



The Thistle

Journal of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

Volume 34

Winter Edition 2018/19

Foreword

Brigadier G E Lowder MBE

Chairman of Trustees and President of The Regimental Association

I would like to begin these notes by thanking all those who organised, planned, marched and turned out for the plethora of commemorative services, wreath laying events, parades and marches across the land that marked the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice. The Royal Scots were well represented at Local, Regional, Scottish and UK National events. We have tried to capture our representations in a montage of photographs in this edition. The events in Renfrewshire, Edinburgh and Wolverhampton to commemorate three of our VC Winners were well attended and fitting tributes, with the added benefit of appropriate, permanent memorials now marking their ultimate sacrifice.

There were many highlights including; a large, and possibly the largest yet, turnout at The Glencorse Gates, The Leith Service, at the Shore, incorporating a restored railway carriage of the same make and model that carried The 7th Battalion to Qunitinshill, The Scottish National Service at The Edinburgh City Chambers and St Giles cathedral, the "peoples' procession" from St Giles to The Scottish National War Memorial with the service in Crown Square, as well as the service in Glasgow Cathedral and our marching contingent at the Cenotaph.

Another key component of this 100th anniversary year has been the delivery of the first element of our heritage virtualisation project. In collaboration with the University of St Andrews the Museum and Heritage Team have worked hard to deliver a new and unique online facility covering The Royal Scots World War I history. It describes the scale, spread and sacrifice of the Regiment's contribution to World War I. On 17 August 2018 a Roll of Honour was launched, covering all Royal Scots who died in World War I. Descendants of those who died and other researchers can access the list, which is believed to be the first to be compiled on a Regimental basis, via the Trust's website. Then on 7 September an App was launched, taking "visitors" on a tour of The Regimental Museum giving the history of the British Army's Senior Infantry Regiment. The Team have generated widespread coverage of our contribution to the First World War and in doing so, have appropriately commemorated this contribution and successfully maintained our profile.

This work is the first project of a larger programme of virtualisation that will contribute to our lasting legacy. To help provide context to this lasting legacy and all our other work, The Chairs of the four pillars of our Regiment (Trust, Club, Association and Museum) will meet in mid-January 2019, to start to frame a longer-term strategy for our activities and agree a set of principles that will help to shape activities and priorities going forward. I am struck by just how reliant we are, in all of the four pillars, on volunteers, to maintain the governance and activities of our antecedent Regiment. We need to give thought now, to how sustainable this is in the mid to long term. We will of course consult with you all as our thinking firms up.

In my last notes I described the Northern Ireland Legacy Enquiries that are being conducted and the systems that are supposed to be in place to contact ex service personnel who were deployed to Northern Ireland during the campaign. The correct procedure is for initial contact to be made by a Team from The Ministry of Defence, rather than a direct approach by The Northern Ireland Coroner's Office, The Enquiry Teams or the chain of command in Northern Ireland. Again; I would most strongly recommend that any Royal Scot who is called, or receives any communication, in relation to these enquiries, seeks immediate advice from The Regimental Office before responding to

any request for information. The Regimental Office will ensure that you have the correct points of contact, to seek legal and wider advice from The Ministry of Defence Team. I feel the need to re-iterate this advice as it has come to our knowledge that Royal Scots are still being directly approached by a variety of interlocutors. There are currently nine ongoing investigations and there will be more. May I also ask that you pass on this advice as widely as possible.

In 2019 we will mark the centenary of the founding of The Royal Scots Club. We are incredibly fortunate that our forebears had the foresight to establish The Club, as an all ranks rallying point for Royal Scots. This was conceived and achieved long before the importance of such a space, to share experiences and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow combatants was fully understood more widely. We have seen the importance of decisions taken a century ago benefit The Royal Scots today. In the absence of government funding we now have an office in The Club, from which to run antecedent Regimental affairs. I would encourage you to support the events commemorating the centenary of The Club. The majority of the dates for these events have been agreed and promulgated. They are in the Forecast of Events, available on websites and in Club communications.

Last, but certainly not least, as a Herioter and Royal Scot I would like to say a very special thank you to Jim Blythe who retires at the end of 2018. Following 27 years of regular service Jim was the Operations Manager of The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service for five years before becoming The Regimental Secretary of The Royal Scots for 6 years then latterly as the Staff Officer responsible for RHQ SCOTS East. Jim's tireless service on our behalf was marked by a farewell lunch on 19 December in The Club. We wish Jim a thoroughly enjoyable retirement and look forward to seeing him at Goldenacre, around the City or in The Club.

I look forward to the next time our paths cross and to seeing you at one of the many events in our annual calendar.

Up The Royals
Yours Aye

George Lowder



SPOTLIGHT

Lieutenant Colonel J W Blythe MBE

Jim Blythe was born in Edinburgh in 1949 and was educated at George Heriot's School and RMA Sandhurst, and was commissioned into The Royal Scots in 1969.

He first wore Hunting Stuart aged three and continued to do so in the Boy Scouts and the Combined Cadet Force. CCF and rugby commanded most attention until realising that without the requisite Highers he would not get to Sandhurst, where, in 1967, he entered RS as his first, second and third choices. Told that he had to nominate three regiments, he amended the form to add the two most exclusive cavalry regiments then in existence, knowing that they would not even sniff at him.

Jim took over 5 Pl in B Coy 1 RS in August 1969, ably guided by the then Sgt Ian Johnstone. In a recent conversation with other B Company stalwarts John Sands and Dave Beveridge, Jim declared that the period was one during which he hadn't a clue what was going on around him. Quick as a flash, both quipped, "Oh, we could have told you that!"

Metal monsters on the north German plain gave way to skis in Norway in the Allied Mobile Force (AMF), interspersed with the early Op Banner tours and some of the biggest riots Belfast ever experienced. Northern Ireland became a recurring theme, along with the Cyprus Emergency of 1974, RS 350 celebrations, and the Falkland Islands garrison. In the course of all this, Jim met and married Mhairi and their son James had his formative education in Talavera School in Werl. James in turn met and married Sophie who have been joined by baby Isla whose introduction to Regimental life was at lunch with the Southern Branch of the Association on Remembrance Sunday 2018.

The South Armagh tour of 1976 brought Jim into close contact with the initial Special Forces deployment there and this encouraged adoption of an alternative career path. A surprising number of Royals have trod that and similar paths from 1941 to date. A register of these, and some remarkable exploits, have been compiled in the RS Museum archive by Tom Gordon.

Jim's final tour at 1 RS regimental duty was in Werl, back in metal monsters with an emergency tour in West Belfast, just as he had started. After two further Special Forces tours, The Queen's generals decided that his services were no longer required at a time when the Sultan of Oman's generals did, and so followed a spell of lotus eating in Dhofar. On return, he joined the management board of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service where, just as on arrival in 5 Pl, he didn't have a clue about the medical and scientific matters going on around him. Nevertheless, by applying good order and military discipline, he got away with it.

Determined to do something completely different on qualifying for his bus pass, Jim didn't know what. Dick Mason solved the dilemma by announcing his retirement and Jim returned to his RS roots, first as Regimental Secretary RS and then as Area Secretary SCOTS. As the RS flag moved to the RS Club, he stepped back from RS responsibilities to Trustees, Association, Benevolence, Museum and Club, to concentrate on representing SCOTS in Edinburgh, the Lothians, Peeblesshire and the Borders, supported by a very small but highly effective team in the Old Provost Marshal's House comprising Helen Spence, Tom Gordon and volunteer Keith Spence.

As he retires and asked what was the best period in his RS career: 5 Pl, ATK Pl, Recce Pl, Ops Offr, OC C Coy or Bn 2IC, Jim says that his tenure as Regimental Secretary kept him at the very heart of RS matters and allowed him to exercise due influence. He particularly enjoyed the West Highland Way walkers' expeditions to raise funds for RS Benevolence. Asked what his legacy might be, he says that he has secured the Old Provost Marshal's House for RS Museum purposes in the face of periodic challenges, along with having built a credible relationship with Historic Environment Scotland which will require

ongoing persistence and tact to develop further. Finally, what else would he say? That whereas all officers of the Regiment were once proud to command our soldiers, they should be equally proud to join our Regimental Association and to attend events. Even just turning up provides tremendous encouragement.

