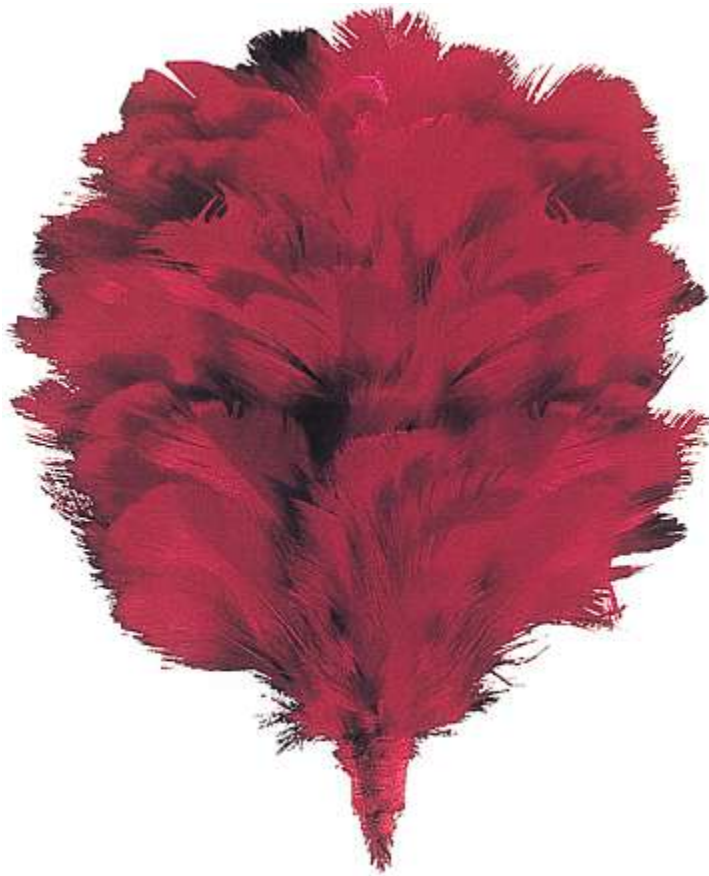


No. 191
November 2019



THE RED HACKLE



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THE RED HACKLE

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



On Saturday 15 June 2019, one hundred year old Mr Geordie Reid and ninety three year old Colonel Ian Critchley, both veterans of the Second World War, laid a wreath to honour all those who have served in the Regiment. This took place during the Service to commemorate the formation of The Black Watch Association in 1919. The Association had been in existence since 1874 but was given its current form after the sacrifice of so many men during the Great War. (by kind permission of Perthshire Picture Agency – Graeme Hart).



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Editorial

A year has passed since the decision was made to reduce the number of editions of the magazine to one a year. Some of our older readers will remember the four editions per year (January, April, July and October – in 1921 the cost was one shilling per copy, the equivalent of five pence). This was then reduced to three editions a year in 1965 when the cost was three shillings and six-pence per copy, the equivalent of seventeen pence. In 1994 the number of editions were again reduced, this time to two editions and each copy cost £3.

Since November 2018, Association members have taken part in the 100th anniversary parades marking the end of the Great War; London and Edinburgh both held special events as well as the many towns and villages in the old Black Watch recruiting area. Peter Jones has recorded the Remembrance events held in Zambia as the war in Africa did not end until two weeks after the Armistice in Europe.

A successful AGM was held in Balhousie Castle where the Queen Mother Room was put to good use and a very good lunch was served to the members attending the event. This was the first time that we were able to hold the AGM in the castle and hopefully this will now be a regular fixture.

On 15 June 2019, a church service, which was followed by lunch, commemorated the official formation of The Black Watch Association in 1919. This was followed by a successful and rain free Reunion.

As ever, the Branches which are the life blood of the Association are looking forward to their various dinners; Angus will hold their El Alamein Dinner in October and the Perth Branch will look forward to the Croix de Guerre Dinner; the London Branch Dinner follows in November in the build up to Christmas.

The Castle and Museum have had a successful season. A special exhibition showcased the sporting stars of the Regiment in rugby, football, boxing, golf and shooting as well as Olympic bobsleigh and highlighted the importance of team sport. The museum have continued to improve the cataloguing of the archive which will in the long term improve access to the regimental records and shortly, the Scottish Government sponsored World War One exhibition will be set up in Balhousie Castle. By the time this edition goes to print a military Book Festival will have taken place.

The pace of life for the Black Watch battalion has been very hectic and under – manning exacerbates the issue. Build up training to a test exercise took place and culminated in Exercise WESSEX STORM during September to which the paired Reserve battalion (7 SCOTS) contributed a good number of officers and soldiers. The training validated their skills and confirmed their readiness to take over as the UK's contribution to NATO's Very High Readiness Joint task Force in January 2020.

For the Reserves (51st Highland, 7th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland) there is a separate story in that their recruiting has been very buoyant helped by the fact that women may now serve in the infantry.

One of the effects of moving to an annual magazine is that the obituaries section is larger than in the past and it is very noticeable that the National Service generation are a declining population. As editor I am always grateful to those who volunteer to record the lives of the officers and soldiers who served in the Regiment and who added to the rich tapestry of regimental life.

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

"The Red Hackle" is published annually. Contributions large and small will always be welcome. They should be sent in electronically as a Word document and photographs should be sent as jpegs. All material should be sent to the Editor at admin.bwassociation@btconnect.com by 30 September.

To subscribe to the magazine please apply for details to the email address above.



Regimental News

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2020		
DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
2020		
5 January	Fife Branch Red Hackle Day	Glenrothes
11 January	Edinburgh, Lothians' and Borders' Branch – Red Hackle Night	Edinburgh
15 January	Friends Lecture Listen Up! HMS Tarlair and How to Defeat the U Boats	Balhousesie Castle
25 January	Angus Branch Burns Supper	Forfar
31 January	Dundee Branch – Red Hackle Dinner	Dundee
1 February	Perth Branch Burns Supper	Perth
3 February	Friends Lecture Ethiopia 1941: The First Victory of the Second World War	Balhousesie Castle
11 February	Friends Lecture Next to Wellington: General Sir George Murray	Balhousesie Castle
21 February	Association Trustees' Investment Committee Meeting	Perth
22 February	Dundee Branch AGM	Dundee
3 March	Friends Lecture Blitzkrieg: The Myth and the Reality	Balhousesie Castle
6 March	Association Trustees' and Executive Committee Meeting	Perth
8 March	Perth Branch AGM	Perth
20 March	Fife Branch Rhine Crossing Dinner	Kirkcaldy
5 April	Angus Branch AGM	Forfar
15 April	London Branch AGM	London
25 April	Association AGM	Balhousesie Castle
9 May	Edinburgh, Lothians' and Borders' Al Basrah Lunch	Scots Guards Club Edinburgh
9 May	Service in memory of 4th and 5th Battalions, World War Two	Dundee Branch
10 May	Aberfeldy Muster	Aberfeldy
16 May	Highland Branch Aberfeldy Dinner	Inverness
8 June	Officers' and Ladies' Lunch	London
19 June	Regimental Golf Meeting	Muckhart
20 June	Regimental Reunion	Balhousesie Castle
8 August	Inter Branch Games Day	Dundee
22 August	Highland Branch Annual BBQ	Inverness
13 September	Fife Branch Ladies Alma Lunch	Kirkcaldy
19 September	Perth Branch Croix de Guerre Dinner	Perth
20 September	Angus Branch Standard Rededication	Location tbc
17 October	Angus Branch El Alamein Dinner	Forfar
30 October	Association Trustees' and Executive Committee Meeting and Gathering Dinner	Balhousesie Castle
5 November	Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey	London
6 November	Balhousesie Castle Remembrance Service	
8 November	London Cenotaph Parade	London
19 November	London Branch Dinner	London
12 December	Highland Branch Christmas Party	Inverness

CONGRATULATIONS – HONOURS AND AWARDS

THE QUEEN'S NEW YEAR'S HONOURS LIST 2019

To Major NP Colquhoun on the award of the MBE.

To Acting Major Trevor Calton on the award of the MBE.

To John A Jardine (ex WO1 (RSM)) on the award of a BEM for services to St Andrews University.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 2019

To Lieutenant Colonel NKG Tomlin on the award of the OBE

To Major RJ Colquhoun on the award of the MBE.

CONGRATULATIONS – SOVEREIGN'S PIPER

To WO1 (Pipe Major) Gridale on his promotion and appointment to be the Sovereign's Piper.

WO1 Gridale was Pipe Major of The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Black Watch but started his career in the Liverpool Scottish and served with the Highlanders. Only two Black Watch Pipe Majors have held the appointment of Piper to the Sovereign. 1854-1891 Pipe Major William Ross and 1891-1910 Pipe Major James Campbell.

CONGRATULATIONS – PROMOTIONS

To Colonel AM Philp who was promoted in June 2019.

To Lieutenant Colonel S P Dallard who was promoted in early 2019.

To Lieutenant Colonel JRP Bailey on his promotion from the Pink List 2018. As at November 2018 he is attending the Army Command and Staff Course.

CONGRATULATIONS – COURT CIRCULAR

To Major DEJ Kemmis-Betty MBE on his appointment as Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mrs Anne Kinnes, the Chief Executive Officer of The Black Watch Castle and Museum on the award from "CEO Today Magazine" as a 2018 winner for her outstanding contribution representing The Black Watch Castle and Museum.

OFFICERS COMMISSIONED INTO THE BLACK WATCH (ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT) AND STILL SERVING ON 28 MARCH 2019

After The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) was merged into the Royal Regiment of Scotland, we published a list of all those officers serving in the Regiment on 27 March 2006, the day before the merger. There were 75 names. Since then 55 officers have retired and as at 30 April 2019 the list consists of 20 names:

Brigadier JC Roddis	Comd Specialised Infantry Group
Brigadier RRE Lindsay	Commander 51 Brigade
Brigadier BMA Wrench	Army Inspector, Army HQ
Colonel LR MacDuff	Assistant Head Defence Diversity and Inclusion Team
Colonel AD MacGillivray	MOD, Head SPLS
Lieutenant Colonel AV Cooper	MOD
Lieutenant Colonel DC Close	CO 2 SCOTS
Lieutenant Colonel RSJ Hedderwick	MOD – SO1 Land Force Generation, Defence Commitments
Colonel AM Philp	OP TORAL, Afghanistan (Sect Hd AIAT)
Lieutenant Colonel RF Sandford	CO ATC Pirbright
Lieutenant Colonel DM Sheldrick	CO 7 SCOTS
Lieutenant Colonel NKG Tomlin	SO1 RP, Army HQ
Lieutenant Colonel JRP Bailey	SO1 Interoperability, HQ Field Army
Lieutenant Colonel WA Colquhoun	CO ITC Catterick
Lieutenant Colonel SP Dallard	Student Army Advance Development Programme, Army HQ
Major NP Colquhoun	2IC 3 SCOTS
Major CMB Broadbent	2IC 4 SCOTS
Major B Cooper	QM 7 SCOTS
Major AJ Colville	MA to CEO of the Defence Academy and Commandant JSCSC
Major JE Kelmanson	OC Training Wing, BATUJK (Until April 2020)

HMS MONTROSE

There are no notes from HMS Montrose as she is in the Strait of Hormuz protecting British registered shipping. They are now operating two crews – Port and Starboard – so that crews get some time at home, whilst keeping a forward deployed Type 23 frigate on station.

LORD LIEUTENANTS' LUNCH

On Saturday 20 July 2019 the Executive Committee of the Association hosted a lunch at Balhousie Castle to thank Mrs Georgiana Osborne CVO and Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson KCVO, CBE for their support to the Association. Georgiana was the Lord Lieutenant of Angus but retired on 24 August 2019 and Sir Mel was Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross; he retired on 17 July 2019. They were both Presidents of the Association on two occasions.

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS BOOKLET

A booklet has been produced that records the names of all officers who carried out their National Service in the Regiment. It can be bought for £6 from the Association office.

BLUE BOOK AND ADDENDUM

The Association still holds copies of the Blue Book (Officers of The Black Watch 1725-1986) and the addendum that updates the list of all officers who served from 1986-2006. This can also be bought from the Association.

COLONEL STEPHEN F ANGUS CD

Colonel Stephen Angus died on 3 November 2018 aged 85. He joined The Black Watch of Canada in 1956. His grandfather was George Cantlie DSO. He was appointed Commanding Officer in 1970 and then held many appointments within the Regimental family, including Honorary Colonel for six years.

EDITOR AND BATTALION SUB EDITOR

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

CHRISTMAS CARD 2019



Painted by Lilian Cheviot, the print depicted was donated to the Museum in 1995. She was a well known artist who specialised in painting dogs and animals. She exhibited in the period 1894-1924 and died in 1936. The cost of the card is 72p.



On 10 November 2018, a group of Black Watch men joined other veterans at St Johnstone Football Club for a Short Service of commemoration before the match against Hamilton. The picture shows from left to right, Billy Whytock, James "Jocky" Wilson, Grant Lumsden, Niall Warren, Greig McGillivray and Alex Stewart.



Mr Kevin Murphy lays a cross during the final Service of Remembrance held at Balhousie Castle on 14 November 2018. 102 Black Watch men lost their lives between 1 and 14 November 1918.



On Sunday 11 November 2018, a short Remembrance Service was held at the 51st Highland Division statue on the North Inch. Lieutenant Colonel Matt Sheldrick (CO of 7 SCOTS), Councillor Dennis Melloy (Provost of Perth), Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson (Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross) and Mr Kenny Forbes took part in the service (by kind permission of Graeme Hart).

TOM WILSON – CENTENARIAN

On Wednesday 20 February 2019, Mr Tom Wilson and his family came to Balhousie Castle to celebrate his 100th birthday. The Association invited him to lunch and the Castle and Museum chef kindly made a birthday cake. His daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren were all involved and Pipe Major Alistair Duthie provided the musical accompaniment.

Tom Wilson was a pre-war Territorial in the 6th/7th Battalion and when mobilised, travelled with the 7th Battalion to Callendar, Lerwick, Invergordon and Fochabers, Tain, Aldershot and finally to fight in North Africa and Sicily. He was captured in Sicily in 1943. Whilst being moved by train to Germany, the train passed through the Brenner Pass between Italy and Austria and he and two other NCOs escaped and began a ten day, 180 mile march to find safety in Switzerland. He remained there for over a year, before returning to the UK in 1944. He was demobbed the following year.



Tom Wilson celebrated his 100th birthday with his family at Balhousie Castle. Members of the Association and Pipe Major Alistair Duthie hosted the event (Courtesy of D C Thomson).

BLACK WATCH CURLING

Match v Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

As usual the first regimental match of the season was the annual fixture against the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders which took place on 1 November in Perth. The prize for the winners was the Macrae Cup which the Black Watch won in 2017. Was it possible to retain it? It was a very close run match. James Duncan Millar won his match 7-6 while Jamie Montgomery's rink held on to peel 6-6 despite being under pressure at the last end. Thus the Macrae Cup did stay in the Regiment's hands. The rinks were:

'A' Rink	'B' Rink
Jamie Montgomery	James Duncan Millar
Roddy Riddell	Will Henderson

Jon Twine
Peter Burnet

Mike Riddell-Webster
Malcolm Innes

In addition Ramsay Macdonald and Bruce Osborne curled for the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who had not managed to raise enough home grown talent to furnish two rinks.

Match v Highlanders

The second match was against the Highlanders on 9 January, again in Perth. It was a great tussle. The 'B' rinks were first to finish and although winning the last three ends by a total of four shots the Black Watch rink were beaten 7-10. The 'A' rink managed to win by two shots at the last end and won their match 9-6 thus, at the end, the aggregate scores were level (16-16). Sadly this meant the Highlanders retained the cup which they had won last year but which had actually been kept in Balhousie Castle for the whole of the intervening period. The Black Watch rinks were:

'A' Rink	'B' Rink
Jamie Montgomery	James Duncan Miller
Alan McEwen	Hugh Rose
David Noble	Jon Twine
Ramsay Macdonald	Peter Burnet

Match v Lowlanders

The third match was held in Perth against the Lowlanders on 28 February. There was a certain amount of confusion when people arrived and saw a number of Highlanders and Argylls milling around. It turned out they had also arranged their inter regimental match to take place at the same time and place as our one. Eventually everyone worked out who was curling against whom. The Black Watch 'A' rink had a very close match against their opposition and was trailing by 1 shot going into the last end. They eventually won 5-4. The 'B' rink had an easier match, helped by winning by five shots at one end with the final score being 12-4. So, the overall score was 17-8. The rinks were:

'A' Rink	'B' Rink
Jamie Montgomery	Will Henderson
Roddy Riddell	Alan McEwen
David Noble	Jon Twine
Malcolm Innes	Jamie Erskine

Other Matches

The Regiment was also represented in various Highland and Lowland Brigades' Curling Club matches. Jamie Erskine played for them against the New Club when the latter team won by four shots. On 14 March Peter Burnet, Jamie Erskine and Jamie Montgomery curled for the Club against the Royal Company of Archers which included James Duncan Millar. The match took place in Kinross Ice Rink after an excellent lunch in the Green Hotel. Each side fielded four rinks and at the end of all four matches the Highland and Lowland Brigades' Curling Club were the winners by 28-17.



On 9 January 2019 curlers from The Black Watch and the Highlanders met at the Perth Ice Rink. The match was peeled 16 stones each and as winners in 2018, the Highlanders retained the Munro Cup.

The Bonspiel

The final event of the season was the Highland and Lowland Brigades' Curling Club Bonspiel on 21 March in Perth. The Regiment fielded three rinks. They were:

'A' Rink	'B' Rink	'C' Rink
Jamie Montgomery	James Duncan Millar	Will Henderson
Roddy Riddell	Jamie Erskine	Alan McEwen
Hugh Rose	Mike Riddell-Webster	Tim Carmichael
Jon Twine	Malcolm Innes	Mike Onslow

There were three sessions, each of six ends, with lunch between the first and second session and the AGM between the second and third. In the first session, the 'A' rink took on the Royal Regiment of Scotland 'A' rink and had a comfortable win 10-3, the 'B' rink had a closer match against Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 'A' but won 7-4, while the 'C' rink narrowly lost to Highlanders 'A' by 3-4. In the second session the 'A' rink had a narrow win by 6-4 against Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 'B', the 'B' rink were soundly beaten by Highlanders 'B' 2-11 and the 'C' rink narrowly lost again to the Royal Highland Fusiliers by 4-7. At the beginning of the third session, there were three unbeaten rinks that could win the Bonspiel; Black Watch 'A', Highlanders 'A' and Highlanders 'B'. While the Black Watch 'C' lost to Royal Regiment of Scotland 'A' 4-9, the 'B' rink fought back against Highlanders 'A' but still lost 5-6 while the 'A' rink played an exceptional game and beat Highlanders 'B' by 10-3 and were therefore the overall winners of the Bonspiel by a clear margin. It was a great effort and an excellent way to finish the season.

Finally the curlers are very grateful to the Regimental Association for their continued support to them.



On 28th February 2019 the Regimental curlers beat the Lowlanders 17-8.



The winners of the Highland and Lowland Brigades' Bonspiel were The Black Watch 'A' "Team skipped by Jamie Montgomery. The photograph shows (Left to Right) Major Hugh Rose, John Twine, Major General Mark Strudwick (President of the Club), Captain Jamie Montgomery and Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell.

BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION GOLF MEETING

By Major (Retd) Alex Stewart BEM

The Black Watch Association Golf Meeting was held again at Muckhart this year on Friday 14th June. This golf meeting is now an established part of the Regimental Reunion weekend and a great day out is enjoyed by everyone taking part.

The golf was played in very good weather conditions and this was reflected in some exceptionally good scoring – probably as good as any we have ever seen! Steve Thomson scored 40 points to take the Stableford Prize and Lord Provost Duncan Cup, while Neil Elder carried away the Best Net and the Alan Mutch Memorial Trophy with

an outstanding score of 66. The champion golfer of the day, winning best gross and the Dewar Shield, was Billy Ramsay with a score of 75.

The afternoon nine hole Texas Scramble was keenly contested in true Black Watch fashion – lots of banter and abuse but quiet determination to win! The winning team was Alan Brannigan, Rory McIntyre, Dave Bruce and Callum Cooper.

As ever we are extremely grateful to our sponsors Sidey Ltd and Red Hackle Security who provide us with excellent support and the wherewithal to purchase great prizes for all of the successful participants. There is no doubt, without this support, we would struggle to put this golf on at all. We also welcome the generous subsidy offered by the Regimental Association which effectively underwrites the competition and allows early planning to take place with confidence.

As usual, we welcomed players from all over the country and further afield. Kev Wann always wins the prize for farthest travelled, coming from Afghanistan every year but there are many others who travel a great distance to take part reinforcing the value of this competition in the Regimental calendar. We were delighted to welcome a couple of representatives from The Black Watch Battalion in the form of Warrant Officer Class 2 Eddie Nichol and Colour Sergeant Callum Cooper, neither of whom went home empty handed!

We are already looking forward to next year's competition which will take place at Muckhart Golf Club on Friday 19th June 2020. Full details are at <http://www.societygolfing.co.uk> by going to 'Access your Society area' and entering the username 'blackwatch' and the password 'fortytwa'. Anyone who is not already listed as a member on this site, but would like to play, or just to be added for future years should get in touch with Maj (Retd) Alex Stewart at alexstewart8608@gmail.com.



The main Prize Winners from left to right Dave Bruce, Steve Thomson, Billy Ramsay, Neil Elder and Maj Alex Stewart.



Mr Gordon Finnie (second from left) and Mr Ernie Bruce from the Gideon's Bible Society presented Gideon's bibles to the Association for distribution to serving and retired members of the Regiment. Many were handed out at the Service celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the formation of The Black Watch Association.



The sculptor works on the memorial at Balhousie Castle that now records the names of those who lost their lives in Northern Ireland and Kosovo.



The memorial to Lance Corporal David Finlay VC was moved from the original position in Guardbridge to beside the Guardbridge War Memorial on Friday 18th January 2019. (His VC was awarded for his courage in May 1915).



Members of The Black Watch Association attended the re-dedication Service in Guardbridge.

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

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Chairman: Major General M L Riddell-Webster CBE DSO
Major General J M Cowan CBE DSO
Captain Angus Ferguson
Mr Graham Halstead
Mr George Hay
The Earl of Kinnoull
Captain Anthony Perriam
Mrs Elizabeth Roads
Dr Michael Taylor
Chief Executive: Mrs Anne Kinnes

Chairman's Introduction

You will see in the Chief Executive's report how busy the Museum has been. What may have escaped notice is that the Museum has now been trading for a full five years and so now is as good a moment to be taking stock as any. It is extraordinary to think that, already, we have built onto the original extension; one small indicator of the major success of the Museum, the interest it has generated in the local area and the niche that it has carved for itself in Perth. That five years has seen the gradual maturation of the Museum as a business in its' own right and we are now at a stage where the Museum has a business model that is understood by all in the organisation, which works and which is self-sustaining. Necessarily, much of the effort of the last five years has been dedicated to making the business processes, finances, procedures and governance work properly; not glamorous but fundamental to long term success and all achieved whilst delivering a visitor destination that has continued to grow in popularity and local recognition, as evidenced by a string of tourism awards and from a casual glance at TripAdvisor. So, now that we are stable and growing, what comes next? The answer is that our attention can now focus even more sharply on telling the fantastic story of The Black Watch. The last four years have seen much of that as we have remembered World War 1, the Regiment's part in it and our battles and casualties. But now, we need to do even more to develop the Museum itself and our ability to share and promote the story of the Regiment more broadly. Projects such as the renovation of the website, the archive project and the coming digitisation of our archive will allow many more with connections to The Black Watch – and indeed, those without – to research, understand and follow the history of the Regiment. This is a long-term project and it is fantastic that, with help from the Association and others, we now have two archivists working flat out on developing the archive catalogues, which are the foundation of the digitisation to come. Combined with the advent of Stuart Kennedy as our new Curator and Chris Walker as the new outreach officer, we are developing a stronger and stronger offer to everyone with an interest in the Regiment, our ethos, standards and values. You will see, in more detail in the accompanying articles, the extent of activity, enthusiasm and interest that is being generated by the Museum, our volunteers and the Friends. With a constant stream of activity, multiple events and now firmly established as one of Perth's jewels, we look forward to the next stage of our development. Please join us on the journey!

By Anne Kinnes, Chief Executive

We have had a busy year with record numbers of visitors to both the Castle and Museum but more importantly on tours of the Museum. It has been the best year for guided and highlight tours. We have introduced some new tours which aim to highlight some of the stories behind the objects in our collection. These have proved very popular with an audience who have never visited the Museum before.

We are very pleased that after the launch at the Scottish Parliament on 3rd September we will be the first touring venue to host the WW100 exhibition. This will run from 27th September to 24th October and will be free to visit.

Bringing Scotland's national WW100 centenary programme to a close, 'What Do We Learn From All This?' is a unique new installation telling Scotland's WW1 story from the perspective of one hundred young artists from across the country. Combining traditional printmaking with innovative technologies, the exhibition tells one hundred stories gathered from all corners of Scotland.

Each unique artwork will be mounted on wooden plinths arranged in the shape of a map of Scotland, with augmented reality technology, allowing visitors to explore each story in detail with an iPad.

From the sacrifices made at the frontline to the vital effort on the home front, the installation takes in a diverse range of stories and subjects that will resonate throughout Scotland, providing an all-encompassing overview of the nation's immeasurable contribution to the war.

We have had some changes in the Museum team with Stuart Kennedy joining us as Curator and Chris Walker as Learning and Outreach Officer; we are delighted to have them on board and they are bringing a wealth of experience and plenty of new ideas.

The change in Museum staff has led to delays in the changing of temporary exhibitions. However, in August the "Sons of the Black Watch" display was changed. It now tells the story of Captain Smith Cameron and has given us an opportunity to display these new items for the first time.

Work is underway to develop our next temporary exhibition the *Spoils and Souvenirs* for Gallery 13 which will look at material brought back from war and is to be prepared by the end of the year.

Events

Our July Summer Festival was a great success with nearly 600 people visiting despite the threat of bad weather and pouring rain.

Supported by 3 SCOTS and 7 SCOTS the event included a child friendly sing-along gallery tour, trench tours, children's crafts and an enlistment card activity.

The WW100 exhibition will open with a preview night on 26th September and on 19th October we will host an evening of fine dining combined with storytelling inspired by the exhibition.

Our festive events begin with the Winter Festival in late November followed by a Christmas wreath making workshop with June McEwan.

Book Festival

The Black Watch Castle and Museum will have its first ever Book Festival 'Words of War' which will take place on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September 2019.

This inaugural event brings together a talented mix of local, national and international writers, who will explore the many aspects of military life and history through talks, interviews, discussions, workshops and book signings. Visitors will also be able to browse our pop-up bookstore, provided by Waterstones of Perth. From biographies and analysis to stories inspired by soldiers and conflict, the 'War of Words' Festival will also provide the opportunity to explore this fascinating genre. This military themed Book Festival is not only a first for the Castle and Museum but also for Perthshire and possibly Scotland.

Professor Sir Hew Strachan, 'Words of War' Book Festival Patron explains,

"The dynamism of The Black Watch Castle and Museum is inspirational. Military history in Britain is thriving, and the 'Words of War' Book Festival will be an unprecedented opportunity to hear some of its most distinguished practitioners talk about their work."

The packed programmes include local author, Alice Soper, who will give an insight into the incredible life of her father, Pipe Major Robert Roy, a legendary Black Watch soldier also known as 'The Piper of Tobruk'. War journalist, political commentator and film producer, Paul Moorcraft, will draw on his latest books about war reporting, sharing some of the amusing and hair-raising moments he faced in the danger

zones he visited. Our free children's event will introduce the author Gill Arbutnott, who will invite her audience to explore the story of a young lad as he marched off to fight in the Great War.



Balhousie Castle in the snow.



A young musician in the making, enjoys the Museum Summer Festival.



The Reverend Professor Norman Drummond (Chairman of the Scottish Commemorations Panel) pictured with young artists involved in the WW100 Exhibition which is being exhibited in Balhousie Castle.

FRIENDS OF THE BLACK WATCH

By Sarah Riddell-Webster

News from the Friends continues to be very positive. Having been in operation for nine years, our membership figures still increase gently and we continue to make significant donations to the Museum, generally helping in the areas where other budgets are constrained. Our greatest support this year has been to the Education and Learning activities of the Museum. It is great to hear the Museum full of enthusiastic school children learning about the history of The Black Watch.

The Friends Events Committee's main area of concentration has been in devising and delivering the lecture programme for The Black Watch Castle and Museum. With a lecture every month it is a not inconsiderable amount of work and I am very grateful to Willie Coupar, Rosemary Pitcaithly, Bill Macpherson and Hugh Rose for their hard work and ongoing support of the programme.

Since I last wrote for the Red Hackle we have finished the commemorations of the First World War and almost concluded the associated lectures. We were due to hear Professor Peter Jackson



LECTURES January 2020-March 2020

Listen Up!

HMS Tarlair and How to Defeat the U Boats

15th January 2020

1.30pm Lecture commences

Tickets: £8 non-members

£6 Friends

Diana Maxwell will tell us of the operation at HMS Tarlair the Navy's main hydrophone research and training base in Fife, using information gathered from local and national records and the personal recollections of people who lived and worked around the base.

Next to Wellington: General Sir George Murray

11th February 2020

6.30pm Drinks Reception 7.00 Lecture commences

Tickets £10 non-members

£8 Friends

John Harding-Edgar will tell us of his ancestor General Sir George Murray; The Story of a Scottish Soldier and Statesman, Wellington's Quartermaster General (From Reason to Revolution).

PLEASE BOOK ALL LECTURES IN ADVANCE BY TELEPHONE OR IN PERSON

Ethiopia 1941:

The First Victory of the Second World War

3rd February 2020

1.30pm Lecture commences

Tickets: £8 non-members

£6 Friends

Sarah Sherlock will speak about how, for the British and their Allies, the defeat of the Italians in 1941, in Ethiopia largely by colonial forces, was a much needed fillip when all seemed lost in North Africa. But for Ethiopians, it was the end of a 6 year war. So whose war was it?

Blitzkrieg: The Myth and the Reality

3rd March 2020

6.30pm Drinks Reception 7.00 Lecture commences

Tickets £10 non-members

£8 Friends

Maj Gen Mungo Melvin will discuss The Wehrmacht's campaigns in Poland, France, the Balkans and the Soviet Union during the period 1939-1941 which stunned the world. Yet Blitzkrieg did not represent a fully resourced operational concept: what was missing and why did Blitzkrieg not bring ultimate success?

Balhousie Castle, Hay Street, Perth PH1 5HR
+44 (0)1738 638 152 enquiries@theblackwatch.co.uk

talk about *The Paris Peace Conference and the Making of a New World Order* in March but the lecture had to be delayed due to ill health. I am delighted to say that Professor Jackson is now coming to Balhousie Castle on the 13th November to give the lecture. As we look forward to the 80th anniversary of the start of the Second World War it is all the more relevant to learn about The Paris Peace Conference and to start to consider why that peace only lasted for 20 years.

During Autumn and Winter, we had a series of lectures looking at different aspects of the First World War. One of the most oversubscribed of which was *Mud, Blood and Bandages: The Royal Army Medical Corps on the Western Front*. The lecture was given by, author and broadcaster, Andrew Robertshaw. Andrew held his audience spell bound with the many and varied aspects of front-line medicine that one simply never thinks about. In November, Dr Mike Taylor, as he had done for the previous four years, wrapped up the First World War year for us with his lecture entitled 1918: *The End Game*. Mike is a master of collating and putting into understandable form all the many aspects of a year on the Western Front and as always delivered an outstanding lecture. This was followed by Dr Norman Watson bringing some of his comprehensive collection of Armistice day letters to Balhousie Castle as part of his illustrated lecture *In Their Own Words: Original Letters from the 1918 Armistice*. This lecture highlighted a different and very personal side to the end of the war. The final lecture of 2019 on First World War literature had to be rescheduled and so I look forward to welcoming Professor Gill Plain on 5th December to give a lunch time lecture on *War Stories: Four Ways of Writing the First World War*.

With the commemorations of the First World War over we are now focusing on the Second World War 80 years on. Details of all lectures can be found and booked in the Museum shop, on the web site www.theblackwatch.co.uk or by telephone 01738 638152 option 3.

MUSEUM NEWS

By Stuart Kennedy, Curator

New Acquisition

In May this year we were kindly donated objects relating to Captain Smith Cameron. Of particular interest was his helmet and lucky coin. Smith Cameron had enlisted as a private in the 4th Battalion at the start of the Great War and rose through the ranks. He was commissioned in September 1916. He was injured on the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres when hit by a bullet on the top of his helmet. His life was saved from the impact by the lucky halfpenny taped to its inside.

He transferred to the 8th Battalion as a Lieutenant in February 1918 and was promoted to Captain in the August of that year. Later, during the Second World War he was a member of both the Civil Defence and the Home Guard where he took command of the Lanark Civil Defence Home Guard.

This story and the items donated are now on display in our "Sons of the Black Watch" case.

National Museums Scotland

We lent five objects to the National Museums Scotland for their exhibition *Wild and Majestic: Romantic Visions of Scotland* which runs from 26 June to 10 November.

This included one of our iconic objects – the Highland Society Vase. It is an elaborate silver trophy presented by the Highland Society of London after the capture of the Standard of the French *Légère demi-brigade* by the Black Watch at the Battle of Alexandria in March 1801. It was later revealed that Sergeant Sinclair who was entrusted with the captured French Standard had been incapacitated during the battle. The Standard was then recovered by a soldier from the Minorca Regiment and this led to allegations that The Black Watch was looking to claim a trophy that was not its right. The controversy led to the trophy not being presented to the Regiment until 1817 when relations between the Regiment and the Highland Society of London had improved.

The trophy formed one of the centrepieces of the National Museums Scotland display alongside sketches for the design of the medal drawn by Scottish miniaturist Andrew Robertson and the president of the Royal Academy, Benjamin West.

Being able to lend items to prestigious organisations such as National Museums Scotland is an important way of raising the profile of the Regiment and The Black Watch Castle and Museum collection. Even so we will be delighted to have it back in its gallery case from December so our visitors can once again enjoy it.

Archive Project

We have continued to work on developing our archive. The project started in July 2018 with funding from the Black Watch Association and it was our aim to improve the cataloguing of our archives. As of the end of August 2019, forty catalogues have been completed on Black Watch soldiers, including the Adrian Grant Duff and David Finlay collections.

Since the last Red Hackle we have secured funding from The Army Museums Ogilby Trust (AMOT) which will result in the digitisation of archive material from the period 1900-1929, with a focus on WW1. Items from the catalogues covering this period will be digitised in late 2019, including letters, diaries and photographs. Being able to have digital copies of the material helps with our preservation.

It is also our plan for information about the catalogued material to be added to The National Archives website. This will mean more people are able to find out about our archives and encourage them to make an appointment to access it for research. We will also be producing an exhibition based on the archival work of the project team for winter 2020.



The helmet worn by Captain Smith Cameron, showing the point of impact and the "lucky" halfpenny, are now on display in the museum.



The Captain Smith Cameron display in the "Sons of the Regiment" case.



The Highland Society Vase is on display at the National Museums of Scotland until December 2019.



Stuart Kennedy, Curator and Carol Anne Mackenzie review the catalogue project.

BOOK FESTIVAL

Over four hundred years of conflict, battles, wars and some very exceptional individuals were all put under the microscope towards the end of September as The Black Watch Castle and Museum held its' first book festival on 21st and 22nd September 2019.

Entitled "Words of War" and opened in the Queen Mother Room by the Festival Patron, Professor Sir Hew Strachan, there followed some twelve sessions with some of the country's leading academics and historians as they examined, through their recently published books, a wide range of subjects stretching from the Jacobite wars and local events in both Perth and Killiecrankie, through the First and Second World Wars to the Cold War and Scotland's role throughout that difficult period.

The intent was to attract a range of both high-quality books and eminent authors to what, it is thought, is one of the first and certainly one of the few book festivals to take the subject of war and all that surrounds it as a theme. As Professor Strachan said in his introduction, military history is in rude health, with some two thirds of history shelf

space in bookshops currently dedicated to military history; seldom has there been such a rich moment to enter the debate.

The enthusiasm, wide range and calibre of the authors who came to talk displayed why that interest is so alive; fantastic talks on how to write and publish books gave way to fascinating portraits of individuals such as Jane Haining, a Scottish lady executed in Auschwitz whilst looking after a combination of Christian and Jewish children in Budapest. Field Marshal Wavell, Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, and Vice Admiral Schofield, the father of Victoria Schofield who had, like so many others of his generation, fought his way through two World Wars were all featured. From examination of people the Festival moved on to discuss individual battles such as Killiecrankie and other Perthshire battles as well as particular tragedies, such as the loss of two separate US troopships off the Island of Islay during the First World War, with the awful loss of life and some remarkable stories of survival and heroism; a talk made especially memorable as the interviewer was none other than Lord George Robertson, the grandson of the senior civil authority on the island at the time, Police Sergeant Malcolm MacNeill. As the telescope widens further, strategic issues such as the Versailles Peace Conference and its long-term effect were meticulously investigated by both the range of authors and their interviewers. Most modern but already moving into the realms of history, was an examination by an old friend of The Black Watch, Trevor Royle, of the role of Scotland in the Cold War, a talk enlivened by the fact that many of the audience had, in one form or another, contributed to that period of Britain's defence.

Throughout all this activity, there was a tremendous swell of friendly, intellectual curiosity and comradeship as a wide range of people who have seldom, if ever, visited the Museum came together to be informed about and to discuss such a wide range of historical subjects.

So, this inaugural event was a huge success, made so by the willingness and kindness of so many of the country's leading academics and historians to provide of their time to come and discuss their work, of their interviewers, who had prepared a fascinating range of questions and thoughts and to all those who came to listen and provide their own thoughts and input. Putting on an event such as this is time consuming and hard work and an especial thanks must go to the Friends of The Black Watch, their Chairman, Sarah Riddell-Webster, Dr Paul Philippou of Tippermuir Books and the staff of The Black Watch Castle and Museum. All of these put significant effort in the run up to and delivery of the Festival and its' success is theirs.

