



The Thistle

Journal of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

Volume 32

Winter 2017

Chairman of Trustees and President of the Regimental Association

May I start by taking the opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and very best wishes for 2018. The astute amongst you will have noticed that the Winter edition of the 2017/2018 Thistle is coming to you at the start of the New Year and not at the end of the old one. We continue to review and refine our activities and thought that a journal at the start of the year, setting out the forecast of events and priorities for the coming year, whilst also recording activity from the end of the last, would be a good idea. This revised timing also provides a bit more breathing space for our busy volunteers in the hectic run up to Christmas. We would welcome your thoughts on this adjustment and indeed if we need two journals a year? We are also keen to continue to develop the pictorial content of the journal, recording all the formal and informal associating that takes place. So, please keep the pictures coming.

In the Summer 2017 Thistle, I concluded my notes with a call to arms for further volunteers and assistance, to help manage and administer our organisation. I

reiterated this plea at the October Officers' Dinner and thank you very much to those who have stepped forward. In my first year in post, it has become increasingly obvious to me how utterly reliant we are on willing volunteers. As an antecedent Regiment, the new normal is for dedicated individuals to take on the responsibility for certain aspects of our business and become champions for that activity every year. This formula is serving us well and I would like to acknowledge just how indebted we are to those who contribute in this way. Inevitably in the list that follows there may be unintentional omissions, for which I apologise in advance. My aim is to give a flavour of the raft of things that we still manage to do with limited resources. This may prompt others to consider supporting existing activity or propose new activity that they would lead. We must continue to think about succession planning if we are to maintain our current levels of activity. My sincere thanks for continued support go to: my fellow Trustees, our Honorary Legal and Governance Advisers and Secretariat, all The Association Officer Bearers and those who organise the Branch and other events, The Museum Trustees, Committee and Volunteers, Ian Johnstone for his careful stewardship of The Glencorse Gates, David Dickson for organising the annual Le Paradis pilgrimage, Brian de la Haye for the recently initiated Officers' Golf Competition, Gary Tait for maintaining our links with Contalmaison and The MacCrae's Battalion Trust, Guy Richardson and his newly formed Mess Committee for the Officer's Annual Dinner, Torquil Corkerton and his team in The Royal Scots Association



Pipes and Drums, Ann-Marie Corkerton and the Thistle Editorial Team and of course the Regimental Office Team, especially Liz Kyle who has moved to full time employment. So, if you would like to contribute to any of this, on a part time, voluntary basis, do let the Office or any of the above know of your interest. 2017 saw us contribute to a significant number of commemorative and remembrance events. We met all the requirements from Peebles to Perthshire, Gretna to Glasgow and far beyond. Our Colour Party, Wreath Layers and Representatives receiving accolades for bearing and turnout. 2018 will be even busier and will include recognition of three Victoria Cross awards. We will be casting the net wide to ensure appropriate representation at all the commemorative events, where it would be great to see strong attendance.

I have previously mentioned that we continue to review how we communicate across the whole of our regimental constituency. There is always room for improvement and we are considering all mediums, including social media. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you think you can assist with this work or you can put us in touch with members of our wider Regimental family who have lost touch. Please reach out to others and encourage them to participate, even if only once a year. It would be good to continue to grow our active community.

Up The Royals

Yours Aye

George Lowder

SPOTLIGHT – John “Jack” Wilson

After 10 years as The Royal Scots Club handyman, John (Jack) Wilson is retiring in March 2018.

Jack will be sadly missed, not only by the club Management who rely on him to be able to turn his hand to most things as and when required, but also by the members who enjoy a bit of banter with him as he goes about his duties.

Born in Edinburgh in 1942, Jack attended Pennywell Primary, Craigmillar Primary and Ainslie Park Secondary (all which have since been demolished!) When he left school, Jack spent two years as a tin smith before enlisting into The Royal Scots in 1959 and served in Benghazi, Tripoli and Aden.

In 1965, the then Corporal Wilson left for civilian life and took up employment with the Royal Mail as a Postman, a job he did for 25 years.

Jack began his employment in The Royal Scots Club in 2008 and says he has enjoyed every minute of it. He is a staunch member of the Regimental Association and attends most events throughout the year.



Remember son, if it moves salute it

Here are extracts from a few letters of thanks we have received this year -

"I am writing to thank you on behalf of my husband (85 today). He would have been so proud to know that his Regiment thought of him at this very sad time in his life."
"We would like to thank you for the grant towards the purchase of a mobility scooter for my husband" "After a really traumatic year we are really grateful for your kindness."

Please, if you are considering a fund-raising event consider donating to Royal Scots Benevolence.

Finally thank you to all who have made donations through sponsorship or by a collection taken at the funeral of a loved one or by simply sending in a personal cheque.

Colonel Martin Gibson celebrates the 50th Anniversary of his Commissioning

After enlisting in the Regiment in summer 1965, he joined Intake Ypres 40 at Sandhurst the following January and passed out in December 1967. 50 years on, twelve of the original twenty officer cadets held an anniversary dinner in London, where they were joined for drinks by the Sultan of Brunei who was also in Ypres 40.

There were plenty of stories to be told!



A young Captain Gibson at Christmas time in Germany, helping maintain the tradition of the Officers and senior ranks serving the Jocks their Christmas meal

Lieutenant Colonel Jim Bain awarded MBE

Congratulations to Lieutenant Colonel Jim Bain, Contingent Commander of George Heriot's School CCF, who was awarded an MBE for his service to the Combined Cadet Force in this year's New Year's Honours List. Jim has been involved with the CCF for more than 25 years, joining the school in 1992 following an Army career spanning 23 years.



REGIMENTAL OFFICE

By Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

Well, by now the Festive season will be a fading memory so I trust all had a good time and are looking forward to 2018 and all that it brings.

We have now been in the "new" office for nearly 18 months, but it feels much longer. By that I mean it is comfortable, functional and a nice place to work in. Most visitors make nice comments about it and many of them wish they worked in such a pleasing environment.

If you are in the vicinity, please drop in. You will be most welcome and the worst that can happen to you is to be "roped in" to some project or other. Your visit might even coincide with a "cakes day".

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - we are required by law to be fully compliant with this by 25 May 2018. GDPR replaces what we know as The Data Protection Act 1998. A major factor for us as a "Not for Profit" organisation is to ensure that everyone on our database has opted-in. In other words, we need your permission to be able to contact you. We are ahead of the game as we already have in place a suitable "opt-in" form. We posted it on the website last year and it can be found on the Association pages of the website titled "Regimental Family Contact Information".

Many of you have already completed this but, for those of you who have yet to do so, you need to complete it before Friday, 25th May 2018.

The 2017 Regimental Reunion took place in The Royal Scots Club and although this was generally very successful the large number attending could not all be accommodated in any one function room. The organising committee decided that for the foreseeable future the event will have to be held elsewhere where a room of suitable size is available. The 2018 venue therefore will be Teviot Row House, 13 Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AJ. Tickets, priced at £20, will be available in early February. Further details will be posted on the website in the months leading up to the event.

Finally, I must report that Liz Kyle has moved on to a full-time post with Legion Scotland. In the two years that Liz worked in The Regimental Office much progress has been made in the way that we conduct our business and Liz has been at the heart of it all. Liz came to us after many years' experience with the MOD and the knowledge she brought with her was invaluable. She has been a great sounding board and I will miss her wisdom. I wish Liz and Andy all the best for the future. I now have the unenviable task of trying to find a replacement.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

By Chairman Jimmy Springthorpe

On the social side; The Highland branch boat cruise, The Nagpore Dinner, Musselburgh Race Day, East of Scotland branch St Andrews Dinner. On the sporting side members have participated in The Gladdy Murray Golf Competition and The Loudon Trophy.