Lt Col WJ Blythe MBE outside OPMH

Photo Courtesy of WJ Blythe



Regimental Office

By Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

I hope you have all had a great Christmas and New year and are feeling rejuvenated and ready to tackle 2019.

I start with good news and bad news. First the good, I am delighted to make known that Heather and her husband are to be parents in the Spring and I am sure that like me you will all wish them the very best. The bad news obviously is that I lose my assistant to maternity leave in February. In the meantime, Heather will work from home until going on leave.

With Heather working from home I am relying a bit more on the help provided by our volunteers who have now been joined by Jack Wilson. Jack was always a great source of help while he was employed by the Club and continues to come into the office on a fairly regular basis. He will do anything from picture hanging to carpet cleaning or dispatching the post and I am grateful for all the help provided.

On 18th December a lunch was held for those volunteers who support the Regimental Office and the Museum. Hosted by The Chairman of Trustees and supported by myself and Heather Goodall 15 volunteers enjoyed a superb Christmas lunch in the Douglas room. Brigadier George expressed his gratitude for all that is done by volunteers on behalf of the Regiment and pointed out that those present were only a small representation of the very many who do voluntary work for the Regiment.

Colonel Jock Wilson Smith has very kindly presented a copy of the Northern Ireland Cartoon "I wish someone was on my side" to the office. This particular copy was presented to Jock when he left the regiment in 1970 and is signed by the officers who served on the Battalions first NI tour. The Commanding Officer on that tour was Lt Col, later Lt Gen Sir Bob Richardson. The cartoon has been hung in the office alongside the other cartoon which depicts "The Grantapult" in action. Both those cartoons appeared in national newspapers in 1970.

We are always happy to see visitors in the office so please pop in and sign the visitors' book if you are in the vicinity.



Dougal, The Office Boss

Photo Courtesy of J Springthorpe

Association Branch News

NI BRANCH NEWS

The Branch has had a very busy year with Branch members fully participating. Ranging from Commemorations of the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1 to VC Commemorations but not forgetting the social events all of which are so important in bringing us together. Not only did the Branch commemorate Royal Scot events we took part in several Op Banner commemorations, especially those concerning the three young RHF soldiers killed in 1971 by the IRA. We supported the re-interment of Pte Chalmers in CWGC cemetery in Dublin. Pte Chalmers was 2nd Bn and was kidnapped and murdered by the IRA in 1921.

In March a memorial service was held to remember the 25th anniversary of the death of LCpl Lawrence Dickson, killed on duty in NI. The Service was led by Rev Alan Knox, former Padre 1RS and the wreath was laid by Lawrence's brother George.

Armed Forces Day in NI saw the Branch out in strength and we paraded at Newtonards behind our Standard. The day following Armed Forces Day was the inaugural "Op Banner Commemoration" Golf tourney which involved members of the Branch and members of 1 SCOTS who very kindly looked after us in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess. The trophy was won this year by CSgt Alan Thorburn 1 SCOTS.

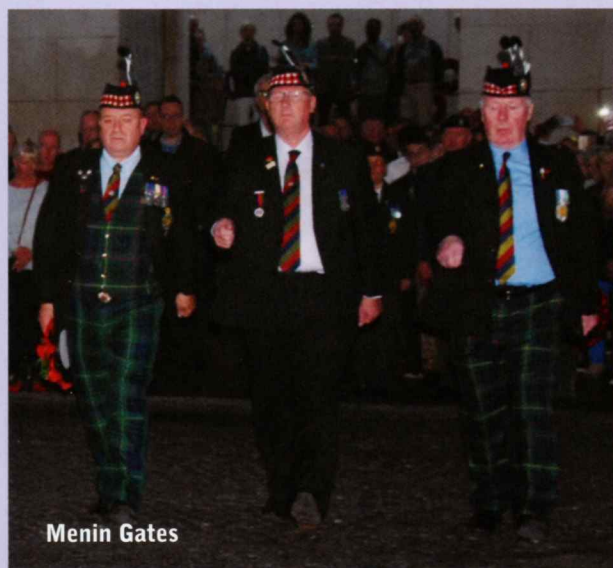
Summer time brought a trip to the Western Front by several members of the Branch and their wives. Wreaths were laid at the Menin Gate, Thiépval Memorial and Contalmaison.

August saw a very sad time for the Branch with the passing of Joseph Miller, known to all as Paddy or more often "The Brigadier". One of the Regiment's great characters.

In September we were given a window space in the RBL Newtonards and placed a frosted glass picture of the RS Other Ranks' capbadge etched into the window. This was fitted and dedicated by Rev Alan Knox followed by an excellent social night for the Branch.

In October the Branch attended the commemoration for Cpl Elcock VC. One of our Branch members, Mr Chris Owen, the grandson of Cpl Elcock, laid the wreath at the commemoration stone. This led in neatly to the WW1 100th anniversary commemorations in which the Branch fully participated with the main parade in Newtonards.

As we say, the Branch has had a extremely busy year which we have enjoyed and which has kept the Regiment well known in the Province, but we have also had a very busy social life which has kept the wives and other family members fully on board. As these notes are being written we are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner Dance which will be a great way to end the year.



Menin Gates



NI Branch at work and play.

Photo courtesy of D McKendrick

SOUTHERN BRANCH : REGIMENTAL LONDON PUB GATHERING!

On Wednesday 24 October the Southern Section of the Association sponsored an informal pub gathering in London. The aim was to gather those "Royals" based in or close to London for a get-together and a number of former "Royals" with their wives and family attended. By common agreement the event was voted a success to be repeated next year!

Royals across the generations!

From Left: Colin Caverhill, David Trafford-Roberts, Malcolm Hill, Alan Blamire.



Heritage and Museum Lieutenant Colonel GJ Rae

The past 6 months has been a busy time for the Museum and Heritage Committee. We have had 3 VC Commemoration parades/services, many Armistice parades/services and a number of projects that have been delivered in time for the 11 November Armistice Day.

The VC Commemorations and Armistice parades are well covered elsewhere in this issue of the Thistle so these notes will concentrate on the projects that have been completed.

The Roll of Honour - Colonel MF Gibson OBE

In Spring it was decided to mark the Armistice centenary by establishing an online Roll of Honour for the 11,313 Royal Scots killed during WW1. The innovative Regimental Heritage project, launched publicly in August, was conducted by working in partnership with St Andrew's University, world leaders in the area of virtual museums. The Scottish National War Memorial (SNWM) Trustees were very supportive of this first of its kind project, allowing access to their records of the fallen.

A small dedicated band of museum volunteers double-checked the SNWM records for accuracy before being loaded onto the system. Using Regimental archive material, photographs and other items of interest were added to the Roll of Honour as were gallantry awards citations. Links were also established with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) to allow family members, the wider Regimental Family, interested organisations and individual site visitors across the world to move seamlessly from the Roll Of Honour at <http://rollofhonour@theroyalscots.co.uk> to the CWGC Web Site to gain information of the specific cemetery and actual grave location where those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for King and Country are buried.

One further click takes Roll of Honour visitors to worldwide mapping of where all those killed lived before joining The Royal Scots.

The interest in the project, which has heightened the Regiment's profile significantly, has been very rewarding with families both very keen to learn more about individuals and keen to share their personal archived material. The team has two 'asks' of the Regimental Family, please:

1. Any information about Royals who served in WW2 would be greatly received; this in addition to WW1.
2. Volunteers who would like to offer their services to assist in the preparation of archived heritage material for uploading. In first instance please contact: royalscotsresearch@gmail.com.



Another step towards the virtual museum project was establishing an APP of a short Enhanced Museum Tour. This can be used by either visitors to the museum to download for their walk round the museum in the Castle or to be downloaded at home and anywhere in the world to compliment the virtual tour of the museum that is already on the RS Web Site.

