



# The Thistle

Journal of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

Volume 28 – Number 4

November 2008

**The highlight over the past 6 months has been the safe return of the 1st Battalion from operations in Iraq. The latter part of their tour, as you will read in the Battalion notes, saw a significant change in tempo and mission. Under Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Herbert's leadership the Battalion rose superbly to the challenge and played a key role in supporting the Iraqi Army in bringing security and stability to Basra City. However their tour was not without its casualties, all of whom, I am pleased to report, are making a good recovery. Very sadly this has not been the case elsewhere in The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Five members of the new Regiment have been killed in action over the past 12 months, including our Sergeant Jonathon Mathews. Their names are commemorated in the Regimental Book of Remembrance at The Scottish National War Memorial.**



Since returning the Battalion has been busy with a host of public duties, including the Tattoo and the Royal Guard. Next year the Battalion is reinforcing 3 SCOTS with a platoon and will be providing a full company to 11 Brigade for their operational tours in Afghanistan – very much a Regimental approach to meeting tough operational commitments, given our manning difficulties. I sense this broader perspective is becoming more readily acceptable across the new Regiment

On The Royal Scots front there have been some changes. The first, and most important, has been the restructuring of the Association. The members approved the proposed restructure at the Association AGM in April and the new structure is now in place and settling down reasonably well. The second change, and rather sad news, is the closure of Regimental shop in the Museum, which was no longer financially viable.

However for those of you needing a new Regimental tie or any other Regimental items you can purchase them from the Regimental website or ring Home Headquarters. And thirdly, there have been changes at The Royal Scot Club. Fitness First has vacated their basement premises and plans have been submitted to further enhance the Club's facilities.

## Keep in Touch

Please ensure that you keep us up to date with your contact details:

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Looking to next year we are hoping that HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of the Royal Scots Association, will attend a Royal Scots Association Beating of Retreat and Cocktail Party at The Royal Scots Club in the early summer. The date will be promulgated if our bid is successful. It promises to be a grand occasion for Association members.

Lastly if you feel like putting pen to paper to tell us about one of your splendid memories as a Royal Scot then do not hesitate – start tapping the keyboard and send them to the Editor.

Brigadier R L Scott-Bowden MBE

# 1st Battalion

## The Royal Regiment of Scotland

When we last wrote for The Thistle, the Battalion was deployed in Southern Iraq as the Divisional Mentoring, Monitoring and Training Battle Group (M2T BG). Our principal role was to provide collective training for the Iraqi Army at the Divisional Training Centre. As most of the readers will be aware, this role changed significantly in late March, when the Iraqi Prime Minister launched Operation CHARGE OF THE KNIGHTS in Basra City. The aim of the operation was to purge Basra of the Shia militias, who were threatening the security of the city and who were hindering any meaningful economic development in the south.



*HRH The Princess Royal, escorted by Sgt Hannah, presents Iraq Medals to the Jocks of C Company*





*Homecoming March in Edinburgh*

Whilst the Iraqi operation was launched with little coherent planning, there was no doubt that the Iraqi Army fought with courage and determination from the outset against a well equipped and highly experienced enemy. Casualties were high on both sides in the first few days, with the Iraqi Army losing over 120 killed in action. In our capacity as the M2T BG we were involved from the beginning, supporting the logistical resupply of Iraqi forces outside Basra City, acting as a conduit between deployed forces and coalition air and aviation assets and, where possible, assisting the Iraqi Divisional Headquarters in

planning the next phases of the operation. As it became more obvious that the operation would continue for some considerable time and as further Iraqi Army reinforcements arrived from the north with their embedded coalition advisors, it became increasingly apparent that we would need to embed alongside our partnered Iraqi units. There followed a short and frantic period of restructuring the Battle Group, as we generated a number of platoon sized combat advisory teams (known colloquially as Military Transition Teams or MiTTs) to embed with the Iraqi Army.



*Ptes Maxwell, Allen and Ormiston on their Junior NCOS' Cadre Final exercise at Garelochhead.*



*Comd 4 Bde and CO inspect the Junior NCOS' Cadre*





*1 SCOTS team that won the Infantry 6's*

By early April a much changed Battle Group was firmly integrated with the Iraqi Army across Basra City, engaged in Brigade and Divisional level combat operations alongside our Iraqi partners, providing direct support and combat advice. For the final two months of the tour we worked immensely hard to help guarantee Iraqi Army success, to develop the embedded MiTT concept and to establish MiTT structures that could be taken forward and enlarged threefold on handover to 7 Armoured Brigade in May. I think that we succeeded on all counts, and there is no doubt that Basra was a considerably more secure place when we left in May, than when we arrived 6 months before. Whilst casualties were relatively light within 1 SCOTS, the tour was not without incident, and some fine young men were badly injured. Many more will carry the emotional scars of what proved to be a difficult and demanding tour with the backdrop of an ever present threat. I am delighted, however, to report that the youngsters of 2008 acquitted themselves just as tenaciously and courageously as our forebears in our antecedent Regiments.