As well as all that we have of course fully participated in Remembrance events including at Edinburgh, Glasgow,

Glencorse, Peebles and London.

In September, the Southern Branch led on the ceremony commemorating Captain Reynolds VC in Whitton. All those events took place because of the hard work and dedication put in by individuals who have a deep pride in and loyalty to their Regiment.

Some of those events are reported in detail elsewhere in this edition of The Thistle.



Your Association Wants you !



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For further information, visit the website or
call 0131 557 0405 or email
admin@theroyalscots.co.uk

www.theroyalscots.co.uk/association

PosterMyWall.com

HERITAGE & MUSEUM

By Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Rae

On the 22 Nov, the Royal Scots Museum, as part of the Association of Scottish Military Museums (ASMM), has been recognised within a Distributed Collection of National Significance to Scotland. The Association of Scottish Military Museums comprises the museums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Royal Scots, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, The Cameronians, The Black Watch, The Highlanders (Queen's Own Highlanders Collection), The Gordon Highlanders and The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The Collection comprises of over 160,000 objects distributed across the whole of the country in Fort George, Aberdeen, Perth, Stirling Castle, Glasgow, Hamilton, Edinburgh Castle and across the border in Berwick Upon Tweed. Collectively it tells Scotland's military story from its beginning in 1633 to the amalgamation of The Scottish Infantry Regiments in

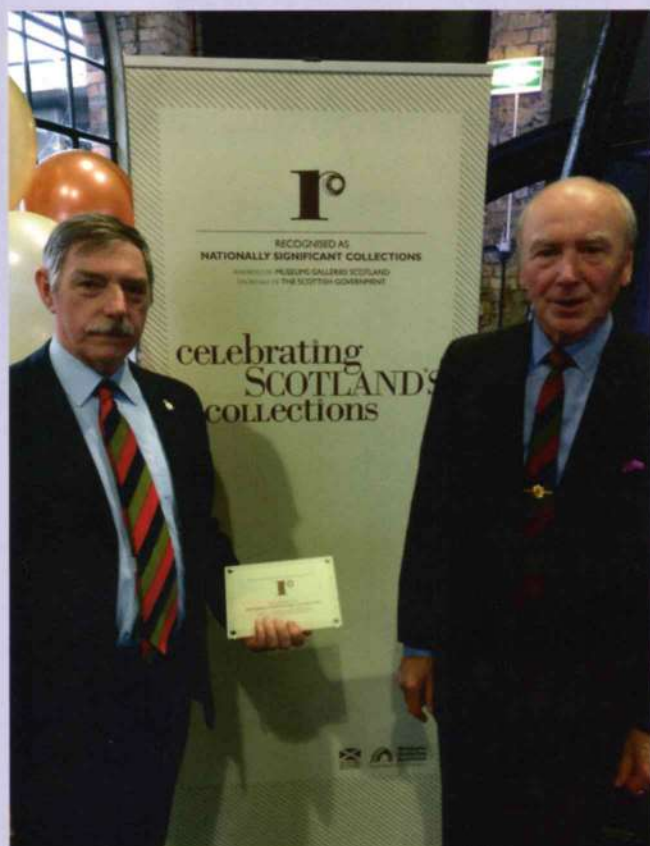
March 2006 to form the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The award is made by Museums and Galleries Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government. The Recognised Scheme ensures that Scotland's most important collections are identified, cared for and promoted to wider audiences. This is only the second distributed collection application to be successful – the first was the National Burns Collection held by 8 different organisations. This Recognised Collection covers a fascinating range of topics, and highlights the incredible diversity and uniqueness of what lies inside museums and galleries dotted in towns and cities across Scotland.



The Association of Scottish Military Museums receives the award of Recognised collection with Ms Fiona Hyslop MSP Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs and Ms Ray Macfarlane, Chair of the Recognition Committee Museums Galleries Scotland

Photo courtesy of Kat Gollock MGS



Lt Col Rae and Maj Beveridge at the presentation of the Recognised Collection award

Photo courtesy of Mr Desmond Thomas RHQ SCOTS

THE VERY LAST HURRAH!

By Lieutenant Colonel Jim Blythe MBE

The Waterloo 200 exhibition of the 3rd Battalion Colours in the Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle in the summer of 2015 was billed as The Last Hurrah, anticipated as being the last occasion on which the Colours of the 3rd Battalion, which had been carried during the Peninsula campaign through France to Quatre Bras and finally to Waterloo, would be on public display. The expectation afterwards, due to limited space in the Museum, was that they would be placed back in conservation until Waterloo 300, until a way of placing them on permanent display in the Museum was devised.

The official launch of the new display was in June 2017 but our Historic Environment Scotland (HES) colleagues who had been such willing partners in The Last Hurrah had not been involved in that, even though they had come to consider themselves, if not part of the Waterloo story, certainly part of the story that had brought the Colours to public display. This was rectified early in December when those of HES who had been most involved were invited to a reception in the Museum where they were formally thanked for their various contributions.

There was a large HES turnout with the following in attendance. The Castle Manager; those stewards who had been most closely involved in the Great Hall; from HES headquarters at Longmore House members of the conservation, interpretation and exhibitions team; and last but by no means least, the craftsmen who had built the cabinets in which the Colours were displayed in all their glory.

Not only are HES still talking about The Last Hurrah itself as well as having been invited to the reception specially for them, but they are asking the same question again that they asked when The Last Hurrah closed, "What are we going to do next?"



His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Field-Marshal, 4th son of George III, Duke of Kent and Strathearn became Colonel of The Royal Regiment of Foot on 21st August 1801. During his Army career, he attempted unpopular reforms in Gibraltar but also founded a system of Regimental schools which he started for the benefit of the young Privates and children of the NCOs and men of the 4th Battalion. During his command the title 'The Royal Scots' was conferred on the Regiment. The Duke of Kent Prince Edward died less than a year after Princess Victoria birth from a pulmonary inflammation.



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

By Mr Andy Kay

The main event in October was the promotion of Cruachan IV to Corporal following completion of his education requirements! Regimental Mascot for the Royal Regiment of Scotland, Cruachan IV is based with Balaklava Company at Redford Barracks.

1 SCOTS are well into their preparation for re-rolling as a Specialised Infantry Battalion and moving to Aldershot. They moved from 38 (Irish) Brigade to the Specialised Infantry Group on 1st October and the battalion move to Aldershot in 2018. Currently, 1SCOTS have training teams in Kenya and Uganda, running courses from driving to staff planning for officers from 60th Somalia Division.

With 50% deployed the remaining Companies have been returning to basics. This has included navigating across the Mourne Mountains, pistol shooting, learning about HF radio and Team Medic training – developing soldiering skills to give a solid foundation for 1 SCOTS' personnel.

2SCOTS have been busy training and preparing for Operations with elements deploying to Iraq in December 2017. They also had a busy week on their Operational Shooting Camp at Warcop - from Close Quarter Marksman, to GPMG Top Cover Shoots, through Section Live Fire Night Attacks. The week culminated with Alpha Company Live Fire Platoon Attacks. With the Cambrian Patrol around the corner the 2 SCOTS team also swept up on their skills and drills around the Pentland Hills.

