



The Thistle

Journal of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

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Winter 2009



The highlight of these last six months was the visit by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to the Association at the Club on 23 May 2009. It was a joy to see our Patron meeting and chatting with so many members and their families. The Association Pipe Band and Standard Bearers, looking immaculate, gave us an impressive Beating of Retreat in

Queen Street Gardens. The Princess Royal, who is also Patron of the Royal Scots Club, was briefed by Mr Brian Adair, Chairman of the Club Trustees, on the plans and progress to refurbish parts of the Club – more later.



This period has also been marked in a change of Regimental Secretaries. Col Dick Mason after more than 17 years of dedicated and loyal service to the Regiment retired on 7 July 2009 and handed over the reins to Lt Col Jim Blythe.



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Keep in Touch

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Col Dick has worked with three Colonels of the Regiment, provided wonderful support, guidance and advice to so many of us, continuously promoting the Regiment at every opportunity and fighting our corner at every turn, especially so when we were threatened with extinction. In recent years he has had the difficult task of transitioning to an antecedent Regiment. Throughout he has worked tirelessly, unselfishly and with the Regiment's interest foremost in his mind. I also highlight his outstanding service, especially as Commandant, with the Lothian and Borders Battalion of the Army Cadet Force. We thank him very much indeed for all that he has done for the Regiment and wish him all the very best in retirement.



Another key change has been the Representative Colonel for the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Brigadier James Stevenson MBE took over from Brigadier Andrew Jackson on 1 September 2009. Brigadier James, who is Commandant of the School of Infantry is a former CO 1 RS. His primary role as Representative Colonel is the provision of guidance, advice and support to the 1st Battalion.

This year's Purves Memorial prize, given to the individual judged by the Trustees of the Regiment, to have done the most for the Regiment, was awarded to Mrs Sue Brown. Sue



has provided outstanding service in the Regimental Headquarters over the past nine years and especially so this year when the Headquarters has been short staffed; she frequently had to hold the fort by herself.

The diary of Association events has been busy as ever, with all the Branches organising a variety of functions, including strong representation at all the Remembrance events and a visit by members of the 7/9th Bn, supported by other members of the Association, to Holland to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Battle for Flushing. The main Association

Dinner on 26 September was well attended and all those who went to the Musselburgh Races had a tremendous day, for some it was very profitable! To find out more do please visit the recently revamped Regimental website www.theroyalscots.co.uk; the new forum and photo gallery are tremendous successes.

On the serving front you will see from the 1st Battalion notes that they are entirely focussed on operations in Afghanistan. Minden Platoon have recently returned from a tour of duty with 3 SCOTS. B Company, under command of Maj Graeme Wearmouth has already deployed with the 3 RIFLES Battle Group to the Sangin Valley, Helmand. The remainder of the Battalion deploy in the spring of 2010. It will be particularly testing and we wish them all the very best of good fortune. Lastly some thoughts for 2010. First you should be aware that the Home Headquarters staff will reduce in size in March and we will therefore be looking for more volunteers to assist Jim Blythe with a host of tasks. If you would like to help do please contact him. Secondly it is our intent to look again at the annual Association diary to ensure we have the optimum spread and timing of events; this will of course need the input and support of the members.

And finally the Club, where so many of our special functions take place, should have completed much of the refurbishment.

Brigadier R L Scott-Bowden MBE

1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Commanding Officer's Notes

It was the former Formula One World Champion Mario Andretti who once said "if you think you have things under control you aren't going fast enough". On that basis I suspect that he would approve strongly of the 1st Battalion's tempo this year, with the rose tinted memories of operations and recuperation in 2008 (busy) replaced with the full panoply of hybrid foundation training, operations, inspections, visits, overseas exercises, Afghanistan pre-deployment training, public duties and all the other activities that conspire to collide within a few months of each other (very busy). Minden Platoon has returned from Afghanistan. B Company has deployed to Afghanistan whilst the remainder of the Battalion is preparing to follow suit early in 2010. But it has not all been work, and the more fun side of life was reflected in adventure training trips to Cyprus and the Alps, considerable sporting success, vibrant Mess lives, and a blossoming Wives Club.

