



The Thistle

Journal of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

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Chairman of Trustees and President of the Regimental Association

I suspect that many of you are somewhat surprised to find me staring at you from the front page of this edition of this Thistle. Probably just as surprised as I am, to have the honour of being appointed on Friday 24th February 2017 as Chairman of Trustees and President of The Regimental Association. Having been a Royal Scot since 1975, wearing the cap badge as a Cadet, commissioned in 1981 and closely involved with the governance of our Regiment for the last 15 years, I hope that I have served my apprenticeship and I will do my very best to continue the outstanding work of my predecessors. I thank you for your trust in me and thank you in advance for your anticipated, continued, support.

My first task here is to thank Martin Gibson for his leadership during his almost seven years' tenure as Chairman of Trustees. Martin worked tirelessly to lead a series of transitional work strands around; Trustees, funds, Association and heritage, which means that I have taken over the helm of an organisation that is very fit for purpose

and ready to meet forthcoming challenges. In his time, against a backdrop of significantly reduced MOD/Army resourcing, to a point where this is now almost nil, we have; merged funds to be more efficient and reduced fund management costs, established a new office in The Club that we sustain, reviewed and refreshed Association governance bringing improved coherence, maintained a sizable benevolence effort and continued to develop our Museum and heritage work. The Association dined Martin out on Saturday 25th March 2017 and The Trustees and a wider representative Regimental group gave Martin a farewell lunch on Thursday 25th May 2017. So again, Martin, many thanks for your inspiring leadership and significant efforts on our behalf. We wish you well and look forward to the next time our paths cross.

As part of the handover, Martin and I were granted an audience with HRH The Princess Royal at Buckingham Palace on Thursday 18th May. It is clear, as you would expect, that our Royal Patron remains very much engaged with all matters Royal Scots and was extremely keen to hear of all recent developments. This was evidenced by The Private Secretary remarking that we "got our monies worth" as the scheduled half hour took almost twice that time.

Last year I refreshed some earlier work for The Chairman and Trustees on our strategy for the future and longer-term Regimental ambitions. Trustees concluded that we are reasonably well set for the near future, but we should ensure that we are equally well set for the mid and longer term. The Regimental Association is in good shape and always seeking new members. We should also encourage all the wider, informal, associating that currently goes on.

We should celebrate this and I would welcome a record of



these many gatherings being captured by The Thistle, so let's have the photographic evidence (publishable) of the outings, trips and musters of old and serving Royals that I know take place around the UK and beyond.

I would also welcome thoughts on how we currently communicate. Should we be making more of social media to inform and extend our reach to our 6,000 or so constituency? Many of whom are not regularly in touch with The Regiment, or fellow Royals. You can reach me at Chairman@theroyalscots.co.uk

Finally, a call to arms. As an antecedent Regiment, we are almost entirely self-funding and rely heavily on volunteers to run the organisation. I take this opportunity to thank them most sincerely. There's a lot to do and we would welcome any offers to assist, temporarily, part time or for a specific project. Please let the Regimental Office in the Club know if you are interested. Looking to the future we are considering our succession plans and would welcome dialogue with Trustees from anyone who would like to be considered for a more formal role. We are also keen to continue to reach out to all Old Royals, if you are currently involved or attend the odd event – great, please keep doing so, but please also reach out to others and encourage them to participate, even if only once a year. Whilst our organisation continues to thrive, we should endeavour to grow our participating community. My challenge to you all is to "recruit" one Old Royal during the remainder of this year and encourage them to participate in one event. I look forward to seeing you then.

Up The Royals

Yours Aye

George Lowder

Colonel Martin – Farewell Buffet

Colonel Martin stepped down as Chairman of Trustees in February of this year. A buffet lunch was arranged in the Royal Scots Club on Thursday 25th May 2017, led by the incoming Chairman, Brigadier George Lowder. Some of the people who worked most closely with Colonel Martin over his six-and-a-half-year Chairmanship met to show their appreciation and to thank him on behalf of the whole Regimental Family, for this dedicated commitment to the Regiment. These included former Colonels of the Regiment, Regimental Secretaries, Trustees and volunteers.

The Lunch was informal, very convivial and it gave an opportunity to present to Colonel Martin a statuette of a Royal Scots Pikeman as well as presenting him with a print of caricatures from his time as CO 1RS. With Colonel Martin stepping down as the Chairman of Trustees, this does not mean he is leaving us since we will no doubt see him at many events in the future.



Jimmy Springthorpe, George Lowder and Tam Logan in attendance at Colonel Martin Gibson's presentation

Photo courtesy of J Anderson

Regimental Day - The Royal Scots and The Royal Regiment of Scotland

From 1SCOTS

On Tuesday 28th March 2017, we celebrated the 11th Anniversary of the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland (1SCOTS) and the 384th of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) by Sir John Hepburn in 1633. 1 SCOTS held a traditional Drumhead Service with the Regimental Colour on parade.

Regimental Day began with the Battalion Kirk Muster on the AstroTurf followed thereafter by the Battalion Inter Company Highland Games. Teams from each Company competed for the coveted Regimental shield. The events that took place were the inflatable assault course, human football, wellytoss, caber toss, and shot-put. After a quick lunch break it was then on to the afternoons events, gladiator duel, power bag relay, and the final event was the tug of war. The Commanding Officer then presented prizes to each winner and runner-up of each event, with Bravo Company winning the overall prize, the Regimental Day Shield. After a break, it was the turn of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess to take on the Officers' Mess in a hotly contested football match. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess won convincingly 5 – 1. The Battalion then retired to the Black Hackle restaurant for a well-deserved BBQ, and the two competing football teams received their presentations from the Commanding Officer.



Drumhead Service

Photo courtesy with Crown
copy right by Sgt Colin McCall
1SCOTS

Regimental Office

By Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

At the time of writing many of you will be enjoying your summer holiday and we hope you are enjoying everything you wished for. Liz will be on holiday towards the end of August and I will be off for a fortnight in September, however normal service will continue throughout.

I am grateful for the continued support in the office from Liz Kyle, Andy Kay, Tam Douglas and Jim Anderson who give of their time voluntarily. Without them the work load would be unmanageable. If you have spare time and energy do get in touch, we can always use more help.

Please ensure that you keep us informed of any changes to your contact details. A quick phone call or e-mail is all that is required.

Colonel Martin Gibson has handed over as Chairman of Trustees to Brigadier George Lowder and I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to Colonel Martin for his guidance over the past two years since I have been in post. It has been a real pleasure to work with him.

I look forward to working with Brigadier George and have the benefit of having worked closely with him in 1RS when he was Adjutant and I was RSO.

For the time being, after our move into the new offices in September, we are finished hanging pictures and moving furniture. The large window has now been adorned with the Royal Cypher (see photo). Not only does it look good but has reduced the number of wayward doo's that fly into it.

When you visit the office please sign the visitors book before you leave.



Liz Kyle and Jimmy Springthorpe hard at work with the new Royal Cypher adorning the office window

Photo courtesy of Torquil Corkerton

Centenary Of Women In The British Forces

By Major and Mrs Torquil Corkerton

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was formed on 7th July 1917, with the creation of the Women's Royal Naval Service and the Women's Royal Air Force later that year. It was the first-time women were formally enrolled in the UK Armed Forces. Women's roles back then involved cooking, administration, mechanical work but mainly nursing. Over the past 100 years, women from across the UK have stood shoulder to shoulder alongside men in almost 50 conflicts and wars including World War I, World War II, the Falklands, the Gulf War, with Afghanistan and Iraq being no exception.

Although the women of the British Forces have been serving on the frontline for the last few years in Iraq and Afghanistan, they have been denied the opportunity to join combat units and restricted to service and support roles. Since it was announced late last year that this restriction was to be removed, a number of regiments, both regular and reserve, have sought the kudos of being the first to recruit women to combat posts. It is almost forgotten now that in the last couple of decades that TA infantry battalions had women serving in combat posts and some of the first (appropriately!), were Royal Scots.