4 SCOTS have had a couple of very successful sporting events; inter-Company Boxing at Bourlon Barracks and a Cross Country race in the Yorkshire Dales with the winner covering the 10 miles in a very impressive 1 hour and 7 minutes.



The Victoria Cross was instituted on 29th January 1856 by Queen Victoria to honour acts of valour; the same honour for all ranks; during the Crimean War. Many state the source of the bronze which the medals are struck is from Russian guns captured after the siege of Sevastopol but others suggest a variety of origins including Chinese cannons which were captured from the Russians in 1855. Hancocks of London, has been the single jewellers to produce every VC awarded. The first ceremony was held on 26th June 1857 at which Queen Victoria invested 62 of the 111 Crimean recipients in a ceremony in Hyde Park, London; since then the medal has been awarded 1,358 times to 1,355 individual recipients.



THE ROYAL SCOTS ASSOCIATION PIPE BAND

By Pipe President Major Torquil Corkerton

So here we are in 2018. Well, that happened fast! Apart from playing for another of our regular jobs – the Edinburgh Indian Christian Festival at The Inch – the band had a rest during July and August, which gave the author the opportunity to take part in The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo throughout August, as a piper and Pipe President of the newly reformed Pipes & Drums of 154 (Scottish) Regiment RLC. The reason I write about this occurrence is because I was not the only Royal Scot on parade in the band, let alone the massed Pipes & Drums.

Kevin Harraughty, formerly of the P&D of the 1st Bn The Royal Scots, is now the caretaker for Dunfermline Station, where the Regimental Headquarters and Headquarter Squadron of 154 Regiment are based. and instructor for his local ACF P&D. He was persuaded by the Regiment's RSM (himself a former Black Watch piper) to be the Pipe Sgt of our new band and not only did he do a sterling job as Pipe Sgt, but as the Scots Guards, 2 SCOTS and Scottish UOTCs were the only other British Army P&D taking part, he was one of the few people qualified to be the lone piper, 'high above the ramparts with the Scottish War Memorial at his back'. Kev was lone piper for 4 of the 23 performances this year, including the opening night, during which he met and toasted His Serene Highness Prince Albert of Monaco. Thank you, Kev, and very well done!

After its summer siesta, the Royal Scots Association Pipe Band performed another couple of after dinner retreats at Gosford House in East Lothian in September and October and had another grand day out at Musselburgh Races for the Regimental Race Day on the 1st October.

We finished our playing season on a high and in front of a large crowd for Heart of Midlothian Football Club's remembrance match against Kilmarnock on Sunday, 5th November. Just as we'd played for them at their last home match before their old main stand was demolished, so we were due to play for them at their first home match in front of their new stand, but well-publicised construction delays meant that the match was moved to Murrayfield at the last minute. For some of the band members, this was old hat, but for others, playing at Murrayfield was a new and exciting experience.

And so, the band has gone into hibernation for another winter. Thanks to the efforts of a number of people, the band has now secured space for storage (if not practice) in Redford Barracks once again and plans to relieve its bank manager by moving its kit out of commercial storage by the end of January 2018.

It is at this point in my band notes that I usually ask if there are any members of the Association or wider Regimental family who play the pipes or drum, who have no interest in competing, but who might be interested in a band like ours and invite them to make contact and come and visit us at a practice. This time, however, I am following the lead of the Association President's plea for volunteers. Sadly, our Pipe Major, Colin Scot has had to step down and resign from the band due to other, pressing commitments and we would love to hear from anybody who relishes a challenge and thinks they might be able to help us.

Happy new year to the Regimental family and UTR!

ROYAL SCOTS CLUB PRESENTATION PIECE

By Major Jim Stewart RE

Some Club diners may have noticed a new addition to the display in the dining room and I thought that a few notes to explain the significance of the piece would be of general interest to the members. The piece is a small statuette of a Royal Scot in 1939-45 battle dress inscribed:

**In Memory of Peter Stewart and John Polson,
8th Battalion Royal Scots.**

"From the heath covered mountains of Scotia we come"

John Polson died in November 2016. It was reported in the Daily Record that he died friendless however it was known that he was an ex Royal Scot and an appeal was sent out to the Royal Scots Association for members who would be prepared to attend his funeral. There was an excellent response from the Association and the story and a photograph were published in the Daily Record. I resolved to set the story straight and find a way of remembering him and thanking the Royal Scots for their kind actions.

Johnnie Polson was my "Uncle Johnnie" He and my father served together in the 8th Battalion Royal Scots and remained life-long friends. He had a love of the Borders and would often call into the house on way home from some event where he would coerce my father into joining him in a glass of Glen Grant, always with the toast "From the heath covered mountains of Scotia we come".

Both my father Peter Stewart and John Polson remained staunch Royal Scots for all of their lives and still maintained contact long after the 8th Battalion numbers became too small to sustain the annual reunion. I resolved to place something in the Royal Scots Club to thank the Royal Scots Association for their support to Johnnie and to mark the affection my father and he both had for the Regiment. Johnnie had become a recluse in his later years, but he did not leave us "friendless".

My friend Alan Herriot produced a model of the war memorial at Broxburn and I had it mounted and inscribed. Our remaining family had a lunch in the club and we were very pleased to be able to present the Statuette to manager, Adrian Hayes, for display in the premises.



Statuette in memory of Peter Stewart and John Polson,
8th Battalion Royal Scots
on display in RSC dining room

DEPUTY MAYOR OF LESTREM (LE PARADIS) VISITED EDINBURGH

By David Dickson

Monsieur Philippe Broutelee, the Deputy Mayor of Lestrem Community visited Edinburgh with his wife, Christine in early November. Philippe organises the commemoration events in Le Paradis each year. It was the first visit to Edinburgh for either of them. They were hosted by David Dickson and during their stay they had a very successful visit to the Castle. They were shown the war time archive material and taken on a tour of the Museum by Lt Col Jim Blythe. There they were shown the bullet scarred railings gifted by the Delassus family that marked the spot where Pipe Major Allan, and five of his Pipes & Drums Platoon, fell in action defending Battalion HQ in May 1940.

Leaving the Castle, they were then taken to lunch in The Royal Scots Club, where they were joined by Brigadier George Lowder, Chairman of the Regimental Trustees and Regimental Administrator Jimmy Springthorpe, Mrs Elizabeth Bruce, daughter of the late Major James Bruce MC who had commanded the remnants of the Battalion on 27th May, and Mr Ralston Ryder the son of Major Lisle Ryder who had commanded 2nd Battalion The Royal Norfolks and had perished in the massacre of 97 men by the SS Totenkopf on that same day.

The Deputy Mayor and his wife enjoyed their visit and are looking forward to Royal Scots Veterans coming to Le Paradis for the commemorative events on Saturday 26th May 2018. More details can be obtained from David Dickson on davidpmdickson@gmail.com.