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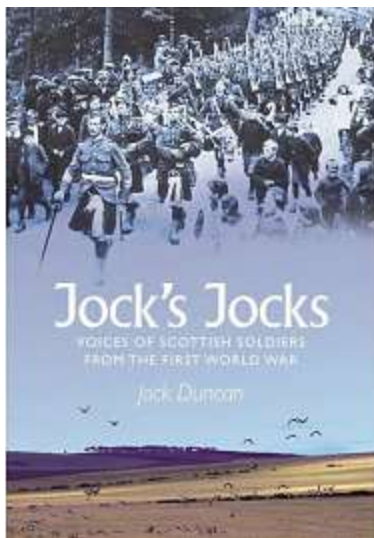
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Book Reviews



Jock's Jocks by John Duncan.

fifty-nine men from fourteen Regiments and Corps including The Black Watch, Gordon Highlanders and Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

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JOCK'S JOCKS

Voices of Scottish Soldiers
from the First World War

By John Duncan

A lovely book which keeps the "Doric" dialect of Aberdeenshire, Angus and the North East of Scotland alive in today's age of rapid communication and the levelling of regional accents.

Jock Duncan spent over 50 years interviewing Scottish veterans of the Great War, transcribing the recordings, word for word. He has given us glimpses into the lives of those who left the farms of Aberdeenshire, Angus and Perthshire for the fields of Flanders, France, Gallipoli and Macedonia. The stories of

THE SOMME BATTLEFIELD – THE TOP 20 PLACES TO VISIT

By Ruairaidh Adams –
Cairns

Written by Ruairaidh Adams – Cairns (brother of Captain Iain Adams – Cairns) who served in the Queen's Own Highlanders, this guide book is well researched and informative and provides useful background information on which part of the battle a visitor should take in.

General the Lord Dannat has written, "Without a guide such as this, the Somme battles are difficult to understand. The author's explanations of what happened and why are masterful".

There are good maps included in the guide and at each location he explains what happened at this point of the battlefield and highlights the exploits of an individual or incident such as the death of Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith's son as well as other military factors like the use of the tank, illness such as trench fever, shell shock, underage boy soldiers, desertion and those shot at dawn.

Another commentator has summed up the book as follows; "the author has provided a very poignant insight of the Somme battlefield. His matter of fact, yet distressing, explanations are peppered with raw, personal accounts superbly contextualised. I cannot recommend this book more highly. It will ignite the imagination of older and younger readers alike."

ISBN: 978-0-9928932

£12.00

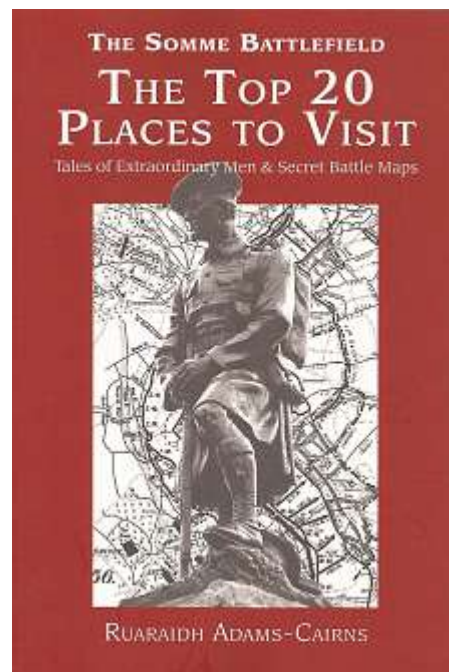
THE PIPER OF TOBRUK

By Alice Soper

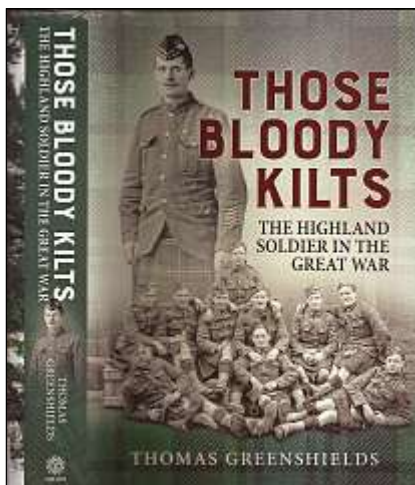
Alice Soper has produced a wonderfully in depth account of her late father the legendary Pipe Major Rob Roy "The Piper of Tobruk". He covers his gallant service in The Black Watch before, during and after the Second World War. Pipe Major Roy was one of my boyhood and Black Watch Regimental heroes and I listened to every word from his contemporaries about his exploits in Crete, Greece, Tobruk and elsewhere.

The book gives a deep insight into her father's life both in peace and in war and of a soldier's life in the Regiment before, during and after the Second World War.

This is a book which I would recommend to anyone whether they have served in the Regiment or not.



The Somme Battlefield – The Top 20 Places to Visit.



Those Bloody Kilts by Thomas Greenshields.

THOSE BLOODY KILTS

By Thomas Greenshields

Thomas Greenshields is a retired Civil Servant with a deep interest in military historical research and this book is extremely well researched and if taken in bite size chunks, is very readable.

It concentrates on the life and character of the Highland soldier during the Great War and embraces not only the five main Highland Regiments but also the kilted Regiments of Britain and the Empire.

Based on research of original sources of letters, diaries, and accounts of soldiers and officers held in the Imperial War Museum, the Liddle Collection, the National Library of Scotland and in Regimental Museums, he has brought to life the everyday routine and lives of Highland soldiers in France and Flanders as well as Mesopotamia.

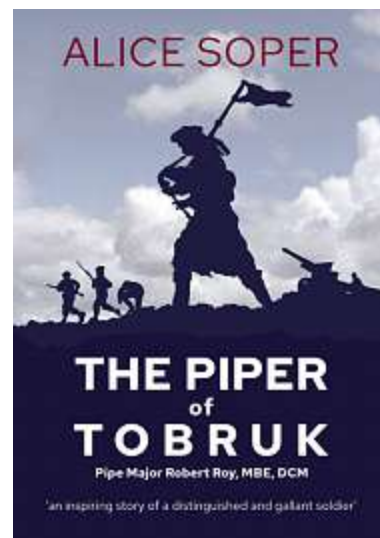
Many books on this subject have created a myth about the Highland soldier. This book critically but sympathetically examines such mythology and offers new insights into the practicality of wearing the kilt in trench warfare, the use of pipes, identity, morale, discipline and frank revelations about courage, ferocity in battle as well as compassion towards the enemy; in addition nerves, shell – shock, failure in battle and the ruthless use of the bayonet are also covered.

The final chapter brings together all these strands in the context of a model of morale and seeks to identify what if anything made the Highland soldier unique and to what extent his experience was simply the same as the ordinary Tommy.

RRP: £29.95

ISBN: 978-1-912390-26-7

Publishers Helion



The Piper of Tobruk.

Correspondence

c/o HALO

Dear Editor

Whist travelling in Burma I visited the Taukkyan CWGC site near Rangoon and found the grave of Lieutenant Leonard Douglas Nicoll. He was Captain Paddy Nicoll's uncle and the brother of the late Colonel Earle Nicoll.

Douglas was serving with the 2nd Battalion in Burma and his death is recorded in *The Black Watch* and the *King's Enemies* (page 249). "Among the killed were Lieutenants McGuigan and Douglas Nicoll; Nicoll had been first wounded in the head and bandaged, and then killed by a sniper at fifteen yards range when speaking to Green and Swannell".

Lieutenant Colonel Green commanded 73 Column and Captain Swannell was an officer in the Column.

There were many Black Watch graves as the fighting around White City had been ferocious.

Yours sincerely
JM Cowan



*The Memorial Stone to Lieutenant Leonard Douglas Nicoll at
Taukkyan CWGC.*

Inchlaggan
Murthly

Dear Editor

I thought that two short anecdotes from my time at The Black Watch Depot might amuse readers.

On New Year's Eve, on 31st December 1954, I was in 75 Squad still undergoing Basic Training at Queen's Barracks in Perth. There

were three Potential officers in our Squad including Graham Murray who was commissioned into the Seaforth Highlanders and was later Second-in-Command to Thomas McMicking. It was assumed that us PO's would all go to church on Xmas Day but that we would not, apparently, want to get tight and celebrate the New Year – thus we were put on Guard Duty that night.

Standing at Ease, yet being very alert, by the Sentry Box at the main Depot Gate at about 01.00 hrs, I heard a shout from the huts opposite where the WOs and Sgts had their accommodation. "Come over here Jock". I looked around, for I could not believe that someone was shouting at me. "Come over here Jock", the voice said again.

I said "Sir, do you mean me?" "Yes of course I do you silly B....., get over here sharply. I looked around to see if all was clear and doubled over with my rifle to the hut opposite. CSM Tim Hay, whom I did not really know but knew by sight, gave me huge double dram and said. "Hurry up and drink that laddie-it's the New Year". A second later he shouted at me, "Get back on Guard immediately!"

The second anecdote involves Philip Howard who was in one of the Squads which I trained at the Depot. It was a large Squad and so when we went onto the range at Kinfauns, we often had additional Depot staff to come and help the Squad Sergeant and his three Corporals. CSM Hay was one of these extra instructors and found Philip Howard to be the very worst shot he had ever come across.

Starting at the 100 yard firing point and aiming at one of those huge six foot targets with a big central bull, Philip initially failed to hit the target at all. I could spot the shots ploughing up the bank in front of the butts and we had a phone call saying that lots of earth was landing on the target and on the floor of the Butts but that there were no bullet holes.

CSM Hay re-arranged Philip on the firing point and had him rest his forearm on a sandbag. Philip was made to spread his legs and swivel his body around and when he was a bit slow about this, CSM Hay had to put a boot up Philip's backside!

At the end of the morning Philip had sprayed the odd shot onto the target but had certainly not been able to fire a group so that he could zero his rifle.

When it came to the Passing Out Parade at the end of his Squad's ten week Basic Training period, Philip, who earlier got a double first at Oxford before he was called-up for National Service, had generally done quite well and had been recommended for a Commission and was due to go on to Mons or Eaton Hall. However you had to "Pass Off the Square" and that meant you had to get a basic score with the No 4 Rifle. There was no way that Philip could have passed and so I went to see the Adjutant, the late, but then, Captain Adam Gurdon. After a short chat Adam said "Quite right to bring this up Colin, but I think we can fudge that one!"

Yours sincerely
Colin Innes



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Obituaries

RONALD ALEXANDER ADAM

Ronald Adam known universally as Ronnie, was called up for National Service in 1955 and joined The Black Watch at Queens' Barracks. He passed selection for officer training, which, in those days, took place at Eaton Hall on the outskirts of Chester. On gaining his commission, he was stationed for two years in Berlin before joining the 6/7th Battalion, The Black Watch in the Dunfermline Company.

Ronnie's early years were spent in Fife where he attended New Park School in St Andrews before going on to Glenalmond where he developed his passions for cricket and rugby, playing for the 1st teams in both sports. He continued playing cricket for the Grange in Edinburgh. During the winter months he could be found in the second row at various times for Gala and latterly, Edinburgh Academicals (Accies). His formative years in St Andrews introduced him to the golf links and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, where he was a Life Member. A decent golfer, Ronnie continued to enjoy the game all the way into his final summer. When not on a sports field, he could be found beside a river skillfully casting a fine fly or plying his skills as a good shot on a local shoot.

Ronnie's father, Gordon, ran the paper mill at Guardbridge so it was with a degree of inevitability that he found his way into the paper making industry, learning the craft at Esk Mills in Penicuik before relocating to Aberdeen to run the Culter Paper Mill at Peterculter. The mills at Culter and Guardbridge eventually merged with Ronnie becoming Sales Director of the new group.

While working in Penicuik and living in Edinburgh, he met Dale who had ventured north from her native Hertfordshire to train as a midwife in Edinburgh. A scant six weeks after meeting, they were engaged and then married in 1961. Their life together took them to Aberdeen, the Cotswolds, Angus and then, eventually, the Borders to settle. Dale died in 2002 and Ronnie settled into a new rhythm of life in the Borders surviving her by some 17 years.

Throughout his life, Ronnie found the best in people, enjoyed "characters" and loved being together with family and friends. He was always fiercely proud of his service in The Black Watch, regularly attending reunions and latterly being deeply involved in the Highland Brigade golf competitions.

Ronnie died on 30 January 2019 aged 84.

He is survived by his three children Andrew, Shuna and Rachel.



rounder he was a fine musician and an able academic. He was also blessed with dashing good looks somewhat in the mould of Paddy Leigh Fermor, who had been at King's some twenty years before. Having been appointed Captain of School for his final year he was walking in the Yorkshire Dales with the headmaster, the extraordinary Dr FJ 'Fred' Shirley, one of the most celebrated, controversial and successful public school headmasters of the twentieth century, when he was told of his father's death in a car accident. 'Fred' immediately told him that he would adopt the family and Peter and his younger brother Inness's fees were waived. This was a kindness Peter never forgot and he repaid it a thousand times over in his own many acts of kindness throughout his life.

With a Major County Scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge, Peter took a Shorts Service Commission in his father's old regiment, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), for his National Service. The Regiment was stationed in Berlin as part of the joint British, US, French and Russian military presence in that tense period after the Berlin Airlift but before the building of the wall. He enjoyed army life, and the rich night life of Berlin, and retained a lasting affection for his old regiment, pairing Black Watch tartan trews with his black clerical garb for the rest of his life.

Colin Scott-Dempster recalls, "My friendship with Peter started in Queens' Barracks in Perth, entering basic training the same day along-side Philip Prain and Alec Murray. He used to come out to my parents' home (Drummonie near Bridge of Earn) on many occasions for dinner or simply to be in a non-military environment for a while and enjoy a dram or two. The chip shop round the corner from the barracks was a favourite haunt for battered black pudding to add to barrack rations!"

At Cambridge we met up again. I was a late comer having worked at Michael Nairn's for several years after coming out of the regular regiment before going up to read theology. Peter was a great encourager, having taken that step immediately after National Service and was at Westcott House finishing his training. He also encouraged me to take up rowing which I had not done before. He was a regular coach on the tow path, speeding on bicycle with loud hailer and pink Leander scarf floating behind.

He was a good friend and thanks to the BW we shared more than theology..... I continued my military service in the TA, taking teams to Bisley and training our small bore team to win the National Robert's Trophy and working as acting Company Commander of A Company, of the 6/7th Battalion when Malcolm Gomme-Duncan was not around, while Peter was forging ahead on his ministry.

As a single man he was able to keep up his BW connection in a more active way than I. So it was that it was really only when I retired up to Scotland that I found Peter well established in Edinburgh church life".

Peter was a great supporter of the Association and he was a regular attendee at the Gathering Dinner. He also helped take the church services at the rededication of the Powrie Brae memorial and at the Aberfeldy Muster Parades.

At Jesus College, Cambridge in the late 1950s Peter sang, read English literature and rowed, becoming Captain of Boats in his last season. Faced with the decision either to return to army life, or to explore further a growing feeling that a life of service as a cleric might be the right choice, he applied to Westcott House, the Anglican Theological College in Cambridge, to 'get The Church out of his system', and with the expectation he would be turned down. He wasn't, and in 1962 was the first deacon to be ordained in the newly consecrated Cathedral at Coventry, serving his title in a tough outer estate parish in Wyken under Simon Burrows, who had been Peter's Chaplain at Jesus (and later went on to become Bishop of Buckingham). A further year was spent at the Church of the Advent in Boston (Massachusetts), where he was also Episcopal chaplain to Northeastern University. In 1966 he returned to Jesus as college chaplain where he also taught English, played the flute and guitar, and was much in demand on the Cam as an effective rowing coach. He obtained his PGCE teacher training certificate whilst teaching at the Leys School, Cambridge, and it was during this period that his unique gift for connecting with all sorts and conditions of men and women and retaining their lasting admiration and friendship became apparent.

In 1967 the then headmaster of The King's School, Canterbury, opened negotiations for Peter's return as school chaplain (and

CANON PETER ALLEN

The Rev Canon Peter Allen died on Christmas night at the age of 83. He was a universally loved schoolmaster, university tutor, chaplain and rowing coach who inspired generations of pupils and students with whom he retained deep and lasting friendships throughout their lives. He had lost count of the many, many hundreds of marriages, christenings – and burials – he had officiated at, in every conceivable country.

Peter John Douglas Allen was born of Scottish stock in Carlisle on 13 January 1935. Peter's musical talents were discovered early and in 1946 he was sent to Canterbury Cathedral Choir School and from there, in 1949, won a scholarship to The King's School, Canterbury, where he flourished. A talented sportsman he made the rugby XV, the athletics team and rowed in the 1st VIII. A good all-



incidentally, 'would he take the 1st VIII to Henley as the coach was seriously ill') and this was accomplished five years later in 1972. He joined the school as chaplain and as a minor canon of the Cathedral. In 1975 Peter Pilkington, later Lord Pilkington of Oxenford, and an old Jesus College rowing cox, became headmaster and he asked Peter, with three days' notice, to take over as a housemaster. For the next eleven years he was a much loved and respected mentor and friend to generations of boys who remember with fondness his cookery lessons and legendary dinner parties. But he was also still chaplain, taught English, was Master in Charge of the Boat Club for six years, took part in theological discussion groups with the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral and then after nine o'clock at night, when he could hand over his pastoral duties as housemaster to the house tutors, made himself available to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital to ferry medical staff and patient's relatives to and from the hospital.

After fifteen years at Canterbury, Peter was in 1987 appointed second master and chaplain at Sedburgh, a much heartier school than King's, whose school motto is 'Stern Nurse of Men'. After recovering from a major heart attack in 1991, in 1993 he moved to Edinburgh, to take on the next stage of his ministry, as vicar of St Ninian's, Episcopal Church, Comely Bank, in Edinburgh's West End where, with his robust energy and passion for music, he installed an organ, developed the choir, increased the membership and wrote a folk mass. He formed links with nearby institutions, joining the nuns of St Catherine's convent in their mission to the homeless of Edinburgh, opening a tab for them at the local Safeway store where they could order a coffee and a sandwich, and was available at all hours to provide succour, and laughter, for patients in need at the Western General Hospital.

Peter was also, alongside his parish duties, appointed Canon and Precentor of St Mary's Cathedral and his fine tenor voice can still be heard singing the responses on recordings of its magnificent choir. He became simultaneously Episcopal chaplain to Edinburgh Academy and to Fettes College. Over his years in Edinburgh he established an open house on Saturday mornings at the famous Canny Man's pub in Morningside and after cathedral services at Sunday lunchtime at his flat or the Teuchters Bar in William Street, where those of his vast circle of friends visiting Edinburgh would know where to find him. At Fettes he was allowed to miss the year-end celebrations as they invariably coincided with the week of Henley Royal Regatta where Peter was an assiduous attendee, he missed only three in nearly sixty years to officiate at weddings.

For many years Peter would take over parishes in Monaco and in Maine to allow their incumbents to go on holiday and his love of travel took him to China frequently and to many other parts of the world and in his eighty-second year he was preparing for a walking holiday in Morocco. A bon viveur, Peter enjoyed, food, drink (especially his beloved malts) and company. In his 80th year he was invited to a string of birthday parties in his honour in different parts of the country where many from the different archaeological layers of his long life gathered to pay tribute to a man who had touched all their lives in some profound and meaningful way. But underneath the beautifully-cut clothes, always appropriate for the occasion, the bone-crushing handshake – or bear hug – and the immaculate manners there was a huge empathy, a sharply developed nose for those in trouble or need. And that was his life's mission, to serve others to the very best of his ability, whether it was his adopted child in Ethiopia, who he educated and helped to set up in a career in tourism and with whom he remained in close contact, or those who came into his orbit as soldier, schoolmaster, school and college chaplain, parish priest, rowing coach or musician. He was a great energiser of all he met and leaves a large body of men and women whose lives he had touched, or changed, all enriched. He is one of the few of whom it can be said he will be truly missed.

HUGH ARBUTHNOTT

Hugh Arbuthnott joined The Black Watch at the start of his National Service, following a family tradition, as his father and elder brother were serving officers. However, he only served a small part of his time with the Regiment. After his recruit training at the Depot he went to Eaton Hall as an officer cadet, where he was awarded the Sword of Honour. Keen to serve abroad, he volunteered for service in East Africa with the King's African Rifles. However, when the troopship reached Berbera an officer came



aboard to ask for volunteers for the Somaliland Scouts. Hugh and one other put up their hands and off they went to spend the rest of their time with that unit. He did not manage to ride camels but spent most of his time chasing bandits. He also shot big game when the opportunity arose.

On his return he went to Cambridge University for three years to read English Law. When at Cambridge his other service with the Regiment was his three years part-time National Service with the TA which he spent with the 4th/5th Battalion. He could only be around for annual camp, so he joined the other "Piccadilly Highlanders" that graced the TA Battalions for a fortnight's soldiering each year. He then went on to Edinburgh University to study Scottish Law. He managed to get this degree in one year rather than the two years it normally took, a typical achievement, as he was always very bright and hard-working. However, when he left University with degrees in both Scots and English Law his original ambition had been to serve in the Indian or African Civil Service. Sadly, for him, with the decline of the British Empire, these Services no longer existed. So he joined Shell, with whom he spent his working life abroad, serving in various overseas posts and thus unable to continue with the TA. When working at Shell Head Office in London from 1963-64, he met and married Anne Terdre who was also working for Shell. They moved to Hong Kong, where their son, James, was born and then to Thailand where their daughter Katherine was born. They went on to live in Ghana and Barbados, where he was Manager for Shell in the West Indies.

After he retired he lived near Forfar, where he could again take an interest in Regimental affairs, particularly the Association and the Museum. He became a member of the Angus Branch of the Association serving as Treasurer for a time. At the Museum he was instrumental in setting up the Arbuthnott room, motivated, no doubt, in memory of his father who had been Colonel of the Regiment. It was at this time that he became widely known as a Councillor on Tayside Regional Council, to which role he gave his usual kindly, meticulous and assiduous attention. Likewise, he was a member of Kirriemuir Rotary and on the board of the local Day Care Centre.

A keen golfer he was a member of the Royal and Ancient and turned out for Regimental teams and golfing days. His love of wildlife, and particularly birds, lead him to membership of conservation bodies and particularly in the reserve at Montrose Basin.

W D Arbuthnott

MAJOR JAMES ARBUTHNOTT

James Arbuthnott was born in Herefordshire on 27th April 1940 and died peacefully at home in Worcestershire on 10th October 2018 after a long illness. He led a very active and somewhat eccentric life with much enthusiasm for all his activities and projects. This made him much loved by all who knew him. He was a soldier, pilot, nurseryman, amateur builder, poultry man, railway enthusiast, wine and vodka maker, beekeeper and bridge player. He married Louisa Hughes-Young (whose father served in The Black Watch for fifteen years) and they had five very special children, Jack, Kitty, Flo, Albert and Walter. He was the oldest of three Arbuthnott brothers who were commissioned in to The Black Watch, serving longer than Charles or Hugh.



After passing out from Sandhurst as a Junior Under Officer, he joined the 1st Battalion The Black Watch in Alexander Barracks, Cyprus in 1960. On arrival, he supervised the creation of a garden on the unpromising land around the Officers' Mess devoting his talents to designing an intricate irrigation system through the tons of soil and manure from the stables on the hill behind the Mess. Later he took his platoon to ski in Lebanon causing a major diplomatic incident which was discussed in Parliament. When interviewed by the Daily Mail and asked to comment he said he could not do so as "I am only a baby in politics", which was the headline in the newspaper.

When the 1st Battalion moved to Warminster as Demonstration Battalion at The School of Infantry, he had the honour of carrying the 1st Battalion Colours, when to mark her 25th anniversary as Colonel-in-Chief, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother reviewed all three post war battalions (1st, 4/5th and 6/7th) in Perth in 1962.

After a tour as Commander of the Demonstration platoon at Mons Officer Cadet school, there followed a two year exchange with The

Black Watch of Canada during which he explored the country in his car taking advantage of the courses which the Canadian battalion arranged for him. At the end of his exchange he managed to arrange that his car was transported on a Royal Canadian Navy ship to mid-Atlantic, where it was transferred to the deck of a Royal Naval vessel and taken to Britain. His Canadian counterpart, moving at the same time to 1BW in Germany had his large expensive car dropped on the quayside by a crane operator in Hamburg.

Back in the 1st Battalion in Minden, he did the 1966/67 UN tour in Cyprus in Paphos under the command to Andy Watson. He claimed that the highlight of that tour was always beating his commander at backgammon.

On return to the UK he qualified as a helicopter pilot, having managed to conceal his deafness in one ear by surreptitiously reversing his earphones during his medical checks. As a helicopter pilot he served with the Parachute Brigade in Europe, Northern Ireland, Iceland and the UK, sometimes arriving by air at Black Watch military and social events, wearing a beret with a red hackle. On one occasion the Colonel of the Regiment, Bernard Fergusson, was so surprised that he removed his monocle in disbelief.

After completing his flying tour, he rejoined the 1st Battalion as a company commander in Kirknewton (with a tour as OC B Company in the Short Strand, East Belfast from September to December 1971). The 1st Battalion then moved to Hong Kong and was based in Gun Club Barracks. From there he took his Company to Townsville for an attachment with the Australian Army.

As a member of the Royal Horticultural Society he was known to the wife of the Governor of Hong Kong, Lady Maclehoose, who arranged that he attended an RHS study day in the Kadoorie Gardens. Walking with other members (many resident), he spotted a flower and asked its name. No-one had seen it before and after research it was identified and James was in The South China Morning Post with the headline "Black Watch Officer finds new plant", perhaps the best publicity following the arrival of the Regiment in Hong Kong.

Returning to the United Kingdom he did a two year tour as Recruiting and Liaison Staff Officer, HQ Scotland, living in Easter Ross. There is no record of the numbers he recruited but he was frequently spotted in gardens, including Inverewe, with a polythene bag and pair of secateurs.

Then returning to the 1st Battalion in 1975, he did a tour as a Company Commander in Woodburn Camp, Belfast, Northern Ireland. His last military job was as Schools Liaison Officer South East District, based in Reading. During his retirement he was the Chairman of the Birmingham Branch of The Black Watch Association for a number of years.

After retiring in 1979, he moved to Stone House Cottage in Worcestershire with his wife Louisa. Here James helped create an outstanding garden. Louisa, as the gardener, gained a worldwide reputation with fantastic collections of beautiful and unusual plants and climbers, while James built towers and extensions to their house, each in time for the arrival of their next child. He reared ducks for friends which he delivered around the UK and kept hens – the latter he named after Black Watch Officer's wives and the cockerel after Brigadier Bob Tweedy. When a chicken coop caught fire and the poultry died a main article in the Kidderminster Times said "the fire fighters managed to save eight geese".

For fifty five years, James was a Knight of Honour and Devotion of the Sovereign Military Order of St John of Malta. He set up an annual Service of Healing Mass for the sick at Yardley Wood and latterly at the Birmingham Oratory.

James had so much charm, which he used carefully to achieve what he wanted. At the end of his life he was in a state of complete calm and peace, never complaining of his problems when friends came to see him saying "everyone is being so kind to me. I hope you will all be so kind to each other"

CAPTAIN ALEX BEVERIDGE

Alex Beveridge died on the 11th of June 2019 aged 72 after a long and valiant fight against cancer. Alex fought the illness as he lived his life with dignity, courage and determination.

Enlisting at Dundee in 1962, Alex joined the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Oswestry in January 1963 and after passing out into man's service joined the 1st Battalion in Minden in the summer of 1964, where he met up with his uncle who



was a Corporal. On Alex's arrival in the battalion he was immediately given the nickname "Young Bev" and his uncle was known as "Auld Bev".

As an ex Junior Leader, Alex showed he was a potential NCO and whilst serving in a Rifle Company was soon selected for promotion. He was also a great sportsman and excelled and represented the battalion at various sports including rugby, basketball and athletics. A member of the successful battalion athletics team of the 1960s, Alex took part in the 220 and 440 hurdles, and pole vault. He was a determined and successful cross country runner winning medals at battalion level. He represented his Company at swimming and football. He took part in the Battalion Rugby Team tour of Mexico from Belize in 1979.

He married Anne in August 1966 but because he was under 21 and therefore was not old enough to qualify for a married quarter, they set up home in a private hiring in Porta Westfalica outside Minden. This became their home until the Battalion returned to Scotland. The household then increased with the addition of David and then some time later Elaine. Alex and Anne were happily married for 53 years.

Alex served in Minden and took part in the UN tour of Cyprus from 1966 to 1967. He then moved back to Kirknewton with the Battalion in 1968. In 1971 he was selected to become a Sergeant Instructor at the Scottish Infantry Depot Glencorse. He rejoined the battalion in Hong Kong. Shortly after the battalion had moved to Colchester in 1974, he was posted to the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Shorncliffe as an instructor under the watchful eye of the late Joe Hubble. Moving back to the battalion in Ballykinler and then to Catterick and Werl, Alex was promoted as CQMS of Headquarters Company before another move and promotion to Warrant Officer Class Two as Senior Permanent Staff Instructor with K (Black Watch) Company, 1st/51st Highland Volunteers.

He returned with his family to Werl in 1982 and was appointed Company Sergeant Major C (Fire Support) Company when the Battalion was carrying out pre-Northern Ireland training prior to an impending four and a half month tour of West Belfast in December 1982. His Company was stationed at North Howard Street Mill which was one of the operational hotspots for the battalion; this was no easy task for the Company Sergeant Major but he made his mark.

Before the battalion returned from Werl to Scotland he was selected to run the Battalion Ski Hut at Silberhutte in Bavaria. This proved to be his forte as glowing reports came back not only of the success of the ski team but also of the administration and well run ski hut which was the envy of other units. Alex spent his last six months of regular service as an instructor at the British Army Training Unit Suffield in the mid-west of Canada where during his spare time he perfected his skiing techniques in the Canadian Rockies.

On returning to Scotland Alex applied for and was successful in being appointed as Permanent Staff Administrative Officer (PSAO) with 15 Scottish Para (V) in Troon Ayrshire and was commissioned in late 1986. On the reorganisation of the TA and the closure of 15 Para, Alex moved back to the Regimental area and was appointed PSAO at HQ Company 1st/51st Highland Volunteers at Queen's Barracks Perth where he continued to serve until he finally retired after 45 years uniformed service.

Whilst serving with the TA, Alex was tasked to run the Ski Hut at Aviemore during the Army in Scotland Exercise Snow Lion where he provided support and expertise for a number of years.

A great supporter of the regiment Alex involved himself in Association matters and he helped get the now successful Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Dining Club off the ground whilst he was serving at Queens' Barracks some twenty years ago.

Alex kept himself busy after retiring from the army and worked part time; he was an active regimental curler but spent as much time as he could with his grandchildren to whom he was devoted.

The turnout at Alex's funeral was testament to his standing in the Regiment as the Dunfermline Crematorium was packed. He is sadly missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

R J W Proctor

MAJOR CHARLES JAMES KINLOCH CAMPBELL MBE

Jamie Campbell lived his life in the certainty that it would be dreadful if he did nothing exciting enough to tell a grandson. He lived a most varied life but, very sadly, never married and never had grandchildren.

Owing to a knee injury, he was prevented from joining his brother, Colin, in the Regiment for a year which he spent as a night porter in some hotel as a result of which he became proficient at both snooker

and darts. We only vaguely knew each other at RMA Sandhurst but found ourselves on Waverly Station dressed as instructed in Service Undress (Mickey Mouse Order as it was known) on our way to Queens' Barracks to report for duty. We were surprised to meet Ian Nason on his way to report to the Seaforth Highlanders, dressed in knickerbockers and carrying his golf clubs. We wondered if we were joining the right club.

The early years spent in Berlin and Edinburgh as platoon commanders were not particularly worthy of note although Jamie joined his brother in the athletics team as a javelin thrower. He had his share of throwing for the army – for which Colin was first choice – but if Piper Gough was around, Jamie was not good enough to throw for the Regiment.

Then, as Lieutenants, he and I and Malcolm McGillivray were sent to Netheravon to learn the arts of machine guns, anti-tank guns and mortars returning to Cyprus under command of Campbell Parker in C (Support Weapons) Company. There followed a very pleasant year and a bit with our specialist commands and we were joined in close friendship by the Education Officer, Wilf Finch, and all four of us have remained in contact ever since. There were various trips into the Libyan desert and on one exercise where the Battalion was “advancing to contact” Jamie’s job was flank reconnaissance, which he carried out with verve but as his radio link was faulty, I only just stopped him and his platoon charging into an unswept WW2 minefield which he did not have marked on his map.

Also, from Cyprus, Jamie organised the first of many adventures, taking some of his machine gunners on a walking holiday in Turkey. They must have presented a rather threatening sight and inevitably, in a remote rural area, were arrested and locked up by the local police. Luckily, he had taken the precaution of arming himself with the right permits and after a night in the cells, they were released.

His next adventure was an exchange posting with The Black Watch of Canada. There were only four unmarried officers in the Mess (including Jamie) and life was a bit dull until Saturday night when everybody, with wives, turned up, drank the place dry and were fit for church next morning. He found the driving a revelation; endless miles of dead straight and empty roads where you could fix your accelerator to maintain a steady speed and then sit back with a book. At that time, I was in New Zealand but we both returned as Adjutants of our two Territorial Battalions; Jamie to Dundee and me in Perth. Again, nothing of particular note happened although we would meet every few weeks to play golf at the St Martins course near Leuchars. Along with his snooker and darts, Jamie was a pretty neat golfer but never boasted of any sort of handicap. One historical moment found us at either end of the new Tay Road Bridge keeping an eye on the Guards of Honour provided by 4th/5th and 6th/7th Battalions for its official opening.

I left the army after that but Jamie soldiered on in Minden, Kirknewton and briefly, Balmoral as Captain of the Royal Guard. At some time in that era, I became aware that he was learning Arabic prior to a posting to Abu Dhabi where his strong feelings about right and wrong nearly got him into trouble. The RSM of his unit, apparently, flatly refused to carry out an order Jamie had given him so Jamie drew his pistol on him. Whether or not the RSM eventually obeyed, I do not know but Jamie was hustled back home, not for being in the wrong but for going about things in the wrong way and raising the possibility of an “insult” being avenged.

His last job in the Army was as training officer at Aberdeen university OTC from whence he set forth on a campbellian adventure in South America. He spent some time as a trainee Gaucho but his main, long term aim was to travel south, the length of the Andes, on a horse with a pack pony – a real adventure with which to regale a grandson. It was hard going but uneventful until he found himself crossing and recrossing a watercourse which he did not realise was the frontier between Argentina and Chile. For the second time in his life he was arrested as a suspicious alien but with his natural charm and some Spanish he extracted himself and came home.



He spent some time running the Dundee University's launch on the River Tay, responsible for passengers and physical maintenance, before joining the Save The Children Fund (SCF) whom he was with for the next sixteen action filled years.

His first job was in Vietnam during the fight against the Viet Cong. He inherited and enlarged the SCF team and went about his work mostly untroubled by the struggle. Eventually, however, things turned against the South and he found himself in his base with a wad of money to pay everyone off leaving him alone with the North's tanks entering the town. An American he knew came by in a jeep and took him off down to Da Nang airbase where, in his own words, he crouched in a slit trench under shellfire. He was among the last of the non-Vietnamese to be safely taken away by the Americans and came back to the UK with more to tell a grandchild. (see Red Hackle No 182 Page 28)

His second SCF posting was to Columbia at the behest of the President's wife who wanted an SCF presence to be established in her country. Unfortunately, the lady was absent in London when he arrived and he got nowhere towards setting up an SCF facility without the quite open requests for bribes from the Civil Service. The other daily hazard was the “mugging”. As long as you were aware of the form and had something in your pocket to give, there was no violence but it was a bit wearing having to deal with it almost every day. Eventually the President's wife returned and he was able to come away with the job completed but he reckoned that the minute her back was turned, the SCF operation would fold.

Then began his long association with India and Pakistan. There is not enough space in a standard Red Hackle obituary to comment on all the splendid things Jamie achieved during his time there. Suffice it to say that he made many friends, coped with the children of friends who were on their gap year and managed to source from Lancashire a second hand cleaning and carding machine to enable the cashmere goat herders to prepare their product to the standard required by the fashion houses of Europe and save them from using Indian middle men who paid them too little.

At one point, the SCF Patron, Princess Anne, came to visit. A first visit had been postponed following the assassination of Mrs Gandhi but this time, Jamie had his hands full with a very detailed tour. A year later, Princess Anne attended a concert in Edinburgh for a charity of which my sister was the local patron. Before she went, my sister asked what she should talk about with the Princess. I suggested that she raised Jamie's name. She rang me next day to say that the Princess enthused about him for all of the fifteen minutes saying that he was the best person ever. Not long afterwards, he was awarded the MBE and was invited to the Edinburgh Garden Party to take tea in the Queen's tent. It tickled me to find myself in the Royal Company guard round that tent.

He left SCF in around 1990 and there was a period when I was aware of further adventures and of him settling on Benbecula where his brother, Colin, and his mother had been for some time. I was conscious that he was restless on the Island and was forever going off on expeditions to “do things” but I was never sure what apart from his pursuit of his family's connection with the Portuguese and his Great Aunt Anne – long gone –with whom, he swore, he was in constant touch.

In 2005, I took on the Chairmanship of the East of Scotland War Pensions Committee (WPC) and was able to recruit Jamie as the Committee's representative for the West Highlands and Islands. It was not a particularly onerous task but it gave him expenses paid visits to Edinburgh four times a year and London twice. At the time, he was trying to persuade the authorities to put up some sort of memorial to all those from the Hebridean islands who perished in the service of the Merchant Navy. I do not know if anything came of it.

My time with the WPC ended in 2013 although Jamie may have continued on the committee for a bit. I visited them both and saw Colin's pretty basic croft and Jamie's more comfortable house in the township. I knew about the happiness he had when Sue Walsham rediscovered him and the fun they had holidaying together. I knew about his long stay in hospital and how trapped he felt. I last spoke with him at Christmas 2018 when he said that the doctors had given up on him but that he was determined to see in 2019.

He had enough to keep a grandson enthralled for hours. I should know the value of such as I had a grandfather who lived a fascinating and adventurous life at whose feet I sat for many hours.

T Usher

CAPTAIN STEWART WILLIAM CLARK

Stewart Clark was granted an Emergency Commission in September 1945 and served in Palestine with the 4th Battalion until its disbandment and then with other regimental officers was posted to serve with 1 HERTS at Sarafand Camp, Nathania. He worked as an Intelligence Officer in support of the Civil Power before being posted to GHQ Middle East to work in General Staff Intelligence.

In January 1947 he was transferred to Salonika to work in the Interrogation Centre in support of the Greek Police and then in October 1947 he transferred to the Intelligence Corps and was based at the Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Centre at Kabrit in Egypt and worked as the Adjutant for the unit. A year later in November 1948 he was released from the Army.