Minden Platoon under Lt Euan Gorrie and Sgt Noble have returned from Afghanistan after a very successful six month deployment with 3 SCOTS in the role of a manoeuvre battle group operating across several other southern provinces, conducting air assaults and ground manoeuvre, usually at the point of main effort.

of the 3 RIFLES Battle Group in Northern Helmand and have a challenging ground holding role on the rural fringes of the Upper Sangin Valley. B Company 1 SCOTS represent the only Royal Regiment of Scotland formed unit in 11 Light Brigade, and I am reassured to think that Brigadier James Cowan will be keeping a close parental eye on them. Lessons



Notwithstanding Minden Platoon's success, the principal focus of the year has been in preparing for Op HERRICK 11 and 12. A considerably reinforced B Company Group achieved some notable success throughout their pre-deployment training, conducting much of it with 1 GREN GDS, but at times operating concurrently to three Battle Group HQs. Under the leadership of Major Graeme Wearmouth and W02 McQuillan they deployed in the early Autumn as part

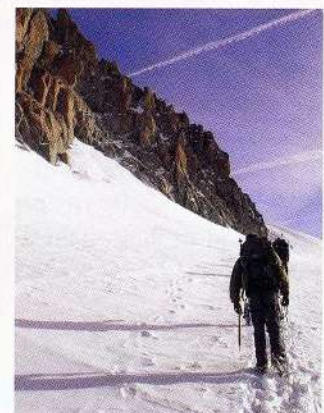
learnt from their pre-deployment training have been put to good use in preparing the remainder of us for our forthcoming tour, where on current plans we will provide embedded mentoring teams across the Afghan Army's 3/205 Brigade in Helmand. The mission specific training requirement for Op HERRICK seems to grow each year, and has been compounded this year by the role that we will undertake, which inevitably requires each 8 – 10 man

mentoring team to contain similar skill sets to a Rifle Platoon of 30 plus. As I write these notes in STANTA from the relative comfort of BG HQ, the companies are out in the sticks, being put through an intense 6 day programme of green zone clearances, compound clearance operations and shura serials. Great fun, but a big leap of faith to equate the sub-zero temperatures of a Norfolk November with a summer tour in Southern Afghanistan.



The summer months saw the Battalion undertake Ex GRAND PRIX in Kenya. This was soldiering at its best; a demanding, light role infantry BG exercise, building from the basic skills through to combined arms BG level operations within a Brigade context, all set within a realistic and highly relevant contemporary scenario. Like all good overseas exercises, it finished with a short but well received package of adventure training, and plenty of opportunity for all ranks to kick back, relax and let off steam in time honoured fashion.

The summer also saw a small group of intrepid climbers head off to the Alps in the hope of summing



Mont Blanc. Regrettably, poor weather conditions prevented them from climbing above 4000 metres, but did allow for some challenging mountaineering and multi-pitch rock climbing on some of the classic routes around Chamonix. Concurrently, we sent a small party off to Minden to mark the 250th Anniversary of the battle.

As ever, there has been little enough opportunity to see those serving away from Dreghorn, but for whom 1 SCOTS remains the parent Battalion. We are very grateful though for the support of all of you who proudly wear or 'follow' the Black Hackle, and look forward to seeing you in 2010. As ever, our gratitude too goes to the Home Headquarters of The Royal Scots and King's Own Scottish Borderers and their Regimental Associations, many of whom we have welcomed in Dreghorn or elsewhere over the past year.

And finally, I must take this opportunity to welcome publicly Brig James Stevenson as our new Representative Colonel, and to thank Brig Andrew Jackson for all that he has done to support the 1st Battalion since the formation of the Battalion in 2006.

