



# The Thistle

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**It has been a good 6 months. The restructuring of the Association is settling down well. Membership is increasing; I suspect helped by the requirement to be a member to attend the Association Reception and Beating of Retreat on 28 May 2009, when we will host our Patron, HRH Princess Royal. The Southern Section continues to go from strength to strength; a highlight being their immaculate organisation of the Remembrance weekend last November. Other gatherings, such as dinners and lunches, continue to be well attended and enjoyed by all. As always The Royal Scots Club has been an absolute treasure and the staff, led by the ever helpful Adrian Hayes, has been absolutely first class.**



On the serving front it has been great to see both James Stevenson and George Lowder being promoted to Brigadier. The honours and awards lists have produced thoroughly deserved recognition for the 1st Battalion's action in Iraq in early 2008 with Lt Col Charlie Herbert being awarded the OBE, Maj Tom Perkins receiving an MBE and Maj Alex Rennie a QCVS, and many others receiving richly deserved commendations, which are all listed in the 1st Battalion notes. I was also thrilled that Col Peter Fraser Hopewell was awarded the CMG for his outstanding leadership and actions in Lebanon and Cyprus. The 1st Battalion now have their sights firmly fixed on Afghanistan and are training hard.

## Keep in Touch

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Lastly I would like to mention the Regimental website [www.theroyalscots.co.uk](http://www.theroyalscots.co.uk) – It is without doubt the favoured forum for passing Regimental news. For those who have internet access I urge you to visit our Regimental website on a regular basis. It will get better still when HHQ complete the upgrade to include a gallery for old photographs, which should bring back a host of great memories.

*Brigadier R L Scott-Bowden MBE*



# 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

## Commanding Officer's Notes

The last few months have seen a quantum shift for 1 SCOTS as we transition from post-Iraq recuperation activities to the more serious business of preparing again for operations. The autumn recuperation period provided an ideal opportunity to recharge our batteries, to focus on sports, adventure training, families and a more refined pace of life. On the sports field we fought hard to regain some of the titles that the older readers will consider 'theirs'. Of some note the 1 SCOTS rugby team won the Army Cup in March 2009 following a hard fought and tense final against the Welsh Guards, whilst the football team has achieved similar success, winning the Infantry 6s, and continuing to compete well in both Infantry and Army leagues. I am delighted that we have maintained a reputation as a first class sporting battalion, maintaining the finest sporting traditions of our antecedent Regiments. Closer to home we have worked hard to re-introduce competitive boxing to the Battalion, and are due to compete in a 'friendly' tournament against 3 RIFLES as one of several activities to mark Formation Day this year.



On the adventure training side of the house, the formal activities have tailed off slightly over the last few months after a burst of low level activities in 2008. That said, the Welfare Officer, Capt Jimmy Pearson, ran a successful sub-aqua diving expedition to Cyprus, and the next few months are due to see a sea kayaking trip in Cyprus and a climbing expedition to summit Mont Blanc, as well as a trekking and climbing trip to Sierra Nevada in the USA. I suspect that these will be the last of the major activities until late 2010.

Our training focus has now switched fire to the forthcoming deployments to Afghanistan. On current plans we will provide B Company, under Major Graeme Wearmouth, to Op HERRICK 11 in late 2009, before the main body of the Battalion deploys on HERRICK 12 in 2010. The fractured nature of this split deployment is frustrating, but seemingly

unavoidable, and further compounded by the temporary detachment of a composite platoon to 3 SCOTS for HERRICK 10 this year. There can be few infantry battalions committed to operations over a consecutive period of 18 months, with all the attendant demands that this places on us. If nothing else it demonstrates the agility of the Jocks, who have coped so admirably with many changes over the last year. I suspect that there will be several further changes to the ORBAT before we deploy. At the time of writing B Company are in Kenya on Ex GRAND PRIX with the Grenadier Guards, with the remainder of us due to do this exercise in the late summer. Thereafter, we will enter the busy period of Mission Specific Training – the term now given to Pre-Deployment Training. Before we get there we have the more familiar and rather fun activities of Mini-CAST and CAST (a Battlegroup HQ training facility) as well as a field firing camp at Otterburn.