Stewart was born in May 1926 in Kirkcaldy but was educated in France until war was declared in 1939. He returned to Kirkcaldy to complete his education. After his military service he undertook an engineering course at Heriot Watt and then worked in the sale of textiles in Nigeria and later Cameroon. A period in the UK when he got married, was followed by work as export manager to French speaking countries of West and Equatorial Africa.

In 1972 he returned to Scotland and was appointed as Director of Tourism, Central Regional Council and remained in the tourism field until his retirement in 2002. He lived in Dunfermline and died in August 2018 aged 92.

R M Riddell



VISCOUNT DAVIDSON

Malcolm, 3rd Viscount Davidson died on 27th September 2019 aged 85. He was commissioned in May 1954 and served in the 2nd Battalion in British Guiana. A full obituary will appear in the next magazine.

CAPTAIN GRAHAM GREGORY-SMITH

Graham was commissioned in December 1959 and served in the Army for about seven years, retiring as a Captain. He was the son of HG Gregory – Smith who served in the Regiment during the Great War but who later joined the Colonial Service.

Graham was born in Kenya where his father was a District Commissioner and came back for schooling at Eagle House and then Sherborne. He undertook his National Service in the Royal Lincolns before going to Sandhurst, being commissioned into the Regiment.

He served in Cyprus, Warminster and Minden and Colin Innes recalls that when the battalion was at Sennelager for training, that everyone was accommodated in tents, as was the Jocks' Cookhouse.

On Part 1 Orders we read one day that the swill bin area, near the Cookhouse was being attacked by the wild boar that frequented the woods. The Part 1 Order went on to explain that a deep trench had been dug around the swill bin area to keep the wild boar out and that everyone was to take care not to fall into the trench.

Graham was Orderly Officer one day and, carrying out his duties seriously, he decided to inspect the Cookhouse area. However, he did so in the gloaming and duly fell into the trench and had to be helped out. We used to call Graham "Giglamps" or "Gigs" because he always wore spectacles and always looked a little sleepy but he was a man of charm.

In November 1960 he was involved in a major accident in Libya when the truck he was travelling in crashed, fatally injuring Pte McCann, and crushing Graham in the cab. He remained unconscious for a week, being flown home, via Malta and another military hospital to Headley Court where, after six pelvic breaks, some leg damage and the concussion to his head, he recuperated for about six months. This accident affected him very badly. He went on to serve for a further six years until he found that his career was being limited. He retired in 1966 and joined the Prison Service.

Service at various prisons led to his posting to Wormwood Scrubs for a testing eight years, four spent as Governor of the Life Wing with Ian Brady and the IRA members among his charges. Subsequent service



was at; Aldington Young Offenders Institution; Maidstone; The Home Office; Strangeways in Manchester and finally as Governor of Winson Green, Birmingham.

He retired aged 60 and worked for SSAFA as a caseworker, Divisional Secretary and finally Divisional Treasurer for 15 years. His time with SSAFA was emblematic of his desire to help others and it was all achieved with little fuss and in a calm and orderly manner. He was a man of charm who had a sense of humour and above all he was a steadfast and upright character.

He met and married his wife Susan in 1970 and had two daughters Elizabeth and Emma.

R M Riddell

BRIGADIER ADAM GURDON CBE DL

Adam Gurdon was born in May 1931 when his father was a Company Commander in The Black Watch and his younger brother Robert, was born the following year. There was a huge sigh of relief from their parents as after two daughters, a son had been born and the Gurdon heritage was assured. Postings to York, Glasgow and Camberley followed, but the war brought disruption to family life and their father later became a Major General (March 1944) as the Commander British Reinforcement Training Establishment, India but the family put down roots in Suffolk in 1943.



Adam went to Rugby School and there he excelled at rackets. He was then called up for National Service which was not his first career choice but after training at Eaton Hall (January to April 1950) he was commissioned into the Regiment and joined the 1st Battalion in Berlin. When it was clear that the Battalion was going to Korea, he applied for a regular commission. In autumn 1952, The Black Watch took over the defence of "The Hook," a dominating feature of great strategic importance. Gurdon, in command of 11 Platoon in Delta Company, saw heavy fighting and described the experience as "educational, maturing and frightening."

His brother Robert had meanwhile been commissioned into the Regiment in August 1952 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion.

In August 1953, still serving in the 1st Battalion in Kenya he was involved in operations against the Mau Mau. A year in Berlin as Regimental Signals Officer and Adjutant during the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions was followed by service in Cyprus and then Tanganyika with the King's African Rifles.

He served with 48th Gurkha Infantry Brigade in Hong Kong from 1964 to 1966 before rejoining 1 BW in BAOR and then in Cyprus, in command of a company, as part of the UN Peacekeeping Force. Six years at the MOD with responsibility for operational policy planning was followed by a staff job at Eastern District.

A further three years at the MOD was to be dominated by events in Rhodesia.

Southern Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) was followed by 15 years of guerrilla war in which the Patriotic Front (PF) comprised of the black nationalist groups, Zanu (led by Robert Mugabe) and Zapu, waged an increasingly violent insurgency. The Lancaster House Agreement, signed in December 1979, declared a ceasefire, nullified UDI and imposed direct British rule while elections, leading to Independence, were held.

In late autumn that year, Gurdon, based at the MOD, had the major responsibility for planning the operation of a Commonwealth Monitoring Force (CMF) to be led by Major General (later Sir) John Acland. In a highly volatile situation, the guerrilla camps had to be located and the fighters persuaded to congregate in assembly areas.

In mid-November, Gurdon and three other officers went ahead with a reconnaissance party. It was the middle of the rainy season. Tracks to many of the assembly points had been washed away, some of the airstrips were unusable to large aircraft and the problems of deploying more than 100 small groups of monitors over a large country were formidable.

There was great suspicion on the part of the nationalists that the British were hand in glove with the white Rhodesians. The CMF's

neutrality had to be beyond question and it was staffed by members of a range of Commonwealth countries. The PF continued to operate under their own leaders and there was no question of disarming the guerrillas. Peacekeepers got used to seeing them with their weapons "locked, cocked and ready to rock."

To preserve the ceasefire between the armies of the PF and the Rhodesian Security Forces which had been engaged for years in a bitter civil war, the CMF's task was to control where possible through influence and advice. Success depended on the judgement, self-control and courage of members of the Force. The moment that there was a single CMF casualty, the Rhodesians, it was feared, would set about the assembled guerrilla fighters with disastrous results.

At the end of December, Acland deployed the CMF. The Hercules and helicopter crews flew in the heaviest rains experienced for a long time and risked landing on strips which were not, for certain, cleared of mines. The initial contact between the guerrillas and the CMF produced some very tense situations. Two military vehicles were blown up on mines, accidental discharges of weapons resulted in 12 deaths and 53 men seriously wounded.

In the New Year, it quickly became apparent that a rapprochement would have to be forged between the PF and the Rhodesians and that the latter, who possessed the trappings of government and administration, would have to take over the running of the assembly places from the CMF.

The problem of overcoming years of hatred, fear and suspicion, involved days of difficult negotiations with the hierarchies of each side. In addition to these onerous tasks Gurdon, based at Government House, Salisbury, – he and Iain Duncan Smith shared an office – working 15 hours a day, seven days a week, was the principal coordinator between the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and visiting Parliamentary delegations.

He had been appointed OBE in 1973. The citation for his advancement to CBE stated that the pressure on him over a three-month period was enormous but that he constantly found solutions to apparently insoluble problems and proved himself to be the lynchpin of the organisation at Government House.

In 1982, he was promoted to brigadier and moved to the Cabinet Office where he was in charge of a section responsible for the coordination and publishing of intelligence.

In 1985, Adam retired from the Army. He raised funds for Bury St Edmunds Cathedral and Chelmsford Cathedral before joining his son-in-law, Sir Andrew (later Lord) Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group. He managed the Open Churches Trust, an organisation devoted to keeping some particularly important churches open for visitors during the week.

In 1993, he was made Deputy Lieutenant of Suffolk and, the following year, he was appointed High Sheriff. He published an autobiography, *A Chance to Serve* (2017).

Adam Gurdon died on 22 May 2019. He married, in 1958, Gillian Thomson the daughter of Colonel Chick Thomson DSO and bar, OBE, TD who commanded the 5th Battalion in 1943/44. Gillian survives him with their four daughters.

Editor's note: Written with input from Colonel Robert Gurdon, as well as information extracted from the Daily Telegraph.

LOUIS J MANSON

Louis Manson was granted an Emergency Commission in August 1946 and served in the 2nd Battalion until August 1947.

He trained as a solicitor but after a few years went into business.

He wrote an autobiography called a life unplanned and Victoria Schofield interviewed him for her book "Fighting in the Front Line".

He was one of very few Jewish members of the Regiment and he died during the summer of 2019.

R M Riddell

JOHN DALZIEL BEVERIDGE SMART CVO

John Smart completed National Service from September 1951 to September 1953. Following training at Fort George (The Salerno Platoon), Honiton, Oakhampton and Eaton Hall, he was commissioned into the 1st Battalion The Black Watch. He sailed on HMS Devonshire bound for Japan to complete his battlefield training. However, he was ordered to disembark at Busan, South Korea



as the regiment needed replacement subalterns. John joined the regiment at The Hook and became a platoon commander. They were involved in the Second Battle of the Hook between 18th and 19th November 1952 during which he was wounded. John was treated by a Norwegian MASH before being airlifted to the American hospital in Seoul and then onwards to the British and Commonwealth Hospital in Kure, Japan. During rehabilitation in Japan he became the PA to the Chief of Staff.

After National Service, John ran a family weaving business in Brechin. In retirement he was Lord Lieutenant for Kincardineshire from 1999 to 2007. He was born on 12 August 1952 and died on 12 August 2018 aged 87.

James Smart

PETER STORMONTH DARLING

Peter Stormonth Darling, a National Service officer died on 19th September 2019. I was lucky that I worked for him for a number of years in Mercury Asset Management after I left the Army and then knew him as a friend after he retired.

I have in my possession two books written by Peter. The first is called "City Cinderella" which he wrote three years post his retirement as Chairman of Mercury Asset Management, which was at that stage, the 51st largest UK Company – it isn't a kiss and tell autobiography but anyone leaving the Army and seeking a career in investment might purchase a copy. The other book is called "The Forgotten War" about the war in Korea. This was written for his children, grandchildren and a few friends with a wish that it should never be published for sale. Despite his often acerbic and insightful comments that is a pity, as it is a salutary read for subalterns as much as Commanding Officers.



Raised in Glen Prosen, Peter was very much a Black Watch son whose father had commanded a battalion in The Great War and who, post retirement, filled Lednathy with Regimental memorabilia. National Service post Winchester was a foregone conclusion. In due course he was commissioned and posted to Berlin. The battalion was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Pat Campbell Preston. A move to Buxtehude followed and it was a dismal barracks on Luneberg Heath. The major highlights were the numerous reunions with the Canadian Black Watch establishing The Canada or Montreal Cup.

Posted to C Company which was commanded by Major Jack Monteith, they had not been there long before the Battalion was warned off for Korea. As a National Service Officer one had to have at least nine months of Colour Service remaining for deployment or to extend for a number of months in order to qualify. Peter volunteered whereas many others, for fair reasons did not.

Mobilisation brought a number of senior management changes with the CO retiring on grounds of serious ill health. It also brought a new Company Commander. In this case Major David Campbell who in turn was replaced by Major Malcolm Wallace. However the manner of David's replacement caused considerable and justifiable resentment which continued to vex Peter right up until his death.

In "Forgotten War", Peter describes a subaltern's view of battle very succinctly and especially the Battle of the Hook where he commanded 8 Platoon positioned some 800 yards from that feature and covering the battalion and indeed the Commonwealth Division's left flank.

Despite this he considered C Company very fortunate as they only received some 200 incoming shells per 36 hours whereas A Company were getting more than 400 in 24 hours.

But this isn't just about Korea which had a profound effect upon him and perhaps moulded his easy, self-effacing management style. He never forgot those who were killed like David Nicholl, only six weeks after their arrival, let alone regular catch ups with Joe Hubble. A keen fan of both Wavell and Slim, he never forgot the smell of soldiers' feet!

After National Service, Peter went up to New College where his reserve commitments with the 6th/7th Battalion seemed tame after Korea so he joined the University Air Squadron for an adrenalin rush but that wasn't quite enough after The Hook.

Upon graduation he moved to Canada and was employed by various investment firms retaining his connections as a proud citizen of Canada until his death.

It was in Canada in 1958 that he first met the remarkable Siegmund Warburg “the greatest banker of the post war period”, who employed him there until recalling him to the UK in 1963. Here he filled numerous roles with ever increasing seniority, until in 1979 he was appointed Vice Chairman of SG Warburg and Company as well as Chairman of Warburg Investment Management. Siegmund’s first explicit orders were for him to sell to anyone including Charles Nunneley, of Flemings who would not take it at any price. But this is the irony. Peter and Ronnie Grierson (one of the more colourful of the Warburg team who had served in The Black Watch and SAS) changed its name to Mercury Asset Management which then in the 1980s grew exponentially. By the mid-1990s Mercury, regarded by some as City Cinderellas, managed over a £100 billion in funds for some 50 percent of the major UK pension funds. On the other hand Warburgs had fallen on hard times following an abortive merger plan only to be taken over by Swiss Bank Corporation for more or less book value. True nemesis came in 1997 when Peter’s successor as Chairman sold the business to Merrill Lynch for some nineteen times the initial share price of one pound.

It was never dull working for Peter as I did for eleven years at the peak of his City career as Chairman of Mercury Asset Management. There has then followed a further seventeen years as both friends and confidantes especially in respect of Black Watch matters. Many in the City knew him but knew him not – was he a nice man asked the obituary editor of The Daily Telegraph or did employees avoid his gaze? By outsiders he was regarded as both enigmatic and opaque especially as he was regarded as one of the first to earn over a million pounds a year. But for those of us who worked with him, we saw no opaqueness and no enigma. He was humane, self-effacing and a brilliant exponent of management by walking about and talking to his team. Some critics of Peter and the team at Mercury unjustifiably accused the Company of being nouveau or becoming very rich, very quickly so would be unaware of the old fashioned service which he imposed.

He worked until he died and much of that effort was centred on a myriad of charitable objectives. Peter was a remarkable man and I am enormously grateful that our paths crossed. This summer he attended the Regimental London lunch and asked whether he should call General Watson Sir or General – because he had only been a subaltern and was unjustifiably modest. He was a Captain of Industry and to my mind was certainly equal to any general but he had learnt much about managing people from his time in the Regiment.

R A H Nunneley

WILLIAM HUMPHREYS WATSON MBE, MC, LEGION D'HONNEUR

Bill “Tiger” Watson was the son of Robert Leckie Watson MC, who served in the Scottish Horse and then the 13th Battalion The Black Watch (Scottish Horse) in 1917/18. Bill was commissioned into The Black Watch in May 1941 but he is not recorded as serving in any of the battalions of the Regiment. His death was noted by an observant officer but no one was aware of him having served in the Regiment however, both he and his father’s details are recorded in the Green Book (Officers of The Black Watch Volume 2).

This obituary first appeared in the Times.

From the deck of a motorboat, Bill “Tiger” Watson, a commando with face blackened and dagger sharpened, watched with concern as an RAF bombing raid on the French port of St Nazaire ended prematurely. It was 0100 hours on March 28, 1942 and the raid was intended to light up the night sky and divert German attention away from an approaching ship, *HMS Campbelltown*, an old Royal Navy destroyer superficially disguised as a “friendly” German vessel. It was on a course to ram into the dock gates.

The Normandie dock at St Nazaire, which was 1,148ft long and 164ft wide, had been built to service the French cruise liner of the same name, but by 1942 it had a more sinister connotation. It was capable of

taking the German battleship Tirpitz, then sheltering in a Norwegian fjord. If the Tirpitz managed to evade the Royal Navy and get out into the Atlantic, she might, with her 15-inch guns, wreak havoc with British merchant shipping before taking refuge at St Nazaire. If St Nazaire could be closed to her, the risks inherent in her venturing out from her fjord would be far greater.

Watson’s task was to lead a small group of commandos ashore to clear the harbour mole of the enemy and then to hold or destroy a bridge on to it to prevent the arrival of German reinforcements. As soon as enemy searchlights switched on, illuminating the scene, he engaged with a Bren gun from the deck of the motor launch. His gallant and strenuous efforts to take the bridge led to him being wounded in the buttock, but it took a second shot, one that broke his arm, to stop him.

After a brief attempt to break out of the harbour area, with a view to walking to neutral Spain, most of the survivors, including Watson, were taken prisoner — but not before the British demolition parties had destroyed the pumping and winding gear. HMS Campbelltown exploded, on a delayed fuse, the next day, wrecking the dock and putting it out of use for the rest of the war.

The commando raid on the dock at the mouth of the Loire was called Operation Chariot. It became better known as “the greatest raid of all” — and Watson was awarded the Military Cross for his part in it.

Perhaps surprisingly, he was not nicknamed “Tiger” because he was fierce. It was to do with his smile. “What’s your first name?” asked his commanding officer when the boyish Second Lieutenant reported for duty. “Bill”, he said. “Bill!” the CO exclaimed, “That won’t do, we’ve got two Bills already. But you’ve got a grin like Tiger Tim so I’m going to call you ‘Tiger’ and you’d better live up to it.”

William Humphreys Watson was born in Farnborough, Hampshire, where his father, Robert Leckie Watson had a dental practice. He was educated at Fettes and volunteered for the London Scottish as soon as he was 18 in order to ‘fight Hitler’. After commissioning into the Black Watch in 1941, he was invited to join the commandos, leading to his involvement in the St Nazaire raid.

While in hospital at Rennes after the raid, Watson was visited by a German officer who offered him cigarettes and chocolate. He declined, suspecting a trap. He later discovered, however, that the German’s unit had shot down a British aircraft whose survivors were in a prison camp near his home town, where he visited them with small luxuries when on leave. In his memoir written long afterwards, Watson commented: “I hope he survived the war; he was the sort of person the world needs.”

Once fit to be moved, Watson was sent with other survivors of the raid to a prison camp near Bremen. While there, the camp commandant ordered a parade of the prisoners and told one, Lieutenant-Commander Sam Beattie to step forward. The commandant announced that Beattie had been awarded the Victoria Cross for his part in the raid and saluted him as a brave man.

Once the army and navy prisoners had been separated, Watson was sent to Oflag IX-A/H at Schloss Spangenberg on the River Fulda near Kassel. There he joined in a tunnelling enterprise and several times narrowly escaped detection but then decided he would make best use of his imprisonment by preparatory study for a medical degree. Having passed the first year pre-medical written examination, for which he studied with books sent out from England via the Red Cross, he was surprised to be sent to Obermasfeld, where the prisoner of war hospital was critically short of medical staff, to work as a “junior doctor”.

Revealing his state of medical ignorance to the senior prisoner doctor as soon as he arrived, he and another similarly unqualified officer were put to work as supervised medical assistants until the end of the war. This experience convinced him of his wish to become a doctor and after his release in 1945 he qualified as a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from Guy’s Hospital in London.

While studying at Guy’s Hospital, he had met Wyn Moncrieff, who — although younger than him — was already qualified as a doctor. They married and had a son, Peter, who is an NHS administrator, and three daughters: Mary, who is a publisher; Fiona, an international aid worker; and Alexandra, a graphic designer. His wife predeceased him but his son and daughters survive him.

Working as a GP in Shrewsbury with his wife in the same practice satisfied him until 1970, when he volunteered to serve in Biafra during the Nigerian civil war. His wife ran the practice at home. When interviewed for this assignment it was remarked that he already had experience of people enduring starvation from his time as a medical assistant in Germany in 1945 and he was accepted at once.



This experience served him well in Biafra, where many of the population had reached the stage of starvation that makes it difficult to accept food. This mission was followed by service for Oxfam in Ethiopia during the famine of 1973-74; his team, working at Dessie in the centre of the country, received a visit from Emperor Haile Selassie, accompanied by a heavily armed bodyguard. Watson was amused to notice that, perhaps in memory of the British liberation of the country from the Italians, the lower part of the trunks of the trees on the emperor's route had been painted white in true British Army "cantonment" fashion.

Watson was recalled to Ethiopia in 1975 to help the nomads of the Ogaden Desert stricken by famine as a result of a drought. In 1980, after 27 years in general practice and again on behalf of Oxfam, he joined a relief team sent to help an influx of refugees into northern Somalia. Apart from his first mission to Biafra, his wife accompanied him to work beside him. Subsequently they served as doctors in Malawi and then Sierra Leone. In 2002 he was appointed MBE for his medical services overseas and for his role as a founding member of a hospice in Shrewsbury.

In 1999 he made use of some surplus funds from the St Nazaire Society for the digging of wells required in Ghana. After the project was completed, he and his wife visited the village in the northern region of Ghana where the wells had been dug. They were received with great courtesy and enthusiasm but were alarmed when the villagers contributed their entire stock of guinea fowl eggs to give them as a present. They accepted them but left wondering whether the people had now been deprived of a significant part of their protein for the coming days.

WILLIAM BERWICK

William Berwick died on 5th of November 2018 aged 92. Serving in the 5th Battalion he took part in the war in North West Europe and later served with other Scottish units and the Scottish Commando where he served until he was demobbed.

Settling in Arbroath, William found employment in agriculture working on farms in the local area. He joined the Angus Branch of the Association not long after it formed and was a regular attendee and participant in all Branch activities until age prevented him from doing so. He is survived by his son.



R J W Proctor

IAN CAMPBELL

Ian was born in Dunfermline on the 24th of April 1954 and died in the Victoria Hospital Kirkcaldy on the 9th of March 2019. He attended school in Dunfermline but it is fair to say, this wasn't the best time of his life and academic work he admitted wasn't his strong point. On leaving school Ian began his working life in the dockyards in Rosyth as an apprentice electrician but it didn't last as he said he "couldn't even wire a plug". Mining was his next move and it was during this time he decided to join the Territorial Army, where he served for 15 years. The mines closed in the early 80s and Ian decided to have a couple of years off, until he joined the Post Office. He moved on to become a Janitor at Abbeyhill Primary School followed by working for G4 Security until his retirement at the age of 62. Ian listed many hobbies and interests namely, judo (Black Belt) football, bowling, pub quizzes, darts and pool; he was also a season ticket holder at Murrayfield along with the other shaped ball at Tynecastle. He enjoyed a laugh and a joke and could be very mischievous. He was a very proud and independent person who never wanted to burden anyone including his family. He loved to travel wherever the TA would take him. He was a man who enjoyed life, his family and making new friends wherever he went; he loved his Territorial Army time and was proud to have worn the uniform. I know he will be missed by his family his friends and his fellow members of the Fife Branch.



R M Scott

ROBERT DAVIDSON

Robert Davidson who was affectionately known as "Big Rab" was born in 1940 and brought up near Cardenden in Fife. After leaving school he worked on a farm before joining the Regiment in 1957.

After his basic training at Queen's Barracks he joined the 1st Battalion at Redford Barracks and then served in Cyprus. He started his career in C Company but he soon moved to join the MT Platoon. In Warminster he trained as a Saracen driver in the Armoured Personnel Carrier Platoon and by 1964 he attended the JNCOs Cadre in Minden and was promoted to Lance Corporal.

In West Germany he took an active part in the successful Battalion Athletics team which won the BAOR Championship. His discipline was the pole vault but he competed in other field events.

A posting as a Corporal to Bridge of Don followed and his Platoon Sergeant was Fred Beattie. He then returned to the battalion which by then was based in Kirknewton and became the RP Sergeant where his watchwords were "Firm and fair with no grey areas".

Northern Ireland tours followed, as did the battalion's posting to Hong Kong which included a stint as 14 Platoon Commander. Colchester and two more Emergency Tours in 1974 and 1975 and in 1976 the Resident Battalion tour in Ballykinler, saw him become CSM of C Company under Major Hugh Rose. Hugh recalls the following incident in South Armagh; "We had a minor incident one night while we were acting as a detached Company at Middletown Police Station close to the Border. Shots were fired close-by and we did not return any fire because it was probably just duck shooters. However, we had a Company stand-to and everybody was looking hopeful. Suddenly the whole place was lit up like Blackpool Pier because Big Rab had got the 2" mortar out into the compound and was firing illumination flares with great enthusiasm. Eventually I managed to call a cease fire and when writing up the incident report the next day to justify the high ammo expenditure, I slightly took him to task for being so trigger-happy. He just grinned and said "I thought you needed some new handkerchiefs, Sir" (I always used the high-quality cotton parachutes as hankies.) He had actually sent out a patrol at dawn the next morning to collect them for me but sadly the wind had blown them all over the Irish Border!"

Just before the move to Catterick he became CSM of Delta Company. The Company deployed to South Armagh for two months under the command of 2nd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets and then re-joined the Battalion in Catterick. The Laying Up of the Old Colours in Perth, a visit by our Colonel-in-Chief and a challenging exchange exercise in Guyana all followed quickly. His Company Commander for this period was Major Edward De Broë-Ferguson who recalled; "For those who knew him well – as I did – Rab Davidson was a tower of strength – particularly in a crisis. On leaving the final exercise at Takama Battle School training area in a Guyanese Defence Force (GDF) Landrover driven incautiously down a jungle track by our Guyanese driver known as "Sugar", we collided slap into the front of a dilapidated GDF four-ton truck. Notwithstanding Corporal "Gomer" McNaughton, the radio operator, who had come off worst, Rab, as quick as a flash, was out of the back and the wretched Sugar was lifted bodily out of the driving seat - I can't remember what followed!"

His final jobs were in the recruiting world, running the RIT and then working on the LSL in Dundee.

Throughout his service he competed in motocross events winning many trophies and motor bikes were his real passion. This did have certain disadvantages and just before the New Colours Parade in May 1975 when Rab was supposed to be one of the two Colour Sergeant "Escorts to the Colours", he had a tumble and broke his collar bone. Luckily Colour Sergeant Al Saunders was waiting in the wings.

"Big Rab" had presence and almost always looked smart. He was a man who enjoyed a party and had a twinkle in his eye as he got some unsuspecting subaltern to box for the Company team. He was a regimental character.

As he left the Army in 1982 his first marriage broke down but he later remarried. He also applied to become the Farm Manager at Westfield Farm (Blairgowrie) and he was given a two month trial without wages but that was the start of job that lasted 28 years. Rab did not cut his ties with the Army and he became RSM of The Black Watch Army Cadet Battalion and was later commissioned and took over as Blairgowrie Detachment Commander.

W D Whytock



RONNIE DAVIDSON

Ronnie Davidson died on 19th August 2019 aged 80 after a battle against cancer.

He joined the Army in 1960 and served in Cyprus, Warminster, Minden, Cyprus UN, Kirknewton, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Colchester, Ballykinler, Catterick, Belize and Werl. He also took part in numerous operational tours in Northern Ireland.

Ronnie spent most of his career working in the Officers' Mess and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess from where he completed his service as Mess Sergeant in Werl in 1982.

He was a very quiet man who had a great sense of humour and was very popular. He was very efficient and completely trustworthy and reliable ensuring that the Mess was run in a good regimental fashion. This could be a difficult task during the numerous moves that the battalion encountered over his time of employment in each Mess.

Before he completed his twenty two year engagement he ensured that the Mess was in pristine order ready to receive our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother who visited the battalion in 1982 shortly after our return from a training period at the British Army Training Unit at Suffield, Canada. Not only did the Mess property have to be unpacked and laid out but every item had to be in pristine condition. Ronnie managed this in his quiet and unruffled manner.

On leaving the Regiment he moved to Aberdeen where he and his wife set up a bed and breakfast business, unfortunately his wife predeceased him and he retired.

R J W Proctor

DOUGLAS DENWETTE

Douglas Denwette died on 25 January 2019 aged 99. A proud veteran of his service in the Second World War he served with the 5th Battalion.

On 3 June 1944, the battalion boarded Landing Craft Infantry (LCI) at Tilbury Docks and moved out into the lower waters of the Thames Estuary. After delays caused by poor weather, early on 5 June, the LCIs started to move round the coast of Kent before turning to port and joining the vast armada heading for the Normandy beaches. Kept off shore until 20.00hrs, on 6th June they landed on Juno Beach.

So began the invasion of Europe for Douglas Denwette.

Douglas was born in Kirkcaldy on 2 August 1919 and aged 14 he began working for John Menzies, the newspaper wholesalers but in December 1939 he was called up and reported for training to Queens' Barracks. After basic training he qualified as a dispatch rider and then in January 1943 he embarked for Egypt. There followed a spell as part of a guard force, guarding German and Italian POWs but in September he joined the 5th Battalion in Sicily as a Company Signaller. This was during a period when the battalion were on garrison duties in Catania before returning to the UK in November 1943 to prepare for the invasion of Europe.

The 5th Battalion faced fierce opposition during the early days of the invasion and sustained many casualties. Telephone cable was regularly cut by mortar and artillery fire as well as armoured vehicles and Douglas and his fellow signallers had to repair them or lay new lines at all hours of the day and night. Signallers were very vulnerable to enemy sniper fire.

He was involved with others of the 5th Battalion in a night attack on a factory near Caen that did not succeed and sadly led to recriminations and caused anger amongst those most closely involved in the action (see The Spirit of Angus pages 127-131).

Douglas remained with the Battalion until he was demobilised in July 1946 and must have been one of the few to soldier through the fighting from D Day until the end of the war.

He returned to John Menzies and was Branch Manager in Kirkcaldy and held management posts in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Inverness and Ayr.

He retired to Kirkcaldy in 1982 and became a founder member of the Normandy Veterans' Association and for many years was Secretary of the Fife Branch. In December 2016 he was appointed a Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur.

He was married to Betty who predeceased him and he is survived by two sons and a daughter.



Douglas had said "My time in The Black Watch was very special to me. I will never forget the comradeship, the banter and good times. The bad times, like old soldiers, just fade away".

R M Riddell

DOUGLAS DUNCAN

Douglas Duncan, who served with the Black Watch battlegroup in Korea, died on 24 September 2019. Born in Aberdeen, he was aged 19 when serving in Korea. Whilst returning from a patrol the Chinese attacked. He tended two wounded soldiers whilst under fire before carrying them to the first aid post.



JAMES FLEMING

James Fleming served in the Regiment from 8 August 1950 until 27 December 1960. Born in Perth he enlisted at the same time as a cousin Joe Fleming (who was known as Bosh and was at one time a member of the Pipes and Drums). His best friend Ronnie McKenzie also joined and they carried out their basic training at Queens' Barracks. Joe's father William was also serving in the Regiment at the same time as James, in Berlin.

He was posted to the 1st Battalion in Berlin and moved with the Battalion to Buxtehude 20 miles west of Hamburg and then to Crail in preparation for the journey to Korea. He served in Korea and was present at the Battle of the Hook.

Active service in Kenya followed and James became the battalion Heavy Weight boxing champion during this tour. A posting to Maryhill Barracks in Glasgow followed and he served with Provost Marshal's Office. He described this period of his military service as "very interesting". He was the only man in Black Watch uniform and was surrounded by men of the Highland Light Infantry. He returned to the Battalion in time to take part in the 1958 tour to Cyprus and left the Army as a Sergeant in December 1960.

In civilian life James worked for Cunard, sailing on the Queen Mary and for a time living in New York but he returned home to Perth. He then worked for British Rail, the Admiralty and latterly Tayside Regional Council from which he retired.

He was a passionate gardener who won trophies for his produce and he was also a keen beekeeper.

Aged 85, James died suddenly but peacefully and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Marc Fleming

CORPORAL STEVEN GALLAZI

Steve died in Colchester on the 30th of March 2019 and his funeral took place on the 6th of April at Colchester Crematorium.

He saw active service in Korea, Kenya, Cyprus and Northern Ireland and also served with the 1st Battalion in Berlin, Edinburgh, Cyprus, Warminster, Minden, Kirknewton and Hong Kong. His last posting was to Colchester where he completed 25 years' service, leaving the Army in 1978.

Steve who came from Dundee spent most of his service in the Signals Platoon, then latterly in employed jobs in HQ Company.

In 1953 he married May who also came from Dundee and they were happily married until she died in 1983.

R J W Proctor

CHARLES STANLEY GALTRESS

Charles Galtress was a veteran of the 7th Battalion who served from 1944 to 1948. He died on 22 December 2018 aged 92.

Born in Hull on 12 June 1926, his family moved to Bradford in the early 1940s after his mother died. He worked in the textile mills until December 1944 when he commenced military training at Derby. He joined the battalion at the time of the Ardenne offensive in the bitter cold and snow of January 1945. There then followed OP VERITABLE (the Reichswald Offensive), the Rhine Crossing in March 1945 and the battle near



Dinxperloo which led to the pursuit and clearing up operations and finally the surrender of the German Army on 5th May 1945.

The battalion then moved to Bremerhaven and Charles continued to serve in different stations in Germany until his demob in 1948.

He married in 1945 and he worked in the textile mills all of his adult life, finishing as a warehouse manager. In retirement he worked part time until he was 70.

He was a keen amateur Rugby League player and represented West Yorkshire and he was also a great family man.

He is survived by his sons Brian and Trevor, the latter who served for twenty-four years in the RAOC.

R M Riddell

KENNY GRANT

Kenny was born on the 10th of June 1944 in Dundee and sadly died on the 5th of April 2019 at Ninewells hospital after a short period of recurring illness.

He grew up in Lochee with his brother and sisters and was educated at St Mary's Primary School and St John's secondary school. On leaving school he worked as a milkman.



On reaching his seventeenth birthday, Kenny enlisted into the Black Watch and after carrying out his basic training at the combined Black Watch and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Training Depot at Stirling Castle, joined the 1st Battalion at Knook Camp Warminster where he was posted to 7 Platoon B Company.

He showed great prowess in the sporting world and became a reliable Platoon and Company football team member. Kenny also showed great promise as a long distance runner where he was to become a member of the very successful battalion athletics team in the 1960s which was to win in the BAOR and in the UK. In 1970 he was selected to run in the Commonwealth Games. He competed in the marathon representing Gibraltar. He finished in the top half, ahead of the then world champion. He continued his long distance running throughout his twenty-two years in the army and became a member of the Hawkhill Harriers when he left.

Kenny was soon selected for promotion and rose through the ranks and was selected to be an instructor at the Scottish Division Depot. As well as being a Platoon Sergeant and CQMS with the 1st Battalion he was selected to be PSI with 51st Highland at Queens' Barracks Perth where he ended his service.

Apart from service in UK, Kenny served in Malta, Minden, Libya, Cyprus, Belize and latterly Werl in West Germany. He completed two tours in Northern Ireland and after 22 years regular service with the regiment he became a Non Regular Permanent Staff Member of 23 SAS (V) at Invergowrie until 1989.

On finally leaving the Army, Kenny embarked on a new career when he became the owner of an Army Surplus shop in the Wellgate Centre, Dundee and then the Keiller Centre where he was for a time a partner owner of the centre.

His skill and charm in selling to the public ensured that his business was successful and he opened outlets in both Aberdeen and Forfar.

Developing vascular problems in 2015 Kenny had his right leg amputated at Ninewells hospital and a short time after the operation I visited him, only to find that in true Kenny style he was down in the gym, building up his upper body strength and was back on his feet once he had a prosthetic leg fitted.

He quickly became a member of BLESMA and took a full part in all the activities that they had to offer. He also took part in "Soldier Ride" in New York and other BLESMA Activities weeks and came back to tell how much he had enjoyed it all.

Kenny was very proud to have served in The Black Watch and was a great supporter of the Association. He was an active member of the Angus Branch and was always there to give those less fortunate a helping hand. He was always very vocal on matters which he cared about, particularly the merger of the Regiment in 2006; he also encouraged ex members of the Regiment to join and be involved with the Association. The large turnout of all ranks at Kenny's funeral service at Dundee Crematorium on the 17th of April was testament to his standing amongst the Regimental family.

Kenny married Irene in 1969 and is survived by their three sons, Kenneth, Steven and Christopher.

He was a great character and Black Watch soldier who is sadly missed.

R J W Proctor

ANDREW HAMILTON

Andrew was born in Glasgow on the 24th September 1935 and died in East Kilbride on the 25th of September 2018. As a boy he went to school in Oakbank Primary in Maryhill Glasgow and then on to St Georges Road Senior School until leaving in 1950. Andrew took up employment with the local Co-Op as a fishmonger but the call of the Army and The Black Watch was too great. On completion of his training he joined the 1st Battalion and served it loyally for 22 years, in Germany, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Malaya and the UK. On demob he took up employment as an area manager with a local security firm and joined the T.A. and became a WO2 with the Glasgow Highlanders. He was a member of the Fife Branch from its formation and was a regular attendee at any function. He was also a founder member of the 1739 Club. He was a gentleman who was held in high regard by all who had the pleasure of knowing him and I know that his family and friends will miss him dearly.



R M Scott

JOHN HENDERSON

John Henderson who was the oldest member of the Angus Branch of the Association died at Edenholme Care Home, Stonehaven on the 14th of June 2019, some two months short of his 97th birthday.

A veteran of the Second World War, John served in the 5th Battalion and took part in the Battle of El Alamein and the subsequent battles in North Africa and Sicily.

On returning to civilian life he married a girl from Gourdon in Angus and worked with his father-in-law on his fishing boat sailing out of Gourdon for a number of years.

He then was employed by HM Coastguards for the next 30 years and was responsible for the planning of the rescue of those who could be involved in any major sea disasters around the coast of Scotland. This took John to many inaccessible and inhospitable areas of the Scottish coastline but he loved the sea and John enjoyed his work.

He joined the Branch when he was invited as guest of honour to the 70th anniversary El Alamein dinner in 2012 just after he celebrated his ninetieth birthday. At the end of the dinner he intimated that the Chairman's short talk on the battle was accurate and then gave his own personal account where he raised the roof with some of his stories and memories. He then attended the Branch on several occasions after this and in the summer months and although he was over ninety, drove himself to Forfar and then back home before infirmity prevented him from driving.

Ron Scrimgeour, one of our associate members, who had befriended John organised that a group of Branch members visit John in the Edenholme Care home on the 3rd of May. He was really pleased to see us all and although he was quite frail his mind was still sharp and he enjoyed our company. Sadly, he died a month after our visit. His funeral was held at Inverbervie Parish Church on the 21st of June with members of the Branch in attendance.

R J W Proctor

DEREK HOWARD-SMITH

Derek Howard-Smith died on 24th December 2018 at the age of 93. He enlisted in Manchester on 9 December 1942 for the duration of the Emergency and entered the old Queens' Barracks, Perth with the intake of 21 January 1943.

