

The Thistle

Journal of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

Volume 35

Summer Edition 2019

Foreword

Brigadier G E Lowder MBE

Chairman of Trustees and President of The Regimental Association

I hope that you are enjoying the summer, despite the very changeable weather. Many of the spring and summer events in our calendar have been impacted by torrential rain, high winds - or both, not least the service at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) on Wednesday 14 August to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of Operation BANNER in Northern Ireland. I am most grateful to Christopher Delacombe and the Southern Branch of The Association for representing us in good numbers at this event, which is covered in more detail in this edition. Following previous services and commemorations at the NMA, including for Operation GRANBY and the unveiling of The SCOTS Stone, a number of you have made the point that, apart from a small plaque at the stand of Scots Pines planted for The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Royal Scots do not have their own memorial at the NMA. The Royal Scots who have fallen since the end of The Second World War are commemorated individually, or on campaign memorials at the NMA, but there is no Royal Scot memorial. The Regimental Trustees have considered what might be appropriate and taken advice on what has been done in recent years by The Royal Regiment of Scotland (the SCOTS Stone does include reference to all its antecedent Regiments, including The Royal Scots) and other antecedents, including The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and The Queen's Own Highlanders. There are a number of options: from stones to statues and memorials to murals. We note that The NMA is predominantly a place for reflection and remembrance, rather than heritage and history and that the NMA is not averse to a Royal Scots contribution to the site. There is of course a cost for whatever we procure and for ongoing maintenance, but The Regimental Trustees judge that the likely costs are affordable. So, if you have a view on this, we would like to hear your thoughts.

Since the last edition we have enjoyed participation in The Club Centenary church service, book launch, Founder's Dinner, cocktail party and beating retreat and subsequent dinner. These are all covered in this edition and I would like to thank all those who contributed to the planning and delivery of these events which provided an excellent and fitting commemoration of the founding of The Club.

I also note that the work of the "373 Team" working on our heritage project, capturing and cataloguing our 373 years of unbroken service and ensuring that it is available in digital formats, suited to the 21st Century, continues apace. Their latest triumph is a 40-minute film that captures the World War 2 experiences of four Royal Scots veterans; the oldest is 100 and fought at Le Paradis, two recount their experiences in Italy and Burma and the youngest - 93, fought in Europe. Comment has been made that, "through their honesty, humanity and humour these old Royals offer younger generations an insight into the experience of war that is vivid, sharp and unique." The film is due to be launched on 13th September.

It is great news that events at Rosebank Cemetery, Linlithgow, Le Paradis and Contalmaison have been well supported, although there is always room for more to attend. Many thanks to those who continue to take responsibility for organising these events and overseeing our participation. Without these willing volunteers these events would be hard to sustain. The Edinburgh Armed Forces Day 2019 was held a week before the UK national event this year, to deconflict it from Royal Week. The format remained the same as for 2018; a muster in Charlotte Square, a march along George Street with the salute being taken at Castle Street and a gathering in Saint Andrew's Square. This format works well, we had a good turnout and enjoyed marching behind our own Association Pipes and Drums. I did, however, note that there were almost as many Royals spectating

as marching. We would very much like to see those who are able, swelling the ranks of the marching contingent on Armed Forces Day and other events when we are on parade. Everyone is most welcome.

As we look to the Autumn our calendar will see the annual Remembrance events and our widespread representation at, and engagement with, them. We have a well-rehearsed plan for this, and details are in the forecast of events. There is to be one addition this year that I hope will endure.

Following the opening of the Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance at the Scott Monument on Tuesday 29th October, we have invited the Lord Provost and Armed Forces Champion for The City of Edinburgh, to accompany those Royal Scots present to The Royal Scots Monument in West Princes Street Gardens for a short wreath laying event. There will not be a formal march or parade from east to west, but an orderly walk together. The Monument will be cleaned ahead of the wreath laying and we will rightly spend some time reflecting at our own Monument in The City.

And on reflection; these last few months have seen our number reduced by an unusually high number, some well before their time. At the gatherings following the services and funerals, I am struck by the numbers who attend and observe that it is a shame we only seem to see one another at these sad occasions. Perhaps we should all try to make more of the happier opportunities to associate. On that note I look forward to the next time our paths cross and to seeing you at one of the many events in our annual calendar.

Up The Royals
Yours Aye

George Lowder



SPOTLIGHT

Mr Kenneth Peppercorn 8 RS 1942 to 1945.

Ken was called up in 1942 and sent to the 8th Battalion The Royal Scots, he was a replacement so had little say in the Regiment he was sent to. A native of Cambridgeshire, his call-up came as a bit of a surprise as he was an airfield surveyor but in error had been listed in his job as a Timekeeper. Following extensive training the Battalion embarked for Normandy, landing on Gold Beach some days after the initial D-Day landings. Ken transferred from the troopship to a landing craft and was first off the ramp when it went down – unfortunately he stepped right into a shell hole and almost drowned! Not a good start but reaching the beach he found a nice hole which he occupied and then started a brew, as troops do, having a cuppa then a mess tin of porridge. 8RS were part of 15th Scottish Division and were soon in action taking part in the securing of “the Scottish Corridor”. It was during these actions, where the Battalion took many casualties, that Ken was wounded and taken prisoner.

Initially taken to a makeshift hospital in Rheims, he was operated on by a French doctor who removed the shrapnel that had wounded Ken and handed it to him with the comment “souvenir?” – he still has that fragment to this day. Ken was then moved to PoW camps in Germany by train during which they were strafed by the RAF! Ken eventually ended up a Camp in Leipzig and as the end of the war approached, they were put on the road to march away from the advancing Russians. Ken, like many others, broke away from this column and headed towards where he thought the front line was. The first Allied soldier he met was an American War Correspondent/Photographer and when Ken asked where he should go he was told “Just keep walking down the road Buddy. You will soon come to them.”

Shipped back to UK and after a short spell of recovery Ken applied for early demob as he had a job to go to, returning to Cambridgeshire where he continued his career as a surveyor. Ken is now a sprightly 97 and many of you may have seen him on the programmes covering the D-Day landings earlier this year, resplendent in Glengarry, Cap Badge and Regimental Tie. Ken thoroughly enjoyed his trip over the Channel, which was somewhat different to that of 1944, but he had so many memories, not all good, of that time. If any other 8th Battalion are reading this, then Ken would love to hear from you.

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



Ken 1944 and 2019



Regimental Office

By Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

I am delighted to report that the office staff is once again at full strength (2 of us). Ellie Weir has been recruited to cover Heather's maternity leave. Ellie is from Arran where her parents farm. She is married with three young children; she enjoys writing, dancing and the arts. Ellie has settled in very quickly and is taking on the responsibility with considerable efficiency.

On the 15th March we were honoured to welcome HRH The Princess Royal to The Office where she signed our visitors' book and spoke with Brigadier Lowder, Heather and I. HRH was in The Club for the launch of The Club's 100th anniversary book, “Not for Glory Nor Riches” written by Roddy Martine.

