditions, including the Army Sports Lottery and the Highland Brigade Club and in particular, Gordonstoun School for their extremely generous offer to lend us their yacht the “Ocean Spirit of Moray.”

Closer to home, Exercise Summer Hackle consisted of a multi-activity adventure training package in Wales, open to all of the Companies. Captain Hughes, the RAO, selflessly volunteered to take the lead on the Headquarter Company week in order to spend some rare time in his native land!

In keeping with the spirit of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Battalion enjoyed a long weekend, during which two street parties were held in the married quarters in Burma Court and Marne Road. The success of the latter was greatly assisted by the Regimental Medical Officer, who administered prescriptions of beer from a keg acquired from the Black Isle Brewery and by Captain Mackenzie with his bouncy castle and Major Williams whose go-kart allowed the young at heart to suitably embarrass themselves.

The Battalion underwent a Combined Assurance Week in July, the Army's means of ensuring our compliance with equipment care, logistic and personnel policy. The week was preceded with a review of procedure in every department, a considerable undertaking given our history of moving from Op HERRICK 10 to Spearhead Lead Element to Op HERRICK 15. Of particular note, the Quartermasters' Department re-wrote their entire Equipment Care Directive in order to bring it up to date. To add an additional challenge the inspection also fell at the



The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Fenton, is pulled out of camp in September 2012.



The Colour Party at the Laying Up of Black Watch Colours.



Maj Bruce at the Laying Up of Black Watch Colours.



CSgt McBride and WO2 Stacey escort the Colours at the Laying Up of Black Watch Colours.



The Commanding Officer presents medals to Alpha (Grenadier) Company at the medals parade in June. Maj Hedderwick calms the men by striding along the frontage.

time of a handover between Major Tait and Captain Hogg in the post of Quartermaster Technical.

Against the backdrop of the Assurance Week, the summer commitments period began, with the Companies dispersing across the UK on a number of diverse tasks. Alpha Company were the first to deploy, heading to Ballater to assume the role of Royal Guard. A challenging and sensitive role, the Grenadiers have fully grasped the unique opportunities presented by this task, whilst conducting themselves with considerable charm and style. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' and Officers' Messes have both enjoyed the hospitality of the Guard, the former attending a "Regimental Lunch" in Victoria Barracks followed by golf, the latter attending a Cocktail Party at Balmoral.

In a very different setting, Delta Company formed the core of a 150-plus grouping deployed in support of Op OLYMPICS, which for the majority involved conducting security tasks at Earls Court Arena, home to the volleyball competition. Whilst not necessarily the most glamorous of tasks, the Jocks impressed the crowds with their professionalism and good humour, whilst for many this was a first opportunity to sample the delights of London.

Closer to home, Bravo Company provided the Tattoo Support Group for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Accommodated in Redford Barracks, the group were responsible for the sharply contrasting tasks of the ceremonial guard on one hand, and the more mundane bus escorts and Arena Party on the other. For some the highlight of the task was the visit of *Knight Rider* and *Baywatch* icon David Hasselhoff, who publicly declared himself 'honoured' to meet 'Tattoo Commander' Second Lieutenant Wright. The response of OC Bravo Company, Major Jim Reid, is not recorded...

The conclusion of the latter two summer commitments saw a return to Regimental routine and a revision of conventional skills. This has included a focus on marksmanship, an Infantry core skill which has ironically fallen by the wayside due to the relentless pressures of Mission Specific Training and Operations. Already, time spent in developing coaching skills is paying dividends on the ranges.

In September we conducted a further restructuring to bring the Support Weapons platoons up to strength with a view to reinvigorating these enduring skills which will be very much to the fore as our focus shifts away

from HERRICK towards future contingency. The fact that this process occurred during the week of the Maxwell Shield sports competition was used to the advantage of both the donor and receiving Companies with some of the best sportsmen competing a number of times. At the end of the competition, HQ Company clinched an unexpected victory, with age and experience (and on occasion weight...) prevailing over youth.

The Maxwell Shield competition formed part of a 'Battalion Week', which also included three Summer Balls, an all ranks BBQ and the handover of Commanding Officers. On a glorious late summer Thursday morning, Lieutenant Colonel Fenton was then pulled out of camp by the officers, past the applauding ranks of the Battalion.

In the post-tour period we have said goodbye to a number of familiar faces, not least in Battalion headquarters, where change has been particularly marked. We have said farewell to Major Clark as Battalion Second-in-Command, to be replaced by Major Richards who has taken over his role and combined it with OC Delta (Light) Company and PMC! The IO, Captain Lever, has decided to leave the army for a career in renewable energy, Captain Johnson has left the Adjutant's desk to pursue a career in the City (to be replaced by Captain Rob Colquhoun); whilst the Ops Officer mantle has been passed from Captain Al Sweet to Captain Al Phillips, allowing the former to contribute to our adventure training statistics by selflessly volunteering to go climbing in Kazakhstan!

As we head into the autumn, we will shortly begin our build up training to assume the mantle of the UK Contingency Battalion in March. A broad brush role, this commitment could see us tasked in a wide variety of roles in support of the Civil Authorities. Hopefully not too onerous a task, this should afford us the opportunity to continue to rediscover the skills required for the conventional battlefield and for our as yet unconfirmed role in the future Army.

OFFICERS' MESS

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

There have been a number of new arrivals to the Mess since May and we extend a warm welcome to Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Reilly, Majors Christie Broadbent, Jim Reid and Jamie Howe, as well as Captains Glen Hogg, Jamie James and Euan Gorrie. We must also congratulate Harry and Katie Gladstone on the birth of their son, Geordie and Captain Martin Stanning on his marriage to AJ – a wedding well attended by The Officers' Mess even though the couple decided to get married in Kent!

Having recently returned from Afghanistan everyone had plenty of leave to take. There was a subalterns' road trip to California which saw Captain Bobby Stewart, Lieutenants Tim Towler, Nick Allen-Perry and Jamie Tait deploying Scottish Officer Charm Offensive (SOCO) to great effect. Lieutenant Colonel Del Singer was the most adventurous choosing to navigate the Amazon during his post tour leave!

The Diamond Jubilee weekend street party was a great opportunity for Captain Harry Gladstone to show off his latest home brewed beer. The social life in Fort George took a dip with the Battalion



The Inverness 10k team, Capt Colquhoun, Lt Walker, Lt Allan Perry, Capt Phillips MC, Maj Richards.



Tour of the USS Midway – Lt Allan Perry, Lt Tait and Capt Towler with ideas above their station as they occupy the seats of Ops, XO and CO respectively!



Capt Stewart and Lt Allan Perry pose in front of the Aberfeldy Highlander with an Olympic torch following the Perthshire Highland half marathon.



Former members of Bravo Company reunited at the Summer Ball – Capt Gladstone, Capt Halliday, Maj Steele, Capt (Retd) Pearce and Capt Phillips MC who all served in Bravo Company during Op Herrick 10 in the RGB(S) Battle group (Absent in the Congo, Capt (Retd) A Colquhoun).

split throughout the country for various summer commitments. The "Grenadier Officers" have formed HM The Queen's Royal Guard at Ballater and have been exceptionally busy on the Balmoral Estate and within the local community. Lieutenant Tim Towler assures us that it is 'good time management' that allows him to go fishing most days. Captain Russell Doughty and Second Lieutenant Iain Walker have been befriending celebrities, whilst hosting guests at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Meanwhile Major Andy Richards, Captain Paul Seligman, Lieutenants Jamie Tait and Nick Allen-Perry were making the most of their time in London supporting the Olympics – the highlight for them being the Brazilian female volleyball team at Earls Court Arena.

The Officers' Mess came to together for the Royal Guard Cocktail Party on the 12 September and we were hosted impeccably by The Royal Guard, which made for a fantastic evening. Captain Alex Jackson must be commended on his bravado, whilst speaking to The Duke of Rothesay. Having been an Afghan National Army advisor in Afghanistan, he compared himself to James Brook of Sarawak a 19th Century adventurer who became the first European Rajah in Sarawak. Fort George still holds a significant allure and the Summer Ball is always a great opportunity to show friends that we really do live and work in a Fort. The Ball was on the 22nd September and after a superb supper, Schiehallion (a local band) led the entertainment and always know how to please us with several renditions of Twa Recruiting Sergeants!

I close with a few goodbyes. Lieutenant Colonel Ed Fenton has handed over command and together with the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess we were able to dine him out in style in September. We say farewell to Majors David Bruce, Fergus Luckyn-Malone, Roddy Williams, Gary Tait, Captains Harry Hood, Al Sweet, Martin Stanning and Lieutenants Tommy Blair, Bob Weir and Nick Allen-Perry. Those leaving the army include Major Harry Clark, Captain Will Johnson and Captain Ollie Lever – we wish them all the very best in the future.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

The Mess held their first meeting on 16 April. A few changes were made to the Committee; Colour Sergeant Fraser became PMC, Colour Sergeant Barrie the PEC, WO2 Cullen the Mess Treasurer, WO2 Dunn the Property Member and Sergeant Brady the House Member.

At this meeting there were twenty proposals for the good and benefit of the Mess, one of which was to hold a pub night. This took place on 1 June and was arranged by Colour Sergeant Robertson. It was a very entertaining evening which also gave us a chance to give a small farewell presentation to the RCMO (Captain McDougal).

It has been a very busy time for the Mess as we reorganise after the tour. There have been a number of comings and goings. We have welcomed the following members: RQMS Cunningham, RCWO Clutton, Sergeant Hughes, Sergeant Moody, WO2 Wotherspoon, Colour Sergeant Mitchell, Colour Sergeant Weir and Colour Sergeant Taylor. We have bid farewell to Colour Sergeant Mason who has served his twenty two years, Sergeant Melrose, RQMS McCormack on posting as RSM at Edinburgh Castle, RSM Duffus on completion of his time in the Army, as well as WO2 Fleming MBE, WO2 Fisher, WO2



CSgt Anderson and WO2 (CSM) Fraser present gifts to Mr Copeland, a Korea veteran from Ballater who served with The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment).



The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess attended a Regimental Lunch with the Royal Guard.

McConnell, Colour Sergeant MacQuade, Colour Sergeant Chesser, Colour Sergeant McReady, Sergeant Cooper, Sergeant Ferrier and Sergeant Donnelly.

In July, Alpha (Grenadier) Company Mess members deployed to Ballater to form Her Majesty The Queen's Royal Guard. They will remain there in support of the Royal Family for the duration of the family's summer holiday at Balmoral. Trading cam-cream for dancing shoes, CSM Fraser and Colour Sergeant Anderson are greatly looking forward to dancing the Dashing White Sergeant with Her Majesty. The RSM and all the Company Sergeant Majors held a regimental lunch at Victoria Barracks and fitted in a small golf competition. It was a fantastic day, the highlight being Colour Sergeant Barrie tabbing around the golf course with a bin bag full of Tenants lager!



The WOs' and Sgts' Mess Summer Ball.



The RSM and the Royal Guard WO & Sgts' Mess members with the Royal Guard.



LCpl Murphy with his girlfriend Ruth.

The Ballater Branch of The Royal British Legion approached the Guard CSM and asked if we could take some time to visit an old soldier of The Black Watch who had served in Korea. Colour Sergeant Anderson and CSM Fraser got in touch with Mr Alex Copeland's wife and arranged to meet up for a cup of tea, taking with them Red Hackle notes from the Korean War era as well as presenting him with a BW tie pin and a new TOS.

Congratulations must go to WO2 Wilson and his wife Mags on the birth of their son Alexander junior who as a result will be known as AJ (Alexander junior!). Sergeant Clarke and Heidie must also be congratulated on the birth of their son. Colour Sergeant McQuade and his wife Kelly have also been blessed with the birth of their son Daniel.

The Mess Members said their farewells to Lieutenant Colonel Fenton and raised their glasses during his dining out. The RSM said a few words on behalf of the Mess and presented him with a "Comrades" photo and a sgian dubh made personally for him. All in all, this has been a busy time for the battalion as we fulfil a number of diverse and challenging roles throughout the summer. Through it all, the Mess thrives.

CORPORALS MESS

Presiding Member:	WO1 Shaw
President of the Mess Committee:	Corporal Wedgwood
PEC:	Corporal Ellis
Bar Manager:	Corporal Cochrane

Since returning from Op HERRICK 15 the Corporals' Mess has been split to the four winds supporting various tasks including: Op OLYMPICS, The Royal Guard and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT). The Mess has also taken a new direction with a change to the committee of the PMC, PEC and Bar Manager.

There have been a lot of changes within the Corporals' Mess building in Fort George including a refurbishment. We have sourced a pool table for the bar which has proved a huge hit amongst the Mess members – some now think they are Ronnie O'Sullivan! In addition to this, the Mess now has three top of the range, flat screen televisions that have just been installed along with Sky TV. These TVs are in use most break times with the music channels being a big hit, along with various sporting events. Furthermore, the Mess purchased three Chesterfield sofas along with a new darts board which again seems to be a big hit. Plans for a poker table and wifi are also in the pipeline to provide the NCOs with "free" internet access as well as a host of future games nights. We are also planning to introduce tea and toast which is aimed at bringing the Mess into line with the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess. To promote more use, there have been new opening times introduced for the Mess which are now: 1000hrs, 1200hrs and 1900hrs. These seem to be good timings as they have resulted in the living-in members of the Mess using the facilities on an increasingly regular basis.

The Mess recently had its Summer Ball at the Newton Hotel, Nairn which Corporal Sims of the Sniper Platoon originally organised until his recent posting, subsequently handing over to Corporal Ellis of the Mortar Platoon. Corporal and Mrs Ellis were hosts for the evening to the Adjutant, Captain Colquhoun and his wife Shuna. The evening started with drinks from the bar from 1900hrs onwards, followed by a live band called "Carbon Copy." There was also a DJ on hand for the latter part of the evening. There was even a dance off with a few Mess members enjoying the dancing more than others!



The CIS Platoon Corporals enjoy the Summer Ball, Cpls Ross, Cochrane, Meade, Gilbert, LCpl Murphy and Cpl Miller.

The plans for the short term future are a games night against the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess at the end of October and a Christmas Ball at the beginning of December. Corporal Steele of the Mortar Platoon will be organising this along with the Burns Supper in the New Year.

The Corporals' Mess would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following on getting promoted recently: Lance Corporal Yeaman, Corporals Patterson, Durie, McFadden and Davis. In summary, the Mess has had a new start, taken on a new lease of life and is running well. Everyone seems to enjoy it being open once again. I look forward to seeing it develop in the coming months and years.

ALPHA (GRENADE) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major R S J Hedderwick
Second in Command:	Captain T J H Towler
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 (CSM) Fraser
Company Quarter Master Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant Anderson
OC 1 (Senior Highland) Platoon:	Lieutenant C Voce-Russell
Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Welshman
OC 2 Platoon:	Lieutenant C G McRobbie
Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Sharp MC

It has been a unique summer for Alpha (Grenadier) Company. After the challenges of Afghanistan, the homecoming parades in the traditional Battalion recruiting area in April and the subsequent medals parade in Fort George were proud days for everyone and a good way to close the Op HERRICK 15 chapter. Two months later, in late June, the Company were then given the incredible honour of carrying The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) Colours for the very last time as we led the parade in Perth to Lay Up the Black Watch Colours in the Black Watch Museum. Planned and orchestrated by Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell and Major Ronnie Proctor in Balhousie Castle, it was a hugely emotional occasion and the Grenadiers were extremely proud and thankful to be invited to participate. The period of post tour leave that imme-



Pte Angus, Cpl Wedgewood and Pte Martin compete in the Aboyne Games.



WO2 (CSM) Fraser, Suka the dog, and Sgt Sharp MC ready for a day on the hill.



Covering off before HM The Queen's Arrival Parade.



Cpl Hanway and Ptes Carson, Hanlons and Lewis strike a traditional pose.



The Queen meets Major Hedderwick and LCpl Cruachan III.



LCpl Hutton with a stag.



LCpl Rabuna and Pte Raoba practice the Gay Gordons – we are not sure exactly who is taking the female role?



The Royal Guard marches through Ballater. Major Hedderwick leads with WO2 (CSM) Fraser front right.

diately followed the Laying Up of the Black Watch Colours presented a welcome chance for everyone to catch their breath and recuperate a little before deploying down to Ballater to provide Her Majesty The Queen's Royal Guard between 25 July and 23 October 2012.

Providing Her Majesty's Royal Guard has been extraordinary and has surpassed everyone's expectations. It is a huge privilege, especially in her Diamond Jubilee Year and a particular honour to be able to serve our Sovereign on foreign and home soil in the same calendar year. It is fifteen years since the Red Hackle was last in these parts and we have been welcomed into the community. The Guard is comprised of two components. Firstly there is the Security Platoon who guard Victoria Barracks in Ballater (a charming 110 man barracks and certainly more comfortable than any patrol base in Afghanistan!); they work in close conjunction with the Metropolitan and Grampian Police on security matters and have also led on all ceremonial responsibilities and local community engagement. The other half of the Company comprises the Pony Platoon who work with the Balmoral Castle Game Staff. Broken into six beats, they work with the ghillies on their particular beat six days a week, leading the ponies up the hill each day to collect the stags as well as supporting all the grouse shooting on the estate. Of course there is also the headquarter element one would expect to see in a Company with an additional four chefs to keep everyone fed!