The APP for the Enhanced Museum Tour is based on Android and iOS, scan either of your choice onto your mobile phone to download your free copy:

For Android

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.openvirtualworlds.royalscots>

For iOS

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/%20the-royal-scots/id1435086023>

Glencorse Gates - Lieutenant Colonel GJ Rae

The Tommy Soldier "There But Not There" is the 2018 Armistice project for the charity Remembered. It aims to:

- Inspire communities to purchase and install a Tommy figure and silhouettes of their local fallen wherever they are listed.
- Educate all generations about why they made the ultimate sacrifice
- Raise very substantial funds to help heal those suffering from the hidden wounds of war

All funds raised will support the following charities:

- The Royal Foundation's Armed Forces Programmes – promoting the welfare of those serving their country
- The Commonwealth War Graves Foundation
- Walking with the Wounded
- Combat Stress
- Help for Heroes
- Project Equinox: Housing Veterans (Plymouth University project to create sheltered housing for 40 single veterans)

The life size Tommy Soldier silhouette has now been erected in the Glencorse Gates garden and was erected in time for the short Remembrance Service held there on Sat 10 November. The smaller Perspex figure 10" tall is on permanent display in the WW1 display case in the Museum.



Museum Virtual Tour

The current virtual tour of the museum was created many years ago and consists of 7 static photographs for the museum that can be viewed in 360 degrees. The programme that it relies on to be viewed is now old and coming to the end of its life; it is no longer supported and will soon be unavailable to download. In addition there are some parts of the museum that the current virtual tour does not cover.

It has long been an aspiration of the museum committee to replace the virtual tour with a new updated version 'as a walk through rather than static photographs' covering the entire museum. A recent opportunity presented itself to do just that. In early December a new virtual tour of the museum was completed which will remain technically up to date for the foreseeable future. By the time that this issue of the Thistle has gone to print, the virtual tour will have been loaded onto the Web Site.

The Royal Regiment Of Scotland

1 SCOTS

01 Oct 18 marked 12 months since 1 SCOTS resubordinated to The Spec Inf Gp. Since then 1 SCOTS have deployed over a third of the Bn on 16 different deployments. Each one of these has provided its own challenges, but equally been hugely rewarding and enjoyable to those deployed. The pace of life for C Coy, their Campaigning Coy, has again increased. For the first time since assuming the lead for the operational cycle in July, all four teams (incl most of Coy HQ) are deployed between Somalia, Nigeria, Iraq and Kenya. This pace of life and operational demands will now endure for C Coy until 01 Feb 19, when they hand over responsibility to A Coy.

To get themselves ready for assuming the lead as Campaigning Company, A Coy are now half way through their deployment to Belize. Presently they have soldiers deployed across the Caribbean, practicing their instructional technique with Partner Forces. They will return to Belize to conduct the Final Training Exercise, which will validate them to deploy on all operational tasks in the New Year.

It has been equally busy for B and HQ Coys back in Palace Barracks. The highlight for B Coy being the Cambrian Patrol where the team, led by Lt Chris Colwell, earned a well-deserved silver medal. What made this performance even more applaudable is that instead of training themselves for the patrol they also coached and mentored the first African Team to enter, who proudly achieved a Certificate of Completion. This team was from 1 SCOTS Partner Unit in Nigeria, whom they have been working with since Sept 17. 1 SCOTS hope to replicate, and improve on, their strong performance in the years to come.

The other SCOTS Battalions have been just as busy with 2 SCOTS holding Homecoming Parades following their recent deployments; and also 2 SCOTS were requested by HRH Prince Andrew to provide Pipers for Princess Eugenie's wedding to Mr Jack Brooksbank at Windsor Castle.

3 SCOTS have been getting back to basics honing their skills in heavy weapons cadres as well as Pioneer PI cadres. The Bn Boxing Team are preparing for the SCOTS Boxing day by touring boxing clubs and gyms in Perthshire and Fife.

4 and 7 SCOTS also entered teams in the Cambrian Patrol competition. 4 SCOTS took part in Ex Southern Warrior in the Falklands with the Mortar PI firing over 2000 rounds during their Mortar Cadre there.

5 SCOTS (BKA Coy) provided the Royal Guard for HM The Queen in the autumn. Looking to the future Balaklava Company are preparing for deployment to Kuwait early in 2019.

6 SCOTS held a very successful camp at Sennybridge followed by a week training in Galloway Forrest with 7 SCOTS and SNIY. They had a very busy Remembrance period with several VC commemorations and 100th Commemorations. The Bn celebrated Walcheren Day with the Officers hosting the WOs and Sgts Mess to Dinner; Maj Gen Bob Bruce was Guest of Honour.

The Royal Scots Club

This is a very important year for the Club as it approaches its 100th anniversary. The Club is one of the Four Pillars of the Regiment and is a unique Club founded by public subscription as a Memorial to all those Royal Scots who lost their lives in WW1. There is a full programme of events planned to cover this fantastic event and these can be found here:

<https://www.royalscotclub.com/members-newsletter/>

or contact the Club who would be delighted to update you on events and availability of places.

<https://www.royalscotclub.com/>

Reception: 0131 556 4270

Cpl John (Jack) Manson – Japanese Sword

Mike Whittaker

Tidying up some old papers, I discovered a news clipping I thought I'd like to leave notice of here regarding an act of bravery carried out by my late uncle, John (Jack) Manson, a Royal Scots Corporal. I remember him well from our many family holidays in the 1960s and 70s.

Reports in some Edinburgh papers describe how, with his men pinned down by machine gun fire on the banks of the Irrawaddy, he ran at the gun position and disabled it.

From it he recovered a Japanese officer's sword which he later presented to the American Major General George E Stratmeyer, in the presence of troops of the British Second Division. The sword was a gift from "all Allied land forces in Burma to mark their appreciation of the air support given by American units in the Mandalay and Meiktila operations."

**Cpl Manson presenting
the sword to
Maj Gen Stratmeyer**

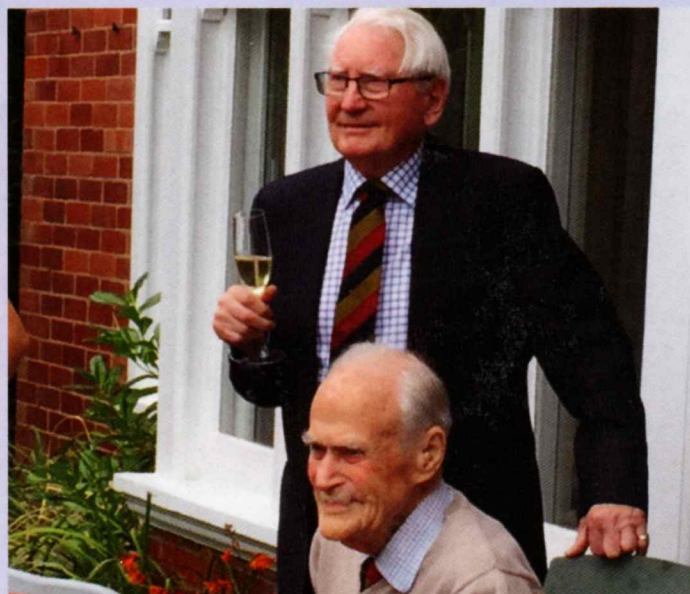


Major John Errington- 100 Not Out

Major DPM Dickson

Major John Errington celebrated his 100th Birthday on August 12th this year at his home in Shrewsbury. Family and friends were present to join in the celebrations. A piper played regimental marches to John's delight, and Colonel David Trafford - Roberts presented him with a birthday card from the Regiment. He was also sent birthday messages and cards from the Mayor of Lestrem and Paradis and The Queen.

John was brought up at Beeslack House near to Penicuik. He is proud of being a third generation Royal Scot. His great grandfather had fought with the Regiment at Waterloo. John was the Regimental Signals Officer at Le Paradis in 1940. He was then a POW in Germany for 5 years. During this time he studied Arabic. After the war he spent time in the Middle East and on leaving the Army spent many years farming in Scotland. He sailed until his 90s and still swims. He has three daughters and grandchildren.