R Ryder, P & MC Broutelee & J Blythe at the Royal Scots Museum

LISBON MARU MEMORIAL SERVICE

by Major Christopher Delacombe,

Chair of the RS Southern Branch

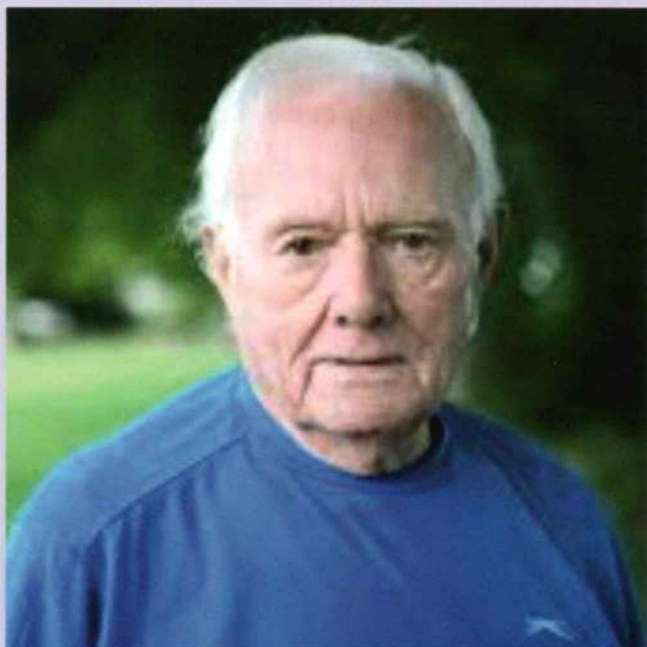
Words from Dennis Morley, 2nd Battalion Royal Scots

The ceremony was attended by me on behalf of the Regiment. It was low-key but nonetheless well done. It was also attended by John Fairgrieve, who had come down from Bathgate and whose uncle had served in 2 RS. As part of the ceremony I read a letter from Dennis Morley, late 2RS who was on the Lisbon Maru and the last remaining survivor. He is 98 this month.

Commemoration 75th Anniversary of the sinking of Lisbon Maru

Letter from Dennis Morley, 2RS

Date of birth: 26 October 1919



Dennis Morley

Photo courtesy of Jay Williams from The Telegraph

I was on the Lisbon Maru troop ship carrying Japanese Troops and Prisoners of War as it travelled from Hong Kong to Japan. The Lisbon Maru was torpedoed off Zoushan, which was in Chinese Territory, by the United States submarine "Grouper", whose Captain didn't know there were POWs on board.

As the Lisbon Maru was sinking, we managed to get into the water and started to be rescued by some Chinese fishermen. The Japanese eventually started to rescue us too. I was picked up by a Japanese boat. I was naked and I nearly froze to death as I was not given clothes until we reached Shanghai.

The Japanese did a "head count" and it was discovered that 850 POWs had drowned. The remaining POWs were taken on the Shinseui Maru ship to Moji in Japan, and then by train to Kobe and Osaka. I was put in Kobe House and worked as a "stevedore" in the docks, loading and unloading ships.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the Chinese

fishermen who came to our rescue on that day 75 years ago. And thank you to some Japanese soldiers who were very kind and gave us cigarettes and green tea, which tasted like nectar.

Since the war, and in recent years, I have been on a reconciliation trip to Japan, for which I am very grateful, and I feel honoured to have been given this chance to come to terms with it all. I also attended a "Remembrance Day" on 11th November a few years ago and I laid a wreath at a memorial in Hong Kong. I have been shown such great kindness by Chinese and Japanese people alike and have made many good friends.

"THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE REST OF MY LIFE."

When I was a POW I never dreamt that I would live to be 97 years old. Once again, to all of those people involved, thank you for saving my life.

With my warmest wishes for your future health and happiness and a peaceful life.

DENNIS MORLEY



Lisbon Maru sunk on 1st October 1942 carrying 1,816 British and Canadian prisoners of war captured after the fall of Hong Kong



Wreath at Lisbon Maru Memorial

REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

By Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

Remembrance events are very important dates in our Regimental calendar and this year saw Remembrance being commemorated by Royals in many parts of the UK, from the Southern Branch marching proudly past the Cenotaph to Mr Davy Fraser laying a wreath in Oswestry to various events held at war memorials throughout our recruiting area and Scotland. A brief look at some of these events follows:

OPENING OF THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE, EDINBURGH

Monday 30th October

Many former members of the Royal Scots, wearing Glengarry and Royal Scots capbadge, made up a good part of the audience at East Princes Street Gardens gathered to witness the opening ceremony of the RBLS Legion Scotland Garden of Remembrance. The Regimental wreath was laid by Captain Alex Dockar. Brigadier George Lowder laid a wreath on behalf of Scottish Veterans' Residences and Colonel Martin Gibson laid one on behalf of Veterans Scotland.



Standard Bearers gathered at the foot of the Scott Monument
Photo courtesy of Andy Kay



Colonel Martin Gibson laid a wreath at The Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance Ceremony
Photo courtesy of Andy Kay

GLENCORSE GATEWAY CEREMONY

Saturday 11th November

Approximately 70 members of The Regimental Family gathered at The Memorial Garden inside the Royal Scots Gateway at Glencorse to commemorate those Royals no longer with us. This year was the 90th anniversary of the opening of the Memorial Gateway.

Major Ian Johnstone blew a whistle to remind us all of the signal that sent many thousands of young men "over the top" to their deaths. He then read a list of the Royal Scots Battalions and where they were on 11 Nov 1917. The wreath was laid by Andrew Marr, son of the late Jock Marr; this was followed by a short service led by Padre Iain May, our Association Padre. The Pipe Major and a bugler from 2 SCOTS participated by kind permission of their CO.

Brigadier George Lowder thanked the QM and 2 SCOTS for their continued support. After the service, most of those present retired to 2 SCOTS Sergeants' Mess where an excellent curry was provided. The mess members were excellent hosts, showing that the Golden Thread still counts; it was a privilege to be their guests. A collection was taken by those present to give to the Sergeants' Mess but they would not accept it and we therefor donated it on their behalf to the RHF Benevolent fund.



Photos courtesy of Malcolm Ross

EDINBURGH CITY CHAMBERS

Sunday, 12th November

The Edinburgh Branch of the Association paraded for the Armistice Sunday event at Edinburgh City Chambers where Brigadier George laid a wreath on behalf of The Royal Scots. After the event at The City Chambers, a Representative Group attended the service in St. Giles Cathedral and The Lord Provost's subsequent reception in the City Chambers. Again, the Royals were well represented with members from the Edinburgh Branch on parade.

HAYMARKET

A Royal Scots wreath was laid at the Haymarket memorial to commemorate the men of 16th Battalion The Royal Scots (McCrae's Battalion) by Mr Ian Fair.



Mr Ian Fair

PEEBLES

Captain Nick Edwardson laid the Regimental wreath at the War Memorial in Peebles.

ROYAL SCOTS CLUB

Again, this year the Club held a Remembrance Sunday lunch to which all had been invited. Prior to the lunch a Regimental Wreath was laid in the foyer of the Club by Major General Mark Strudwick CBE.

STANDARD BEARERS AT SCOTTISH RUGBY, MURRAYFIELD

By Mr Tam Logan

The Association were asked again by the Scottish Rugby Union to send our Standard Party to Murrayfield to help them mark their Armistice Commemorations which were held just prior to the game Scotland v Samoa. The Association were very happy to do this and they were well received at the event.



Jamie Colquhoun, Stewart Aitken Kenny Paterson (RFU) and Tom Logan

ST ANDREWS NIGHT

By Mr Tam Logan of the East of Scotland Branch

The St Andrews Night Event held by East of Scotland Branch in Tranent went very well. While we were slightly down in numbers from previous years we still had about 70 members, family and friends at the event. We were well entertained by two young locals from the town pipe band who played a first class set on pipes and drums. This was followed by a lovely buffet organised by Mrs Logan (Tam Logan's mother) and then a disco to enable everyone to let their hair down, where there is any left!

