



The Thistle

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At the Royals Scots Monument in West Princes Street Gardens Mr Stewart Colquhoun assures HRH that the unveiling cord will definitely work. l to r; Mrs Charlie Ritchie, The Lord Provost, Brig George Lowder, HRH and Mr Stewart Colquhoun.

Foreword

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

It has been a particularly eventful Summer including the commemoration of the 110th anniversary of the Gretna Rail Crash, Victory in Europe and Japan events, Armed Forces Day, the unveiling of the conserved 4th/5th Battalion Colours, outreach and most notably the unveiling of the final addition to our monument in Princes Street Gardens by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, our Royal Patron, followed by a reception and Beating Retreat at the Club. All of these are reported in this edition which I hope you enjoy.

Governance – Regimental Trust (SCIO).

After many years of support to The Royal Scots in several roles, culminating in being our Trustee responsible for governance advice, Jandy Stevenson has stood down. Jandy has been key to helping us navigate the path to establishing the SCIO and we are hugely grateful to her. We look forward to thanking her properly when Trustees next meet in October. I also hope that when Trustees meet in October, they will consider appointing James Stevenson as a Trustee. We continue to conduct succession planning and would be keen to recruit new Trustees with charity law and grant funding experience whilst continuing to develop our diversity. I can report that the Trust has weathered the storm of trade tariffs and the volatility of markets caused by the current geopolitical situation. Trustees are pleased with the performance of our new investment managers; Evelyn Partners and we continue to work closely with them to maximise the total return on our investments. I am particularly grateful that two of our Trustees, Alex Dockar and Nick Edwardson, have expert professional knowledge in this area and thank them for their continued support and engagement. We have decided to pause the work to bring the Club into the SCIO for now, whilst we await the outcome of anticipated further changes to Scottish charity law which we expect to include SCIOs and unincorporated associations. I expand on this decision below.

The Association and Associating.

The Association has continued to ensure that we are well represented at the formal events throughout the Summer, not least by providing Standard Parties, organising the attendees and generally supporting the Regimental Secretary. I am very grateful to all of them and of course to the Chair, Stu Marshall, and all the Association Office Bearers for their support and engagement. It is also great to see the Pipes and Drums in good spirits and benefitting from Rab Burns' involvement now that he has a bit more time to spare.

Unfortunately, Shirley and I were unable to attend the annual summer party in Prestonpans hosted by the East of Scotland Branch on 30 August and well attended by the other branches. Judging by the photographs the "retro" theme was a resounding success. I would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone that the annual summer party is open to all ex-Royals, regardless of membership of the Association.

Planning has begun for the laying up of the 1 SCOTS Colours on Sunday 29 March 2026. This comes about as 1 RANGER continue to establish themselves as part of the RANGER formation having already been presented with their own guidon when they rebadged from SCOTS to RANGER. The laying up will involve a parade from the Castle Esplanade to the Canongate Kirk, our regimental kirk. It is expected that the Colours will be escorted by three guards from SCOTS, RS and KOSB. Please put this date in your diaries. All Royals, regardless of membership of the Association, are invited to participate and march if able.

I am also pleased to report that the SCIO and Club continue to support a wide range of informal associating, much of it, but not all of it, around golf. In the foreword to the last edition of The Thistle I floated the idea of an Iraq reunion dinner, in February 2026, marking the 35th anniversary of Operation DESERT STORM. This would be open to all those involved in Operation DESERT STORM and the subsequent Operations TELIC. The idea was spawned by the successful Op BANNER reunion dinner in 2020. Whilst there was initial enthusiasm for the idea the subsequent silence was deafening, so the idea has not been taken forward at this time. We also flagged the possibility of arranging company "smoker" events in the Club and the first of these, for all those who served in A Company during their service, will be held on Friday 17 October in the Cellar Bar of the Club. If this is a success, then other company "smokers" will follow.

Museum and Heritage.

I can report that the Joint Museum Working Group is now up and running. We are represented by Dickie Donovan, David Jack and Allan Carswell. Our Curator Sophie Lenihan is available to offer advice. The Working Group has agreed its Terms of Reference, and we have signed a Collaboration Agreement with SCOTS. It is anticipated that external fundraising will commence next year. It is not envisaged that SCOTS and RS will equally fund the project, but we will be expected to contribute as best we can.

Liaison continues with 1 RANGER regarding the items of Regimental property that they hold. A number of items, including the centrepiece will return to Edinburgh this Autumn and we continue to carefully monitor the condition and maintenance of the items in Belfast. I am also very grateful to Tony Reid, Malcolm Copland and Caroline Cole who have meticulously checked and catalogued our property in the Club, confirming what is Museum, Regimental, Club and other property. Thanks go to them for this important work.

Four successful outreach events have been conducted in recent years; at Dalkeith Palace, Tynecastle, Dalmeny Street and most recently at the Central Library. We have learnt a great deal about how best to deliver outreach, telling our story outside the confines of the Castle and have refined our understanding of outreach, its purpose and objectives. I am very grateful to Martin Gibson, Jim Blythe, Iain May, Liz Kyle, and Cathy Tucker, all of whom have indicated that they now wish to step back from being heavily engaged with this activity. Trustees are now determining exactly what outreach will be conducted when and by whom from now until 2031 when outreach will most likely be conducted jointly with SCOTS.

Martin Gibson and Cathy Tucker have also stepped down from the Museum Committee after many years of service for which we are sincerely grateful. The Committee will need refreshed to support the heavy lifting in the coming years relating to the joint museum project. So, if you are interested in this do let us know. The Committee is currently chaired by Dickie Donovan.

The Club.

I stated above that we have decided to pause the work to bring the Club into the SCIO. The principal reason for this is that following recent changes to charity law in Scotland we understand that more is to come, specifically focusing on SCIOs and unincorporated associations. Our work to date has highlighted several areas that require very careful consideration, including, but not exclusively, corporation tax paid on RSC Management Ltd surpluses, VAT, Regimental Office rent and the legal steps to be taken. It would be unwise to proceed at this time until we know what any further changes to charity law in Scotland mean for us. Rest assured we still believe that having a single entity for our four pillars is the right thing to aim for.

The objectives and purpose of our Club and SCIO are now very firmly aligned, and we continue to do all we can to ensure coherence between both. To this end I am delighted that the Trustees of the Club War Memorial Fund have appointed Christian Jetuah, a Director of RSC Management Ltd and James Stevenson, recently retired from Deloitte, to the Board of Trustees.

The Club continues to do well thanks to Adrian Hayes and his excellent team, supported by a very effective Board of Directors chaired by Norman Soutar. The new property acquisition at 1A Dundas Street has now been fully renovated to add 3 further en suite rooms to our Annex at 34A Abercromby Place and is now generating income. Many thanks to everyone involved in this project.

Trustees of the Club and SCIO and the Association continue to support coherence being enhanced by having one titular head of all of our pillars. To that end planning has commenced for my successor to be selected and appointed. I anticipate that having been involved in our governance in one way or another since 2004, I will hand over some time next year.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all Trustees, Directors, Committee Members, Office Bearers and Volunteers who keep our show on the road. We have a strong and diverse team in place, many of whom were not Royal Scots or Veterans, but they are very much part of our wider Regimental Family. I am deeply grateful to every one of them – thank you. Succession planning is an ongoing task, and we are continually refreshing the team through natural churn and for good governance. If you would like to get involved in any way, please do let us know.

I look forward to the next time our paths cross and hope you can make it to one or more of our planned events this Winter. Please do come along and if possible, bring a Royal who we may not have seen for a while.

Yours aye

George

Association News - Southern Branch - Visit to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS)

On Wednesday 6 August 2025 the Southern Branch visited the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) to attend the Commandant's Parade, the dress rehearsal parade for the Sovereign's Parade two days later. Our host was the Commandant of RMAS, Brigadier Nick Wight-Boycott OBE.

On a day of perfect weather, Sandhurst was shown off in all its glory. We were met by Brig Nick and enjoyed a chance for a chat before the parade. The parade itself was the traditional spectacle of colour, precision, pomp and ceremony accompanied by the band of the RIFLES. An audience of some fifteen hundred watched the parade and the whole event was considered a great experience. Afterwards, we made our way to the lake for a picnic and Brig Nick, having divested himself of his finery, rejoined us to chat over lunch.



The Adjutant rides by the Saluting dais.



A new tradition is the Commandant's Piper in Sandhurst tartan!



Those being commissioned march towards the Old College Steps.



Maj Cran digs in at lunch by the lake!



The Commandant, Brig Nick Wight-Boycott, joined the party by the lake at lunchtime.



Picnic by the lake.



Sandhurst on Parade!

Having digested, we were taken under the wing of one of the guides of the Sandhurst Trust, David Wilson formerly BW, and given a guided tour of Old College and the Royal Memorial Chapel.

A great day was enjoyed by all who appreciated the chance to catch up and chat with friends and colleagues in such a magnificent setting.

Lieutenant Colonel Brian de la Haye OBE

Association News - East of Scotland Branch

On Thursday 08 May 2025 George Higgins went along to assist the Prestonpans British Legion Standard Party at the Prestonpans War Memorial for VE Day.

At the last meeting of the East of Scotland Branch on Friday 30 May 2025, the members proposed that £500 be given to the Veterans Community for the outstanding work they do for veterans. This was presented by Tom Logan to Tom Douglas, Veterans Community Support Worker. Later Tom Douglas gave a talk to the Branch members on the work that the Veterans Community do supporting veterans.

The Chairman East of Scotland Branch Tom Logan attended East Lothian Council Armed Forces Day flag raising on Monday 23 June 2025 at East Lothian Council buildings in Haddington. Tom was the only Royal on parade.



George Higgins (r) with the Prestonpans British Legion Standard.



l to r: John Yorkston, Branch Chairman Tom Logan, Alan McClelland, Sheila Purvis, Eric Yule, Tom Douglas (support worker for the Veterans Community), Jamie Colquhoun, Dougie Porteous, Peter Blackie, Ian Fair, Derek Meechan and Tommy Johnstone.



Chairman East of Scotland Branch Tom Logan (holding the flag to the right) outside the East Lothian Council buildings in Haddington.



Jamie Colquhoun (l) and Sheila Purvis.

East of Scotland Branch hosted its joint Summer Retro Party (Annual Reunion) on Saturday 30 August 2025 at the Prestonpans British Legion club. Around 100 personnel from the Regimental family, East Lothian Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club, and members of the Royal British Legion Prestonpans attended the event, which celebrated a 1980s retro theme.



Yvonne and Tam Douglas.



l to r; Pam Elliott, Julie Friend and Tom Logan.

Photo by Janine Elliott.



Stu Colquhoun and Martin Gibson.

Entertainment was provided by China Blue, who performed a selection of classic 80s hits. A hot and cold buffet followed, along with a raffle that raised £600, with proceeds split between the East of Scotland Branch and the Breakfast Club. A silent auction was also held to support the Association Standard Party; the amount raised is presently unrecorded. Mark McKenzie from BFBS Radio also joined guests briefly on his way home from work.

Special thanks were extended to branch office bearers for their dedication, as well as to all helpers, entertainment staff, caterers, and bar staff at Prestonpans Royal British Legion. The next event, themed Mod & Rockers, is planned for Saturday 29 August 2026 at the same venue, with bookings already secured.

Mr Tom Logan

Armed Forces Day on Saturday 28 June 2025

A strong contingent of Royal Scots assembled for Armed Forces Day in Edinburgh this year. The parade formed up in Charlotte Square and marched eastwards along the south side of George Street, passing the Lord Provost taking the salute outside the Assembly Rooms, and on to St Andrew Square. After speeches various bands provided entertainment, there was the opportunity for some refreshment and to mingle and catch up with auld acquaintances.



On George Street, saluting the Lord Provost outside the Assembly Rooms.



In St Andrew Square for the speeches after the parade.



A spectacular gathering of Royals in St Andrew Square after the parade.



Rab Dickson, Stu Colquhoun, Raymond Lunn, Ross Stanley, John Pennycuik, George Thomson (Spud), Gerry Stryker, George Higgins, George Lowder, Frank Hall, Paul Carlisle, Peter Whyte, Michael Stewart-Lindsay, Sammy Leslie, Barry McIntosh, Peter Macfadyen, Andy Kyle, John Dent, Paul Robertson, Jamie Colquhoun, Andy Gilmour, Harry Maclean, Tam Douglas, Peter Blackie, Mark Doig, Harry Wright, Tam Logan, Michael Grady.

In Northern Ireland some of the Branch gathered at Ards Airfield, Newtownards.



l to r; Kenny Boyle, Maxi MacDonald, Stevie Brown and Doc (Billy) Halliday.

Gretna Memorial Service at Rosebank Cemetery

The annual memorial service for the Gretna Rail Disaster was held at the memorial in Rosebank Cemetery on Saturday 24 May 2025. Attendance has grown over the last few years, and we are most grateful to all the local community groups who bring many personal connections to the event. This year we were delighted to be joined by High Constables from a number of Leith and Edinburgh Wards; it is the first time since the centenary in 2015 that they have joined us, and we hope that they will be a regular feature in the future. The parade formed up as normal at the entrance to the cemetery and, led by the Association Pipe Band and Association Standards, marched the short distance to the Memorial. Rev Dr Iain May conducted the service, wreaths were laid and there was the opportunity for reflection on the service and sacrifice of the men of the 7th Battalion The Royal Scots, others involved in the crash, and the whole community of Leith.



The High Constables at the head of the parade.



The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band led the parade to the Gretna Rail Disaster Memorial.



Standard Party in front of the Memorial.
Mark Doig (l) and Paul Robertson.

Lauriston Castle Estate: 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan

The 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan was marked with a Thanksgiving Service at The Royal Scots Memorial Garden in the grounds of Lauriston Castle Estate. Although VJ Day is 15 August, this event was held on Saturday 16 August 2025 to permit greater attendance. The parade gathered in front of Lauriston Castle and marched to the sound of the pipes behind the Association Standards the short distance to the Memorial Garden. The Regiment was well represented by relatives of officers and soldiers who had served in India and Burma with the 1st Battalion and in Hong Kong with the 2nd Battalion and had endured the tragedy of the *Lisbon Maru*. This was not a solely Royal Scots event and there were also relatives of other regiments and corps who had served in the Far East, and indeed others who just wished to mark the occasion. We were also joined by Eli Enzung and her husband Sashi, who are from Nagaland, the province in which Kohima is located. The service was led by Rev Dr Iain May, the Association Chaplain, and blended remembrance of the dedication of all those who served in the Far East with thanks for the peace that they ultimately secured.