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



Ellie & Jimmy

NI LEGACY ENQUIRIES

In the last three editions of The Thistle I have explained the procedures that should be applied in relation to Northern Ireland Legacy Enquiries. Again, I stress that if you are contacted by The Ministry of Defence, The Northern Ireland Coroner's Office, The Enquiry Team or the chain of command in Northern Ireland we most strongly recommend you seek immediate advice from The Regimental Office before responding to any request for information. The Regimental Office will ensure that you have the correct points of contact to seek legal and wider advice. On the 15 August The Coroner's Report regarding the death of Seamus Bradley on 31 July 1972 was released. A number of Royal Scots were called to give evidence to this enquiry, and it is highly likely that other Royal Scots will be called to give evidence to future further enquiries into other incidents, especially given the number of Op BANNER commitments undertaken by The Regiment. These matters are sub judice and we all must take great care in our external communications and media engagement on this matter. I am hugely grateful for the additional support that has been provided by David Nisbet and Jim Anderson to bolster our communications capability in The Regimental Office around these matters. Finally, on this subject, I would like to assure you that we are providing all the support we can, to those involved in the Legacy Enquiries.

Chairman of Trustees

The Royal Scots Regimental Association

By Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

The Association, under the leadership of Branch office bearers and numerous volunteers, has been very busy in a variety of ways and reports of some of their activity can be seen throughout this edition of The Thistle.

This year saw the 100th Anniversary of The Royal Scots Club and Association members, and their partners, were among the many club members who attended the various events associated with that.

On 25th May there was a good turnout including the Association Pipes and Drums and the Association Standard Party at annual Gretna Commemoration held at Rosebank Cemetery, Leith. Association Padre Rev Iain May led the service. We were delighted that this year Brigadier Iain Johnstone was able to attend from his home on the Island of Fohr.

During the period 23 – 26 May, David Dickson and Andy McDowall accompanied by Piper Matt Hoggan visited La Paradis. See separate report.

Linlithgow Marches on 18th June coincided with the 100th anniversary of the return home from Russia of 10 RS. To commemorate that, The Royal Regiment of Scotland paraded and behind them marched some of our Association members and an Association Standard party. The Association contingent were cheered from start to finish by the people of Linlithgow. It is not a march for the faint hearted, I still have the blisters.

The 22nd June was the date this year for Edinburgh's Armed Forces Day and the parade along George Street took part in glorious sunshine, which made the beer provided in St Andrews Square all the more enjoyable.

This year's trip to Contalmaison by members of the Association was a particularly sad and poignant occasion as it coincided with the funeral of Lt Col Gary Tait MBE who was Chairman of McCrae's Battalion Trust.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask that those former Royal Scots reading this, who are not paid up members of The Association, should consider joining. I am particularly keen to see younger former Royals joining. The stronger The Association the better placed we are to assist, through Benevolence, those former Royals and their dependants in need.

STOP PRESS:

**News hot off the wire is that
Lt Col Piers Strudwick OBE
has just been appointed
Defence Attaché to Turkey in
the rank of Colonel – appointment
to be effective from 28th August.**

ASSOCIATION DINNER 2019

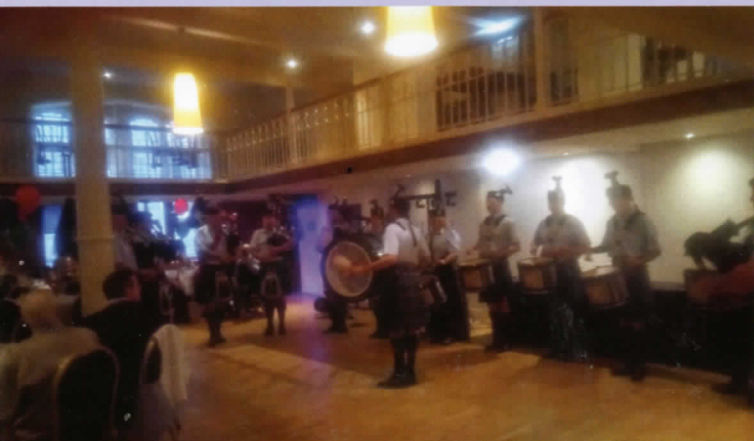
The Spring Dinner was held in the Royal Scots Club and was, as usual, well organised by Mr Tam Douglas. There were 40 people in attendance from Branches across the Association. Well looked after by The Club staff, the Members enjoyed a three-course dinner with wine and were entertained to two sets by Piper Greig McLean from the Association Pipe Band. As ever, the main reason for the Dinner is comradeship, meeting fellow ex Royals, having a good meal, a few beers and a great craic. The photograph shows many of those attending with Tam Douglas and Stephen Elliot holding a bottle of Rum presented to Tam Douglas by members of the Royal Canadian Regiment Association on their visit to the Somme last year. It was well 'sampled' by the attendees.



The Usual Suspects

ROYAL SCOTS' ANNUAL REUNION

Once again this was held in the Edinburgh University Students' Union and was attended by approximately 100 members and guests. Numbers were down on last year, which was a bit of a disappointment, especially considering the vast amount of work by Tommy Douglas, Tam Logan and their team of helpers. Even so a very good evening was held with a raffle, very tasty buffet and entertainment by the RS Association Pipe Band, followed by a disco until the early hours.



Association Branch News

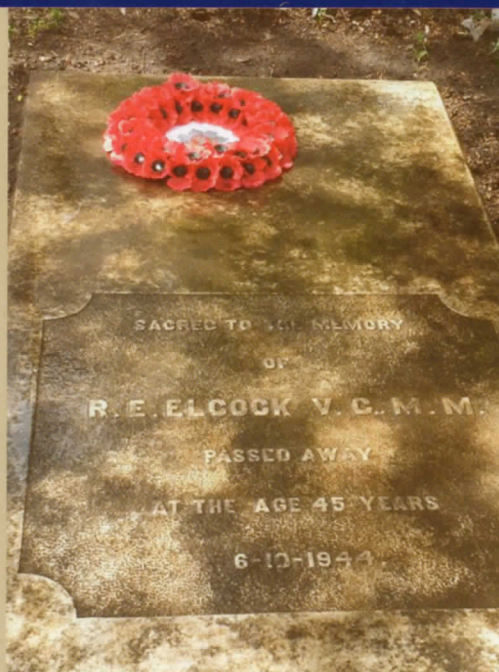
EDINBURGH BRANCH - WARRISTON CEMETERY

Earlier this year it had been noted that the war graves in Warriston Cemetery were overgrown and needed some attention. In conjunction with Edinburgh Council, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Veterans Scotland the Edinburgh Branch offered their services to bring these graves back to a reasonable standard. One cloudy Saturday morning a group of Branch Members met at the cemetery and the work was done for a grand price of a few bacon rolls. A great piece of cooperation between The Council and Veterans' Groups, and a job well done by Edinburgh Branch.



Warriston Cemetery

Cleaning Ops



Grave of
Major Elcock
VC MM

NI Branch News

CORPORAL (LATER MAJOR) ROLAND ELCOCK VC MM

Each year Mrs Vera McKendrick, a staunch supporter of the NI Branch, volunteers time to undertake work in an orphanage in India and has done this for several years. Knowing that Major Elcock VC had died there and was buried in Dehra Dun Cemetery in the Uttarakhand Province, under the shadow of the Himalayas, Vera volunteered to take a regimental wreath with her this year, which she laid on Major Elcock's grave. A commemoration stone was laid in Roland's hometown of Wolverhampton last year and this act neatly completes the 100th anniversary of the award to Roland. Roland Elcock was a railway engineer and following WW1 moved to India to take up a job with Indian Railways, subsequently as Chief Engineer. When WW2 started Roland joined the Indian Army and was commissioned. He died in 1944 from disease and was buried in Dehra Dun.