All in all this was a really good night and will be repeated next year.



Photo courtesy of Tam Logan

OLD ROYALS ARE EVERYWHERE

By Mr John Grosvenor
Perth, Western Australia

George Gilchrist and John Grosvenor met three years ago while holidaying in Perth as both have family living there but neither of them realised how much their lives had crossed over the years. The pair never knew each other as Royal Scots although they served together, one in the band and the other in the Battalion.

On a fateful day while in Perth on Remembrance Day in 2017, John's wife, Jean took the first photo of the men together after a detail-orientated person noticed the second Glengarry and cockfeather. After chatting, the men remembered each other from their initial meeting three years previous at the same location.

John's son Glenn has lived in Perth for the past thirteen years and would like to invite his Northern Ireland Ballykinler school day friends to visit him in 2018.



George Gilchrist and John Grosvenor on a very warm 37 degree day in Perth

THE LOUDON TROPHY

By Lieutenant Colonel John Sands

Friday, 1ST September 2017

For those of you who don't know John Loudon was Regimental Sergeant Major of Tayforth University Officers Training Corps and earmarked to take over as RSM of the 1st Battalion when he, along with his wife and son, were tragically killed in a road traffic accident on the A9 south of Auchterarder in April 1979. John was a good golfer with a single figure handicap and had been, along with the then Commanding Officer and Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion, heavily involved in encouraging others to take up the game and coaching those who did.

Because of his keen association with the game, the members of the 1st Battalion Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess thought that it would be fitting that a trophy be purchased to be played for annually in his memory.

In time it became customary for the Mess to invite former Mess members to take part in the event and this year was no exception with a good contingent of retired former members and still serving, but now commissioned, ex members in attendance. The event has a prominent place in the Mess social calendar and is organised with military precision.

The evening before this year's competition all members and guests were gathered together in the Mess for the issue of a twelve-page instruction and a comprehensive, and highly amusing, briefing, regarding on course etiquette etc. This was followed by a curry supper, a glass of wine and some serious light swinging.

The following morning, saw us all, once again, gathered in the Sergeants' Mess for breakfast and a final briefing before setting off for this year's venue, The Blackwood Golf Centre near Bangor, a shortish drive from Palace Barracks. Once the whole contingent was assembled at the course, Major Ian Johnstone, who had been one of the principals in the original idea for the competition and purchaser of the trophy, and incidentally, had been a prize winner in the Inaugural event in 1979, delivered a short address and this was followed by a glass of port or two for a toast to John's memory.

Play got underway, in benign conditions with a nine-hole Stableford competition, on the Centre's Par 3 nine-hole course, to warm up competitors and caddies and this was followed by a substantial lunch. Loins properly girded, the serious stuff began with a shotgun start on the challenging 18-hole course which was soon echoing to the sound of laughter and cheers even though the rough on this course was truly rough and the lost ball count was growing by the minute.

A lot of excellent, and some more interesting, golf was played in pursuit of the honour of lifting the trophy and the day ended when everyone gathered, tired, scrubbed and shiny, and joined by some of the members wives, back in the Sergeants Mess for a buffet supper and the prize giving.

What a terrific event it was, with impeccable organisation and the participation of all the Mess members, either playing, caddying, or stewarding in some capacity, in a noticeable spirit of camaraderie. The original purpose of

the competition, to encourage and promote the game, was very much in evidence and the friendliness and hospitality shown to around twenty guests, retired and still serving, was second to none. It was extremely heartening, for those of us who had served with John and were around when the competition was inaugurated in 1979, to know that this is such a high priority event in the 1 SCOTS Sergeants' Mess social calendar.

The Loudon Trophy could not be in better hands and it was a great privilege to have been invited.

Former Royals in attendance, guests and serving, were; Sergeant Allan, John Beck, Dave Beveridge, Eddie Cohen, Colour Sergeant Gibb, Larry Gilbert, Ian Johnstone, John Lothian, Major McAuley, Colin Macdonald, Sergeant Maciver, Sergeant Paterson, Mark Renton, Captain Russell, John Sands, Colour Sergeant Stubbs, Captain Jimmy Springthorpe.

Prize winners were:

Loudon Trophy Winner	W02 (RQMS) Docherty
Runner Up	Sgt Maciver RS
Larry Gilbert Cup Winner	C Sgt Thorburn
9 Hole Stableford Winner	Capt Colville
Best Caddy	Capt Ronaldson
Closest to the Pin	C Sgt Thorburn
Longest Drive	John Lothian RS
Best Guest	Chris Collins
Best Front 9	Mark Renton RS
Best Back 9	Dave Beveridge RS
Best Company Golfers	A Coy: C Sgt Feeney, C Coy: Sgt Hart, Bn HQ, W01 (RSM) Burns
Best Attached	Sgt Fowler, Royal Signals
Most Golf at Par 3	Sgt Lawrie



The old and bold prepare to do battle, Ian Johnstone and Jimmy Springthorpe

The official opening of The Royal Scots Club, Abercrombie Place, Edinburgh on 10th August 1922 by her Royal Highness Princess Mary, the Colonel in Chief of the Regiment. The Royal Scots Club remains, first and foremost, a living Memorial to those Royal Scots who have made the supreme sacrifice for their Sovereign and Country since 1914.



Founded in 1919, the Club has always been held as a memorial to the fallen soldiers of the First World War

ROYAL SCOTS BATTLE FOR GOLFING HONOURS

By Lieutenant Colonel Brian de la Haye OBE
Friday, 27th October, the inaugural Royal Scots

On a gloriously sunny day, nine officers competed for Honours in an individual stableford competition as a precursor to the Officers Regimental Dinner that evening.

Dave Beveridge arranged the venue, Brian de la Haye recruited the competitors while Norman Soutar sponsored the prizes. Charlie Wallace was victorious overall (that handicap will be under review!) with Ross Hunter close behind followed by Ian Dougall.

Zander Russell won the "Nearest the Pin" and fourth place, while David Dickson took the "Endeavour" award!

Everyone agreed that the event was a remarkable success and should become a regular feature on the day of the Dinner, and plans are in hand to repeat the event in 2018.



David Dickson teeing off

Photo courtesy of Lt Col Brian de la Haye OBE

A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

By Neill Gilhooley

Neill Gilhooley is writing a history of the 9th Royal Scots (1900-1923), with a short postscript to cover 7th/9th Royal Scots and their descendants, to be published by Pen&Sword in the spring of 2019.

As part of my research I have a thousand-page (near 1200 pages in current draft) index of personnel online at <https://neillgilhooley.com/9th-royal-scots/index/>

Neill would be interested in stories, photographs, in fact all information on the battalion that readers of The Thistle might have and might like to send on to his email address - neillgilhooley@gmail.com

VETERAN'S BREAKFAST CLUBS

By Andy Kay

The East Lothian Veterans' Breakfast Club goes from strength to strength and is supported by local Councillors and MP. The photograph shows the November breakfast event, held in the Gothenberg Community Pub and Restaurant in Prestonpans, as it is on the first Saturday of each month; times from 0930 to 1200. The photograph shows Mr Jamie Colquhoun and Mr Tam Logan, two of the organisers of the event, with the East Lothian MP, Mr Martin Whitfield, who was very supportive of the event. These breakfasts are for any ex-serviceman or woman from any Service and, while there are a lot of Royals attending, we also have other army Regiments and Corps represented along with ex-members of the RN and RAF. It is a great way to meet and have a chat over a lovely breakfast, all for the princely sum of £5. Other events are held throughout the UK and can be found by looking up your local Volunteer Breakfast website.