In the autumn of 1943, after training at Perth and Kinfauns, along with other members of his draft, he



was posted to the 4th Battalion then based in Chichester. In the Spring of 1944, he was sent in a large draft to reinforce the three Black Watch battalions of the 51st Highland Division. Derek joined the 7th Battalion in Southwold and served with the Signal Platoon throughout the France and Germany campaign and afterwards in BAOR. In Germany, in early 1946, the 7th Battalion was disbanded and the men were transferred to various English Regiments, although some were lucky enough to be posted to the 1st Battalion. Along with other Black Watch men, Derek was transferred to the York and Lancaster Regiment. After three months, he managed to get himself posted back into the Regiment and joined the 1st Battalion at Verden in Northern Germany. He actually travelled to 1BW on his 21st birthday and considered that an excellent birthday present. He was involved in Operation Woodpecker (timber for war reparations) until he finished his service on 20 September 1947 with the 1st Battalion at Duisberg.

He later served in the TA Intelligence Corps (14 CI Coy) for two years, 1966-68. He was a Case Worker for SSAFA, with a special interest in Ghurkhas. After retiring as a Company Secretary, he joined the Pembrokeshire Branch of the Normandy Veterans Association and was Secretary for his local Royal British Legion Branch for many years until partial amputation of his leg prevented him from attending regular meetings. Derek was awarded the Chevalier de la Legion D'honneur in 2017.

Debra A Rixon

KENNY KEILLOR

Kenny was born in West Germany whilst his father served in the Armed Forces. On the completion of his father's service the family moved to Dundee where Kenny grew up. After leaving school and a short time in civilian life, he followed in his father's and brother's footsteps, enlisting into The Black Watch where he served for ten years. After basic training Kenny joined the 1st Battalion at Catterick and then went on to serve in Belize, West Germany, Redford Barracks Edinburgh and Berlin. He also took part in operational tours in Northern Ireland in West Belfast and South Armagh. Initially he was member of a Rifle Company and he became an AFV 432 driver when the 1st Battalion was employed in the mechanised role in Werl West Germany. He later joined the MT Platoon where he was employed until he left the army.

On leaving the army he returned to Dundee where he and his family set up home.

Kenny was a great family man and a very kind hearted person who had a great sense of humour; he also had a great aptitude for DIY. He often helped those who were not as fortunate as himself to make their homes more comfortable. Sadly, he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer in October 2018 from which he never recovered. He bore his illness in a stoic manner.

R J W Proctor

JAMES LOW

Jim Low was born on the 3rd of August 1934 in rural Aberdeenshire. The eldest of a family of six, his father worked on the land which meant the family moved around various farms in the county before coming to Fasque in Kincardineshire and then to Angus.

On leaving School he was employed in the Brechin Cinema or as it was known locally "The Picture House." On being called up for National Service Jim carried out his basic training at Queens' Barracks, Perth and was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Germany. He was later transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps and served both in Germany and UK.

National Service being completed, Jim returned to Brechin and gained employment with the Vidor battery factory where he met his wife Edna. They were married in 1959 and spent just over sixty happy years together. He then returned to working on the land and to Brechin in 1976 where he was employed in a number of local jobs until retirement.

A keen gardener, he won numerous awards from Angus Council for his efforts. His great sense of humour and easy going personality made him a well-liked and respected member of the community.

Sadly, Jim's health suffered over the past few years but those who were privileged to know him miss this outgoing man with a great sense of fun.

R J W Proctor

WO2 ALAN MCLELLAND BEM

Alan McLelland died aged 77 on the 20th of January 2019 at Cellardyke after a long and brave fight against cancer.

He joined the regiment in August 1958 when he was 17 years old and trained with 131 Squad at Queens' Barracks. Alan was originally a miner who was born in Methil and followed his father into the regiment.

Joining the 1st Battalion in Cyprus and after initially serving in a Rifle Company he joined Support Company where he soon gained promotion to Corporal.

On the battalion returning to the UK it was first based at Barton Stacey and latterly the School of Infantry at Warminster, and the Support weapons Wing at Netherhavon. In 1961 he was selected to become a specialist with the new Vigilant Anti-Tank Guided missile and due to his skill and aptitude he was employed in demonstrating the wire controlled guided missile system to numerous British and overseas senior officers and politicians. His accuracy with the weapon was tremendous and he was kept on at the Support Weapons Wing at Netherhavon to help sell the weapon to buyers from overseas governments.

After promotion to Sergeant he returned to the 1ST Battalion in November 1966 which was then serving in Minden. Unfortunately due to his prolonged exposure to weapon noise Alan became profoundly deaf in one ear which limited his career to serving in "Lines Only" roles in the battalion. With true determination he tackled each task given to him and became a valuable member of the battalion's administrative team in Kirknewton, Hong Kong and Colchester. His hard work and dedication were recognised and he was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1975. The medal was presented to him by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother during the presentation of New Colours at Colchester.

He moved with the battalion to Ballykinler in 1976 and retired after completing 22 years' service.

On his retirement he was initially employed by HMRC before being transferred to DHSS where he worked for twenty years and gained promotion to senior management grade.

Alan was an active Free Mason who also supported The Black Watch Regular Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Dining Club and attended regularly until illness prevented him from doing so.

He was predeceased by his son John but is survived by his wife Elisabeth and son Donald.

R J W Proctor

DAVID RUTHVEN MUDIE

David died on 9 November 2018 aged 84. He undertook his National Service in the Regiment from 1952-1954, serving in Korea and Kenya with the 1st Battalion. He was in the Signals Platoon in Korea and was in the battalion during the second Battle of the Hook. He then served in Kenya during the Mau Mau Emergency and was demobbed in 1954.

Before joining the Army, he had worked in insurance and he returned to that career.

He was invited to St James Palace in 2003 as part of the commemorations marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War and he also carried out a pilgrimage to Korea with the British Korean Veterans' Association.

David was a kind and gentle man and will be greatly missed by his family.

R M Riddell

DEREK ROBBIE

The funeral of Derek Robbie who was known by his contemporaries as "Big Derek" took place at Dundee Crematorium on the 19th of April 2019.

Derek began his working career as a merchant seaman and then joined the Army. After completing basic training at Queens' Barracks, he was posted to the 1st Battalion who were then stationed in Redford Barracks Edinburgh.



Moving with the battalion to Cyprus in 1958 he was part of the detachment which was sent to Libya from Cyprus. Most of his time in the battalion was spent in a Rifle Company where he was a Section Commander however, he also spent time as a member of the Regimental Provost Staff.

He also served with the battalion in Warminster, Malta, Minden, Cyprus during the UN Tour of 1967/68. He was later posted as a training corporal at the Highland Brigade Training Depot at Bridge of Don, Aberdeen.

Derek was a very successful field athlete and was a member of the successful Battalion Athletics Team of the 1960s where he was a shot putter.

On leaving the Regiment he returned to the Merchant Marine and found work in the then blossoming oil industry where he carved out a very successful second career for himself until he reached retirement age.

He was an active member of the Association and became the Chairman of the Black Watch Club in Arthursstone Terrace, Dundee a position which he held for a good number of years.

His wife predeceased him and latterly his own health began to fail.

R J W Proctor

GORDON (GEORDIE) ROSS

Geordie was born in August 1953 in Dundee and for the most part lived at Crescent St and Whitfield. He attended Wallace Town Primary School and Glebelands in the Stobswell area.

His father Larry was a plant operator and his mum Elizabeth, a school cleaner. The Ross's were a family of six and Geordie had two sisters Lynne and Grace and an older brother Larry. Geordie and Larry shared the same passion for cars and aside from the odd fall out, they were great friends. Geordie had a happy childhood and enjoyed school.

He was an active and popular young man and after a visit to the local recruiting office in Bank St, Dundee in 1972, he decided to enlist.

His first posting as a young soldier, was to Hong Kong. Geordie was certainly not a conformist. He was unique in many ways, never being the stereotype young Jock, never one for drinking too much; he liked to be in control. He was a striking young man in many ways, mature beyond his years with his cool hairstyle and calm demeanour. Geordie was an intelligent man, and his charisma drew people to him. He was a natural leader and could always find a solution to a problem – this meant he rose quickly through the ranks.

Geordie served several tours of Northern Ireland during the worst years of the conflict. He particularly enjoyed one of the earlier tours as a member of the Intelligence Section in which he excelled. This type of operation appealed to Geordie, as he revelled in the “cloak and dagger” aspect of the job. He was the envy of all the Jocks, as he was permitted to grow his full head of hair to a fashionable length. He had a photographic memory and even as his condition rapidly deteriorated in the final stages of his illness, he took great pleasure in reciting names, addresses and car registration numbers of the “ones to watch”.

A tour of Ballater as a member of the Royal Guard was always a fond memory for Geordie, as he was selected to accompany the Queen Mother in at Eightsome Reel at the Ghillies' Ball. He stated that the Queen Mother said that he was the best dancing partner that she had ever had. I think that may still be open to debate!!

Geordie deployed with the Battalion to Belize in 1979, as a section commander in B Company, where he took full advantage of the adventure training facilities on offer.

He displayed his flexibility in every role he was asked, (ordered), to carry out. He was nominated as the Provost Cpl in Werl and as well as doing a magnificent job, he was also the “man to go to”, for information in the sale of cars, carpet tiles, banking, duty free and a plethora of items that were available to the Battalion.

A Platoon Sergeant role was next with 2 Platoon in the Grenadiers. Everything didn't always go to plan and after a couple of hiccups they were unfairly christened the Doom Platoon. Most senior ranks would be horrified by this unflattering label but not Geordie; it was a badge of honour, he loved it. He loved his Jocks and they had and still have, an enormous respect for their platoon sergeant who never took life overly seriously.



One of Geordie's favourite postings was Berlin during the Cold War in the late eighties as the PRI C/Sgt, another role which again suited his qualities. His entrepreneurial skills sublimely transformed the dynamics of the PRI. He put himself in the position of the soldier inasmuch as ‘what would the Jocks want’, converting the PRI into a fully functional regimental shop. The PRI was a joy to visit, selling an assortment of attractive items and clothing with hugely increased profit margins into the bargain. Geordie always raised the bar, acquiring strips for the young lads' football team. They were amazing, all with an embroidered Black Watch badge, which the kids loved.

Geordie carried on the good work as a mentor and provider as a popular CQMS B Company. He delivered incredible support to all members of the company from the OC to the junior Jock. Nothing was ever too much trouble.

The next task for Geordie was as Operations Warrant Officer in Ballykinler, NI. Once again, he excelled with his tireless support of every operation. It was a particularly busy, and at times, a dangerous period for the Battalion. As the Ops WO, Geordie had to deal with several incidents, which resulted in casualties. In typical fashion, he dealt with all, in a calm, professional and compassionate manner, clearly displaying the measure of the man.

Geordie deployed with the Battalion to Hong Kong in 1992, however, due to ill health he was flown back to the UK to recuperate following a heart attack.

After completing a distinguished career in the Army, Geordie entered the Security Industry as a General Manager, working for several companies, until in 2012, when he proudly launched his own company. He was a successful businessman until his deteriorating health forced an early retirement.

Geordie was a great friend to many and he will be sadly missed by all that had the privilege to know and love him.

Geordie is survived by his wife, Cindy, his children, Kelly, Stacey, Steven and Katy.

A Keith

GORDON SHERET

Gordon was born on the 1st of March 1982 and died on the 17th of August 2019, aged 37.

Gogs as he was affectionately known, attended the Aberhill Primary School in Methil and Kirkland High School also in Methil. On leaving school Gogs helped his grandfather with his plumbing business but after a while decided he would like a change and enlisted into The Black Watch. During his service he carried out tours of Iraq and Northern Ireland. He was also a keen motocross enthusiast. On leaving the Regiment, Gordon took up employment on the oil rigs and when at home, worked as a gas fitter. He was a well-respected and loved member of his family and his many friends and this was shown by the large turnout at his Cremation.

A very generous collection for the Black Watch Association was taken at the Funeral Breakfast and I thank the family for their generosity.

R M Scott



ALEX STEWART

Eck Stewart, known as ‘The Craw’ was born on 29 November 1931 and died on Christmas Eve 2018. He served from 1949-1954 in The Royal Army Service Corps as a Regular soldier seeing service in Korea and Malaya. He later joined 6th/7th Battalion Black Watch, serving from 1960-1967 reaching the rank of Sergeant. He was a stalwart member of the Blairgowrie detachment but he also joined the “Ever Readies” of the Territorial Army Emergency Reserve and served in Aden in 1964.

His son Alex joined The Black Watch and had a successful career, being commissioned and leaving the Army as a Major. His other son James served in the Navy for 35 years reaching the equivalent of WO1.

He is survived by his sons Alex and James and daughter Lesley.

A M Stewart



DAVID STEWART

Dave Stewart who was always known as "Doc" during his service died on 21 September after a long and painful illness.

He joined the Regiment in October 1956 and both of us underwent our training under the watchful eye of Sgt Mick Cameron. Dave and I were posted to the 1st Battalion in Berlin and he became the RMO's Orderly and that is when he gained his nickname, "Doc".

We moved to Redford Barracks in November 1957 and after a long cold winter our Colonel – in – Chief came to see us off to the warmer climes of Cyprus. We both enjoyed the posting and then returned to Queens' Barracks in October 1959 for demob. We parted company as King's Cross station, shook hands and said "Keep in touch" and we did for the next sixty years. Dave was a good friend and he was extremely proud of his service in the 42nd. Whenever we were in touch his first words were "any news of the Regiment?" I will miss old "Doc".

I have enclosed a photograph showing three great friends: from left to right John King, "Shug" Healey and David Stewart.

Edward King (234920146 Corporal)

David was born on 5th July 1937 in Brentford as David Edward Karbfell and his name was changed by Deed Poll to Stewart (his grandmother's name) because of the war. He was evacuated to the family farm in Liss, Hampshire but at the age of ten he contracted polio. He was vaccinated and then convalesced at Knebworth House. He recovered and aged 19 commenced his National Service as 23491001 Pte Stewart.

After his time in the Army he married Iris in 1960 and had two daughters Deborah and Jacqueline. He worked as a refrigeration engineer and with an airfreight company and then ran his own company, retiring aged 62.

He was a quiet man and a good listener but above all he was a great family man who was proud of his military service. He is survived by his two daughters.

Jacqueline Toms

JAMES (GEORDIE) WRIGHT

Jimmy Wright was born on the 18th of March 1929 at Brampton in Cumbria and died on the 19th of February 2019 a month short of his ninetieth birthday. The family later moved to Shillbottle in Northumberland where he attended school and then became a farm worker.

In 1947 Jimmy, who was by now 18, joined The Black Watch in which he was to serve for the next twenty years, seeing action in Korea and taking part in the Battle of The Hook where he was a member of the Mortar Platoon. His brother Duncan was a member of A Company who sadly was killed in action during the battle when the company called down mortar and artillery fire on their own position to clear it of the enemy. Jimmy then moved to Kenya with the Battalion to combat the Mau Mau terrorists during that campaign.



After a spell in Scotland and Berlin he later served in Cyprus towards the end of the EOKA troubles. He returned to Cyprus during the United Nations peace keeping tour which the 1st Battalion carried out in 1966 and 1967 from its base in Minden West Germany.

Service in Berlin, Minden, West Germany and in various places in the UK including tours as an instructor at Queens' Barracks, then Stirling Castle and latterly at The Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Oswestry where he was employed as a Regimental Signals Instructor, were peace time postings which he and his family enjoyed.

Coming from Northumberland Jimmy was given the nickname Geordie which was given to all Black Watch soldiers who hail from Tyneside and the North East of England. He was a quiet man by nature but was quite forceful and was a good reliable experienced NCO who always got things done. Beneath his quiet nature he had a good sense of humour and was well liked and respected both in the Regiment and in the local community of Crail where he settled after completing his service.

On leaving the Regiment he was employed in the local fishing industry until his retirement. He was a devoted family man and a great gardener. He was proud to have served in the Regiment and took part in the events which were organised by the Association to commemorate the Regiment's involvement in Korea.

He and Nan were happily married for over sixty years and sadly she predeceased him in 2016.

R J W Proctor

The following deaths have also been recorded:

Jimmy Cosgrove died in Roxburgh House, Dundee on 12 August 2018.

Leslie Delaney died on 26 November 2018. He served from 1983-1992.

Derek Deary who died on 20 January 2019.

James Findlay died on 2 April 2019.

Raymond George aged 95 died on 18 September 2019.

Frederick Gibson who served from 1953-55.

Bill Hayes died in Cyprus on 24 April 2019. He was a Corporal in the 1st Battalion.

Chat Keay who served from 1955-57 in B Company in Berlin. He died in June 2019.

Mike Little died on 26 May 2019 as the result of a road traffic accident. He joined The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) in Fallingbommel and served on OP TELIC 4.1 and OP BRACKEN. He then served with the Highlanders/4 SCOTS AIMI and remained with that battalion. His brother Den also served with 1BW.

Leslie McColl died aged 86 on 19 January 2019. He served in Korea.

James McCreadie died in January 2019. Mr McCreadie served in The Black Watch as a National Serviceman in 1955.

Stan McMillan died on 28 February 2019. He was a National Serviceman.

Roy Morrison died in June 2019 aged 89. He was a National Serviceman.

Bill Rennie died on 12 June 2019.

Kevin Smith died on 8 January 2019.

Bob Tasker served with 1st Battalion from 1954-56 and died aged 83 on 3 April 2019.

Angus Todd died on 2 April 2019. He was a Corporal in the 1st Battalion.

OP TORAL 8, KABUL, AFGHANISTAN KABUL SECURITY FORCE LIAISON OFFICER

By Major Iain Walker, SCOTS

For the last six months I have been deployed in Kabul, Afghanistan as the Kabul Security Force Liaison Officer (KSF LNO). Before this I had been the Adjutant of The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Towards the end of my tenure as Adjutant, I was offered the opportunity to deploy to Kabul between March and September 2019 in support of the Kabul Security Force (KSF) within Headquarters RESOLUTE SUPPORT (HQ RS), the NATO mission headquarters in Afghanistan. I had been with the battalion since January 2012 and despite deployments on Op TOSCA, Cyprus, and Op SHADER, Iraq, I had never deployed to Afghanistan, so I jumped at the chance.

The KSF is a 1-Star organisation responsible for the force protection of the majority of movements around Kabul, adviser force protection, incident response and development of the enhanced security zone in Kabul. It is also tasked with advising the Kabul Garrison Command, the Afghan headquarters responsible for Afghan security efforts in Kabul. It is led by a British Brigadier and is predominantly made up of British troops, currently from the R IRISH and 1 RIFLES, augmented by five other nations, making it a multinational organisation. It is based around New Kabul Compound (NKC) in the centre of Kabul with a few rifle companies based elsewhere in the city, providing force protection for those locations. The KSF is an integral part of the RS mission as the security of Kabul is essential to allow NATO coalition advisers and international organisations to operate safely around Kabul.

My tour started in March 2019 and I have been working in the Combined Joint Operations Centre (CJOC) based in HQ RS, the main NATO 4-Star Headquarters controlling operations across the Combined Joint Operations Area (CJOA). HQ RS is like a small village with everything you need packed into a relatively small area not far off the size of Fort George, so it felt homely to say the least; as the base is relatively small there is a strong community feel amongst residents.

I arrived expecting a summer tour of Afghanistan and had prepared myself for hot and dry weather; imagine my surprise when I stepped off the plane to be met by snow on the ground, rain and temperatures akin to my home in Inverness! Thankfully this allowed me time to adjust throughout the tour as the heat ramped up, peaking in August. Unlike stories of previous tours of Helmand province where the temperature was unbearable, Kabul sits at approximately 1800 metres above sea level which keeps temperatures down to a comparatively mild 30 degrees with regular thunder storms rolling in from Pakistan. What was also surprising was the effect the altitude had on most new arrivals; the first run around the base left many gasping for air and questioning what had happened to their lungs! I was initially apprehensive about being the sole Brit in the CJOC working with a predominantly US team however, I was warmly welcomed and brought into the team, largely thanks to the efforts of my predecessor, Andrew 'Stumpy' Keely of the Grenadier Guards.

The HQ RS CJOC is responsible for monitoring all operations across the CJOA, both Afghan and Coalition as well as apportioning assets to support those operations. My role within this was to advise on KSF activity, push for support where required and read in the KSF each day on wider operations and incidents across the CJOA. Additionally, as various incidents occurred in Kabul I liaised between the KSF Ops room in NKC and the RS CJOC at HQ RS to ensure timely passage of information to affect appropriate responses from our forces. This all proved immensely interesting as I became privy to the totality of what was happening in Afghanistan from the strategic to the tactical levels and could see how the situation in Afghanistan was progressing. What is also rewarding is the experience gained from working with other NATO and Coalition partners; there are 41 contributing nations to the RS mission, all of whom bring a different perspective to the table. I have been grateful to work directly with Americans, Australians, Italians, Scandinavians, Spanish, Portuguese, Montenegrins and Romanians; it

is reassuring to hear that we all have similar traits within our military but also a willingness to work closely together to overcome the daily challenges this mission throws up.

For those of you who have served in Helmand Province on previous tours you should feel reassured that the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF), with whom many of you will have worked, are operating to a competent level, regularly conducting independent clearance operations using combined arms integration to maximum effect. Although Helmand is still not the safest place to be in Afghanistan and still the traditional heartland of the Taliban, there has been progress allowing locals to experience a level of normality not previously seen.



Major Iain Walker with some other members of the Combined Joint Operations Centre.

Throughout my tour, peace talks between the US and Taliban have been going on; known as the Doha Talks, the ninth round of talks were conducted in my final weeks and we hope, by the time you read this article, an agreement between the Taliban and US forces will be in place. (Editor's note: The peace talks were broken off by President Trump as a result of a Taliban attack that killed an American soldier as well as Afghan nationals). Any agreement would see the US and NATO forces withdrawing a percentage of their manpower whilst the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) and Taliban negotiate a lasting peace settlement. This would mean that following 18 years of operations in Afghanistan there would be peace and stability allowing the Afghan people to rebuild their lives. During these talks there has been a continual stream of violence toward GIROA and the civilian population in Afghanistan which are Taliban attempts to gain leverage during the Doha Talks with the US negotiators. This has been reciprocated by the ANDSF and RS assets, both gradually degrading the Taliban. Whilst some people

are skeptical of the Taliban potentially having a political say in governing Afghanistan, historically most counter-insurgencies culminate in both sides at the political table. If the political situation continues to move in a broadly positive direction one could see a withdrawal of forces as a natural progression in the Afghanistan conflict; despite the violence, Afghanistan is developing politically and socially.

The unknown entity in Afghanistan remains ISIS-K who are still active, particularly in the East of the country. All parties in Afghanistan have a common goal of limiting ISIS-K expansion and ability to gain support. It is highly likely that any agreement reached will still allow NATO or the US to act against ISIS-K to protect against their influence.

I will be handing over to a fellow member of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, Major Jules Kilpatrick, who arrives having finished being Battalion 2IC of 2 RIFLES. He will be working with the PARAs and YORKS who are due to take over the KSF role in October. I depart Afghanistan in mid-September and will have mixed emotions on leaving; on one hand I will be extremely happy to see my family and friends and be able to relax at the weekends instead of working but on the other, I will be sad to leave behind all the people I work with. As many of you will have felt before, you become tethered in memory to places you have been on tour and I will always remember Afghanistan as a beautiful country filled with a sense of hope and optimism for its future.



Kabul from the air. The city is approximately 1800 metres above sea level.

THE BLACK WATCH ASSOCIATION 100th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE – SATURDAY 15 JUNE 2019

On Saturday 15th June, nearly two hundred Association members and guests gathered at Balhousie Castle to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of The Black Watch Association.

Held in an open sided marquee in front of the main doors to the Museum, the statue of the Black Watch piper was the backdrop for the congregation to look out on.

At 11.00 Major General James Cowan, Chairman of the Association gave the following address;

“Today, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) celebrates the centenary of the formation of our Regimental Association. While the Association had existed informally since as long ago as 1874 it was given its current form in April 1919 in the aftermath of the Great War one hundred years ago.

The Association is both a charity and an old comrade’s organisation. It has three main objectives: the first is to provide support for veterans and their families who fall on hard times; the second is to erect, maintain, and when necessary renew or replace permanent memorials to those who served in the Regiment; and the third is to promote comradeship.

This celebration has at its heart a church service honouring the 8,960 Black Watch men who lost their lives in the Great War. The final 215 crosses of remembrance for those who died between the Armistice in 1918 and 31 August 1921 will be laid in the final act of commemoration for the Great War.

The lives of all those who have served in the Regiment will also be honoured today. A wreath will be laid by Mr Geordie Reid from Murthly, who served in the 10th Battalion in the Second World War, and whose year of birth is 1919, the same year as the formation of the Association.

Assisting Mr Reid will be Colonel Ian Critchley OBE, who as a 19 year old Platoon Commander in the 7th Battalion took part in the Rhine Crossing on 23 March 1945. Colonel Critchley later served with the 2nd Battalion at the time of Partition of India and with the 1st Battalion during the Korean War.

It is my pleasure to welcome our guests today, Councillor Ian Borthwick, Provost and Lord Lieutenant of the City of Dundee, who is currently President of the Association, as well as Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson the Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, Robert Balfour the Lord Lieutenant of Fife and Councillor Dennis Melloy, Provost of Perth as well as the Provost of Angus.

I thought it would be useful to cast our minds back to 1919 and to the circumstances pertaining at the time of the formation of the

Association. For those of us who believe that hostilities ceased with the Armistice of November 1918, it is worth recalling the turmoil that afflicted Europe and Asia for several years to come.

In Russia, the revolution of 1917 was followed by the Russian Civil War and the creation of new countries from the chaos of the old Tsarist Empire. The other pre-War Hohenzollern, Hapsburg, and Ottoman empires also broke into their constituent parts. In places as far away as Afghanistan, war once more erupted. On top of conflict, disease stalked the globe in the form of Spanish ‘Flu, taking more life than the war itself.

Men who had fought through the horrors of 1914-18 struggled to find meaningful employment. Unlike 1945, the Land Fit for Heroes did not emerge. The War had killed and maimed, leaving an incubus of debt that meant by the 1930s there were more people in Britain on war benefits than in receipt of social security. The nation’s public memorials were a constant reminder of loss, but provided little private solace to those who mourned, for the ethos of national sacrifice discouraged excessive personal grief.

In this world, men cleaved to the comradeship of the trenches, to the Regimental families through which they had survived Loos, the Somme, Mesopotamia, Arras, Passchendaele and the victories of 1918. Like so many other veteran organisations, The Black Watch Association sought to give its new members some certainties in this turbulent world.

In the autumn of 1919, following a subscription that raised £42,000, The Black Watch purchased and refurbished Dunalistair House, to support wounded soldiers.

At the same time, Black Watch men were encouraged to join the Association. The appeal to join the Association got straight to the point:

“Have you joined the Black Watch Association yet? Do you know what it is and what it does? It helps place men in employment; it helps the man who is down on his luck; it helps the dependants of men who have served and given their lives in the Regiment. And last but not least, its duty is to keep the Red Hackle always in the position it holds today – the glorious and respected emblem of Scotland’s oldest and most famous Highland Regiment.”

“Nearly 8,000 paid the price of victory with their lives. We, who are left, owe it to them to keep up the traditions and record of The Black Watch, the regiment they loved. There is no way in which you can carry out their wishes better, than by joining the Association. Through nearly five years of war, Scotland read with ever-growing pride of the deeds of her sons in every theatre.”

*“The Black Watch and the Red Hackle are names loved and respected by friends and feared by foes; they stand for Honour and Glory. Will you carry on the traditions of the Regiment and join The Black Watch Association. If so. **DO IT NOW.**”*

Ladies and Gentlemen, just as Black Watch men in 1919 honoured the fallen and came together to help the living, so we in 2019 will honour the past and will continue to help those in need long into the future. We celebrate today the centenary of our Association. And we acknowledge the untold benefit it has brought our soldiers and their families in the last 100 years."

The Reverend John Duncan conducted the service and after the Call to Worship the congregation sang the Psalm "I to the hills will lift mine eyes". We were very lucky to have the Regimental Band of The Black Watch ACF under the direction of Band Master (SMI) Robert Cowan who added greatly to the occasion.

The first reading was given by Major Alan McKinnell (John 15. 9-17).

Lieutenant Colonel Jock Menzies then read "Weep Not for Me" by Hamish Mann, a young officer who had been killed with the 8th Battalion in April 1917;

Weep Not for Me

"Let memories of me be brave and true:

I would not like to think the Life I gave
had brought you woe.

Be Proud, not bent with gloom, as though some frightful shame had
spent its fury on your house.

I die – What then?

I am but one 'mongst countless finer men"

Major Colin Gray then read the poem "The Home-Coming" written by Joseph Lee who was known as the Black Watch poet. He served in the 4th (City of Dundee) Battalion.

The Home-Coming

When this blast is over-blown,
And the beacon fires shall burn
And in the street
Is the sound of feet –
They also shall return.

When the bells shall rock and ring,
When the flags shall flutter free,
And the choirs shall sing,
'God save our King' –
They shall be there to see.

When the brazen bands shall play,
And the silver trumpets blow,
And the soldiers come
To the tuck of drum –
They shall be there also.

When that which was lost is found;
When each shall have claimed his kin,
Fear not they shall miss
Mother's clasp, maiden's kiss –
For no strange soil might hold them in.

When Te Deums seek the skies,
When the Organ shakes the Dome,
*A dead man shall stand
At each live man's hand –
For they also have come home*

The Reverend John Duncan then gave the sermon;

"I have a question. Thinking of all our different experiences in the Army there is one experience which we all shared together and that was scoff. Yes, food! Therefore, what was your favourite meal in the Army, and I don't mean in the cookhouse but on exercise or operations? What was your favourite ration pack? For me, it came from the ten-man ration pack and it came in a tin. It was called sausages in lard. The label had the sausages emblazoned upon it and when you opened the can, then the description was completely accurate; there was no fake news in this labelling. There were sausages caked in lard and let me tell you they were wonderful. Now I know every medical officer will have canaries at this meal and I'll be told it isn't good for my heart. However, when I was eating these sausages in lard in dusty Afghanistan, then it was the Egon Ronay of dishes which got my digestive juices running. However, I know sausages in lard had a great rival in the bake-off stakes of rations and that was spam, although it had to be fried!

If I asked each of you today what was your favourite there may be different answers from mine but you would have a ration pack that was your favourite and no doubt equally there would be one which was your least favourite or you could not stomach.

These are the shared experiences of us all. Each of us who have served has known Army rations for good or ill. This is our shared experience. This is our common experience.

Today as we gather to commemorate and give thanks for the centenary of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) Association, we pay tribute to the men who founded and established the Association. They were men who served in The Black Watch and who, perhaps, never ever thought of wearing the King's uniform, but in 1914 at the beginning of the Great War these men responded to the call of their country and became soldiers of The Black Watch.

Each man who became a member of the Association formed a bond of camaraderie and friendship which they made during the war and would never be broken. They shared the same muddy trench, they shared the same training, they shared in the loss of friends, they shared in seeing friends wounded and broken by war. Amid the ugliness of war with all its horrors comes the beauty of friendship.

General Ulysses S Grant, who led the Union Army during the American Civil War, said this about friendship. He said, "The friend in my adversity I shall always cherish most."

The men who came through the First World War and established the Association knew about adversity but they also grasped the need for friendship. Not only the friendships made through the ghastly experience of war and conflict but the friendship, which is needed when peace comes, and war is forgotten. They had a common bond which they could not share with those who had not gone through that cauldron of battle. Now when the war was over, they would gather together and share the friendships which were made.

Our Lord Jesus Christ realised the importance of friendship when he said, "I have called you friends." Friendship was so important to Jesus that he told us: "Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." This was the importance Jesus gave to friendship. We ignore the importance of friendship at our peril.

Robert Louis Stevenson, the Scottish author, said, "A friend is a present you give yourself."

The men who formed the Association knew the importance of friendship. For the past one hundred years, the Association has offered that hand of friendship. We must continue to do so. In the 20th century with its two World Wars, and other wars and conflicts, then one can see and know the importance of friendship.

When soldiers were leaving the Army, I would ask them this question: What will you miss when you leave the Army? I qualified the question by saying, "I don't want all your schimfs or moans, but what will you truly miss?" They all answered their mates and friendships which they had made.

The Association was borne out of war but established by the friendship of comrades-in-arms. May that remain always the foundation stone on which the Association is built? Now in the next 100 years soldiers will still look for that friendship and camaraderie. May the Association offer that hand of friendship to them this day and always? Amen."

There followed the Act of Remembrance and the names of two hundred and fifteen men were read out by the Vice Chairman and Secretary. They had died between 15 November 1918 and 31 August 1921 (the latter date was the cut-off date used by the Imperial War Graves Commission for providing a headstone). Led by the Chairman and President, members of the congregation then laid individual crosses in front of the statue of the piper.

Mr Billy Whytock recited Binyon's Lines and then the age old tradition of the playing of the Last Post, a Lament and then Reveille was enacted. Stewart Malcolm played the bugle and Pipe Major Alistair Duthie played Lochaber No More.

Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin recited In Flanders Fields and then Mr Geordie Reid and Colonel Ian Critchley, both veterans of the Second World War laid a wreath.

The Black Watch Collect was followed by the Hymn, "I vow to thee my country" and the National Anthem.

After this very moving service, it was announced that the wooden crosses laid at the Great War Memorial Wall since August 2014 would be burnt and some of the ash spread on the River Tay at Aberfeldy during the Aberfeldy Muster, being held on 10 May 2020. Thus the river will carry the ashes through Perthshire and touch the Counties of Fife and Angus and the City of Dundee.

The names of those honoured at this Service were;

ROLL OF HONOUR – THOSE WHO DIED AS A RESULT OF THEIR WAR SERVICE BETWEEN 15th NOVEMBER 1918 AND 31st AUGUST 1921

John Gibson	Abbey	28.12.1918
John	Adamson	18.11.1918
William	Adamson	23.08.1919
T	Aldridge	05.10.1919
G	Allan	21.12.1918
Alexander	Anderson	30.12.1919
David	Anderson	17.08.1919
George Alexander	Anderson	27.01.1919
Harry	Andrews	27.07.1920
A	Andrews	15.04.1920
RE	Anstruther	22.07.1921
John William	Bairstow	31.03.1919
Alexander	Barclay	01.03.1919
Fred	Beckitt	19.07.1920
George	Bell	03.08.1919
J	Bell	21.01.1919
Peter	Berry	22.11.1918
R	Beveridge	31.12.1918
Arthur	Bird	19.09.1919
Alex	Bisset	15.09.1919
James	Blacklaws	15.12.1918
John Scott	Boath	04.02.1919
A	Boland	28.03.1920
J	Bonthrone	25.03.1920
D	Bonthrone	29.02.1920
William Edenhead	Brand	08.04.1919
W	Brown	15.01.1920
F	Cairns	04.12.1919
Alexander	Callander	21.12.1918
John	Cameron	12.04.1920
A	Cameron	23.11.1918
Archibald	Campbell	06.03.1921
George	Campbell	30.11.1918
Patrick	Carlin	27.01.1920
John Blair	Carnegie	27.12.1918
John William	Cartmel	21.01.1919
Alexander	Chalmers	15.11.1918
D A	Chisholm	20.10.1920
G	Clark	25.01.1919
David	Cooper	05.03.1919
F	Crabtree	19.01.1919
A	Crawford	06.06.1919
Frederick William	Cronin	17.02.1919
Archibald	Cruikshanks	11.03.1919
H	Cuthbert	23.01.1921
John	Davidson	27.11.1918
John Cairns	Deas	30.12.1919
D	Dow	20.02.1919
T	Doyle	15.11.1918
George Martin Inglis	Drummond	01.01.1919
T H	Duckworth	24.06.1919

G	Duncan	10.02.1919
Robert	Easson	14.11.1919
D	Ferguson	20.04.1921
J	Ferguson	19.02.1919
J	Findlay	18.07.1921
R	Finlayson	13.02.1919
George	Florence	23.03.1919
James Stark	Forbes	06.07.1920
James Smith	Fowler	15.05.1919
William	Fox	07.12.1918
W	Fraser	14.11.1919
Osmond	Furniss	23.12.1919
James	Galloway	02.02.1919
Joseph	Gammage	18.11.1918
Norval Robert	Garden	18.04.1918
Duncan	Gardiner	27.04.1921
James	Gibson	19.11.1918
R	Gilchrist	17.03.1919
J R	Glen	01.04.1919
Norman Campbell	Goodall	17.12.1918
Alexander	Gordon	28.08.1919
George W	Gordon	05.12.1918
George	Gray	19.01.1919
William	Gray	30.11.1918
William Thomson	Greig	06.12.1918
James	Grogan	24.01.1919
William	Guthrie	27.04.1921
J	Hallyburton	14.06.1920
G	Hannant	23.11.1920
W	Harley	11.02.1919
Albert Herbert	Harte-Maxwell	01.09.1919
John	Hastie	26.05.1919
A R	Hay	25.11.1919
Cecil Bertram	Henderson	02.04.1920
P	Henningham	26.06.1920
J	Hogg	12.01.1919
William Ernest	Hopkins	21.03.1920
John Umble	Horton	14.01.1921
J	Howie	18.03.1920
R	Innes	14.02.1919
D	Ishdale	03.07.1919
David	Jones	13.08.1920
William Joseph O'Neill B	Kay	19.11.1918
Robert	Kelly	14.05.1920
M A	Kelly	22.12.1918
J	King	29.11.1918
Andrew	Kinnaird	14.04.1920
Joseph	Kirkman	16.04.1920
Martin	Knight	26.09.1919
W	Knox	21.11.1918
Thomas	Laing	06.08.1921

Duncan	Lamont	22.10.1920
A	Law	13.06.1920
Percy R.	Leigh	19.02.1921
James Watson	Lesslie	27.11.1918
D	Lindsay	23.09.1919
William Horn	Lindsay	30.05.1919
Peter Taylor	Low	06.01.1921
P	Lowe	13.03.1920
James	Lumsden	09.04.1919
Nicolas	Marmion	16.11.1919
The Hon. Henry Edward	Maxwell	02.03.1919
J	McAnish	17.09.1920
Daniel	McCormack	02.03.1919
Angus	McDonald	16.11.1918
Archibald	McDougall	28.06.1919
Alexander	McFayden	09.01.1919
D	McGachie	05.12.1918
John	McGonigal	15.08.1920
John	McIlroy	13.09.1920
James	McIntosh	24.03.1919
Alexander	McIntosh	29.12.1918
T	McIntyre	14.12.1918
Charles	McKain	12.12.1918
William T	McKay	10.04.1919
William	McKeown	23.01.1919
George	McKessar	12.12.1918
Donald	McKinnon	27.01.1919
William Thow	McLaggan	26.11.1918
T	McLaughlin	24.07.1920
George	McLeod	22.02.1919
James	McManus	19.03.1919
T	McNeil	09.02.1921
J	McPherson	17.07.1921
J	McRoberts	16.11.1918
Marshall	Melrose	18.12.1918
Alex	Menzies	17.11.1918
Alexander	Milne	25.11.1918
David Joseph	Mitchell	13.12.1918
H	Mitchell	28.11.1918
Alexander	Morrin	01.06.1919
John	Morton	21.10.1920
Richard	Muckersie	13.12.1918
James McGiffen	Muir	12.02.1921
R	Murray	27.05.1921
A	Murray	09.04.1921
W	Nicoll	02.10.1920
David Douglas	Nisbet	16.02.1919
R S	Nuttall	05.12.1918
S	Oram	23.12.1918
J	Oribin	05.12.1919
George Turnball	Orrock	29.11.1918
Robert Guthrie	Pate	24.08.1919
W	Paterson	03.06.1921
Andrew	Patullo	23.11.1918
William	Pentland	08.12.1918
John Gerrard	Preston	19.02.1921
J	Purdie	08.02.1920

Robert	Queen	16.11.1918
Thomas	Quin	29.07.1920
David Craik Guthrie	Reid	25.05.1921
A	Robb	31.01.1919
Andrew	Robertson	05.12.1918
David	Robertson	28.11.1918
A	Rodgers	16.02.1919
H	Ross	30.11.1920
D	Ross	06.10.1919
James	Sandilands	31.03.1919
John	Sandison	02.02.1919
J	Scott	06.07.1921
W	Scott	24.12.1919
William Gordon	Scott	29.08.1919
Charles	Scott	29.01.1919
Albert John Marett	Selvester	09.06.1921
Alexander	Sharp	03.02.1919
L	Sharples	11.07.1919
Joseph Christie	Shepherd	20.11.1918
William	Sherrit	17.09.1919
William John	Shirran	30.12.1919
Thomas Dow	Simpson	19.10.1919
James Galletly	Small	18.02.1919
R	Smith	08.03.1921
D	Smith	03.10.1919
J	Smith	02.09.1919
Edward Thomas	Smith	31.05.1919
Edward	Smith	12.12.1918
Patrick Evelyn	Smyth	30.11.1918
W	Soutar	17.01.1921
S	Spence	02.04.1920
Thomas	Spence	03.01.1919
G C	Stewart	19.05.1919
Alexander	Stewart	20.02.1919
James	Strachan	15.11.1918
Alexander	Sutherland	17.04.1919
Hugh	Taggart	19.11.1918
J	Thomson	23.02.1919
A	Thomson	01.12.1918
William	Thomson	20.11.1918
R E	Tomkiss	11.02.1919
Peter	Turner	30.05.1920
W	Walker	12.02.1919
G T	Watters	24.03.1920
D	Webster	21.02.1919
R	White	12.07.1919
A	Williamson	12.02.1919
W	Wilson	06.02.1921
Thomas	Wilson	07.07.1920
FWJ	Wisbey	03.08.1920
George	Wood	09.03.1919
G	Wood	01.02.1919
E	Woodcroft	27.12.1918
Albert Edwin	Wright	22.01.1919
T	Yorkston	03.12.1920
Walter John Duncan	Young	30.12.1918

100th ANNIVERSARY

By kind permission of The Perthshire Picture Agency – Graeme Hart





REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018 – LONDON

In early January 2018 the Association office in Perth sent out a warning order encouraging members to take part in the two national parades on 11 November 2018; the first was to be held in London at the Cenotaph and the second in Edinburgh and both would mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War. In addition the many other local Remembrance Services were being held as normal.