Our return from Iraq was characterised by a reassuring level of public support, with some very well attended Homecoming Parades in Edinburgh, Musselburgh, Hamilton and Dumfries. We were also immensely grateful to The Royal Scots (The Royal

Regiment) who so kindly hosted many of us to a wonderful lunch at The Royal Scots Club. As part of a 4 Mechanized Brigade contingent, a dozen of us were hosted to a reception at the Houses of Parliament – allegedly the first time that soldiers have marched into the Houses of Parliament since Oliver Cromwell. Closer to home, we joined The Kings Own Scottish Borderers' Association for their annual Minden Day Parade at Berwick, as well as holding our own smaller Minden Day events in Edinburgh and Ballater.

Workwise, we have enjoyed a rather more respectable pace of life since returning from our post operational tour leave. The Companies have reformed; D (Support) Company has commenced an extensive series of support weapon cadres, C Company has deployed to Ballater as Her Majesty's Royal Guard, and B Company provided the Tattoo Support Company. A Company, meanwhile, are running the Battalion's Potential Junior NCO Cadre. September has seen a burst of adventure training, and renewed efforts on the sporting front. We have a brief window of opportunity over the next few months to recapture some Army and Infantry sporting titles, and have every intention of doing so. I look forward to reporting our progress in the next Thistle.





*1 SCOTS Rugby team before winning against 4 Regt RA in the Army Cup*



*LCpl Gilan, Cpl Chekansky, SSgt Webster, RSM, CO and LCpl Thomson at Rothiemurchus*



# Regimental Association

## Scotland Branches - Tam Douglas

**I start these notes by asking you to take a few moments to remember those no longer with us..... The last few months have seen an unusual number of deaths within our ranks. The Guestbook on our Regimental website is a wonderful tool and has allowed many of us to pay fitting tributes and offer our condolences to the families of those no longer with us.**

It has been a busy few months socially but a special mention must go to the Edinburgh Branch for eventually winning the Gladdy Murray Golf Trophy in August. Rumours abound that it took some dodgy marking. After years of trying to wrestle the trophy from the Wild Cards it took a few new faces to win the day. It was a bit wetter than usual but it did not seem to spoil the occasion. Dougie Matthews came along to say hello to all and to offer us a timeshare deal in Spain.

Our Colour Party has been on its travels again with the Association Pipe Band. In May they travelled to Pisa, Italy for 3 days and a good time was had by Stu Aitken & John Buckham, although if you asked them they would not be able to tell you much about it.

We held a Beating Retreat in Dreghorn Barracks at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in June. It says a lot about the bond we have with 1 SCOTS that we have been able to continue the tradition, which was established with The Royals, of using the Mess once a year for a formal event with the permission of the RSM and we have always been made to feel most welcome. Unfortunately the RSM cannot control the weather (I bet you did not know that). We had to hold the Retreat inside the Mess this year. Our thanks as always to our Pipe Band for entertaining us so well.

Central Scotland Branch held a games night at our esteemed Chairman's new place of work. Luckily he was in civvies with his bright red beret and Warrant Card put away for the night. It was a good turnout with plenty of banter. I do not know who won what and I do not care as I had a great night until Shirley Wright beat me at the dominoes.

Our travel plans are going well for London in November; we will have a party of 36 going down for Remembrance weekend. We will be accompanied by Pat Wraith from the Association Pipe Band. It promises to be a memorable occasion with The Royal Scots contingent being the biggest on parade. This will be followed by our first St Andrew's Night hosted by the East of Scotland Branch. This is a sell out and something we are all looking forward to.