Joining the Territorial Army as members of the WRAC, they served with the Edinburgh based 2nd Battalion 52nd Lowland Volunteers. They were given their Tam O'Shanter with Hunting Stewart patches and Lowland Brigade cap badges when the WRAC was disbanded in 1992. Sandra Hartley, Sharon Byrne and Geraldine McGlone served in East Claremont Street and Sandra attended her phase 1 training shortly after the WRAC disbandment, where, she remembers, her instructors had never seen a TOS before! She and the other women of 2/52 were signallers, medics, clerks but they did the same infantry training as everyone

else in the battalion and were always accepted as 'one of the lads'.

WO2 Anne Russell began her service as a signaller in the WRAC before serving in Rifle Coys in Dalmeny Street and East Claremont Street as a clerk and recruiter, as well as a Coy's civilian Admin Officer for several years.

In the mid 90s, Lieutenant Colonel Cath Davies MBE TD was OC of 2/52's HQ Coy, based in East Claremont Street and she had under her command the battalion's support weapons platoons, signal platoon, QM's department and military band – almost half the strength of the battalion.



Cath Davis serving as a major at HQ 52 Inf Bde based in Edinburgh Castle, 2004

When the Strategic Defence Review of 1998 brought about the merger of 2/52 with the 1st Battalion to form the Glasgow based 52nd Lowland Regiment, Cath, Anne, Sandra, Sharon and Geraldine proudly found themselves the bearers of a Royal Scots cap badges and Cath became the first (and, to our knowledge, only) woman in the British Army to command a Rifle Coy.

Having served on operations at Divisional level as SO3 G3 Ops, a first for a Reserve officer and female, Cath went on to serve as a staff officer in an infantry brigade, continuing to be recognised as a Royal Scot and then a SCOT. As well as an Infanteer, she is now an Honorary Vice President of the Army Mountaineering Association and the ACF's National Adviser for Adventurous Training, in conjunction to maintaining her civilian work as a leadership development consultant and psychotherapist, specialising in dealing with veterans suffering from PTSD.

Sharon and Sandra were both mobilised for Op TELIC 2 and 3 respectively. After a little persuasion, they could go outside the wire, providing top cover on vehicle moves, etc because, although it was very unusual at the time, they had the same level of training and experience as the other mobilised reservists.

Anne later posted to the Regional Training Centre and later Army Training Unit at Redford Barracks and was, until recently, their Chief Clerk. She is very proud to have worn the cap badges of The Royal Scots and SCOTS that her husband, Joe and stepson, Zander have worn. In 2002, she attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace where Prince Charles presented her with the Queen's Volunteer Reserve Medal for exemplary meritorious service in the conduct of her duties, which ranks immediately below the British Empire Medal and only 13 of which are awarded each year.

From joining an army that didn't allow women to bear arms, they have seen the roles open to women expand, first in the Reserves and then in the Regular Army, until now the restrictions are only those of ability and strength of will, as it should be.



Anne Russell at Buckingham Palace pictured with her husband, ex-Royal Scot Joe and Captain Bert Fields, a former PSAO with 2/52 Lowland

Drum Major Andrew James Keane

Andrew Keane joined the Army in 1962 as a junior soldier, in the rank of Junior Drummer. He joined Scotland's only Light Infantry Regiment, The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). The regiment was disbanded in 1968 as part of the Government's defence cuts. It was then that he joined The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).

Andrew's first role as Drum Major was that of Chief Instructor at the Scottish Division School of Music, at Dreghorn Barracks in Edinburgh. Whilst in this post, he wrote all the drum scores for bass, tenor and snare drums for the massed pipes and drums performing in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Andrew holds certificates from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association School of Music for teaching, adjudication and is a qualified examiner.

After some years, Andrew became the senior Drum Major of the British Army and led the massed bands on many Tattoos, including the Berlin Tattoo on two occasions. A huge highlight of his career was leading the massed pipes and drums and military bands on The Queen's Silver Jubilee parade in Senelager, West Germany BAOR in 1977.



While stationed in Germany in 1977, the band played for the changeover of their Commanding Officers for an American Army Regiment in Darmstadt

After serving 24 years in the Scottish Division, Andrew having been highly recommended by the Director of Army Bagpipe Music the piping school in Edinburgh Castle, was to spend the next 12 years employed by the Sultan of Oman. During his time with the Sultan, Andrew was a founding member of The Royal Guard of Oman School of Music.

Andrew was instrumental in teaching Omani students from seventeen years of age the full syllabus in theory and practical playing, thus gaining certification as officially required by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association up to intermediate level. This provided the students the opportunity to compete internationally at the World Pipe Band Championships as well as the honour of performing several times in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

As a fluent Arabic speaker, Andrew was Commissioned to Captain in 1995 and made Head of Pipe Band Studies, for which he travelled and taught throughout the state. He continued to successfully write the syllabus and music for the Sultan of Oman during his twelve years' service until his contract ended in 1999.

Andrew continues to teach and write music for many friends, including a well-known pipe band in the Netherlands, the Highland Valley Pipes and Drums. He was the original and is currently the Drum Major of The Royal Scots Association Pipes and Drums.



Even in the middle of a photo shot, Andrew is always willing to befriend the public. Andrew holding the statuette of Wee Andy while standing in front of the mace named Big Andy in The Royal Scots Museum

Photo courtesy of Ann-Marie Corkerton

Regimental Association

By Chairman Jimmy Springthorpe

At the Regimental Dinner held on Saturday 25th March, we took the opportunity to say farewell and Thank You to Colonel Martin Gibson for everything he had done for and on behalf of The Regimental Association during his time as President. A presentation of a whisky decanter and glasses, suitably engraved, was made alongside our best wishes for the future. At the same time, we welcomed his successor as President of the Association Brigadier George Lowder, who took over the post in February.

On Friday 28th April, the General Committee met for their AGM and the following night the Royal Scots Annual Reunion was held in the Royal Scots Club. Just short of 200 people attended what was a marvellous occasion. Sadly, there is no one room large enough to accommodate all who attended and this meant that we had to split between the two main function rooms. The organisers feel that this is not a satisfactory arrangement and will therefore continue to look for a venue which will be able to accommodate all in one room.

On Saturday 20th May, The Association along with other members of the Regimental family, including cadets marched behind the Association Pipes and Drums through Rosebank Cemetery to the Royal Scots Memorial where a service to honour all those who died because of the Quintinshill train crash in 1915. The service was conducted by the Association Padre the Rev Ian May.

This year Armed Forces Day was on Saturday 24th June and as it was a smaller event than in previous years it was still an enjoyable occasion for those who took part as well as for the thousands of spectators on the day. We formed up on Johnstone Terrace and marched to The City Chambers. There were over 50 Royal Scots on parade, larger than any other contingent and, having looked at a film of the parade, I was immensely proud of the turnout and bearing of our contingent.

On arrival at The City Chambers, all were invited to the main Chamber where refreshments were available. The Lord Provost welcomed everyone and paid thanks to the Armed Forces past and present for all that they done and continue to do. The Air Officer Commanding Scotland on behalf of the Armed Forces thanked The Lord Provost and Sir Alistair Irwin did so on behalf of the veterans.

All former Royal Scots are encouraged to take part in this

annual event. Please contact the Association Office for any further details.

The Association takes part in, as well as organises many functions and events each year but could not do so without the hard work put in by the office bearers. Thank you all.



Photo courtesy of J Anderson

Northern Ireland Branch

By Maxi McDonald

The branch has had a very quiet year in terms of members attending events and for this reason we have decided to drop two of our quarterly meetings. We will no longer have a January and July meeting.

In March, Davey McKendrick was yomping again, this time through the North coast triangle in aid of the ABF The Soldiers Charity. Well done Davey.

Also in March, we were invited to join 1 SCOTS and their families for Regimental Day but as it fell on a working day our turnout was rather reduced.