Tam Logan, Jamie Colquhoun and our local MP Martin Whitfield

Photo courtesy of Andy Kay

BEQUEST TO THE REGIMENTAL TRUST

Fundraising is always a necessary part of running a charity to ensure it has sufficient funds to carry out its role. In our case, to ensure that funds are always available to cover the benevolence needs of our Regimental Family.

Have you considered leaving a gift – bequest – in your will?

There are three types of legacy: Residuary, Pecuniary and Specific.

A lawyer will help you with your choice and wording. All bequests should be left to The Royal Scots Regimental Trust and must use our Registered Charity Number (SC008001) and our address: The Royal Scots Regimental Trust, The Royal Scots Regimental Office, 29-31 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6QE.

ROYAL SCOTS HONOURED IN JERUSALEM

On 11th December 1917, British commander, General Edmund Allenby marched into Jerusalem after overthrowing the Ottoman Empire alongside thousands of Scottish soldiers who played key roles in the push across the territory. As Allenby approached the Jaffa Gate outside Jerusalem after securing it, he dismounted his horse and he and his senior officers entered on foot out of respect. This was the start of the "Forgotten War."

The 4th and 7th Battalions The Royal Scots were among the Scottish troops of the 52nd Lowland Division that played a key role in the battles that led to Jerusalem. The cost of life was high, of the 11,000-strong division, 920 were killed, 304 reported missing and 4,306 were wounded.

It was for these men, on Wednesday, 17th January 2018, at the invitation of the Israeli Embassy, UK Veterans Delegation Members Kevin Gartside and Colonel Martin Gibson, laid a poppies cross in memory of the Royals killed in late 1917.



Mr Kevin Gartside and Colonel Martin Gibson
standing at Mount Scopus



Royal Scots at Mount Scopus

ROYAL SCOTS BENEVOLENCE

Each year, the Royal Scots Benevolent Fund deals with approx. 80 -100 requests for assistance. We work in partnership with other service charities to provide financial assistance for a range of needs including mobility aids, household goods, respite care, essential clothing and priority debt.

In Memoriam

Jeff Duncan Memorial By Mr David Morris

I had the honour of representing The Royal Scots at a Memorial service to honor the late Jeff Duncan. Jeff was the leader and main stay of the campaign to Save The Scottish Regiments from the axe under the Governments plan in 2004. Although the campaign to save the regiments did not succeed, it did add pressure to ensure that the "Golden Thread" linking the new battalions to their past would be maintained.

Tributes were received from many retired senior members of the armed forces praising Jeff's amazing skills in organizing the campaign and ensuring as many people in positions of authority were made aware of the need to support the campaign. Messages from representatives of all the Scottish Regiments were received and read out to the gathered friends and members of the Regimental Associations at The Black Watch Club in Dundee by Mr Alex Salmond, who led the memorial service.



David Morris - Alex Salmond First Minister 2007-2014 - Anne
McMillan and Allan Hendry Campaign Committee members

Sgt Jonathan Matthews By Lieutenant Colonel Brian de la Haye

On 12 December, a short ceremony took place at ITC Catterick in which a plaque was unveiled, naming the WO's and Sgts' Mess annex "The Mathews Building". This was in memory of the late Sergeant Jonathan Matthews who was killed in action in Afghanistan on 28th July 2008. Jonathon enlisted in The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) in 1993, where he served with distinction before being posted to 4 SCOTS on the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. At the time of his death Jonathon was attached to 1 R IRISH.

The plaque was unveiled by Sergeant Matthews' widow, Shona. His daughter, Megan and his brother, David were among those who attended.

The Commanding Officer of the 1st Infantry Training Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Bell, said:
"Sgt Jonathan Matthews was one of those people who created lasting memories and we are immensely grateful

to the family for allowing us to use his name on this plaque."

The Headquarters School of Infantry Sergeant Major, WO1 Ian Cordiner, said Sgt Matthews, who was a sniper and reconnaissance soldier with The Highlanders, the 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, had served on operational tours in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Kosovo before volunteering to join the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment battlegroup for the tour in Afghanistan where he said his enthusiasm was unstoppable.

Sgt Matthews' brother David, who himself served in the Army for 23 years, said after the ceremony that since combat operations in Afghanistan had ended things had wound down but the unveiling of the plaque showed that the Army had not forgotten its fallen heroes.



Sgt Matthews Widow and Daughter at the unveiling ceremony

Captain Reynolds VC Commemoration By Colonel Edward Cowan

Twenty-five members of our association from north and south of the border took part in this one hundredth anniversary year commemoration in the lovely Northamptonshire village of Whilton at the invitation of Mrs Anthea Hiscock and her local committee. Most of us enjoyed supper in a local pub the evening before piped in by Matt Hoggan, our piper, after a much-needed church rehearsal. Many had suffered horrific travel delays caused by the nationwide security situation plus road closures and did well to reach Whilton.

The following morning on 20 September 2017, we assembled about half of a mile from Whilton and marched to St Andrew's Church headed by our piper, Matt Hoggan, and our Association Colour party (Tom Logan and Willie Hoy). Tam Douglas gave out the commands, kept the step and organised the villagers, who turned out in large numbers to honour their local hero, into a marching column. We halted near the church. A welcoming speech followed and then Mr David Lang, the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, unveiled a memorial stone to Captain Henry Reynolds who one hundred years ago was serving in our 12th Battalion commanding A Company. As is described later this memorial commemorates his outstanding acts of gallantry on that day which lead to this award. Lieutenant Colonel Tom Perkins, who was

commissioned into The Royal Scots and continues his career in The Royal Regiment of Scotland, then laid a poppy wreath against the stone to commemorate the lives of the 11,213 Royal Scots who lost their lives in World War One and to symbolise the golden thread of history from our regiment onward into the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

