



# The Thistle

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## Chair of the Regimental Trustees Statement

When the Regimental Trustees met on the 28th Of October we reviewed progress along the agreed route to ensure our Regimental Family is supported and engaged with both effectively and in a sustainable manner. Much has been achieved; this has not just happened, rather it has been achieved by the admirable commitment and dedication of a small but effective band of Royals, ably supported and advised by our professional advisers.

I congratulate the Association office bearers on their detailed review of the Constitution, led by John Sands, which is now up to date and reflects a truly inclusive UK-wide structure.

After successful lease negotiations between our Regimental Trustees and The Royal Scots Memorial Fund, which owns our Club, which were appropriately concluded on St Andrew's Day the Regimental Office is now well established in an office suite that is fit for purpose to support all the charitable functions of our Regiment, at the heart of which are benevolence and comradeship. Colocation within our Memorial Club enables the close relationship to flourish further. I encourage everyone to promote the Club, consider using it for both family gatherings and corporate functions and to spread the word about its excellent facilities.

Commemoration events, including annual Remembrance and Armistice services, are very much part of our heritage with Regimental participation taking place throughout UK including at the Battle of the Somme Centenary services at the Scottish National War Memorial. Ahead are involvements with the Arras centenary in April and deciding on November 2018 Regimental activity and working with our Club on marking their 2019 centenary.

The finishing touches are now being put to the ambitious eight-year Museum development plan which has been highly successful and has earned significant respect; a real team effort driven by Robert Watson and Gordon Rae, ably assisted by Jim Blythe and his Old Provost Marshal's team.

Effective communication has been a major development matter, with the summer relaunch of our Regimental website being the culmination of great commitment by David Nisbet, Jim Anderson, Jimmy Springthorpe and Edinburgh Design and Print. Let us now ensure it is used to best effect as we engage with the wider Regimental Family and external stakeholders.

Our Regimental name continues through the 1 SCOTS golden thread. I consider it essential that our Regimental Family continue to take every opportunity to both support and promote SCOTS, Scotland's Infantry Regiment, where Royals are now serving in all their battalions. In December 2016, the Secretary of State for Defence made a written statement to the House of Commons about Army 2020 Refine which is the MOD's implementation of the Government's 2015 Defence Review; a fuller explanatory

report is contained in this Thistle edition. There is significant change and development ahead, which has been warmly welcomed by the serving; I strongly encourage everyone to market joining SCOTS to those in our spheres of influence.

A call to arms: anyone who wishes to support our busy Regimental Office and Team on projects or with general support activities then please step forward. Your Regiment needs you.

At the Trustees meeting I informed the Trustees of my intention to step down as Chair at the end of February. This was followed by wide ranging consultation; the Trustees have approved the succession plan. I am very pleased to say that Brigadier George Lowder will take over the reins from me, and in addition Major General Bob Bruce will become the Vice Chair of the Regimental Trustees.

It has been a real privilege to lead and represent our fine Regiment. My sincere thanks to the Regimental Family for their great support, loyalty, understanding and advice. And on everyone's behalf I would like to thank Jimmy Springthorpe for his hard work and effort as our Regimental Administrator.

Yours aye,

Colonel Martin Gibson OBE DL

Nemo Me Impune Lacessit





## New Chairman for the Scottish Veterans Residences

Brigadier George Lowder MBE has been appointed as the new chairman of Scottish Veterans Residences, taking over the role from Major General Mark Strudwick CBE who has stepped down after serving at the helm of our charity for the past 15 years. During his tenure, Major General Strudwick has guided SVR through a period of considerable improvement and expansion, including the development of Bellrock Close, the multi award winning transitional support service for veterans that opened in Glasgow in 2014.

George Lowder is currently Chief Executive of Transport for Edinburgh, a role he took on last year, where he is responsible for the delivery and development of an integrated transport network for the Scottish capital city region.



Major General Mark Strudwick CBE with new Chairman Brigadier George Lowder MBE  
Photo courtesy of Scottish Veterans Residences

## The Last of the First

### Warrant Officer Class 2 (Drum Major) Michael Hay



2012 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo programme  
Photo courtesy of Mark Owens, Army in Scotland Media

Michael Hay was born in Edinburgh and enlisted into the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) in July 1989 and after his training at Glencorse Barracks he joined the Battalion in Werl, Germany in October 1990 after completing pipes and drums phase three training at Milton Bridge Camp. He deployed to the Gulf in 1991 with 4 Platoon, B Company as part of Op Granby. The Battalion moved back to Fort George after the Gulf. He completed his first tour of Northern Ireland in 1992 and on return was promoted to Lance Corporal in 1993 before returning

to Northern Ireland in 1995.

He then moved to Colchester with the Battalion in 1996 and was back in Northern Ireland twice more, being promoted to Corporal in 1999 whilst on tour in Forkhill.

After a spell as a recruit training instructor at Glencorse Barracks in 2000, he rejoined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Ballykelly, Northern Ireland. On return to Dreggorn Barracks he remained with A Company where he served as a Section Commander on a tour in Bosnia and was promoted to Sergeant in 2003 prior to Op Telic 3. He remained as a Platoon Sergeant in A Company until June 2005, when he took up the appointment of Drum Major.

In 2005, he was back in Iraq on Op Telic 7 as a Multiple Commander and he also worked at Camp Buehring for a period with the American RSOI package. He deployed to Iraq early in 2007 on Op Telic 11 to assist running the RSOI package before joining the Platoon for the remainder of the tour as Platoon Commander. Promoted to Colour Sergeant in March 2009 he took over as CQMS of the Scottish Division Training Company at ITC Catterick for 2 years. His next posting was in Kenya for 6 months as part of BATUK training wing, supporting the battle group exercise Askari Thunder. He returned to the UK in September 2011 and took over as the OC of the PRT Crew

Training School, Bovington, running the ranges for Vehicle Mounted Weapon Systems.

In January 2012, he took over the appointment of Senior Drum Major at the Army School of Bagpipe Music & Highland Drumming. As part of his role as Senior Drum Major, he composes all the side, tenor and bass drum scores for the massed pipes and drums for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, as well as leading the massed pipes and drums on parade. He has also taken part in various overseas exercises including Kenya, Belize and America and Tattoos around the world including Australia, New Zealand, Moscow, Switzerland and Finland. He will be the Senior Drum Major at the School until his Run Out Date in May 2020.

In his spare time, Mick is a keen squash player and hill walker. He has represented The Royal Scots at squash in Divisional Team events and the Infantry in the Inter Corps Championships on several occasions, as well as overseas events. He also plays for a civilian team in the East of Scotland Squash Leagues.

Mick is very proud to have been the last Drum Major of The Royal Scots, and he will always remember leading his Battalion from the front on the final parades before the formation of the Royal Regiment of Scotland in 2006.