We will also run an Inter-Section Patrol Competition over the Pentlands, host the Dreghorn Sevens in mid-May, and conduct a number of high profile Public Duties, including the Installation of the Castle Governor this summer. All in all, an interesting look forward. I expect we will see a number of readers at some of these events. Do please come along and support the Battalion.

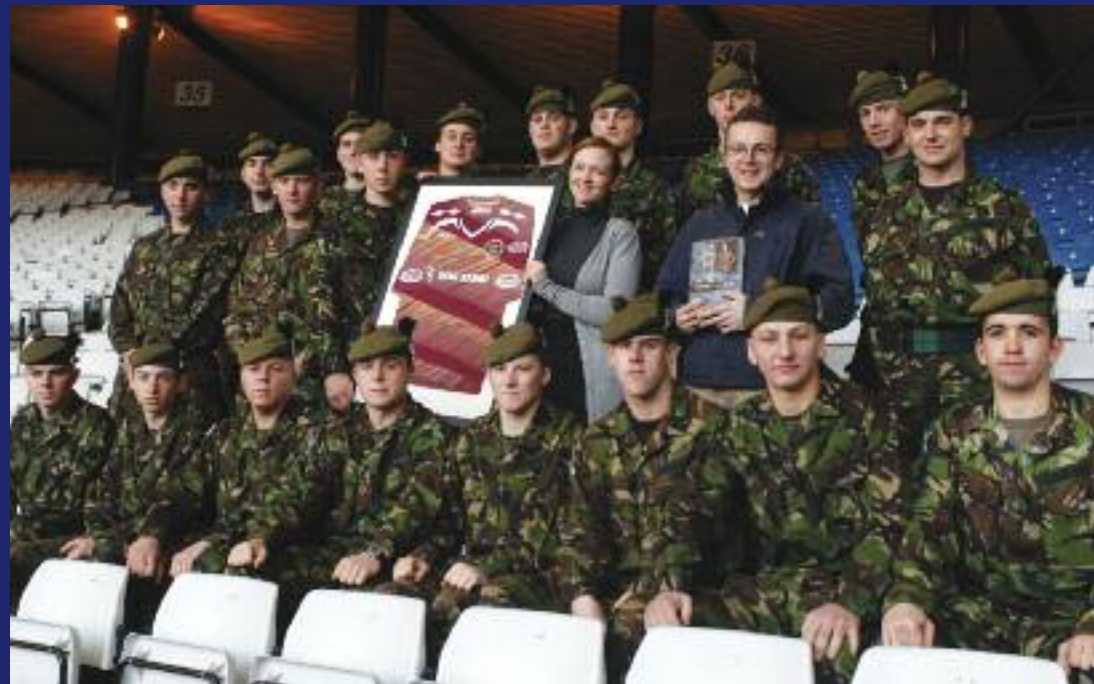


Finally, I am delighted to report a number of recent Honours and Awards. In Her Majesty's Birthday Honours, Major Alex Rennie and Capt Bob Stuart were both appointed MBE, whilst the New Year Honours List saw Major Charlie Campbell recognised also with an MBE. Many, many congratulations to them all. The more recent Operational Honours List saw the award of a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service (again to Maj Aex Rennie), an MBE to Major Tom Perkins and an OBE to the Commanding Officer, reflecting the superb job done by all ranks of the 1 SCOTS BG in early 2008. Equally good news was the award of the Joint Commander's Commendation to WO2 (CSM) Lindsay, Sgt McBroom, Cpl MacLean, LCpl Rankin and Pte Kedreyate. Many other individuals were equally deserving of an award; their bravery no less, and their commitment no less selfless, and I only regret that more were not recognised for their endeavours.