HOME HEADQUARTERS

Capt Bill Sutherland's post will be disestablished at the end of Mar 10 as part of the draw down of HHQs. Although this will be a very considerable loss, Bill will continue to manage RS Benevolence cases and this is very good news indeed. As already reported, Mrs Sue Brown has retired and was the worthy winner of this year's Purves Prize, presented to her at the Association Dinner in the RS Club at the end of September. Eileen Morris has retired on medical grounds and we are in the process of recruiting to



On a really positive note this year, I was delighted to see that the efforts of the Rugby Officer, Capt Kev Gartside, and his highly committed squad of players were rewarded with victory in the Army Cup and the Army VIIs this year, continuing the best sporting traditions of our antecedent Regiments. The Dreghorn Sevens took place again in May, with Army and civilian teams from across Scotland and the wider UK represented, and I was equally delighted to see competitive inter-battalion and Army novice boxing reintroduced to the Battalion, and to see some not inconsiderable success from the Football Team. A rewarding year all round, supplemented with some cracking adventure trips led by young officers and at least one rather older LE officer!

both vacancies. A Museum Attendant has been appointed and although not due in post until the New Year is already coming in one day a week.

Lt Gen Andrew Graham Colonel of The Royal Regiment of Scotland has commissioned a review of RHQ SCOTS and the HHQs. HHQ RS submitted a position paper which advocating the following. First, that HHQs are uniquely placed to support RHQ SCOTS in representing The Royal Regiment of Scotland within respective antecedent regiment boundaries. Second, that the Golden Thread should be reinforced with sufficient substance for it to be driven into the future. Properly briefed and resourced, HHQs can play a valuable part. A classic example of the Golden Thread at work is the RS Day at Musselburgh Races combining entertainment for Old Royals, an event in the Edinburgh and East Lothian social and sporting calendar, music of the Association Pipe Band and the Lowland TA Band, a KAPE event with the Golden Lions, Royal Regiment of Scotland recruiters and Lothian & Borders Battalion ACF.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Due to short staffing, the Museum was closed for a period over the busiest part of the summer, but is now open again. Acquisitions include the US Government

letter of parole guaranteeing the safe passage of the wounded Captain John Wilson following the battle of Chippewa, which will be displayed beside the painting depicting his rescue by an Indian woman. Under the guidance of Col Robert Watson, Chairman of the Museum Committee, the area adjacent to the shop kiosk now completes the transition of The Royal Scots within The Royal Regiment of Scotland with an additional genealogy tree and a photograph display case in which it is intended to feature the activities of 1 SCOTS.

The Royal Scots website has been upgraded. The Guestbook remains very popular and is a really excellent way of remaining up to date with who is where, doing what. Whilst used by many, it is by no means used by all. If you're not using it, give it a try – go to www.theroyalscots.co.uk and click on "Guestbook". A "Forum" page has also been added with multiple topics under discussion. The "Photo Gallery" is now being populated – follow the online instructions if you have photographs to post in the Gallery.

Assisted by volunteers from the Scotland Branches, a selection of Royal Scots exhibits was displayed in Holyrood Park alongside the other Scottish Regiments and The Royal Regiment of Scotland in the Scotland's Military Heritage tent during the Homecoming Weekend in July. Among our visitors was the The Duke of Rothesay, appropriately dressed in Hunting Stuart. Of the hundreds of other visitors to our stand, the very first was an Old Royal and there were many other Old Royals and several descendants of Royals from all over the world.



Regimental Association

In Scotland

There was a good turnout at the Scotland Branches AGM in October followed by a great RS Club curry. Tam Douglas was elected Chairman of the Scottish Branches and a vote of thanks was accorded to Stuart Marshal for his stewardship over the past two years. Maj Kevin Wood, S02 Recruiting RHQ SCOTS, gave an update of activity across The Royal Regiment of Scotland and briefed on how members could assist in the recruiting effort; he will now encourage other Associations to follow our lead.

The Scotland Branches have had a typically active round of social functions, to which it is now becoming the norm for invitations to be extended to representatives from 1 SCOTS. The Annual Reunion earlier in the year was one such event and more recently there have been the Lunch, the Gathering and Dinner, and the Officers Dinner Club Dinner, all in the RS Club.

On Armed Forces Day in June, a strong contingent was on parade to march behind the Association Standards from the Castle Esplanade down the Mound to Princes Street Gardens. We were equalled in number, although not in turnout or bearing, only by SCOTS DG who were having a regimental gathering that weekend.