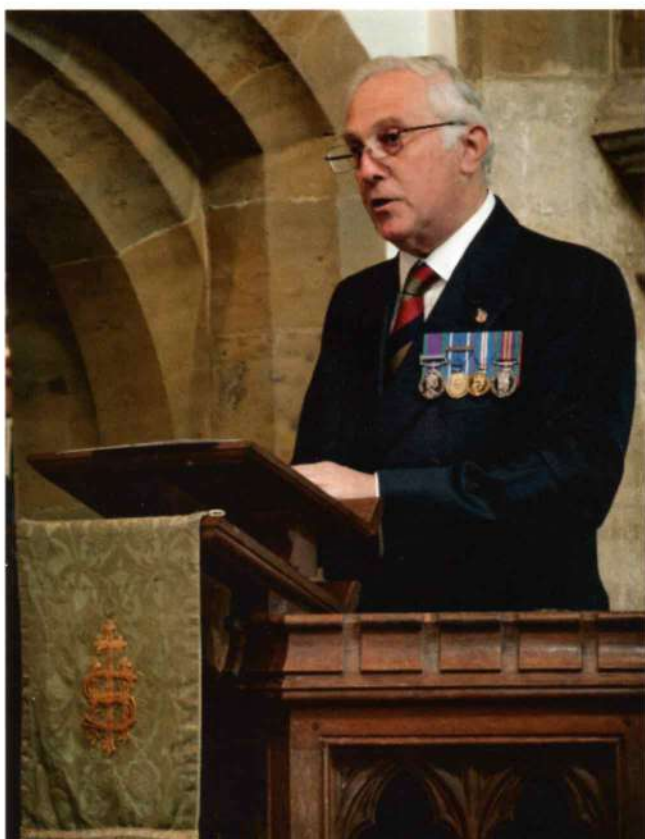
Association members made their way into the church, occupied the choir stalls and the colour party slow marched our colours up to the altar during the processional hymn accompanied by the local policeman who doubles as the organist. The vicar, Canon David Painter, conducted the service; two local children described Henry's early life and two members of the local history society recounted how he won his MC. Colonel Finlay Maclean gave an outline of the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917 and the part played by the 12th Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel John Charteris read out the VC citation. The Vice Chairman of Combat Stress described Henry Reynolds' post war work on behalf of the Ex-Services Welfare Society and how he helped so many men suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, a terrifying condition not fully understood back then. The Bishop of Peterborough gave the sermon referring to Henry Reynolds' work in helping fellow soldiers less fortunate than himself beset by mental breakdown. Stewart Colquhoun spoke the Regimental Collect from memory and without hesitation. During the singing of both verses of the National Anthem the Association colours were dipped, raised and then slow marched out of the church to the playing by Matt Hoggan of 'The Dark Island'. We then had a series of group photographs beside Captain Henry Reynolds' memorial VC stone. Our whole party included those already named together with Colonel Edward (organiser) and Janet Cowan, Captain Lance Taylor (local committee member), Colonel James and Joanna Finlay, Caroline Maclean, Antoinette Charteris, Lieutenant Colonel Colin Caverhill and Olivia Grove, Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Rae (who has regimental responsibility for events of this kind), Tam Millar (Vice Chairman of the Association's Southern Branch), Alex Moore, Davy McKendrick, Harry Wright, Tam Fisher (who was our early contact with Whilton), George Gilchrist and Andy Kyle (who drove the Edinburgh contingent's mini bus to Whilton and back again).

Finally, we enjoyed lunch as guests of Whilton Village in their local garden centre built on the site of Henry Reynold's birth place. Edward Cowan thanked the village of Whilton, the organising committee and Anthea Hiscock in particular for their hospitality, invited them to visit our museum to see Henry Reynolds' medals and to consider staying in our club created as a memorial to Royal Scots who fell in World War One. Tam Douglas presented Anthea Hiscock with the three parts of the Regimental history as written by the late Lieutenant Colonel Robert Patterson and in return she presented him with her biography of Henry Reynolds which will be retained in our museum library.

In summary this was a most enjoyable and moving event in commemoration of Henry Reynolds and his outstanding gallantry. All Association members who took part deserve congratulations for their support and making the effort to attend.



Lt Col Perkins SCOTS (former Royal Scot) laying the wreath



Colonel Finlay Maclean reading out the history of the 12th Battalion at the time of the VC being won



Association members Andy Kyle, Lt Col Gordon Rae and Willie Hoy in attendance

OBITUARIES

Bobby Buchanan MM By Colonel Edward Cowan

Corporal Bobby Buchannan was a likable character and a very professional soldier. During 1 RS's tour of South Armagh in 1975/6, Bobbie played the lead role in the battalion's single most successful action against PIRA during the 1st Battalion's 1975/6 tour of duty in South Armagh.

He had returned to the battalion from Aldershot where he had been a PT Corporal. Their loss was our gain. He quickly assimilated all relevant aspects of our operational training and joined A Company before arriving in Crossmaglen. There we were engaged in a deadly cat and mouse contest with PIRA to see who could outwit the other side. For the first two thirds of our tour, A Company patrolled intensively usually by night, and engaged in 'lure' operations which involved occupying OPs positioned around possibly targets of interest to PIRA.

Just before dawn one morning, Bobby's four man 'brick' moved into an OP located in a ditch. It stank of diesel fuel, which in hindsight we should have recognised as a site for an improvised explosive device. Ever the professional, Bobby began searching the sides of the ditch and uncovered a plastic box with wires – the command detonation device for the bomb which lay beneath them. Exiting the ditch, they saw two men in the half-light lying down some distance away observing them. These men then made off and a full-scale operation then took place to blow this bomb up resulting in a major controlled explosion.

The Company Commander, thinking that PIRA would be on the lookout for A Company returning to Crossmaglen's police station for a good night's rest, called for a Wessex helicopter to appear to be extracting this OP and others back to base. Instead some fourteen Ops, including Bobby's, remained out on the ground waiting to see if PIRA would react. Some twenty minutes after last light Bobby, armed only with an SMG, was busy placing some P-sid devices round their OP when he saw eight fully armed PIRA men walking in the direction of Crossmaglen. Returning to his platoon commander and grabbing a rifle with a large and inaccurate night site on it, he followed the PIRA men who entered a farm building where after a fire fight began. Despite attempts to surround the building with other 'bricks' and to avoid a 'blue on blue' blunder the PIRA men escaped.

This proved to be the climax of our tour and for the remainder of our time there PIRA tried their hand at other targets outside our company area. For his courage and professionalism that day, Bobby was awarded an MM, the highest gallantry award that anyone in the battalion received during that memorable tour.

Colonel Dudley Lucas By Major Christopher Delacombe

Dudley Lucas was born on 28 April 1933 into an Army family. After recruit training in the Brigade Squad at Pirbright and officer training at RMA Sandhurst, he was commissioned into the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) in 1954. In 1957 he was appointed Adjutant of the Regimental Depot at Winston Barracks, Lanark where he saw the last cohorts of national service recruits undergoing basic training. After a tour as an instructor at Mons Officer Cadet School, in 1962 he was appointed Adjutant of the 1st Battalion, firstly in Minden and then in Edinburgh. There he commanded the guard of honour for the opening of the Forth Road Bridge by Her Majesty the Queen. In late 1964 he went to the Staff College from where in 1966 he was appointed Brigade Major of 161 Infantry Brigade. He and Stephanie were married in January 1966 immediately after his time at Staff College.

On the disbandment of the Cameronians in 1968, he was one of a number of officers who transferred to the Royal Scots, joining the 1st Battalion in Osnabruck. Here he was appointed to the command of the newly formed Support Company. Dudley always demanded the highest standards and invariably ran a very tight ship. He instilled into his soldiers the need to obey orders but was hoist by his own petard on one occasion when, as Field Officer of the Week, he issued an order of the day that no one without his identity card was to be allowed access to the barracks by the guard. Unfortunately, when challenged by the sentry on duty he discovered to his horror that he had left his behind and had to return to his quarter to retrieve it. As OC Support Company, he took the company to Belfast in the Battalion's 1970 operational tour under Lt Col (later Lt Gen) Bob Richardson. Command of a company was followed by serving as DAA and QMG of 11 Armd Bde in Germany (1971 – 72).

He was known for his clarity of thought and attention to detail. This was marked by being selected to attend the National Defence College. It was then that he and Stephanie bought their beloved home Becketts at Chilmark in 1973.

After NDC he returned to the Battalion as 2IC before being selected, on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, to command the Lowland Brigade Depot at Glencorse in

1974. Here, at a passing out parade, his patience was sorely tried by the commander of one passing out platoon who marched past with red garter flashes showing beneath his treads.