## Presentation to Hampden

A piece of footballing history was passed to the Museum at the National Stadium at Hampden by Private Chris Walker (a Hearts fan) and colleagues from 1 SCOTS. The presentation consisted of a Hearts jersey carrying the names of all the Hearts footballers who were killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916, while serving with the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal Scots. The jersey was worn on Remembrance Sunday 2007 by the Hearts Captain, Christophe Berra, in the game against Aberdeen. In addition, Jack Alexander, author of "Macrae's Battalion" which tells this story of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, presented a signed copy of his book to the museum.



## Congratulations

The New Year Honours List announced the appointment to The Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George as a Companion (CMG) of Colonel Peter Fraser Hopewell – a rare award to a soldier, it being more usually given to members of the Diplomatic Corps. Very many Congratulations.

# Regimental Association

## Southern Branch

**There were two major social events in 2008. Thanks to Lt Col Brian de la Haye, a College Commander, on 10 June we were able to hold our Summer Lunch in Old College, The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. We were privileged to use the magnificent Indian Army Room with 42 attending. Tam Millar organised a raffle, the proceeds of which went to "Help for Heroes" and after the meal we visited the Memorial Chapel which records the names of all former graduates of the Academy who have lost their lives in the service of their country.**

As a result of the success of last year's Remembrance events word got around amongst members of the Association living north of the border that a major expedition this year to London might be worthwhile. Representatives of their committee attended our 2008 AGM for planning purposes and a party of 36 members and their ladies duly arrived at King's Cross on Friday 7 November.



The opening of the Garden of Remembrance had taken place the day before at Westminster Abbey and Tam Millar was our man to meet HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

On Saturday a number of us, thanks entirely to Finlay Maclean's ticket-buying efforts, attended the dress rehearsal of The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, with Scottish Branch members right beside the Royal Box commanding a wonderful view. All were moved by this great event.

Those of us who had been in the Royal Albert Hall grabbed any means of transport we could to get to Westminster Abbey on time for our Service at Plot 36. There must have been about 200 people present in all. Our Padre, Ros Trafford Roberts, started by remembering two 'Royals' who had recently died: Sergeant Jon Mathews killed in action in Afghanistan serving with 4 SCOTS on 28 July; and Sergeant David Wilson who retired after 22 years service with 1 RS and died on 6 October. His widow, Maureen, was present with her grand-daughter and Tam Douglas laid a wreath on her behalf. We also said a prayer for Jimmy Scullion, struck down by a stroke this summer, who is making a slow recovery but whom we hope to see at next year's November events together with Margaret, his wife, and Stella, his daughter. Finally we remembered Phil Eve who died also in October, the wife of Geoff, our long time

Paymaster and manager of the 1 RS boxing team. Ros led our main service with our Pipe Major, Ian Fleming, joined by Piper Pat Wraith from the Scottish Branches playing 'Flowers of the Forest' and 'Green Hills'. Brigadier Charles Ritchie spoke the 'Exhortation'. By kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey, we were admitted to the cloisters where Canon Jane Hedges gave an explanation of the monument to those who have died since 1945, recently unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal, our Patron. The Chairman read the names of the 19 Royal Scots commemorated and Ros Trafford Roberts concluded with a prayer.



Come Sunday the rain of Saturday had cleared as 53 of us gathered on Horse Guards Parade. Everyone looked smart in dark suits and coats wearing their medals. At 10.10, under the direction of Drill Sergeant Ritchie, we marched off through Horse Guards archway to our allotted place in Whitehall. The atmosphere was terrific. At 11.00 a single gun



boomed out for the start of the two minute silence. After the short service we waited for about 45 minutes before marching past the Cenotaph where our President, Major General Philip Davies, handed in our wreath. To much applause from the crowd we marched on keeping excellent timing, back to Horse Guards passing David Cameron on the way and giving an 'eyes right' to HRH Prince Edward, the saluting officer. Thinking we had everyone in tow we then headed for the Army and Navy Club to join our ladies for a drink before lunch. However, one of our WW2 wheelchair veterans, John Myles, had taken to his feet making it to the Club only to find his devoted grand-daughter and minder, Karen, was missing but all was well a few minutes later. The lunch provided by the Club was excellent. However, there were so many of us, 88 in all, that some had to go on a special table upstairs returning for the speeches. Our President spoke praising the Scottish Branches and their outgoing secretary, Tam Douglas, for their trip to London making the numbers attending the best for many years. He then presented the 2008 Purves Memorial Prize to Tam Millar thanking him for his outstanding contribution in recruiting more ex-Royals to the Association and for forging links with 1 SCOTS. He also reported on the Battalion's recent