Drum Major Mick Hay leading the Royal Scots in their final parade on Tuesday, 25th April 2006  
Photo courtesy of Craig Allen



## Regimental Office

By Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

All former Royal Scots will recall at some stage during their service having got themselves comfortable in a new barracks, the bottom of a trench or the back of a warm vehicle hearing the dreaded "move out". The new location often did not live up to the standard of that which was vacated. That was the situation we found ourselves in having established ourselves in what was formerly The Royal Scots Club snooker room. However, in this case it was a move for the better. After a lot of negotiating between our Trustees and the Club on 1<sup>st</sup> October we found ourselves moving to a large two office suite in a much more accessible location in the Club. A lot of hard work has been put in to ensure we moved without any interruption to normal service. Tam Douglas and a small team of volunteers moved all the furniture and equipment while I was on leave! The Club provided the services of their handyman Alec and their decorator Robert to ensure the new offices were in good order. Pictures have been hung, shelving put up and as I write this the finishing touches are being put to a new cupboard.

The new Regimental website was launched in September and we are all very grateful to Jim Anderson and David Nisbet for all the hard work in producing it. They worked

extremely hard over many months with Edinburgh Design and Print to produce what is a very professional, user friendly website. Before this goes to print, a data capture form will have been posted on the web site which will allow the Regimental Family to provide the Regimental Office with their contact details and other information which will enable us to keep proper records of our people. None of the information asked for is compulsory and I would like to stress that no information provided will be shared by a third party without the individual's prior consent.

Remembrance is behind us and I would just like to say a big thank you to all of you who took part in one or more of the services in memory of fallen Royal Scots. To those of you who organise those events, well done, your hard work is very much appreciated.

I hope that all former Royal Scots and their families had a very merry Christmas and I wish you all the very best in 2017.



Colonel Robert Watson and Jim Anderson hard at work in the new Regimental Office on B1 level of Royal Scots Club  
Photo courtesy of Captain Jimmy Springthorpe



Jimmy Springthorpe's window on the world  
Photo courtesy of Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

## Regimental Association

By Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

The Association has been very busy since the last edition of The Thistle. Several events have taken place, among them the Autumn dinner, which was held on the evening before Musselburgh Races. In what was a first the dinner was combined with the RS Club members' dinner and this now looks likely to be the case in the future. The races at Musselburgh took place on Sunday 25th September.

Association members supported several Remembrance events which included the opening of the Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street, the service at Glencorse Gates, and services at the Garden of Remembrance and the Cenotaph in London, Edinburgh City Chambers, McCrae's Battalion memorial at Haymarket and the Canongate Kirk. Perhaps appropriately the final wreath was laid at the Memorial in The Royal Scots Club.

On 21 October, the Association AGM was attended by 56 Members. The updated Constitution and Rules were accepted and came into effect immediately following the AGM. The Constitution and Rules can be found on the association page of the website and a printed booklet version has been produced and will be distributed to members via branch secretaries in February.



## Heritage & Museum

By Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Rae

### Heritage

On Armistice Day, a contingent of Royals attended the Remembrance Service at the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle. The service was well attended by all three Services both serving and retired. The Service, which was conducted by the Rev Maynard Cathcart, DACG to 51 Bde and HQ Scotland and was assisted by the Rev Stephen Blakey, chaplain to 6 SCOTS. Rev Blakey was the Regimental padre to IRS during Op Granby.

From left – Colonel Robert Watson, Mr Arthur Smith, Mrs Helen Spence, Mrs Cathy Tucker, Colonel Charlie Wallace, Mr Andy Kay, Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

Photo courtesy of Colonel Gordon Rae



### Museum

#### The Waterloo Colours Project

Phase One of the Waterloo Colours Project has now been completed. The Colours were folded and dressed by Younger Conservations Ltd and returned to The Castle in early November. The Colours look exceptional for their age and fragility. The Royal Cypher of the King's Colour and the Union Flag of the Regimental Colour are displayed. The backing board has been carefully coloured in where there were holes in the Colours to give the appearance that the Colours are complete.

Phase Two, the construction of the display cases and Phase 3, the final design of the display boards is now underway by Studio SP. It is hoped to have the Colours project completed by Regimental Day, 28<sup>th</sup> March.



Lieutenant Colonel Rae inspecting the Colours with Fiona Wain, one of the conservationists who worked on the Colours

Photo courtesy of Sophie Younger

#### Re-Labeling Project

The labels have now been made and the method of attaching the labels to the backing boards in the display cases has now been finalised. The project will be completed by mid February.

## IRS Colours 1957-1980

By Colonel Robert Watson OBE

The 1st Battalion Colours presented in 1957 were laid up in Edinburgh City Chambers, in a prominent position at the head of the main staircase, on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1980. Two years ago, they were taken down during a redecoration of the Chambers and removed to a store in the Lord Provost's office. Fortunately, Tam Douglas, on a visit to the offices, was shown the Colours and recognised them for what they were. They had suffered some damage over the years so were recovered to the Castle where they have been repaired by the team of volunteer skilled needle workers who support the Scottish National War Memorial. The Colours have now been returned to the City Chambers for re-hanging in their former place of honour.



## Lauriston Castle Memorial

By Colonel Robert Watson OBE

Most former Royal Scots will be aware of the Memorial, in the shape of a stone cairn on the end of the Aradura Spur, to those of 1RS who died in the Defence of Kohima in 1944, halting the Japanese attempt to push into India. Fewer, however, probably know of a second Memorial in the grounds of Lauriston Castle at Cramond on the West side of Edinburgh.

The original Memorial opened in 1984, was again a cairn shaped rock with a plaque commemorating and listing the 14 members of the Bren Gun Carrier Platoon (forerunners of today's Recce Platoon) who fell in the Burma Campaign. Everyone was further commemorated by the planting of a tree with a plaque at its base recording the species and "1RS World War 2 Burma".

In 1999, the Memorial was expanded to include a small fenced garden, with a bench and a plaque commemorating all 203 members of the 1st Battalion who had died in the Burma Campaign.

By this year the Garden was looking somewhat sad and five of the trees had died or been removed. Thanks to the good offices of Rab Dickson, for which huge thanks are due, and the Edinburgh City Council Parks Department it has had a major tidy up; the Bench has been completely refurbished; the fencing repainted and the beech hedge trimmed. Hopefully Phase 2 will see the replacement planting of the five missing trees.



1984 Memorial at Cramond  
Photo courtesy of Sally Orr-Ewing

## Army 2020 Refine The Army Way Ahead

By Major Chris Delacombe

The main thrust is to maintain the Army at a strength of 82,000 regulars and 30,000 reservists. The Regular Army is to be restructured to provide a combat force under the 3rd UK Division of four brigades: two armoured Infantry and two strike brigades. 4 SCOTS will form part of one of these brigades. In addition, four infantry battalions will be re-roled as Specialist Infantry Battalions (SIB). One of these will be 1 SCOTS.

1 SCOTS will re-role during 2017 and is scheduled to move from Palace Barracks to Aldershot along with the three other SIBs and a HQ element by 2020.