The tasks we have conducted have been extremely varied. We have deployed with the attitude of doing as much as we can while in such a privileged position and so the pace of life has been frantic. Royal Court started with Her Majesty's traditional arrival parade and a Garden Party, the latter not seen in Balmoral since the Golden Jubilee. It was vital that these two events went smoothly as they would define the Balmoral Estate, Police and local community's initial impression of the Guard and over a three month deployment initial opinions can prove hard to change. Thankfully both went very smoothly and many letters were written to The Guard to thank them for their friendly and professional help. Once again the Jocks were outstanding, not only in their professionalism but also in doing everything with grace and a smile – it may be Ballater not the Bari Gul Bazaar but the principles of "Influence Operations" remain the same! These opportunities also provided the soldiers with their first real exposure to the Royal Family. By the end of The Garden Party Corporal Hanway seemed almost to be on first name terms with His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh!

We have also been involved in the planning, running and competing in the Aboyne Games, the Ballater Games, the Lonach Games and Braemar Gathering. This has involved guarding the sites, lining the route for Her Majesty's arrival and departure and assisting the Police in the smooth running of the event. There have also been some notable athletic performances: Captain Towler, Corporal Wedgewood, Lance Corporal MacMillan and Lance Corporal Power have now run up most of the hills in Royal Deeside; Corporal Metuisela won the long jump at the Ballater Games, the relay team came third in the Inter-Services competition at the Braemar Gathering and the Tug-of-War team gained a commendable third place at the Aboyne Games.

Two nights that will stick in the memories for many of the soldiers for years to come were the Ghillies' Balls. These are held in the Balmoral Castle Ballroom and are attended by all the Royal Family in residence. Many hours were put in practising our dancing, helped by the Queen's Piper at the castle... and it paid off. Lance Corporal MacMillan, Private Carson, Private Adamson, Captain Towler and Major Hedderwick all found themselves dancing with Her Majesty The Queen and many others danced with other members of The Royal Family. No dance floor has ever seen such enthusiastic reeling as that displayed by Private te Vunibobo – the Officers Mess have a lot to learn from him and even Her Majesty the Queen remarked that it was some of the finest reeling she had ever seen!

Amongst all of this there have been many other highlights. Thanks to the generosity of many private funds we have conducted our own adventure training package involving high wire courses, white water rafting, mountain biking, paintballing and go-karting. CSM Fraser and Corporals Davies and Bell ran a very successful Games Night for The British Legion and we have assisted with many other engagements including the opening of the Diamond Jubilee Cairn in Ballater which was streamed live on BBC Scotland. Lance Corporal Brown, Privates Ferguson and Martin have been busy depleting the fish reserves of Scotland and Lance Corporal Wilkie and Sergeant Sharp are rapidly becoming Ryder Cup hopefuls! A golf day and lunch was held for the Warrant Officers in the Battalion by CSM Fraser and we have run the Loch Ness marathon for charity as well as supporting many other local events run by the Ballater community.

As ever there are a number of parish notices to make. Congratulations are due to Corporal Hanway and Lance Corporal MacMillan on their recent marriages. Lieutenant McRobbie and Sergeant Sharp are not far behind having recently become engaged (although 2 Platoon will be sorry if this marks the end of Mrs McRobbie's weekly delivery of cakes!) and Privates Tudor, Coulson, Bourke and Chamberlain are all proud new fathers. Sadly Corporal Metuisela is leaving us for AFC Harrogate but we have a welcome (and very lively!) new addition to the Company in Corporal Graham.

It has been a truly fantastic summer and we have all experienced something that we are likely never to do again. So far all has gone extremely well and I believe we are firmly on course to achieve our mission of supporting Her Majesty the Queen and members of The Royal Family during their summer break while at the same time enhancing the reputation of The Battalion and Regiment in the eyes of the Aberdeenshire community. If only we were invited back next year to be Her Majesty's Guard again...

BRAVO COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major J A Reid
Second in Command:	Captain R C W Doughty
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 (CSM) Fairweather
Company Quarter Master Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant Weir
5 Platoon Commander:	Lieutenant R M J Martin
5 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Young
6 Platoon Commander:	Gapped
6 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Walker
7 Platoon Commander:	Second Lieutenant I Walker
7 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Wells

The last six months have seen Bravo Company support one of the Battalion's big three commitments over the summer period. They supported the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, contributed to the Mission Specific Training of those deploying to Afghanistan this winter and also grabbed some time to enjoy leave and adventure training, all whilst seeing several changes at the top of the company hierarchy.

Having enjoyed the warm reception given to us in all the towns and cities we marched through in the homecoming parades, the Company disappeared off for some well earned Post Operational Tour Leave which saw the Company able to relax at home or abroad with family and friends. Some of the leave was offset so that key commanders could support the HERRICK 17 Combined Fires Exercise (CFX) in Norfolk which is designed to bring together the complexities of All-Arms contemporary operations in Afghanistan for soldiers about to deploy. We remembered our time going through this as the exercising troops last year and recognised how crucial the support, advice and benefit of our experience can be to our brothers in arms who were about to deploy. The exercising companies did well under the spotlight and appreciated the mentoring provided by the team.

Others in the Company also took part in a HERRICK 15 Parliamentary Parade hosted by the cross party Armed Forces Group. Ten Jocks marched to the Palace of Westminster from Wellington Barracks to represent the Battalion alongside similar contingents from the other Regiments of the Brigade. The Chief of the Defence Staff thanked the soldiers before they were given a personal tour of both Chambers by Members of Parliament.

Following leave and support to the CFX, the Company underwent a reorganisation to set it up for the tasks over the summer period. Key changes included the handover of command from Major Roddy Williams to Major Jim Reid; Lieutenant Towler's move to assume the post of Alpha (Grenadier) Company's Second-in-Command and Lieutenants Weir and Blair's move to the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, joining Sergeant Ferrier to train the next generation of soldiers. Sergeant McCready moved on to an instructional position at Infantry Battle School, Brecon and Sergeant Buist left behind the cold climes of the North to work with the 6th Battalion near Glasgow.

This left the Company with almost a completely new hierarchy fresh off the blocks for our work at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The Company was resident in Redford Cavalry Barracks for the duration of August but unlike in other years, the performers were mostly absent having been moved closer to the city centre to Pollock Halls at the University of Edinburgh. Although a disappointment to our younger single Jocks, it allowed us to focus on military training when time allowed. The Tattoo Support Group (TSG), as the Company were known for the duration of the commitment, assisted the Tattoo Company in a number of different ways. First, under the command of Second Lieutenant Walker and Sergeant Young was the Guard of Honour, made up of 30 soldiers, with 25 on parade on any one evening. For those familiar with the Tattoo this is the most publicly recognised contribution the Company make. Each



A Jubilee themed Tattoo with the Union Jack displayed on Edinburgh Castle.



Bravo Company on show in front of 8000 people.



Cpl Watt picks his spot whilst on parade.



Major Reid and Pte Pattie meet Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief of Naval Home Command, Vice Admiral Sir Charles Montgomery on the night he took the salute.



2Lt Walker the Guard Commander on parade in front of the Castle.



Bravo Company Maxwell Shield team.

evening toward the end of the performance the Jocks would march on dressed in No 1 Dress to *Highland Laddie* with bayonets fixed, sporrans swinging, kilts swaying, with streaks of white gloves and spats in unison, and to cheers from the excitable crowd of 8,000. Conversely the aim of the arena party was to do their work unnoticed and in the shadows of the stands. Sergeant Muncie and Sergeant Walker corralled the Jocks with excellent results. The moving of props and the saluting Dais on and off the esplanade had to be particularly slick this year as the show was slightly longer than normal and the performers ran very full pieces that had to be stitched together seamlessly, adding pressure to the Arena Party. They moved whisky barrels, iron girders and a representation of the Callanish Standing Stones (a nod to *Spinal Tap*, I'm told), but more importantly they guided and mentored six young former gang members from the Strathclyde Police Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) who were attached to the Company for the duration. They were impressed by the Jocks and if nothing else inherited a work ethic from them that will hopefully carry them forward to better things. Two of the young men wish to embark on a military career and we wish them every success.

The least glamorous but no less difficult task led by Sergeant Wells was the job of herding chaotic or self important performers onto their coaches on time before taking on the Edinburgh August traffic, with tram lines and "fringe" aficionados thrown in. In some ways, impotent

to the whims of the traffic lights, all Lieutenant Martin could report in the Tattoo Company ops room was "they're on their way!"

The Tattoo renewed old acquaintances and continued the 'golden thread' as Bravo Company worked along side Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Rupert Forrest, himself a former Officer Commanding whose name is in the Bravo Company Bible. Colonel Rupert was the Operations Coordinator for the Tattoo Company and responsible for the safety and security of the event.

There were a few bespoke jobs; Corporals Gray and Watt had a very prominent role opening the salute taker's vehicle doors and Private Pattie carried the Quaich for the lone piper and salute taker. The Company also provided the Tattoo Duty Officer who personally greeted the salute taker and later hosted them at the end of the performance. This was a thankless task involving far too much Champagne.

The Tattoo maintains its high profile with the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Right Honourable Michael Moore MP, the Right Honourable Sir Menzies Campbell MP and our local member of parliament to Fort George, the Right Honourable Danny Alexander MP in attendance. Each of the service chiefs, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff and the General Officer Commanding Scotland were among several others each taking the salute on various nights over the month. Bravo Company completed a fantastic job and came away with a lot of low level military training completed and experiences gained.

Having returned from Edinburgh the Company has gone on to reorganise again, with the Battalion gaining a clearer picture of the year ahead. The Company put in a strong team to this year's Maxwell Shield but were unfortunately forced to take joint second place by a good performance from the eventual winners, Headquarters Company. Well done to them all.

There have been some additions to the Company family following the wedding of Private Brown and Tina, the birth of baby Emily to proud father Sergeant Wells, and baby Logan to proud father Private Andreoli. Congratulations to them all.

CHARLIE (FIRE SUPPORT) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major CMB Broadbent
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 (CSM) Beaton
Company Quarter Master Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant McCulloch
Reconnaissance Platoon Commander:	Captain R Stewart
Reconnaissance Platoon Second in Command:	Colour Sergeant Taylor
Reconnaissance Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Leslie
Fire Support Group 1 Commander:	Captain A Halliday
Fire Support Group 1 Second in Command:	Sergeant Brady
Fire Support Group 2 Commander:	Captain A Jackson
Fire Support Group Second in Command:	Sergeant Roy
Fire Support Group CQMS:	Colour Sergeant Mitchell
Mortar Platoon Commander:	Captain M Dobson
Mortar Platoon Second in Command:	WO2 Smith
Mortar Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Bright
Sniper Platoon Commander:	Sergeant Muncie
Sniper Platoon Second in Command:	Corporal Arnold
Pipes and Drums Platoon Pipe Major:	Colour Sergeant Grisdale
Pipes and Drums Platoon Drum Major:	Sergeant McLaughlin

This period has been one of contrasts. It has seen the Savages recover in good order from Operation HERRICK 15 during which time the Company performed exceptionally well, being necessarily split in

order to conduct its specialist roles supporting the Rifle Companies. Whilst the end of the tour and the return to Fort George offered a very welcome change, this has not resulted in a reduction of tempo or commitments. Immediately upon return to barracks which offered the opportunity for Charlie (Fire Support) Company to reconstitute, it was soon blowing away the cobwebs on the drill manual, practicing hard to ensure it played its part in a strong Battalion performance when marching through Inverness, Kirkcaldy, Dundee and Perth to celebrate and honour our safe return in April.

What should have followed was a very well deserved period of Post Operational Tour Leave (POTL). However, with the current tempo of wider Army commitments, this was not to be as straight forward as originally planned, with the oft quoted words of Field Marshal Von Moltke, "no plan survives contact with the enemy" being applicable. (The observation actually originated with Helmuth Von Moltke in the mid-nineteenth century. Von Moltke's version was not so felicitous, however: "No operation extends with any certainty beyond the first encounter with the main body of the enemy." In a process that's routine in the world of quotation, the Prussian Field Marshal's actual words were condensed into a pithier comment over time).

The Company was therefore split once again to reinforce the Rifle Companies in the three key tasks given to the Battalion for the Summer period: Firstly, the Reconnaissance Platoon were utilised to support the commitment to Op OLYMPICS and down in London the Jocks, predominately based at Earls Court Arena for the Volleyball, quickly built up a rapport with the spectators, positively reinforcing both our renowned reputation and that of the wider Army in society. They certainly managed to strike a healthy balance of primarily ensuring the venue was safe but also of posing for pictures with the public and watching some free volleyball to boot! Secondly, members of the Company were also required to support the commitment to The Royal Guard at Ballater. They are currently being used within the Pony Platoon and have been enjoying some excellent opportunities to exert themselves on the hills and of course maximise their chances of being invited to the Ghillies' Ball at Balmoral Castle.



The Savages Tug of War line up.



LCpls Gonzales and Muir with the Pipe Major at Balmoral prior to the Ghillies Ball.



Some of the Pipes and Drums Platoon photographed during the Maxwell Shield Competition.



The Commanding Officer presents the senior Marindin Shield to Cpl Todd.



L/Cpl Jose on parade in Perth on 23 June 2012.



Cpl Campbell salutes the VIPs during the parade in Perth on 23 June 2012.

Thirdly, the Company was also required to support the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT). Whilst Bravo Company was tasked with this, the Pipes and Drums Platoon were integral to the Tattoo. People often forget that the Pipes and Drums Platoon are an integral part of the Fire Support Group (FSG) and that their professional tasks of piping and drumming (for which they are world famous) must also be balanced with ensuring they are competent FSG personnel; this is often difficult to do, given their musical commitments. Finally, with 19 (Light) Brigade sponsoring the Mission Specific Training (MST) for units deploying on Operation HERRICK 17, a number of officers and soldiers from the Company were utilised as mentors in final training and mission rehearsal exercises on Salisbury Plain. Whilst these events inevitably saw the Company split once again and was something of a planning headache to ensure hard won POTL was also preserved in amongst these commitments, it has provided Charlie (Fire Support) Company excellent exposure and participation in all Battalion events and offered the opportunity to provide hard won advice and direction to other units currently preparing to deploy on operations.

To add a further command conundrum to this already interesting situation, there was a considerable turnover in Company Command personalities during the summer period. Within Company Headquarters, Major Fergus Luckyn-Malone handed over command on posting to Major Christie Broadbent with WO2 (CSM) McSeveney doing the same with WO2 (CSM) Beaton. Within the Reconnaissance Platoon, Captain Rob Colquhoun, Colour Sergeant Smith and Sergeant Leslie have handed over command to Captain Bobby Stewart, Colour Sergeant Taylor and Sergeant Pow. Within the FSG, Captain Martin Stanning, WO2 McConnell and Colour Sergeant Barry have handed command to both Captains Andrew Halliday and Alex Jackson and Colour Sergeant Mitchell. Within the Mortar Platoon, Captain Phillips MC has handed command to Captain Mark Dobson. Whilst there has been significant change occurring to the Command structure of the Company which may cause concern about continuity of service, it marks the transition from one specific period in the Company's history to another, providing excellent opportunities for consolidation, reconstitution and regeneration.

And regeneration is certainly at the forefront of planning within Company Headquarters at this current time. The recent Battalion reorganisation has seen significant gains for Charlie (Fire Support) Company. We have grown significantly in size, now sitting at 180 personnel. This is split between the Company Headquarters, Reconnaissance Platoon, FSG, Mortar Platoon, Sniper Platoon and the Pipes and Drums Platoon. Why have we grown considerably? Essentially, the focus has been on fully manning the FSG and reconstituting the Sniper Platoon with the clear understanding that this is to bring balance back to the Battalion by supporting the Rifle Companies fully, particularly as we begin to focus on the United Kingdom Contingent Battalion (UCB) role from April 2013. Critically therefore, the focus for Charlie (Fire Support) Company has now orientated towards the various Support Platoon cadres that will be running throughout the Autumn and the New Year. All the platoons have their specialisations. Whilst there are many experienced individuals remaining within these platoons, new members and those newly promoted into posts will take time to develop their skills and capabilities.

It has by no means simply been work – there have been numerous opportunities to undertake plenty of sport and adventurous training activities over the summer period. Captain Bobby Stewart led Ex ROUGE HACKLE, an 11 day cycling trip to Northern France and there were a number of Jocks from the Company on the rugby tour to Belgium, which has been a highlight for many. Indeed, the Company has had a strong representation at Army sports level with Lance Corporals Gascaulayawa and Jamieson being selected for the Army Rugby Team. There have been other opportunities for multi activity weeks in Capel Curig and Ballykinler which serve to engender team work and Company spirit and again are part of overall regeneration. The Company has fared well in the recent Battalion Maxwell Shield competition seeing us win both the football and cross country events. HMS Montrose invited 10 member of the Company down to Portsmouth to participate in their pre-deployment training. Everyone got involved in life on board ship from daily routine to dealing with various incidents. Whilst I am not sure whether HMS Montrose will be as keen to join us on our Support Weapon Cadres or Public Order training in the New Year, I have been informed that they are seeking permission to wear trews as part of their uniform! Finally, the Company has received four new members to the Pipes and Drums Platoon; Privates Murdoch,

Craig, Archibald and Scappaticcio, who all performed to a very high standard throughout their course at the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming in Edinburgh.