record in Iraq and the warm welcome all ranks had received on their return. He urged all Association members to support the need to recruit which was now a critical issue for the Army and The Royal Regiment of Scotland. He ended by reminding all present of the Association's objectives. Everyone left the Club in excellent humour with a number

promising to return in 2009. All then dispersed to other places of good cheer.

## Association Pipe Band

It is hard to believe that The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band is now heading towards its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Although it did not hold its first general meeting until October 2000, a keen nucleus of serving and former Royal Scots pipers and drummers had existed since the previous year when Major Eddie Smiles had begun contacting people on behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment with a view to forming a Band.

After Eddie's announcement at last year's Annual General Meeting that he was stepping down as Band Manager, his wife, Margaret, must have thought that he had finally taken a back seat but the subsequent retirement of the Band President, Major David Taylor, due to ill health found Eddie being asked by Home Headquarters to take on this role. The Band will never let its father stray too far from the fold – sorry, Margaret!

We kicked off last year's summer season by performing for Finmeccanica in May for the second year running at their annual awards ceremony. A dozen pipers and drummers, resplendent for the first time in their new Blue Patrol Dress, opened the musical part of the after dinner show in the Leopolda Station, a 19<sup>th</sup> century railway station building in Florence, not only entertaining the assembled audience but earning praise from the show's star performer, Italian singer Lucio Dalla, when he was introduced to the audience with a bagpipe arrangement of his most famous song, "4<sup>th</sup> of March 1943" by one of the pipers. The next day, the whole Band performed alongside those of Italy's Naval Academy and the Folgore Parachute Brigade at the Company's family day and Air Show at the Italian Air Force Base in Pisa.

In June, the Band took part once again in its longest standing engagement, The Royal Scots Club Beating of Retreat in Queen Street Gardens. The weather was as kind to us as it is on that day every year and an audience of over 150 people lunched in the Club before making their way into the Gardens for the Retreat. A Band of around 25 wore their new Blue Patrol parade dress again and, at the end of the Retreat, Pipe Major Sid McIvor was presented with a Pipe Banner by the Club.

Sadly, the weather was not nearly so kind for The Royal Scots Association's Beating Retreat at Dregghorn Barracks the following weekend, when the rain was so heavy that the performance had to be brought inside 1 SCOTS' Warrant Officers' and

Sergeants' Mess. This did not dampen spirits, however, and the assembled crowd were treated to piping, drumming and even some highland dancing thanks to drummer, Colin Smith.

July finally saw the Band bring a bit of Scottish flair to the North West of England when the Penrith Show, cancelled in 2007 due to flooding, took place once again. The Band formed up in the town square and marched through the centre of Penrith, before making its way to the showground and performing a couple of half hour sets during the afternoon.

As well as the above-mentioned highlights, the Band kept itself busy through the playing season with a number of engagements such as weddings, mini Band jobs and full Band performances including continued support to Scotland's football team at Hampden.

We have also been kept busy during the winter season. Having completed the purchase last year of parade uniforms, we purchased new rain capes for all and we have taken delivery of half a dozen new side drums to replace our ageing collection. PM McIvor has been working hard with the pipers to learn not only a new medley, but also new marching sets that expand our repertoire and enable us to retire some of the older tunes that, as Sid regularly informs us, are now being whistled by the birds of Colinton.

Not only do we have new tunes, uniform and equipment, but we also have new lodgings. Because of the pressure on space in Redford Barracks due to HQ 52 (Infantry) Brigade's move from Edinburgh Castle and the consolidation of the TA's Scottish Regional Training Centre, the Band nearly found

itself homeless in January. 1 SCOTS came to our rescue, however, and we are now billeted safe in Dreghorn. Thanks must go to 1 SCOTS and also to the Band's Quartermaster, Harry Wright, for his hard work throughout the year but especially for seeing us smoothly through this move.