The Association are pleased that Minden Platoon is returned from Afghanistan and our good wishes are with B Coy 1 SCOTS.

Visit by the RS and KOSB Associations to 1 SCOTS

Fourteen members of both Associations visited 1 SCOTS on 20 October 2009 at Lydd Ranges, Kent. The CO, Lt Col Charlie Herbert, the 2IC, Maj Tom Perkins, and the RSM, WO1 Tait, welcomed us. The CO gave us an excellent introductory briefing. He began by stressing the importance of the 'Golden Thread' in terms of support from our Associations and the traditions of operational excellence that we represent for today's young soldiers and our interest in the tasks they face for the future. He emphasised that the latter are every bit as good as previous generations. He described some of the successes achieved by 1 SCOTS during their last tour in Iraq and their contribution in helping the Iraqi Army to bring peace to Basra during 'Operation Charge of the Knights'.



Turning to 1 SCOTS' future operational role in Afghanistan during the course of 2010, the CO described some similarities to their Basra role in that they would provide mentoring for the Afghan National Army (ANA). Emphasising that the Afghan situation was both dynamic and developing, the CO said the plan was for 1 SCOTS Battle Group to be embedded at various levels of an ANA Bde. ANA roles were developing. Their more senior commanders were from the 'Russian school of tactical thinking' whereas the main need for the future would be for them to hold ground. The ANA were good at 'sniffing' out the Taliban. They were excellent fighters although somewhat 'gung-ho' in their approach.



Arriving on the ranges we were shown IED clearance techniques being carried out by young soldiers using various equipment and techniques devised to counter the efforts of an enemy who is becoming increasingly adept. We were also shown some of the weapon systems in use such as the 'Grenade Machine Gun' which can be fired in various modes by a team of three. A 'medical' stand emphasised how life saving is dependent on quick and effective first aid in the first ten minutes after an incident. We were told that the combined weight of weapons, ammunition and flak jackets, meant that the average soldier might loose as much as three stones during a six month tour- a suitable antidote to obesity in the UK?

We were all struck by the keen attitude shown by all ranks and in particular by the young soldiers for their training and the tasks ahead. As one senior NCO said 'they are growing up very quickly'. Indeed we, their predecessors, can be justly proud of them and 1 SCOTS in general. Amongst our visitor numbers were two who may join 1 SCOTS in the future - an appropriate role for our Regimental Associations and one that all our members should take on as our country faces up to the need to beat the Taliban at their own game and to leave Afghanistan in the future after we have been successful.

We hope to be able to arrange a similar visit to 1 SCOTS at Dreghorn in February 2010 and stand ready to welcome B Company back in the Spring and the Main Body later in the year.

REMEMBRANCE

Contalmaison

The earliest Act of Remembrance this year the pilgrimage to Contalmaison in July where the McCrae's Battalion Trust were joined by representatives of the Regimental Association, the Standard Bearer Party and pipers and a bugler of the Association Pipe Band, to commemorate 16th Battalion The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).

Jack Alexander, author of "McCrae's Battalion", led the way, the party including representatives of The Royal Regiment of Scotland from 2 and 5 SCOTS and the RS Association party comprising the Standard Bearers Tam Logan, Sonny Walker, Harry Wright and Tam Douglas along with Mike McAuley, Matt Hoggan and Pud Purdie from the Association Pipe Band. The various football clubs who had volunteers in 16 RS were represented including Hearts, Hibs, Falkirk and Raith Rovers. Also in the party was the niece of Jimmy Todd, the first 16 RS footballer to be killed in action, aged 20 and from Raith Rovers. The first stop was at his grave where his niece laid a wreath. That afternoon, Dud Corner Cemetery was visited at Loos, where it is believed

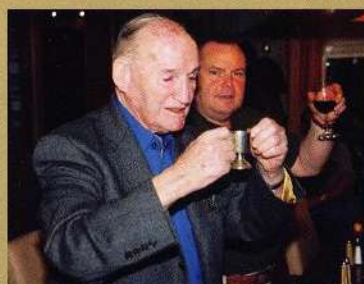
that Jim Speedie, the first Hearts player to be killed is buried having served in 7th Cameron Highlanders.