VC Ceremonies 2018

Pte McIver VC MM*

On the 23 August 2018 the unveiling of a Memorial stone marking the Centenary of Hugh McIver VC MM and Bar The Royal Scots was unveiled at Tweedie Hall Linwood Community Centre.

Standard parties of the RE, RS Association, A&SH and Paisley Legion Scotland Branch paraded at Tweedie Hall. They were supported by two pipers from the RS Association Pipe Band, who led the Association representative party on to parade.

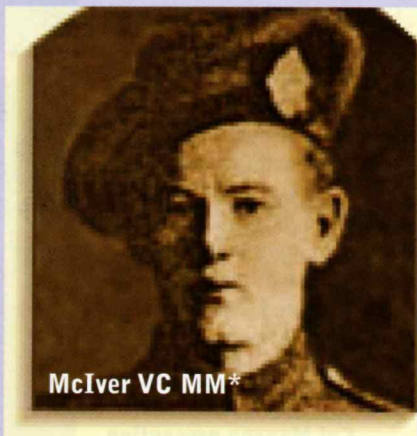
The parade, family members and members of the public were welcomed by the Provost of Renfrewshire, Ms Lorraine McCormack. A few words of introduction were said by Julie Ann McIver Chapman, a great niece of Hugh McIver's family and the military setting was given by Colonel Gibson OBE DL.

The VC Citation was read by C/Sgt Macrae 1SCOTS:

"Hugh McIver, No 12311, Private, late 2nd Battalion The Royal Scots. For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when employed as a company runner east of Courcelles-le Comte on 23 August 1918. In spite of heavy artillery and machine gun fire he carried messages regardless of his own safety. Single handed he pursued an enemy scout into a machine-gun post and having killed six of the garrison captured twenty prisoners with two machine guns. This gallant action enabled the company to advance unchecked. Later he succeeded at great personal risk in stopping the fire of a British tank which was directed in error against our own troops at close range. By this very gallant action Private McIver undoubtedly saved many lives".

His parents received his Victoria Cross from King George V at Buckingham Palace on 13 February 1919. He is buried at Vraucourt Copse British Military Cemetery, North East of Bapaume.

After the reading of the citation, the Provost, supported by the Lord Lieutenant, unveiled the Commemorative stone and the Rev Stephen Blakey said prayers. Stu Colquhoun of the Regimental Association read The Regimental Collect after which wreaths were laid. At the conclusion a Civic Reception was held in the Community Centre, attended by 30 family members, councillors and representatives of the Linwood community.



McIver VC MM*



Maj Gen Bruce and Association Standard Party at the Unveiling Ceremony

Corporal Roland Elcock VC MM

On Monday 15th October 2018 a ceremony was held in the pouring rain in the City of Wolverhampton to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the action south east of Capelle St Catherine in France which led to the award of the Victoria Cross to Corporal Roland Elcock.

Roland Elcock was born in Wolverhampton on 15th June 1889. In October 1914 he enlisted into the South Staffordshire Regiment at the age of just 15 years. On arrival in France his true age was discovered, he was sent home and discharged from the Army. On his return he worked for the Wolverhampton Corporation Electricity Works. On his 18th birthday in June 1917 he enlisted into The Royal Scots (The Lothian Regiment). Returning to France he was awarded the Military Medal (MM) before his 19th birthday.



Cpl Elcock VC MM

Serving with 11th Battalion The Royal Scots on 15th October 1918 in an offensive to capture the Courtrai-Ledelde Railway, Corporal Elcock was in command of a Lewis gun team. On his own initiative he ran with his gun to within 10 yards of the enemy machine guns which were causing heavy casualties and holding up the advance. He put the guns out of action, capturing five prisoners and undoubtedly saved the whole attack from being held up. Later, near the River Lys, he again attacked an enemy machine gun post and captured the crew.

For his gallantry he was awarded the Victoria Cross which was presented to him at Buckingham Palace on 13th February 1919. His medals are proudly displayed in the Regimental Museum.

After the war he was re-employed by Wolverhampton Corporation Electricity Department. He later moved to India and joined the Indian Army at the outbreak of the Second World War. He achieved the rank of Major but died through ill health at Dehra Dun in India on 6th October 1944. He is buried in St Thomas's churchyard, Dehra Dun.

The ceremony was arranged by the City of Wolverhampton Council and was attended by the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant, High Sheriff, The Mayor as well as representatives of the local branch of the Royal British Legion and others. The Regimental Association was well represented from both north and south of the border and some 30 members paraded with Standards flying and piper playing. Amongst the ranks of the Association was Dominic Owen, Elcock's grandson. Dominic had served with 1RS during the First Iraq War. Christine Kinsella, Elcock's Granddaughter was also present with her family.

During the ceremony Colonel Finlay Maclean gave an account of the action and Colonel Edward Cowan read the Citation. The commemorative plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Colonel James Finlay on behalf of the Regimental Association and Dominic Owen on behalf of the family. Following prayers and the blessing of the plaque, Dominic Owen read the Regimental Collect. The ceremony concluded with the laying of wreaths by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Mayor, Major Christopher Delacombe on behalf of the Regimental Association, Captain Lucas Hawke 1 SCOTS on behalf of the Royal Regiment of Scotland and by members of the family.

At the conclusion of the ceremony we were entertained by the Mayor of Wolverhampton at a Reception in the Civic Centre. Colonel James

Finlay presented the Mayor with a copy of 'Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard' to mark the Association's appreciation to Wolverhampton Council for arranging such a fitting and moving ceremony to mark the award of the Victoria Cross to a remarkable and brave man.

The citation reads as follows:

"For most conspicuous bravery and initiative, south-east of Capelle St Catherine on 15th October 1918, when in charge of a Lewis gun team. Entirely on his own initiative, Corporal Elcock rushed his gun to within ten yards of enemy guns, which were causing heavy casualties and holding up the advance. He put both guns out of action, captured five prisoners and undoubtedly saved the whole attack from being held up. Later, near the River Lys, this NCO again attacked an enemy machine-gun and captured the crew. His behaviour throughout was absolutely fearless."



Lieutenant David Stuart McGregor VC

On Monday 22nd October 2018, 24 members of the Royal Scots Association along with 12 members of the Royal Artillery Association and representatives of George Heriot's School and George Watson's College and the Royal Bank of Scotland congregated at George

Heriot's School for the unveiling of the VC memorial stone for Lieutenant David McGregor VC.

David Stuart McGregor was born in Corstorphine, Edinburgh on 16 Oct 1895. During his school years he went to both George Watsons School and George Heriots. In 1911 he joined the Commercial Bank of Scotland as an apprentice. In 1912 he joined the Territorial Army and was a member of the Midlothian Royal Field Artillery from 1913. On the



McGregor VC

outbreak of war he was immediately mobilised as a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery. In the autumn of 1915, he left the Royal Field Artillery and was commissioned into the 6th Bn of The Royal Scots. Later that year he volunteered to serve with the Machine Gun Corps and after training returned to France in the spring of 1917 where he was in continuous service until he fell on 22 Oct 1918.

On 22 October 1918, Lt David McGregor was attached to the 29th Bn The Machine Gun Corps and was in command of a section of machine guns near Hoogmolen, Belgium. Finding he needed to move his guns across an area of bare ground exposed to enemy fire, he ordered his men to take a more sheltered route and jumped up onto the gun's carriage to guide it, under intense fire, across the 600 yards of open ground. The carriage, its horses and the driver were all hit, but McGregor succeeded in moving the gun to safety and to a position where it could engage the enemy and allow the advance to resume. He continued to direct fire until after about an hour he was shot and killed. For his conduct on that day, Lt McGregor was awarded the Victoria Cross. Lt McGregor's Victoria Cross was presented to his parents by King George V at Buckingham Palace on the 15th February 1919.