On the personnel side, we have an old face to welcome as a new member of the management team. Due to the Band's increasingly large annual engagement list, we now have the need of a business manager who will help keep an eye on everything from movements to promotion and Tam Douglas, who was until recently the Scottish Branches' Secretary, was invited at our recent AGM to take on this task. He is no stranger to the Band as he and the other members of the Association's Standard Party have keenly supported us at a number of our high profile jobs over the last couple of years, but he is warmly welcomed officially into the fold and we are delighted to strengthen our ties with the Standard Party.

So as well as looking back at how far we have come in the last decade, we are looking forward to another busy season, highlights of which include a return to the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, Beatings of Retreat at Gleneagles, The Royal Yacht Britannia and at The Royal Scots Club for the Patron of the Association, HRH The Princess Royal.

As ever, we hope and trust that we continue to do The Royal Scots Association and its members proud and ask that if any pipers or drummers who read this are interested in a way of keeping their hands in, they would be more than welcome to join our merry Band.



# Regimental Association Events (including Pipe Band) – 2009

## Branch Meetings – Scotland

### EDINBURGH

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

### CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Last Friday of each month at 7.30 pm – Royal British Legion, Whitburn, West Lothian.

### EAST OF SCOTLAND

Last Saturday of each month at 7.30 pm – Royal British Legion, Prestonpans, East Lothian.

### PIPE BAND

Contact Captain    Torquil Corkerton on: [torquil@ednet.co.uk](mailto:torquil@ednet.co.uk) or  
Jim Tait on: [jimbtait@jimbtait.plus.com](mailto:jimbtait@jimbtait.plus.com)

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT HOME HEADQUARTERS

**Tel: 0131-310-5016**

**E-mail: [rhqrs@btconnect.com](mailto:rhqrs@btconnect.com)**

Fri 22 May	- Anniversary – Gretna Rail Disaster
Thu 28 May	- Reception and Beating Retreat at Club Association Pipe Band
Sat 30 May	- Pipe Band – Pumpherston Gala
Sun 07 Jun	- Summer Lunch – Southern Branch
Sat 20 Jun	- Pipe Band – Beltane Festival, Peebles
Sun 21 Jun	- Pipe Band – Beating Retreat RS Club
Fri 26 to Sun 28 Jun	- Pipe Band – Royal Highland Show
Sat 27 Jun	- Armed Services/Veterans' Day
Sat 29/Sun30 Aug (Date TBC)	- Golf – Murray Trophy
Tue 15 Sep	- Scottish Branches Quarterly Management Meeting
September (Date TBC)	- Beating Retreat – Dreghorn Barracks
Sat 26 Sep	- Association Dinner at RS Club
Sun 27 Sep	- RS Race Day - Musselburgh Races
October (Date TBC)	- Scottish Branches AGM
Mon 2 Nov	- Opening of Garden of Remembrance – Edinburgh
Thu 5 Nov	- Opening of Garden of Remembrance – Westminster Abbey
Sat 7 Nov	- RS Service/Cross Planting – Westminster Abbey
Sun 8 November	- Remembrance Sunday – Cenotaph Parade, London followed by Lunch in the Army & Navy Club. Various other events in Edinburgh and Lothians
Wed 11 Nov	- Armistice Day – Wreath Laying at Glencorse Gate



# The Royal Scots Club



Membership of the Club continues to grow and there are now in excess of 1700 members, who come from a wide range of backgrounds yet we continue to retain strong military connections and have built up links with all the Armed Forces. Applications for membership are welcome from both private individuals (male and female) and corporate bodies.

