



The Thistle

Journal of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

Volume 39

Summer 2021

Foreword

Brigadier G E Lowder MBE
Chair of Regimental Trustees, President of The Regimental Association and Chair of The War Memorial Fund Trustees



Brigadier George welcomes Lieutenant Colonel David Jack to his new role as Regimental Office Manager on Monday 2 August 2021.

On the 16th January 2019, the then Chairs of our 4 Pillars (George Lowder (Regimental Trust), Mark Strudwick (War Memorial Fund Trust), Jimmy Springthorpe (Association) and Robbie Scott-Bowden (Museum Trust)) met to agree a framework for our future activity. We considered the Near Term: 5 years to December 2023, Mid Term: the next 10 years from January 2024 to December 2033 and the Longer Term: to December 2050. In developing the framework, the Chairs considered our Finances, Investment Strategy and a more detailed set of Planning Assumptions previously agreed by Trustees.

Two and a half years on I have considered the desired Outcomes derived at that meeting and thought it would be timely to provide you with a progress report:

Organisation and Structures. We have reviewed our organisation and structures and following wide consultation, legal and tax advice, agreed to bring 3 of our 4 Pillars (Regimental Trust, Museum Trust and Association) under the single umbrella of a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). A SCIO is a modern charitable construct that will streamline and improve our governance. The Museum Trust funds will be folded into the Regimental Trust, albeit ringfenced within it. We aim to achieve this by the start of the next financial in April 2022. This work will be led by David Jack with the support of Trustees and our Advisers. I am hugely grateful to John Dent for all his secretarial and administrative support to get us to this point.

Regimental Office Manager. As part of our organisation and

structures review, it was recognised that Jimmy Springthorpe will retire in November 2021, that it would be preferable to separate the role of Chairman of The Association from the Regimental Administrator role and that in the Near Term there was a significant body of work to deliver, that would require a full time employee. Following a recruitment process, advised throughout by Dickie Donovan, we have selected and appointed David Jack to the new role of Regimental Office Manager. I am delighted that David has accepted the role, which he started on 2nd August. Jimmy and David have a decent handover period. I am deeply grateful to Jimmy for his 7 years as Regimental Administrator and Chairman of The Association. I will thank Jimmy properly at the Officers' Dinner on Friday 29th October and closer to his retirement at Association events.

Chairman of The Association. Again, as part of our review, Stu Marshall took over as the Chair of The Association on 1st July, breaking this out from the Regimental Office role. Stu has also been inducted as a Regimental Trustee and I would expect him to be a Member of the Board of the future SCIO, representing The Association. Stu is still serving, as a Full Time Reserve Service Officer, currently working in The Army Personnel Centre. It is great to be working with him again.

Closer alignment with the Club. COVID has absolutely underscored the symbiotic relationship between the Regiment and the Club. In good times, when the Club generates a surplus, it is able to support the Regiment in a number of ways. In the last 18 months the Regiment has been prepared to support the Club through a very difficult trading period. We continue to work evermore closely. I now Chair the War Memorial Fund Trust, which hopefully brings coherence. There are 3 Regimental Trustees, who are also War Memorial Fund Trustees, bringing further coherence, including Norman Soutar who now chairs RSC Management Ltd. The Club has agreed to review and refine its governance, to formally recognise the Board of Directors of RSC Management Ltd and the Club Committee and their roles and responsibilities. Norman is recruiting new Directors to his Board of Directors having identified a requirement for additional skill sets and competencies. There is more to do, to continue to align the Regiment and the Club and we have some ideas in development to do this. We should remember that the Club is a living war memorial, it is not and never has been, an Officers' Club and all Royal Scots should take every opportunity to support it, especially during these challenging times.

Benevolence. On 1st of August this year we handed the administration of RS benevolence to RHQ SCOTS. Other antecedent Regiments who have already done this speak very highly of the service they receive. We have agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RHQ SCOTS for the provision of this service. Again, thanks to Dickie Donovan, our Benevolence Trustee for overseeing the development of the MoU. RS benevolence protocols will continue to be applied and we will provide adequate funding to meet all RS

benevolence demand. Jimmy and David have several months together to oversee the initial delivery of this service. As a consequence of handing over the administration of benevolence, Ellie Weir will leave the RS Office Team at the end of September. I am most grateful to Ellie for all her hard work on our behalf, especially throughout the challenging conditions of COVID lockdown.

Finance Strategy. In the knowledge that our annual expenditure continues to exceed our income, which is almost exclusively investment income, Trustees are considering our investment strategy in light of reduced dividends. I have also asked the Executive, with the support of David Goodacre to bid to available Veterans' Funds that could provide additional funding for our various activities. Sincere thanks to Alex Dockar for the huge amount of work that he contributes to this area, with our Investment Managers, Treasurer, Accountants, Auditors and our bank. It has also been helpful to have Ross Hunter as a critical friend in this area. Both Alex and Ross are finance professionals, so we are very well supported.

Supporting SCOTS. As a good antecedent we will continue to support SCOTS and particularly 1 SCOTS. The recent announcement regarding 1 SCOTS becoming a unit within the new Ranger Regiment will inevitably, over time, weaken the golden thread. We still await the detail of exactly how this transition will be delivered and we are beginning to think about what it means for our heritage, property and customs. All the RS accoutrements and equipment on loan to the 1 SCOTS Ps&Ds, who have now been disbanded, have been recovered back into our care.

Supporting Heritage. We recognise that the Regimental Trust must continue to support our heritage activity. The most obvious current example will be the dedication of a RS Memorial Stone at the National Memorial Arboretum on Sunday 3rd October 2021. Many thanks to Gordon Vevers, David Stuart-Monteith and Christopher Delacombe who have pulled the project together.