Glencorse was followed by nine years in the MOD in London, promotion to Colonel and a final staff appointment nearer home at Andover. On retirement from the Army, he continued his close involvement by serving as a retired officer for ten years on the Staff at Bulford.

From Becketts he enjoyed shooting with friends and with the Warminster and Tidworth shoots, he pursued his love of fishing and was heavily involved in the Teffont Fishing Club on the Nadder of which he was Secretary for over twenty-five years.

He remained a strong supporter of the Cameronian regimental family and organised the Cameronian London lunch, including that which took place only two weeks before he died. In 2014 at the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Forth Road Bridge he reassembled ten members of the original guard of honour for the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and had the honour of being presented.

He is remembered by his many friends for his loyalty and generosity. He died at home on Friday, 1st December 2017 leaving his adored wife Stephanie, his much-loved children Chloe and Timothy and his grandchildren Django, Mo, Finlay and Willoughby.

OBITUARIES

The Editor relies on friends and relatives to provide timely and meaningful contributions to record the life and achievements of former members of the regiment.

Deaths

Mr Bill Finlay – 3rd July 2017, 1RS

Mr Andrew Norcliffe – 2nd August 2017, 1RS and RCT

Mr David (Dusty) Young – 13th October 2017, 1RS

Colonel Stephen Nathan – 15th October 2017, 1RS and AAC

Mr David Howden – 4th November 2017, 1RS

Mr Rab Keanie – 12th November 2017, 1RS

Mr Billy Omand – 17th December 2017, 1RS

Mr John McNicol MM – 20th December 2017, 1RS

From the Editor:

The last three years have seen the anniversaries of a number of events of commemoration, from both the first and second World Wars. This period culminates in November with the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War. The Royal Scots' proud history includes participation in many of these and I look forward to receiving contributions from forthcoming events for the next editions of the Thistle.

Please forward submissions or newsletters from all Royal Scots Branches and photos including the names of person within as well as the name of the photographer, to Ann-Marie@Corkerton.com by Sunday, 1st July for the Summer 2018 edition.



FORECAST OF EVENTS 2018

FEBRUARY

Sat 3rd Joint Burns Night – East of Scotland Branch Prestonpans

MARCH

Sat 24th RS Regimental Day Dinner RS Club
Tues 27th Regimental Day Lunch RS Club
Wed 28th The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) Regimental Day (386 years)
Wed 28th Royal Regiment of Scotland Formation Day

APRIL

Fri 13th - Sun 15th Association Away Weekend Rothiemurches
Wed 18th RS Club AGM RS Club
Fri 27th RS Association General Committee AGM RS Club
Sat 28th RS Annual Reunion Teviot Row House

MAY

Sun 13th Fallen Comrades Golf Outing Deerpark Golf Course
Sat 19th Quintinshill Commemorations (103 years) Rosebank Cemetery, Leith
Mon 28th Edinburgh Branch Bowling Day Leith

JUNE

Sat 9th Edinburgh Branch Inter-Section Bowling Day Leith
Fri 15th RS Club Waterloo Dinner RS Club
Sat 16th NI Branch Op Banner Memorial Golf Outing NI
Mon 25th Edinburgh Armed Forces Day Edinburgh
Fri 29th - Wed 4th McRae Battalion Trust visit to France France
Sat 30th UK Armed Forces Day

JULY

Sun 1st Deadline for Articles for the Summer Edition of The Thistle

AUGUST

Wed 1st Minden Day 1 SCOTS
TBC VC 100th Year Commemoration TBC
Pte H McIver VC – awarded for actions on 23 August 1918
Wed 15th Birthday of HRH, The Princess Royal, Patron

SEPTEMBER

Sat 1st - Fri 7th NI Branch visit to Somme Battlefields France
Sun 2nd Gladdy Murray Golf Outing Haddington Golf Course

OCTOBER

Fri 26th Regimental Trustees Meeting RS Club
Fri 26th Officers Regimental Dinner RS Club
TBC VC 100th Year Commemoration TBC
Cpl RE Elcock VC, MM – awarded for actions on 15th October 1918
TBC VC 100th Year Commemoration TBC
Lt DS McGregor VC – awarded for actions on 22nd October 1918
Sat 27th Edinburgh Branch Halloween Dance Leith
Mon 29th Garden of Remembrance Edinburgh Opening Ceremony Princes St Gardens
Tues 30th RBL Opening of Garden of Remembrance Glasgow George Square

NOVEMBER

Thu 8th Westminster Field of Remembrance FLondon
Sat 10th RS Glencorse Gateway Ceremony Glencorse Barracks
Sun 11th 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day Various, details TBC
Sat 24th East of Scotland Br, St Andrew's Night Dinner Tranent
Sat 24th St Andrew's Night Dinner RS Club

DECEMBER

Sat 1st Deadline for Articles for the Winter Edition of The Thistle
Festive events will be notified on the Website
TBC Regimental Office closes RS Club
TBC Museum & OPMH Close Castle

All dates are subject to change. Please check the Royal Scots website for final details.

Looking forward:

With the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War 1, 2018 looks like being a particularly busy year. Please see the Forecast of Events for all known events but it is important that you check our website www.theroyalscots.co.uk to get the up to date information and timings. 2018 also saw the winning three of the six VCs awarded to Royal Scots during WW1.

- Pte H McIver VC MM 2RS was awarded his VC for actions on 23rd August 1918, having been awarded a bar to his MM on 1st July 1918. Hugh was born in Linwood in Ayrshire.
- Cpl RE Elcock VC MM 11RS was awarded his VC for actions on 15th October 1918. Cpl Elcock was born in Wolverhampton.
- Lt DS McGregor 6RS was awarded his VC for actions on 22nd October whilst serving with 29th Battalion, The Machine Gun Corps. Lt McGregor was born in Edinburgh.

Arrangements are being made to commemorate these VCs by laying plaques in their town of birth. This is being organised by local Councils but with Regimental input. More details will appear in the Summer edition of The Thistle and on the RS website.

There will be many ceremonies to commemorate the ending of the First World War and details of these will be in the Summer edition of The Thistle plus of course on the web. For these and other major events keep an eye on the website so you can't say you did not know.

Association Meetings

EDINBURGH

Last Friday of each month at 8.00 pm at Leith ex-Servicemen's Club, 7 Smith's Place, Edinburgh
Contact: Mags Allen
weeweegie1@virginmedia.com

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

First Sunday of each month at 2.00 pm at Hillcroft Hotel, Whitburn, West Lothian
Contact: David Milne
David.milne3343@live.co.uk

EAST OF SCOTLAND

Meets at RBL Prestonpans,
Contact Peter Blackie -
peterblackie@yahoo.co.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

First Tuesday of each month at RBL Ards
Contact: Davy McKendrick,
Secretary
davidsmck1@sky.com

HIGHLAND

On the first Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm at Raigmore Recreation Rooms, Inverness
Contact: Tam McFadden,
tamrosie@btinternet.com

SOUTHERN

Contact: Tam Millar
Weetam0571@sky.com

PIPE BAND

Contact: Torquil Corkerton
Torquil@ednet.co.uk

For further information contact
The Regimental Office, The
Royal Scots Club, 29-31
Abercromby Place, Edinburgh
EH3 6QE
Tel: 0131 557 0405
Email:
admin@theroyalscots.co.uk