An SIB will have an establishment of about 270 personnel, mostly officers, SNCOs and NCOs. The core of the battalion will be three companies each consisting of four twelve man deployable teams. The task of each SIB will be to deliver operational capability tasks e.g. operational and specialist support and training, such as those currently being delivered in Iraq, Afghanistan, areas of Africa and to broader allies across the world.

The acquisition of appropriate experience and skills, progression and career management for all involved will be achieved by combining the administrative responsibilities for postings and promotions within The Royal Regiment of Scotland with those of Royal Welsh and Royal Irish Regiments to form the Scottish, Welsh and Irish Division so that postings may take place across a far wider range of units to make sure no junior officer or NCO suffers from restricted experience.

## Musselburgh Life Exhibition

By Helen Spence



Photo courtesy of Tom Gordon

The Musselburgh Life Exhibition was sponsored by the Musselburgh Museum and was held in the Burgh Grammar School from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July. On display were items already on loan to the Musselburgh Museum from the RS Museum, including silver and drums, augmented by items from the SCOTS Museum collection. The joint RS and SCOTS Museum exhibition illustrated the connections through B Company 7 RS during WW1, the RS Freedom of Musselburgh in 1971 and SCOTS Freedom of East Lothian in 2013.



Armed and ready for battle, the youngest recruit is Sophie Gordon  
Photo courtesy of Tom Gordon



## The View from the Old Provost Marshal's House

By Lieutenant Colonel Jim Blythe MBE

The view from the Old Provost Marshal's House is essentially a tale of two cities. At this time of year, our windows look out over either an Edinburgh of low cloud and driving rain or, on other days, an Edinburgh sparkling in bright winter sunshine. It is also an Edinburgh that has been for many years the heart of The Royal Scots homeland and is now also a centre of activity for The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Not only does Edinburgh Castle house RHQ SCOTS in the Barrack Block but RHQ SCOTS (East) remains in the Old Provost Marshal's House adjacent to our Museum. It is from here that RHQ SCOTS (East) represents SCOTS as far north as the Tay, west to Stirling and all the way south to the Border.

This year, SCOTS celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There were several events. 2 SCOTS marched down the Royal Mile commanded by Major Gary Tait, formerly a Royal Scot. A service of thanksgiving was held in Canongate Kirk, the regimental kirk of both RS and SCOTS. A temporary SCOTS museum exhibition was opened in the National War Museum of Scotland here in the Castle. A boxing tournament was held at Meadowbank as were rugby sevens at Glencorse, previously the RS Depot and now housing 2 SCOTS commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Graeme Wearmouth formerly a Royal Scot. In RHQ SCOTS the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel is Tom Perkins, formerly a Royal Scot. Also, here in the Castle, overseeing all ceremonials is Garrison Sergeant Major George Surgeon, formerly a Royal Scot. And Colonel SCOTS is now Major General Bob Bruce. So, The Royal Scots part of the Golden Thread is well represented.

Good contact is maintained with our successor battalions, 1 SCOTS and 6 SCOTS. Colonel Robert Watson visited 1 SCOTS in Palace Barracks during the autumn to advise on Royal Scots silver and paintings in the officer's mess known as the Ava Mess; Ava being an RS battle honour from the time of the First Burma War of 1826; Robert found everything to be in very good

order. In my capacity as RHQ SCOTS Area Secretary (East), I visited 1 SCOTS undergoing training in the Galloway Forest and very sharp they looked too. I am also in regular contact with A Company 6 SCOTS at Hepburn House, formerly home to the Dandy Ninth Royal Scots.

The Honest Toun has featured large in our activities this year. Early in July, the SCOTS Band and 1 SCOTS Pipes & Drums played for HM The Queen at the Bicentenary of Musselburgh Racecourse. Later in July saw the Riding of Musselburgh Marches which occurs every 21 years. 1 and 6 SCOTS recruiting teams were active during the week and a joint RS and SCOTS Museum contribution was made to the Musselburgh Life exhibition in the Burgh School. This traced the Golden Thread from G Company 6<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Battalion RS, through H Company 7<sup>th</sup> Territorial Battalion RS, to 1 RS, 8 RS, 2/52 LOWLAND and now to 1 and 6 SCOTS. On the final Saturday, C Company 1 SCOTS was invited to exercise SCOTS East Lothian Freedom privileges in the grand procession through Musselburgh and Fisherrow before a crowd of 20,000 and were followed by the RS Association exercising RS Musselburgh Freedom privileges. The military element of the procession was led by the RS Association Pipe Band who did us all proud. Finally the last Sunday in September was our day at the races with the RS Association Pipe Band, the SCOTS Lowland Band (formerly the RS TA Band) and the 1 and 6 SCOTS recruiting teams. The races were preceded by a joint RS Association and RS Club dinner the previous evening.

Both the RS Museum and RHQ SCOTS (East) welcome visitors. We are always pleased to see members of the extended Regimental Family but please tell us in advance by contacting us on 0131 310 5016 or at the e-mail contact details shown at [www.theroyalscots.co.uk](http://www.theroyalscots.co.uk). Thus the Golden Thread continues. Nemo Me Impune Lacessit!

## Battle of the Somme 1<sup>st</sup> July – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016

By Andy Kay

The 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1916 saw the start of the Battle of the Somme, a battle which quickly turned into a series of Battles and really was in effect a campaign. On 1<sup>st</sup> July, the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Battalions went over the top and suffered horrendous losses but gained their objectives. During the campaign the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> were followed by 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Battalions; in all nine RS Battalions were involved. Having commemorated the start of the Battle we therefore commemorate the ending of the Battle of the Somme on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1916.

Over the course of the Battle the casualties suffered by these Battalions was very high, for instance, in July 1916 alone, the Battalions involved suffered 508 killed and 2358 wounded, a total of 2866 casualties. These casualty figures had major consequences for the Battalions such as the 16<sup>th</sup> (McCrae's) which could no longer recruit solely from Edinburgh and Lothian so took recruits from other areas, sometimes not even from Scotland.

For further reading on the battle please see the Regimental History "Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard Vol 1" and Colonel Watson's essay on the Battle on our website: <http://www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-somme/>

12<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Happy Valley after coming out of the Line



German trench captured by 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 2 July at Bernafay Woods





# The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band

By Pipe President Major Torquill Corkerton

As I wrote my last band report for The Thistle in the summer, the band was just returning from Contalmaison, having played for the Somme 100 commemorations and the commitments and performances continued apace.

On the 8th July, the band provided a piper to play at St Giles Cathedral for the opening of an exhibition of a tapestry commemorating the 16th Battalion and the part it played in the battle of the Somme.