This is a great example of the Regimental Family remembering one of our own, so many thanks to Vera McKendrick for taking time out to place this wreath on behalf of the Regimental Family.



Mrs Vera
McKendrick

ARMED FORCES DAY

This year Edinburgh had to bring forward the date of AF Day to deconflict with Royal Week. The event was held on 22nd June and took the same format as last year, with the parade forming up at Charlotte Square and parading along George Street to the final gathering in St Andrews Square Gardens. The RS Contingent was led by the Association Pipes and Drums and commanded by Brigadier George Lowder. The Salute was taken by The Lord Provost Frank Ross.

Earlier in the week East Lothian Council raised the AF Flag in Haddington by the Lord Lieutenant Major Michael Williams MBE assisted by Mr Tam Logan. As ever a good number of the East of Scotland Branch were in attendance, including Lady Candy Richardson.



The Form Up



AF Day 2019

'THE GALLANT ROYAL SCOTS'

By Lt Col Jock Wilson Smith

As Thistle editor in 1980, I was looking through old copies of our Journal to find any suitable material for The Regiment's 350th anniversary issue in 1983. I found in the 1933 issue a poem 'The Royal Scots'.

The first verse went:

**Come a'ye merry ploughmen,
And shepherds frae the glen
I'll sing tae you a cheery sang
About the gallant men
Who leave their hills and valleys,
Their sheiling's ha's and cots
Tae fight for dear old Scotland
Wi' the gallant Royal Scots.**

I published this poem in The Thistle in 1983. It was put to music by W.O.2 John Gargaro, Band Serjeant Major 1 RS in 1985. He altered the title to "The Gallant Royal Scots", wrote a new first verse and amended a few words. The song was sung for the first time by the band in The Officers' Mess, for St Andrew's Night dinner on 30th November 1985. The Regimental Song, as it became - as a fitting climax, was sung by a Regimental choir, for the band's Quinquennial inspection, resulting in a very good grading. Major Finlay Maclean was Band President. The full song can be found here:
www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-gallant-royal-scots.

Later, after much research, I traced a Robert Mitchell Donaldson in The Hocken Collection in New Zealand who wrote poems, including 'Bluebells and Heather', obviously the same person who wrote 'The Royal Scots'. I have been unable to obtain the book Bluebells and Heather, either here in UK or New Zealand. I traced Donaldson to Christchurch, New Zealand. He was born in Scotland on 23rd Sep 1863. He married Isobella Howie, also from Edinburgh in 1894. He emigrated to New Zealand with his wife and three children, where his job was compositor. He never did any military service. Donaldson also wrote a book titled The Fiery Cross of Scotland. This he dedicated to Sir John Falconer, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, in 1948. The origin of The Fiery Cross, known as 'Crann Tara' was used as a declaration of war, last used in Scotland in 1745 during the Jacobite rising. The ceremony was performed on Edinburgh Castle Esplanade in 1948. A silent black and white film is on the web archives under The Fiery Cross. The Lord Provost is shown handing out crosses on the Esplanade, probably advertising the start of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 1948.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland

The start of this year has been, as ever, very busy for the Battalions with emphasis being placed on practicing and improving personal skills and drills. All work and no play is certainly not the mantra, and several adventure training events and sporting competitions have been planned and enjoyed. 1 SCOTS continue to work towards their new Specialised Infantry Role and have teams deployed to various locations, training and assisting troops at all levels. On top of this they continue to offer support to Operations in Iraq.

2 SCOTS had the honour of providing the Guard of Honour at Edinburgh Castle for the celebration of Her Majesty's birthday. The Bn team also came first in the Northern Section of the "British Warrior Fitness" Competition taking them on to the final stages. 3 SCOTS carried out battalion level training on Sennelager ranges in preparation for a major Exercise on Salisbury Plain in August. 4 SCOTS sent a team on adventure training to Malta where 20 members of the Battalion underwent a scuba diving course. The battalion also undertook some mountain training in preparation for future Exercise and for Op TORAL. The Duke of Rothesay's Dirk Competition, an inter platoon competition, took place consisting of a platoon patrol competition including a quick attack on a village, followed by VCPs and an advance to contact finishing off with platoons submitting their platoon reports for the exercise. 13 Pl were the ultimate winners.

5 SCOTS also ran a competition, this was a section competition for the Aden Banner which consisted of a navigation exercise on Day one and a March and Shoot on Day two finishing off with a stretcher race. Public Duties were a major element of this year with Balaklava Company supplying the Public Duties in London and Windsor. They are currently the Queen's Guard at Balmoral. 6 and 7 SCOTS have not been idle either with 6 SCOTS preparing for their Annual Deployment Exercise in Lydd & Hythe by undertaking build up training in Kirkcudbright; while 7 SCOTS have been running 'Back to Basics' training using Virtual Training Equipment. 7 SCOTS Shooting Team came 4th out of 12 in the 1 (UK) Division Shoot and are preparing to go to Bisley later this year. Both battalions have been involved in sporting events with 6 SCOTS football team, assisted by 7 SCOTS, being runners-up in the Army Reserve Challenge Cup. Their next challenge is in the final of the Infantry Reserve Cup in August.

The Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming (ASBM&HD) were asked to send a piper to assist the Jordanian Armed Forces Pipe Band prepare for a tattoo in the USA so Cpl Black was deployed to Jordan for this task.

A very busy time indeed for all members of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, both Regular and Reserve.

Commemoration, Museum & Heritage

As ever the Museum and Heritage Committee has not stood still. Following a fairly hectic period of commemorations at the end of last year marking the end of WW1 and the final VC commemorations, this period has been just as busy. Most of the commemorations are covered elsewhere in the Thistle:

- Church Service at the Canongate Kirk to commemorate the founding of The Royal Scots Club – Sun 10th March 19
- Book Launch of "Not for Riches or Glory" the history of The Royal Scots Club – Mon 11th Mar 19
- Rosebank Cemetery Gretna Commemorations - 25th May 19
- Le Paradis, France Commemoration – 24th-27th May 19
- Linlithgow Riding – 18th March 19

2-10th Bn RS Memorial

But the following are covered below:

100th Anniversary of the 2nd/10th

Bn Return from Archangel:

On Sunday 16th June 19 a service was held at St Michaels Parish Church, Linlithgow to re-dedicate the War Memorial and to commemorate the 2nd/10th Bn The Royal Scots return from Archangel in Russia. A number of local dignitaries also attended: Deputy Lord Lieutenant; Provost of West Lothian; Provost of Deacons' Court; Deacon of the Fraternity of Dyers and the War Memorial Trust. Two Wreaths were laid during the service. Major General MJ Strudwick CBE laid a wreath at the War Memorial and Major IC Johnstone MBE laid a wreath at the 2nd/10th Bn memorial.

After the war the 2nd/10th Bn Colour was laid up in St Michaels Parish Church until it was deemed to be too fragile when it was taken down and given to the Annan Museum in Linlithgow. Negotiations are currently underway to have the Colour returned to the RS Museum where its condition will be assessed, and plans made for its long-term conservation.