Support association as well as The Association. I am heartened by the level of RS association that is conducted across the land, often revolving around golf. The gathering of some 100 Royals at Ratho Park Golf Club, to celebrate the life of Stewart Snedden, on Friday 20th August, was an excellent example, even if the reason for the gathering was deeply sad. Many congratulations to Eck Wind MBE, Spike Mulligan and all the organisers and contributors who made this such a memorable day and fitting tribute.

I hope that this progress report gives you comfort that we are delivering against our objectives. There is a lot going on and I am also grateful to all those who did not get a specific mention above, who continue to volunteer and support our activity. I am very proud of what has been achieved, despite the difficult circumstances of lockdowns, social distancing and working from home. I look forward to the next time our paths cross.



National Memorial Arboretum

Yours Aye

George Lowder

Brigadier

Chairman The Royal Scots Trustees

Regimental Office

The Regimental Office was closed from 17 March 2020 with both Ellie and I working from home and only going into the office when we really had to. This closure did not however impact on the routine functioning of the office, and it was business as usual throughout.

We have been kept busy assisting with the forthcoming events at the National Memorial Arboretum, namely the unveiling of the Royal Scots Memorial and the unveiling of a memorial to those who died during the sinking of the Lisbon Maru or as a consequence of the sinking. Both of those memorials will be unveiled on Sunday 3rd October 2021.

As planned, we have handed over the management of Royal Scots Benevolence to The Royal Regiment of Scotland. See the note regarding this below.

Now however, not only has the office reopened, but it is under new management. Lt Col (Retd) David Jack assumed the appointment of Regimental Office Manager on 2nd of August. David was commissioned into The Royal Scots in 1984, moved to The Royal Regiment of Scotland in 2006 and retired from the Army 2019.

David will take on the tasks previously carried out by Ellie and I with the exception of benevolence which is being managed by RHQ SCOTS on our behalf. Ellie opted for redundancy rather than apply for the new role. This will take effect from 30th September, and I will retire in November. Until then we will hand over and assist David in his new role.

Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

Royal Scots Benevolence

Lt Col David Jack has been recruited as the new Regimental Office Manager (ROM) and will take on the tasks previously undertaken by The Regimental Administrator (Jimmy Springthorpe) and The Assistant Regimental Administrator (Ellie Weir). The ROM will not however handle Royal Scots Benevolence. Benevolence cases, with effect from 1 August 2021, are now handled on our behalf by the S02 Welfare at RHQ SCOTS (Currently Maj Norrie McKinnon).

Royal Scots Trustees will continue to budget each year for RS cases and will transfer an agreed sum to RHQ SCOTS on a twice-yearly basis to cover estimated Royal Scots benevolence issues. Should there be a surplus at the six month point then the next payment will be reduced to reflect that surplus. Likewise, if a shortfall is identified prior to the six month point then The Trustees will authorise additional payment to ensure all Royal Scot cases are met.

The criteria for handling Royal Scot cases will be those which we currently use, and this will be stated in the agreement being drawn up by both parties. As before, cases will have to be referred for assistance by SSAFA, PoppyScotland, Legion Scotland or The Royal British Legion. Any cases received at the Regimental Office after 1st August 2021 will be referred to RHQ SCOTS for their action.

RHQ SCOTS will provide regular reports on RS Benevolence and an annual summary of all RS cases to the RS Trustee responsible for benevolence.

Many of you have held, and will wish to carry out, fund raising events to support RS Benevolence and I would ask that you continue to do so. Any money raised should come to the RS Office and will become part of the funds that will be made available to RHQ SCOTS for RS cases.

If you are seeking assistance or know someone in the Regimental Family who needs assistance, please do not be put off by these changes – get in touch asap!

The ROM will be based in the Regimental Office.

Captain Jimmy Springthorpe

Contact Numbers for Benevolence enquiries:

SSAFA general number (for all of UK): **0800 731 4880**

PoppyScotland (Will refer cases in Scotland): **0131 550 1557**

RS Office: **0131 557 0405**



Major Stu Marshall

Association News

We would like to welcome Major Stu Marshall to the post of Chairman of the Association.

Stu Marshall joined the 1RS in 1983 after passing out of training at Bridge of Don. He served as a soldier till 2006 including serving in all Companies in the Bn and as a Trg Cpl at Glencorse, PI Sgt at Catterick and as a CSgt at RMAS. He was A Coy CSM, RQMS(T) then selected to be RSM of the London Regiment before returning to 1RS to be the last RSM of the Bn. Stu was then commissioned and post 2006 has secured

roles as S03 G1/G4 at HQ 51 Brigade, PSA0 at 243 Provost Company and as S02 Training at the Army Personnel Centre.

From 2006 – 2008 he was Chair of the fledgling Scottish Branches of the RS Association and has now returned to be Chair of the Royal Scots Association again, this time also a Trustee of the Regiment which sees the role very much as a conduit to ensure the voice of the soldiers and veterans is heard.

Heritage and Museum

Sadly as I write these notes, the Museum remains closed. This has been the case since March 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Whilst Edinburgh Castle re-opened to limited visitor numbers in June we however remain closed until our projects are completed which is hoped to be by the end of August.

Whilst we have remained closed as a Museum, we have been given limited access which has allowed us to use this time wisely to carry

out a number of projects some of which would have caused the Museum to close due to the construction work required of them. The main project has been the upgrading of the Post 1945 area of the museum which has cost in the region of £50K. This has upgraded the Post 1945 information, upgraded the Gulf War 1 diorama and seen the introduction of a Northern Ireland diorama; see separate article for full details.