At the time of writing we are still in discussion with the City of Edinburgh Council over the plans for the redevelopment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> basement areas of the building (formerly Fitness First). It is hoped that our planning application will be heard before the Planning Committee at the end of April. Having worked closely with the planners we are quietly confident that permission will be granted and building work can commence in early June. It is estimated that the building works will take 6-8 months. There will be very little interruption to the day to day operation of the Club since most of the work is in the lower basement areas and will be accessed from the rear of the property

The Trustees have commissioned a new Memorial Plaque to go with the others in the Members' entrance which will be dedicated to those Royal Scots who have died as a result of conflict in the periods from 1919 to 1939 and from 1945 to the present day. It is anticipated that the plaque will be in place before Remembrance Day this year.

There are a variety of social events taking place this season, from evening lectures to a Midsummer Pimms' Party on Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>. On June 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a Sunday Lunch followed by a Beating Retreat in Queen Street Gardens. Please contact the Club for more information on 0131 556 4270.



# Domestic Occurrences

## Deaths

### ANGUS:

On 13 February 2009, after a long illness, at St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh, ex Sgt William (Gus) Angus, formerly Lowland Brigade and Royal Scots Regimental Band (Oct 62-Jul 87).

### CAMERON:

On 12 March 2009 in Ferryfield House Nursing Home, Ewan Cameron, formerly 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion and Member of the Regimental Association.

### CAMPBELL:

On 28 October 2008, Archie Campbell, formerly a Storeman in Signals Platoon 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

### CONROY:

On 16 April 2008, Charles Alexander Conroy (known as Alex), formerly 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> RS and member of the Regimental Association.

### DAVIDSON:

Suddenly on 4 December 2008, Kenny Davidson, formerly ex-Cpl in 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in 1970's.

### DELACOMBE:

Peacefully on 13 February 2009, Lady Delacombe, widow of the late Lt Gen Sir Rohan Delacombe, Colonel of the Regiment 1955-64.

### DOOLEY:

On 27 October 2008, Edward Dooley, formerly B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in 1970's.

### FLETCHER:

On 6 December 2008, Maj (Retd) David Fletcher, former Paymaster with 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> RS during World War 2.

### FORD:

On 30 March 2009, Captain Jim Ford CB MC, aged 88, formerly Chairman 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (Hong Kong) and Member of the Regimental Association.

### GILMOUR:

On 20 February 2009, Robin Gilmour, Padre 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Libya.

### McCOURT:

On 7 February 2009, Charles McCourt, formerly 7<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion and Member of the Regimental Association.

### MUNRO:

On 29 January 2009 in Hull, Bill Munro, formerly 1 RS (39-45) and Member of the Regimental Association.

### ROBERTSON:

Suddenly at home on 5 January 2009, Alex Robertson (aged 93), formerly 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion and member of the Regimental Association.

### SCOTLAND:

On 18 October 2008 in Livingston, Ex-Cpl Billy Scotland, formerly Royal Scots and Cameronians.

### WILSON:

On 6 October 2008, David Wilson, formerly Sgt in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

# The Colours and Battle Honours of The Royal Regiment of Scotland

A personal view from a Regimental perspective by Colonel (Retd) R S B Watson OBE

## Introduction

*‘Colours have become the symbol of the spirit of a Regiment, for they bear the battle honours and badges granted to the Regiment in commemoration of the gallant deeds performed by its members from the time it was raised.’*

The above extract, taken from ‘Ceremonial in the Army’, appeared at the head of a paper prepared for the then Colonel Commandant of The Scottish Division dated 7 March 2006, three weeks before the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland (SCOTS). The paper went on to say that a key decision to be made would be the design and composition of the new Colours. It has taken almost three years of discussion and debate to reach the point where the drawings of the new Colours have been approved by HM The Queen. The Colours will now be made by The Royal School of Needlework and, in due course, will be presented to all seven Battalions of the new Regiment.

After a difficult start from the “Why do we need new Colours? Let us keep our old Regimental ones” brigade; and “The new Regiment has no Battle Honours of its own. None should therefore be carried forward onto the new Colours” ostriches; and other similar foot-dragging attempts to ignore the reality of the formation of the new Regiment, we have, I believe, arrived at a very good compromise solution. This reflects the many great and varied feats of arms in which the antecedent Regiments of Scottish infantry have been involved, in almost every corner of the world, over more than 350 years. Regimentally, as I hope you will see, we have come out of the exercise rather well.