75th Anniversary of the Battle of Kohima:

On Thursday 4th July 19 a service was held at of York Minster Cathedral to mark the 75th Anniversary of the battle of Kohima. The service was held in Deans Park beside the 2nd Division Memorial under a clear blue sky. Over 200 family, friends and 7 veterans of the battle attended the service. The Duke of York gave a very good introduction to the battle and its significance to the war in the Far East prior to the service. At the conclusion a Hurricane aircraft gave a very memorable flypast circling the Minster several times before weaving off into the distance.





Kohima Service 4 July 2019
Col J Finlay, Lt Col W Silvester, Lt Col G Rae



The descendants of
Captain JA Edwards MC** 2/10 RS

Museum & Heritage Committee Projects

Museum Store Room – It has long been a plan of the Committee to replace the old cramped wooden shelving in the store room with new modern shelving, high density steel storage shelving system. Not only would this allow for better store, care and long-term preservation of the artefacts but would also increase the storage capacity by at least 30%. After a few hiccups imposed on us by Historical Environment Scotland – reinforcing the floor and removing all the rubble under it, under the supervision of an archaeologist, the project was completed in February 2019.

LIBOR – Preparations are well underway to box the documentation of the First World War that is to be digitised under the LIBOR funded project. The Treasury has given the Army Museums Ogilby Trust £5M to co-ordinate the digitisation of UK military museums WW1 documentation: documents, maps, letters, diaries, photographs etc. This is no mean feat given the quantity that are stored in the museum archives.

Libor is money obtained by the Government from Banks, following the report into cooperation between banks in setting interest rates. The government ringfenced much of this money for good causes and the Museum bid for and received money for some of its projects.

WW2 Roll of Honour – The WW2 RoH is now complete and was launched on 24th June following in the footsteps of the D-Day Commemorations 6th June, the RS commemorations in Linlithgow 16th & 18th June, Armed Forces Day 22nd June and very close to the Op Epsom commemorations, known as the "Scottish Corridor", in Europe 26th June. It is now on the Web Site and compliments the WW1 RoH rolled out last November to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

Essays – To compliment the work on the RoH, a number of essays covering significant battles/events in the Regiment's history have been completed. They cover events such as Le Paradis, the Lisbon Maru incident, the Kohima Campaign, Archangel etc. and have now been uploaded onto the Web Site. Funding has now been secured to produce the essays in booklet form and it is intended to give one to each member of the RS Association in the very near future.

Op BANNER – In addition to the Essays, a collection of material on the various Op BANNER tours has been collated from Pontius Pilates Bodyguard and The Thistle in hard copy only at this point.

Computers – Following success on the grants bids process, the museum has now purchased 3 new computers for the research volunteers to use and one lap top for use on the outreach programme with schools. This brings all our IT hardware up to date and will see us well into the foreseeable future.



Museum Work in Progress

373 Years Of Unbroken Service

The purpose of 373 is to preserve and honour The Royal Scots unique Heritage.

In late 2017 the opportunity to capitalise on the nation's centenary commemorative events to mark the end of World War 1 was identified by the Regimental Museum Trustees. A small band of volunteers, 'Team373', using the Scottish National War Memorial Royal Scots Roll of Honour and information from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, worked tirelessly in partnership with the St Andrews University Computer Science Department to post our WW1 War Roll of Honour online (11,300 killed of 100,000 Royals who served). This was launched in mid-August 2018, which presented the launchpad for very significant media opportunities in the next three months, with a crescendo at the Leith event. Uploading of archived and new material onto the website continues. Visit: www.theroyalscots.co.uk

The above bold initiative was driven by the strong feeling that our fine Regiment's huge contribution and sacrifices must be shared within UK and throughout the world, using modern technology.

Having dramatically heightened the overall profile of The Royal Scots Team373 determined that a similar approach should be taken for WW2. In June the WW2 Roll of Honour (1,250 killed of the 10,000 who served King and Country) was launched at our War Memorial Club, which has commemorated its centenary this year. Bill Walker, our 98 year old veteran who served in Burma and was wounded, took part in the launch, which was televised by BFBS
: <https://www.forces.net/news/military-life/scotland/online-roll-of-honour-royal-scots-who-died-during-wwii>.

The experiences of four RS WW2 veterans have been recorded and are currently being developed for a 40-minute feature film to be launched in the Club on Friday 13 September; that evening the film be shown to members of the Regimental Family.

Looking ahead, building on the series of excellent essays and museum displays, descriptors on the Regimental website and the now developed virtual Museum tour, boosted by information and artefacts received since August last year, Team373 initiatives to further capture the 373 story will continue apace. The importance of the Museum as our physical display of heritage is reinforced by 373, which exports The Royal Scots story worldwide. From the Arctic circle to the Falkland Islands, wherever people have access to Wi-Fi, they can now access the 373 story.

The Museum Trustees determination to take 373, the virtualisation of our Regimental story, forward to ensure we overcome Lest We Forget in perpetuity and has also been strongly welcomed and supported by The Regimental Trustees.



Cathy Tucker & Col Robert Watson

Linlithgow Marches 2019

The golden thread from The Royal Scots to The Royal Regiment of Scotland was truly in evidence on a wonderful sunny June day; 100 years ago to the day 2/10 RS returned from Russia to Linlithgow. The son and grandson of Captain JA Edwards, who won his third MC during the Archangel operation which included the capture of the Chamovo Gun, were the Regimental Association's guests of honour. The Chamovo Gun is now situated at Glencorse Barracks.



Standards at Linlithgow



Capt Jimmy Springthorpe, Andy Kyle
& Major Danny McMeechan

Access Ramp

A real benevolence team effort enabled Bill Walker, 98, who was brought up in the Cowgate, fought the Japanese and now lives in Oxfords, to leave his house for the first time in four years by having a ramp built at his home: And where was his first outing to?; yes, to the Club for a beer with his family. Edinburgh Council, the ramp installer Whiland, Legion Scotland, SSAFA, Fares4Free and the Regimental Trust 'fixed it' in time for Armed Forces Day.



Ramp Team

THE ROYAL SCOTS NEED YOU!

The work done to maintain the Regiment's Heritage and Legacy takes Volunteers. All the work detailed above is done by Volunteers and we need to continually recruit new people to help us in this task. We are looking for :

- Committed volunteers to support the Museum and Team373 to maximise development of our coverage of WW2 and more.
- Contributions and sharing of diaries, press cuttings, stories and artefacts from the Regiment's WW2.
- Support in kind, expertise and funding to maximise the impact of 373.
- Volunteers from the wider Regimental Family would be particularly welcome.

Please contact: archive@theroyalscotsmuseum.co.uk

OP BANNER COMMEMORATION

National Memorial Arboretum

14 August 2019 by Major CR Delacombe

On Wednesday 14 August the Royal British Legion led an act of commemoration for all those who had participated in Op Banner fifty years after the operational deployment of British armed forces to Northern Ireland. Op Banner was the longest continuous campaign in British military history. Over the course of the campaign 300,000 service personnel were deployed to Northern Ireland and 1,441 Armed Forces personnel died as a result of those operations. This number does not include the civilians and members of the families of those who served with the UDR, the RUC and Greenfinches who were murdered as the result of terrorist activity.