So what of the immediate future? Clearly the focus will be on the Cadres and ensuring that Charlie (Fire Support) Company is highly trained not only in the skill sets of their platoons but also individually through attending to personal fitness, mandatory tests, basic military skills and other qualifications to enable the necessary support to the Rifle Companies, ensuring we are flexible enough in both mind and spirit for the UCB role and training bill. In this resource constrained environment, we must always look for and exploit innovative ways to train; the Reconnaissance Platoon is training hard for the Cambrian Patrol for example, which they assure everyone they are looking forward to. Adventurous Training remains key to the ongoing regeneration of the Company and for those who have not had an opportunity to get away yet, they will hopefully be involved in the 100 mile walk along Hadrian's Wall later this year. The Pipes and Drums Platoon will be extremely busy, not only tending to FSG training but also to a multitude of musical commitments which range from the production of a new CD to preparations for a very exciting and "arduous" tour of the United States from January to April 2013. Ultimately, the new training requirement of the UCB has provided us with a new focus and is keeping the Company busy. The period of consolidation and regeneration affords us more time to tend to the detail of command which may have been overlooked due to the tempo of recent operational deployments. Ultimately, we should perhaps take inspiration from Lord Wellington when he wrote to the Secretary of State for War during the Peninsular Campaign;

"My Lord, if I attempted to answer the mass of futile correspondence which surrounds me, I should be debarred from the serious business of campaigning. So long as I retain an independent position, I shall see no officer under my command is debarred by attending to the futile drivelling of mere quill-driving from attending to his first duty, which is and always has been to train the private men under his command that they may without question beat any force opposed to them in the field."

PIPES & DRUMS

Whilst this edition of the Red Hackle does not strictly cover the period of our last tour, I did not have a chance to record our experiences due to our disparate nature – we were split to the four winds. The bulk of the platoon including the Pipe Major was held within Ops Coy and others were used as back-fill around the battle group. The tour presented an opportunity for the Pipes & Drums to be seen for what they are – a flexible and highly motivated team.

A few stories to note – Pte Rankine was patrolling with Bravo Company as an ECM man. On one of his patrols he was jumping a drainage ditch. However what happened from him leaving the ground to him floating down the very clean water is still a mystery and inspires thoughts which wouldn't look out of place in a Tom and Jerry cartoon. On a very different patrol with the Engineers Pte Finlayson found an open well for him to practice his military swimming tests! Not the most convenient place for the farmer to put his well especially when he is carrying ECM.

A very golden round from an Insurgent Sniper hit LCpl Jose in the magazine pouch on his body armour in an area to the north of Foad. The Pipe Major extracted the section in off the ground only to find the Pte Jose was the first at the gate as he had been training for the London marathon! Once in a safe location LCpl Jose was sent back to Bastion for a closer inspection on his gunshot wound. But in only days he returned back to the FOB fighting fit and rearing to go. To mark this occasion he had a tattoo of cross hairs over the gunshot, paid for by the Pipe Major!

Upon our return from Theatre we had a very tight turnaround for the homecoming parades and the return of the new Drum Major Michael David McLaughlin QGM back from ITC as an instructor before going and completing Senior Brecon and passing with ease. For the first two days of the parades we had the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland with us. A big thank you must also go out to the two pipers from The Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming for helping us out on the third day – Cpl (Now Pipe Major 2 SCOTS) McNaughton and Piper MacKay (a previous member of the PI). It is a great comfort that the piping community of the Royal Regiment of Scotland pulls together to support each other on occasions like this. Just as we were about to step off for the march through Dundee it appeared not to be the Pipe Majors day...Just seconds before the Quick March was given, a seagull deposited a small load on his shoulder. If you look closely at the photograph you will see the seagulls present to him!

After leave, back at Fort George, we ran our own internal cadre in order to re-energise the band. Jobs included Beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle and playing at Balhousie Castle for Her Majesty the Queen's visit to Perth.

August saw the Pipes and Drums deploy on two fronts. Firstly on the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. A fantastic time had by all members of the band making good friends from overseas and turning heads as we went along in our stride. The beginning of the Tattoo also saw the start of the Royal Guard at Balmoral. We provided LCpl Gonsales as the guard Piper for the whole period but reinforced for specific events. The Pipes & Drums left Edinburgh early on the Monday morning travelling up to Ballater for the arrival of Her Majesty the Queen before returning back to Edinburgh for that evening's Tattoo performance. The Tattoo was not without its stories. Ptes Rankine and Finlayson found themselves drinking out of a tea pot in one nightclub. Although the Jocks were always happy to see the Pipe Major and Drum Major in the wee small hours of the morning bringing in the fresh sausage rolls from the bakery that the Drum Major now has a majority share in, we can all learn a lesson from Privates Murray and Rankin. on how to get a Police lady to change Pte Murray's car wheel. Pte McDonald also found it warmer to sleep in his bed with a whisky sign wrapped around him instead of the duvet!

Following the Tattoo and a week of leave, the platoon was straight back in to the swing of it all with preparation for a beating retreat cocktail party for the Officers and guests of the Mess at Balmoral. The Pipe Major and LCpl Muir returned the following week for the Ghillies' Ball. The future will see us deploy to America for a North America Tour in January. In March we are also welcoming a new batch of pipers and drummers to lift our numbers. All is well with the Pipes and Drums.

DELTA (LIGHT) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major A P Richards
Company Second-in-Command:	Captain P Seligman
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 (CSM) Wilson
Company Quarter Master Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant Barrie
13 Platoon Commander:	Lieutenant J Tait
15 Platoon Commander:	Lieutenant N Allen-Perry

Having been spread to the winds during the latter half of our time in Afghanistan, it was with a sense of the world being put to rights that saw D (Light) Company reform on our return to Inverness. Since then, our time has been dominated by Homecoming Parades, Post Tour Leave, adventure training, and the London Olympics, all of which have ensured no one has been idle, whilst generating a host of new and often memorable experiences.

For many of us, the old recruiting adverts of soldiers enjoying adventure training have for too long rung false in an operationally-focussed Army; it was therefore particularly gratifying to see our cynicism challenged as 30 men from the Company embarked on a week of adventure training in Snowdonia during July. This welcome change of scenery was further enhanced by unusually balmy recruiting advert weather, setting the conditions for an excellent week.

With many new Jocks in our ranks, this was an ideal opportunity to firmly embed them into the Company in a fun and informal environment, which offered a wide range of sports each day, including kayaking, mountain biking, canoeing, climbing and of course every infantryman's favourite adventure training activity – hill walking. Ironically, despite early misgivings, summiting mount Snowdon proved to be one of the best received activities during the week, not least because of the mesmerising views afforded from the summit. Typically, once the Jocks had mastered a new skill or discipline then their strong competitive streak became evident, as demonstrated when Private Gurung narrowly defeated Sergeant Hunter in the rock climbing time trial competition, the latter choosing personal safety over glory. Overall, the week provided an excellent bonding opportunity, whilst reminding us all that some of the great benefits of the military life do still exist in these austere times.

Whilst in Afghanistan, word began circulating that the Company was to be tasked with looking after the Olympic cycling road race in Boxhill, or rather, as appeared to be the more specific requirement, of preventing excited race-goers from treading on the National Trust's flowers. Not the most ideal of tasks! It was therefore with great relief that we discovered during the Homecoming Parades that the job had been handed across to the RAF and we would instead be assisting 2nd Battalion The Rifles in the provision of the Venue Security Force (VSF) for the Olympic Volleyball (sadly not beach volleyball...) at Earls Court Arena.



CSgt Barrie finds his way in to the commentary box – we still don't know what he broadcast to the world.



LCpl Arnold and LCpl Johnstone man the front gate at Earls Court with a policeman.



LCpl McCarthy enjoys a day off from security duties in support of the Olympic Games.



The D Coy Tug of War team pulls under the guidance of LCpl Munro.



The D Coy Tug of War team lined up outside BHQ.

A long and painful accreditation process followed, as we sought to ensure the pictures of all 140-plus soldiers involved were taken against the right background, were the right size, and the corresponding paperwork included details of their favourite pet's grandfather's name, or so it appeared. Inevitably however, as the Games approached and the numbers ramped up, the paperwork went in the bin, as it finally occurred to the Home Office that perhaps possession of an Army ID card might offer some degree of assurance against terrorist tendencies!!

Finally, in mid-July (and mid-leave), direction arrived for our move forward to attend training at Basingbourn on the skills required for the Venue Security Force (VSF) role. This involved learning how to load trays on an airport-style security scanner, how to search vehicles and how to stand guard on a gate. Unsurprisingly, this was far from demanding, allowing our men the chance to sample the delights of the nearby hotbed of intellectualism in Cambridge; how successful they were was not recorded, suffice to say that one of the Jocks, deploying his best lines on a ball gown-clad lovely, was left in no doubt of the severity of this 'University Challenge' when she interrupted him to state: "Sorry, but I think you're in the wrong town."

Training complete, we moved to our temporary home in Feltham, normally the location associated with the production of military mapping but for a few months also the site of a Bastion-style tented camp holding over 1000 soldiers.

The task itself was a 50 minute commute away and saw our 140 men operating as part of a team which grew to over 700 Regular and TA soldiers. Our primary tasks were the provision of a perimeter security force in conjunction with G4S, the control of vehicle access to the site and the operation of 30 X-Ray lanes on the main spectator entry point. The typical shift pattern saw our Jocks up at 0430, on site by 0630, then working for 12 hours before returning to Feltham, to be replaced by the night shift. Thankfully, at least in the first week, robust manning allowed time off for all and the opportunity to explore London at a time when the city really was looking at its best.

Whilst some of the tasks on site were not the most stimulating, others had their own attractions, including the opportunities to engage with inebriated and amorous passers by for those on the gates, or just the random banter with the excited crowds who were flowing through the screening areas. As might be expected, the natural charm of the Jocks really came to the fore in these interactions, creating a very positive response from the visitors, who were universal in their praise for the military and who felt hugely reassured that their security was in safe hands.

Although working long hours on a tiring task, for all of us deployed there was a real sense of being part of a great shared experience, of what really was a once in a lifetime event which seemed to animate even the most cold-hearted of souls. If for many the only physical souvenir of the event was an Olympic Pass and a Games Maker badge, the memories of our time in the Olympic City will doubtless carry far more weight in years to come.

Since our return, we have undergone the inevitable churn of another re-orbat as we prepare for the return to contingency operations; in doing so, we have said goodbye to many of our experienced NCOs and soldiers who formed the core of the Company during the hard miles of the pre-deployment training and who grafted hard in demanding conditions on the tour itself. To all those leaving D (Light) Company, those of us who remain offer our thanks for your being a part of the team and wish you all the best for the future.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major J Howe
Company Sergeant Major:	WO2 (CSM) Dunn
Company Quarter Master Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant McBride
Motor Transport Officer:	Captain S MacKenzie
Motor Transport Sergeant:	Sergeant Hamilton
Regimental Careers Management Officer:	Captain J Pearson
Regimental Signals Officer:	Captain HW Gladstone
Regimental Signals Warrant Officer:	Colour Sergeant Tollan
Regimental Catering Warrant Officer:	WO2 Clutton
Regimental Administration Officer:	Captain A Hughes
SPS Detachment Commander:	Lieutenant M Cuff

Headquarter Company has seen a great deal of change in the period following the operational tour. We bade farewell to Major Dave Bruce as he left us to take up a post at the Personnel Recovery Centre in Catterick. He has had a long and distinguished career in the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) and latterly The Black Watch, 3rd



The victorious HQ Coy Tug of War team pulls with vocal guidance from Sgt Dowdles, recently returned from RMAS.



The Commanding Office presents the Maxwell Shield to Major Howe following a HQ Coy win in the Maxwell Shield.

Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and has done much to maintain and establish Battalion traditions in what has been a fragmented period for the Battalion. He will also be fondly remembered for his contribution to the Golf Society over his tenure as QM and OC HQ Company.

Captain Harry Hood has also left us to take up a post at the Army Foundation College Harrogate where he will be employed as Company Second-in-Command of Peninsula Company. To quote the outgoing Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Fenton, "Harry – fine you can go to Catterick, just don't train up a football team which ends up beating us!" We also bade farewell to Major Garry Tait MBE who leaves us for Fallingbowl where he takes up the reins as QM for The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. The Battalion squeezed out their last inch of work from him before he left by getting in a full Combined Inspection Week which only finished the day he left!

A number of personnel have taken up new posts across the Company. Firstly the new OC, Major Jamie Howe has arrived from the Edinburgh Personnel Recovery Centre. After completing over 2 years as the Regimental Sergeant Major of The 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, he was commissioned and has completed a number of appointments with 5th Battalion including Recruiting Officer, Unit Welfare Officer and the Quartermaster (Technical). His previous appointment before arriving in Fort George saw him serve as a Personnel Recovery Officer with the Personnel Recovery Unit in Craigiehall, Edinburgh. His interests include golf and football and he has now assumed the role of the Unit Golf Officer. Captain Scott MacKenzie has taken over the reins in the MT – many commented that they did not recognise Scott in uniform having been 'the man in the suit and Regimental tie!' We have also welcomed Captain Pete Marshall who has joined us from the Highlanders to take up the post of Welfare Officer. Colour Sergeant McBride has moved from the Intelligence Cell to take over the Company Stores from Corporal Sloan.

Headquarter Company is not traditionally known for its sporting prowess, however recently we have provided an exception to the rule! The Company must be congratulated on winning the Maxwell Shield.

This was not due to any particular performance but rather due to a good solid performance over all. It is worth mentioning that we won the Tug-of-War under the experienced guidance of Sergeant Dowdles, performed well in the Basketball under the direction of Sergeant Crawford, nearly won the swimming under the guidance of Lieutenant Cuff and won the rugby under the leadership of Captain Phillips. Humble even in our recent glory, we are not too proud to recognise that we still have a sporting weakness. Football is the one area in which we can definitely improve. Corporal Gilbert has definitely got his work cut out in this department!

We have received a number of soldiers from the Rifle Companies to bolster numbers in the CIS and MT Platoons. The next few weeks will see us conducting basic specialist training with these new soldiers so that they gel with their new teams and start to pick up the required specialist skills. The next major event on the horizon will be the battalion deployment to Warcop on Field Firing which will also incorporate The Duke of Rothesay Patrol Competition which will test and develop the leadership, navigation, and military skills of the junior commanders and soldiers across the unit. The field firing package will involve many elements of Headquarter Company who will support the training in their usual Headquarter Company way.

QUARTERMASTER'S PLATOON

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

After some much needed post tour leave, there was absolutely no chance to rest on our laurels; it was straight into preparation for the Combined Assurance Week – a huge undertaking considering the turmoil that the Battalion had been subjected to over the last 18 months. The Quartermaster Technical Major Gary Tait and then ably continued by Captain Glenn Hogg, went about re-writing the Equipment Care Directive and started all the routine checks and counter checks that are a requirement by the Chain-of-Command. WO2's Alan Cunningham and Paddy Marshall got their teeth into the different accounts and Corporal 'H' Harris soon understood what working late and sorting out discrepancies meant. WO2 Gibson our main health and safety advisor continues to bombard the QM with all forms of documentation from asbestos management to legionnaire's prevention, no mean feat in an 18th Century Fort.

Corporal Sloan, Lance Corporals Morgan and O'Gorman joined us and we said farewell to Major Gary Tait who moved to

The Highlanders as their QM. After 22 years and the majority of it in the QM's Platoon, we said cheerio to Corporal 'Turtle' Wallace. He is not going far, only to Forres, so no doubt we will see him again. Lance Corporal Finlay has moved to the Expense Account and is now working to Sergeant George "grumpy" Benson in the G1098 Store.

At the time of writing these notes, the department is converting to MJDI (a new accountancy tool that replaces UNICOM) with JAMES implementation (another *useful system*) only 7 days away. The future criteria to work in the Quartermaster's will have to include IT literacy with the ability to interrogate a multi faceted joint inventory, monitoring it's serviceability and availability.

With all this going on we have successfully completed a Board of Officers for the incoming Commanding Officer and are preparing stock levels for the battalion's 'Ben Hur' of an exercise, Ex Warcop Hackle.

COMMUNICATION INFORMATION SYSTEMS PLATOON

Regimental Signals Officer: Captain HW Gladstone
 Regimental Signals Warrant Officer: WO2 Fisher/
 Colour Sergeant Tollan
 Colour Sergeant Shearer
 Colour Sergeant Braid
 Sergeant Winton

The CIS Platoon has supported a summer of Op Olympics, Royal Guard and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Airwave training has been provided by Private Seath to the whole platoon, who have in turn cascaded the training to Rifle Company personnel. Airwave radios have given us the ability to work alongside civil authorities during our summer commitments. I will cover each event in turn.

Lance Corporal Patterson has deployed as the Detachment Commander for Alpha (Grenadier) Company on the Royal Guard. He has taken part in security duties, stalking and routine signals training to Alpha Company. He visited the Deeside activities centre and took part in quad biking, go karting and paintballing. He also went white water rafting on the river Findhorn. He also danced a particularly fine Canadian Barn Dance with a member of the Royal Family!

Corporal Rae has deployed as the Detachment Commander for Bravo Company, supporting the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Edinburgh. He worked in a Joint Tattoo Operations Room in conjunction with the Police and was responsible for delivering the performance to a crowd of 8,500 people per night. He has been responsible for



The CIS Platoon. Seated are CSgt Braid, Capt Gladstone and CSgt Tollan.

coordinating the move of Service personnel involved in the show from a total of seven locations across Edinburgh.