By the time you read this my tenure will be over and I have thoroughly enjoyed the last five years as Secretary. I must thank all who have supported me in my duties; Tam Stott, Jimmy Ovens, Paddy Barnes, Andy Kyle, Andy Fitzpatrick, Paul Cassidy, Tom Logan, George Higgins, Sonny Walker, Charlie McGrogan, Ian Brown and my wee mate Harry; they all deserve a great deal of credit for keeping their respective Sections / Branches ticking over. There are others like John Buckham, who I speak to more than the missus, and all the wives of those above who deserve credit for putting up with us. I wish Ian Brown, who will replace me, every success for the future and I am positive that we will get stronger under Chunky's leadership. Special Mention to all the staff at H.H.Q. from Sue who always has the kettle on, 'Bill on the Hill' for endless advice and Col Dick and the Trustees for their financial support. I apologise if I have missed anyone out, rest assured your support has been just as important.



*George Mulholland's farewell*

## **Gladdy Murray Trophy - John Buckham**

This year's competition was held at the Swanston Golf Club on 31 August and our thanks to Stuart Sneddon for making the facilities available and for making everyone feel welcome; he and his staff were excellent. As usual it was great to see all the old faces and a sprinkling of new ones.

The day started with everyone gathering at Reception before going upstairs for Bacon Butties and Coffee. It was then downstairs for a briefing on the "do's and don'ts" from Stuart Sneddon. As the teams had been selected in advance everything went pretty much to plan except for the weather which was awful. Still, Jocks being Jocks, nothing was going to spoil our fun and so we soldiered on. As the rain chucked it down our battle-hardened Admin Section of Tam Douglas, Wee Harry, Tam Stott and a wonderfully exotic Liz Kyle, scootered around on their buggies keeping the lads refreshed.

The results were:

1st	-	Edinburgh "A"
2nd	-	Central Scotland
Highest Score	-	Tojo Hall
Closest to the Pin	-	Tam Watters Dode Higgins
Longest Drive	-	Paul McAllister
Guest Prize	-	Jamie Bonar





*Colour Party on the way to Italy*

## **Purves Memorial Prize**

This prize is awarded annually to the person who, in the opinion of the Regimental Trustees, has done the most for the Regiment in the previous year. It was unanimously agreed that this year it should be awarded to Tommy Millar who is a Committee member of the Southern Branch of the Regimental Association. To quote from the recommendation "he

has been an inspiration to others, loyalty personified, calm and confident, always thinking ahead and ever enthusiastic, never put off by sudden change and all these qualities combined with a sense of humour". Well done, Tommy. He is that most important of people – a willing, enthusiastic volunteer.

## **Branch Meetings in Scotland**

### **Edinburgh**

Last Friday of each month at 8.00 pm in the Ex-Servicemen's Club, 7 Smith's Place, Leith.

### **Central Scotland**

Last Friday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Royal British Legion, Armadale Road, Whitburn.

### **East of Scotland**

Last Saturday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Royal British Legion, Rope Walk, Prestonpans.

Any changes to these details will appear on the Regimental website.



# The Royal Scots Club



## Welcome Home

In June, the Club was delighted to host a lunch for sixty serving personnel from 1 SCOTS on their return from Iraq. The Club's Trustees and Committee Members were in attendance to host Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Herbert and representatives from the battalion. Lieutenant General Sir Robert Richardson gave a short heartfelt speech congratulating the soldiers on another extremely successful tour of duty and welcoming them home.

## Website

The Royal Scots Club web site has been refreshed and updated. The web address is still the same [www.royalscotclub.com](http://www.royalscotclub.com). You can book overnight accommodation on line, apply to join the Club and find out details of all our facilities.

## Redevelopment Plans

In our last report in The Thistle, details were given of the vacating of the lower basement rooms of the Club by Fitness First and the Trustees' plans to redevelop these areas and install a lift to cover all six floors of the building. Despite our best efforts these plans are still at "the drawing board stage". However we hope to gain planning approval by end of November.

## Christmas

Finally our Christmas brochure has been out for a couple of weeks. Our Christmas menus start in early December and we are offering a range of Christmas lunches and dinners, Disco Party Nights, Disco Party Lunches and Private lunches and dinners. For a Christmas brochure, prices and availability please call Leila on 0131 556 4270.

## Forthcoming Events

As ever we have a packed social calendar for the remainder of 2008 and early 2009. The St Andrew's Night Dinner was fully booked by the beginning of May. The Remembrance Sunday Lunch takes place on 9 November. The Members' Christmas Lunch is on 8 December, the Members' Christmas Dinner and Dance is on Thursday 11 December and the Burns Supper is on Friday 16 January 2009.

There are a series of Evening Lectures over the autumn and winter period. Monday 1 December sees Mr John Lloyd with a lecture entitled "Read all about it" – a behind the scenes look at the business of journalism.