On Wednesday 1st July, the anniversary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the party proceeded to Contalmaison where it was clear that McCrae's Battalion means a great deal. Harry Wright laid a wreath on behalf of the RS Association followed by the Junior Soldier on parade from 2 SCOTS. Our Pipers and Bugler "Pud" are to be congratulated for their playing, both ceremonial on the occasion and for entertainment throughout the trip. Following a visit to High Wood Cemetery the party returned to Contalmaison for lunch with the Mayor and others including Jean-Claude, a former paratrooper who made it clear that what The Royal Scots did for his forefathers meant a lot to him and to others present.

On route back to Zeebrugge there was a visit to Talbot House Soldiers Club in Poperinghe, opened during the First World War and still in pristine condition thanks to a team of volunteers. Finally, there was a visit to the Menin Gate and the town museum. In a nearby shop Bugler Purdie noticed an old bugle with an Argyll badge on it. Although unable to get a note out of this one, the proprietor handed him an even more battered one on which Pud played the last post note perfect – and subsequently serenaded anyone who came into the shop.

The return was uneventful and all that remains is to thank Jack Alexander and the McCrae's Battalion Trust for the opportunity to represent The Royal Scots at the Ceremony in Contalmaison.

'Dandy Ninth' Veterans Return to Walcheren



Just ahead of the series of Remembrance Ceremonies in Edinburgh and London, three veterans Mr Jack Hall, Mr John Sharp and Major Joe Brown of the

7th/9th (Highlanders) Battalion The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) now in their mid-80s attended the last public Commemoration of the Liberation of Walcheren in the Scheldt Estuary from the 30th October to 4th November.

A combined operation of air, sea and land forces were deployed in November 1944 to capture this island and destroy the heavy gun emplacements which commanded the shipping lanes into Antwerp. The port was already in Allied hands but a safe passage was urgently required to enable merchant ships to bring in the supplies to take the battle into the German heartland.



This pre-War Edinburgh Territorial Battalion under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel M E Melvill, played a notable part in the campaign, capturing the German Command Post in Flushing. It was a fierce and bloody battle, carried out at night. The objective had to be approached

through sea water flooding much of the island from the breach made in the sea-wall by the RAF. At high tide it was two feet deep and sometimes chest high.



Everyone that night wore life-jackets and carried weapons and wireless sets shoulder high as they advanced on the enemy. Twenty-one Royal Scots officers and men lost their lives in capturing this heavily-fortified concrete position. Over 50 Germans were killed and 600 prisoners taken, including Oberst Reinhart who was the German commander in Flushing.



Augustus Muir in his history, *First of Foot* (1961), said it was 'the arduous of a Highland winter' that had toughened the 7th/9th Royal Scots for their task that night on the western outskirts of Flushing.

That ordeal was quickly followed by the gallantry of 'A' Company under the command of Major Hugh Johnston.



Moving through the flood water in Buffalos and overcoming mines and overhead explosive charges, they advanced on the western flank of Middelburg (the island's capital). Taking the Germans by surprise at this unexpected approach of amphibious track vehicles crammed full of Jocks, Major Johnston forced the surrender of General Daser and 2000 Germans. At first the general said he could not surrender to a major and Hugh Johnston with borrowed subalterns 'pips' placed over his major's crown, took the general's pistol in surrender and ordered all German forces in the area to be marched into the Square in the centre of Middelburg and disarmed. The 100 or so Royal Scots of 'A' Company, aided by machine-guns from the 7th Manchester Regiment, held the 2000 Germans in captivity during the hours of darkness until more British forces could reach them hours later. During the advance, one of the Buffalos struck a mine and another valiant Royal Scot was killed in the battle to liberate Walcheren.

Major Joe Brown CBE, a Peebles man who is now aged 88 years and was the Battalion's Intelligence Officer during the battle, said he was very pleased that The Royal Scots Association Colour Party (Mr J. Buckham, Mr E. Welsh, Mr T. Sneddon and Mr S. Walker, under the command of Mr T. Douglas), and Piper M. Hogan from The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band were on parade alongside the veterans to pay tribute to a very fine battalion and to honour the twenty two Royal Scots killed during the battle.