After arriving at GHS where everyone received a warm welcome and refreshments, a commemorative service was held in the school chapel including a very moving tribute to Lt McGregor VC read by pupils from both of the schools that he attended. During the service a one minute silence was observed during which pupils played the last post and reveille and Flowers of the Forest. After the service the congregation formed up and led by the piper, marched from the school chapel to the corner of Heriot Place/Lauriston Place. Lt Col Jim Bain MBE SCOTS carrying the wreath was escorted by pupils from both schools.

At Heriot Place/Lauriston Place, the VC Paving Stone was covered by the Regimental flag and after a short introduction by Mr Alexander Paton (Chair of Governors of George Heriot's Trust), Baillie Jason Rust summarised Lt McGregor VC's life and unveiled the VC Paving Stone 100 hundred years to the day of the heroic action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Lt Col Jim Bain MBE SCOTS (ex IRS) laid the Wreath.



Heriot's and Watson's Pupils with Standard Party.

Photo courtesy of The Thistle



Brigadier Lowder
Glencorse Gates



East of Scotland Branch Standards:
Haddington credit East Lothian Courier



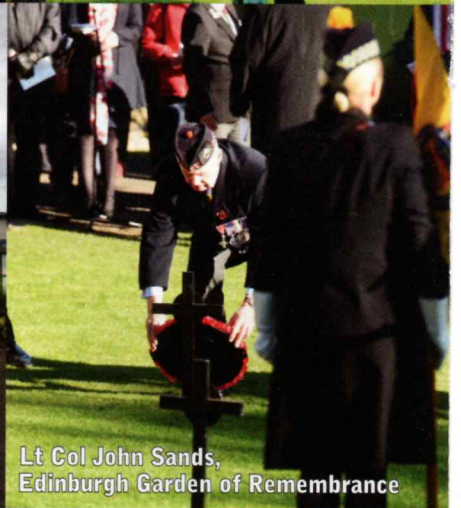
Mr Hank Marshall, British Consul, Arizona USA



Mr Jimmy Carlisle : Arizona USA



Captain Jimmy Springthorpe,
Broxburn



Lt Col John Sands,
Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance



Major Richardson and Brigadier Lowder: Leith



Mrs Paterson & Rev Ian May: Glencorse Gardens

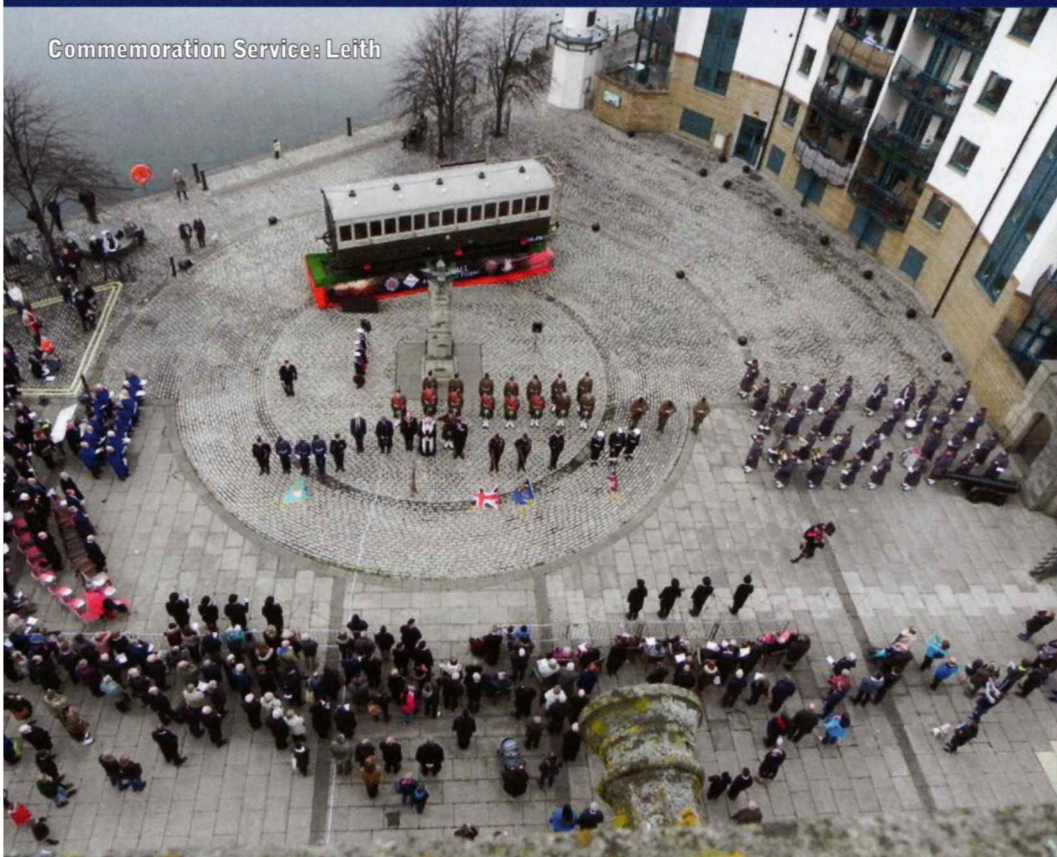


NI Branch: Newtonards NI



Mr Tom Logan: Prestonpans
Credit: East Lothian Courier

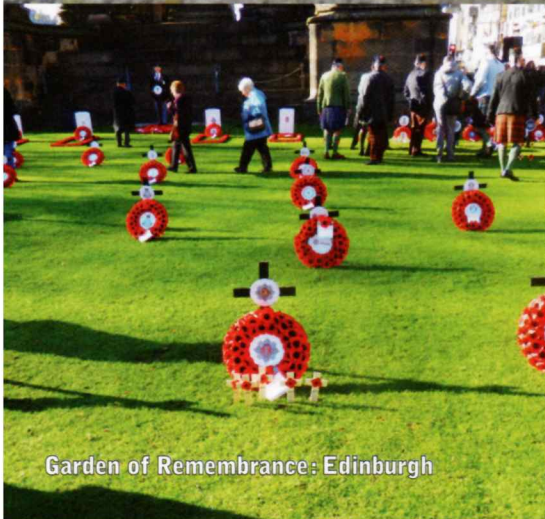
Commemoration Service: Leith



Major Danny McMeechan: Isle of Wight



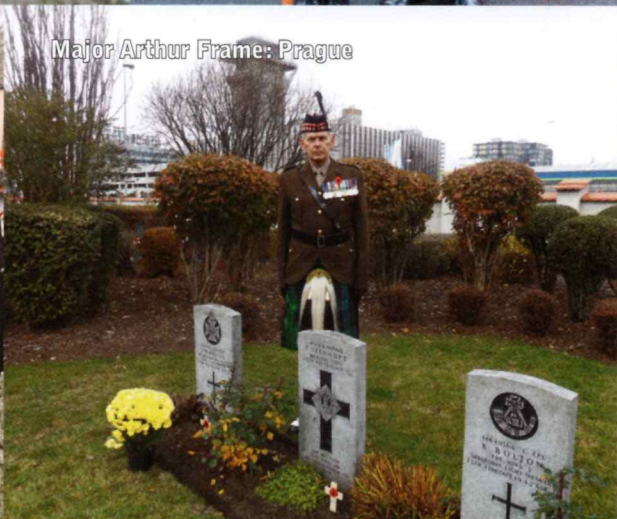
Garden of Remembrance: Edinburgh



Lt Col Jock Wilson Smith: Duns



Major Arthur Frame: Prague



Colone Martin Gibson: Haymarket



Lt Col Gary Tait and Mr Ian Fair: Haymarket



Remembrance 2018

2018 saw the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice ending World War One and this edition is dedicated to this particular time and the events that members of the Regimental Family attended. The centre pages show photographs from ceremonies from around our Regimental area and also from members of the Regimental Family in different parts of the world.

We have Major Arthur Frame who is on the BMATT Staff in Prague who, on attending the Remembrance ceremony in the Commonwealth Grave Cemetery in Prague and discovered the grave of Pte Stanhope, "I attended the remembrance service at the Commonwealth Cemetery in Prague on 11/11/18, supporting the British Ambassador at the event. I arrived with plenty of time and had the chance this year to have a good look around. I came across the grave/headstone of a 406970 Pte T Stanhope Royal Scots. I have attended the event 3 times in the past and hadn't realised there was a fellow Royal laid to rest there. I thought an updated picture for RS HQ might be helpful."

Mr Jimmy Carlisle, a well remembered face from 1RS, now living in Arizona, USA where he assisted the British Consul Mr Hank Marshall in laying a wreath in their Remembrance Service. Closer to home we have Major Danny McMeechan from the Isle of Wight where he is Chairman of the Island's WW1 100th anniversary events; plus the Northern Ireland Branch who once again had a good turnout for their commemorations on 11/11/18.

In our own Regimental area there were the usual events but with that little bit of extra effort to ensure that the commemorations went well. There are photographs from members of the Regiment at Prestonpans, Haddington, West Lothian, as well as the ones at which the Regiment was formally involved. Lt Col Jock Wilson Smith keeps the Regiment's profile in the Borders. The Garden of Remembrance saw Lt Col John Sands laying the Regimental wreath on the Regimental Cross to kick start the series of events.

The Glencorse Gates and Gardens was very well attended with Mrs Maggie Paterson, widow of Lt Col Robert Paterson, laying the wreath. A new addition to the Gardens was a statue from the "There but Not There" project. This was erected in time for the Service on 10th November and is a welcome addition to the Gardens. Mayor Ian Johnstone and Mr Tam Sneddon are to be congratulated on maintaining the Gardens to the excellent standard we all appreciated. Following the Service, led by Rev Iain May, our Association Padre, we were very well entertained and fed in the WOs' & Sergeants Mess of 2 SCOTS.

Leith. On Saturday afternoon a special gathering was held outside the Malmaison Hotel in Leith to remember those who died in WW1 but also to display and commemorate a railway carriage of the type used by the trains that the 7th Battalion were travelling in when the crashes at Quintinshill happened in May 1915. The Service was led by Rev Iain May, the South Leith Parish minister, and attended by The Right Honourable Frank Ross, Lord Provost of Edinburgh. The Regimental Wreath was laid by Brigadier George Lowder.

Sunday 11 November.

Services were held at Edinburgh City Chambers where the wreath was laid on behalf of the Regiment by Brigadier George Lowder. This Service, which followed the usual format, was extended this year with a Service in St Giles Cathedral then a march to the Castle where a brief Service was held outside the Scottish National War Memorial. Meanwhile in the Royal Scots Memorial Club, at midday a wreath was laid on behalf of the Regiment by Brigadier Charles Ritchie.

Haymarket and the Heart of Midlothian Football Club; commemorations were held at the Clock Monument to the 16th Battalion RS followed by a march to Tynecastle where a small service and refreshments were arranged.

There were the major events held this year but the Regiment was represented all across our Regimental Area and surrounds, from Kelso, to Peebles to Glasgow through West Lothian and all across Mid and East Lothian. Branch Members and standards were on parade at

nearly all the events noted above but also on the day in local ceremonies – Hunting Stewart and the Cap Badge were very well displayed across Scotland and wherever members of the Regimental Family have settled down into civilian life.

1918 did not see the end of hostilities for all Royal Scots though as the 2nd/10th Bn moved to North Russia in August 1918 and stayed there until June 1919, during this period members of the battalion were awarded 3 MCs, 2 DSCs and 3 MMs.

Gift of Pontius Pilates Bodyguard to Peebles Library Captain Nick Edwardson

Alex Dockar and I last night presented to Peebles Library the three volumes of the Regimental History which Lt Col Jim Blythe had kindly provided from OPMH. The following was sent to the local newspaper, The Peebleshire News.

"As the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War draws to a close, a small presentation was made in Peebles on Tuesday night to acknowledge the contribution made by the county to the story of Britain's senior infantry regiment.

The Royal Scots Association, represented by Mr Nick Edwardson and Mr Alex Dockar, presented "Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard" a three volume History of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) to Alison Tait, Head Librarian at Peebles Library

The Regiment was raised by Royal Warrant in 1633 and subsequently served with distinction through many campaigns across the globe. It recruited from Edinburgh, the Lothians and Peeblesshire. During the First World War the Regiment expanded to 35 battalions in which over 100,000 men served, of whom more than 11,300 died.

To mark the close connection with the town the Regiment was awarded the Freedom of Peebles by the burgh in 1954.

The Colours of the Regiment's 8th Battalion which long had a particular association with Peebles were laid up in the town in 2007. They are now displayed outside the entrance to the Library in the Chambers Institute. The Regimental History will now be available to all in the library.

The Regiment was amalgamated in 2006 but it's long history of proud service continues today as part of 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The Royal Scots Regimental Association provides a focal point to commemorate the Regiment's history and service. Importantly, it also seeks to extend benevolence to those in need amongst the Regimental Family."



**Peebles Library with Nick Edwardson
and Alison Tait, Head Librarian**
Photo courtesy Edwardson

Charity Bike Ride

Colonel Fraser-Hopewell

PEDAL TO PARIS IN SUPPORT OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Col P D Fraser-Hopewell CMG MBE

On Thursday 30th August 2018 I set off along with around 290 other cyclists from London with Paris as the destination, a journey of 298 miles over 4 days. This was the culmination of a target I set myself in 2013 - to complete this ride in 2014, 2016 and 2018. It is the same route every year so 298 miles times three = 894 miles. Over the three times I have completed the ride estimated funds raised have reached just under £4000.

On the 2018 ride I carried in my pocket a copy of a signal which my grandfather (Cameronians) wrote down as battalion signaller - he kept it. Why! The date time group is 0635 11 Nov 1918. In his handwriting it is the message he wrote down in France on the morning of 11 November telling them the war was over. Opening words. "Following from 17 Corps timed 0635 AAA. Hostilities will cease at 1100hrs today 11 Nov AAA." Riding through France 100 years later I could not help but ponder - what were his thoughts.

Day 1 would be in the UK, London to Dover, with days 2 to 4 in France. Rolling road closures allowed 4 groups (pelotons) to cycle through the countryside to the heart of Paris without worrying about

traffic, junctions or red lights - mind you it also meant no stopping for a breather. Whoever said it was flat between London and Paris was wearing rose tinted glasses. The route was challenging at times with a number of cheeky climbs each day to test everyone's mettle. You could choose which peloton to ride with. Social groups 4 and 3 or the much faster groups 2 and 1. I always liked a challenge so spent most of the time with group 2 - averaging a tasty 22mph at times with the occasional burst up to 29mph - not much time for chatting.

Warm welcomes were received as we passed through numerous villages in France with locals coming out to cheer us along. They also provided welcome cakes at the breaks plus the odd glass of Rose. Day 3 (Abbeville to Beauvois) was particularly poignant as we cycled through the Somme battlefields as part of the route. You think about the sacrifices made in 1916 with over 1,000,000 Commonwealth, French and German soldiers wounded, captured or killed.

The ride culminated in an awe-inspiring cycle towards the Arc de Triomphe, whereby wife and daughter would meet me, and the honour of being the only cycle event, apart from the Tour de France, that the Arc de Triomphe closes for; the ride finished with a moving ceremony at the tomb of the unknown warrior.

The ride raised over £500,000 for the Legion and it is a great event. You make many friends and see real grit and determination; I would recommend it to anyone.

Colonel Peter Fraser-Hopewell in 2014 and 2018 in Paris

Photo courtesy Fraser-Hopewell



ROYAL SCOTS OFFICERS REGIMENTAL DINNER NIGHT GOLF MATCH

Brian de la Haye



RS Officers at their annual Golf Outing

Photo courtesy The Thistle

For the second year running on the day of the Officer's Regimental Dinner, a golf match was held at Gullane No 3. Hosted by David Beveridge and organised by David and Brian de la Haye, this match proved a great success. The sun shone and the results reflected a wide spectrum of golfing talents! Richard Stark proved victorious with Cliff McAuley only a point behind with John Corkill, Ross Hunter, Brian de la Haye and Sandy Aitchison taking 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th place. Dave Beveridge was Nearest the Pin, the Longest drive went to Cliff McAuley and the prize for "Endeavour" went to Jim Blythe.

A very big "Thank You" is extended to The Royal Scots Club who sponsored the event and it is hoped that it will be repeated in 2019.

Officers' Dinner

The Royal Scots Officers' Dinner was held in the Royal Scots Club on Friday 26th October where 40 officers led by Brigadier George Lowder hosted Mr Thomas Logan, the Regimental Prize winner. Also in attendance was Major General Bob Bruce CBE DSO.



Officers' Dinner Brig Lowder and Tom Logan

Royal Scots Association Dinners

Twice a year the RS Association host a dinner in the Royal Scots Club. The first is held close to Regimental Day at the end of March and the second is held in the Autumn. This latter Dinner is known as the Nagpore Dinner, named after a unique Battle Honour held by the Regiment.

The Nagpore Dinner

This year was held on Saturday 29th September under the Chairmanship of Mr Tam Douglas and was attended by 44 Members and their guests. An excellent evening of comradeship and 'old stories' both proceeded and followed the three-course meal from the Club's kitchens. We were very well looked after by the Club staff as usual.

The Dinner in March is one for the Members of the Regiment to meet and commemorate the founding of the Regiment in 1633. Often this is used by the Chairman of the Association to update Members on events and look a bit to the future. The Nagpore Dinner is a bit less formal and is where the Members can celebrate the Regiment along

with their partners and guests, opening out the event to the wider Regimental Family.

The next Dinner to be held will be the Regimental Day Dinner on Saturday 30th March 2019 at which we would be delighted to see the regular attenders but also see some new 'old faces'. As ever these events are put on for you so the more that attend then the more you can get from it. Details of the Dinners can be found on the website. Costs are kept down as much as possible but where else in Central Edinburgh can you get a three-course meal, with wine for such a price, but more importantly give you the opportunity to meet old comrades?

Rothiemurchus 2019

In 2018 The Association arranged an "adventurous" weekend for a group of members at the Rothiemurchus Lodge where they were very well looked after by former Royal Mr George Gaff. The Association are organising another event following the success of the 2018 weekend, so if you are feeling adventurous the details are on the Regimental website.

The Canadian Connection

Mr Tam Douglas

Summer 2017 saw the Royal Scots Association contingent accompanying McCrae's Bn to Contalmaison for the 9th time make a very surprising but happy discovery that we were sharing the same hotel in Arras as members of our affiliated Regiment from Newfoundland. The Royal Newfoundland Regiment were just as surprised as us that they had come across a group of Royal Scots, for the remainder of the trip we enjoyed each other's company and agreed to meet the following year to continue the banter. Contact details were exchanged and once we returned home comms were established.

As we neared the time to return to France in 2018 it became clear that with Armistice 100 approaching hotel accommodation would be at a premium, so it transpired that The Newfoundlanders were unable to book into the same hotel in Arras but had to settle for one 30km away. Not to be denied we decided that if we or they were in the vicinity we would do our best to meet up. Plans were then drawn up that would see The Royal Newfoundland Regiment attend McCrae's Bn Ceremony in Contalmaison on the morning of 1st July with the Royal Scots reciprocating by attending the Canadian Ceremony in Beaumont Hamel in the afternoon.

As we arrived that morning we were delighted to see not only the Royal Newfoundland contingent but also that they had brought their Military Band with them and two VIP Guests in the form of Newfoundland & Labrador Premier The Right Honourable Dwight Ball, and the Lt Governor of Newfoundland & Labrador who is also Honorary Colonel of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Judy Foote. Wreaths were laid and the Military Band played during the whole Wreath laying Ceremony. In the Afternoon The Royal Newfoundland Regiment sent their coach back to Contalmaison to collect the Royal Scots and take us to Beaumont Hamel, we were privileged to attend a reception with the VIP Guests and Royal Newfoundland Veterans before the Canadian Memorial Ceremony, Tam Douglas Vice Chairman of our Association & Tam Logan our secretary laid a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association.

I'm sure it is okay to say that the connection has been made, comms established, bottles of our national drinks have been swapped and friendships ongoing, Roll On 2019.....Lang May Their Lum Reek.

Lodge Queen's Edinburgh Rifles (The Royal Scots) no 1253

Former Royal Scots or Royal Regiment of Scotland personnel are invited to join this Masonic Lodge which was set up in 1921 as a memorial to those men of the 4th & 5th Battalions who died at Gallipoli in 1915 and has been retained as a memorial to all Royal Scots who have died in subsequent conflicts.

Enquiries to : secretary1253@justlike.me.uk

DEATHS

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 Joseph (Paddy) Miller 6th August 2018 1RS

Mr Tom Fleming – 4th September 2018. Cpl 1RS

Mr James (Jimmy) Bennett – 7th September 2018. 1RS

Mr Joseph McGeachy – 20th September 2018. 1RS

Mr R G Towler – 23rd September 2018. 1RS

Mr William G Gemmell – 15th October 2018. 1RS

Mr William (Bill) Turner – 17th November 2018. W01 1RS/RLC

Mr Steven (Stevie) Walker – 19th November 2018. W02 1RS

Mr James (Jimmy) Penman – 1st December 2018. W02 1RS/LSL

Mr Ralph Harrison – 17th December 2018. 1RS

Mr Frank (Amos) Burke – 26th December 2018. CSgt 1RS

Capt PTH (Paddy) Crawford - 9th January 2019 1RS

Mr David Pugh - 21st January 2019 Sgt 1RS

IN MEMORIAM

Colonel SFM Telfer MBE

Colonel SFM Telfer MBE was truly a soldiers' soldier, who inspired great devotion and loyalty in all who worked with him.

Steve Telfer was known to many, affectionately, as 'Tommy'. He came to the Regular Army (and The Royal Scots) via The Edinburgh Academy, Edinburgh University and the Territorial Army. Joining 1RS in Kirknewton, he completed the tour of the Falkland Islands in 1984 before moving with the Battalion to Werl. He left the Army to start his own business but returned to 1RS and to Werl a few years later. A short stint in HQ 6 Armoured Brigade was interrupted by Op GRANBY – the first Gulf War – when the CO and Steve managed to coordinate his return to the 1RS Battlegroup.

As a Company Commander with 1RS, he converted Recce Company into the Operations Company and led it throughout the Battalion's tour in South Armagh, 1992-93. During that deployment, he changed the way in which operations were coordinated, reducing the established style of protracted, verbose operations orders into pithy, precise plans on a single page. They were brilliantly effective, neatly reflecting Steve's own distinctively laconic style.

After Staff College, Steve became the Regional Military Intelligence Officer for Southern Region in Northern Ireland. It was an area he knew well and a role in which he excelled. For his contribution to the successful disruption of terrorist operations during that posting, he was awarded the MBE.

Appointed CO 1RS in 1999, he led the Battalion through a change of location and role from Colchester to Ballykelly. It was a notably demanding period. Following the Good Friday Agreement, the Battalion had a range of strategically sensitive tasks to perform as part of 'normalising' the security profile in Northern Ireland. The Battalion was also delivering its own crucially important recruiting surge operation. The two tasks were hardly compatible but, under Steve Telfer's leadership, they were both delivered with great professionalism and success.

Steve spent many of the years following his command of 1RS abroad, advising governments, institutions and businesses on strategy development and risk management. On retiring from the Army, he used that experience and expertise to establish himself as an independent consultant, with his work being focused in Africa.