Sergeant Collins, and Private Seath have deployed on Op Olympics in support of 2nd Battalion The Rifles, who are normally based in Ballykinler. Private Seath was employed as a coach driver for both the Olympic and Para Olympic Games, working alongside other drivers in the Royal Logistic Corps. He transported venue security forces between their camp in Hainault and the Olympic Park. Sergeant Collins was also given the additional managerial responsibility for all the serving females deployed in Earls Court. Females were employed in identical manner to males but every search area had to have the ability to search females and children.

Conventional instruction has begun in earnest, with assistance provided by Corporal Miller to the JNCO cadre selection. A particularly good lesson was conducted by Corporal Ross on the topic of HF antennas and improvised antennas. The lesson was conducted during the visit of Brigadier Patrick Sanders.

We have seen significant changes in the Platoon since our return from Afghanistan. We bade farewell to WO2 Fisher who departs as an instructor with Edinburgh Officer Training Corps. I would like to thank him for all his hard work and support in the platoon. Privates Smith and Cassidy also leave the platoon for careers in Marine Security and Telecommunications respectively. We have welcomed back Sergeant Dowdles, who has now completed a two year posting at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as a Signals' Instructor. Sergeant Winton is now the Platoon Sergeant and Colour Sergeant Braid is the Bowman Systems Manager, Colour Sergeant Shearer is the CQMS and Colour Sergeant Tollan the RSWO.

On a personal note, congratulations must go to Lance Corporal Wilson on his marriage to Aimee in April, only three days after his return from operations! The wedding had been planned over a year in advance and nearly became a victim of a RAF flight delay, however he returned with three days to spare. Congratulations must also go to Corporal Miller and his wife Heather on the birth of their son Finlay. Private MacDonald has recently got engaged to be married in October and Corporal Patterson and his girlfriend Sarah are expecting twins in the next five weeks and finally Captain Gladstone and Katie have recently had a son called Geordie.

We have received nine keen volunteers from across the Battalion to bring us up to full numbers. Our first major test will be a deployment to Warcop in support of a battalion section competition. This will require a working Main Headquarters, three rebroadcast stations and five manned checkpoints. The arrival of new members of the Platoon will bring new challenges for our instructors who will be faced with getting everyone up to speed prior to assuming the role of UK Contingency Battalion in April.

MOTOR TRANSPORT PLATOON

Motor Transport Officer: Captain H Hood/Capt S MacKenzie

The return from Operation HERRICK 15 saw the sad departure of our attached personnel from 1 YORKS, 1PWRR and 170 RLC. Their hard work and effort in ensuring that the Nad e Ali Mastiff Group was a success will not be forgotten. However time stands still for no man and after some well deserved leave it was back into the breach for the Platoon. First on the agenda was support to Delta (Light) Company and the Olympic Games. Corporals Cruickshanks and Wishart deployed to cover the task of coach drivers working in the suburbs of London.

Alpha (Grenadier) Company was next on the list as they required vehicles and driver conversions to ensure that they could deploy fully prepared for the Royal Guard in Ballater. As well as supporting these tasks, a lot of hard work went into the preparations for the Combined Assurance Week. For older readers this was known as the Equipment Care Inspection and Logistics Support Inspection. All the inspections went well and Lance Corporal Thompson was singled out for particular praise for his outstanding work with the Fuel and Lubricants account.

Following the Assurance week Captain Hood handed over the reins of Motor Transport Officer to Captain McKenzie – the unexpected adventures involving transport now rests fully on his shoulders. Lance Corporal Richardson continues to work wonders as Details NCO and his expertise and excellent working relationship with external agencies has ensured that no soldier has ever been stuck for transport – no matter how little notice has been given.

Privates Brown, Eaves and Williams decided to opt for voluntary redundancy and are currently preparing for their next step into the civilian world. The experience that these soldiers have will be sorely missed within the platoon; however their replacements in Privates Finlayson, Roy, and Tullis are quickly finding their feet.

The next challenge for the Battalion will be acting as the United Kingdom Contingency Battalion. This will involve further training in the use of specialist vehicles. We must train a spare driver for every two vehicles driven in order to provide redundancy. This leaves us with a huge training bill. Theory training has begun in earnest with driver training given the highest priority. Snatch vehicles have already arrived in Fort George and conversions and training will commence shortly. This means a busy period for Corporals Douglas and Gilmour in the Driver Training Cell.

The past six months has literally passed in a blur and the commitment and dedication of the Motor Transport Platoon to support the Battalion should not be underestimated. In saying that, the MT is there to provide a service – hopefully we have not been found wanting.



The MT Platoon. Capt MacKenzie at centre.



“I’m stuck at the bridge, I might be late”

If you cannot live without reporting your every thought on Facebook and Twitter, then The HALO Trust is not for you.

But if you are up for a challenge, want a job with real purpose, then you might find HALO’s charitable work very interesting.

HALO’s 8,000 staff clear landmines and unexploded ordnance, and cut up redundant Kalashnikovs, in places in and out of the news.

Our international staff are usually in their late 20s or 30s and lead between 250 and 1,000 local employees.

All our recruits undertake a tailored training package of up to six months’ duration in one or more of the mine-affected countries.

Successful applicants are generally fit, well educated, articulate and resourceful – and keen to move on to something worthwhile that offers new challenges every day – but still provides a reasonable remuneration package.



“I’ve found a way round”

**If this sounds like what you should be doing,
send a short covering letter and a one page (no waffle) CV to:**
The HALO Trust, Carronfoot, Thornhill, Dumfries DG3 5BF
recruitment@halotrust.org www.halotrust.org

Registered Charity No. 1001813 & SCO37870



UNIT WELFARE OFFICE

Unit Welfare Officer: Captain Marshall
Assistant Unit Welfare Officer: Colour Sergeant Mair
WIS Manager: Sergeant Trickovic
Community Centre Manager: Corporal Ferguson

Since the end of the tour we have said goodbye to Captain Scott MacKenzie and he has settled into his new job as the MTO and we have welcomed Captain Pete Marshall in as the new Unit Welfare Officer. Sergeant Reilly has left the army after completing his 22 years' service and we wish him, Nikki and the family all the best for the future. We have also lost Corporal Steele back to the Mortars and Lance Corporal Brady has been promoted and posted to Sandhurst as an Armourer. We give a big welcome to Corporal Dougie Ferguson who has moved from the PRI to be the Community Centre Manager.

Since April the pace of life has slackened somewhat and the number of events have dropped, although we still aim to deliver one event a month. These have involved a "Scentsy" candle evening, clairvoyant nights, 'Gladrags' community lunch and clothes sale and a families BBQ attended by over 120 family members.

In July, Army Welfare Service (AWS) Inverness ran a very successful Summer Residential where they joined forces with AWS Edinburgh and took 50 young people away for 4 days to Dalguise in Perthshire. The days were spent tackling obstacle courses, abseiling, shooting and braving the giant swing. The weather was great and the midges bearable. Special thanks must go to the hardy volunteers who learned to go without sleep and to the Royal British Legion Adventure Break who helped fund it all.



Welfare Office Knitting Club – The club is run by the Army welfare Service in the 'Hub' and is drawing a crowd from the Patch.

CATERING PLATOON

Regimental Catering Warrant Officer (SQMS): WO2 E Clutton
I/C Messes: Sergeant M McKeown
Kitchen Manager: Sergeant D Primrose
Kitchen Manager/Cat Pl Sgt: Sergeant S Taroga
I/C Accounts/Rations: Sergeant P Donnelly

After some much needed post tour leave for the first time in several months, the Catering Platoon was well rested and regenerated. We thought we were returning to normality but have still been very busy! The period of having all chefs under one roof was short lived and department commitments have come in quick and fast.

At the beginning of May a small and talented team of chefs headed by Sergeant Primrose were selected to compete in the Scottish Defence Salon Culinare – a competition which over the years has gained a reputation as being one of the most prestigious catering events in Scotland! We have a proud history at the event having submitted a team in 2010. To say that the Chef's involved had done the Battalion proud is a huge understatement. The team consisting of Sergeants Primrose, Donnelly, McKeown, Corporals Fraser, Bisset and Armstrong entered a gruelling combination of live cook shows and cold display classes. In total they were awarded: 4 silver medals, 4 bronze medals and 9 certificates of merit – an achievement which against some seriously talented civilian chefs was outstanding credit to all.



*The Catering Platoon in front of the Colours.
The RCWO (WO2 Clutton) at centre back.*

Corporal Fraser and Lance Corporal Harper were the first to head off south providing catering support to 51 Brigade Headquarters as they took part in adventure training. As always we received good reviews and as a way of thanks both chefs got the chance to squeeze in some adventure training of their own. June saw the departure of Corporal Wood on his resettlement and reintroduction to civilian life while at the same time we welcomed in to the platoon Corporal Carlile. During this period we also released Private Rupacha to 3 RIFLES to cover a catering gap in the Operation Herrick 16 relief in place.

From a personal point of view, the reporting period has been beset with change as well. Sergeant Taroga returned to the fold in July following maternity leave, not only had she promoted one up but she and her husband Corporal Taroga are now the proud parents of son Josh. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to them both. Births seemed to be the theme of the month within the Catering Platoon as Private Akerman and his wife Roxanne were also blessed with the birth of their daughter Keira. July also saw the departure of Sergeant Paul Donnelly on completion of 22 year's Colour Service.

Towards the end of July the pace of life increased again with the Olympic Games – a task which would involve feeding thousands of troops seven days a week, day and night. Four members of the Catering Platoon deployed. They have all remarked that "the experience couldn't be likened to anything they had ever experienced before". They had all done an outstanding job and played a major role in the success of the event as a whole. Next to commence was the Royal Guard in Ballater – another highly prestigious event with a lot of high profile functions and events for Sergeant Primrose and his team.

Throughout this period, there were at times, up to twelve chefs tasked throughout the UK, not forgetting that Fort George still had to be manned at the same time.

This has been a very testing, busy, and successful time for the Catering Platoon but in true British Army fashion we have lived up to the Corps motto "We Sustain."

FORT GEORGE PAINTING

The painting of Fort George was commissioned by Lieutenant Colonel Fenton on his departure from the Battalion. He presented the original painting to the Officers' Mess.

The Battalion has retained full copyright for the painting and wishes to allow the wider Regimental community the chance to buy a copy. The Fort George PRI will act as the single point of contact for the painting. All profits from sales will go to the Royal Regiment of Scotland Association for the benefit of our soldiers.

Options for purchase are as follows:

- Option 1 – Large limited edition print, signed, numbered and with a certificate of authentication. Size 56 x 24 cm (image alone). The large print comes rolled in a tube – individuals will have to pay for their own mounting and framing. This option costs £49.



Esther Armstrong's painting of Fort George.

- Option 2 – Small mounted print. Size 27.5 x 10cm (image alone). The completed item comes wrapped in cellophane bag. This option costs £11.
- Option 3 – Blank Card and envelope (standard DLM envelope) wrapped in a plastic bag. This option costs £0.45 per card.

Please contact Sergeant Crawford in the Fort George PRI on 0131 310 8656. Lines are open during working hours. During silent hours please leave a message on the answer phone. Please include in your message your name, order quantity, and contact details.

All cheques must be made payable to 3 SCOTS CBA.

ARMY OPERATIONAL SHOOTING COMPETITION, BISLEY 2012

By Second Lieutenant I Walker

As the newest officer in the Battalion, it fell to me to organise a shooting team of four for the Army Operational Shooting Competition; the annual Skill at Arms Meeting that decides the Army's top 100 shots. The competition itself has been running since the 1800s and tests those members taking part in a range of different shoots. Points from each are accrued with all participants aspiring to win The Queen's Medal. Those within the top 100 are presented with a crossed rifle badge which can be worn on their uniform to highlight their achievement.

The team for the event was Major J Kelmanson, Second Lieutenant I Walker and Privates Proctor and Soutar, who were chosen for their shooting prowess and experience. Major Kelmanson had shot at Bisley before, as well as running the Sniper Division at the Infantry Battle School, Brecon whereas Privates Proctor and Soutar were sharpshooter riflemen on Op HERRICK 15.

Practice for the event was limited to march and shoots but this was none the less useful, with team members working on building up their positions and moving rapidly from one position to the next having run up to a mile and a half beforehand; the idea being that the run focuses the mind on breathing rather than shooting.



Ptes Proctor and Soutar on the range at Bisley.

We transitioned from this to a week long practice down at Pirbright Camp, allowing us to re-zero the weapons and get used to the different ranges we would be firing on. This proved entertaining! However links were forged with other teams and some good friendships were made as we realised the quicker we all helped each other out on the ranges the more enjoyable the competition would be!

The competition started in earnest on the Sunday and some good scores emerged early on. By midweek and the end of the individual shoots we had two of our four in the top 100, setting us up nicely for the team based shoots; the highlight of which was the fire team Forward Operating Base defence. This involved a run through the woods to a defended location followed by the engagement of static and moving targets out to 300m. Each firer had ten rounds and all targets had to be shot within a given time frame; any rounds left contributed to your overall score. We came out with an about average score, placing us 21 out of 42 in the team shoots.

The final day saw the top shots fight it out on Bisley's famous Century Range, so called because of its 100 firing lanes. This cemented Major Kelmanson's place at 51st and Pte Proctor at 82nd place in the Bisley 100.

All in all I was very proud of what the team achieved. It will allow us to build and develop a strong Battalion shooting team based on the advice and experience gained from the competition and from the old hands who willingly imparted their wisdom to the next generation. This in turn can be cascaded down to those who want to improve their shooting and become masters of their trade.

Ex ROUGE HACKLE

By Captain R Stewart

Following the success of Ex TARTAN CASSINO – a charity cycle ride from Monte Cassino to Edinburgh Castle in 2011, the team were keen to get back on their bikes following our recent tour of Afghanistan. Ex ROUGE HACKLE consisted of an 11 day road cycling trip through Northern France. This set out to introduce road cycling to young soldiers from the Battalion who had recently returned from Operations.

The team assembled in Fort George having had little opportunity to practice. After a long journey we had a day in Boulogne-sur-Mer to set up the bikes and complete a short practice cycle. The first four days of the trip encompassed parts of the 2012 Tour de France route, through Boulogne-sur-Mer, Abbeville, Dieppe, Rouen and Amiens. The hills did become too much for some people however Lance Corporal Couper, our minibus driver was able to motivate us on route, whilst sipping coffees in roadside cafes.

The remaining days began to flatten out as we headed from Amiens to Soissons and onto Epernay. We worked on cycling as a team and everyone's cycling rapidly improved. Once Private Osanya had mastered the gears we couldn't hold him back. By the end of the trip we were easily covering 60 miles a day, this was evident as Private Bratton's usual 'shimffing' had ceased. Captain Stewart, with his schoolboy French, attempted to teach everyone one French word a day. This had varying degrees of success and Private Buie realised by adding 'le' in front of whatever you want to order, the waitresses seemed to understand what you were saying.

Lieutenant Voce-Russell led two battlefield tours during the trip, one of St Valery-en-Caux and the other to Vimy Ridge. At St Valery the weather was similar to June 1940 with thick fog around the harbour



The cycling group stop for a photo in the Epernay champagne region.



LCpl Couper (vehicle support group) relaxes with coffee.

entrance, which had made the Royal Navy ships potentially vulnerable to attack from the German Panzer Division on the high ground, resulting in the delay to the 51st Highland Division's extraction. We also stopped at Etaples, which has the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in France. Etaples was the Camp Bastion of the First World War, where there was accommodation for 100,000 troops. Most soldiers would pass through here for some final training similar to RSOI. It is always hard to comprehend the scale and sacrifice of the First World War. It was a poignant reminder of the sacrifice by our fore-fathers made in both the First and Second World Wars.

The final day was spent cycling through the Champagne Region. When we eventually made it to Epernay, finishing was all too much for Corporal Wedgwood and he managed to fall off his bike whilst stationary on the main roundabout in Epernay – to the amusement of not only the team but several locals as well! I should add that he hadn't had any Champagne at this point – we did however sample some later!

This was a great trip that everyone enjoyed. It was a great opportunity to not only introduce soldiers to a new sport but also expose them to a new culture and educate them on some Regimental and Battalion history.

FOOTBALL

By Captain Hood

The battalion football team returned from Post Operational Tour Leave and immediately started a rigorous training programme designed to build stamina and get the team match fit in preparation for the forthcoming Army and Infantry Cup competitions. The initial shock of the training sessions soon wore off and the fitness levels visibly improved as the days went by.

The skills sessions organised by Sergeant Currie were imaginative and tested all the players fully. Frustratingly most of the local teams were involved in Summer League fixtures and were unable to compete in friendly matches. Bounce games between the squad and Delta Company proved very useful and were extremely competitive to say the least.

We entered three teams in the Alloa Athletic 7-side tournament held at Recreation Park. Despite an early departure from Inverness on a Sunday morning the 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 for the second year in a row.

The Champions League final saw the B Team defeat the A Team by six goals to two. Private Gonsales scored four goals and Corporal Morrison added the other two. In reply Privates McConnell and Mohammed added to their earlier tournament strikes. The Europa League final saw the C Team come from two goals down to draw level with Alloa Athletic Wasps before a last minute break away goal finally settled the match three goals to two in Alloa's favour. Corporal Gilbert and Private Farmer were the Europa scorers.

The attitude, determination and willingness of all the players involved to represent the battalion in their own time over a week-end was a pleasure to see and they can be justifiably proud of their performance and achievements.