The Royal British Legion allocated us seventy three slots for the parade instead of the normal thirty five and Lieutenant Colonel Mike Smith with the help of Heather Edment coordinated the return of members who wished to march. Over thirty people travelled from Scotland which was a wonderful effort.

Concurrently, planning for the London Branch Dinner went ahead with Ian Howarth in the lead and Paddy Nicoll kindly volunteered to find caterers to provide lunch in the Turf Club after the London parade. He also coordinated the use of his Club with the manager. The London Branch notes will cover the detail of the dinner.

We gathered at Horse Guards on the Sunday morning and there was a very smooth process that allowed us access to the secure area. Put in Column A, the Red Hackles gathered just to the rear of the KOSB. It was dry, which was a blessing after the heavy rain the day before and those in overcoats were overly warm.

The columns moved out on to Whitehall to the applause of other veterans and members of the public and we were in position by 10.00. Old stories were retold, news exchanged and friendships enjoyed as we waited for the Service to begin and then seconds before Big Ben struck 11.00 the King's Troop fired their salute and silence fell over a small part of London.

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Smith in his Regimental tweed suit and those on the left of our contingent featured well on the television coverage during the service. After the service was over and the wreaths had been laid by members of the Royal Family, politicians and diplomats we stepped off led by the Association Chairman Major General James Cowan. As ever, because of background noise and drum echoes it was not easy to stay in step and this was made more difficult as we marched into Horse Guards Road as the band was playing more slowly but the contingent looked very smart and we gave an eyes right as we marched passed the Princess Royal and back on to Horse Guards.

We were dismissed and then made our way to the Queen Elizabeth steps close to the Mall so that we could get a photograph taken. Watched by our late Colonel-in-Chief, this was duly done and then we had a short walk to the Turf Club and lunch.

This year we were joined by officers and soldiers who had served in The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland and they were a very welcome addition to the team, reducing the average age considerably!

Without the hard work of the Association staff in Balhousie Castle as well as the Committee of the London Branch we would not have had such a successful weekend but above all it was a very special occasion as we marked the end of the Great War and remembered the many thousands of Black Watch men who were killed, wounded and served with such courage and fortitude from 1914 – 1918 in France and Flanders, Mesopotamia, Palestine and Salonika.



Lieutenant Colonel Andy Middlemiss (KOSB) and Captains Jon Kerr, Dougie Bartholomew and Chris Baddeley.



Members of The Black Watch at the Queen Mother steps in London.



Major General James Cowan led the marching contingent.



Brigadier Garry Barnett and Major Tim Carmichael.



Captain Alan McEwen (left) and Lieutenant Colonel Tim Coles with Ondree Howarth on Horse Guards.



Captain Will Henderson and Colonel Ronnie Bradford.



Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell and Captain Harry Gladstone.



Peter Scott Graham and Ian Howarth.



Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cole-Mackintosh and in the foreground Andy Lambert.



Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keating, Jeremy Hulme, Ian Elphick and Tom Magregor Brown.



Captains Ben Collis and Harry Gladstone.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018 – EDINBURGH

Since the reforming of The Edinburgh, Lothians' and Borders' Branch in 2013, each annual Remembrance Sunday has been marked by members of the Branch gathering at the Black Watch South African War Memorial on the Mound in Edinburgh. A small representative group lead by Captain Bob Henry also attended a ceremony at the Scottish Korean War Memorial, Bathgate, Midlothian.

Planners for the City of Edinburgh's annual Remembrance Parade and Service invited the Black Watch Association to take part in all the major events scheduled for Sunday 11 November 2018. In order not to break with tradition, Branch members gathered early to take part in a short ceremony at the South African War Memorial. Mr Rory McIntyre laid a wreath on behalf of the Black Watch Association.

With the crowds already gathering for the main event, Branch members weaved their way through the inquisitive onlookers and formed up with the remainder of the parade on West Parliament Square. A short Service and Act of Remembrance took place at the Stone of Remembrance which is located at the main entrance to the City Chambers. The Black Watch were well represented at the Wreath Laying Ceremony with the following Retired Officers taking part: Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin (National President, the Royal British Legion Scotland and Poppy Scotland) Major General Mike Riddell-Webster (The Governor of Edinburgh Castle), Professor Norman Drummond (Chair of the Commemorations Panel) and Captain Ramsay MacDonald on behalf of The Black Watch Association.

Following the Remembrance Sunday service in St Giles Cathedral, the parade reformed in West Parliament Square. Veterans and serving personnel from all three Services then joined a unique procession to mark Armistice 100. The procession marched towards the Castle Esplanade with large crowds lining either side of the street. The constant applause almost drowning out the sound of the Military Bands and Pipes and Drums.

The final formal event of the day was a service at the Scottish National War Memorial, Edinburgh Castle. The memorial houses and displays, the Rolls of Honour of Scots servicemen and women from all Armed

Services, the Dominions, Merchant Navy, Women's Services, Nursing Services and civilian casualties of all wars since 1914 to date. The service was jointly conducted by the Reverend Neil Gardner, Minister of the Canongate Kirk and the Reverend Dr Karen Campbell National Chaplain of the Royal British Legion Scotland. Lieutenant Colonel Jock Menzies laid a wreath on behalf of The Black Watch Association.

On completion of all the formal events, veterans and their families from all three Services gathered in the Leith Ex Servicemen's Club for lunch and entertainment. The event was sponsored jointly by the Royal British Legion Scotland and The Black Watch Association. Fund raising activities throughout the afternoon resulted in a total of seven hundred pounds being raised for the Royal British Legion Scotland Services Welfare Fund. A huge thank you to all the organisers and to those who gave so generously for the benefit of others.



From right to left: Phil Horwood, Alexander Guthrie, Ian Beveridge, Rory McGuire, Lt Col Jock Menzies, Dave Lewis, Drew McKay, Bill Percie, Rory McIntyre, Robert McLaren, Craig Burry, John McGregor and Gary Cannon. Photographed by Michael Snape also BW.

THE CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS OF THE END OF WWI IN NORTHERN RHODESIA/ZAMBIA

by Captain Peter Jones

Few people know of the role of Africa in World War One and that operations ended a full two weeks after the European Armistice at a town called Abercorn in Northern Rhodesia (now Mbala, Zambia). From a small idea I had two years ago it eventually became a State Event hosted by the President of Zambia. We were

fortunate to have been able to secure a positive reply from General the Lord Richards, Brigade Major from Berlin days 1987/9 and now Deputy President of the Commonwealth Ex Service's League, to be our Guest of Honour with Lady Caroline. We also managed to invite the eldest grandson of General von Lettow Vorbeck, Count Caspar zu Rantzau to be with us.

The first priority was to have the Memorial itself renovated and we were able to get the Commonwealth War Graves Commission involved and a sterling job was carried out, as it was looking like a vegetable garden when I first viewed it last year.

Prior to all of this we carried out our own Remembrance Day commemoration on 11th November in the town of Livingstone, where we held two parades for the first time in over 50 years. This is due to the fact that we have two Cenotaphs: one at the Victoria Falls dedicated to the 78 settlers who left the territory for active service and lost their lives and one for the 117 members of the Northern Rhodesia Police who lost their lives during the war. Both parades were very well attended and Zambian government officials and military officers were present. Once this was completed we turned our attention to the main events in the north.

On 14th November 2018 at 07.30 precisely, 100 years after the District Commissioner Hector Croad gave the note of the Armistice to General Paul von Lettow Vorbeck in 1918 on the banks of the Chambeshi river, we held a short service. Those attending were a group of Ex British Armed Forces personnel along with a group of German and Namibian travellers who had come of their own accord to do exactly the same thing! We combined our ideas in a couple of minutes and held a wonderful ceremony and had copies of the original messages from 1918 signed by Charlie Harvey (for Hector Croad) from Shiwa Ngandu and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Eisenblaetter, ex German Army (for General von Lettow Vorbeck).

The roll was called with the following present: Captain Simon Burgess, Captain Peter Jones, Captain Angus Mackie, Captain Geoff Thomas, Sub Lieutenant James Blewitt, Corporal Leonard Thomas, Lance Corporal Kevin Conor, Marine Douglas Badcock

After the service we read through a prepared set of notes compiled by Jo Harvey on the detailed events from 1918 and then took a walk around the site and the river banks before moving on to look for the old rubber factory which was the focus of attention for von Lettow on 13th November 1918. The building still exists and is now a Roman Catholic Church. Alas, we are not able to cross the river to get to the tree where the meeting took place on 14th November 1918 but we were able to identify the rough area from across the river. We then moved to an imposing site on the hills behind Shiwa where Jo Harvey had laid on a magnificent lunch for all of us. Later on, we attended a small church parade in the chapel at Shiwa before sitting down to a great Mess Dinner.

The Zambian Government then held a re-enactment of the events of 13/14th November 1918 on 20th November where I was asked to act the part of General von Lettow Vorbeck and once again Charlie Harvey as Hector Croad. After I "accepted" the papers, we marched through the town of Kasama with my "German" troops singing all the way! The performance was shown widely around the country.

General the Lord Richards of Herstmonceux and Lady Caroline flew in to Lusaka on 22nd November with Colonel Nigel Dransfield as his MA. Graf (Count) Caspar zu Rantzau had also accepted my invitation to join us for the event and he arrived the following day. We held a dinner in Lusaka to raise funds for the Zambian Poppy appeal on the evening of 23rd carefully arranged by Lieutenant Colonel Mike Reeve-Tucker and Princess Rose de Boer, Patron of the organisation.

We then travelled northwards for the main event on 24th and 25th November. There were two parties of travellers, one lead by Brigadier David Williams (road party) and a smaller group including our VIPs (air group), and we all descended on Shiwa Ngandu, again hosted by Charlie and Jo Harvey.

On 24th November Lord and Lady Richards, Colonel Nigel Dransfield, Colonel Mike Geldard, Lieutenant Colonel Mike Reeve Tucker, Count Caspar zu Rantzau, Brigadier David Williams (President King's African Rifles and East African Forces Association) and myself, amongst others attended another commemoration at the von Lettow Vorbeck Memorial at Chambeshi.

During a picnic lunch after the ceremony we listened to Dr Anne Samson, a military historian, as she recounted all the stories culminating in the note being given to von Lettow by Hector Croad. Later on, we visited the old rubber factory and were shown the place where Croad was ferried over to the other side of the river to meet with von Lettow. Once again, alas, we did not cross the river ourselves, partially due to the type of river craft we saw and

partially due to the hung-over state of the village people who would have had to captain the craft if we had asked them to! We drove back to Shiwa and spent the night there. We had another splendid dinner with Jo and Charlie Harvey, grandson of Colonel Sir Stewart Gore Browne. Charlie's African godfather, Yoram Jia, had carried the white flag with Hector Croad on 14th November 1918.

We flew into Mbala the following morning and were met by the military at the air base; we then joined the Presidential cavalcade as His Excellency's guests. We held discussions with the President for well over an hour and presented gifts. We were taken to Moto Moto museum and viewed a wonderful presentation on the role of Africans in East Africa during the Great War. We then moved to Lake Chila where we watched army divers recover items from the water based on the rumours that the German Askaris may have thrown weapons into the lake when they marched into town. Until such time as the artefacts can be verified the rumour continues.

The main ceremony began at 1200 with 3rd Battalion Zambia Regiment on Parade. Following the prayers, General Richards gave a speech praising the role of Africans during the Great War and the President gave a keynote speech on the importance of remembering history and using it to promote tourism and development in the Northern Province. Caspar zu Rantzau sat beside the President during the ceremony indicating the level at which his presence was viewed by the Zambian authorities.

General Richards laid a wreath bearing the Northern Rhodesia Police insignia in the centre. The UK Defence Attache to Zambia Colonel Mike Geldard RM laid a wreath with the Northern Rhodesia Rifles badge and I laid one with the information given to me by the Bulawayo Branch of the British South African Police Association. Brigadier David Williams laid the wreath on behalf of the King's African Rifles and East African Forces Association. General Richards took the salute on the dais as the troops marched off the Parade Ground.

After the ceremony we moved to the Pioneer Cemetery where General Richards unveiled the granite plaque I had commissioned, which lists all the names of the men who died in the northern area of Northern Rhodesia during World War One, among them six members of the Northern Rhodesian Police, eight members of the Northern Rhodesia Rifles and twelve members of the British South African Police. Nearby we erected a board (paid for out of last year's funds from the Victoria Falls Cenotaph programme) listing a short write up on each of the men buried there. These men were later interred at the Kasenshi cemetery in Ndola where their graves are tended by the CWGC. The reverse of the information board carries the story of Hector Croad who is also buried in this cemetery.

We all attended the Presidential lunch laid on at the air base before flying back to Victoria Falls for a couple of days to show our guests the delights of the Falls and the surrounding area.



Lord Richards takes the salute at the Abercorn Memorial in Mbala, Zambia on 25th November 2018. Lady Caroline Richards is standing just behind him on the saluting dais.



From left to right – Leonard Thomas, Simon Burgess, Angus Mackie, Peter Jones, James Blewitt, Douglas Badcock, Geoffrey Thomas, Kevin Connor met on 14th November 2018 at the von Lettow-Vorbeck Memorial by the Chambeshi River, Zambia. They were commemorating the centenary of the handing over of the notice of the Armistice to General von Lettow-Vorbeck by District Commissioner Hector Croad.



The Abercorn Memorial at Mbala, Zambia which is dedicated to the 1,467 support troops from the country who died during WW1 whilst on duty with the British Army.

LIEUTENANT H H JALLAND BLACK WATCH 11 MAY 1896-18 OCTOBER 1918

by Lieutenant Colonel Tim Jalland, Grenadier Guards

On 18 October 2018, the hundredth anniversary of his death, I together with other members of my family visited the grave of Lieutenant Herbert H Jalland, Black Watch. He was my great uncle and he was known as 'H'.

"H" had been born in Manchester, was educated at Manchester Grammar School, later taking a course in commerce at Birmingham University and then winning a classical scholarship to Pembroke College, Oxford where he served as a private in the Officer Training Corps. After graduating, he entered King George V's service as a clerk in the Private Secretary's Office at Buckingham Palace.

He enlisted into the army as a private in 1915, soon after submitting an application to become an officer. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant with effect from 4 December 1915 and attached to the 3rd Battalion, The Black Watch. This was the reserve Battalion and was in Britain until 1917 when it moved to Ireland. He transferred to the 10th Battalion on 12 August 1916, to serve in the Salonika theatre of war in northern Greece and Macedonia. He was posted to D Company. He was further promoted to Lieutenant with effect from 10 May 1917. The Regimental History records that, on 17 July, "Lieutenant Jalland and three men from D Company were fired on while patrolling south of Piton des Quatre Arbes, close to the bank of the Vadar." Hostilities against the Bulgarian Army ceased on 25 September 1918 and he was transferred to the 1st Battalion arriving on 15 October 1918. The Allies were advancing quickly across France and were involved in the advance towards the Selle River, by Cambrai. This was part of the operations against the Hindenburg Line as the Germans retreated during the closing weeks of the war. Having arrived on 15 October, three days later he was dead.

Over the two days, 18th and 19th October, the Battalion found that the Germans had withdrawn and they were able to advance some 5000 yards. This was led by C Company and it probably had "H" as one of its officers. Although now fast retreating, the German Army was still able to cover its withdrawals with artillery and heavy machine gun fire. The Battalion War Diary records that fog made liaison between the attacking platoons very difficult, but the objectives were secured. Three officers including "H" and several other soldiers had been killed over those two days.

His grave is one of twenty nine British soldiers buried in the village churchyard at Wassigny. A small, rural and peaceful place. The War Graves Commission, as always, keeps the graves and surrounds in good condition. It was a moving moment, to be standing with my family, in the corner of a foreign field, far from home one hundred years since my great uncle and the other members of The Black Watch gave their lives for their country. At least their resting place is together.

I am very proud to be the great nephew of "H" and that he served in such a fine regiment.



The Jalland Family at H's Grave – Wassigny, France 18 October 2018.



Lieutenant H H Jalland who was killed on 18 October 1918.

CAPTAIN ROBERT (BERTIE) BADENOCH

By Lieutenant Colonel R M Riddell

In the autumn of 2018 I met Sarah Rintoul and her husband Euan who were visiting Balhousie Castle. They showed me a number of pictures of Euan's grandfather, Captain Robert Badenoch who served in the Regiment. A little research in the Green Book recorded the following;

BADENOCH RE, MC (TF); 7th Fife Bn; 2/Lieut 17/11/15; wounded 31/4/17; Lieut 1/7/17; t/Capt 4th Bn 6/6/18

Euan recorded that, "At the outbreak of war on 4 August 1914 my grandfather was just completing his first year at the Albany Works, Dunfermline but by September he had moved to Kirkcaldy to join the Highland Cyclist Battalion. Training, guard duties and patrolling the coastline spurred him on to apply for a commission in the 7th Black Watch. Second Lieutenant Robert Emery Badenoch reported to the 3/7th Black Watch at Ripon during November 1915 where he made three of the closest friendships of his war service. Harry Graham, Hunter Aitken and Walter "Hoppy" Hopkins enjoyed each other's company and often went to Harrogate.



Bertie Badenoch aged 18, was one of the youngest who volunteered to join the Highland Cyclist Battalion in September 1914. This picture shows the Signallers and Despatch Riders Platoon of that Battalion.



Whilst training at Ripon, Bertie met three men who became good friends. Harry Graham, Hunter Aitken and Walter Hopkins. The photograph shows from left to right; Hunter Aitken, Bertie Badenoch, Harry Graham and Walter Hopkins.

By June 1916 Hunter Aitken as Bombing Officer of the 7th Battalion was killed in an accident whilst training soldiers to throw the Mills bombs (AITKEN JH (TF); 7th Fife Bn; 2/Lieut 2/12/15; d 2/6/16) but Bertie, Hoppy and Harry Graham did not arrive in France until August 1916. They were soon sent up the line to join the battalion near Armentieres, Bertie and Harry joining C Company and Hoppy A Company.

Harry Graham was later transferred to the 10th Battalion and was killed in Salonika in May 1917.

Between August 1916 and March 1917 Bertie remained with the battalion but he was wounded by shellfire whilst billeted behind the lines. Shrapnel hit him in the shoulder and he was sent via a Casualty Clearing Station to the base hospital at Etaples. This wound kept him from the major battles fought in April 1917 as he was later sent to Kings College Hospital in London.



Bertie Badenoch with kilt apron pictured in 1916.



Wounded in 1917, Bertie was taken via the Base Hospital in Etaples, to Kings College Hospital in London where he spent seven weeks recuperating. Bertie Badenoch is seated on the right.

Hoppy (HOPKINS W, MC (TF); 7th Fife Bn; 2/Lieut 16/1/16; Lieut 16/7/17; T/Capt 20/7/17; wounded 20/11/17) was not so lucky and whilst being awarded the MC in June 1917 was severely wounded in November that year.

By October 1917 Bertie returned to France, joining the 4/5th Battalion in the Ypres Sector. Moves into and out of the Line followed and in early 1918 Bertie took command of B Company and was involved in the fierce fighting of the German offensive of March 1918. Early in May the shortage of manpower led to the battalion receiving reinforcements from the 9th Battalion which was subsumed into the 4/5th Battalion.

By July the battalion was involved in the attacks on Buzancy and Bertie was awarded the MC for his actions in command in the successful attack. On the 11th of November he was in Huissignies in Belgium but he did not return home until April 1919.

Following demobilisation Bertie re-entered the family textile firm of R E Walker, Reid & Company, Gardeners Street in Dunfermline, which had been founded by his Grandfather in 1873.

Despite the demise of the Dunfermline damask trade and a take-over from another company, Bertie remained with the business progressing from manager to director, until the Gardeners Street plant closed in 1957.

In retirement Bertie helped for many years with the Red Cross Disabled Club. He also served as a member of the local committee of the Earl Haig Fund and was, for over 20 years, one of the local representatives of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association.

In 1981 Bertie received the Church of Scotland's long server's certificate in testament to his contribution to the Canmore Street congregation for some 65 years. In 1938 he was ordained an elder and served as treasurer of St. Columba's in the ten years preceding the union with St. John's, which was to forge St. Paul's in 1958.

Bertie died a few days before his 88th birthday in May 1984 having lived in Park Place, Dunfermline for nearly 40 years."

SECOND LIEUTENANT ARCHIBALD DON AND THE MAMMOTH TUSK

By Victoria Schofield

'Mind you label it as having been dug up by the 10th Battalion the Black Watch!'

During the First World War, over 50,000 men served in The Black Watch, fighting on fronts in France and Flanders, Mesopotamia and Palestine, and in Salonika; each has a different story to tell.

One young officer who left an interesting legacy was Second Lieutenant Archibald Don; born in 1890 at Broughty Ferry, he was one of five brothers. Educated at Winchester he then went to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied for the National Sciences Tripos, which included the Natural History subjects, Geology, Zoology and Botany, winning an Exhibition and then a Senior Scholarship. In 1912 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geological Society. Although his 'great love' was geology, on going down from Cambridge, he chose a career in medicine, starting work at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. When war broke out in August 1914, he believed he could not stay 'in this country doing nothing' and so, when the British Red Cross sent an urgent appeal to St Bart's for ten dressers, he at once signed the papers and set off for France. 'What duties we shall have to perform I have not the slightest idea'.



The outer curve of the mammoth tusk measured nearly 10 feet.

As it happened, he was frustrated at what he called 'loathsome idleness' and on Christmas Day 1914 Don became 'a temporary Second Lieutenant on probation, commissioned to The Black Watch, 10th Battalion,' in which his younger brother, Lieutenant Robert (Robin) Macpherson Don had already been commissioned. In November 1915, after three months in France, the 10th Battalion was sent to the Salonika Front, in the area of land in modern-day Greece where British and allied troops were trying to hold a line against the Bulgarians, fighting on the side of Germany and Austria-Hungary.

As on the Western Front, the soldiers dug trenches to maintain their positions. 'We are entrenching. Work has gone on solidly ever since – digging and more digging,' Don informed his mother from Aivatli on 16 December. On New Year's Eve he was describing 'an archaeological morning. Flint implements in modern use. A mammoth tusk, 9 foot 2 inches.' In February 1916 Don wrote a long letter to the Woodwardian Professor of Geology at Cambridge, Thomas McKenny Hughes, describing the tusk which probably dated from the Pleistocene geological period beginning about 2.6 million years ago and lasting until 11,700 years ago:

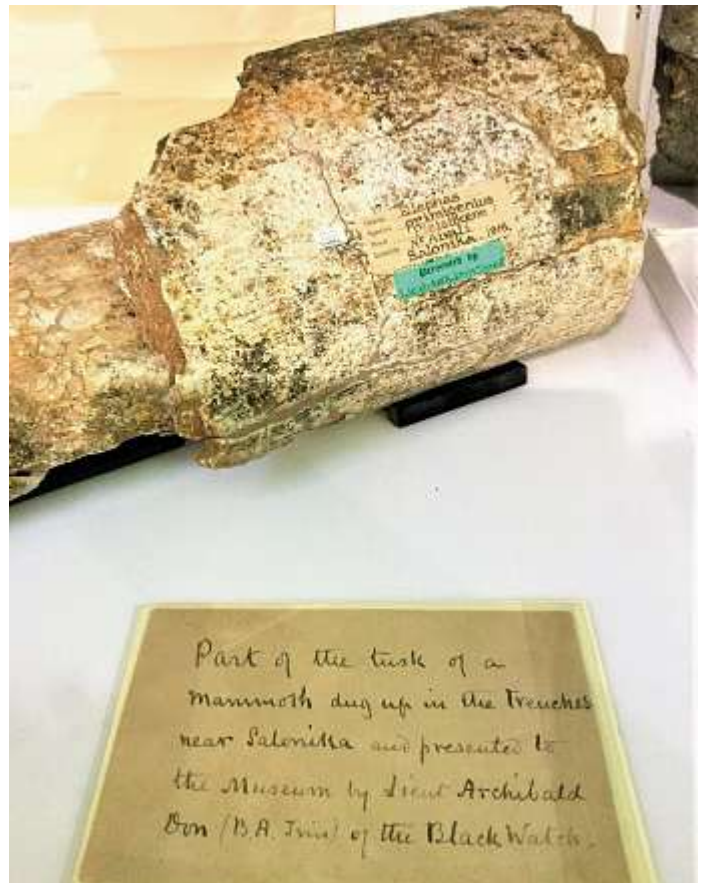
'It is about time that I sent you what details there are with regard to the tusk we dug up here. A fire bay was being dug on the side of a hill about 150 feet above the level of the plain, which is here not so very high above sea-level. The upper three feet had been dug through softish earth containing pottery chips and odds and ends of bones. Then just above the 'fire step' level began a hard stony gravel. A little over two feet was left, most probably for the fire-step and behind it the trench was being dug down to the deeper level necessary to afford complete protection. It was while digging out this portion that chunks of a 'hard white stone' were thrown up on to the parapet and attracted the platoon commander's notice (Mr Drysdale [2nd Lieutenant A. O.]). At lunchtime they brought a bit down to me, and after lunch I went up and found that there were still portions left in situ in the fire-step. These were dug out, and proved to be the tip (a bit of which I sent you some weeks ago) and the thick end. We followed the latter until it ended abruptly against a big squared stone which looked to me as if it had been the foundation of an old dwelling. At all events, the tusk went no farther. Of course I never saw it whole, but from the statements of how far it projected out from the margin of the fire-step it was easy to reconstruct its curve. The tip lay 5 feet 9 inches from the middle of the thick end, and this line (joining the tip to the thick end) was 3 feet 4 inches from the farthest point of the curve. The measurement of the outer curve of the tusk worked out at almost exactly 10 feet.

The thick end of the tusk and a portion near the tip which I dug out of the fire step I am sending to you via a British firm in Salonika. Whether the box will ever arrive is another matter. I would not send it but for the historic interest it may have as having been dug up by the British troops here. If you put it in the Sedgwick, mind you label it as having been dug up by the 10th Battalion the Black

Watch, and the place may be described as 'near Aivatli', eight miles north roughly of Salonika....I hope this fragmentary relic reaches the Sedgwick Museum all right, and that I shall some day, not too distant, see it there.'

Having been a member of the Sedgwick Club in Cambridge, the oldest student geological club in the world, it was significant that Don had sent the items to Professor Hughes for display at the Sedgwick Museum; opened in 1903 Hughes had worked hard to establish a museum and school of geology in honour of his predecessor as Woodwardian Professor of Geology, Adam Sedgwick, renowned as one of the founders of modern geology. Sadly Second Lieutenant Don never saw the items on display in the Museum; having fallen ill with malaria in July 1916, he died in September. He is buried in the Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery. His brother, Lieutenant R.M. Don, was killed in action in May 1917.

The pieces of mammoth tusk, whose discovery Archibald Don described in such detail, remain on display at the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences: a fitting reminder of the varied interests of those who fought for 'King and Country' in the First World War.¹



Part of the mammoth tusk excavated as a fire bay was being dug in Salonika in 1915. Lt Don sent the tusk to the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences in Cambridge where it is still on display.

¹ Information from Archibald Don, *A Memoir*, ed. Charles Sayle; see also Arthur Wauchope, *History of The Black Watch*, III, p. 216 & Victoria Schofield, *The Black Watch, Fighting in the Front Line*, p.118. Photographs by Victoria Schofield with kind permission of the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, Cambridge.

THE KILLIN WAR MEMORIAL

By Major T J MacLeod

In October 2018 a party from the Perth Branch of the Association visited the magnificent Killin War Memorial and laid a wreath in memory of the officers and men of the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders).

A short service was held and as part of that service, the following information was read to the members of the Branch;

"In late July 1914 the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion had just completed their summer camp, two weeks later on 4th August the battalion was mobilized and two days after that they were a formed unit. The battalion was initially made up of eight Companies based on Perth, Dunblane, Crieff, Blairgowrie, Auchterarder, Dunkeld and Pitlochry and lastly Aberfeldy. Killin, then still in Perthshire and therefore very much in Black Watch country, was in the catchment area of H Coy (Aberfeldy).

By the spring of 1915 they were fully trained and they joined the 7th (Fifeshire) Battalion as part of 153 Brigade in what became the 51st Highland Division. One hundred years ago in October 1918 they were still fighting but on the 27th of October they came out of the line and that is where they were when the Armistice was announced.

"Hostilities will cease at 11.00 hours November 11th. All troops will stand fast on line reached at that hour which will be reported to Div HQ. All defensive precautions will be maintained and an outpost line established. There will be no parleying with the enemy who if he attempts to come over will be sent back by an officer."

After four years of war the 6th Battalion casualties were as follows;
Officers; 54 killed, 90 wounded and 14 missing a total of 158
ORS; 955 killed, 1635 wounded, 653 missing a total of 3243

This magnificent statue was the work of Alexander Carrick, himself a soldier and it was dedicated on 27 October 1920. Named on its panels are the 34 men from Killin and the surrounding area who were killed in the Great War (28) and in the Second World War (6). The names of the seven men of Killin who gave their lives serving in The Black Watch in the Great War are;



The magnificent memorial in Killin was dedicated in October 1920.

Captain Henry James Knight. 6th Battalion, C Coy, KIA 21/03/18 (age 39), on the first day of the major German offensive Operation MICHAEL. He lies in Pronville German Cemetery No 4 (Queant Road) on the road to Beaumetz; this cemetery contains the graves of 83 British and 83 German soldiers, and 52 of the British are Black Watch men.

Pipe Major D McLeod. 1st Battalion, KIA 21/08/16 at Albert during the Somme Offensive. This loss is recorded both in General Wauchope's History and in Victoria Schofield's most excellent recent book Fighting in the Front Line.

Pte H McIntyre. 10th Battalion, KIA 09/05/17 (age 40) in Macedonia. Commemorated on the Doiran Memorial in Northern Greece.

Pte J McGibbon. 6th Battalion, KIA 23/04/17 at Arras, named on the magnificent Arras Memorial which commemorates nearly 35,000 soldiers of the British, South African and New Zealand forces killed in action locally but having no known grave.

Pte C McLean. 9th Battalion, KIA 31/07/17 (age 29) near Ypres. His grave is in Tyne Cot Cemetery.

Pte D McNee. 1st Battalion, KIA 23/04/17 at the Battle of Arras. He is buried in Fosse No 10 Communal Cemetery Extension, Sains-en-Gohelle.

LCpl R McPherson. 6th Battalion, KIA (like Capt Knight) 21/03/18, on the first day of the German offensive. He is also commemorated on the Arras Memorial (along with Pte McGibbon).



The wreath hangs beside the names of the Black Watch men in Killin who died in the Great War.



Members of the Perth Branch and their families laid a wreath at the Killin War Memorial in memory of the men of the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion.

THE STORY OF THE HISTORY

By Sir Alistair Irwin

In July 2017 the second and concluding volume of the history The Black Watch was published, marking the end of a project that had begun ten

years before. This short article tells the story of how it came about.

In 2006 the Regiment had been merged into the newly formed Royal Regiment of Scotland. Chiefly preoccupied with the preparations

for the launch of the Black Watch Heritage Appeal, the Regimental Trustees also discussed the need for a new history of the Regiment to mark the end of an era. There had of course been many previous histories: all of us will have our favourites amongst the extensive Black Watch lexicon, notably those of Stewart of Garth who recorded the first century of the Regiment's existence, Archibald Forbes who brought the story to the end of the 20th century, Bernard Fergusson, who recorded the Regiment's exploits during the Second World War and Eric and Andro Linklater who gave a short account of the Regiment's life from its beginnings until the 1970s. However, between them they shared the twin failings of not covering the entire history of the Regiment from the earliest days to 2006 and of not recording the detailed sources for the information that each volume contained. The Trustees therefore decided that the time was ripe for what was loosely described as the 'definitive' or 'official' history of the Regiment's 267-year existence.

On 5th March 2007 London-based author and commentator on international affairs Victoria Schofield came to Balhousie Castle to talk about her recently published biography of Field Marshal Earl Wavell. It was obvious to all who heard her speak that her admiration for Wavell had been matched by an admiration for his Regiment. At their meeting on 23rd March the Trustees confirmed that a history was indeed needed, that if we could persuade her to write it Victoria Schofield was the preferred author, and that two volumes would be needed to do the subject justice. The 'marching orders' given to the author were that the history of the Regiment was to be set in the context of events beyond the Regiment and that the emphasis was to be on the experiences of the officers and men who had served, for it was they who had created the history. Above all the author was required to ensure that as much as possible of the material she used was from contemporary primary sources including memoirs, diaries and letters: these and other sources should be properly noted in the book. The author was not to shy away from recording the less good parts of our history nor was she to repeat regimental folklore unless there was evidence to support it. All this was dependent on the outcome of detailed discussions with potential publishers and the author. Importantly a decision to proceed would depend on whether the Trustees felt that they could afford to proceed.

There followed protracted negotiations both by email and in meetings in London. These culminated in three contracts being signed in May 2008 between the London-based publishing house, Quercus, Victoria Schofield and the Trustees. Our Black Watch obligations were, in brief, to pay the bulk of the author's fee and to provide the fullest possible access to the archives, as well as any other assistance that might be needed as the work proceeded. In return the author and the publisher were obliged to consult us on all matters relating to the production of the books: specifically we had the right to read and comment upon the first and second drafts of each chapter, but not to edit out aspects which we believed were uncomplimentary. And so work began.

The bulk of the labour has of course been Victoria Schofield's. However she has enjoyed throughout the project invaluable assistance from the museum team and especially from Tommy Smyth, formerly our archivist, whose detailed knowledge was invaluable, not only of what was in The Black Watch Regimental Archive but also of what was located elsewhere in private collections and in the National Archives in Kew. Amongst these, notably, were the original warrants raising the independent companies in 1725. Unlike most of the well-known contemporary historians who employ researchers to do most of that very time-consuming work, Victoria carried out all the research herself. She started, rather obviously, at the beginning of the Regiment's history but at the same time interviewed many veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War to be sure that important memories were not lost before she could turn her attention to the later parts of our story. Amongst these were the oldest surviving veteran at the time, Dave Hutton (who died in 2017 aged 100), provided a first hand recollection of his service in Palestine in 1938-39, and Major George Grant who described his evacuation from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940.

Travelling from her home in London, Victoria made some twenty visits to Perth, spending a week at a time in intensive research in the archives at Balhousie. Altogether she interviewed a hundred officers and men, serving and retired, including those who had served in Iraq in 2003 and 2004. She consulted war diaries and numerous additional books in order to obtain the context for the individual battles, campaigns and wars she was describing. One of her most difficult challenges was to distil these events, many of which are the subject of entire books, into just a few pages, at best a complete chapter. In addition to what was available at Balhousie, she obtained research

material from numerous private individuals as well as other libraries, not only in the United Kingdom but also in Canada and New Zealand. She exchanged hundreds of emails with those she had met to verify their stories and wrote several drafts. Every chapter was read at least twice and commented upon in detail by the then Chairman of Trustees, with many specific extracts being scrutinized by those most involved. Since all the maps for both volumes were bespoke, the author provided the cartographer a list of the names of every important town, city or region mentioned in the narrative so that the maps would complement the text. She also consulted a wide range of illustrations to give pictorial representation to the events described.