In May, branch members attended two separate events, namely the Whitebrae wreath laying service and Ballisillan memorial service in memory of the three RHF soldiers killed by the IRA.

In June, branch members attended the Armed Forces Day parade in Bangor and we are indebted to Eric Wilson for carrying the branch standard on the day and for volunteering to do so in the future.

On 2nd July, we were represented at the Somme memorial service in Bangor by Doc and Betty Halliday, Eric Wilson and Cathy Busby.

Looking ahead we are preparing for the John Loudon Golf Trophy in September and on 7th October we have our AGM. The AGM will be preceded by a visit to Crumlin Road Jail and followed by a night of dancing, disco and karaoke and not forgetting a buffet. This will take place in the RBL in Ards. We would encourage everyone to attend what promises to be a great night. Earlier this year we received an invitation from the Commanding Officer 1 SCOTS to attend a presentation on their future role. Unfortunately, due to a heavy work load this had to be postponed but we are hopeful it will be rescheduled in the future.

On the domestic side, we would like to send our congratulations to Ben Taylor and the now Mrs Karen Taylor.

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Brigadier Sir Patrick Millar (AKA Paddy) who has been through the wars lately but is now on the mend.

Congratulations go to our "Drumme" Brian (Beed) Mercer who has had by all accounts a 100% fright and a 200% recovery. You can't keep a good man down.

Looking to 2018, we are planning a Somme tour. It is early days but much interest has already been shown.

Central Branch

By Andy Kyle

ELIZABETH CROSS PRESENTATION

On 24th January, The Lord Lieutenant of West Lothian, Isobel Brydie presented the Elizabeth Cross to Mrs Margaret McLaughlin in honour of her brother Pte Peter Ketchen who was killed as a result of terrorist action while serving with 1RS in Cyprus in 1955. Private Peter Gibb Ketchen joined the army for National Service on May 18, 1955, aged 18 and five months. On October 11, 1955, Private Ketchen was posted to the Paphos area of Cyprus as part of the Cyprus Emergency Peace Keeping Force serving with 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment). Just two months later, on December 9, 1955, Private Ketchen along with twelve of his colleagues were sent on detail in a truck from their base at Pinefield Camp to Ktima. During the journey, the vehicle was attacked by terrorist gunmen. During the attack, a bomb detonated and shrapnel from the attack struck Peter as he sat in the back of the vehicle and he sustained injuries. Sadly, Peter succumbed to the injuries and died in hospital at just 19 years old.

In a short and moving ceremony the Lord Lieutenant welcomed members of Pte Ketchen's family, members of West Lothian Council and four former Royal Scots, Jimmy Springthorpe, Andy Kyle, Shug Green and Jimmy Newton. All were piped into the room by Cpl Jardine SCOTS.

The Lord Lieutenant said that the family should take great pride in this award which recognises not only the sacrifice made by our servicemen and women but also their families. After the presentation, the former Royal Scots chatted with members of Mrs McLaughlin's family.



Rear - left to right - Jimmy Springthorpe, Jimmy Newton, Shug Green, Front - Piper Cpl Jardine, Mr & Mrs MacLaughlin, Andy Kyle
Photo courtesy of Mark Owens, Army in Scotland Media

94 Years Ago - The Victoria Cross and The Baltic Medal

Mr William Hewlett, who witnessed the act of valour for which the first Victoria Cross was awarded, is still living in Brighton. He is now 85, and is a veteran of both Navy and Army. He won the Baltic Medal when only 16 ½ years old. He joined the Royals in 1859, serving for 6 ½ years until invalided out on a pension of 4d a day. When a boy of 14 ½ he joined HMS Victory, Nelson's old flag ship. Later, at the taking of Bomarsund in the Baltic, he saw Admiral Lucas win the first VC. The admiral was then a mate of HMS Hecla. A live shell landed on deck. It was hissing, and might have exploded at any moment, but Lucas seized it and threw it overboard. He was immediately made a Lieutenant. From The Thistle 1923, p 238.

Heritage & Museum

By Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Rae

HERITAGE

The past six months have been a busy period for the Museum and the Heritage Committee has had many projects which have now come to fruition. The unveiling of the 3rd Battalion The Royal Scots "Waterloo Colours" is the culmination of many years work on various project within the museum to keep it up to date and interesting for the visitor experience:

- All artefacts on display in the museum have been re-labelled with larger clearer labels and where needed extra information.
- We have carried out a review of the uniforms and unpacked them from their boxes and they are now preserved in special Tyvek covers for long term preservation.
- The Library has now been weeded to a Royal Scots focus.
- We have digitised our records onto the specific software programme for museums – ADLIB
- The re-flooring was completed in May.

MUSEUM

Unveiling the Colours of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Scots, The Waterloo Colours

The Colours were unveiled on Tuesday 20th June 2017 by Ms Joanne Orr, the CEO of Museums and Galleries Scotland, 202 years and two days from the date of the battle.

The 3rd Battalion, The Royal Scots was raised at Hamilton on 1st December 1804 as part of the expansion of the Army to resist the threat from France, under Napoleon. The Battalion was originally titled 3rd Battalion, The First or The Royal Regiment of Foot which changed in 1812 to 3rd Battalion, The First Regiment of Foot or Royal Scots.

The Battalion was presented with a set of Colours. These consisted of a King's and a Regimental Colour, each measuring some six foot by six foot (1.83m by 1.83m) in size, on blue silk. They were embellished by painting (embroidered Colours were just being introduced at that time) with a full-sized Union Flag on the King's Colour and a small one in the top left of the Regimental. Crowned Thistles are in three corners with '111d Battn' in the top left of each Colour. In the Centre of each was painted a Royal Crown surmounting the Collar of the Order of the

Thistle with the Royal Cypher (GR) within. Underneath is a Sphinx above the word Egypt. This Honour had been awarded to the 2nd Battalion for their role in the defeat of Napoleon's Army at Alexandria in 1801 (the first 'Battle Honour' to be carried on the Colours) with, below it, a scroll with the words 'The Royal Scots' – although this was probably repainted from 'The Royal Regiment' after the name was changed in 1812.

There can be few, if any Colours still in existence which saw or reflect so much action in such important campaigns and battles over such a key period in Europe's and the then known World's history

In 1827, the Colours were laid up in St Giles Cathedral until 1934 when they were deemed to be too frail and were returned to RHQ for safe keeping. In 2015 as part of the WATERLOO 200 commemorations, the Colours were display in the Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle where they were seen by over half a million visitors during the four month display. It was this event that gave the impetus to find a solution to permanently display the Colours.

The final solution only came about thanks to the generosity of Museums Galleries Scotland; the Army Museums Ogilby Trust, The Hudson Charitable Trust, The Royal Scots Trustees and Sir Christopher Bellamy QC, and the skill of the conservationist, Sophie Younger.



Waterloo Colours displayed in their new home
Photo courtesy of Cpl Ben Maher

Waterloo Descendants

By Helen Spence

Two descendants of men who fought at the battle of Waterloo for the 1st Foot (The Royal Scots) met at the unveiling of the Waterloo Colours at The Royal Scots Museum at Edinburgh Castle on Tuesday 20 June 2017. Sir Christopher Bellamy QC, descendant of Ensign Richard Blacklin and Capt (Retd) James Springthorpe, descendant of Private James Springthorpe met and chatted at the unveiling ceremony.

Sir Christopher's great-great-grandfather Ensign Richard Blacklin carried The Colour and was the last officer of six to survive doing so. He survived, and although wounded, was one of five officers out of thirty-nine who could accompany the survivors of the 3rd Battalion on their long march to Paris. The Royals, or 1st Foot as the Regiment was then called, had suffered grievously with eight officers and fifty-three men killed in action, twenty-six officers and 295 men wounded.