On Saturday 30th July, 1 SCOTS exercised the Regiment's Freedom of Musselburgh as part of the Honest Toun's week long Riding of the Marches celebrations, which occur every 21 years. They marched 'with colours flying and bayonets fixed' and, as the Freedom was originally granted to The Royal Scots, the Association Band was asked to provide the 'drums beating' by leading Charlie Company 1 SCOTS and a contingent from The Royal Scots Association on parade. Whilst the route was a strong contender for the longest the band has ever marched – it took over an hour for the parade to march around the town and back to its starting point at Pinkie House – the weather was lovely and the band maintained its puff and the spring in the steps of the marching men behind us.

The band has had a good relationship with the Indian Christian community in Edinburgh for several years and now plays for three or four festivals a year around the Central Belt. The day after the Musselburgh Freedom Parade, we headed west to play for an Indian Christian festival in Livingston and even further afield a week later for another in Nitshill, Glasgow. Our reputation has begun to spread further afield as we were asked to find a piper for a wedding in India in August and there is a possibility of similar jobs in the future. Although the band most strongly maintains the traditions of the Dandy Ninth (Highlanders) Battalion, we shall have to investigate The Royal Regiment's history with the country.

Speaking of traditions, the band maintained one of its own in September when it played for the wedding reception of one of its own pipers, Oliver McCaul. The reception was held at Windmill Barn, west of Dunfermline and it was a lovely venue for the band, including the bridegroom, to perform for the entertainment of the gathered guests.

September also saw the band play at another longstanding engagement, Musselburgh Races. Although the event now celebrates and supports all services both military and civilian, it is still remembered as the old Regimental Race Day and the band always looks forward to playing as part of a massed band with The Lowland Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland,

formerly The Royal Scots TA band. We were also asked by Lieutenant Colonel Jim Blythe to provide a piper to play at Edinburgh Castle the day before. The piper might or might not have been tasked with welcoming guests to a Regimental association lunch that might or might not have taken place for his other cap badge!

In October, the band played in Linlithgow for a parade and service organised by the Ancre Somme Association Scotland to commemorate the battle and the part played in it by McCrae's Battalion, at which the Royal Regiment of Scotland and local cadets were represented as well as The Royal Scots. The final major engagement of the year found a mini band take part in Edinburgh's Festival of Remembrance at The Assembly Rooms on George Street, Edinburgh.

The band took part in Edinburgh's Hogmanay Torchlight Procession and it will be enjoying its practice and preparation for next year in comfortable surroundings. It has moved home for what we hope will be the last time for a good long while and now meets at The Royal Scots Club, strengthening our relationship with another part of the Regimental family. 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 massed band of the Association Pipe Band and The Lowland Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland for Musselburgh Race Day**  
Photo courtesy of Ann-Marie Corkerton



## Remembrance Weekend in London

By Major Christopher Delacombe, Southern Branch Chairman

The weekend of Remembrance Day, the Southern Branch arranges various events which centre round the remembrance of those members of the Regiment who have lost their lives in the defence of the country, both in the two world wars, but also since 1945.

### Opening of the Field of Remembrance - Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November

On Thursday, a party of ten Regimental members attended the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. The opening is always conducted by a member of the Royal Family and this year the honours were done by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Prince Harry. This year the Regiment's Front Man was Tam Millar who had the honour of meeting both The Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Harry as they came around.

### Regimental Cross Planting - Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November

On Saturday, during the brief but poignant act of remembrance under our chaplain Rev Ros Trafford-Roberts, many gathered in the Field of Remembrance to pay homage to members of the Regiment who had died in action, some of those in attendance had the chance to plant individual crosses in memory of those to whom they had a personal connection.

After this act of Remembrance, the gathering moved to the Abbey cloister where the Canon in Residence, Rev David Stanton conducted a further brief act of remembrance in which the names of the members of our own Regimental Family as well as The Royal Newfoundland Regiment were read out by Colonel Edward Cowan.

### Cenotaph Parade - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November

On Sunday, former serving members of the regiment assembled on Horse Guards. We found ourselves almost at the back of the last column under the command of our drill sergeant Alistair Ritchie but we did enjoy receiving the best TV coverage we have ever enjoyed. Major General Philip Davies carried the Regimental wreath as left marker.



The Royal Scots contingent passing the Cenotaph  
Photo courtesy of BBC Television footage

## Remembrance Weekend in Edinburgh

By Andy Kay

### Princes Street Gardens Remembrance Service on 31<sup>st</sup> October

Each year the Royal British Legion Scotland organises a Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens on either side of the Scott Monument. The Royal Scots are represented at the ceremony for the opening of the Garden and lay a wreath on the Regimental Cross. This year The Royal Scot wreath was laid by Regimental Administrator, Captain Jimmy Springthorpe. Several members of the Regiment and Regimental Family attended and our Standard was paraded with other Regimental Associations. Colonel Martin Gibson laid a wreath on behalf of Veterans Scotland.

### SNWM Remembrance Service on 11<sup>th</sup> November

On Remembrance Day, every year an Armed Services in Scotland Remembrance Service is held at the Scottish National War Memorial in the Castle to which The Royal Scots, Army in Scotland and those working in the Castle are invited. Seven members of The Royal Scots Regimental Family attended the Service.

### Royal Scots Memorial Gates on 12<sup>th</sup> November

Royals gathered at the Royal Scots Memorial Garden at Glencorse Barracks, an intimate Regimental occasion organised each year by Major Ian Johnstone and his small band of helpers. A bright and sunny day saw a large

turnout of Old Royals, members of the Regimental Family and ACF detachment from Penicuik. The brief ceremony was led by Major Johnstone blowing a whistle, just as would have been done when leaving the WW1 trenches; this was followed by Flowers of the Forest played by Piper Billy Rutherford from the RS Association Pipe Band, then the two minute silence which the piper ended by playing Reveille. The Regimental Wreath was laid by Mr Nobby Clark. The Assembly were then invited for coffee and biscuits in the Officers' Mess of 2 SCOTS for which we are very grateful.

### Edinburgh Remembrance Services on 13<sup>th</sup> November

On Remembrance Sunday, various events were held across our Regimental Area. The Edinburgh Branch were well represented at the City Chambers where a wreath was laid on behalf of the Regiment by Mr Tam Douglas. Services were also held at Haymarket Memorial where the wreath was laid by Stuart Aitken and at Canongate Kirk where the annual Remembrance Service was led by Rev Neil Gardner. The Royal Scot Club held a short Service and wreath laying in the Club followed by lunch in the Dining Room. This year we were also asked to provide a Standard Party for the SRU ceremony at Murrayfield. As ever the Regimental Family took part in commemoration throughout our area at their local services and several Royal Scot wreaths were laid.





Colonel Gibson, Major Johnston and James (Nobby) Clark  
Photo courtesy of Ron Cairns



James (Nobby) Clark saluting after laying the wreath  
Photo courtesy of Colonel Robert Watson

## West Highland Way 2016 Here we go again!

### By The Usual Suspects

The intrepid band of footsloggers mustered once again for another bash up the West Highland Way in August, namely Davy McKendrick and John McCulloch with Rab Conquer as admin support and Jim Blythe in customary part-timer mode.