## Style and Content of the Colours

Custom and practice amongst those large Regiments formed over the last 40 years, together with common sense, confirmed that new Colours, taking forward existing Battle and other Honours and Distinctions, should be provided for the new Regiment. The only difference between battalions, regular and territorial, as had been the case with the various battalions of the antecedent Regiments, will be in the Battalion number, in Roman numerals, on each set.

The Queen’s Colour bears Honours from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars. Originally a Regiment selected 10 Honours from each War, from amongst the many they had been awarded, to carry on their Colour. With amalgamations and mergers since 1945, the number of Honours carried on each Queen’s Colour had increased for some Regiments to, in the case of The Highlanders, forty-three, which is the maximum number that can be sewn onto the Colour due to the stress on the background silk. The Battle Honours on the Regimental Colours of the antecedent Regiments were all those awarded pre-1914 and selected ones post-1945. The maximum number of Battle Honours that can be sewn onto the Colour is 46. Regimental Colours can also carry up to five Honorary Distinctions, such as the Sphinx on our Regimental Colour, Corner Badges or Cyphers.

Considerable discussion took place in the SCOTS Regimental Council over the method of selection of the Battle Honours which should go forward on the Queen’s Colour from the thirty 1<sup>st</sup> and fifty-two 2<sup>nd</sup> World War Honours, totalling 82, carried on the existing Queen’s Colours of the antecedent Regiments. Similarly, for the Regimental Colour, how were we to reduce from the existing 87 pre-1914 and 8 post-1945 Honours, 93 in total, presently carried? In both cases a reduction of around half would have to be agreed. Four options were considered:

1. Historical Significance. Carry forward those Honours that were historically the most significant.
2. Straight Numerical Allocation. Each antecedent Regiment would be given an agreed allocation and asked to choose ‘their’ Honours for inclusion.
3. Common Honours. As far as possible, include common Honours from the antecedent Regiments.
4. A Hybrid System. This would cover as many of the common Honours as possible yet also allow some antecedent Regimental choice to ensure better coverage of the histories and world-wide campaigns of each Regiment.

In November 2007 the SCOTS Regimental Council agreed to adopt the Hybrid System.



## The Royal Scots' Regimental Choices

Brigadier Robbie Scott-Bowden requested the Regimental History Committee to review the Battle Honours carried on our former Colours and to make recommendations to him to meet the requirements stemming from the Hybrid System. These recommendations, and subsequent decisions, were as follows:

**The Queen's Colour.** 16 of our present 20 Honours have been carried forward under the commonality rules and two, Struma from the 1<sup>st</sup> and Defence of Escaut from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, have been added under the Regimental choice rules making a total of 18 (90%) out of a possible 20. However, under the commonality rules, a further nine Honours which had been awarded to the Regiment in the two World Wars but which we had chosen not to carry, had been carried by two or more of the other antecedent Regiments, and so appear on the new Colour. Twenty-seven Royal Scots' Battle Honours (63% of the total) will therefore be carried on the new Queen's Colour.



**The Regimental Colour.** More decisions were required here as initially only eight (28%) of our existing 29 pre-1914 Battle Honours, plus Gulf 1991, were definitely going forward. After considerable negotiation, and some good decisions for us from Mr Stuart Allen, Curator of The National War Museum of Scotland, who had been asked by the SCOTS Regimental Council to arbitrate when required, that total has risen to 18; (60%) of our Honours (41% of the total) and the honorary distinction of the Sphinx.

A full list of the Battle Honours to be carried on the Colours of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, highlighting those previously carried by ourselves (and also those of The King's Own Scottish Borderers) is shown below. Two spaces have been left available on The Regimental Colour for any future Battle Honours that may be awarded.