Richard Blacklin served fifty-four years with the Army, serving in Ireland, France 1816, India, Asseerghur and later went on to the West Indies and Turkey. Blacklin ended his career as a Colonel in 1858 then he became a Military Knight of Windsor in 1865.



Lt Col Rae discusses the history of the Colours with Ms Joanne Orr
Photo courtesy of Cpl Ben Maher

He was buried in St George's Chapel in 1867 aged 71. Of seven sons and four daughters, his son Frederick followed him into the Army, dying of yellow fever in Belize in 1868.

Private James Springthorpe enlisted in Nottingham District at age 18 years, he attested on 18th May 1807 into 1st Foot (The Royal Scots). He appears on the muster rolls September-December 1807 in the 4th Battalion, based in Edinburgh Castle. He was transferred to the 3rd Battalion on the 25th December 1807. He fought with the Third Battalion at Corruna 1809, Salamanca 1812, Vittoria and St Sebastian 1813. He was wounded at Waterloo (gunshot wounds to right hand and shoulder) and was rendered 'unfit for further service' later becoming a Chelsea 'out pensioner'. Springthorpe was discharged 9th January 1816 at the age of 26 years. He was awarded the Military General Service Medal 1793-1814 with four clasps for Corruna, Salamanca, Vittoria and St Sebastian and the Waterloo medal. His MGSM 1793-1814 was brought into the Museum in 2004 by a private collector, where James's descendant, also James Springthorpe, was able to view it. James Springthorpe married twice, had several children and died in July 1849, aged 59 years.

Captain James Springthorpe, born Edinburgh 1947, joined The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) aged 16. He rose through the ranks to become a Captain. He retired from the Army in 1993 and later he became Assistant Regimental Secretary to The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, a post he held for fifteen years. He currently serves as The Royal Scots Regimental Administrator. Our researcher, Cathy Tucker has traced his line down through the Springthorpe descendants to Private James Springthorpe and beyond.

For each of the 623 men on the Waterloo Roll we have a story. Perhaps you might also have a Waterloo man in your family who served with 1st Foot (The Royals) that you might like to share with us or find out more about. <http://waterloo200.org/about/waterloo-200-descendants-book/> is a great resource to find out more stories of the men who were there and share your own Waterloo tales. But you can also find out more at <http://www.theroyalscots.co.uk/history/>



Descendants of Waterloo Veterans Sir Christopher Bellamy QC and Captain James Springthorpe met Ms Joanne Orr in front of the Waterloo Colours

Photo courtesy of Cpl Ben Maher

The View from the Old Provost Marshal's House

By Lieutenant Colonel Jim Blythe MBE

The invitation to contribute to this edition's View From The Auld Provost Marshal's Hoose arrived on a day of torrential rain that blocked out any view whatsoever! So instead, in compliance with the principal of war, Flexibility, I looked around inside.

There have been changes. Come and see for yourselves. All you need to do is to contact us at the e-mail address or telephone number listed elsewhere in The Thistle and on the website. Just give us a few days' notice and we'll be pleased to see you. We'll issue you with a brief joining instruction for access to the Castle but you must check in with us at the Auld Provost Marshal's Hoose adjacent to the Museum as soon as you inside the Castle.

Among the changes you will notice that the offices have been freshly decorated and that a more contemporary photograph of the Princess Royal has been displayed which shows her wearing Regimental tweed and a Regimental brooch.

We're awaiting one more photograph to hang in the corridor where a portrait of Colonel Martin Gibson has joined his Chairmen of Regimental Trustees predecessors.

The Royal Scots Monument Unveiled

On 26th July 1952, The Royal Scots Monument was unveiled by HRH Princess Mary, The Princess Royal in West Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. The erection of this Monument was made possible by a bequest by Mr Campbell Smith SSC. The Monument portrays the history of The Regiment in stone and was handed over to Edinburgh Corporation to maintain in perpetuity. On 1st July 1968, an extension was added to the Monument commemorating the long tenure of HRH Princess Mary, The Princess Royal as Colonel in Chief of the Regiment. The extension was unveiled by Her Majesty, The Queen. On 3rd July 1983, as part of the 350th Anniversary commemorations, a Service of Rededication of the Monument was held by Dr Selby Wright.



The tranquil setting of the Royal Scots Regimental Memorial in West Princes Street Gardens

Armed Forces Day Edinburgh

By Andy Kay

24th June 2017

Once again, The Royal Scots had a good turnout of Veterans with over 50 on parade, including the Standard Party. A quieter affair this year and a much shorter march from Johnstone Terrace to the City Chambers, where the City Council had laid on some non-alcoholic refreshments. We were led by the Standard Party and as always took head of the Regimental Associations on parade, immediately behind the RBLS party. The weather held up and those that came along seemed to enjoy the day.



Standard Party with Brigadier Lowder and Tam Douglas
Photo courtesy of Andy Kay



Up The Royals! Some of the Royals who paraded, before going into the City Chambers
Photo courtesy of Andy Kay

Centenary Of The Commencement Of The Battle Of Arras

By Tom Logan

Sunday 9th April 2017 marked the Centenary of the Commencement of the Battle of Arras, which took place between 9th April and 16th May 1917. The Battle had an estimated 159,000 casualties as well as the highest concentration of Scottish troops fighting in a single Battle during WWI.

During a meeting at the Edinburgh and Lothian Veterans Group, Legion Scotland asked for a Volunteer to accompany them to the 100th Commemoration of the Battle of Arras and to represent the Army Regimental Associations in Scotland. All other Regimental Association in attending the meeting stated the "Royal Scots should send a representative being the First o Foot, Right o Line and have the Smartest Standard party on parade", after a call from the Regimental Vice Chair Mr Tommy Douglas the only one available to attend the Commemoration was Mr Tom Logan.

Vimy Ridge 100 - The Auld and New Alliance with the Royal Scots

By Lieutenant Colonel Jim Blythe MBE

Wednesday 5th April 2017 - Lt Col (Retd) Richard Talbot is a former CO and Honorary Colonel of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) and the images are from the recent Vimy Ridge commemoration at the Canada Memorial in Green Park in London. It was he who was particularly instrumental in forging the New Alliance with SCOTS and supporting both the L&B ACF / CScotR Cadets series of exchange visits and the initiative of a 1 SCOTS rugby tour to CScotR on Vancouver Island (the latter yet sine die).



Lieutenant Colonel Richard Talbot, former Honorary Colonel of The Canadian Scottish Regiment at the Canada Memorial and his granddaughters in Green Park, London.
Photo courtesy of David Talbot

I was extremely honoured to have been nominated to represent the Army Regimental Association Scotland.

The three day visit to Arras was a very busy period with travelling between various events doing rehearsals at the Faubourg d'Amiens Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Arras and rehearsals at the Memorial of the New Zealand Tunnelling Company.

The evening of Saturday 8th April, all Standards were on parade at Kiwis Underground at Wellington Tunnels, Arras, where we paraded to greet a large contingent of Maori's who held an evening service to remember the New Zealand Tunnellers during the First World War. Sunday morning, we were on parade at Wellington Tunnels for the Dawn Ceremony, where an international commemorative ceremony was held in front of the memorial wall, in tribute to all the combatant nations participating in the Battle of Arras.

After this service, it was on to the Scottish Commemoration at Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery in Arras for the Scottish commemoration which was held in the presence of the Right Reverend Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Sir Timothy Laurence and Representatives of

the Scottish Local Authorities.

After the morning services, there was some free time in Arras before the Beating Retreat and Sunset Ceremony in the main square in Arras where all Standards were on parade, and were accompanied by pipers and drummers of 3 SCOTS and musicians of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Legion Scotland and remain most appreciative of all their hospitality and to the Royal Scots Regimental Association for allowing me to fly the flag for the Association.