The event was attended by a party of ten Royals organised under the auspices of the Southern Branch of the Regimental Association. It was a miserable wet day but superbly organised by the Royal British Legion (RBL). The day began with the daily Act of Remembrance in the Millennium Chapel, incorporating a two-minute silence and an introduction to the NMA. Time to explore the Arboretum was sadly of little use because of the incessant rain but the RBL team in the kitchen performed marvels in supplying hot drinks and feeding the two to three thousand attending. When we moved to the site of the Act of Remembrance there was, thankfully, enough tentage to put the majority of those attending out of the rain (the old saying about the early bird came rapidly to mind). The Act itself was a simple series of reminiscences of individuals, either in person or read, one of the most moving being that of the young wife who was widowed very shortly after her wedding. It was led by Alastair Stewart CBE with music played by the band of the Royal Logistics Corps. We ended the proceedings by paying a visit to the new memorial to the Royal Regiment of Scotland which incorporates the names and badges of all the antecedent regiments.

We all left feeling extremely humbled by what many of those who served on Op Banner had been through, but also extremely glad we had braved the weather and been present at a very moving and emotional event. We were united in expressing a wish to return to the Arboretum on a kinder day to explore this fascinating place in more detail.

National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

Most readers will know of the The Royal Regiment of Scotland stone memorial in The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) on which all antecedent Scottish Regiments are represented and that, some former Scottish Regiments have their own memorials at the NMA. Some Royal Scots are commemorated on memorials to particular conflicts, such as the 1991 Gulf War, but there is no solely RS memorial.

The Trustees have determined that it may be appropriate for The Royal Scots to have a memorial there, to commemorate all former Royal Scots who have fallen in times of conflict. Trustees would like to consult widely to consider if a memorial would be appropriate, and if so, what form that should take.

A Project Team will be established to deliver what is decided and we are particularly keen to hear from anyone who lives relatively close to the Arboretum who would like to be part of the Team.

Please send your views on whether a Royal Scots memorial should be placed there and if so, what form the memorial might take, also if you wish to be a member of the project team, to The Regimental Administrator, Capt Jimmy Springthorpe by 30 September 2019. jimmy.springthorpe@theroyalscots.co.uk

In your consideration, please bear in mind that the focus of the Arboretum is on respectful reflection, dignity and remembrance rather than history.



RSC Royal Visit - HRH and official party



HRH Meets Maj Gen Strudwick and Brig Lowder



David Nisbet, Lt Col Gordon Rae, Capt Alex Docker, Colonel Wearmonth



Association members Jamie Colqhoun, Tom Logan, Andy Kay and Colin McDonald with back to camera



HRH with Capt Springthorpe



HRH Captured by Colonel Watson



HRH with Maj Gen Bruce



Lt Col Jock Wilson Smith and Col Martin Gibson



Commemorative plaques



Plaque unveiled by HRH



With Tommy Douglas



With Major Beveridge, Lt Col Sands, Brig Ritchie



With RS Association Members Jack Wilson and Tom Logan. Colin McDonald with his back to camera



With Major Johnstone



With Major Dent



Depiction of the opening ceremony



P&D and Military Band 1 SCOTS



Maj Gen & Mrs Strüdwick, Maj Gen Bruce, Colonel Hicks, Lord Provost Frank Ross



Association Members out in strength



Colonel Gibson and Guests



Ayesha & Adrian - the strength of the Club



Mr Tom Logan and Ms Pamela Elliot



Major and Mrs Dent



The Dinner



Provost Ross, Lt Col Jock Wilson Smith, Col Hicks



Brig Ritchie



The National Anthem

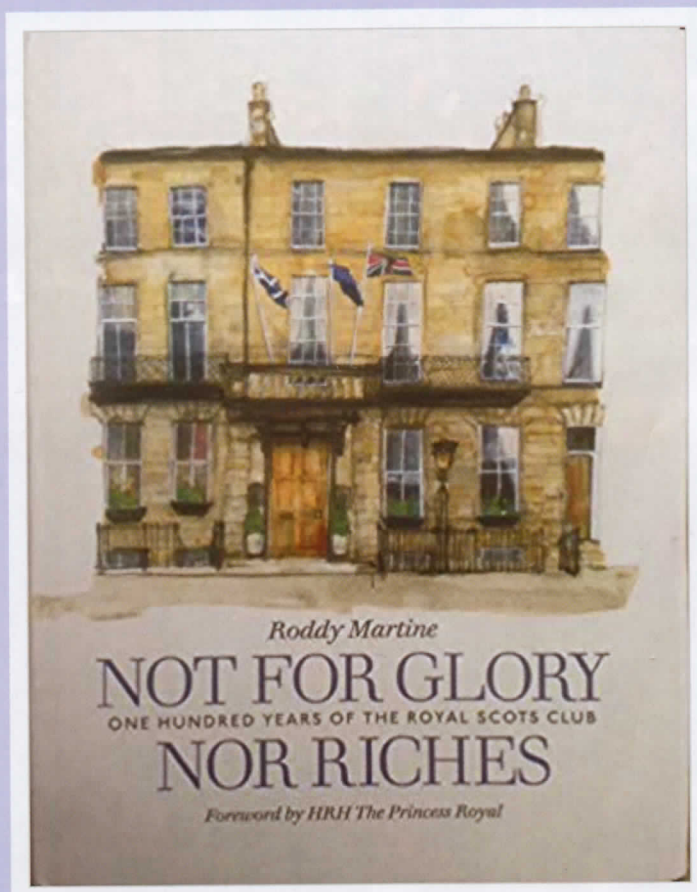
THE ROYAL SCOTS CLUB 100th ANNIVERSARY

During the First World War the Ladies of The Regiment ran a Tea Shop and Rest Hut for Royal Scots passing through Edinburgh, in St Andrews Square Gardens. This was very successful and as the end of the war approached it was realised that this is something that should be carried on. A Committee consisting of Officers, NCOs and Men from all Battalions was brought together under Lord Henry Scott and it was decided that an All-Ranks Club be formed in Edinburgh and fundraising started. This led to identifying the premises in Abercromby Place in 1919 which became the home of The Club. To Commemorate this the Club commissioned local author and historian Roddy Martine to write the history of The Club. The book, titled *Not For Glory Nor Riches* was launched, in The Club, by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on 11th March 2019, being greeted at The Club by Edinburgh's Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant Frank Ross. Along with Club officials, HRH then met Major General Mark Strudwick and Major General Bob Bruce. HRH was then presented to Regimental Officers, Chairman of Trustees Brigadier George Lowder and Regimental Administrator Captain Jimmy Springthorpe. In The Club Library were displayed uniforms of HRH Princess Mary and Lord Henry Scott, brought down from the Regimental Museum for the occasion.

HRH then met members of The Club, many of whom are ex Royal Scots though all are considered part of the Regimental Family. HRH took time to speak to everyone present individually and a very pleasant launch of the book took place. HRH was presented with a figurine of a Royal Scot.

Following the book launch, The Princess Royal unveiled eight commemoration stones set into the entrance steps to the Club. One of the eight VCs was to Private Prosser, awarded during the Crimean War and the remainder all awarded during WW1: Private Robson, Lance Corporal Angus, Private Dunsire, Captain Reynolds, Private McIvor, Corporal Elcock and Lieutenant McGregor. HRH also unveiled a plaque which now hangs in the entrance lobby of the Club. HRH was also shown a display of portrait and medals of Captain Douglas Ford who was awarded the George Cross for his bravery whilst a PoW of the Japanese.

On Sunday 10 March a commemoration Service was held in the Kirk at Canongate with Rev Ian Gardner taking the Service. The Regimental Association paraded their Standards at the entrance to the Kirk and lined the path out at the end of the Service.