Monday 12 January – Mr George Sutherland will give an illustrated talk "In the footsteps of T E Lawrence" (Syria & Jordan)

Monday 2 February - Col Peter Knox OBE will talk on "Battlefields & Palaces of the Crimea"

Monday 2 March – Dr Ian Wotherspoon on "The British Colonial Service – Changing the World"

Monday 6 April – Dr Paul Geissler on "Cable Cars of Edinburgh"

All lectures start at 7.00pm and last for approximately one hour. All are free to attend.

A full list of forthcoming events and booking details can be found on the web site. Alternatively call the Club on 0131 556 4270

# Domestic Occurrences

## Deaths

### BLAIR:

On 11 September 2008 Neil Blair, formerly 7th/9th Battalion and member of the Regimental Association.

### COYLE:

In April 2008, Brian "Jap" Coyle, formerly 'C' Coy, 1st Battalion in the 1970s and 1980s.

### DONNELLY:

In September 2008, Alexander Donnelly, Military Band 1955-1958.

### FOLEY:

On 28 April 2008 in Hospital in York, Edward Foley, formerly 1 RS, 52nd Lowland Volunteers and Member of the Young Royals.

### KING:

Suddenly on Sat 26/Sun 27 July, Sid King, formerly QM Dept 1 RS 1990's.

### LOGAN:

On 22 July 2008, Billy Logan aged 48, formerly MT Platoon 1st Battalion 1976-94.

### MANEKSHAW:

On 30 June 2008 in Wellington, India, Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw MC, aged 94, formerly with the 2nd Battalion.

### MATHEWS:

Tragically on 28 July 2008, in Afghanistan, Sgt Jonathan Mathews, 4 SCOTS, formerly 1st Battalion The Royal Scots.

### McCONVILLE:

On 10 June 2008, Arthur "Mac" McConville aged 45 yrs formerly 1RS 1978-96.

### McPHIE:

On 21 April 2008 in Berlin, James McPhie (23490751), formerly 1RS 1958 (Elgin) and 1959 (Berlin) -Regimental Police.

### PATERSON:

On 13 May 2008 in Kirkcaldy, Tam Paterson, ex W02 1 RS and key member of the Regimental Association for many years having held offices of both Secretary and Chairman of the Young Royals.

### PELOSI:

In September, Gerry Pelosi, formerly LCpl 1 RS in Aden.

### RICHARDSON:

Suddenly on 16 July 2008, Stuart Richardson, formerly ex-Cpl in B Coy then 10 years in the MT Pl of 1 RS.

### SCOTT-REID:

On 4 April 2008, Dr W Scott-Reid, formerly Padre of 7th/9th Battalion from 1958-64.

### SYLVESTER:

On 28 July 2008, aged 86, Roger Sylvester, (father of Lt Col W P Sylvester, former CO 1 RS) ex RS 1941, RASC and 50th Indian Parachute Brigade.

### TALBOT:

On 2 May 2008, Jack Talbot, formerly Cameronians and 1RS Signals Platoon (1968- mid 70's).

# Obituaries

## Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw

FM Manekshaw died at Wellington, India on 27 June aged 94. In the 1930's it was the practice that, on commissioning, officers of the Indian Army should serve for a period with a British battalion based in India. Sam Manekshaw carried out his attachment with the 2nd Battalion The Royal Scots stationed at the time (1934) in Lahore. He went on to be awarded a Military Cross in February 1942 fighting in Burma as a Company Commander with the 4th Battalion, 12th Frontier Force. He was Chief of the Indian Army Staff during the war with Pakistan in 1971 which led to the creation of Bangladesh as a separate nation and established India as the regional super power. In January 1973 he was to become the Indian Army's first Field Marshal.



## Sergeant J W Mathews



On 28 July Sergeant Jon Mathews was on a joint foot patrol with the Afghan Army in the Lashkar Gah region of Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was wounded during a fire fight with Taliban insurgents, sustaining a gunshot wound to the chest and was casevac'd to

the medical facility at Camp Bastion where he died of his injury.

He was born in Edinburgh in 1972 and at the age of 21 joined The Royal Scots. After basic training he was posted to the 1st Battalion in Fort George. He was a sniper, a member of the Recce Platoon and a Jungle Warfare instructor and carried out operational tours in Northern Ireland and Bosnia.

Whilst at Glencorse he met Shona, his wife, and they were married in Edinburgh Castle. In 2004 he was posted as a Platoon Sergeant to the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick and 2 years later to 4 SCOTS with whom he was serving when he was killed.