On Parade with Members of Legion Scotland and Colonel Wallace at Faubourg d'Amiens

Le Paradis 2017

By Major David Dickson

This year was the 77th anniversary of the battle of Le Paradis in northern France in May 1940. The 1st Battalion Royal Scots, as part of 4 (Infantry) Brigade were tasked to stand and fight to the last man. Every brave action helped to delay the enemy's advance and to ensure that over 350,000 men of the BEF reached home to fight again. Many of 1st Battalion Royal Scots were wounded and killed during their initial fighting withdrawal over three weeks from Wavre in Belgium. At Le Paradis, they then fought a fierce final battle over two days. Once again many were wounded or killed. Finally, those who survived were captured and went into five years of captivity as POWs.

It is to salute the memory of these gallant men and recognise the bravery of the local civil population that Royal Scots visit Le Paradis every year to commemorate, pay respects, and to connect with the locals who welcome us time and again.

Events started on the morning of Saturday 27th May



Outside the Church

Photo courtesy of Valerie McDowall

when we attended the Service at the Louis Creton Farm - a short distance from the village. This was where ninety-seven soldiers of 2 Royal Norfolks were massacred by the SS. There were only two survivors who testified after the war at the trial of the infamous Company Commander. Thereafter we attended an open-air service outside the Church and then at the British Military Cemetery. Brigadier Charles Ritchie gave a stirring address in French remembering the sacrifices that had been made and thanking the villagers. Royal Scots Association Piper Matt Hoggan played the lament and wreaths were laid by Colonel Andy McDowall and Captain Iain Laird.

The following morning, Major Ian Johnstone MBE led an excellent tour of the battlefield visiting two company positions and telling the story of each engagement. Ms Anne Carpenter and her brother Paul could hear the account of their father winning his Military Cross whilst defending the Battalion HQ farmhouse.

On Saturday 26th May 2018, we hope to open a newly created History Room next to the Church that will, graphically, give a clear account of the events. Anyone wishing to join us should contact David Dickson at davidpmdickson@gmail.co.



Brigadier Charles Ritchie CBE at the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery behind the church in LE PARADIS in the NORD PAS DE CALAIS in France

Photo courtesy of Andrew McDowall

Fallen Comrades Trophy

By Liz Kyle

On Sunday 9th April 2017, there was a good turn-out at the 2017 Fallen Comrades competition at Eyemouth Golf Club. The weather was great and I was impressed with the location, which made me consider taking up the ancient game myself (not). Amongst the attendees were: John Buckham, Larry Gilbert, John Lothian, Gordon Sinclair, Allan Sneddon, Shug Crawford, Derrick Cumming, Brian McGeachie, Eric Taylor, Andy Kyle, Andy Fitzpatrick, Mick Osinski, Andy Shearer, David Milne, Chris McGhee, Ian Kinnear, Zander Russell, Davie Knight, Paul McAllister, Noel Martin, Walter Hutchison, Rab Conquer, Scotty Reid, Alan Jeans.

After the traditional breakfast of bacon rolls, I slipped into my role as starter and it wasn't long before all groups were on the course. With that duty completed, I sat in the club house with a cup of tea as I admired the stunning views and I made myself a promise to revisit again in the future. With impeccable timing, I made it to the 10th tee just as the first group of players arrived ready for some liquid refreshment. It always amazes how popular one becomes when in control of the church key.

Once the last players had completed their round, everyone returned to the club house for dinner and the prizes were awarded to the victors, which include:

- 1st - Ian Kinnear
- 2nd - Andy (Alan) Shearer

3rd – Derrick Cumming
 Longest Drive (5th) – Chris McGhee
 Longest Drive (15th) – Andy (Alan) Shearer
 Longest Drive (18th) – Eric Taylor
 Closest 2 the pin (3rd) – Walter Hutchison
 Closest 2 the pin (12th) – Brian McGeachie
 Worst score – Alan Jeans
 Furthest Travelled – Zander Russell!! (Signed Rangers top!)
 Youngest Member – Sharkey Taylor Junior

It was a great day enjoyed with old friends and comrades so if you are a golfer make plans to take part of the festivities next year.



Photo courtesy of Liz Kyle

The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band

By Pipe President Major Torquil Corkerton

It's difficult to believe that we are more than half way through another year. It's also difficult to believe that it's summer, given the weather we've had in the last month or two – not much better than the weather of winter 2016, which is where this report begins.

The band was once again invited to fill a file in the massed pipes and drums for the Edinburgh Hogmanay Torchlight Procession on Friday 30th December. It is quite something to be leading a pack of Vikings and more than 10,000 torches down The Mound and along Princes Street and we have been lucky to have been invited to take part for the last few years. Sadly, this may have been the last such spectacle as a different company has won the tender to organise Hogmanay events in Edinburgh from this year and only time will tell what they have planned.

Since the last edition of The Thistle, the band has settled nicely into The Royal Scots Club as its location of choice for practices and we have been meeting for Sunday practices every fortnight or so. We are still on the lookout for a permanent place to keep our drums, kit and equipment, but efforts are still ongoing to secure somewhere suitable and the Regimental Trustees have been kind enough to provide a little financial help while our kit is still in storage.

The performing season began with the band being contacted by a television producer, inviting us to come to Edinburgh Castle's Esplanade on Monday 3rd March for a segment being filmed for Comic Relief. Despite the Monday morning, pipers Daniel Sweeney and Alastair McNeill were able to attend and they could be seen, along with many people singing and dancing, on television on Saturday 25th March.

Our first full band job of the season was performing for

the Royal Scots reunion, this year held in The Royal Scots Club on Saturday 29th April. The event was spread between the Hepburn Suite and the Princess Royal Suite, in which the band played a couple of sets during the evening.

May saw the band turn out to play at Tynecastle Park for Heart of Midlothian Football Club again, this time for their last match in front of the Archibald Leitch Stand before Hearts' ambitious plan to demolish their main stand and build anew in time for next season. The band played outstandingly on the pitch that day, which is sadly more than can be said for the football team...

Saturday 20th May was a busy day for the band. We started it at Rosebank Cemetery, Pilrig, playing for the annual remembrance service and parade for the victims of the Quintinshill rail disaster, involving the 7th (Leith) Battalion The Royal Scots, and we ended the day at Gleneagles. We are lucky to receive occasional bookings from the agent who manages The Red Hot Chilli Pipers and May saw us performing there after dinner for a corporate function.

Our next engagement was The Royal Scots Club's beating of retreat on Sunday 11th June, held annually in Queen Street Gardens. Although it has only happened a couple of times in the 15 or more years the band has performed this job, the weather was not kind and the heavens opened mid-morning, making the grass of the gardens slippery and risky to march on, so the retreat was moved indoors and we performed as a mini band to the assembled audience in the Hepburn Suite.

It is always a sad occasion when a member of the Regimental family 'falls out' and the band has found pipers for a few funerals, including a 97-year-old John Harvey in April, and two on the same day in May; in Jedburgh for Scott Wright, who served with the 1st Battalion in the 1980s, and for Major David Hay MBE whose funeral was held at Colinton Parish Church.

As ever, July is a quiet month for the band as the schools are out and holidays begin, but the band is still looking forward to playing for Edinburgh's Indian Christian community towards the end of July and it has just been approached to perform again at Gosford House in East Lothian in September. More on these and other jobs in the next exciting instalment of the 'Association Pipe Band Thistle Notes', as long as the author survives the experience of piping in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo this summer.

As ever, if there are any members of our Regimental family out there who play the pipes or drum and are interested in what we do, we would love to hear from you and welcome you to a practice.



The band leading the parade at Rosebank Cemetery

Photo courtesy of Ann-Marie Corkerton

The Top Of The World

Royal Scots George Higgins, George Thomson, along with Thomson's partner Kate Lamb, trekked from Lukla to Mount Everest base camp in aid of WHO DARES CARES, a charity set up by ex-Royal Scots/22 SAS Colin MacLachlan and ex-KDSB/1 SCOTS Calum Macleod, which launch last February at Chapleton near Motherwell.

