



EAGLE AND CARBINE

THE ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS

Regimental Magazine and Regimental Association Report for 2001

VOLUME 31

FALLINGBOSTEL

2002

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Editors Note: The Editor welcomes letters and articles from readers. Please direct any correspondence to Home Headquarters.

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FIELD MARSHAL HRH THE DUKE OF KENT KG GCMG GCVO ADC(P)
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FOREWORD

By The Commanding Officer



The three Colonels

I am writing in the wake of the announcement of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and cannot but reflect on the special relationship that our Regiment has enjoyed with the Royal Family. This thought is at the front of my mind because our Eagle and Carbine year began in May 2001 with two remarkable occasions with our Colonel in Chief. On 10 May, Her Majesty presented our new drum horse 'Talavera' in Hyde Park and only two weeks later she travelled to Germany to see the Regiment on Bergen-Höhne ranges. Despite a threat from the timings from the General Election, Her Majesty agreed to fly to Hanover, accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, and then by 'blue light' convoy to Range 9. It was a remarkable day in every sense. The Colonel in Chief met over 400 soldiers, officers and their families in a splendidly relaxed atmosphere and the Regiment was left in an optimistic glow for days afterwards. Everyone had a story of their own individual encounter: a passed word, a conversation during a patrol or on a vehicle checkpoint, in a tank hide, en route to lunch, at the photograph or with the families afterwards. We are very privileged and proud.

Overall, this year has been characterised by the need to remain *adaptable* to the changing demands of defence. During our first tour in Kosovo, we were warned off for a second 4-month tour to allow others

to get in step with what is known as the Formation Readiness Cycle; a 3-year cycle used by the MOD to manage our commitments. 1999 was our Training Year, 2000 was High Readiness, and 2001 was classed as Other Tasks, albeit we were once again in the Balkans.

In the Spring we spent some time on our tanks, conducting Annual Firing and a short exercise with the Black Watch – newly arrived from Inverness – before focusing on the dismounted skills needed for Kosovo. Not only the normal patrolling but also ambushes, covert Ops (in both the countryside and in Urban Areas) and a range of interesting technical skills (photography, evidence handling, searching and the like). We became expert in dealing with the range of Public Order tasks: riot control and dealing with what the police call 'disruptive individuals'! We were joined in all this by CYCLOPS; a squadron from 2 RTR.

This second Kosovo tour went very well and there were many adventures along the way: plenty of searches to keep the locals on their toes, a run-out for the famous Task Force LEATHERMAN into the Drenica Valley and a new series of operations designed to secure Route SNAKE for Serb travellers – known appropriately as Operation MONGOOSE! We also

ran a series of reinforcement operations in Mitrovica – the notorious trouble spot in the French sector. As before, we had a Czech company and a Gunner battery under command. They added a range of special skills and a good deal of character besides.

Much of our time was spent watching the events in Macedonia and preparing to play our part in a series of contingencies. The most exciting of these was the development of Task Force SCOTLAND, a reinforcement/extraction option for Task Force HARVEST, the 16 Air Assault Brigade operation to collect extremists' weapons. In the event we deployed as a rehearsal and only Recce Troop got into Macedonia. They did very well. The tour was punctuated with our soldiers and the young officers achieving remarkable things and there have been 15 commendations awarded to members of the Battlegroup – praise indeed!

After Christmas leave, we started the Training Year with some infantry field firing on Sennelager Ranges in brisk weather. The tank crews practiced the range of skills needed for fighting on foot and armed with a pair of SA80s, a ground mounted GPMG and a Light Anti-tank Weapon; it was remarkable how much firepower just 4 men can deliver. This work was not an attempt to compete with the infantry but represents a serious move to ensure that we remain *nimble*. We are required to change role as a routine and must have the ability to operate effectively dismounted or mounted. This is the business of a Dragoon! Of course, many of the skills translate easily into the drills that we use on the tanks. Fire and movement is much the same at any level – our weapons are just bigger!

Annual Firing on Bergen-Höhne was very challenging, particularly as some folk had been 2 years away from the vehicles. However, we managed all the exercises, achieved some creditable scores and even had time for a squadron/company attack with artillery and aviation on Range 1A. It is the first time an exercise of this scale had been attempted on the ranges since 1984 – when the Regiment last did it!

We deployed straight from ranges onto Sennelager Training Area for an excellent 2-week package much in the style of the old Troop Training on Soltau. The training area is quite small – and beautifully kept – which slightly restricted our activities, particularly in the heavy rain, but we had a fulfilling time, finishing off with a monster Battlegroup attack against A1 and A2 echelon based around the Windmill Strip. The Regiment deploys in a few day's time on MEDICINE MAN 1 with one of the largest battlegroups fielded in

recent years. B Squadron join The Black Watch Battlegroup for a similar set of training series a little later in the year and the Brigade comes together for a big exercise in Poland in September.

In July and August, we are coming over to do some recruiting under the banner of 'Scotland Forever'! We are targeting the Central Belt once again and hope to have a CR2, the Pipes & Drums, the Mounted Troop and our Drum Horses at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, all taking a key position in the Golden Jubilee celebrations. The drive to raise D Squadron has worked better than we could have hoped. The Squadron was formed and paraded for Brigadier Graham Binns (Commander 7th Armoured Brigade) on 5th December 2001 and, all being well, should be fully manned by October. We have some talented soldiers attached from The Queen's Dragoon Guards and The Light Dragoons to tide us over; this has worked well. The success of this initiative might encourage the Royal Armoured Corps to be even more flexible in how it uses its soldiers – perhaps attaching formed troops to other Regiments from time to time. This might offer variety to the soldiers and young officers while allowing stability for those who wish it – all without prejudicing the regimental system of which we are so proud. Interestingly, the embryonic D Squadron, which is an interim form as a reconnaissance squadron, has already scored some notable victories in the Training Year and some of our ideas are being scrutinised to see if they have wider application.

We take over the role of Lead Armoured Task Force for the period March to July next year and our training is designed to bring us up to the mark for that period of high readiness. Our Brigade – 'The Desert Rats' is one of the high readiness formations for 2003 – and the Regiment is high in the order of battle. We will be well trained and ready for whatever lies in store.

This year has been so busy that it would be impossible to chronicle all the anecdotes and images. In my foreword last year, I described 2000/01 as an extraordinary year. Perversely, this year has rocketed through at similar pace and complexity and must therefore also qualify as extraordinary. Perhaps this activity level is now the norm – the routine. Without question, the Regiment faces a host of challenges in the next few years and though we are coming up to full manning, we will need to rely heavily on our people. The Eagle and Carbine is all about our people and as such richly deserves a special place on the bookcase.



EDITORIAL

Although this year's magazine has not been produced around an operational deployment, it is being put together in the shadow of Ex MEDICINE MAN 1 (for the Regimental Battlegroup) and Ex MEDICINE MAN 2 (for B Squadron with The Black Watch Battlegroup). This will be the first occasion for the Regiment to reaffirm itself at the forefront of armoured warfare which may well be a timely opportunity in a period of uncertainty between Phase One and Phase Two of the war against terrorism. Who knows what volume 32 may have to offer.

After a second summer in Kosovo, there is a danger that this magazine could either be a repeat of the previous volume or could be accused of not giving full coverage of the year's major event – Op AGRICOLA 6. I hope we have managed a balance with some interesting and varied articles in the magazine sections and some excellent photographs, not least those of the delightful visit by our Colonel in Chief. I particularly recommend the article by Ex Cpl 'Becky' Beckworth – Life After SCOTS DG. Sometimes those of us still serving need reminding that indeed the grass is not greener on the other side, it does merely blow in a dif-

ferent direction. But regardless, there is nothing better than having served this fine Regiment of ours.

This magazine has been put together in considerably less haste than last year and after burning slightly less midnight oil. Once again a small team based on B Squadron Officers, supported quite superbly by our new Regimental Photographer, Sgt Thomson (also B Squadron!) In the main, articles arrived in a timely manner and in reasonable order, for which I thank you all. Colonel Roger at Home Headquarters continues to take on a major production role. This helps us enormously at Regimental Duty but he relies equally on the timely support by those who provide him with the raw material.

Finally, I am delighted to report that the excellent service provided by Crest Publishing has been negotiated for the next three volumes so the high quality finished product should be secured for the foreseeable future. I hope you enjoy this edition and please continue to give future volumes your support – the Eagle and Carbine is a vital historic record produced both for you and by you.