The LIBOR documentation, the digitisation of Museum documents, that was returned from the Contractor has now been sorted and returned to its original locations.

Much of the 1RS Officers' Mess silver has been returned to the Museum. Some will go on display in the Museum. It is also hoped that 2 new display cases will be built in the Royal Scots Club where much of the remaining 1RS silver will go on display; watch this space.

The new interactive TV screen to replace the broken medals screen has now been fitted and tested.

The Roll of Honour covering 1918 to 1939 and 1945 to 2006 has been completed and is now on the Web Site. The film "The Royal Scots: Scottish Soldiers Regimental Memories 1945-2006" is having some additional materiel added to it, Gulf War 1 and Bosnia, and will be completed very soon. This along with the film The Royal Scots WW2 Memories now completes the Roll of Honour from the First World War to the amalgamation of all Scottish Regiments in 2006 to form the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The Regimental magazine "The Thistle" covering the period of 1892 to 2006 has been sent for digitising. This will be completed very soon. This will be a great asset for our researchers and in time it is hoped to add it to the Web Site for all to view.

This along with the three books published last year, the completed Roll of Honour with accompanying films and the virtual tour of the Museum has brought us firmly into the 21st century and will give us a virtual Museum for all to see from anywhere in the World

The Museum's accreditation status has been extended again until the end of March 2022. The accreditation process is carried out every five years; our re-accreditation was submitted in February 2020 but due to Covid-19 Museum Galleries Scotland (MGS) staff had to work from home and therefore they have not yet processed the paperwork for the Museum. They are now starting to return to work as the Museum has recently completed the annual return to MGS for the Recognised Collection of National Importance that was awarded in 2017 to all the military museums that form part of the Association of Scottish Military Museums.

Whilst much has been achieved, there is always more to do. We are always looking for volunteers who have time on their hands who wish to get involved in the Museum. You do not have to commit to turning up every week, just let us know how much time you can spare and we will fit you in. Anyone interested should contact Mr Tom Gordon, our Museum Assistant based in the Old Provost Marshal House in the Castle on: 0131 226 2688.

Lieutenant Colonel GJ Rae

Museum Display 1945 - 2006: Past Or Present

Throughout my tenure in OPMH, I was in and out of the Museum daily whereupon I would ask myself whether the post-1945 area of the Museum fully represented the past or still suggested the present? Clearly, everything post-2006 is now very firmly in the past, especially with The Royal Regiment of Scotland, at the invitation of Royal Scots Museum Trustees, having an area in our Museum to tell its story thus far.

Although the post-1945 area did refer to much of the period, the story it told was a less than comprehensive account of 61 very busy and significant years. However, previous Museum Trustees had had the foresight to leave a degree of 'blank canvas' when the Museum was last updated in 2007.

In 2020, Trustees agreed there should be an update, funds were allocated and a sub-committee self-identified itself comprising Colonel Robert Watson, our curatorial adviser Mr Allan Carswell and the author, with museum attendant Tom Gordon rummaging in the reserve collection and further afield for relevant exhibits. 'Nomad Exhibitions', museum outfitters, completed the team and best use was made of Covid lockdown to work from home and, later, behind the closed doors of the Museum.

At the same time, it was decided also to update parts of the WW2 display with revised text and additional photographs. In particular, the gallantry of 1 RS at Le Paradis is explained in greater detail and the wee wooden quaich used to toast our Patron Saint on St Andrew's night 1939 is now on display close to the section of garden railings, presented to the Museum in 2014, from where the Pipes & Drums made their last stand in the centre of Le Paradis in May 1940.



Le Paradis Quaich
New Display Cases in Museum

How busy we were between 1945 and 2006 is now summarised in a new panel listing the postings and operational deployments of 1 RS and 2 RS in the aftermath of WW2 and the partitioning of India, and then during further Withdrawal from Empire and the Cold War,

while 7/9 RS and 8 RS went through reorganisation of the TA into 52nd Lowland Volunteers. The significance of 1 RS service during the period included being either the first or the only Scottish infantry battalion to undertake certain specialist roles, e.g. airmobile in Aden, the first battalion to convert to FV432 immediately on arrival in BAOR, the first battalion to deploy from BAOR to Northern Ireland and the first Scottish battalion to serve in 'The Troubles' that had commenced in 1969, ski-borne on the northern flank of NATO, Nuclear escort in BAOR and others. Detailed lists of these postings, deployments and specialist roles were published in the previous Thistle (Winter 2020).

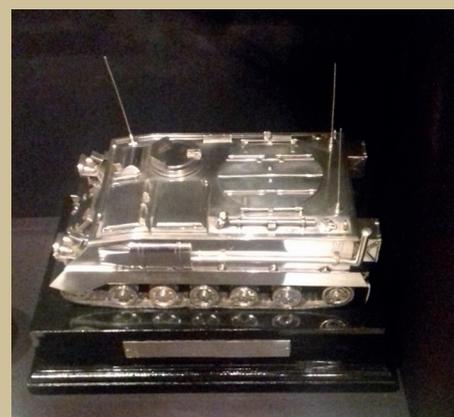
New information panels, refreshed display cases with previously unseen exhibits, and additional photographs inform and illustrate the

Cold War, Withdrawal from Empire, two Cyprus emergencies, garrisoning the Falkland Islands, the first and second Gulf Wars, NATO operations in Bosnia and much else. In particular, there is now a case with exhibits from Op BANNER.