His funeral service was held at Penicuik followed by cremation at Mortonhall and was attended by over 350. Our thoughts are with his family at their tragic loss.



# Cyprus Memorial

A Trust has been established to honour the memory of the 372 British Servicemen who died during the Cyprus Emergency 1955 to 1959. There will be a Roll of Honour and a permanent memorial. Almost all the dead are buried at the British Military Cemetery at Wayne's Keep which is in the UN Buffer zone and therefore access is difficult. The new permanent memorial is to be sited in the old British cemetery at Kyrenia but, to retain the link with Wayne's Keep, the Memorial Book will be placed in the nearby British Church and will become the focus for an annual Remembrance Service.

The 1st Battalion were based in the Paphos area of Cyprus from September 1955 until January 1956 during which time they lost 2 soldiers to terrorist action – Lance Corporal Angus Milne and Private Peter Ketchen.

Details of the memorial can be found at <http://www.britishcyprusmemorial.org>

## Forgotten Pensions

In the current climate of credit crunches and the rising costs of living, are you getting all you are entitled to? Veterans who have served in the Armed Forces since 1975 and did not qualify for an immediate pension may now be entitled to a Preserved Pension.

The rules changed on 06 April 1975 for pensions to be preserved for payment at age 60 for all those discharged over the age of 26 with a minimum of 5 years service. On 06 April 1988 the qualifying period was reduced from 5 to 2 years and the age criterion was dropped in 1978. Preserved pensions have to be claimed at age 60 or 65 if service began after 05 April 2006.

Prior to 06 April 1975 there was no provision for a preservation of pension benefits and Service personnel who left the Armed Forces had to have completed 16 years from age 21 (Officers) or 22 years from age 18 (Other Ranks) to be eligible for a pension. Those who left before that date, without completing the above criteria, had no pension entitlement unless they were medically retired.

Preserved Pensions may be paid early, subject to consideration by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA), if a Veteran has become permanently unable to work full-time, in any capacity, through ill-health, and this condition will continue until preserved pension age. Early payment of the pension may be subject to review and stopped if it is considered that the criterion for payment was no longer met.

This article is reproduced courtesy of Veterans WORLD, produced by Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

## How to Purchase a Glengarry!

We regret that HHQ no longer has a source to obtain Glengarrys ("second hand or otherwise"), nor do we have them available for sale in the Regimental Shop.

If you wish to purchase a Glengarry, we know of the following retail organisations in Edinburgh and Glasgow who can assist:

### **Hector Russell Kiltmaker, Edinburgh**

They sell the "authentic – Made in Scotland" Glengarry. Cost £62.95p each.

E-Mail: [sales@hectorrussell.com](mailto:sales@hectorrussell.com)

Online: [www.hector-russell.com](http://www.hector-russell.com)

Tel: (Edinburgh Shops) 0131-558-1254 or 0131-225-3315

### **John Morrison Kiltmaker**

They sell what appears to be the "imported" version Cost £19.95p each

Tel: 0131-556-0666 Online: [www.jmkilts.co.uk](http://www.jmkilts.co.uk)

### **Glasgow**

#### **Adventure 1 UK**

39 Dundas Street, Glasgow G1 2AQ

Tel: 0141-353-3788

E-Mail: [bill@adventure1.co.uk](mailto:bill@adventure1.co.uk)

- Cost £14.95p each

## A Soldier's Return

In the November 2007 issue, we reported on the unveiling of a memorial to Corporal Robert Beveridge MM in St Nicholas Church, Uphall. A 2-disc DVD has now been produced and copies are available from Home Headquarters at a cost of £10. They tell the story of Robert Beveridge from his early life in Uphall, enlistment in the 12th Battalion during the 1st World War, winning the Military Medal and his eventual death in September 1917. The story continues to the present day and ends with the unveiling of the memorial in Uphall last year.

# Friend to the Hapsburgs ~ By Major R I Elder

On the evening of Sunday 23 March 1919, a special train left the small Austrian station at Kopfstetten. On board were members of the Imperial family en route to exile in Switzerland, accompanied by a Lieutenant Colonel of The Royal Scots and a Sergeant and six men from the British Military Police. Behind this departure lay an intriguing story involving a chapter in the distinguished career of an officer whose memory merits retention in the annals of the Regiment.