The trio's trek took twelve days to complete, battling against the weather and illness. "Kate suffered from a chest infection from Day One," said Thomson, "and I had to encourage her from the minute she got out of bed in



Day Five of climb and the Mountain View can't be beat
Photo courtesy of Kate Lamb

minus 10-degree temperatures." Higgins added, "we had glorious weather and we managed to get fantastic views of Mount Everest. It was one of the hardest things I've ever done but worth every step of the way."

Sadly, two members of their group had to drop out through illness and another two were taken to hospital suffering from altitude sickness, but recovered enough to complete the adventure. In the end, the Georges managed to raise well over £3000, which will help ex-servicemen/woman and first responders cope with mental health issues like PTSD.



George Higgins pointing at the top of Mount Everest on a clear and beautiful day
Photo courtesy of Kate Lamb



George Higgins and George Thomson enjoying a well-earned bottle of water before their trek
Photo courtesy of Kate Lamb

Reaching The Top 100 Years Ago



Lt Colonel Edward Lisle Strutt

Our three Royal Scots Everest heroes are not the first Royals to have trodden that path. Lieutenant Colonel Edward Lisle Strutt, CBE, DSO (8th February 1874 – 7th July 1948) was a British soldier and mountaineer completed it over 100 years prior. Strutt was President of the Alpine Club 1935–38 and after a distinguished military career he defended classical mountaineering against what he saw as unhelpful trends in the sport for speed.

Strutt had numerous mountaineering expeditions to Tyrol, Ötztal, the Stubai Alps and the Karwendel range. Strutt was climbing leader and deputy to expedition leader C. G. Bruce on the 1922 British expedition to Mount Everest that included George Finch and George Mallory. Strutt proved to be an unpopular member of the party, being thought of as 'pompous and pontificating'. The expedition was called off when an avalanche killed seven Sherpa climbers.

It states in *The Thistle* of January 1925 page 454: "We are indebted to Lieut.-Col E. L. Strutt C.B.E., D.S.O., second-in-command of the Mount Everest Expedition of 1922, for two magnificent enlargements of photographs taken during the expedition. These photographs are in the Club dining-room, and are frequently admired by members and visitors."

One of his escapades was rescuing the last Austro-Hungarian King by smuggling him to safety in Switzerland in 1919 on the Orient Express, armed with nothing other than a pink carnation and a copy of the *Daily Telegraph*.

His uniform was donated to the museum in July 1949 by his widow and his medals are on display in the Royal Scots Museum.



1922 Team at Darjeeling

The Royal Scots Club

The Club is now well into the planning stages for its Centenary in 2019 and a history of the Club is being written by historian Roddy Martine using a fair bit of material from past editions of The Thistle thus ensuring the links between Regiment and Club as a Memorial are maintained.

The Club members and staff were saddened by the death of the Chairman, John Lloyd in March of this year. The new Chairman is Colonel Clinton Hicks. The Trustees continue to be led by Major General Mark Strudwick and the Regiment is well represented. Brigadier George Lowder, Major Ian Johnstone and Major Norman Soutar are Trustees. Major John Dent, Major Guy Richardson, Major James Anderson and Mrs Shirley Lowder are on the management committee and Major Ross Brookfield is on the Club Committee.

The Club staff led by Adrian Hayes do a superb job in making us all feel at home.

There is a lively programme of events over the summer and autumn and details of this can be found on the Club website <https://www.royalscotsclub.com/>.



Canadian Scottish, Royal Scots, Royal Regiment of Scotland and Royal Scots Club Members celebrate the Alliance. From left to right - Lt Col Nick Wight-Boycott, Lt Col Jim Blythe, WO1 Jason Dickson, Lt Col Stan Willow, Mrs Morag Watson, Col Al Campbell, Maj Gen Bob Bruce, Mrs Terry Willow, Mrs Lorna Bruce, Mrs Mhairi Blythe, Col Robert Watson

Photo courtesy of Royal Scots Club employee



Lieutenant Colonel & Mrs Willow of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) beside the Totem Pole in The Royal Scots Club. It's still there!

Photo courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Jen Blythe MBE

Running For Good Causes

By Colonel (Retd) Peter Fraser-Hopewell CMG, MBE

Iona Fraser-Hopewell completed the Edinburgh Marathon on Sunday 28th May 2017 raising money for Papyrus; a National Charity for the prevention of young suicide. Iona completed the marathon in memory of her close friend Charlotte Cobbald who tragically took her own life aged 17. Iona chose Papyrus because the cause of mental health in young people needs to be better understood and no one should have to go through what Charlotte did. Iona, now 20 and a student at Oxford Brookes university, chose the marathon because it was a massive challenge, something that would test her and, to quote her, Charlotte would be laughing at me plodding my way around the streets of Edinburgh. To date she has raised just over £3000 from the event - one of the hardest things she has ever done, both physically and mentally.

As a supporting act I ran the Edinburgh Half Marathon on the same day, starting earlier, in support of Combat Stress. Having seen at first hand the impact on soldiers of operations and conflict I feel that short and long-term mental issues amongst servicemen and women is something we need to talk about more ensuring appropriate help is available through charities such as Combat Stress.

I can honestly say seeing Iona cross the finishing line was a very proud moment. I know that Charlotte's death had a profound effect on her family and friends and we both agree that nobody should have to suffer mental health issues with a feeling of despair and no one to turn to.



Daughter and Father celebrate success

Photo courtesy of Fraser-Hopewell Family

Daughter of the Regiment

The Regiment incorporates the children and wives of soldiers as part of its family none as famous as the child born to the then Colonel of The Regiment, Prince Edward, The Duke of Kent, on 24th May 1819. Princess Alexandrina Victoria was to become Queen Victoria. The Duke took great pride in his daughter, bringing her to a military review to the outrage of the Prince Regent, who demanded to know what place the child had there. The Regimental March 'Daughter of the Regiment' is always played when Royalty is present on parade.



Prince Edward and his daughter, Princess Alexandrina Victoria

Cycling The Jane Austen Trail

By Tam Millar

In 2006, a heritage trail was launched to commemorate the novelist Jane Austen's close associations with Southampton where thousands of visitors visit the landmarks of the writer's life in the countryside surrounding Winchester and Hampshire. I have been cycling around The Jane Austen Trail to all the twenty-four benches of the "Sitting with Jane" public art trail which commemorates the 200th Anniversary of her death.

Jane was born at Steventon, Hampshire and spent lot of her life in Basingstoke, and this is where the wee photo of me was taken as I sat on one of the benches that is shaped like an open book. I have not visited all the benches yet so I've got few more miles to cycle to see some more benches on the weekend of 7th July. I plan to bike and Picnic to War Memorial Park and watch on *Pride and Prejudice* on the big screen.

I'm not doing this for the adventure but to get out and about locating the dedicated Jane Austen benches; originally, I did not anticipate reaching all 24 since some of them were too far to cycle to but I accomplished it, as well as attending the unveiling of her statue in front of the Wills Museum. Once the Benches Trails are closed, the benches will be auctioned and money will go to the Ark Cancer Centre Charity in Basingstoke.

Not far from Jane Austen House and Museum is the Curtis Museum. It is only small but has a Scots Corner with details and photos when the Royal Scots were billeted in Alton in 1914-1918 and still talk of days when the Scots held great parties for event known as Hogmanay.



Tam Millar sitting on one of Jane Austen's twenty-four benches
Photo courtesy of Mary Millar



Jane Austen and Tam Millar together in Market Square
Photo courtesy of Mary Millar

Veteran's Breakfast Clubs

By Andy Kay

A couple of years ago some Veterans in the south of England got together and decided to have a regular meeting where people could get a bacon roll and cup of tea but importantly where veterans could meet and get some fellowship. This was different from the more formal events, totally casual, turn up or not the idea was that people would drop in and enjoy some time chewing not only the bacon sandwich but 'the fat' with like minded people. The Breakfast Club is open to veterans from all three Services and all are welcome. East Lothian has a good, well established Club meeting on the first Saturday of every month in the The Gothenburg, Prestonpans EH32 9BE at 9:30 for 10:00 am. Many Royal Scots attend this along with comrades from other parts of the Army and from the Navy and RAF.