At time of writing, the Museum remains closed until relaxation of Covid restrictions permits opening once again, when identifying dates for visits for Old Royals and RS Club members alike can be identified.

For further information about the Museum and a virtual on-line tour, go to www.theroyalscots.co.uk

Lieutenant Colonel W J Blythe



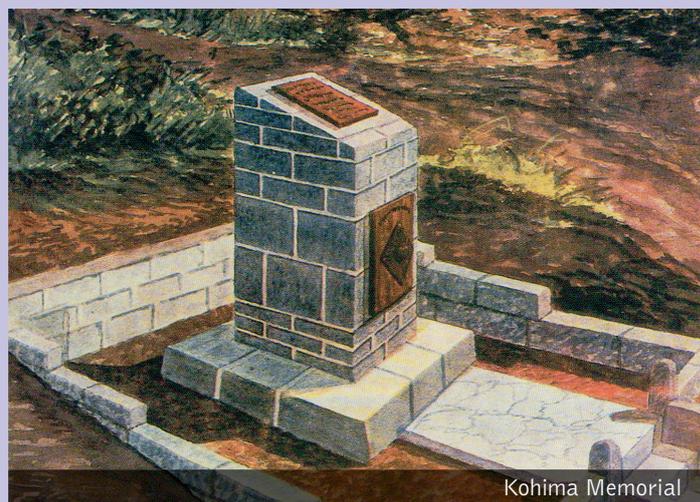
Team RS 373 Update – Summer 2021

Since the easing of COVID measures we have been able to enhance the Scottish Soldiers Post World War 2 Regimental Memories film to include memories from both Gulf War 1 and Bosnia, as well as adding the Fijians contributions since 1999. The current film is on the Regimental website www.theroyalscots.co.uk and on You Tube: Scottish Soldiers Post WW2 Regimental Memories.



The 1st Battalion team, with the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Telfer, after winning the Army 7s Rugby Seven-a-Side Championship in 2000.

VJ Day 76 years on was on 15th August. 146 Royal Scots made the supreme sacrifice in the Burma operations alone, and a further 477 were wounded or posted missing. For further details visit: <https://www.theroyalscots.co.uk/the-kohima-campaign-1944/>

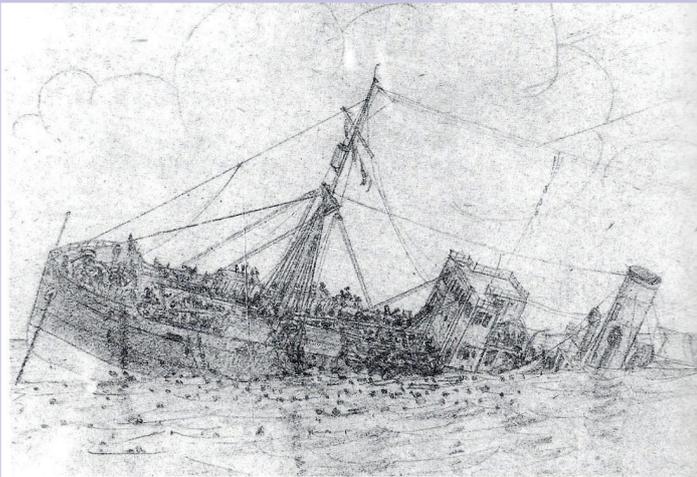


Kohima Memorial

On the 3rd of October, two events are taking place at the National Arboretum. The first is the unveiling of a Memorial Stone to commemorate all those who served in The Royal Scots during our 373 years of continuous service to the Sovereign and Country.

On the same morning The Lisbon Maru Memorial for all those killed when the armed Japanese merchant ship, MV Lisbon Maru, which was carrying Japanese soldiers and 1816 British Prisoners of War, was sunk by an American submarine on 1st October 1942, will also be unveiled. 144 Royal Scots perished as a result of this action, and

many more remained as Prisoners of War for the remainder of World War 2. For further details visit:
<https://www.theroyalscots.co.uk/lisbon-maru/>



Sinking of the Lisbon Maru in the China Sea, 20 October 1942. A pencil sketch drawn by Lieutenant W.C. Johnston, US Navy while a prisoner of war at Kobe, Japan and later presented to the Royal Scots. **Lisbon Maru**

In conjunction with the University of St Andrews the virtual Between the Wars and Post 1945 Roll of Honour has been developed and finalized. The Roll records the names of the 44 Royal Scots killed after WW1 in Ireland and Palestine and from 1945 onwards in Palestine then through many campaigns until 2006 when the Royal Regiment of Scotland was formed. The Roll also includes the names of 3 former Royal Scots who were killed whilst serving with The Royal Regiment of Scotland in Afghanistan. To view The Roll of Honour

visit: <https://www.theroyalscots.co.uk/ww1-and-ww2-roll-of-honour/>

For those interested in the early days of the 1st Battalion's OP BANNER deployments a visit to You Tube: Op BANNER Photographs by 'Benny' (Scoop) McArdle <https://youtu.be/3BnbHxZqU7k> , is recommended. Perhaps you could put a name to the faces of the Royal Scots and personnel attached to the Battalion when on operations in Northern Ireland in the early '70s?



A B Company patrol, led by Lance Corporal Sneddon, receiving orders with Jocks in NI on patrol

Colonel Martin Gibson OBE DL
Leader, Team RS373

Royal Scots Club

With the gradual return to normality and the easing of Covid restrictions, the RS Club were able to organise the annual Beating Retreat in Queen Street Gardens. A very successful and well attended event was held, with the salute being taken by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the Rt Hon Frank Ross.

Following this is a selection of Photographs from that event.