The first competitive match we played on return from Afghanistan was against local side Ardersier on their village pitch. Due to the amount of rain on the day of the match the pitch was extremely heavy and the stamina of the players was fully tested. Lance Corporal Gonsales was in goals for Ardersier as a guest player and he produced a fantastic performance. Eventually goals from Corporal Morrison, Private McConnell and two from Private Gonsales saw us run out winners by four goals to three.

The next match at Fort George was against Scot – Highland and Privates Collins, Walker and Mohammed played as guests for the opposition. Despite taking the lead through Private McConnell, we were pegged back as Private Mohammed burst through to equalise for the visitors. Despite creating chance after chance a second goal would not come and Private Collins was equal to everything that was thrown at him including a breathtaking finger tip save from a Corporal Morrison pile driver. Despite dominating, we had to settle for a one all draw. The pleasing aspect was the amount of chances created and only the performances of both goalkeepers prevented the games being "White wash" victories.

The future for the battalion team is very promising with over thirty players registered in the squad. Season 2012-13 will see the team enter both Army and Infantry Cups and strong performances are expected in each competition.

GOLF

By Colour Sergeant Tollan

It has been a very busy period for the Battalion golfers' – the Society is thriving with many new members coming out of the wood-work on Wednesday sports' afternoons. A generous donation from Torvean Golf Club has enthused members of the Battalion to pick up the 'Big Dog' and give the sport a try.

The organisation of our recent golf tour was carried out by Colour Sergeant Tollan assisted by Sergeant Winton and Corporal Stewart. The golf tour to Southern Spain was open to all members of the battalion and initially there were 28 names but this number reduced to 16.

The tour started with a very early trip from Fort George to Glasgow airport. With a short skip and a jump the 16 'hardened golfers' found themselves standing in 25 degrees celsius on some of the best golf courses that the South of Spain has to offer! We then conducted 4 days of golf, competing for an overall winner of the tour and two handicap winners each day. We had an end of tour dinner and all winners were announced but the prize giving was to be conducted



The calm before the storm – the party gathers for a group photo. Well done to CSgt Shearer (red checked trousers) on taking the golf dress code very seriously!

on our return to Fort George. The overall winner of the tour was Corporal Paul Stewart followed by Lance Corporal James Purce, and finally Lance Corporal Steven Wilkie. Due to the success of the tour we hope to plan another in the UK during 2013. Individuals taking part definitely have a revitalised love for the sport.

Since the last edition of the Red Hackle, a number of golfers have represented the Battalion. Corporal Paul Stewart won the Infantry Championships and came fifth in the Army Open. A group of 7 played in the Black Watch annual competition in Kinross, the overall winner was Sergeant Winton. Four members of the Battalion played in the MSIS charity competition – with the team event won by a Battalion team, an individual event won by Sergeant Winton and Corporal Stewart as the Runner up. Last but not least, Corporal Stewart represented the Army against the Police Service which was easily won by the Army team.

Our aim is to establish a committed golf society, to build the foundations to progress into the golfing season of 2013, with a strong ability to challenge at Infantry and Army level. We have sadly bid farewell to Major Dave Bruce as he takes up his posting in Catterick. His support and leadership has been invaluable. He is succeeded in this role by Major Jamie Howe.

The annual Battalion Golf Competition, the Ahluwalia Cup, will be played at Alness Golf Club during September. This event has been fully supported by one of the main golfing shops within Inverness who are donating all of the prizes for this competition.

This is the culmination of the golfing season for the Battalion and will hopefully set us up well for 2013.



The Commanding Officer presents the Ahluwalia Cup (for Golf) to Sgt Winton.

EXERCISE NORTHERN HEBRIDES

By Lieutenant Weir

After returning from Afghanistan and Post Operational Tour Leave, the men of B Company were looking for another way of gaining excitement, challenge, and adventure. With this in mind, Exercise Northern Hebrides was born. Thanks to grants from the Army in Scotland Trust, the Bridge of Don Trust and the Perth Forces Social Trust, 16 members of B Company who had been on tour would complete 6 days worth of sailing around the Isles of Skye and Lewis. They would be introduced to a new sport, learn some new skills, gain the competent crew qualification and more importantly, get a week away from the Fort.

Gordonstoun School kindly allowed us to use their school yacht the 'Ocean Spirit of Moray' and provided the instructors to teach us to sail. With the dates, the yacht and the crew settled, we set off on a Sunday afternoon to Kyle of Lochalsh where our vessel awaited. What with the yacht 70ft in length, the party was suitably impressed. Certainly, the sleeping accommodation was better than anything that we had enjoyed in Afghanistan. The meal that the instructors had prepared for our arrival was excellent. Unfortunately this would be the last meal that they prepared and so with a groan the Jocks accepted the fact that their experiences cooking 10-man rations would have to be put back into use, at the same time as compensating for the movement of a boat at sea.

The entire week was excellent – the highlight was definitely our first trip to the open ocean. Unfortunately this resulted in the crew being rendered 80% combat ineffective. Those 'man-down' unfortunately included all the JNCOs. Those not afflicted were able to steer the boat safely and were encouraged by the good omen of a pod of dolphins swimming with us and showing off their acrobatics.

A new respect was gained by the majority of the crew for ocean wildlife, when the desire to wash, over-took common sense and all hands



Cpl Hendry takes the tiller after being promoted to "Captain".



Dian the instructor shows us the ropes.



The Exercise Northern Hebrides team on deck.



Pte McNiel sailing like he drives a car.



From left to right – Cpl Arnold, LCpl Miller, 2Lt Walker, Pte Nicholls, LCpl Watson, Pte Reid, Pte Sinuleliewasa, Pte Robertson on board HMS Montrose.

jumped into the sea to cleanse themselves. This was a true test and was made worse by Corporal Hendry and Lance Corporal Simpson removing the ladders for several minutes while the Jocks (and the Platoon Commander) slowly died of hypothermia!

As the days went on, all members of the crew became very confident with sailing and enjoyed the experience. Several even displayed an interest in doing it again. The trip also allowed us to see new parts of Scotland and experience local hospitality.

We all gained the competent crew qualification and no one drowned. Hopefully in return, our instructors learnt a little about the Army and the Jocks.

VISIT TO HMS MONTROSE

The Battalion is affiliated to HMS Montrose, a Type 23 Frigate commissioned in the 1970s for anti-submarine warfare. Nowadays she is used in a much more general purpose role such as fighting piracy, catching drug runners and policing the seas while still maintaining the ability to take on all conventional naval tasks. Eight Jocks were asked to come down to Plymouth for a week in September to 'see what the Royal Navy get up to' during their pre-deployment training to get the ship ready for deployment to the Gulf.

We travelled South on the Monday arriving at HMS Drake the main naval base in Plymouth with all the usual stereotypes the Army has about the Navy in our heads. The first hurdle to overcome was the lingo! Jocks being told to chuck their kit in the Mess Deck and get their heads down had them thinking that they were heading to the cookhouse to sleep for the night – highly unconventional! The Jocks however were accommodated in a large 10 man room, easing them in for the shock of the next day when

they got on board ship and space was at a premium; they were sharing the ship's accommodation with 30 other men in very close proximity.

In the morning the party left the comforts of firm ground to be transferred to HMS Montrose where we were met by Midshipman Hendry who was hosting us for the duration of the week. Needless to say the passages were cramped and not designed for soldiers with our big kit bags but we eventually made it through the ship to our 'Mess Decks' and were given a whistle-stop tour of the ship.

Throughout the trip we were shown how each department worked to support the day to day running of a ship as it ramped up to the full scale 'Thursday War'. This involved the crew of HMS Montrose donning their white anti-flash gloves and masks with overalls, ready for the inevitable simulated explosions on board. The simulation saw us as part of a task group of 6 other ships including HMS Illustrious and a German Corvette charged with protecting the tanker RFA Orangeleaf.

The 'war' saw each ship negotiate a mine-field, counter submarine threats while being bombed and fired upon from planes and small boats all to get the tanker to her location unscathed. During this period the Jocks got involved with fire fighting, damage control, loading the 4.5in gun and spotting aircraft attacking the task group. It helped to show us all that during an operational tour it's not all about Red Sea Rig, cocktail parties and extreme tanning for the Navy, but hard work, long hours and cramped conditions. Although the job is different between the services I believe that the Jocks took away a new-found respect for their naval counterparts.

In all, the trip was a great success continuing our links with HMS Montrose and we look forward to hosting some of her Ship's Company at the Fort next year to show them what the Infantry get up to. No doubt there will be some sore feet and sore heads to match!

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

Battalion Headquarters

CO: Lt Col P M Little
RSM: WO1 S West
Trg Maj: Maj J Anderson
Adj: Capt J Thompson
Trg WO: WO2 D Robertson

Headquarter Company

OC: Maj K Tait
PSAO: Maj S Langdale
PSI: CSgt L Ward
CSM: WO2 S Dalton

Alpha Company

OC: Maj S Bridgehouse
2IC: Capt M Dunnigan
PSAO: Capt R Reid
SPSI: WO2 W Easton
PSI Stirling: Sgt G Early
PSI Kirkcaldy: Sgt W Taylor
CSM: CSgt A Bennet

I will start this update with a few farewells. Firstly, the CO, Lieutenant Colonel Chelsea has reached the end of his tenure as Commanding Officer and has handed over command to Lieutenant Colonel Pete Little. Lieutenant Colonel Chelsea is moving on to a Staff job in Andover. WO2 "Boxer" Easton, SPSI A Company is also preparing to hand over to his replacement, WO2 Wooley who is joining us from 2 SCOTS. WO2 Easton is off to 4 SCOTS to become FSG 2IC. Finally, we said farewell to Second Lieutenant Eddie McGuiness who has completed his studies at St Andrews University and has now moved back to Northern Ireland before he joins the regular army and attends RMAS next year.

The Battalion has been heavily involved in a number of ceremonial events. The ceremonial year started on the 6th of February when we were tasked with supplying The Castle Guard at Edinburgh to mark the start of the Diamond Jubilee, an event that was heavily supported by A Company who provided the Guard Commander, Captain John Valentine, his 2IC Sergeant Lee Penrice and the majority of the guard.

We then immediately started preparing to receive the Freedom of Stirling. The 13th of March saw the Battalion formed up on parade in Stirling Castle preparing to represent the whole Royal Regiment of Scotland. This was to be the first time our Colours were on parade, in fact the first time that any of the new SCOTS Colours



Laying up of the 1/51 Highland Volunteers Colours on 23 June 2012.

were to be seen in public since they were presented by Her Majesty The Queen in 2011. Again, A Company was heavily involved with the majority of the Chain of Command on parade in some capacity or another. Captain Valentine and Second Lieutenant McGuiness bore the responsibility of carrying the Colours and were escorted



Endex on B Range Sennelager after the Live Firing Company Attack.



Members of A Company after Endex on B Range Sennelager.



Pte Ben Mellish, "Going Right".



"Rapid Fire!" Cpl Ian McNiven, controlling his section providing covering fire.

by WO2 Easton, Colour Sergeant Ward and Sergeant Penrice. A separate account of this event from the perspective of Second Lieutenant McGuinness can be found later in these notes.

Having been presented with New Colours last year meant we had to Lay Up our Old Colours and this was done on the 23rd of June in an emotional service on the North Inch in Perth at the same time as The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) Laid Up theirs. Of note on this occasion is the fact that Captain Ian Bunce carried the Queen's Colour. Captain Bunce was actually on parade as a Private soldier when these Colours were presented on 4 July 1986.

The No 1 Dress uniforms were dusted off again on the 6th of July when we provided a Quarter Guard for Her Majesty The Queen when she visited to bestow City Status on Perth as part of her Diamond Jubilee tour and celebrations.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome back into the fold the following soldiers who returned safely from Op HERRICK 15 earlier this year where they mostly served with the 3 SCOTS Battle-group. The RMO Major Christine Paterson, Corporal Chris Cargill and Privates Mark Adamson, Chris Chambers and Andrew Scott from HQ Company and Sergeant Ian McColl, Corporal Ian McNiven and Private Ben Mellish from A Company. The return of these 8 soldiers as well as the other 17 from the remainder of the Battalion means that for the first time since 2003 there are no A Company soldiers deployed on operations overseas! Colour Sergeant Jim McColl (HQ Company) is however still deployed to Camp Bloodhound in Cyprus supporting the troops returning from Afghanistan. There were also a number of soldiers mobilised on Op OLYMPICS, providing security for the Olympic Games. The break from Operations will be short lived. We are committed to supporting Op HERRICK 18 and the pre deployment training for the cohort has already started in earnest.

A significant part of that training was actually conducted on our Annual Camp this year. In June we deployed to Sennelager ranges in Germany on Ex LEOPARD STAR, at the time becoming one of the first units in the Army to make use of the RAF's newest addition to its fleet when we were airlifted to Hannover in one of the new Voyager aircraft, to conduct a live firing Battle-camp. Living in Normandy Barracks the Jocks were put through a series of ever more demanding ranges and battle exercises on the excellent train-

ing area and range complex. The exercise proved to be demanding and rewarding in equal measure and even although the Jocks worked incredibly hard, managing in the short 2 weeks we were deployed to get up to the standard required to conduct a live firing company attack, they, as is their nature, still found time to enjoy the delights of Paderborn and a few well deserved beers.

Finally I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the newest additions to the Battalion.

Firstly welcome to Major Stewart Bridgehouse. Stewart has just taken over as OC A Company after leaving the Scots Guards earlier this year. This is not his first experience of the TA; he was actually a TA soldier in K Company in Kirkcaldy before he joined the Guards more than 20 years ago. During his career Stewart rose to the rank of WO1 and became RSM of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards then commissioned and eventually left the army.

Another new face is that of WO2 Sean Howard. He has stepped into the role of Training Warrant Officer, a role he is very well qualified for having left the Small Arms School Corps in 2011. We also welcome Sergeant "Gaz" Early who is taking over the gapped post of PSI in Stirling. Gaz joins us from the SCOTS RST in Edinburgh having previously been a recruiter in Fife and before that in 3 SCOTS.

This year's Exercise Summer Challenge has just come to an end and it has been quite successful for A and HQ Company. Well done to Private Jordan Currie who is joining the Military Band and to Privates David Gemmel, Lee Higgins, Darren Hogg, Christopher Jamieson, Terry Monaghan, Mark Sutherland, Gary Wallace and David Wilkins who are all joining A Company. They all passed after 5 challenging (not to mention wet) weeks of Phase One training at Redford Barracks and in the Pentland hills.

Capt M Dunnigan

FREEDOM OF STIRLING

Saturday 13th of March 2010 saw the historic occasion of The Royal Regiment of Scotland being granted the Freedom of the City of Stirling. A ceremonial guard marched from the grand setting of Stirling Castle through the heart of the city with "bayonets fixed" and "Colours flying" to the City Chambers.

The day actually began some 18 hours earlier in the Stirling TA Centre in Forthside where the Battalion assembled and prepared for a night of spit and polish. Members came from as far away as Keith, Wick and Stornoway and as always there was plenty to do on arrival. Under the watchful eyes of the CSM's the Jocks bulled, ironed and whitened their uniforms for the next morning. The effort put in by the soldiers of the Battalion well into the early hours of the morning are a testament to the pride each and every soldier feels to be part of this Regiment.

As this was the first time the Battalion had the opportunity to practice, in full, there was an early 5am start and more than a few bleary eyes from the Jocks as they stood in 3 ranks on that crisp Saturday morning, waiting, with trepidation, for the arrival of the RSM. The cohort was split in two groups and began practicing basic foot and rifle drill under the direction of the CSM's and the RSM. It was only a matter of half an hour warm up and practice before the Jocks were sufficiently familiar with the motions of the parade that they formed up for their first full practice. It is worth noting that only the hard work and attitude of all soldiers on parade made this rapid transition possible.

With the band playing, and the RSM's voice sufficiently warmed up from the 'encouragement' he'd been giving the troops, the Commanding Officer took his place for the first practice where little issues were ironed out. After a hearty breakfast and a few hundred cups of coffee, the Battalion reassembled for a full run through which went well, giving us all a confidence boost for the parade itself.

After a quick change we reassembled and were transported up to the spectacular Stirling Castle where we formed up in the courtyard. With hundreds of intrigued tourists snapping away at the Jocks, they felt like celebrities and the support shown by the community is a significant illustration of how highly valued the Armed Forces are by the public.

Once brought to attention, the first of many historic moments of that day occurred. The 51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland marched on their Colours, the first time the Battalion had paraded their Colours since their presentation by Her Majesty The Queen in July 2011. It was a great honour for the bat-

talion to be chosen to perform such a duty. As we marched down the cobbled streets of Stirling Castle the Jocks' heads were held high.

The march to the City Chambers was lined with crowds, waving Union flags, cheering and applauding. The pipe band played many a familiar Scottish tune: *Scotland the Brave*, *Black Bear*, *Bonnie Lass of Fyvie* and *Amazing Grace* amongst them. It was a spectacular event to be a part of and I imagine equally as spectacular to watch.

Eventually we reached the City Chambers where the Battalion formed up and awaited the arrival of the Lord Provost, Fergus Wood, Lord Lieutenant, Marjory McLachlan and the Regimental Colonel, Lieutenant General Andrew Graham to take the salute. The Colours were then marched off parade and hung in the City Chambers for the official presentation of the Freedom by the Council.