The route was familiar on the bonny, bonny banks of Loch Lomond with the Drymen end being anything but dry! Further on, over the open stretches of Rannoch Moor, the weather improved inviting the midges to come out in droves, making the earlier, wetter days a relatively pleasant memory. Beyond Tyndrum, the party slogged on through blazing heat across the moor to the King's House, diverting on the way to the Glencoe ski chairlift to admire the view from on high. The King's House hotel provided welcome refreshment and, unlike on the previous visits a few years ago, there was no need for industrial tumble driers to deal with sodden clothing. Next morning's breakfast fuelled the legs for the steep hot ascent of the Devils staircase and then the long descent into Kinloch Rannoch. The final leg assured success and afforded the party a view of Ben Nevis before descending at last into Fort William, footsore and leg-weary all the way to the official finishing line at end of The West Highland Way 2016.

The proceeds of £1,439.85 was raised this year for the Royal Scots Benevolence Society.

*Hi, Didley Dee, a walking life for me  
Old Royal Scots  
Marching across  
The West Highland Way  
Hi, Didley Dee, Royal Scots are we*



John McCulloch, Davy McKendrick and Jim Blythe  
at Tom Weir's rest in Balmhanna  
Photo courtesy of Rab Conquer



Davy McKendrick and John McCulloch the end of  
the West Highland Way in Fort William  
Photo courtesy of Rab Conquer



# The Military Knights of Windsor

By Colonel Finlay Maclean

*"Blest be the hearts that wish my  
Sovereign well,  
Curst be the souls that think her  
any wrong,  
Goddess, allow this aged man his  
right,  
To be your beadsman now that  
was your knight."*  
George Peel, 1590



Photo courtesy of Eva Zielinska-Millar

After a full career in The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), followed by ten years as a civil servant in the Ministry of Defence on the personal staff of five Chiefs of the General Staff, I now find myself in Windsor Castle and back in uniform as a Military Knight of Windsor (MKW for short). The MKWs perform a traditional and ceremonial role as they represent the Knights of the Garter (the senior Order of Chivalry whose Companions are chosen by the Sovereign alone) in their own Chapel (St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle). They march at a sedate pace into Chapel to take their places in their stalls, wearing uniforms designed by King William IV for officers 'on the unattached list'. They parade some 54 times a year, on most Sundays and on Garter Day when they lead Her Majesty, The Queen and the procession from the State Apartments into the Chapel. They also parade on State Visits, when held at Windsor, at funerals of members of the Royal Family at Windsor and of MKW themselves, at the ceremony to lay up banners of deceased Garter Knights, at four Obit services when the Dean reads out the names of the many benefactors of the College of St George starting with Henry III in 1240 and on other unscheduled occasions. MKWs need a good reason to miss a parade and for their commitment, which is until the end of their earthly life, they live in charming but small terraced houses immediately opposite the Chapel within the Castle.

It was 666 years ago, in 1348, that Edward III established the Most Honourable and Noble Order of the Garter and not long afterwards the forerunners to the MKW.

Immediately after the Battle of Crecy in 1346, many noblemen captured by the French had been obliged to forfeit all their land and belongings in order to regain their freedom, and were then so destitute that Edward III took 24 of these Poor or Alms Knights and undertook to house and feed them within Windsor Castle. In return, they had to cover for the Garter Knights who could only get to Windsor infrequently and they had to pray daily for the Sovereign and the Garter Knights past and present in the chapel in the Castle, much as the MKW do today. Now there are only 13 MKW (a Governor who retires at 75 and twelve) and attending chapel, while obligatory on Sundays, is optional on all other days of the week. The MKW is listed right at the front of the Army List in recognition that it is the oldest unit in the British Army.

I was installed as the 652nd Military Knight at an Evensong service on 25th March 2012. I was limited on the number of guests I could invite but several Regimental friends and family were there as were a number of my

recent military 'masters'. Afterwards, my wife and I hosted an obligatory Cocktail Party for all our guests, and many of the castle community, the final bill for which threatened to relegate me to the same status as those first knights of 1348!

There have been Royal Scots officers here before me as I found out when turning the pages of the Memorial Book, displayed in a case in the Chapel, wherein are recorded details of all past MKW. The first was admitted in 1711 having lost a leg at the battle of Schellenberg, the second was admitted in 1865 having served at Quatre Bras and was then wounded at Waterloo carrying the King's Colour after his four predecessors had been killed. The third was appointed in 1946 having been awarded a DSO in the First World War.

A recent highlight was the State Visit of the Emir of Qatar. Together with four other MKW we stood at the bottom of the stairway in the Sovereign's Entrance to salute Her Majesty and her guests as they went upstairs to be greeted by some excited welcoming barks from the resident corgis. It is most certainly a privilege to be here and, yes, we have been presented to The Queen and other members of the Royal Family.

The prerequisites to be a Military Knight of Windsor are that you should be married accompanied, have been a commissioned officer and have had long and distinguished service (I may have ticked the first box but could furnish little evidence of the second!), and you need to be installed before the age of 67. There is a screening interview with the Military Secretary's department together with the Governor of the Military Knights followed by further interviews with the Dean and the Constable of Windsor Castle. It is, of course, quite literally a case of Dead Man's shoes – no vacancy unless a MKW dies or must leave through ill-health. We seek a balance of Corps and Teeth Arms and between regular and LE officers. Although our seniority is determined by the date of our installation, the retired ranks of the present MKW range from Brigadier to Major. The Governor is a retired Lieutenant General, Peter Pearson.

Knowledge of the MKW tends to be spread by word of mouth and so perhaps this article may spark interest amongst others who might wonder whether this lifestyle could suit them. If there are any Army officers, serving or retired, who would like to visit the Castle with a view to seeing for themselves what it is like to be a Military Knight of Windsor, please feel free to contact me at 10 Lower Ward, Windsor Castle, SL4 1NJ or phone on 01753 850729. Caroline and I would be delighted to advise you and point you in the right direction.



Garter Day Procession on Monday, 15th June 2015

Photo courtesy of Doug Harding



## Biking for Benevolence



William Malloy and Martin Burnett on the road heading home  
Photo courtesy of Steven Cornall

Having completed their cycle ride "Rome2Home" Crown and One Ties award winners, Martin Burnett and Willie Malloy plan to undertake a 190-mile endurance cycle ride from Haddington to Inverness on 2nd June in aid of Royal Scots Benevolence. This event is to be completed between 0200 and 1600hrs. Further details will be published on the Regimental website as planning progresses. Please support this very worthy venture. All proceeds will be used to assist members of the Regimental Family in need.