2001 Main Events

January - February
2 - 9 March
12 - 14 March
23 April - 18 May
24 May
28 May - 1 June
26 June - 22 October
November - December
2 - 16 December

Individual Training & Training Support
Annual Firing
Armoured Support to 1 BW Armoured Infantry Conversion
Individual Training for Kosovo
Visit by HM the Queen
Special to Theatre Training for Kosovo
Op AGRICOLA 6 - Kosovo
Individual Training & Training Support
Regimental Stalking in Scotland

 <p>VETERANS ADVICE UNIT</p>	<p>Have you served? If so, MOD can help you 08456 020302</p> <p><small>All calls charged at local rates no matter where you are calling from in the UK. (Callers from outside the UK should ring (+44) 20 7218 9621)</small></p>	
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A Sqn fitters get moody.

A Squadron started 2001 in a frenzy of activity showing the style and panache that was to characterise their performance throughout the year. The Squadron simply oozed professionalism whilst providing support to the Training Support Group in Sennalager. Tasked with recreating the atmosphere of the Balkans within the confines of 'Tin City', our knowledge of Kosovo gained on Op AGRICOLA 3 proved invaluable in enabling the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 2RTR and other units to gain the experience they required.

The Black Watch, having replaced the RHF as the resident infantry battalion in Fallingbostal, provided the Squadron with their first opportunity in over a decade to work alongside them during their Field Training Exercise at Hohne. A Squadron played their part in assisting the Black Watch by providing a scratch troop, with all call signs commanded by Troop Leaders... the comment "Wacky Races" was somewhat of an under-statement as Lt Burnet was seen deploying 4Ø, 3Ø and himself at a perfect right angle to the enemy. He recalled all his Sandhurst training to give



A Sqn Officers, "a fine body of men" Lt Walters, Lt Burnet, Maj Brown, Capt MacDermot-Roe, Lt Bishop and Lt Leek.

the direction of the enemy to his two peers using hand signals. Sgt Morton then arrived and having held his head in his hands for a few moments he redirected his now rather confused Troop Leader, the battle was saved! The Squadron increased a now very impressive kill rate with 33A SSM Miller using all his cunning and thirteen LAWs to destroy a mass of 2RTR vehicles. The protests, which ensued implying that he had used the range out of bounds area, were "completely unfounded!" Were they not Mr Miller?

Our annual range period took place in May, with the Squadron achieving an overall level 5. We achieved several level 6s and a 6 distinction from C/S 21, commanded by Sgt Guald and gunned by Trooper Beveridge. C/S 21's outstanding performance clinched the regimental gunnery prize, much to the Commanding Officer's surprise and some disappointment. Third Troop under 2Lt Leek managed to sneak home and win the A Squadron inter-troop gunnery prize. Cpl Thomson 28 still bears the scars from his efforts of pulling Mr Leek up to the grade, hard graft it was too. Second Troop did not agree with the decision and 2Lt Walters and his band of desperate men launched a ruthless attack on Mr Leek in C/S 30, ripping off the tank telephone and other vital pieces of equipment. In fact, so determined was the crew of 20 to win the competition that they insisted on firing the Annual Crew Test four times! As you may well imagine this was not the only winning feature of the ranges, ammo bashing was delightful as ever and the SQMS (T), SSgt Bradley, always seemed to "have to collect something" from camp at that wonderful time of the day. For those who remained, SSgt McDowell, L/Cpl MacDonald and Tpr McFarlane, ensured that the Squadron were offered a tasty alternative to range stew. This was personified in the form of the best cheeseburgers that Mr Walters had ever tasted, trying as he did to eat his way through more than 10 before lunch (and almost achieved it). The Fitter Section did a sterling job keeping the tanks battle worthy and still managed to fit in firing their own weapons, between bouts of sunbathing and hands of cards.

Before the Squadron deployed once again to Kosovo in June, this time as nature intended in the armoured role, it was key that we held a Squadron party. Again, the SQMS's staff excelled themselves producing a party that boasted a bucking bronco, pugil stick fighting, an involuntary swimming pool, RSM or not (L/Cpl Lennox) and the "piece de resistance" the karaoke. There was a great turn out by squadron members past and present, which set us up for the forthcoming tour.

Once in Kosovo, this time accommodated in Waterloo Lines, the task of providing what was to be the last



Sgt Pearce, "you would not believe me if I told you how".



Tpr Carrigan "That was not my fault!!"



Cpl Cramp "do you think anyone will notice that I have bogged 22B"



"It looked dry enough"

armoured squadron in Kosovo was one that we all took very seriously. Within days, we were chomping at the bit to take over our area of operations to the south of Podujevo. Our four-month tour enabled us to leave our mark on the local population. It was no time before we were once again on the ranges, this time on the Zlatare range, just outside Pristina. Despite the hot weather and baked ground Trooper Difolco proved that given the right determination it was still possible to boggy a tank. Notwithstanding the numerous range fires that had Capt MacDermot-Roe and Sgt Gibbs running about with shovels, beating fruitlessly at flames (until the arrival of Tiffy Window with reinforcements), it was the perfect opportunity for the newly appointed Top Gun troop to shine. One missing chain gun barrel and a crash with a cart left third troop wondering what had gone wrong. All in all a colourful day.

The Squadron were involved in a number of successful searches finding an array of different weapons, setting the squadron apart from the regiment in the number of weapons found during the Tour. We deployed in our tanks on Op SCOTSMAN, where 4th troop moved to an Assembly Area, changed four sprockets and six road wheels and then on leaving experienced the infamous Kosovo-Albanian driving skills. This particular madman went head to head with C/S 40 in pitch black, heavy rain and with only his off side headlight working and naturally, his mother and daughter in the car. Needless to say, he was quite surprised that the tank did not give way and that he and his family came off second best. Troopers Imrie, Musson and Smurthwaite were all on hand to administer first aid to the 18 year old daughter who smiled through the blood and broken teeth in appreciation, (her teeth were entirely part of the local colour and nothing to do with the crash).



Second Troop Commanders



HM The Queen meets A Sqn.

When not charging about Kosovo in our tanks, we were also employed in the infantry role patrolling both in the towns and in the hills surrounding the Podujevo bowl. Each troop conducted 48 hour patrols, which sometimes meant being inserted by helicopter and performing OP tasks. The Fitter Section had the most extraordinary time patrolling, which due to work commitments did not happen very often. LCpl Sanderson had an odd encounter with a corn on the cob while on a VCP, this was exacerbated by a lunatic woman flashing on Route Snake; some people have all the luck!

In August, A Squadron saw the end of an era as Rupert Alers-Hankey handed over command to Tim Brown, ending his two and a half year tenure as Squadron Leader. He was given a leaving bash that I am sure he will never forget as Sgt Morton, assisted by Cpl Arnott and the 'chair of truth', recalled all his embarrassing moments from his time as Squadron Leader. We also bade farewell to Sgt Morton, the arch menace, who masterminded the crushing of the 2IC's bike, and organised a corpse to come to life for Major A-H along with many more such 'tricks'.



"I like it here, really I do!"

During the tour we employed the tanks frequently, often in over-watch during battle group operations and on seemingly endless VIP visits. It was during the very last such visit that the Squadron Leader decided that he and the 2IC should return to the TFA via a previously uncharted route, in order to let our presence be felt one last time. The route proved to be made up of many extremely narrow lanes, tiny bridges, and awkward junctions. An unfortunate collision with a telegraph pole produced a huge shower of sparks and a lot of somewhat anxious swearing. While the Squadron Leader was trying to disentangle his tank from the live power cables, Captain MacDermot-Roe was so enthralled, as was his driver Tpr Halcrow, that his tank drove off the track ending up at a 40-degree angle. Only by carving a 40 metre new drainage ditch was he able to extricate himself. Strangely, the local Albanian population did not seem to see the funny side in the slightest. However, later that evening the Squadron Leader received his come-uppance at the CSE show, where his contribution to the local utilities was at the centre of a lot of leg pulling by the stand up comedian.

At the end of October, the tour came to its close and we returned to Fallingbostal in good heart, and with all our tanks, and men, in good working order. The week before we took post tour leave saw time for another Regimental Party. The foam tent was again deployed, along with entertainment from the Pipes and Drums. A Squadron yet again were the last men seen standing, thanks to the SQMS (T). Nine days well-deserved post operational tour leave was followed by an intensive period of gunnery training in preparation for the coming training year, and ranges in early February 2002. The run up to Christmas saw the usual array of parties including a fine demonstration of the air guitar from the Squadron Leader ably accompanied



Third Troop on Zlatare Ranges.



Winners of the Regt Tp test - 1000 burgers and every one a hit!!

by Corporal Johnstone, at the Squadron Party. The parade to mark the formation of D squadron allowed us to show off our foot drill for the first time for some time. Moreover, A squadron resembled an Ibrox crowd at the Regimental carol service as it sang its heart out!