The ceremony was a wonderful insight into the genuine pride and affection that the people of Stirling have for the Regiment and the wider Army. Indeed it was emphasised that many of the accoutrements, practices and historical events in Stirling were influenced by the antecedent regiments of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. A unanimous vote was given to grant the Regiment the Freedom and a formal presentation of the Declaration was made to General Graham and representatives of each Battalion. The event concluded with an address of gratitude from General Graham.

The day itself was an unqualified success. Even without the fact that the Battalion on parade had barely two hours full practice to mount such a spectacular event for the people of Stirling, it is a testament to the resilience of the Jock and his commitment to the job. It was also a fitting event to show the solidarity between the historic City of Stirling and The Royal Regiment of Scotland and to be the first Battalion to parade new Colours since their presentation, was a huge honour and befitted an event of this magnitude.

2Lt E J McGuinness



Lieutenant Colonel Chelsea leading the battalion out of Stirling Castle on 13 March 2012 when the Royal Regiment of Scotland was presented with the Freedom of Stirling.

Method Publishing



METHOD PUBLISHING
Sutherland Press House
Main Street · Golspie
Sutherland KW10 6RA

Telephone · 01408 633871
Facsimile · 01408 633876

A division of Scottish Provincial Press Ltd



A service you can rely on
METHOD PUBLISHING



The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada

Time flies as they say; never a truer statement for this Regiment. We are already in the final stages of a very festive and fruitful anniversary year that brought us many activities and celebrations. Members of our Regimental family gathered all across Canada and around the world to celebrate Canada's senior Highland Regiment in their respective communities.

We welcomed our brothers-in-arms of the 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry Regiment, "The Associators". The Black Watch relationship with this United States National Guard unit dates back to 1763 at the Battle of Bushy Run, near modern-day Pittsburgh. The 42nd Regiment of Foot was part of a relief column during the French and Indian War. Both Regiments have maintained a loose relationship through the centuries. That common bond was rejuvenated in 1956 when the 3rd Battalion The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada was asked to perpetuate this historical relationship, one of the longest between units in North America and it has been maintained ever since. Both commanders seized the historical bond between the units and decided to bring it to the operational level. Exercise Highland Yankee/Early Thaw brought together, for the first time in almost two and half centuries, the troops of both Regiments to share their military experience, hard learned on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. This is the initial part of a reciprocal training cycle that brought a platoon from 1-111th Infantry to Camp Valcartier for two weeks. A platoon of the Black Watch will deploy during the summer of 2013 in a similar exercise in United States with the 1-111th. All participants learned a great deal and are looking forward to having the opportunity to train together again.

Three of our members were selected to be part of the Canadian Ceremonial Guard that traveled to France and Belgium on the occasion of the 95th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The Black Watch, then represented overseas by the 13th, 42nd and 73rd Battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, was the only Canadian Regiment that fielded three frontline battalions during that historic battle.

Our 150th Anniversary has already been highlighted by several social, community and military events across Canada and our Regiment has received several recognitions. One such was the re-

naming of a street in Oromocto, NB. Black Watch Avenue was the result of the unrelenting and dedicated efforts of the New Brunswick Chapter of the Black Watch Association Atlantic Branch and the Town of Oromocto.

The month of May saw the first major celebration weekend. The Honorary Colonel's Mixed Dining-In was held with Mr David Jacobson, United States Ambassador to Canada, as our Guest of Honour. We had no fewer than 260 guests! It was the largest formal social event held in the Armoury in many decades. During that same weekend, our Church Parade was also an occasion for the members of the Regimental family to parade on Sherbrooke Street, just like their forefathers had done for more than a century and a half. Following the parade we unveiled Regimental History Boards, displaying the names of Commanding Officers, Regimental Sergeants-Major and Pipe-Majors of the battalions and organizations that make up our Regimental history. The boards were unveiled by members of the Regimental family that were present and had special connection with the organizations.

The unit received many individual and collective recognitions and awards. Many members of the Unit received Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Medal for their exemplary service to the Country and their community.

The month of June and the training year came to an end with its own share of events. On a positive note, the Black Watch has been awarded the top unit of 34 Canadian Brigade Group for its performance in all aspect of readiness capability. At that same time a delegation of Canadian Black Watch, lead by our Honorary Colonel, traveled to Scotland to participate in the Laying Up of Colours of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment). Although the experience of participating in such a sad but historical moment was highly emotional, all members of the delegation came back from their experience with a renewed conviction of the importance of maintaining our Regimental values and heritage.

Later in August the Commanding Officer, Pipe Major and 2 other members of the Regiment traveled to Dieppe to participate in the celebrations of the 70th Anniversary of the Raid on Dieppe.

As fall approaches, the Unit is finding itself in a very enviable position. Its effective strength, replenished by the influx of new, young and dedicated leaders and soldiers will respond actively to the operational readiness and force generation challenges that are ahead.

One of the highlight events of the 150th Anniversary celebration will surely be the 150th Anniversary Colours Parade on 29 September 2012 on Fletcher's Field in Montreal. His Excellency The Right Honourable David Johnston the Governor General of Canada will be the Reviewing Officer and allow us to express our gratitude to the population of Montreal. On an historical note, on the occasion of the Regiment's 50th Anniversary in 1912, when new Colours were presented to the Regiment on Fletcher's Field, Canada's new Governor-General, Field Marshal H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, a son of Queen Victoria, was our Reviewing Officer. His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Duchess of Connaught, the Princess Patricia.

The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada is young and in great shape for its 150 years of existence. With the strength of our history and the pride of our accomplishments, we are looking forward to many more years of service to our Country.



(Sitting) Pipe Major Stevens, RSM Unger, WO Cochrane, Lt Col Plourde CO, Hon Col O'Connor. R to L Lt Maghakian, Maj Walker, Capt Tremblay.



Fort Lennox, Quebec – War of 1812 Commemorative Banner.
(Left to Right) RSM Unger, WO Cochrane, Lt Col Plourde (CO).

The Tyneside Scottish

The Battery has been extremely busy since our last report, what with three Royal Salutes in York, a Castle Guard in Edinburgh and a certain 'Operation Olympic' as additions to our usual activities, which include our continued support to Op Herrick and involvement in Regimental and Battery training and exercising schedules. In York, the Battery provided the bulk of the regimental gun detachments, drawing praise from one Inspecting Officer, the Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu, who complimented the detachments upon their "...outstanding drill and turnout". Duty at Edinburgh Castle took place on the occasion of the Installation of the new Governor, Major General N H Eeles (late RA) and we were delighted to be involved.

No need to 'go on' about the Olympic Games too much; you will all know what was involved and why. Eleven members of the Battery, within a regimental contingent of twenty-five, were deployed to Feltham for security duties in the Earls Court volleyball arena, many lamenting that they had not been assigned to the 'beach' variety of the sport. They, like hundreds of fellow service personnel did sterling duty and were thoroughly warmed and cheered by the daily doses of appreciation and kindness they received from grateful members of the public and community officials.

Recently returned from Afghanistan (Op Herrick 15) are Sergeant Dave Lally, Lance Bombardiers Laura Moore and Paul Telford and Gunner Dominic Fowler; recently deployed (Op Herrick 16) are Bombardier Brian Borthwick and Lance Bombardier Matt Ramsey. Bombardier Dean Moon and Gunners Bruno Dos Santos, Alex Holmes and Paul Walsh are in mid pre-deployment training ready for their approaching tour. Well done and good luck to them all, not least Laura Moore who, since her return, took top spot on a RA Leadership Course.

Others who have passed Leadership Courses this year are Bombardiers Chris Hussey, Dean Moon and Dave Palmer (Potential Sergeant Course); Lance Bombardier Ryan Jeffels, Gunner Bruno Dos Santos and David Gilchrist. Lance Bombardiers Brian Borthwick, Tom Holloway and Danny McGreevy are congratulated upon their promotions, as are Gunners Ryan Jeffels, Matt Ramsey and Paul Telford who will replace them in their former ranks. All thoroughly well deserved.

We are delighted to have topped the sub unit annual bounty table (by number and percentage) once again – that is the 12th time (every year) this Century! That said, our Battery strength has fallen somewhat due, largely, to a change in our recruiting fortunes whereby a new medical directive has made TA enlistment tougher than before with 'quality', rather than 'quantity', being the watchword. We are optimistic that enlistment applications will come from suitable ex-regulars who have been made redundant.

We bid a very sad farewell to three Battery stalwarts who have seen lengthy regular and TA service. Staff Sergeant Kevin Pardue (34 years), Bombardier Larry Webster (39) and Lance Corporal Eric Robson (45) have served their Battery, their Regiment and other units across the years, in exemplary fashion. May good fortune attend their every endeavour. WO2 (BSM) Andy Loader also leaves us, bound for RHQ to take post as ROSWO. We welcome his successor, WO2 John Gibbons (formerly a Tyneside Scot) and also former Cadet RSM Gunner Liam Arnot and Gunner Joe Hinde into our ranks.

Returning to the 'Installation of Governors' and we were overjoyed (yes – *overjoyed*) to welcome our new Commanding Officer at the beginning of September. Lieutenant Colonel Philip Haigh is, after all, one of us, having commanded the Tyneside Scottish from October 2006 to September 2010 during which period he married Sue. Congratulations upon his appointment and grand to see them back in our ranks whilst our best wishes go with their predecessors, Mark Mackenzie Crooks and his wife Karen, he having elected to take redundancy. "Er, Colonel Mark, the Tyneside Scottish Battery Recruiting Team were wondering if...?".



Lt Col PA Haigh TD RA(V) once "Clan Chieftain" of the Tyneside Scottish, now CO 101 Regt RA.

Victim Support

Helping people cope with crime

Victim Support is the national charity for victims of crime offering:

- Emotional Support ■ Information
- Practical Help

through trained volunteers based in local Schemes and Witness Services

If you have been affected by crime call:

Victim Supportline 0845 30 30 900

PO Box 11431, London SW9 6ZH

Open 9am – 9pm weekdays, 9am – 7pm weekends & 9am – 5pm Bank Holidays.

All UK calls charged at local rates.



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

Our fine and outstanding Regiment



www.methodpublishing.co.uk

Publishers to The Ministry of Defence and to Army Garrisons and Establishments throughout the world

METHOD PUBLISHING

Sutherland Press House, Main Street,
Golspie, Sutherland, KW10 6RA

Telephone · 01408 633871 Facsimile · 01408 633876

Email · admin@methodpublishing.co.uk



**Working
40 years
with the
Armed Forces**

Angus and Dundee Battalion Army Cadet Force

OVERVIEW

The last 6 months have been busy but steady for the Angus and Dundee Battalion.

We have had our training weekends at Barry Buddon in the run up to Camp. They were in March, April and June. May is never a good month as many cadets are away studying for their school exams so we fill the gap with a JCIC (Junior Cadet Instruction Cadre) and a First Aid Cadre for those that are available.

In May we also said goodbye to our CEO Major Allan Donnelly who has retired. He has however, become a case worker for SSAFA. Fortunately he was replaced by Major Andrew Cameron (Moose) who landed at HQ running and he hasn't stopped since. He certainly keeps us on our toes.

Prior to camp there were a few adult promotions. Captain G L Smith who was 2IC B Company was promoted to Major and given the appointment of OC; he has taken over from Major Andy Waterston who, after 3 years has moved up to HQ. Lieutenant Sharon Methven was promoted to Captain and was appointed 2IC of A Company. She is the Detachment Commander in Carnoustie. Margaret Brown the Detachment Commander for Grove BW Detachment was given the

appointment of acting Captain for about a year and then substantive rank. She has been appointed 2IC of B Company, a position that she is relishing.

FAREWELL TO LORD PROVOST JOHN LETFORD

Adults, Officers and Cadets from Angus and Dundee, under the Command of Commandant Colonel Andrew Cassidy, turned out to say farewell to the outgoing Lord Provost, John Letford.

It was a cold but sunny morning and on his penultimate public appearance, the Lord Provost attended Oliver Barracks in Dalkeith Road, Dundee. First, he inspected the Cadets on parade, talking to many of them individually, then he witnessed the ceremony of Beating of Retreat performed by the Battalion Pipes and Drums Detachment.

After a curry lunch, the Lord Provost presented 4 Star Badges and promotions to cadets. He then gave a warm and passionate speech stating that "he had enjoyed his involvement with Angus and Dundee Battalion and would follow their future achievements with a keen interest". The speech was followed by a presentation from the Battalion's incoming and outgoing Lord Lieutenant's Cadets, newly promoted Cadet Staff Sergeant Daniel Griffiths and Cadet Company Sergeant Major Natalie Small.

John Letford was driven slowly out of Oliver Barracks for the last time through a 'cadet lined avenue'.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Angus and Dundee Battalion joined in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations at Barry Buddon where a beacon was lit by the newly appointed Lord Provost of Dundee, Councillor Bob Duncan with the help of the Army Cadets, all under the supervision of Regimental Sergeant Major Michael Pascoe.

The evening began with a reception, held at the Cadet Headquarters of Barry Buddon with invited guests that included Alex King, Depute Provost of Angus, Lieutenant Colonel Steve Berry (an ex-Army Cadet), Colonel (Retired) Alastair MacLean, Major (Retired) George Grant MBE MM and Mrs Beth Boylen. Also invited were representatives from the four Twinning Associations connected to Dundee. Alexandria from the United States of America, Nablus from Palestine, Orleans from France and Wurzburg from Germany.

At the start of the reception, Commandant Colonel Andrew Cassidy, gave a short introductory speech before three senior cadets from C Squadron each gave a short speech of their own to the assembled guests. Cadet Company Sergeant Major Rory Harte highlighted the Jubilee celebrations, Cadet Staff Sergeant Connor Gowans talked about the ACF and Cadet Staff Sergeant Cameron Ward described to the guests what the ACF has meant to him and what he has got out of the ACF.

The guests were then treated to a Beating Retreat by the Pipes and Drums before the beacon was lit. It was a wonderful evening.



The lighting of the beacon at Barry Buddon, in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

CADET SUNDAY

The Battalion once again took part in their annual Cadet Sunday Parade. This year it was on Sunday 17 June in Forfar. Over 150 Cadets plus numerous adults marched from the TA Centre, through Castle Street where the salute was taken by Colonel Kenny Simpson, our Honorary Colonel.



Captain Smith was promoted to Major and command of B Company.



The Adult enrolment parade was held in April.

Padre Andy McAfferty organised a first class service in his parish church of St John's Episcopal Church in Forfar, ably assisted by the reverend Joe Morrow who was greatly impressed by the Cadets applauding him after his sermon, something that hadn't happened to him before.



The Banners on parade on Cadet Sunday.

A COMPANY – DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

A Company have continued to carry out their respective training commitments at both Detachment evenings and at Company weekends.

Most of the A Company Cadets and Adults were honoured to take part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in the grounds of Glamis Castle. It was essentially a parade of children from all over Angus ranging from dancers, the Guiding and Scout communities, Cadets and many more groups. They paraded from the gates of the castle along the huge driveway up to the castle itself. Thereafter they took part in or just enjoyed watching the entertainment provided. There were over 1200 taking part thanks to the hard work of the Lord Lieutenant of Angus, Mrs Georgiana Osborne and the team of helpers that she put together. The weather was fine and everyone enjoyed the day immensely.

DEVIL PUPS

The Battalion has been fortunate to have a great 'partnership' with the 'Devil Pups' organisers in America. Each year we send 2 or 3 senior cadets over to America to take part in the Junior Marine boot camp.

This year we sent C/Sgt Joe McKinney from Kirriemuir and C/Sgt Adam Deans from Arbroath. The first few days they stay with families who treat them like royalty and give them opportunities to attend local attractions such as Disney Land. Then they move to the training base where the boys get to grips with the arduous training that is set before them.



The Pipes and Drums paraded in Dundee on Armed Forces Day.

In previous years, we have done very well but this year our boys excelled themselves to the extent that Joe and Adam, out of 300 'Devil Pups' ended up in the Honour Platoon and to top it off, Joe was top Devil Pup. What an accolade for them. The boys have done so well that they have both been invited back next year to be 'Eagles' who are instructors.

B COMPANY

The Company have had their fair share of community events such as bag packs and festivals to help support the community. The annual Lord Lieutenant's Youth Parade took place in June this year followed by the Armed Forces Parade which was in July. The Cadets are always keen to take part in these events and there are always plenty of spectators looking on.

One group that are always on parade and are usually leading are the Pipes and Drums Detachment. They attended the Media Launch in Edinburgh for the film 'Brave' by Pixar Films. Another major event was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at Balmoral, something that they were very excited about.

Grove is one of the seven Detachments in the Company and is always active. Two events they have attended were a trip to Balmossie Fire Station where they got the opportunity to roll out fire hoses, put out chip fires and navigate their way round a 'makeshift' smoke filled room which was in darkness and the second was being the only Detachment from Angus and Dundee Battalion to march in the parade for the Laying Up of The Black Watch Colours in Perth. The latter event was one they found to be quite emotional.



The Grove Detachment took part in The Laying Up of The Black Watch Colours on 23 June 2012.



The Grove Black Watch Detachment during their visit to Balmossie Fire Station.



Colonel Kenny Simpson with Cadets on Camp in July.

ANNUAL CAMP

We took 420 Cadets to Altcar for Annual Camp this year, something we were extremely proud of as it is the largest number that we could recall. That did not include the 21 Canadian Cadets who we hosted for the second week or the two 'Devil Pups' that we were hosting from America.