The Facebook site giving all details can be found here :
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/721000604723276/>

Edinburgh has a similar Club details of which can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/317496012011290/>

Come along and have a bit of breakfast and lots of banter.



East Lothian's Breakfast Club
Photo courtesy of Andy Kay

Bequest to the Regimental Trust

Fundraising is always a necessary part of running a charity to ensure it has sufficient funds to carry out its role. In our case, to ensure that funds are always available to cover the benevolence needs of our Regimental Family.

Have you considered leaving a gift – bequest – in your will?

There are three types of legacy: Residuary, Pecuniary and Specific.

A lawyer will help you with your choice and wording. All bequests should be left to The Royal Scots Regimental Trust and must use our Registered Charity Number (SC008001) and our address: The Royal Scots Regimental Trust, The Royal Scots Regimental Office, 29-31 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6QE.

Royal Scots Benevolence

Each year the Royal Scots Benevolent Fund deals with approximately 80-100 requests for assistance. We work in partnership with other service charities to provide financial assistance for a range of needs including mobility aids, household goods, respite care, essential clothing and priority debt.

In April, we received a case which is summarised below. On Nov 16 a young mother of 4, Laura, age 36 was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of cancer. Her Husband had to give up his work in January 2017 to look after her and the children. The result was they fell behind with utility bills which put them in debt. They had been saving to buy new beds for the children and this was put on hold. Laura said to the case worker in April, "It would be a great comfort to me to know that the family are debt free and the children have new beds before I die."

Funds were provided by The Royal Scots, ABF and Poppy Scotland to pay the debt and purchase the beds. Footnote: Sadly, Laura died at the end of July.

Please, if you are pondering a fund-raising event, consider making a donation to Royal Scots Benevolence.

Finally thank you to all who have made donations through sponsorship or by a collection taken at the funeral of a loved one or by simply sending in a personal cheque.

Royal Scots Club Tribute

A tribute to those who have fallen in the Great War; as a rallying-place for all Royal Scots, past, present, and future; as a centre from which all schemes for the benefit of the Regiment can be worked.

"There still exists a certain corner in the Club lounge, sacred on a Saturday evening to certain 'old files' of the Regiment, and it is from this quarter that the disturbance invariably emanates. The victims of their ancient ditties, however, are remarkably tolerant; in fact, have even become so appreciative that Charlie Fox is always appealed to lead off with that up-to-date composition, 'The Farmer's Boy', on the conclusion of which the fingers of our old friend, Pat Reilly, or his confederate, Mr J Sinclair, wander over the piano keys to some familiar air that has the effect of making some other 'old hand' burst into song. Once under way, song and story follow each other in rapid succession, and an atmosphere of fun and enjoyment prevails until the approach of the closing hour, when all seem loath to leave. Perhaps they are contemplating the somewhat frigid reception awaiting them from the partners of their joys and sorrows on their arrival home, but probably these good ladies recognize the fact that the Club is a far, far better place than their husbands ever had before."

Classic piper in front of The Royal Scots Club



The Battle of Waterloo

Napoleon, worn down by the successive campaigns waged against him in Europe and in Spain, had at last abdicated, and was relegated to honourable exile in the island of Elba. In the spring of 1815 he violated his engagements and returned to France, where most of his soldiery flocked to his standard. The Allies mobilized and prepared for war. Austria and Russia advanced from the east whilst Prussia and Great Britain pushed forward from the north. On June 16 Napoleon attacked the Prussians at Ligny and Wellington's troops at Quatre Bras.

"The Prussians were undoubtedly worsted and there was doubtful action at Quatre Bras. The Allies fell back and it was agreed that a further stand should be made at Waterloo. Blücher failed to arrive on the field as anticipated and for four long hours the British army withstood the onset of the whole of Napoleon's forces. Then, early in the afternoon, the effect of the Prussian advance on the left began to be felt, and the divisions of the Allies came successively into action. By sundown the battle was won, the French in retreat and Napoleon's sun had set for ever."

The Royals lost 26 men with 192 wounded at Quatre Bras on 16th June with a further 15 deaths and 128 wounded at Waterloo on June 18th. Norman's Battle Honours of the British Army.



The Old Guard (French *Vieille Garde*) were referred to as "The Immortals"

At the first Scottish Military Tattoo, held in Scotland, Edinburgh in October 1926, B and C Companies of the 1st Battalion re-enacted an incident from the Battle of Waterloo, based on an extract from our own Regimental History:

"Ensign Kennedy was carrying a colour in advance of the Battalion and was shot in the arm, but continued to advance. He was again shot, but this time killed or mortally wounded. A sergeant attempted to take the colour from him, but could not disengage his grip, so he threw the body over his shoulder, chiefly through the chivalrous action of the officer commanding the French Battalion opposed to the Royals, who ordered his men not to fire on the sergeant and his burden."

Lieutenant Mackenzie-Kennedy, who commanded The Royal Scots represented by C Company, is the great-grand-nephew of the Ensign Kennedy who carried the Colour of the 3rd Battalion at Waterloo.

Perhaps the hardest part in the incident fell upon CSM Langford, in representing the "gallant sergeant"; he had to carry rather a heavy body, together with an enormous Colour, over about thirty yards of rough ground. One night of the performance the weight of his burden caused him to lose his bearings, and it was only raucous directions, shouted from the ranks of the Royals, that saved Ensign Kennedy's corpse from being dumped in the five-shilling corner.

The French battalion was very well represented by B Company, who made an imposing spectacle dressed in the uniforms of Napoleon's famous "Old Guard." The Thistle 1927.

In Memoriam

Major David Hay MBE 1929 – 2017

David Hay was born in Leith on 21st December 1929. Educated in Edinburgh he initially trained as an actuary before being called up for National Service in late 1950. After recruit and officer training he was commissioned into The Regiment in June 1951.

He joined the 1st Battalion in Munster and served continuously with them in Wuppertal; West Berlin; Korea; the Canal Zone; Cyprus; Elgin; the Suez campaign; back to Elgin and then again to West Berlin, before being posted as Adjutant to the Depot at Glenferrie in early 1959. A total of seven-and-a-half years, over six of them abroad, (longer than WW2) and including three operational tours in Korea, Cyprus and at Suez. By any standards, a remarkable start to his Army career.

David remained at Glenferrie to close the Barracks when our Depot merged with that of The King's Own Scottish Borderers at Berwick in mid-1960. He played a major role in the move to and establishment of RHQ and the Museum in Edinburgh Castle and took on the duties of interim Regimental Secretary for almost a year. He rejoined the 1st Battalion in Tripoli at the end of 1961 and was Adjutant from February 1962 until late 1963, when he assumed command of A Company. He commanded them in the Radfan and Aden from May 1964 before moving to a staff appointment at HQ Scottish Command in January 1965.

David had met Morag in Tidworth in February 1964 and they were married in Dunfermline in July 1965. In 1967, they moved to Osnabrück where David initially commanded HQ and then C Companies. In late 1968 the family, now including Margaret, were posted to Hong Kong where David was on the HQ Land Forces Staff. In December 1970, he joined the Scottish Division Junior Soldiers' Unit at Aberdeen where Roderick completed the family. Thereafter the rest of David's service was spent in Scotland alternating between staff and regimental duty. His final posting, in 1981, was as Training Major with 2/52 LOWLAND, at the end of which he was rightly, and very deservedly, awarded the MBE. On retirement, he served as an RO at Craigiehall until 1994.

A fellow subaltern in Korea described David as 'a very straight up, conscientious no-nonsense person'. He was generous with his time, particularly for those with problems or in need of help. He was devoted to the Regiment, a fount of knowledge and, with Morag, a strong supporter of all Regimental events and activities.