We returned in the New Year and immediately deployed to Sennelager for a week to conduct dismounted field firing in several inches of snow. Tpr Fairbairn looked particularly warlike armed with the Light Anti-tank Weapon (LAW) over his massive shoulders! A good time was had by all although some of the young or young at heart members of the Squadron got a little bit carried away by practising their grenade throwing drills with snowballs. The Commanding officer visited us and was delighted to take a phone call with such a heavy weight of fire going down range!

This year the Squadron has represented the Regiment strongly in all sports, particularly those involving snow. We have provided the majority of the very

successful alpine ski team, Lt Leek, Cpl Thomson 34 and L/Cpl McFarlane (the latter being selected for the inter-services) all gained slots in the Main Team, while Tpr Hope also raced at the Divisional championships. We sent a healthy contingent, including Cpls Cramp and Arnott, to have a go at the first regimental snowboarding expedition that was organised by our own Lt Burnet. Meanwhile the 2IC and Mr Walters experienced the thrills and spills of the Cresta run.



Coathanger looking dangerous.

All in all the Squadron has had another hugely busy and rewarding year.

The following people have swelled the Squadron's ranks: Major Brown, SSM Mackie, SSgt Window, Sgts Gibbs, Montgomery and Boyd, Cpls Ross 93 and Thurston, LCpls Cannon, Pritchard and Balfour, Tprs Herkes, Garthley, Fairbairn, Stevenson, McAfferty, Emmerson, Newlands, Forsyth, Mullen, Alexander, Brown 30 and L/Cpl McNally. Congratulations to Sgt King who got married to Kim in the West Indies and to Tpr Milroy who became a father in the New Year.

To make room for the above, other personalities moved on during the year. We bade farewell to the

following: Major Alers-Hankey who appropriately went to RMCS Shrivensham to do the Dagger Course, Capt Lucas became the highly successful Intelligence Officer during Operation Agricola 6, SSM Millar took over as RQMS (T), Sgts Gauld, Morton and Pierce, L/Cpl Lennox, Ross, Patterson, O'Sullivan and Tpr Petrie. We were very sorry to see Cpls Kenny Bryden, Barry McCheyne and Ricky Culbert all leave for No1 Civ Div, and we wish them all the very best.



Sinky trials new head gear.

Rest assured that the character and spirit of A Squadron remains very much intact. We are now looking forward to getting back into our war-fighting role beginning with Regimental annual firing on Hohne ranges in February, followed immediately by troop/squadron and finally battle group training in Sennelager. In May we take part in Exercise Medicine Man 1 in Canada, as part of the SCOTS DG Battlegroup, before looking forward to spending our first summer at home for 3 years with some well earned down time, adventurous training and leave. In September we deploy to Poland for the 7 Armoured Brigade FTX, rounding off a highly charged training year, with no doubt plenty of highly charged partying along the way!



The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.



Mutants prepare for the next riot.

The new-year opened with only Mr Kerrigan being stupid enough to injure himself over leave – a broken arm sustained on the Cresta run. The rest of the Squadron appeared in good health and ready to go. The main thing on everyone's mind was preparation for annual firing, so it was all hands to the tank park/PGTE building to get ready. Despite this, there was time to organise a Valentines party which in true B Squadron style went on well until the early morning. During the party, Tpr McRitchie challenged his troop leader to a game of pool; the stake, his gunners course, the outcome - Tpr McRitchie now occupies the gunners seat!

Ranges came and went in early March, and despite some bitterly cold (not to mention early) mornings the Squadron gave a very good account of itself. In addition to being a valuable gunnery experience, the Squadron learned never to trust LCpl Kyle when he pats you on the back. The chances are that he has just decorated you with a 'Beware Explosives' sticker!

Straight after ranges, B Squadron joined 1 BW Battlegroup on the dry training area to assist them in their final armoured infantry conversion – one or two of the Squadron even remembered the last time the Regiment worked with the Black Watch in 1984. This

exercise gave the Squadron a chance to operate its tanks and practise high intensity warfighting. It also gave the squadron the opportunity to have a look at the new troop leaders. There were some interesting scenes, not least when Mr De Silva triumphantly led 3rd Troop onto the enemy position only to find Mr Gemmell's 1st Troop approaching from exactly the opposite direction.

In the spring, the tanks were put to bed and our attention turned to dismounted infantry training in preparation for the Squadron's second deployment to Kosovo. This entailed small arms drills, basic patrolling techniques, mine clearance, first aid and driver conversions to Wolf Land Rovers - (all our recruits are still taught on 110s). Following this the Squadron moved to Sennelager and completed a field firing package and special to theatre operational training (OPTAG). This included an infamous squadron smoker. Imagine the delight at the arrival of an unexpected guest - a subaltern from another squadron wandering along in sports kit looking for range pamphlets! Person or persons unknown (but answering to the names Jock and Daisy) led to the mutation of the poor unfortunate with an entire Squadron's worth of autographs – in permanent marker. The exercise continued in high spirits and after conducting 'training

by rehearsal' which took the whole Squadron through planning and rehearsals to execution and extraction in slow time. This proved to be a beneficial and enjoyable way to train. A final 48 hour OPTAG exercise to prove that we were fully trained and ready to go to Kosovo was a success. All ranks, and especially the new troopers, showed that they had picked up the necessary skills for Kosovo. The weather was typical for Sennelager - rain and then more rain!



Sgt Potter discovers shampoo.

On return to Fallingbostel, we prepared for a visit by our Commander in Chief, General Jackson. Sgt Welsh, recently returned from a Lothian and Border Police seminar on riot control techniques put on a very realistic Public Order demonstration. General Jackson was particularly impressed by Cpl Matthews' attempt not to be arrested, which resulted in a very realistic bloody nose!

In the early summer, the Squadron provided the Guard of Honour for the Queen's visit. This meant that SSM Ewing had to dig up his best parade voice and drill the squadron into a lean, mean marching machine! So early morning starts and learning the difference between left and right kept us occupied for the next few days! The day of the Queen's visit dawned bright and sunny, and B Squadron formed up in immaculate uniform ready as Her Majesty's Guard of Honour. Under Maj Lambert the Squadron marched onto Range 9 to greet the Queen, who inspected the Guard and chatted to a few lucky individuals. All this whilst the Regiment's families



Not a hair out of place.

watched, pointed, giggled and took photos! Having stood proud under this sort of pressure Kosovo was going to be a breeze!

It was almost time to go on pre-tour leave, but not before the Squadron had some fun! A day out for the Squadron and families was organised at the Hiedepark Fallingbostel's answer to Alton Towers. As the bar had been open the previous evening there were a lot of sore heads that turned up at the gates of the park, but this did not dampen the enthusiasm. Nor did Sgt Welsh's observation that the ride of the day, Colossus (a great wooden structure), looked like it was falling apart! The day was enormously popular despite individual records for the greatest consumption of beer, chips and scary rides being lost in the haze of the afternoon sun (which followed some torrential rain!).



Don't laugh - you'll all have them in BATUS.

On deployment to Kosovo, B Squadron moved into Waterloo Lines along with the majority of the Battlegroup. We quickly settled into a 4 day rotation between Battlegroup QRF on 30 minutes notice to move, a daily route security check (Op STOBART) of Route SNAKE - the main supply route through our area, escort tasks - mainly Serb coaches through the Albanian areas and an administrative/training day. Op STOBART was designed to prevent another bomb attack against the Nis Express (widely reported in the press) and involved checking the culverts along Route SNAKE twice daily. Soon the Squadron was so proficient at checking culverts they could be discussed without reference to a map!



Mr Kerrigan - self help.

The bombing of the Nis Express had happened immediately after the last handover of Battlegroups, so it was with some trepidation that we took this on as our first deployment. We deployed in strength and before the buses departed the 'gate' from Serbia we had checked every culvert, left people in overwatch on the road, and were patrolling up and down the route in landrovers.



Czech me oot.

Fortunately the most notable incident was the loss of a very expensive, special to theatre radio (a hand held Polygon). Not surprisingly it was not such a minor incident to Mr Foulerton and his bank balance ("Oh, where's my Polly gone?")