In Scotland and London

Second World War members of 8 RS have decided that their reunion lunch in the RS Club in June this year on the anniversary of their landing in Normandy would be their final one. Nevertheless, thirty two sat down at the table in fine form and various of them have been regular attenders in the Club since.



The Scottish Branches are still talking about how much they enjoyed attending Remembrance Weekend events in London last year and how much they appreciated the arrangements made by the Southern Branch.



A number from the Scottish Branches joined the Southern Branch once again. Meanwhile, at home, wreaths were laid in the Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens. At the eleventh hour of the

eleventh day of the eleventh month there was the customary ceremony at the Glencorse Memorial Gates where approximately ten former Royals presently serving in 2 SCOTS were made welcome. On Remembrance Sunday, in addition to participating in ceremonies at Whitburn and Prestonpans, the 'main effort' was at the City Chambers where the Association Standards were on parade and where Capt Bill Sutherland laid a wreath.



Lt Col Jim Blythe laid a wreath following the Service of Remembrance at the Canongate Kirk and Maj Gen Mark Strudwick unveiled the newly installed plaque in The Royal Scots Club to commemorate those who died between the World Wars and since 1945. With the Hearts memorial removed from Haymarket for the duration of tramworks, that ceremony was relocated to Tynecastle. A service of remembrance was also held at East Claremont Street.



It is also noteworthy that a new memorial has been installed in the British Military Cemetery at Kyrenia in Cyprus, bearing the names of LCpl Milne and Pte Ketchen.



FORECAST OF EVENTS 2010

JANUARY

Monday 11th January
Friday 22nd January
Friday 22nd January

Monday 25th January
Saturday 30th January

RS Club Evening Lecture 'Faces of Edinburgh'.
RS Club Burns Supper.
RS Association Central Scotland Branch Burns Night, RBLs Whitburn.
RS Club Burns Lunch.
RS Association Joint Edinburgh / East of Scotland Burns Night, Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club.

FEBRUARY

Monday 1st February

Saturday 13th February
19th - 21st February

RS Club Evening Lecture 'Exploring the John Murray Archives'.
RS Club Valentines Dinner.
RS Association Scotland Branches visit to visit Members in NI.

MARCH

Monday 1st March
Sunday 14th March
Thursday 18th March
Saturday 27th March

Sunday 28th March
Sunday 28th March

RS Club Evening Lecture 'History of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe'.
RS Club Mothers Day Lunch.
RS Club St Patrick's Day Dinner.
RS Association Scotland Branches Regimental Day Dinner, RS Club.
Regimental Day.
RS Club Regimental Day Lunch.

APRIL

Sunday 4th April
Monday 12th April
Wednesday 21st April
Thursday 29th April
Friday 30th April

RS Club Easter Sunday Lunch.
RS Club Evening Lecture 'Bomber Command Not Forgotten'.
RS Club AGM.
RS Club 'School Dinners' evening.
RS Benevolence Trustees Meeting, RS Club, afternoon.
RS Association AGM, RS Club, evening.

MAY

Saturday 1st May
Thursday 6th May

Saturday 8th May
May (Date TBC)

May (Date TBC)

RS Association Scotland Branches Reunion, Bainfield Club.
RS Club Speakers Dinner.
RS Trustees Meeting (TBC)
RS Association Gathering & Reunion Lunch, RS Club.
7 RS Memorial, Rosebank Cemetery.

JUNE

Thursday 3rd June
Sunday 13th June
Sunday 27th June

RS Club Antiques Evening.
RS Club Sunday Lunch and Beating Retreat.
Armed Forces Day.

AUGUST

Sunday 1st August
Sunday 29th August

Minden Day.
RS Association Golf, Gladly Murray Trophy.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 25th September
Sunday 26th September

RS Association Gathering & Dinner, RS Club.
The Royal Scots Day at Musselburgh Races.

OCTOBER

Friday 8th October

Friday 29th October

RS Museum Committee Meeting, HHQ RS.
RS Benevolence Trustees Meeting, RS Club.
RS Benevolence Society Meeting, RS Club.
RS Officers Regimental Dinner, RS Club.
RS Association Scotland Branches AGM.