The final official celebration marking the 100th Anniversary was Beating of Retreat by the Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Borderers, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland where the guest of honour and taking the salute was Edinburgh's Lord Provost Frank Ross.

NOT FOR GLORY NOR RICHES by Roddy Martine. A history of the Royal Scots Club 1919-2019. Copies are available from the Club on info@theroyalscotsclub.com.

LE PARADIS 25th MAY 2019

Major DPM Dickson

This year a smaller band of Royals attended the annual commemoration of the events marking the battle of Le Paradis during the last days of May in 1940. Once again it was the community of Lestrem who invited The Royal Scots, and The Royal Norfolks to join them. Matt Hoggan, our trusty RS Association Piper, and David Dickson travelled over from Edinburgh on the Thursday. An evening flight found us struggling to master a hybrid hire car in the darkness of an underground car park at Charleroi Airport. We then arrived at our hotel at 0300 hrs to find ourselves locked out of our rooms! Fortunately it all got better thereafter. The following morning we visited Notre Dame de Lorette, the French National Military Cemetery, where Matt played a lament. A fun dinner with local friends in a country pub finished the day.

On the Saturday we met up with Colonel Andy McDowall at Le Creton Farm, the site of the massacre of 97 soldiers by the SS. We were joined there by a coach load of about 40 Royal Norfolk supporters who were completing a five day tour following the withdrawal route of 5 Brigade from Wavre to Le Paradis 10 May – 26 May 1940. After another brief Service, speeches, and wreath-laying outside the Church at Le Paradis we paid further respects at the British Military Cemetery to the rear of the Church where soldiers from both Regiments are buried. The small museum beside the Church, that tells the story of the events, was open.

We then moved to Lestrem, a short drive from Le Paradis. We visited a brand new memorial created directly outside the Secondary School. It vividly portrays the two massacre survivors Ptes Pooley and O'Sullivan, who despite their wounds, helped each other to escape

through rain and darkness. Finally, a number of us were entertained to an excellent civic lunch in Lestrem. A message was read out from the centenarian Major John Errington, a veteran of Le Paradis, and drams were quaffed by everyone from the Lecelles Quaich.

2020 will be the 80th anniversary of Le Paradis. The Royal Norfolks hope to have another 40 attending. It would be marvellous if Royal Scot supporters could match this number. We are hoping that our kind hosts will make it extra special for us. It is also hoped that a small pipe band, the Association Standard Party, and representation from 1 SCOTS might attend.

If you wish to join us next year or wish further information then please get in touch with Iain Laird iain@laird.org.uk



David Dickson, Andy McDowall and Royal Norfolks



Lestrem - Paradis Memorial



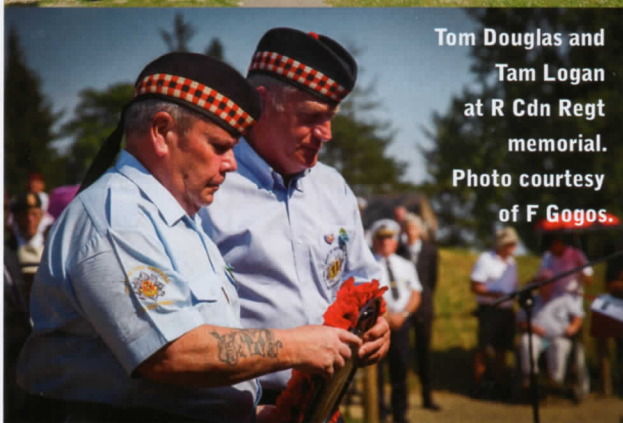
R Cdn Regt Association with RS Association at Canadian Memorial. Photo courtesy of F Gogos.

Royal Canadian Regiment Visit to the Western Front

The Royal Canadian Regiment are one of The Royal Scots' sister Regiments with whom we maintain very close links. Last year their Regimental Association and Regimental Family made a pilgrimage to the Western Front to commemorate the end of WW1 and the sacrifices of their men during that conflict. Whilst on this tour they met The Royal Scots on their own annual visit to Contalmaison as part of the 16th Battalion Trust. On learning who they were Tommy Douglas and Tam Logan introduced themselves and they were in turn invited to lay a wreath with the RCR at their memorial. The RCR are planning to revisit the Western Front in 2020 where it is hoped links will be renewed and some good networking will take place.



At Contalmaison. Photo courtesy of D Mercer.



Tom Douglas and
Tam Logan
at R Cdn Regt
memorial.
Photo courtesy
of F Gogos.

Change of Cap Badge

60 years ago, in 1959, the Ministry of Defence reorganised the Infantry and moved Regiments into local Brigades and Divisions. The Royal Scots moved into the Lowland Brigade of the Scottish Division. Part of this was that all brigaded Regiments would wear the same cap badge, in our case the Lowland Brigade cap badge. A parade was held in Berlin on 20 January 1959 where the CO, Lt Col McQueen, distributed the new cap badge to the 1st Battalion. Just 10 years later in 1969, this time The Royal Scots were in Osnabruck, The Army was reorganised again with Regiments moving out of brigades to Division. This saw the reinstatement of our traditional cap badges. The Battalion held a parade where the CO, Lt Col (later General) RF Richardson distributed cap badges to the 1st Battalion. Interestingly, on both parades, the oldest soldier on parade was Private Stan Murray.

To help commemorate the event on Osnabruck a wee poem was written by the late Sgt Davy Darling, Provost Sgt IRS and was published in the May 1970 issue of The Thistle:

**The bugles blow the pipes they play
The badges glisten in their tray
When proudly we again display
Our Colours in their bright display**

**The badge is worn and there's a glow
From every cap begins to show
A touch of silver and of gold
With backings green and red so bold**

**Youngest soldier, oldest man
March together, "Gently Stan"
The Colonel's first to change his badge
Then Quartermaster "He's in charge"**

**The Colonel speaks of days gone by
When we did hold our heads up high!
This is Our day, is what he said
So don't look back but go ahead!**

**The parade is past but not the thought
For with their lives our fathers fought!
And through it all the theme enlarges
This was the day we changed our badges.**

D Darling, Sergeant IRS, May 1970

The Regimental Tie in the Palace of Westminster

Earlier this year Tommy Douglas, in his real-life role as Legion Scotland, Veterans Community Support Officer, was invited to a Reception in the House of Lords. Tommy writes:

"I attended a reception at the House of Lords as a representative of the Unforgotten Forces Consortium (16 Charities all working together for the benefit of veterans over the age of 65 who live in Scotland) along with Gary Gray, Head of Welfare for Poppy Scotland (the Gentleman in the photo). Unforgotten Forces Consortium were selected as finalists in the "Working Together" Category of the 'Soldiering On Awards'. The Reception was hosted by Lord Dannat former Chief of the Defence Staff.

The winners were announced at a Dinner in April and we did win the award with Carol Vorderman presenting the award to Gary Gray."

Nice to see the Regiment supported, especially in the Palace of Westminster.