The first volume, *The Highland Furies*, covering the period 1739–1899, was published to great acclaim in 2012 and was launched in Perth at a Regimental Reunion in the Bell Centre on the North Inch on the same day as the Colours of the Regiment were laid up for the last time at Balhousie Castle. The first volume was short-listed for the coveted Templer Medal for the most significant contribution to the history of the British Army.

Without a break, Victoria continued her work on the second volume. In many ways this was a more demanding phase, featuring both the First and Second World Wars (which accounted for just under half the book). There is considerably more written material and of course there are very many of us alive to tell their parts of the story. This wealth of material had the inevitable effect of extending the time needed to produce a finished draft. The original contract had stipulated April 2014 – less than two years after the first volume was published. This date passed without any great alarm but in November 2015 Quercus, without any previous warning, announced that because the contractual deadline had been missed, they were no longer prepared to publish the second volume. Despite the documentary evidence, they denied all knowledge of their agreement with the Regiment and, upon further discussions; they made it clear that they were not prepared to proceed without imposing some unacceptable conditions. For an anxious time over the Festive Season it looked as though Volume 2 might not ever appear.

Then Victoria's literary agent, Sara Menguc, approached Anthony Cheetham and Richard Millbank, the founders of Quercus. It was with them that we had made the original agreement to publish the history but in the interval had moved to set up a new publishing house, Head of Zeus, in 2012. A meeting was hastily arranged and to the great relief of us all, they agreed to publish the second volume both within an acceptable time-frame and according to the maximum length possible with a full collection of maps and illustrations so that it matched as closely as possible Volume 1.

The book was launched at events in London and later in St Andrews. Victoria Schofield gave talks to the Friends of The Black Watch Museum, to the officers and sergeants in Fort George and in Waterstone's in Inverness. She was also invited to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst to address a platoon of cadets and present the history to the Sandhurst library. The final symbolic moment came at the Head of Zeus offices in London in October 2017 when Victoria signed 30 "deluxe" copies of the book.

The end of a ten year process brings with it feelings of relief and achievement but also, strangely, of anti-climax. What next? With luck students of our Regiment will not only read *The Highland Furies* (1739–1899) and *Fighting in the Front Line* (1899–2006) with interest but will also use the two volumes as a starting point to learn in more detail than was possible in these two volumes the blow-by-blow stories of individual battles and actions. The tantalisingly brief extracts from letters, diaries and memoirs may inspire not only more detailed study of the original sources but also perhaps their publication in complete form. The first drafts of both volumes were approximately 100,000 words longer, but both had to be reduced to conform with the publisher's requested word count. Even so the text of Volume 1 runs to 538 pages (totalling 728 pages including notes, bibliography and index); the text of Volume 2 is even longer, running to 599 pages (totalling 828 pages including notes, bibliography and index). It is to be hoped that the material which could not be included, like the rushes on the floor in the film editor's cutting room, will not be lost but preserved in some form of supplementary addendum.

Chiefly though we must hope that the result of all the hard work, of the detailed research, of the endless exchange of emails and drafts, of the discussions about what should be included and what should not, will be that the story of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) will be a permanent record of both our collective regimental spirit and achievements and of the contributions of individual officers and men.

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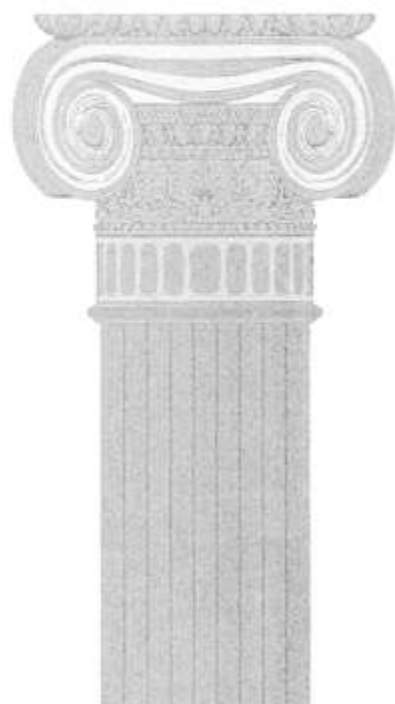
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The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland



COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

Commanding Officer:	Lieutenant Colonel GJ Sefton
Second-in-Command:	Major NP Colquhoun MBE
Adjutant:	Captain J Ramsay
Operations Officer:	Captain N Coles
Regimental Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) KJ Pedder

Since returning from our highly successful tour on Operation SHADER in Iraq last year, we have been focused on rebuilding our core skill – light role infantry soldiering. We ran specialist and support weapons cadres and delivered the new Battlecraft Syllabus package, an infantry-wide project to hone low-level tactics, techniques and procedures – *how to navigate, communicate and shoot straight*. For this training the Companies dispersed across the country to different training areas before returning, tired but enthusiastic, to Fort George just ahead of Christmas.

After four weeks of well-earned Christmas leave, we assumed the role of UK Standby Battalion (North). The role, which we relinquished in March, required the Battalion to be held at very high readiness to provide 'military support to the civil power'. On other fronts, the alpine ski team competed in both the Infantry and Divisional championships and the Nordic team performed well beyond expectations at the Army and Tri-Service championships – an outstanding achievement from a novice team.

In February, Bravo Company, led by Major Rob Colquhoun, deployed as the enemy force on Exercise WESSEX STORM, fighting the 2 YORKS Battlegroup on Salisbury Plain. The Jocks put up a highly spirited fight and were widely praised for their professionalism, diligence and determination. The exercise was a great success and proved to be ideal preparation in advance of our own validation exercise in the summer. In late March, battalion headquarters deployed on Exercise DESERT SOLDIER, a joint planning exercise in the Middle-East, which was a great opportunity to sample some foreign culture (including lots of roast camel) – and to train a newly formed team.

On return, we were straight into a live firing concentration in Warcop, where we spent two weeks conducting a full package of live fire tactical training – by day, by night and from vehicles – up to platoon attack level. After a quick turnaround back in Fort George, 200 soldiers from the Battalion deployed to Sennelager Training Centre in Germany to conduct a two-week simulated exercise in the Combined Arms Staff Trainer. This was our first opportunity to train together as a Battlegroup and, for many, their first opportunity to explore the delights of a German beer hall! We were joined on the exercise by soldiers from the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Logistics Corps and Royal Military Police who we will work with throughout the next 18 months of our being held at readiness. We were also very lucky to be joined by officers and soldiers from 7 SCOTS, our paired Reserve Regiment, and by Captain Josh Fordham from the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada. During the exercise we also took the time to conduct a battlefield study – led by our own military historian, Captain Liam Herbert – looking at the tactical actions in the last push towards Berlin by Allied and Russian Forces at the end of the Second World War. Afterwards, a small team from the headquarters went straight from Germany to Poland to take part in a NATO command post exercise with our Polish Allies from 21st Podhale Rifle Brigade.

At the end of June, we said a sad farewell to Major Brian Cooper as Officer Commanding Headquarter Company. Brian, a Black Watch soldier through and through, has completed more than three decades of service, the majority of which was with this Battalion. His dedication and commitment, throughout a long and highly distinguished career, was rewarded with the presentation of the Andrew Maitland Trophy. Our loss was a 7 SCOTS gain; he is now serving as Quartermaster in Queen's Barracks in Perth.

There was just enough space in the forecast of events to allow the battalion to stand down for three weeks of very well-earned summer leave before returning to Fort George for a week to pack and prepare

for our deployment on Exercise WESSEX STORM. Once again, we were very lucky to be joined on the exercise by a large contingent of soldiers from 7 SCOTS who augmented the battlegroup for our final training exercise. Exercise WESSEX STORM was an outstanding opportunity to train the entire battlegroup – over 900 soldiers and 300 vehicles strong – and to validate our skills in order to confirm our preparedness to take over as the UK's contribution to NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force in January 2020. We were successful, learned a lot and have returned to Fort George confident that we are ready to be launched wherever and whenever NATO needs us.

The future remains exciting. We have a short period now to finalise preparations for readiness but we will also take the opportunity to run a 'Maxwell Shield' sporting competition and to take part in alpine, nordic and telemark skiing competitions as well as sending members of the battalion to learn to bobsleigh and to compete in the Cresta Run. In the longer term, towards the end of 2020, we expect to begin preparations for our next operational deployment, to Afghanistan in 2021.

THE OFFICERS' MESS

President of the Mess Committee:	Major RJ Colquhoun MBE
Mess Secretary (until June 2019):	Captain AJ Farrall Captain C Howie
Mess Treasurer (until June 2019):	Captain LJ Herbert Captain TM Thorpe

It is now just over a year since the battalion returned from Op SHADER and we are slowly getting back into the swing of things. That said, there has been so much training activity along the way that it has been hard to engineer the occasions to bring everyone together at Fort George. Fortunately, the opportunities to export Mess life overseas have been many and varied. Highlights include Captain James Ramsay putting himself off games after dipping his toe in the water during a trip to the beach during Exercise DESERT SWORD in Saudi Arabia, and Lieutenants Tom Thorpe and Jean-Marc Roberti making the most of the local vodka collection while on Exercise LAMPART with our VJTF higher headquarters in Poland.

Elsewhere I think all enjoyed the fortnight of sunshine and German culture during our Command and Staff Training in Sennelager but while most headed to Berlin for a battlefield study organised by Captain Liam Herbert, Captain Paddy Marshall and Major Brian Cooper spent their weekend off reminiscing about the old days while retracing footsteps in and around Bad Fallingb. The Adjutant remains relieved that the local RMP detachment has long since returned to the UK! At the same time the PMC and Captain Nick Coles raced planes, trains and automobiles to attend Major Fin Anderson's wedding in St Andrews and still return in time to conduct a Battlegroup ROC Drill! A feat of human endurance and customer service charm that was well worth it to raise a sword in the Guard of Honour and a drink to his happy future with Lauren before their posting to Staff College in Shrivenham.

Back in the Fort, we have enjoyed a Ladies Dinner night to thank our long-suffering girlfriends, wives and mothers, and a Battlegroup integration dinner night, inviting officers from those units that will be supporting us for the VJTF task next year. We also held a Summer Ball on 29 June which saw 120 guests partying amidst thunder and lightening to the tunes of local band Schiehallion and our very own Pipes and Drums who were mid-way through preparations for the Edinburgh Tattoo. The event was a great success although we were all glad of the marquee as the seasonal rain shower turned into a torrential downpour!

The Mess has seen much change since the winter and we have welcomed many new faces. In addition to fresh-faced subalterns, congratulations go to Captain Scott and Becky Munro on the birth of Harry. We have also seen a number move on to pastures new. Among them: Captain Andrew Atterbury leaves us to pursue a career outside the Army; Captains Liam Herbert and James Farrall move on to Adjutant posts in 6 SCOTS and the 1st Infantry Training Battalion, Catterick respectively; Major Oli Beard hands over the Grenadiers to become Chief of Staff in 51st Infantry Brigade (and removes his tam o'shanter to replace it with his more familiar Royal Welsh beret); and

Major Brian Cooper who leaves the battalion to assume his last post as Quartermaster with 7 SCOTS in Perth. While every farewell cannot be recorded in detail, this last was marked with a poignant ceremony as the battalion mustered to see the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants Messes pull him out of camp after 37 years' service to the red hackle, while Corporal James Muir played the pipe tune composed by Pipe Major Taylor to commemorate his commissioning 15 years ago. Having recruited Corporal Muir to the battalion some twelve years ago, Brian's last act in the battalion was to promote him to Sergeant. Never one to enjoy the limelight, a simple 'thank you' sufficed to greet the assembled crowd as he grasped a new cromach to add to his collection as a true shepherd of the regimental community.

As the Mess return from Salisbury Plain again, we look forward to a Cocktail Party in October, a Fathers' Dinner Night in November and our more traditional Christmas festivities beyond. We will also host a reunion for officers of the Black Watch, 3 SCOTS Battlegroup who served during Op HERRICK 10, ten years ago. An article on that event will appear in the next Red Hackle. Finally, we wish Captain Nick Coles and Tabitha Baird every success for their forthcoming marriage.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Presiding Member: Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM)
KJ Pedder
President of the Mess Committee: Warrant Officer Class 2 (CSM)
M Robb

During this busy time with preparations for United Kingdom Standby Battalion (UKSB), Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) and the normal daily running of the Battalion, the Mess still manages to have fun. The prowess of this fine Mess was personified in the dismantling of the Officers' Mess team this year during both games nights held as part of the Red Hackle day celebrations.

A great fire side chat was hosted by the Mess for Lord Duncan of Springbank who talked on various subjects. The main topic being his vast experience in public speaking and how we can use similar techniques when delivering our own instruction and orders. The ability to use body language and "read the room" will, I am sure, become invaluable when faced with the exciting but demanding challenges ahead.

From games nights, to the serious business of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Burns night 2018; WO2 (CSM) B Young and his team (the "cronies"), crafted a night to remember. On the first night they put on a performance to the Corporals' Mess which was thoroughly enjoyable. The second night was the main event with the delivery to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, with top notch performances from the poets and an Immortal Memory that transported minds to a time long past. The excellent Mess staff really helped the night run smoothly. It brought the Mess together which only happens a few times a year.

The RSM and PMC were also invited to the annual Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) Amalgamation dinner on the 8th of February 2019. This was a fantastic night of history and stories especially from the guest speaker Major Jim Stout. Quality food, drink and service were delivered by the Mess staff in another well-run event.



WO2 Young and those who entertained the Mess during the Burns' Supper.

With the temperature beginning to rise above freezing point, it was time for the Summer function on 10th August 2019. Organized by WO2 Dempster, some feared it would be a "best effort" sports event theme with many of the slower members rushing to complete Nil returns. Everyone however was pleasantly surprised with the Hollywood theme and instead of rushing for Nil returns rushed to order their costumes in good time.

The party was a huge success and along with the amazing food and service, the stars of the night were the costumes and effort put in by the Mess members. This effort was rewarded by prizes being given out on the night by the Commanding Officer and Capt Fairweather in the form of mini Oscars.

The grand finale would come in the form of a more than successful deployment for the Mess during Ex WESSEX STORM.

ALPHA (GRENADE) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major EB Gorrie
Second-in-Command:	Captain MB Gray
Company Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 2 Robb
Company Quartermaster Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant McMaster
OC 1 Platoon:	Second Lieutenant M Carter/ Lieutenant C Barbour
Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Gray
OC 2 Platoon:	Lieutenant H Cowie
Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant McFadden
Tech Sergeant:	Sergeant S O'Gorman

Alpha (Grenadier) Company have enjoyed another busy period, with our efforts over the last quarter very much focused on Ex WESSEX STORM in August and then achieving our readiness states in preparation for our 2020 commitments. In fact, the pace of life has been quite relentless since the New Year but we have been fortunate to have enjoyed a varied and challenging programme.

1 Platoon joined Bravo Company down on Salisbury Plain to act as Opposing Forces (OPFOR) for 2 YORKS on Ex WESSEX STORM in February. This provided us with a unique insight into some of the challenges we will face ourselves when on Ex WESSEX STORM and was a good run out for the platoon into 2019. OPFOR was a great experience for the Jocks, as it not only allowed them to go out in the field and work with their FOXHOUND patrol vehicles but also allowed them to try out new and exciting tactics that they wouldn't normally get the chance to. They performed throughout with the utmost professionalism and their enthusiasm and approach was noted by the directing staff.

Changes are always afoot and after Easter leave we said goodbye to Sgt Wells, who takes up an instructor posting at the Army Training Centre Pirbright. While 2Lt Carter replaced Lt Atkinson-Clark as OC 1 Platoon, 2Lt Cowie replaced Lt Barbour as OC 2 Platoon. Lt Barbour headed to Brecon to complete his Platoon Commanders' Tactics Course.

The year always appears to run in phases and after Easter leave, our focus switched to our next major task as a battalion; we will become one of NATO's Vanguard Joint Task Force (VJTF) elements in January 2020. This forms a key element of NATO's efforts to deter Russian aggression in the Baltic region and more widely across Eastern Europe. The first part of this was our deployment to Warcop Camp for live firing training. The Jocks got some very valuable training done, progressing all the way up to performing live fire section attacks at night. Live firing is always a welcome training experience and is arguably the most realistic training environment we get to experience; it requires focus and professionalism and as ever the Company was up to the task.

While in Warcop the Jocks also took part in a teaching exercise on urban operations. It was an opportunity to refresh old skills and learn some new lessons in what is a unique and complex environment.

FOXHOUND drivers and commanders in the Company deployed to Germany, to take part in a battalion level CSTTX not long after the completion of our live firing camp. In real to life vehicle simulators, the Company was put through its paces as part of a wider battalion training exercise. It was not all work and we were fortunate to be able to spend some time in Berlin conducting a battlefield study to learn lessons from the Soviet Battle for Berlin in 1944/45.

To end this period, we enjoyed a cultural visit to The Black Watch Museum and then onwards to Edinburgh. Our tour of the museum in Perth, offered a fascinating insight into our battalion history, providing the Jocks with a better understanding of the Golden Thread which

binds us together in the present but also with those from our past. All these events were generously supported by donations from the Army in Scotland Trust, The Perth Forces Charity and from the Commanding Officer's Fund. It is thanks to these contributions that events like this are able to proceed.

Exercise WESSEX STORM has been the focus for the battalion and the Company throughout 2019 in preparation for our readiness tasks in 2020. At the end of August, we deployed to Salisbury Plain for a series of events which combine to create the Ex WESSEX STORM package; these included a week's live firing, a series of Company level battle exercises and the final training phases working as part of the wider 3 SCOTS Battlegroup. For many of the Jocks it has been their first major exercise and working in a battlegroup with other Arms from across the army added to the experience.

The exercise afforded us the time to begin to focus on low level skills and drills, starting at Section level and then building up to perform these collectively as a Company. Setting this foundation would be fundamental to success on the remainder of the exercise. It was also one of the first periods when we had access to our FOXHOUND vehicle fleet. There were naturally some teething issues but once out on the Plain, they proved to be a battle winning asset and our knowledge and understanding of how best to employ them continues to grow.

We were blessed with good weather throughout the six weeks we were on exercise but that did not lessen some of the challenges we faced. Naturally, every time the Jocks were asked to step up, they did so with their renowned good humour and determination. Six weeks away from Fort George removed some of the distractions that we become accustomed to as part of the battalion battle rhythm and with these behind us, the Company's personnel were afforded the time to build bonds with each other which will be key to our continued success over the next twelve months.

We bid farewell to Major Oli Beard, who stepped down in order to take up the post of 51 Brigade Chief of Staff and welcomed back Major Euan Gorrie, who served as a platoon commander in the Company on Op HERRICK 10; he assumed command of the Company at the beginning of August.



LCpl Wan ready to launch through the woods during a FIWAF clearance



Lt Barbour doing his best '1000 yard stare'



2 Platoon at the end of Ex WESSEX STORM, ready for their VJTF(L) taskings



A Coy conducting some admin in the heat of the day.



Lt Cowie and Cpl Crichton taking a 'Condor moment' in the heat of the battle.



Pte McCormick enjoying a moment of calm in his FOXHOUND.

BRAVO COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major RJ Colquhoun MBE
Second-in-Command (until April 2019):	Lieutenant TM Thorpe Lieutenant FAM Haigh
Company Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 2 R Hunter
Company Quartermaster Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant B Smith
Officer Commanding 5 Platoon:	Lieutenant SF Adkin
5 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant S Connor
Officer Commanding 6 Platoon:	Lieutenant K Nicol (until June 2019)
6 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant J McMillan (until June 2019)
Officer Commanding 7 Platoon:	Lieutenant JM Roberti (until May 2019) Second Lieutenant ERM Smith
7 Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant R Miller

At the time of writing, Bravo Company has been busy in their preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM 4/19. This is their validation as a Light Mechanized Infantry Company within a battlegroup ready for warfighting in a NATO context. They have been well trained and, at times vigorously exercised, over the past year. The result is a Company more than ready to deploy as part of the 3 SCOTS Battlegroup at very high readiness within the NATO Response Force next year.

The journey began with Ex BRAVO WARRIOR in October of last year which saw us in Barry Buddon for two weeks. A week Live Firing Tactical Training (LFTT) rolled straight into a challenging exercise led from the start by junior commanders as we built Company procedures from the bottom up. Platoon Offensive Actions in some punishing autumn weather stretched the Jocks' soldiering skills and tested their commanders, while prompting a certain Platoon Sergeant to hark back to his time in Brecon – 'rewarding' said the OC while others were less complimentary! Meanwhile, soon-to-be Lance Corporals Aurelien, Carrington-Porter and Taylor were having their own share of the fun on the Potential Junior Non-Commissioned Officer Cadre near Edinburgh where their exemplary performance resulted in promotions before Christmas.

After the Christmas break, the Company deployed on exercise again, this time making the most of our mounted capability as several inches of snow fell in Kinloss. Warm within the confines of a Foxhound vehicle provided some shelter at times, while we practiced Company Enabling Actions interspersed with fighting in (wintry) woods and forests (FIWAF) and operations in an urban area (OBUA). We also benefitted from integrating elements of Delta and Charlie Companies providing us additional find, fix and precision strike capabilities, and left us well prepared to fulfil our OPFOR role (providing enemy or 'opposing forces') to the 2 YORKS Battlegroup on Salisbury Plain.

Ex WESSEX STORM 1/19 was to prove excellent training from the newest Jock to the most experienced. The challenging conditions and tenacious nature of the Jocks led to the 2 YORKS Battlegroup being tested to their limits. Bravo Company excelled and, reinforced by 1 Senior Highland Platoon and a troop of Scimitar from the Household Cavalry Regiment, pursued a true sense of empowerment

and innovation at the lowest levels as every Jock, trooper and junior leader sought fresh ways to win. In addition to developing team cohesion, fighting spirit and a will to win, this also provided an excellent opportunity for observing and learning from 2 YORKS to shape and develop our own training ahead of Ex WESSEX STORM 4/19.

In addition to three weeks in Warcop on another LFTT package to prepare us to live fire at section and platoon level, Bravo Company developed confidence in our dismounted anti-tank capabilities using simulated Next Generation Light Anti-Tank Weapons (NLAWS) to defeat the armour threat that we had used to such effect against 2 YORKS. Concurrent to a driver training surge, which generated additional Cat C licences and new drivers and commanders for the FOXHOUND vehicle, the majority of the Company deployed to Sennelager in Germany to conduct simulated training at a Battlegroup level. This was thoroughly enjoyable, with early morning runs in the glorious sunshine before testing our mounted procedures in rather hot and sweaty simulator booths, before time to cool off with a cold beer most evenings. Never ones to miss the opportunity for a 'cultural visit', those present spent a weekend in Berlin touring the still almost tangible atmosphere of the battlefields of Berlin from the Second World War, before being stood down to sample the delights of Berlin's nightlife.

During Ex WESSEX STORM 4/19, the Jocks brought together all of this training to succeed in both mounted and dismounted roles while experimenting with bringing FOXHOUNDS closer into the fight to use their speed, manoeuvrability and firepower (as well as the opportunity to shorten the walk). However, it is without doubt, that the soldiering skills and offensive spirit, characterized during our OPFOR role have been critical to that success. Ensuring that we were never 'friendly forces' so much as 'the enemy's enemy', ensured a competitive edge and will to win in every tactical action with the OPFOR, provided by the QDG. As a result, we enjoyed the encounter but used our NLAWS skills to neutralise the armoured threat and release our FOXHOUNDS to manoeuvre (incentivised by the OC offering a day off for every WARRIOR successfully destroyed by NLAWS), and our skill in FIWAF and OBUA to defeat the OPFOR in dismounted close combat. It was a lot of fun and highlighted the benefit of a progressive approach to force preparation led as often as possible by junior commanders at the lowest level. We were also helped, very capably, in a number of engagements by K Troop 70 Field Squadron Queen's Gurkha Engineers. They provided mobility support both as Sappers and when persuaded, also provided a third manoeuvre platoon in the Infantry role! Until manning improves they will be welcome to fill the slot as a surrogate '6 Platoon' any time. As we return, we look forward to an autumn developing mental resilience and public order skills to ensure we are in a good place to assume the mantle of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) in 2020 ahead of Christmas leave.

In addition to the three Lance Corporal promotions already mentioned, special congratulations should go to Corporal Bruce who completed the Section Commanders' Battle Course (SCBC) and promoted to Corporal this summer. Lance Corporals Murray, Ramage and Ross have also completed SCBC and, alongside Corporal Brogan who has successfully completed the Platoon Sergeants' Battle Course (PSBC), all now await the next promotion opportunity. A number of births have augmented the wider Company family while both Sergeant Miller and Sergeant Connor married their long-term partners Kelsey and Vicki. Finally, the Company was delighted to see the OC awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List this summer.



A Bravo Coy soldier engages the enemy in the woods.



Cpl Brogan crawls forward to confirm the location of the enemy.



Pte Lyall ready to unleash a rapid rate of fire.



Cpl Brown, (MFC) ensuring B Coy are supported by the mortars.



LCpl Aurilian, armed to the teeth.



Pte Sarwar walking across an Infantry Assault Bridge.

CHARLIE (FIRE SUPPORT) COMPANY

Officer Commanding	Major D Robertson
Company Sergeant Major	WO2 J Couper
Company Quartermaster Sergeant	CSgt B Smith

The last twelve months have seen the Savages deliver an extraordinary output over a demanding, disjointed, dispersed and diverse training year. Reforming after Op SHADER commitments and the battalion re-ORBAT, the Company was initially blessed with a relatively protected period, allowing the Support Weapon Platoons the opportunity to deliver their own in-house specialist cadres. All took advantage of the opportunity this presented and delivered well-planned, progressive and demanding training across the UK – a considerable logistic exercise in itself, operating between Fort George, Tain, Barry Buddon, Weymouth and Warcop. A final collective fortnight in Warcop allowed the Company a rare opportunity to come together and train in low-level basic soldiering skills and live firing in late November 2018. From then on, dispersion has been the recurring theme, with our soldiers and officers deployed in support of exercises, training teams and ceremonial events across the UK, Cyprus, Jordan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Poland and South Korea. All this, whilst maintaining a number of readiness tasks, including the UK Standby Battalion, in support of civil contingency operations from January to March 2019 and again from September to December. On top of this, the Machine Gun Platoon had to convert vehicle platform from R-WMIK to HUSKY; this involved a huge crew training bill, delivered for the most part by the tireless efforts of LCpl Peebles of the Mortar Platoon, who was instrumental in his support to Sgt Rabonu, our Tech Sgt, keeping the fleet on the road. Enormous credit must be given to the CSM, WO2 Couper, for his efforts in managing the Company's commitments and training demands throughout the year, 'keeping the plates spinning' in support of the Bn Ops team.

Heading into the summer, a large portion of the Company deployed to Germany for CSTTX, a fortnight vital in developing simulated vehicle tactics and techniques; sharpening up on command and control and allowing the junior ranks the opportunity to experience what life posted in Germany had offered their predecessors. A superb middle weekend in Berlin, organised by Capt Liam Herbert, delivered an eye-opening battlefield study of the fall of Berlin – the scale of which was staggering – in addition to a well-earned couple of nights out on the tiles. Throughout the year, Ex WESSEX STORM has been looming large and has provided the aiming mark for all our training. After the inevitable post-leave ground rush, it was a blessing to get on the buses and deploy south for what proved to be a testing but ultimately achievable exercise. The Jocks delivered from day one; taking over our full vehicle fleet and preparing the battalion's extensive range package; live firing themselves; integrating with Rifle Companies and attached reserves for the initial Battle Exercise period; living and operating with increasing confidence at night, in the field, in temperatures swinging from 30 degrees daytime highs to pre-dawn low single figures to remaining motivated all the way through to the final attack on Copehill Down Village. With the final post-ex administration complete it may be easy to forget how well the Jocks performed, in light of the lack of collective preparation we have had. Perhaps the constant churn and uncertainty today's soldier has to live with in barracks, means that there is actually little a training exercise serial can throw at them that will put them off-track. 'Improvise, adapt and overcome' is nothing new; it's now simply the everyday. We will need this,

as the next time the battalion rolls out of the Fort, we may be doing so at NATO's calling and facing up to a formidable foe.

The Company have said farewell to some of our team. CSgt 'Loon' McCarthy doesn't go too far, taking up a new set of challenges in the role of Assistant Intelligence Officer in BHQ. He hands his COMS account over to the capable hands of CSgt Paul Roadnight – already bedded in by the end of WESSEX STORM. Capt Liam Herbert's success at Regimental level sees him depart to take over as Adjutant of 6 SCOTS; Lt Harry Atkinson-Clark takes over from him. This year also saw the departure of CSgt 'Bob' Bavadra on promotion to WO2 as CSM HQ Coy, 4 SCOTS, and Sgt John Fay, taking on the role of Training Sgt with 4 MI Bn – where he will have a huge influence. In their place, Sgt Steven 'Dinger' Bell arrives from Balaklava Company, taking over as PI Sgt/2IC for the Machine Guns. We also wish Cpl Pete Muir well on his departure for a well-earned instructor's posting to AFC Harrogate.



Members of C Coy during the battlefield study in Berlin.



WO2 Couper and Major Robertson during Berlin battlefield study.



Working hard to set up the Coy defensive positions during Ex WESSEX STORM.

MACHINE GUN PLATOON

Officer Commanding: Lt H Atkinson-Clark
Second-in-Command: Sgt S Bell

The Machine Gun Platoon, having reformed after Op SHADER turned their focus back to their core business in October 2018 by organising and taking part in the annual Machine Gunners' Cadre at Fort George Ranges and Warcop. There has been a talented input of young machine gunners, adding some youth to the seasoned command team. An enjoyable lead up to Christmas ended with a raft of promotions for LCpls Hood, Karim and Spring. In January 2019 things started to get busy as four members of the Platoon deployed to Kenya in support of Ex ASKARI STORM. Soon afterwards, a Section was attached to B Company as they faced up to 2 YORKS on Ex WESSEX STORM 1/19. The Section, led by LCpl MacPherson proved their worth and reminded people of the devastating effect we can have. We converted from the RWMIK platform to the HUSKY, a tight turnaround for Ex WESSEX STORM but well managed by Sgt Bell. The Battalion Live Fire Camp in May was a great opportunity to improve our low-level tactics with rifles but also to train and qualify our soldiers on the 'heavies', GMG and HMG. I took over command on our return from summer leave and we deployed on EX WESSEX STORM in mid-August. Down on the Plain, we took part in a week-long live fire package, the highlight of which was firing the Rifle Companies into a FIWAF attack with a full SF gun line. The guns were used extensively during the tactical phase of the exercise, proving our worth as the battlegroup's main provider of direct fire support. Many lessons were learnt about the employment of our vehicles and heavy weapons working in synergy with our dismounted SF capability. The Platoon worked extremely hard and developed hugely during the exercise. We are now ready to enjoy some of the other benefits of Army life, including sports and adventure training in the run up to Christmas.



The Machine Gun Platoon prepare for the next phase.



Machine gunners are happiest when carrying weight.

MORTAR PLATOON

Officer Commanding:	Captain D MacLeod
Second-in-Command:	Warrant Officer Class 2 D Dempster
Mortar Sergeants:	Sergeant Kyle
	Sergeant Letson
	Sergeant Steele
	Sergeant Watson

The Mortar platoon has enjoyed another busy year. The end of 2018 saw the conclusion of the Mortar cadre as we trained and refreshed our skills as Mortar Numbers and Mortar Fire Controllers. The cadre finished with two weeks of live firing in Cumbria.

The start of 2019 was very busy with the platoon sending small groups off to various exercises and trawls. This included soldiers deploying to Kenya to advise and test mortar platoons from other units within their large Battlegroup exercises. Individuals from the platoon also put in a strong showing down at the Support Weapons School in Warminster as NCOs looked to complete MFC courses in order to promote. LCpl Nisbet and Cpl Brown both performed well on the Mortar Standard Course whilst Cpl Leith and Cpl Salter excelled on the Mortar Advanced course finishing 2nd and 3rd out of all course attendees.

Prior to summer leave the platoon came back together to complete the Battalion live fire package in Warcop, before deploying to Germany to continue the battalion's build up training. The platoon also enjoyed the opportunity to do some more mortar live firing as they went down to support and train our paired mortar platoon in 7 SCOTS.

After summer leave, the focus turned to Ex WESSEX STORM. The Mortar platoon performed well across the board and Cpl Salter had the interesting experience of being attached to the Latvian Company working with us. He got to spend two weeks embedded with the Latvians, seeing how they work and operate, as well as darting about Salisbury Plain on the Latvian quad bikes.

There have also been several changes to the Mortar Platoon manning with Sgt Letson rejoining the platoon after several years out of the army and Cpl McKenzie returning from the Army Training Centre, Harrogate. Sgt Kyle has moved to become an instructor at the Mortar Division at the Support Weapons School.



The Mortar Platoon being put through their paces.



Night firing – launching illum to highlight enemy movement.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON/PIPES AND DRUMS

Pipe Major:	CSgt Tripney
Drum Major:	Sgt Low

This period for the Pipes & Drums of the Black Watch, 3 SCOTS, started with more military training with the build up to Ex WESSEX STORM. This culminated with the battalion's live fire package at Warcop which left the band primed and ready for exercise and allowed us to switch focus to the ceremonial season.

This kicked off in style at the start of June, with the band immediately getting busy in Edinburgh, playing at two Gun Salutes at the castle and then playing at a Beating of Retreat at Prestonfield House in aid of The Army Benevolent Fund, with the guest of honour being none other than HRH The Princess Royal.

We then got down to the business of playing at Holyrood during Her Majesty the Queen's visit to Scotland at the start of July. We had the privilege again to mount the Guard of Balaklava Company, 5 SCOTS and providing duty pipers and drummers for Her Majesty throughout her week long stay. On one of the evenings Cpl Jake Noble had the opportunity to play with the Sovereign's Piper around the Queen's dinner table – not your ordinary weeknight for Cpl Noble.

After some leave, the band came together again in Edinburgh to get ready for this year's Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT); this year's theme being "Kaleidoscope". We had assistance from our friends of 1 SCOTS with a few pipers and drummers joining us. The REMT had great acts in it, hailing from all over the globe from New Zealand to China to Nigeria, to name but a few. This was the first REMT for a few members of the band as this was our first time back since 2015. The highly demanding rehearsal week was a shock to the system for the newbies. I don't think they have ever played pipes so much in one day in their life up until this point. After the shows commenced, the normal Tattoo routine started and the pace eased. The shows were busy for us this year as we were one of the lead bands on parade. We had

pipers playing in as many as five separate items as well as three of our pipers, Cpl Gonsales, Sgt Muir and Cpl Watt drafted in by the REMT as lone pipers. The Lone Piper for this year's TV nights fell on Cpl Watt – his first year playing as the Lone Piper after 21 years of service in Army Pipes & Drums. During the REMT the band put on our own performance in the Tattoo cast bar with the assistance of a few friends of the band on backing instruments; a show for the boys that went down a storm with the other cast members. This year's Tattoo was made extra special as we had the chance to play alongside, the Pipes & Drums of The Black Watch of Canada, for the first time in nineteen years. So, to mark this special occasion, the two bands came together after the very last show and played "Wha Saw The 42nd" all the way down to Johnston Terrace and it was all streamed live by Army Scotland.

In good old Pipe Band style, we finished the REMT and within 48 hours we had dropped off our uniforms and instruments, left the glitz and glamour of Edinburgh behind, and swapped it for combats, cam cream and sunny Salisbury Plain for Ex WESSEX STORM.

We would like to say farewell to Cpl Peter Muir who has left the band temporarily on a posting to AFC Harrogate as a Training Corporal. We would also like to congratulate his twin brother James on promotion to Sergeant. Further congratulations go out to WO2 Campbell on his appointment as Senior Drum Major of the British Army – a position well earned; to LCpl Hall on his promotion to Corporal and to Pte Scott Wilson and his wife Cheryl on the birth of their son William.



The Pipes & Drums performing at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

DELTA (LIGHT) COMPANY

Officer Commanding: Major F Anderson until July 2019
Major S Wright
Second-in-Command: Captain N Hannay
Company Sergeant Major: Warrant Officer Class 2 (CSM) B Young
Company Quartermaster: Colour Sergeant M Arnold
Sergeant:

During this period Delta Company platoons have focused on rebuilding their warfighting capabilities.

The Snipers, Anti-Tanks and Recce Platoons ran independent cadres to train in new soldiers in their core skills. Congratulations in particular must go to Pte Robertson who was the top student on a particularly demanding Recce Cadre on Otterburn Training Area. Since completing the cadres, the Company has been held at high readiness as the United Kingdom Standby Battalion, as well as providing a particularly fearsome enemy for 2 YORKS on Ex WESSEX STORM 1/19.

In Spring and Summer the troops started preparations for being held at Very High Readiness as part of a NATO task force in 2020. To meet the standards required we have conducted Live Fire Tactical Training in Warcop on all platoon and vehicle mounted heavy weapon systems, trained drivers, gunners and commanders on RWMIK+, conducted CSTTX at CAST in Germany and deployed on Ex GOLDEN RUNOUT, a Company mounted exercise on Tain Training area.

The culmination of the training progression was the deployment on Ex WESSEX STORM 4/19 on Salisbury Plain. This being the CT4 test exercise where Delta Company had the opportunity to test and adjust the Light Mechanised Infantry (LMI) Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) concept and allow the platoons to push their limits and remit within a battlegroup context. This training has

undoubtedly prepared us for 2020 and the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) role.



LCpl Raoba enjoys a lull in the battle.



Sgt Stewart delivers a lesson to our Latvian Platoon.

SNIPER PLATOON

Officer Commanding: Lieutenant JM Roberti
Second-in-Command: Colour Sergeant Stevens
Sniper Section Commander: Sergeant Brownless
Corporal Dalglish

Upon their return from Op SHADER 6, the platoon's focus turned to holding a Sniper Operator Cadre in a bid to increase the number of qualified, badged snipers within the platoon. The ten week course aimed to advance the overall skill set of the platoon and to qualify six new members. Based at Barry Buddon, the first half focused on understanding the capability and operation of the L115A3 Sniper rifle to pass the Annual Combat Marksmanship Test (ACMT) and advanced assessed shoots. In conjunction with the comprehensive live fire package, individuals exercised their navigation during a series of NAVEX tasks in preparation for testing. The second five week phase, held at Otterburn Training Area, tested camouflage and concealment, physical robustness, stalking and other sniper-specific fieldcraft skills. The course culminated with the badge week to select those who had met the required standard.