NOVEMBER

Monday 8th November
Saturday 13th November
Sunday 14th November

Thursday 11th November
Friday 26th November

Princes Street Garden of Remembrance.
Westminster Abbey Field of Remembrance.
Cenotaph.
Edinburgh City Chambers, RS Club, East Claremont Street and elsewhere throughout Edinburgh, the Lothians and Peeblesshire.
Glencorse Memorial Gates.
RS Association Scotland Branches St Andrews Night, Prestonpans RBLs.

Regimental Association Events

(including Pipe Band)
2010

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 or
Jim Tait on:
jimbtait@jimbtait.plus.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT HOME HEADQUARTERS

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The Royal Scots Club



Membership at The Royal Scots Club continues to grow and presently stands at 1800. We are particularly delighted to welcome 30 officers from 1 SCOTS who have recently become full members of the Club. The greatest source of new members is always from our current members. If you have a relative or friend whom you think would enjoy the facilities of The Royal Scots Club then please bring them along or let Janet Grant know and she can forward a membership pack on your behalf. Janet's e-mail address is membership@royalscotsclub.com

The redevelopment of the lower basement areas and former snooker rooms continues. It is anticipated that the lift will be installed by the end of April 2010. This will then give access to all our bedrooms and the Hepburn Suite and the new snooker room. There will then be a new room adjoining the Hepburn Suite which will have a better bar in it than the current one. The final phase of the development will be the lowest basement room where we are creating a function room capable of seating up to 180 for a dinner with bar facilities in the vaults. This too will have full lift access. It is hoped that this will be finished by the end of the year 2010.



Domestic Occurrences

Deaths

BLAMIRE:

On 18 May 2009 in Erskine Edinburgh Home, George Blamire, formerly EUOTC (RS) and RA, served 13 September 1939 – 18 December 1945, Middle East and Italy.
Service Number: 928591.

CASEY:

On 22 December 2009 after an illness bravely borne, Terrance "Benny" Casey, formerly 1 RS Pipes & Drums and Medical Centre.

CLARKE:

On 12 October 2009, Anthony (Tony) Clarke, in the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, formerly Corporal 1 RS (22 years) and Museum Attendant at The Royal Scots Museum, Edinburgh Castle.

COCHRANE:

On 30 May 2009, Derek Cochrane, at home in Nairn after a long illness bravely borne, formerly WO2 (CSM) 1st Battalion.

COWAN:

On 20 October 2009, aged 92 years James Cowan, formerly 8th Battalion (1939 – 1945) and long-standing member of the Regimental Association.

CUTHBERTSON:

On 15 June 2009, James Craig Cuthbertson, formerly 8th Battalion (1939 – 1945) and long-standing member of the Regimental Association.

DYER:

On 20 October 2009, aged 67, Robert Joseph Divitt Dyer, formerly 1st Battalion (Anti Tank Platoon).

FERGUSON:

Suddenly, on 26 December 2009, Gus Ferguson BEM, originally Cameronians and thereafter 1 RS including C Coy and FAMTO.

GOURDIE:

On 11 June 2009, aged 97 years, Albert Gourdie, formerly 12th/2nd Battalion (1939 – 1945), long-standing member of the Regimental Association and Chairman of his Battalion Section for many years.

McINALLY:

On 16 November 2008, David Banks McInally formerly RS 1942 – 1947.

NIMMO-SMITH:

On 4 July 2009, Andrew Nimmo-Smith, formerly 8th Battalion (1939 – 1945).

OGILVIE:

On 10 July 2009, William Ogilvie, aged 93 years, in Erskine Edinburgh Home. Formerly war-time Battalion of The Royal Scots.

REYNOLDS:

On 4 August 2009, Charlie Reynolds, formerly 7th/9th Battalion (1939 – 1945) and long-standing member of the Regimental Association.

WEATHERSTONE:

On 30 October 2009, peacefully, in the tender loving care of Strachan House Care Home in Edinburgh, Robert Bruce Weatherstone, formerly Commanding Officer 7th/9th Battalion.