Our next major task was to develop and demonstrate the Battlegroups' Public Order drills and assist in the training of the other squadrons. Having already established itself as the lead troop in Public Order, 3rd troop was at the forefront. Taking one squadron a day, the theory was explained by Maj Lambert in an initial demonstration which was then followed by 'a not so mock' riot. Surprisingly Cpl Kennan - ex B Squadron, was the self-chosen leader of the rioters. Training was conducted under the guidance of B squadron NCOs, followed by giving the 'trained Squadron' an opportunity to practice against Cpl Kennan and friends later in the evening. These events became quite the spectacle, a very popular and on occasion, hazardous spectator sport. Visitors soon started turning up to these riots from all over MNB (C) and the Norwegians even volunteered for training. Their secret weapons, a SISU armoured personnel carrier and a vehicle mounted water cannon were very effective. Pte Hester



The one that got away.

realised just how effective when he was picked up and flung into a wall by the water cannon! However that did not stop Cpl Kennan from leading the mob against the shields!



Sgt Thomson brushes up his farrier skills.

In the heat of July, the Squadron also took part in a multi-national deployment with the Norwegians during Op VIKING. This involved taking over an area normally assigned to the Swedish Battalion and conducting joint patrolling and low-level intelligence gathering and one search operation which involved a total of 6 different nations. The high points were the opportunity it also gave 4th Troop to test out the Norwegians' recce quad bikes and the SISU challenge. The latter involved attempting to circumnavigate the vehicle from back to front - climbing out of the back door and crawling through the suspension and finally attempting to scramble up the front. Even the Norwegians failed but Cpl Gowans had an impressive go.

Whilst the Squadron was carrying out a routine escort task there was a serious traffic accident involving an escorted bus which ran out of control into the back of our escort landrover. Fortunately the bus was by this stage empty, but half an hour earlier it had contained over 50 Serbian children going to a holiday camp. Cpl Ross and Linda (a locally employed interpreter) were both very seriously injured. However, due to the calm and efficient reaction of Cpls Mathews and Blair amongst others, both our casualties (and two more from the bus) reached BONDSTEEL, a British and American run medical facility; both required further



Pack lunches frozen again.

evacuation and surgery. Cpl Ross was flown straight to Birmingham and Linda to Pristina and subsequently the Haslar hospital in Gosport. Happily we are now able to report their complete recovery.



Health and safety at work.

In late August, the Squadron deployed 2nd and 3rd Troops as part of a Swedish company to work for a French Battalion in Mitrovica – multinational operations at its best. Working with the Swedish company proved enormously popular and the boys surprised themselves as to how much they had in common. We were the first British Troops into the French sector and Mitrovica for a considerable period and as a result it proved to be very politically sensitive. The French command was very hesitant about allowing us to operate in



Your place or mine.

any way that might challenge the status quo. It required considerable maturity and self control at the lowest level – not least when a French patrol actively prevented one of ours conducting a ‘hot follow up’ after a Serb ran away from one of our vehicle check points with a radio scanner that was discovered.

Towards the end of the tour B Squadron were given their own area to look after, taking over from Cyclops Sqn who replaced us in Mitrovica. So the Squadron moved to Gazala TFA. One of the Squadron’s tasks was to physically check every inch of the Serbian boundary to gain intelligence on all Serbian forces in that area following the removal of the Ground Security Zone. Land Rover would have been very proud to see the places that the Squadron managed to drive their vehicles! Initially the Serb reaction was cagey but it did not take long or much Scottish charm to break the ice.

Whilst at Gazala, the Squadron held a ceilidh which become known as the ‘Wee Blaw’. The Pipes and Drums put on a sterling show for the local villagers as we marched through Krpimej. This was followed by a display of Squadron games which left the locals highly

entertained, if a little confused, with “Scottish KFOR.” After a thoroughly good night, troops still managed to deploy at 0400 to conduct a search operation. 2nd Troop was our specialist search troop and this operation typified their tour - countless search operations at any time, mostly when they were hoping for a long lie in.



Tprs Raey and Young with fan club.

Another of B Squadron’s tasks was to run a joint TMK/KFOR leadership cadre. This job fell to the Squadron’s newest arrival, Mr C-D. The course ran for ten days with a number of highlights. Cpl McKelvie’s multi lingual ability will stick in most peoples minds, being able to chastise someone whilst not talking the same language is definitely an art. The cadre was definitely a success and laid the foundations for future joint ventures.

In mid October the Squadron could finally relax, as it boarded the plane home. The Regiment organized a fantastic party in the empty tank hangar and everyone danced with Tprs Adams and O’Donnell, deliciously attired in dresses and G Strings (which everyone was shown). Similar to last year’s all ranks party, the foam tent featured heavily – Squadron casualties included LCpl Pratt’s ankle and Moddie Lambert’s elbow. For many members of the Squadron it marked the end of ten months in Kosovo in the last two years, a fantastic achievement and well worthy of the leave that would follow.



Ran Running.



Lt Le Sueur on patrol with HM The Queen.

Although the Regiment has been in the ‘Other Tasks’ year the last twelve months have been extremely busy for C Squadron.

We had a brief but welcome return to our primary role on tanks in March during Annual Firing. This also heralded the arrival of Second Lieutenants Jameson, Le Sueur and McLeman who were treated to a rather unconventional range safety brief from Corporal Maich in the guise of ‘Captain’ Maich, a somewhat portly and ostensibly eccentric LE officer from the Black Watch, resplendent in a battered TOS perched at a jaunty angle. The hapless subbies were quizzed on topics that would baffle even the most ardent tank spotter. ‘What is the muzzle velocity of a Charm 3 round’, the unfortunate Mr McLeman was asked. Unable to furnish the generously proportioned guru of Challenger 2 knowledge with the correct answer, the said McLeman was made to double on the spot until the end of the safety brief. Messrs Jameson and Le Sueur were subjected to similar interrogation and their ignorance of highly specialised armoured knowledge was punished with either press-ups or doubling on the spot.

Following ranges we enjoyed a short period of tank dry training on the Bergen-Hohne impact area before bidding farewell to our ‘iron horses’ and concentrating

on metamorphosing into the light role as ‘Panzer Grenadiers’, or for those familiar with more derogatory language, ‘puddle jumpers’. This was to become our main effort in preparation for returning to Kosovo during Op AGRICOLA 6.

We also bade a number of farewells; firstly, to Mr Ferndale who departed to Northern Ireland to demonstrate his whisky-drinking prowess to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; secondly, to Mr Dobeson who followed a slightly different path to the emerald isle via a watchkeeping job with 3 Infantry Brigade, and finally, to Sergeant Major McInnes who has moved to the RRT in Edinburgh. The latter departure heralded the arrival of call sign ‘Three-Three Armageddon’ (33A) – Sergeant Major Anderson. The SQMS - always a health and safety conscious individual - immediately carried out a complete squadron ear defence serviceability check; and by god, did we need it!

In June the squadron played an instrumental role in the visit of HM the Queen. Major Cummins had the delights of managing the whole project while 4th Troop demonstrated a Vehicle Check Point (VCP) to our Colonel-in-Chief, which received much press



Scrambling for change.

coverage. In fact Mr Jameson's high profile in the world press cost him a good deal of champagne! Just prior to departing for Kosovo Corporal 'Larry' Lamb announced the birth of his son Nathan – congratulations to both Corporal Lamb and Samantha.

And so later that month we deployed back to the delights of the Balkans. This year C Squadron was allocated Podujevo and its surrounding confines, a small market town in the northeast of Kosovo with more than its fair share of brigands, swindlers and generally unpleasant individuals of the extremist variety. Over the months we did a great deal to make their



SSM (33 Armageddon) and SSgt Spence never far from trouble.



The 2IC gets a vote of thanks.

life unpleasant by conducting numerous search operations at obscure hours of the night. The squadron's contribution significantly improved the security situation within the Battlegroup Area of Operation.

Home and Squadron Headquarters became a rather cramped police station now run by the UN. This allowed a unique interface between the police and military. The squadron mounted daily joint patrols with the UN police and the fledgling Kosovo Police Service (KPS) that promoted an atmosphere of mutual respect and professional cooperation. We were able to teach the KPS our methods of conducting VCPs and our



Cpl Irvine.

attached RMP, Corporal Smith, rapidly established himself as Podujevo's Mr Zero Tolerance. On an average night he would haul in six or seven bicycles for faulty or no lights. The red beret rapidly became a feared entity in town, much appreciated by the good citizens of Podujevo.

A further squadron responsibility was manning and controlling Gate 3, the provincial boundary crossing point between Kosovo and Serbia proper. This was a demanding job with a myriad of responsibilities, which included everyone's favourite; searching coffins in the midday heat. The recruiting sergeant never told the hapless Trooper Page that he might one day come face to face with a dead 90-year-old Serb woman in the advanced stages of decay! The Gate 3 ambassador unquestionably became Trooper 'Skippy' Scott who picked up enough Serbo-Croat to make him popular with our neighbours on the other side of the fence, as well as our Russian colleagues who still have yet to master Basic Boundary Crossing Techniques Phase 1!