Beating Retreat



Major General Bob Bruce



Lord Provost Frank Ross



Rev Iain May (R)



Major Guy Richardson

News About Old Royals

George Simpson, presented with the RBL Victory in Europe Commemoration Coin

I had the pleasure to be present when former Royal Scot George Simpson (101 years young) was presented with his Victory in Europe Coin by Mr Brian Kelly, Area Chairman of Edinburgh, Lothian & Borders RBL who was the representative from the Royal British Legion.

As part of the VE & VJ day 75th Anniversary Celebrations, Legion Scotland in Partnership with Poppyscotland and the Scottish Government, agreed that as part of the celebrations a medallion would be commissioned to be presented to all of those who contributed to the allied war effort during World War 2. The Victory Coin, as it has become known, has now been issued to well over 230 WW2 veterans and contributors all

over the country and has even been sent as

far afield as Canada and Australia. George was chosen to be presented the coin when Brian Ward, Events Manager Royal British Legion Scotland, saw the Royal Scots Facebook post that had been uploaded to social media mentioning George's service during WW2 and also his 101st Birthday Celebrations.

Brian states that they routinely check names of WW2 veterans against Legion Scotland data base to make sure they catch as many of them as they can, there are still lots of WW2 veterans out there that haven't been presented a victory coin yet so if any of your members are aware of anyone please get in touch with him direct on b.ward@legionscotland.org.uk and they will get the presentations arranged.

Mr Thomas Logan



George Simpson receiving the RBL WW2 Commemoration Coin



Birthday celebrations

Major John Errington – 103 years old

Congratulations from The Royal Scots Regimental Family were sent to Major John on his 103rd Birthday, 12 August, the Glorious Twelfth. John fought with the 1st Battalion in Belgium and France in May 1940 when The Royal Scots played a pivotal role in enabling the Allies withdrawal from Dunkirk. He was taken prisoner after fierce fighting in and around Le Paradis.

The Regiment sent him a card fitting for his grand old age.

Major David Dickson called him to wish him a Very Happy Birthday on behalf of the Regiment. John was in great spirits, laughing and also saying Le Paradis was a very long time ago. He went out for lunch in Shrewsbury with his daughter.

John's Regimental Memories are captured in the film *Scottish Soldiers World War 2 Memories*, which can be viewed at https://www.theroyalscots.co.uk/scottish-soldiers-world...

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION – BRANCHES

Branches are coming together to meet again post Covid so look up your Secretary in the list on the back page and find out when your Branch are next holding a meeting – then get along!

Note that Edinburgh Branch are currently using the Royal Navy Club in Edinburgh for their meetings.

Armed Forces Day

AF Week was commemorated by the raising of the Armed Forces Day flag in the Town House in Haddington. Representing the Regiment was Mr Tom Logan who in company with the Provost and Lord Lieutenant, saw the flag proudly flying over

Haddington

St Andrews Night Dinner

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that we are able to hold our joint East of Scotland Branch Royal Scot Association and East Lothian Armed Forces

& Veterans St Andrews Night on Friday 26th November 2021 at the Wallyford Miners Welfare Society Social Club.

You can purchase tickets using payment methods, Bank Transfer, PayPal or Cash. Please see the Guestbook for details.



Mr Tom Logan Raising the AF Flag in Haddington

COMMEMORATIONS 2021

Quintinshill Commemoration – Rosebank Cemetery

Government restrictions permitted us to hold our annual commemoration at Rosebank but with a slightly restricted format. We were not permitted to march as a formed body but congregated at the Memorial at 11 am on Saturday 22 May. The Service was led by Rev Iain May, our Association Padre and the Regimental Wreath was laid by Brigadier George Lowder. Numbers were restricted to 50 personnel and included members of the Association as well as descendants of those lost in the train crash in 1915.

Le Paradis

The last time we were able to have a full presence at Le Paradis for the Annual Commemoration was in May 2019. We had planned for a major attendance of RS supporters in May 2020. It was to be the 80th anniversary of the events in May 1940 when the 1st Battalion had fought so gallantly to delay the overwhelming Blitzkrieg forces. The pandemic put paid to us going, Instead the RS 373 Committee stepped forward and organised a most memorable online Service that many supporters attended, including friends of The Royal Norfolk, and our friends in France. On Commemoration Day at Le Paradis, Colonel Andy McDowall, with a select few local dignitaries, paid their respects. We were able to watch them live online on the Lestrem website.

This year, 2021, we were once again unable to go to France. Again the Commemoration was online and we watched the leaders of Lestrem Commune lay a Scottish Poppy wreath at the foot of the War Memorial in the British Military Cemetery behind the Church. It was very moving to watch the live event from afar.

Iain Laird took over the organisation for RS support from Major David Dickson in 2020 and is now looking forward to Le Paradis 2022. There are plans for the unveiling of a memorial bench, and it is hoped, that the Association Standard Party, and representatives of 1 SCOTS will attend along with as many RS supporters as possible. The provisional date is 28 May 2022. This is likely to be the final organised attendance of RS supporters at Le Paradis. Further information can be obtained from Iain Laird iain@laird.org.uk
Major David Dickson

On 23 July 2021 HRH The Princess Royal unveiled the new Le Paradis Memorial in the grounds of Norwich Cathedral. It was preceded by a Service of Dedication. The stone is dedicated to the 97 victims of the massacre at Le Paradis on 27th May 1940. Subscriptions had been raised by The Le Paradis Memorial Appeal.