Tommy Douglas at the House of Lords



Lieutenant Colonel Richardson presenting their Royal Scots cap-badges to Privates Murray and Gilmour

Lt Col Richardson, Ptes Stan Murray and Billy Gilmour

Armed Forces Veterans' Breakfast Clubs

The AFVBCs have been going for some time now with the aim of bringing Veterans together for a chat and a bite to eat. Comradeship is the aim of the Clubs giving veterans who have for many reasons become isolated and alone. There are no fees or subs other than paying a small fee for your food, the Clubs are not aligned to, nor support, any charities but are just places that facilitate veterans meeting in a safe environment where they can relax and socialise. There are Clubs in East Lothian, West Lothian, Edinburgh, Fife, Borders and many other locations: To find a Club near you go to the EFVBC website <https://www.afvbc.net/>

The Royal Scots Golf Club

The Royal Scots Golf Club (RSGC) is a Society Golf Club and was instituted on March the 17th 1922. At present in the golf club we have a broad representative membership, with well over half being ex Royal Scots, some Royal Scots Club members and members who are friends of members. The club holds various team matches, individual competitions and very enjoyable away days visiting other clubs for matches throughout the golfing year, ending in an annual AGM and dinner at the Royal Scots Club. This year on Friday the 19th July, we held the first match of the year against the "auld enemy" - the Corstorphine 8:30 Golf Club. We compete against the 8.30 club home and away. The match was played at Musselburgh and RSGC won comfortably five to one!

The successful team was: Ian Thom, David Morris, Walter Hutchison, Larry Gilbert, Brian McGeachie, Paul McAllister, David Milne, Andy Stewart, Bobby Gill, John Lothian and Norman Gregor, ably Captained by John Connachan.

If you are considering joining what is again a sporting club with a great future, as well as a very long and successful history, get in touch via the Regimental office.

Sport & Adventure Events ROTHIEMURCHUS WEEKEND

After a very successful weekend in 2018 the Association repeated the 'adventure' weekend at Rothiemurchus Lodge with approximately 20 Members taking part. As ever they were well looked after by that weel kent former Royal, George Gaff. Many events were on offer, which some members took advantage of, but the main event was the comradeship and get-together that this weekend gives. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and again declared the weekend a great success – what happens on the weekend stays on the weekend!



The Association at Play



My Club's
bigger
than yours!



Members prepare to do battle

DEATHS

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

Capt P T H (Paddy) Crawford - 9th January 2019 - 1RS

Mr GM (Gordon) Styles - 18th January 2019 - 8RS

Mr David Pugh - 21st January 2019 - Sgt 1RS

Sir Robert Sanders - 8th May 2019 - 1RS

Mr Gerry McMurtrie - 11th May 2019 - Cpl 1RS

Mr Robert Simpson - 16th May 2019 - Sgt 1RS

Capt Stewart Snedden - 18th May 2019 - 1RS/AAC

Mr Ian Lusty - 30th May 2019 - CSgt 1RS

Mr James Nugent - 2nd June 2019 - 1RS

Lt Col G (Gary) Tait - 17th June 2019 - 1RS/SCOTS

Col FRJ (Finlay) MacLean - 26th June 2019 - 1RS

Mr Stewart Thomson 26th July 2019 - Cpl 1RS

Mr Michael O'Hara 26 July 2019 - W02 1RS

Mr Albert Cannon 28th July 2019 - 7/9th RS

Mr David Hutton 11th August 2019 - Sgt 1RS

IN MEMORIUM

Lieutenant Colonel Gary Tait MBE

Lieutenant Colonel Gary Tait MBE, The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Born 25 October 1966 in Edinburgh. Died 17 June 2019, The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, aged 52.

Lieutenant Colonel Gary Tait MBE served with both the Royal Scots and then, subsequently, The Royal Regiment of Scotland. He was the outstanding soldier of his generation and his contribution to the Army and beyond leaves a massively powerful legacy.

Gary grew up in the Portobello area of Edinburgh. The second of 4 children, he attended Portobello High School. On leaving school in 1983, Gary immediately joined the Army and was posted to his local Regiment, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), who were then stationed in Kirknewton.

Gary was immediately identified as someone with unusual talent and potential. He was promoted so rapidly through the ranks that the pace of his success overtook his own ambition. He was commissioned to be an officer before he'd even had the chance to be the Regimental Sergeant Major. That was unheard of in those days, but it was simply a reflection of just how talented Gary was.

He led soldiers on dangerous operations all over the world, including the First Gulf War, and the recent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was also a distinguished instructor, at various times training both recruit soldiers in Penicuik and young officers at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. He thus left his mark across all parts of the British Army.

He was awarded the MBE in 2003 and HM The Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in 2014.

Gary was passionate about military history and, as Chairman of the McCrae's Battalion Trust, he was a driving force behind respecting the memory of 16th Battalion of Royal Scots. That was 'McCrae's Battalion', which was famously made up of a great many professional and amateur sportsmen and which fought with such great distinction and sacrifice at the battle of the Somme.

Gary became ill in 2016 and remained remarkably strong and dignified throughout his illness. Gary married Moira in 1988. They raised four wonderful children together, Amy, Murray, Fraser and Katie and divorced amicably in 2018. He is survived by his wife Valerie, his children and his mother Joan, and siblings Harvey, Sharon and Cameron.



Lt Col Gary Tai

IN MEMORIUM

Colonel Finlay RJ MacLean, Military Knight of Windsor

Finlay Robin Johnston Maclean passed away aged 71 on 26 June 2019 after very successful, and happy, careers in the Army, the Civil Service and latterly as a Military Knight of Windsor. Educated at The Edinburgh Academy he was an excellent all-round sportsman and was a nationally ranked junior tennis player. During his time at RMAS he won the Army under 21 tennis championships on both years, played for the Army and was awarded his Army 'Blue'.

Commissioned into The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) in 1968, he served with 1st Bn in Osnabruck, but was soon involved in several operational tours in Northern Ireland where he had the dubious distinction of being the first officer in that campaign to disperse a rioting crowd by the use of tear gas.

In 1974 he married Caroline McDowall and they were posted to Cyprus. Their sunshine honeymoon quickly ended with the Turkish invasion of the island. They were in the wrong place at the wrong time during the assault phase of the invasion and after significant avoidance action, were formally escorted out of the war zone to the nearest SBA by the invading troops. As Regimental Signals Officer he was the custodian of various codes and plans; this period of enforced absence was therefore not best appreciated by his Commanding Officer!

Promotion to Major in 1980 brought a 2 year attachment to The Gordon Highlanders which included a 7 month tour in Belize, both in the jungle and on the river borders with a hostile Guatemala, prior to Belize gaining independence. Thereafter the Gordons returned to Scotland and to a period of Public Duties. Staff postings then called, and he was posted to HQ SCOTLAND as SO2 G1 responsible for ceremonial and disciplinary matters prior to returning to The Royal Scots in Germany as second in command.

At aged 39 Finlay was selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and commanded The Scottish Division Depot at Glencorse from 1987 to 1989, a time Finlay particularly enjoyed. A posting Zimbabwe as a member of the Directing Staff at the Staff College followed with responsibility for training officers of the Zimbabwean Armed Forces and Police. He met President Mugabe who he considered, at the time, to be "mad and evil".



Colonel Finlay RJ Maclean, Knight of Windsor

On return to the UK staff appointments saw Finlay covering tasks such as Colonel of The Scottish Division then vice President of the Regular Commissions Board, promotion to Colonel and a commendation from the US Commanding General for services in Bosnia Herzegovina with the NATO Stabilization Force.