The first week was for Star Board assessments which ended with certificate presentations, promotions and awards. Also presented were many Jubilee Medals to the adults who had satisfied the criteria, along with a Cadet Force Medal that was presented to Major George Smith.

One of the main highlights of the middle Saturday is the drill competition that is held. In a closely fought competition B Company emerged as the victors under the command of Cadet CSM Keiran Smith.

On the middle Sunday, the Battalion paraded through Formby. It was a beautiful day and the Cadets had a thoroughly good time in the church playing musical instruments and singing.

The second week was organised around a rotational cycle of adventure training, range work and in camp activities. On the Monday however, the whole Battalion descended on Blackpool and visited the Pleasure Beach. Many cuddly toys sat on the coaches and made their way back to Scotland.

As we are fast approaching the season of Remembrance, the Battalion still has a lot of work to do and we will certainly not be resting on our laurels.



The B Company Drill Team.

Black Watch Battalion Army Cadet Force

This period began as the Battalion was coming out of hibernation and beginning to focus on the year ahead; except it was not really a period of hibernation because, in the early weeks of the year, life continued much as it has always done; it was just that everything was done in a low key way. The Battalion held a Familiarisation and Assessment weekend, a centrally produced package for potential Adult Instructors. This was a great success and the training for these potential adults continued at Spring Camp. In addition the Commandant ran a successful BTEC training day in the early part of the year, first aid courses were held and each Company held a training weekend before Spring Camp.

SPRING CAMP

Spring Camp was, once again held at Barry Buddon and for the cadets the training focussed on the Star training and respective Boards. There was no doubting the enthusiasm and effort put into the week by everyone involved. Unfortunately, the training was interrupted because of a problem with accommodation which resulted in most of the cadets and a number of adults having to move rooms half way through the week. Not helpful! However, by the end of camp a huge amount had been achieved and everyone had learnt much evidenced by the results on the Star Boards.

As has happened in the past, the Battalion was joined at Spring Camp by a number of cadets from elsewhere including the Northern Area Sea Cadet Band, The Air Cadet Organisation National Marching Band and the Band and Drill Display Team from Durham and Northumberland Wing of the Air Training Organisation.

On the final afternoon of Spring Camp, families and friends of the cadets were invited to an Open Day. When camp began, only thirteen people had said they were coming to it. On the day itself over three hundred guests came through the gates. As well as seeing what the cadets do they also saw a spectacular aerobatic display by a friend of Major Gill who flies out of Scone aerodrome. The guests were then entertained by watching a Diamond Jubilee Tattoo which the Commandant had masterminded and put together using the Bands that had been with the Battalion all week. This was an ambitious event with rehearsal time having been relatively short. Quite understandably each band wanted to show off its repertoire to its full extent. Unfortunately, the cold weather began to take its toll and a large number of guests had to leave before the end, driven away by the low temperature.

BETWEEN CAMPS

Between spring and summer camps, life was anything but quiet or routine. On 28 June, Glenrothes Woodside Detachment was honoured when the Lord Lieutenant of Fife, Mrs Margaret Dean, came to an evening and after watching various displays presented Sergeant Bradley Joyce with his certificate and badge appointing him as her Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for the coming year. It was a tremendous evening attended by about forty family members and friends of the cadets. It was also on that evening that the Commandant announced that Cadet Lance Corporal Judd Clark, Glenrothes Woodside, had been awarded the Volunteer in the Community Award from throughout Scotland for his tremendous efforts in raising money for Help For Heroes over the last few years. This is a hugely prestigious award and one of which he should be very proud. A day later the

Military Band and the Pipes and Drums took part in a Jubilee concert in Perth Cathedral and all the musicians were a credit to the Battalion, receiving enthusiastic applause from the audience, in particular after their combined playing of Highland Cathedral and La Baum.

The shooting team continued to fly the flag for the Battalion. In May at the Brigade Scottish Target Rifle Championships the Battalion entered four teams which came 1st, 5th, 7th and 9th. The first team won the 300m Frankfort and the 500m Watts Bowl competitions and had six cadets in the top 10, namely, Cadet Corporal Downie (1st), Cadet Sergeant Stewart (2nd), Cadet Sergeant Fennel (4th), Cadet Corporal Honeyman (5th), Cadet Sergeant Barnes (8th) and Cadet Corporal Morrison (9th).

In other competitions, a team from Perth was placed first and second in the Walter Kirke .22 Shooting Competition.

The weekend of 2-3 June was perhaps a good indicator of the pace and variety of life within the Battalion. On Saturday 2 June seventy cadets from throughout Perth and Kinross led by the Military Band and Pipes and Drums, and with the Detachment Banners flying, took part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Parade in Perth, while the next day cadets from Fife took part in the Jubilee service in Dunfermline. In the meantime two cadet teams from the Battalion and a Young Adult team entered the Scottish First Aid competition. The team of Cadet Sergeant Heather Crawford, Cadet Corporal Liam Wight and Cadets Adams and Macdonald came first while the other team of Cadet Sergeant Rebecca Grieg, Cadet Lance Corporal James Ross, Cadet Jamie McLean (all Auchterarder) and Cadet Corporal Liam Harrier (Perth Viewlands) did huge credit to themselves. In addition Cadet Adams received the highest individual score while the Young Adults Team of Cadet Staff Sergeant Fiona Crawford and SI Christopher Henderson won their competition and will go to the National Competition in the autumn. That weekend the Battalion also entered a team in the ACFA Scotland Athletics Championships and three qualified for the National Championships. Of those, Cadet Sean Malcolm and Cadet Harry Morton went on to compete in the National competition with Cadet Sean Malcolm coming third in the Javelin competition. Both were awarded their Sports Colours for their achievements.



The Banners and cadets parade in Tay Street.



The Pipes and Drums of the Army Cadet Force.



The Regimental band leads the way at the start of the parade on the North Inch.



Cadet Sgt Bradley Joyce with his Lord Lieutenant's Certificate (Fife).



Commandant and the Mayor of Sefton Councillor Mr Kevin E Cluskey.



Commandants Package 2012 winners – Ypres Company – Cadet Staff Sgt Adam Sinclair.



Outreach Fife Residential 2012 – King's Road Primary School, Rosyth.

Fun is a very important word in the Army Cadet Force and it is often the one off activities which generate most of it. Despite the pressures of everything else that was going on Staff Sergeant Sangster organised one such event in June, a one day trip to Alton Towers. Although everyone had a very early start and late return home, this was an outing really enjoyed by all.

On 23 June cadets from the Black Watch detachments took part in the parade and very moving service when the Colours of the 51st Highland Volunteers and the 1st Battalion The Black Watch were laid up in Balhousie Castle. Three weeks later and the day before the Battalion deployed to camp a number of cadets were on parade when Her Majesty The Queen came to Perth to officially mark the fact it had been given City Status in Her Diamond Jubilee year. This was a tremendous occasion and one that will be remembered for a long time by those who took part.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp was spent in Altcar and once again the Battalion was joined by members of the Durham and Northumberland Wing of the Air Training Corps who were fully integrated in the companies. The omens were not good when the advance party arrived in Altcar to find the place underwater due to the atrocious weather which seemed to have been the norm for this year. However, by the time the cadets arrived the sun had come out and there was more need for sun cream than wet proofs, at least for the majority of time.

During the week, Companies took part in a variety of activities including a Field Exercise, a range package, a circuit of activities arranged by the Commandant and an Adventurous Training package which included water sports and rock climbing. A number of cadets also went flying (arranged by the Air Training Corps). They all thoroughly enjoyed their experiences, no more so than when they flew over the camp and saw what their friends were doing. The Military Band and Pipes and Drums also had a varied camp. While they put their cadets through the various musical tests, they also took part in other activities with the rest of the Battalion. Unfortunately, the weather broke on the penultimate morning when the Sports and Drill competitions were due to be held. As a result the football and tug of war competitions were cut short and the drill completion was cancelled.

The climax of the camp was meant to have been a parade and presentation on the square with The Mayor of Sefton, Councillors Mr and Mrs Cluskey, as the guests. However, when decision time came it was apparent the weather would win and so Second Lieutenant Brian Morrissey and a small team stripped the Mess of furniture and the prize giving was held there. The Mayor kindly presented the Queen's Jubilee medals to the adults before SSI Christie was presented his Cadet Force Medal and Major Jenkins, Captain McCluskey and Lieutenant Tough were given clasps to their medals. The Mayor then presented the other awards and prizes. Cadet Sean Malcolm and Cadet Harry Morton were given their Sports Colours and James Stewart and Adam Sinclair their CVQO awards. Despite the washout in the morning, some sporting competitions were completed and Alma won the trophy for the winning Company. The shooting prizes were shared by Ypres and Korea Companies with Korea taking the overall shooting trophy. The Inter-Detachment Trophy, competed for over the last year, culminated at camp and the winners were Perth Viewlands.

One final competition had to take place before the camp ended. In 2011 the cadets of the Air Training Corps had won the Drill Competition and there was a determination from the Black Watch cadets to win it back. It was decided that, no matter what the weather was like, fifteen members of each organisation would compete against each other. And so it was in heavy rain on the last evening that the

Commandant and Regimental Sergeant Major found themselves judging this one off match. Strangely the result was ... a tie.

As an aside but an important one, regular readers of this Battalion's notes will have noticed that, in recent years, there have often been reports of the other two Service cadet organisations joining the Battalion at camp. This has proved to be a great success and mutually beneficial in many ways. It is also something that may become more widespread throughout the country as space at camps becomes tighter and tri-service cooperation is encouraged.

POST CAMP

After summer camp there is the opportunity for the foot to come off the accelerator pedal but only slightly before everyone gears up again for the autumn. However, training evenings still carry on throughout August and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions have to be organised and run. This year there was also one special event in August. The Pipes and Drums went to Balmoral to take part in the ACFA Beating Retreat at the conclusion of an afternoon party given by Her Majesty The Queen. This was the final official event to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and it was a great honour to be involved in it.

On an individual front, so much has been achieved by so many cadets during the period that it would be invidious to pick out anyone. However, Cadet Staff Sergeant Mounsey, Newburgh Detachment, must be congratulated for being awarded an Army Scholarship, recognition of his potential to be commissioned into the Regular Army. Inevitably there has been a turnover in Adult Volunteers during this period. Special mention must be made of The Reverend David Wilson whose first experience of anything to do with the Army was when he joined the Battalion as one of the padres four years ago. He soon settled in and displayed a light touch and understanding which endeared him to the adults and cadets. Very sadly, because he was moving south to a new job he left the Battalion after Summer Camp. He will be very much missed.

Finally while the Battalion seems to go from strength to strength, much of its success is down to the hard work of the team who, under the Cadet Executive Officer, fight fires on its behalf on a daily basis from Queen's Barracks. To them the Battalion owes a debt of gratitude.



Captain Emma Marshall and the Deputy Commandant on the Archery Range.



The Adults at Summer Camp, Altcar July 2012.



- *comfortable en suite rooms
- *support provided by friendly staff
- *excellent facilities
- *includes meals and laundry
- *no limits on length of stay
- *outreach service available after moving out
- *for veterans of all ages

ROSENDAEL
3 Victoria Road, Broughty Ferry,
Dundee, DD5 1BE
01382 477078

WHITEFOORD HOUSE
53 Canongate, Edinburgh
EH8 8BS
0131 556 6827

www.svronline.org

SVR is a registered Charity No. SC015260

meth'od (mthd) *n.*

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

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



METHOD PUBLISHING
Sutherland Press House
Main Street · Golspie
Sutherland KW10 6RA

Telephone · 01408 633871
Facsimile · 01408 633876

Association News

FORECAST OF EVENTS

2013

18 January	Dundee Branch, Red Hackle Dinner	Dundee
26 January	Angus Branch Burns Supper	Forfar
2 February	Perth Branch Burns Supper	Perth
3 March	London Branch Edward's VC Ceremony	Chigwell, Essex
6 March	London Branch Lunch and AGM	Royal Hospital Chelsea
22 March	Fife Branch Rhine Crossing Dinner	Kirkcaldy
20 April	Association AGM WOs' and Sgts' Dining Club Dinner and AGM	Perth
11 May	Highland Branch Aberfeldy Dinner	Inverness
18 May	Officers and Ladies Lunch	Perth (tbc)
19 May	Aberfeldy Muster	Aberfeldy
19 June	Officers and Ladies Lunch	London
21 June	All Ranks Golf Competition	Kinross
22 June	Regimental Reunion	Perth
12 October	Perth Branch Croix de Guerre Dinner	Perth
19 October	Angus Branch El Alamein Dinner	Forfar
25 October	Officers' Gathering Dinner	Perth
7 November	London Branch Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
8 November	Balhousie Castle Remembrance Service	Perth
10 November	Remembrance Sunday	
21 November	London Branch Dinner, Victory Services Club	London
30 November	1739 Club Dinner	Dundee
21 December	Officers' Regimental Ball	Perth (tbc)
2014		
Late April or 3 May	The Unveiling of The Black Watch Memorial to commemorate the action at Black Watch Corner (Nonne Boschen) Belgium and the more than 8000 Officers and men who gave their lives in the Great War.	

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 T McCluskey Phone 01382 539420 tam7578@btinternet.com
Treasurer:	Mr Jim Penny

The Association AGM was the first event on the calendar since the publication of our last Red Hackle notes in what has again been a busy period and the Branch was happy to endorse the election of Colonel Alex Murdoch TD, to be Chairman of The Black Watch Association. We wish him every success during his Chairmanship. We are looking forward to him being a guest at our various activities.

Brigadier Edward de Broe Ferguson, who Colonel Alex succeeded, was a "weel kent" face in the Branch and will be missed by all and is to be thanked for his dedication and hard work for the Association despite the long commutes from the South of England. This was manifest when he led the recce team to Belgium a year ago where he gained the support of the local Alderman and Council Officials towards the proposed erection of a memorial at Black Watch Corner near Zonnebeke. To Messrs McCluskey and Proctor who accompanied the Brigadier it felt like old times of being on the Commanding Officer's Recce Group with the Anti Tank Warrant Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major in attendance.

The 23rd of June was a big day for the Branch and for the Association as a whole as we laid up the Colours of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) and those of the 1st Battalion 51ST Highland Volunteers. This took place on the North Inch in Perth after

the Colours were paraded through the City Of Perth, with Brigadier Garry Barnett taking the salute. This was followed by a book launch of the latest history of the Regiment by Victoria Schofield and then the annual Regimental Reunion, with both events being held in the Bells Sports Centre.

Branch Office Bearers were heavily involved in these events as our Branch Padre, The Reverend Alex Forsyth led the worship at the Laying Up of Colours, our Branch President Lieutenant Colonel Fred Beattie had the honour of carrying off the Regimental Colour and our Chairman Major Ronnie Proctor along with Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell masterminded the event with both of them reading lessons during the service. The Branch Chairman as usual had the last word by ordering the removal of head dress and raising three cheers for 51st Highland and The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment). This was the sad day for all of us as it could be likened to the needless death of a cherished and much loved family member.

Our Supper Dance in the Royal British Legion Clubrooms in Arbroath was well attended and enjoyed by all who were there. John Glen, Jim MacEwan and Jock Paton are to be thanked for their organisational skills and the Arbroath Royal British Legion Ladies Section are to be thanked for their excellent fare and friendly and efficient waiting on the tables. Next year's event will be held on the 6th of April in the same venue.

Many Branch members attended the visit of Her Majesty The Queen to Balhousie Castle where she unveiled a plaque to commemorate the refurbishment and was shown artefacts which had belonged to members of the Bowes Lyon family. All of us were pleased to see both Her Majesty and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh looking fit and well despite their heavy schedule of events.

Our Annual Branch Standard Rededication Church Service took place on Sunday 30th of September at St Vigeans Church outside Arbroath. St Vigeans is a beautiful village which is completely off the beaten track and the church is in a beautiful setting, high upon a man made mound which has had an established place of worship on it



Peter Snaddon entertains the Angus Branch Members.



Angus Branch members enjoying lunch at the Arbroath RBL Club.



The Angus Branch, Standard rededication service at St Vigeans Church.

since the seventh century. The Reverend Nelu Balaj and his congregation warmly welcomed the Branch Members to their church. On the completion of the service an act of remembrance was conducted at the war memorial which had many Black Watch soldiers' names on it. Mrs Georgiana Osborne, the Association President and Lord Lieutenant of Angus laid a wreath on the Association's behalf. A lunch followed at the Royal British Legion Arbroath. Our Branch Piper, Pipe Major Peter Snaddon carried out the duties of piper for the event whilst John Glen carried the Standard, escorted by Bob Mutch and Jock Paton. Lieutenant Colonel Fred Beattie and George Horseburgh read lessons and Major Ronnie Proctor conducted the act of remembrance.

The El Alamein Dinner and end of year soirée after our December meeting are the next items on our programme. This year's El Alamein dinner marks the seventieth anniversary of the battle and we are fortunate to have Mr John Henderson a sprightly ninety year old who took part in the battle with the 5th Battalion with us. Mrs Georgiana Osborne and her husband Captain James Osborne whose late father also served in the 5th Battalion, will also be present.

On the 14th of June Norrie Dewars died and the Branch held a minute's silence to remember him. There was a big turnout at his funeral at Park Grove Crematorium in Froickheim and he will be sorely missed by us all.