The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band and the Association Standard lead the parade to The Royal Scots Memorial Garden.



l to r: Paul Robertson, Sashimeren Imsong, Eli Enzung, Fiona Garwood, Malcolm Warrack, Cate Warrack and Tam Logan.



The congregation assembled for the Thanksgiving Service.



Maj Guy Richardson delivers a reading during the service.

Scottish Korean War Memorial

The annual memorial service to mark the ceasefire in the Korean War in 1953 was held on Saturday 26 July 2025 at the Scottish Korean War Memorial in Witch Craig Park in the hills between Bathgate and Linlithgow. Royal Scots Korean War veteran Wellwood McCall attended and laid the wreath, remembering those who did not return. The memorial provides a tranquil spot for reflection and contemplation and is well worth a visit.



Wellwood McCall lays The Royal Scots wreath.



The gathering at the Scottish Korean War Memorial.



Wellwood McCall saluting the Memorial after laying The Royal Scots wreath.



l to r; Gerry Stryker, Wellwood McCall, Paul Robertson and Lt Col David Jack at the Scottish Korean War Memorial.

Regimental Museum Outreach 2025

Reaching out from the physical museum within Edinburgh Castle to the much wider community has continued with much success.

GRETNNA 110. 22 May 2025 was the 110th anniversary of the Quintinshill rail disaster when 216 men of the 7th Battalion were killed and many more injured. To increase awareness of Britain's worst ever rail disaster the GRETNNA 110 outreach initiative delivered:

A major exhibition at Dalmeny Street Drill Hall, where in April 1915 the 7th Battalion had departed to fight at Gallipoli, and that so soon after became the temporary mortuary for many of those killed before they were buried in Rosebank Cemetery. In addition to focussing on the crash and the aftermath and telling soldiers' stories Leith Academy created displays and the Great Central Railway Rolling Stock Trust (GCR RST) built a scale model of Larbert Station in 1915.

A three month social media campaign that included promotion of the annual Rosebank Cemetery Regimental Service.

Royal Scots wreath laying on the actual anniversary at the crash site and during the Gretna Green Memorial Cairn service on Thursday 22 May 2025.

A small exhibition at Musselburgh Museum, and a three month exhibition at the Carlisle Museum of Military Life. Scan the QR Code below or copy and paste the link.

A 12 minute film '*Leith's Darkest Dawn*' (available on You Tube) was produced. Scan the QR Code below or copy and paste the link.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vw_rl2sPFPw



Displays at the Hibernian FC 150th will be included at Easter Road.

VJ 80th Under three months later maximising the raised public profile of the 80th anniversaries of VE and VJ Days the Museum outreach team attracted dozens of enquiries, several multiple, from our extended Royal Scots regimental family about their grandfathers, fathers and uncles who fought in the Far East during World War 2. In addition there were enquires about prisoners of war (POW), including those lost on the Sinking of the Lisbon Maru, and a few about wives and daughters who were POW.



GRETNNA 110. Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard and Researchers in front of Dalmeny Street Gretna Crash Tree of Light. l to r; Tony Reid, Jim Blythe, Gerry Stryker, Ken Nisbet (Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Scottish Genealogical Society volunteer), Andy Stewart, David Morris, Davey Hill (Outreach research volunteer), Andy Gilmour and Martin Gibson.



GRETNNA 110. Martin Gibson explaining some of items recovered from the crash to Deputy Lord Provost Councillor Lezley Cameron.



GRETNNA 110. Andy Gilmour (l) explains the origins of The Royal Scots to students from Leith Academy.



VJ 80TH Family Research Area Enquiries.



VJ 80TH Sheila Purvis, Museum volunteer, outside the Central Library for VJ 80TH.



VJ 80TH Opening of VJ80th Family Research Area. I to r; George Lowder, Karen O'Brien (Central Library Collections Manager), Rt Hon Lord Provost Councillor Robert Aldridge and Martin Gibson.



VJ 80TH Museum volunteer Tom Gordon explains the Forgotten War exhibits to Martin Gibson (I) and The Lord Provost.



Quintinshill Wreath laying at Quintinshill crash site by grandson and son of survivor Lt John Bell. I to r; Peter Bell, Robin Bell, Edward Cowan (Patron GCR RST).



Quintinshill The Gretna Green Memorial Cairn.



VJ 80TH The Family Research Area Team with The Lord Provost.

I to r; Cecylia O'May (Central Library), Karen O'Brien, Jocelyn Grant (Head of Outreach), Tessa Spencer (National Records Scotland), Lord Provost, Tom Gordon, Ken Nisbet, Davey Hill, Cathy Tucker (Museum volunteer), Margaret Burns (Museum volunteer), George Lowder, Jim Blythe and Martin Gibson.



GRETNNA 110. Susie Hamilton (Scottish Veterans Commissioner) and Robin Bell.

The 'all in one room' Research Area within Edinburgh Central Library had experts from the Regimental Museum, National Records of Scotland, Scottish Genealogical Society and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission who also undertook tri- Service enquiries from families who sought information about their relatives who served during the 'Forgotten War'.

A 12 minute film 'For Their Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today' (available on You Tube) was produced. Scan the QR Code below or copy and paste the link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZltw7JHbaI>



The reaching out initiatives were made possible by the admirable commitment and hard work by the Museum outreach team, both volunteers and staff, reinforced by the loyal Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard whose continuing the very engaging hosting was welcomed by all visitors. True partnership working and establishing professional relationships enabled the bold initiatives to sustain the important and much valued getting out of the iconic Castle to promote the First of Foot's unique heritage. A big thank you to everyone!

Colonel Martin Gibson OBE DL

We were honoured that Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal joined members of the Regimental Family and members of The Royal Scots Club in West Princes Street Gardens on Saturday 7 June 2025 to unveil a bronze figurehead of the late Queen Elizabeth II which had been added to The Royal Scots Monument.

Bronze figureheads of the sixteen British monarchs whom the Regiment served, from King Charles I to King George VI, and also the Lord Protector, adorn the railings connecting the stone pillars of the Monument.

Queen Elizabeth II was the last monarch the Regiment served, but a figurehead had not originally been included as the Monument was designed, and largely constructed, during the reign of King George VI. This addition now completes the monarchs who reigned during the service of the Regiment. The figurehead was designed by Hector Guest using the effigy of Queen Elizabeth II produced in 1984 by Raphael Maklout for the Royal Mint. It was then cast in bronze and fitted to the Monument by Powderhall Bronze, Edinburgh, and conservation work to the stone was completed by Graciela Ainsworth. As there was no space to fix the new figurehead to the railings it was decided to place it on the final stone pillar. It has been aligned horizontally mid-way between the edge of the pillar and the stone insert recording the 373 years of service and aligned at the same height as the figureheads on the railings.



The Royal Scots Monument is located in West Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh.



The arrival of HRH. I to r; the Lord Provost, HRH, Brig George Lowder, Dr Colin Cunningham, Rev Dr Iain May, Lt Col David Jack and Maj Gen Bob Bruce.



Brig George Lowder introduces the Piper Mr Kev Harraughty to HRH.

HRH The Princess Royal, escorted by the Lord Provost, arrived to the tune The Princess Royal's March and was met by the Brigadier George Lowder MBE, Chair of the Trustees, Major General Bob Bruce CBE DSO, Vice Chair of the Trustees and Governor of Edinburgh Castle, Lieutenant Colonel David Jack, the Regimental Secretary, and Rev Dr Iain May BSc MBA BD DMin, the Association Chaplain; she was then introduced to the piper, Mr Kev Harraughty. Brigadier Lowder offered HRH the opportunity to review the main part of the Monument before introducing the team who had completed the recent work – Mr Malcolm Copland, the project officer, Mr Hector Guest, the sculptor who created the bronze figurehead, and Ms Graciela Ainsworth, who oversaw the conservation work on the Monument. Brigadier Lowder then commenced the formal part of the event:

*"Your Royal Highness, Lord Lieutenant, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to this unveiling and dedication ceremony. The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) has always been, and continues to be, very proud of their 373 years of unbroken service to Crown and country, which is celebrated through and on this monument. Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the last Sovereign under whom the Regiment served, appointed Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to be Colonel in Chief of The Royal Scots in 1983. When Her Royal Highness unveiled the last update to the Monument on 9 May 2007, showing the further locations of service, the Gulf War 1991 battle honour and the transition to The Royal Regiment of Scotland, Her Royal Highness quite rightly mentioned that at some future point in time there would need to be a further and final addition to the Monument. We are greatly honoured, therefore, that Her Royal Highness, whose long and continued connection with the Regiment which we cherish, has agreed to unveil this **final** addition to our Monument today."*



I to r; Mrs Charles Ritchie, Brig George Lowder, HRH, Mr Malcolm Copland, project officer, Mr Hector Guest, sculptor, and Ms Graciela Ainsworth, stone conservationist.

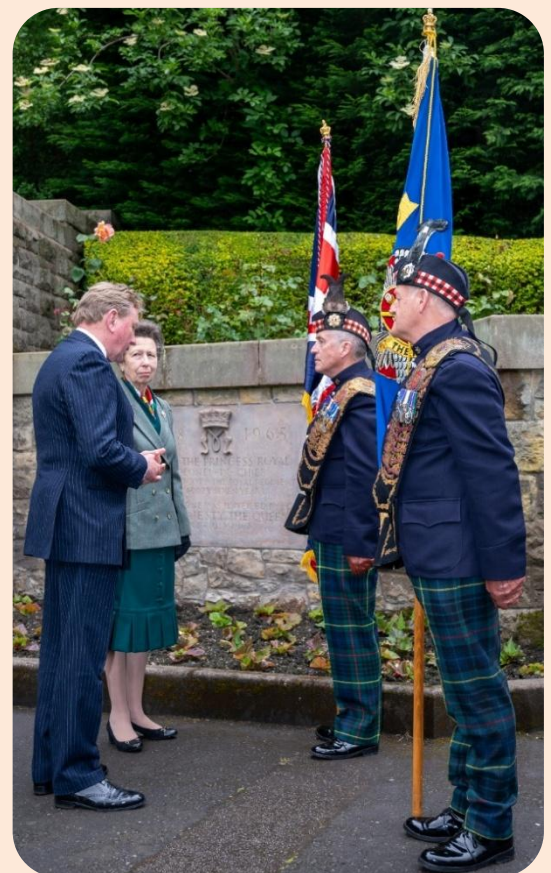


I to r; The Lord Provost, Brig George Lowder, HRH and Mr Stewart Colquhoun.

Brigadier Lowder then invited HRH to unveil the figurehead, which had been covered by the Regimental Flag. Rev Dr Iain May conducted a short service of dedication following which HRH was introduced to the Standard Party, Mr Tam Logan and Mr Paul Robertson, and then assembled members of the Regimental Family. It had been raining for much of the day; fortunately it remained dry for the unveiling and dedication, but it started raining while HRH was talking to members of the Regimental Family. HRH departed to the Regimental March, Dumbarton's Drums, for the next part of the visit at The Royal Scots Club.



HRH unveils the new plaque.



Brig George Lowder introduces the Standard Party to HRH. Mr Paul Robertson (l) and Mr Thomas Logan.



HRH meets three Royal Scots In-Pensioners. l to r; Lt Col Brian de la Haye, HRH, Mr Jimmy Collins, In-Pensioners Danny Dempsey, Vic Lucas and Andy Kay.



HRH chatting with. l to r; Sgt Kyle Crawford, Mr Karalo Malumuvatu, CSgt Barry McIntosh and HRH.



Maj John Dent MBE with his son Mr David Dent MBE.



Maj Stu and Mrs Jennifer Marshall with Mr Graeme and Mrs Angela Speirs.

The design of the Monument takes the form of an ancient stone circle, the chief feature of which is the pillar bearing the badge of the Regiment and those battle honours awarded to the Regiment that are carried on the Colours. There are eight other, smaller pillars which depict the changes in bearing, dress and equipment of the Regiment throughout nearly four centuries of eventful history. The first section of the Monument records the service of Scottish soldiers in the organisation preceding the Regiment in the period 1603 – 1633. The pillars are linked by bronze railings which bear the figureheads of the sixteen British monarchs whom the Regiment served and the Lord Protector. Above the figureheads is a panel inscribed with a dedicatory quote selected from the Declaration of Arbroath. Below the railings, inscribed in the stone, are the names of all the countries in which the Regiment has served during the relevant period since it was raised. The Royal Scots Monument is not a war memorial. It has been created to record the history of the Regiment since 1633, to commemorate those who lived and died in the normal course of duty, to remind those who are still living of the nature of that service, and to be an inspiration to generations of the future. The Monument was designed by Sir Frank Mears P/PRSA and work was carried out by a team of eminent Scottish sculptors, artists, masons and craftsmen. The sculptors were C d'o Pilkington Jackson, J Clark, Mrs Elizabeth Dempster, A Dods and T Macnair. The masons were William Gerard & Sons of Edinburgh, and the bronze casting was by Charles Henshaw & Sons and McDonald & Cheswick of Edinburgh. The addition to the Monument in 1968 was also designed by Sir Frank Mears. The work to make the additions in 2007 was carried out by Watson Stonecraft.



The new plaque of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Taken at different angles to show the relief of the design.

The Royal Scots Monument was created with a bequest from the will of Mr Campbell Smith SSC, 1886 – 1929. Although he never served in the Regiment, he was an ardent supporter of the Regiment during The Great War, instituting the Fund for additional feeding for Royal Scots prisoners of war, and he was also a great friend of The Royal Scots Club. Following the unveiling and dedication in 1952, the Monument became the property of the public and the responsibility of the Corporation of the City of Edinburgh, now the City of Edinburgh Council, to maintain in perpetuity. The Monument was constructed in 1952 and unveiled on 26 July 1952 by HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Mary. A memorial to HRH The Princes Royal, Princess Mary, who had been Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) 1918 – 1965, was added to the Monument in 1968 and unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II on 1 July 1968. Following the amalgamation in 2006 of the Regiment with the five other existing Scottish infantry regiments to form The Royal Regiment of Scotland, an addition to the Monument was created to mark the end of 373 years of continuous service to Crown and Country. The battle honour “Gulf 1991” was added and the list of locations in which the Regiment had served was updated. A further plaque was added to mark the tenure of HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment 1983 – 2006. This addition to the Monument was unveiled by HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, on 9 May 2007.

Lieutenant Colonel David Jack



RS Monument after the new plaque was installed.

We were delighted to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to The Royal Scots Club directly after her visit to West Princes Street Gardens to unveil the addition to The Royal Scots Monument. She was met by Major Guy Richardson, Chairman of the Club Members' Committee, and Mr Adrian Hayes, the General Manager of the Club. Over 200 members of the Club had gathered in the Abercromby Room, the Douglas Room, the Scott Room, the public bar and lounge and the Members' lounge and library and HRH was offered the opportunity to meet some of them at a reception. She was then invited to attend Beating Retreat outside the Club on Abercromby Place. The ceremony was performed by the Lowland and Highland Reserve Bands of The Royal Regiment of Scotland and The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band. As with the event in Princes Street Gardens, the majority of the ceremony was conducted under leaden skies until the rain was released as the performance reached the Finale. While many of the audience deployed umbrellas, the bands were not so fortunate and had to continue in the rain. On conclusion of the ceremony HRH departed and members returned to the Club for dinner in the Hepburn Suite and the Princess Royal Suite.

Lieutenant Colonel David Jack



Mr Adrian Hayes (l) General Manager of The Royal Scots Club Being introduced to HRH by Maj Guy Richardson. Piper, Major Torquil Corkerton in the background.



HRH signing the Regimental Visitors Book.



The Lowland and Highland Reserve Bands led by Drum Major CSgt Dougie Anderson.

Origins of the Ceremony of Beating Retreat

The ceremony of Beating Retreat dates for 1690 when the following orders were issued by the Army:

'The Drum Major and Drummers of the Regiment which gives a Captain of the Main Guard are to beat the Retreat through the large street, or as may be ordered. They are to be answered by all the Drummers of the guards, and by four Drummers of each Regiment in their respective Quarters.'

The modern ceremony has developed from the early evening custom followed by our forebears when the end of the daily routine of military life was signalled by the drum and bugle.

This occurred at sunset when an evening gun was fired, soldiers withdrew into fortified camps or cities, locked the gates, and, as the sun set, lowered their flags for the night. This was 'Retreat'. The calls sounded to order this routine were beaten by drummers. The companies would retreat into the fortification with bugles or trumpets blowing to warn the guards on the ramparts of their approach.

Often, as the companies marched in, the band would be playing to entertain those inside the fort.

The band's music would end with an evening hymn followed by the national anthem.

These original ceremonies have evolved to become what is now a musical pageant. The close of the performance is marked by the musical arrangement known as 'Sunset', and as it plays, the Union Flag is lowered. The senior military or civilian guest will then be invited to take the Band's salute as they march off at the end of the ceremony.



A static feature of music conducted by Captain Alex Knox.
In-Pensioners Andy Kay, Vic Lucas and Danny Dempsey in the background.



l to r; The Lord Provost, HRH, Brig George Lowder and Mrs Shirley Lowder.

The Lowland Band

The Lowland Band traces its history back to the formation of a Territorial Band in 1958 which served with the 7th/9th Battalion The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment). After a period as the Band of 52nd Lowland Volunteers, in 2006 it became The Lowland Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The Highland Band

The origins of the Highland Band date from 1967 when the Territorial Bands in the Highland Brigade were amalgamated to be known as the Black Watch Territorial Band and subsequently became The Band of 51st Highland Volunteers. In 2006 it became The Highland Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band

The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band was established in 2000 to provide a focus for former pipers and drummers of the Regiment and to promote the Regiment at public, charity and civic events. Since the amalgamation of the Regiment in 2006 into The Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Association Pipe Band draws its members more widely, but continues to maintain the rich heritage of the Regiment.



Combined bands. The Lowland Band, The Highland Band and The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band.



The Drum Major asking permission from HRH to March Off.



Maj Guy Richardson is shocked to hear that Brig George Lowder about to start a rendition of "Singing in the rain"!

Programme of Music

Combined March	Glendaruel Highlanders & Atholl Highlanders
Slow March	Garb of Auld Gaul
Marching Song	The Gallant Royal Scots
Quick March	The Great Little Army
Static Feature	Hearts of Glory (McCrae's Own)
Combined March	79th Farewell to Gibraltar
Finale	Rose of Kelvingrove
Retreat	Sunset
Lament	Sleep, Dearie, Sleep
National Anthem	God Save The King
Regimental Marches	Dumbarton's Drums Daughter of the Regiment Scotland The Brave



Far side l to r: In-Pensioner Andy Kay, Tony Reid, Pauline Murray, Malcolm Ross, Paul and Margaret Robertson having dinner in the Hepburn Suite.



Going left from Jamie (pinstripe) and William McMeechan, Jessica and Brady Brim-Deforest Of Balvaird, Ray (Halfchat) Thomson, Rodney Richards and Jean Spinner having dinner in the Princess Royal Suite.

For a 1 minute video of Beating Retreat by Edinburgh Live click on the link or scan the QR code.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEKnfqLRegs>



Memorial Service for the 4th and 5th Battalions

A memorial service was held in St Giles' Cathedral on Saturday 28 June 2025 to remember all those who served in the 4th and 5th Battalions (Queen's Edinburgh Rifles) The Royal Scots. For a number of years members of Lodge 1253 have gathered to lay a wreath at the memorials to the 4th Battalion and the 5th Battalion, both of which are situated at the rear right of the Cathedral. Last year the Minister of St Giles' became involved and a memorial service prior to wreath-laying has now been incorporated into the event.

The service is held on, or as close as possible to, 28 June as it was on this day in 1915 that the Battle of Gully Ravine commenced in the Gallipoli campaign, a battle in which the 4th, 5th and 7th Battalions were involved. 28 June 1915 was also the single costliest day of the campaign for The Royal Scots, with 311 men of all three battalions killed on that day. In addition, the 1st Garrison Battalion was also involved in the campaign.

The event was held at the same time on the same day as the Armed Forces Day parade in Edinburgh so, while most of The Royal Scots' attention was focused on Armed Forces Day, the Regimental Secretary joined the members of the Lodge to commemorate the service and sacrifice of the men of the 4th and 5th Battalions.

Lodge Queen's Edinburgh Rifles (The Royal Scots) No 1253 was erected and consecrated in 1921 in memory of the 4th and 5th Battalions as many of the men had been Freemasons. The Lodge amalgamated in 2023 with Rifle Lodge 405 which was erected and consecrated in 1860, its origin being from the No. 12 Freemasons Company of the Edinburgh Rifle Volunteers. The combined lodge which upholds the traditions of both lodges is now titled Lodge Edinburgh Rifles (The Royal Scots) No. 405. We are indebted to Andrew Laing, Master of Lodge 405 and the members for preserving the heritage of the 4th and 5th Battalions.



Memorial of 4th Battalion.



Memorial of 5th Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel David Jack



Lt Col David Jack, far right, with members of the Masonic Lodge and the Minister of St Giles.

This year it was the 85th anniversary of the battle for Le Paradis.

The 1st Battalion The Royal Scots had been fighting a withdrawal against stronger German forces since the start of the Blitzkrieg on 10 May 1940. By 26 May 1940 the Battalion, tired and depleted, had reached the line of the Basse Canal near to Bethune 40 miles from Dunkirk. Their orders were "to stand and fight to the last man". By 27 May 1940 the battle was over and the remnants of the Battalion became prisoners of war. At the time German commanders stated that the "The Royal Scots had fought like tigers!"

On Saturday 24 May 2025 David Dickson and Mike Cran went to Le Paradis to attend the Commemoration, which was organised by Lestrem Commune. They were joined by Stephen Kennedy, a member of the Royal Scottish Piping Society, and Peter Traynor, from Australia and his cousin Mary McGovern from London. Peter's father had fought at Le Paradis, and after the war he enlisted into the Australian Army and served in Vietnam.

A memorial service was held at the Creton Farm on the Saturday morning at the site of the massacre of 97 soldiers, mainly of 2nd Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment. There was then a service in the church at Le Paradis during which David Dickson gave a short address. After that, a final service was held in the British Military Cemetery behind the church. The Lestrem Marching Band played Anglo & French airs and wreaths were laid and the Last Post and the pipes were played.



Stephen Kennedy at The Royal Scots bench in the Le Paradis British Military Cemetery.



Mike Cran in the Le Paradis British Military Cemetery.



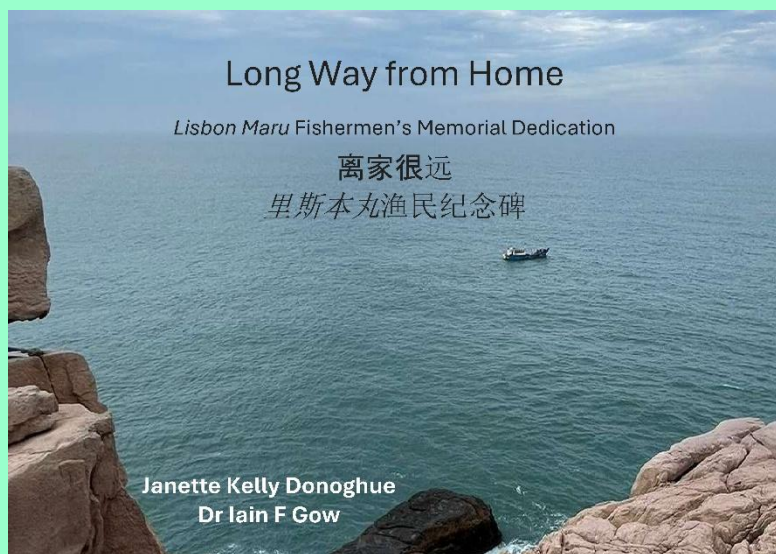
David Jack (I) and Dennis O'Callaghan in the chapel at Norwich Cathedral.



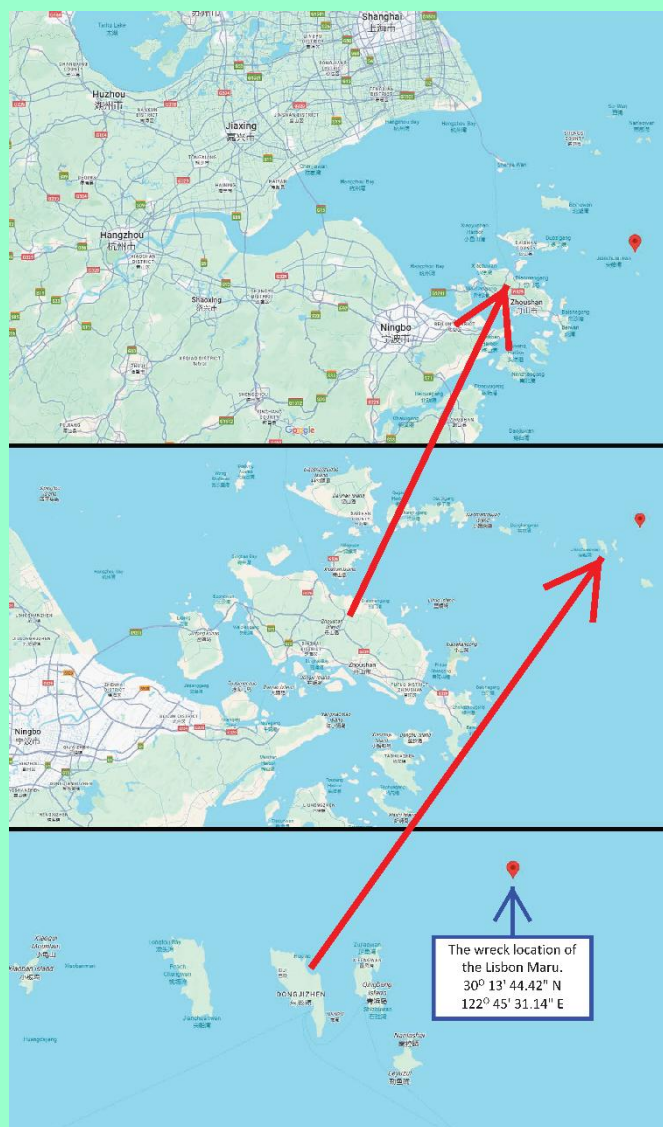
Stephen Kennedy plays at the memorial outside the church in Le Paradis.

Lisbon Maru - Zhoushan Memorial

The creation and installation of a Lisbon Maru memorial on Qingbang Island in the Zhoushan archipelago, China was recorded on page 24 of The Thistle Vol 46 Winter 2024. The Memorial was officially unveiled on 20 May 2025, and the event was attended by relatives of men who had been on the Lisbon Maru and relatives of the local Chinese fishermen who rescued many survivors from the water. Relatives of Royal Scots were Denise Wynne, daughter of Dennis Morley, Leone Coysh, granddaughter of Dennis Morley, Gerry Borge, son of John Borge and nephew of Eddie Cameron, Iain Gow, son of James Gow, Janette Donoghue, niece of Maurice Kelly, Paul Hanson, son of Bernard Hanson, Jean Clements, niece of Kenneth Hodgkinson, Gage Garside, great nephew of Kenneth Hodgkinson, and Dan Wilkinson, grandson of William Spooner. Janette Donoghue and Iain Gow have recorded the visit in a book *Long Way from Home*, copies of which are held in the Museum and the Regimental Office. The book not only provide a photographic record of the visit to Zhoushan but also contains details on each of those servicemen whose relatives attended the unveiling ceremony and some of the Chinese fishermen involved. Items on the Chinese, including letters written to, and received from, the Chinese leader Xi Jinping are recorded in both English and Chinese. Only a limited number of copies of the book has been printed so it is not openly available, but copies can be requested from Janette Donoghue via the Regimental Office.



Cover of the book "Long Way from Home".



Map showing the wreck location of the Lisbon Maru.



I to r; Nyree and George Penycate (Sydney Picton RE), Leone Coysh (Dennis Morley 2 RS), Paul Hanson (Sam Hanson 2 RS), Denise Wynne (Dennis Morley 2 RS), Dan Wilkinson (William Spooner 2 RS), Ken Salmon (Andrew Salmon RA), John Lee (Frederick Lee RN), Lindsey Archer (John Weaver 1 MX), Andrew Jones (Thomas Jones RN), Phil Harris (Cyril Mace RA), Janette Kelly Donoghue (Maurice Kelly 2 RS), Gerry Borge (John Borge 2 RS, and Edwin Cameron 2 RS), Barbara Harris (Cyril Mace RA), Jean Clements (Kenneth Hodgkinson 2 RS), Jean Cassidy (John Weaver 1 MX), Gage Garside (Kenneth Hodgkinson 2 RS), Iain Gow (James Gow 2 RS).



4th/5th Battalion Officers Cap Badge.

Once assembled, attendees were welcomed by Lieutenant Colonel Doug Bertram VR, Commanding Officer 105 Regt RA, who was hosting the event. Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Mike Blair MVO TD VR, Chairman of the Royal Artillery Council of Scotland and a former CO of 105 Regt RA recounted the events leading to the loan and conservation and provided a brief history to the Regiment's activities in the Second World War.

"To come into an Artillery Unit's Drill Hall, or in modern terms, an 'Army Reserve Centre', and see a set of Regimental Colours displayed on a wall would surprise any Gunner. Traditionally, the Guns, or the other equipment with which we engage the enemy, are the 'Colours' of the Royal Artillery. Before the more formal part of these proceedings takes place, I should therefore briefly explain how they come to be here."

"A few years ago, Colonel Robert Watson was speaking to Major Willie Nicol and told him about the story of how 4/5 RS had been 'invited', or indeed 'volunteered' to become a searchlight unit in 1938 and their later history in WW2 as 52 Searchlight Regiment, then converting to 130 Light Anti-Aircraft [LAA] Regiment RA, and also as we discovered, as 14 LAA Regiment. After discussion it was agreed that the RA Council of Scotland would have the Colours conserved and put on display at RHQ 105 Regiment to commemorate this service and the 'cross-over' between The Royal Scots and the Royal Artillery. This display is a special and indeed unique remembrance of the service of 4/5 RS both generally, and as Gunners during WW2."

"The Colours were conserved by Sophie Younger of Younger Conservation Ltd of Perth, who does textile conservation professionally for, amongst others, the National Museum of Scotland, and were framed by Joe Nicholson of 'Foursticks Framing' of Falkland with museum quality mounting and special glass. The total cost was over £7k, of which over £5k was raised almost entirely in Scotland by an appeal, and the remainder contributed by extra private donations."

"The contributions of other arms to the RA of WW2 is not well known. Of over 800 Regiments of the Royal Artillery formed in WW2, about 120 were formed based on existing Territorial Infantry battalions and Yeomanry regiments; many, such as 4/5 RS, were the basis of more than one Gunner regiment. In Scotland there were 11 such units, which for the record were: 4/5 RS; 9 A&SH; QO Glasgow Yeomanry; 5/8 Cameronians, the Scottish Horse; 4 GORDONS; 6 A&SH; 8 GORDONS; the Ayrshire Yeomanry, and the Lanarkshire Yeomanry. In addition, we might also mention 2 Liverpool Scottish, and 3 London Scottish."

"52 Searchlight Regiment RA, as the Battalion became formally in 1940, defended central Scotland with 3 AA Division, as part of the Air Defence of Great Britain. At its largest, ADGB consisted of the RAF Fighter Command, Balloon Command, and Anti-Aircraft Command, itself containing 3 AA Corps with 12 AA divisions. In addition, many served overseas, and a total of over 80 AA brigades were formed. Later in 1942, 52 Searchlight Regt RA converted to LAA, re-armed with 40/60 Bofors guns and became 130 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. They defended the south of England in 1943/44 against the Luftwaffe's 'tip and run' raids, and were part of the huge effort to defend against the V1 Flying Bombs (or 'Doodlebugs' or 'Buzz Bombs') in late 1944, known as Operation DIVER, being deployed on the Kent coast near 'hellfire corner' where the German coastal artillery guns in France could shell the English coast."

"14 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was based on A Company, 4/5 RS and was sent early in the war to Egypt where it took part in the North African Campaign and, under 4 AA Brigade, were part of the garrison of Tobruk in 1941 during the siege by German and Italian forces under Rommel. They took part in the invasion of Italy at Salerno in 1943, and the remainder of the Italian campaign up to VE Day."

"As far as is known, the Royal Artillery does not have any specific memorial to remember the service of these many regiments who came from the other arms and without which we in the RA could never have performed our wartime roles, and while we here particularly commemorate the service of 4/5 RS, they are an excellent, and indeed the senior example, of many others. That is a brief history, though Major Willie Nicol, Lieutenant Colonel David Jack and I have learnt a great deal more in researching this story."

"May I now please hand over to Brigadier George Lowder, the Chairman of The Royal Scots Regimental Trustees, to tell us more about 4/5 RS and lead in the unveiling of the Colours."

The recently conserved Colours of the 4th/5th Battalion (Queen's Edinburgh Rifles) The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) were unveiled jointly by Brigadier (Retired) George Lowder MBE and Colonel Phil Haigh TD VR, Deputy Regimental Colonel Royal Artillery, in the Drill Hall of Regimental Headquarters 105 Regiment Royal Artillery (105 Regt RA) on Fri 29 August 2025, exactly one hundred years after being presented by HRH The Princess Mary, Colonel-in-Chief The Royal Scots, to the Battalion in Holyrood Park. The Battalion converted from infantry in 1938, initially to a searchlight regiment and then a light anti-aircraft regiment, as part of the air defence forces protecting the UK from German air raids, and continued as a light anti-aircraft regiment in various guises until 1961. This was the culmination of a project of over 30 years in the making. Colonel Robert Watson OBE, being familiar with the history of the 4th/5th Battalion, had initially proposed the loan of the Colours to 105 Regt RA in 1993 and it is due to his commendable perseverance that this venture has come to fruition. The Colours were eventually delivered to 105 Regt RA in January 2022, and a campaign was initiated by the Royal Artillery Council of Scotland to raise the funds required for conservation and appropriate display of the Colours.



Welcoming address by Lt Col Mike Blair. l to r; Brig George Lowder, Lt Col Mike Blair, Lt Col Doug Bertram and Col Phil Haigh.

Brigadier Lowder thanked Lieutenant Colonel Bertram for his warm welcome, and Lieutenant Colonel Blair for his introduction.

“It is 100 years to the day since Princess Mary, who had been Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Scots since 1918, presented these Colours to the 4th/5th Battalion at a very blowy King’s Park, Holyrood on 29 August 1925.

“The 4th/5th Battalion traces its history back to 1859 when the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 1st City of Edinburgh Rifle Volunteer Corps were raised. These Battalions became the 4th and 5th Battalion in 1908 on creation of the Territorial Force. Mobilisation during the First World War resulted in expansion of each battalion to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th of the 4th Battalion and 1st, 2nd and 3rd of the 5th Battalion. Generally, the reserve battalions were recruiting and home based to deliver trained Royal Scots to the deployed battalions who served in Gallipoli, Palestine, Egypt and, of course, on the Western Front. After service during the First World War, the battalions were amalgamated in 1921 to form the 4th/5th Battalion. The Battalion was known as The Queen’s Edinburgh Rifles The Royal Scots.

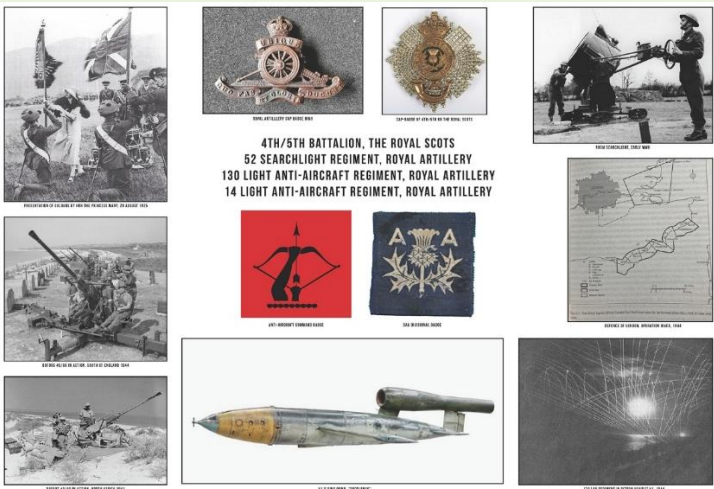
“In 1938 the War Office, with war looming, realised the shortage of anti-aircraft defences in UK, and the need for additional artillery regiments. On 18 March 1938 the CO received a letter from the Director General of the Territorial Army conveying a request from the Army Council for 4th/5th Battalion to convert from infantry to become part of the Air Defences of the UK, an invitation that would have been very difficult to refuse. Assurances were given that they would remain as Royal Scots, albeit in a new role. While this did not stand the test of time, the title “Queens Edinburgh Royal Scots” was retained by the unit or at least one subunit until 1961. They formed the basis of two Artillery regiments. The transfer began on 1 November 1938, initially with most of the Battalion as 52 Searchlight Regiment, and on 1 August 1940 they were officially transferred to the RA. Mike has covered the wartime history of the rerolled unit.

“The Royal Scots are particularly pleased and grateful that RA Council of Scotland, RA Association and 105 Regiment RA have led and overseen the project to conserve these Colours, and we now entrust them to 105 Regt RA for safe keeping.”

Colonel Haigh, on behalf of the Master Gunner St James’s Park, the Royal Artillery Council of Scotland and 105 Regt RA, thanked Brigadier Lowder for entrusting the Colours on loan to 105 Regt RA, stating that it is a privilege and honour to be custodians of this element of shared heritage, and assured him that the Colours would be displayed with pride and great care. He also extended to The Royal Scots Association an invitation to visit and view the displayed Colours on appropriate occasions. A visit can be arranged through the Royals Scots Regimental Office.



The Colours being unveiled by Brig George Lowder (l) and Col Phil Haigh as Lt Col Doug Bertram looks on.



This photo board has been framed and placed to the left of the Colours to show what the regiments were involved in as they evolved.
Photo Board by Ross Potter, Mike Blair and Danscot Print.



l to r: Maj Billy Young, Maj Dennis Paterson, Maj Ronnie Young, Brig George Lowder, Maj Willie Nicol, Maj Lachlan McIntosh, Lt Col Mike Blair, Col Phil Haigh, Col Robert Watson, Mr Ron Cairns, Lt Col Doug Bertram, Lt Col John Sands, Lt Col Ran Shepherd, Sophie Lenihan, Col Roderick Morris, Maj John Dent, Lt Col David Jack.

The following text has been framed and placed between the Colours to explain the context and the reason for their presence in an artillery drill hall.

Colours of the 4th/5th (Queen’s Edinburgh) Battalion, The Royal Scots

52 Searchlight Regiment, later 130 (Queen’s Edinburgh Royal Scots) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, and 14 (West Lothian Royal Scots) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, the Royal Regiment of Artillery

These Colours commemorate the service of 4th/5th Battalion The Royal Scots, and are representative of about 120 other Territorial Infantry and Yeomanry Regiments as part of the Royal Artillery during the Second World War.

These Colours were presented to the 4th/5th Bn RS on 29 August 1925. In the Royal Artillery in contrast, the Guns themselves are our Colours, rather than Colours made of fabric and silk.

The 4th/5th Bn RS traces its history back to 1859 when the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 1st City of Edinburgh Rifle Volunteer Corps were raised. These became the 4th and 5th Bns RS on the creation of the Territorial Force in 1908. After service during the First World War, the battalions were amalgamated in 1921 to form the 4th/5th Bn RS.

Roles in the Royal Artillery. In 1938, the War Office, with War looming, realising the shortage of anti-aircraft defences in UK, and the need for additional artillery regiments, requested the 4th/5th Bn RS to convert from infantry to become part of the Air Defences of the UK. They formed the basis of two Artillery Regiments, and this is their story.

The transfer began on 1 November 1938, initially with most of the battalion as **52 Searchlight Regiment**, and on 1 August 1940 they were officially transferred to the RA. They deployed before the outbreak of the war and covered parts of the east coast of Scotland during the Blitz. In March 1942, the Regiment was converted to Light Anti-Aircraft with 40mm Bofors guns as **130 LAA Regiment**. They deployed in eastern Scotland, but in early 1943 moved to the south coast of England, as part of the defences against the German ‘tip and run’ raids. In summer and autumn of 1944, they formed part of the ‘Operation Diver’ defences against the V1 Flying Bombs, claiming 35 were shot down in July and August ’44. In early 1945, enemy air activity reduced, and in March, the regiment stood down.

The Linlithgow company of the battalion formed the basis of **14 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment**. This regiment went overseas to Egypt, formed part of the garrison of Tobruk during the siege by the Axis armies in 1941, and served in the North African and Italian campaigns.

After the Second Word War, the 4th/5th Bn RS remained in the Royal Artillery as 587 LAA Regiment (Queen’s Edinburgh Royal Scots), and subsequently as 432 LAA Regiment RA until 1961

But for the help received from many Territorial units like the 4th/5th Bn RS during the Second World War, the Royal Artillery would not have been able to perform its numerous tasks, at home and overseas. 105 Regiment Royal Artillery take pride on behalf of the Royal Artillery in displaying these Colours in remembrance of that service.

29 August 2025

Detailed accounts of the transition to Royal Artillery and operation in the Second World War can be found in editions of *The Thistle* 1938-1939 and 1946-1947.

Chronology of service of the Queen’s Edinburgh Rifles 1859 - 1961

Date from	Name
1859	Queen’s Edinburgh Rifles Brigade, Rifle Volunteer Corps raised.
1908	4 th Battalion (Queens Edinburgh Rifles) The Royal Scots and 5 th Battalion (Queens Edinburgh Rifles) The Royal Scots formed from the 1 st and 2 nd Battalions of 1 st City of Edinburgh Rifles Volunteers on the creation of the Territorial Force.
1921	The 4 th and 5 th Battalions merged to form the 4 th /5 th Battalion (Queen’s Edinburgh Rifles) The Royal Scots.
1938	A Coy forms cadre for 14 Light Anit-Aircraft Regiment RA (West Lothian Royal Scots) TA. Remainder of Battalion commences searchlight role.
1 Aug 1940	The 4 th /5 th Battalion (Queen’s Edinburgh Rifles) The Royal Scots becomes 52 Searchlight Regiment RA (TA).
11 Mar 1942	The Regiment changed role and renamed 130 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA (Queen’s Edinburgh Royal Scots) (TA).
1 Jan 1947	The Regiment renamed 587 (Queen’s Edinburgh Royal Scots) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA (TA).
10 Mar 1955	The Regiment amalgamated with R Bty of 471 Regiment, and with 514 & 519 Regiments to create 432 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA (TA), comprising; P (Queen’s Edinburgh Royal Scots) Bty Q (West Lothian Royal Scots) Bty R (City of Edinburgh) Bty
1 May 1961	Regiment transferred to Corps of Royal Engineers and “Queen’s Edinburgh” title ceased to exist.

Lieutenant Colonel David Jack



Maj Gen Bob Bruce's flag and Arms.

On 30 April 2025, in a historic and traditional ceremony at Edinburgh Castle Maj Gen Bob Bruce CBE DSO was installed as His Majesty's Governor of Edinburgh Castle, an appointment that can be traced back to the early 12th century. Gen Bob was commissioned into The Royal Scots in 1987, joining 1 RS in Werl, Germany. He was the last Commanding Officer of 1 RS when the battalion merged in 2006 with 1 KOSB and became the first Commanding Officer of 1 SCOTS.

The role of Governor of Edinburgh Castle used to be full time and tied to the post of GOC Scotland. Maj Gen Mark Strudwick CBE KStJ was the last Royal Scot to hold the post, handing it over in 2000. Before Mark, Lt Gen Sir David Young KBE CB DFC held it between 1980-82. However, the role is now part time and almost entirely ceremonial.

The Governor has a house in the Castle and Royal Scots Regimental Trustees have kindly authorised some pieces to be displayed in that house for the period of Bob's tenure. The Governor hosts a great many official guests in the house, both national and international, and all of them are fascinated by the Royal Scots history on display.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms, His Majesty's Officers of Arms and the State Trumpeters of Scotland formed part of the ceremony with Balaklava Company 5 SCOTS and Inkerman Company 1 GREN GDS, forming the Guard of Honour. The Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland provided musical support, and the Governor's Piper was the Senior Pipe Major from Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, WO1 Colin Simpson SCOTS.

At the installation parade, a large contingent of Royal Scots was present, including a very strong team from Northern Ireland who made the trip to Edinburgh and back in the one day. There was a strong Royal Scots theme throughout the event. Gen Bob marched onto parade to Dumbarton's Drums and the inspection music included The Gallant Royal Scots. The parade was closed with the Royal Scots Regimental Collect before the troops marched off, into the Castle.

Honorary guests also attended the ceremony from a wide range of organisations in Edinburgh, including members of Scottish Government, Scotland Office officials, senior representatives from the emergency services, and faith leaders.



A view of the Guard of Honour furnished by Balaklava Company 5 SCOTS and Inkerman Company 1 GREN GDS formed up on the esplanade in front of Edinburgh Castle.



Maj Gen Bob Bruce speaking with the Guard of Honour contingent from Balaklava Company 5 SCOTS.



Maj Gen Bob Bruce speaking with the Guard of Honour contingent from Inkerman Company 1 GREN GDS. Capt Seumas O'Duffin, ADC to the Governor and the Parade Commander Lt Col David Robertson, CO 7 SCOTS.



Maj Gen Bob Bruce taking the salute.

To watch a 4 minute video by BFBS Forces News on Gen Bob's installation click on the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wHGQWlvfsI&t=52s>



The key was presented by Lt Col Ross Brookfield who was a Royal Scot and the Operations Officer when Maj Gen Bob Bruce took over as CO 1 RS in February 2006.



l to r; Lily Leweni, Bernadette Vetanibua, Maj Gen Bob Bruce, James Douglas (Piper), Lt Col Ross Brookfield Tabitha Clark and Ethan Jones.



Some auld Royals who gathered with Gen Bob's to celebrate his installation as the Governor of Edinburgh Castle.
l to r; Tony Reid, CSgt Barry McIntosh, John Dent, John Pennycuik, David Nisbet, Brian Mercer, Tom Logan, Ben Taylor, Maxi MacDonald, John Sands, Maj Gen Bob Bruce, Peni Ravutia, Graham Highet, Jimmy Gunn, Jone Leweni, Ian Laurie, Norman Souter and David Jack.

Pupils from Queen Victoria School acted as escorts to the Governor and the Key Party, along with cadets from Angus and Dundee Battalion of the Army Cadet Force raising the Governor's flag and acting as ushers.

The Governor of Edinburgh Castle is one of His Majesty's Commissioners at Queen Victoria School near Dunblane, with Gen Bob being a former pupil of the school.

Each Governor has his own Coat of Arms and his own flag that is flown above in the central position above the drawbridge when the Governor is in residence in the Castle. The flag was raised at the Installation Parade after General Bob had officially taken the key to the Castle and ordered that it be passed to safe custody of the Garrison Commander. The left half of the flag remains the same for every governor, denoting the nation, the Castle, and the Army. The right half of the flag is each Governor's personal Coat of Arms.

Lieutenant Colonel David Jack

Stewart Snedden Golf Memorial 30 May 2025

This year’s event held a poignant reminder as we reached a milestone 5th anniversary, plus a sombre reminder of the years that our good friend had been taken away from us far too soon. It was also to be Stewart’s 60th this year.

It was the Committees mission to deliver a bigger and better event than previous and without a doubt it would take a huge amount of time and organisation to better the event of 2024.

Planning went underway the week after the 2024 event closed and a date of the 30 May 2025 was set. We were bold enough to ask for 72 playing places, which Kingsknowe thankfully allowed. With the date, menus and the evening gathering all sorted the advertising of the event went into full swing under the watchful eye of Ray (Halfchat) Thomson, who again did a sterling effort all year keeping everyone up to date on proceedings via social media.

The day dawned and as usual the weather was tremendous with the sun shining over the fairways and greens which were in tiptop condition. All the banners were then set up at the 1st and 10th Tee box for the customary photographs.

Everyone arrived in great form and the 1 RS style banter was soon in full flow as we all gathered in the lounge for the opening speech, rules and the customary port toast to Sneds and absent friends. This year’s address and toasts were given by Sandy Aitchison, who delivered a stunning typical Sneds story to start the day off in style. At 0755hrs with the tea/coffee and bacon and sausage rolls demolished by a pack of hungry wolves, our current champion Brian McGeachie was piped to the 1st Tee box in style by our stand in “Piper Bob Bruce”. Massive thanks to Bob for standing in at the last moment with his can do attitude and his first class piping

With the first ball safely despatched down the fairway, we were off. Within the hour, we had 71 golfers slicing, hacking, chipping and putting their way over the course with the occasional shouts of encouragement from one fairway to another. Our Admin buggy driven by Charlie MacVicar was zipping about the course offering beer, water and soft drinks and taking great photographs of everyone in action.



Brian McGeachie being piped to the 1st Tee in style by our stand in piper Bob Bruce.



Winner – Paul McAllister.



Runner Up – Mark Renton.



3rd Place – Craig Hunter.



Winning Team – I to r: Chris Wiczorek, Tam Lindsay, Dode Dickson, Gordon Lindsay and Cammy Hastie who presented the prizes.

Winner	Paul McAllister on countback
Runner Up	Mark Renton
3rd Place	Craig Hunter on countback with Gordon Snedden
Best Dressed	Eck Wind (Fix!)
Best Gross	Cliff McAuley
Best Team	Tam Lindsay, Dode Dickson, Chris Wiczorek and Gordon Lindsay
Longest Drive	Gavin McVie
Nearest the Pin	Dave Milne
Most Golf Played	Rob McLeish
Most Handsome Attendee	Gordon Vevers
Best Guest	Craig Surgeon



Best Gross – Cliff McAuley.



Most Golf Played – Rob McLeish.



Best Guest – Craig Surgeon.



Best Dressed – Eck Wind.



Nearest the Pin – Dave Milne.



Longest Drive – Gavin McVie.



Most Handsome – Gordon Vevers.



The 2025 gathering of Stewart's family and friends.

As usual, the Club catering team were poised like a coiled spring for the first groups arriving back to the clubhouse. The golfers and caddies were quickly seated, fed and watered with great efficiency. Everyone complimented on the outstanding standard of the food and service. A huge thanks to Nicola and her staff for delivering top notch service yet again.



I to r: Dev Jacobs chipping out from the rough. Bob Welsh, Grant Paterson, Johnny Beck and Guy Richardson sending their first ball down the fairway.

By 1500Hrs we were all in the clubhouse and Spike Mulligan started counting and checking the scorecards. Everyone was waiting to hear who was victorious, who missed out and who was taking home the infamous "toilet seat". However, before the results were announced the thank you speeches were delivered with a heartfelt thank you to Robert, Graham and Gordon Snedden for their continued support of the event and their very generous prize for the raffle.



Stephen Guest.



Charlie MacVicar or is it new Wolfgang Meier from Soltau.



Axel Foley and Eck Wind discussing the size of the "one that got away"?



Mark Renton or Donald Trump!



Gordon Snedden and Richard Marrant.

With the winners announced and the raffle complete, everyone gathered outside for individual, team and winners photographs with a background of the golf course and North Edinburgh. The last photograph to be taken was this year's group photograph which was "in focus" for a change. It was a fantastic sight to 93 former 1 RS, serving RRS and Snedden family gather to remember our great friend once again. Thank you all.

The raffle made £1132.00. On 13 June 2025, £400.00 was donated to the Royal Scots Benevolence with the remainder being reinvested back into the Stewart Snedden Memorial Golf. See page 37.

With the assurance that this event will never being forgotten or watered down, and with the Admin Mob promising to drive the event on and make it stronger in Stewart's memory, everyone left happy (some extremely) and looking forward to 2026.

Mr Eck Wind MBE



Stu (Mr Vain) Simpson with his "Tea Caddy". Maybe next year he will bring a "Golf Caddy"?



Unofficial crest adopted by COPP.
(Source: Taken in author's garage).

In December 1942 the Chiefs of Staff formally established a new Special Forces organisation, called Combined Operations Pilotage Parties (COPP), for the purpose of providing beach reconnaissance and assault guidance for amphibious invasions. Initially it had been envisaged that the Special Boat Section (SBS) would assume the role. However as a direct result of the initiative, energy, perseverance and leadership of Lt Cdr Nigel Wilmott DSC RN (full name, Herbert Nigel Clogstoun Wilmott, later Herbert Nigel Clogstoun-Wilmott) who planned and conducted a number of successful operational beach reces the Chiefs approved his concept, recognising the need for the specialist skill sets, and ordered him to establish 10 x COPP Teams to operate wherever required. Nigel was known as "the father of COPP". He set up his base on Hayling Island and started recruiting and training his COPP teams.



Combined Operations Badge.

Early deployments were to the Mediterranean (Algeria, Sicily and Italy), then in Europe, with a focus on the Normandy beaches, and the Far East. Each team was led by Lieutenant RN, qualified as a navigator or hydrographer – capable of navigating cruisers or aircraft carriers; teamed with a Captain Royal Engineers, preferably commando/SBS trained, and a Sergeant/Corporal SBS/commando trained. All personnel had to pass the Commando Course at Achnacarry in the Scottish Highlands.

The team's task was to covertly recce potential assault landings, gathering all the important pilotage information to assist the assault landing craft to land at the planned beach assault location on time, and then, once ashore discover all the key information for the assault forces to succeed in their mission. Secrecy and stealth were essential – there was to be no evidence left that a recce had been conducted.

They used various insertion methods: submarines with folding canoes (known as Folbots), very small landing craft (low radar signature) and midget submarines (X Craft – 5 men). The swimmers (RE Capt and SBS/Cdo Sgt/Cpl) would then swim ashore and conduct the beach recce.



Folbot, men unknown. (Source IWM).



X-craft midget submarine, person unknown. (Source IWM).



S Class Submarine preparing to deploy a folbot. (Source IWM).

The two Royal Scots who served in COPP were Sergeant Crawford Cumberland SBS (COPP 8) and Sergeant George Hewit Lamont SBS (COPP 10). I found their names listed in a book called "Stealthily by Night" written by Ian Trenowden. It is a history of COPP. Our museum curator, Sophie Lenihan, very kindly conducted research through the archives held in the Museum and discovered that they were both listed in the Enlistment Register. Sadly further information about their service with the Regiment is pretty scarce. From COPP sources, we have found reference to their involvement in a number of COPP operations. Please visit their especially excellent website at <https://www.coppsurvey.uk/> or scan the QR code.



For Crawford, a Glaswegian, we know his army number (3052431) and that he served in the 2nd Battalion in India. He was a fine boxer (Middle, Welter and Catch weight categories); his nose showed the marks of his hard schooling! He is listed in a COPP nominal roll dated 1 April 1944, as a Corporal in COPP 8. COPP 8 operated in South East Asia – Arakan, Sumatra and Andamans. He was a canoeist, who was teamed up with Capt Alec Colson RE. He was promoted to Sergeant and for his role on Operation David – the reconnaissance of Elizabeth Island, Burma (now known as Kyunthaya Island, Myanmar) in October 1944, he was awarded a Mention in Despatches "For 'courage and determination in carrying out hazardous operations against the enemy in Burma in October 1944, in swimming in dangerous surf conditions in enemy occupied territory on October 16th'". He transferred to the reserves on 30 December 1945.



**COPP 8. Back row l to r: Robert Rourke, Stanley Pond, William Spence, Duffy.
Middle row l to r: Mike Peacock, Geoffrey Richards, Freddie Ponsonby, Alec Colson, Peter Crafer.
Front row l to r: Bob Gascoigne, James Neil, Crawford Cumberland. (Source: Judith King, in memory of Stanley Pond).**

For George, army number 3060133, we know very little about his time with the Regiment. In COPP 10 he was known as 'Tim'. In July/August 1944 he was involved in three operations (beach recce, beach marking and pilotage and a beach landing) around and on the Peljesac peninsular, Yugoslavia (now Croatia), operating from the Adriatic Sea. He was transferred to the reserves on 14 March 1946.



**COPP 10. Back row l to r: Duncan Brown, Tim Lamont, H.E. McCarey, Eric Harding, Nick Carter, Leslie Parker.
Front row l to r: Alfred Stanley, John Lamb, John Townson, George Talbot, Hugh Maynard. (Source: Special Forces Roll of Honour website).**

There is much more to learn about Crawford Cumberland and George Lamont, who were clearly highly professional and courageous soldiers. Indeed, I am sure there are many other Royals who have served with Special Forces, who have fascinating stories to tell.

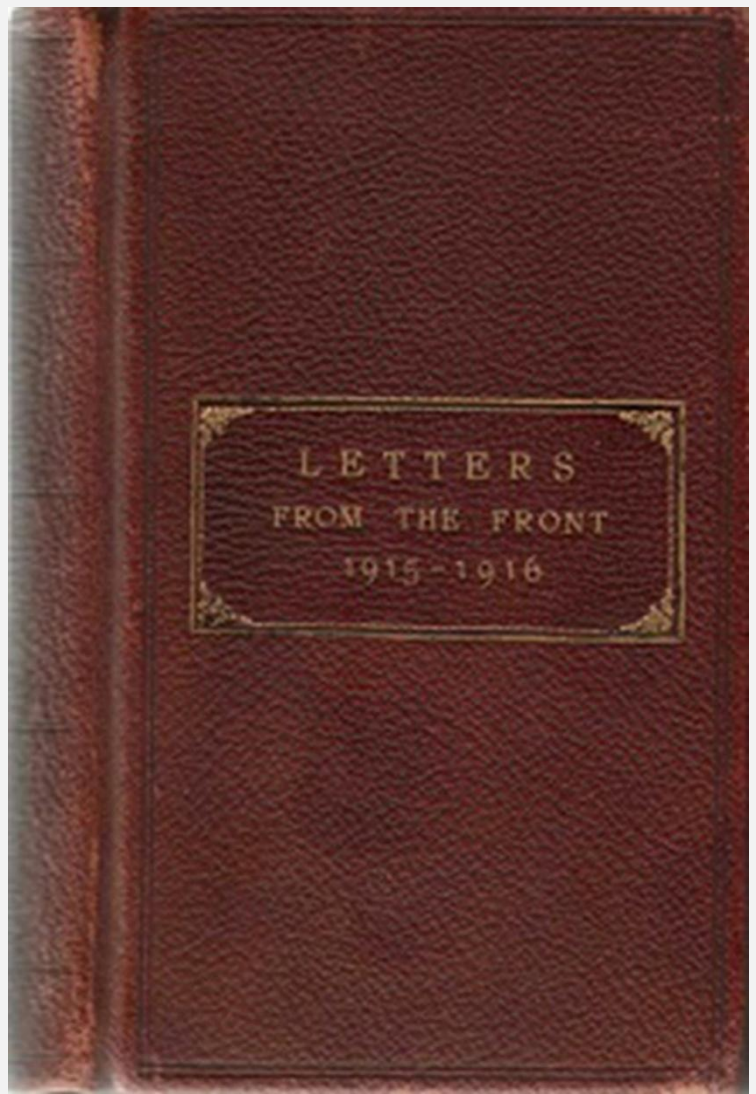
Brigadier Robbie L Scott-Bowden MBE

For myself the story of this publication, and the historical treasures contained within its pages, began in July 2024 when I opened an enquiry email from Peter Fraser. He had attached a photograph of the cover of a leather-bound book which was embossed in gold leaf with the following title: *Letters from the Front – 1915-1916*. Peter explained that they were letters from his uncle, Charles Morrison 'Chid' Coutts, who had been wounded in Gallipoli whilst serving with the 4th Battalion the Royal Scots. He was wondering how the production of this book would have happened at the time. It signalled the beginning of a fascinating journey for all involved.

After explaining a little about the publishing industry in the early 1900's I passed on the wishes of our Museum Curator, Sophie, that, if Peter felt comfortable, he might share some of the contents of the book with us, owing to it being a first-hand account of events which no one at the museum had, as of yet, been privy to. Peter was very happy to do this and in October, as he and his charming wife, Marion, were visiting Edinburgh for the rugby, a visit to the museum was arranged which of course enabled Sophie and I to see the original book in person. This allowed us to discover that the letters had not been published in the traditional sense, but rather transcribed. Lo and behold the business details of George Waterson & Sons of Edinburgh, the stationer connected to the work, were still safely connected to the binding. Peter was even able to find a direct descendant of the family, who explained the process to him.

In an oddly serendipitous set of events when the visit took place I was working on research, for the archivist at what is now Aberdeen Group, regarding a memorial that Standard Life created for their employees who had fallen during both of the World Wars. During the visit Peter mentioned that Charles had also worked at Standard Life, both before and after his service. Hence, I was able to open up a further avenue of information for Peter, connecting him to his uncle's former employers who proved only too happy to be involved.

It was around this time that Peter began to wonder if anyone might actually be interested in reading the letters, and on receiving a number of affirmatives he took it upon himself to transcribe them once more, adding notes which he collated from all of the various people he was now connected to in order to explain the events which Private Coutts was relating.



It is now available in both physical and electronic form via Amazon, and a percentage of the profits from the sale of the book will be donated to the Royal Scots Museum. If you wish to purchase the book please go to https://www.amazon.co.uk/Gallipoli-Letters-1915-1916-Written-Battalion/dp/B0F9L7S961/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0 or scan the QR Code.

So, what of the contents of these letters? They really are absorbing. Charles had a rather wicked sense of humour as well as a keen sense of duty, both in himself and others. To follow his journey from Larbert, to Gallipoli, to hospital in Alexandria, and then back to the Peninsula once more, allows us to truly get a glimpse of what life was like for this particular soldier. Of course, he had to be



careful not to get his letters censored, but you might be surprised at how much information was cleared to be sent to his various relations. It is the number of different recipients which gives us, in my personal opinion, one of the most interesting aspects of this work. For we can read about the same event in different ways depending on whom the letter was for. Charles is far more careful when talking to his mother than to his elder brother John for example. It is John, for instance, who receives the most detail regarding Charles' lack of enthusiasm for the newer members of his beloved Battalion, especially the, very young, officers. This receptacle of historical information becomes even more important as it is from Charles's own words.

Heartbreakingly the family have another letter in their collection which is discussed in the book. It was written by May Coutts, one of Charles and John's sisters, and sent out to John on 28 June 1916. It never reached its intended recipient and was returned to sender after John died with so many others on 01 July 1916 at the Battle of the Somme.

Gallipoli: Letters from the Front 1915-1916

Written home by
Charles M Coutts
4th Battlaion Royals Scots



PK Fraser

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About the Book

These letters are a detailed but very much understated description of life in Gallipoli as well as a travelogue about the journey to the Dardanelles, in hospital in Egypt and after the final evacuation from Cape Helles, sent home to Edinburgh by Charles Coutts (my Uncle Chid). They are written in a light-hearted way to convince his parents that life wasn't all that bad, despite everything.

About Charles Coutts

Charlie Coutts worked for Standard Life for 46 years from 1912. He was called up at the start of WW1 and joined the Royal Scots. Wounded in Gallipoli and then badly wounded in the Battle of Arras in France in 1917, he moved to London after the war before returning to Edinburgh.

Charles Morrison Coutts died in 1971, aged 78



About PK Fraser

After a career in business software and consultancy, Peter is a Life Member of the British Computer Society. A former captain of Gordonian Rugby Club and regular competitor in the Highland Cross charity biathlon, he is a Member of the Order of St John.



Copyrighted Material



Charles in later life.

Although the letters do not cover this time period we do know, from the Retirements section of *The Standard Review* from June 1958, that Charles took his officers' exam, passing out first in the written examination and was posted to the 13th Battalion The Royal Scots in France. He was seriously wounded with a GSW to the head at the Battle of Arras on 11 April 1917, but after a long stay in hospital, *begged* to be allowed to return to his Regiment, where he finished the war with the 51st Division in France.

These letters really are a wonderful addition to the history of the Regiment, allowing an insight into a time which may otherwise have been lost, so our thanks go out to Peter for both his hard work and his wish to have us involved in the journey. To quote Charles, he may have been writing, "to say that I believe I am still living", but he left behind a bounty of historical, as well as family details for those who followed.

Amy Elliott
Volunteer Museum Researcher



Charles in his Royal Scots officer uniform.

James (Tancy) Lee and Leith Victoria Amateur Athletic Club

James (Tancy) Lee was born on 31 January 1882 at St Anthony Lane in the Kirkgate area of Leith. In May 1897 at the young age of 14 years and 1 month he joined The Royal Scots as a boy soldier. In the June 1899 he was listed Police Gazette as an absentee. He went onto serve with the 3rd Battalion in South Africa during the Boer War from 1900 until 1902 and was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with clasps Cape Colony, Orange Free State and Transvaal and also the King's South Africa Medal with clasps South Africa 1901 and South Africa 1902. He also served at home during the First World War from 1916 until 1918 with B Company, 3rd Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borders.



Tancy was a highly accomplished boxer and had a successful professional career from 1906 until 1918, during which he competed in 49 professional fights, winning 37 and losing 10 with 2 draws. He boxed mainly at flyweight, where he achieved most of his success, but also entered bouts in higher weight divisions. He became an International Boxing Union (IBU) world champion, a version of the world title that was not recognised at the time by the governing body of world boxing, America. He also won the European Boxing Union (EBU), and British titles at flyweight and featherweight winning two Lonsdale belts.



James 'Tancy' Lee waering his Lonsdale Belt.

One of his most famous wins took place in London on 25 January 1915 against a Welsh boxer called Jimmy Wilde, who was known as "The ghost with a hammer in his hands". Wilde was unbeaten going into this contest, having won all 150 of his previous fights, 101 of which were by knockout. Tancy Lee out-boxed Wilde before knocking him out in the 17th round, winning the British and European flyweight titles in the process.

After leaving the Army in 1918 Tancy continued boxing. In 1919 he became co-founder of Scotland's oldest boxing club, Leith Victoria A.A.C. He also took

on the role as the clubs first coach, training his nephew George McKenzie and Alex Ireland in preparation for the Olympic Games in Antwerp in 1920 at which George won a bronze medal and Alex won a silver medal. Alex Ireland would go on to be inducted into the Scottish Boxing Hall of Fame in 2010. Four years later in 1924 Tancy coached James McKenzie, also his nephew and brother of George, to box in the Olympic Games in Paris, where James won a silver medal. Three boxers from the same club winning Olympic medals at successive Games is undoubtedly a testament to Tancy's skill as a coach.



James 'Tancy' Lee shows off his world featherweight title belt.
In 1915 the Scot was the only British boxer to beat Welsh legend Jimmy Wilde.

Tancy continued to coach boxers from Leith Victoria, notably guiding Johnny Hill from Leith to become Scotland's first ever world champion at flyweight in a fight that took place on the 29 August 1928 at the Clapton Orient football stadium attended by 50,000 spectators and in which Johnny defeated Californian Newsboy Brown on points. Sadly Johnny died a year later at the age of 23 from pneumonia. James married Jennie Hutchinson of 27 October 1905 and had four children Jennie, Helen, Mairia and Agnes. Tancy died on the 5 February 1941 at the age of 59 after being hit by a bus in Leith. He is buried in Seafeld Cemetery in Leith and was inducted into the Scottish Hall of Fame in 2008.

Leith Victoria continued to produce many champions throughout the years winning Scottish and ABA titles. Alex Arthur became the club's second world champion in 2007/08 when he won the WBO interim super featherweight title.



A group of sports celebrities present at Powderhall on the occasion of a "Benefit" meeting 6 July 1928.

Standing l to r: Tancy Lee (wearing his Lonsdale Belt), R Murray, CJ Britee, J Pentland, G Walker, J Riach, J Duffy, A Peebles, Alex Ireland, JA Garside, J Paris and J Muir.

Seated l to r: S Stewart, G Law, "Jock" Dalziel, JP Maguire, AM Wood JP, T Barrie Brown, Chris Lynch, H Myers and Geo McKenzie

Douglas Fraser, the current chairman of Leith Victoria, has been involved with the club since 1955. As a youth he had a total of 22 fights, winning 18 and became an East of Scotland youth Champion and Scottish Champion. He has been head coach of the club and went on to become a world-qualified referee and judge. He has represented Scotland on many occasions and refereed at the 1988 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. He is one of the most respected referees in the UK, and one of the top referees in the world. Douglas and I were responsible for organising a British Army Team v Scotland in Edinburgh in 2011. All the proceeds of nearly £4000 were donated to The Royal Regiment of Scotland Benevolent Fund. Leith Victoria was inducted into the Scottish Boxing Hall of fame in 2010, being the only boxing club to have achieved this prestigious award. I was honoured to have been Secretary of the club from 2005 until 2012.



James Tancy Lee's Lonsdale Belt. This sold at auction (Graham Budd 18 May 2005) for a hammer Price of £19,000. Its estimate was £6,000 - £8,000.

The poem below is taken from a newspaper in 1915. Author unknown.

When you've finished singing praises of our "Tommies" in the trenches,
When you've finished praising "Jack" upon the sea,
Will you kindly give attention while a hero's name I mention,
He's a Leither, and his name is Tancy Lee.

All Scotsman should be proud of him, and Irish likewise too,
He served them 'gainst the Boers upon the Veldt,
But now he takes their breath away by whacking Jimmy Wilde,
And bringing home the Flyweight Lonsdale Belt.