Martin Burnett handing over the cheque for the funds the pair raise for Erskine  
Photo courtesy of Nikki Nessus

## Musselburgh Riding of the Marches 2016

By Lieutenant Colonel Jim Blythe MBE

The Royal Scots were granted the Freedom of the Burgh in 1971 and our successors in 1 SCOTS accepted the Freedom of East Lothian on behalf of The Royal Regiment of Scotland on returning from operations in Afghanistan in 2013. However, the story of the Riding of the Marches goes back much further. It is presumed that the Roman Festival of Terminalia, the god that presided over boundaries, was celebrated 2000 years ago, but documented evidence can be found from the first Burgh Charter in 1124 granted by David I to the monks of Dunfermline. Town records were destroyed in a fire in the town House in 1544 and it was not until 1682 that written records regularly referred to the Riding.

Unlike in the Border towns, the Musselburgh Riding occurs at only 21 year intervals, now celebrated with a weeklong festival including all aspects of Musselburgh and Fisherrow life and especially a Families Day, the actual Riding of the burgh boundaries and a Grand Procession.

Although there were major events and other activities each day, The Royal Scots and The Royal Regiment of Scotland were involved in three respects. Midweek a Families Day was held at Pinkie Fields with several thousand townsfolk in attendance to enjoy the activities. The Royal Scots Association gazebo was established and manned by a team of volunteers. The 1 SCOTS Recruiting Team was prominent, accompanied by the SCOTS mascots. The Riding of the Marches ceremony having been carried out on the Friday evening, the culmination was a Grand Procession throughout Musselburgh and Fisherrow on the Saturday morning. Immediately behind the Town Principals and a cavalcade of horses came the military parade to exercise The Royal Scots Freedom of Musselburgh and The Royal Regiment of Scotland Freedom of East Lothian. Leading the way was The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band strong in numbers, looking every inch the part and sounding terrific. C Company 1 SCOTS with bayonets fixed provided a guard for their Colours with the Regimental Mascot leading them. Immediately behind was a contingent of The Royal Scots Association, drawing cheery greetings from the crowd. An estimated 20,000 people turned out to watch the procession which took two hours to pass and, once returned to the Mercat Cross, the salute was taken by the

Honorary Provost and the Town Principals. The reward was an excellent buffet for all who had been on parade and an afternoon of activities, including medieval jousting, at Pinkie Fields.

Throughout the week, the Museums of both The Royal Scots and The Royal Regiment of Scotland contributed to the Musselburgh Museum's Musselburgh Life exhibition in the Burgh Primary School. A central exhibit was the Silver Arrow competed for annually at Musselburgh by members of The Royal Company of Archers. The RS and SCOTS contribution sought to connect past with present with items selected to illustrate the local connection. A photograph of Support Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Scots and a copy of the Freedom Scroll presented on the occasion of The Royal Scots being awarded the Freedom of the Burgh in 1971 were on display to augment the more historical items and our successors in 1 and 6 SCOTS were represented with a number of contemporary items.

The event next occurs in 2037, so make a note in your diaries.



Tam Buchanan in the centre of John McCulloch and Jamie Colquhoun  
Photo courtesy of Tam Logan



## Pedal to Paris

By Colonel (Retd) Peter Fraser-hopewell CMG MBE



Colonel Peter Fraser-Hopewell celebrating with a beer at the Arc de Triomphe after 480 km

Pedal to Paris is one of the TRBL's major annual fundraising events which took place from 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2016. Over the four days, 300 plus riders set off from Greenwich to ride to Paris culminating at the Arc de Triomphe, with a total distance of around 440km with an average of 120 km per day.

Day three was particularly poignant, as we rode past some of the 1916 Somme battlefields. As I looked over the landscape which was so peaceful, I couldn't help but think about the sacrifices made by so many 100 years ago, including many Royal Scots. Even in the busy times of current France, many remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in WW1 and WW2; which helped to deliver the peace in Europe we all enjoy now.

The ride was demanding as you certainly know when you have been in the saddle for 4 days, but there is a great sense of achievement as you ride into Paris up to the Arc de Triomphe with four groups of riders of varying abilities totalling over 300 participants. In France, the groups are escorted by motor cycle riders who stop traffic at junctions and traffic lights to ensure continuous progress for the cyclists in the event.

The event itself rose over £620,000, where my contribution was just over £1250. I would recommend this to anyone looking for a challenge with an added opportunity to raise money for The Royal British Legion. It is a relevant and worthwhile cause today as it was after WW1 - helping serving and ex service personnel and their families. In 2014, I set myself the challenge of riding in 2014, 2016 and 2018 - it would be great to have other Royals join me there in 2018.



Don't let anyone tell you there are no hills between London and Paris

## Musselburgh Race Day

By Lieutenant Colonel Jim Blythe MBE

A new format was tried this year for the weekend of our annual day at Musselburgh Racecourse. The fun started on the Friday evening with a joint eve of races dinner in The Royal Scots Club attended by Club and Regimental Association members with the latter enjoying generously discounted tickets demonstrating that there are many benefits of membership!

Entertainment was provided by Derek Thompson as guest speaker. "Tommo" as he is otherwise known is a regular commentator at Musselburgh and other racecourses up and down the land gave us an exposition of the ups and downs of sport in general and racing and enjoyed our company so much so that he has since joined the Club.



Drum Major Andy Keane and Captain Phillip Wood  
Photo courtesy of Ann-Marie Corkerton

Ticket options included, for an additional five, access to the Lothian Suite on the day or the races, with its own bar, tote and constant free supply of tea and coffee. Exclusive use of the Lothian suite of course offers us not only these benefits but also our own gathering place and a privileged view of the finishing line and a degree of VIP status. Hopefully, a similar arrangement will be available next year and will be well worth the marginally additional ticket price.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland was represented with equipment displayed by a combination of 1 SCOTS and 6 SCOTS with music provided by The Lowland Band, formerly The Royal Scots TA Band, and our very own Royal Scots Association Pipe Band who are second to none.

Stand by for further information but please note in your diaries that for 2017 the date will change to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October.



"Honest Stu" in his bookmaker's hat offering odds to the Secret Squirrel and Lieutenant Colonel Jules McElhinney, CO 6 SCOTS  
Photo courtesy of Ann-Marie Corkerton



## The Royal Scots Club

We are delighted to announce that in collaboration with the Association of WRENS, the Club is celebrating 100 years since the formation of the WRNS. We will be holding a three-course formal dinner at the Club open to all former Wrens and Association members, Royal Scots Club members, guests and Thistle readers!

Our guest speaker will be Commodore Inga J Kennedy QHNS QARNNS, who is Inspector General at Headquarters Surgeon General and the Queen's Honorary Nursing Sister. She will be speaking about how life for Servicewomen has changed beyond all recognition since the formation of the WRNS, with its original motto of 'Never at Sea'. As we know, today's women of the Royal Navy serve alongside their male colleagues at sea, in conflicts such as the first Gulf War, the Balkans, the 2003 Iraq War and, more recently, in Afghanistan.

Do come along and celebrate these wonderful women and their extraordinary achievements.

WRNS Centenary Dinner - Thursday 29 June 2017  
1900 for 1930 £35.00pp



The Scott Rooms

The Royal Scots Club, one of the Pillars of the Regimental Family, has some wonderful meeting and event spaces.