In February 2019, two sniper pairs joined B Company as OPFOR for the 2 YORKS Battlegroup on Salisbury Plain during Ex WESSEX STORM 19/1. These pairs made a welcome addition to the Company and provided an opportunity to employ their skills as a mobile, free-thinking enemy. Under Cpl Dalglish, the snipers used innovative and often pestilent means to trouble the YORKS at every opportunity. They were faced with a counter-sniper threat, forcing them to outthink and outmanoeuvre their YORKS counterparts.

In preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM, the platoon reformed as a group for a live fire package in Warcop with the remainder of the battalion. This provided an invaluable opportunity for us to rehearse basic skills, drills and platoon SOP's. Upon return from Warcop, the platoon advanced their training during D Company's Ex GOLDEN

LION. Once again, live fire was the primary aim however it provided the chance to work as a cohesive, mounted ISTAR grouping before being tested in August and September.

During this period the platoon welcomed new members; Lt Roberti and CSgt Stevens alongside Pte Coull, Pte Armstrong and LCpl Clements have joined. These additions have taken the platoon to full strength with the aim of training as many newly qualified snipers in 2020 as possible. The Platoon stands, fully-manned, re-energised and poised to assume the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) commitments in the New Year.



Members of the Sniper Platoon use quad bikes to maximise their mobility.

RECCE PLATOON

Officer Commanding:	Captain C Howie
Second-in-Command:	Colour Sergeant M Bellshaw
Recce Sergeants:	Sergeant Stewart Sergeant White

The Recce Platoon completed a seven week cadre in Otterburn and Whinney Hill in the latter part of 2018. Although just the beginning of the process looking towards VJTF in 2020, it has served as a solid stepping stone. It was an excellent effort by the Jocks on an arduous cadre in tough conditions. In addition the Platoon played an integral role in the defence of The Maxwell Shield.

We began our preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM, providing a patrol as OPFOR for 2 YORKS as they were tested. They deployed on Collective Training 1 and 2 (CT1&2) level exercises and battle camps to hone their skills in preparation for exercising on Salisbury Plain.

The hard work prior to deployment in August 2019 paid off, as we performed very strongly during each phase of the exercise. Credit must go to each member of the team who added value at every level across the six weeks on Salisbury Plain.

CSgt Bellshaw and Sgt Stewart have used their expertise to work as Observer Mentors in Kenya and the Light Close Recce Commanders' Course (LCRCC) respectively.

We must thank our former Platoon Commander, Capt Kelly, who has been posted as SO3 Light Close Reconnaissance and congratulate CSgt Bellshaw for successfully completing his LCRCC. We must also congratulate LCpls Braes and Matthew on completion of SCBC and Pte Robertson on achieving 'top Jock' on the Recce Cadre.



A Recce Platoon vehicle is cammed under the 'watchful' eye of Capt Howie.



The Recce Platoon laying down a rapid rate of fire.

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

Officer Commanding:	Lieutenant T Thorpe
Second-in-Command:	Colour Sergeant D Pasifull

The latter half of 2018 was taken up with the return from the Platoon's contribution to the training and mentoring effort on Op SHADER 6. With a brief but busy round of homecoming parades complete, members of the 'Tanks' were able to get stuck into sport and AT, culminating in helping Delta Company to victory in the Maxwell Shield.

Into the New Year and January saw members of the Platoon deploying as part of a Combined Arms Company Group to act as OPFOR (enemy forces) for the 2 YORKS Battlegroup on their assessment exercise on Salisbury Plain. This was excellent training for those on both sides and provided a real opportunity for newer members of the Platoon to see just how they fit into a larger grouping.

Training in the first half of 2019 has given us a chance to refocus on core infantry skills and conventional war-fighting, in preparation for the Battalion's tasking as part of the VJTF lead element in 2020. During this time we conducted live and blank training at Barry Buddon and Warcop; this allowed the Platoon to develop confidence in operating within their own teams and as part of larger formations. This training was followed in June by participation in simulated battlegroup training in Germany.

Alongside the collective training, members of the Platoon have continued to attend career courses at the Specialist Weapons School in Warminster, where candidates are taught and assessed on their key skills in anti-tanking. This has been a very fruitful period for the Platoon with LCpl Wallace, Cpl McFarlane and LCpl Brown, and Sgt Wilson and Lt Thorpe successfully completing the Detachment, Section and Platoon Commanders/2iC courses respectively.

The focus of all of this training and activity has been towards Ex WESSEX STORM 4/19, the final assessment exercise, certifying the Battalion as ready to take on the NATO VJTF role. The pressure was on the Platoon with the arrival of Warrior AFVs from 1 YORKS to bolster the QDGs arsenal and play the part of BMP and BRDM vehicles, with potentially serious stopping power and the very effective BGTI night sight. A combination of good low-level camouflage and concealment, together with the experience and tactical awareness of the Section Commanders, enabled the Platoon to support the Rifle Companies in neutralising this threat and supporting the Battalion to achieve its mission.



The Anti-Tank Platoon bring their heavy weapons to bear.



An Anti-Tank Platoon vehicle and crew move at speed to engage enemy armour.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

REGIMENTAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Regimental Administration Officer: Captain J Anderson
 Detachment Commander: Captain S Munro
 Regimental Administration: Warrant Officer Class 2 A
 Warrant Officer: O'Neill

The past year has seen a complete reform of the 3 SCOTS SPS Detachment with numerous arrivals and departures. Along with the new RAO and Det Comd, we have welcomed a new Sys Coord Sgt Cenac, Regtl Acct Sgt Savu, Cpls Barriffe & Mazwi and Ptes Abdullatif, Campbell and Sherpa. We have unfortunately had to bid farewell to some valued members of the detachment, Sgt Baron on retirement, Cpl Rhodes on transfer to the RAF and LCpl Hopkins. We have also had a few promotions with Sgt Alderson being selected for promotion to SSgt and LCpl Rhodes being promoted to Cpl.

Through a demanding 2019 the Detachment has seen many successes, with Cpl Rhodes receiving the Sir Clive Martin Award for her outstanding contribution to the unit's operational effectiveness through her performance whilst on Op SHADER. Not content with just the one award, Cpl Rhodes also received the Joint Commander's Commendation for J1 support on operations.

To keep current and competent and uphold G1 standards across the unit, many Detachment members have successfully completed trade courses to improve their employability, with Sgt Alderson (SSA) completing the Imprest Course, Sgt Cenac completing his Systems Coordinator Course, Cpl Mazwi completing the SSA course and Cpl Rhodes completing her JNCO CLM. Our soldiering skills have also been tested, deploying on every exercise with the battalion. Live firing at Warcop, CSTTX in Germany and Ex WESSEX STORM, all had SPS representation with the Detachment displaying their 'Soldier First' ethos whilst also carrying out their core business.

We work hard and play even harder, with SSgt Thompson and Cpl Asimwe representing the AGC at Corps level in Squash. LCpl Al Mamun and Pte Abdullatif attended adventure training with A Company and LCpl Bbaale received his Summer Mountaineering Foundation qualification with B Company. We have also seen Pte Abdullatif completing not one but three marathons in London, Barcelona and New York. We have also welcomed the AGC Sergeant Major WO1 Morrison for a Detachment leadership day, which featured presentations, command tasks, a Battle of Culloden tour and ended with a social in Inverness.

Overall the Detachment has had a very productive year albeit a busy one. Even with the fast-paced tempo of the Battalion we keep striving for excellence in our G1 capabilities, which was reflected on our most recent G1 Audit. As we look forward to the year ahead we will embrace the new challenges that Very High Readiness bring and remain dedicated to providing quality G1 support.



Can't stop smiling, get that man in the Infantry!

UNIT WELFARE OFFICE

Unit Welfare Officer: Captain Campbell
 Assistant Unit Welfare Officer: Colour Sergeant Cooper
 Welfare Team: LCpl Clement
 Pte Tay
 Unit Welfare Admin: Rhoda Mills

This has been another busy but positive year for the welfare team. The families enjoyed several events throughout the year that were planned by WO2 Nichol and his assistant CSgt Cooper.

These events ranged from a children's Christmas party to the wives enjoying a night out together to let their hair down. This was held at the Community Centre with the music supplied by a local DJ with some dancing support from LCpl Clement and Pte Tay.

Easter on the family's estate...as the saying goes, 'no plan survives contact'. At 0700, Pte Tay was sneaking about the married quarters putting out the clues for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. However, he hadn't reckoned on the level of training that some of the wives and soldiers had given their children on target recognition and we also believe there were fixed observation posts sited about the estate watching him hiding the clues. We still managed to have a great day despite some of the parents bending the rules and being rumbled by CSgt Cooper.

In June we said goodbye to WO2 Eddie Nichol who handed over to the new UWO, Capt Allan Campbell. WO2 Nichol, throughout his time, has been the driving force of a small welfare team and he has moved into Fort George taking on his new job as CSM HQ Coy.

On Saturday the 3rd of August, the sun shone and we conducted our annual families' day trip. This year the destination was Landmark, situated 23 miles from Inverness at Carrbridge. Capt Campbell attended with his family and they had a great introduction. Some people travelled there by coach and by double decker bus that looked as though it had come straight out of a museum. This put some doubt in their minds that they may not arrive safely! Nevertheless, they all did. On arrival, Pte Tay organised all the families and distributed the wristbands – a big ask, but well executed. All were able to enjoy the many activities that Landmark Forest Adventure Park had to offer, such as the Wild Water Coaster, Wonder Woodland and the high ropes tree top activity, where many of the children put the parents to shame with their lack of fear. This year, the newest attraction was the Dinosaur Kingdom which proved a huge hit. Meanwhile back in Inverness, CSgt Cooper and LCpl Clement were setting up the bouncy castles at the Community Centre to get ready to receive the families on their return. The battalion chefs put on a fantastic barbeque for them which rounded off a great day.



The families on a trip to Landmark.



The Welfare Team getting stuck into the Christmas party.

CATERING PLATOON

Regimental Catering	Warrant Officer Class 2
Warrant Officer:	(SQMS) Jupp
Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant Powell

There has been a lot of change within the Catering Platoon this year with old members departing for pastures new; we have seen a steady flow of fresh assignments take up post at Fort George. LCpl John, Pte Jebb and Pte Lewes have arrived and in October we will see the long awaited SNCO Sgt Antanelis taking up post, much to the delight of Sgt Powell.

From the Falklands to Germany, the Catering Platoon have endured another busy period. Operating with only 50% manning, the Platoon has been thoroughly tested. Both Cpl Stockham and Cpl Roseru have each conducted a three month tour to the Falklands. LCpl Souter deployed to Aberdeen UOTC in order to provide catering support for Ex BLACK WATCH MARKSMAN, before deploying down to Warcop to conduct a live fire camp. This included the Catering Platoon who laid down their spatulas and frying pans and conducted some live firing training. The chefs then deployed to Germany providing catering support to the battlegroup on CSTTX. At present, Cpl Stockham is heading up the catering commitment for the Royal Guard in Ballater.

A few months ago, the RCWO, Sgt Powell and Cpl Stockham all assisted 7 SCOTS with some community engagement down at Perth College cooking a lunch alongside some students on the Operational Field Catering System (OFCS).



Cpl Stockham working alongside chefs of 7 SCOTS and Perth College, cooking a lunch on a Field Catering System.

LAD

Officer Commanding:	Captain Muirhead
ASM:	Warrant Officer Class 1
	(ASM) Wythe

The LAD has seen some significant changes over the past six months. From a complete churn of all SNCOs including the SSgt Artificer post. This has allowed the LAD to take stock and set new targets, still effectively sustaining the battalion's equipment to a high level whilst holding significant gaps in specialist CEGs.

All members of the LAD deployed on Ex HACKLE SPANNER in March 2019, an Equipment Support (ES) orientated exercise to test how we conduct ES in the field, away from the comforts of the workshop. This was vital as we identified areas which required refinement and we have now set the conditions for success before Ex WESSEX STORM. Straight after, the LAD was heavily involved in the successful battalion Land Equipment Assurance (LEA) inspection. We provided much needed Equipment Care advice and direction to ensure that the battalion was fully compliant with the latest policy. The result, a positive LEA report highlighting areas of best practise for other units.

We then deployed to Warcop. The intent was for everyone to achieve the standard of live firing to be able to deploy on Ex WESSEX STORM and to provide support to the range vehicles and weapon systems which all required non-scheduled maintenance throughout the range camp.

In late August, with 2 Bn REME bolstering our manpower, an LAD of thirty three was deployed for a fleet of 344 vehicles.

As the train pulled into Warminster, LCpl Kohlberg was ready to recover any stricken vehicles but he was not needed as the vehicles rolled smoothly into Knook Camp to begin the exercise. The LAD had two weeks during the live fire phase to get the availability as high as possible before deploying out onto the Plain. The team worked tirelessly day and night and the availability remained at 90% throughout. The Battalion were in a good place to deploy and the Commanding Officer would often be seen racing around the area on a quad bike.

The real exercise then began and the LAD deployed onto the area in every Echelon. Within the Companies there was much to be done from diagnosing non-starters, to broken weapon mounts and the Armourers and VMs were kept busy. A1 Echelon balanced repair with recovery and were seen trawling the Plain at night for broken FOXHOUNDS and on one occasion very nearly driving into a well camouflaged CP! At A2 Echelon with ASM Wythe and SSgt Clarke there was plenty of work out on the area. Some of the more complex and unusual jobs included setting fire to a seized alternator during a bump start. Cfn Orr even ended up upside down in a HUSKY engine bay to diagnose a leak beneath the pack!

The exercise was intense and difficult at times, with communication being stretched as the Echelons began to spread across the south of England to Barton Stacey, whilst the battalion remained operating on the Plain. However, difficulties were overcome and solutions found that have prepared the LAD as they go into JEF readiness. Without Cpl Irvine's booming voice or the continuous 80's tunes, morale would be in sorry state.

The future looks busy for the LAD, post WESSEX STORM with the battalion's commitment to JEF and VJTF. With the JEF vehicle fleet being held between Kinloss and Fort George, the relationship between the LAD and Companies is now more important than it has previously been.



FOXHOUND engine change.

CIS PLATOON

Regimental Signals Officer:	Captain Briggs
Regimental Signals	Warrant Officer Class 2
Warrant Officer:	Bonnar
CIS Platoon CQMS:	Colour Sergeant Runciman
Bowman Systems Manager:	Sergeant Paterson
Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant O'Driscoll
Training Sergeant:	Sergeant Ahmed

The CIS Platoon has had a busy period and has seen some significant changes. Capt Farrell left and headed away to the Infantry Training Battalion as Adjutant and Capt Briggs arrived from Blandford, after successfully commissioning from the ranks. It has also seen its fair share of training across the globe in Saudi Arabia and Poland.

The CIS Platoon was heavily involved on the Live Firing Camp at Warcop, which saw the platoon getting back to basics, conducting some infantry live firing ranges. We deployed to Germany as the battalion went through CSTTX. The future is completely filled with the continual conversion of the battalion Bowman ComBAT Infrastructure and Platform (BCIP 5.6) and other new and exciting challenges that are ahead.

In preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM 4/19, the Platoon ran "in camp training" for each of the sub-units to improve their communications prior to the deployment. Additionally, five Cpls attended their CIS SNCO course in Bovington with five LCpls on their Detachment Commander's Course. All this hard work allowed the Commanding Officer to promote three of them after summer leave. Cpl Copland, Cpl Wilson and Cpl Cameron were all promoted.

On a lovely summer day in late August the CIS Platoon left their home base of Fort George and started the long journey to Salisbury Plain. On arrival the platoon started to prepare the fleet for the PACEX (process to ensure that the battlegroup has communications) that would be run under the watchful eye of the RSWO. As always there were teething problems but with a bit of guidance and the experience of the SNCOs and NCOs and of course the lads at the coal face, we managed to get the fleet ready to deploy on phase one,

which would see the platoon support the battlegroup on live firing and dry training at the same time.

On completion of phase one, the platoon reconstituted and started to prepare for the attachments turning up. This was an ideal opportunity for the younger members to see how many platforms there are in a fully supported Battlegroup (BG). The Jocks started to grow in confidence with the kit and how to get the best out of it during the exercise.

It was good to see Ptes Simpson and McLeod bring on some of the less experienced Jocks. This period also saw the platoon get ready to practice the manoeuvre and establishment of BG Main and an ideal opportunity for the staff to see how challenging the construction and maintenance of Main can be, especially when it is all to be set up tactically.

After a quick maintenance day, we were ready to deploy on the most important phase of the exercise and it was a challenging time. We experienced some communication problems resulting in us fighting hard for comms and the employment of Radio Rebroadcast (RRB) proving key.

During the exercise the enemy hadn't been seen by the HQ but the RSO had a fleeting engagement during a recce, however, it was swiftly dealt with by two Alpha Company FOXHOUNDS, much to Capt Briggs' relief. However, the RRB site commanded by Cpl Cameron and LCpl Ross wasn't so lucky as the enemy managed to sneak up on them and capture the RRB. This again tested the platoon when the net was compromised and the training kicked in and we established communications and allowed the BG to complete the objective and defeat the enemy.

It has been a challenging exercise and it was a fantastic opportunity to see where training gaps exist and what training we need to deliver when we return to the Fort. On reflection it's been, at points, the hardest exercise for many of us but the training value will help us as we move on to VJTF and future operations.

We would also like to pass on our best wishes to LCpl Ross and Sgt O'Driscoll on the birth of their baby girl and boy respectively and also a massive well done to Sgt Ahmed on picking up his substantive promotion to Sgt.



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BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Commanding Officer:	Lieutenant Colonel DM Sheldrick
Regimental Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) D Carter
	Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) I Carlisle (Aug 19)
Second-in-Command:	Major A Rose
Training Major/XO:	Major MJ Pearson
	Major NJ Moffat (Aug 19)
Quartermaster:	Major R Whyte
	Major B Cooper (Aug 19)
Quartermaster (Res):	Major H Hood
Adjutant:	Captain SDA McCauley
	Captain AG Collister (Jul 19)
Training Officer (Res):	Captain K Greene
Training Warrant Officer:	Warrant Officer Class 2 J Copeland
Intelligence Officer (Res):	Captain K Rehman
Regimental Administration Officer:	A/Major PJ Ward
Regimental Operations Support Officer:	Captain AG McEwen MBE
Regimental Career Management Officer:	Captain BS Baxter
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant:	Warrant Officer Class 2 (RQMS) S Lawrence
Cabarfeidh Pl:	Warrant Officer Class 2 JP Maestri

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major I Bunce
Company Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 2 J McColl
Motor Transport Warrant Officer:	Warrant Officer Class 2 D Swash
Senior Permanent Staff Instructor:	A/Warrant Officer Class 2 Dempsey
Company Quartermaster Sergeant:	Colour Sergeant J Twine

COMMANDING OFFICERS' FOREWORD



Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Matt Sheldrick and the Adjutant Captain Andrew Collister in Copehill Down Village, Salisbury Plain at the end of Exercise WESSEX STORM.

Our last contribution to the Red Hackle magazine was to the November 2018 edition, which covered unit activity from the preceding six months

until September 2018. This article will pick up on unit activity and the battalion's continued progress from October 2018 until the time of writing in September 2019.

Over the last twelve months we have added significantly to our numbers as well as improving and developing the capability we can offer to our paired regular unit (3 SCOTS), 51st Infantry Brigade – our parent headquarters and ultimately to 1st (United Kingdom) Division. From a recruiting perspective, numbers are double what they were this time last year and the recruiting year from April 2019 to March 2020 will surpass any of the previous 5 years. The success is entirely down to the energy and dedication of the Army Reservists and Permanent Staff, who have planned, delivered and participated in a huge variety of training events and provided many other opportunities, in the UK and globally. More people are actively engaged with the unit now than since pre-Op FORTIFY days in 2014 and the definite highlight has been welcoming female soldiers into the ranks as infanteers for the first time.

Our Annual Training Deployment this year has been in support of 3 SCOTS BG on Exercise WESSEX STORM on Salisbury Plain. It has given us a focus for the training year and a sense of purpose as a unit. Having managed to generate over 50 soldiers and officers to support the battle group throughout its six week deployment, I am immensely proud and grateful to all those personnel who were willing to take the plunge and commit to the exercise. As a result, we have learned a great deal from the experience which, although demanding, was exactly the type of training we should be attending. Our credibility and competence as a unit has increased, it will allow us to contemporise our approach to training over the next twelve months and has strengthened our relationship with 3 SCOTS. It also offered us the opportunity to operate as Light Mechanised Infantry and gain a broader understanding of the associated tactics and doctrine. We were delighted to host three US National Guard personnel who joined us for the exercise before being rewarded with a weekend in Edinburgh, staying in the Castle, prior to returning to the US. I can assure readers that the reciprocal visit was just as challenging and fun for our people.

The previous year's Annual Training Deployment – Exercise RAMPANT LION, was a slightly lower-key affair. Returning to a traditional ATD/Army Reserves heartland of Warcop Camp, conducting live firing for a week before heading over to West Freugh and the Galloway Forest to participate in an exercise designed for the three Army Reserve units under command of the 51st Infantry Brigade. Warcop allowed us to progress to section level live firing as well as conducting mortar shoots with 3 SCOTS mortar platoon, a relationship that continued to develop up to and including Exercise WESSEX STORM.

Unlike the gloriously forgiving September weather on Salisbury Plain in 2019, October 2018 in Galloway Forest was a different story. High winds seriously jeopardised the exercise as, yet another autumn storm ripped its way through the southern part of Scotland. It turned out to be excellent preparatory training for our Exercise CAMBRIAN PATROL team but conditions made for a hard exercise especially when the torrential rain followed the wind. Despite that, only one member of 7 SCOTS had to leave the exercise early due to injury, an example yet again of the tenacity and commitment of our people.

Exercise CAMBRIAN PATROL turned out to be a disappointment. After careful preparation, we managed to assemble a hugely competent and strong team – then the weather struck. The patrol had already got itself well-ahead of the other Reserve units and were cruising for a medal position but Storm Callum was to have the final say. Frustratingly, the exercise was cut short on entirely sensible grounds by Callum's arrival but the opportunity to go for gold had gone. Under 2Lt Caddick's outstanding leadership, the patrol was awarded a certificate of merit – the highest possible placing.

This year we have tried to add some variety to the programme and have switched fire away from the CAMBRIAN PATROL to Bisley. About a decade ago all other units feared 7 SCOTS at Bisley and we won the unit prize consistently over a prolonged period and had a reputation for rifle shooting second-to-none. This year was about challenging ourselves to bring together a team for the competition and reinvigorate competitive rifle shooting within the unit. Both goals were achieved, and the dedication of all those involved in the team led by

Capt Greene, coached by WO2 Robson, represented us well amongst stiff competition from other units. Next year, the podium.



Exercise CAMBRIAN PATROL team training for river crossing scenario.



LCpl Pollock from 7 SCOTS Highland Band representing Army Reserves Football in Cyprus.



The shooting team who represented the battalion at Bisley in June 2019.



The mini band playing in Queen's Barracks, Perth on St Andrew's Night, 2018.

As well as the expected 'green' training, the calendar has had plenty of other events in it on the music and adventure training front. The Pipes and Drums managed to come together for the Perth Remembrance parade in November 2018 and put on an impressive display along with an RAF Reserve Pipe Band. The weekend prior, members of the band joined 3 SCOTS at the Dundee Festival of Remembrance, again putting on a superb show. A particular highlight in the Pipes and Drums calendar was the deployment of a quartet to play live on TV in Kuwait. The Highland Band have also had an exciting calendar, spending their Annual Training Deployment in Germany, playing to large crowds and packed arenas. Most of their deployments have been in partnership with 6 SCOTS Lowland Band, coming together frequently to provide a bit of pomp to Army Reserve passing out parades and playing en masse at Remembrance events and the Stirling Show on Armed Forces Day. The Highland Band continues to provide an extremely valuable contribution to 7 SCOTS and raised the unit profile through its participation at public events and the standard of its music. More to report in the next Red Hackle magazine from both bands but I would like to thank both organisations for their contribution to the Laying Up of the Colours for the 2nd/51st Highland (Volunteers) in Fort George earlier this year. It was a poignant and memorable occasion attended by many members serving and retired from 7 SCOTS and our antecedent forebears. The immaculate turn out and drill provided by C Company was the icing on the cake.



The Colour Party Laying up of the 2/51 Highland Colours in Fort George.



Pipes and Drums mini band playing on television in Kuwait.



Guard of Honour for the Laying Up of the 2/51 Highland Colours in Fort George.

On the Adventure Training front, I am most impressed by the sub-aqua club led by Capt Ken Scott, planning and executing such expeditions as Ex NORTHERN TARTAN DIVE to Malta and a more ambitious plan to dive in Scapa Flow in October 2019. Capt Scott has delivered qualifications at all levels across 7 SCOTS as well as the Royal Regiment of Scotland and has done much to support our retention efforts. Special mention must be given to Capt Mac McKenzie, Permanent Staff Administrative Officer in D Company. He planned and executed one of the most impressive expeditions I have come across in twenty years in the Army: Ex NORTHERN PURPLE ENDEAVOUR. A synopsis of the expedition is included below but proved to be one of the stand-out events this year.

Finally, I would like to welcome all those new to the unit both raw recruit, Reserve to Reserve transferee and ex-Regular joiner. It gives me particular pleasure to welcome Maj Harry Hood and Capt Kev Stacey to our ranks, both still as keen now as they were during their Regular Service. The summer period saw the departure of many Regular Staff as listed at the top of this article and the arrival of their replacements. I know they will have an excellent time with our wonderful unit.

This will be my last article for the Red Hackle magazine as I hand over to Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Mackinnon in December. I would like to thank all Army Reserve personnel, Regular Staff and Civil Servants who have helped to keep us on the right trajectory moving forward, I am also grateful for the support I and my team in Perth have received from the staff in Balhousie Castle. It has been a pleasure commanding 7 SCOTS.

ALPHA (FIRE SUPPORT) COMPANY

Officer Commanding:	Major A Cameron Major JA Valentine (Apr 19)
Company Sergeant Major:	Warrant Officer Class 2 S Woods
PSAO:	Captain S Langdale
RSUSO:	Captain M Dunnigan
Mortar Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant I McNiven
Anti-Tank Platoon Sergeant:	Sergeant A Naughton
Rifle Platoon Commander:	Colour Sergeant G McKenzie
SPSI:	Colour Sergeant Jones
PSI Aberdeen:	Colour Sergeant A MacDonald
CQMS (FTRS):	Colour Sergeant S MacGregor
CQMS (Res):	Colour Sergeant B Knowles

A Company's report reflects similar trends highlighted in the Commanding Officer's foreword in that we have continued to grow in number as well as capability. You will notice from the list above that not only has the OC-ship changed hands, but all our junior officers have left us too. Our loss however, is the regular Army's gain as both 2Lt Rory Hand and 2Lt Angus Caddick started their Sandhurst journey in May and are reported to be doing well. We continue to look for suitable replacements for both, in the meantime I would like to thank the excellent leadership of my SNCOs covering the post of Pl Comd and the support they have received from the Permanent Staff in Aberdeen, Dundee and Kirkcaldy.

As with other elements of 7 SCOTS, we have deployed on Ex WESSEX STORM as our Annual Training Deployment. The Mortar Platoon has had an outstanding live firing package alongside 3 SCOTS, with other members of the Company deploying within the 3 SCOTS BG. 2019 to date has yet again been busy, as we have followed the unit Forecast of Events as well as conducting our own training. After a period of live firing, we attended the two-week cadre camp in Barry Buddon where the Mortar Platoon completed a numbers cadre and the remainder honed their low-level skills on the live firing ranges. As ever, MATTs has set the benchmark standard for our own sub-unit readiness, using them as a start point from which to develop our battlefield skills.



Mortar Platoon live firing.



Urban operations training.

A week of adventure training was planned and executed by the Company and participants from across the battalion attended the activities at Norwegian lodge; separately Capt Dunnigan participated in diving at Scapa Flow. Five members of the Company participated in the Heroes of Telemark Norway Ex and experienced some very demanding conditions (see the article below). We supported and participated in the battalion shooting team and a big effort was made to attend Bisley.

As well as attending Exercise WESSEX STORM, the Company has had several soldiers away on career and capability courses as well as new joiners completing recruit training. Cpl Smith attended the CBRN instructor course in preparation for supporting deploying on Exercise WESSEX STORM – who have been promised a CBRN serial (much joy!) and I have recently completed the three-week Company Commanders' Tactics Course alongside regular peers. As the Mortar Platoon continues to develop, Sgt McNiven has found the time to attend the ten-week regular mortar course. We have yet another batch of young soldiers preparing to attend the Section 2IC course, with LCpl McGarrity heading off on the Section Commanders' Battle Course at the Infantry Training Centre, Wales. We are really starting to deepen our competencies, grow in number and offer a credible Reserve Force in support of the wider Army.

Looking ahead to the last few months of 2019 and into 2020, we will maintain our focus on developing as individuals and small teams and lean in to the many opportunities available to us including the week-long battlefield study to northern France visiting St Valery and Dieppe, tracing the steps of some of our antecedent units. On the soldiering front, we will introduce the new Army Reserve Physical Employment Standards (PES), a new annual testing procedure designed to be more relevant to the actual functions of a soldier and reduce muscular-skeletal injuries. I will also look to develop the anti-tank capability alongside 3 SCOTS too.

We bade farewell to Major Gus Cameron in April, who has moved on to the Battalion Second-in-Command post at Tayforth UOTC and we wish him all the best and hope he continues the flow of officers into the Dundee detachment and the Royal Regiment. The Coy 2IC, Capt Rehman transferred to 5th Military Intelligence Battalion but has since returned to 7 SCOTS in the role of Intelligence/Training Officer – it is great to see him back! Lastly, I would like to thank CSgt Donnachie, the Mortar Platoon PSI who has moved to 6 SCOTS and was pivotal in the development of the platoon. It would be superb to see him on the ranges in February conducting a joint 3/6/7 SCOTS mortar shoot.

Finally, I would like to congratulate LCpl Monaghan on his promotion having successfully passed the Scottish, Welsh and Irish Division Section 2IC's course, and would like to extend a warm welcome to a

number of Ex-Regulars and new recruits into our ranks. Farewell to the soldiers who have moved on, some of whom have transferred back to the Regulars and good luck to the new recruits interested in officer selection on transfer from the UOTC.

A special farewell to Sgt Allan Wade who will retire later this year having completed 34 years of Reserve service, all in A Company and having mobilised on eleven tours! He has held every position within the Mortar Platoon including when he was promoted to Colour Sergeant as Second-in-Command. He is finishing off his Army career as part of the Company recruiting team and has managed hundreds of recruits over his time. We wish him the very best for the future, we fully expect him not to be a stranger and to visit on a regular basis. Sgt Wade has been a stalwart, we will miss his dedication, experience and guiding hand.

EXERCISE NORTHERN PURPLE ENDEAVOUR – BYKLE, NORWAY MARCH 2019

A team of twelve Reservists from 7 SCOTS undertook the challenge of learning Nordic Skiing and completing the Heroes of Telemark route in Norway. With many having no experience in Nordic Skiing, it was a steep learning curve and a physically and mentally challenging exercise.

The team began with completing their Nordic Foundation 1 course over the first few days, learning the correct and efficient method of covering distance on skis. They also developed skills in survival and first aid, as the Telemark route was dangerous in parts and required everyone to be able to look after themselves and each other.

A visit to the Heavy Water Plant in Vemork put some of these skills into practice, including a steep descent to the plant that required guide ropes and good balance! This all proved good experience for the team as they then began the Heroes of Telemark route; covering 53km in four days whilst carrying all kit required and living in snow holes – a world away from the normal après-ski style that some were used to.

Overall the exercise was a success, and our team have returned home with sore legs and new skills. We are excited that this exercise has paved the way for new skiing competitions and opportunities for our Reservists in the coming winter season.

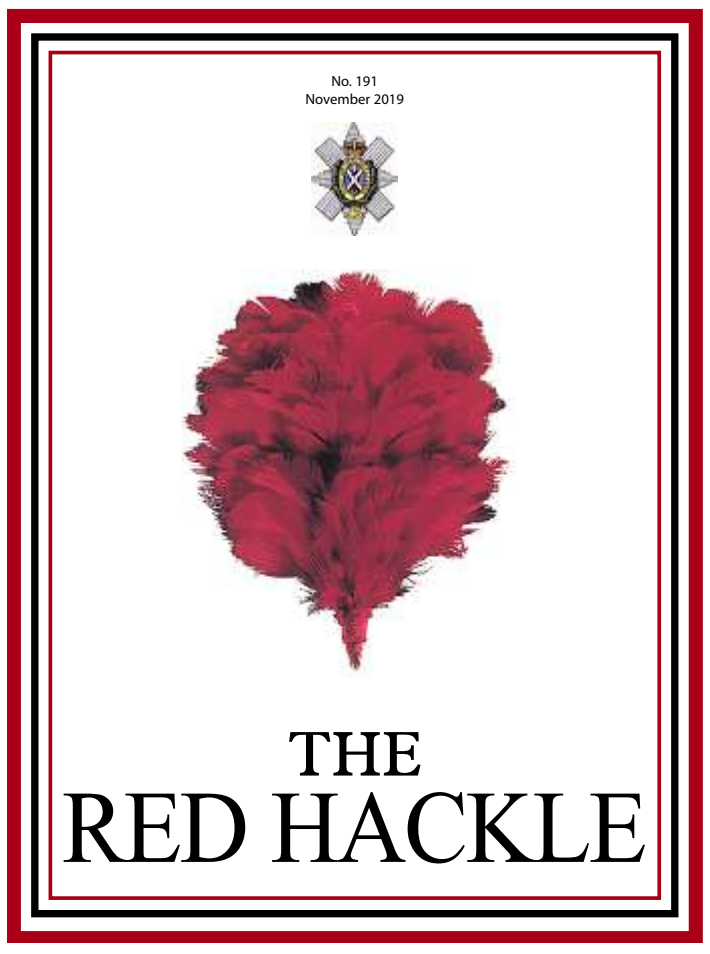


Expedition moving across a plateau.



The expedition team was led by Capt Mac McKenzie (PSAO D Coy).

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The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada

The fall of 2018 brought us into a new training cycle and a very special period of commemoration. As November approached on the calendar, so were the 100th anniversary commemorations of the end of World War One. As with all regiments that deployed overseas to get involved in the bloody conflict, the Royal Highlanders of Canada paid a heavy toll in the accomplishment of their duty: 11,954 members of the unit served gallantly, with more than 2,100 killed and more than 6,000 wounded. It was clear in everyone's mind that such sacrifices would not be forgotten and would be commemorated with all its importance in our Regimental history. There were many commemorative events and the Regiment did its best to honour its forefathers.

As our Regimental delegation was getting ready to deploy to France and Belgium, the Regimental Headquarters received an invitation from Denmark. A Danish Veterans Association invited us to attend the unveiling of a bust of our own Private (later Lieutenant) Thomas Dinesen, VC. He was awarded the Victoria Cross while serving with the 42nd Battalion CEF. We accepted the invitation and the Commanding Officer represented the Regiment at the simple yet emotional ceremony that was presided by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. Many diplomats, officials, and members of the Dinesen family were present at Churchill Park in Copenhagen for the unveiling.

In November 2018 the Canadian Black Watch, represented by a group of more than 80 members, veterans, and re-enactors, deployed to France and Belgium to commemorate the 13th, 42nd, and 73rd Battalions CEF contributions to the last 100 days of the war and the Armistice in Mons, Belgium. The group participated in ceremonies at the Canadian Monument at Vimy, in Wallers-Arenberg, at the Menin Gate in Ypres, and culminated with a parade led by the re-enacted 42nd Battalion CEF Pipes & Drums entering the Grande Place of Mons at 11 o'clock on 11 November, 100 years to the minute of when the troops of the 42nd Battalion CEF marched in that same location. It was quite an emotional moment, especially for our Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce Bolton, a former Pipe Major of the Regiment, who had the privilege to have known and learned his piping skills from these WW1 veterans. We were blessed by great weather, great friends, especially by the presence of the British Army Artists Rifles Association with whom we fought side by side during the conflict. We received an outstanding welcome from the citizens and authorities of the communities we visited in France and Belgium were very lucky to experience such a unique event.

Early in the New Year, members of the Regiment deployed to Fort Pickett, Virginia to participate in EX FIGHTING WARRIOR. In addition to our infantry contribution, we provided the Battle Group Reconnaissance Platoon. Its exceptional performance was recognized by the award of the Battle Group Commander's coin to the leadership of the platoon.

Later the same month, we celebrated the Regiment's 157th Anniversary. During the parade, we bid farewell to our Pipe Major, Master Warrant Officer Daniel Smith, who retired from the Armed Forces after 43 years of service and welcomed Warrant Officer Adam Wilson as our new Pipe Major. WO Wilson already had the opportunity to show his leadership and musical skills as the Regimental Pipes & Drums were selected to represent Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces at the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in the summer of 2019.

In March a Regimental delegation was invited for an audience with our Colonel-in-Chief, HRH Prince Charles, at Clarence House. Sergeant Devon Best, our Proven Cup winner for 2018 (top soldier of the Regiment) briefed HRH on the state, morale, and training of our Regiment. It was the first time that an NCO from the Regiment was able to brief and discuss with His Royal Highness on these issues for which he has a keen interest.

We also took the opportunity to present HRH with a walking stick as a gift on the occasion of the 70th birthday of Prince Charles.

In early May, our Annual Church Parade took place while western Quebec was, again, in what we now know as the "flood season". Several members of the unit missed the events as they were deployed with our Territorial Battle Group to provide support to civilian authorities and communities.

To say that our Pipes & Drums were also very busy during the last part of the year would be a big understatement. In addition to an overflowing task calendar, the band was selected to represent the Canadian Army at two of the most prestigious military music events: The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Composed of members of the Black Watch, the Nova Scotia Highlanders, and the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, and led by our very own Pipe Major Adam Wilson, the band was praised throughout their tour for their professionalism, adaptability, teamwork, and musical skills. It was also a unique moment at the Edinburgh Tattoo when members of the Black Watch and their brothers from the 3 SCOTS Pipes & Drums were able to meet and play together for the first time since 2000! It was quite a significant and unique moment for all involved.

All these activities were complemented by a steady rotation of our soldiers deploying or coming back home from successful operational tours in Latvia, Ukraine, Iraq, and Mali.