The Squadron was bolstered by a number of augmentees who integrated extremely well at all levels and I am delighted to say, three of them should be

joining the Regiment on Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) attachments next year. An augmentee, Cpl Christie LI, the intelligence NCO, received one of two commendations from Brigadier Binns for his outstanding contribution during the tour.

In late August, Major Biggart, the new Squadron Leader arrived fresh from the hollowed academic portals of Staff College to begin the process of taking over the squadron. Within a week Major Cummins departed to begin a Masters in Defence Administration (MDA) course at Shrivenham; we bid both him and Victoria a very fond farewell and wish them all the best for the future.

Major Biggart departed for his Squadron Leaders' course in late September leaving Captain Ambrose to hold the reigns for the remains of the tour. In October there was also the addition of new squadron offspring to Corporal Morris and Michelle in the form of a healthy young boy, Robert.

Just as a noticeable nip in the air began to develop there was a joyous sight to behold – the arrival of the green berets of the Queens Royal Hussars! By now,



heli ops.



Tr Sebok.

after a busy tour, we were all looking forward to returning home and enjoying some much-deserved Post Operational Tour Leave (POTL). The flag changed on 22 October but not before Captain Ambrose was able to locate a Nato flag that the brigadier insisted must fly over the Podujevo Police Station before handover – a Nato tea towel provided a useful temporary substitute.

After leave our focus switched back to our primary role as tank soldiers in preparation for Annual Firing in February 2002 and the subsequent training year ahead. We have also had a number of new troopers arriving and I am also delighted to report positive developments on the nuptial front. Congratulations extend to Corporal Lockwood and Troopers Cowan, Fraser and Green who have all recently become engaged. Major Biggart married Jennifer in Washington over Christmas Leave and we are delighted to welcome her to the squadron.

There have been some inevitable departures including Sergeant Campbell and Sharon who are posted to the



Cpl Lamb briefs Comkfor.

Royal Yeomanry. His replacement is a fine specimen from the Mutant (B Squadron) stable in the form of Sergeant Mackenzie. Sergeant Hay returns to the fold as 3rd Troop Sergeant after a spell as the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Manager. Staff Sergeant Anderson returned from working with the Armoured Trials and Development Unit (ATDU) in Bovington in September and is now the SQMS Tech. Captain Ambrose will be departing early next year to concentrate on tank gunnery matters replaced by Captain Soulsby who will be returning to his old squadron as the Second in Command.

2001 has been as busy and productive year on a number of fronts: operational, social and nuptial. All members of the squadron can reflect on a varied and successful year, which has brought out the best of 'Cruel C's' traditional qualities of tenacity, flexibility and good humour. We are all looking forward to the challenges of a training year in the armoured role and practising blitzkrieg on the plains of Canada.



D SQUADRON

In 1995, under the Options for Change, and as a precursor to the introduction of CHALLENGER 2, D Squadron was disbanded. The resulting Type-38 establishment, as it was known, presented a number of difficulties. The Regiment fell below critical mass for completing many of its tasks and this precipitated a major retention problem.

In April 2000 after successful lobbying from many quarters, the Regiment was given permission to re-raise its fourth sabre squadron and an integrated and dynamic campaign was set in place to recruit the 85 soldiers required as quickly as possible. The Scotland 2000 'surge' proved the catalyst for our recruiting endeavours and led to a redoubled effort by the Regimental Recruiting Team throughout 2001. A significant and lasting improvement in the profile of the Regiment in Scotland was established through an aggressive PR operation.

Following a further 'surge' operation in the Highlands and Islands during the autumn and some sympathetic badging by the RAC, we were able to reform D Squadron on 5 December 2001. This was somewhat ahead of the pessimistic Army predictions, which had forecasted the forming up sometime during 2005-2006. In some ways we have been victims of our own



Cpl Reid and the new banner.

success and the 14 new tanks needed for the squadron will not be with us for a year or two at least. Thus, we have been given permission to form the interim D (Reconnaissance) Squadron.

D Squadron comprises Recce Troop, a Light Troop of Spartans with dismounts and a troop of tanks, crewed by the Pipes and Drums. This enables us to form a potent organisation to carry out FIND functions in the Battlegroup. This will provide an immediate increase in capability for 7th Armoured Brigade and should, by December 2002, allow the formation of a second square Battlegroup in the Brigade.

To re-form the Squadron, a Parade and Drum Head Service was held on the Regimental Square in Fallingbostal with the Regiment marching on to the Pipes and Drums. The salute was taken by Brigadier Graham Binns, Commander of 7th Armoured Brigade.

The formation parade represents a significant landmark in the Regiment's history. Major Dougie Allen, the new Squadron Leader, took command of a group of men full on enthusiasm and relishing the opportunity to try their new reconnaissance role. At last, the re-establishing of D Squadron forms a significant moment in the history of Scotland's Cavalry.



Presentation of the new Pipe Banner.

SPEECH BY BRIGADIER GRAHAM BINNS AT THE FORMATION PARADE

I was delighted and honoured to accept your Commanding Officer's invitation to be here today. It gives me an opportunity to reflect on your tour in Kosovo and to join you, the members of the SCOTS DG Battle Group, drawn from various Corps and Regiments of the Army, in giving thanks for your safe return from operations. Second, it is an opportunity to award the NATO campaign medal to those 147 of you who completed a first tour in Kosovo, the 166 of you that are awarded the number 2 and for Captain Halford Macleod a number 3.

As your Commander both here and in Kosovo, I was particularly proud of everything you achieved. You were wise but not over confident in the use of your previous experience, you were extremely professional in the conduct of operations at the individual, troop, squadron and regimental level, and you developed a speed and agility that no one else in the Province could match.

You enjoyed a wonderful relationship with our Allies, in particular the Czechs and through Cyclops Squadron's service in Mitrovica did much to improve Anglo-French relations. You were robust in your dealings with the Yugoslav Army and in your contribution to the wider aspects of the mission in projects such as the Batlava Lake Park you led the field.

Perhaps the greatest achievement throughout your tour was the focused and sustained manner in which you constrained the extremist and disruptive elements in your area. It is impossible to place a measure on this task. The greatest testimony came from the very hoods you sought to constrain who were known to be very relieved when SCOTS DG Battle Group departed.

It was a real honour to have served alongside you on operations, you can draw immense satisfaction from doing a complex and occasionally thankless task extremely well. You made a real difference to the process of building peace in Kosovo.

I know that you will wish me to thank your families those both here and in the UK. Four months, especially over the summer holidays, is a long time. These periods of separation test relationships and require special strength from families and partners. Their unwavering support is essential to the conduct of operations and the maintenance of our fighting power.

Turning now to D Squadron. Its re-formation represents a major step in your Regiment's history. The Squadron was disestablished in 1995 so that the new buy of Challenger 2 could be correctly distributed across the Army. What was believed to be the correct decision of the moment left the Regiment in a precarious position. The Regiment fell below critical mass, soldiers started to leave and those that remained shouldered an increasing burden. Numbers fell to just over 2 Squadrons equipped with just 6 Scimitar.

Happily the situation has now changed, the Regiment is now permitted to recruit to what is known as a Type 58 Armoured Regiment. This should provide you with enough people to do all that is asked of you. You have been recruiting furiously over the last 18 months and today you have over 80 recruits in training, scheduled to join the Regiment over the next year.

D Squadron is an important milestone in the process which will bring you back to full manning. The Squadron will form initially as a reconnaissance squadron which will perform a useful function in your training year. This time next year I hope that you will be at full complement and that the squadron is able to begin the transition to become a properly constituted armoured squadron in 2003.

I wish you and in particular the members of D Squadron every success in this endeavour. I will end by repeating my most sincere thanks and wishing you and your families a well deserved period of leave and a Happy Christmas.



HQ SQUADRON

January saw HQ Squadron enter yet another busy and hectic year. With the New Year just a glimmer of a hangover away, the Squadron was straight into preparing for a number of major events which would conclude by deploying back again to the sunnier climate of Kosovo - for the second time in ten months. As the lumbering giant slowly gathered momentum to a brisk canter followed by the usual gallop prior to each event, all the departments started to plan the reception, distribution and finally the return of all the items required to carry out the various task and ensure success at all the major events.

In early March the Squadron entered into Pre-Kosovo training. This proved to be an ongoing activity with a number of military activities being taught as well as other mini exercises taking place. The aim of this was to verify that the training had been assimilated and that all the Squadron personnel deploying had reached the required standard prior to the final training package due to take place early in June at Sennelager.