The Club frequently holds wedding receptions, birthday celebrations, christenings and family get togethers. A city centre location, the Club can accommodate parties from as few as six to celebrations for up to 160 in a variety of private rooms. There are plenty of menu and drinks package options.

Also available are several meeting and conference rooms all equipped with the latest conference equipment. Royal Scots Club members receive 10% off our celebration menus and have access to special room hire rates.

Do consider the Club for your next gathering, be it business or pleasure.

Contact Ayesha on [events@royalscotclub.com](mailto:events@royalscotclub.com) or call her on 0131 556 4270.

## The Erskine Home Shop

By Colonel Martin Gibson OBE DL

In 1999 the Regiment funded the fitting out of the much appreciated shop in the purpose-built care home, which was opened in 2000. Veteran residents at the Home continue to enjoy being able to go to their own corner shop, staffed by volunteers, to buy their daily paper, greetings cards, refreshments and cigarettes.



Photo courtesy of Colonel Martin Gibson

## Gladdy Murray Golf Outing 2016

By Tam Logan

Congratulations to Central Branch on retaining this year's Gladdy Murray Trophy with 148 points at Silverknowes Golf Club on Sunday 28th August. The Edinburgh Branch came in second with 136 points and East Scotland Branch was third with 130 points.

The attendees would like to thank Andy Fitzpatrick for once again organizing the event, Liz Kyle for supplying the refreshments, and to the staff at Silverknowes Golf Club for their hospitality.

On a sad note, Andy Fitzpatrick stated he will be standing down from organizing the Gladdy Murray outing after next year's event. If anyone is interested in taking on this RS Annual Event, please contact Andy Fitzpatrick on 07795 412129.



Front Left: Tom Logan, Frank Hall, Andy Fitzpatrick, Derrick Cummings, Shug Crawford, Walter Hutchison, Gordon Sinclair, Andy Kyle, David Milne, Paul McCallister, Larry Gilbert, Scotty Reid.  
Back Left: John Downie, John Barkley, John Connahan, Eric Yule, Andy Shearer, Dougie Porteous, Brian McGeachie, Mark Doig, Lindsay Gillick, John Lothian

Photo courtesy of Liz Kyle



# The Royal Scots 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.

## In Memoriam

### Lieutenant Colonel R H (Bob) Paterson OBE, Cameronians / RS

It is with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Lieutenant Colonel Robert (Bob) Paterson OBE on the morning of Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016.

Originally a Cameronian, Bob came to The Royal Scots in 1968 and was subsequently RSO 1 RS, OC B Coy 1 RS and 2IC 1 RS before commanding 3/51 Highland Volunteers at Stirling. This was followed by an assignment as the Military and Air Attaché The Hague.

On retiring from the Army, Bob became a long serving Member and very influential Chairman of The Royal Scots Club, a Club Trustee and a member of the Club Management Board. Along with these Club duties Bob took on the huge task of rewriting the Regimental History in the form of the well-received three volumes of Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard.

Moreover, he was the Editor of this magazine for many years, only handing over the reins in 2015.

Bob was also a founder member of Friends of the Pentlands. The RS Association members who walked the Fife Coastal Path in 2013 were astounded at the pace Bob set on the first leg of their walk!

Our thoughts are with Maggie and the Paterson family.



Cover photo from Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard  
Photo courtesy of The Destroyer

### Mr A (Alan) Dunn, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2016, W02 1RS 1973 - 1995

Alan and Liz had married prior to Alan enlisting. Initially a member of a rifle platoon in Tidworth and Cyprus his potential was very soon recognised and he was sent to the Support Weapons Wing of the School of Infantry to train as an anti-tank gunner. He completed the course with a "B" grade. Returning to the battalion Alan found himself in Munster as a member of the anti-tank platoon. In the early 1980s Alan was serving in A Company 1RS in Ballykirk where he was described by his company commander, Simon Barnetson, as an outstanding platoon sergeant. It was in Northern Ireland that he was mentioned in dispatches for bravery following an IRA ambush in which his actions were responsible for preventing loss of life and further injuries to his own men. The next stage in Alan's career saw him posted to Gordon Barracks, Bridge of Don as a Sergeant Instructor responsible for training junior soldiers. In 1986 Alan moved to the Intelligence Section, Alan ended his service as a Warrant Officer on Lydd Ranges and he and Liz bought a house in Folkstone and returned to civilian life.

Alan in retirement was a loyal supporter of the Royal Scots Regimental Association and had been a committee member of the Southern Branch of which he was a faithful attendee at its events, and even in failing health made every effort to attend

the Remembrance Day Service and march past the Cenotaph in London. Alan was a wonderful advertisement for the Regiment and the Army. He will be sorely missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing and serving with him.

### Mr GR (George) Todd, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016, RS 1939 - 1946

George was born in Edinburgh on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1916, grew up in Edinburgh and, upon leaving school, he worked as a runner in Edinburgh's Stock Exchange before joining The Royal Scots on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1939. In April 1940, he was posted to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Scots, stationed in Galashiels, and later to Lowestoft to complete defence tasks.

On his return to Belford, George volunteered to be posted to South Africa along with his life-long friend Charlie Murray. It was here they met up with the 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers and travelled on to Poona (now Pune) during 1943. On 7<sup>th</sup> March, while on a fighting patrol on Hill Feature 731, George was shot in the leg and wounded. Once recovered, he rejoined with C Company where they captured Twinge, Mogok and Maybo, with the help of a Gurkha Battalion. By this time, George had been overseas for three and a half years and in the Army for more than six years. He commenced his return to Scotland and sailed up the Clyde the week before Christmas.

George met Marie in 1946 at the Candlish Parish Church (now Polworth) Drama Society, they were married there in 1949 and continued to live in Edinburgh. After recovering from TB, George and his family moved to Innerleithen where their family lived happily and continued to grow to include 10 grandchildren.

George was buried in Innerleithen Cemetery on July 12, with ex 1 SCOTS Pipe Major Michal Hogarth playing in the background. George was very proud to be a Royal Scot, and will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his family and friends.

### Captain A (Alexander) Campbell OBE QPM, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 8 RS 1942 - 1946

Alex was born, and went to school in Dunbar. A career in the police appealed to him. He joined Lanarkshire Constabulary as a 'boy clerk' the name given to trainees, the forerunner of police cadets. In September 1942 Campbell was called up for military service, training as a private at Berwick-upon-Tweed and Inverness. He impressed instructors and was selected as a potential officer himself. He was sent to the Isle of Man to complete further training as an office cadet, graduating as runner-up best cadet in the company.

Campbell was commissioned into The Royal Scots in June 1943 to The Royal Scots, the regiment in which his father served in the First World War and was wounded in action losing an arm. He was always proud to wear his father's regimental badges.