Kohima Commemorations

Thursday 1 July – York Minster

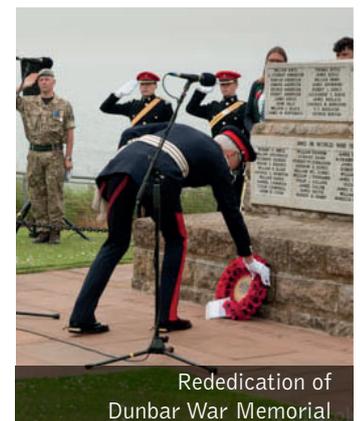
On Thursday 1 July Col James Finlay and Lt Col Brian de la Haye represented the Regiment at the 77th annual Commemoration Service of the Battle of Kohima in the Dean's Park by the York Minster. Despite the on-going restrictions that prevented singing and any social gathering afterwards, a very moving and thoughtful service was conducted by the Dean of York. Kohima was a pivotal battle in preventing the Japanese advance into India. The Kohima Education Trust which co-ordinates the annual commemoration in York (York is the HQ of 2 Division with whom the 1st Bn served in the campaign) exists to help the education of the Naga people in Nagaland who supported the British troops throughout the campaign.

Dunbar Centenary Rededication Ceremony

In April 1919 subscriptions were invited to fund a Memorial the declared intention was to commemorate "...the Soldiers and Sailors from Dunbar and Parish who sacrificed their lives in the war." On the 3rd of July 1921 the Dunbar Burgh and Parish War Memorial was unveiled and dedicated to the 135 that had fallen during WW1.

The 3 July 2021 saw a Centenary Rededication Ceremony take place in Dunbar. It was also particularly appropriate that added names of fallen locals now be dedicated at the centenary ceremony. One of the fallen his name now on the "War Memorial" was Pte Samuel Harrington Henderson. 2/10th Cyclist Battalion, Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment), on coastal defence duties around Berwick and Berwickshire. Sadly, Samuel succumbed to wounds on 21st August 1917 age 23, Templehall Camp Coldingham.

Wreaths were laid by attending dignitaries, Lord Lieutenant of East Lothian, Mrs Mary Duncan, Provost John McMillan on behalf of East Lothian Council and senior pupils from Dunbar Grammar School.



The Stewart Sneddon Memorial Golf Day

On Friday 20th August at Ratho Park Golf Course the first Stewart Sneddon Memorial Golf event was held. At the start of the day there was 60 golfers and 24 caddies in attendance (what a fantastic effort), for what was to be a great day of golfing and socialising.

The day started with a brief on golf etiquette and the day ahead from Spike Mulligan, Colin McLachlan and Eck Wind and then a chat about Stewart from his long time friend from before the army Cammy Hastie and then a wee toast to "Oor Snedds."

The golf then started in earnest and there was some serious golfers there, Mark McDowell, Larry Gilbert and Graeme Highet to name but a few and then on the other end of the scale... well let's not name anyone. Whilst the golf occurred the social side and banter was flying between the fairways like some of the balls!!

At the end of the golf a meal and some chat held in the clubhouse where the winners were announced:

1st Prize – Kenny Dow

2nd Prize – Mark Renton

3rd Prize – Chris Paterson (Ex 1A&SH)

Most golf played Mick (Giz) Grady

A big thanks to Spike, Colin and Eck for organising the day and we all look forward to the next event which will be on Friday 27 May at Deer Park in Livingston.



Stu Simpson & Eck Wind

Charity raising events by Royals.

Veteran Peter McIntyre trekked Scotland's picturesque West Highland Way starting on 3 May.

This challenge was 154 km long and took five days, running from Milngavie North of Glasgow to Fort William in the Scottish

Highlands. Peter carried an impressive 25kg as part of the challenge.

Peter served in the Royal Scots and is a Gulf War veteran. He is now in the process of becoming a SSAFA Caseworker in order to support Forces families further.

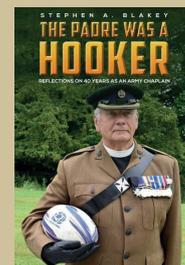
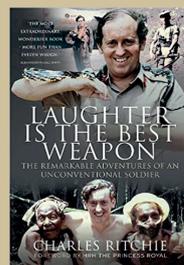
Peter said: "I have seen a lot of people being helped by SSAFA, and as a veteran I want to give something back."



Peter McIntyre prior to setting off

BOOKS

A couple of books have recently been published which Royals may find of interest:



The lighthearted memoirs of the late Brigadier Charles Ritchie CBE; "Laughter is the best Weapon" and The Padre was a Hooker by our former Padre Stephen Blakey

From The Editor

Once again, the Editorial team are grateful for the articles and photographs sent to us and we try to use most of these in The Thistle. Space constraints may mean that the article has to be edited which is at the Editor's discretion. Please refer to The Regimental website for confirmation of events venues and timings. We welcome any comments, ideas, constructive criticism so if you have any of these then either give the Team a phone call or drop us an email. All articles for The Thistle should be sent to thistle.editor@theroyalscots.co.uk. Timeline for the Winter edition is 31 January 2022.

Obituaries



Captain Denis Stephen (Laurie) Gilbert

Laurie was born into the Regimental Family in Edinburgh in 1934, his father being in the Regiment at the time and who went on to become a Warrant Officer. Laurie left home aged 15 to join the army and follow in his father's and his grandfather's footsteps, his grandfather having been a WO1 in the Green Howards. As a boy entrant he served as a Batman until 1951 when he was old enough for adult service.



Laurie had a proud memory of having been on parade in London for Her Majesty's Coronation in 1953 and it was at that time that he met Doreen, his bride to be. They were married in 1957 and went on to have five children; Lainy, Debbie, Rhona, Laurence, and Philip.