The autumn of 1918 had seen the crumbling of the multi-racial Austro-Hungarian Empire. The ending of the war was followed by the creation of new governments, while military disintegration, social unrest and grave food shortages caused turmoil in the emerging Austrian Republic. The young Emperor Karl, whose efforts to extricate his country from the war for a separate peace had failed, had accepted the inevitability of a Republic but declined either to abdicate or leave the country. Having withdrawn from the exercise of power, he had gone with his family to Eckartsau, a small shooting lodge north east of Vienna, which was the private property of the Hapsburgs, where the semblance of a small court faced not only difficulties with food supplies but danger from marauding bands of ex-soldiers and the recently formed Red Guards.

Prince Sixtus, a brother of Karl's wife, Zita, visited King George V to alert him to this situation. The King, mindful of the efforts of the "Peace Emperor" and fearful that the Hapsburgs could suffer the same fate as the Romanovs, responded by arranging the despatch of a British officer to be responsible for their safety. Thus it was that Lieutenant Colonel Edward Lisle Strutt of The Royal Scots entered into the life of the Hapsburgs.

Lieutenant Colonel Strutt was a colourful and engaging personality whose career in the South African and 1914-18 Wars had earned him an astonishing array of decorations. Emotionally attached to the old European order which had been shattered in the catastrophe of the recent war, he was filled with loathing for the revolutionary forces which seemed rampant in its immediate aftermath. Fortunately for historians, he was also a careful diarist.

Having been instructed to proceed from Salonika, where he was engaged in liaison duties with Allied forces in the Balkans, to Eckartsau "to give the Emperor and Empress the moral support of the British Government", he arrived at his destination on 27 February 1919, observing en route with horror the lamentable sight of starving children and the grim conditions of life in Vienna. Helped perhaps by a shared Roman Catholic faith and his linguistic skills, Lieutenant Colonel Strutt soon established a rapport with both the Emperor and the Empress, whom he deemed the stronger character, and quickly arranged for a British lorry to be sent with rations such as bully beef, jam and tinned milk. Greatly

appreciated was a supply of white bread, which had not been seen by the household since early 1916. Fearful of an attack by Red Guards in the area, he created some measure of defence although he had at his disposal only ten police armed with carbines and revolvers but little ammunition.

However the stay at Eckartsau was not to last long as on 17 March Lieutenant Colonel Strutt received a telegram from the War Office stating "highly desirable to get the Emperor out of Austria and into Switzerland" but, adding the disturbing warning, "British Government can in no way guarantee your journey". This presented Lieutenant Colonel Strutt with the immediate problem of obtaining the connivance of the Emperor to his apparent abdication before leaving Austria, and Strutt produced a telegram addressed to Director of Military Intelligence, London: "Austrian Government refuses permission for departure of Emperor unless he abdicates. Consequently, give orders to re-establish blockade and stop all food trains entering Austria. Strutt." Amazingly, this outrageous act of bluff succeeded. Although Lieutenant Colonel Strutt had no mandate whatever to interfere in a matter within the competence not just of the British but of other Allied governments, Chancellor Renner, after reading the telegram, agreed that Karl leave as Emperor. Thus Lieutenant Colonel Strutt had been able to honour his pledge.

His arrangements for the journey worked admirably. On 24 March, the train proceeded via Innsbruck where Lieutenant Colonel Strutt resented the action of some Italian soldiers at the station of gaping through the windows. His diary caustically records: "The police at a nod from me cleared them off helped by Gussl, the Emperor's hound". On arrival at Buchs station, the party was received by the Swiss authorities whose courtesy and efficiency impressed Lieutenant Colonel Strutt as did Karl's action in speaking briefly to the British military policemen, shaking hands with them and ensuring that each received a memento in the form of a watch bearing the Imperial monogram and a cigarette case embossed with the Hapsburg arms.

On leaving the Army, Lieutenant Colonel Strutt, went as Second-in-Command on the 1922 British Everest expedition and frequently attended Regimental occasions until his death in 1948. His old sparring partner, Renner, was to re-emerge politically in the Second Austrian Republic, briefly as Chancellor in 1945 then as President for four years until his death in 1950. The ill-fated Karl, after the failure of his second restoration bid, was conveyed on the last stage of renewed exile on HMS CARDIFF to Madeira where he died of pneumonia in 1922. Zita lived on through the turmoils of the greater part of the century, dying in her ninety-sixth year in 1989.

## Veterans: UK

A reminder that, young or old, all ex-Servicemen and women are considered to be Veterans and as such can get free help and guidance on many issues affecting their lives –

**Free helpline - 0800-169-2277 Or go to [www.veterans-uk.info](http://www.veterans-uk.info)**