He saw front line action when landing with his battalion following D-Day at Juno Beach, Normandy but after the breakout from the bridgehead was wounded in the left knee. After convalescing back in the UK, he joined the Scottish



Command Weapon Training School staff at Bridge of Earn, Perthshire and was promoted to Captain.

After demob in 1946, Campbell returned to policing in Lanarkshire and he was promoted through the ranks to Superintendent.

He was appointed Chief Constable in neighbouring Dumfries and Galloway in 1965, a post he held until retirement in 1984.

**Mr J W (Jimmy) McCulloch, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016, CSgt 1RS 1973-1995**

Jimmy was born in Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospital on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1953. His Dad, WO2 Ken McCulloch was a Royal Scot and Jimmy travelled with them on their postings. Jimmy joined the army in 1973 as a means of supporting Kathy, his wife and Karen, their daughter. He ended up serving 22 years in The Royal Scots with whom he completed tours of Cyprus, Northern Ireland and The Gulf. He was a tremendous shot and represented the Regiment at a number of prestigious rifle meetings. Some may remember him as The Silver Fox in his later Army days. Jimmy left the Army in 1995 having reached the rank of Colour Sergeant and settled in Livingston, where he took up employment as a full time HGV driver and full time Celtic football club supporter.

**Mr J (Jimmy) Henderson, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016, WO2 1RS 1960-1987**

Jimmy enlisted as a Junior Leader in 1960 aged 15 and spent two and a half years with the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, (IJLB) training to be an NCO. Whilst at IJLB he represented the Battalion on the boxing team.

He joined 1RS in Tidworth on their return from Libya in early 1963 and rose through the ranks in a number of appointments on operational tours in the Radfan, Saudi Arabia and Northern Ireland eventually becoming Company Sergeant Major of B Company.

He went on to serve on the Long Service List (extended service), firstly on the staff of the Cinque Ports Training Area, then as Garrison Sergeant Major of Berlin Garrison. On retirement from the Army Jimmy spent some time in the Diplomatic Service on the staff at the British Embassy in Warsaw.

He is survived by his wife Sylvia and sons Michael and James.

**General Bob Richardson**

By Colonel Robert Watson

It is two years since General Bob Richardson died on 21st November 2014. His children have commemorated him by donating a Flagpole, Regimental Flag and Commemorative Plaque to the recently refurbished memorial garden at the Glencorse Gates (see photograph above).

Many will not know that General Bob's motto on his armorial bearings was "Fortitudine et Servitute Acquiritur Honor" (Honour is

Acquired by Fortitude and Service). He explained this choice as "Service. I do not mean solely military service but rather service in the widest sense to fellow human beings. I then added "Fortitude", for that was the word which, rightly or wrongly, meant to me a combination of moral and physical courage. The latter is clear to everyone but the former, whilst more elusive, is equally important. It is about things such as uprightness, truth, sincerity and high principles."

Two years on, and using his own words, we remember a very great Royal Scot.



New flag pole donated by the Richardson family  
Photo courtesy of Colonel Robert Watson

## 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 RT (Dick) Marlow - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012, 7/9RS**

**Major I A (Iain) MacLachlan - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015, 2RS 1948-49 and 1RS 1949-75**

**Mr R (Robert) Gray - 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015, 1RS during the 1960's and 70's**

**Mr J (Jim) Gallacher BEM - 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016, WO1 Cameronians/1RS 1967-1996**

**Mr D (David) McLean - 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016, 2/52 Lowland**

**Mr W (Willie) Morrison - 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016, WO2 Cameronians/1RS/UDR 1955-1974**

**Mr J (Jim) McGovern - 7<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

**Major D P (Donald) Somerville - 27<sup>th</sup> August 2016, 1RS and 7/9 RS**

**Mr A (Alec) Gray - 29<sup>th</sup> August 2016, 1RS**

**Maj H K (Hugh) Young TD CA - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 1RS/8/9RS 1960-67 and 2/52 1986-92**

**Mr S (Stefan) Bolonkowski - 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 1RS 1972-1981**

**Mr J (James) Whitecross - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016, 1RS**

**Mr J (John) Polson - 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 8RS**

**Mr A (Andrew) Sneddon - 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 1RS**

**Mr J (John) Kivlin - 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016, B Company 1RS WW2**

**Mr K (Kenny) Armstrong - 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016, 1RS**

## From the Editor

Ann-Marie Corkerton is very grateful for the kind words from all quarters on her first edition as editor of The Thistle in the summer and for all the submissions of material she has been receiving - so much so that she started on the Winter Edition almost immediately. As well as her dream home in Edinburgh, dream job working with veterans, dream hobby editing The Thistle and dream husband who writes great bylines, she would like you all to know that she has achieved another of the dreams she mentioned in the last edition, pictured:



Sherlock



## FORECAST OF EVENTS

JANUARY – JUNE 2017

### JANUARY

Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club Evening Lecture - Along the Union Canal
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	RS Executive Meeting
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club Annual Burns Supper
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club Burns Lunch
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	RS Branch Burns Suppers: Edinburgh, Central, Highland

### FEBRUARY

Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club Evening Lecture - Art Under Attack
Thu 9 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club Literary Supper with the Femmes Fatales
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club Scottish Speaker Lunches - Gordon Dewar CEO of Edinburgh Airport

### MARCH

Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club Evening Lecture - Dolly the Sheep and beyond!
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club Members' Afternoon Tea with Bonhams
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	East of Scotland Branch Race Night, Prestonpans RBL 20 <sup>th</sup> RS Club Scottish Speaker Lunches - Brig George Lowder Chief Executive of Transport of Edinburgh
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	Association Regimental Day Dinner
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Regimental Day and Formation Day, The Royal Regiment of Scotland
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club Regimental Day Lunch

### APRIL

Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>	Fallen Comrades Golf, Eyemouth
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club Easter Sunday Lunch
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club AGM
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	RS Association General Committee AGM
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	RS Association Annual Reunion - RS Club

### MAY

Thu 16 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club Spring Lunch - Phil Verster, Managing Director Scotrail Alliance
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Rosebank 7 <sup>th</sup> Bn Gretna Commemorations
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	Regimental Trustees Meeting

### JUNE

Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Armed Forces Day
Thu 29 <sup>th</sup>	RS Club - WRNS Centenary Dinner

### Looking forward:

The Thistle is always looking for stories from or about members of The Royal Scots Association and the much wider Regimental Family, wherever they are living or serving. Whether you wore the cap badge or loved someone who did, please allow us to share all the news and events which celebrate the proud Royal Scots name and tradition. Please forward your submissions (or branch newsletters) and photos including the names of person within as well as the name of the photographer, to Ann-Marie@Corkerton.com by Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> July for the Summer 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  
Highland Branch  
Contact Tam McFadyen -  
tamrosie@btinternet.com

### 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  
The Regimental Office, The  
Royal Scots Club, 29-31  
Aberdromby Place, Edinburgh  
EH3 6QE  
Tel: 0131 557 0405  
Email:  
admin@theroyalscots.co.uk