He served in Cyprus, South Arabia and the Radfan, Germany, N Ireland, and Cyprus again. It was whilst he was in the Radfan, as a Platoon Sergeant in Charlie Company, that, on Christmas Day, when the Company came under heavy fire from dissident tribesmen, his cigar, which he was smoking at the time, was disintegrated by a bullet.

Having survived that incident, he continued to rise through the ranks and was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major in 1973. He was subsequently commissioned in 1975 when he became the Regimental Recruiting Officer and further promoted to Captain.

Laurie was awarded the Purves Memorial prize in 1981 for services to the Regiment.

His two sons further strengthened the family ties with the Royal Scots by following their father and grandfather into the Regiment. Laurence, who was recruited by his dad, served for 23 years attaining the rank of WO2 and Philip served for 34 years becoming a WO1.

On leaving the army Laurie and Doreen retired to the Borders from where they ran their family business.

Laurie sadly passed away peacefully on the 12th of March 2021 and is survived by Debbie, Rhona, Laurence, Philip and seventeen grandchildren.

REMEMBRANCE DAY NOVEMBER 2021

The programme of events for November is shown in the Forecast of Events later in this magazine. All events are subject to potential restrictions, but it is hoped to have a full programme which all Members of the Regimental Family will be invited.



Mr Joe Lavery former Band CSgt 1RS and Bandmaster 1/52 Lowland

Joe was born in Maryhill Glasgow, attended Primary School and then Secondary School, leaving at the ripe old age of 14 with a school leaver's certificate. His musical career started with 152nd Glasgow Boys Brigade; he joined the band as a side drummer and bugler, somewhere along the line he also learnt to play the accordion and

ukulele banjo. There was also a piano in the 'room and kitchen' along with 7 Children and 2 adults! After leaving school he followed his father into the baking industry as an apprentice baker.

In 1949 Joe was called up for National Service and reported to Glencorse Training Barracks, for National Service training and was then to join the Cameronians. One Saturday evening at Glencorse there was a dance, a band from the Royal Scots were due to play, disaster strikes, the accordionist is MIA. A call goes out; can anyone play Scottish Dance Music on the Accordion? Joe volunteers and that, as they say, is that. In the audience that night was the Bandmaster and the Band Sgt Major of the Royal Scots. They were apparently impressed. The Bandmaster had a chat with Joe, and it was decided that once he had completed basic training he would apply for regular service, transfer to the Royal Scots Military Band, and attend the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall, Twickenham

His musical skills were extended, from this point on as he learnt to play the Trombone, Euphonium, E flat Bass, B flat Bass, Cornet, Trumpet, Bass Guitar, String Bass, all of which were additional to his core skills which were as a Percussionist.

He spent time in Korea, where he broke his wrist playing football! Sleeping under Canvas in Egypt before a posting to Cyprus. Cyprus was fun, until Archbishop Makarios decided otherwise. Initially there was little change, however, Joe reported that at one Mess Dance there was a tinkling of glass as a hand grenade came through the window, fortunately, the pin was still in. On other occasions when he was playing piano there was not 'loud or soft pedals' as there was a gun under the pedals, just in case!!

The Battalion was withdrawn from Cyprus and were posted to Elgin, after this Joe transferred to the band of The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for 5 years. On Wednesday afternoons a couple of times a month Joe would go to The Gordon Boys School, to teach percussion to the pupils who played in their Military Band.

In 1965, Joe returned to the Royal Scots, who were stationed in Tidworth. As well as the band he was a member of and later, leader of the Battalion Highland Dance team, he would continue to lead the team until just before he retired from the regular service. He was also a solo singer in the "Kenneth McKellar" mode. All very useful during regular summer KAPE tours. Summer 1966 the Battalion left Tidworth and headed off to Osnabruck. Here a new band was formed, "The Five Royals," they were members of the Military Band who played music from "The Hit Parade," Joe being a percussionist of course played the Bass Guitar in the group.

The Battalion returned to Tidworth in 1970 and in summer 1973 the Army said goodbye to Staff Sgt Lavery J.

Plans were drawn up for life after Royal Scots. The Royal Australian Air Force were looking to form a band based in Perth, Joe applied, was accepted, then the Australians had an election, and the requirement for a new Band was cancelled. It was decided to move to Linlithgow, family connections were close.

Civilian life arrived, but music was never far away, he was soon found teaching music in West Lothian Schools. However, the Army was not finished yet, promoted to WO1 he took over the reins of the band of the 1st 52nd Lowland Volunteers. He also became involved with many local bands not least Bo'ness and Carridon. He became involved as Musical Director with Am Dram, initially with the Livingston Players and then Newtown Entertainers, amongst others. He also took a position with the Falkirk Orchestra as their MD.

In 1987 he retired from the TA Band after what was in total 38 years' service. He then took up the baton with the Linlithgow Reed Band. He was to be Bandmaster until 2006. The Reed Band has a trophy named after him which is awarded annually. He was also a stand-in MD for the Linlithgow String Orchestra.

In 1991, he was approached by Linlithgow Rugby Club, and asked to set up Linlithgow Rugby Club Male Voice Choir. He then set up Linlithgow Ladies choir, both are still flourishing. His final job was with the Corps of Commissionaires, with Adam and Company (Then in Charlotte Square), he remained there until his 75th Birthday.

Joe remained active in the Lodge until quite recently, playing the organ when required for their meetings, he also played organ for local Churches. He was still giving his time to music and the community until a couple of years ago, including the Rotary "Old Folks" trips, where he would play accordion and where he would be the eldest present!