The first part of the year brought some major changes. The SQMS SSgt (Gus) Smith moved to Bovington on promotion to WO2 RQMS (T) and was replaced by SSgt Iain Ross. We then had a major shuffle, which saw a number a changes. The MTWO, WO2 Johnstone handed over to SSgt Stevely, which then allowed WO2 Henderson to move from HQ SSM to RQMS with WO2 Johnstone picking up the appointment of HQ SSM. Of course the catalyst for the move was the departure of WO1 (RSM) Paul Brooks to Bovington - the RSM Appointment was then filled by the Ex RQMS now WO1 (RSM) Cameron.

The second quarter of the year brought the squadron to the gallop with preparation and participation on the ranges. This was to include a fire power demonstration which for various reasons had to be cancelled at the last minute. At the same time every department was heavily involved preparing for the visit by HM the Queen. This was an excellent event and was a complete success, enjoyed by both the Soldiers and their Families; the highlight was for those selected to have lunch with the Queen. The Royal Visit and the range package were followed immediately by the move to Sennelager for the final element of the Kosovo Training Package; the training was well received and enjoyed by all who participated.



Lightweights.

The next part of the year started with a very short period of pre-tour leave. Then came the time for deployment, the majority of the Squadron returned to the TFA at Waterloo lines. Within a matter of hours the comments started, claiming that it was quite a good R&R as they felt they had not been away very long.

The facilities within the TFA had greatly improved during the last six months to such an extent that 2 RTR had even purchased and installed a rather quaint swimming pool. It took no time at all for the boys to reinstate all the social programmes that had been enjoyed the previous year.

The tour itself had its high and low points. Due to the heavy commitment undertaken by the other Squadrons, HQ Sqn had a larger part to play than during the last tour. As well as doing more duties it also meant the departments forming sections in order to assist in the other tasks such as patrolling and searching.

We all managed to return safely with no major injuries. Back in Fallingbostal, we had a small period of leave, before collecting the vehicles returning from Kosovo. Once in camp the Squadron started its preparation for the forthcoming training year, which was concluded on 7th December, at which point we all departed for a well earned leave.

The support from all departments has been nothing less than outstanding and the work was often carried out in very difficult circumstances with a lack of resources. The Squadron will re-form in the New Year with a number of new faces and of course the loss of the Pipes & Drums and Recce Troop to D Squadron.



QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

The year started off, as usual, with a bang with half the troop deploying to Sennelager along with A Sqn in support of TSG to train another regiment for Kosovo. Annual Firing followed in February, from which LCpl Pete Pritchard, along with RQMS Cammy Cameron, saved the troop at least two weeks without PT. Thanks Pete.

March saw the return of Cpl 'The Reverent Doom & Gloom' Long, from B Sqn, after successfully completed his CR2 Commander Course. Who says you can't teach old dogs new tricks. This month we also welcome WO2 Henderson who took over from WO2 Cameron and we wish the departing RQMS, now the new RSM, all the best for the future. PT in the troop has never been the same since.

April saw a well-deserved Easter Break and the departure of LCpl Pritchard on posting to sunny Cyprus. Pete, being a generously large fellow, left the troop with a large going away present. One point four tons of brass to be precise, not quite the gift we had in mind! We wish Peter and Dreena and his five-aside football team all the best for the future. The troop only wish we had enough funds in our coffers to buy the Pritchards a telly.

May brought a range period, this time for A Sqn and Recce Tp that was run by Cpl Long, as the RQMS was in the UK learning how to be an RQMS. LCpl 'Will I ever get my full screw' Campbell departed to the UK for an Ammunition Storeman Course and then onto Sennelager for field firing to put his new skills to the test.

June was a busy period for the troop with the final preparation for our deployment to Kosovo, which saw a last minute change in the manning. Somehow, with only days to go, LCpl 'Will I ever complete a full tour' Campbell managed out of thin air to obtain a Signal Instructors Course. This meant that Cpl 'Garry, recently promoted to this afternoon man' Miller would control ammo and young Jamie 'Strasse' Streets the clothing account. Cpl 'Doomie' in the absence of Sgt 'Eck' Mill looked after accommodation, and the happy trio departed.

Kosovo must have taken its toll on Cpl Long, who unlike the rest of the department, which took two weeks R&R, somehow wangled five weeks away. His



QM and Team keeping the stores open.

reasoning for this was two weeks R&R followed by a two-week handover/takeover from Sgt Mill, so what the other week was for is still a mystery? (GOLF MAYBE!)

Kosovo, like the previous tour was largely fastballs and supplying young officers with clothing they forgot to pack. The four months flew by, the takeover from 2RTR seeming to roll effortlessly into the handover to QRH. With the troops' main focus on whether Jamie Streets would finally hit it off with the Troop's SSgt (we're talking about Jan not Ruby you'll be glad to hear) who also had the hots for Lara Croft. We would also like to congratulate Cpl Long on his deserved promotion to Sergeant.

August saw the departure of Sgt Mill and we would like to thank him for all his hard work in the past few years. We also wish Eck, Tracy and yet another large tribe all the best on their posting to 2 CIV DIV.

The end of September saw the departure of Captain George Aitchison along with Gem. We wish him and Sue all the best for the future.

With the departure of Capt Aitchison, we thought we would keep things simple for the young subalterns, and appointed another George, Capt George Cochlan, whom we welcome from his role as RCMO. Little did we know what affect having an ex RCMO as boss would have on our manning - with the troop welcoming the arrival of LCpl 'Craig' McCusker, Tpr 'John!!!' MacLennan and rumours of LCpl 'Kenny' Cooper to replace the troops cellar dweller Cpl 'Jimmy' Leckie!



QUARTERMASTER TECHNICAL

2001 started off with a fairly relaxed pace of life, something which is not normal at regimental duty these days and certainly very unusual in the Technical department. It was, however, the calm before the storm.

Early on in the year the department saw a few personality changes. Leaving for pastures new were LCpl Spiers to civvy street, Cpl Billy Gilchrist, who hadn't been with us long, to help sort out MT, SSgt Denzil McKelvie on promotion to WO2 to firstly RMA Sandhurst and then Warminster and WO2 Mackie to A Sqn. Coming into the fold were Tpr Whinn from C Sqn, Cpl Forrester from the QM Dept and finally kicking and screaming from his previous job as A Sqn SSM, the new RQMS(T) WO2 Ian Millar. Interesting to note at this point that in less than 4 years there has been 4 changes of QM(T) and 3 changes of RQMS(T). Continuity is not a familiar word in this department! The new RQMS(T) put in only a brief appearance before departing for the School of Logistics in Deepcut on his RQMS course. Meanwhile the rest of the department got down to the serious business of pre-Kosovo training and preparation for deployment on Op Agricola 6. Early May saw the visit of HM The Queen and the return of the now qualified RQMS(T), just in time to pack his bags and join several other members from the department on the pre-advance party to Kosovo. The first thing to strike everyone on arriving in Kosovo was the feeling of having never been away. Probably something to do with the fact that less than a year has passed since our last tour in the wonderful country! Op Agricola 6 saw the QM(T) dept once again boosted in numbers by our brothers in the QM dept. This time round we had Cpl (now Sgt) Chris Long running property management and accommodation, Cpl Gary Miller running the ammunition account and Tpr Jamie Streets doing the clothing account. The QM(T) was also double-hatting as the QM and the RQMS(T) double-hatting as the RQMS. No half tours this time round. Oh what joy!

Capt Moose Cameron slid effortlessly into his role as the "grumpy quartermaster" and soon became every young officer's worst nightmare. Before moving on it should be mentioned at this point that not everyone in the dept deployed to Kosovo. It was decided to leave the experienced Cpl Maggie McGee behind to provide the Technical support for the rear party and also to build a small bar in the dept rest room. He did neither! Carolyn (the civilian clerk) built the bar and



The Tech boys at work.

Maggie spent most of his time in the QM dept either issuing clothing or sorting out their unicom. In his spare time he could usually be found issuing weapons in HQ Sqn arms store. The rear party would not have coped without him.

Back in Kosovo the dept had been further boosted by a clerk in the form of LCpl Lisa Brannigan, who performed miracles by being QM and HQ Sqn clerk and the Locally Employed Civilian (LEC) Administrator for contracts/hours worked and pay for SCOTS DG battlegroup - a talented young woman with the patience of a saint. We also had Cpl Monkey Richardson from 2 RTR who swapped halfway through the tour with Tpr Jeff Barron both of whom were an asset to the dept.