Finally, Bill Tindal another Branch stalwart gave us all a scare in June with his severe, sudden illness. It is pleasing and gratifying to report that Bill is now well on the mend and has recommenced attending Branch meetings and functions.

R J W Proctor and T McCluskey

DUNDEE BRANCH

The Association AGM, in the Lovat Hotel in Perth, was attended by Majors Jim Connors and Dave Ritchie and by Willie Barr and John McNiven, where a good lunch and even better conversation was enjoyed. Our ex Branch President, Colonel Alex Murdoch, was elected to Chair the Association.

The Branch turnout for Dundee's Armed Forces Day on 7th July was very good, and the parade went very well.

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

The Dundee Branch repeated the Church Service to commemorate the Battle of Loos, which began on 25 September, 1915. This battle is very important to Dundonians as most households in the City suffered family losses. The Service took place on Sunday 23rd September and we still aim to keep it as an annual gathering, with the aim of building up to the centenary in 2015. Despite good coverage in the Courier, the attendance was slightly disappointing but we look forward to a larger gathering next year.

We bid a sad farewell to Sandy Cuthbert who died. He was one of our few remaining WW2 veterans and a long standing member of the Branch.

Future Events

Red Hackle Dinner	Black Watch Club	18 January 2012
-------------------	------------------	-----------------

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

D M Ritchie

FIFE BRANCH

From what was considered a fairly quiet period of events in the last Hackle it has been all go in this one. The Branch still have their bi-monthly meetings in Hunter Street Kirkcaldy and they are very well attended. In April the Branch members turned out in their numbers as did the locals to welcome the Black Watch Battalion home from their tour of Afghanistan. We also purchased a Standard but it unfortunately arrived too late to have it on parade that day. On inspection, a sharp eyed "Young Cluggie Wood" noticed that the maker had omitted the letter "I"



Top table at the Ladies "Alma" Lunch.



Fife Branch members at their Banner Dedication Parade.

from Lacessit, which gave us a slight panic. I contacted Fiona Wemyss at the Wemyss School of Needlework and requested her help. Fiona using her great skills rallied to the colours (as it were) and saved the day. We now have a complete Standard to march behind. The Standard was Dedicated on Friday the 18th of May in the Kirkcaldy Town House. The Service was conducted by the Rev Alec Forsyth with Colonel Alex Murdoch attending his first official duty as our new Chairman. The Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Margaret Dean and Fife's Ex- Provost, Councillor Francis Melville unfurled the Standard and placed it in the safe keeping of our two bearers David Thomson and Mike Melville. On completion of the service we retired to the Stair Head for a light buffet. On Sunday the 27th of May members of the Fife Branch along with the Perth Branch, met at the Memorial in Aberfeldy and after a short service and recital of the Regimental Collect retired for some lunch to the Grantully Inn. We then moved on to a very important time in our history, the Laying Up of our Regimental Colours. Over 250 of the old and bold turned out to march behind our Colours for the last time and although it was a very sad occasion it was good to see them placed into the hands of the Museum. Some of us were fortunate to march behind the Colours in front of Her Majesty in Holyrood Park the year previously and it was a sad conclusion to this part of our history. On the 27th of June we were back on parade in Kirkcaldy assisting in the raising of the Armed Forces Flag in the Town square. The Lord Lieutenant Mrs Margaret Dean and her assistant Mrs Alison Halford-MacLeod, the Deputy Provost, Councillor Kay Morrison along with some war widows, representatives from the three Services, SSAFA and the British Legion were also on parade for this important occasion.

Four days later and we joined in the Dundee Armed Forces Day Parade. It consisted of a Drumhead Service plus the presentation of some Veterans Badges and ended with a very wet wait for an RAF flypast from Leuchars. Almost a week later we were back in Perth, this time to greet Her Majesty the Queen during her visit to Balhousie Castle. After a short pause, we met again, this time, with our ladies, at the annual Alma Lunch in the Victoria Hotel Kirkcaldy. We had fifty five sit down to lunch and it was good to see members from Perth, Aberdeen, Alyth, Kirrie, East Kilbride, Arbroath and Dundee make the effort to meet with old friends and break bread.

R M Scott

HIGHLAND BRANCH

Membership

At our last monthly meeting our members were discussing where new Branch Members would be found to join Association Branches, as the effects of the large Regiment begin to bite. Sitting in Inverness we are very aware just how few Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) soldiers and officers are now left in the battalion and with the obvious weakening of geographic links between Angus, Dundee, Fife and Perth and Kinross this situation can only get worse.

In Inverness we have a Royal Scot Association Branch, a RHF Association Branch and ours who all hold their monthly meetings in the same building and all who face the same problem.

The new Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM Shaw) of the battalion has joined the Branch and that is a welcome boost but none of us currently have an answer to the problem of declining membership of Branches.

During this reporting period we had members attending the Armed Forces Day in Inverness and our new Standard had its first public outing carried by John Anderson the Branch Bearer. John also competed in the Standard Bearers competition winning the B Class and passage to the A Class final.

Our yearly Aberfeldy Dinner was a great success, Maj (Retd) Alex Brown provided the piping extravaganza and there were many bemused tourists along the banks of the Ness enjoying his wide range of classic tunes and new rock. Our dinner next year will be held in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Fort George with kind permission of RSM Shaw and the Mess members.

Forecast

2012

11 Dec Monthly meeting

2013

8 Jan Monthly meeting

12 Feb Monthly meeting

12 Mar Monthly meeting

9 Apr Monthly meeting

11 May Aberfeldy Dinner

THE LONDON BRANCH

The London Branch year follows a fairly predictable seasonal routine, so when something out of the ordinary occurs it goes into the 'must mention in Red Hackle notes' file. Such an event happened earlier this year when RHQ sent out an e-mail entitled 'Elderly Black Watch Gentleman' along the lines of a wild-west wanted notice: "does anyone recognise this man"? It proved to be none other than London Branch member Ian Howarth who, let's face it, is knocking on a bit and fits the title! It seems that some years ago, outside of the gates of Buckingham Palace when leaving the 'Not Forgotten' Garden Party, Ian gave his BW lapel badge, complete with mini red hackle, to a Canadian lady who had been moved to tears on seeing him in his kilt and blue bonnet (I make no comment!). The following is an extract from a letter sent by her son, Bruce Methven in Victoria BC (Bruce is not a Mountie but managed to get his man!):

"The man pictured was kind enough to give his Regimental pin to my mother several years ago at a ceremony in London. He was moved to this gesture of kindness upon hearing of her family connection and long association with the Black Watch (her father, Robert Lester, was a life-long soldier and served with the Black Watch for a very long time, in both the UK and Canada.) He was also touched to learn that my mother was visiting England for the first time to visit the grave of her first husband (of just five days), who was killed in a training flight in England a short time after his arrival in the UK at a very young age.

I have often thought of this man's act of kindness and of how much it has meant to my mother over the years. I was reminded again of this incident when my mother gave me the same regimental pin to take with me to Vimy this summer on the condition that, if I meet another deserving pilgrim, I pass along the pin to them. My mother, now 85, was a bit distraught at their first meeting and would enjoy the opportunity to convey her thoughts about that day in a note to the gentleman, to let him know that he is very fondly remembered and of the huge impact he made on her by his kindness". Full communications were established following this – well done Ian, you are a good man!

Talking of the 'Not Forgotten' Garden Party, as we were, the London Branch was well represented there in 2012. The event, in the presence of HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, was held in late May to accommodate London's busy summer programme of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games. We were incredibly lucky, in what has been a pretty soggy summer, as it was a beautiful early summer's day in London. 22 Branch members attended (including General Sir Alistair Irwin, wearing his Commonwealth War Graves Commission hat) to enjoy the occasion.



Have you seen this man? The Watch's most wanted elderly gentleman.



Enjoying the end of day sunshine at Buckingham Palace.

A gentleman wearing a red hackle, an ex 7 BW (B Company) man named Denis Hall, was spotted sitting in a wheelchair and while we were talking another ex BW man in a wheelchair, Jack Haines of A Company 7 BW, joined us. The number kept growing, as Peter Watson who had also seen service with 7 BW, joined the group. Denis Hall said that he had not met another 7 BW man since the Rhine crossing: he certainly made up for it that day!



Founder's Day at the Royal Hospital; Shug Siggers, Joe Hubble, Debbie Parr, Bobbie Watson (seated), Alf Wade and our new recruit, In Pensioner John Nicoll, relaxing after the ceremony.

Some 13 members attended Founder's Day at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea in June. The weather was not as pleasant on this occasion but did not manage to spoil this colourful occasion at which the Reviewing Officer was HRH The Countess of Wessex.

Despite having a considerable amount of pain as a result of a very dodgy hip, Joe Hubble attended all the summer events – including The Laying Up of Old Colours Parade – and, for a dodgy hip, a demanding march through Perth. He also organised a successful Branch lunch at The Albert in London and has since had a hip replacement operation. There have been a few setbacks to his recovery and we are now hoping that Joe will be fully fit in time for the Remembrance events that will soon be upon us. Not only does he play a vital part in setting out the BW Plot at the Field of Remembrance but he is also the BW contingent's Parade Marshall (and without Joe what would the BBC cameramen find to focus on?).

A good number of London Branch members headed north for the Laying Up of Old Colours and the Regimental Reunion. This was a sad, poignant but nonetheless memorable and enjoyable occasion on a week-end of excellent organisation. Well done to all the staff at Balhousie who helped to make it so!

We were pleased to learn that London Branch member Brigadier James Cowan has been selected for promotion to Major General and that another member, Major David Kemis Betty has been awarded the MBE. Many congratulations! It is also pleasing that the Black Watch now has 4 General Officers (2 serving and 2 retired) and all are members of the London Branch. Hopefully this will be sufficient to persuade the 3 SCOTS officers serving at the MOD, that it pays to join the Branch!

Sadly the Branch has lost three well-known and popular members during the course of the summer: Norrie Dewars, who served for several years on the Branch Executive Committee before moving back to Scotland, Lt Col Freddy Burnaby-Atkins, who for many years was Branch Chairman and subsequently one of our Vice Presidents and Major Mungo Walker, a Branch member for many years. We offer our sincere condolences to their respective families.

Jim Keating

NEWCASTLE BRANCH

We are always asked to try to make our contribution as lively and entertaining as possible. That is going to be a tall order. At least let it be said that, if we are going to have a whine, we are going to have a good one.

First complaint has to be Lilly. No, Lilly is not the Branch mascot. Lilly is Bob Chantler's Mother-in-Law, aged 103 in August. Earlier this year, Lilly, with that inbuilt sense of timing only one of her sex and age could have perfected, decided to produce those worrying symptoms of falling over and necessitating prolonged attention at her accommodation. That meant that Bob's wife, Elizabeth, had her hands full trying to look after Lilly and Bob who is himself not overly grand. As I said, the timing was perfect, Lilly could not make the Regimental Reunion which meant that Elizabeth could not make the Regimental Reunion, which meant that Janet, Bob's daughter, could not make the Regimental Reunion, which meant that Bob would not be attending the Regimental Reunion, which meant that four friends of the family would not be taking a place on the coach to Perth.

Adding to the conspiracy listed above, Billy Brown, our long term Standard Bearer, showed his total ignorance of the rules of a street game played in Holland by youngsters during periods of icy weather and managed to impale himself onto a street bollard, breaking a rib or two and

puncturing a lung, thus ensuring his non attendance at the Regimental Reunion, with the consequential loss of another two family members.

Our Chairman managed to do himself serious damage when he tripped over a step and became wedged in a narrow passageway. Whether it was the fall or the difficult extraction that caused the injuries is not entirely clear, however, he had a dislocated left shoulder and two fractures of his upper arm which is only recently regaining some mobility. Remembering that he has impaired use of his right hand due to wounds, he has been having a bad time. You got there before me didn't you? Harold was unable to attend the Regimental Reunion.

My wife, who for the last two years has had a rare ocular problem with potential serious side effects, fell victim to the medication in February and had a major heart attack. I was ready for a rest, but no, they, being the Freeman Hospital threw her out after only two days and I was back to the grindstone.

As time crept on, it became clear that there was no point in going to the expense of a coach to attend the Reunion and despite best intentions, no one felt inclined to go to the expense of public transport. For the first time for many years, the Branch was not represented.

Casualty List Update

Bill Brown is recovering; Harold is responding to treatment, slowly; Lilly has had a few periods of hospital care and continues to cause concern for her family; Elsie, that's my wife, is recovering well and the ocular problem is still under treatment although, now stable. We wish all of those who have had difficulties over the past nine months a more settled and healthy future. We expect to see them back to normal self destructive activities in the near future.

Peter Birkett died recently and his obituary is elsewhere in this magazine and Eric Armstrong has had a spell in hospital. As we search for a new Social Secretary, I have to thank Bob Chantler for the tremendous efforts he has made on behalf of the Branch and particularly in supporting me as Secretary. He will be a hard act to follow.

PERTH BRANCH

President:	Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell
Chairman:	Captain Alan McEwen
Treasurer:	Mr Winkie Greer
Secretary:	Mr Jim Sandilands
Branch Piper:	Pipe Major Alistair Duthie

The past 6 months have just flown by and the Branch have been very actively involved in various events.

The Laying Up of Colours Parade was a spectacular day with all Branches well supported by their members. Later that same day at the Black Watch Reunion, in the Bell's Sports Centre, a few of our members were very much involved in selling raffle tickets for the Association and a great time was had by all.

I personally was charged to look after our friends from The Black Watch of Canada and they enjoyed the parade and Reunion. The following day they went on a Highland Adventure Safari near Aberfeldy which they thoroughly enjoyed. (This is something that the Branches should look at for a great day out).

On 29 June 2012, the Perth Branch of The Black Watch Association were invited to take part in a concert to celebrate Her Majesty The



Perth Branch Association members supported a Soldiers' Charity fund raising at McDiarmid Park.



Jim Turpie relaxes before going on parade.



Alan McEwen catches the sunlight.



The Banners on parade on 29 June.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The concert was held in St Ninian's Cathedral and Alan McEwen and Jim Turpie carried the Banners of the Perth Branch and Korean Veterans.

Our meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at the Ex Servicemen's Club in Perth seems to be growing in attendance with all Branch members willing to be involved in the events on the calendar. We will be holding our annual (ever popular) Burns Supper on 2 February 2013 and again visitors are more than welcome.

J Sandilands

STOKE-ON-TRENT BRANCH

In May this year we held our Annual Dinner Dance which was well attended by 80 members and guests. Although numbers are down on previous years it should be noted that most of our members are aged seventy plus and our numbers are decreasing with only one new member recruited this year. Our Branch President Major Ronnie Proctor and Sonia travelled down from Scotland and our Vice President Major Peter Burnet and Andrea were also there. Our guest of honour this year was Major General Mike Riddell-Webster accompanied by his wife Sarah. It was gratifying to see that many members make the effort to attend the Dinner Dance annually; Norman Rogerson, his wife Jill, with his daughter Caroline from Reading and his elder daughter Yvonne and her husband from Northern Ireland. Andrew Forester our sprightly 92 year old, ex 2nd Battalion veteran accompanied by his daughters and their husbands from Oxford still manages to show a few of the younger members the "Palais Glide" of the 1930s and 40s. Captain Neill Topliss a veteran of the Korean War travelled all the way from Yorkshire whilst George and Zandra Eaton drove down from Forfar in Angus.

The Branch Pipes and Drums gave an excellent 30 minute display to entertain the members and guests and the Drum Major, Arthur Simmonds in his 86th year is still leading the band on parade. He is to be congratulated for his efforts, smartness and good turnout and is probably the oldest Drum Major of a pipe band in the country. We shall have to have his service listed in the Guinness Book of Records.

The next event on the calendar is the Newcastle-under-Lyme Remembrance Sunday Parade on the 11th November when the Branch Pipes and Drums will lead the parade accompanied by 10 Branch members. Other members will attend their local Remembrance Parades in the five towns which make up Stoke-on-Trent. We are looking forward to the Korean War Veterans' weekend where Branch members who fought in that conflict will travel to Perth for a dinner on Saturday the 17th of November followed by a church service in Saint John's Kirk on the Sunday and lunch in the Royal George Hotel in Perth.

Thinking of buying Muscle Supplements online?

*This is what you think
you're buying*



*This could be
what you're
actually buying*



The negative effects of using online supplements can be but not limited to;

- Uncontrollable aggression
- Mood swings and irritability
- Steroid contamination
- Limited quality control
- Limited or no ingredient identification
- Not confirmed through analysis or trials as suitable for human consumption
- Does not identify side effects with current used medication or illness
- Increased risks from steroid use:
 - Males** – testicle shrinkage, man boobs, acne, bad breath
 - Females** – deeper voice, increased facial hair, increased clitoral size.



Get informed at www.informed-sports.com

Raising to Distinction



Queen Victoria School

**Admissions Deadline
Tues 15 Jan 2013**

Queen Victoria School in Dunblane is a co-educational boarding school for children of Armed Forces personnel who are Scottish, have served in Scotland or are part of a Scottish regiment.

The QVS experience encourages and develops well-rounded, confident individuals in an environment of stability and continuity.

The main entry point is into Primary 7 and all places are fully funded for tuition and boarding by the Ministry of Defence.

Families are welcome to find out more by contacting Admissions on **+44 (0) 131 310 2927** to arrange a visit.

Queen Victoria School
Dunblane Perthshire
FK15 0JY

www.qvs.org.uk



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE