



EAGLE AND CARBINE

THE ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS

Regimental Magazine and Regimental Association Report for 2011

VOLUME 41

BAD FALLINGBOSTEL

2011

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Published by Crest Publications, 20 Moulton Park Office Village, Scirocco Close, Northampton NN3 6AP
Tel: 01604 495495 Fax: 01604 495465 email: journals@crestpublications.com www.crestpublications.com

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PREFACE

by The Colonel of the Regiment

This edition of Eagle and Carbine is, unsurprisingly, a bit operationally ‘heavy’ but it tells an exciting story. Many of us have been treated to the travelling magic lantern show that detailed the feats of derring-do and military diplomacy during last year’s tour of Southern Afghanistan. Others will have followed the news on the Caring For Courage website and other, intermittent, publications. There is no doubt that the tour was a success in operational terms and the relative lack of casualties must be down to the Regiment’s extraordinarily high standard of training before they left. There may have been few laughs during the long hours often spent in the freezing cold of the various training areas before deployment but the effort was worth it. Sadly, we lost a friend and comrade, Craftsman Found and he was repatriated and then laid to rest with solemn dignity in his hometown of Whitby. Trooper Middleton also suffered from the ‘roadside bomb’ yet his progress in the face of adversity has been remarkable and the wider Regiment has rallied round with relentless encouragement. He attended the homecoming parades in Scotland in December and was feted, along with Craftsman Found’s family, by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and others. I am delighted to say that the Honours and Awards list recognised the exploits and efforts made by the serving members of the Regiment and the award of the Military Cross to Cpl Mitchell is evidence – if it were needed - of the very high quality of our non-commissioned officers and soldiers.

On the Appeal front, Caring For Courage ticks over in anticipation of the forthcoming Afghan tour, programmed for late next year and my very grateful thanks are due both to former members of the Regiment and others for their enormous generosity. It was truly humbling to watch the response when the call went out. The effort put in by Mark Somers and his executive committee paid handsome dividends and the individual – almost heroic - feats of fundraising have helped to swell a fund that stands ready to reach those parts that other charities might not reach. A fundraising evening and auction at the Royal Hospi-



tal Chelsea produced a staggering amount, courtesy of a large group of philanthropic civilians and the recent trek to the North Pole by an intrepid pair of ‘Arctic Hearn’s’ has brought a welcome windfall. The Chairman of the Association, hitherto not known for his athletic prowess, ran the London Marathon (much to the surprise of us all) and not only survived but also put in a very creditable time. The gauntlet is down for next year for the rest of us contemplating the ‘twilight of the Zimmers’! Meanwhile, a recce to Aberdeenshire was recently conducted to check out Horseback UK (www.horseback.org.uk) who provide rehabilitation to severely disabled veterans and serving members of the Forces through teaching them to ride. They are an impressive charity, catching the eye because of their equestrian connection and because they offer a much-needed mounting block back to normality. Their work has attracted a donation from this year’s Regimental Trust.

The year 2011 was, of course, the 40th Anniversary of the raising of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and this was quietly marked in a few areas, the most noteworthy of which was in London with the Annual Regimental Dinner at St James’ Palace in the autumn. Our Colonel In Chief graciously attended this event and the resulting turnout was a glorious and colourful mix of serving and ex-officers, the like of which had not been seen in London since a previous dinner held there in 1993. In the summer, officers who had served in our two antecedent regiments held reunion lunches to celebrate the success of the serving Regiment and to renew old friendships and these, too, proved very popular.

But as I write, the Army waits nervously for the announcement that will detail the various changes that will be made in order to reduce the size of the Army to 82,000 by 2020. There is the obvious speculation in the Royal Armoured Corps concerning amalgamations and meetings have been held behind closed doors to discuss ‘principles’. The RAC has always been viewed by the MOD as ‘self-regulating’ and a letter has been sent to the Army Board detailing the collective rec-

ommendation of the Cavalry Colonels. It remains to be seen how the recommendation will be greeted and treated. Suffice to say nobody wants to see further amalgamation but, realistically, it must be viewed as one option and we wait to see. The Regiment is committed to remaining at the forefront of the RAC as, arguably, the most competent and experienced of all the armoured regiments. Accordingly, we would wish to secure a place in the vanguard of the Army’s deployable element, reacting to operational needs as they arise and fiercely retaining our Scottish identity.

Before I leave you to get on with the rest of this excellent publication, I want to pay tribute to our Regimental Secretary and the staff of Home Headquarters,

including the Museum and shop. These are the ‘wheel tappers and shunters’ who keep the furnaces burning while the serving members are globetrotting in support of UK foreign (and other) policy. From the eagle’s nest in the Castle, the mundane, but essential, work continues to keep the Regiment in the public eye, to provide backup to the Regimental Association and to safeguard the Regiment’s assets for the future. We have much to thank them for.

Now, please read on.

SRBA



FOREWORD

by The Commanding Officer

2011 was quite a year! From the below freezing temperatures of the pre-deployment exercises in January/February to the burning heat of the Afghan desert in June/July. The year was clearly dominated by our deployment to Afghanistan as part of 3 Commando Brigade on Operation HERRICK 14. Over half the Regiment served in Helmand Province during this Afghan summer and the remainder kept the home fires burning as part of the Rear Operations Group in Fallingbowl. It was a tour where the grey beret became well known throughout Helmand; the adaptability of a Royal Armoured Corps soldier shone through and the soldiers were extremely well regarded wherever they served. The roles adopted by the Regiment during the tour were diverse and highlight this adaptability: A Squadron under Major James Bishop served in Nahr-e-Saraj and operated as Advisers to the Afghan Army, C Squadron under Major Nick Foulerton were on their feet as infantry soldiers embedded as part of the 4 SCOTS (Highlanders) Battlegroup in Lashkar Gah and D Squadron crewed the Warthog armoured vehicle and covered a vast distance throughout the British area of operations.



Our first full Regimental tour of Afghanistan has now been completed; many have overcome adversity and hardship, experienced the full range of combat operations and achieved tangible success across a myriad of tasks. Despite being spread across the Task Force area of operations the Regiment’s cohesiveness, spirit and ethos was evident wherever the grey beret was present. It is with extreme sadness that we lost Craftsman Andy Found, killed by an improvised explosive device (IED). There were also 15 soldiers injured physically over the tour, the most serious being Trooper Chris Middleton who lost both

his legs to an IED.

Patience, fortitude and determination were the hallmarks of developing the Afghan National Army in Nad-e Ali, a model for what must be achieved on the road to our eventual extraction in 2014. The small teams of mentors from A Squadron operated cheek by jowl with their Afghan partners. They inherited a Kandak (Regiment) who were at best backwards in going forwards, but under their tutelage developed significantly over the course of the tour. They were steadily galvanised through the leadership of our

young officers and senior non-commissioned officers, operating as close knit crews spread across a wide area.

Mounted on their Warthog armoured vehicles for over 85% of the tour, D Squadron had learned their skills on their Challenger 2 Main Battle Tanks during the previous training year; it made them ideally suited to this role and they were widely used. They worked hand in glove with both coalition and Afghan infantry forces for much of the time, but also operated as an independent squadron. They collectively travelled over 90,000km during the tour and provided that much needed breathing space for the hard pressed ground holding companies, operating in areas of the Province that did not benefit from a constant infantry presence.

C Squadron operated in the vicinity of the Provincial capital, Lashkar Gah. During our tour the responsibility for the security of the city was handed over from coalition troops to the local population and their security forces. Key to the development of economic growth and confidence of the local population has been the improvement in the freedom of movement throughout that whole area. C Squadron was directly responsible for this, and adapted to the tempo of operations in this area with a level of skill and expertise that belied their background as tank crewmen. They garnered the respect of the Afghan National Police whom they mentored at short notice and earned the respect and friendship of the local nationals whom they protected.

Throughout the Task Force, SCOTS DG personnel occupied headquarters appointments in supporting the overall effort. Within the Task Force Headquarters, RHQ staff officers spanned all functional areas. In Bastion, SCOTS DG formed the spine of the logistical and administrative headquarters responsible for

supporting over a fifth of the Task Force. Yet in terms of support it was the Rear Operations Group who remained in Fallingbostenel with just less than half the Regiment that was of the greatest importance. Under the command of Major Jamie Halford-Macleod they completed their own tour, but in the familiar surroundings of Fallingbostenel. Their hard work, dedication and loyalty in the shadows was the single greatest unseen and untrumpeted factor in the success of the deployment and provided the constant reassurance to the deployed troops that their families were being supported in the best way possible. Whilst Op HERRICK was absolutely the focus for all those deployed it was absolutely clear to me that it was but an interlude to the continuum of Regimental life and the Rear Operations Group kept that flame alive.

This copy of the Eagle and Carbine will take you on a journey from the tough, but worthwhile pre-deployment training in the UK and Germany through the deployment of the Regiment to Afghanistan and then finish on our recovery, the Homecoming Parades in Scotland and then the welcome receipt of our Challenger 2 tanks at the end of the year. It has been extremely busy, but then is it not always! What is absolutely apparent, however, is that the officers and soldiers have risen to every single challenge that has been thrown at them and have shown their versatility, adaptability and strength in adversity. They are rightly proud to wear the grey beret and capbadge that has become synonymous with professionalism; this coming year will again test us in the training environment on our core platform, but I have no doubt that they will succeed and show once again that they are, and will remain, Second to None.



A SQUADRON

In 1837 Eldred Pottinger made his way to Herat where he would become a key player in advising the Herati army on the successful defence of their city, from a Russian sponsored Persian siege. Time and politics have marched on, however 2011 saw a small team from A Squadron follow in his illustrious footsteps to Afghanistan and in turn form the modern version of his efforts in the form of the Kandak (Afghan Battalion) Advisory and Training Team (KATT). A Squadron provided the core manpower of sixteen Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (and one Trooper) for a team that would be forty four men strong in theatre. The team would act as the glue to bring the ground holding sub-units and their Afghan partners together and to help advise and train the Afghan Army on the processes that they would need in place once the British Army takes its leave from Helmand.

The first real task of 2011 was to head back to Salisbury Plain for the Final Training Exercise. The training area was cold and wet, ideally suited to get us ready for the ferocious heat of the Afghan Summer, but at least we would get the chance to work with 45 Commando

Royal Marines, who would make up the lions' share of the Combined Forces (CF) in Nad-e-Ali district and whom we would be supporting. This exercise failed to live up to expectations not least because there was no training for the Advisors and because it coincided with a number of other courses. Captain Nigel Anderson picked up the reins for the exercise, as the new Squadron Leader of A Squadron Major James Bishop, departed on his Afghanistan recce.

The visit was thoroughly informative but rather violent; this was briefed to the remainder of the Squadron on his return and set the flavour for the final preparations prior to departing on the tour. Tension is always high prior to operations and it was testament to his strength of character and personal standards that the Squadron Sergeant Major, WO2 Boyd, kept the team focussed on their training and preparations and not on the dangers ahead. It was at this point that Captain Richard Densham deployed in a continuity post, the first member of A Squadron to do so, a role that was crucial for us to get a good understanding of what would be required of us in theatre.

Captain Densham attends a village shura





A joint CF and Afghan orders group

For the remainder of Squadron the final event before departure was to take our place in the regimental week, with the high point being a visit from our Deputy Colonel in Chief, His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent. The contrast of regimental parades and parties to the desert of southern Afghanistan could not have been starker; however this was the perfect antidote to the building tension.

A Squadron deployed as the first main body from the Regiment, arriving in theatre and immediately going into the Receipt Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI) process, we did not know it at the time but this would be the last time that our sixteen man team would be together until we returned to Camp Bastion at the end of Operation HERRICK 14. RSOI ran for a week and covered the final preparation for the tour and was



Trooper Weir makes an impression on Jackie Bird from BBC Scotland



Sergeant Smith on patrol

a chance for Captain Densham to back brief us on what we should expect when we flew forward to Nad-e-Ali. It was the last day of RSOI that we received the worst possible news that one of the headquarter elements from the Irish Guards had been hit by an IED, which had killed the Company Commander and one of his Sergeants, if anything this news galvanised the Squadron and determined the attitude with which we approached the problem of advising the Afgan National Army (ANA) but we felt the loss of the Irish Guards deeply as they had fought with us in Iraq in 2003.

“The desert – a tactician’s paradise, a quartermaster’s nightmare.” Our Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant, Staff Sergeant Beveridge, was to be the most dislocated from the KATT remaining back in the ANA Brigade headquarters in Camp Shorabak. The service that he provided to the KATT was simply outstanding and we were never left wanting for anything. On occasion we were able to provide a reason for him to deploy into the ‘green zone’ and to get out on patrol, not as much as he may have wished, but enough to help him through the long days back in the headquarters.

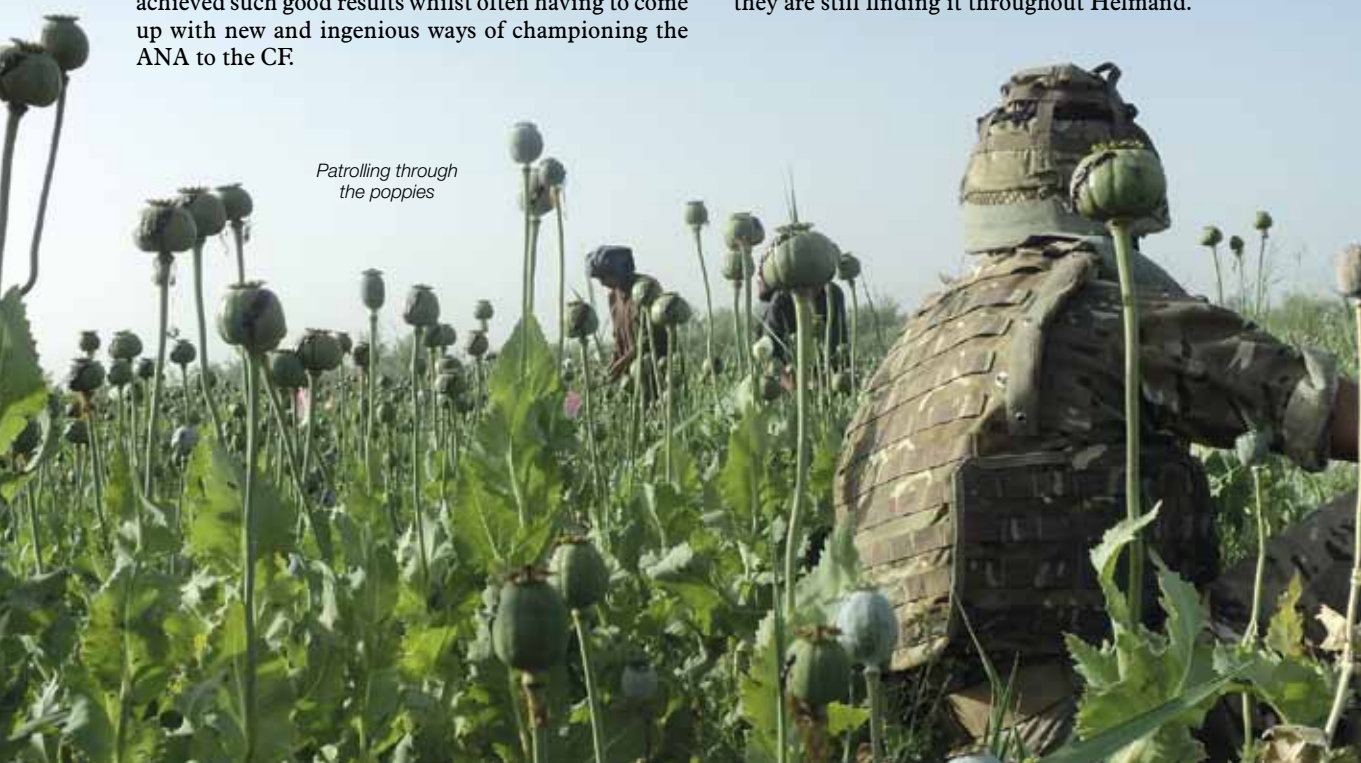
The Squadron headquarters lived in and worked out of Forward Operating Base (FOB) Shawqat situated in Nad-e-Ali District Centre. Whilst we had a number of specialists attached to us the headquarters was based around a five man contingent from SCOTS DG. The Squadron Leader worked as the middle man for Lieutenant Colonel Ollie Lee RM (the CF Commanding Officer) and the capricious Lieutenant Colonel Zalgai, the Commanding Officer of the ANA in Nad-e-Ali. Whilst not advising the SCOTS DG made up the crews for the OC’s Tactical party and spent a large amount of time out on the ground influencing the CF and ANA’s relationship, providing much needed support to the other advisor teams in the PB’s and occasionally helping to move CF personnel around the district. We were



Maj Bishop discussing plans with his ANA counterpart

fortunate to have Staff Sergeant Blair as part of this team and he acted as SQMS forward, in which capacity he attacked the stores with gusto giving them a thorough audit, as well as acting as the SSM’s right hand man. Trooper Weir was also part of this team and when he was not getting over excited about the presence of Jackie Bird from BBC Scotland, was a good grounding to the rest of the team.

The squadron had teams forward in the Patrol Bases (PB); working in two man teams located with or near to each of the ANA Tolays (an Afghan Company). This dislocation meant that they were expected to work within the Squadron Leader’s direction but very much on their wits and it is testament to them all that they achieved such good results whilst often having to come up with new and ingenious ways of championing the ANA to the CF.



Patrolling through the poppies

PB Khamaar in the North East of the AO for the ANA but across the boundary of the UK CFs found quite often that they were more alone than the rest. Captain Woodhams and Sergeant Anderson worked tirelessly to achieve the effect of the other team quite often against extra pressures that were not replicated elsewhere. A good grasp of Dari helped Captain Woodhams, whilst his ability to bench press at least 3 Royal Marines meant that Sergeant Anderson was extremely popular with M Company from 42 Commando.

On the North West corner of the district was PB Pimon, whilst there was no ANA collocated with them Captain Holtum and Sergeant Chart managed a composite Tolay extremely well. The added frustration of having different ANA commanders, sometimes on a weekly basis, did not discourage them. They worked with B Company from the 1st Battalion the Royal Ghurkha Rifles which helped them due to the Ghurkhas ability to communicate and empathise with the ANA. Their tireless work was rewarded with a healthy presentation of Kukris.

In the middle of the district, close to the district centre, was Check Point (CP) Laram. This housed the ANA Heavy Weapons Tolay, who bristled with ex-soviet hardware. The task of advising them fell to WO2 Taylor and Sergeant Khoo, the latter at points seemed to have gone native as his linguistic abilities enabled him to work without an interpreter. Due to his operational commitments, WO2 Taylor became the man with no home; an issue that he dealt with by leaving his kit in every location that he visited, rumours abound that they are still finding it throughout Helmand.



Sergeant Chart takes a tactical paddle

In the Centre South of the District was PB Samsor were Mr Braithwaite and Sergeant Smith worked closely with Y Company 45 Commando. This was one of the real success stories within the district culminating with the ANA receiving their own area of responsibility. Mr Braithwaite spent the tour constantly plagued by bizarre ANA problems that ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous, the final one being the Tolay Commander being run over by his Sergeant Major whilst he took a shower. Sergeant Smith passed on his enthusiasm for perfection to the ANA and was seen as a crucial member of the Royal Marines team in the PB.

Finally PB Kalang the most southerly PB was manned by Captain Densham and Sergeant Brown. This was again a real success story with the result being that they did their job so well that they were no longer needed in that location. Captain Densham left

early due to his early arrival but not before the Tolay Sergeant Major had attempted to help him find a nice Afghan wife. Sergeant Brown took advising as a very personal mission and was so involved with the Tolay that the Kandak Commander asked for him to stay.

It would be remiss of the Squadron not to mention thanks to the support that we received from the RAMC, REME, Counter IED task force, Commando logistics team and our signallers. All of whom supported our team on Operation HERRICK 14. Finally to the FOB cat (of the feline variety) that made the Sergeant Major our only casualty of the tour; the 1 inch scratch saw him return to Camp Bastion to the role 3 Hospital as a Category C casualty (Cat C) where he was met by an ambulance and received 9 injections to fight off the possibility of Rabies.

The Squadron has moved on under the command of Major Fraser McLeman, and has now become one of the two Challenger 2 Squadrons. We have said farewell to Major Bishop who has moved to take command of A Squadron the 9th/12th Royal Lancers and Captain Anderson who is now an armoured advisor to the Jordanian Armed Forces. The Sergeant Major, now WO1 Boyd, has become the RQMS (T) in Bovington and has been replaced by WO2 Chantry. Finally Captain Holtum has returned to the world of banking to provide the square mile with a fine moral compass.

In summary A Squadron have had a good year, performed well on operations and are now well set to deliver on armour for the brigade in the coming training year.



Engaging with local Afghanis on patrol

B SQUADRON

B Squadron started 2011 as the Individual Reinforcement and Battle Casualty Replacement Squadron. This task meant that the Squadron would not deploy on operations as a formed sub-unit. The Squadron remained in Fallingbowl to provide Individual Reinforcements (to replace those who had to leave theatre for career courses and other discretionary reasons) and to replace soldiers who had been injured. For the Squadron this was a frustrating role since we had spent 12 months completing and enabling a challenging period of Mission Specific Training (specific training for operations in Afghanistan). We knew that those deploying would not be part of the initial deployment and would go at short notice, to any job and to any unit. In total B Squadron numbered 165 people; of this just under 100 deployed at some stage.

There were exceptions to the short notice Individual Reinforcement and Battle Casualty Replacement personnel that were to deploy as individuals. First amongst these were two multiples (teams of about fifteen to twenty soldiers) who were attached to A and B Company 4 SCOTS. These were led by Staff Sergeants Gowans and Crockett. In addition two REME detachments supported 42 and 45 Commando RM and two officers (Mr Grinling and Mr Emslie) deployed as Company Intelligence Officers for A and B Companies 3 MERCIAN. These teams and individuals were attached to their new Battle Groups from the beginning of the year; however, the administration bill still fell firmly on Squadron shoulders – causing WO2 Baillie to account for soldiers across five Regiments!

Training a Squadron of this size was always going to be a challenge. What made it unique was the number of possible tasks individual members of the Squadron could be asked to undertake. Before the tour started we expected to support our own sub-units – that is to be prepared to provide soldiers to support a Kandak (Afghan National Army Battalion) Advisory and Training Team; an infantry ground holding sub unit or the WARTHOG group. These sub units being employed in jobs as disparate as teaching and mentoring, infantry soldiering and Mounted Close Combat as part of the WARTHOG manoeuvre Squadron. We approached the challenge by recognising the “soldier first” approach to Op HERRICK and teaching basic life saving



Trooper Tagenkurukuru soaking up the sunshine'

drills of Op BARMA (clearance of vulnerable points and areas of IEDs), Op KALA (compound entry and clearance), and reaction to effective fire. Concurrently we promulgated the latest intelligence, examples of best practice and lessons learnt from theatre to drive home the task specific training. Additionally a continuous programme of Military Annual Training Tests and small arms ranges (run by 32 Engrs on behalf of 7 Armd Bde) ensured that new arrivals to the Squad-



Corporal Humphries has some private time



Troopers Christie and McGuire with their Mastiff

ron were rapidly brought up to standard and ready to conduct Afghan focussed training.

A lesson from previous Op HERRICKs was that the time from when a casualty was injured to when a replacement arrived at the deployed Squadron or Company was too long. As a result all BCRs flew out to Afghanistan (in monthly groups of ten – fifteen people) in order to complete the Reception Staging and Onwards Integration (RSOI) training which is run by the Operational Training and Advisory Group. This training is mandatory for new arrivals in theatre prior to joining sub-units in role. Completing it early in this way meant that deploying individuals could move straight to the receiving unit. Further benefits were also felt, it provided the soldiers with first class training opportunities which we simply could not replicate in Fallingbostel and it gave the soldiers a chance to gain a feel for the environment they could be working in.

One of the surprises of the tour was how far and wide the soldiers were deployed. In addition to supporting the Regiment, other 7 Bde units (9/12L, 4 SCOTS, 3 MERCIAN) and a few specialist posts, B Squadron provided ten soldiers to 1 RIFLES acting in jobs as varied as CQMS for the A1 echelon to a sniper. For these ten individuals succeeding in an out of role deployment to a high calibre Infantry BG was a real achievement.

Operating for the majority of the year without a traditional troop structure heightened the challenge. This was due to high turnover of young officers who joined the Squadron but were rapidly employed elsewhere. We also had a smaller than normal cohort of NCOs. Throughout it all the SSM and Second – in – Command strove successfully to create order from potential chaos!

With so many of the Squadron deployed in so many different tasks across the area of operations in Helmand



Trooper Boulton and some Afghan big sky

province it would be wrong to single out individuals, with one exception. Trooper Middleton deployed as a BCR to 1 RIFLES where was employed as a sniper. His natural enthusiasm, quick wit and banter coupled with his professional approach to soldiering ensured he fitted in very well to the BG where he became an excellent ambassador for the Regiment and a great example of the capabilities of an RAC soldier. During a routine operation he was badly injured by an IED and was flown back to the UK. It is a great tribute to him that he was on parade at both the Regimental medal parade in Fallingbostel and also standing next to the dais at the Edinburgh Homecoming parade at the end of the year.

As the tour drew to a close those remaining in Germany were far from unemployed. The last three soldiers were deployed as late as 4 September. The Squadron also took responsibility for receiving the Challenger 2 uplift for the Regiment in preparation for Hybrid Foundation Training in 2012. This return to armoured soldiering provided a useful focus in the last days of the tour.

Throughout the year the Squadron managed to conduct some quality Adventure Training. In the winter Troopers Middleton and Slater represented the Regimental Alpine Ski team. Mr Crawford and Mr Probst successfully rode the Cresta Run and came 3rd and 5th in the novice grouping of the Army Championship. In May Captain Young and Craftsman Butler braved some truly Scottish early summer weather to cycle some five hundred miles over the north of Scotland in aid of Caring for Courage and in September the Squadron sent a healthy contingent down to the Mohne dam to conduct low level adventurous training courses.

On the family side of the house; Staff Sergeant Gowans and Alicia had a second child, Scott, and Trooper Kure-



Troopers Christie and McGuire and on RSOI

waka and Siteri Tui had their first daughter Maria. In addition the Squadron Leader celebrated his return to B Squadron by marrying Zoe on 5th March.

Looking ahead to the 2012 training year. The Regiment will deploy to BATUS with a hybrid BG – that is to say a mixture of Formation Reconnaissance, Armour, Armoured Infantry, Light Role Infantry and Protective Mobility. B Squadron will be providing the Protective Mobility Squadron equipped with the

C SQUADRON

The start of 2011 saw C Squadron preparing for the final stage of its Mission Specific Training (MST); the Field Training Exercise (FTX). After a rewarding exercise, the Brigade Commander addressed the squadron and recognised that over the previous



Afghan children



Troopers Boulton and Corporal Stevenson and kitted out for patrol

BULLDOG armoured vehicle and working with the light role infantry company from 4 SCOTS.

2011 has been a challenging year; however B Squadron has come through it and is looking forward to continuing the finest traditions of the Squadron in the forthcoming training year.



six months we had come a long way from where we started and were now ready for deployment. Following the FTX the squadron was informed that it must reduce in size, to 67 Regimental soldiers, plus attached personnel. On the regimental parade square in driving



Some local transport



Sunrise over Helmand



Taking a break in the cover of a compound

snow the Squadron Leader read a list of those that had been chosen to deploy and those that had not. It was a very difficult task after the effort the entire squadron had put into their training.

After much change, the Squadron were finally allocated an area of operations based around Lashgar Gar and highway 601, the main supply route into central Helmand. SHQ, 1st Troop, a Mercian Warrior platoon and all attachments were to be based in Forward Operating Base (FOB), Attal, located beside the 2nd Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) Kandak (Battalion) headquarters. 2nd Troop were to be based in Lashgar Gar as a Quick Reaction Force (QRF), also responsible for patrolling the countryside around the town. The Squadron began its deployment in February and was complete in theatre by early April.

Following a hectic training package in Camp Bastion the squadron began its handover with D Company, 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, A Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland and Falcon Squadron, the Royal Tank Regiment; all of whom had had a demanding winter tour. Once in place the squadron were given little grace by the insurgents who, as always, exploited the handover period. Within days the squadron was initiated into what was to become a familiar fight. Mission success would be based upon the depth of understanding of the place, its people and most importantly, what they wished for their future.

The first three months of the tour were the most active for the squadron, which had been given a substantial area to cover, with limited resources and a strong insurgent influence. Working alongside our Afghan policemen we were quickly conducting major operations while consciously encouraging the Afghan security forces to take the lead, which they increasingly did as the tour progressed.

On the morning of 30th April Battle Group Headquarters informed us that an insurgent meeting was being conducted in a cluster of compounds near to our base and after a frustrating few hours of planning we were given the task of conducting a raid. In the heat of the early afternoon we were delivered to our departure point by Warriors, crewed by our Mercian platoon. As we neared it became clear that the insurgents were

intending to defend, rather than conducting a fighting withdrawal, which was their normal tactic. Using the images from an observation aircraft we were able to see the insurgents planting Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and preparing fire positions. After a four hour approach, during which we had to evacuate three heat casualties, we arrived at the first compound and entered it by breaking down part of the wall.

The entire village was now silent as we waited for the insurgents to counter attack; this happened once we were all in the first compound. A heavy weight of fire came from a nearby drainage ditch. After returning fire and establishing their positions the Squadron Leader called in an exactor missile, fired from the artillery battery located in our operating base, which hit its target. A further two missiles were requested, but misfired. While we waited for the arrival of an Apache attack helicopter, a US Warthog ‘tank buster’ arrived with a screaming dive from the clouds, the pilot grinning out of the cockpit fifty feet above our position.

The arrival of the Apaches, surprisingly, did not silence the insurgents, even after wreaking havoc on their positions and while this was happening our sharpshooters dealt with a second attack that was launched from the other side of the compound. Our final move was to send out a clearance patrol through their positions and under Sergeant Rigby the insurgents were finally pushed back. Having conducted a successful raid (nine insurgents were subsequently found to have been killed) and with the light fading we needed to extract before we were caught for the night. The helicopters we were hoping for would



An afghan child watches a C Squadron patrol



Sergeant Rigby overlooking the Helmand River

not land due to the threat of insurgent attack and so we were faced with the prospect of a long walk, while being harassed by the enemy. To make matters worse, the largest man in the squadron injured his ankle on the way out of the compound. With most of the squadron now at the point of exhaustion we had to carry a six foot soldier out under fire to a safe distance at which a helicopter would be prepared to land. The remainder of the squadron walked out and arrived back at their vehicles; nine hours after the fight began.

On the 18th May the Squadron was conducting its first patrol into the village of Palpulsay, a village from where many insurgent attacks had already been launched and one where our predecessors had had many a fight. The Commanding Officer was on the patrol and after a successful meeting with village elders we began to extract and as expected our northern protective force was attacked. After a sustained fire fight the troop under the command of Captain McNeil called an air strike on the enemy position and while they waited for this to happen a small group under the command of Sergeant Rigby were hit by a series of Rocket Propelled Grenades and machine gun fire.

Sergeant Rigby, Corporal Kyle, Trooper Stevens and an interpreter were all hit by shrapnel but managed to get themselves away under covering fire from Corporal Mitchell. The casualties were taken back to our base where they were tended to by the awaiting medical team. Unfortunately, the doctor was in the Diarrhoea and Vomiting tent and in no fit state to treat casualties. He managed to get himself up, treat the wounded before collapsing in the operating room and had to be evacuated with those who he had treated. Unfortunately Sergeant Rigby and Corporal Kyle had to be evacuated to the UK and never returned to theatre. Both have subsequently made a full recovery, albeit with some impressive Taliban tattoos.

After three months the Battle Group Operations Company; A Company, 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 SCOTS), joined us because it was apparent that C Squadron was sat in one of the more

hostile areas, which was to become the focus of Battle Group operations during the second half of the tour. The Squadron was also required to send a multiple of fifteen men under the command of Sergeant Davies in support of 45 Commando for three weeks. This group, who had a pretty turgid time, excelled themselves and won much praise for the Squadron and the Regiment.

In Lashkar Gar, 2nd Troop, under the command of Captain Majcher, had the critical role of being the sole response team to anything that happened within the city and patrolling a substantial area surrounding it. Much of their time was spent intercepting insurgents attacking the city from the northeast and it was on this thin line of Afghan police bases that the insurgents attacked and killed all eight policemen within one of the checkpoints. The troop was also required to monitor and help improve the police as they neared transition of security from an ISAF to Afghan led security. Shortly before the end of the tour Corporal Chalmers was sent to X Company, 5th Battalion, The Rifles, as a Battle Casualty Replacement, where he won the admiration of the Company.

With a reduction in the size of the Battle Group required towards the end of the tour, C Squadron and B Company 4 SCOTS returned a month early, which came as a welcome surprise. We were lucky enough to be able to have the entire squadron on one flight and after a raucous 24 hours decompression in Cyprus we landed in Hannover on 23rd September. The welfare team had set up the first of many splendid reception parties on the Parade Square and it was with much relief that we witnessed the entire Squadron return to their families and friends alive and, for the most part, unscathed.

C Squadron remained together until the completion of the homecoming parades, which went down



Trooper Delaney-Gould on his way back from the shower



very well in Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh and was the first opportunity to meet the families of the Squadron. On 28th November 2011, C Squadron, along with the other squadrons changed role and the vast majority of those that had served for the previous year moved elsewhere, along with the Squadron Leader. Major Halford-MacLeod takes C Squadron forwards into the training year and in April 2012 he in turn will hand over to Major Stone.

C Squadron was the first Royal Armoured Corps squadron to train and deploy in the infantry ground holding role; a hugely demanding task at the very front of the fight in Afghanistan. They stood up to this challenge with extraordinary effort, excelled in a very infantry world and deserved the regimental motto, Second to None.



If only we had some with us...



The local wildlife



D SQUADRON

Returning from Christmas Leave with a bump, D Squadron moved, in 'luxury' coaches and minibuses, to Castlemartin in South West Wales for a Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX). Staff Sergeant Allan was responsible for collecting a small fleet of WARTHOG vehicles from Warminster and for overseeing their move to Castlemartin. The CALFEX is a week-long event but the limited numbers of WARTHOG vehicles in the training fleet meant that the Squadron would have to repeat the exercise with half completing the first iteration, the remainder completing the second and Squadron Headquarters completing both.

South West Wales in January is an unforgiving place but the CALFEX was an excellent exercise. It was presided over by one Lieutenant Colonel Henry Cummins, and provided D Squadron mounted and dismounted ranges, and plenty of invaluable training in matters medical, counter-improvised explosive devices (C-IED) and FOB discipline and defence. In good heart, D Squadron headed for Wiltshire.

The 3 Commando Brigade Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX) took place in late January and early February on Salisbury Plain with the charmless Corunna Barracks in Ludgershall masquerading as Camp BASTION. The Squadron was once again forced to repeat the exercise due to a lack of available WARTHOG vehicles. The resulting inability to exercise the whole

squadron concurrently, whilst doubling our nights out of bed or 'NOOBs' so close to an operational deployment, soon became a bone of contention.

The CFX saw D Squadron working alongside 3 Commando Brigade Headquarters, 42 and 45 Commandos and the Commando Logistic Regiment. This provided our new Brigade Headquarters their first sight of WARTHOG and allowed us to begin developing the professional relationships which would become so important in Afghanistan. The exercise also provided D Squadron's only opportunity during Mission Specific Training (MST) to practise tactical movement by day and night. It was therefore disappointing that the majority of the WARTHOG serials involved escorting slow and unwieldy logistic convoys. So although the exercise provided a good run-out in preparation for our deployment, it was also an opportunity missed.

Having completed the CALFEX and CFX, D Squadron returned to Fallingbowl for a final period of preparation for Operation HERRICK 14. As all requests to move WARTHOG vehicles to Fallingbowl for continuation training were refused, the bulk of this preparation was completed, under the watchful eye of Captain (formerly RSM) Gardiner, on the Joint Combat Operations Virtual Environment (JCOVE) system. JCOVE is a computer-based training programme that allows soldiers to prepare for a variety of operational scenarios including attacks, IEDs and ambushes. The



Tiffany Graham meets the local children



WO2 Lockwood in overwatch near Khar Nikah

graphics are outstanding – a far cry from the days of SIMNET in Grafenwoehr – and the system provided a remarkably realistic way to exercise vehicle movement and fire control, all from the safety of the Wessex Barracks Training Wing.

As April drew to a close, Operation HERRICK 14, for so long a distant prospect, became a reality. With Regimental Headquarters, A and C Squadrons already deployed, and the Rear Operations Group in full swing, D Squadron prepared for their departure. The Squadron was to provide the 3 Commando Brigade WARTHOG Group – an armoured squadron operating directly to the Brigade Headquarters and using mobility, protection and firepower to project force into relatively inaccessible areas of Helmand Province. Although everyone looked forward to putting their training into practice, it was tinged with a reluctance

to leave families and loved ones behind and, inevitably, with a degree of trepidation.

The Squadron convened on the Regimental parade square in the small hours of Monday 25th April, farewells complete and every man carrying everything he would need for the next six months. Coaches drove us through the inky darkness to Hannover Airport's Terminal D – a building the squadron will forever associate with delayed flights to dreadful places – and we waited patiently (in most cases) for Her Majesty's Royal Air Force to manage the next stage of our journey. Although criticising RAF movement personnel is practically a military obsession, our journey to Minhad Airbase, some 15 miles south of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, was remarkably painless. There we waited for the few hot, sweaty hours' stopover which

*SCOTS DG to QRH
handover of 31 Warthogs*





The Warthog Group DH3 detachment launching in front of a hide



The Tiffy does his bit for poppy eradication



2nd Tp cross the River Helmand into the green zone of Nahr-e-Seraj

would allow us to land at Main Operating Base (MOB) BASTION in darkness.

As the Main Body arrived in BASTION we were reunited with the Squadron's various advance parties who in some cases had been in Afghanistan for almost a fortnight. The following morning we launched straight into the Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI) package designed to bring us up to date with the Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) current in Afghanistan. The RSOI package was very good and acted as a week-long 'zero to hero' refresher in such disciplines as C-IED drills, patrolling, ground-sign awareness, first aid and heavy weapons amongst

others. It afforded us a limited period of acclimatisation and lasted just long enough for the Squadron to decide conclusively that we wanted to get out of BASTION as quickly as possible. The HERRICK 13 WARTHOG Group, Badger 2RTR, were happy to oblige and we headed into the Upper Gereshk Valley for our four-day handover.

This handover was based primarily in the Nahr-e Saraj Dasht¹ (or NES Dasht), an area with which we would become extremely familiar. We also conducted a strike operation onto a suspected IED factory in the Siminar Dasht, northeast of the town of Gereshk, and moved through the Green Zone to the Brigade Headquarters in the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah. We completed our tour of Helmand Province's deserts with a quick loop through the Southern Dasht, which runs down to the border with Pakistan, before returning to BASTION and a final vehicle handover. Badger 2RTR gave us an excellent handover for which we were all extremely grateful. They were friendly, patient and diligent and gave us the confidence we needed to conduct operations in dangerous areas immediately upon assuming command.

It was fortunate that they did as D Squadron assumed operational command of the WARTHOG Group on the morning of Tuesday 10th May and deployed on its first operation that afternoon. This operation lasted approximately a week and was split between Kar Nikah in the far northeast of the Task Force Helmand area of operations and Yakchall, a typical, sprawling Afghan village to the east of Gereshk. This first foray was typical of the vast majority of our subsequent operations during Operation HERRICK 14. It was characterised by lengthy periods of cautious movement over difficult ground, by day and night, through stultifying



The Commanding Officer and Squadron Leader



The Squadron Leader leads the way out of MOB PRICE

¹ 'Dasht' is a Pashto word meaning desert (or field).



Excellent track discipline



Moving through the desert



Corporal McGovern (binoculars) and Corporal Brown (sniper rifle)

temperatures and occasionally punctuated with the barely-controlled chaos of a firefight.

This was the first of many such operations conducted in tandem with the Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF). During the handover between Badger 2RTR and D Squadron the decision was taken to subsume the WARTHOG Group into the 30 Commando (Information Exploitation) Group under Lieutenant Colonel Matt Stovin-Bradford RM. This move placed the WARTHOG Group, the BRF and the Brigade's electronic warfare specialists under one unified command and improved significantly our access to surveillance assets held at brigade level. It also provided us with sufficient 'top-cover' in the Brigade Headquarters to allow the Squadron to operate freely.

WARTHOG is an extremely flexible vehicle and this was reflected in the varied missions and tasks D Squadron received during Operation HERRICK 14. Mission

terminology ranged from the slightly oblique 'Find, Feel and Understand', which involved dominating an area of ground for a period of time and reporting any significant activity, to the rather more self-explanatory 'Kill or Capture'. Over the next six months, the Squadron's thirty one WARTHOGs covered over 60,000 miles in temperatures ranging from a brisk 9 to an altogether less manageable 56 degrees Celsius (48 to 133 degrees Fahrenheit), across the whole of the Task Force Helmand area of operations. Over the course of thirty nine individual squadron operations, we worked in deserts, urban areas, agricultural land and in the infamous Green Zones. No two missions were the same and after many weeks of working at an extremely high tempo operations seemed to, and often did, blur into one another. That said, there was one period in our operational calendar which stands out for a number of reasons.

On Thursday 16th June, whilst we were recovering from an overnight operation in an area of the Upper Gereshk Valley called Adinzai Bazaar, D Squadron experienced a day which will live long in the memory. Following a demanding operation to cross the River Helmand and provide fire support for an operation to seize a known insurgent commander, the Squadron was re-crossing the river and heading south to prepare for subsequent operations. Second Troop, under command of Mr Reith and with Staff Sergeant Percy as Troop Staff Sergeant, crossed without incident and moved south through the desert towards Highway 1, the main route which traverses Afghanistan. First Troop with Mr Ballard-Whyte and Sergeant Smith were less fortunate when rising water levels and a disintegrating river bed conspired to strand a vehicle in mid-river. An initial attempt to rescue this vehicle resulted in a second casualty and a full-blown rescue attempt was launched. All the while, intercepted radio



The Squadron complete with all attachments



Corporal Sebok takes the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief through Op BARMA

traffic suggested that insurgents were preparing to attack the stricken troop.

Meanwhile Second Troop were continuing their move south when the lead vehicle hit an IED in open desert. This disabled the vehicle and ejected the commander from the cupola. Mercifully neither the commander nor the driver was seriously injured although a helicopter-borne Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) was scrambled in support. Once the casualties were removed and the area swept for further devices the Second Troop recovery mechanics set to work to assess how best to extract the damaged WARTHOG. Tragically, as he guided a second vehicle into position to effect the recovery, Craftsman Andrew Found trod on a second device that killed him instantly. It was now clear that there were further very low-metal-content IEDs in the area which could not be picked up by our VALLON metal-detectors and which would require the attention of the Task Force Helmand Counter IED Taskforce.

The arrival of the Counter-IED Taskforce was hampered by terrible dust storms then by a lack of light, as everything that could possibly go wrong seemed to do so. Eventually the Taskforce, using specialist equipment and sniffer dogs, located a further two IEDs and confirmed that they were low-metal-content devices which our VALLON detectors would not pick up. This, combined with the location of the IEDs in open desert and with no obvious ground-sign to alert us as to their presence, meant that Second Troop were the victims of extreme ill fortune as the devices were assessed to have been in the ground for some time. Many hours later, they returned to the safety of Main Operating Base PRICE, outside Gereshk, to regroup.

As Second Troop endured a difficult time to their south, First Troop prepared to extract their stricken vehicles



L-R: Corporal Kelly, Mr Ballard-Whyte, Sergeant Steel

from the River Helmand. The recovery would require a Danish heavy armoured recovery vehicle and this was escorted by a platoon of CV90 infantry fighting vehicles armed with the extremely effective 40mm Bofors Auto-cannon. As first light came on Friday 17th June, the inevitable insurgent attack materialized and First Troop and their Danish counterparts engaged the enemy in a lengthy and ferocious exchange of fire. This was eventually concluded with abundant use of the Bofors cannons, 105mm high explosive artillery and the timely intervention of an AH-64 Apache attack helicopter. The vehicles were duly extracted and the WARTHOGs moved through the desert, with a route cleared by an American mine-clearing convoy, to rendezvous with the remainder of the Squadron in MOB PRICE.

Over the coming months, we had several other IED strikes and many other firefights, including engagements with wildly inaccurate RPGs and a rather more accurate 82mm recoilless rifle, resulting in a variety of minor casualties. None of these events, however, replicated the trauma of the events of Thursday 16th June 2011.

As HERRICK 14 drew to a close, it was difficult to watch the remainder of SCOTS DG, and indeed the remainder of 3 Commando Brigade, leave theatre whilst we still had some weeks to go. It was however equally heartening to see 20th Armoured Brigade, with Major Ben Cattermole as Chief of Staff, and our own replacements from D Squadron of the Queen's Royal Hussars arrive. The last few weeks of our tour flew by as we conducted operation after operation to cover the Relief in Place between the brigades. After final operations in the desert outside Sangin and on the edges of the Green Zone in Nad-e Ali the whole squadron returned to BASTION at the end of October to prepare the vehicles for handover.

Captain Gardiner and Staff Sergeant Allan arranged and oversaw a meticulous programme of vehicle maintenance, servicing and refurbishment as we attempted to replicate the quality of handover we ourselves had received upon arrival. Following the longest Squadron Leader's Stables inspection in living memory, D Squadron SCOTS DG handed the vehicle fleet over to D Squadron QRH and we took our replacements out for a handover operation based, predictably enough, in the NES Dasht.

The Squadron Main Body left BASTION in the small hours of Thursday 10th November and headed, via Minhad, to Cyprus. Any frustrations at our return to Germany being delayed soon evaporated as soldiers and officers reverted to their childhoods playing volleyball on the beach, eating ice creams and riding on the high-speed banana boat in the Mediterranean. The evening comedians, musicians and allocated four cans of beer ensured that everyone went to bed in good spirits. We rose the following morning in even better spirits and another unnervingly efficient group of RAF movers loaded us onto the plane which would take us back to Hannover.

Arriving back in Germany on Remembrance Day, the eleventh of the eleventh 2011, was strangely fitting. Although the cold of a coming North German winter could not wipe the smiles from our faces as we were reunited with our families and loved ones. Many felt the occasion tinged with regret that we hadn't man-

aged to bring everyone home. Much has been written about the death of Craftsman Andrew Found but his loss profoundly affected D Squadron and it will remain with many of us forever.

Morale is high as 2011 draws to a close. Major Williamson and Sarah have departed for company command with 2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles in Brunei and we welcome Major Foulerton and Rebecca in their place. Captain Irwin heads off for pastures new whilst Captain Gardiner has taken over as Families Officer. WO2 Lockwood and Janina, following the former's success at the WO1 board, head for the Driving and Maintenance School in Bovington. Mr Ballard-Whyte has finally achieved the heady rank of Captain and celebrated it by marrying Sophie. Our congratulations go to them both. Staff Sergeant Percy has moved to C Squadron as SQMS, Staff Sergeant Allan to A Squadron as SQMS(T) and Staff Sergeant Hendry on promotion to WO2 has moved to C Squadron as SSM.

2011 was a remarkable year for D Squadron. It saw the culmination of a long period of preparation for operations and the highs and lows of an extremely successful tour of Afghanistan. That the Squadron had the opportunity to uphold the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards' reputation for excellence in mounted close combat on operations is a source of great pride to all concerned.



HQ SQUADRON

For many of the Squadron the return to work after Christmas leave began sharply in 2011. By the 3rd of January the majority of those who had been employed at the Crew Training School (CTS) in Sennelager were required to return complete the hand over to the Queen’s Royal Hussars and to assist in the re-activation of the vehicle fleet which had been moved into the tank hangers in Athlone Barracks over the Christmas stand down. This went well and the Squadron left knowing that the CTS was handed over to the QRH and 20th Armoured Brigade in good order. Simultaneously the squadron had a number of soldiers supporting a Confirmatory and Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) in Castlemartin.

The main focus for the Regiment in 2011 was Op HER-RICK 14, in all, about one third of the Squadron deployed in a variety of roles to Afghanistan. Much to the Squadron Leader’s surprise he was selected at short notice for the role of Quartermaster Camp Bastion and along with a number of other enablers, including AGC (SPS) staff, he deployed to Afghanistan in early February.

By mid March the team, who made up the newly formed Brigade Troops Echelon (BTE), deployed ahead of the main body.

The remainder of the Squadron then became part of the Rear Operations Group (ROG) where, under the management and direction of WO2 (SSM) Potter, they



Headquarters Squadron Officers at the Balaklava Dinner Night

ably supported both the troops remaining in Fallingbostel and those who had deployed to theatre. Separate articles have been written by the departments which will give an idea of the diverse roles and tasks that HQ Squadron personnel undertook.

The Squadron Leader arrived back from Afghanistan in mid August and after some Post Tour Leave assisted OC ROG with the many events that were beginning to fill up the Forecast of Events. He and the RSM were given the task of organising a Medals Parade and All



The Squadron Leader and Ghurkha echelon troops

Ranks Party. Both these events were held on the 24th of November and were hugely successful.

The Squadron Leader with just over 31 years of Regimental experience has seen many people come and go within SCOTS DG, but to make him feel a little more ancient an influx of soldiers joined the Squadron who are the sons of soldiers that joined the Regiment after he did. Troopers Spence, McDowell, McGee and Dempster have all followed their father’s footsteps into the Regiment.

At the time of writing a number of the Late Entry (LE) Officers have moved on or taken up a new posts. The Squadron bade farewell to Captain Kev McDowell, who moves to take up an SO3 post in 7 Armoured Brigade Headquarters and to Captain Mick Lillie (QM T), who has been selected to be SO3 Training and Support at the recently formed CTS in Bovington. The RCMO, Captain Monty Montgomery takes over as QM (T), his replacement is Captain Al Hainey who moves from Welfare Officer. He in turn has been replaced by Captain Jamie Gardiner. Captain “H” Hanson is the new MTO and Squadron 2IC.

Two of the Squadron SNCO stalwarts, namely the SQMS, Staff Sergeant Tony McAndrew and Staff Sergeant Scott Ramsay have both volunteered for the first tranche of redundancy and will leave the Regiment



The Squadron Leader and RSM in Camp BASTION

and the Army shortly. Staff Sergeant McAndrew has done an excellent job as SQMS and the man with the hard act to follow is Staff Sergeant Jim McCormick.



REAR OPERATIONS GROUP – HERRICK 14

The Rear Operations Group (ROG) stood up in January 2011. This grouping principally consisted of HQ and B Squadrons; on paper over two hundred and forty strong and nearly half the Regiment’s strength. Although HQ Squadron had been hollowed out to provide key members of the Brigade Troops Echelon in Camp Bastion the Quarter Master, Training Officer (ROG 2ic), Welfare Officer and HQ SSM remained in Fallingbostel to support the OC, Major Jamie Halford-MacLeod. The ROG also maintained a sizeable LAD which was very much at the heart of all activities.

B Squadron, under Major Tom Kerrigan and WO2 Baillie had the job of providing the Battle Casualty Replacement (BCR) and Individual Replacement (IR) pool. A diverse and demanding role that required a sixth sense to anticipate the broad range of training needs. This job they handled magnificently, providing over forty BCR/IRs during the tour in a wide range

of roles. No fewer than ten of these BCRs going to 1 RIFLES in the Light Role.

While those deploying completed their training, the ROG set about taking over the running of the Firm Base in Wessex Barracks. Key to this was a comprehensive programme of activities run by the Welfare Officer. Careful planning ensured that there was something happening for the families every weekend. The Welfare Staff received uplift with Captain Robin McLeish and Corporals Belt and Brookes joining as Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS). They based themselves out of Edinburgh with the Regimental Support Team. Staff Sergeant Keenan was placed in Birmingham as the Regimental Liaison Officer while WO2 Morris was sent to Headley Court as the Brigade Representative. A vital part of the ORBAT, they provided a direct link into our affairs in the UK and soon established themselves as a motivated and efficient team.

The Training Officer, Captain Nigel Hanson, assumed the post of ROG 2iC and was set to task planning individual courses and the collective training that would be Hybrid Foundation Training in 2012. This was a considerable task in itself and one that required close liaison with the deployed regiment in Theatre and the Bde Staff in Hohne. Meanwhile the Quarter Master, Captain Andy Potter, set about ensuring that all managerial checks and the day to day running of a regiment in camp was not interrupted. A great success and just reward for all of HQ Squadron's efforts was the Equipment Care Inspection (ECI) result; something not to be taken lightly.

As the Squadrons deployed the ROG soon found a rhythm, WO2 Potter ensuring that all duties were manned. This included Casualty Notification Officers and Visiting Officers. He was also tasked with training and providing Bearer Parties. Sadly these were used; the turn out and drill was immaculate.

Sport and Adventure Training played an important part of the ROG's activities and a team returned to Bovington for the Hodson's Horse competition. Unable to bring the trophy home again, they managed a very respectable third place. Teams were also sent sailing and competed in football tournaments across BFG. A scratch team competed in the BFG Tug of War championships held in Hohne. However they were not able to bring any silver home.

The ROG was visited by a number of notable individuals over the summer. Not least the Second Permanent Under Secretary, Mr John Day, who received a comprehensive back brief on life in Germany; some food for thought no doubt. A highlight was the visit by the GOC 1 (UK) Armoured Division, Major General James Bashall. The Barrack Guard rehearsed and drilled itself to the highest standard and even when the GOC approached RHQ from the opposite way expected Mr Dan Lee ensured that they turned out an immaculate present arms. Following a briefing in RHQ the GOC had a good discussion with the wives at the Mother Ross Community Centre.

Waterloo Day was marked with a big regimental barbecue and sports day. Over four hundred people attended; HQ Squadron coming out as the winners over B Squadron in a testing series of events designed by Staff Sergeant Hanna. The final act was a 'dance-off' between the two SSMs and humiliation was assured when the OC ROG was forced onto the stage.

As part of the preparation for the return of Challenger 2 to Wessex Barracks, Vehicle Troop took on an increasingly important role. Most young troopers arriving at

the Regiment for the first time were sent to the Tank Park under the guidance of Sergeant Grant. This troop grew quickly as a steady stream of new recruits arrived in from Bovington over the summer.

The summer went by with surprising speed and before long the ROG was preparing for return of the squadrons from Theatre. The early return of C Squadron was a real bonus and they were greeted on the Regimental Square by their families and the ROG. This set the tone for all the squadrons returning and the Welfare Office put in an incredible amount of work to ensure that no-one came back without a beer and a bacon butty thrust into their hand. Captain Allan Hainey and his team did a magnificent job and were a key stone in the whole ROG set up and operation.

The work of the key ROG personalities can not go unnoticed. The QM, Captain Andy Potter received a GOC's Commendation for his part in delivering the Crew Training School in Sennelager; part of the Mission Specific Training. His work for the ECI and contribution to the general running of the ROG was immense. Captain Nigel Hanson was awarded a Brigade Commander's Commendation for his role as ROG 2iC. He was responsible for planning individual and collective training for 2012. This coupled with the support and general duties of a 2iC made his part in the team all the more critical. The Squadron Sergeant Majors, WO2s Potter and Baillie also received Brigade Commander's Commendations in recognition of their contribution to the Rear Operations Group. Leadership, high standards and pride were corner stones of the ROG and they exemplified these qualities and it shone through.

There are of course those that are not rewarded for their efforts. These unsung heroes were legion in the Rear Ops Group. The QM dept, MT, Vehicle Troop, chefs, PT staff and more all combined to make a very significant contribution to life in Wessex Barracks during the deployment. It is a remarkable thing that there was a genuine feeling of being on the same team that stretched from Theatre to Fallingbostel and back to UK.

The ROG staggered on as all those returning from theatre went away on Post Tour Leave. Thus the work continued as the Medal Parade in Fallingbostel and the Homecoming Parades in Scotland were considerable undertakings. The return of HQ Squadron Leader, Major Cameron, from Bastion was a great addition to the team and he took on the Medal Parade and All Ranks Party. Meanwhile B Squadron Leader, Major Kerrigan, and Captain McLeish forged ahead with plans in Scotland for the Homecoming. The arrival in Wessex Barracks of Major McLeman added even more

depth to the ROG team and he set about detailed planning for Return to Role training in the New Year.

The ROG was finally able to relax when confirmation came through that the last of the BCRs attached to 1 and 5 RIFLES had finally left theatre. The last troops from 7 Armd Brigade to return, this signalled the end

RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

For much of the year Recce Troop was absorbed into the HERRICK 14 ORBAT. It reformed after the homecoming parades were complete in November. Towards the end of deployment on Op HERRICK 14 the RCMO approached the new reconnaissance troop leader, Captain Ben McNeil, and asked, "Who would you like to be in the troop upon reforming?" Slightly taken a back at being given an almost free pick of the Regiment, it gave him the opportunity to select both experienced Recce Troop soldiers to give continuity of experience but also to inject some fresh blood. These were soldiers who were performing exceptionally well at the time on HERRICK 14. The new close reconnaissance soldiers were employed on Warthog, working with the Afghan National Army and Police or as dismounted infantrymen; all were selected on merit,

COMMAND TROOP

The year has seen a great deal of change and disruption within Command Troop, primarily due to the regimental deployment to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 14. Command Troop did not deploy as a formed unit as there was no requirement or role for it to fulfil. Consequently it was temporarily disbanded and personnel were divided between the deploying squadrons, battlefield casualty replacement pool and the Rear Operations Group (ROG).

Those that deployed did so to a wide range of duties, roles and tasks; varying from the mounted Warthog Group to the dismounted ground holding sub unit to working alongside the Afghan National Army. No matter where they were employed, Command Troop took along with them their specialist Bowman and CIS expertise as well as their skills learnt throughout Mission Specific Training.

of duties that included standby Casualty Notification and Visiting Officers. The ROG formally disbanded on 21 Nov 11 with the new Hybrid Foundation Training ORBAT keenly anticipated.

which as it should be due to the nature of the task the troop embarks upon.

After the post operational tour leave period the twenty four members of the newly formed troop immediately started work on the vehicles, getting them up to the required standard to train on. This coupled with the large vehicle specific conversion training and qualifying the soldiers in their new positions has gotten the troop off to a good start. Five new drivers, six new operators and five of the eight car commanders are new to the role. As a result the 2012 training year with culminating with the exercise in BATUS will be a great challenge. A challenge that the troop is eagerly looking forward to and certainly has the quality to succeed in.

Upon regimental re-ORBAT Command Troop has been reformed and brought back together. This has resulted in a plethora of experiences and skills being developed by the challenges and opportunities that they have faced whilst on tour. Together with a fresh influx of new Troopers and JNCOs into the troop, there is also a new RSO, RSWO, BSM and Command Troop Sergeant.

The main challenge facing the troop is to focus upon training in 2012, particularly looking towards Hybrid Foundation Training. This will culminate when the troop deploys to BATUS where we shall be thoroughly put through our paces. I have no doubt that Command Troop will rise to this challenge, fuse together and put to the prairie in good order.

EAGLE AND SPANNER

2011 was a challenging year for the Light Aid Detachment, which saw us spread to the four winds, as separate Fitter Sections and individuals prepared for, and deployed on Operation HERRICK 14 to Afghanistan in a variety of roles and tasks.

January saw two of our Fitter Sections deploy to Salisbury Plain on FTX in support of 42 and 45 Commando Royal Marines. This gave the increased opportunity for the REME personnel to work alongside their Royal Marine Commando counterparts and try to impart at least a vague interest in Equipment Care! Despite the cold, miserable weather, mud-ridden Forward Operating Bases and inadequate repair facilities, the professional attitude prevailed and bonds were formed in preparation for operations; it's amazing what can be achieved when you drop the odd, "hoofing" into conversation with a Marine. Meanwhile, on the opposite end of the training area, D Squadron's Fitter Section were becoming familiarised with the newly introduced WARTHOG, practicing their role as convoy escorts – thankfully not something replicated in theatre. February and early March was taken up with last minute training, and those LAD personnel due to deploy enjoying their hard earned pre-tour leave amongst family and friends.

The fitter section attached to 45 Commando Royal Marines, headed up by Staff Sergeant Bettles, was first to depart for Afghanistan in mid March where his team took up their integrated roles in the many forward operating bases, patrol bases and check points within their area of responsibility in Nad'e Ali (South). Not only were they responsible for a vast array

of equipment, both vehicular and weaponry, they also had the task of maintaining the base infrastructure. This could involve anything from the refrigeration units used to store water and perishable goods to the Base-Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance kit and power generation equipment. The tradesmen would find themselves thinly spread, often without the luxury of higher assistance, but given the mission command to get on and support their respective companies as best they could. Adaptability became crucial, and the guys greatly enjoyed the freedom to conduct expedient repair using sound engineering judgement.

Staff Sergeant Herron's Fitter Section was next to depart in mid to late April, joining their 42 Commando Royal Marines counterparts in the more intense Nad'e Ali (North). Their setup and role was very much similar to that of the 45 Commando Fitter Section, where they routinely found themselves as part of a foot patrol, heading off to some lone check point in which to diagnose and repair a malfunctioning field electrical power supply or deployed in the MAN Support Vehicle (R) to recover a vehicle which had had the misfortune of striking an improvised explosive device. In all locations, the Fitter Sections stepped up like any other troops in forward locations; Craftsman staggered on, JNCOs ran the guard and the seniors coordinated the G3 battle from the Company Operations rooms – it was all hands to the pump.

The Warthog Group's Fitter Section, under the command of Staff Sergeant Graham, were the last to deploy from the LAD. Their main body departed on Easter



Warthog Fitter Section with Craftsman Found towering in the rear rank

Sunday for what would be their logistical and nominal home for the next seven months; Camp Bastion.

As well as the established Fitter Sections, a number of individuals from the LAD were deployed throughout Helmand. Captain Mackay (EME) was employed in HQ Task Force Helmand as SO3 J3 O&D (definitely not normally a REME job) along with the other Officers from RHQ. Lance Corporal Wilding (Technician Electronics) commanded a Jackal attached to 4 SCOTS (as well as operating in the dismounted role), Craftsman Hancock (Vehicle Mechanic) was a MASTIFF driver and Corporal Rooney (Technician Electronics) found himself as the GPMG gunner in one of C Squadron's dismounted multiples. Even less of a REME job

than the EME's, he said, "The job was obviously very different to turning spanners and the learning curve was very steep, however, despite all this, the job was both exciting and extremely rewarding." The LAD were strewn throughout Helmand, in a variety of roles, adapting and overcoming as any good REME soldier does – at the very least it made for a friendly face and a good brew in even the most austere of locations.

Sadly, on 16 June 2011 the LAD lost one of our Recovery Mechanics, Craftsman Andy Found, a proud Yorkshire man who had dismounted into a cleared area to conduct his assessment of an IED struck Warthog belonging to D Squadron's 2nd Troop. He initiated a secondary device whilst ground commanding his

*First Troop, D Squadron
in a bit of a pickle*





vehicle and was killed instantly. This giant of a man (all 6ft 6in of him) illustrated courage, dedication and selfless commitment as he made the ultimate sacrifice performing the trade he loved so dearly. The Fitter Section reformed in their entirety at Camp Bastion (for the first time since the completion of RSOI) and along with other members of D Squadron, reverently repatriated big Andy. He is sorely missed.

Whilst 2nd Troop were stuck in an IED belt awaiting extraction, 1st Troop were also in a dangerous situation. Corporal Robertson, a relatively junior commander and Lance Corporal Anderson were required to recover two Warthogs, which had become stranded in the Helmand River (you may have seen a small snippet on the Warthog documentary aired on channel 4). After nearly being swept away, they were engaged by the enemy from a nearby compound. Over 36 hours of strenuous activity resulted in the Technician and Recovery Mechanic being airlifted to hospital suffering from dehydration and exhaustion, not, however, before he had had a hole drilled into his shin, into which an intravenous drip was administered directly into the bone marrow. Little wonder it took eight men to hold him down!

On Wednesday 22 June the Warthog Fitter Section, along with other members of D Squadron, the LAD and Regiment, were airlifted into Camp Bastion for the repatriation of Craftsman Found. During the early hours of Thursday morning he was placed on the waiting C-17 by six bearers, consisting equally of Regimental and LAD personnel, before returning home to his family. He was buried with full military honours on 8 July in his native Whitby. The turnout of serving soldiers, the Royal British Legion and both REME and Regimental Associations was humbling, he was truly given a hero's send off.

With Staff Sergeant Bettles being selected for promotion and subsequently posted to SEFIT (G), Staff Sergeant Porter took over the post, establishing himself as the 45 Commando Fitter Section Tiffy for the remainder of tour. This left Staff Sergeant Lee back in Fallingbostel preparing for the forthcoming Rear Operations Group Equipment Care Inspection and Staff



The ASM

Sergeant Chisholm preparing to replace Staff Sergeant Graham in late July.

October enjoyed the arrival of LAD soldiers back in Fallingbostel, via the normalisation package held in Cyprus. The tradesmen which had worked alongside 42 and 45 Commando Royal Marines were the first to arrive home and begin their Post Operational Leave, whilst the LAD's Rear Operations Group, under the watchful eye of the ASM, focussed on breaking out a sizable fleet out of Challenger 2 from Whole Fleet Management in preparation for Return to Role Training in 2012.

November came and the roar of a CV12 was again becoming a familiar sound on the tank park. It also saw the return of the Warthog Group Fitter Section and the LAD breathed a sigh of relief as the remainder of our soldiers returned home safely. The medals parade on 24 November was the final time that the LAD would remain in its Op HERRICK 14 structure, with a large number of personnel posted away from the Regiment over the Christmas period in the inevitable churn of our trickle posting system.

What had been a demanding and emotional, yet rewarding year was made all the more difficult when we lost our ASM, Warrant Officer Class 1 (Artificer Sergeant Major) John Buck, the senior tradesman in the LAD, only a few days prior to Christmas. ASM Buck was a fellow Whitby lad to Craftsman Found and had eloquently spoken at his funeral during the summer. In a bewildering twist of events, members of the Regiment and LAD stood side by side in Whitby once

more, in the same church and the same cemetery as we had only six months earlier, laying rest to another of our soldiers with full military honours.

2011 saw REME soldiers from the LAD deploy on Operations to Afghanistan as infanteers, vehicle commanders, staff officers, drivers and tradesmen, not to forget the stalwarts in Fallingbostel supporting our families and laying the foundations for the coming year. We experienced fear, joy, comradeship, pride

and grief. But through it all we stood together, during a year none of us will ever forget, and followed the mantra "Soldier First – Tradesman Always". Those of our ranks who paid the ultimate sacrifice will live on in our collective memories and forever be part of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Light Aid Detachment of which we are all so fiercely proud. Arte et Marte.



AGC (SPS) DETACHMENT

Early 2011 marked the deployment of SCOTS DG on Op HERRICK 14 supported by a Rear Operation Group (ROG). The SPS ROG Detachment undertook an array of support roles to include Battlefield Casualty Replacement (BCR) and Individual replacement (IR) backfill, casualty reporting, rest and recuperation facilitation, management checks and providing personnel administration to the Regiment as a whole.

OP HERRICK 14 saw a number of the Detachment deploy to Camp Bastion (BSN), the RAO Captain Hinds, Corporal Fairbairn, Corporal Clarke and Privates Atkinson and Jammeh all headed out to form the Bastion J1 team. Upon landing it was straight into Reception Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI) training. Day one of the RSOI package came with an unwelcome start, with breakfast at 0530. The full day consisted of mandatory power point presentations and since the soldiers were suffering extreme jet lag some strong coffees were required. The following day was the second and final day



Corporal Clarke with some goodies



The RAO, Captain Stef Hinds, Corporals Clarke and Fairbairn and Lance Corporal Jammeh on a Det day out in Helmand



Corporal Fairbairn and her lottery win



Private Atkinson with a rather damp Afghan shopkeeper

of the RSOI package which including small arms ranges, first aid, environmental health and detainee handling.

A sweep-stake was run against which job roles would be assigned to individuals. The most bewildering choice was that of Corporal Clarke, not known for her compassion, being assigned as the welfare NCO.

The Camp Bastion J1 team, deals centrally with all personnel entering and departing theatre, providing the initial guidance on all administrative and welfare issues. During the Relief in Place (the handover between deploying brigades) all personnel were required to work long and demanding hours to ensure all deployed personnel were administered correctly.

Despite being a very busy unit, members of the Detachment were fortunate enough to be able to conduct some adventure training, in particular Corporal Deshong was able to increase his sailing experience. This was the third time Corporal Deshong had been able to undertake Ex Celtic Crown sailing between the Channel Islands, not even being a qualified competent crew member and his previous experience could prepare him for events to follow. Arriving at Gosport on Sun 12 Sep 11 to join yacht 'Helena' for a week's sailing, joining the six man crew to include the skipper, two competent crew and three novices. The ranks ranged from full Colonel to Private, the atmosphere was professional but relaxed. All pre checks were conducted from safety equipment to food and water supplies. Once the boat was good to go, all personnel attended the mandatory safety briefings to ensure everyone was up to speed and knew the procedures. Day two and Helena made her way from the harbour to the open seas; the wind and tide were with the boat which made for good sailing. Once out in the open the hard work began, it would be a busy few days ahead. When not involved in manning the boat conducting sail changes, tacking, pumping water or keeping look out for

other vessels, you were below deck providing the moral for the other crew members making those all important brews. Day six was of particular note for Corporal Deshong as he recalls his first at sea collision. "The seas were rough and the wind speed was at gale force. I was piloting the yacht from Cowes heading to Southampton and was on the starboard attack when I noticed another yacht in the distance appearing to sail from the direction of port side (left side). I alerted the skipper and as I had the right away I held the same course. As the yacht came closer it appeared to be turning away to head behind us when suddenly a gust of wind caught it. The yacht picked up speed and the wind forced it against the right side of our yacht causing damage to our yacht. Everything around me was happening so fast, we were trying our best to protect our yacht from getting more damaged. Everyone on board was shouting and moving around trying to push away the other yacht. The skipper then took full control of the wheel and steered us away. With this being my first boat accident I was a little shaken along with rest of the crew however it gave me a buzz and I know I want to step up to skipper."

During the tour Detachment personnel undertook tasks from cheque cashing to ordering medals, dealing with pay issues to minor welfare and compassionate cases and ensuring that all personnel involved were provided with PARADIGM phone cards to make that all important call home. Although working day and night to provide the required service to personnel transiting through Bastion the opportunity to visit the Apache attack helicopter squadron presented itself. This opportunity could not be turned down and the experience will live long in the memory of those involved. This was the first operational deployment for a number of the Detachment and the experience will serve them well for future.



MOTOR TRANSPORT TROOP

Motor Transport (MT) Troop regrouped on the closure of the SCOTS DG led 7th Armoured Brigade Crew Training School in early 2011. Very soon after this brief amalgamation the Troop was split to the four winds for the Regiment's Operation HERRICK 14 deployment. The creation of the Brigade Troops Echelon saw Corporals Burton, McLeod and Lance Corporal Weatherston deploy in various roles to support Quartermaster. Corporals Barnes, Martin and Lance Corporal Nicholson all deployed as part of the 7th Armoured Brigade Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI) team that taught the operation of vehicles procured as urgent operational requirements to those who had just deployed.

Meanwhile those left as part of the Rear Operations Group (ROG), remained in MT under direction of the Motor Transport Officer (MTO), Captain Andy Potter, who also stood up as the Quartermaster and Quartermaster Technical. The MTWO, WO2 Stewart Watson adopted the role of RQMS(T) for a short period whilst Sergeant Pete Starr and a very small team supported the Regiment's efforts in Bad Fallingbowl. The majority of the ROG team were either new to MT or had little experience but they strove to maintain the standards required. As well as supporting the Welfare Office throughout, MT carried out all ROG transport requirements that included; R & R flight taskings, Op HERRICK deployments and support to the unit uplift which saw the MT fleet of over 40 vehicles increase by 20 more vehicles. The management of the dreaded JAMES Management Information System and an Equipment Care Inspection were also thrown in for good measure.

Midway through the tour those deployed on RSOI returned to the fold and immediately re-established themselves in ROG MT, assisting greatly as they did. Corporal Martin took on the JAMES NCO role, a hectic high profile role that needed his total commitment. Corporal Barnes took over the Servicing Bay and Lance Corporal Nicholson assumed the role of BOWMAN JNCO.

Sadly mid tour saw many of the ROG MT heavily involved in the funeral of Craftsman Found. At such a sad time their diversity and tenacity shone through in spades as they carried out their duties impeccably.

Within less than a month the MTO and Sergeant Pete Starr had to return to Scotland to oversee the funeral of Lance Corporal Bokas, many of the ROG MT made



The MTWO, WO2 Gibbs, surveys his domain

their way to Lairg to pay their respects, as he was a good friend to MT and will be sadly missed.

In early August, WO2 Gibbs returned from the Command, Leadership and Management Wing in Bovington as the new MTWO; his timing was perfect as he assumed the role a very short time before the Equipment Care Inspection! Almost immediately he started training for the Loch Ness Marathon, he took this task extremely seriously got himself immersed in his training regime, although the MT Troop Sergeant couldn't understand how he attained marathon fitness whilst playing golf.

Eventually, Corporal Brown managed to secure his HAZMAT instructor qualification! He has also assisted the Training Wing teaching General Service vehicle conversions throughout the year, ably assisted by Lance Corporal Williamson who has also deployed to the Hohne Driver Training Centre in lieu of Lance Corporal Meiehofer.

Thankfully many long dedicated hours of preparation from members of ROG MT paid off as we successfully managed to gain a good outcome on the ROG Equipment Care Inspection in September. Throughout the year MT has utilised the facilities provided at the ADAC Training Centre in Luneburg, this facility has provided excellent driving instruction and developed the driving skills of all age groups and abilities. Not only that, it is great fun to throw a car or motorbike around a race track legally. Although someone forgot

to tell Trooper Wilson that he is not allowed to carry on in the same way whilst on the German civil roads in an Army Heavy Goods Vehicle.

During ROG, MT said farewell to WO2 Watson on his completion of 22 years colour service. Troopers Morrison, Dougan and Connell also left us to move to civilian life. Corporal Barnes and Lance Corporal Meiehofer will soon complete their full colour service and head for pastures new.

During Op HERRICK Corporal Munro was seconded to the Troop and was not only a great character

PIPES AND DRUMS

As Operation HERRICK 14 was looming the Pipes and Drums integrated themselves with their respective Squadrons. Four members, Corporals Mowbray and McLauchlan plus Lance Corporals Warren and Hutchison deployed with D Squadron as Warthog Crewman with the remainder being part of Rear Operations Group (ROG) and B Squadron.

With only a small number being deployed the Band were still able to fully function and carry out various engagements in order to help keep the Regiment in the public eye. Troopers Badley, McDowell and O’Neil became the newest members of the Band and started working hard to take part in a heavy schedule for us all. The first major engagement the Pipes and Drums were able to take part in was the Basel Tattoo in Switzerland. There was a great deal of hard work and preparation to ensure that this event was a success and the soldiers ensured that the reputation of being the ‘Best Pipes and Drums in the British Army’ was



The Sovereign's Piper (Derek Potter), Lance Corporal Duncan, Corporal Bruce and Pipe Major Dodds at St James Palace

but proved his worth as a JNCO, so much so that he received special recognition from the General Officer Commanding 1 (UK) Armoured Division during a visit to ROG. The Troop would like to congratulate Lance Corporal Kempton and Siobhan on the birth of their son Carter, Corporal McLeod on his engagement to Louise and bid farewell to the following; Corporal Munro and Lance Corporal Kempton to Command Troop, Lance Corporals Weatherston and Mate and Trooper Riley to B Squadron, Troopers Nolan and Mills to C Squadron, and Lance Corporal Keith to the UWO.



maintained with a flawless performance. After this, the extra engagements came thick and fast, although Corporal Bruce’s inability to say ‘no’ to a free dram certainly helped fill up the diary.

After spending a couple of months in Afghanistan, Lance Corporal Warren returned to complete his driving and maintenance instructor’s course and, no sooner had he passed, he was back on the plane and re-deployed on tour.

With only 4 days back in Fallingbostel following Basel; we were back on the bus to take part in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The Edinburgh Tattoo is spread over the month of August with a week of rehearsals culminating in a schedule of 28 shows in 23 days. The Tattoo was marred at the start when on 8 August we were given the disturbing news that our colleague and friend, Lance Corporal Bokas, had passed away. This was an extremely sad time for the Band members who all came together professionally and carried on with the Tattoo. The Band members were able pay their respects to Lance Corporal Bokas since they became the Funeral Party for his Funeral. This was helped by the Tattoo Staff and Brigadier Allfrey, who made it possible to get from Edinburgh Castle to Lairg (not far from Wick) and back in time for the BBC recording that evening. This was thanks to Brigadier Allfrey’s friends in the helicopter pilot fraternity who ‘conveniently’ had a training flight with their Chinook in the area!

Corporal McLauchlan returned from Operations to live up to his reputation of being the model of ‘Gary Tank Commander’ and is currently half way through the CR2 Commanders Course. After an emotional Tattoo and a couple of weeks leave we returned to work to be greeted



Rehearsal for Sting's 60th Birthday Charity Concert at a secret location

with some great, but unconfirmed, news. A lady called Trudie Styler had seen us at the Tattoo and wanted the Pipes and Drums to play for her husband’s 60th Birthday celebration. A bit of over kill you may think but, then again, her husband is Gordon Sumner, also known as Sting! With arrangements going down to the wire the contract wasn’t confirmed until 12 hours before the departure time. Once all was confirmed we left Fallingbostel to catch a flight from Heathrow to Newark in New York City.

On the other side of the pond it was hectic. We had the usual customs palaver however, after sweet talking a few members of the American Customs Agency and flashing the Army ID Card we were rushed through without a glitch. After check in we headed to a secret location to show Mrs Sting what we could do and after a few hours and some deliberation, the programme was set and we were ready for what was coming.

An early rise was on the cards for show day as Mrs Sting wanted to take us out for breakfast. After a few more hours of rehearsals the excitement and nerves started to kick in and before we knew it, we were in full dress and on the bus en route to the Beacon Theatre.

In true Army fashion, on arrival at the theatre we were ushered off the bus and taken inside to hang around

for an hour but this gave us a chance to catch up with Will I Am (William) and Robert Downey Jnr in the foyer. With a short intro from Mrs Sting, Pipe Major Dodds started proceedings with a Solo rendition of ‘Alone with My Thoughts’, this was a piece of music sent on the QT from Mrs Sting to the Band which has a deep meaning to both Mr and Mrs Sting. After the first part of the song the remainder of the Band started playing and when the house lights were turned up the star studded audience became apparent. Some of the first people spotted were Iron Mike Tyson and Tom Hanks. The next number was happy birthday which was sung by all members of the Pipes and Drums and featured Lady Gaga, Bryn Terfel, Stevie Wonder, Mary J Blige, Robert Downey Jnr, Will I Am (William), Jimmy Nail and Bruce Springsteen to name but a few.

We then attended the after show party which was all glitz and glamour. We were able to present a Regimental Dirk to Sting as a birthday present to which he said, “Ah a Dirrrrk, this will take pride of place in my house”.

All in all it will go down as a career highlight not only for the younger members of the Band but also the old and bold who have been there, done that and got the



The Pipes and Drums on stage with some other folk...

Pipe Major Dodds on stage playing ‘Alone with My Thoughts’ composed by Sting.





Corporal Mowbray trying out a new counter insurgent tactic!

t-shirt. We have now all been there, done that and have a signed Drum Skin to prove it! To be involved in such a high profile star studded event was simply amazing and we are glad that the Pipes and Drums, with the help of Brigadier Allfrey, were given the opportunity to represent the Regiment.

The Regimental Charity, Caring for Courage, allowed the Band to take part and help raise some substantial amounts of money by performing at various engagements. No sooner had we played for one member of the Royal family, HRH Duke of Kent, we were asked to play for the Regimental Dinner at St James Palace with Her Majesty The Queen. This gave us a fantastic opportunity to meet up and pipe with the Sovereigns Piper, Pipe Major Potter.

October and November saw the Regiment return from Op HERRICK 14 and allowed the deployed members of the Band a return to the ‘Tartan Role’ to take part in the Medals Parade and also the Homecoming Parades in Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh. This was a fantastic opportunity for old and new members to lead the Regiment marching, through the fore mentioned cities, to a well deserved and fantastic reception from both ex members of the Regiment and families of those who had deployed. It was also the first outing for the new Drum Major Pride since completing his Drum Major’s Course at the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming in Edinburgh.

The Pipes and Drums worked busily with various functions throughout the Regiment with performances at the All Ranks Party, Balaklava and the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess. Lance Corporal Duncan had spent the most of the operational tour attached as a piper in Edinburgh. This allowed him to compete at many Solo competitions to keep the Regiment’s name alive within the civilian competing circuit.



Marching past the Edinburgh City Chambers led by Drum Major Pride

His fantastic achievements are as follows:

Lance Corporal Duncan 2011 Solo Competition Prizes

Competition	Placing	Event
Kingdom Thistle	4th	Hornpipe & Jig
RBL Scotland	1st	Hornpipe & Jig
RBL Scotland	3rd	March
RBL Scotland	3rd	Strathspey & Reel
RBL Scotland	4th	Piobaireachd
RBL Scotland	2nd	Overall
Markinch	6th	Piobaireachd
Strathmore	3rd	March
Strathmore	4th	Strathspey & Reel
Strathmore	3rd	Piobaireachd
Aberdeen	2nd	Hornpipe & Jig
Aberdeen	3rd	Piobaireachd
Aberdeen	4th	March
Arisaig	2nd	March
St Andrews	2nd	Jigs
St Andrews	4th	March
St Andrews	4th	Strathspey & Reel
Cowal	1st	Piobaireachd
Blairgowrie	3rd	March
Blairgowrie	3rd	Strathspey & Reel
Pitlochry	1st	Strathspey & Reel
Pitlochry	4th	March
Dunrobin Castle	4th	Piobaireachd
Dunrobin Castle	4th	MMSR
Scottish Pipers Society	2nd	MSR

The Pipes and Drums welcome to their families three new additions. Corporal Lovell and Lynne had a son, Owen, Lance Corporal O’Hanlon and Hollie a son, George, and Corporal Bruce and Kat a sixth child, Mia. It has been a busy year for the Pipes and Drums both green and tartan and we owe a debt of gratitude to the support of our families and girlfriends for their support which makes a huge contribution to our success, whether it is on Operations or Pipes and Drums engagements.



THE GUARD ROOM

It’s been a busy year due to the deployment of the majority of the Regiment to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 14, however high standards of turnout and discipline had to be maintained. With our team of Sergeant Gowland, Corporals Brisbane and Ketedromo and Lance Corporal Torrance in place, the Regiment was policed to a high standard. With a large amount of new soldiers arriving in the Regiment it was the Provost Staff’s duty to ensure that they were educated on the high standards expected and for those who strayed there were the usual show parades, work parades and a few volunteers for restriction of privileges all of which kept the Provo staff busy.

Sergeant Gowland kept a beady eye over things, ensuring the Guardroom was likewise maintained to a high standard. His attention to detail even extended to the point of harassing civilian contractors about the new wall outside the guardroom.

As the Regiment made its journey on tour the camp fell silent, Corporal Ketedromo deployed as part of the RSOI team in February and returned to us in May, just as Sergeant Gowland embarked on his final months in the army having completed twenty two years Colour Service. June marked the start of his resettlement courses and although away from his desk, his attention to detail ensured no stone was left unturned and his strict set of orders and directions where adhered to the letter.

Our team then became smaller with Lance Corporal Chris Torrance moving across to HQ Squadron SQMS Staff as the arms’ store man. Sergeant Gowland finished his time and left the Army in October, he had a successful tour as the Regimental Provo Sergeant, and it is testament to his attitude to soldiering that he



Sergeant Gowland with the Guardroom staff

remained fully focussed on his role right up to the day he left the Regiment. His attention to detail and sound working practices have meant that the Provost Staff are ideally equipped to deal with any eventuality.

The team subsequently consisted of Corporal Brisbane and Corporal Ketedromo who ably ran the show until the arrival of the new Provo Sergeant, Sergeant Campbell. He arrived from theatre on the Friday after serving with D Squadron and started in his new job on the Monday. The Regiment has now re-orbated which will mean a complete change of staff for the New Year however as always we will be ready to get amongst the soldiers and maintain the Regimental standards in 2012. Corporal Ketedromo has now moved for another stint in MT Troop and Corporal Brisbane shortly departs to civilian life.



QUARTERMASTER’S DEPARTMENT

Post Christmas leave in early 2011 the Quartermasters department was immersed in the deployment to Operation HERRICK 14. The Quartermaster, Captain Kev McDowell, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (RQMS) Mack, Sergeant Ross and Corporal Irwin all prepared to deploy in various roles within the Brigade Troops Echelon (BTE). Lance Corporal Collingwood also deployed as part of the Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI) team in Camp Bastion as the ammunition storeman. Simultaneously Corporal

Beggs the resident clothing storeman procured and distributed the Op HERRICK personal clothing issue of equipment to the deploying Regiment.

On completion of all mandatory training and combined arms exercises those who would deploy were back in Germany for a final Regimental Parade with the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Duke of Kent, prior to deployment. Mid March saw Captain Kev McDowell hand over the Quartermaster’s reins



The regimental tailor hard at work

to Captain Andy Potter (the current MTO), and those who would deploy with the BTE then had a small amount of leave before deploying to Theatre.

During the tour in the Rear Operations Group (ROG), the Quartermaster also acted as QM(T), MTO, RQMS and ammunition storeman until early June when WO2 Adams returned as the RQMS from his deployment on Op HERRICK 13 as part of the Military Stabilisation and Support Group. Lance Corporal Collingwood also returned after his tour with the RSOI to take over the ammunition account. Meanwhile those left behind for the duration of Op HERRICK 14 on ROG; Corporal Beggs, Troopers Clarke, McCrindle, Gilchrist and Ntanga maintained the home front. They were ably assisted by the civilian staff that are an integral part of the team; Mr Ian Neilson, Mr Wayne Dutton, Mr John Taylor and Mrs Amanda Fraser.

After a very short period of time in camp the RQMS and Trooper McCrindle travelled to Edinburgh to take part in the Armed Forces Day celebrations in late June. This was the perfect opportunity for the RQMS to don Regimental full dress and carry the Regimental Standard with pride down the Royal Mile. Whilst this is normally a once in a lifetime event he was to repeat the honour later in the year.

Mid tour Corporal MacLeod moved from the Rations Store to assist as a supernumerary clothing storeman. Meanwhile under direction of the Quartermaster he kept a watchful eye on Corporal Beggs in order to learn his new trade. At the same time WO2 Mack returned to Fallingbommel from the BTE for a short period prior to handing his personal holdings in and heading for civilian life on completion of his twenty two years of colour service.

During the tour the ROG undertook the administration, organisation and running of two military funerals. The Quartermaster acted as Funeral Officer for Craftsman Found and assisted in the execution of the funeral of Lance Corporal Bokas. The support of the whole department ensured that the funeral parties were immaculately turned out and prepared for their duties. This was especially true of Mr John Taylor, the Regimental Tailor, who diligently assisted and of the Quartermasters from other units who assisted, both in Germany and UK.

Throughout the operational period the Regiment went through a substantial uplift in unit vehicle equipment holdings which required a great deal of planning and preparation by the Quartermaster and RQMS, who doubled as QM(T)/MTO and RQMS(T) respectively. Additionally, with little management to assist, the unit

also underwent a Rear Operations Group Equipment Care Inspection. Many hours were spent scrutinising the JAMES MIS system and vehicle husbandry in order to ensure that the Regiment was as prepared as it could be. Indeed the certificate of non-conformity submitted by the Regiment is now legendary within the Brigade. Thankfully all members of the ROG G4 team that comprised both QM/QM(T) departments, Vehicle Troop, MT and the LAD pulled together; and through hard work and determination achieved a good result on both projects.

Post Op HERRICK 14, Sergeant Ross and Corporal Irwin returned to the Quartermaster's department and assumed their old posts of Accommodation SNCO and Ammunition NCO respectively. Almost immediately Sergeant Ross handed over the massive accommodation account to a fledgling of the department, Corporal Gillon, and headed to Regimental Headquarters as the new Assistant Careers Management Officer. Corporal Gillon is no stranger to the wonderful world of G4 having spent a few years learning his trade in QM(T). In October on completion of his twenty two years service, Corporal Beggs formally handed the clothing account over and headed for pastures new. However he hasn't gone too far away, he is now one of the storemen in the NAAFI Max in Fallingbommel.

QM(T)

The Quartermaster (Technical) department has had a busy and fluid 2011. February saw the department split three ways. The QM(T) Captain Lillie was sent to C Squadron to act as their liaison officer; the RQMS(T), WO2 Chantry, along with WO2 Ramsay, Sergeant Stone

The period prior to the end of 2011 was just as busy for the department as the rest of the year. The department assisted OC Headquarter Squadron in the set up and organisation of the Regimental Medal Parade and All Ranks Party. Then the Regiment embarked on homecoming parades in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee. To enable these events the RQMS deployed forward with a small team Redford Cavalry Barracks to support all G4 matters, whilst the Quartermaster remained in Fallingbommel and began planning for the next turn of the training cycle. Once more the RQMS had the opportunity to don regimental full dress and carry the Regimental Standard with pride.

Throughout the year there has been a lot of movement of personnel for a small department. We bid farewell to the following and their families; Captain Kev McDowell and Bertha, WO2 Mack and Claire, Sergeant Ross and Katrina, Corporal Beggs and Roz and to Trooper Ntanga who has left us in to pursue a career in the Royal Army Medical Services. Finally, congratulations must go to Trooper McCrindle who had a very busy December 2011, he was promoted to Lance Corporal, married Natalie and attended his AA Ammunition Storeman's course!



The Quartermaster's department staff



The RSM and RQMS(T) before a 24km run

and Corporal Morgan-Williams became part of Brigade Troops Echelon (BTE) and the remaining members of Tech became part of the Rear Operations Group.

Op HERRICK 14 saw the emergence of a new echelon requirement for the deployment of 3 Commando Bde designated the Brigade Troops Echelon. Their role was to provide G1/G4 support to the elements of 7 Armcd Bde who lacked a dedicated G1/G4 chain of their own. As a result the BTE supported three rifle companies of 3 MERCIANS, the Brigade Reconnaissance Force, drawn from 3 Commando Brigade, the Formation Reconnaissance Squadron (9/12L), the Warthog Group (C Squadron SCOTS DG), one and a half companies worth of 2 RGR acting as the Police Mentoring advisory Group (PMAG), the MOD Police detachment and Task Force Helmand LAD. These troops numbered over a thousand personnel.

Whilst the task described to us before departing for theatre sounded daunting, the reality was worse. We soon found out that the BTE owned 46% of all the



WO2s Chantry and Adams, RSM Lamb, Major McDowell and Captain Montgomery

planned repair items in theatre, with a weekly turn over of equipment valued in excess of £1.5 million. Despite these challenges the team stepped up to the mark and was congratulated by the theatre G4 chain prior to departing.

During the tour a number of the team took part in the Race for Courage event. Sergeant Stone was initially a member of the ‘oldies’ team but unfortunately tripped over his own feet and broke his ankle. Staff Sergeant



Finished!



The QM(T) and that girl from the X Factor

Campbell, the Bowman SQMS, took over for Sergeant Stone and helped ensure we beat the team based in Lashkar Gar to the grand finish in Edinburgh.

One of our many jobs was to supervise the Board of Officers for each Sub-Unit. This task fell to the RQMS(T) and Corporal Morgan-Williams who deployed forward to ensure the checks were carried out correctly. This proved to be a welcome break from camp routine. WO2 Ramsay took on the role of MTWO for the BTE. This proved to be a good break from his normal role of Tech Staff Sergeant. His competitive spirit came to the forefront when he heard that another soldier was eating more pizzas than him, he then spent the remainder of his tour ensuring the market shares of Pizza Hut remained buoyant. The members of Tech who stayed behind as part of the ROG, Corporals Gillon, Mcshane and Cambridge and Lance Corporal Naiticula performed remarkably in the absence of a QM(T) and RQMS(T) and successfully kept the QM(T) department operational and providing an essential service to the members of the Regiment not deployed.

The return from theatre marked another re-orbat of the QM(T) department in readiness for the training year. Captain Lillie (QM(T)) departed to the CTS in Bovington, WO2 Chantry (RQMS(T)) took over as A Squadron SSM, Staff Sergeant Ramsay took redundancy and is skipping his way to civilian life and Corporal Gillon has moved to the QM’s as Accommodation NCO. The QM(T) department welcomes Captain Montgomery as QM(T) and WO2 O’Conner as RQMS(T).



TRAINING WING

The pace of life in the regiment in 2011 was particularly demanding. The Training Wing faced the daunting task of ensuring that those that were due to deploy on Op HERRICK 14 were qualified, current and competent. A plethora of courses, both internal and external, had to be planned to ensure that the correct start state was met before deployment to Afghanistan. C Squadron had to re-role to become a ground holding company with 4 SCOTS Battle Group and D Squadron had to re-role to Warhog both of which brought a large training bill.

In January, 2011 Captain Hanson eventually returned from his vacation as the Chief Instructor at the Crew Training School (CTS) in Sennelager, within a week of returning he moved into Regimental Headquarters to assume his new role as 2iC Rear Operations Group (ROG), much to the dismay of the Training Warrant Officer, WO2 Baird who thought the Training Officer had finally returned to the Training Wing!

As soon as the HERRICK courses were completed there was a new change in direction looming. With

WO2 Baird guiding the ship, ably assisted by the rest of the staff, including Mrs Debbie Hewitt, our cheerful Training Wing Clerk, they set about the task of training as many of the ROG as possible in addition to the normal pre course training (PCT) for those about to depart on course. This included PCT for Challenger 2 and CVR(T) Gunnery, Driving and Maintenance and Signals Instructors, AFV Crew Commanders and also Junior Command Course Module 2 courses.

With approximately half the regiment rear based, the aspiration was to get as many of the soldiers on ROG loaded onto Royal Armoured Corps Employment Structure focussed courses to enhance their career progression. The first course put in place was a Potential Non Commissioned Officer (PNCO) course, mainly for those in ROG and those in D Squadron on the cusp of deployment. Corporal Lavallin, using his skills from previous PNCO courses, was instrumental in the planning, construct and delivery of the course which made it a resounding success. As a result another course was planned and executed in the summer. In addition to the normal attendance on RACES courses



The Training Wing staff

at the Armour Centre, we also dispatched as many personnel as we could muster on non-RAC type courses.

Meanwhile, our resident Regimental Gunnery Staff Sergeant headed for a warmer climate and spent three months in Afghanistan as part of the RSOI team. Once the very sun tanned Sergeant Ward returned he set about the task of training twenty four CR2 Gunners and thirty two Loaders with assistance from Sergeant Cooper and other regimental gunnery instructors. There was also a pre course training requirement for Challenger 2 Commanders, Gunnery Instructors and JCC module 2 students. This kept the PGTE building ticking over and, at times, it was a hive of activity.

After returning from the AFV CIS School in April 2011, Sergeant Wallace took over the appointment of BOWMAN Systems Manager (BSM). He immediately tapped into his contacts at the CIS School in Bovington and managed to secure places on a Part 2 Signals course. Internal Signals courses were also conducted bringing the total amount of trained personnel to 39. He also hit upon the idea of introducing Signals training into the PNCO course dismounted exercise. A Command Post (CP) was established on the local training area and it was used to issue orders and maintain a safety net during the exercise phase. This will be incorporated into all future PNCO courses. In between courses at regimental duty the BSM was kept busy attending a BACMS, Crypto Custodians and Unit BSM's course. The new RSWO, Staff Sergeant Kennan returned to the regimental duty in Apr 11 and was immediately tasked to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) in Birmingham as the Regimental Liaison Officer to act as the liaison between any injured soldiers that had returned from Afghanistan and their families. Thankfully, only a few SCOTS DG soldiers passed through QEH on his watch. On completion of his LO duties he completed his RSWO course before returning to regimental duty.

At the other end of the Training Wing corridor, The Colleges' Partnership have been working with the Regiment for the last ten years, enabling soldiers to gain worthwhile civilian qualifications in Engineering and Telecommunications. As of 2011, soldiers employed as Storemen in the two QM's departments have also been able to attain recognised qualifications in Warehousing and Storage.

Despite a busy year on operations, the Regiment is still amongst the best performers in the RAC. This is due to an ongoing commitment to promoting the personal development of soldiers and to arm them with the qualifications to succeed in civilian life after their army career has ended.

Current apprenticeships allow soldiers to gain qualifications in Functional Skills (FS) Maths, English and ICT as well as other soft Key Skills (KS) such as Working with Others and Improving Own Learning and Performance. National Vocational Qualifications are delivered to Level 3 and when used in combination with FS and KS will result in Diplomas. These initiatives have already helped SCOTS DG soldiers secure employment after leaving the regiment. In addition to making ex-soldiers attractive to employers the courses also develop their command, leadership and management potential whilst they are serving. completion of FS and KS at Level 2 will give them the required academic prerequisites for promotion to SNCO which benefits both the individual and the regiment. In a full twenty two year career soldiers will begin to gain ever higher qualifications ultimately achieving Level 7 awards in management which will mean that they will be able to compete far more effectively with civilians in the job market.

Finally, during 2011 we said farewell to a number of the Training Wing staff. Captain Hanson completed his time as Training Officer and has since moved on to become HQ Squadron Second in Command and MTO. The RSWO, WO2 Taylor, was posted on promotion to WO1 to ARMCEN as the PSLO G3 Training. Newly promoted Staff Sergeant Ward takes up a new and challenging post in the Quartermaster Technical Department and Sergeant Cooper has now taken up the reigns of B Squadron SQMS(T). Our BSM, Staff Sergeant Campbell has left us for another two year posting to the CIS School. Departures generate arrivals, so we welcome Captain Fyvie as the new Training Officer, Staff Sergeant Kennan as RSWO and Staff Sergeant Blair takes up the D&M SNCO position. Staff Sergeant Smith is now in place as the new RGSS and is looking forward to a regimental firing period in 2012.

The Training Wing is often viewed upon as one of the less glamorous departments in the regiment however, like other departments, is a vital cog that needs to keep turning. That it has done so in 2011 is a result of the hard work and enthusiasm of all the Training Wing staff, military and civilian, throughout the year.



GYMNASIUM

With half of the regiment deployed on Op HERRICK 14 it was down to the Rear Operations Group (ROG) to uphold the sporting successes of the Regiment. This was demonstrated during the deployment by the ROG taking part and hosting various events.

In Hodson's Horse RAC championships' The ROG achieved a respectable 3rd Place with members of the regimental team competing in multiple games with out resting.

The unit also entered the renowned Alpine challenge a 2 day multi event consisting of mountain marathons, mountain biking and canoeing with the team finishing in 6th position.

As if this was not enough the unit also entered several teams into Exercise Rhino Soldier, a 'tough guy' style competition. The teams had to complete a 10 km run while taking on 20 obstacles on the route.

During the deployment ROG held a Waterloo day which involved Sporting activities for the families to compete in and against each other, the highlight of the day being the SSM challenge which saw SSMs Potter and Bailie go head to head on a dance off which



HQ Sqn Exercise Rhino Soldier Team



LAD Exercise Rhino Soldier Team, before



LAD Exercise Rhino Soldier Team, after



Regimental Exercise Rhino Soldier Team

made it's way on to you tube allowing those soldiers deployed in Afghanistan to get a glimpse of this event.

The gymnasium continues to improve its facilities with it's new cross-fit training and Spinning class areas. Numbers of individuals attending the gym con-

tinue to increase; this is partly due to Mrs Frazer and Mrs Grant who recently qualified as exercise to music, body resistances and spinning instructors and are now delivering classes for unit dependents.



REGIMENTAL AID POST

2011 was a tumultuous year for the RAP. Not only did it see the tireless preparations for Operation HERRICK 14, but also a significant shift in manning.

Op HERRICK 14 was a successful tour for the RAP's medics and doctors. It saw our outgoing doctors deploy to remote locations over the area of operations, giving them a chance to gain further experience in clinical care of casualties whilst operating in austere

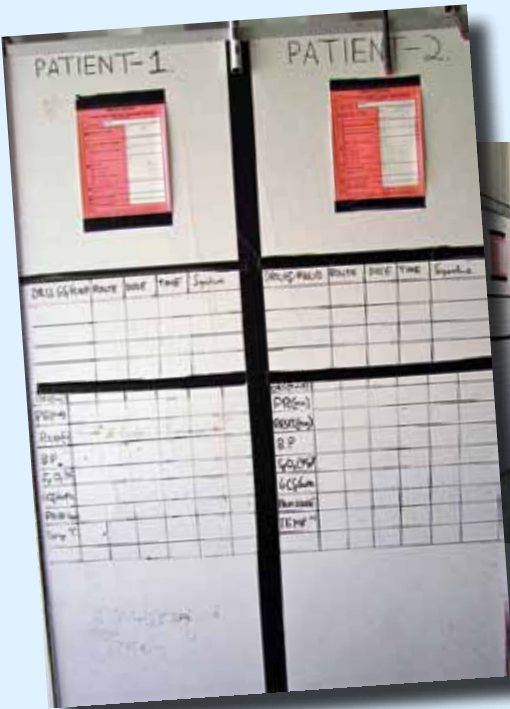
environments; quite a change from the Sick Parade at Fellingbostel. Deploying on combat operations is a real opportunity for our medical staff; it gives them the experience of operating with limited equipment and support, often dealing with injuries that you, hopefully, would not see in civilian practice.

Major Johnston was posted with 42 Commando, and performed so well that they dined her out in theatre. Captain Barlow, attached from 2 Medical Regiment, also had the chance to cut his teeth; he was exposed to a number of challenging medical emergencies and returned from tour a far more capable military doctor. Captain Barlow has now left us to train to become an anaesthetist, perhaps one day operating from the Medical Emergency Response Teams (the medical team on board casualty evacuation tasked helicopters) that have become so well known in Afghanistan. Major Johnston has moved on to Salisbury. They will both be missed by the regiment.

Whilst Op HERRICK 14 was challenging for the doctors, it's difficult to describe how hard our medics had to work. The tour saw the SCOTS DG CMT's (Combat Medical Technicians – 'medics') deployed with other Battle Groups, as well as their own regiment. Corporal



CMT on patrol



Medical state board in the field

Silva spent time working with the operations company of 4 SCOTS in what was a busy tour. He deployed on over fifty combat patrols, including helicopter assaults, often staying in rough and arduous locations. He received praise from his OC on tour as a result of his hard and dedicated work. Corporal Silva is now leaving us for his next assignment; once again the regiment will lose a dedicated and hard working medic.

Corporal West was assigned to Bastion Hospital. This is considered by many to be the finest trauma hospital in the world. Indeed if you are shot in Afghanistan, the chance of a favourable outcome is far higher than if you came to grief on the Old Kent Road! Corporal West



A forward aid post

worked in both accident and emergency and operating theatres, gaining vital experience which he will continue to draw from throughout his career. As you can see from the photographs; Bastion is a first rate hospital, similar in standard to any NHS equivalent.

Lance Corporal Gurung was with 42 Commando, again having a busy tour. The life of a medic on operations is a difficult one; they are required to be on every patrol, and are often in short supply, this essentially means that they are constantly on the move, all the time having the looming threat of having to deal with a battlefield casualty. He had supplied some photos of his RAP which make for an interesting comparison with our own one back at base.

Meanwhile Lance Corporal Hughes was deployed with 4 SCOTS, also with the Ops Company. She also spent a lot of time 'on the ground', in one IED incident, dealing with multiple casualties and a MERT call in. Lance Corporal Walker



Corporal West on patrol



An operational medical kit

saw time with the Combat Logistic Patrols, whilst Lance Corporal Needleman was based with out very own Warthog Group, of television fame; although somehow managed to dodge the cameras, an Special Forces medic in the making!

We also lost Corporal Holby almost immediately after the tour. As with the other medics he had a successful and challenging tour. He has moved on to train the future CMTs at Keough Barracks, Aldershot.

CATERING DEPARTMENT

This year has been yet another year that seems to have flown by and as usual the SCOTS DG Catering Department has been kept busy. The main effort for 2011 was to get all the deploying chefs trained up and ready to deploy onto OP HERRICK 14. This was achieved and on a cold winter's morning in February 2011 when the chefs left Germany for some much needed sun in Afghanistan. The tour went well with the chefs shak-



Medical supplies in a FOB

If Op HERRICK 14 was hard, then the Rear Operations Group was a nightmare; casualties everywhere, everyday in the MRS; With some of the worst cases of 'hurty' knee and twisted ankle ever seen in combat. Luckily we had Lance Corporal Dallyn and Lance Corporal Walker (who later absconded to Afghanistan to escape all the hideousness) to hold the fort, and hold it they did. Not only did Lance Corporal Dallyn have to prepare for an Equipment Care Inspection whilst concurrently seeing to the general care of the ROG, she also had a far more daunting task; dealing with the arrival of the new Regimental Medical Officer, fresh out of a gruelling eleven and a half weeks at Sandhurst. This is a daunting task, with the typical RAMC doctor approach to dress codes and timekeeping.

The RAP now looks to the year ahead. Preparations are frantically underway for the next ECI, with Lance Corporal Walker leading the charge. We have BATUS looming on the horizon, with CT1 and ranges coming up. We look forward to seeing the medics in action in the coming months as they develop and hone their medical skills.



field kitchen, and, rather carelessly, himself on fire and whilst dancing around in a pool of fuel. He is yet to live this down. Fortunately he escaped with had no serious injuries, bar to his pride and eyebrows!

Meanwhile the majority of Rear Party Chefs were keeping them selves busy back in Fally, with numerous functions and charity events. In June we bade farewell to WO2 (SQMS) Rob Fisher who was left for civilian life. The newly appointed 'Chief Chips' is Staff Sergeant Billy Storrs and he has now settled in and is relishing the numerous tasks ahead.

In June Sergeant Kathy Dennis, Lance Corporal Pople and Private Reid kept busy by getting involved in the Brigade Well Women activities in Open Days around the Garrison, raising a substantial amount of money for the SCOTS DG charity 'Caring for Courage'.

In July the ROG Chefs primed all their military skills and took part in EX RATS CATERER which tested all their core military skills as well as their fitness. It was an amusing sight to see Sergeant Mann, Corporal Griffin and Private McMullen being put through their paces on the bayonet stand by the instructors from 2RRE, but it paid off well as the team then went on to compete in a 1 (UK) Armoured Division competition - EX RHINO CATERER 11 and came a highly credible 4th place out of 27 teams within the Division.

Staff Sergeant Storrs led the Division's team to take part in EX JOINT CATERER (This is a Joint Services Catering Competition) and somehow managed

to round up all suitable chefs from around the Division to attend a training week in Sennelagar followed by more training at the Food Services Wing (FSW) in Worthy Down, the competition week itself took place at Sandown Park. This was a hugely successful event with Private Coleman (SCOTS DG Chef) walking away with a silver and gold in the Open Afghan Field Challenge and Open Field Challenge.

In August the Catering Department took part in EX DESSERT RATS. This involved the wider community in getting involved in producing their favourite dessert - which had everyone drooling over the sight of Fullers Restaurant full of mouth watering delights. Later in the month most of the ROG Chefs went on a much deserved leave and came back fighting fit and refreshed for the next phase - predominantly preparing the Department ready for the return of the Regiment.

The Squadrons returned during October and November which was good to see and as a Department we set about preparing for the Medal Parade All Ranks Function - this was a fantastic event and good to see the Regiment back.

December is a traditionally busy time of year for the chefs and this year is no different but typically as Army Chefs there is plenty of festive spirit in both senses of the words. The chefs will all enjoy a good period of Christmas Leave so they can refresh themselves and get ready for the Regiment's return to Role in January 2012.



Chefs at Ex JOINT CATERER at Sandown Park

STABLES TROOP

The preparation and subsequent deployment of most of the Regiment to Afghanistan has significantly impacted equitation. The focus has therefore been on improving the stables, purchasing new horses and preparing for the 2013 polo season.

Whilst the Regiment was deployed the two horses and three ponies were sent to Senelager, which was the most sensible and cost effective way to look after them. The polo ponies were cared for by Corporal Harnetty, at Major Boyle's yard and Talavera and Percy were in livery at the Paderborn Equitation Centre. The forth pony, Hope, was sold to Captain Holtum, with the concept of purchasing her back following the tour. Major Boyle and Corporal Harnetty played extensively on the German polo circuit throughout the summer.

On return from deployment, the Regimental stables were opened once again, although the ponies are currently out for the winter and the two horses are not yet fit



The Chase

enough to hunt. Major Foulerton managed to hunt with the Portman, Wynnstay and Berwickshire during his leave. At the end of March the polo ponies will begin their build up for the forthcoming season, starting with a tournament in Fallingbostal in early June and there should be opportunity for the Regiment to play throughout the summer.

After many years, Talavera has now been returned onto the army account, which means that she is an authorised Regimental mascot and therefore her costs are paid for by the MoD. This has seen a substantial saving to the Regimental trust. Talavera and Percy are now at the end of their working lives and both will need replacing within the next two years. In the meantime a new grey will be purchased to accompany Percy on parade and provide a horse of sufficient ability to event and hunt.

As the only remaining Regimental stables in the Line Cavalry it is imperative that momentum is maintained in equitation whilst there is a little more time available for sport in the forthcoming year.



Hunting in North Germany

Major Foulerton hunting with the Portman Hunt, Dorset

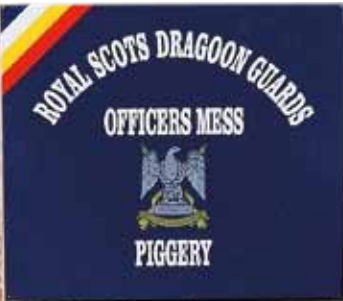
PIG TROOP – BRINGING HOME THE BACON

It gives me great pleasure to be able to introduce Pig Troop, a first, I believe for the Eagle and Carbine, or at the least for many years. Once upon a time it was commonplace for Regiments to keep their own livestock to supplement the strict rationing that followed the Second World War, but now, in the modern Army we find ourselves, life is too busy with operational tours and training years for such eccentric exploits to even be considered. Furthermore what with 'Naafi wagons', 'pay as you dine', City Pizza and McDonald's who needs time-consuming, expensive and smelly meals on trotters?

Keeping pigs after all is a fairly serious business, especially in Germany where the legislation surrounding livestock could be classed as draconian. However, as Armoured soldiers we pride ourselves on vehicle and equipment maintenance and it is little different with pigs. The

tank park is replaced with a piggery, POL is replaced with pig feed, JAMES is replaced by the Ministry of German Agriculture and the LAD is replaced by vets and so on. Having said this, although pigs look as if they should be a tremendous effort to keep, provided you have a good shelter and decent fencing, they are very low maintenance. All pigs really need is food once a day, a full water trough and a bit of fresh straw once in a while. Pig Troop are fed twice a day and have a field large enough for ten times their number. They are, I have no doubt, the happiest pigs this side of the Rhine.

The Officers' Mess took charge of a Type 2 Pig Troop in July of 2011 following a five



The human and porcine members of Pig Troop





Kaiser and Tsarina relishing a good brush

hour round trip into Eastern Germany to conduct the handover takeover. One subbie and the newly appointed RMO precariously drove the journey back in the PRI minibus with two rather upset piglets in tow. The piglets, being rather shell shocked having been separated from their mother (and for the boy, his testicles) not twenty-four hours previously, were not in the mood for socialising. Shaking with fear in the corner of their new home the first day did not seem like the idealised happy start to Pig Troop. However, like our tanks following their time with TFSU, a few weeks of love and attention turned things around. They quickly developed loud, confident personalities who were always happy to see you and enjoyed nothing more than lying in the field being brushed and stroked by a subbie desperately avoiding the Squadron offices.

Kaiser and Tsarina, as they have been named, gained weight rapidly because that's what pigs do best. Before long one could not help oneself from eyeing up their hindquarters and imagining them as hams or stroking their tummies and thinking what fine belly pork would come from it. Some people say that you should not get too attached to them. Quite frankly, that's

WELFARE OFFICE

Three hundred and sixty five days as a soldier or family member of the SCOTS DG is never dull or boring and this year has been no exception. The previous year had been spent training and preparing for the Regiment to deploy in early 2011 so the beginning of this year has certainly whizzed by, especial as last minute training and spending time with loved ones was crammed into only a few short weeks. The Regiment's deployment on Op HERRICK 14 was intentionally



Mr Ramsden, Kaiser and Tsarina at feeding time

impossible. What's more, if you don't make an effort to get to know them, you'll be missing out on an amazingly life-affirming experience. Indeed, some may credit the pigs with saving one's sanity whilst on the Rear Operations Group. With the Regiment deployed on Op HERRICK 14, Pig Troop offered those that remained behind a daily morale boost. Even now, whenever one feels despondent, one simply has to go and stare at the pigs for ten minutes and they soon cheer you up.

Of course, when the dreaded day comes, it will be pretty grim, even though the prospect of the delicious hams and sausages soon coming our way will help to soften the blow. By the time you read this there will be hams, salamis and chorizo curing in the Mess and there will be a six foot chest freezer packed with every joint conceivable. We are in good company when it comes to appreciating pigs; as Winston Churchill once said "I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals."



staggered, beginning around March when advanced parties deployed to take over from our predecessors but also to implement some strategic changes in preparation for our main body to deploy in the following weeks. We were fortunate that the HRH The Duke of Kent was able to give his blessing to the soldiers prior to deployment during his visit to the Regiment as part of 'Regimental Week' in March. He also took this as an opportunity to chat to wives of our serving soldiers.

The anxiety and excitement of the early months of 2011 bonded the Regiment together. For those who had already deployed and for those waiting to face the challenges ahead of them time passed quickly. For others anxious about their deployed soldier it appeared as though it stood still. It was at this time that the full programme of activities arranged by Fallingbostel units and the garrison kicked in with full force. Bingo nights, cookery lessons, shopping trips, adventure weekends and trips to local attractions were to be frequent throughout the tour, something for every one of all ages to enjoy and to keep minds occupied.

The Regiment was privileged that the General Officer Commanding 1 (UK) Armoured Division, Major General J I Bashall CBE took time to visit the Regiment. This was a fantastic opportunity for wives to pose questions to the officer in charge of soldiers in Germany, especially as our deployment coincided with announcements of changes to living and working conditions in Germany and the eventual withdrawal. A few weeks later The Chief of the General Staff and his Briefing Team held an evening of open question and answer sessions, whereby concerns of army life were aired, sometimes forcibly, by the Regiment's wives.

April saw the launch of our Regimental Charity, 'Caring for Courage', the object of which was to raise funds to provide support to members of the Regiment injured or wounded during Op HERRICK 14. It didn't take long for some energetic members of the Welfare Team, and a few wives and children, to use the Hannover Fun run as a way of generating the first Fally contribution to the Caring for Courage coffers. Since the launch of our Regimental Charity, our families here in Fally have been passionate about being able make a differ-



The Welfare Centre awaiting the returning troops

ence, so a Sub-Committee was formed to work along side the London based team. In 2011 a contribution of €7500 has been raised from a variety of projects, such as bucket collections, bag packing, fabulous raffles, car boot sales, designing of a Regimental tea towel and cake stalls. This sum is set to continue to grow with the launch this year of Regimental Christmas Card and a Cookbook. Overall funds raised are nearing £150,000.

The Royal Wedding was celebrated in style with a traditional street party. The Welfare building looked a patriotic marvel, decorated with bunting and flags and completed with a life size cut out of the happy couple. We were blessed with fantastic weather and a sumptuous feast which meant the celebrations went on until early evening.

There was only one way for us to mark Father's Day this year with so many of our dads being deployed, and



Lance Corporal Johnstone receiving his award from the GOC



The Unit Welfare Officer, Captain Hainey

that was the creation of our goody box packing factory. The boxes were made by children with deployed fathers and were then sent out to Afghanistan in time for the day. Walkers Crisps and Borders Biscuits jumped at the chance to help out after an inspired mum wrote to companies asking for items for inclusion in the goody boxes. Their contributions were amongst the favorite treats.

Highlights for June were the annual celebration of the battle of Waterloo and BBQ, complete with summer games, face painters and the opportunity to clamber over tanks. The month also came with a surprise; the Welfare Team won the Army Families Federation (AFF) Sodexo Unit Welfare Award 2011. The SCOTS DG, Welfare Office had so impressed the judges with an imaginative approach to bringing a community together during a partial deployment that they were awarded first prize. The award wouldn't have been won if it wasn't for the support and encouragement given by our families inspiring the team to do better.

Meanwhile in Afghanistan excellent progress was being made in gaining and maintaining strong holds within the provinces in which our soldiers had fought and occupied. It was with great sadness that the German based Regiment learned that Craftsman Found had been killed in action. The loss changed the atmosphere in Fallingbostel to a more sombre appreciation of the realities of what faced those deployed. For many families the rest and recuperation period during the tour approached fast and was a much needed time for reflection. During the summer two teams of soldiers embarked on an epic, albeit synthetic, journey covering 5000 km on gym equipment. With a deadline of September, the aptly named, Race for Courage was equivalent to travelling from Camp Bastion to Edinburgh.

Half way through the tour The Regiment bade farewell to one Commanding Officer and the Biggart family

who began a new challenge in the UK and welcomed Lieutenant Colonel Bartholomew, his wife and children. The incoming Commanding Officer only had a few short days getting to know the families before deploying in a staff role to Afghanistan.

Like the deployment, individual's rest and recuperation was staggered although the much needed time back together as a family went too quickly. The announcement of C Squadron returning home earlier than expected meant that our welcome home preparations needed to move into top gear. A welcome home banner making day was arranged, with enthusiastic kids and mums writing welcome home message on crisp white sheets for our loved ones. The banners made were exceptional and they became a symbol of all the effort and emotion that has been committed by the families during the tour. The Welfare Centre was given a makeover, with SCOTS DG bunting, helium balloons and mini flags in preparation to welcome our soldiers home.

Our final social gathering of the year was topped off with a 'Fally's got Talent' competition. This was our equivalent of the 'Britain's Got Talent' game show and was hosted by this year's Forces sweet heart, Miss Cookie. The evening was a great way to mark the tour coming to an end. We even managed to squeeze in a SSAFA Big Brew Up, which raised a fantastic €580. The array of cakes and biscuits created by willing volunteers certainly encouraged us all to part with our pennies.

As the year drew to a close we marked the return home of our soldiers. As the Regiment reunited on the parade and prepared for the Christmas break we reflected on a quite extraordinary year both in Fally and for those deployed. Both the tour and the rear operation had been successful and the welfare team prepared to hand over to their replacements with a great sense of achievement. The welfare department and building remains a hub for the serving Regiment and its families, a place to socialise and go for support with the added advantage of the bacon baps on tap. The last year certainly wouldn't have run so smoothly without the dedication of the welfare staff some of whom were employed to help during deployment. The way in which they integrated with existing military and civilian staff both has been exemplary.

2011 has tested the Regiment but with the support of the wider Regimental family and a dedicated welfare team we have not been found wanting. We look forward to an equally exciting 2012.



CHURCH NOTES

As I write this early in the Jubilee and Olympic year 2012 I am awaiting the arrival of the removal men to transport all my family furniture and kit back from Bad Fallingbostel to the UK. Yes, the Padre is being posted. My grey beret and my tartan trousers, along with other symbols of my SCOTS DG identity, will be packed up and shipped out. All good things come to an end they say, and what better time to look back and recount the events of recent times?

I have been chaplain to the regiment now for two and a half years, and stationed in Fallingbostel for five. There are lots of memories here, but not, says my wife, as many as one might expect. She, she says, has indeed been in 'Fally' for five years, the last two and a half in the bosom of the regiment, but I will be lucky if I have been here in station, or with our own troops, for half of that. In this, as in most things, she is right. Those of you who recall my report in the last 'Eagle and Carbine' will know that in 2010 I spent many months in Australia on EX LONG LOOK, and that SCOTS DG were served in barracks by an Aussie exchange Padre, Revd Mozz O'Sullivan, and deployed to BATUS with Revd. Heather Rendell borrowed from 3RHA. The last year has been similar in that the sub units of the regiment deployed to Afghanistan on OP HERRICK 14 in various roles, under various different commands, and therefore with different chaplains, while I deployed with the Counter-IED Task Force and the Joint Force Engineer Group. Another year, then, when much of my experience has been with soldiers other than our own, and when many of our soldiers have been ministered to by other chaplains. Such is the nature of chaplaincy under battle-grouping.

Before the chaplaincy plan for OP HERRICK was published, but knowing that unlike 4 SCOTS or 3 MERCIAN, we were not going as a formed unit, I feared that I might be left behind as the Rear-Ops chaplain in station. While I fully recognize the huge importance, responsibility and difficulty of the work of Rear-Ops, and have nothing but praise for the way it was carried out within the regiment, it is true that few soldiers, before it happens, like the idea of watching their friends march off and being themselves left at home. That I was to deploy with C-IED and Engineers was therefore welcome news, but meant that in the first months of 2011 I had to ask The Commanding Officer's permission to absent myself from our own final preparations to deploy in order simply to meet commanders and soldiers from the units who would be in my 'parish' in Afghanistan.



The Padre on patrol

In the last days before departure we were able to have a period when most, though by no means all, of the regiment, were together in barracks before spreading out all over Helmand Province. This gave me the opportunity to speak to the assembled officers one last time, suggesting to them that they aspire always to be honourable and courageous leaders of their soldiers, giving of themselves, respectful of others; thus they can only add further value to the history of an illustrious regiment.

We were fortunate at that time to receive a visit from the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, HRH the Duke of Kent, who gave his encouragement to the regiment on the eve of deployment and stood to pray with us at our drumhead service on the parade square one cold March morning. We prayed the regimental collect as one, prayed for those stood beside us that day, and for those from other units, British and Afghan, who would shortly stand beside us in Helmand, then the squadrons separately marched off – back to quarters and ultimately to their different parts of the Afghan theatre.

Once in Afghanistan my role necessitated my travelling about the whole area of operations because the Engineers worked on projects in countless locations, and the IED threat was omnipresent. This gave me the opportunity to seek out soldiers with the tell-tale grey beret or Van Dyke TRF wherever I went. For myself

I had a SCOTS DG flash, but also an Engineer and Counter-IED Task Force one as well, causing much jest among the soldiers about my having more badges than a boy-scout. Whatever my shoulder flash may have proclaimed about my allegiance, the rank slide front and centre upon my chest read SCOTS DG throughout the tour. Commanders with whom I spoke, at every level and in every place, were impressed by the professionalism of SCOTS DG personnel attached to them. I like to think that they were similarly appreciative of the chaplaincy services which they received courtesy of this same regiment.

HERRICK 14 was a hard tour for those units to whom I was temporarily attached. I can recall many gunshot wounds, limbs lost in life-changing injuries, and two Explosive Ordnance Disposal officers killed by IEDs. I was with SSM 'Des' O'Connor and his people in Attal when news of one of those came to us and a helicopter arrived in minutes to whisk the padre away from an all too short visit to SCOTS DG. The reverse happened in mid tour as C-IED and Engineers returned me briefly to the regimental fold when Craftsman Andrew Found was killed, also by an IED. The entire garrison of Camp Bastion gathered in the evening on the Vigil Square to pay their respects, but it was a smaller gathering of our own LAD and D Squadron that in the wee small hours grieved for Foundy and carried him onto the plane that would take him home to his family and his final rest. I have been a priest burying the dead for thirty years, but that Ramp Ceremony was one of the most moving times I have known. It was an honour to be with Craftsman Found's friends and comrades as they bore him on their shoulders or stood so tall at attention to say their goodbyes before returning to the fight.

In this new year of 2012 I have accompanied our soldiers once more as they carried the coffin of one of our own, at the funeral of ASM John Buck. Not only did the ASM and Craftsman Found come from the same town of Whitby to be attached to our regiment, they were buried from the same church of St. Hilda and laid to rest in the same cemetery. In a quirk of providence their graves are together – not side by side, but head to toe, so that even in their last resting places they are still like soldiers on the parade square as we stood a year before.

At the end of the Afghanistan tour one might have expected things to return to a wife-pleasing normality, with hubby home again, but this is an army – sorry my dear. There was a medals parade in Hohna to address for 32 Engineers, then a trip to England to lead 24 Cdo Engineer Regiment's homecoming service and address their medals parade. Another similar event

followed in Wimbish for the Counter-IED Task Force, at which two of our amputees, after only a few months, both marched off the square. The courage and determination of our people is truly amazing. Then there was a huge and inspiring thanksgiving and memorial service in Exeter Cathedral to mark a prayerful conclusion to the joint effort of 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, and 7 Armoured Brigade, at which the padre SCOTS DG was granted a speaking role leading the intercessions. Even then it was not time to stay at home as we had our own regimental medals parade in Fallingbowl at the end of November followed by homecoming parades in Scotland, culminating in the Edinburgh parade down the Royal Mile from the castle to the Canongate Kirk where I preached at the service. It was a great day to celebrate a job well done, so I trust that the Lord will excuse my setting aside the 'seven deadly sins' and telling the assembly that under those almost unique circumstances some pride would be appropriate rather than sinful. I even got to stay in Edinburgh castle. Not much in the army beats that.

Back in barracks the year turned full circle with the regiment parading in church for our annual Carol Service which, said the organist, featured the best and loudest singing he has heard at any of the last three years' services. This is quite a feat in the military world, as our Carol Services were already noted for having much louder singing than the other units in station. This was my 'swan-song' with SCOTS DG and it enables me to take away what might be a useful benefit. Let me tell you a dark secret: when with 1 RRF I led carol services on themes like the Christmas Truce of 1914, then . . . shock and horror . . . I repeated the same themes for the next unit! Two themes I had up my sleeve from Fusilier days when SCOTS DG demanded from me a third annual carol service, necessitating a whole new idea. So, the Christmas Truce service, when we all sang carols like those in the trenches, was followed up with the Christmas Battle service, when we sang carols like those besieged in Bastogne during the 'Battle of the Bulge.' There will be no wasted effort; others will be on the receiving end of this at Christmases to come, and each time I will remember SCOTS DG with joy.

I now return to my packing for a new assignment, setting aside my grey beret and the SCOTS DG rank slide I wore throughout Afghanistan, but hugely proud to have been part of this great regiment, even if, as my wife so rightly says, they managed to lend me to somebody else for half of my time. May God Bless you all, serving and retired, in a long and happy future.



THE OFFICERS' MESS

Despite the rigors of pre-deployment training and the subsequent deployment the Officers' Mess managed to maintain a full and active programme throughout 2011. The decision to keep the mess open throughout the year paid dividends and formed an important part of what was to become the Rear Operations Group. The Mess Sergeant Major, WO2 Morris was selected to go to Headley court as the 7 Armoured Brigade Liaison Officer for Herrick 14 leaving the Mess in the very capable hands of Corporal Scally.

A number of new officers have arrived and we welcome Second Lieutenants James Crawford, Fred Roberts, Dan Lee, Stephen Probst, Tim Graham, Christopher Pyman and Alistair Maclaurin. There are a few senior characters that have returned to the fold. Not least the new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel 'Barty' Bartholomew; Majors Tom Spence-Brown, Tom Kerrigan and Fraser McLeman; plus Captain Nick Griffiths (on loan from the PWRR). It is great to see them back and they and their families are very welcome; more later. Others include Captain Max Erskine-Naylor, back from the Training Regiment and Captain Stu Innes as the Regimental Administration Officer.

Early in the year Major Nick Foulerton lead a party to the Meute Hunt Ball. An important opportunity to integrate with the local German population and something that we have had very little opportunity to do lately. Messrs Emslie and Braithwaite did their best, but it was obvious that we need to do dance lessons. Even so the officers behaved immaculately and no international incidents have been recorded.

A Blues Dinner Night in February served as a warmer in the bank prior to a very busy March. The highlight of this was visit by the Deputy Colonel in Chief. This was celebrated in style with a Guest Dinner Night in the mess, recorded for posterity in a mess photograph. It is possibly a sign of the good humour that currently permeates all quarters of the mess, but 45 officers sitting down to dinner managed to get through 75 bottles of champagne; Lieutenant Rupert Grinling accounting for over 8. Our links with the Pol Roger house remain as strong as ever and statistics from the cellar in the mess certainly support this.

Following shortly from this the mess held the Pre Afghanistan Ball; spirits were high and the dancing went on well into the night. The Orderly Officer was charged with opening and dispensing a Nebuchadnezzar.



An august gathering of Late Entry Officers



All's fair in love, war and fireball hockey



The dastardly Major Foulerton cheats at the gritter game



Captain Potter relives past glories



The party in full swing



The Adjutant taking life seriously



An amused RMO



Captains Densham, Hanson and Majcher entertain the MTWO

zar as the opening salvo of the evening. A pretty good attempt was made at some reels and the chefs did an impressive job with the dinner.

There has long been an aspiration to get some reeling going on a regular basis in the Mess. Prior to the deployment we did manage to get a couple of reeling practices in. However, 2012 may offer more opportunities and it would be great to get a party back for the Caledonian Ball and/or the Perth Ball.

The final hurrah before the Regiment deployed to Afghanistan was another Blues Night which capped off a pretty busy few weeks in the mess. This was quite a poignant evening as the Commanding Officer; Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Biggart sat down for what would be his last dinner in the mess as the Commanding Officer. And so thoroughly trained and completely partied out the Regiment dispersed for pre-tour leave. Those in the Rear Operations Group braced themselves for what might be a long lonely summer; the HERRICK 14 Ball in December seemed a long way away.

As the spring turned into summer it became very clear that although a large number of the mess members had deployed there was still a significant population of Living In and other members. Captain Ed Young and Messrs James Watson and Henry Ramsden formed the nucleus; they both deployed later in the summer. Soon they were joined by the new Medical Officer, Captain Charlie Duffield. With new Troop Leaders arriving all the time either from Sandhurst, or returning from their Troop Leaders Course it was no surprise that Messrs Jamie Kelly and Eric Cunningham were able to plan and execute a very well attended Lady's Dinner in June prior to their attachment to the Queens Royal Hussars and the joys of HERRICK 15. Second Lieutenant James Crawford was dispatched to Perth Races, New York and Epernay within the space of a few weeks. Dubbed the luckiest man in NATO there are few better ways to start

life at Regimental Duty. Second Lieutenant Stephen Probst was seconded to the Caring for Courage team and managed to get up to Edinburgh in order to assist with the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

The pace was kept up with Black Tie evenings on Thursdays; wives being encouraged to attend. Indeed, Major Foulerton recorded one of his largest Mess Bills while deployed. The Mess formed a key rallying point for the wives and family Sunday Lunches proved to be very popular.

As eluded to, the consumption of Pol prior to and during the deployment exceeded all expectations. Following an initial order at the start of the year, an order was sent back to Fallingbommel from Theatre which required a trip to Epernay. The biggest concern was that we would have enough as members returned from Afghanistan. As ever Christian and Danielle spoiled the 2 lucky officers rotten and a heavily laden van returned after the 48 hr round trip.

Two other members of the mess were welcomed in the summer. Rejoicing under the names Kaiser and Tsarina, the Officers' Mess Pig Troop became a reality. Under the careful organisation of Mr Ramsden, 2 piglets were acquired and Deil Farm become home to livestock again. They have since provided a happy distraction for those officers that are interested; their fate remains undecided and a subject for hot debate.

The return of the squadrons from Afghanistan was celebrated in style. Each squadron in their turn making a significant dent in the cellar prior to getting away on Post Tour Leave.

The Mess was full again in October and this was marked by a number of dinners in the mess. As this was not enough, the mess was committed to full and demanding schedule in London. The Caring for Courage Dinner at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the HERRICK 14 Presentation at the Royal Geographical Society in October were significant commitments.

The Regimental Association 40th Anniversary Dinner was resoundingly considered to be a great success. This was very well attended by the officers at Regimental Duty with no-one wanting to miss the occasion.

The Regimental Medal Parade was preceded by a Guest Night where we were able to entertain the Colonel of the Regiment. The vintage port was on hand and all were in good spirits for the parade the following day. Many were due to head back to Scotland that weekend for the Homecoming Parades where the officers made the most of the chance to get out in Edinburgh.

The HERRICK 14 Ball at the Banqueting House in Whitehall was an opportunity for the officers at Regimental Duty to celebrate their safe return with friends. This they did with the usual understated style marks us out. The Colonel of the Regiment and the Pol Rogers attended and a party of over 300 strong went on late into the night. Major Foulerton was last seen commandeering a red London Bus to take him directly to the 151 Club; by all accounts he was forced to dismount at Victoria.

We are very privileged to have an association with the Worshipful Company of Pewterers. At a reception at their hall they kindly gave us a pewter chandelier; quite a unique gift and one which we will treasure. We look forward to strengthening our links in the years to come.

Balaclava is always a big night in the Officers' Mess Forecast of events and 2011 was to live up to this expectation. Delayed till December this happened rather later than might be expected. Even so it was worth the wait and the Warrant Officers were immaculate guests. The casualty lists the following morning were quite light and Captain Jackson's broken nose had left no permanent disfigurement. The Commanding Officer was sporting a black eye; a brave sporting injury from Flaming Hockey.

This year the Warrant Officers and Sergeants were entertained to Christmas drinks in the Officers' Mess. This marked the final official act of the year. Although a large proportion of the Mess have been away it does seem to have been particularly busy throughout.

Inevitably there were farewells to be made. Not least to Lieutenant Colonel Johnny and Jennifer Biggart;

both have been avid supporters of the mess and active participants in all areas. Major Will and Katie Davies have moved on to promotion. Major Jonnie and Sarah Williamson have departed us for the sunnier climes of Brunei. Major Simon and Clare Albert leave us on posting to the Royal Wessex Yeomanry while Captain Alex Marjoribanks and Charlotte have headed out to Suffield, Canada.

Congratulations to Captain Lewis Ballard-Whyte and Sophie on their marriage and Captain Nigel and Paula Anderson on the birth of Charlie. Both Captain Ballard-Whyte and Captain Anderson leave us on posting. Congratulations also to Major Nick and Rebecca Foulerton on the safe arrival of Beatrix.

Captain Richard Densham has departed for life in Bovington. He takes with him the portfolio of Caring for Courage Project Officer. Captain Steff Hinds leaves us on retirement from the Army; as RAO he has fully adopted SCOTS DG as his home and we wish him and Nicole all the best for the future. Captains Dickie Holtum and Jamie Paton have also departed on retirement and Captain Bill Calderhead has left us on transfer to the Royal Army Medical Corps and is training to be a doctor.

The Officers' Mess is in very good order; having returned from a successful tour in Afghanistan the challenges of a Training Year are eagerly awaited. As we look towards a more Fallingbostel centric year there is every hope that we will get the Officers' Mess to play a full part in the 7 Armoured Brigade social calendar and make the most of being in Germany.



Mine, all mine...



A contented Captain McNeil

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

It has been an eventful year for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. After the break for the festive period the Regiment was straight into preparation for Op HERRICK 14 with MATTs, fitness and exercises. We still found time to enjoy ourselves within the mess with an off the cuff night in 80's fancy dress with characters like Danger Mouse, Punk Rockers and the cast from Top Gun. Staff Sergeant Campbell dressed up as a woman and the RSM appeared as something of a football 'casual'. WO2 (SSM) Boyd turned up as George (Wham) Michael and kept the ladies amused with his short tight denim hot pants.



WO2 Baillie blowing his trumpet

The first soldiers of the Regiment started to deploy during February and March to Afghanistan. First to deploy included the RSM as GSM Bastion and A Squadron to carry out their mentoring role attached to 3 MERCIAN. Within the Rear Operation Group (ROG) WO2 (SSM) Baillie took the helm of B Squadron as the Battle Casualty Replacement Squadron and WO2 (SSM) Potter became the Rear Operations Group (ROG) SSM. C Squadron were next to deploy under the command of 4 SCOTS and, finally D Squadron employed as the Warthog Group.

The ROG continued with the day to day running of the Regiment in Bad Fallingbostel with a team of thirty-one SNCOs. The Training Wing under the con-

trol of WO2 Baird continued to train our new arrivals. The Regiment received a steady stream of new soldiers from training over the tour period and they conducted signals courses and other basic training. Sergeant Grant took up the position of Vehicle Troop Sergeant on his return from posting at the D&M School in Bovington and with a growing band of new soldiers, became a father figure to the younger generation on the tank park. As the time came closer to the regiment returning back from the tour the PMC's focus turned to the improvement of the Mess so it could look at its best for the return party. WO2 Potter and Sergeant McCusker converted the Mess gardens into a drinking oasis, and vastly improved the overall look of the Mess.



The deployed Warrant Officers after a little meeting in Camp Bastion



ASM Buck and RSM Lamb

The traditional Balaclava Dinner in the Officers Mess came around again, a bit later than usual, with some new faces. This traditional night was full of joviality and good humour throughout and went well into the early hours of the next morning which finished with a champagne breakfast at seven o'clock. Not all the mess members had survived the festivities so numbers were depleted by this point.

The next event in the calendar was dining out two long term members. Between them they have completed forty six years service. They are also renowned for being the two grumpy old men in the corner of the mess. Staff Sergeants McAndrew and Ramsay had a lunch time dine out followed by a disco. A guest speaker, WO1 Taylor, came back over to apprise mess members of their hidden past and secrets. How he found some of the photos that night we will never know. The evening was a great success and an appropriate farewell as they embark on their futures outside the Regiment.

Burns Supper was the brain child of RQMS (T) O'Connor and his team who began preparations three months before for the night, rehearsing the singing, the address to the haggis, Burns poems and the making of some particularly lethal Atholl Brose. The weather that week turned and dropped to -18 degrees centigrade at night and the function was to be held in a marquee. As you could imagine thoughts quickly turned to heating and men were sent to the four corners of the north Germany to find enough heaters to ensure survival. After a couple of drinks, some hot food and entertainment, we were all warm in mind if not in body. A special thanks goes to Mr Lee for his excellent rendition of Tam O'Shanter. The mess was open jawed and riveted to the sight of Mr Lee (who trod the boards before his life in the Army) excel in his reading of this famous poem. One of the best night's entertainment that the mess has had seen in years.

At the end of the year the Christmas Ball was another fantastic night, orchestrated with the help of the SQMSs and RQMS Adams. There was a 2.7% chance

of winning a prize in the traditional raffle with a huge variety of prizes earmarked by coloured and numbered tickets. In a brief moment of excitement Staff Sergeant Campbell thought he had won in the money tree; unfortunately though he had the numbers correct his ticket was the wrong colour. He was consoled with one of the best prizes; the remote control vacuum cleaner.

Over the year we have bade farewell to a considerable number of mess members. WO2s Black, Watson, Mack, Fisher and Staff Sergeants Doherty and Mackay have left after completing their twenty two years service. Sergeants Culbert, Gowland and King have also departed for civilian street life. Those departing on posting have been WO2 Lynch, Staff Sergeants Mackie, Graham and Dougal and Sergeants Ross, Aitken, Cummings, Robinson, Davies, McMann, McKee, Mann, Scott, Jones and Cowie. We have also welcomed back some familiar faces, WO2 Gibbs, Staff Sergeants Wallace, Kenning and Blair and Sergeants Grant and Brown. We also welcome from the attached arms WO2 (RAWO) Parry, WO2 (AQMS) Lawrence, Staff Sergeants Storrs, Hewitt and Porter and Sergeants Douglass, Jones, and Lacey.

Tragically, just before Christmas on the 23 Dec 11, WO1 (ASM) John Buck died at his home in Bad Fallingbostal. Mess members took on the task of preparing for his funeral and had the privilege to bury him with help from fellow SNCOs from 2 Battalion REME with full military honours. The funeral took place in his hometown of Whitby on the 18 Jan 12. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all his family both here in Germany and back in the UK. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and served with him.

The mess has also seen a number of promotions. WO2s Boyd and Taylor have been promoted to WO1 and leave the mess on posting. Newly promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2 are WO2s Hendry (C Squadron), Taylor (B Squadron), Gibbs (MTWO) and Morris (MSM). Those promoted to Staff Sergeant were informed by the Commanding Officer just after the Afghanistan medal parade. These are Staff Sergeants Pratt, McCormick and Ward. Joining us from the Corporals mess are Sergeants Kyle, Cargill, Imrie, Campbell, Stone and McGovern. Earlier Drum Major Pride and Sergeant Steel were also promoted.

The Mess now looks forward to 2012, busy year ahead with tank ranges and deployment on exercise to BATUS in Canada. We hope that like 2011 it will prove that we as the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards can adapt and overcome, follow a perfect pattern of service and be swifter than eagles to overtake His enemies.



THE CORPORALS' MESS

The past year has been busy for all mess members with the majority of our members deployed on Op HERRICK 14. This left a small number of NCOs to help with the running of the Rear Operations Group. Although few in number, they still managed to pull together, help run the Regiment and look after the mess at the same time.

Corporal Cambridge (PEC) as ever put on as much entertainment as possible for the boys and girls left behind, no mean feat considering how busy they were. Members were in the thick of preparations for a Regimental Board of Officers, Equipment Care Inspection, Logistic Support Inspection, Battle Casualty Replacement training and receiving the training fleet back from the centralised vehicle storage facility. Despite this they managed to squeeze in a Fancy Dress Halloween Party. True to form all mess members donned their fancy dress costumes and got into the Halloween spirit. There were a few prizes given out on the night, most notably Lance Corporal and Mrs Dominy winning best fancy dress for their scary mummy costumes.

The remainder of mess members with the deployed Regiment were scattered to the four winds throughout Helmand province. One mess member that deserves particular mention is Corporal Lynn. He courageously attempted to cross the river Helmand in a Warthog towing Corporal Quinn. Unfortunately the vehicles weren't quite up to the task, got stuck and began taking on water fast. They were only rescued from floating away by the herculean efforts of the attached recovery

mechanic. Other mess members had similarly close calls, Corporal Mitchell surviving a grenade attack and Lance Corporals Wishart and Christie rolling a Mastiff into a drainage system.

Given these experiences the mess welcomed its members back with relief late in the year. After Post Operational Tour Leave it was business as usual. This meant a well deserved Corporals' Mess Christmas Ball put on by the PEC and ROG PMC. The freak cold weather

saw some of the wives swapping their high heel shoes for Ugg Boots half way through the night. Some how all the decorations were misplaced from the year before, so it was a busy couple of days for Corporals Burton and Morgan-Williams. They scoured the local area to get enough decorations for the night. A new Santa's Sleigh was built by Corporals Cambridge, Burton and Neat which was much better than the version that failed to survive the 2010 party.

The Mess Burns Night was again well organised by the QM(T) department. The choir did a fantastic job, considering they only had three weeks to practice. The well lubricated poem recitals were given with gusto. Lance Corporal Fitzsimmons showed the new mess members what is to be expected of them with his excellent rendition of Toothache. The speeches were also very funny, particularly Captain Montgomery's address to the Mess.

We bid farewell to the members who have moved to the Sergeants' Mess on promotion. These are Sergeants Steel, McGovern, Imrie, McCann, Brown, Kyle and last but not least, the Provo Sergeant, Sergeant Campbell. We have likewise offered a warm welcome to the newly promoted mess members who have joined us and to those that have been posted in and farewell to those who have left us or have been posted out. The Mess has a very busy period in front of it, with return to role and deployment to BATUS. However I'm sure we will be able to squeeze a few more parties in there some where, and continue to conduct our business to the highest of standards.



Mess members in their Halloween fancy dress



The new and improved Santa's Sleigh

REGIMENTAL SPORTS AND ADVENTURE TRAINING

The Op HERRICK 14 tour curtailed the Regiment’s ability to field its strongest teams in the many different leagues and competitions that we normally partake in throughout British Forces Germany and the United Kingdom. Despite this the Rear Operations Group (ROG) did its very best to ensure that as many competitions were entered to show that SCOTS DG were still a force to be reckoned with. There were some notable successes which are reported on in each individual sports article.

As we prepare for the Training Year in 2012 one of the Commanding Officer’s main focuses is ensuring that as many officers and soldiers take part in organised

team as well as individual competitions throughout the year.

There is a Hockey and Rugby tour to South Africa planned for the autumn and a number of Adventure Training expeditions in the pipeline. When we deploy to BATUS the Brigade plans to have a thousand soldiers partake in some form of adventurous training which will be the perfect opportunity to enable officers and soldiers to experience the Rocky Mountains at first hand be it in a canoe, on a mountain bike, a horse or dangling from a climbing rope.



ALPINE SKIING

This year it was touch and go whether any Army winter sports would go ahead at all, with budget cuts looming and accountants in the MOD casting around for non essential spending to slice. Additionally, with many of our previous Alpine stars having moved on, a new team faced the not insignificant challenge of organising Alpine Skiing from Afghanistan via intermittent email and satellite phone connections. In total nine soldiers and two officers made it out to Alpbach in December to begin training with our renowned coach Gerhard, who after sixteen years is now some-

thing of a living part of Regimental folklore. Under his watchful eye five complete novices learned to ski from scratch, including Trooper Currie, who found himself preparing to travel to Alpbach within a few hours of his arrival in Fallingbostal from basic training. He had made the mistake of admitting to Captain Emslie on arrival that he quite fancied having a go at skiing! With only three members of the team having taken part in any sort of race training before the focus of our training was to build up our technique and lay the foundations for future seasons.



Captain Emslie building speed



Corporal Rooney defying gravity

Upon arrival in Alpbach there was a distinct lack of snow on the slopes, which necessitated a drive to Kaltenbach each day for the first two weeks, which as one of the few resorts open in early December could get pretty crowded at times. However, with five complete beginners and the rest focusing on rebuilding basic race techniques this did not matter too much, and after two weeks when all were ready to graduate to more serious slopes the long awaited snow came in prodigious quantities. Indeed, once the snow did come there were a number of days where the powder dumps were so incessant that race training had to be called off, and the team were treated to guided tours through the copious virgin powder from Gerhard, who knows the mountain and its best un-pisted runs intimately. This was some of the most enjoyable and memorable skiing any of the team had ever experienced, and included stop-offs at Gerhard’s family barns in the high Alpine pastures for a little “schnapps!” on the way down! However, the team did manage to get some proper race training in, especially after New Year, when we were spurred on by the presence of some extremely talented

local Alpbacher teenagers who joined in and assisted with some of our training.

On January 7th it was time for the team to depart Alpbach, after a thoroughly enjoyable six weeks. In total seven skiers continued to Les Contamines in France to represent the SCOTS DG at the 1 (UK) Armoured Division Championships, with the team consisting of Captain Emslie, Mr Reith, Corporal Rooney (REME attached), Lance Corporals Strachan, Lowe and Nutall (REME attached), and Trooper Colley. Overall the team finished sixth, but notably overcame a number of strong teams to place third in the slalom, aided by very good performances from Mr Reith and Corporal Rooney in particular. The team’s results also helped ensure that the Regiment won two further trophies, the British Army Germany Cup and the 7th Armoured Brigade Cup, awarded for the best combined Alpine and Nordic performance. The individual performances of Mr Reith, Corporal Rooney, Lance Corporal Lowe, Captain Emslie and Lance Corporal Strachan ensured that all five qualified for the Army Championships on merit,



Corporal Rooney comes to grief



Ouch



Lance Corporal Lowe on the Slalom



Mr Reith racing

without the need to be “pulled through” by stronger team members to create a qualifying team for the Army championships. Unfortunately, Lance Corporal Nuttall, whose developing potential was being eyed for for the Army female team, fell and broke her leg in the finish area of the Divisional Super-G race on the second last day, sadly curtailing a promising debut season.

Despite this the team were in good spirits upon arrival at the Army Championships, although the weather did not match our moods for the first few days, with very flat light and crusty snow which threw a lot of skiers out. With a much wider field available it was inevitable that we would face stiffer competition, and although it was expected it must be said that it was still a shock for most of us to find our seeding numbers no longer in the teens or twenties but up in the forties and fifties – or higher! Given the step up in competition and difficulty of the courses the team still managed to put in a good performance, finishing in a very creditable 7th place overall, and winning the Cavalry Cup for the best RAC team. In the individual results Mr Reith was the

best placed of the team in 25th, followed by Captain Emslie in 33rd and Lance Corporal Lowe in 36th.

It was especially gratifying to see that The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards remains one of the few family Regiments able to compete as a team against the behemoths of the Corps. It reflects well on our Regiment that we make the effort to offer rewarding activity at such a time. This did not go un-noticed at the Army Championships, and contributes to the good reputation our Regiment enjoys throughout the wider Army. After the last two seasons curtailed by operational training commitments the prospects for the future of SCOTS DG Alpine Skiing look good, with most of the team keen to come back, and a number of young soldiers and officers who did not attend already keen to come along next year. With the core of an enthusiastic team created, and more skiing and trips to the snowdome at Bispingen planned for 2012 the Alpine Ski Team is in good health, and we are all looking forward to rising further up the rankings next year.



CRESTA RUN

The Regiment returned to St. Moritz with a young and enthusiastic team, hoping to re-capture the 17/21 Lancers Cup (inter – regimental), which has not been in regimental hands for six years. The six regimental riders comprised of four beginners, one returning for the second time and the army captain. The team would be competing against five other regiments with the Life Guards, containing two army riders as the clear favourite.

Beginner’s school produced the normal array of concerned faces as new riders listened to the ‘death talk’ and their fears were not reprieved as the fallers toll in the famous ‘shuttlecock’ corner mounted. After three days of intensive training, sleepless nights and early mornings the race day finally arrived with the Cresta Run reflecting the morning sun, a sign the ice would be hard and fast. The 17/21 Lancers Cup is won by the fastest regimental pair over three courses of the run and within this race there is the chance for individuals to win the Novice Open and Junction Handicap.

After the first course the Life Guards were showing a strong lead with Major Foulerton and Mr Probst a distant second and after the second course the regiment had suffered two falls. Unfortunately, for us, Captain Kemp-Gee of the Royal Wessex Yeomanry produced a remarkable improvement in his third course, forcing



Captains McNeil and Majcher with other Royal Armoured Corps riders

our lead pair into third place and Captains McNeil and Majcher into fifth place.

Captain McNeil also achieved third in the Novice open and second in the Junction Handicap, out of a field of twenty three riders.

The inter-regimental race is used to filter out potential army riders and from this selection process, Captain McNeil displayed clear potential and was asked to stay for services week. Following a further five days riding



Captain McNeil prepares to ride



Shuttlecock claims an experienced victim

Captain McNeil qualified to ride from ‘Top’, but with only one day left he would have to wait until next year to become a ‘Cresta rider’. Thursday 2nd February saw cold, snowy weather; not ideal conditions for riding and the Prince Philip inter-services trophy was within anyone’s grasp.

Major Foulerton, rode in the army team, falling on the third course in a last ditch attempt to beat the leading RAF. After the third course the army were left in second place behind the RAF and in front of the Navy. The day was to be a huge success for the regiment when Captain McNeil held first place over three courses in the Silver Spoon Junction Handicap; an open club race. This race has never been won by the regiment and was a very well deserved prize for Captain McNeil’s exceptional first two weeks on the Cresta Run.



Major Foulerton going round the bend

FOOTBALL

For the majority of 2011 football played a fairly quiet part in Regimental life. This was mainly due to the operational deployment of the Regiment on Operation HERRICK 14. The main stay of SCOTS DG football; Major Cammy Cameron, OC Headquarters Squadron, deployed to Camp Bastion in February and during his tour he tried to keep the flame alive by organising football matches in Camp Bastion.

At the start of Rear Operations football was, unfortunately, a poor cousin to other activities, however despite minimal manning and little experience left behind on the Rear Operations Group, the Regiment managed to muster together enough talent to enter the British Army (Germany) (BA(G)) 6-a-Side Championship. The team was a mixture of stalwarts and new arrivals. Sergeant Roberts and Lance Corporal Gilchrist took the lead with both the planning and training of the team. Corporal Fitzpatrick led on the field in his usual vocal manner. Some of the new additions to the team embedded straight away, with Trooper Craig Kelly making his mark as an aggressive, but very capable goal keeper.

Two novice teams travelled to Headquarters British Forces Germany for the event in early May 2011. Albeit the competition underdogs, to the surprise of their fellow competitors they performed outstandingly, with one of the teams reaching the final of the BA(G)

Championship against the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (1RRF) from Celle. Unfortunately after a very close final SCOTS DG lost 1 – 0.

The positive part of losing to 1RRF was that SCOTS DG qualified as BA(G) runners up and were allowed to enter the British Army 6-a-Side Championship held at Headquarters 4th Division Aldershot in June 2011. SCOTS DG travelled to Aldershot in early June, however on this occasion their resolve was not enough. Many of the competing teams were at full strength and as result the Regiment finished in the middle rankings of the thirty two Army wide teams who competed. Still this was a great effort for a team with little experience and with the majority of Regimental footballers deployed in Afghanistan.

With the return from Theatre of Major Cammy Cameron, the RSM, Staff Sergeant Pratt, Sergeant Rigby and others who regularly play Regimental Football, the team is now on the up. The latter part of the year saw the team develop and wait for the end of the notoriously non football friendly German weather. Latterly they have started to play friendly games against other 7th Armoured Brigade Regimental teams and also against local German teams in readiness for the 2012 season.



RUGBY

Rugby at the regiment throughout 2011 came to a stand still, as we expected due to the operational deployment of most of the rugby squad. During May the Regiment managed to send a team to the BA(G) sevens competition and they definitely kept the regiment's excellent reputation in tact, getting through to the knockout stages with a makeshift team led by Mr Watson.

Returning from operations straight into a German winter further frustrated the eager rugby fraternity as we had to wait for the snow to thaw before putting on our boots once more. As if battling the insurgents for sixth months wasn't enough, we returned to find our previously pristine rugby pitch turned into a myriad of mole hills! Something I am sure the team will be eager to correct and have our surface returned to its former glory!

Of particular individual note however is Lance Corporal Rokoduguni who is regarded as one of the best players the Army has at present. He has once again been selected for the Army senior squad and has made an immediate impact in his first game against the British Police, scoring one try and setting up 3 more. His continued success should see him featuring in the Army vs Navy match at Twickenham in the coming months.

The Regiment's focus will be on regaining a couple of the sevens titles in the coming summer months as well as competing in the RAC Hodson's Horse competition. We will then turn our attentions to the BA(G) XV's competition in the new season and start getting SCOTS DG rugby back on the map.



SAILING

The inaugural RAC and Infantry combined regatta took place in May of 2011. With the bulk of the regiment deployed on operations it was left to the rear operations group to press gang troops into this competition. Luckily the final crew of Lance Corporal McLucas, Trooper Tootle and Mr Roberts were willing volunteers and the able seamen made their way to the Isle of Wight. Only on arrival did they realise the task that lay ahead of them racing for two days in mermaid sailing boats. A lack of experience in a vessel of this size meant the crew had to adopt rather unorthodox methods to stay competitive. At the end of the first day the team sat in dead last position after a poor first race and false start in the second. However on the second day pulled off a 5th place in the morning and an 8th later on. Sadly however the late surge was not enough to avoid the wooden spoon. Overall despite the result the event was a success for the SCOTS DG team, they overcame a steep learning curve to become a competitive crew.

In other sailing, there were ventures to the Mohnsee where a number of beginners groups were able to



Corporal Deshong at the helm

experience dingy sailing and windsurfing. With these adventurous training expeditions being a success future groups will be able to benefit from using the same simple setup.



STALKING

Regimental Stalking is an opportunity for all ranks to gain experience of stalking hinds. This years stalking took place 3rd – 17th Dec 2012 in Glen Lyon, Perthshire, Scotland. The first week is open to the orienteering team to take part in their own time whilst they take part in their yearly training camp on the estate. The second week is open to all officers of the Regiment at RD and ERE. The two weeks are invaluable to the regiment as it is usually the first time troopers have had the opportunity to stalk in to a shoot a live target. This significantly contributes to their military skills, field craft and fitness and ultimately, in a short period significantly improves the individual in both character and ability. This year the activity was led by Mr James Watson.

The start of the first week was plagued by the usual difficulties brought on by the weather in the highlands at this time of year. This meant that by Monday morning the one individual from the orienteering team and the exercise chef were both missing. The knee deep snow also meant that orienteering was impractical. Whilst such heavy snow meant the ARGO cat was of no use access to the hill on foot was still possible. This had



The end of a successful stalk



*Mr Watson dragging two
beasts from the hill*

quite an effect on the sense of achievement on the successful completion of a stalk and the return on foot with the carcass to the house.

Stalking took place every day throughout the week with every individual on the team bringing home at least one beast. There were few complaints getting involved with gutting the beast on the hill and most individuals by the end were able to assist in preparing the carcass for hanging in the larder. On the Tuesday a hind that was in good condition was taken and skinned so that it could be butchered and eaten on the Friday. Trooper Stewart had worked in a butcher shop and so on Friday afternoon the hind was butchered by him under instruction from Hamish Rae, the estate game keeper.

This year saw the addition of George MacDonald to the Estate and with it a fantastic instructor on the hill. Those lucky enough to be taken to Inverinian with him came back much better for their experience. He understood the Troopers, who appreciated his knowledge of the hill and as such learnt much more.

The week finished well, due to the severe weather conditions, orienteering was not possible but the team left far fitter having stalked the old fashioned way without motorized support. The soldier's week had seen an impressive 32 hinds taken off the hill.

The officers week saw the introduction of a number of estates to the shooting roster greatly increasing the variety of stalking on offer. Each estate and each gamekeeper is completely different and offers a much wider experience to the individual. Though fewer officers stalked than in previous years those who came worked hard to fulfill the Regiment's commitment to the estates that had put aside hinds for them to stalk. The officers were able to dispatch an impressive forty two hinds in the week including a number of first complete stalks, the officers spying the beast, stalking, selecting and shooting. The week ended well with a superb venison stew prepared by Private Rai, all in all an extremely successful two weeks stalking.



NORDIC SKIING

February saw the return of the SCOTS DG Nordic team from a roundly successful two and half months spent across Europe competing in all manifestations of Army Nordic skiing. From early season training in Norway to the last gasps of the Army competitions in Bavaria the team applied themselves doggedly, ending with a handsome haul of silverware.

By the morning the team were to depart a Nordic team had been assembled. Troopers Sannachan, Slater, Leslie and Pollock were collected and with some last minute negotiations with RHQ were released; to be ably led by Messrs Crawford and Roberts. The team was novice to a man.

Sjusjeon was predictably bleak and snow was not yet lying, forcing this most inexperienced of teams to train with the Norwegian, German and French national teams in the World Cup stadium using Youtube for instruction. Ex. Supreme Tiger, the REME camp, began in earnest at the beginning of December. The standards of skiing improved rapidly under the tutelage of the REME instructors and by the camp competitions the SCOTS DG were in a position to win outright the Classic and take 2nd in the Biathlon with Mr Roberts coming first in the Classic.

A short interlude for Christmas to collect a new car (Mr Roberts had trouble with a corner) then the team were off to Hochfilzen, Austria, for the RAC, RA and AAC Championship in Ex. White Fist. This was a step up in standard. Battling the heavy snow as well as the competition the SCOTS DG Nordic team were up against it and the QRL became rivals for the novice silverware. Unfortunately we were pipped to the post at White Fist coming 6th to the QRL 5th in the RAC.

Ex. Pipedown, the 1, 2 and 3 Div Championships, is held in Les Contamines and runs Alpine and Nordic competitions concurrently. This was set up to be a repeat of SCOTS DG vs. QRL for best novice team. SCOTS DG found themselves in 9th place (from a field of 20), one place above the QRL and highest novice coming into the last event. This is the military patrol race, the blue ribbon event of military winter sports, combining classic Nordic skiing with an inspection, a variety of command tasks and a number of competitive shoots. The times placed SCOTS DG 9th, the QRL 11th, however because our team lacked an NCO we were classified Hor Concord and placed last despite our time. This took us from overall 9th to 10th allowing the QRL to take the silverware for best novice. All



The Regimental Team

is not lost however, in the combined alpine and Nordic stakes the SCOTS DG took home two trophies; the Kenny Cup as 1 Div RAC champions and the Daily Telegraph cup for 7 Armoured Brigade.

Roughly half of the teams from Ex. Pipedown qualify for the Army championship; Ex. Rucksack. It had been our aim from the beginning to qualify for this, getting through was a great achievement for a novice team in itself. The Army Championships are run simultaneously with the British National Championships and the Inter-Service Championships on the World Biathlon Union's World Cup circuit, a 'technical' track. The start was promising coming 16th from 24 in the 15 km classic, beating several experienced teams. This was our best event and we knew that come the biathlon things were only getting harder. By the patrol race, now running to 30 km distance, SCOTS DG were doing their all to keep 29 Commando at bay for 19th place. With acting Lance Corporal Sannachan there would be no repeat of the injustice of the Pipedown patrol. Led by Mr Roberts and comprising of Troopers Sannachan, Slater and Leslie on a particularly cold (-18) morning the patrol came in 11th, two places above the Commandos placing SCOTS DG 19th overall. While we could not take highest novice more silverware was ours and CGS was on hand to present Mr Roberts the Princess Marina RAC Champions cup where we triumphed over the HCR team, SCOTS DG ranked 6th overall in addition to RAC champions.

2011/12 was a highly successful year for a novice SCOTS DG contingent, proving that the spirit of amateur sport is not dead in this fine Regiment.



GAZETTE

As at 31 December 2011

Regimental Headquarters

Commanding Officer	Lt Col JGE Bartholomew OBE
Second in Command	Maj TP Spenlove-Brown
Adjutant	Capt RHG Anderson
Operations Officer	Capt NW Griffiths
Career Management Officer	Capt AC Hainey
Padre	Capt AI Dalton
Regimental Sergeant Major	WO1 (RSM) I Lamb

HQ Squadron

Maj RN Cameron	Sgt TJ Campbell	Cpl G McLauchlan	LCpl C McCrindle
Capt CAB Duffield	Sgt KT Dennis	Cpl KM MacLeod	LCpl A Meiehofer
Capt JA Fyvie	P/Maj DA Dodds	Cpl GW Main	LCpl EFB Miller
Capt J Gardiner	Sgt DL Douglass	Cpl J Martin	LCpl RC Mostert
Capt AM Hall	Sgt DV Jones	Cpl I Mataiasi	LCpl AD Nailatica
Capt NCG Hanson	Sgt J Lacey	Cpl BW McCheyne	LCpl DD Needleman
Capt SW Innes	Sgt C McCusker	Cpl VP McLeod	LCpl SA Nicholson
Capt AC Mackay	D/Maj TW Pride	Cpl BJ Morgan-Williams	LCpl S Nuttall
Capt W Montgomery	Sgt JF Ross	Cpl GR Mowbray	LCpl D O'Hare
Capt ACM Potter	Sgt C Ward	Cpl AJ Mowbray	LCpl SR Oram
Lt JG Strijdom	Sgt PA Starr	Cpl SE Neat	LCpl PM Peterson
WO2 MV Adams	Sgt CJM Stone	Cpl MK Peattie	LCpl TC Qica
WO2 Baillie	Sgt JA Sumner	Cpl J Scally	LCpl JD Smith
WO2 DC Baird	Cpl M Black	Cpl AJ Silva	LCpl T Sommerville
WO2 D Gibbs	Cpl G Brisbane	Cpl DJ West	LCpl SD Stanbury
WO2 N Lawrence	Cpl SR Brown	LCpl G Arnold	LCpl N Thapa
WO2 WD O'Connor	Cpl JI Bruce	LCpl GS Barnes	LCpl CD Torrance
WO2 RD Parry	Cpl PA Burns	LCpl PA Collingwood	LCpl TT Twaddle
WO2 AW Potter	Cpl MJ Burton	LCpl V Dakinumata	LCpl AC Warren
SSgt SD Blair	Cpl A Cambridge	LCpl AM Dallyn	LCpl MJ Williamson
SSgt Fraser	Cpl SE Clarke	LCpl B Duncan	LCpl RI Wishart
SSgt CD George	Cpl DJ Duncan	LCpl CW Ednie	Tpr E Akogyiram
SSgt Hanna	Cpl M Eaton	LCpl DS Edwards	Tpr AJ Badley
SSgt I Hewitt	Cpl KW Gillon	LCpl IA Fisher	Tpr WK Batiuluna
SSgt J McCormick	Cpl JJ Christie	LCpl CC Gilchrist	Tpr KW Buakula
SSgt CNA Herron	Cpl KJ Hale	LCpl E Hughes	Cfn DW Butler
SSgt JWL Porter	Cpl SJ Irwin	LCpl G Hutchinson	Tpr TR Chisnall
SSgt PDL Price	Cpl SA Johnston	LCpl SAAJames	Pte GS Coleman
SSgt SG Ramsay	Cpl IK Jardine	LCpl JS Johnston	Tpr MS Commons
SSgt G Smith	Cpl BAD Kelly	LCpl JP Keith	Cfn IM Davies
SSgt WS Storrs	Cpl SN Keterdromo	LCpl BR Kennedy	LCpl D Field
SSgt CR West	Cpl JW Lavallin	LCpl NJR Little	Tpr CP Fitzsimmons
Sgt RJ Allman	Cpl PD Lippeatt	Pte SE Matana	Tpr Gemmell
Sgt BW Barclay	Cpl MA Lovell	LCpl LJ McMurdo	Pte R Gurung

Pte Gurung
Tpr NWD Kenrick
Pte B Kerung
Tpr SJ Ladely
Tpr D Leslie
Tpr W McDowell
Tpr JF McGinlay

Cfn RMW Menzies
Tpr Middleton
Tpr LWC Millar
Tpr S Ntanga
Tpr Oneil
Pte J Pun
Tpr ISK Radredre

Pte SRRai
Tpr SA Ralph
Tpr ID Ratuqalovi
Pte GA Reid
Tpr J Scott
Tpr KA Nelson
Cfn LD Smith

Tpr TDJ Spence
Pte Y Thapa
Pte MI Togneri
Tpr AM Tootle
Tpr DJ Wilson

A Squadron

Maj JFS McLeman	Cpl PJ Ferguson	LCpl SJRatcliffe	Tpr TJ McCluskey
Capt RJG Grinling	Cpl SG Forsyth	LCpl JA Shilton	Tpr M McCullough
Capt NGB Woodhams	Cpl SD McCall	LCpl JM Stodart	Tpr PT McGuire
Lt JWP Crawford	Cpl BD McShane	LCpl MR Weir	Tpr MD McKenna
Lt HMR Ramsden	Cpl JA Messenger	LCpl AJA Williams	Tpr AJ McNally
2Lt FHB Roberts	Cpl R Salmon	Tpr CA Aitken	Cfn KM Miller
WO2 JM Chantry	Cpl R Stevenson	Tpr K Alexander	Tpr BI Milne
SSgt JAI Allan	LCpl NM Batialuna	Pte SF Atkinson	Tpr PM Nelson
SSgt JA Lee	LCpl RM Cabemaiwasa	Tpr KC Black	Tpr P ONeill
Sgt P Balfour	LCpl JG Crosbie	Tpr MD Carmichael	Tpr RO Rainford
Sgt K Connell	LCpl K Dornan	Tpr TCS Clayton	Tpr K Ramage
Sgt RJ Crumley	LCpl MJ Duffy	Tpr JS Colley	Cfn ML Raynor
Sgt JD McAleese	LCpl B Gillespie	Tpr MJ Collins	Tpr RK Richard
Sgt JM Pratt	LCpl MJ Hudson	Tpr GTD Dryburgh	Tpr FP Rochford
Sgt S Ross	LCpl U Kilaiverata	Tpr J Ferrie	Tpr N Ross
Sgt DRJ Steel	LCpl DD Lowe	Tpr SC Glachan	Tpr J Ross
Cpl RJ Ashley	LCpl I Macawai	Tpr WD Hepburn	Tpr CM Slater
Cpl R Barr	LCpl E McCormick	Tpr AJ Irvine	Tpr GAD Stewart
Cpl CH Brown	LCpl CJ McInnes	Tpr AA Jones	Tpr LF Veitch
Cpl AI Chalmers	LCpl REM Millar	Tpr MB Koloba	Tpr JS Wasasala
Cpl JR Degei	LCpl SA Milne	Tpr MT Komaiyasa	Tpr DE Wilson
Cpl SC Duncan	LCpl CM Paton	Tpr RJW Lee	Tpr GA Wren

B Squadron

Maj TEAG Kerrigan	Cpl MP Devine	LCpl GJ Mckenna	Tpr AVT Druavesi
Capt CPS Majcher	Cpl MA Fitzpatrick	LCpl TPJ Oconnor	Tpr DR Galloway
Lt T Graham	Cpl A Hollingworth	LCpl P Vaniyan	Cfn SDP Hancock
Lt DP Lee	Cpl Ik Jardine	LCpl SG Weatherston	Tpr CJ Kelly
Lt AJS Reith	Cpl K Mitchell	LCpl RL Wilson	Tpr S Kurewaka
WO2 JR Taylor	Cpl DP Rae	LCpl ARW Wyness	Tpr I Matacagi
SSgt MSP Chisholm	Cpl MA Riddell	Tpr RR Arnold	Tpr SL Nicol
SSgt SN Gowans	Cpl MW Saayman	Cfn JC Barclay	Tpr A Pollock
Sgt AF Anderson	Cpl PR Stafford	Tpr MR Bower	Tpr KEA Polson
Sgt KM Cooper	Cpl SD Wright	Tpr SJ Cagi	Tpr C Ramsamy
Sgt BM Fraser	LCpl RJ Campbell	Tpr HJ Chadwick	Tpr W Riley
Sgt DE Grant	LCpl CHM Christie	Tpr DD Charlery	Tpr EB Saratibau
Sgt FC Kyle	LCpl CP Fitzsimmons	Tpr KL Clark	Tpr ME Syphus
Sgt DM Oberts	LCpl DA Forrest	Tpr MJ Coner	Tpr SD Taganekurukuru
Sgt CF Stewart	LCpl MA Keith	Tpr SM Crosbie	Tpr JJ Ubitau
Sgt MJ Whitehall	LCpl ST Mate	Tpr SA Cushley	
Cpl LA Deshong	LCpl JP Mcgoochan	Cfn JA Dixon	

C Squadron

Maj JPA Halford-MacLeod	Cpl I Lynn	LCpl MR Smith	Tpr JW Louden
Capt MS Erskine-Naylor	Cpl S McCuaig	LCpl DJD Stewart	Tpr CA MacLachan
Capt CF Emslie	Cpl RJ McLaughlin	LCpl GC Strachan	Tpr DTB Martin
Lt HI Braithwaite	Cpl P Quinn	LCpl P Vaniyan	Tpr OR McConnachie
Lt SJA Probst	Cpl MR Saulailai	LCpl G Walker	Tpr SA McGee
Lt JB Watson	Cpl SR Thomas	Tpr S Blackmore	Tpr AR McLean
WO2 M Hendry	Cpl TB Tuitibou	Tpr AN Boulton	Tpr KM Mills
SSgt MA Crockett	LCpl ST Barrett	Tpr SR Brydon	Tpr KA Nelson
SSgt S Percy	LCpl DC Brawn	Tpr RA Chinsen	Tpr CRJ Nimblette
Sgt NJM Brown	LCpl MET Essex	Tpr R Currie	Tpr DJ Nolan
Sgt DR Cargill	LCpl CJ Garrett	Tpr CJ Dean	Tpr HE Rabua
Sgt RPV Heathcote	LCpl DC Gemmell	Tpr CD Ferrier	Tpr J Reid
Sgt KJ Imrie	LCpl GT Gordon	Tpr A Forrester	Tpr DL Robb
Sgt CJ Roberts	LCpl AJ Hughes	Tpr SRJ Gallier	Tpr S Rollo
Cpl BC Chandler	LCpl CJ Huss	Tpr JD Gemmell	Cfn TL Ross
Cpl ML Crawford	LCpl SA Mccurdie	Tpr TW Gilman	Tpr DD Sannachan
Cpl HJ Deklerk	LCpl PJ McLeish	Tpr C Hendry	Tpr JL Smart
Cpl S Fairbairn	LCpl DJ McLucas	Tpr TP Hooton	Tpr MA Stoops
Cpl RJ Humphries	LCpl CT McQuarrie	Tpr PEF Johnson	Cfn DA Wilks
Cpl PF Kelly	LCpl CD Scott	Cfn S Kerr	Tpr GJ Williams
	LCpl JL Simpson	Tpr C Lochrie	Tpr L Wright

D Squadron

Maj NG Foulerton	Cpl G Jarret	LCpl WA Fischer	LCpl FKK Tamani
Capt AW Jackson	Cpl CJ Lang	LCpl DS Gates	LCpl LT Vula
Capt BA McNeil	Cpl IJ MacKenzie	LCpl AW Grieve	Tpr L Aitken
Capt MD Welch	Cpl W McCormick	LCpl KW Hynds	Tpr CW Brown
WO2 JD Baillie	Cpl WJ Monaghan	LCpl CJM Jones	Tpr MG Delaney-Gould
SSgt P Beveridge	Cpl MJ Munro	LCpl KV Kapaiwai	Tpr A Glasgow
SSgt B Campbell	Cpl JT Pescod	LCpl D Kelly	Tpr JG Kennedy
SSgt GM Fraser	Cpl A Ravunamelo	LCpl A Kempton	Tpr DJ Leslie
SSgt A Kennan	Cpl J Sebok	LCpl DA Kennedy	Tpr BA Lovatt
SSgt DST Wallace	Cpl KB Taylor	LCpl AT Lowdon	Tpr D McNeill
Sgt SM Chart	Cpl D Toughill	LCpl SG McKellican	Tpr M Nakaralutu
Sgt L Cummings	Cpl PAW Young	LCpl MJ Murney	Tpr S Sovinisalevu
Sgt BP Khoo	LCpl G Arnold	LCpl VT Naga	Tpr JW Stevens
Sgt S Mcgovern	LCpl JW Barker	LCpl JA Palmer	Tpr K Stevenson
Sgt JG Rigby	LCpl W Dalglish	LCpl NEI Pocock	Tpr KG Tibbles
Sgt S Robinson	LCpl S Davison	LCpl S Rokoduguni	Tpr S Waqairatu
Sgt EM Smith	LCpl LE Dominy	LCpl NC Sim	Tpr RDJ Watson

Marriages

Tpr Crosbie to Sheema, 06 May 2011
Cfn Dixon to Simone, 26 February 2011
Tpr Galloway to Lisa, 29 October 2011
Cpl Johnston to Stephanie, 03 May 2011
LCpl Kelly to Kay, 26 November 2011
Tpr Kenrick to Marie, 30 December 2011
Maj Kerrigan to Zoe, 05 March 2011
LCpl Little to Lisa 26 November 2011
LCpl McCrindle to Natalie 12 December 2011
LCpl Millar to Nadine, 23 March 2011

Births

Cpl and Mrs Bruce, a daughter, Mia Elizabeth, 20 October 2011
Tpr and Mrs Chisnall, a son, Kyle Thomas, 19 December 2011
Sgt and Mrs Cooper, a son, Henry 13 July 2011
SSgt and Mrs Gowans, a son, Scott, 27 October 2011
Cfn and Mrs Haslam, a daughter, Talytha, Oakley Winifred, 04 November 2011
Tpr Kurewaka, a daughter, Maria, 19 October 2011
Cpl and Mrs Lovell, a son, Owen Duncan, 10 November 2011
LCpl and Mrs Macawi, a daughter, Ilaisa, 04 May 2011
LCpl and Mrs Paton, a son, Conner 15 September 2011
Cpl and Mrs Saulailai, a son, Macui 7th April 2011
Cpl and Mrs Scally, a daughter, Tyra, 10 May 2010
LCpl and Mrs Stodart, a son, Kaisom David, 22 November 2011
Tpr and Mrs Stoops, a daughter, Scarlett 9th July 2011
Maj and Mrs Foulerton, a daughter, Beatrix Florence Stella, 28 February 2011
Maj and Mrs Stone, a son, Harry Thomas, 30th March 2011

Officers at Extra Regimental Employment

FM HRH The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO	Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, St James’s London
Brig SRB Allen	Colonel of the Regiment
Brig FG Gedney OBE	British Embassy, Washington
Col JU Biggart MBE	AD Collective Trg HQ Army
Col RPH Vickers	XO DCOS Ops HQ ISAF
Col HH Blackman	IMATT, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Col B P Edwards OBE	Asst Dir, Director Combat
Lt Col RR Alers-Hankey	SO1 Comd and Recce, LF Cbt
Lt Col DAJ Allen	Comd Offr, Gunnery School, Lulworth
Lt Col TJ Bateman MBE	MA to DCOM ISAF
Lt Col MPA Bullen MBE	Defence Attache (North Africa), Algeria
Lt Col HMA Cummins	SO1 CTG HQ LFG, Catterick
Lt Col JHM Cushnir	DA Trg
Lt Col CF Lambert	New College Commander, RMAS
Lt Col KPM Ravnkilde	SO1 Observer NATO, Jaffa
Lt Col NH Robertson BEM	SO1 (LE) RAC/CAMus Offrs, APC, Glasgow
Maj SJHF Albert	Trg Maj RWxY, Bovington
Maj J Ambrose	SO2 DFDfD
Maj JWH Bishop	OC A Sqn 9/12L
Maj RML Boyle	SO2 Armd CATT, Sennelager
Maj BH Brotherton	QM(Tech) Sp Bn, Thiepval Bks, Lisburn
Maj BJ Cattermole	COS 20 Armd Bde, Sennelager
Maj WHL Davies MBE	MA to ACGS
Maj RBR Christie	SO2, CAST North, Catterick
Maj JM Hanlon	OC A Sqn QDG
Maj ME Hayward	OC C and S Sqn, QRL
Maj WRG Leek	OC C Sqn LD
Maj RJ Ongaro	SO2 ARMTAT, Thirsk
Maj BDA Ridge	MSSG Div Planning Team, Camberley
Maj DB Soulsby	OC C Sqn RDG
Maj AT Stewart	QM(Tech), BATUS
Maj JE Stone	SO2 J7 Exercises PJHQ
Maj AC Turpin	COS 145 (S) Bde
Maj SJ Walters	SE SO2, LF Eqpt
Maj RM Anderson	UKTI ESTB SO3, ATDU
Maj GG Craig	LF Org, Army HQ
Maj ED O’Brien	Missile Defence Programme, USA
Capt NJL Anderson	Armd Exchange Off, Jordanian Army, Amman
Capt LO Ballard-Whyte	Tp Ldr, RAC Trg Regt, Bovington
Capt RPA Densham	SO3 HQ DRAC, Bovington
Capt BG Erskine-Naylor	SO3 G5 Coord, HQ ARRC
Capt RIL Gorman	Adj, ATR Bassingbourn
Capt AD Greenwood	AFCO, Glasgow
Capt RJG Grinling	Temporary Staff, BATUS
Capt DGA Landon	Ops Dir, MOD Main Building
Capt MM Lille	TSO, Armcen, CTS, Bovington
Capt AD Marjoribanks	SO3 Armd, HQ BATUS
Capt KG McDowell	SO3 G4, HQ 7 Bde, Hohne
Capt RJM Skene	SO2 G2, HQ 1 Mech Bde, Tidworth
Capt JG Stewart	SO3 G4 Ops, HQ 3 Div.
Capt ESJ Young	Team Leader, Offr Selection Bd, Westbury
Lt J Watson	Temporary Staff, BATUS

Transfers and Retirements

Lt Col W Raitt
Maj WGL MacKinlay
Maj AH Benson-Blair
Capt PA Douglas
Capt RJM Holtum
Capt JRJ Paton

Serving with other Arms on transfer

Col BRE Butler OBE late AAC	DD Ops&Plans, DCDS Pers RFC, MoD. London
Col JHS Maclean TD	Colonel Yeomanry, HQ DRAC, Bovington
Col AGC Fair DSO	PJHQ
Lt Col JL Melville AAC	Mil Asst, NRDC HQ France, Mons
Lt Col DM Nicholls AAC	ACSC
Maj MN Wilkinson KRH	SO2 HQ ARRC
Maj JMW Williamson	Coy Comd, 2RGR, Brunei
Capt D Barclay	Training Officer, KRH
Capt WG Calderhead	Transfer RAMC
Lt HE Cunningham	Coy Int Offr, 1 YORKS
Lt JWW Kelly	Sqn Int Offr, QRH

Soldiers at ERE	
WO1 B Taylor	Contracts, The Armour Centre, ARMCCN
WO1 T Boyd	Contracts, The Armour Centre, Bovington
WO1 D Potter	Sovereigns Piper, Buckingham Palace, London
WO2 D Gardiner	SSM, 12 Cadet Training Team
WO2 D Hugill	MAS WO, DST, Leconfield
WO2 C Reid	RQMS, ARMCCN, Bovington
WO2 M Smith	Gunnery Division, HQ DRAC
SSgt B Dale	Instructor, ACIO Galashiels
SSgt B Campbell	Instructor, The Armour Centre, AFV Signals School
SSgt C Dougal	SSM, NUOTC
SSgt R Lennox	Gunnery Senior Instructor, The Queens own Yeomanry, A (Earl of Carrick Own) Squadron
SSgt G Rieley	Instructor, AFCO Edinburgh
SSgt P Mullett	Recruiter, ART Edinburgh
Sgt G Aitkin	Instructor, The Armour Centre, AFV D&M School
Sgt A Beveridge	Instructor, AOSB, Westbury
Sgt T Burrows	18 (UKSF) SIG REGT 264 SIG SQN
Sgt S Cannon	Company PSI, Royal Mercian And Lancastrian Yeomanry, C Squadron
Sgt Davies	Troop Sergeant, AFC (H)
Sgt D Gardiner	Signals PSI, The Queens Own Yeomanry A (Earl Of Carricks Own)
Sgt P Hirst	Recruiter, AFCO Plymouth, R& LS (South)
Sgt J Kelly	Instructor, The Armour Centre, AFV CIS School
Sgt D Mathews	Instructor, 21 Cadet Training Team (HIGHLAND)
Sgt McCann	BSM, 4 MECH BDE
Sgt R Mcfarlane	Instructor, HQ DRAC
Sgt R Munro	Pipe Major, Pipers' Trail, Stirling
Sgt B Muir	Instructor, ATR (B)
Sgt S Paterson	Instructor, HQ DRAC, CADT
Sgt D Perry	Instructor, The Armour Centre, AFV D&M School
Sgt D Ross	SQMS, The Armour Centre, HQ ARMCCN, CTS
Sgt K Sutherland	BSM, HQ LAND COMD Commitments
Sgt D Thompson	D+M Instructor, The Queens Own Yeomanry A (Earl Of Carricks Own) Squadron
Cpl S Brennan	Staff, Royal Wessex Yeomanry
Cpl M Black	Troop Corporal, AFC (H)
Cpl Cormack	Instructor, The Armour Centre, RAC Training Regiment, Bovington
Cpl C Jackson	Signals Instructor, The Armour Centre, RAC Training Regiment
Cpl C Manchester	Instructor, The Armour Centre, RAC Training Regiment, Bovington
Cpl B Matagasau	Instructor, The Armour Centre, RAC Training Regiment, Bovington
Cpl J MacLennan	House Corporal HQ ISAF
Cpl S McCall	Troop Corporal, ATDU
Cpl C Morton	Physical Training Instructor, Episkopi Station Sports Centre
Cpl S Scoular	Instructor, The Armour Centre, RAC Training Regiment, Bovington
Cpl T Ah Sing	Instructor, The Armour Centre, RAC Training Regiment, Bovington
Cpl P Sinclair	Instructor, 24 Cadet Training Team
Cpl A Storrier	Instructor, The Armour Centre, RAC Training Regiment, Bovington
LCpl G Adam	PTI, The Armour Centre, RAC Training Regiment
LCpl C Coburn	Crewman, ATDU
LCpl A Cunningham	Provost Staff, AFC (H)
LCpl A Duncan	Recruiting, CRR 51 (SCOT) BDE/ART 28 – Perth
LCpl D Liang	Recruiter, CRR 51 (SCOT) BDE/ART 26 – Edinburgh (SE)
LCpl J McLelland	Recruiting, CRR 51 (SCOT) BDE/ART 27 – Glasgow (SW)
LCpl D Mullan	Crewman, ATDU
Tpr C Middleton	49 Bde PRU
Tpr T Ross	51 Bde PRU

HONOURS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

Her Majesty’s Lieutenancy

Major E Ingram MBE – Deputy Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear

Royal Victorian Order

Member

Major WGL MacKinlay

The Order of Oranje-Nassau

Knight

William McVean

Military Cross

Corporal K Mitchell

The Duke of Kent Medal

Captain MA Somers

Commander Land Forces Commendation

Captain AC Hainey

Commander Joint Operations Commendation

Captain AW Jackson

Captain KG McDowell

Captain JG Strijdom

General Officer Commanding’s Commendation

Major JPA Halford-Macleod

Captain ACM Potter

Brigade Commander’s Commendation

Warrant Officer Class 2 JD Baillie

Captain NCG Hanson

Warrant Officer Class 2 AW Potter

Corporal DJ West



HOME HEADQUARTERS AND REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

On 1 April 1961 the War Office approved the establishment of a small permanent Headquarters for the Royal Scots Greys. It was only the second Cavalry Regiment to be allowed a Home Headquarters. On 20 September that year the Regimental Secretary, Major Frank Dodd, arrived in Edinburgh Castle to take over what he hoped would be “his domain for some years to come and the Regiment’s for evermore”. Sadly Frank Dodd died in 1972 but fifty years on the Headquarters is still going strong although there have been a number of changes over that time. The most notable change was when we became the Home Headquarters for the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards as a result of its formation forty years ago. Other changes in the last fifty years have included the moving of the Headquarters within the Castle and the opening of the Museum and Shop in their current locations in 2006 after a huge fundraising effort and the working practices of the staff. However, what has not changed is the *raison d’être* for the Headquarters and its role in supporting the Regimental family. Inevitably over the years, members of staff have moved on and new faces have appeared. This year was no exception. The new Regimental Secretary, Major Jamie Erskine, took over from Lieutenant Colonel Roger Binks in February. Fortunately, Lieutenant Colonel Binks has only moved further up in the Castle so is on hand to provide reassurance and advice when necessary. Anne Ennis arrived in the Headquarters in the spring to help run the accounts. The majority of her time, so far, has been to pull together the Caring for Courage accounts but as they settle down, she will take on other responsibilities. Christine Kidd who worked in the Shop for thirteen years decided to apply for and was given early redundancy in October. She had a wealth of knowledge and experience which was much appreciated and missed when she left. The backbone of the Headquarters has not changed. Captain Jimmy Springthorpe, the Assistant Regimental Secretary, continues to coordinate Association matters ably assisted by Margaret Irvine who has the never ending task of ensuring all contact details are kept up to date while Colin Mack manages the office in his own calm way.

There is an inevitable cycle to the work in Home Headquarters and 2011 was no exception. Routinely and amongst many other tasks, Home Headquarters has the responsibility for producing and distributing two newsletters each year, distributing the Eagle and Carbine, running the Derby sweepstake, sending out Christmas

cards and ensuring members of the Association are kept informed of any major event. Sadly many of the notices sent out relate to a death which, in 2011, included that of Craftsman Andrew Found who was killed in action while serving in Afghanistan. The Headquarters with help from the Individual Aid Officer, Major Jimmie James, also disburses benevolence to members of the Regimental family who need help. While it is tremendous to be able to do this, it is also sad to read why some cases have been allowed to reach the point they have. The Regimental Trust and Council meetings were both held in London at the Cavalry and Guards Club. The second was timed to coincide with the Annual Regimental Dinner and so took place slightly earlier than normal, on 18 November 2011.

On 7 May the traditional parade and service for the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association was held in Hyde Park. Unfortunately, because of the Regimental deployment to Afghanistan, there were few serving officers present. However, there was a good turn out for the Parade and sixty former or serving officers and their friends sat down to luncheon in the Cavalry and Guards Club. Later in the month, on 22 May, the Regiment once again took a party to the Kelso races to coincide with Ladies Day. Despite it being a coldish day, a number of ladies had made a great effort to look their most stylish. From the Regiment, thirty seven officers and friends sat down to luncheon before the racing started. In the afternoon members of the Association joined the party and everyone enjoyed some very good sport. The Regiment sponsored the sixth race which was won by Abragante, owned and trained by Mrs D Monteith and ridden by Mr M Ennis. The fact the horse judged to be the best turned out was owned by Major Trotter was merely a coincidence.

On other matters, the Derby sweepstake once again proved to be popular and raised over a thousand pounds for Regimental Funds. The Association Annual General Meeting was held in Edinburgh on 2 April and coincided with the Edinburgh Branch dinner. In mentioning the Association, the team at Home Headquarters would like to thank the Branch Secretaries and members for all the support they give to it; in particular Bob Swan (Edinburgh and South of Scotland Branch) and Jimmy Carr (Musicians Branch) who regularly come to the Castle and provide a helping hand.

In addition to the routine events, Home Headquarters was also involved in a number of notable events in 2011. The most poignant was on 6 April when, at a small ceremony in Home Headquarters, the family of Trooper Iain Caie who was killed in Northern Ireland in October 1972 was presented with an Elizabeth Cross by The Colonel of the Regiment. Iain Caie’s family came down from Aberdeen and, after going to the Scottish National War Memorial to see Iain’s name on the Regimental Roll of Honour, visited the Museum before the presentation which took place in the Colonel’s office. Amongst those present were Lieutenant General Sir Norman Arthur, Sir Michael Cummins, Major Martyn Pocock and Major Hamish Macrae all of whom had been part of Iain’s chain of command on that fateful day or were closely involved in the incident when he died. After a small reception in the Officers’ Mess, the family was taken to the Grey’s Memorial in Princes Street on which Iain’s name is also to be found. It was hoped this was a fitting day for the family of one of the Regiment.

In May Home Headquarters was the focal point when Captain Ed Young and a small Regimental group bicycled around Scotland to raise money for the Regimental Appeal. They faced fearsome gales throughout their journey and were very relieved when they reappeared back in the Castle on 27 May.

On 20 August the Regiment was kindly allocated a number of seats in the VIP area of the new stands at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Our guests included the Provost and Lady Provost of Perth, the Master of the Worshipful Company of Pewterers, our new Lothian and Borders Liaison Officer John Cooper and his wife, representatives from HMS Vengeance, the new Association Chaplain The Reverend John Murdoch and his wife and the Reverend Neil Gardner, Minister of Canongate Kirk where the Regiment was to hold its Thanksgiving Service later in the year.

It is always a pleasure for the staff of Home Headquarters to welcome visitors to it and the Museum. Of particular note, in 2011, have been the visits of the Romanian Ambassador and party, the Right Honourable George Grubb, The Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh and the Lady Provost, and the Master of and the Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Pewterers.

But the staff at Home Headquarters have not just been involved in events inside Edinburgh Castle.

There were separate luncheons in July in London for those officers who served in the Carabiniers and those who served in the Scots Greys. Both luncheons were well attended and a number of former officers met up with those they knew for the first time in over

40 years. The Regimental Dinner this year was held on 17 December in St James’s Palace and is reported elsewhere but, inevitably, there was slightly more organisation required this year than in other years. Home Headquarters was also delighted to act as the focal point for the Regimental Homecoming parades, Thanksgiving Service and Reception at the end of November and early December and it was a pleasure to see so many members of the Regiment pass through Home Headquarters at that time.

Home Headquarters has played its part in the Caring for Courage Appeal. As well as acting as the bankers, a number of the team have organised various fund raising activities throughout the year. Some of these have been done in conjunction with the Association Branches, others have been done off an individual’s own initiative.

The Museum has had a busy year with an increasing number of visitors. There was one addition with the purchase of a cigar case that will shortly be on display. It belonged to Captain George Buchanan who took part in the Charge of the Heavy Brigade at Balaklava in 1854 and was bought with the help of a fifty per cent grant from The National Fund for Acquisitions. The silver gilt case is beautifully engraved with fine scrollwork showing Captain Buchanan’s family crest and his initials on one side, and the Regimental motto and cypher on the other. Major Robin Maclean went to Chester Museum and brought back a number of stored items which were not on display there and will now be kept on a permanent basis in Edinburgh. He has continued to catalogue and bring the archives up to date and run the Museum as Curator.

Major Scott, the Honorary Archivist, has been kept busy researching answers to the constant flow of letters received in Home Headquarters asking for information about ancestors, Regimental history etc. It is always satisfying when a full answer can be given to a question but frustrating when the records held in the Castle are insufficient to do so. Meanwhile, Peter Slater has continued to help organise the archives one day per week.

At the end of the year, a picture painted by the late Earl Haig was unveiled by Geroloma, Countess Haig at a reception in the Museum. The Museum Trustees and Shop Directors also took this opportunity to formally thank Major General Charles Ramsay who was retiring as Chairman of both the Museum Trustees and of the Shop directors at the end of the year. His contribution over many years has been immense. Brigadier Jameson acknowledged this at the reception when he presented Major General Ramsay with a gift as a token of appreciation for everything he has done.

Finally, but by no means least, the Shop is such an important but often understated part of the Regiment. Its profits are used to support the welfare of both serving and past members of the Regiment as well as helping to fund the requirements of the Museum. Teresa Park, the Retail Manager, has continued to run the shop with ever increasing success. Some staff came

and went during the year but the current team of Allan Nelson, Ewan McLee, Joanne Findlayson and Megan Carberry are a dedicated and settled group to whom the Regiment is indebted.



THE REGIMENTAL TRUST

The Regimental Trustees, as the executive body, administer and manage the funds and property “for the improvement, efficiency, benefit and welfare of the Regiment, the Regimental Association and Charities which benefit ex-Servicemen and their families”. Trust income is derived from Subscriptions from serving and former members, interest on invested capital, ad hoc donations and appropriate tax recoveries. The Trustees, whose names are listed after the Contents page, approved allocations for the year from April 2011 to March 2012, as follows:

Charitable Donations (1)	15,000	(1) Allocated to: ABF The Soldiers’ Charity, Royal
Individual Aid Fund	15,000	British Legion, Royal British Legion Scotland, Pop-
Regimental Association	6,000	pyscotland , Combat Stress (Hollybush House), Gar-
Regimental Support (2)	57,250	dening Leave, Scottish Veterans’ Residences, Erskine,
Afghanistan Painting	10,000	RAC War Memorial Benevolent Fund, Queen Victoria
Homecoming Support	10,000	School Dunblane, King Edward VII’s Hospital Sis-
Archives and Research	4,600	ter Agnes, The Royal Star and Garter Home, Burma
Property Insurance	4,000	Star Association, Last Post Association at Ypres,
Property Maintenance	5,000	Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, Yeomanry
Home Headquarters	10,600	Benevolent Fund, Veterans Scotland, Royal Hospital
Accounts & Legal	5,000	Chelsea Chapel, RMA Sandhurst Memorial Chapel,
Investment Management	5,000	Scottish Veterans Garden City, Peninsular 200
Administration/Meetings	1,000	
Regimental Magazine	13,000	(2) Includes Op Herrick Support, Sport, Adventurous
Regimental Cadets	1,000	Training, Equitation, Full and Parade Dress.
Recruiting/PR	4,000	
Regimental Minibus	7,500	(3) Total sum includes unallocated funds brought for-
Capital investment	9,000	ward from previous years.
Total (3)	£182,700	

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND SHOP

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM TRUST
Registered in Edinburgh, No SC006547
Ex-Officio Trustee
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BRIGADIER MS JAMESON CBE
LIEUTENANT COLONEL RJ BINKS
Chairman of the Trustees
MAJOR GENERAL CA RAMSAY CB OBE
Appointed Trustees
CAPTAIN RC MACLACHLAN
MAJOR RWB MACLEAN TD
Ex-Officio Trustee and Secretary
MAJOR JMK ERSKINE MBE

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Registered in Scotland, Company No 173103
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MAJOR GENERAL CA RAMSAY CB OBE
Appointed Directors
MAJOR RWB MACLEAN TD
MAJOR JMK ERSKINE MBE
Company Secretary
LIEUTENANT COLONEL RJ BINKS
Consultant to the Board
JH TROTTER ESQ
Shop Manager
MISS T PARK

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Patrons
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF KENT

President
THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

Vice Presidents
LIEUTENANT COLONEL A M SPROT MC JP
COLONEL AJ BATEMAN OBE
MAJOR GENERAL CRS NOTLEY CB CBE
THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Chairman
COLONEL JMA ROSS

Branch Chairmen and Secretaries

Aberdeen and North of Scotland (Chairman and Secretary) Mr AA Black	London and South East of England Major HJ Elston Mr J Rochester
Edinburgh and South of Scotland Captain JD Campbell OBE Mr R Swan	South West of England Lieutenant Colonel MD Oliver Mr IC Salisbury
Glasgow and West of Scotland Major RWB MacLean TD Mr I Cook	Secretariat
Musicians (Band, Pipes and Drums) Major HI Macrae Mr JW Carr	Individual Aid Fund Officer Major JL James
North East of England Major AJ Crease MBE BEM Mr RB Evans	Aid Fund Administrator Major JMK Erskine MBE
North West of England and Wales Major J Scrivener Mr RA Hill BEM	Honorary Secretary Captain J Springthorpe
	HONORARY OFFICERS His Majesty King Constantine of Greece Tam Dalyell of The Binns SD Lewis Esq Monsieur Christian Pol Roger Major JKC Scott Lieutenant Colonel RJ Binks

Membership is open to anyone now serving or who has ever served in or with
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, 3rd Carabiniers, The Royal Scots Greys, 25th Dragoons,
3rd Dragoon Guards (Prince of Wales’s) or 6th Dragoon Guards (The Carabiniers)

CHAIRMAN’S PIECE

Without a doubt the highlight of 2011 has been the launch of the Caring for Courage (C4C) appeal. Timed to coincide with the Regiment’s deployment to Afghanistan, it captured the imaginations of many and we have seen a raft of wonderful schemes for raising money for the fund. Members, relatives and friends have been writing letters; leaving boxes in offices, clubs and bars; and ‘rattling’ tins in all weathers. We have seen sponsored walks and runs, talks, on-line auctions, ceilidhs and dinners and there are plans for more, including dog-shows, treks to the North Pole and country fairs. A magnificent sum has been raised, but the appeal has not closed and I am delighted that so many people are continuing to come forward with inspired ideas.

The reason for our fund-raising was brought vividly home to us by the tragic news of the death of Craftsman Andrew Found, and later as members of the Association lined the road at the ‘final turn’ to pay their respects as the procession passed on its way from RAF Brize Norton. The Association was very much in evidence at the subsequent funeral in Whitby. A further reminder, if one was needed, came with the news that Trooper Christopher Middleton had been very seriously wounded. It was good to see that so many members of the Association were able to welcome the Regiment back at the home-coming parades in Glasgow Dundee and Edinburgh and to see Trooper Middleton and other casualties in such good heart. The service in the Canongate Church at the end of the Edinburgh parade was an opportunity to reflect on these and other losses and to give thanks for the safe return of the rest.

It is always good when people come back into the fold and once again become active in the affairs of the Regiment and the Association. This year I was particularly pleased when the Reverend John Murdoch agreed to become Honorary Padre to the Association. He is well known to many having served with the Regiment in Sennelager in the late 70s and early 80s. I am also delighted that Colin Pryde has brought his The Pryde

of East Lothian Pipes and Drums to us as the Association Band. Colin’s father, Jimmy, was Pipe-Major of the Greys and this continues a strong family tie. The Band played at the Regimental Remembrance Service in Edinburgh in November and we look forward to seeing them at many Regimental events in the years to come.

I am pleased that the Association Derby draw continues to attract a large number of subscribers each year and I most grateful to those who work so hard to sell tickets. I would encourage you to do all you can to sell (or even buy!) tickets in 2012.

I very much enjoy seeing old friends and new ones at the various dinners and other events that the hard-working Branch committees organise so well during the course of the year. It is particularly good to see the number of people who go to dinners outside ‘their’ area and have such a good time meeting old friends and making new ones.

The staff of Home Headquarters does so much to support the Association and to help me as Chairman. Our new Regimental Secretary, Major Jamie Erskine MBE has already made his mark and it has been good to see him at so many Association events. I would also like to thank our Secretary, Captain Jimmy Springthorpe, and specially our membership Secretary, Mrs Margaret Irvine who has, as you can see in another article, herself been active in raising money for C4C – even getting her (ex Royal Air Force) husband to help her!

As you read this a number of C4C projects will be under way. Do please support them and encourage others – especially those outside the immediate Regimental family – to do so. The Regiment is preparing for another tour in Afghanistan at the end of 2013 and we must be as ready as we can be to help those in need.



Aberdeen and North of Scotland

Our dinner night held in the Ravenswood Country Club, Banchory on 24 September 2011 proved to be yet another very successful occasion. It was with great delight that we were able to welcome a considerable number of guests from the Edinburgh Branch along with Colonel John Ross and Brigadier Mel Jameson. We were also very lucky to have the services of the piper, Dave Shearer, who kept us entertained with some excellent playing.

We yet again managed to field a grey beret contingent at the Veterans’ Day Parade in Aberdeen in June which started with a parade down Union Street and ended as in previous years with lunch and an open day in Gordon Barracks, Bridge of Don.

On Remembrance Sunday we took part in the Banchory Parade and again laid a wreath on the War Memorial in the Town Square. This year was more poignant than previous ones due to the deaths of Alex McCallum in

Glasgow and West of Scotland

The Glasgow Branch annual dinner was held in the Horizon Hotel, Ayr on 9 April. Just over forty attended including the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Simon Allen. After dinner he gave an interesting update on the role that the Regiment was expected to fulfil in Afghanistan. It would be many months before the Branch attended their Homecoming parades in Glasgow after their return.

Throughout the rest of the year newsletters from Afghanistan were read or distributed with great interest at Branch meetings. These meetings were held in the Tradeston Ex Serviceman’s Club and on the agenda future plans included ‘Waterloo 200’ with proposals of a branch visit to the battlefield on the anniversary itself or as close to it as possible. Flights and accommodation were researched by Branch Vice Chairman, Willie McLaughlin. Plans assume that the Regiment will have its own Waterloo 200 agenda so that when it becomes available the Branch can coordinate activities.

In June Graham McIntyre also known as Mack the Knife, organised a sponsored walk to raise money for

BRANCH REPORTS

February 2011, Irene Murray (wife of John (Rube) Murray) in September 2011 and more recently Colin Brazen-dale in October 2011. It was unfortunate that we were back at the same Church as two years ago and the service, in regard to remembrance, left much to be desired.

Our dinner night for 2012 should be held in the Inverness area, however the Legion in Inverness currently has no catering facilities. If this is not rectified before long we will be forced to find some other location to hold our dinner. As a result the location and date are yet to be confirmed.

We still meet at The Royal British Legion Club, Oldm-acher, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen every third Thursday of every second month at eight o’clock. Those meetings for 2012 are as follows: Thursday 16 February, 19 April, 21 June, 16 August, 18 October, 20 December. We would welcome any new member with open arms.



the Regimental Charitable Appeal ‘Caring for Cour-age’. It took place at Arrochar and they climbed Ben Arthur (The Cobbler). Fifteen people took part which included branch members Harry Clark and Sandy Fowler. Ian Cook organised some welcome food and drink at the end of the eleven kilometre walk which raised £600 for the appeal. A story of their achievement was published in the Lenox Herald with colour photographs showing the group in front of the Regimental flag, celebrating their success.

Also in June Kevin Mearns paraded the Glasgow Branch banner at the Armed Forces Day parades in Edinburgh and a day later in Glasgow. A good number of Association members supported each event.

A smaller than usual gathering at Bannockburn was held on Saturday 24 September. Sadly Ian Cook who originated and organised all previous gatherings was unable to be there and was greatly missed. A Scots Greys pub mirror was donated by Willie McLaughlin to the C4C auction at Bannockburn which raised £50 for the charitable appeal. The weekend also incorporated a Golf competition on Friday which has been

organised for many years by Jim Murray. A separate account of the event appears elsewhere.

The Remembrance Parade on 13 November was very well attended by the Branch. Glasgow has the largest parade in the UK after London and fills George Square with spectators and servicemen from all services. There was even a parade of bikers, all ex-service, who did a circuit or two of George Square with their flags flying and their throaty exhausts giving a different sort of harmony before the Remembrance Service and March Past began. The SCOTS DG Association lead the Army contingent as it does each year and after the

Edinburgh and East of Scotland

The Branch dinner was held in the Edinburgh Capital Hotel on Saturday 2 April. Seventy members and their guests attended and we were delighted to welcome Colonel Simon and Mrs Allen and Colonel John Ross. Other notable guests included John Rochester, Brian Woolerton and Vic Waddock from the London Branch. From the North East of England Branch we welcomed Major Tony Crease, Andrew Camley and Jude. Both Bob Swan’s partner, Mrs Margaret Murray and Brian Woolerton were celebrating their birthdays that evening. Brian Woolerton was on a lucky streak that evening winning four prizes in the raffle. Generous as ever he returned two of them to be redrawn.

On 22 May twenty six members and guests enjoyed a day at the races at Kelso where the The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Hunter Chase was being run. Those attending enjoyed an excellent carvery lunch in Kelso Golf Club prior to the racing.

Our annual “Pie and Pint” night was held as usual in the RBL St Boswells Branch on 17 June. It was as always a relaxed and informal evening. General Charles Ramsay encouraged more former officers to attend.

In celebration of the 40th birthday of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards the Branch hosted a ceilidh in the Miners Club at Dalkeith. The event was attended by eighty members and guests from throughout the Association and they were entertained by “Jim Wilsons Ceilidh Band”. Also contributing to the entertainment was Corporal Ben Duncan from the serving regiment and our very own Davey Shearer whose duet received a prolonged standing ovation. This event will be remembered fondly for many a year.

March Past retired to the City Chambers for a lunch and refreshment.

Later that month on 28 November, the Branch formed up outside the City Chambers once again. This time it was to welcome the Regiment home from Afghanistan and watch the Homecoming Parade march past in great style. Then it was into the City Chambers to hear the Lord Provost welcome their return and be given another lunch by Glasgow City Council in honour of the Regiment.



Remembrance Sunday saw fifty members of the Branch march onto parade behind the Pipes and Drums of The Pryde of East Lothian Pipe band. A real swagger could be seen as those marching enjoyed the skirl of the pipes. The service was conducted by the Rev Haisley Moore who was not put off by the fact that the Garrison Gunner had a hang fire resulting in a five minute silence rather than the traditional two. As normal we were blessed with fine autumnal weather. The spectators who always gather on this occasion were more numerous than usual due to the draw of the Pipes and Drums. With so many people around the opportunity to raise funds for Caring for Courage was not to be missed and a quick whip round with a couple of collecting tins raised £121.

The Pryde of East Lothian Pipes and Drums is a newly formed band and the Pipe Major is Colin Pryde who formed the band in memory of his late father Pipe Major Jimmy Pryde, ex Royal Scots Greys. They are a grade four competing band with a very good future ahead of them. Any ex members of SCOTS DG Pipes and Drums would be most welcome to join them. It is hoped that the band will become affiliated with the Regimental Association and this idea will be taken forward in the New Year.



North East of England Branch

On 19 March we gathered at our regular venue, the Jarvis Hotel in Wetherby, for our annual reunion dinner. Fifty nine people attended and a most enjoyable evening was had by all. The Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Simon Allen, joined us once again and gave details of the Regimental Charity ‘Caring for Courage’ to which several Branch Members have contributed. A warm welcome was extended to Barry and Helen Liston, Bryn and Joan Evans, Merion and Ann Jones, Ian and Ann Salisbury and Brian Woolerton from our other Association branches, who came to support us. As ever, we were most grateful to them. After dinner Captain Edward Young, representing the Commanding Officer, gave a detailed account of the operational activity the Regiment would be involved in once deployed to Afghanistan. A raffle was held which raised the grand sum of £182. This amount was added to by the Branch, making a total of £300, which was later presented to the Caring for Courage fund. As usual, thanks go to Stan and Marion Macey together with Don and Jean Roe, who sold tickets and marked up the prizes, donated by those attending, on the night.

The untimely death, on operations, of Craftsman Andrew Found (REME attached SCOTS DG), who was born and brought up in our Branch area, saw a few members gather in Whitby to support the family at his funeral. The Regiment responded magnificently from the Colonel of The Regiment and the Commanding Officer down to the funeral party; all paid a masterful tribute to our fallen comrade. We will remember him.

On a lighter note, four members of the Branch were lucky enough to draw a horse in the 2011 Association

North West of England and Wales

We changed the venue for this year’s AGM and held it in Port Sunlight at The Levers Club. Liz Lewis provided us with a magnificent buffet and after the meeting we held a quiz (won again by the Chairman and his team!). The dinner was a great night at The Royal British Legion, Upton by Chester and we were fortunate that Colonel Simon was able to attend along with many members and their wives.

The Chairman and the Secretary made it to the Association AGM in Edinburgh this year but had trouble getting home (railway problems) and eventually went via York and Manchester in a very wide route arriving back in Chester at nearly midnight!

Grand Derby Draw but the best they could manage was 8th place. Still, one of our members did win first prize last year.

Mr Alan Bowden represented the Branch at the Field of Remembrance at St Margaret’s in London, on Thursday, November 10th. This year, on Remembrance Sunday, Captain Ivison and Louise Wheatley were joined by Captain Nicholas and Fenella Orr, at St Columba’s United Reformed Church in York to lay a wreath on the Royal Scots Greys Memorial Tablet. Having represented the Branch in York since 1999 Ivison has handed over to Nick Orr, who will assume this duty next year. After the Service all four were made very welcome with Louise and Fenella receiving flowers. Nick also took the opportunity to get to know as many of the congregation as possible. Ivison has carried out this function on behalf of the Regiment and Association for the past 12 years and we are greatly indebted to him. The Secretary laid the Branch wreath at the Cenotaph in Beverley, following a Service in the Minster.

With a need to bring the Branch Committee up to strength, Nick Orr and John (Jock) Allan have kindly stepped forward. Their involvement will add flair and enthusiasm to Branch activity.

During 2011 we were saddened by the passing of three members, Ernie Robinson, Bob Stubbs and John Ward. We also lost contact with Mr I Cameron due to a change of address but we welcomed as a new member, Mr Bill Woodward from Ripon, who served in the Greys during World War II.



The Chairman’s barbeque was held as usual in July and was enjoyed by all who attended. In September the branch held a social at the Gwersylt Cricket Club near Wrexham which was very well organised by Keith Purviss.

The Annual Reunion in November was held on the Saturday night before Remembrance Sunday and we had a fantastic turnout. Some of you may be aware that Dickie Teese is currently residing in a nursing home in the Wirral so Tom Coates came up with the idea of bringing him along. With the cooperation of Dickies family and nursing home staff this was made possible and he thoroughly enjoyed himself. Tom and his family brought him to the parade the following day and Dickie laid a wreath on behalf of all his all com-



rades who he served with in Burma. Tom even managed to get him on the march past in his wheelchair and whizzed him in front of the parade (led by our Chairman) and passing the saluting base before finally coming to a halt! Peter Farley laid a wreath on behalf of the Association. We all retired afterwards to the United Services Club where we had our annual photograph (25 on parade) and partook of refreshments before dispersing.

The membership this year gained a couple of members (Vic Bailey, Sid Hodges) and we sadly lost Bill (Geordie) Heason.



London and South East of England

2011 has been a busy year one way or another and the key feature for the branch has been activities associated with the Regimental deployment on Op HERRICK, in particular where the Branch was able to make a contribution to the Caring for Courage appeal.

The Branch observance at the Carabiniers Memorial in Chelsea took place in mid-February with a much smaller than normal attendance. That could be attrib-

uted to both the change in date and also the fact that the Regiment was heavily involved in pre-deployment training for Afghanistan. Nonetheless the gathering gave us a chance to spend some time remembering the actions of our predecessors whilst, at the same time, thinking about those who were yet to deploy to add yet another chapter to the Regimental history.

In May the Cavalry Memorial weekend followed the usual format with the reunion at the Barley Mow on Saturday evening followed the next morning by the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association parade and service in Hyde Park.

In June came the call that we had expected at some time but didn't want to get. There had been a Regimental fatality in Afghanistan, Craftsman Andy Found, and so the long discussed ability of the Branch to respond in some capacity was called into being. This was not a lot but enough to ensure that due accord was paid to him as he made that last journey from the military airhead into the civilian medical/coroner chain. Eight members of the Association branches from London and SE and SW rallied to the call and provided a "Bodyguard" for the repatriation that took place on 23 June 2011. Paul Savage acted as Association Banner bearer and together with In Pensioner Jim McLelland, Mike and Nick Oliver (SW), James Leslie, Mark Smith and John Rochester, joined local London branch member Hugh Hinde (Ex 3DG) who has paraded on such occasions in the past with the RDG Association. Rather than joining the throng at Wootton Bassett we instead went to "The Final Turn" in Oxford where the cortege would eventually turn into the John Radcliffe Hospital for the Coroners Inquiry. Here a bodyguard consisting of twelve Legion standards, eight Association standards, over fifty Association members from disparate Regiments and Corps and a host of locals all turned



"Repatriation Bodyguard" L-R: Nick Oliver, John Rochester, Jim McLelland, Hugh Hinde, Paul Savage, James Leslie, Mark Smith, Mike Oliver

out to pay their respects to these young men on their last journey home.

On 2 July there was an informal gathering at the Royal Hospital Chelsea to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Regiment's formation at the Amalgamation parade in 1971. It was good that we could all get together for a sociable pint and reminisce of life before, during and after Amalgamation. Since 1971 we have seen a variety of postings, equipment and operational tours from Bovington to Belize and Berlin to Batus, Denmark, Northern Ireland and Cyprus. There have been peacemaking operations in Bosnia and Kosovo and the Regiment has even been to war not once but twice in Iraq via Saudi Arabia and now Afghanistan. Hopefully throughout that time the Regiment has known that the Association has been ready to support them when needed.

However, old soldiers also play well and that was the object of this gathering; to celebrate the birthday of the Regiment and to have an opportunity to raise a glass or two amongst our Regimental Family. But it was also a chance to educate folk. We watched the Amalgamation Parade video which although not the best quality copy added to the ambience. For some of the audience it was the first time they had seen it either because they were on the actual parade or they were not serving at the time so, contrary to expectations, the audience was almost completely silent throughout the performance! After this we retired to the barbecue area and enjoyed lunch and a few beers. We also used the occasion to generate some funds for "Caring for Courage" and at every opportunity we found a reason to lighten everyone's pockets, be it for wristbands or lapel badges and of course a raffle!



40 Years on, a family photograph! Including 6 Carabiniers, 8 Greys and 1 Green Jacket, but all SCOTS DG at heart!

Musical entertainment was provided by a piper destined to join the Pipes and Drums, albeit not for another three years or so as he is only fifteen. He is currently being mentored by Sandy Gibbs and is on the radar of both the Queen's Piper and the Pipe Major in Fallingboshel. Interestingly we now know where the Regimental piper(s) we had expected to join us was that weekend; in Dalkieth for the Edinburgh branch ceilidh!

The gathering slowly dwindled in size until the last three left were perhaps, significantly, the three Op Granby Command Troop "chums", John "Capt Mainwaring" Rochester, Mark "Mad Pierre" Smith and his



Twa auld geezers – Tony Gray & John Ross putting the world to rights!



Comd Tp Finalists



At the Carabiniers Memorial, 2 bridges to go!

nemesis Mick “Brummie” Smith! All in all a good day was had by all!

On Saturday 24 September a team of fifteen from the Branch conducted a sponsored walk in aid of “Caring for Courage” along the River Thames from Tower Bridge to Albert Bridge and all the bridges in between. Zigzagging from North to South and back again, hence the name, “Exercise Thames Vandyk 11” a precursor to TVD12 which will be more of the same with a few twists next year!

Although not the longest of treks (about fifteen kms) but being a warm day, it was not long before the onboard supplies of water began to dwindle. As a result we had to make a couple of welcome stops at local hostelrys, however, the best beer was to be found waiting in the chiller at our final destination, the Royal Hospital Chelsea. This was SW Branch’s own Nick Oliver’s Waterloo Ale which was drunk with gusto. Even our non beer drinkers enjoyed it!

In November the Branch conducted a plethora of memorial services starting with the regular attendance at the RBL Field of Remembrance at St Margaret’s Westminster. The enhanced security access system for the Field once again slowed down entry but we ended up in place ready for the opening review by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, with our plot being fronted by the Branch Chairman. Afterwards, as has become tradition, we retired for a “warmer into the banks” to toast Absent Friends. This year we went to a new place that has been adopted by some members, the Windsor Castle, which has a very welcoming atmosphere and one we may well see more of in the future. That evening, after a brief but very sociable visit to the London District Garrison Mess, we returned to the plot for our



Branch Chairman Howard Elston “Fronting the Regimental Plot”

Regimental observance and sundowners at the Westminster Arms.



L-R: Fred Woods, Colin Wilson, John Foreman, John Rennie, Jim Davidson, Tam Weld (SW) and Nick Hayward on Horse Guards after the parade

Once again the Branch took on the role of sponsor for the Regimental Association participation in the RBL Service and Parade at the Cenotaph on Whitehall. This year’s detachment was joined on Horse Guards Parade, not only by 2010’s interloper Burt Kendrick but also his son Kevin from RHQ clerking days. Other new faces for 2011 included John “Scouse” Rennie and Dave Pincott another ex-member of the clerical team. Tam Weld also came up to represent SW Branch for the day. It was great to have them all on board. As with all good parades there was a degree of chaos. As a result our 23 grey berets were increased three fold by the QA’s who got out of sync and marched in front of us. It was a very moving experience and an opportunity for a spot of networking with other Associations which hopefully will result in other outlets for “swinging the lamp” in the future.

In looking forward to 2012, it is hoped that this will be a fairly quiet year apart from the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. While we do have a few members

South West Branch of England

What a mixed year we have had in 2011, with so many things happening it is difficult to know where to start. First and foremost it was a huge sigh of relief to see the Regiment go on operational duty to Afghanistan and return safe and well to Bad Fallingbostel. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to all the families whose loved ones suffered injuries whilst out there, and our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Craftsman Found who made the ultimate sacrifice.

We as a Branch have also been busy working towards our contribution for Caring for Courage. The Branch is to hold a large show day on 17th June 2012. This is to include military displays, Red Arrows, a gymkhana, a dog show, a pony show and other attractions and demonstrations.

Our annual dinner held in Salisbury British Legion was well attended. We had a virtual full house, with all the regulars plus quite a few new members. We were also pleased to see the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Bartholomew and his wife there. The Chairman, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver welcomed and thanked them for coming so soon after getting back from Afghanistan. The Commanding Officer then spoke about the tour and what is planned for the Regiment over the coming year. Mr Nick Oliver gave us all an update on Caring for Courage and the merchandise

involved in the former in their other guises with the Queen’s Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard, the Honourable Artillery Company “Light Cavalry”, the Royal Hospital Chelsea and other uniformed organisations, we doubt that you will see any of us at the latter!

As with any Christmas and New Year looming, one tends to think of those who are no longer able to join us at gatherings for whatever reason, but more so because they have received that final posting order to the “Mess in the Sky”. 2011 has been no different and the flurry of such notices from Home Headquarters tends to be a sobering thought as we are all made very aware of our transitory presence here and as the accompanying obituaries of some very poignant losses this year highlight. So let us make the most of it and remember with pride those who have gone before and celebrate the achievements of those still serving and keeping the Regiment “Second to None!”



available for sale plus the progress on the new Regimental Beer, the proceeds from both going to help Caring for Courage.

Our Bovington Gathering was also well attended both by association members and serving members of the Regiment either posted there or on courses at the Armour Centre. Unfortunately this year we did not have any of the Phase two soldiers as they were out on a night exercise on the ranges at Lulworth. I must take this opportunity to thank WO1 Bret Taylor and WO1 Tam Boyd for all their help.

The latest news on Mr Richard Teese, one of the few remaining who served at the Battle of Nunshigum is as follows. For those who did not know, Richard suffered a double stroke and as a consequence his family has moved him to a nursing home in the Wirral where they live. It meant that we here in the South West have not been able to see him as often as we would have liked. I know his life-long friend, Mr Arthur Rattue, and his wife Margaret miss him but they do keep in contact with Richard’s family and are kept informed on his condition and well being. I again would like to say a big thank you to the members of the North West Branch for having taken Richard under their wing and visiting him when they can. You can imagine my surprise when they informed me that Richard was to be at their Gathering in November and also be on parade for Remembrance Sunday. I had already made arrange-



The Branch Annual Dinner



ments to attend the function and to parade on the Sunday so this was for me a personal bonus. Having not seen Richard for nearly nine months I was, to say the least, gob-smacked when I saw him in his wheelchair in the Combined Services Club on the Saturday night; he looked absolutely amazing. Needless to say he was the star of the evening, more so the next day when after the wreath laying, he was in front leading the parade. Furthermore, a big thank you to his daughter and her husband for bringing him to both functions. This year we said a sad farewell to John Adkins a long serving member of the Association and a good friend to many.

Finally, if you live in the South West Branch area why not come along to one of our functions, and if you want to get the Branch news letter let me have your email or postal address. I will put you on the list. Which ever of the cap badges you wore that are now incorporated in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards you are part of the Association family always.



Musicians (Military Band, Pipes and Drums)

The Musicians Branch Reunions take place every two years, and the next one will be in July 2012 to coincide with the fortieth anniversary of Amazing Grace. The venue for this event will be The Jarvis Hotel in Wetherby. We are hoping that The Pipes and Drums SCOTS DG will be able to attend.

Caring for Courage Fund Raising Days Edinburgh and West Lothian

Working in Home Headquarters I was aware of the Caring for Courage initiative from the outset and put my mind to thinking how best I might assist. Having given up parachuting some years back and suffering from vertigo immediately ruled out a free-fall jump or a three peaks challenge. Time was against organising a bungee jump and I therefore decided to “rattle tins” and bang buckets for the cause. Having contacted venues where large numbers of people can be found I early on received kind permission from the Gyle Shopping Centre in Edinburgh to raise money on their premises. George Campbell ex Greys/SCOTS DG and member of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch of the Association happily volunteered to ‘join the exercise’ and we were able to raise money to add to the fund. George also spoke to a number of ex members of the Greys/SCOTS DG who were passing through the Centre and one or two names were able to be added to the Association membership; so a very productive day indeed. In the picture George and I can be seen holding our buckets. On another occasion we had been joined by Bob Swan, Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch Secretary, at the Dobbies Garden Centre, Livingston, where again their customers were very kind and contributed generously via the cans and buckets. Although everyone cannot give to every charity it is very heartening to see and receive the good

Reunion Lunches

Because 2011 marked the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, it was decided there should be reunions for those officers who had served in the antecedent Regiments. Thus, on 5 July 2011, officers who had served in The 3rd Carabiniers lunched in the Cavalry and Guards Club and two days later officers of The Royal Scots Greys

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bert Tompkins on his retirement from Queen Victoria School, “thank you Bert for all that you have done on behalf of the Musicians branch over the years”. Our thanks also go to Bert’s wife Cathy who continues to look after the kids at the school. We look forward to a successful reunion in 2012 and also to forging close links with The Pryde of East Lothian Pipes and Drums.



Rattling the bucket

will and big-heartedness from so many people out on a day’s shopping trip. ‘Our boys’ should take heart from knowing that the public are fully supportive of them, we certainly spoke to many caring citizens whose thoughts and good wishes came with their donations.



did the same. Both events proved to be very successful and a number of officers from each Regiment came across fellow officers whom they had not seen for a very long time; thus renewing friendships. Indeed Home Headquarters was subsequently asked for various addresses so the rediscovered friendships could be kept up. Those who attended the luncheons which, for both events, included The Colonel of the Regiment and Regimental Secretary were:

The 3rd Carabiniers Luncheon

IF Albert Esq	Maj JMK Erskine (Regt Sec)	F Peall Esq
Brig SRB Allen (The Colonel)	Col PCE Fishbourne	AJ Pilcher Esq
Capt JA Armitage	Maj J Fitzgerald-Smith	Capt DL Prebble
Brig ML Barclay	R Geyman Esq	Lt Col D Roberts
Lt Col PGE Bartholomew	Maj Gen JMFC Hall	RM Roberts Esq
Col AJ Bateman	MJW Hall Esq	Maj DGP Scholfield
R Bennett Esq	Maj GAS Hancock	Maj JR Scrivener
JR Bettinson Esq	Maj P Hedley	Lt Col JFB Sharples
Maj JRI Bower	MJStG Kelton Esq	Lt Col DAH Sievwright
Lt Col JM Cable-Alexander	TG Kirkbride Esq	SJ Skurray Esq
DRL Carr Esq	WHA Knight Esq	RA Sligh Esq
Col MEC Coombs	PWA Lake Esq	Lt Col JA Speirs
Sir Colin Corness	Maj RCS Mahony	TR Spenlove-Brown Esq
Sir Michael Cummins	Maj MJ Mockridge	Lt Col EI Stanford
Maj Gen HSL Dalzell-Payne	SA Moore Esq	Maj AC Trevelyan
JA Disley Esq	PWK Moss Esq	Lt Col CIP Webb
Maj SA Edwards	Maj Gen CRS Notley	AC Whitaker Esq
R Elliot-Square Esq	The Rt Hon Sir Phillip Otton	Maj TA Wood

The Royal Scots Greys Luncheon

FM HRH The Duke of Kent	Capt CS Gaisford-St Lawrence	Col CMcA Pyman
Brig SRB Allen (The Colonel)	M Grant-Peterkin Esq	Maj Gen CA Ramsay
D Astor Esq	Capt PJS Gray	EAT Roscoe Esq
Lt Col MD Blacklock	Maj N Holder	Col JMA Ross
Capt A Blair	Lt Col R Horne	Maj DMA Scott
Capt ERR Boileau	DA Innes Esq	Maj MK Shennan
Capt LM Borwick	Capt J James	Capt AF Spink
AHO Brassey Esq	Brig MS Jameson	Maj Gen SRA Stopford
PG Cairns Esq	RS John Esq	Capt F Swetenham
Capt RPK Carmichael	Maj DAM Le Sueur	AP Sykes Esq
Maj SGF Cox	Capt PR Loyd	Maj AR Trotter
Capt DDE Crawford	RLH Lyster Esq	JH Trotter Esq
Capt R Elliott-Lockhart	Maj CM Mitchell-Rose	Prince N Von Preussen
PJG Elwes Esq	Lt Col MD Oliver	Maj JA White
Maj JMK Erskine (Regt Sec)	JH Pardoe Esq	Capt JH Williams
Capt R Fiennes	DAER Peake Esq	Capt PD Young
R Fleming Esq	Capt PD Player	
Capt IR Fraser	Capt JL Potter	

ASSOCIATION GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

For three or four years Jim Murray has organised the golf championship which intentionally coincides with the Association Gathering that is held in Bannockburn each September.

This year (Sep 2011) the match was again held at Brucefields Family Golf Centre and it started in the pouring rain. Twelve players took part with the addition of one dedicated spectator. Jim described the twelve as “a bit

of a hardcore golfing group who will turn up regardless of the weather”. Later the rain stopped and even the sun appeared!

As Brucefield is a nine hole course the match was held over two rounds. Jock McKelvie did a memorable slice out of arc but his range was good with a direct hit onto the Driving Range. Cyril Jones enjoyed the competitive

spirit and wiped the board into first place with Derek McKelvie a close second. Jock McKelvie was third.

Trophies for the winners and prizes for the Longest Drive, Nearest the Pin, and the Booby Prize were presented by Colonel John Ross, Chairman of the Regimental Association. In turn Jim gave the Chairman a polished granite stone memento of the day engraved with the cap badge and his name. It was a small token for a Chairman who had travelled from Norfolk to be there and was then going north for the Aberdeen Branch dinner.

Jim plans to move the annual golf match to another venue in the Central Belt of Scotland. One of the options is Bathgate Golf Course. The location may change but the date will be the first Friday in September 2012. It is always an enjoyable day out, open to all members of the Regiment serving, retired, former attached personnel, and all friends and family.



THE REGIMENTAL DINNER

This year’s Regimental Dinner was a very special event because our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty The Queen graciously agreed to attend and because we were allowed to hold the dinner in the State Apartments of St James’s Palace. This last happened on 7 December 1993 when the present Colonel of the Regiment was

the Commanding Officer. On that occasion the dinner commemorated the forty years that Her Majesty had been our Colonel-in-Chief. On this occasion it marked forty years since the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards was formed. As well as our Colonel-in-Chief, Field Marshal His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent also attended.



The Colonel of the Regiment presenting officers to The Colonel in Chief



The Deputy Colonel in Chief and Commanding Officer in conversation with Captain Ballard-Whyte and Mr Graham



Pre dinner drinks in The Throne Room

It was at the dinner in 1993 that it was announced he was to be our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief. This year we also welcomed His Majesty King Constantine of the Hellenes, Monsieur Christian Pol Roger, The Lady Elton and Captain Charlie Pearson, equerry to The Deputy Colonel-in-Chief who were asked as guests.

Before dinner while everyone congregated in the Queen Anne Room, Her Majesty met ex Commanding Officers of the Regiment who were there and a few other selected guests in the Throne Room. The Colonel of the Regiment presided at dinner, during which a string quartet of the Band of the Scots Guards played and were much appreciated. After dinner one of the Regiment's own and now Her Majesty's piper, Pipe Major Potter joined the current Pipe Major, Pipe Major Dodds, Corporal Bruce and Lance Corporal Duncan to play a set which everyone enjoyed. The Colonel then gave a short speech before the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Bartholomew, gave a résumé of the Regiment's activities. After dinner Her Majesty spoke to a number of the serving officers and showed tremendous interest in what they had done before leaving somewhat later than originally planned. The dinner was a memorable event and the Regiment was very grateful for the help from the Superintendent and staff at the Palace and to Mosimann's who did the catering.

- Those who attended were:**
Her Majesty The Queen
His Majesty King Constantine of The Hellenes
His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCBO
The Lady Elton
Captain C Pearson

Major SJHF Albert
IF Albert Esq
Brigadier SRB Allen
Brigadier HD Allfrey MBE
Captain NJL Anderson
Captain RHG Anderson
Major RM Anderson
Lieutenant General Sir Norman Arthur KCB CBO
Captain LO Ballard-Whyte
Captain AR Barlow
Lieutenant Colonel JGE Bartholomew OBE
Lieutenant Colonel PGE Bartholomew
JR Bettinson Esq
Colonel JU Biggart MBE
Lieutenant Colonel RJ Binks
Major JWH Bishop
Lt Colonel MD Blacklock
GP Bracher Esq
HL Braithwaite Esq
AHO Brassey Esq

- Major BH Brotherton
NA Burnet Esq
Major RN Cameron
Captain JD Campbell OBE
DRL Carr Esq
Colonel MEC Coombs
Major SGF Cox MBE
JWP Crawford, Esq
Major AJ Crease MBE BEM
Major Sir MJA Cummins
The Rev AI Dalton
Captain WD Dane
Lieutenant Colonel WHL Davies MBE
JJG Dawes Esq
Captain RPA Densham
Brigadier JD Deverell CBE
JA Disley Esq
Captain PA Douglas
Captain C Duffield
Colonel BP Edwards OBE
Major HJ Elston
Captain CF Emslie
Major JMK Erskine MBE
Captain ACC Farquharson MC
Captain M Ferndale
Colonel PCE Fishbourne
Major J deW Fitzgerald-Smith
R Fleming Esq DL
Major NG Foulerton
Captain J Fyvie
Captain DJ Galloway
Captain RE Gather
Brigadier BD Gotts
TJ Graham, Esq
MR Grant-Peterkin, Esq
Captain PJS Gray
Captain RJG Grinling
Captain AC Hainey
Captain JPA Halford-McLeod
Major General JMFC Hall CB OBE DL FCMI
Major GAS Hancock
Miss Haslam-Greene
Captain SNR Hearn
Captain RJM Holtum
Major E Ingram MBE DL
Captain JSG Irwin
Captain AW Jackson
Brigadier MS Jameson CBE
Major J Johnston
Major TEAG Kerrigan
Captain DJ Khan
Lieutenant Colonel CF Lambert
Captain DGA Landon
JWAS Law Esq
DP Lee Esq
Major WRG Leek

Major DAM Le Sueur
Captain RF Le Seuer
Major J Leslie
SD Lewis Esq
Captain AD Linehan
Captain PR Loyd
JGA Lyon Esq
Major RWB Maclean TD
Captain A Mackay
Captain PG Mackesy
RDL MacLure Esq
Major RN MacMillan
Major JJ Macnamara TD
Major RCS Mahony
Major JC Malcolmson
Captain CPS Majcher
Captain AD Marjoribanks
Captain JPF Marsh
Captain AI Matheson
Captain CA MacDermot-Roe
Major KG McDowell
Major JFS McLeman
Captain DM McLennan-Fordyce
Captain JJ McMenamin
Captain BA McNeil
Captain CKB Melville
Lt Col JL Melville
Maj MJ Mockridge
Captain W Montgomery
PWK Moss Esq
The Rev JAH Murdoch
Major General CRS Notley CB CBE
Lt Colonel DAP Oddie MBE
Lt Colonel MD Oliver
Captain ND Oliver
Captain NS Orr
Captain JRJ Paton
DAER Peake Esq
HRH Prince Pavlos of Greece
Lieutenant Colonel AM Phillips
AJ Pilcher Esq
Major MDA Pocock
Monsieur C Pol-Roger
Captain ACM Potter
Captain DL Prebble
SJA Probst Esq

Lieutenant Colonel W Raitt
HMR Ramsden Esq
Lieutenant Colonel RAB Ramsden
Major General CA Ramsay CB OBE
GC Ranald Esq
AJS Reith Esq
Captain NB Richards
AD Rickett Esq
Lieutenant Colonel D Roberts
FHB Roberts Esq
RM Roberts Esq
Colonel JMA Ross
Major DMA Scott
Lieutenant Colonel JFB Sharples OBE
Major MK Shennan
Lt Colonel DAH Sievwright
RA Sligh Esq
Captain MA Somers
Major DB Soulsby
Major TP Spenlove-Brown
Major TR Spenlove-Brown
Captain AF Spink
Major MJ Stanley
Major JE Stone
Major General SRA Stopford CB MBE
JG Strijdom Esq
Captain JF Swetenham
RN Targett-Adams Esq
Major AR Trotter
JH Trotter Esq
PW Trueman Esq
Prince FN Von Preussen
Captain T Warburton
JB Watson, Esq
Lieutenant Colonel CIP Webb
Captain CA Webster
Major GF Wheeler
Major JA White
Major KJ Williams
Major JMW Williamson
Captain NGB Woodhams
Captain ESJ Young
Captain PD Young

MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

(At 31 December 2011; Officers supporting the Regimental Trust)

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Logan JW
Lyons C
McAndie RJ
Macaulay AD
McBain MD
McBean Mrs E
McCabe P
McCafferty A
McCafferty R
McConnell T
McDonald TG
McDonald WI
McDowell WJ
McGilp L
MacGregor WJ
McKay G
McKellar RJ
MacKenzie D
Mackenzie HM
McKenzie R
Mackie K
McKinlay Mrs D
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McKinney J
McLauchlan W
McLeod I
McQueen S
Macrae R
McShane AW
Maplesden J
Marshall J
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Mason A
Mayes J
Mellon F
Middleton P
Millar DW
Millar PJ
Miller J
Mitchell GA
Montgomery WM
Moran SMF
Morgan J
Morris AD
Morrison JR
Morton A
Nangle S
Nayar IO
Nicholson DAM
O'Donnell B
O'Neill SKP
O'Neill M
O'Riordan P
Ostapko M
Ostrowski B
Paisley W

Paterson GL
Patullo A
Patullo S
Penman R
Pennycook KJ
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Procter SMA
Proudfoot SA
Ramage JMR
Ramsay JH
Ramsay S
Rattray JJ
Reid JA
Reilly E
Reynolds J
Robertson DA
Robertson G
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Saetta J
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Scobie Miss J
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Smiley J
Smith P
Steen J
Stenhouse JB
Stewart WK
Stirrat Mrs P
Stoddart DW
Strachan G
Sutherland A
Temple RN
Thomson GT
Thomson M
Thomson T
Toole R
Toorish D
Trimby I
Turnbull SW
Ure D
Urquhart S
Waddell Mrs JRM
Wales TP
Walker CA
Ward DP
Ware-Lavis A
Warrender KT
Watt B

Wilkie S
Wilson IG
Wilson LB
Wilson WJP
Wood PW
Woods W
Wright AB
Young G
Young T

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Edmonstone Bt
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Henderson KCVO TD
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McKenna D
McLaughlin WM
Paterson P
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Anderson N
Anderson R
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Begley N
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Bootland WA
Bootland Mrs WG
Bough W
Bristow S
Brown DJM
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Burns R
Cairney G
Cairney P
Cairns SJ
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Campbell HH
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Collie GJ
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Cook I
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Crease G
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Currie R
Dempster J
Devine K
Devoy D
Dick D
Dick J
Dickson D
Docherty T
Donaldson GA
Donnell RH
Dorricott H
Dunachie G
Dunbar R
Dunn PD
Eckeford W
Ferguson R
Forrester SA
Fowler A
Fraser J
Fulton A
Gerrard JH
Gledhill N
Goldie PDJ
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Haddow D
Hale AE
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Lindsay C
Loage M
Lyell C
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McCrae C
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McDade E
McDonald DJ
McDonald P
McDonald T
MacEachan NI
McEvoy C
Macfarlane M
McGarva R
McGregor N
McGuigan D
McGuire N
McGuire S
McInnes J
McIntyre DH
McIntyre GS
McIntyre IC
Mackay FD
McKelvie L
McKerrell C
Mackie D
McLaughlin OMM
McLean DJ
McLean J
McLean JS
McLeod I
McMorran GM
McNulty M
MacPherson G
Mair H
Mair J
Mallon S
Mathieson JW
Maxwell H
Mearns E
Mearns K
Milby S
Millar I
Milne G
Monaghan P
Montgomery J
Moses JR
Muirhead D

Mullen C
Murray A
Murray J
Nesbit I
Nimmo J
Paterson B
Paton JD
Patterson D
Pettigrew R
Ramsay AS
Reid G
Reid J
Robertson J
Rooney M
Ross AC
Salisbury W
Shankland AF
Shearer RG
Shoebridge J
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Small DJ
Smith M
Smith T
Speirs R
Spence T
Stark G
Steveley J
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Stirling A
Sturrock A
Tait R
Taylor F
Thomson CA
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Warburton I
Wark JMCM
Whelan R
Wilson A
Wilson JF BEM
Wilson S
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Woods P
Wright G
Wright DW
Yeo C

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Maj TJStC Brown

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Maj E Ingram MBE
Capt APT Johnson
Capt DJ Kahn
Capt PR Loyd
Dr KS MacKenzie
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Capt NS Orr
AHW Sutcliffe Esq
Capt IS Wheatley
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Downs E
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Greendale R
Hannan A
Macey SW
Roe D
Woodward FC

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Armstrong RW
Atkinson GA
Barfoot B
Berry P
Bradley DE
Brown W
Burkenshaw EG
Cameron I
Clark D
Clark Mrs EPR
Clayson K
Connors Mrs TW
Craven AB
Cross R
Curtis KJ
Dalton Mrs R
Darbyshire J
Dobson AN
Downey TP
Eastwood BF
Ferry P
Franklin AA
Gilmour NM
Goupillot JD BEM
Gower M
Gray KS MBE
Greenan MJ
Greenway SJ
Hart T
Heath Mrs J
Henderson A

Holland C
Howarth GR
Hydes C
Jutrzenka EZ
Kelly D
Kendrick HA
Lamb Mrs RC
McCamley AT
McKennan R
McLeod IR
Martin E
Morgan H
O'Dowd JJ
Pearce BW
Pittaway G
Potter Mrs ME
Roberts AS
Robinson Mrs E
Samuels JR
Scarth AD
Scotter RH
Sherville JH
Shield P
Simmonds RF
Stafford RS
Stokes G
Stubbs Mrs WR
Thomas JD
Thubron D
Thubron E
Thubron MD
Tosh EL
Walker PRH
Walters G
Whitfield G
Wild G
Wilkinson AH
Wilkinson LJ
Wood P

**NORTH WEST OF
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WALES
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JJG Dawes Esq
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Maj MR Sheldon
Maj WG Thomas
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MB
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Butler C
Dell CA

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Ogden JA	Fielden PK	Lord D
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Shearer WA	Gibbs A	McDonnell P
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Bailey V	Griffin E	Meyers E
Baker L	Griffin PM	Miller SL
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Benford J	Hamm L	Moriarty MW
Berry IR	Hamm RA	Morrison JR
Bidston L	Hampson OW	Noonan J
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Bohana AW	Harper JH	Oliver E
Bone MR BEM	Harris B	Orr D
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Campbell B	Hide AGM	Pike Mrs A
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Chadwick P	Hughes JH	Purviss KA
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Chantry NM	Jacobs N	Reid LA
Clark R	Jerome DR	Reynolds BL
Clark R	Jones AD	Richardson B
Clayton A	Jones CJ	Riley A
Coates TO	Jones DP	Riley RM
Colwell C	Jones GH	Roberts E
Connolly J	Jones GM	Rogers H
Craddock R	Jones HL	Rothwell G
Dady B	Jones JM	Seddon T
Davidson B	Jones MG	Shaw A
Davies R	Jones MW	Shaw EE
Dawson J	Jones P	Shirley J
Devine A	Jones PW	Sinclair K
Dorrington B	Jones R	Smith D
Drake J	Jones RLL	Smith J
Edwards W	Jones WP	Smith MJ
Egleton BA	Kay Mrs E	Stott B
Emery D	Keates KL	Sutton JF
Evans	Keatings BT	Swanick J
Evans BC	Kimpton Mrs RJ	Tippett SL
Evans JDA	Kinnair N	Tipping DW
Evans JE	Lallement D	Toplass BJ
Evans K	Lancake D	Turnbull J
Evans KC	Last Mrs R	Vaughan-Jones G
Evans RM	Lewis H	Ward H
Farley P	Lewis R	Ward P

Webster JK
Welch GN
Whitby D
Wildman JA
Williams G
Williams Mrs PJ
Williams RG
Williams W
Wilson WJ
Wood M
Woods L
Youngman BM

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND
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Capt S Bath
Capt AO Blayney
Col MEC Coombs
GW Deterding Esq
RE Dimsdale Esq
Col MAD Donnithorne-
Tait MA
His Hon Judge Dyer
Capt PT Earp
R Elliot-Square Esq
Major HJ Elston
Capt M Ferndale
J Fielden Esq
Col PCE Fishbourne
Maj BH Garai TD
WJR Govett Esq
Capt WL Hannay
Capt SNR Hearn
Capt HJC Humfrey
DA Innes Esq
Capt JStG Kelton
HRH The Duke of Kent
KG GCMG GCVO
PWA Lake Esq
Capt ME Lapping BA
RLH Lyster Esq
Capt CWH McFall
Capt DM McLennan
Fordyce
Maj JJ Macnamara TD
Maj JC Malcolmson
Capt JPF Marsh
Capt HBP Martin
Capt AI Matheson
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Maj Gen CRS Notley CB
CBE
Lt Col BW Pain
JH Pardoe Esq
DAER Peake Esq
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The Hon R Pleydell-
Bouverie
Maj MDA Pocock
Capt DL Prebble
Lt Col Sir Humphrey
Prideaux OBE DL
Capt CR Radclyffe LVO
JPA Readman Esq OBE
Capt NB Richards
AD Rickett Esq
Lt Col D Roberts
WM Ross-Wilson Esq
Maj DGP Scholfield
Lt Col DAH Sievwright
RA Sligh Esq
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Capt AF Spink
DC Stewart Esq
Maj Gen SRA Stopford
CB MBE
Maj JE Swetenham
Capt JF Swetenham
The Rev Canon RI
Thomson
Maj AC Trevelyan
Capt DJG Walton
Major JA White
Capt JH Williams
Capt PD Young
Life Members
Bampton WF
Brabham VG
Buckle WAJ
Cox JL
Cross W
Dean LJ
Derrett MH
Foreman JL
Freer AF
Hancock GW
Leyin J
McKnight J
Pearce KG
Phillips GW
Richardson RS
Stoddart GRMcK
Walker JT
Members
Allen J
Anderson J

Baldwin S
Barnard B
Barnes G
Barnes HP
Bedingfield RA
Bester MF
Blackman D
Blake D
Branch PS
Brimmicombe-Wood VR
Brown SA
Brown SL
Browning HS
Burnham RR
Butler DL
Campbell R
Carnachan W
Carter RA Mrs
Casson PM
Clews D
Cole B
Conroy Callaghan Mrs P
Cooper M
Curtis J
Davey JM
Davidson JC
Duffy MP
Edy RT
Elliott K
Field FW
Fish D
Foot AA
Foster DJ
Fowler A
Gilpin K
Gray AF QPM
Haig AJ
Hammond ME
Harvey LA
Hayward NR
Headridge D
Hill T
Hinde RHF
Holmes E
Hudson AH
Hughes AA
Jordan RM
Keatley J
Keogh-Waddock DV
Keyworth LS MBE
Kyle A
Lavi C
Lee RJA
McClellan MF
MacCuaig JMcP
McGrath T

McKerral J
McKinnon Mrs RN
McLelland JH
McLintock J
McQuade WH
McSweeney DS
Maher J
Maher Mrs J
Moring Mrs DE
Morrallay DKF
O'Brien GP
O'Connor E
O'Rourke B
O'Rourke Mrs S
Parkin E
Parry Mrs HR
Porteous MF
Potter GE
Quinn J
Randles RHR
Rayner KA
Reid DF
Rennie J
Rochester JS
Rowlands KJ
Rumbles P
Sander NE
Savage PF
Sedgewick RL
Setterfield WE
Silverman AG
Sivewright Mrs GWH
Smallwood F
Southon JC
Stroud T
Taylor G
Thomson AR
Turner K
Ward G
Warden Mrs MD
Weaver H
Welham S
Wiles Mrs L
Wilson CRH MSM
Woods FM
Woolerton BM
SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND
Officers
Brig SRB Allen
Col MH Auchinleck
Capt ERR Boileau
Maj JRI Bower
Maj Gen HSL Dalzell-
Payne CBE

Maj SAB Edwards
Captain Sir Ranulph
Fiennes Bt OBE
Capt IR Fraser
Maj Gen JMFC Hall
CB OBE DL FCMI
Maj GAS Hancock
Maj J Leslie
Mrs BD McDonald-Booth
Lt Col MD Oliver
Lt Col AM Phillips
Col JTM Ryan TD
Maj MK Shennan
Lt Col JA Speirs
TR Spenlove-Brown Esq
Lt Col EI Stanford
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Braine BD
Rattue AL
Salisbury IC
Teese R
Members
Adkins Mrs JH
Allen Mrs FG
Anderson K MM
Atkinson E
Bain W
Baker JM
Baxter Mrs RD
Bell FP
Blake DV
Blick PDB
Bone DJ
Breslin CT
Budge JWV
Butcher DA
Butcher DR
Clifford AR
Corson AD
Cropper JM
Davidson EG
Davis Z
Doak M
Douglas SCB
Edgar J
Gardner Mrs DH
Gibb I
Gower PR
Hartley Mrs IB
Harvey A
Hodges JA
Jackson Mrs EJ
Jacobs KC
Jones AB
Joynes CG
Junnier JA

J Kelly
Kennedy WFB
Knowles-Wilkinson AJ
Long C
Long TCR
McEwan B
Mackie AWM
McLachlan K
Milroy BE
Morgan JR
Old R
Packwood MA
Pearson SA
Pritchard Mrs Julie-Ann
Pullin KS
Ray J
Rea MJ
Reid P
Reid T
Scaife I
Smith I
Taylor TJ
Tiley Mrs JM
Tylee DG
Tylee J
Walker WM
Ward D
Warrender R
Watson PC
Welham DR
Welsh DP
Welsh P
Weld TJ
Western J
Whyte J
Wilson EJ
Young D

MUSICIANS (BAND, PIPES AND DRUMS) Officers
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Edinburgh and East of Scotland
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Brig MS Jameson CBE
Maj Gen CA Ramsay CB OBE
Lt Col AM Sprot of Haystoun MC JP
Maj AR Trotter
Glasgow and West of Scotland

Lt Gen Sir Norman Arthur KCB CVO
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North West of England and Wales
Maj JR Scrivener
London and South East of England
Sir Michael Cummins
R Fleming Esq DL
Maj DAM le Sueur
Capt JL Potter
Capt WB Ramsay
Col JMA Ross
Maj DMA Scott
Lt Col JFB Sharples OBE
Maj AJ Stormonth Darling
Lt Col CIP Webb
Maj TA Wood
South West of England
Lt Col PGE Bartholomew
Col CMcA Pyman
Life Member
Carr JW
Shearer DH
Members
Headquarters List
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Booth A
Bruce J
Clarke P
Dick I
Docherty T
Falshaw R
Henderson C
Hogarth J
McCroskie Mrs L
McLeod I
Macrae AD
Massie JC
Moffat G JP
Paterson A
Redpath W
Thomson Mrs M
Whittaker AE
Aberdeen and North of Scotland
Brady M
Cruikshanks AB
Macrae D
Manson GD

Edinburgh and East of Scotland
Bannerman Mrs E
Bigham WJ
Black SL
Brashier RD
Boyle Mrs C
Carroll BJ BEM
Currie ARK
Dickson JSK
Fairbairn RJ
Gilfillan DJ
Glass R
Hayle D
Henry DB
Hill JM
Kerr L
Lorimer Mrs T
MacKenzie EA
MacMurchie D
Mackay D
MacQueen Mrs DG
McVean W
McVie Mrs A
Orr S
Page A
Paul AS
Pryde CN
Ray RW
Ralley C
Smith Mrs G
Sneddon R
Starr J
Terris DG
Tomkins HWG
Veitch R
Vine JM
Watson W
Williamson Mrs D
Yates D
Glasgow and West of Scotland
Campbell I
Hutchison PJ
Jackson C
Little P
Mackenzie JC
Stitt G
Whitelock T
North East of England
Allan JA
Baxter CM
Kidd CS JP
Peat TW
Wells PC

North West of England and Wales
Broadbent F
Daniels C
Geraghty JR
Holmes JB
Last D
Quincey JA
Whyte WD
London and South East of England
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Hoare ET
Johnston T
McLean-Gibbs AM
O'Rourke PJ
Purves T
Rainger ID
South West of England
Barritt S
Carcary AH
Leslie RWC
Meikle Mrs JA
Phyall D
Standing P
Thyall D
Wall G

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Maj SGF Cox MBE MW
AN Cuming Esq
Capt WD Dane
Brig JD Deverell CBE
Capt JC Findlay
DJ Galloway Esq
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Capt AM Hay
Sir Peter Hutchison Bt
Maj RH Lorimer
Lt Col GRK Lyon OBE
Maj BA McSwiney
Dr JT Mainwaring
Brig JB Palmer
Col NDA Seymour
Rev AJ Totten MBE CF
Capt HN Whitfield
Maj MS Whitfield
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WMC Grant Esq
Supt BP Muir
Mr B Martin

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Smart A
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Atkinson P
Beveridge M
Boode ALM
Cameron-Ilott VJ
Convery J

Cowan Mrs LA
Croot TG
Dunbar R
Getgood J
Grant J
Hamilton G
Harris GP
Heilig G
McDonald GI
McKenzie DJ

Mathers W
Mogey N
Neilson JJ
Nuttall GA
Perrins E
Rose P
Rowberry TDE
Russell AL
Sharp SG

ALLIED AND AFFILIATED

The Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band

Lance Corporal Damian Dunphy

The Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band have had a frenetic 2011 with the tempo of engagements being firmly set at presto.

In May the Band deployed to JHQ (Rheindahlen) in support of Headquarters United Kingdom Support Group (Germany), HQ UKSG (G). This roulement tour has been a regular feature in the calendar of many of the Bands of The Corps of Army Music, since the last remaining permanently stationed Bands were withdrawn from Germany in 2006. The tour sees each Band undertaking many an epic coach trip in support of British Units across Germany. The Band's first engagement was to participate in a St George's Day parade for 2nd Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, before giving concerts in Paderborn, Neiderkruchten and JHQ Rheindahlen; in addition to a number of schools workshops and Regimental dinner nights. On this occasion the Band spent just over a month in Germany prior to handing over to The Band of The Royal Corps of Signals.

On return from Germany the Band moved headlong into its June schedule with no decrease in tempo. Following Royal Gun Salutes given in York on the 2nd and 10th of June to celebrate respectively, the anniversary of the coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and the birthday of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The Band also gave a concert in Whitley Bay, Northumbria, in aid of forces charity Help for Heroes in June. With the British Army so heavily committed to operations in Afghanistan fund raising concerts such as this have increased in popularity. The concert ended with the often played rousing finale from the last night of the BBC Proms concerts and the retiring collection buckets weighed heavily as people cleared the rem-

nants of the ever patriotic 'Land of Hope and Glory' from their throats.

Following a concert given at Darlington's St Aiden's Academy in the presence of friends from the International Military Music Society and a dramatic beating retreat performance given alongside some of the air assets (in flight) of 9 Army Air Corps, Dishforth (even an Armoured Band struggles to out-perform three Lynx helicopters!), the Band headed over the hills to Lancashire to participate in one of a series of Armed Forces events planned nationally to celebrate all that is good about our Armed Forces.

On this occasion the Band teamed up with talented young musicians from Blackpool Music Services to give a combined performance at the fabulous Winter Gardens Theatre. As the combined Band occupied a large stage footprint it was a most fortuitous choice of venue, given



The Squadron Leader's first time

that it hosts the largest stage in Europe. Following afternoon rehearsals and a well earned spot of fish and chips by the seaside, the Bands combined to perform to a sell out crowd in an evening of music interspersed with popular comic and stage acts. Value for money was provided after the interval when an enthusiastic Joe Longthorne treated the crowd to an hour and a quarter of his popular favourites, over-running his slot by a mere one hour and five minutes! The crowd loved the show and there was just time for the Band to perform the ever popular Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March Number One before the young musicians had to retire for the evening and the not so young military musicians packed the equipment for their return journey over the Pennines.

July saw the Band perform in direct support of one of its affiliated Units on a number of occasions, namely 2nd Royal Tank Regiment (2 RTR). On July 2nd the Band made the move to Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth to support 2 RTR's Regimental Day. The Band supported a Regimental medal parade at which three hundred soldiers were presented medals by HRH the Duke of Gloucester, having recently returned from Op Herrick in Afghanistan. The Band also performed a marching display and provided incidental music at a family day attended by around two and a half thousand families and friends in the glorious July sunshine.

July also saw the band perform in what has to be one of the most unusual acoustic venues in the world. Buxton Dome in Derby is the home of the country's largest unsupported dome, and for all its aesthetic grandeur and beauty, it represents a significant challenge for those performing music within. The acoustic is such that a performer is unable to hear the person three feet to their left or right, whilst somebody fifty feet behind in a diagonal line is perfectly audible, because of the way sound bounces around the dome. Although a challenge musically this can be great fun in rehearsals as you are able to whisper into people's ears even though they are barely within sight!

A double sell out tattoo performance saw the Band headline a spectacular event showcasing five Military Bands, pipers, a drill display team and a cadet gun race. This is the second time the Band have performed at the Buxton Military Tattoo and it looks set to become a regular feature in our diary.

The week of 11th July saw the Band travelling south again, once more in support of 2 RTR, this time for parades in Plymouth, Weymouth and Bristol on the Tuesday, Thursday and Friday respectively. This was the first time many of the soldiers had paraded outside London and as they stood in the sun and appreciated the weather they bathed in the warmth and apprecia-

tion of some ample crowds. Friday's parade in Bristol was preceded by a Regimental Church Service given amidst the splendour of Bristol Cathedral. After all three parades local dignitaries hosted the Regiment with receptions that treated the soldiers with a flavour of the local cuisine in each location.

In addition to commitments in support of the Royal Tank Regiment and the Heavy Cavalry Regiments of the British Army, the Band over the year provided quintets for a number of Units and events throughout the country. A staple regular that also features within the Band's calendar during both summer and winter months is the pass out parades at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick (ITC (C)), the Band provide musical support to the majority of these parades often supporting three parades in a day.

The closing concert of our summer season was given on August 7th at the Ramside Hall Hotel, in County Durham. Again the concert was given in aid of forces charity, Help for Heroes, and in this instance a rousing selection of musical themes from around the shows and films yielded to the ever popular 'Last Night of the Proms' format. With Union flags at the ready the audience were treated to Henry Wood's Fantasia on British Sea Song and Hubert Parry's Jerusalem before, for one last time this season, a capacity crowd waved flags high and sang their hearts out to Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March Number One.

Following a spot of well earned summer leave the Band performed a number of local concerts prior to the ever busy remembrance season which saw the Band performing in Festival of Remembrance concerts at York Barbican and Durham Cathedral, as well as remembrance events in Catterick Garrison and at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London.

On November 30th the Band boarded our bus 'northern bound' to perform in Edinburgh in direct support of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. It is customary for Bands when visiting Edinburgh to be accommodated in either the magnificent yet austere Redford Cavalry Barracks, or the more salubrious yet distant Dreghorn Barracks. The Band were delighted to find out that our accommodation was to be in the lofty (and draughty) upper elevations of Edinburgh Castle; a spot of prime Edinburgh real estate indeed. The arduous task of unloading the Band's equipment from the esplanade and carrying it hundreds of feet (both in length and height) soon persuaded many of the Band to abandon their customary 'arrival in transit accommodation' evening run in favour of a far more amenable search for a local restaurant, which given our location was a relatively simple task!

The following morning was a crisp, sunny and cold day, perfect weather for a parade. The Pipes and Drums from SCOTS DG combined with the Band to lead the Regiment from the castle esplanade down the Royal Mile to Cannongate Kirk in front of a large and appreciative crowd. The day culminated in a reflective service in Cannongate Kirk, at which Craftsman Andrew Found, who was sadly killed in an explosion in June, was remembered.

The Band concluded the year with a round of festive engagements given within Catterick Garrison and, of course, our annual Christmas Concert, which this year was held in St Mary's Church in our local town, Rich-

mond, North Yorkshire. The concert is always well received by the local community and gives the Band an ideal opportunity to mark the start of the festive season in the company of friends and family.

Our year has once more been marked by the sheer weight of support and empathy for the United Kingdom's Armed Forces from all over the country. From concerts in support of services charities, through to parades up and down the country, the pride with which the public eye our forces is both tangible and heart-felt.



C (Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/Scottish Horse) Squadron

Major NWE Potter TD QOY

C (Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/Scottish Horse) Squadron have continued the steady effort to provide well trained soldiers to support the Regular Army on operations. No doubt, everyone involved in the reserve forces would agree that the commitment of TA soldiers has had to keep pace with the intensity of operations in Afghanistan. Gone are the days of one or two weekends of training a month and instead, every weekend seems to require a TA training commitment of some sort. But this increase in the Squadron commitment comes with a satisfying feeling that we are 'doing our bit' alongside our Regular Army colleagues. To that end, the last year has been as busy as ever, added to which has been the uncertainty of the undisclosed final outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. However, the process of restructuring is not a new one to most regiments across the Army. As a case in point, the Royal Fife and Forfar Yeomanry Regiment of (Gentleman and Yeomanry) Yeomanry Cavalry, with an establishment 350 was effectively disbanded in the cut-backs of 1838! The Squadron remains as flexible and versatile as it always has done. Meanwhile, signs are promising and morale remains high as the Squadron contemplate exciting and long lasting future prospects.

And past glories were remembered in some detail during the highly successful Regimental Battlefield Study weekend in Normandy. Particular mention was made of the 2nd Regiment, Fife & Forfar Yeomanry who, having disembarked on the Normandy beachhead on 26 June 1944 were subsequently participants in Operation GOODWOOD. 2nd FFY lost the majority of its Cruiser and Covenanter Tanks to the Tiger, Panther and 88mm guns of the fanatical 12th SS Panzer Division. The father of our current Squadron Honorary Colonel, then Major Sir John Gilmour famously commanded the remainder of the Regiment from a commandeered bulldozer having had two tanks shot from beneath him during the battle.

The history of the Squadron is never far from the mind as soldiers of C Squadron who have stepped forward and volunteered for mobilization. The Squadron sent Sergeants Anderson and Reid, Corporals Ward and Stewart, Lance Corporal Bell and Trooper Baird to Helmand Province on OP CORTEZ. (HERRICK 11/12) Most recently, Sergeant Gardener, Corporal Bellfield, Lance Corporal Donaldson, Private Edmonston and Trooper Hunter were mobilized for HER-



The Squadron Leader's first time



Up and away



Pie and Ale Masters



Can you see it yet?

RICK 15. Additionally, WO2 Fergusson had a successful tour on OP TOSCA in Cyprus where, we are told, he didn't spend any time on the beach!

Meanwhile, the cycle of Squadron training has continued unabated throughout the training year. Annual Camp on Salisbury Plain saw C and B Squadrons form F Squadron on FTX. Always glad to continue our excellent relationship with our brother Squadron from across the water; the combined Squadron worked well together. As usual, the Northern Irish accent provided its own form of encrypted battlefield secure comms. Work hard, play hard remained the order of the day. Lessons were well learned, thanks in part to the well conceived pace of the exercise 'battle'. The tempo was just right to be suitably testing without trying to cover too many operational phases.

In November, Captain Smart lead the Squadron participation in the Dundee Festival of Remembrance at the Caird Hall in Dundee, which is the largest such event in the UK outside London. It was, as ever, a magnificent occasion and the Squadron members present were proud to lead out the parade of the reserve forces.

With Squadron doors closed for a number of weeks during SDSR uncertainties during the autumn last year, the soldiers of the Squadron maintained meaningful training on their own time. Among other things Staff Sergeant Cunningham ran a very successful hill walking trip and history trail to the Lomond Hills of East Fife, billed as the 'Pie and Ale' day out. No doubt the good effects of strenuous hill walking were later negated by the pies and pints in the Falkland Inn, but the day was very enjoyable for all concerned.

With training re-instated back to normal in the new year of 2011, the Squadron forged ahead with MATT training including some excellent results in fitness. High spirits were the order of the day on the Squadron

CFT from Cupar town centre to the neighbouring hills of East Fife and back and with numerous soldiers preparing for mobilization, the importance of fitness has been emphasised in the training program.

The coming of the spring saw the departure of all three Squadron PSIs namely Staff Sergeant Dorrington QRL, Staff Sergeant Kennan SCOTS DG and Sergeant Wood QRL. They all leave with the very best wishes of the Squadron. We have been very pleased to welcome Staff Corporal Spink HCR and Staff Sergeant Burn LD as replacement PSIs and they have both made an admirable transition into life with the Territorial Army. Staff Sergeant Dorrington's parting flourish was the running of a successful Recruit Firing weekend at Warcop Ranges in early April. As a result, the Squadron is pleased to have four new gunnery qualified personnel, namely Lance Corporals Bell, Donaldson, and Troopers Baird and Hunter. Meanwhile, the Squadron has managed to qualify a further twelve individuals as BOWMAN operators and six L7 machine gunners through 'in-house' training courses over the year so far.

The summer months saw the Squadron participating in the Abbeystead weekend (much hilarity was caused by Sergeamt Reid when he managed to bog the Squadron minibus up to the axles before Sergeant Irwin managed the recovery). Exercise NORTHERN FOX was conducted in the Galloway Forrest and the Squadron benefitted from practicing CVR(T) mounted procedures.

Exercise NORTHERN KNIGHT 4 was conducted in Aviemore in July using the excellent facilities of the Norwegian Lodge. The event was a great success and individuals participated in hill walking in the Cairngorm range and mountain biking in the Rothiemurchus Forrest. Messrs Foster and Murphy completed adventure training on a grand scale to the lofty heights of the Himalaya and successfully trekked to the Everest Base Camp.

In addition to those already mentioned, the Squadron bids a fond farewell to Captain Crawford (on transfer to the UPL); Captain Findlay on transfer to Military Stabilisation Support Group; Messrs MacNeil, Foster and Murphy upon their departures to Sandhurst; WO2 Fergusson (former SSM) on transfer to TAYFORTH UOTC; and Sergeamt Anderson on transfer to the Expeditionary Force Institute; Sergeant Clark on leaving the Territorial Army. Finally, congratulations to Mr Gray on his Commissioning at RMAS and we are pleased to welcome Lt Aidan Hewitt from CEUOTC.

Uile Leirsinneach



The Worshipful Company of Pewterers

Professor John Donaldson was crowned 574th Master of the Company on 23rd September 2010. John has had a distinguished academic research career in inorganic, environmental and industrial chemistry. Unusually for a recent Master Pewterer he joined the Company by Redemption.

To serve as Master of The Worshipful Company of Pewterers has been a great honour and privilege, especially as I joined our very family orientated Livery by Redemption with no previous connection to the Company. It seems that only one other Master in at least five decades reached the chair by this route and so to be elected to the position was, for me, a source of immense pride and humility.

I served as Warden to two excellent Masters – as Renter Warden to Chris Peacock and as Upper Warden to Nick Bonham. The contributions that they both made to the Company in their years of office were enormous, particularly because both had to deal with the effects of recession. I was fortunate to be in a position to both admire and learn from their skills. In any Master's year activities can be described as those connected with the Pewterers and those involving associations with The City and the wider world. I shall try to report on my year in the context of each.

The visible change within the Company in my year has been the refurbishment of the Livery Room and Entrance Hall. Excellent planning work by our Hall Committee led by Hugh Mullens (now Upper Warden) and our advisors, followed by efficient high quality workmanship by builders and craftsmen meant that the work was completed on time and within budget. The result is a stunning room that will be a great asset

to us, both for our own use and for our increasing hall-letting activities. For me, two immediate benefits arose from the refurbishment (i) my final "end of year dinner" was the first Pewterers' function to be held there and this gave great pleasure to me and all of my guests and (ii) the opportunity for me to present to the Company a gift to mark my year – the Georgian mirror in the Entrance Hall. I will for ever be able to look at it and reflect on my year as Master rather than on the image being reflected.

Elsewhere in the Hall, there have been two further significant changes. In the Court Room, following a happy gathering of the Kearney family and friends, I had the pleasure of unveiling the stained glass panel in the south window that pays tribute to Kevin's service as Sheriff of London. The other change was that, at last, appropriate dedicated space has been allocated for storage of the Company's pewter collection hopefully making the Curator's tasks of cataloguing and preservation easier. This brings me to our relationships with the pewter industry and craft which I believe have been improving as a result of tours by myself and Hugh Mullens; our membership of ABPC; links through our website to manufacturers' sites; and through a dinner hosted by the Company in Sheffield. It was a particular pleasure for me to accept the masterpiece submitted by a young pewterer, Sam Williams, in lieu of a fine on his admission to the Freedom.

Pewter Live remains the major contribution that we make to the promotion of pewter for the industry and craft. The 2011 event was attended by both Sheriffs and opened by Alderman and Sheriff Fiona Woolf. The key successes of Pewter Live 2011 were the high quality student entries, a large attendance at the City



The Aldermanic Sheriff Alderman Fiona Woolf with Professor Donaldson at Pewter Live



The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Chandelier



Professor Donaldson with HRH Princess Anne, Princess Royal (Master Butcher) at a Court Luncheon hosted by the Worshipful Company of Butchers

Evening, the highest ever footfall through the hall over the three days, and the best ever sales for stall holders. Both Sheriffs returned the next day to make purchases – a recognition of the quality of the goods on sale. Pewter Live is now part of the City social calendar with invitations to The City Evening being much sought after. The theme of the open competition was the design of a pewter piece suitable for presentation to one of our Service affiliations. The competition was



Professor John Donaldson and Mrs Elisabeth Donaldson at the opening of the renovated Livery room

won by Alfred Pain for his chandelier design which we commissioned as a gift for The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and presented to their Colonel by the current Master Richard Boggis-Rolfe at a recent reception. Last year the Company established an affiliation with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. In order to mark this, the Company commissioned a chandelier for the Officers’ Mess at Wessex Barracks in Fallingbommel, Germany. The design was the Open Competition winning entry at Pewter Live. Entrants had been briefed to design an item which incorporated the Company Coat of Arms and the emblems and/or colours of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. The winning entry was Alfred Pain’s design for a twelve arm chandelier. The judges were particularly impressed with the way that Alfred had used the Vandyke band as an enamelled frieze on the body and images of Bluidy Tam’ and Sergeant Ewart, who captured the Napoleonic Eagle at Waterloo. The Prince of Wales feathers and Company Arms are also attached as motifs to the underside of the chandelier. The finished piece was unveiled by the Master on 16 November at a reception for the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Our three service affiliations were deployed on active service in 2011, the SCOTS DG in Afghanistan and both HMS Liverpool and 3(F) Squadron in Libya. During my year, I had the pleasure of welcoming members of all three Service affiliates to functions in the Hall and of being entertained by them – on HMS LIVERPOOL when I presented awards to crew members, at the 99th birthday dinner of 3(F) Squadron, and by SCOTS DG both at a lunch and with the Mistress Pewterer at The Royal Military Tattoo in Edinburgh Castle where the Regiment has its headquarters and museum. On two visits to our affiliated Army Cadet Unit I was impressed by their success and enthusiasm.

Our Civic Dinner in March was attended by the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor, Alderman Michael Bear and the Sheriffs – a splendid occasion on which we were able to confirm our support for the Lord Mayor’s charities under the banner of “The Bear Necessities”. The Worshipful Company of Pewterers continues to support many charities through our Seahorse and 500th Trusts and, through the generosity of many donors I have also been able to make a contribution to the work of The Shooting Star Children’s Hospice, my chosen charity.

Our dinners this year have been well received by members and guests and I am grateful for the support of a set of excellent speakers including The Lord Mayor, Professors Sue Grimes and Evelyn Ebsworth, Dr. Steve Lee, Mrs Hilary Stone, John Prynne (Master Cutler in the year) Erik Porter and The Rev. Raymond Adams. I am also most grateful for the sterling efforts of the Hall and Richmond staff at all of our functions. Our Court Ladies’ Dinner this year saw the first appearance of our Past Masters’ Ladies as Honorary Liverymen and I was delighted that this honour was bestowed upon them in my year of office.

Over the year I attended many functions in the City and throughout the UK including dinners, lunches and receptions in Livery Halls, at Guildhall and in the Mansion House, at Guilds in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Sheffield, at services in St Pauls and events at many other venues. I can only repeat that it has been a great privilege to take part in so many varied functions as Master Pewterer and I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to so many excellent hosts.

In attending functions in The City I was pleased to note the high regard in which the Pewterers are held for their efforts not only in support of their trade through Pewter Live but also in their efforts with the young Livery of all companies through the inter-livery quiz and the Young Liverymen’s Ball.

I am looking forward to a very successful year for the Company under the Mastership of Richard Boggis-Rolfe and my best wishes for an enjoyable year go to him and to Lucy, the Mistress Pewterer.



Canongate Kirk

By The Revd Neil Gardner

“Those who look to the Lord will win new strength; they will soar as on eagles’ wings...” Those were the words with which I began our Service of Thanksgiving on 1st December 2011, and as The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards filed into Canongate Kirk that morning there was a very real sense that the eagle, as it were, had landed! For Canongate Kirk is your Regimental Kirk and this was the first time for some years, certainly in my ministry here, that we had been able formally to welcome you back. That the service should coincide with the Homecoming Parade down the Royal Mile, after distinguished service in Afghanistan, was especially appropriate. I hope very much that we can maintain that link between the Regiment and its spiritual home in years to come, both formally and informally, and indeed I’m delighted to have been asked to supply this short article as part of that process. That memorable service came towards the end of a particularly busy year at Canongate Kirk, the Kirk of Holyroodhouse and Edinburgh Castle. We were honoured by the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at our morning service in early July, and of course a few weeks later were glad to welcome them back – and



The Regimental Standard being Marched into The Canongate Kirk



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the rest of the Royal Family – for the wedding of Zara Phillips and Mike Tindall. In fact we celebrated nearly thirty weddings here last year, and for every couple, Royal or otherwise, Canongate Kirk becomes a special place, a place where they should always feel welcome and at home. It is my hope and prayer that members of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards – serving or retired – and of the wider Regimental family should feel the same. For Canongate Kirk is your special place and a place where you should always feel welcome and at home. Whether on those big occasions, or simply joining us Sunday by Sunday in our weekly services, “Those who look to the Lord will win new strength; they will soar as on eagles’ wings...”



Receiving the Regimental Standard during the Homecoming Service

The celebration of the 30th anniversary partnership with Spangenberg

Dietmar W. Brandt

In 1980 a unique occurrence was initiated, as a British heavy cavalry regiment was officially partnered with a German town. Thanks to much preliminary work done by Helmut Söchting, my father in law, the Bandmaster Peter Standing, Pipe Major John Allan and Major Melville Jameson as well as various regimental officers a partnership charter was drawn up between Spangenberg and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

In the meantime thirty years have passed, the SCOTS DG have been actively involved in four wars and the Regimental Band had been disbanded. The driving

force of the Partnership – Helmut Söchting – had passed away in 1998 and all the people who were involved have moved on to pastures new. Helmut left behind a huge legacy of media information and files, which in 2009 I started to arduously peruse. During fifteen months of intensive voluntary work on this matter, I developed a great respect for Helmut’s work, as at the time he only had telephone, typewriter, letters and stamps.

On Friday the 1st of October 2010 the celebration on the 30th anniversary finally started. Initial difficulties were overcome quickly and the first evening began already



The historic walk through Spangenberg



The reunion party in central Spangenberg



The commemorative meeting

developing a terrific mood. Straight after the arrival of the SCOTS DG Pipes and Drums from Fallingbommel and the several ex band-members, everyone went on a historical candle-lit walkabout through the centuries of this medieval town followed by a hearty and solid Barbeque in the forest nearby, where the current band-members met their new Spangenberg-families for the first time.

On the following day a commemorative meeting was held at the Ballsaal in the Residence.

Several speakers shared their experiences about the partnership. Roy Falshaw emphasized the importance of this partnership, particularly during the first Gulf War in 1991, where wives and children were hosted in Spangenberg.

Peter Standing pointed out, that all this started by the vision of one man from this town. Without his endeavours and efforts many musicians and other members of the regiment would not have enjoyed the pleasure of visiting and staying with many families. He thanked the people of Spangenberg for the truly remarkable friendship and hospitality that they have shown the two bands over the years.

Last but not the least the Mayor, Peter Tigges presented a remembrance booklet to the ex members of the bands who made their way to Spangenberg: Peter Standing and his wife Delia, Brian Carroll and his wife Jean, Roy Falshaw, Vic Baranowski, Stuart Duffy, George Major and Dave Galloway.

The honorable guests walked, musically accompanied by Pipe Major David Dodds and Lance Corporal Jason Bruce, across the nightly market place to the fully crowded and solemnly illuminated Golden Lion.

The MC – Paul Milner ex Regimental Band member – led smoothly through the evening and the guests were more than pleased to be taken back down



Families meeting at the Residence



The Pipes and Drums playing at the Residence

memory lane and his words rekindled many happy memories. The program enabled all friends of pipe music to enjoy world class piping and drumming as part of the entertainment. The Goodfellas with Dave Galloway on piano playing traditional melodies and as a third highlight Myfavoritesings, George Major, ex Regimental Band musician, singer from the “Starlight Express” ensemble and his companion Thomas Heinke performed musical hits, swing, songs from the Everly brothers, Paul McCartney and James Taylor. The whole evening was filled with well known music and the ‘80s Partnership motto “Partnership According to the Score” again was fulfilled.

The Scotland the Brave/Black Bear finale was followed by numerous encores finishing with ‘Amazing Grace’ in an impromptu male voice version and the famous pipe version accompanied by Dave Galloway on piano – very emotional! So being, the Regimental motto ‘Second To None’ was again pushed out beyond the line and used to describe a truly fantastic evening or as Peter Standing in the early morning hours declared: This evening was far beyond anyone’s expectations. Thus ended the successful celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Partnership between the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and Spangenberg.



MAGAZINE SECTION

Being a Body Guard in London

aka “Squarebashing with a stick in The Queen’s Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard!”

It was the then Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Jonathan Hall, in his guise as Lieutenant Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea who badgered me into applying to join the Queen’s Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard a couple of years after I took up the post of RQMS here in London in 2001. Almost four years later I was duly attested and have served in that august body ever since. Now Major General Hall has encouraged me to write an article about this Body for Eagle and Carbine, and to show how the Regiment has been represented in it over the last century. It might, hopefully, stimulate the interest of those still serving and those ex members of the Regiment yet to reach the ripe old age of 54 who might consider joining what I can best describe as the finest Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess in the country. However, I should start by thanking Yeoman Bill Norton (ex RAF) for allowing me to use a lot of the material he has on the Body Guard website as the basis for this article.

There are very few institutions in this country which can boast of a history of five centuries, but the Yeomen of the Guard can now do so, for this famous Body Guard of the Sovereign was formed by Henry VII, and made its first appearance in public at His Majesty’s coronation on the 30 October 1485. Since that remote time there has been no royal pageant or ceremony in which the Yeomen of the Guard have not taken a more or less conspicuous part.

Amongst the ranks over those years since the end of Queen Victoria’s reign there have not been a huge number of Regimental personalities present, but I am rather proud to say that I see my name on the same pages as such luminaries as Big Fred Rowan and Hugh Brassey to name but two. From those records remaining it has been determined that the following members of the Regiment and its predecessors have served as members of the Body Guard during that period:

Troop Serjt Maj Obadiah Smith	6DG	1900 to 1908
Sgt Major Frederick Casswell	2Dns	1910 to 1925
RSM Amos Allison DCM	6DG	1923 to 1960
RSM Ben Buxton MC	3DG	1925 to 1960
Col Sir Hugh Brassey KCVO, OBE, MC	Greys	1963 to 1985
RSM Fred Rowan MM	Greys	1970 to 1975
RSM John Rochester	SCOTS DG	2007 to ?



Yeoman Rochester (Royal Scots Dragoon Guards)

In addition it is worth pointing out that here in London and its environs there is a reasonably strong Regimental presence in and around the Royal Household. The aforementioned JMFC Hall is still serving in the Her Majesty’s Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, until recently Will McKinlay was Equerry to HRH the Prince of Wales, Derek Potter is the Queen’s Piper and then there is Charlie MacDermot-Roe who works in Human Resources at Buckingham Palace, whilst down in Berkshire Charles Webb is resident as a Military Knight of Windsor, so most bases are covered.

I will start with a brief history of the Body Guard since its inception back in 1485. In the mid-15th century the House of Lancaster (its badge being a red rose) and the House of York (its badge being a white rose) fought for

the possession of the Crown of England and the power, wealth and influence that went with it. The Wars of the Roses began in 1455, then in 1483, after seventeen battles and thousands of dead, Richard III (Lancastrian) became Sovereign of England but by now the rival Houses wished for peace.

The decision was that the throne should be offered to Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, on condition that he married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Edward IV, thus uniting the Houses of York and Lancaster and ending this costly war both in money and lives. Henry Tudor accepted the invitation and eventually embarked from Harfleur, France, for England in July 1485 with his “private guard of faithful followers,” and a small military force of about 2000 men. Being of Welsh extraction himself, with most of his adherents being Welshmen, and his private guard being Welsh born, it was only natural that Henry Tudor selected Wales as his base. He stepped ashore at the village of Dale in Milford Haven on the 1 August 1485; he was soon joined by the Welsh, who flocked to his Standard. With an increasing force Henry pressed forward to attack King Richard III.

On the Eve of St Bartholomew’s Day, 22 August 1485, they met at the Battle of Bosworth Field. Richard III was killed and it is said that the Royal crown that he had worn over his helmet on the battle field, was found in a hawthorn bush by Henry’s “private guard”. The crown was placed on the head of Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, who was then and there hailed as King Henry VII of England. From Bosworth, Henry proceeded to Leicester and thence to London, where he attended a Thanksgiving Service at St Paul’s Cathedral, and deposited the three Standards under which he had fought and those he had captured on the field of battle. Henry was surrounded by his “private guard” of fifty men, now known as the Yeomen Guard or the Yeoman Archers.

The Queen’s Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard is now the oldest Royal Body Guard, and also the oldest military corps in existence in this or any other country, pre-dating the Gentlemen-at-Arms by 24 years and The Queen’s Body Guard for Scotland, The Royal Company of Archers, who were founded in 1676. Though The Body Guard can be traced to the armed personal guards of the Saxon and Norman Sovereigns, its real historical origin is to be found in the body guards of the Plantagenet Kings of eight hundred years ago. These latter guards however, were known by various designations, such as “Cross Bowmen of the Household,” and “Archers of the Guard of the King’s Body,” and were often created anew by the Monarch on his accession. It was King Henry VII, the first of

the Tudor dynasty, to make his Royal Body Guard a permanent institution and confer on it a definite title, a title it continues to hold.

We are not from the Tower of London! A common misconception is that the Yeoman Warders at the Tower of London or Yeomen of the Guard (In Extraordinary) as they are correctly termed and The Yeomen of the Queen’s Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard are one and the same. They are not, although both Corps are made up of former British servicemen who have served at least 22 years in the Army, Marines, Royal Air Force or, since 2011, the Royal Navy. There are several differences in the duties and uniform of these Corps.

The Yeomen of the Queen’s Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard (The Body Guard) are summoned for duty only on ceremonial occasions and live across the whole of the British Isles. Our Headquarters is at St James’s Palace and although honorary members of the Yeoman Warder’s Bar we have no duties at The Tower of London. Most of our Yeomen have a full time second career outside of The Body Guard and all look forward to the summons to duty. Our uniform is in the Tudor style and a scarlet red. The distinct difference in the ceremonial uniform worn by either Corps is the shoulder belt or crossbelt. The shoulder belt originally had a practical function when our armoury included the heavy harquebus and the belt supported the weight of this cumbersome weapon. The harquebus hasn’t been used since the 1600s, but some of our superannuated guards are reputed to still remember it being issued!

The Tower Warders on the other hand are salaried, must live within the bounds of the perimeter walls of The Tower of London and it is their full-time second career. Routinely they wear the Blue Tudor dress but on ceremonial occasions they wear exactly the same



uniform as the Yeomen of the Queen’s Body Guard, less the shoulder belt. So now you know!

Although the men who now form this famous Guard are not Yeomen in the original sense of the word, they are, it must be admitted, better men for the Body Guard of the Sovereign than those so employed in the last century. What could be a better recommendation for a place in such a corps than the fact that the applicant had spent the best years of his life in the service of his country, and that he had won the medals on his breast for bravery in face of the enemy or for long service? These medals, which all the Guard wear, show that they have already done “Yeomen’s Service” for the Crown, and if such service was required in the future, though of a less arduous and dangerous nature, none could do it better than the ex soldiers who now comprise the Corps.

The ceremonial duties undertaken by a Yeoman are probably familiar to most people. They include Garden



Parties, Medal Investitures, the Maundy Services and State Opening of Parliament but there are a number that do not readily come to mind such as the Epiphany and Garter Services. There are also those that do not fall into the annual calendar such as Coronations, State visits and ultimately Royal Funerals. The Body Guard was also on duty at other funerals including those of the Duke of Wellington and Sir Winston Churchill. There are 72 members of the Body Guard including 6 Officers one of whom is the Government Chief Whip. Their Headquarters is the appropriately named Guard Room at St James’s Palace. It is based there because St James’s Palace is still the senior Palace and official residence of the Sovereign and that is to where all foreign missions are accredited in London.

The current composition of the Body Guard, which has a high proportion of ex Household Division members based in London, is as follows:

	Officers	Rank and file
Household Cavalry		10
RAC	2	5
Royal Artillery		2
Foot Guards	2	20
Infantry	1	4
Corps		16
Royal Marines		7
RAF		2

This is a prestigious position and is much appreciated by the Crown which is why we are all members of the Royal Household. We are also remunerated for doing the duties but before you hand in your resignations, the honorarium will not be sufficient to retire on. However after tax it is enough to pay the annual subscription into the testimonial fund and secure a seat at the Body Guard dinner.

Recruitment to the Yeomen of The Guard until 1823 was by purchase and the majority of The Guard was civilian. From 1830 candidates had to have served in the Army or Marines. In 1955 the first Royal Air Force candidate was accepted. Until 2011 members of the Royal Navy were excluded from becoming Yeomen due to their tradition of not swearing allegiance to The Queen but this has now changed. Selection is made from service personnel who have served with distinction, and a very long list is maintained of those seeking entry to this exclusive and venerable “Body Guard”. Successive monarchs have confirmed rules for the selection of suitable candidates, some emphasizing candidates should be “of tall personage, strong, active and of manlie presence” (in Queen Victoria’s reign this included the mandatory wearing of a beard).

Today, candidates must have completed no less than 22 years in the Army, Royal Marines, Royal Air Force or Royal Navy, attained the rank of at least Sergeant or Petty Officer (at least Chief Petty Officer for The Yeoman Warders) and awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. All Yeomen must retire at age of 70, if only to give others a chance of joining. During Queen Victoria’s reign there was a minimum height restriction of 5ft 10in but since Edward VII’s reign this restriction has been disregarded. Edward VII is anecdotally attributed as saying ‘if he’s tall enough to fight for his country, he’s tall enough to be one of my body guard’.

Currently, a candidate should be no older than 55 years on the day of taking the Loyal Oath but this is being reviewed. There is typically a 3 to 5 year waiting list as turnover is not high, testament to the fact that membership of this exclusive organisation is not easily acquired. It should be stressed that Servicewomen are not excluded from applying for an appointment to The Body Guard or the Yeoman Warders.

Serving personnel will find the criteria for the Yeomen of the Guard and Yeoman Warders in Queen’s Regulations. Applications should be supported with certified copies of their record of service, conduct sheet, medical certificate and present home address to: MOD(MS1b), Main Building, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB

The Body Guard exists today to a large extent as it did over 525 years ago. As former servicemen, we are proud to have fought for our Sovereign and Country



and are proud and honoured to guard Her Majesty today. We keep alight the memory of those Yeomen of the Guard that served before us, and we welcome to our ranks those soldiers, marines and airmen yet to be appointed. We feel they will be as proud to wear the red State Dress and cross-belt as we, and to call themselves by that most prestigious of titles:

“The Queen’s Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard”



Feathered Appointments

Some Reflections by Major General Jonathan Hall CB OBE DL

I left the Army early, at the age of 52, in December 1997, on the completion of my appointment as the General Officer Commanding the Army in Scotland and Governor of Her Majesty’s Castle of Edinburgh. I was the second member of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards to hold that appointment since the Second World War, the first being Lieutenant General Sir Norman Arthur. After one week’s leave (with sadly no chance of a resettlement course), I assumed the appointment of the Lieutenant Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the home of the Chelsea Pensioners. This appointment was a privilege which I was to enjoy for the next eight years. Soon after starting at the Royal Hospital, I was also honoured to be appointed a member of Her Majesty’s Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms.

In both these two appointments, as Lieutenant Governor and in the Body Guard, I was to wear ‘feathers’. As a child, I had always been attracted by the glamour of military uniforms. Much to my astonishment some fifty years later, in the twilight of my working life, I found myself in the position of wearing, not only a frock coat and feathered cocked hat as the Lieutenant Governor, but also a scarlet coatee and fine gilded helmet as a member of HM Body Guard.

The helmet worn by members of the Honourable Corps is decorated with a wreath of oak leaves and swags, with the diamond-cut Garter Star in the centre of the Royal Arms, surrounded by the garter and motto and surmounted by a flowing 17-inch plume of swans’



feathers. In the second year of Queen Victoria's reign, it was decided to dress the Gentlemen at Arms in the uniform of a Dragoon Guard. Thus accoutred, and armed with a pole axe and carrying a cavalry sword, my colleagues and I add striking colour to state occasions. How appropriate that I should wear Dragoon Guard uniform, having served for over thirty years in a Dragoon Guard Regiment, the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers & Greys).

Records reveal that there have only been five other members of the Honourable Corps from the antecedent regiments of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. They are, with their year of appointment:

- 1875 Capt John Gifford,
3rd (Prince of Wales's) Dragoon Guards
- 1887 Lt Col Aubone Fife,
6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers)
- 1929 Col Sir Frederick Rasch Bt,
6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers)
- 1931 Lt Col Ughtred Carnegie DSO MC
(Great War), 3rd (Prince of Wales's)
Dragoon Guards
- 1959 Brig J Edmund Swetenham DSO,
Royal Scots Greys

As an aside, there have only been six other major generals as members of the Honourable Corps, the last one having been appointed in 1952.

The Honourable Corps has been in existence for over 500 years and celebrated its quincentenary with a parade at St James's Palace in 2009 in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen. As the "Nearest Guard" to the Sovereign, it has been at the heart of monarchy throughout twenty-two reigns and its duties are now purely ceremonial. The Honourable Corps, which is based in St James's Palace, comprises a Captain (who is always the current Chief Whip of the House of Lords), Lieutenant, Standard Bearer, Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant, Harbinger and twenty-seven Gentlemen at Arms. All are retired Army or Royal Marine officers.

Their duties include attendance on the Sovereign on all state occasions, such as the Opening of Parliament and State Visits of Heads of State. In addition, the Honourable Corps takes part in all the services of the Orders of Chivalry, namely: the Order of the Garter and also the Victorian Order at St George's Chapel Windsor, the Order of the Bath in Westminster Abbey and the Order of St Michael and St George and also the Order of the British Empire in St Paul's Cathedral.

The Honourable Corps also has the honour of taking part in State funerals. I had the privilege of mounting several vigils around the catafalque of HM the Queen

Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 2002 in Westminster Hall. During that duty there was a rumour going round that the grandson Princes would mount their own vigil. Before this was confirmed, whilst waiting to go on duty with some colleagues, I was approached by a member of the public enquiring if this was true and, if so, when the royal vigil would take place. I told her that the Princes' vigil would follow the Archers' (referring to HM Body Guard of the Royal Company of Archers in Scotland who were also on the roster). Before I could explain further, the woman turned on her heels saying 'I know exactly when that is – after the seven o'clock evening news.' She promptly disappeared from view before I could explain that it would in fact take place earlier in the evening and that I was not referring to the long running BBC Radio Four soap. I fear she will have missed seeing the Royal Princes.

I was also fortunate enough to be on duty when Prince William of Wales married Miss Catherine Middleton in April 2011. The Gentlemen at Arms are also on duty for the annual Diplomatic Reception given by the Queen as well as being in attendance at the three annual garden parties at Buckingham Palace. All members retire from this appointment on reaching the age of seventy.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea is another venerable institution but not quite as old as the Honourable Corps. Since its inception it has fulfilled its original mission statement "For the succour and relief of veterans broken by war and age, founded by Charles II, enlarged by James II and completed by William and Mary in the year of our Lord in 1692". The residents are known as In-Pensioners to differentiate them from all the others who are in receipt of a military pension, who are called Out-Pensioners. The Royal Hospital provides the residents with comfortable board, a convivial environment and a variety of opportunities for self-fulfilment through mental and physical recreation. Indeed, it is estimated that residents live on average for a further ten years once they join the Royal Hospital, the cares of every-day life are lifted from their shoulders, and all their daily needs are met. The Royal Hospital acknowledges the importance of providing a refuge and companionship for military veterans in their old age. It is the least the nation can do. The Royal Hospital remains a beacon of care for senior veterans who have served their country over generations and such a laudable aim must continue for future generations.

A few days after arriving at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, two events connecting the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards with the Royal Hospital occurred. The first concerned the famous picture of Fight for the Standard by Richard Ansdell: a huge oil painting of Ensign

Ewart of the Scots Greys at Waterloo in 1815 seizing the Imperial Eagle standard of the French 45th Regiment. This picture is well known to all members of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and those who visit the Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle but it is sadly no longer known to the Chelsea Pensioner. The Royal Hospital Chelsea in fact owns the painting. Its journey to Edinburgh is a remarkable story.

The picture was presented to the Royal Hospital by the Ansdell family in 1910 and was hung in the Great Hall. It was removed, apparently without permission, from the Royal Hospital in about 1958 but was tracked down by the then Governor, General 'Splosh' Jones, to Edinburgh Castle. After protracted negotiations, it was agreed that it may remain on extended loan to the Castle, which is managed by Historic Scotland. It was a sensible decision for the picture to remain in Edinburgh because that is where Ewart is buried and the Castle is the home of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. The painting originally hung in the Kings' Dining Room but after it was damaged by an IRA bomb in 1970, it was placed in store and never seen again until 1998. It was my pleasure to witness, in my capacity then as an ex Governor of Edinburgh castle, Colonel of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and Lieutenant Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, its unveiling by HRH the Duke of Kent in June 1998 after it had been beautifully restored by Historic Scotland. None of this would have happened without the tenacity of Richard Ansdell's grandson, Peter, who tracked it down to a store in the suburbs of Edinburgh where it had been languishing for many years and who ensured that it was properly restored and displayed.

The second vignette concerns the Battle of Nunshigum, in April 1944, fought by B Squadron of the 3rd Carabiniers. It was one of the crucial actions in the Burma Campaign. All the officers were killed including the squadron leader Major EA Sanford. He was in his early twenties. Soon after my arrival at the Royal Hospital I was approached by Henry Hely-Hutchinson who was researching a book on the lives of many of his contemporaries at Eton who had been killed in World War II. There were 24 housemasters in post in 1938 who all taught and influenced – what they did not then know – young men of military age. From the time Hely-Hutchinson's housemaster took over in 1930 to the time he retired in 1946, he had a throughput of 182 pupils. Of these, 30 were killed. Major Sanford was one of them. Hely-Hutchinson wondered if there was any In-Pensioner who was serving in the regiment at the time. There was a frail but charming and lucid In-Pensioner by the name of Bessant who was resident in the Royal Hospital's infirmary. I was able to link the

two up so that that period of Major Sanford's short life could be covered in Hely-Hutchinson's book.

I remember a straight-talking In-Pensioner, George Wingate, late REME who had served with the Greys in the Second World War, making it quite clear to me what my role was. I had to ensure that the In-Pensioners always came first and to realise that the facilities were in serious need of improvement. Apart from appreciating my own good fortune in living a collegiate life in a beautiful Wren building on a sixty-six acre site in the heart of Chelsea, I had the challenge, effectively as the Chief Executive Officer, of being responsible for the running of a £10 million budget and all that that entailed. There was much to be done, not only to keep this famous institution running, but also to ensure that it became more efficient. Importantly the place needed to reconsider its entry criteria and market itself more effectively, as the pool of potential recruits was diminishing. It was evidently essential to eliminate waste and cut staff costs. For example, the infirmary employed three full-time doctors to care for about 350 In-Pensioners, which in any one's book is excessive when the local GP surgery would service about 10,000 souls.

The In-Pensioners, ranging in age from 65 to 100, slept in 9' by 12' berths in the Long Wards with the lavatories and bathrooms situated at the end of the

corridors. Not an ideal arrangement for senior gentlemen, particularly in the middle of the night. Many therefore 'slopped out'. In addition, I was amazed to learn that the In-Pensioners were only permitted to have a bath at certain times of the day. Remember this was as recently as 1997! These Dickensian ways had to be changed. Over my eight-year period as Lieutenant Governor, and more recently, huge and exciting improvements have taken place.

Plans to modernise soon got underway. First and foremost, the existing infirmary, built in the early 1950s, had to be replaced because it did not meet modern care and nursing standards. Work started in earnest in about 2002 to select a fundraising consultant and establish an in-house committee of influential people under the chairmanship of the Marquess of Salisbury to oversee the raising the massive sum of £35 million (The Chelsea Pensioner Appeal). Then, after a lengthy process of selection and consultation, an architect was engaged and planning permission granted. The project attracted financial support from many quarters. It is widely acknowledged that the architect, Quinlan Terry, has created a masterpiece to stand alongside Wren and Soane. The much-admired Margaret Thatcher Infirmary, providing 125 beds and state-of-the-art care facilities was opened in 2009. The next phase will be the modernisation of the Long Wards to provide en-suite study bedrooms for all residents. This



phase is now underway and will require further funding of £30 million.

During my time the Royal Hospital had a few In-Pensioners from both our antecedent regiments and towards the end of my tenure the first Royal Scots Dragoon Guard, Jimmy McClelland, joined. Women are now admitted (there are currently three) but the Royal Scots Greys could claim that Mother Hannah Ross was the first woman In-Pensioner. She was awarded a pension of five pennies a day in 1717 for her service with the regiment in Flanders, disguised as a man. Her third husband was an In-Pensioner; she died in Chelsea in 1739 and is buried in the Royal Hospital burial ground. The ditty goes, “Hannah in breeks behaved so well, that none her softer sex could tell”.

This is the place of which Lord (Bill) Deedes, the esteemed newspaper journalist, once remarked ‘it removes the great handicap from which many old people suffer – loneliness and a sense that somehow people have ceased to care’. In-Pensioners are encouraged to live a normal and active life. There are constant activities on offer, with trips organised for residents to all parts of the country and the wider world. Their families are always welcome, as are other visitors. There is a thriving club in which they may entertain their friends and guests. The Royal Hospital is proud to maintain its military ethos. Every year an annual parade is held to mark Founder’s Day. Today the Royal Hospital stands as Charles II intended it should, as a symbol of a nation’s gratitude to its soldiers.

Since the Hospital was founded there have been over thirty governors and forty-five lieutenant governors.

As far as the regiment is concerned, records show that we provided a governor, General Sir William Fawcett, Colonel of 3rd Dragoon Guards in 1796 and a lieutenant governor, Major General George Salis Schwabe CB, again a 3rd Dragoon Guard in 1898. These predecessors of mine stayed in post until their deaths. During my time at the Royal Hospital I was also Colonel of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards as well as Colonel Commandant of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

Both of these august institutions: Her Majesty’s Bodyguard of the Honourable Corps of the Gentlemen at Arms and the Royal Hospital Chelsea, one over five hundred years old and the other over three hundred, represent the heart of the nation’s pride in its history and sense of obligation to the men and women who have given the best part of their lives to its defence. As one looks round this troubled world today and remembering what the country continues to demand from its military in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan, that obligation has not diminished.

Major General Jonathan Hall CB OBE DL
26 August 2011
Nether Compton, Dorset.
General Officer Commanding the Army in Scotland and Governor Edinburgh Castle 1995 to 1997.
Lieutenant Governor the Royal Hospital Chelsea 1997 to 2005
Colonel the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards 1999 to 2004
Member of Her Majesty’s Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms 1999 to ?



Life with the Infantry

By Captain RfG Grinling

Of course I was slightly apprehensive as climbed the stairs to the Company Offices. This was to be my first day in the Infantry for a year that would combine training in Germany, the UK and a deployment to the Upper Geresk Valley in Afghanistan. The irony wasn’t lost on me as I walked through the doors, that I of all people, who developed a distinct dislike to infantering at Sandhurst, and had even been partially motivated to choose a heavy armoured regiment to avoid sleeping in ditches, should be selected for a secondment to an Infantry Battalion.

I had worked with 3 Mercian before, they had supported the SCOTS DG Battlegroup during a BATUS

exercise, and had even worked closely with A Company then (I was to join A Company for the tour), though this was in the armoured role. I had got on with them even though spoke with an even less incomprehensible accent than the most Scottish Glaswegian. Their conversations were full of words like ‘Yarm’ and ‘Marra’. I never worked out what ‘Yarm’ meant though I believe ‘Marra’ was ‘Mate’, or at least I hoped it was!

My meeting with the Company staff went smoothly and I soon got the impression that they were all quite keen that I should join as an extra pair of hands in the Operations room. I soon found out that I was to be a Company Ops Officer, in charge of routine Opera-

tions for the Company group during their tour of Helmand. Of course no plan survives first contact with the enemy, as I would find out when my job role changed a number of different times whilst there.

It is a great irony of Pre Deployment Training that those selected for a summer tour, where in Afghanistan temperatures can reach 50+ degrees, train in north Western Europe during the winter. Needless to say there where some very cold exercises in such charming places as STANTA, Norfolk and Otterburn, North Yorkshire where the temperature didn’t even rise above freezing. Nevertheless, training was useful and certainly in the Ops room, while we didn’t get too cold, we were kept busy by serial after serial of mock ‘enemy action’.

Closer to the deployment date the new kit designed for Afghanistan was issued and I think for some of the Mercians this was the highlight of their tour. I had learnt that in the infantry nothing causes arguments or generates more heated debates than personal kit, both issued and bought. One whole afternoon, for instance, can be whittled away by discussing the relative merits of a pair of Lowe boots compared with Hi Tech Magnums. Issued kit was poured over and scrutinized in huge detail as most of it was new to all of us and this made it ‘Gucci’. What proved extremely popular was the ‘Combat Manbag’, a sort of handbag for soldiers that one could take into battle carrying folders and ammunition magazines. These would later become extremely useful currency when swapping kit with Danes or US Marines.

As we got even closer to the deployment date more information yielded itself about where we were going and whose command we were to be under. A Company 3 Mercian, was going to go to the most northerly British base at the time, PB RAHIM in the Upper Geresk valley. It was poised just above the ‘green zone’, a narrow strip of vegetation flanking the river Helmand on its way south from Sangin, on the fringe of the desert. From there Rahim commanded the views south and



The A Company command team

theoretically one could launch patrols into the Green Zone to stop arms and ammunition moving from Sangin to Geresk. To our southwest was the patrol base line, a series of interconnected checkpoints, a sort of modern day Hadrian’s Wall bisecting the Green Zone.

The chain of command was also laid out to us. I was to be a RAC officer in a British Army Infantry Company. This Company was attached to a Danish Battlegroup, which in turn was attached to Royal Marine Brigade, which was working for NATO. We were to have both Danes and US marines working for us in the PB as well as US civilians in charge of an observation balloon. The whole operation was shaping up to be a whole lot more complex than I had expected. I realised I would have a lot of experience of Clausewitz’s friction.

Deployment arrived sooner than any of us expected although we almost didn’t make it to Afghanistan. The RAF trooping flight that we were initially on managed to break its ‘power steering’ mid flight and we ended up circling North Wales dumping fuel before landing back at Brize Norton. Luckily the RAF managed to put on another flight the next day and after a short stop at Cyprus we landed in Camp Bastion. Though it was midnight, the first real impression one got was that of someone letting an oven door open on your face. Luckily it was an extremely dry heat as Camp Bastion is situated in the middle of the desert miles away from any civilization or water.

Reception, Staging and Onward Integration took up the first week. RSOI comprises series of mini exercises that reinforced training undertaken in Germany/UK and introduced the latest practices learned from the front line. This proved to be the best training we received and really prepared us for the task we were about to undertake. Mentally it also started to show us what was ahead as those in charge of the training had themselves just completed the previous six month tour.

Reports began to filter back to us in Bastion from the advance party that we had sent out to Rahim. The PB was well developed with good facilities though exposed on the high ground. The observation balloon would take enemy fire everyday and the splash, (falling rounds), would land on the HLS. There were also three CPs or Check Points that had to be manned by the platoons. These allowed the soldiers to protect the local community. The enemy hadn’t engaged the Irish Guards, who we had taken over from, in a while though they had a busy time at the beginning of their tour. The locals, apparently, knew that a relief in place was coming and that a new untried unit would be taking over. Of course, if the locals knew that, so did the Taliban who would presumably try and test us as soon



At a local school



On patrol with Danish soldiers



Briefing ALP members with the OC

as we were in location. Tension began to mount as they day of our departure to Rahim approached.

We flew to Rahim on a Chinook (a distinctive helicopter with two rotors) flying low and fast out over the desert. We flew so low in fact, tracking down wadi systems that ground level was often above window height. On landing we were quickly ushered away from the HLS and into the Ops room where we received the mandatory arrivals brief. Three days of shadowing our peers from the Irish Guards followed and then suddenly they left and we were on our own.

My job had changed, I was too take over as Intelligence Officer and Influence Officer. Both roles I would enjoy more than Operations Officer as they allowed me to get out of the office and interact with the locals on a daily basis. We, in conjunction with a Danish CIMIC team, had set up a bi-weekly clinic for the locals to come in and interact with us. We mainly dealt with irate farmers whose crops we had, supposedly, destroyed accidentally with airstrikes. Inevitably that would mean that I would have to go out with a patrol and assess how many acres or how many trees had been burned. Of course when a farmer tells you in the PB that we have destroyed three hundred prime oak trees he is generally exaggerating and quite often I would find that we hadn't destroyed more than the odd shrub or two which, of course, they received no payment for!

With the OC, I also attended a great many Shuras. These were meetings between local parties and ourselves. Often they were called only when something needed to be discussed though we set up a weekly Shura where all the local leaders would meet together in the form of a village council. These became extremely successful and eventually came to the attention of the District governor in Geresk who attended two in person. While it wasn't obvious in some respects the security provided by A Company and the Afghan security forces enabled the local politics to grow and connect with the District level.

The British Army's presence in the Upper Geresk Valley will always be limited and another one of our jobs

out there was to build the ability for the locals to provide their own security. The Company managed to set up a local militia called the ALP. These men in conjunction with a twenty man squad of Afghan National Army soldiers and a fifteen man contingent of Afghan National Police formed the basis of a reasonably effective Afghan security initiative. Whilst they couldn't patrol in any great numbers into the Green Zone they allowed breathing space for the continuing development of civilian infrastructure in their community. A school was built in the local Kalay which took many of the troublesome children off the streets.

The summer rolled by extremely quickly and soon it was time to leave the country and hand on Rahim to a Company from the Yorkshire regiment. Everybody, to a man, had mixed feelings about leaving. We had bonded quite well with the locals and the Security Forces and we would be leaving people who had become friends behind in what was a conflict zone. There was always more work to be done and in handing over to the Yorks we were also handing over a number of unfinished projects which would have been nice to have seen completed on our tour.

My own experiences were largely positive. We had an extremely lucky tour, with a few close calls but with relatively light casualties. In sum I think we all left Rahim feeling like we left it in a better place than we had found it. I felt I had learnt a lot learnt from the Mercians. The Army's Regimental system does produce unique practices and traditions amongst units and was extremely interesting to see how the infantry lived and worked.



Homecoming Parades

The recent phenomena of Regiments conducting Homecoming parades on their return from operations will have escaped no-one. Although the formats and locations may differ, their intent remains the same – to enable soldiers to march through their local cities and towns so that the public's positive response may play a key part in their normalisation process. It is the vital part these parades play in the moral component of fighting power that secures funding even in such austere times. Perhaps most importantly they are extremely good fun and very popular with the soldiers and their families.

Planning for our parades started before the bulk of the Regiment had even deployed to Afghanistan. Whilst the chain of command support Homecoming parades the added complication of travelling from Germany to Scotland inevitably raised extra financial scrutiny. Due to the number of 7 (Armoured) Brigade soldiers who had deployed on Op HERRICK 14 the cost of funding their homecoming parades was too much for the Brigade budget, therefore the General Officer Commanding 1 (UK) Armoured Division kindly agreed to fund these parades.

The next major question to answer was what cities the Regiment would march through. As the Regiment recruits from all over Scotland, technically all areas were in scope, however the Commanding Officer was keen to focus our attention on the central belt as this not only included some of the larger urban areas but also allowed a degree of de-confliction with 4 SCOTS who were conducting parades at the same time. Therefore the cities of Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh were chosen, and as an indication of the public support



Major Foulerton leads C Squadron through the streets of Glasgow

to the Armed Forces, all three cities were delighted to allow the Regiment to parade.

The format for the parades was kept deliberately simple. This was not to be merely a repeat of the Royal Guard in 2009. A number of factors combined; the lack of time to prepare and rehearse the parade, that homecoming parades are to be enjoyed, lack of funding for a CR2 tank and the reality of parading during a Scottish winter all limited the Regimental ambition. The answer was a simple parade with no weapons and the Regiment marching in the same uniforms that they wore whilst on operations. Through the media (but especially the television) the multi-terrain pattern combat clothing is easily recognisable and provides an instant visual link to current operations.

Captain Robin McLeish (already based in Edinburgh with the welfare team) was perfectly placed to become "our man in Scotland" and dealt on a day to day basis with the multitude of players including city councils and police forces. All these different organisations where hugely supportive of the parades and noth-



Marching past Queen's Street Station

WO2 Adams makes some
final adjustments



Corporal McLauchlin is welcomed home by his son

ing seemed to be beyond the scope of the possible – however I suspect they were all deeply relieved once the opportunity to have a sixty four ton tank driving through their cities had passed!

The day after a very successful All Ranks Party, one hundred and fifty tired soldiers boarded coaches for the long drive to Edinburgh, some twenty hours later they all arrived at Redford Cavalry Barracks. The Regiment has a long history with the Cavalry barracks and once again, the barracks that were originally built for the Greys almost a century ago, provided home for the Regiment in Edinburgh.

Following several hours of drill practice during which the roads inside camp were temporarily full of the pipes and drums and two divisions of marching troops the Regiment was ready. Following the obligatory “warm up” drill at the hands of the Regimental provost Sergeant, the Regiment was formed up by midday on Monday 28 November at the Strathclyde police station and ready to start the homecoming parades. Marching through any city is always a great event but to march through one on the scale of Glasgow – especially as so many of our soldiers come from this city – was a breathtaking start to the week. All of the city councils

hosted a civic reception (the city councils wished to thank the soldiers for what they had done in Afghanistan and therefore provided the soldiers with lunch and some suitable liquid refreshment). Given the scale of the Glasgow city chambers they were able to extend the invitation to families and friends of the soldiers, which was hugely appreciated and helped to set the tone for what was to be a fantastic week.

The following day the Regiment headed off to Dundee (via the Kincardine bridge due to the seasonal weather) and enjoyed another successful parade. Although Dundee is a much smaller city it still has very strong military links and the crowds, as we marched along Reform Street towards the City Square, were some of the largest we saw during the week. Following a Regimental photograph on the steps of Caird Hall, Dundee city council provided us with an excellent reception during which the Commanding Officer was presented with a panoramic photograph of the city of Dundee. That evening whilst the soldiers were given a twenty four hour leave pass prior to the Edinburgh parade,



Sergeant Khoo prepares to march



Lady Haig presenting, 'Scots Greys conducting evening stables by the Dead Sea near Jericho at Christmas in 1940' to the Museum

the Officers attended a drinks party in the Regimental museum in order to mark the donation from Lady Haig of a painting called “Scots Greys conducting evening stables by the Dead Sea near Jericho at Christmas in 1940” to the museum painted by her late husband, Major the Earl Haig, himself a former Scots Grey.

Thursday 1st December became in effect the biggest day of the week. Not only did the weather improve (slightly!) but marching through the Capital city was always going to create some very special memories. The attendance at the parade by members of Craftsman Andrew Found’s family and by Trooper Middleton and his family made the day very poignant. Immediately preceding the parade the Lord Provost of Edinburgh presented Craftsman Found’s son with the Elizabeth Cross citation and, as a very generous and personal gift, a complete set of Harry Potter books all signed by the author J K Rowling.

With the Regiment was formed up on the Esplanade, shortly before 1130 the combined bands of the Pipes and Drums along with the Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band marched out of the Castle and across the drawbridge before taking their place at the head of the parade. At exactly half past eleven, the Regiment stepped off and marched down the Royal Mile for the final homecoming parade. The parade itself went very well with the soldiers revelling in the attention from both the media and the public. The parade was dismissed outside the Canongate Kirk and approximately four hundred members of the serving Regiment, the Association, their families and elements of the Army in Scotland went into the Kirk for a service of thanksgiving. The Regimental padre, the Association padre and Reverend Neil Gardner, the Canongate Minister, conducted a wonderful service giving thanks for the successful tour of Afghanistan. Following the service,



Edinburgh city council invited the Regiment for lunch in the city chambers, before heading back to Redford in preparation of the move back to Germany and taking advantage of Redford’s proximity to Edinburgh for one final time.

On Thursday evening the General Officer Commanding 2nd Division kindly allowed the Regiment to host a drinks reception in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle. The aim was to thank all those people who had helped with the planning and the conduct of the parades but also to thank those members of the Army in Scotland who had supported the Regiment during Op HERRICK 14. The Great Hall, with its magnificent painting of Ensign Ewart dominating the room, provided a perfect location for this party and a fantastic way to end the week.

The Homecoming parades were a great success, not least due to some very hard work by the welfare team based in Edinburgh, but also due to the positive reception we received from all of the external non-Army players. It is humbling that public non-military bodies are able to offer such support, particularly in the current financial climate. Above all, the three parades and the associated events allowed the soldiers to place their tour into context, to mark an end to Op HERRICK 14 and to allow them to take part in both a memorable and enjoyable series of events.



OBITUARIES

It is with regret that we record the deaths of former Officers and Members. They will all be missed and to their families, we hope that these few words will provide a lasting remembrance.

Officers

- Mrs Norman Arthur
- Captain JM Barber
- D Downs Esq
- Colone J Henderson TD
- Major CWD Morgan MBE
- ACL Hackney Esq
- Major LSP Le Sueur
- Revd D Lister
- RWD McKelvie Esq
- Lieutenant Colonel JH Allason OBE
- Mr MJ Pratt QC
- Major JV Tyson
- PW Bracher Esq

Serving Soldier

- Craftsman A Found REME
- Lance Corporal AF Bokas
- WO1 (ASM) JT Buck REME

Aberdeen and North of Scotland

- Mr A McCallum
- Mr C Brazendale

Edinburgh and East of Scotland

- Mr HT Bell
- Mr R Prentice
- Mr LC Brookes
- Mr W Dickson

North West of England and Wales

- Mr T Lunt
- Mr PJ Williams
- Mr W Ogden
- Mr WH Heason
- Mr C Dutton

North East of England

- Mr E Robinson
- Mr JA Ward
- Mr WR Stubbs
- Mr G Edwards

London and South East of England

- Mr P Stevenson (In-Pensioner)
- Mr RA Carter MM
- Mr P Conroy-Callaghan
- Mr J Randall

South West of England

- Mr JH Adkins

HQ List

- Mr LA Cowan

Musicians, Pipes and Drums

- Mr A McVie

No Branch Affiliation

- Mr C Macrae
- Mr RJ Uren

Tessa Arthur



1st December 1938–
13th January 2011

moved to Kent, having bought a fruit farm near Wye.

Not one to permit a dull moment in her own or her friends’ lives, if not partying in London, Tessa would be riding her pony, Squirrel, helping her mother or meeting with her friends. In 1956 she went to Verbier where she skied as much as her health permitted, although she was really there for finishing school. When Tessa returned to London, she soon re-established her social life but also attended the famous Nutty’s secretarial school, where she made a number of lifelong friends, and then worked as a secretary. During this time, before Tessa met Norman, she enjoyed a very full social life, first as a debutante and afterwards while working in London. She survived

a bad car crash in Northumberland at this time, as a result of which she suffered a back injury which contributed to many problems requiring operations and treatment over the years. However, Tessa was a tough little lady who kept her medical problems to herself. Few knew that she endured some eighteen operations, many of them major, during her lifetime. She would always sidestep discussion of her problems by asking the questioner about theirs.

In October 1958, Tessa was invited to the home of neighbours to help entertain a young captain, Norman Arthur, who was staying the night on his way back to Germany. The mutual attraction was immediate, so much so that Norman was up especially early the next morning, to see Tessa before she departed to catch the first train back to work in London. This was the start of a long and wonderful relationship leading to marriage in Kent on 1st October 1960 and their Golden Wedding fifty years later.

Although Tessa’s health was not improving, scientific and medical advances were being made and it was finally established that the root of Tessa’s health problems was a hole in the heart. This required a twelve hour operation followed by a lengthy stay in hospital. Open heart surgery (one of the earliest operations of its

kind) was carried out in February 1960. As the doctors did not know how successful the operation would be nor how well Tessa would recover, the engagement was kept secret until the Spring.

Following their marriage, Tessa and Norman moved to join the Regiment in Detmold and to live in the first of their 17 homes during Army service. Tessa grew into the army but particularly into the Regiment, despite not having a military background and soon became the cornerstone of Norman's success. When in 1973/4 the Regiment was deployed to Northern Ireland under Norman's command, the "Little Lady" as she had become known took on the role of looking after the wives and families and rose to the occasion wonderfully.

Tessa did not do pomposity but she was well able to cope with all the formal occasions that inevitably came with Norman's promotion. She was approachable, interested in everyone, loved the Regiment and always maintained a sense of humour with a kind heart.

Her role became increasingly formal as befits a Brigadier's, General's, Castle Governor's or Lord Lieutenant's wife. Entertaining at Soest, Gogarbank or Edinburgh Castle became second nature, as did the endless house parties with which she had to cope. On one occasion, the General was hosting a "male only" fundraising event and, determined not to be left out, Tessa dressed as a waitress. She was having so much fun that, having taken the orders for after dinner drinks, she completely forgot who had ordered what. The house was constantly full with official, semi-official or private guests and Tessa's special talent was to make them all feel at home.

In 1988, Tessa and Norman retired to Newbarns, the house in Dalbeattie they had purchased seventeen years earlier but had never really lived in. The house and garden benefitted from Tessa's personal touch and it quickly became very much the family home. She was soon fully involved in local events and was President of the Ladies' Section of the British Legion for Scotland. In their usual way, this was not enough for them and in 1992 Tessa and Norman embarked on the biggest challenge of their lives, making more than thirty relief aid trips to Bosnia over the next eighteen years. The majority of these trips were made in a variety of loaned vehicles such as Royal Mail vans and even on one occasion by train. On one trip, they were stuck in sub-zero temperatures for thirty six hours at a Croatian crossing point into Bosnia waiting for the correct documentation, living on compo in two foot of snow. Morale within the group was understandably low and it was Tessa who changed this by organising entertainment and somehow producing some special fruit cake that she had "secretly" kept in reserve for just such a

crisis. On another trip, she was so keen to be involved, despite having just come out of hospital after one of her operations, she spent the whole trip lying on the bunk behind the driver's seat. The "Little Lady", determined as ever despite her own problems, joined the trip as she knew the benefits of the relief aid and what it could achieve.

Tessa was truly a family person and she enjoyed nothing more than visits from Camilla and Simon, as well as the grandchildren, at Newbarns. On one occasion, Tessa and Simon were sitting in the conservatory watching the sun set, with a glass of wine in one hand and a cigarette in the other. (Tessa was a long-time secret smoker, much to Norman's dislike as he was so protective of her health). On this occasion, it was a fine opportunity for mother and son to have a good heart-to-heart and it was Tessa who said "Time for another quick cigarette and top-up of wine to finish the bottle before Dad gets back" – such a lovely and light-hearted moment.

In the weeks after Tessa's death, Norman received literally hundreds of letters from friends sharing their memories of this wonderful lady. The recurring theme of so many of those letters was how much of an "inspiration" Tessa had been to others. Tessa was a lady through and through and will be greatly missed by Norman, the family and everyone who had the great good fortune to know her.

Colonel John Henderson TD DL



John Henderson died peacefully on 4th April 2011 aged 81. He joined the Scots Greys from Mons Officer Cadet Training Unit at Luneburg in 1947 serving with the Regiment for two years and thereafter on the Regiment's Emergency Reserve for five years from 1950 to 1955. While in Germany, encouraged by

Colonel Duggie Stewart, he was able to indulge his love of horses and enjoyed considerable success Showing Jumping and at numerous Cross Country Events.

In 1956 he transferred to his local TA Unit, The Ayrshire (ECO) Yeomanry, which was affiliated to and administered by the Greys. He commanded B Squadron of the Yeomanry from 1963/66, becoming Second-in-Command in 1967 and commanding the Regiment from 1968 to 1971. From 1989 to 1990 he was Honorary Colonel of The Ayrshire Yeomanry Squadron.

Born at Househill (Hoozle) on the outskirts of Glasgow and educated at Rugby and Hertford College, Oxford

he became a distinguished Stockbroker starting with Penney & Macgeorge, his uncle's firm in Glasgow in the days of Bowler Hats, stiff white collars and coal fires and when lunches were leisurely affairs. Week-ends were spent hunting, point-to-pointing and racing. He succeeded Colonel Michael Borwick as a steward at Hamilton Racecourse. His interest in racing, The Greys and The Yeomanry continued to the end.

After retiring from stockbroking he became a Red Cross Volunteer and Branch Director in the Ayrshire Office which he greatly enjoyed. He was involved in a wide variety of charities and was a staunch supporter of The Royal British Legion being chairman of its Ayr and District Branch. Appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Ayrshire and Arran he gave great support to the two Lord-Lieutenants under whom he served until transferring to the non-active list at the age of 75.

Above all he was good company, interested in everyone whom he met with an amazing memory and a flair for friendships. He will be greatly missed by his wide circle of friends from all walks of life and not least by his wife, Pamela and daughter Lucinda to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

RYH

Major CWD Morgan MBE



Christopher Morgan was born in March 1927, the son of that great Gunner, Gen Sir William (Monkey) Morgan who, as Allied Chief of Staff, accepted the surrender of the German forces in Italy on 2 May 1945.

Educated at Eton, Christopher was commissioned into the Royal Regiment in 1946. Over the 20 years of his military career he had an interesting variety of appointments. After a period at regimental duty with 5 RHA, he spent time in Washington as ADC to his father before joining The King's Troop RHA where he commanded Right Section under Major Frank Weldon. At this stage of his life his main passion was eventing and in his most successful year he had two horses placed at Badminton. He also took part in the Queen's Coronation Parade during his tour with The King's Troop.

From The Wood he went to Staff College at Minley and in 1958 transferred to the Royal Scots Greys, perhaps hoping for stronger support for his equestrian activities. Two years with the Greys in Germany, with plenty of polo, was followed by a stint at the War Office, initially in Military Operations Branch before becoming

MA to the VCIGS which brought him an MBE. His final years as a Scots Grey included a short tour in Aden and command of A Squadron. He left the Army in 1965 because he was tired of Germany and he and his wife, Ann, longed to see more opera and hear more music.

Although horses continued to play a part in his life (he played polo into his 70s) this unusually talented man not only made a second career in Gallaghers, the tobacco company, rising to be Sales and Marketing Director, but also became a successful cattle farmer in Sussex, where he started a furniture making and repair workshop in his converted oast-house. All his ventures prospered and with his spare energy he started writing books. His three published were Don Carlos and Company, an exploration of stories that had inspired the librettos of various operas; The Palaces of St Petersburg and The Invisible Crying Tree. This last was a record of his correspondence with a prison inmate called Tom Shannon. It sold well and he put the proceeds into the Shannon Trust. From his correspondence with Tom he had become aware that over half the residents of our prisons were unable to read, but the other half could possibly teach them. In 1996 he began a campaign to persuade the Prison Service to take up his idea. Eventually his persistence prevailed and by 1999 a wing at Wandsworth Prison had a pilot scheme going. The Shannon Trust grew steadily. In 2010 some 9,000 prisoners were being taught and it is estimated that altogether 50,000 have now been helped by the trust. Christopher's proudest moment was when, accompanied by his wife and son, he received the Longford Prize from Archbishop Tutu at Church House, Westminster in 2004.

Christopher married Ann Douglas in 1955. Ann supported him totally throughout their life together until her untimely death in 2008, a blow from which he never really recovered. His health deteriorated rapidly and he died on 14 April 2011. A Memorial Celebration of his life was held at the Orangery, Kensington Palace on 13 June 2011. He is survived by four children, Stephanie, Andrew, David and Rupert. A devoted husband and father, erudite and well read Christopher was also full of fun, wit and laughter, a great companion and a loyal and generous friend.

DATB

Alan Hackney

Alan Hackney, who died on 15 May 2009 aged 84, wrote some 30 screenplays, countless television scripts, and half a dozen novels – including an international best-seller – and contributed comic pieces to Punch for several decades. But one work overshadows all his others – the film comedy classic I'm All Right Jack, starring Peter Sellers. He was credited as co-writer on the film, but its structure and sharp, witty dialogue sprang fresh

from Hackney's second novel on which it was based – Private Life. Released in 1959, I'm All Right Jack is still shown regularly on television. The film gently satirises the nonsenses of the British class system and the lunacies of labour relations in the years before the Thatcher revolution – of which Hackney totally approved. In the film's main character, Fred Kite, Hackney created one of those comic figures – like Kingsley Amis's Lucky Jim or Malcolm Bradbury's History Man – who seem to embody a particular moment in British social history. In this case the moment was Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's "you've-never-had-it-so-good" era. Comrade Kite, a communist shop steward in a munitions factory, is committed to bringing an end to this bright new age of consumerism and hire purchase, replacing it with the perfect socialist society he envisions Russia to be, with its "miles of cornfields and ballet in the evening". Kite's co-creator was the actor who played him, Peter Sellers. The role allowed Sellers to make the transition from Goonish comedian to world class character actor. Struggling to build the grotesque bully on the page into a three-dimensional person, he complained to Hackney that there were no jokes in the script to work with. Grumpily he started to rehearse his lines on the set, with only sparks (electricians) and gaffers (lighting men) for company. When the technicians around him started to laugh out loud, he realised this was, for him, a new kind of script – the kind he would choose to work with for the rest of his film career: not many jokes, but rich with wry comments on human absurdity and strong characterisation.

Alan Charles Langley Hackney was born on September 10 1924 in Manchester. His father, Hubert, was a civil servant and a cup-winning competitive marksman who had learnt his rifle skills as a sniper in the First World War, an experience that had cost him a foot. His mother May (Mary Magdalene) Hackney was the imperious headmistress of a secondary school, with high ambitions for her son.

When the family moved to Chingford, Essex, Alan became a boarder at a minor Catholic public school in Lancashire. In 1943 he moved to Manchester University, where he studied Economics. But after a year his studies were interrupted by his Army call-up, and he spent a year at Maidstone barracks, where the public school boy encountered, "a group of louche characters from all walks of life". Immediately he started to write down what he saw and heard of these chancers, dodgers, duckers, divers and spivs, whose war seemed to consist mostly of fiddling, trading and bunking off. He also took pleasure in writing pen portraits of the upper-class twits who were nominally in charge.

At a dance in Maidstone, the tall, dashing 20-year-old met his future wife Peggy Bartlett, who boasted that she had

managed to catch a "young author chappie". She enjoyed what she read of his work, and encouraged him to stick at his writing. Hackney's Maidstone year supplied the material for what was to become his first novel, and first film, Private's Progress – in which a young gent has his university career interrupted by call-up towards the end of the war. While his novel was still in its earliest draft, Hackney was posted to India. What he saw of Peshawar and its environs failed to impress. He was more caught up the cast of British types who inhabited the military camps where he was to spend the next two years.

One of his comrades-in-arms was a Sergeant (John) LeMesurier, who was apparently a youthful version of the gentleman NCO he would later portray in the series Dad's Army. LeMesurier would also bring his good-natured diffidence to several of Alan Hackney's films.

In 1947, the year he married, Hackney resumed his university studies, this time at New College, Oxford, where he read PPE, and was greatly impressed by his tutor, Isaiah Berlin. Like most students at Oxford he whiled away many hours in cafes. But he would take a notebook with him and transcribe the conversations he overheard. The most amusing ones he would submit to Punch magazine, which gave him a regular column "Snacks at Jacks". The relationship with Punch was to last until the 1980s. A fellow contributor, PG Wodehouse, told the editor that young Hackney's column was one of the best reasons to buy the magazine. But writing for Punch was not a living, especially as the first of his six children started to arrive, so he became a schoolteacher at Chertsey, Surrey, and then a lecturer in English and Current Affairs at the Naval College in Sheerness, Kent.

Out of this period came his first three novels, and his first two films, Private's Progress (1956) and I'm All Right Jack (1959). Both were built around the same set of ne'er-do-wells. In the first they were in uniform and in the second in Civvy Street. His producer, Roy Boulting, kept as many of the cast as he could in common. The cast of the two films is almost a catalogue of the British character actors of the period: Richard Attenborough, Ian Bannen, Liz Fraser, Kenneth Griffith, Irene Handl, William Hartnell, Raymond Huntley, Sam Kydd, John LeMesurier, Victor Maddern, Dennis Price, Cardew Robinson, Margaret Rutherford, Terry Thomas, Thorley Walters – and of course, Peter Sellers.

The one casting decision of which Hackney disapproved was that of the naïve young university chap who wandered through both films with a bewildered expression – someone inspired not by himself, apparently, but by a contemporary. Ian Carmichael was altogether too gormless for Hackney's taste. He had Cary Grant in mind. That, of course, was aiming far too high.

The producer-director team of the Boulting Brothers always had their feet on the ground. But Hackney did hit a certain height when a letter arrived, addressed to "Dear Hackney". Evelyn Waugh wrote to say how much he admired the young author's work, and invited him down to his house in Somerset. There the two men happily shared their rather dyspeptic conservatism.

Hackney's career was never quite to hit that peak again – but he wrote further novels, scripts for Hollywood, Italy and Canada, as well as the domestic film and television markets, into the 1980s. In recent years he had been working with the composer Howard Blake on a musical based on I'm All Right Jack. Some of this work has been lost from sight, but films like Two-Way Stretch (again with Peter Sellers, in 1960) and You Must Be Joking (directed by a Swinging Sixties Michael Winner in 1965) are still enjoyed.

Hackney's contributions to the Robin Hood television and film genre bought him a rambling Edwardian house on a picturesque village green at Bovingdon, Hertfordshire, where he lived with his wife until her death in 1995. He subsequently lived there with the Canadian film producer Daisy de Bellefeuille. Alan Hackney is survived by his six children.

The Telegraph

Leicester Stephen Pullinger Le Sueur



3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales Dragoon Guards)

26th December 1940 –
21st December 2010

Leicester became a soldier. He enjoyed active service in tanks in the Middle East with his Regiment and as a pilot in the Middle and Far East. In 1967 he qualified as a flying instructor. He served the army and his Regiment well and wherever he was he made an indelible impression on those around him. He had a wicked and unfailing sense of humour that brought the blandest moments to life and this combined with common sense and clarity of thought, made him wonderful company and always a valuable and loyal friend.

Leicester was born on Boxing Day 1940 in The Benedictine Convent of Dumfries where our mother had fled from the German Invasion of Jersey. In 1945 our mother returned to Jersey and here he attended De La Salle College and later Victoria College where he excelled as a swordsman, a boxer, a fearless wicket keeper and as a leader; he soon realised his potential for a practical and purposeful career in the services.

In 1959 he joined intake 26 at Sandhurst and was commissioned into 3DG. However, the first Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in July 1961 threatened and he was spared the endless boredom of exercises on Salisbury Plain. He served as a troop leader in Kuwait and thereafter in Aden where he got his bug for flying. He applied for Middle Wallop where he took to flying immediately. He qualified and went straight into active service in Aden, Malaya and Borneo, where he enjoyed wonderful years of intensive operational flying in the extreme terrains of desert and jungle that made him an exceptional pilot.

Leicester qualified as a helicopter instructor at Middle Wallop where he made a great many friends among the young pilots whom he trained. He was selected as the scout display pilot and is remembered for pioneering the "smoke trails" with helicopters that are so common in today's air displays. He led the 15/19th Husars Air Troup in BAOR, followed by the Carabiniers Air Squadron up to their departure from Rhine Army prior to amalgamation. Many of his flying contemporaries plan to make "Leicester's Lunch" an annual event in his memory.

Leicester's final Regimental duty was performed with his great friend, Nick Vivian as the Carabinier team on the Amalgamation Committee. They, with Norman Arthur and Malcolm Shennan from the Greys, ironed out much of the detail for the new Regiment 'The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards'. Sadly for me and The Regiment he left the army on the formation of the new regiment in 1971.

However, he soon carved a new career quickly qualifying in land agency with Strutt and Parker and then joining Savills. He opened their offices first in Salisbury and then Washington DC where he was accompanied by Liz and their young family. He later left Savills in order to start his own Company working in both England and America. He finally returned home in 1998. These last years were happy – working from his home at Normanton. He enjoyed the pleasures of family, countryside, riding with Liz, following his daughters' eventing successes and fishing with his grandson Jack as well as shooting; all were his to enjoy.

His family was the centrepiece of his engaging and vibrant life. He loved Liz his wife and Ally, Tory and Charlie, his daughters, and his three grandchildren deeply and his life reflected this.

Leicester died peacefully in Salisbury with his family at his side just five days before his 70th birthday.

DAMLeS

Reverend Douglas Lister



Born to an unmarried mother in Rothesay on 5 July 1920, Douglas Lister was educated at the local Academy, attaining a MA and BD at Glasgow University followed by Trinity Theological College. His calling in December 1939 led him to ordination in July 1945 in Govan Old Parish Church. His up-bringing encouraged him to pen letters and speak out at meetings on behalf of the voiceless.

Douglas volunteered for chaplaincy duty and was posted to Gibraltar where a disagreement over raising funds for the Commandos as opposed to the Army Benevolent Fund caused him to be moved at short notice in 1947. He was posted to Luneberg, Germany to minister to five thousand service personnel and was attached to The Royal Scots Greys, making friendships that lasted a lifetime. Appalled by the conditions faced by eighty thousand refugees camped out in fields by the River Elbe during that severe winter, he applied to Higher Command for help with materials, only to be reminded that the order of the day was 'Non-fraternisation with the Enemy'.

Encouraged by Captain John Althorp (later Earl Spencer), Douglas approached Commander 4th Armoured Brigade and received encouragement and support from Brigadier Rex de Winton. In conjunction with Jo Makovec, a photographer and former bomber pilot who had been accepted by Montgomery's Press Aide John Chaloner, he composed an appeal on behalf of New Germany. The results, especially from Scotland, brought in tons of top quality food and clothes, notably anonymous consignments from Scalloway, which had been inspired by people who had serviced the ships of 'The Shetland Bus'. This appeal, and similar ones later by other chaplains, was the forerunner of the 'Inter Church and Refugee Service' which developed into 'Christian Aid'.

Douglas was never forgotten by the people he had helped, for in September 1966, with his wife Marion, he returned to see Jo Makovec; at a Civic Reception he received the Bronze Seal of Luneburg. The memory was perpetuated when on 30 May 1991 the town council approved the naming of a road in his honour – 'Douglas-Lister-Strasse' and a further civic reception held in 1996 when he received the silver medal for distinguished service.

Having left Germany in 1949, Douglas, ever an ecumenist, was minister at Carnoustie (and an Open golf

Steward in 1953). In 1956, as chaplain to Suez Contractors Ltd, he and his congregation were arrested at gunpoint and imprisoned in Cairo for two months, without drink for the first ten days. On return to Scotland he ministered in Inverurie followed by Largo from 1967 until retirement in 1986. He found time to compile 'The Luneburg Story', reminiscences of life in post war Germany, Scotland and personal experiences.

Marion Read, his wife from 1945, died in 1976; they had four children. A chance reunion in 1987 with Sandra McIlvride, a former member of his congregation, led to their wedding that year, lasting until his death in Aberdeen on 4 April 2010.

RJB

Lieutenant Colonel James Allason OBE



James Henry Allason was born on 6 September 1912, the son of Brigadier-General Walter Allason DSO and Katherine Poland, the daughter of Vice-Admiral James Poland, but within months his mother had slipped on the stairs at their home in Kensington and fallen to her death whilst saving the baby. His distraught father immersed himself in preparations for the Great War from which he emerged with distinction and two DSOs, one in recognition of his heroism at Hill 60.

Allason was brought up by a great-aunt and a succession of nannies, and was sent to Haileybury where he excelled as a mathematician. Determined to become a soldier, he passed second into Sandhurst but preferred to take a place at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich – the Army's Winchester as he put it, to the Eton of Sandhurst.

Commissioned into the Royal Artillery, Allason then embarked on the gilded life of a pre-war subaltern. After morning parade, a little drill and a few manoeuvres, he was able to hunt with the Bicester and the Grafton, go shooting, learn polo, race his 3 ½ litre Bentley – soon to be upgraded to a 4 litre – at Brooklands, sail at Cowes and ski in the Austrian or Swiss Alps.

In 1937 Allason was offered a transfer to India, to the 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards) and he accepted with alacrity. Having joined his new regiment, he found accommodation in a bungalow on the cantonment at Sialkot, North Punjab with three more bachelor officers, each employing a bearer and a dogboy, while sharing a gardener, water carrier, sweeper and night watchman. Grooms were also retained, one

for each polo pony. All the officers kept a dog and other pets. Allason's was a mongoose and a baby panther as well as his six ponies. Regimental life in India was not entirely frivolous, and Allason developed a device, based on the Bagnold Sun compass used in the Western Desert. His objective was to invent his own sun compass for India, maintaining the accuracy of a magnetic compass inside a large ferrous object, such as a tank, and this was adopted for the whole Indian Army.

In 1942 Allason was posted to the GHQ India in Delhi. On occasions this meant breakfast with the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, and lunch with a few maharajahs and tea with the Vicereine and her daughters, known as Faint Hope, Little Hope and No Hope. This appointment marked the start of his new role as a staff officer and ended his regimental soldering, a transition that was made easier by mechanisation and the arrival of Vickers light tanks, later replaced by the American-manufactured Honey, which would prove wholly unsuited to engaging the Japanese in the jungle.

He began a lifelong friendship with the Maharajah of Jaipur and was frequently invited to spend an action packed weekend at Rambagh Palace. As he recalled in his autobiography, *Ringside Seat*, "In the morning we would drive for tiger mounted on elephants, after lunch shoot crocodile from electric canoes, and in the evening hyena bashing where you ride after the animal with a polo ball fixed on the end of a polo stick and play polo shoots at it (it was a mistake to fall off)."

It was about this time at GHQ India that Allason became suspicious of a yellow-faced individual wearing the uniform of a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Warwicks, who was taking too close an interest in the maps and plans of the 14th Army. Allason had him arrested as a Japanese spy but the suspect turned out to be the future Brigadier Enoch Powell and the yellow face the result of jaundice. Their paths were to meet again – equally unhappily – in the House of Commons as MPs.

In 1943 Allason was posted as a military planner to the newly-formed South East Asia Command (SEAC) in Kandy, Ceylon where Lord Louis Mountbatten had been appointed Supreme Commander.

In January 1944 Allason arranged to accompany General George Giffard on a tour of the front in Burma. They began at Ledo, in the north-east corner of India, where a road runs south to Myitkynya in Burma, at the southern end of a huge mountain range. Thence the road tracks east to China, so this corner of the world, where three countries met, had acquired a strategic importance as a route along which the Americans could truck supplies in to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek in

Chunking, until prevented by the Japanese invasion. After this all supplies had to be flown over the "hump", a uniquely dangerous undertaking in extremely unpredictable and hazardous weather conditions.

On the first leg of their journey Allason's group flew to Ledo in a draughty old unarmed, twin-engined Anson and lost an engine and was hit by a buzzard as the plane came in to land. The Americans could hardly believe that it was really a four star general emerging from the rickety aircraft. Allason had timed his arrival to see off Brigadier Bernard Fergusson, then in command of the first of the Chindit brigades to enter Burma that year. The next stop was the Arakan, where the coastal, cultivated strip was confined on one side by the sea, and on the other by a steep ridge about 1,500 feet high, that stretched for miles. Beyond the ridge almost impenetrable jungle extended, making the Arakan vitally important.

The 5th Indian Division held the coastal strip and on the other side of the ridge the 7th Indian Division was in contact with the enemy and beyond them the 31st West African Division was deployed out in the jungle. Having arrived safely Allason spent the next day inspecting the 5th Division and then drove over the pass to spend the night at 7th Division headquarters, commanded by Major-General Frank Messervy, an old polo friend. During his briefing there was gunfire to the north, suggesting that the Japanese had got right round behind the British lines. Clearly the inspection tour would have to be called off, and Allason was told to get his General out quickly.

Allason saw General Giffard off by plane, but remained behind in case he could be of use. Sleeping at Corps headquarters that night he heard more gunfire, this time to the south and in the morning was asked to investigate. The Japanese had sent a party to climb over the ridge intending to cut the vital coastal road, but in the dark they had blundered into the Corps administrative area where their unexpected arrival caused havoc and left a few men dead. However, instead of pressing ahead and cutting the road, they had pulled back into the jungle. No one had pursued them, so Allason went into the jungle to see if they were still there. He found where some of the party had eaten breakfast, and brought back some abandoned Japanese newspapers in case they were of interest to intelligence. Rather than return to Corps, Allason stayed with the troops that night, mainly to calm trigger-happy men firing at shadows. Meanwhile, the main body of invading Japanese had over-run Messervy's headquarters, but the General had made his escape in a tank. The enemy had taken the foot of the pass, so the 7th Division was surrounded, marking the beginning of what became known as the Battle of the Box.

The Corps had at its disposal just one tank regiment, the 25th Dragoons, which was with the 7th Division, except for a dozen tanks with crews in reserve at the Administrative Area. Allason later recalled, “I suggested that I should form a fighting squadron from the reserve tanks and their crews, and was also given a troop of South African scout cars and a company of blood-thirsty Gharwalis for close protection. They were near neighbours of the Ghurkhas, and had a reputation for being almost as brave. Having assembled this mixed force, I led it to the top of the pass, which we held with the Japanese at the foot. Meanwhile, to the surprise of the enemy, the 7th Division was supplied by air, and we had a grandstand view of the parachute drop. As the Japanese launched determined attacks night after night we came to be glad of the fierce Gharwalis.”

After a few days of the siege, when the gunners were firing mortars, a shell burst prematurely and took a large chunk out of Allason's right forearm, cutting open the artery. He put a finger on the pressure point on his elbow, and then obtained a tourniquet from the medical officer. By sheer good fortune there was a Field Surgical Unit with an operating table in a tent not far away, where the artery was repaired, saving the arm. The surgeons did a good job and he was back in Kandy, Mentioned in Despatches, which Allason always maintained was Marked for Disobedience. By the end of 1944 Allason had been abroad for seven years and was due for home leave and another posting. His military planning expertise led him to the MO5 Branch of the War Office.

At the end of the war Allason had thought of standing for Parliament but instead decided to stay on in the army. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, awarded a military OBE and appointed head of the Army discipline branch (AG3) where he was required to handle two cases of capital punishment. The first was a Royal Northumberland Fusilier who, though a sentry, had allowed himself to be captured by the North Koreans, resulting in many of his comrades being killed. He was court-martialled and sentenced to death. The case papers came to London and eventually landed on Churchill's desk as prime minister. Allason was hauled out of bed at 2 a.m. to go over to No. 10 where he found the papers wet with tears and the Prime Minister blubbing, “We cannot send a young man like this to his death”. So his plea for clemency was granted and the Fusilier was reprieved. The second case was rather more straightforward, a company sergeant-major in Cairo had strangled his wife, and the execution was completed by the hangman, Albert Pierrepoint.

In 1953 Allason retired from the Army, became a Kensington borough councillor and set about trying to get a Parliamentary seat. After contesting Hackney he was elected MP for Hemel Hempstead in 1959, being preferred over the young Margaret Thatcher. In Opposition from 1974 to 1979 Allason ran the Conservative backbench environment committee and developed the plan to allow council tenants to buy their houses – a policy which was eventually adopted when Margaret Thatcher came to power.

In his spare time Allason also acquired Flemish minor master paintings representing scenes from the sports he loved – except for motor racing. He toured the galleries of Europe whenever he had the chance and chased opera productions not only over Europe, Covent Garden, Glynebourne and Holland Park but also to the Hackney Empire and Wimbledon Theatre.

In 1946 Allason had married an Irish actress, Nuala Elveen McArvey, who was making her name on the London stage and in the cinema. There were two sons, and the marriage was dissolved in 1974, neither remarried.

Allason continued his links with Parliament, particularly in the sporting field. He was still sailing in his 80s with the House of Commons Yacht Club and the Royal Yacht Squadron and, up to the age of 87, raced in the annual Anglo-Swiss Parliamentary Ski Races at Davos.

*Taken from Carabiners to the Commons -
by Patrick Shovelton*

Mr MJ Pratt QC

Mr Pratt was a leading silk in Birmingham until his retirement in the early 1990s. He sat as a recorder and deputy high court judge and was for many years the respected head of 2 Fountain Court (which later became Priory Chambers, one of the two chambers which merged in 1998 to form St Philips).

Edward Pepperall, a barrister at St Philips Chambers and former colleague said: “Michael was one of the best loved barristers and judges of his generation. He had a rare talent with people. Ever the perfect gentleman, he was a kind man who had time for everyone. That his interest was genuine was borne out by his remarkable ability to recall the smallest details of people's lives, even when they had barely met.

Michael famously protested that he hated parties but was always enormously good company. Indeed together with his wife Jean, he was a generous and hugely entertaining host. He was a consummate raconteur with a mischievous sense of humour. It was never clear whether he smoked his trademark pipe for the pleasure of smoking or for the ability to hold

his audience in suspense at key moments of a story while relighting the thing. If occasionally his embellishments were outrageous, his stories were always the better for it and he held his audience with his immense charm and wit. Michael was well-known throughout Birmingham. He either knew, or at least pretended to know, everyone.

Born on May 23 1933 in the Black Country, Mr Pratt was educated at West House School in Edgbaston and Malvern College before reading law at Birmingham University. Ever loyal, he was in later years to become a governor of both schools and was chairman of the governors at West House for 25 years.

He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1954 before embarking on two years' national service with the 3rd Carabiniers (Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards) stationed in Osnabruck, Germany. On leaving the army Mr Pratt returned to Birmingham and commenced practice at what was later to become 2 Fountain Court. His practice thrived and in 1976 he was appointed Queen's Counsel at his first attempt.

He sat for many years as a part-time judge, first as a Recorder of the Crown Court from 1974 and then, from 1982, as a Deputy High Court Judge. In 1986 his contribution to the law was recognised by his appointment as a Bencher of Middle Temple. Mr Pratt was the popular head of chambers at 2 Fountain Court. After his first spell as head he briefly left the Birmingham Bar to practise in London but soon returned and again took up the leadership of chambers. Especially popular with the staff and, despite chambers employing a cleaner was never too grand to roll up his sleeves and do the washing up. On matters of controversy he would cryptically tell his colleagues, “You know my views about that sort of thing,” and then busy himself with his pipe leaving them none the wiser.

He was a leading criminal silk and prosecuted many of the most serious cases of the late 1970s and 1980s. Inevitably he acted in cases investigated by the notorious West Midlands Serious Crime Squad. In the years before his retirement Mr Pratt was involved in many of the appeals by those said to have been framed by the now disbanded squad. His successor as head of chambers, now Her Honour Judge Patricia Deeley, said: “He was a good man cloaked in merriment and fuelled by a strong sense of fair play. There are many who have benefited from his quiet unorthodoxy without ever being aware. We shall miss his schoolboy pranks. Life will be so much duller without him.” Another former colleague, His Honour Judge Patrick McCahill QC, added: “Michael was an inspired and inspiring leader. When he was around, you knew everything would be alright.”

In retirement Mr Pratt indulged his passion for bridge and theatre. He was a generous patron of the arts and a regular fixture at the Edinburgh festival. He also threw his considerable energies into West House School.

Mr Pratt married Jean Hendry in 1960. As a young man he cut quite a dash but Mrs Pratt always joked it was his car that first impressed her. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary within the grounds of Malvern School in 2010 with their many friends and family. They lived in Bournville and then Edgbaston. Mr Pratt died on 21 June after suffering a short illness. He is survived by Jean and their two sons, three daughters and 11 grandchildren.

Birmingham Post

Craftsman Andrew Found



Craftsman Andrew Found was born on 8 November 1983. Hailing from Whitby, and a proud Yorkshire man, he was affectionately known by those in the Squadron as ‘Foundy’. He joined the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers as a Recovery Mechanic on 11 December 2006, aged 23. Upon completion

of basic and trade training he was posted to 4 Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, then based at Bordon. During his time at 4 CS Bn REME, he deployed to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 10 where he twice walked away from IED strikes to his SV(R) during a demanding tour.

Prior to his arrival at the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, he served in Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 10 in 2009. Joining D Squadron (Warhog Group) in August 2010 he conducted the full Mission Specific Training package for Operation HERRICK 14. In April 2011 he deployed to Afghanistan with the Warhog Group, under the command of 40 Commando Royal Marines taking part in a wide variety of operations across the Task Force Helmand area.

In the early hours of Thursday, 16 June 2011, D Squadron deployed to target insurgents operating from an area in the north of Helmand Province. During the operation, a Warhog vehicle struck an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) which disabled the vehicle and injured its crew. As the Recovery Mechanic, Craftsman Found was assessing the damage to the vehicle when he was caught in a secondary explosion in which he was fatally wounded.

Craftsman Found was married to Samantha and they had one son, Jaxson. He was also father to Michael from a previous relationship. Craftsman Found's wife, Mrs Samantha Found, paid the following tribute: "You're my husband, my best friend and are my world. I cannot explain my pain and the hole you have left in all our lives. You are the best husband anyone could have wished for; a great dad, friend and you have touched the hearts of many in your life."

You loved your job, your family and friends and always loved a good joke. You always made me smile. I will love you always and forever. You were my rock and my hero and always will be. I love you so much."

Craftsman Found's parents, Jennifer and Alan Found and his brother Simon Found, paid the following tribute: "Andrew is our son, a brother, a husband, a dad, a nephew, a cousin, a grandson, a friend and a soldier. Andrew died doing the job he loved. Even though we are all in pain now, we will remember the fun, the laughter and all the love he brought to all the people he knew and loved."

Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Biggart MBE, Commanding Officer The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, said: "Craftsman Andrew Found was an intelligent, selfless and brave soldier as well as a devoted family man. As a Recovery Mechanic within the Light Aid Detachment of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, which he joined in February 2010, his role was a particularly important one but his natural talent, dedication and commitment made him all the more unique. His professionalism was not limited to his core role within the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; it was apparent in all that he did as a soldier, a craftsman and a brother in arms. I first saw Craftsman Found shortly after he joined SCOTS DG training on the prairies of Canada in May 2010. Easily recognisable as one of the tallest men in the Regiment, his soft Yorkshire tones completed the aura of a gentle giant. He quickly fitted into his new Regiment and became part of the close knit team which is a Squadron Fitter Section. The strong impression he first made continued throughout the following year of training and into our deployment to Afghanistan. Craftsman Found was killed by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device while doing the job he loved and was so very good at. He was coming to the rescue of his Squadron comrades to recover a Warthog Armoured Vehicle damaged in an earlier blast. Right up until his final moments, the example he set, together with his wit, kept his fellow soldiers going under very difficult and demanding conditions. His sacrifice was in the finest traditions of both his Corps and his Regiment."

It was for others that Craftsman Found gave his young life, and his memory will live on, both within the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, whom he served so loyally and with such pride. There is no more fitting a motto that that of his Corps – 'Arte et Marte', 'by Skill and by Fighting'. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Samantha, their young son Jaxson and his elder son Michael."

MOD

Lance Corporal Andrew Bokas



Lance Corporal Andy Bokas, joined the Regiment in November 2002. Prior to this he had served as a member of the 1st Battalion The Highlanders (Seaforth's, Gordons and Camerons). He originally enlisted in 1996 at the age of 16 and served 210 days. As a young man the Army was a strange environment to him and in early 1997, days before passing out of training he decided to leave.

In November 1997 he rejoined 1 Highlanders and went on to join the Pipes and Drums. During his time with 1 Highlanders, Lance Corporal Bokas served in Macedonia in 1999, Northern Ireland in 2000 and Kosovo in 2001. A press quote from his time in Macedonia read, "Baby of the pack, 18-year-old piper Andy Bokas, from Lairg, Sutherland, could be about to see his first front-line action after his two years in the Army. Most of his tours have involved piping trips around the world but now the fresh-faced teenager is ready to go into action. He has his bagpipes with him and played a lament and a few reels at New Year for the lads. He said: "I am quite enjoying myself so far, it's different from anything I've ever done, but I am looking forward to it. I know my Mum and Dad are worried, but I phoned them to say I am okay."

In 2001 he completed his Class One Pipers Course with the now Regimental Pipe Major, Pipe Major Dodds who spoke so highly of the Regiment's Pipes and Drums that he made enquiries into transferring to SCOTS DG. Interviewed by his new Commanding Officer, he came across as a bright, smart and confident soldier who had done his research and was welcomed wholeheartedly into the Regiment. In late 2002, Highlander Bokas joined the Regiment as Trooper Bokas, more importantly he joined the tight knit unit of the Pipes and Drums, with whom he was to serve for the next nine years until his untimely passing away.

On transferring to the Regiment as an infantry soldier, he had to re-train as a Crewman in the Royal Armoured Corps; this he did very well, learning the skills required to operate the complex Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank. He then went on to serve with the Regiment in Iraq on Operation TELIC in 2003. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in 2004 and also served again in Iraq in 2006.

Within the Pipes and Drums and the Regiment, Andy soon established himself. During the various competitions that the band competed in, he could be heavily relied upon and was an integral part of the team that achieved great results in civilian competitions in 2006.

During the many hours that he spent away with the band he had his own routine, his uniform was always laid out, cleaned perfectly and his towel placed over his bed before he then went out with this friends. Throughout his time in the Pipes and Drums he played at many events worldwide, was always the life and soul of the party and was well known by pipers all over the world. The numerous letters that have been written to the Regiment after he had played at a function always stated that he played excellently and was an extremely polite and respectful soldier. By 2009 he was disillusioned with the Army and thought about leaving to join the Police Force, after spending a period of time in Edinburgh as part of the Regimental Information Team, he changed his mind and returned to Regimental life with a renewed enthusiasm.

Latterly in preparation for the current tour of Afghanistan he had completed pre deployment training and had trained as a RIDGEBACK vehicle commander. Sadly his role changed and he did not deploy, however he remained in Bad Fallingbostel as part of B Squadron as a Battle Casualty Replacement, ready to deploy at immediate notice.

A likeable character he was one of the few who would regularly play at Regimental functions. During the present Commanding Officer's pre-command visit to Bad Fallingbostel in the summer of 2011, there was an impromptu dinner held in his honour. Lance Corporal Bokas had not played seriously for about eight months due to deployment commitments, was tasked to play in the Mess. This he did with great professionalism and gave the audience present a treat of excellent piping both around the dinner table and later in the Ante room during the early hours of the next morning.

Regimentally Lance Corporal Andy Bokas was well known he was a well liked character who never lost his Highlander roots and indeed as his old Regiment share the same location as the Regiment in Germany

he kept in touch with many of his old friends. He loved the Regiment, the Pipes and Drums, and he loved piping. On the notice board in his room he had the Pipe Programme from when he had played before the Queen at Holyrood Palace with the present Queen's Piper in 2009.

Lance Corporal Bokas died suddenly whilst in Edinburgh with the Pipes and Drums during the 2011 Edinburgh Tattoo. Many attended his funeral in Lairg, where he was laid to rest by the Pipes and Drums. At his funeral there were no fewer than five Regimental Pipe Majors present from both of his Regiments as well as the hundreds of those who sought to pay their respects. His eulogies were read by Brigadier David Allfrey who had spoken to him the day before his sudden passing and Captain Andy Potter who had played the pipes with him on many occasions.

Warrant Officer Class 1 (Artificer Sergeant Major) John Thomas Buck



WO1 (ASM) Buck was born on 2 December 1970. Hailing from Whitby, and a proud Yorkshireman, he followed in his father Ted's footsteps, enlisting into the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers on 20 Aug 1987, before training as a junior soldier at Princess Marina College in Arborfield.

After completing his basic Vehicle Mechanic course he was posted to 22 Air Defence Regt Wksp, with whom he deployed to Iraq for the First Gulf War in 1991. Postings to 1 Arm'd Div Tpt Regt in Germany and 14 Sig Regt (EW) LAD in Wales preceded a deployment to Bosnia with the QRL in 1999.

After being selected for Artificer Training he undertook the Artificer Vehicles Course at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering in Bordon; completing the Course and promoting to Staff Sergeant just before Christmas 2002. Deployment to Iraq on Op TELIC in 2003 as a Fitter Section Artificer with 1RRF, primed the start of his Artificer career, soon after which he was awarded the LS&GC medal. Deployment to Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 4 as the workshop Sergeant Major with 13 Air Asslt Sp Regt RLC followed in 2006, before promotion to WO2(AQMS) and an Assignment to Fallingbostel with 2 CS Bn REME. Whilst with 2 CS Bn REME, WO1(ASM) Buck rekindled his love of Armoured vehicles, and backed by his performance on

a return tour to Afghanistan for Op HERRICK 8, he secured promotion to WO1(ASM) and his dream posting as an Arm'd Regt ASM.

WO1 (ASM) Buck joined SCOTS DG LAD as the Regt deployed to BATUS in Apr 2010, jumping in at the deep-end as the Battle Group ASM for over 500 equipments. On the Canadian plains he proved to be in his element, fulfilling the job he had aspired to do throughout his career. As an ASM he set the perfect example to all; fit, sharp at trade, immaculately turned out, but full of approachability and warmth.

John genuinely loved the Army; be it his annual trip to the Army vs. Navy rugby match, making the most of Mess life, beating soldiers half his age round a PFA or the Artisan/Tiffy banter with his dad who served a full career as an Artisan VM.

John Thomas Buck passed away on 23 December 2011. He was buried with full military honours on Wed 18 Jan 12 in his native Whitby, where an enormous turnout of friends and colleagues from across the REME and from the Regiment were present to give him the send off he so richly deserved. Fittingly, he was laid to rest beside Cfn Andy Found who John had so graciously laid to rest only months earlier.

The thoughts of everyone at SCOTS DG are with his wife Rachel; their three children Jordan, Kiefer and Erin, his parents Ted and Dawn and his brother James at this impossibly difficult time. All of us have truly lost a great friend. Arte et Marte.

Peter McInnes Stevenson



Royal Scots Greys,
SCOTS DG 1959–1981

Peter Stevenson was born in Edinburgh in June 1939. His father served in the Royal Artillery during the Second World War, but was killed on operations during 1944 when Peter was just five years old, henceforth he was brought up with his two sisters by his mother. From an early age Peter showed a keen interest in the Army and joined the Army Cadet Force as a teenager, followed by nearly two years in the Royal Engineer Territorial Army from 1957 until January 1959.

He eventually enlisted into the Royal Scots Greys in Edinburgh in 1959 when, after basic

training at Catterick, he was posted to Munster and Detmold in West Germany where he served as a radio operator. Over the next twelve years he saw service in Aden, Fallingbostel and Catterick again, this time as an Instructor. It was whilst here in 1971 that Peter attended the Amalgamation parade in Edinburgh and rebadged himself as a Royal Scots Dragoon Guard. He continued to serve until 1981 with further ERE tours as an instructor in Bovington and Catterick. He was a first class Driving & Maintenance (D&M) instructor, his knowledge was superb and even in his last years the subject would come up over a beer when his mates came to visit from Scotland and he would put them firmly in their places about the workings of the Centurion or Chieftain gearboxes or engines! On exercise or deployments to Northern Ireland etc, he was a good soldier, one who had the gift of being able to engage with the locals regardless of nationality or language especially when it came to the Germans. His antics in many a "gasthaus" on exercise would be enough to reduce any cynic to the point of believing that Squad-die Deutsch does exist. Peter was a natural with them!

Peter had a very successful if uneventful six months in Belize as Troop Sergeant of an Independent Armoured Recce Troop equipped with CVR(T) whilst the Regiment was stationed in Catterick in 1977. Mandalay Troop was stationed at Holdfast camp and the Commanding Officer at the time, Charles Ramsey paid them a visit. It was decided that a dinner night in his honour would be held at the local posh hotel in San Ignacio. Menu preferences were discussed and Peter, along with Sandy Fowler and Bryn Evans were dispatched to the hotel to make the arrangements. Many, many hours later they returned somewhat worse for wear but reported that all was arranged and that the menu would be: Prawn cocktail, steak salad and chips and a sweet course accompanied by mucho vino. What was actually served up was a massive silver platter in the middle of the table heaped with what looked like shiny black walnuts that had been slit and stuffed with something unrecognizable. When the waitress was asked about this she replied triumphantly 'Prune cocktails!'

Peter served for just over twenty-two years and reached the rank of Sergeant. During his service he was awarded the General Service Medal for Northern Ireland but for some reason the Long Service and Good Conduct medal eluded him!

On retirement from the Army Peter settled back in Scotland, worked initially in the security sector and then for next sixteen years for the Post Office in Edinburgh. He lived on his own but after retirement began to find it difficult to cope due to ill health. He then took the plunge and enlisted again this time into the

ranks of the Gentlemen in Scarlet at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in January 2006 aged 66 years of age. Contrary to what some folk might think, he was always a quiet private man but one who settled into life at Chelsea well and enjoyed the company around him. He always seemed cheerful, got on with everybody in the Long Wards and, as long as he was able, was a fine ambassador for the Hospital and the Regiment resplendent in his Scarlet coat and tricorn hat. A great supporter of the Regimental Association whist at Chelsea he even ventured back to the Regiment in Fallingbostel for an Association weekend. This was a great success although the young Lance Corporal who was assigned to him as his minder for the weekend needed a couple of weeks leave to get over the experience!

For a man who lost his father as a child during the closing stages of World War II in the Reichswald, Peter had an odd fascination with all things German. His collection of WWII German memorabilia both in the regiment and afterwards has become legendary. Peter died in June 2011 and what was expected to be a small family funeral turned out to be a considerably larger regimental family gathering of his friends from years gone by, from all over the country. He was a true Regimental character from the days when soldiering was not so intense and he will be sorely missed by those who called him friend.

JR

Reg Carter MM



3DG 1941–1946

Reg was born in May 1922 and passed away in April 2011 at the age of 88, during which time he had a full life. Of particular note was his wartime service with the 3rd Carabiniers from 1941 until 1946 when he served throughout the Far East. During this

period and when a sergeant in C Squadron he was awarded the Military Medal for his action on 1 May 1945 in Minbu, a village in Burma, on the outskirts of which the Japanese were located. The Carabiniers were in support of the infantry at this time and one of the squadron's tanks was hit by a 75 mm gun firing from a carefully concealed position on the forward flank at a range of 50 yards. Reg was by then in the open some 20 yards from the gun and on its flank. In spite of being in an extremely vulnerable position, he manoeuvred his tank so as to bring his gun to bear and proceeded to engage the enemy 75mm, scoring a direct hit with his second round and decimating the enemy gun crew with his Browning. By this time a second 75mm had opened fire from a camouflaged position at about 200

yards range. The enemy had evidently intended to evacuate this gun but the advance had been too rapid and had been compelled to open fire while in the act of limbering up. Reg at once switched his gun to engage the fresh target and scored a direct hit with his first shot on the gun team and horses resulting in the enemy fleeing leaving the gun intact except for its sights. His quick reaction to the surprise by two enemy guns at short range not only saved his own tank from destruction but also saved the accompanying infantry from many casualties due to the potential enemy gunfire over open sights that were well supported by flanking fire positions. His actions thus enabled the infantry to capture their objective expeditiously.

In 1980 Reg took over as Secretary of the Military Medal Association later the Gallantry Medallists League and was also a British Legion Standard Bearer at the Invicta branch serving on many of their local committees and parading all over Kent where he lived and in France on occasion. He joined the Regimental Association in 1990 and although a scheduling clash precluded him from joining in with us at the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association parade in Hyde Park as he was simultaneously parading with the MM Association in the Royal Hospital Chelsea, he was always there with a big grin to greet the branch after the parade for a pint in the Pensioners Club accompanied by his wife Charlotte, son Phil and family. In addition Reg and Charlotte were regular attendees at the branch Nunshigum Lunch held in Shepperton making that occasion more memorable by being able to regale the company not so much with war stories, but with anecdotes of life at the sharp end and in the jungle in particular. He was a true gentleman and a great friend to all those who knew him, he will be sadly missed by us all.

JLF

Peter Conroy-Callaghan

Peter grew up in rural Stirlingshire living on farms until he left Scotland at sixteen to join the Army's Boy Service. In 1958 he joined The Royal Scots Greys and was always very proud to be a Grey. With them he served in Germany and the UK. It was while stationed in Dorset that he met Jeanette when she was working in the NAAFI. Using his customary charm, Peter managed to not only ask Jeanette out but within a few months he'd proposed and in 1963 they started their married life with a posting to Germany. Their time in Germany held many fond memories for Peter. His childhood in the Ochil Hills around Bannockburn had left him with a great love of the mountains so he enjoyed his training in the German Alps. Strangely this love of mountains didn't extend to loving skiing; Peter's one and only experience of skiing was during a training exercise. He had side stepped up the side

of a mountain on his skis – no ski lift allowed. Peter reached the top and was about to begin his descent when one ski came loose of its bindings and slithered away without him. He never skied again.

Peter was never a great socialite but he'd always enjoyed the many parties that accompanied the overseas posting – a particular favourite was the 'Come as you are' party where guests were invited at odd times of the day and had to turn up to the party in the clothes they'd been wearing when invited. His usual party trick for many years was to stand on his head and drink a pint of beer. While in Germany their first daughter, Renata, was born.

In 1967 Peter left to join the police. He chose to join the Kent County Constabulary as Jeanette had family in that area. They soon moved to Canterbury and Peter became Sturry's village policeman in November 1968. As was the way back then the village policeman would go around and introduce himself to everyone. Very quickly both Peter and Jeanette became good friends with many of Sturry's residents including the nuns of St Anne's Convent. When their second daughter, Heidi was born the nuns provided a regular babysitting service.

Life in Sturry found Peter surrounded by good friends many of whom attended his funeral. Peter was always known for his sense of fun and quickness with an entertaining story or a good joke. While village policeman he joined the local Horticultural Society and went on to produce some prize winning veg, but it was the home-made wine that he enjoyed most. He did pick up a few unusual gardening tips though. One friend planted some tomato plants and hoped for a good crop soon, so while he was at work Peter visited his garden and tied some cherry tomatoes onto the young plants. This was a trick he loved and even turned it into a magical addition to his garden for Ross and Finn, his grandsons – for many years they enjoyed visiting Grandpa's Lollipop tree.

Peter was a very proud Scot and never lost either his accent or his awareness of his roots. After he joined CID and became a Scenes of Crime Officer in Canterbury he was more than once called upon as a Scot. One Sunday he called in at Whitstable Police Station and was asked to help out with a local gentleman who had spent the night in the cells because he'd had rather too much to drink. As luck would have it there were a number of Scots officers in the Kent Police at the time. Whitstable's Custody Officer was Glaswegian and asked Peter to join him in chatting to the hungover gentleman in the cells.

"Where am I?" The chap asked, "A long way from home pal" said the Custody Officer in his broad Scots accent. "Eh:" replied the confused drunk. "You're in Glasgow Central" The gentleman denied this and insisted that

it was impossible for him to have been out drinking in Kent last night but this morning to be nearly five hundred miles away in Glasgow. He insisted that the policeman was having a laugh. The Custody Officer turned to Peter and said, "Tell him" "Glasgow Central pal. How'd you get up here?" said Peter.

The drunk apparently looked horrified and still refused to believe them, sure that they were having a laugh. At that point Peter disappeared into the corridor and found another uniformed officer who just happened to be a fellow Scot, "Tell this joker where he is" On cue the third Scot told the now sober gentleman that he was in Glasgow Central. At this point the drunk was terrified that his wife would kill him. Uncharacteristically Peter and the other Scots policeman offered no sympathy with his plight, they were hard, even refusing to agree to his pleas for some sort of help to buy a train ticket, or even allow him a phone call home. Instead they kicked him out of the police station onto the mean streets of Whitstable.

Peter served with Kent police for 28 years, his final post being in Special Branch at Dover and Ramsgate Docks which he thoroughly enjoyed as it often involved trips across to France. Travel was one of Peter's great passions and retirement gave him and Jeanette the opportunity to indulge this. For many years before retirement the family made regular trips to Germany as Peter had enjoyed his time there in the army so much. After doing some family history research Peter discovered and visited relatives in the USA and South Africa. Even after his stroke in 2005 Peter's travelling didn't stop. In 2007 he and Jeanette went with Heidi, Finn and Ross on a grand road trip through the American West starting in Montana visiting Yellowstone Park, Utah, Las Vegas and ending up in Los Angeles. Not bad for someone who was by now entirely wheelchair bound. Last year also saw trips to Cyprus, Scotland and back to Germany.

So while his death on the 30th April was quite sudden Peter had packed in a great deal and touched a huge number of lives during the course of his. He will be missed.

Jim Randall



Royal Scots Greys 1939–45

Jim was born in Chesham on 25 January 1916. A country boy who loved horses, he was educated at the local schools and later became a teacher. On the outbreak of the 2nd World War in 1939, he volunteered for military service and insisted in joining the cavalry, where he

was duly enlisted into the Royal Scots Greys. He was to be one of the last in the British Army to go to war on a horse. He recalled that whilst the BEF was being evacuated through the beaches at Dunkirk, he was in Colchester astride a horse learning how to use his sword in battle, how times were about to change. He was posted with the Regiment to Palestine during the opening years of the war and operated on horseback until they were mechanised in 1941, a sad day for Jim who looked for any way of continuing his love affair with horses no matter to where he was transferred. However the Greys were not having it, he was a Grey and would stay so and as he put it, 'I spent the rest of the war in a tank'. He advanced across the Western Desert in North Africa in pursuit of General Rommel and his Africa Corps. In 1943 he crossed the Mediterranean to land at Salerno in Italy, and took part in the heavy fighting that pushed the Germans North towards Austria.

In January 1944 he returned with the regiment to the UK and crossed the Channel on 6 June He advanced across France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He crossed the River Elbe as a Troop Sergeant of the Reconnaissance Troop, with orders at six am on 2 May 1945 to travel the next seventy miles as fast as possible towards the Baltic coast to stop the advancing Russians from reaching Denmark. Once a German bus appeared from a roadside full of American prisoners of war, he took the rifles from the German guards and gave them to the Americans. At one farm a whole German regiment was on parade waiting to surrender but he drove past as he was ordered to press on. At one pm he reached Wismar and pushed on to the nearby airfield where he and Colonel Duggie Stewart fired the Regiment's last shots of the war; the Colonel fired on a lorry load of Germans trying to escape, and Jim fired at a German creeping up to his tank with a panzerfaust (anti-tank weapon). A road block was set up and the first Russians arrived there later in the evening to be told that that was as far as they were going; the Greys had control and that was where the war ended.

After the war Jim left the army, returned to Chesham and became a teacher again, one who was highly respected and well remembered. Even though he taught with a sense of discipline it was always with a great deal of kindness. He then married and started a family, continuing to ride his horses competitively until he was 85. A very proud Scots Grey, an active Life Member of the London Branch of the Regimental Association, he never missed the Branch reunion and took part in many association events. In addition, he was very proud when his youngest son John joined the Army and, of course, more so because it was his Regiment, but by now known as The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Jim 'lived life to the full' whether as a soldier, teacher, rugby player or horseman and leaves behind four children, grandchildren and an army of great-grandchildren. He was a unique gentleman, a very honest intelligent man, who enjoyed life and had few regrets. One of the dwindling groups of mechanised cavalrymen to whom regimentally we owe so much, and who along with all the others will be sadly missed. In recent times he recalled of the Greys that, "amongst other things they taught me to drink whisky. So now on a warm evening I sit outside with my wee dram and listen to the late song of the birds. It's the last of my little empire and it's heaven on earth." We extend our sincere condolences to all of the family.

JLF

Alan McVie

A popular former musician who played with some of Scotland's best-known pipe bands passed away in Pencaitland, aged 73. Alan McVie, who was also well-respected in the building trade, was born in the village and attended Pencaitland Primary and Preston Lodge High School, Prestonpans.

He entered National Service with The Royal Scots Greys, spending time in Germany. It was with The Greys he first became involved in the music scene, joining the Regiment's pipe band – the same band which would go on to record 'Amazing Grace' as The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards just a few years later, after Mr McVie had left.

He joined 278 Royal Artillery unit's pipe band, based in Edinburgh, before becoming a member of the Bilston Glen Colliery Band – a grade-one band that competed across the country.

Having left the Army, Mr McVie embarked on a career in the building trade, spending more than 40 years with Smart Builders in Edinburgh.

He was perhaps best known in East Lothian for playing in the 'Craig McVie Dance Band' – formed with fellow musician Webster Craig – which toured the county's sheltered homes. His admirers included the late Tranent accordionist Jim Johnstone, with whom he would enjoy many hours playing.

Alex McLaren, Mr McVie's brother-in-law, said "Everybody would say what a nice fella Alan was".

East Lothian Courier

The Regimental Collect of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ,
Gave us a perfect pattern of service,
Give us Grace that we, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards,
May be Second to None in following His example,
Swifter than Eagles to overtake His enemies,
And serve Thee in Thine everlasting Kingdom,
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Regimental Collect of The Royal Scots Greys

Almighty God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
Give thy Grace we pray thee, to The Royal Scots Greys,
That we may be Second to None in obedience to Thy will,
But swifter than eagles to overtake Thine enemies
And spoil the powers of evil
In the strength of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

*Matthew Tobias
Chaplain to the Forces, 1930.*

The Regimental Collect of The 3rd Carabiniers

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who in His life and death gave a perfect example of service to all mankind, may it please Thee to behold this our Regiment, the 3rd Carabiniers. Grant us the protection of Thy Holy Spirit so that in all things we may serve Thee faithfully.
Inspire in us all a worthy sense of our great calling that, in peace and in war, we may uphold the right.
Bind us in one communion and fellowship with our brothers who have gone before, and bring us all to serve thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Originally composed by the Rev. A. V. Kingston, O.B.E.,
later Dean of Bulawayo, Hon. Chaplain to the Regiment, on the
occasion of the Re-dedication of the War Memorial in 1950.*