## Summary

Without going into pluses and minuses, the overall result for both Colours was very reasonable in comparison with the other antecedent Regiments and, more importantly, reflected the long and distinguished history of the Regiment. The 12 pre-1914 RS Battle Honours which do not appear, Ramillies, Oudenarde, Malplaquet, Louisburg, Havannah, Egypt, St Lucia 1803, Busaco, Maheidpoor, Ava, Inkerman and Taku Forts, together with Aart and Italy 1944-45 from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, will, with our other 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World War Honours awarded and not carried, plus Wadi Al Batin from the Gulf War, go forward to The Royal Regiment of Scotland and continue to be shown in the Army List. For interest that List will show 87 pre-1914, 103 1<sup>st</sup> World War, 181 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and 9 post-1945 Honours (Korea 1950-53 having replaced three previously separate Honours). A total of 380 Battle Honours covering every corner of the Globe and almost every campaign and major battle that the British Army has undertaken or fought throughout its history. There could be no greater testimony to the legendary reputation for bravery and the fighting qualities of the Scottish Soldier since they first set sail in 1603, over 400 years ago to serve in the army of Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden in the Thirty Years War.

Perhaps the key achievements for our successors in The Royal Scots Borderers, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland are that all the Battle Honours common to the Colours of both antecedent Regiments will appear on the new Colours and that 1 SCOTS will have more individual Battle Honours (54 or 62%) included on the new Colours than any other Battalion in the Regiment. And that is how it should be for the senior Battalion!

# Battle Honours carried on the Colours of The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Battle Honours carried on The Queen's and Regimental Colours of The Royal Regiment of Scotland with special reference to those previously carried on the Colours, or awarded to but not carried, by The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) and The King's Own Scottish Borderers – now merged into The Royal Scots Borderers, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

## QUEEN'S COLOUR (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World War)

*MONS*

**Le Cateau**

**Marne 1914, 18**

*AISNE 1914*

**Ypres 1914, 15, 17, 18**

*Loos*

**Somme 1916, 18**

**Arras 1917, 18**

CAMBRAI 1917, 18

**Lys**

*HINDENBURG LINE*

**Struma**

Doiran 1917, 18

MACEDONIA 1915-18

**Gallipoli 1915-16**

*GAZA*

***Palestine 1917-18***

Kut al Amara 1917

Mesopotamia 1915-18

**Defence of Escaut**

*Dunkirk 1940*

***Odon***

*CAEN*

*Arnhem 1944*

***Flushing***

REICHSWALD

***Rhine***

*BREMEN*

**North-West Europe 1940, 44-45**

Keren

Sidi Barrani

Tobruk 1941, 42

Cauldron

El Alamein

Akarit

Longstop Hill 1943

Sicily 1943

**Gothic Line**

Crete

Malaya 1941-42

*Imphal*

**Kohima**

***Burma 1942-45***

## REGIMENTAL COLOUR (Pre 1914 and Post 2<sup>nd</sup> World War)

Tangier 1680

***Namur 1695***

**Blenheim**

*Minden*

Guadaloupe 1759

Martinique 1762

Carnatic

Seringapatam

***Egmont-op-Zee***

Cape of Good Hope 1806

Vimiera

**Corunna**

Badajoz

**Salamanca**

**Vittoria**

St Sebastian

**Nive**

**Peninsula**

**Niagara**

**Waterloo**

**Nagpore**

**Alma**

Balaklava

**Sevastopol**

Delhi 1857

Lucknow

**Pekin 1860**

Ashantee 1873-4

Kabul 1879

South Africa 1879

*Afghanistan 1878-80*

Tel-el-Kebir

*Chitral*

*Tirah*

Atbara

Defence of Ladysmith

Modder River

Relief of Ladysmith

*Paardeberg*

***South Africa 1899-1902***

The Hook 1952

*Korea 1950-53*

***Gulf 1991***

Iraq 2003

### Legend

**Bold** = RS Battle Honour previously carried on our Colours. Totals 18 and 18

*Italics* = KOSB Battle Honour previously carried on their Colours. Totals 18 and 10

**Bold and Italics** = Shared RS and KOSB Battle Honour previously carried on both Regiments' Colours. Totals included above.

UPPER CASE = Nine RS Battle Honours not previously carried on our Queen's Colour.