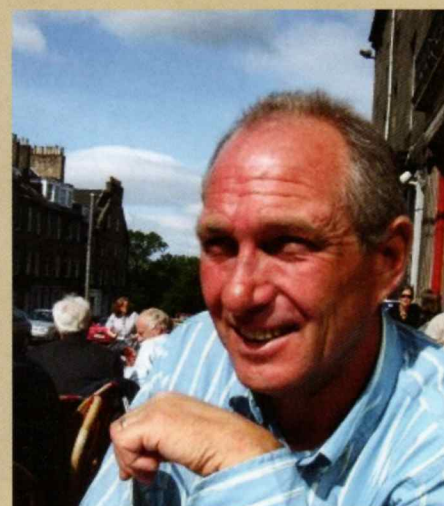
Steve Telfer was, in his own very distinctive and unorthodox style, a brilliantly inspirational leader. He would not have flourished to best effect on public or representational duties (nor was that ever his ambition) and he could be a bit curt at times, but he was a natural leader and his wisdom inspired great confidence and loyalty in all around him. He was full of moral as well as physical courage, and he was always the first to defend and protect his soldiers.

He loved to challenge conventions, and he had a wicked wit and penetrating intellect. He would take out a Marlboro cigarette, put on the frown that told us he was thinking deeply, and then produce a great solution to the problem of the moment. He would then invite us to comment on his thinking, and he really wanted the truth. Our commentary was always carefully considered but Steve's analysis was invariably spot on.

He was, genuinely, a man of many talents. He was a great teacher who, like other exceptional leaders, recognised the importance of developing his people. He was technologically the best in his generation, building his own PC before they were commercially available. He was a master tactician but also a strategic thinker. And he was also a formidable golfer. Indeed, as a junior he was of a calibre that might possibly have taken his career in a different direction.

Ultimately, Steve Telfer will be remembered, with great respect and admiration, as a man who seldom did things by halves – whether at work or at play. He had a deep passion for the Regiment and for soldiering. With great distinction, he carved his own piece of our Regimental history.

Major General R B Bruce CBE DSO



Col Telfer

Mr James (Jimmy) Penman

Jimmy Penman spent 34 years in uniform, latterly as the RQMS at Rutland Square Recruiting Office on the Long Service List. Many will, however remember him from his time in the Signals Platoon where he served with among others Mark Strudwick, Edward Cowan, Robert Watson, Dinger Bell, Davey Kay, Ali Duffy, Jimmy Scullion and Jimmy Springthorpe.

Edward Cowan wrote; We were a happy lot in the Signals Platoon which had many of the brightest people from the rest of the battalion within its ranks. Our finest hour as far as I was concerned was in the Radfan Mountains where our VHF communications had to be very carefully sited to obtain line of site between one set and another within the battalion. Jimmy Penman played a major part in the high standards obtained and thus in keeping all parts of the battalion in communication one with another.

There was one occasion when we had to lift quite a lot of our kit in an underslung load by Wessex helicopter. The helicopter got into slight difficulty when the load began to swing about whereupon the pilot released the net and all the kit crashed to the ground. Jimmy made sure that we checked the whole of our G1098 and anything seen to be missing was assumed to have been lost in this load. Jimmy subsequently recovered quite a lot of it from a dump down in Aden and then had it replaced along with that seen to have been missing from the G1098 ledger. As a result, when we came to hand over to 4 Royal Anglians at the end of our tour we had a large surplus of A41 and C42 sets. We took some back to Tidworth and even to this day there may be ancient sets in the attic above our platoon office. The rest we buried in the sand at Radfan camp.

Jimmy Springthorpe remembers: As a raw recruit in 1965 I joined the Signals Platoon where Jimmy Penman was the Colour Sergeant. I came off a training exercise one day to be told by him that I was "improperly dressed". It was his way of telling me I had been promoted to Lance Corporal and should go and get a stripe up. Twenty-two years later I was The Regimental Signal Officer and Jimmy Penman's early input played no small part in that.

I also remember babysitting for the Penman's a on a couple of occasions in Osnabruck in 1966 and I always admired Jimmy's service jacket hanging in the hall with his 3 chevrons a crown and his crossed flags. That inspired me to work hard in my signaling career. I always looked forward to being fed for my babysitting stints. Mrs Penman used to peel and chip the potatoes ready for me to fry when I wanted them.



Recently in the Officers Mess

at The Castle a gaggle of former RSMs met with Lt Col Jim Blythe for a curry lunch. All volunteer either with the Museum or Glencorse Memorial Gardens or in Jimmy Springthorpe's case work at the Regimental Office. Between them they have over 250 years service in uniform and most have service as ROs beyond that so over 300 years of service as Royals.

From left to right
as we look at the photo are:

Captain Jimmy Springthorpe,
Major David Beveridge,
Lt Col Jim Blythe,
Lt Col John Sands,
Major Paddy Waugh,
Major Ian Johnstone



From The Editor

Once again, the Editorial team are grateful for the articles and photographs sent to us and we try to use most of these in The Thistle. Space constraints may mean that the article has to be edited which is at the Editor's discretion. Please refer to the Regimental website for confirmation of events venues and timings. We welcome any comments, ideas, constructive criticism so if you have any or all of these then either give the Team a phone call or drop us an email. All articles for The Thistle should be sent to thistle.editor@theroyalscots.co.uk. Timeline for the Summer edition is 1 July 2019.

FORECAST OF EVENTS

Day	Mth/Yr	Event	Time	Location
	Jan-19			
	Feb-19			
Sat	02-Feb	Central Branch Burns Night	1900	TBC
Fri	08-Feb	Edinburgh and Highland Branch Burns Night	1900	Ravelston House Hotel, Musselburgh
Sun	10-Feb	Regimental Association General Committee Meeting	1100	RS Club
	Mar-19			
Sun	10-Mar	RSC100 Church Service		Canongate
Mon	11-Mar	RSC100 Book Launch (TBC)		RS Club
Fri	22-Mar	Regimental Association Annual General Meeting	1900	RS Club
Thu	28-Mar	Regimental Day The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) and Foundation Day - Royal Regiment of Scotland		
Thu	28-Mar	The Founder's Dinner (Black Tie)	1900	RS Club
Sat	30-Mar	RS Association Regimental Day Dinner	1900	RS Club
	Apr-19			
Weekend	12-14 Apr	Rothiemurchus Weekend		
Fri	26-Apr	General Committee Annual General Meeting		
Sat	27-Apr	Annual Reunion		
	May-19			
Sat	25-May	Gretna Commemorations, Rose Bank Cemetery		Rose Bank Cemetery
	24-27 May	Le Paradis Visit		France
	Jun-19			
TBC	TBC	Beating Retreat and Cocktail Party	TBC	RS Club
Tue	18-Jun	Linlithgow Marches		Linlithgow
Sat	29-Jun	Armed Forces Day		
TBC	TBC	McCrae's Battalion Pilgrimage	TBC	Contalmaison, France
	Jul-19			
Thu	04-Jul	75th Kohima Memorial Service	TBC	York Minster Cathedral
	Aug-19			
	Sep-29			
Sat		RS Association Nagpore Dinner	1900	
Sun		Musselburgh Races - Armed Forces Meeting	1300	Musselburgh
	Oct-19			
	TBC	RS Officers Golf		TBC
		RS Officers' Dinner		RS Club
		Garden of Remembrance - Edinburgh	1045	Princes St Gardens
	7 Nov	Field of Remembrance - London	1100	Westminster
	Nov 19			
Thurs		Remembrance Services		See separate notification from the Regimental Office

BRANCH DETAILS

Edinburgh

Last Friday of each month at 8.00 pm
at Leith Ex-Servicemens' Club, 7 Smith 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

Last Saturday of each month at 7:30 pm
at RBL Prestonpans

Contact: Peter Blackie

peterblackie@yahoo.co.uk

Northern Ireland

First Tuesday of each month
at RBL Ards

Contact: Davy McKendrick, Secretary

Davidsmck1@sky.com

Highland

First Sunday of each month at 6 pm
at Raigmore Recreation Rooms, Inverness

Contact: Tam McFadyen

tamrosie@btinternet.com

Southern

No Branch meetings but events arranged during the year.

Contact: Tam Millar

Weetam0571@sky.co.uk

Pipe Band

Contact T Corkerton for information re Band practice days.

Contact: Torquil Corkerton

torquil@ednet.co.uk

For further information contact the:

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