Major David Hay MBE

From the Editor

Being the first female Editor of The Thistle is a privilege especially when the issue contains an article for the Centenary of Women Serving in the British Forces. I did not personally wear the cap badge or serve but I have always been honoured to wear the colours of The Royal Scots Regiment since I married a member of the Regimental Family. Now, as the Editor of The Regimental Journal I feel I have the right to claim it on my own merits, through my contribution to the Regiment and Association and this makes me so very proud.

The Corkerton Clan is a family which is honoured to be a part of The Royal Scots Association and we all wear the Hunting Stewart with pride – Sherlock is no exception.

CSgt J (Jock) Marr – 30th December 2016, 1RS

Jock Marr was a very popular man who would go out of his way to help others and was always mindful of the welfare of those under him. On duty, he was the ultimate professional, off duty he was the life and soul of the party. While a "liver in" in the Sgts Mess Jock was always at the centre of all things entertainment. He married Jean in 1975 and their son Andrew was born in 1980.

In civilian life Jock worked for many years in security with the Bank of Scotland. Outside of work he was an avid bowler and fisherman. Jock was a great supporter of the Regimental Association.

Lt Col J (John) Potter MC RHF – 13th February 2017

John Potter died after a long hard fight against leukaemia. John was attached to The Royal Scots for the first Gulf War and won the Military Cross while commanding B Company. He subsequently commanded 5 R Irish. After leaving the army he worked for some years in Canada.

WO2 J (Jimmy) Scouler – 6th June 2017, 1RS

Jimmy Scouler will be remembered by most as the big man with the beard in the Assault Pioneer Platoon. Many photographs posted on the regimental website best describe the career of this very loyal Royal Scot. Not many people escorted The Regimental Colours on more than one occasion and even less armed with two types of service rifle.

Former Royal Scot James Valentine said, "He was a father figure to most of the men that served under him and he could also be a very kind man but, get on the wrong side of him and he came down on you like a ton of bricks."



Sgt WF (Bill) Finlay – 3rd July 2017, 1RS

Bill served with 1RS in Tidworth, Cyprus, Munster, Northern Ireland and Werl before completing his service as a special recruiter in Edinburgh. He will be remembered by most for his time in the Anti-Tank Platoon. After he left the army, Bill worked for many years as a groundsman in various locations including 16 years at Ravelston. We send our condolences to Gladys and the family.

OBITUARIES

The Editor relies on friends and relatives to provide timely and meaningful contributions to record the life and achievements of former members of the regiment.

Mr H (Hodge) Davies – 5th January 2017, 1RS

Cpl D (Plug) Robertson – 13th January 2017, BW/1RS

Mr IA (Ian) Scott – 22nd January 2017, 1RS

Mr W (Billy) Jeans – 11th February 2017, Signal Platoon 1RS

WO2 R (Bobby) Burns – 25th February 2017, 1RS (Pipe Major)

Mr I (Ian) Duncan – 1st March 2017

Sgt SG (Paddy) Anderson – 2nd March 2017, 1RS

Mr W (William) Davies – 5th March 2017

Mr G (Gary) Hawkins – 2nd April 2017, 1RS

Mr G (George) Lamb – 3rd April 2017

Mr JM (John) Harvey – 10th April 2017, 8RS

Cpl R (Bobby) Buchanan MM – 24th April 2017, 1RS

Mr S (Tosh) McIntosh – 29th April 2017, 1RS

Mr N (Neil) Wright – 6th June 2017

Csgt R (Bob) Lawson – 14th June 2017, 1RS



FORECAST OF EVENTS

AUGUST

Sat 12th	Highland Branch Booze Cruise	Inverness
Tue 15th	HRH The Princess Royal's Birthday	

SEPTEMBER

Sun 3rd	Gladdy Murray Golf Outing	Uphall Golf Club
Wed 20th	Unveiling of stone for Captain Henry Reynolds VC	Whilton, Northants
Sat 30th	RS Autumn Dinner	RS Club

OCTOBER

Sun 1st	Musselburgh Race Day	Musselburgh
Sun 1st	RS Association Pipe Band Perform	Glencroft Hotel
Sat 7th	NI Branch AGM	Newtonards
Fri 20th	RS Association AGM	RS Club
Fri 27th	RS Officers' Dinner	RS Club
Mon 30th	Opening of Garden of Remembrance	Princes St Gardens, Edinburgh

NOVEMBER

All Remembrance Events will have full details posted on the RS Website

Mon 6th	Opening of Garden of Remembrance	George Square, Glasgow
Thu 9th	Opening of Garden of Remembrance	Westminster, London
Sat 11th	Armistice Day	
Sat 11th	Glencorse Gates Ceremony	Glencorse Barracks
Sun 12th	Remembrance Day - various events	See website for details
Sun 12th	Regimental Wreath laid in RS Club	RS Club
Sun 12th	Cenotaph March - details in The Thistle and website	London
Fri 24th	RS Club St Andrew's Night Dinner - speaker Rev Iain May	RS Club
Sat 25th	East of Scotland Branch St Andrews Night Supper	Rannoch House, Tranent

DECEMBER

Details of all Festive events will be posted on the website

Fri 1st	Deadline for entries for Winter 2017 edition of The Thistle	
	Regimental Office closes 20th December and re-opens 3rd January 2018	
	Museum closes 18th December and re-opens 3rd January 2018	

2018

JANUARY

TBC	Regimental Office reopen	
TBC	Museum & OPMH reopen	
Sat 27th	Central Branch Burns Night Supper	Whitburn

FEBRUARY

Sat 3rd	Joint Branch Burns Night	Prestonpans
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MARCH

Wed 28th	The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) Regimental Day (385 years)	
Wed 28th	Regimental Day Lunch	RS Club
Wed 28th	Royal Regiment of Scotland Formation Day	
TBC	RS Regimental Day Dinner	RS Club

APRIL

TBC	RS Club AGM	RS Club
TBC	RS Association Branches AGM	RS Club

MAY

Sat 19th	Quintinshill Commemorations	Rosebank Cemetery, Leith
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JUNE

TBC	Armed Forces Day	Edinburgh
Sat 30th	Armed Forces Day UK	

Details and confirmation of timings of these and other events can be found on the RS Website, www.theroyalscots.co.uk

Looking forward:

As the editor of The Thistle, I have appreciated the feedback on past editions and I would be grateful to receive more from all the branches within The Royal Scots family. With the Royals located in more places than just the United Kingdom, I have always wanted my editions to encompass everyone who wore the cap badge or been a family member to someone who did; with that in mind, I would like to ask for all Branches to submit an article which will showcase what all branches are striving for and accomplishing. The Thistle is the Regimental Journal and it should promote everyone's accomplishments. This is my plea so we all can be one family under the same proud name of The Royal Scots.

Please forward submissions or newsletters from all Royal Scots Branches and photos including the names of person within as well as the name of the photographer, to Ann-Marie@Corkerton.com by Friday, 1st December for the Winter 2017 edition.

Association Meetings

EDINBURGH

Last Friday of each month at 8.00 pm at Leith ex-Servicemen's Club, 7 Smith's Place, Edinburgh

Contact: Mags Allen

weeweegie1@virginmedia.com

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

First Sunday of each month at 2.00 pm at Hillcroft Hotel, Whitburn, West Lothian

Contact: David Milne

David.milne3343@live.co.uk

EAST OF SCOTLAND

Meets at RBL Prestonpans,

Contact Peter Blackie -

peterblackie@yahoo.co.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

First Tuesday of each month at RBL Ards

Contact: Davy McKendrick, Secretary

davidsmck1@sky.com

HIGHLAND

On the first Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm at Raigmore Recreation Rooms, Inverness

Contact: Tam McFadden,

tamrosie@btinternet.com

SOUTHERN

Contact: Tam Millar

Weetam0571@sky.com

PIPE BAND

Contact: Torquil Corkerton

Torquil@ednet.co.uk

For further information contact

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