Making a surprise return to the department was Cpl Bobby Lennox. Bobby had left the Regiment 2 years previously and was now out in Kosovo as a member of the FTRS. After his tour had finished he was asked if he would perhaps reconsider joining back up again and coming back to the Regiment. His reply cannot be printed in a family magazine!

Last but no means least, our numbers were boosted by another member of the FTRS. SSgt Jan Gibson had already completed a tour of Kosovo with the previous battlegroup and was going to do back to back tours for the next 2 years to save up enough money to buy a house. Mad? Maybe, but her work alongside Cpl Skilbo Skilling on the ever-expanding Miscellaneous Stores Account (MSA) was outstanding. She may never be the same person again though. Having joined the department as a very polite, well spoken, articulate individual, when she went on R & R her

friends and family were shocked to discover that she had suffered a complete personality change, with a weird, bordering on sick, sense of humour who swore like a navy! That's what working with the QM(T) dept can do to a person.

Sgt Long and Cpl Miller from the QM dept had a work rate, which was a constant source of amazement to everybody. How can two men work so hard at doing so little? We even took the "smokers bench" away from the front of the QM building to try and get more work out of the "dynamic duo" but it didn't work. The QM(T) was often heard to say "thank **** Tpr Streets is up here or **** all would be done".

Tpr Streets worked like a trojan and provided endless amusement with tales of his sexploits (or lack of them). The phrase "I'm young, 6ft tall, well built with blonde hair and blue eyes.....Why can't I get a bird?" was very common. Maybe it was something to do with chat up lines like "come on, you know you want it".

Meanwhile, the QM(T) boys were working flat out in an attempt to keep the Battlegroup supplied with the constant demand for spares. No easy task when more demands pass through the accounts in the space of a month than we would usually deal with over a year.

As usual everyone did an outstanding job and only the problems in Macedonia prevented spares getting through. LCpl MacDonald left during the tour to do a Gunnery course and Tpr Chris Whinn came out to replace him. SSgt Ruby Currie probably set a record by only leaving Waterloo Lines 4 times during the tour, and 2 of those occasions were to get on a flight out of the country!

The SQMSs and SQMS(T)s kept the department on our toes with two from one Sqn in particular becoming known as "The Brothers Grimm" because of their ability to tell some amazing stories on why kit had been lost! As usual during the tour we had the dreaded Logistic Support Inspection (LSI) but with lots of hard work and the existence of "Shady Steve" the BOWO, we passed with flying colours.

As expected the tour passed very quickly and the business of planes, trains, boats and automobiles to get personnel and equipment back to Fally swung into action. After a shortened post operational tour leave everyone was back in early November to recover all our vehicles and equipment from Emden docks. At this point in the year the QM(T), Capt Cameron left to take up a new job and promotion as the OC TSG in Bovington. He is replaced by Maj Norrie Robertson fresh from his old job as OC TSG in Bovington. We wish them both well in their new appointments.

Since returning from Kosovo the pace of life has not slackened off. If anything life has got busier. The first major event was preparing and sending the regiments' CVR(T) fleet back to the UK for dieselisation. Recce Troop, Command Troop and of course the LAD worked long hours to ensure the input standards were met. Next was the formation of our fourth Sabre Sqn, D Sqn, which now had all of its men, but sadly no vehicles! The Technical department is busy co-ordinating the "borrowing" of vehicles to cover the shortfall caused by dieselisation and lack of available equipment for our new Squadron. This problem involves the taking over (and subsequent handing over) of some 34 vehicles from 7 other units, all in a 2 week period! All this as well as the Sgt's and Cpl's Mess Burns Supper to organise, a task which has "traditionally" been a Tech department responsibility. Does anyone know the clown who actually started this "tradition"?

This would be an opportune moment to mention Mrs Carolyn Arnold, our civilian clerk. Carolyn has been in the Tech dept longer than just about everyone else and, without her, our job would be much more difficult. She often works longer than she has to and is a fountain of knowledge. She also sings like an angel. Not!

At the time of writing the Regiment is about to kick off properly in the Training Year 2002 with the annual firing camp immediately followed by Ex Prairie Eagle 1 in Sennelager. It will undoubtedly be an extremely busy and challenging year for everyone but there is no doubt that the QM(T) dept will rise to the occasion and give the Regiment the service and technical support it will need to make this year a success.

LIGHT AID DETACHMENT

This year two key features have been very apparent. Firstly, the under manning situation has been more acute than ever. Secondly, the incredible professionalism of the LAD soldiers has shone through brighter than at any time.

The year began with Cpl Milsom and Cfn Cruickshank providing fitter support to the Training Support Group, preparing 2 RTR for their tour of Kosovo. Soon after the tone changed with a Total Quality day. For many, this was to be the first encounter with the Colonel's Quality Management System (QMS) 'baby'. First impressions were decidedly mixed, but it is fair to say that at the end of the year most will admit that the new 'Blue Book' CD is a major step in the right direction. As January progressed, the command team continued to disappear with SSgt Speakman posted to ATDU in Bovington and the OC going back to Arborfield to learn how to be an EME, 4 months after taking over - nothing like a good timely career course!

February, and preparations for the range period increased with B and C Squadron fitter sections busy supporting road runs. The ASM WO1 Don Amphlett moved to 6 Battalion REME in Tidworth after a long connection with the Regiment. The new ASM, WO1 Steve O'Connor, arrived from 35 Engr Regt Wksp, and



ASM hard at work.

made a big impression from the start. Well, at 6' 7" and as a Corps rugby player and Army ski biker you would really!

A Squadron continued their build-up training for Kosovo with road runs and support to the 1 BW conversion exercise. As the month came to a close more personnel were posted in and out - in particular WO2 (AQMS) Chris 'Nasty' Cocliff arrived to take over the Weapons slot and Sgt Hassall left the Army for the sunny climes of Canada. Also a leadership morning was held in the LAD, practicing essay-writing skills. The author who described the issue of illegal drug use



Cpl Steve Johnstone and CW2 Riviera (US Army) exchange presentations after the enjoyable football match between the LAD and the Camp Bondsteel Chargers.

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in such detail, that I can only presume he was brought up on a very dodgy estate in Moss Side, and the soldier who concluded an excellent essay with the unequivocal ‘...therefore women have no place in the front line, unless they are built like Fatima Whitbread...’ are best left unnamed for their own protection!

During May rather bizarre messages began to appear on LAD notice boards, referring to the ‘Spirit of Effingbee’ - a mythical treasure supposed to instil excellent morale and team spirit on the lucky organisation owning it. Which is how the LAD singlies and families came to be racing round, speaking to trolls and fishing clues out of lakes! Sgt Twilton organised this splendid day out - especially enjoyed by the children who found the treasure chest full of 10-pfennig pieces, and Cpl Tanner and family who comprehensively beat the rest of the field to win the day.

The Queen’s visit occurred on a beautifully hot day at the end of the month. Most of the LAD found some excuse to wangle their way to the front of the crowd to meet Her Majesty and it will doubtless remain a strong memory for a long time to come.

OPTAG training took place in Sennelager in preparation for our Balkans deployment. A superb LAD leaving party at the start of June and an eyebrow-raising visit to REME Manning and Career Management in Glasgow for the EME drew the curtain on the first half of the year. At the same time a particularly sad farewell was said to SSgt Hall, on his move to 9/12 L.

A and B Squadron fitter sections were based in the large Rubb shelter in Waterloo Lines Temporary Field Accommodation (TFA). C Squadron Fitter section had the dubious honour of operating from Podujevo Police Station, while Cyclops Fitter section attached from 2 RTR was at Gazala Lines in Krpjmej, right on the provincial boundary between Kosovo and Serbia proper. Thankfully most vehicles made it up to Podujevo in one piece, save the tanks, which used an incredible 700 track pads driving the 25 kilometres from Pristina.

Sgt ‘VOR Bob’ Clayton did his best to put the whole fleet off the road and this generated considerable work for us initially. It has to be said though that his attention to detail and the rigorous weekly inspection programme inevitably prevented inestimable accidents. The workload remained steady throughout the next 18 weeks and at no stage were vehicles off the road awaiting labour. To the Colonel’s constant chagrin however the spares system was less than reliable. Reasons for the delays varied from “the contractor’s gone bust”, or “it’s been put on a truck, not a plane, by mistake” or

the more believable, but no less irritating “the Macedonian border is still closed to NATO traffic”. It did get to the point that the ASM was not allowed into the 1 BW LAD without an escort, in case anything shiny from their spares shelves ended up in his pockets!