Unfortunately, his health deteriorated over the last couple of years and he passed away peacefully with his daughter Heather by his side, listening to 'Evening Hymn and Last Post'! Joe leaves, 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren.

Deaths

Mr Tam Crawford - 15th February 2021 CSgt 1RS

Mr Lawrence (Shug) Green - 1st March 2021 1RS

Captain DS (Larry) Gilbert - 12th March 2021 1RS

Mr Martin (Mitzy) Smith - 22nd March 2021 1RS

Mr David Nairn Blyth - 20th June 2021 1RS

Mr Alexander (Alec) Watson - 21st June 2021 1RS

Mr Paul Cassidy (Cass) - 29th June 2021 1RS

Mr Raymond Feeney - 6th July 2021 1RS

Mr Joe Lavery - 14th July 2021 Band Sgt 1RS

Mr Davie Kildae - 20th July 2021 CSgt 1RS

Mr Peter Nisbet - 21st July 2021 1RS

Mr Allan Sneddon - 5th August 2021 1RS

Mr Thomas (Tam) Hindle - 21st August 2021 WO2 1RS

Mr Ian (Doc) Halliday - 31st August 2021 1RS

Branch Details

EDINBURGH

The RN Club

1 Broughton Rd, Edinburgh EH7 4EW

Contact: Mick McCann

mikemccann4130@hotmail.co.uk

CENTRAL SCOTLAND

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

Contact: David Milne

David.milne3343@live.co.uk

EAST OF SCOTLAND

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

Contact: Peter Blackie

peterblackie@yahoo.co.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

First Tuesday of each month at RBL Ards

Contact: Davy McKendrick, Secretary

Davidsmck1@sky.com

HIGHLAND

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

Contact: Tam McFadyen

tamrosie@btinternet.com

SOUTHERN

No Branch meetings but events arranged during the year.

Contact: Tam Millar

Weetam0571@sky.co.uk

PIPE BAND

Contact T Corkerton for information re Band practice days.

Contact: Torquil Corkerton

torquil@corkerton.com

For further information contact the:

REGIMENTAL OFFICE

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Forecast of Events

With restrictions starting to lift, we are able to publish a Forecast of Events but as always in these uncertain days, they come with the caveat that restrictions may change events, at very short notice. Please watch the Guestbook pages for information

Day	Date	Event	Time	Remarks
Sat	Sep 25th	Commemoration Service for the late Brigadier CDM Ritchie CBE	1100	Canongate Kirk
Sat	Sep 25th	RS Association Nagpore Dinner	1900	RS Club
Sun	Oct 3rd	Unveiling Lisbon Maru Memorial	1100	National Arboretum
Sun	Oct 3rd	Unveiling the Royal Scots Memorial Stone	1200	National Arboretum
Thu	Oct 7th	Royal Regiment of Scotland Officers' Dinner	1900	RS Club
Sun	Oct 24th	Gladdy Murray Golf trophy	1130	Royal Musselburgh GC
Mon	Oct 25th	Opening of Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance	1045	East Princes St Gardens
Mon	Oct 25th	RS Service at RS Monument	1200	West Princes St Gardens
Fri	Oct 29th	Officers' Golf Outing	TBC	Details to be confirmed
Fri	Oct 29th	Officers' Dinner	1900	RS Club
Thu	Nov 11th	Opening of Westminster Field of Remembrance	1100	Westminster Abbey – as arranged by Southern Branch
Sat	Nov 13th	Glencorse Memorial Gates Service	1045	Glencorse Barracks
Sun	Nov 14th	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Edinburgh City Chambers Canongate Kirk Haymarket HMFC Service Remembrance Service, Glasgow 6 SCOTS Remembrance Service Various Branch events as arranged by branches	1100 1100 1100 1100 1500	Details of all events will be given by ROM, please watch website for detailed information
Fri	Nov 26th	East of Scotland Branch St Andrews Night	1900	Wallyford Miners' Club
Tue	Dec 14th	Volunteers' Christmas Lunch	1200	RS Club
Fri	Dec 24th	Regimental Office closed for Festive Season Regimental Museum closed for Festive Season		Closed after duties Friday TBC
Wed	Jan 5th	Office and Museum reopen		
Fri	Jan 21st	East of Scotland Branch Burns Night Supper	TBC	
	Feb TBC	Regimental Association General Committee AGM	TBC	RS Club
	Mar TBC	RS Association Annual General Meeting	TBC	6 weeks after Committee AGM
Sat	Mar 26th	RS Association Regimental Day Dinner	1900	RS Club
Mon	Mar 28th	The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) – Regimental Day		388th Anniversary
Mon	Mar 28th	Formation Day – The Royal Regiment of Scotland		
	Apr TBC	Officers' Dinner – Royal Regiment of Scotland	TBC	RS Club
Sun	Apr TBC	Fallen Comrades Golf Outing	TBC	
Fri	Apr 15th	Good Friday – Office Closed		
Mon	Apr 18th	Easter Monday – Office Closed		
Sat	Apr 30th	RS Annual Reunion	TBC	
Sat	May 21st	106th Gretna Commemorations	1045	Rosebank Cemetery
Sat	May 28th	Le Paradis Commemorations		
Thu	Jun 2nd	Queen's Jubilee Weekend		Bank Holiday
Fri	Jun 3rd	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations		Bank Holiday
Sun	Jun 5th	Jubilee Celebrations end		
Sat	Jun 25th	Armed Forces Day	1030	Form up Charlotte Square
	Jul TBC	Kohima Commemorations		York