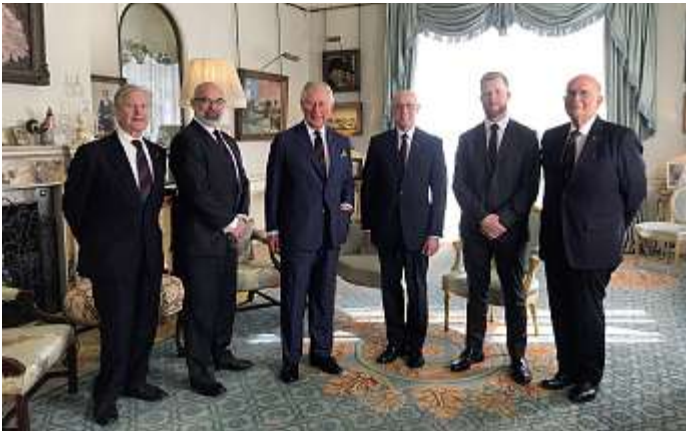
The Regiment has always been busy, but one must admit that the operational and institutional pace of the last year was exceptional. It is with pride and sincere thanks to all members of the unit and Regimental family who answered the call with such dedication and professionalism.



Emi Furuya, Canadian Ambassador to Denmark and Lieutenant Colonel Bruno Plourde at Churchill Park in Copenhagen.



Some members of the Black Watch of Canada Pipes and Drums meet members of the 3 SCOTS Pipes and Drums during the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



A regimental delegation had the honour of meeting the Colonel-in-Chief at Clarence House.



Some of the contingent who attended the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War.

ARTEFACTS FROM THE BLACK WATCH OF CANADA COLLECTION – THE BATTLE OF LOOS, 1915

By Earl John Chapman

The watercolour shown here (49 by 66 cm unframed) was executed in 1917 by the British battle artist, Lady Butler (Elizabeth Southerden Thompson, 1846-1933). It depicts the 9th Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) advancing during the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915. While no plaque is mounted on the frame, the following text appears below the painting: “The Battle of Loos, France, September 1915 – The Pipers struck up, and with a cheer the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) moved forward with a steadiness and valour which the enemy was unable to resist, and which called forth the admiration of the General.” Losses during the battle, the first “Big Push” for the Allies during World War One, would be appalling, the worst yet suffered by the British Expeditionary Force in a single day, with an estimated 8,500 dead by day’s end. More Scots died in this battle than at Culloden – one third of the dead served in Scottish regiments, the majority killed while serving in the six battalions of the Black Watch which took part in this battle; one of them, 9th Black Watch, sustained 701 casualties (21 officers and 680 men) in the first hours of the fighting, “the highest losses ever incurred by any battalion of the Regiment in one action.”

The following lines are quoted from a report by Brigadier General Henry Thuillier, who would go on to command the 15th (Scottish) Division: “The dead Highlanders, in Black Watch tartan, lay very thick. In one place, about 40 yards square, on the very crest of the ridge, and just in front of the enemy’s wire. They were so close that it was difficult to step between them. Nevertheless, the survivors had swept on and through the German lines. I was amazed when I thought of the unconquerable, irresistible spirt which these men must possess to have enabled them to continue their advance after sustaining such losses.” The 9th Battalion’s 2IC, Major J.A. Stewart, wrote: “We did our job... the Regiment was absolutely magnificent and they’ve written a page of BW history that will rank with Ticonderoga.”

The provenance of this painting is not known, but its significance to any member of the Black Watch family is clear. According to one source, “Lady Butler has done for the soldier in Art what Mr. Rudyard Kipling has done for him in Literature – she has taken the individual, separated him, seen him close, and let the world so see him.” Lady Butler once wrote about her military paintings, “I never painted for the glory of war, but to portray its pathos and heroism.” Her better-known works include: “The Roll Call” (purchased by Queen Victoria); “The Defence of Rorke’s Drift”; and “Scotland Forever!” (depicting the Scots Greys at the battle of Waterloo).



The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) at the Battle of Loos painted by Lady Butler. (Black Watch of Canada Museum and Archives, photo by Peter Ferst).

Black Watch Battalion The Army Cadet Force

Honorary Colonel:

The Reverend Professor
Norman Drummond CBE
FRSE

Commandant:

Colonel C G Hubbuck

Deputy Commandant:

Lieutenant Colonel S Rae

Adjutant:

Captain M McCluskey

Officer Commanding Alma Company:

Lieutenant R Sangster

Officer Commanding Burma Company:

Second Lieutenant K Stark

Officer Commanding Korea Company:

Captain R Howieson

Officer Commanding Ypres Company:

Second Lieutenant F

Campbell

Officer Commanding North:

Major N Murdoch

Officer Commanding South:

Major M McCluskey

Battalion Training Officer:

Major K Douglas

Regimental Sergeant Major:

Regimental Sergeant Major

T Cameron

Permanent Staff:

Cadet Executive Officer:

Major A C M Potter

Quartermaster:

Captain R G Hallum

The Battalion has recently returned from Annual Camp with a marked increase in Cadet attendance. Sywnnerton Training Camp in Staffordshire was this year's venue with excellent Training Programmes being pulled together to provide challenges for all Cadets training in their various Star Levels. This was our first visit to Sywnnerton in over 30 years and it proved to be an excellent facility. Our Green Training took place on the Camp Training Area and at the excellent range complex at Whittington Barracks. The introduction of Paint Ball in a TIBUA environment proved very popular with the Cadets. The Battalion also participated in an exciting AT Package at Holme Pierrepont in Nottingham which included Paddle Boarding, Tough Mudder and a Wipe-Out Obstacle Course. The Senior Cadets also took up the challenge of a Silver DOE Expedition through the Peak District. The Battalion were also given some well-earned downtime with a Trip to Alton Towers. We also took in a visit to RAF Cosford Air Museum and the National Arboretum where a Remembrance Parade was held at the Black Watch Tree. Next year's Annual Camp will be at Strensall Barracks, York. The Training Officer and her team have already come up with a draft plan.

The Battalion also participated in a number of local community events throughout the summer keeping us in the Public Eye. From Kelty Gala Day to Crieff Highland Games, Cadets and CFAs ran presentation stands and paraded in their local towns and villages. These events continue to give us positive press through Social Media, allowing us to continue to recruit for both Cadets and Adult Volunteers.

COMMISSION BOARD

The Battalion achieved two new Commissions at the recent Cadet Force Commissioning Board at Westbury. Under Officer Emma Langridge and Frank Campbell have been promoted to Second Lieutenant. We have a further six Potential Officers attending a pre-Westbury Course in Drumshoreland, Broxburn in September.

MILITARY BAND

The Band was again visible at high profile events throughout the Summer. In particular they had the privilege of playing at the Royal Gun Salute at Stirling Castle in April organised by HRFCA. This was the first time a Cadet Band had played at such a high profile event anywhere in the UK. They also played at the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards held in Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh in July. The Band supported the Salute to Perth Parade in August playing alongside Military Bands from this year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo. An invite to participate in the 5th Nanchang Tattoo in China is also currently being organised after Brigadier Sir Mel Jameson, Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross had arranged an invite for the Band after previous successful Band performances.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE ACF

While the Battalion was at Annual Camp we had the opportunity to support an event at Frimley Park National Cadet Training Centre in Surrey, celebrating 40 years of Women and Girls in the Army Cadet Force. The Red Hackle was on prominent display throughout the event which involved opening the doors of the Centre to the Public to look at how we do our business. This proved to be a very popular event supported by both the local community and further afield.



The Battalion at Swynnerton Training Camp.



Cadets taking part in the TIBUA phase at camp.



40th Anniversary of Women and Girls in the ACF.



Preparing for the Fieldcraft Exercise.



Cadet Staff Sergeant Katherine McKenzie, the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Perth and Kinross trying out the axe throwing at Frimley Park.



Military Band at the Royal Gun Salute at Stirling Castle.



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ARMED FORCES
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Association News

Royal Patron: HRH The Prince Charles Duke of
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the City of Dundee (from April 2019)

Vice Presidents: Mrs Georgiana Osborne CVO,
(until 24 August 2019) and then
Mrs Pat Sawer,
Lord Lieutenant of Angus
Mr Robert Balfour FRICS, Lord
Lieutenant of Fife
Brigadier Sir Melville Jameson KCVO,
CBE (until 17 July 2019) and then
Mr Stephen Leckie, Lord Lieutenant of
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Captain T Graham
Mr R Scott, JP
Captain A McEwen, MBE
Mr W Barr
Major B Dickson
Mr A Stott
Mr W D Whytock

REGIMENTAL REUNION JUNE 2019



that by being present we have two Branch Standards on parade. The ceremony was initiated to commemorate the deaths of Australian and New Zealand servicemen who died during training in Arbroath during the Second World War. Royal British Legion Arbroath laid on a most welcome buffet lunch which was provided by Mrs Osborne and members of the New Zealand and Australian societies.

Ron Scrimgeour, one of our Associate Members, organised a group of Branch Members to visit John Henderson the sole surviving El Alamein veteran who had moved from his own home in Gourdon, just north of Montrose, to the Edenholme Care home in Stonehaven. John was really surprised and delighted by our visit; he was over the moon when he was presented with one of the Association Centenary Commemoration Medals and for once was quite speechless. Sadly he died just over a month later and his obituary can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

The Reunion was well attended and members enjoyed the Centenary Church Service and the rest of the day. To quote our Past President Lt Col Fred Beattie "it is the best one that I have attended over the many years that I have been going as a serving and retired member of the Regiment".

This year our annual Branch Standard Rededication Service took place on the 22nd of September in St John's Episcopal Church Forfar with the Rev Elaine Garman leading the service, assisted by the Right Rev Bishop Ted Luscombe who served in the Indian Army during World War Two and the Revd Eryl Rowlands. A lunch was held thereafter at the Legion in Forfar where fifty members and guests sat down to an excellent three course lunch prepared by Kenny Beats who is an ex cook sergeant with the battalion.

Lastly we would like to congratulate Bob and Ena Mitchell on their Diamond Wedding anniversary in mid-September. Bob is a tireless worker for the Branch and leaves nothing to chance and all members of the Branch would like to take this opportunity to wish them both well for the future with more happy years together.



Members of the Angus Branch who attended the Anzac Day Service.



The Angus Branch Standard Rededication took place at St John's Episcopal Church, Forfar.



The Angus Branch El Alamein Dinner 2019 was held on 19 October.



George Panton escorts the Standard carried by Brian Smith accompanied by George Eaton.

DUNDEE BRANCH

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

The Dundee Branch continues to flourish but like all other Branches we would ideally like to obtain more members; so if you live in Dundee or the surrounding area and you served in the Regiment or in 3 SCOTS and you would love to meet up with auld muckers, get in touch with any of the above or email us at blackwatchdundee@yahoo.com and we will take great pleasure in welcoming you into the Branch.

In November 2018, as is always the case at the start of this month, the Branch members were in attendance at various Remembrance Parades and Services in the City. These included the Laying of Crosses Service on Saturday 3rd, Mains Parish Remembrance Service at Caird Park on

Thursday 8th, our own Powrie Brae Remembrance Service on Saturday 10th, The City of Dundee Remembrance Service at the City Churches on Sunday 11th, as well as on the same day, the Remembrance Service up The Law and at City Quay for the Submariners' Remembrance Service. Thank you to everyone who attended these events.

Friday 1st February 2019 saw the Dundee Branch host the annual Red Hackle Dinner Night which was as usual, extremely well attended by not only Dundee Branch members but those members from the Branches of Angus, Edinburgh & Lothians, Fife and Perth. Yet again our illustrious Honorary Members from Liverpool, Mick Molyneux, Hughie Campbell and Bobby Lynch were ever present and it is really fantastic that they always make the effort to attend. The after dinner speaker for this year was Ronnie Proctor who gave us a very informative update on what 3 SCOTS had been up to and what the future held for them. A vote of thanks goes to our own Branch Chairman, Willie Barr who organised the evening.

After the more formal part of the evening we retired to the side pews where we were regally entertained by Jock Menzies and Ally Alcorn and of course the normal bunch of karaoke singers who melted our ears with some old time hits. Thanks to Billy Whytock, Alex Stewart, Mick Molyneux and Arthur Keith for helping to make a brilliant night.

The following night, a few Branch Members and the Liverpool crew attended a fabulous Perth Branch Burns Supper in the Salutation Hotel, Perth. Another extremely well organised and thoroughly entertaining evening.

On Saturday 23rd February the Branch held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) where all office bearers were re-elected for at least another year.

A good number of Branch members attend the Fife Branch Rhine Crossing Dinner in Kirkcaldy on 22nd March and as usual we were royally treated to a fantastic evening courtesy of all those "Fly Fifers" but especially to Bob Scott and the Committee members who worked so hard before, during and after the event.

On 29th March, Roland Rose, Joe Barton, Brian Kelly, Davie Gow and Colin Gray attended the 100th birthday celebrations for an auld Black Watch soldier Bill (Willie) Steele. It was a great occasion with family and friends and the Lord Provost presented Bill with a card from the Queen.

We had the unfortunate occasion on 17th April to attend the funeral of Kenny Grant who was a great supporter of both the Dundee and Angus Branches. The attendance at Kenny's funeral and wake was testament to how popular he was and how greatly missed he now is.

Saturday 27th April was the Regimental Annual General Meeting at which the Dundee Branch were well represented.

The Regimental Reunion on 15th June, as reported elsewhere in this edition, was also well supported by Dundee Branch members.

As part of the Armed Forces week, the City of Dundee held a Veterans' Parade and Commemorative Church Service on Saturday 22nd June. This event was well supported by members of the Dundee Branch who joined veterans from other Service Associations marching down Reform Street, giving an "Eyes Left" to our very own Colonel Alex Murdoch TD and the Lord Provost Ian Borthwick who were taking the salute. The parade then marched to St Paul's Cathedral on the High Street and attended an excellent service conducted by the Rev Bob Wightman. After the service a buffet was very generously laid on for the veterans by the Market Bar on the Seagate.

Saturday 10th August saw the Highland Branch hosting the Inter-Branch Games Day in the 3 SCOTS, Community Centre in Inverness. Representing the Dundee Branch were, Willie Barr, Alfie Docherty, Mickey Flynn, Chris Thomas, Frankie Clark, Ray Lawson, Gus Angus and Colin Gray. We are extremely pleased to report that we easily won this event albeit, we were down to seven men a few times during the afternoon as Rip Van Winkle Lawson decided to take to his bed on a number of occasions. Thankfully for the last game, we managed to obtain the services of the lovely Caroline Beattie who added that touch of beauty to our team. Huge thanks go to our hosts that day, especially Gordon (Sharky) Kennedy, and Eddie Nichol who fixed us up with great overnight accommodation. Very much appreciated.

On Saturday 7th September, Branch members supported and attended the Submariners Commemorative Service at City Quay, Dundee then the following day we held our Branch annual Battle of Loos Commemorative Church Service in the Congregational Church, Constitution Road, Dundee. Thanks again to Lord Provost Ian Borthwick for supporting us and to the Rev Alan Livingstone for conducting the service.



Powrie Brae Remembrance Service with standard bearers, Chris Thomas and John Glen.



Victorious Inter-Branch Games Day Team.



Dundee Branch and Honorary (Liverpool) Branch members at the Perth Burns Supper.



Willie Barr, Brian Kelly and Colin Gray at the Submariners Commemoration Service.



Dundee Branch veteran's breakfast



Bill Steele's 100th birthday celebration.

EDINBURGH, LOTHIANS' AND BORDERS' BRANCH

President:	Lieutenant Colonel Julian McElhinney
Chairman:	Lieutenant Colonel Jack Menzies
Secretary:	Major Alex Stewart BEM
Treasurer:	Captain Ramsay Macdonald
Events Coordinator:	Mr Rory McIntyre

On Saturday 12 January 2019 Branch members and guests gathered in the Leith Ex Servicemen's Club to celebrate Red Hackle Day. Entertainment was provided by Mr Ally (Elvis) Alcorn and Pipe Major Alistair Duthie. A sing along was also orchestrated by Mr Jock Gilfillan and Mr Tam Dick who surprised guests with their repertoire of traditional and old-time favourites.

A change of format for the annual Al Basrah function was a huge success. Members and guests gathered on 11 May 2019 for lunch in the Apex Hotel Haymarket. This was followed by a late afternoon social event in the Scots Guards Club. By popular demand this event has already been scheduled to take place on 9 May 2020.

The Edinburgh Armed Forces Day Parade took place on Saturday 22 June 2019. Regulars, Reserves and veterans mustered in Charlotte Square and marched along George Street towards St Andrews Square Gardens. The parade was addressed by the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh (Right Honourable Frank Ross). On completion of the parade, family and friends joined the marching contingent for a reception and afternoon of entertainment.

A small group of members gathered at St Kentigern's Cemetery Glasgow on 7 August 2019 to lay a wreath at the grave of 2392 Private George Adam who served with the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) during World War One. George Adam subsequently joined the Royal Irish Constabulary and served during the period known as the Irish War of Independence. George Adam is listed on the Police Roll of Honour (having died of wounds received while on duty). A full article titled "George Adam" is included in this edition of the Red Hackle.

Should any reader be aware of any former Black Watch soldier living in the Lothians and Borders area who would benefit from a visit from a Branch member, please pass the details on to Association Headquarters. Mr George Burns (a veteran from the 1940's and 50's) is currently a resident at the Nazareth Care Home, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian. Both Mr Burns and the care home staff very much appreciated a recent visit by Branch member Mr John McDougall (Ex WO2- Regimental Band).

Anyone wishing to join the Branch (serving or retired) is more than welcome to do so and should make contact through either a Committee or Branch member. The most recent new members are: Captain Harry Hood, Mr Derek Taylor and Mr Peter Graham.

J A Menzies



Piper Robert Lindsay and Lieutenant Colonel Jock Menzies at the Al Basrah Lunch.



Mr Rory McGuire and Mr Phil Horwood prior to Armed Forces Day Parade Edinburgh.

FIFE BRANCH

It has been a period of good busy and bad busy. The good busy, is we have attended our Reunion at Balhousie Castle with a change of format, this year to commemorate the Association's 100th birthday. Instead of marching through the streets of Perth we attended a church service and lunch. In conjunction with our Regimental celebrations we attended various Armed Forces' Days and again it was good to see the Hackles in numbers in our Regimental area. Last Sunday the 15th September, we held our ninth Ladies Alma Lunch in Kirkcaldy and I am pleased to report that forty nine people attended. We were also pleased to have Alison Halford – Macleod with us along with her son Alasdair, our illustrious "Reverend" Charles Quin said grace along with our David Bailey" (George Wood) taking a photographic record. On the bad busy, unfortunately we have seen more friends die and although we try to give them a good send off, it is always sad to carry out that duty.

R M Scott



Alasdair Halford-Macleod accompanied his mother Alison to the Fife Branch Alma Lunch and was hosted by Rob Scott on the top table.





Some of the guests at the Alma Lunch.



The 1739 Club held their annual dinner in November 2018.



Lt Col Jock Menzies entertains guests at the Rhine Crossing Dinner.

HIGHLAND BRANCH

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

Since the last edition the Highland Branch has just hosted the fourth annual Inter-Branch Games day at the community centre Wimberley Way Inverness. The purpose was twofold, not only to enjoy a social event and a bit of fun competition between Branches but also to attract more serving soldiers from 3 SCOTS into becoming members of The Association.

The day started off with the main events and after some close fought competition the Dundee Branch came out victorious and returned to Dundee with the trophy. In the evening we had a BBQ followed by a race night which was thoroughly enjoyable. The games were a fantastic event and strengthen the bond that binds the wearers of the Red Hackle together. We look forward to regaining the trophy next year in Dundee.

The Branch would like to thank everyone involved in the running of the Games Day and to the fantastic response from the other Branches who made it to Inverness.

On a final note the Branch President, Captain Kevin Stacey has now retired and as he departs on his new venture as a civilian we wish him and his family all the best.

Eddie Nichol



Captain Kevin Stacey presents Willie Barr with the Inter-Branch Games Day Shield.

LONDON BRANCH

President: Major General AL Watson CB
Chairman: Major AAL Watson LVO
Vice Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel TA Coles MBE
Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel M Smith MBE
Treasurer: Major DEJ Kemmis-Betty MBE, DL

With 1918 being the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War, it was decided, in conjunction with the Association Trustees, that the Regiment should make a big effort to show a substantial presence at the National Service of Remembrance in London on 11th November 2018. To this end, we invited as many members of The Black Watch, nationwide, to attend this Act of Remembrance as part of the Black Watch contingent; and to be part of the contingent to march past the

Cenotaph. We also decided to re-schedule our annual dinner. It would take place on the night before the parade so that all those marching and their families from both North and South, would be able to gather and renew acquaintances.

We asked the Black Watch Battalion to provide two pipers to play at the dinner, as the Pipes and Drums were to be on parade at the Cenotaph and we also decided to ask "friends of the Regiment" (who had a relation who served in the Regiment, or had other close connections) to come to the dinner, as part of the Regimental Family. A good number came; it was a great gathering and we were all reminded of the strength of the wider Regimental family.

Through Paddy Nicoll's personal initiative, we were also able to organise a lunch after the parade at the Turf Club which is close both to Horse Guards and to the Queen Mother's Memorial, on the Mall. This was a wonderful place for lunch, which was a fitting end to a busy 24 hours.

All of this was supported by the Association, from whom we had tremendous assistance.

There was a very good turn out for both the dinner and march, and Maj Gen James Cowan gave an address at the dinner, covering how the Black Watch battalions were engaged during that last year of the Great War. He also led our contingent on the march-past down Whitehall, on 11th November.

With the 100th anniversary of the Regimental Association falling this year, we look forward to a good turnout at our dinner in November and the same for the Remembrance Service in Whitehall. The Branch is in good heart, but will only remain so with the support of all ranks of the Regiment (and hopefully the new Regiment), serving and retired, who are based in the South. If you live in the South, please do get involved.

There have been a number of deaths in the Branch this year. All are missed, and remembered but I think it is worth mentioning, Brigadier Adam Gurdon who, along with his wife Gilly (who is also a daughter of the Regiment), has been a strong supporter of the Branch over many years, scarcely missing a dinner. He had a full obituary in The Times, which noted his considerable personal contribution in Rhodesia, in support of and alongside Lord Soames, in making sure that the transition from war to peace took place without the chaos and violence which was expected.

In terms of the Committee, David Kemmis-Betty has taken over the finances and is working hard to ensure that the membership is increasing, that funds are growing and that we have sufficient of both to support our events.

Arthur Barty has taken over responsibility for The Black Watch plot at Westminster Abbey and also has the responsibility for looking after the Tyneside Scottish plot (which we have done for a number of years). The Black Watch plot is well turned out and is a credit to the hard work which is put in.

We are very grateful to Richard Nunneley for arranging a Summer tour and lunch at the National Army Museum for the Branch. Sadly, there were not enough takers this time. Hopefully we can have some sort of Summer event in 2020. It is up to the members to decide.

So, the Branch is in good heart, solvent with a good number of members. We will always welcome new members, and would particularly like to see younger members, of all ranks. In addition, we are always looking for willing hands to join the Committee – to make sure that we have a strong team going forward.

Those who marched on 11th November 2018 were;

Hugo Allen; Christopher Baddeley; Brig Garry Barnett; Douglas Bartholomew; Arthur Barty; Piers Bishop; John Boyle; Col Ronnie Bradford; Thomas Brodie; Hugo Cannon; Timothy Carmichael; Richard Clark; Giles Clayton-Jones; Lt Col Richard Cole-Mackintosh; Lt Col Tim Coles; Ben Collis; Maj Gen James Cowan; Douglas Cunningham; Brig Edward de Broe-Ferguson; James de Broe-Ferguson; George Eaton; Ian Findlay; Rupert Forrest; Harry Gladstone; William Greer; William Henderson; Neil Hobson; Ian Howarth; Ondree Howarth; Jeremy Hulme; Owen Humphrys; Douglas Hutton; Marshall Jamieson; Will Johnson; Lt Col Jim Keating; David Kemmis-Betty; Thomas Kennedy; Jonathan Kerr; Col Nigel Lithgow; Thomas Macgregor-Brown; Torquil MacLeod; George McDonald; Alan McEwen; Geoffrey Menzies; Robert Millard; Michael Mitchell; Brian Morris; Kevin Murphy; Graham Parker; David Parsons; Mark Percy; Edward Pratt; Justin Prowse; Alexander Reading; Shaun Reid; Steven Reid; Lt Col Roderick Riddell; Russell Ross-Smith; James Russell; Robert Sergeant; Lt Col Mike Smith; Charlie Taylor; Alastair Watson; David Wilson; Brig Donald Wilson



Lieutenant Colonel Mike Smith, Major David Kemmis – Betty and Captain Harry Gladstone on parade in London.



A melee of Red Hackles before the parade.

NEWCASTLE BRANCH

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

Of special note this year was the St Andrew's Day Commemoration Service, held at the City War Memorial by the Tyneside Scottish Association. Not only was the event a service of remembrance for those members of the Tyneside Scottish who fell in two World Wars, the opportunity was taken to hold a separate ceremony to dedicate a memorial bench to the memory of the fallen of The Black Watch (RHR) and The Tyneside Scottish, in all conflicts since 1914. This event was supported by representatives of many Armed Forces organisations from the City with members of the public taking a break from the daily grind to add support. Organisation for the day had been in the hands of 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery RA (V) and civil dignitaries from the City and neighbouring authorities were present, as was the Lord Lieutenant. Insufficient notice was given for the Branch to organize a representation from either the Battalion, or Balhousie Castle.

The Branch was notified that a new War Memorial, incorporating the names of all those who gave their lives in both World Wars and had been resident in the Breamish Valley, would be dedicated on 27th October. The Memorial would include the name of 2757161 L/Cpl James Swanton, from Ingram, who had served with the 6th Battalion, as well as a number of Tyneside Scottish soldiers (Northumberland Fusiliers at the time of the Great War).

As the first snows of winter laid a covering on the streets, a small party headed into the wilds of the Northumberland hills on their way to the village of Pow Burn. The snow stopped and the country was bright with the rays of an autumn sun. These conditions were sustained throughout the ceremony. The Vice Chairman, Tom Dignam laid a wreath at the closure of the prayers. This was followed by the laying of two personal floral tributes from relatives of those named.

The local community was well represented by the attendance of over 100 people from the various hamlets and villages of the valley.

Three of our members travelled to Belgium with the local Fusiliers Association and visited Black Watch Corner. Those attending were, Messrs Peter Dodds, Albert Bohill and Allan Mayes. Although the Branch did not hold a dinner during the period covered by these notes, members were able to participate in social events organised by the Tyneside Scottish Association, maintaining the strong link which exists. November normally finds us seeking out a Black Watch grave upon which to lay a wreath however, this year it was decided to lay a tribute on the grave of Peter McAughy, who had died on 31st December 2017 and whose funeral had not been well attended. On the 11th, the Branch participated in the City of Newcastle Act of Remembrance at Eldon Square.

Big Jim Taylor celebrated his 90th Birthday at the Waterford Lodge in Morpeth and what he had expected to be a quiet family dinner turned into a well attended gathering. Jim should not have to buy another bottle of whisky for at least twelve months. Jim saw service in Korea and is not as steady on his pins as he once was. He had a fall in May, resulting in some screw fixings to his hip.

Christmas gifts for widows and elderly members in need, were distributed during December, as many as possible were visited personally, others were contacted by telephone.

Normally, we would have given support to The Fusiliers' Association in their St George's Day celebrations however, the City, by way of support for the Armed Forces in general and the Fusiliers in particular, asked for £10,000 to cover expenses for the occasion. The event was transferred to Alnwick where, the Civic Fathers were delighted to host the parade.

2019 has been a quiet year, our annual trip to Perth for the Reunion falling victim to the floods, with the bus we had hired being stranded in a field in the North Riding. No replacement being available, our attendance was reduced to the contents of two cars.

As we go to press, we are getting ready for our dinner, which this year will be on St Andrew's Day.

Tom Dignam has been unwell, spending some time in hospital where, things were very bad for a while. He has had a rough time and is being made to take life easy for the rest of this year at least.

Malcolm Dunn



The Memorial bench dedication in Newcastle.



Tom Dignam lays the Branch Wreath at the St Andrew's Day Memorial Service.

PERTH BRANCH

President: Major (Retired) Tim Carmichael
Vice President: Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Roddy Riddell
Chairman: Captain Alan McEwen MBE
Secretary: Pat McLinden
Treasurer: Frances Sandilands
Accounts Auditor: Major (Retired) Colin Wilson

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

100th Anniversary Croix de Guerre Dinner on Saturday 29th September 2018

The Branch hosted an excellent dinner in the Salutation Hotel to both celebrate and commemorate the deeds of the 6th (Perthshire) Battalion during the Battle of Tardenois in July 1918. The French 5th Army presented the Croix de Guerre to the battalion in October 1918.

Guests included Emmanuel Cocher Consul General of France in Scotland, Brigadier General Herve Bizeul Deputy Commander 1st (UK) Division, Councillor Dennis Melloy Provost of Perth, Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin, as well as Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Hedderwick, RSM and Mrs Pedder from the Black Watch Battalion and RSM Carter of 51st Highland, 7th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The highlight of the evening was the playing of the pipe tune Croix de Guerre which was specially composed and played by Pipe Major Duthie (see Red Hackle November 2018, page 10).

The dinner was quickly followed by a Branch visit to the Killin War Memorial on Sunday 14 October 2018 and a report is contained in the articles section of the magazine.

Burns Supper – Saturday 2nd February 2019

Ally Alcorn organised another excellent Burns Supper that was attended by folk from across the Association. The Deputy Provost, Councillor Willie Wilson was guest of honour.

AGM – Sunday 17th March 2019

Lieutenant Colonel Roddy Riddell and Mr Ally Alcorn stood down as our respective President and Secretary at the AGM and we are delighted to welcome Tim Carmichael as our new President and Pat McLinden as our new Secretary. We would like to say a huge thanks to both Col Roddy and Ally for their selfless and devoted service to the Branch and indeed the Association over many years.

Visit to the Black Watch Memorial and lunch in Aberfeldy on Saturday 4th May 2019

The Branch attended the Black Watch Memorial in Aberfeldy and a wreath was laid and a ceremony of remembrance led by Greg McGillivrey along with the fifteen Branch members in attendance. Roy Brown led the group in reciting the Regimental Collect to finish a solemn ceremony.

The party then withdrew to the Black Watch Inn where a hearty lunch was had and many tales were exchanged. The group later returned to Perth and ended the day in good spirits in the Ex Servicemen's Club.

Visit to the Black Watch Powrie Brae Memorial and lunch in Dundee on Saturday 3rd August 2019

Saturday the 3 August saw the Branch visit the Black Watch Memorial at Powrie Brae, 60 years after the Queen Mother unveiled the original memorial. A very precise knowledgeable and very interesting insight into how and why the memorial came to be was given to the attending Branch members by our host Willie Barr. This was followed by a very informative brief on the history of the men who were remembered and fell during the battles of the Great War by our President Tim Carmichael. At the end of this informative brief a wreath was laid and the Branch members recited the Black Watch Regimental Collect.

After our visit to this fantastic Regimental memorial we departed to the Dundee Black Watch Club where we were very well hosted by Willie Barr and his Branch Committee who served an excellent curry lunch. The Perth Branch pass on our thanks to Willie Barr and his committee for the kind hospitality.

Inter Branch Games Day in Inverness on Saturday 10th August 2019

We were absolutely delighted to be able to furnish three teams consisting of three Branch members in each team, to take part in the 2019 Inter Branch Games Day.

A team (loaded for victory but fell woefully short of the mark) – Greg McGillivray, Winky Greer and Roy Brown.

B Team – Sandy MacDuff, Jock McBride and Ronnie McGregor.

C Team – Pat McLinden, Sharon Stacey and Alan McEwen.

A huge vote of thanks must go out to WO2 (CSM) Eddie Nichol, Gordon Kennedy, Joe Barbour and indeed all Highland Branch members and of course their partners, for being such outstanding, organised and attentive hosts throughout. We must also thank Ally Alcorn for getting Family and Friends return ScotRail Tickets for £6 pp and to WO2 (CSM) Eddie Nichol for allowing us to use a Welfare House for overnight accommodation. It was just a huge pity that once Roy Brown is awake at 05.00 hours then everyone else is too. I'm sorry, but I refuse to believe he was ever in the Recce Platoon!

Dundee Branch took the honours this year. Huge congratulations on orchestrating a final play off, of a final play off, of a final play off, to win the trophy. If at first you don't succeed, cheat, cheat and cheat again is the Dundee Branch motto.

Lastly, it is with much regret that we must record that Chat Keay died in June 2019 following a short and bravely fought illness. His funeral, which was extremely well attended, took place at Perth Crematorium. Chat was an absolute stalwart and hugely respected Branch member and friend who will be sadly missed by a great many Black Watch veterans.



Councillor Willie Wilson, Depute Provost of Perth and Kinross was guest of honour at the Perth Branch Burns Supper. Mrs Elspeth Carmichael also attended the event.



Gordon Kennedy and Alan McEwen are overcome when Colin Gray, Chairman of the Dundee Branch, offers to buy a round at the inter Branch Games Day which was hosted by the Highlands Branch.



Major Tim Carmichael is the new President of the Perth Branch. He is pictured here at the Branch Burns Supper.



Some of the Branch members who attended the AGM in March 2019.



Alan McEwen, Chairman of the Perth Branch, outgoing Secretary Mr Ally Alcorn and the new President, Major Tim Carmichael at the AGM held in March.



Perth Branch members who visited the Powrie Brae Memorial.

STOKE ON TRENT



The Black Watch Association (Stoke-on-Trent) Pipe Band were invited to participate in a Royal British Legion ceremony at the National Memorial Arboretum on 11 May 2019. The ceremony commemorated those who fought in the battles in and around Monte Cassino seventy five years ago in 1944 and Pipe Major Stephen Beattie composed a new pipe tune called 'Monte Cassino 75'.



The Stoke-on-Trent Branch Pipe Band played for the Newcastle-under-Lyme Remembrance Day Parade led by Pipe Major Stephen Beattie (from left to right: Pipe Major Stephen Beattie, Piper Martin Shaw and Piper Eric Harrison). The band played a selection of tunes including the 6/8 March "Drum Major Arthur Simmonds" who died on 11 November 2014.

Monte Cassino 75

Stephen J Beattie



Monte Cassino 75, a new pipe tune, was written by Pipe Major Stephen Beattie to commemorate those who fought in the battles in and around Monte Cassino in 1944.

NORTHERN IRELAND VETERANS' ASSOCIATION SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE, NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM, SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2019

By Brigadier D R Wilson CBE

August 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the first deployment of the Army in support of the civil power in Northern Ireland. Operation BANNER officially lasted until 2007 and was thus the longest continuous period of operational service in the history of the Army.

The Black Watch was serving in Gibraltar in August 1969 but was soon called to join Op BANNER shortly after the battalion's return to Scotland, making a rapid deployment from Kirknewton to Belfast in late June 1970. The story of 1BW's twelve operational tours of duty in Northern Ireland is described in detail in the May 2007 edition of *The Red Hackle*.

An invitation was received from the Northern Ireland Veterans' Association (NIVA) to attend its 50th annual service of remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on 14th September 2019. Approximately 2,000 veterans attended on a beautiful bright morning at the National Memorial Chapel. The Black Watch was represented by four former commanding officers of the 1st Battalion during tours in the Province: Garry Barnett, Donald Wilson, Nigel Lithgow and Andrew Ogilvy-Wedderburn.

A list of units of the three Armed Services and the civilian services was read with the name of at least one fatal casualty from each. The Black Watch casualty remembered was Private Mark Carnie, aged 18, who was killed whilst on patrol in 1978. He was one of four Black Watch soldiers who died whilst serving in Northern Ireland.

This was followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the Ulster Ash Grove memorial to the nearly 2,000 members of all three Services, the Royal Ulster Constabulary GC* (and Police Service of Northern Ireland) and the other emergency services who lost their lives during the period of Op BANNER, remembering also all those who were wounded. Her Majesty The Queen was represented by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire and General Sir Robert Pascoe KCB MBE, President of NIVA gave an address. General Pascoe was GOC Northern Ireland when 1BW served in South Armagh in 1985/86.

***Editors' Note:** The Royal Ulster Constabulary were awarded the George Cross by Her Majesty The Queen at the time of their disbandment in April 2000.



Four of the Commanding Officers who were in command during tours in Northern Ireland attended a Northern Ireland Veterans' Association (NIVA) parade and service at the National Memorial Arboretum commemorating 50 years since the start of the "Troubles". Colonel Nigel Lithgow, Brigadier Garry Barnett, Brigadier Donald Wilson and Lieutenant Colonel Sir Andrew Ogilvy – Wedderburn attended the Service and parade.

GEORGE ADAM (THE BLACK WATCH – ROYAL HIGHLANDERS)

By Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) J A Menzies



George Adam in BW Uniform holding bicycle.



The Ulster Ash Grove at the National Memorial Arboretum.

George Adam was born in Aberdeen on 16 September 1894. In the early 1900's his family moved to Dundee, where both parents secured employment in the local Jute Mills. 2392 Private George "Jock" Adam enlisted into the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) prior to World War

One. He was wounded whilst serving with the First Battalion at the Battle of Loos in 1915. George was also wounded at the 2nd Battle of Ypres in 1917 and as a result of injuries received was subsequently discharged.

Following a period of recuperation, he joined the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) in 1918. He served in the RIC during the period known as the Irish War of Independence and shortly after joining the RIC, married Lilly O'Brien from the village of Monasterevin, County Kildare.

A truce to end the War of Independence began at noon on 11 July 1921. On the evening of 17 July 1921 George was patrolling "unarmed" along Main Street Edenderry, County Kildare when he was shot several times in the back. As a result of the injuries received he was discharged from the RIC and returned to Glasgow but died in Glasgow on 14 September 1922, aged 28 years.

75633 Constable George Adam (Royal Irish Constabulary) is entered on the Police Roll of Honour, having died of wounds received while on duty.

Following extensive research by descendants, it was discovered that the grave had no headstone or cross. The grandson of George Adam (Mr Paul Stacey, Coldstream Guards) arranged for a cross and name plaque to be placed at the graveside. On the 7 August 2019 a small contingent of Black Watch Association members visited the graveside. Lieutenant Colonel Jock Menzies laid a wreath and Captain Kevin Stacey played "Highland Laddie" on the pipes.



L to R. Mr Harry Thomas, Mr Dave Lewis, Captain Kevin Stacey and Lieutenant Colonel Jock Menzies.



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Left to right: Brenda Hale, John Tyson, Mark Smith

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