Welshmen told us that their "Wonder" simply never could go under,
They billed him as the "Terror", hero of a hundred fights,
And they said that we would see what their boy would do with Lee,
He would "jab 'is bloomin' 'ead off" with his lightning lefts and rights.

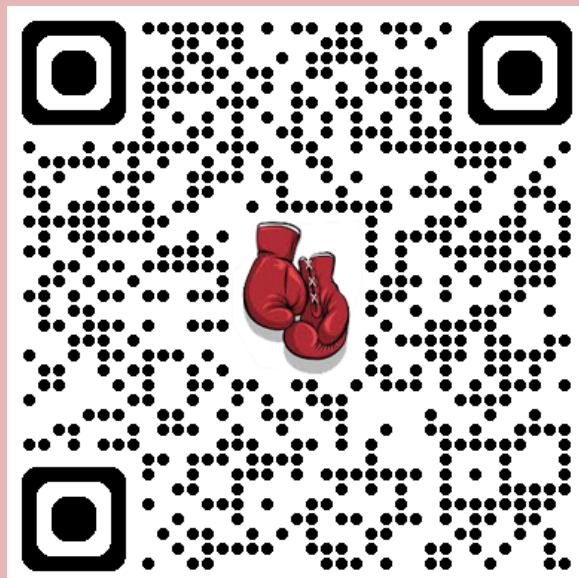
But the day of reckoning cometh for everyone that "bum-eth"!
Now Jimmy's Wilde, he's met his Waterloo,
He reckoned not a bit on "Tancy's" splendid grit,
And bulldog pluck, that helped to pull him through.

So, sportsmen, if you meet him, it's your duty now to greet him,
Grip his hand and say; I see you did the trick,
Never leave the game alone, lad, till the Lonsdale Belt's you own lad,
Good luck to you, James Lee, you are a Brick!

Mr Tony Reid.

Click on the link below or scan the QR code to view a clip of 1924 Boxing champion Tancy Lee coaching the Irish Army Boxing Team.

<https://www.britishpathe.com/asset/50696/>





Vic Lucas and Andy Kay at Duddingston with SCOTS DG Troopers.

The ABF(S) had organised a fundraising event at Prestonfield House Hotel on 8 May 2025. It started with Beating Retreat by the Highland Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland with pipers from the Royal Tank Regiment and the salute was taken by Brigadier Clare Phillips CBE, Deputy Military Secretary. The evening continued with a 3-course meal during which a silent auction was started and continued through the evening. Between courses Major Alasdair Hutton, formerly the voice of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, gave a series of four talks detailing the course of WW2. Giving a very welcoming and inspirational speech was a great supporter of ABF(S), Dame Katherine Grainger DBE, Honorary Colonel of the 215 (Scottish) Multirole Medical Regiment, Army Reserve. Once the tables had been cleared it was down to the serious business of the night; the Auction. This was conducted by Thomas Forrester, known as Thomas Plant when he appeared on Antiques Road Trip. It was a very lively and productive auction, held with much laughter, but more importantly, much money raised for the Charity. Once wallets had been emptied, the floor was opened for dancing which continued until midnight when, like Cinderella, we had to leave. Both Vic and I had an excellent evening talking to many people about life at Royal Hospital Chelsea.

The next ABF(S) event was a visit to Edinburgh Castle on Friday 9 May 2025 to observe the firing of the One O'Clock Gun, from just behind it, and hearing a bit of the history of the practice of firing the gun at this time from former Royal Scot, Lt Col John Donovan MBE, now Regional Director for ABF(S). We then had a sandwich lunch in the Governor's House which is now the Officers' Mess.

Vic and I then had a few days off until the party from the Royal Hospital doing their annual visit to the Personnel Recovery Centre at Gilmerton arrived and we joined in with them for the next couple of days.

The final ABF(S) event as part of their VE 80th Commemorations was a charity golf match at Duddingston Golf Club on Thursday 15 May 2025. We were joined by the party up from Royal Hospital led by Captain of Invalids, Capt George Cochlan, formerly SCOTS DG. Again, we were there to talk about veterans and life at the Royal Hospital to those attending the golf. An excellent day, rounded off with a delicious 3-course lunch.

The ABF is one of the great military charities and does so much to help veterans, so it was a pleasure and honour to be invited to help them commemorate this auspicious date.

Mr Andy Kay

Early in 2025 as the Army Benevolent Fund (Scotland) were planning their commemorations Lt Col John Donovan MBE asked the Regimental Office if two Royal Scots Chelsea Pensioners could attend their function on 8 May 2025. Lt Col David Jack contacted myself (Andy Kay) and it was arranged that I and former RSM Vic Lucas would attend. Initially it was for a black-tie function at the Prestonfield House but this was later extended to include a charity golf match at Duddingston Golf Course (as spectators!).

Having obtained permission from the Royal Hospital Chelsea to attend, arrangements were then made to allow us to take part. Our travel and accommodation was arranged by ABF(S) so Vic and I made our way up to Edinburgh on 7 May 2025 and were collected at Edinburgh Waverly by a charitable organisation called Vector 24. These guys were fantastic and not only collected us from Waverley Station but picked us up from Prestonfield House at midnight to drive us back to our accommodation. The charity is set up to drive veterans who have difficulty travelling to ensure they get to medical and other important appointments. A fantastic charitable organisation. The accommodation was kindly supplied by the Army Recovery Centre at Gilmerton, so many thanks to them also.

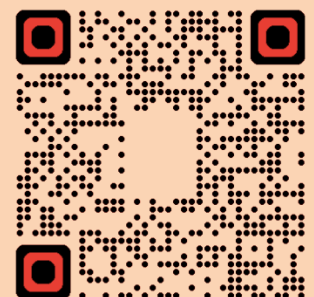


Vic Lucas and Andy Kay with District Gunner, Sgt Beveridge at the One O'Clock Gun.

For more information on Vector 24 and the Army Benevolent Fund scan the QR Code, click on the link or copy and paste the link below.

<https://vector24.co.uk/>

<https://armybenevolentfund.org/regions/scotland/>



**Army
Benevolent
Fund**

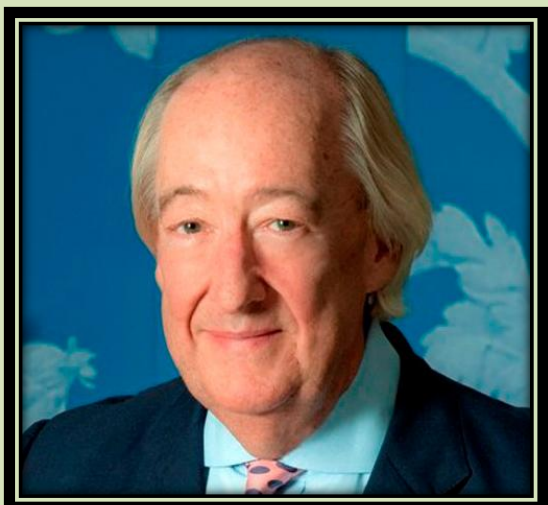
1975 Royal Guard Officers - 50 Year Reunion

On Saturday 23 August 2025 the officers of Her Majesty's Royal Guard from 1975 met in Ballater for a 50th anniversary reunion along with their wives. Unfortunately, Piers Wedgwood is no longer with us, but the other four are in remarkably good health and enjoyed reminiscing about the events of the Royal Guard 50 years ago.

After a reunion supper on the Saturday at the Craigendarroch Hotel they all attended the Kirk at Crathie, Balmoral on the Sunday morning. Rev Kenneth MacKenzie welcomed the party and they were given seats in the Abergeldie transept directly opposite the Royal Pew, and behind the officers of this year's Royal Guard. Twelve members of The Royal Family were present including Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. His Majesty The King wore the Royal Scots Regimental tie. The minister mentioned the group in his Introduction to the Service.

That evening the four officers of His Majesty's 2025 Royal Guard, from Balaklava Company 5 SCOTS, entertained the party with drinks at Victoria Barracks in Ballater. Following that the party had a farewell dinner in Ballater.

Major David Dickson DL



Piers Anthony Weymouth Wedgwood, 4th Baron Wedgwood
20 September 1954 – 29 January 2014.



Officers of The Royal Guard 1975. l to r: 2Lt The Lord Piers Wedgewood, Lt David Dickson, Maj Mike Ashmore, Lt Mike Cran, Capt David Hepburn. Front; Major Ashmore's Labrador, Seppy.



Outside the Officers Mess, Victoria Barracks (similar to the above photograph of 1975)
Left to right: Maj Dickson, Col Ashmore, Maj Cran, Maj Hepburn.



"Past meets present" at Crathie Kirk. l to r; Maj Dickson, Maj Hepburn, Maj Tommy Blair, Capt Sammy Parker, Lt Constantine Samoilys, Lt Henry Sutton, Col Ashmore and Maj Cran.

Sighting Report - When, Where, Who and What they are doing?

Come on all, don't be forgotten. If you have a wee get together, a chance meeting or even a planned meeting with old Royals then send in a photo or two with a few lines of what you were up to for the "Sighting Report". Kindly send them to admin@theroyalscots.co.uk with the subject heading clearly marked as **SIGHTING REPORT – Possible Article**. Please use high resolution photographs where possible and don't forget to put the names of those in the photo.

Sighting Report – Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal



The Regimental family were once again honoured and pleased to see both Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal wearing Regimental related items.

Her Majesty the Queen was seen on Saturday 6 September 2025 at the Braemar Highland Games sporting the Hunting Stewart (Ancient) tartan on her coat and skirt.

Her Royal Highness was seen wearing the Colonel-In-Chief's Regimental Brooch whilst attending the annual garden party on Tuesday 1 July 2025 at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal continues her link with The Regiment as the Patron of The Royal Scots Regimental Association, Patron of The Royal Scots Club and Royal Colonel of 6 SCOTS.

Mr Ray (Halfchat) Thomson



Sighting Report – Liberton Golf Course

They do really need the practice before the next Stewart Snedden Memorial Golf.



Practice Squad 18 July 2025. l to r; Cliff McAuley, Spike Mulligan, Eck Wind and Jimmy McConnell.

Sighting Report – Northern Ireland - 1

A gathering of auld Royals and their friends took place at the "High Chaparral" for the BBQ on 6 July 2025.



One sausage only! Master Chef Graham Highet in action.



The gathering at the "High Chaparral" for a BBQ. l to r; Davy McKendrick, Winston Lynn, Graham Highet, Barry Davies (ex RM), Nikki Sanders and Glen (Shug) Wilson, Betty and Doc (Billy) Halliday, Dorothy and Colin Tims, Brian Mercer, Debbie and Kenny Boyle, Kim MacDonald, Karen and Ben Taylor, Sheila Highet, Maxi MacDonald.



On their way to the Maj Gen Bob Bruce's installation at the Edinburgh Castle 30 April 2025. l to r: Ian Laurie, Maxi MacDonald, Brian Mercer and Ben Taylor.

Sighting Report – Northern Ireland - 2

Stewart Snedden Memorial Golf



Graham Highet (l) and Stu Simpson at The Open Championship held at Royal Portrush Golf Club in Northern Ireland on 18 July 2025.



A cheque for £400 being present by Ray (Halfchat) Thomson to Brig George Lowder MBE for the Royal Scots Benevolence. This was from some of the money raised at the Stewart Snedden Memorial Golf 2025.

Deaths

Mr Benny Adams	09 Apr 2025 1 RS	Mr James Weir	09 Jul 2025 1 RS	Mr James Blair	17 Aug 2025 8 RS and 2 RS WW2
Mr Jake Jarvis	16 Apr 2025 1 RS	Mr George Harkin	17 Jul 2025 1 RS	Mr George (Dan) Paterson	22 Aug 2025 1 RS
Mr David McKenzie	26 Apr 2025 1 RS	Mr Frank Mcleod	20 Jul 2025 1 RS	Lt Col John Logan (Jock) Wilson Smith OBE	03 Sep 2025 2 RS and 1 RS
Mr John Kay	04 May 2025 1 RS	Mr Joe Dickson	29 Jul 2025 1 RS	Mr John Nisbet	04 Sep 2025 1 RS
Mr Gordon Strange	15 May 2025 1 RS	Mr Graeme Swan	13 Aug 2025 1 RS	Mr Charlie Porteous	06 Sep 2025 1 RS

The Royal Scots Museum Acquisitions

In the past, items acquired by the Museum were recorded in The Thistle, which forms part of the historical record. This practice has not occurred since November 2022. The table below lists all items that have been acquired by the Museum since November 2022 and accessioned to The Royal Scots Collection. Items of particular interest or significance will be recorded in greater detail in future editions.