Leaving the army in 2002, 36 years after joining RMAS, Finlay became a Civil Servant on the personal staff of the Chief of the General Staff providing advice and support to the head of the Army [5 in total – Generals Walker, Jackson, Dannatt, Richards and Wall] regarding senior appointments, promotions and Honours and Awards throughout a period of constant change and painful reductions in Defence. This he continued to do until finally retiring in 2012. Finlay was then installed as a Military Knight of Windsor based in Windsor Castle, continuing to serve The Monarch on ceremonial occasions, in addition to attending Sunday Services in Saint George's Chapel.

Finlay Maclean was invariably smartly dressed, a man of high principle, integrity, personal charm and old-fashioned courtesy. He had a great sense of humour and he brought infectious enthusiasm to everything he undertook remaining invariably alert to the possibilities of the new. Above all; he was a very approachable man who had an unflinching dedication to Public Service, the Army and his Christian faith.

Finlay is survived by his wife (Caroline), 2 daughters (Antonia and Katy), two grandsons (Hector and Jonty) and one granddaughter (Ottillie), to whom he was completely devoted.

A full obituary can be found on the Royal Scots website:
www.theroyalscots.co.uk

IN MEMORIUM

Mr Gordon Maurice Styles

Gordon Styles passed away on 18th January 2019 aged 92. His funeral was held on 13th February 2019 and as per his request was accompanied by a Piper.

Gordon was born on 29th June 1926 this being called up in 1944. After training He was posted to the 8th Battalion The Royal Scots in February 1945. Just two months later, on 16th April he was wounded in action at Ulzen in Germany, receiving a gunshot wound to the chest which left him paralysed for life. This did not stop Gordon living a full life and he became an enthusiastic member of the RS Association, especially the 8th Battalion Section with whom he visited amongst other places, Fort George, Belgium, Holland and Germany on many occasions. Gordon also attend a Royal Garden Party after being nominated by the Association – he has met HRH Princess Anne on several occasions.

Gordon was very proud of his Regiment and had asked that the Piper at his funeral play The Flowers of the Forest and Amazing Grace and that a Glengarry be placed on his coffin. On leaving the Piper was to play Black Bear, the traditional return to barracks pipe tune.

Robert Styles, son.

IN MEMORIUM

Mr Albert Connon

Albert Connon passed away on the 28th July having celebrated his 101st birthday in June. Albert enlisted in 7/9 Royal Scots in 1937 as a nineteen year old. He went on to qualify as a machine gunner and went to France in 1940 with the BEF. Albert served with 7/9 RS throughout the second world war in Holland and Germany.

Royal Scots Benevolence

Benevolence is now a major part of the work carried out by the Regimental Office under Capt Jimmy Springthorpe. Having decided to retain our Benevolent Funds when the Regiment was taken off the ORBAT, we have been working alongside SSAFA and The Soldiers' Charity (The Army Benevolent Fund), as well as other organisations to carry on this very important work. Now that we are no longer in receipt of the "One Day's Pay" each year we have to rely on the accumulated Funds and donations from members of the Regimental Family alongside those former Royals and Friends who go the extra mile to raise funds for this work. Over the past twelve months Royal Scots Benevolence has supported 75 requests for assistance from former Royal Scots and/or their dependants. In conjunction with other Service Charities we have provided £65K to those cases.

Most requests received are for mobility aids, household goods, respite care, essential clothing and priority debt.

Anyone requiring assistance should in the first instance contact their local branch of SSAFA who will initiate the process.

Finally thank you to all who have made donations to the fund through sponsorship, or by a collection taken at the funeral of a loved one, or by personal cheque. Contributions, however modest, are greatly appreciated and put to good use assisting former Royal Scots in need.

From The Editor:

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

All articles for The Thistle should be sent to thistle.editor@theroyalscots.co.uk. Deadline for the Winter edition is 1 January 2020.

Andy Kay, Editor

FORECAST OF EVENTS

Day	Mth/Yr	Event	Time	
	Aug-19			
Thu	01-Aug	Minden Day		1 SCOTS
	Sep-19			
Fri	13-Sep	Film Launch - WW2 Veterans	1900	The Royal Scots Club
Sun	22-Sep	Gladdy Murry Golf Trophy	TBC	TBC
Sat	28-Sep	RS Association Nagpore Dinner	1900	The Royal Scots Club
Sun	29 Sep	Musselburgh Races - Armed Forces & Families Day	1300	Musselburgh Race Course
	Oct-19			
Thu	25-Oct	RS Officers' Golf	0900	TBC
Sat	25-Oct	RS Officers' Dinner	1900	The Royal Scots Club
Mon	28th-Oct	Opening of Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance	1045	East Princes Street Gardens
Mon	28th-Oct	Wreath Laying at the Royal Scots Monument	1900	West Princes Street Gardens

FORECAST OF EVENTS contd.

	Mth/Yr			
	Nov-19			
Thu	7-Nov	Opening of the Field of Remembrance, Westminster	1100	Westminster, London
Sat	9-Nov	Glencorse Gates Ceremony	1045	Glencorse Memorial Garden, Penicuik
Sun*	10-Nov	Gather for London Cenotaph Ceremony	0915	As arranged by Southern Branch
		Edinburgh City Chambers	1100	
		Haymarket HMFC Memorial	1100	
		Canongate Kirk	1100	
		Wreath Laying in RS Memorial Club followed by Lunch	1230	The Royal Scots Club (book for lunch through Club)
		Remembrance Ceremony 6 SCOTS	1530	Hepburn House, East Claremont Street
		Hepburn House		
		Local Events	1100	Under local arrangements
		*Note details of all major events will be published on the RS website closer to the day		
	Dec-19			
Tue	17-Dec	Volunteers' Christmas Lunch	1230	The Royal Scots Club
Fri	20-Dec	Regimental Offices closes for Festive Period	1300	
	Jan-20			
Mon	6-Jan	Regimental Office re-opens	1000	
	Mar-20			
Fri	20-Mar	Regimental Association AGM	1900	The Royal Scots Club
Sat	28-Mar	Regimental Day The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment). Formation Day The Royal Regiment of Scotland.		
Sat	28-Mar	Association Regimental Day Dinner	1900	The Royal Scots Club
	May-20			
Sat	23-May	Gretna Commemoration	1100	Rosebank Cemetery, Leith
Sat	23-May	Le Paradis Commemorations	TBC	France
	Jun-20			
Sat	TBC 27-Jun	McCrae's Bn Pilgrimage Armed Forces Day	TBC	Edinburgh

ASSOCIATION BRANCH DETAILS

EDINBURGH

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

Contact: Mags Allen

Weeweegie1@virginmedia.com

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

First Sunday of each month at 2.00pm
at Hillcroft Hotel, Whitburn, West Lothian

Contact: David Milne

David.milne3343@live.co.uk

EAST OF SCOTLAND

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

Contact: Peter Blackie

peterblackie@yahoo.co.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

First Tuesday of each month
at RBL Ards

Contact: Davy McKendrick, Secretary

Davidsmck1@sky.com

HIGHLAND

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

Contact: Tam McFadyen

tamrosie@btinternet.com

SOUTHERN

No Branch meetings but events arranged during the year.

Contact: Tam Millar

Weetam0571@sky.co.uk

PIPE BAND

Contact T Corkerton for information re Band practice days.

Contact: Torquil Corkerton

torquil@ednet.co.uk

For further information contact the:

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