Title	Date of entry	Received from
"The Road to Kobe House"	18.11.2022	Homer, Paul (Son-in-Law)
Redeciation Service for Lance Corporal Brunton Smith	5.12.2022	Jack, David
Collection of WO2 Michael Durkin	23.3.2023	Durkin, Carol
2nd Lieutenant Henry Alexander Patullo Military Cross	9.5.2023	Patullo, David
Private R O'Connor War Medal	30.10.2023	Briston, J
Collection of Sergeant W Brock MM BEM	30.10.2023	Rowe, D J
Collection of Sergeant A C Mitchell	25.9.2023	Craddock, Ann
Collection of Lieutenant J P Smart	16.9.2023	Donald, Norrie
Collection of Private Geoffrey Corlette	14.6.2023	Bell, Suzanne
Collection of Donald Maitland	30.5.2023	Maitland, Colin
Lieutenant Colonel Hamish Forsyth Field Officer's Claymore	18.12.2023	Forsyth, Angus
Jim Blythe Combat Suit Jacket	20.5.2024	Blythe, Jim
Uniform Collection of Major David Hay	21.5.2024	Hay, David
Collection of George (Geggie) Simpson	20.5.2024	Gillies, James
Royal Scots Red Tunic	21.5.2024	Cooper, Carly
Royal Scots Tartan Trews	21.5.2024	Cooper, Carly
Various shoulder titles	21.5.2024	Cooper, Carly
Commission Paper of Ensign George Seafoth Rodon	8.12.2019	Hanna, John
Carved button stick Presented to 710 Corporal Archibald Thomason RS	7.5.2024	McEvoy Thomson, Paul
Private G Dobson shooting medals	3.10.2024	Shaw, Douglas
Photograph 7th/9th Highlanders	26.11.2024	Gorringe, Lucy
Scrapbooks of James C. Graham, 52nd Lowland Brigade	6.12.2024	Fraser, Callum
World War 1 Trio of 2nd Lieutenant T. M. Barrie	8.10.2024	Neilsons Solicitors
Collection of Major David Taylor	11.10.2024	Taylor, Richard
Royal Scots depot necklace	19.3.2024	Brayshaw, Alan
Sergeant Alexander McHattie Military Medal	20.12.2024	Rogers, James
Collection of Andrew Burn Hoy	20.12.2024	Rogers, James
Collection of Sergeant Peter Grant	20.12.2024	Rogers, James
Collection of Private Alexander Milne	20.12.2024	Rogers, James
Drum Major William Haxton Telford Sword	22.2.2025	Sandison, Ian
Collection of William Wilson, Surgeon of 3rd Battalion RS 1806	24.2.2025	Rogers, James
War Medal Private G Hyndman	4.6.2024	Eckett, Clive
Letter from Sir John Hepburn	30.5.2025	Venator & Hanstein
Photograph of The Royal Scots, c.1920	18.2.2025	The Black Watch Museum
Photographic postcards of Robert Mackenzie	18.2.2025	The Black Watch Museum
Collection of letters from the front	18.1.2025	Gabriel, Stephen
Notebook from Bombing Course at Otley	9.2.2025	Harrison, Ruth
Collection of Private R Pentland		Melville, Christian
Collection of Samuel Thomson	13.6.2025	Shiels, Gill
1st Battalion King's Colour Pipe Banner, George V	17.7.2025	
Photograph of soldiers, 13th Battalion	17.7.2025	Armstrong, Gordon
Collection and Records of Pte John McLeod	23.5.2025	Cunningham, Duncan
Portrait of Lance Corporal John Vanon	22.7.2025	KOSB
Portrait of 'Jock McLean'	22.7.2025	KOSB
2nd Lieutenant Wilfred Honeyman Lundie, 2nd Battalion The Royal Scots	19.8.2025	Cruikshank, Claire

The Royal Scots Regimental Trust SCIO

The process of governance streamlining has taken a number of years, but is now complete. The Royal Scots Regimental Trust SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) is a new charity, registered as a charity in Scotland with the registration number SC052009, and incorporates three of our Regimental Pillars – Benevolence & Welfare, Museum & Heritage, and the Association. There is one set of Trustees for the Trust and each Trustee has specific responsibilities. The Museum & Heritage functions are directed by the Museum & Heritage Committee, while the Association retains the Office Bearers; all of whom report to the Trustees.

Trustees

Brig George Lowder MBE	Chair
Maj Gen Bob Bruce CBE DSO	Vice Chair
Maj Norman Soutar MC	Club
Lt Col John Donovan MBE	Museum, Benevolence
Capt Alex Dockar	Finance
Capt Nick Edwardson	Communications
Maj Stu Marshall	Association
Mr Keith Oliver OBE WS	Legal
Mr Allan Carswell	Museum

Museum & Heritage Committee

Lt Col John Donovan MBE	Chair
Brig George Lowder MBE	
Lt Col Gordon Rae	
Mr Allan Carswell	
Lt Col David Jack	Secretary

Regimental Association

Brig George Lowder MBE	President
Maj Stu Marshall	Chair
Mr Paul Robertson	Vice Chair
Mr David Milne	Secretary
Mr Peni Ravutia	Treasurer

Donations and Legacies

Until 2006 the Regiment received a relatively healthy income, mainly from the One Day's Pay Scheme, to which the majority of officers and soldiers contributed, and had limited expenses as the Regimental Headquarters was funded by the MoD. Since then the balance has shifted; there is additional expenditure in maintaining a Regimental Office and income is greatly diminished and will reduce further in 2030 when MoD ceases the provision of funding for the Museum Curator. While sufficient funds exist to support Benevolence and Association activity in the short to medium term, and this activity is expected to diminish over time, securing the display of the Regimental Collection as part of The Royal Scots enduring legacy will require funds that currently exceed those held by the Regiment. Donations to the Regimental Trust to support Benevolence, Heritage or Association activities are always greatly appreciated. Donations can be made monthly or annually by standing order or as single donations. Legacies from wills will also be greatly appreciated.

With the creation of a new charity as part of our governance streamlining process we now have new bank accounts. Further details can be obtained from the Regimental Office on 0131 557 0405 or admin@theroyalscots.co.uk

Readers articles invitation – “Jock” anory

We would like to invite you, “The Royal Scots Family”, to submit articles to your journal, The Thistle. Write a story of some event, a good time had or something funny you were involved in. If possible, supporting it with a photograph/s with name/s.

Please send them to admin@theroyalscots.co.uk

Kindly put **THISTLE ARTICLE** in the email subject heading.

Winter Edition of the Thistle

The Winter 2025 edition of the Thistle (Vol 48) will cover events during the period 1 September 2025 – 31 March 2026. We aim to publish this edition by 30 April 2026. All items for inclusion should be submitted to the Regimental Office via admin@theroyalscots.co.uk no later than 4 April 2026, although it would be appreciated if contributions are submitted as soon as possible after events have occurred rather than leaving it to the last minute. **All photographs should be submitted in high resolution and accompanied by a caption, which includes names of all people in the photograph.**

Kindly put **THISTLE ARTICLE** in the email subject heading.

Volunteers Required

The activities of the Regiment rely heavily on volunteers, whether organising and running the Association, assisting with the administration of the Regimental Trust, or helping at the Museum either routinely or for specific projects. We are seeking more volunteers; tasks will be matched to skills and experience but we are particularly seeking assistance with communications managing social media platforms and the website, photography, compiling The Thistle, historical research in the Museum archives and assisting with Museum events and projects. Anyone interested is requested to get in touch with the Regimental Office on 0131 557 0405 or admin@theroyalscots.co.uk

Royal Scots Golf Club Details

President: Jimmy McConnell

Captain: Arthur Frame
Vice Captain: Zander Russel

Secretary: David Morris
Contact: bampops1@gmail.com

Notes on serving Royals and the Regimental Family

We would like to congratulate the following;

Col Charlie Wallace – appointment as Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk.

Col Frank Reeves – promotion to Col, new assignment and promotion to OBE.

Lt Col James Anderson – appointment as Deputy Lieutenant in Midlothian.

Maj Stevie Dawson – promotion to Maj and new assignment.

Capt Steven Paterson – commissioning and new assignment as Unit Welfare Officer 2 SCOTS.

Tam Douglas – award of BEM. Community Support Manager, Royal British Legion Scotland, for services to veterans in Scotland.

Helen McGinty – daughter of Maj Bill McGinty, appointment as Sheriff in Glasgow.

Colonel Charlie Wallace

We wish to congratulate Colonel (Retired) Charlie Wallace on his appointment as Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk on 24 February 2025. Charlie was commissioned into The Royal Scots in 1984 and served with the 1st Battalion in Edinburgh, Germany, Inverness and Colchester. He commanded Aberdeen UOTC and his final assignment in the Army was as Deputy Command 51 (Scottish) Brigade. Since leaving the Army he became the Scottish Veterans Commissioner from 2018-2022 and became Secretary of The King's Body Guard for Scotland, The Royal Company of Archers in 2019. He was Deputy Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk from 2019 until his appointment as the Lord Lieutenant.



Association Details

Highland Branch

First Sunday of the month at 6pm at Raigmore Recreation Rooms, Inverness
Contact: Derrick Cameron
derrick1974@hotmail.com

Edinburgh Branch

Suspended animation

The Royal Scots Association Pipe Band

Contact: Torquil Corkerton
torquil@corkerton.com or contact@royalscotspipeband.org.uk

East of Scotland Branch

Last Saturday of the month at 7.30pm at RBL Prestonpans
Commencing on 30 January 2026 the branch will meet on the last Friday of every second month. (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov).

Contact: Jamie Colquhoun
Jamiecolquhoun@hotmail.co.uk

Northern Ireland Branch

First Tuesday of the month at RBL Ards
Contact: David McKendrick
davidsmck1@sky.com

Southern Branch

No regular branch meetings, but events organised throughout the year.
Contact: Monty Stuart-Monteith
monty@shawsequestrian.com

Central Scotland Branch

First Sunday of the month at 2pm at Hillcroft Hotel, Whitburn, West Lothian
Contact: David Milne
david.milne3343@live.co.uk

Fijian Branch

Quarterly Meetings
Contact: Peni Ravutia
bogiravutia0506@gmail.com

For more information contact:

The Royal Scots Regimental Office

The Royal Scots Club
29 - 31 Abercromby Place
Edinburgh EH3 6QE
Tel: 0131 557 0405
Email: admin@theroyalscots.co.uk

Brig	Graeme	Wearmouth OBE	DA Baghdad
Brig	Nick	Wight-Boycott OBE	RMAS
Col	Piers	Strudwick OBE	MOD
Col	Frank	Reeves OBE	MOD
Lt Col	Ross	Brookfield	APC
Lt Col	Jeremy	Giles MBE	Army HQ
Lt Col	Toby	Bunney INT CORPS	Army HQ
Lt Col	Andy	Lumley	UN South Sudan
Lt Col	Sean	Semple RAPTC	HQ RAPTC
Maj	Tam	Lindsay	4 SCOTS
Maj	Zander	Russell	RHQ SCOTS

Maj	Dean	Fraser	1 RANGER
Maj	Stephen	Dawson	1 RANGER
Capt	Steven	Gibson	Balaklava Company, 5 SCOTS
Capt	Steven	Paterson	2 SCOTS
W02	David	Williamson	7 SCOTS
CSgt	Steven	Gibb	NIGUS
CSgt	Barry	McIntosh	PSI, A Coy, 6 SCOTS
Cpl	Euan	Jardine	Pipe Sgt, SCOTS DG

We have endeavoured to ensure that we have recorded all those currently serving in the Regular Army, but we are keen to know if there is anyone who has been missed.

Forecast of Events

The Forecast of Events is published on the Regimental website and updated at the beginning of each month. Details of specific events can be found on the Regimental website on the Upcoming Events page at <https://www.theroyalscots.co.uk/forecast-of-events/> or scan the QR Code to visit the page.



Day/Month	Event	Time	Remarks
Oct 2025			
Thu 2	LISBON MARU Memorial Service	1200	National Memorial Arboretum
Sat 4	Association Autumn Dinner Night	1900	Royal Scots Club
Sat 11	Fiji Day celebrations	1200	Community Centre, Dreghorn Barracks
Fri 17	A Company 1RS Smoker	1900	Royal Scots Club
Mon 20	Opening of the Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street Gardens	1030	Princes Street Gardens
Mon 20	Remembrance Service at Royal Scots Monument	1200	RS Monument
Mon 20	Veterans' Curry Lunch	1230	Royal Scots Club
Tue 21	RSC Management Ltd Board Meeting	1000	Royal Scots Club
Fri 24	RSRT Trustees Meeting	1200	Royal Scots Club
Tue 28	RSC WMF Trustees' Meeting	1200	Royal Scots Club
Fri 31	Officers' Golf Match	0800	Gullane No 3
Fri 31	Officers' Regimental Dinner	1900	Royal Scots Club
Nov 2025			
Sun 2	Association Quarterly General Committee Meeting	0930	Royal Scots Club
Thu 6	Opening of the Field of Remembrance Westminster	1030	Southern Branch
Sat 8	Remembrance Service at Glencorse Gates	1045	Glencorse Barracks
Sat 8	Regimental planting of crosses at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster, followed by a Remembrance Service in the Abbey Cloisters	1800	Southern Branch
Sun 9	Remembrance Sunday	Cenotaph	1030
		City Chambers	1045
		Canongate Kirk	1045
		The Royal Scots Club	1200
		Haymarket	1045
		Peebles	1045
		Whitburn	1045
		Prestonpans	1045
Linlithgow	1045		
Tue 11	Remembrance Service at the Scottish National War Memorial	1045	The Castle
Tue 18	RSRT Executive Committee Meeting	1200	Royal Scots Club
Tue 25	RS Club Members' Committee Meeting	1700	Royal Scots Club
Sun 30	St Andrew's Day Service	TBC	St Cuthbert's Church
Dec 2025			
Tue 9	RSC Management Ltd Board Meeting	1000	Royal Scots Club
Tue 9	RS Club Trustees and Directors Christmas Lunch	1230	Royal Scots Club
Thu 11	RSC WMF Trustees meeting	1200	Royal Scots Club
Tue 16	RSRT Volunteers Christmas Lunch	1230	Royal Scots Club
Wed 17	Regimental Museum closes for the Festive period		
Fri 19	Regimental Office closes for the Festive period		
Jan 2026			
Mon 5	Regimental Office and Regimental Museum reopens		
Wed 14	Club Members' Committee meeting	1700	Royal Scots Club
Thu 22	Museum & Heritage Committee meeting	1500	Royal Scots Club
Sat 31	Association Burns' Night	1900	Prestonpans RBL
Feb 2026			
Sun 1	Association Quarterly General Committee Meeting	1000	Royal Scots Club
Tue 24	RSRT Executive Committee Meeting	1200	Royal Scots Club
Fri 27	Association AGM	1900	Royal Scots Club
Mar 2026			
Thu 19	Club Members' Committee meeting	1700	Royal Scots Club
Tue 24	RSC Management Ltd Board meeting	1000	Royal Scots Club
Thu 26	RSC WMF Trustees meeting	1200	Royal Scots Club
Sat 28	The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) Regimental Day		393 rd anniversary
Sat 28	The Royal Regiment of Scotland Formation Day		
Sat 28	Regimental Day Dinner	1900	Royal Scots Club
Sun 29	Laying up of 1 SCOTS Colours		Canongate Kirk
Apr 2026			
Wed 8	Club AGM	1900	Royal Scots Club
Sat 11	WO1 Dinner	1900	Royal Scots Club
Thu 23	Museum & Heritage Committee meeting	1500	Royal Scots Club
Fri 24 – Sun 26	Association Weekend		Rothiemurchus