Over summer the LAD visited armoured engineer and M1 Abrams tank regiment workshops with the Americans and the Norwegian Telemark battalion workshop and hosted numerous visits in return. It seems unlikely that our American guests will ever forget their visit which involved getting a Warrior bogged, playing football against the locals (something that would never happen in their brigade area) and a ‘traditional’ dinner of fish and chips, black pudding and haggis. One of the strangest memories from Kosovo 2001 has to be a gathering of KFOR equipment support troops from Britain, America, Norway, Sweden, Ireland and Finland for a skills competition and dinner. At the end of the night an impromptu band of Brits, Norwegians and a Canadian had formed and were jamming on the stage, while a cast Norwegian staff car was reduced to scrap by soldiers wielding sledge hammers. Cfn Livingstone and Sgt Carter also organised a boat race on Batlava Lake. An outstanding day, it saw teams from the British and American sectors paddling their way across the lake in vessels that would have been dangerous enough on dry land. Americans being Americans, they turned up with two engine driven boats, though amusingly both engines failed before the race started. Some strong paddling, helped by a judicious bit of sabotage, saw one of the LAD teams win in a tight finish. In the process around a 1000 Deutschmarks were raised for Wireless for the Blind.

All the LAD were heavily involved in operations, from battle group operations against Albanian extremists to routine patrolling and gate duties at the PB. One operation exclusive to the LAD was Op Mutley, the culling of feral dogs in our area. A difficult task, it became even more complicated with stringent controls applied by Brigade and large packs of upwards of sixty dogs roaming the town in the early morning. These wild dogs had been reported attacking children and cattle and were a threat to runners and patrols. Eventually regulations got the better of common sense however and the operation was suspended. Cpl Bowie and Cfn Dixon got involved in fighting a house fire, earning the praise of the Defence Fire Service. Apparently not everyone will stand up to their shoulders in a freezing river for two hours to supply water to the fire tender. Recce Troop fitter section were kept particularly busy, both in support of our original mission, working with the Swedes at Gracanica and

subsequently deploying to Macedonia as part of Task Force Harvest. The attitude of the section, working with very little notice to prepare the Scimitars for deployment by Hercules, was typical of their approach to the tour as a whole and they were a credit to the LAD. SSgt Hinson also deployed, with 3 hours notice, to act as ES LO between 7 Armoured Brigade and the incoming 16 Air Assault Brigade. Less than a fortnight later and they all returned full of war stories and hot air!

Civil Military Operations (CMO) was also a strong feature of LAD life in Kosovo. Before we deployed SSgt Hall had arranged for a collection of voluntarily donated computer equipment from around the garrison. On arriving SSgt Richards took on the task of distributing the overhauled systems to a local high school. Next was welding work to create fencing for a safe play area for mentally handicapped children in the town. Assistance with the ‘Batlava Project’ involved crude landscaping and creating car parks, removing scrap cars and repairing roadside crash barriers. The most worthy cause was perhaps the overhaul of the Serb church graveyard. Horribly desecrated after the war, the graveyard had lain overgrown and uncared for, for two years. SSgt Richards and Cpl Carlow co-ordinated the actions of the numerous LAD volunteers; returning body parts to graves, resealing tombs, righting gravestones and cutting back the undergrowth formed the basis of several weeks labour. The hard work was rewarded in the most surprising manner when representatives of a Serbian charity visited the graveyard and were in tears at what had been done by British soldiers and Kosovo Albanian child volunteers to rectify the damage. It was also eye opening to hear of Kosovo Albanian teenagers threatening to cut the throats of eight year olds simply for helping us - there is still a long way to go in Kosovo. The final CMO task to fall to the LAD was as unusual as the others. In essence the local utilities manager, an ex-UCK fighter by the name of Limpi, was flagrantly embezzling UN funds and failing at every turn to provide essential services to the town. The EME and a merry band of men arrived in the morning to seize Limpi’s office, all paperwork and any associated assets. Unfortunately neither Limpi nor his four large bodyguards had been informed by the UN that he was being sacked, which provided for an interesting stand off. Over the next fortnight the LAD uncovered what vehicles were actually owned by the town, inspected them, arranged for the overhaul of the rubbish collection and the landfill site and generally organised the town’s services. What with the old EME running the buses last year as well, perhaps we have uncovered an area that needs to be taught at Arborfield to all aspiring REME officers.



Cpl Beaver on Batlava Lake.

The end of the tour soon arrived. Despite thick heads from the cyalume party to end all cyalume parties the night before, the LAD left the TFA with a blare of horns. On returning attention switched to the impending TECHEVAL inspection. Three weeks later we received a very well deserved Effective Plus. The contribution of the Rear Party to this result, in particular SSgt Brian ‘Nero’ Coughtrie, in the last months of his 22 years service, should not be underestimated.

So, with a week to go till Christmas leave all focus switched to our impending party. SSgt Hinson and the B Squadron fitter section pulled out all the stops and the party was a massive success. Thanks to the cocktails on offer at the door, not many can actually remember whether it was a good party or not, though I do still have flashbacks over some of the fancy dress costumes - no names, no pack drill eh, Kinky Christmas? 2001 has been a tremendously busy year for the LAD and everyone can take great pride in what they have achieved. As ever with these things, none of it would have been possible without the support and understanding of the LAD families and our thanks go out to them. So bring on the challenges for the year ahead, the LAD is ready for them...

Arte et Marte!





Command Troop deviants.

The last twelve months have been extremely busy for Command Troop. Apart from providing the materiel of Battlegroup Headquarters for various CASTs and dry exercises and maintaining a large, diverse and often aged fleet of vehicles, we have – like the remainder of the Regiment – enjoyed Operation AGRICOLA 6. Many changes have occurred since AGRICOLA 3 in February 2000. Most notably, Captain Davies sidled off to Junior Division Staff College and was succeeded by Captain Williamson (the fourth consecutive RSO to graduate from the University of Edinburgh) whilst Sgt Cox headed for the murky world of signals at Bovington and was replaced by Sgt Winters. SSgt McLellan also handed over the onerous task of RSWO to Sgt Montgomery who made good his escape from the PRI.

Kosovo started off at a bewildering pace as SCOTS DG BG assumed command from 2RTR BG. Command Troop settled in quickly and soon became adept at maintaining a static headquarters at Waterloo Lines whilst simultaneously providing the same service in the field on such operations as LEATHERMAN and MONGOOSE. It was here that Captain Williamson perfected his technique of maintaining control with nothing more than a deck chair, cup of coffee and an

improving book. This deployed headquarters became a feature of all visits and great pride was taken developing an increasingly ‘well-appointed’ set-up as the tour wore on. Notable additions were ‘The Brigadier’ – a hot water vessel in tailored (as befits a cavalry officer) Combat 95 uniform. Thus the tour unfolded uneventfully with a couple of notable exceptions.

The folly of centrally powering the whole of Waterloo Lines apart from the Ops Room buildings, which themselves relied on regularly filled Caterpillar generators, manifested itself on one unforgettable occasion. The fact that this incident took place on September 11th can only indicate divine intervention. Early in the evening, with the Ops Room inhabited by none other than the Commanding Officer, news came in of a shooting in Podujevo Town and a serious vehicle accident involving Czech elements of the Battlegroup. Frenetic radio traffic ensued as operators battled to ascertain exactly what was happening in Podujevo and also tried to establish dialogue with the largely non-English speaking Czechs. With an air of calamitous inevitability, the generators chose this particular instant to run dry and Battlegroup Headquarters was plunged into inky blackness. Eyewitnesses claim that, with hindsight, the whole event was fairly amusing. For those of us directly



LCpl "Budda" Marle praying for some EFEs at Battlava Lake.

involved, it will take a little longer to regard the affair with quite such a rose-tinted view.

Another ‘highlight’ of AGRICOLA 6 was the Internal Security package. This involved putting sub-units through riot-control training, before each in turn faced a number of hostile crowds in volatile situations. These hostile crowds, which were formed from those outside the exercising troops, often included many of

Command Troop and inevitably Corporal Kennan. The invariably bloodied, but defiantly unbowed, Corporal Kennan would then reassume his duties whilst eagerly awaiting the late afternoon matinee.

Command Troop claimed a large number of the mid-Kosovo promotions with Lance Corporal Wallace becoming Corporal Wallace and Troopers Brown, Khoo, Maule, Reynolds and Weeks assuming the rank of Lance Corporal. We welcomed Corporal Stevens to the Troop upon his transfer from the Royal Army Medical Corps but tragically bade farewell to a friend following the untimely death of Lance Corporal Cole.

Now, as we embark upon Training Year 2002, Captain Hanlon has assumed the role of RSO and Pipe Major Brotherton has left the Pipes and Drums for the altogether different challenges of RSWO. Many new faces have joined Command Troop and many have departed for pastures new. We welcome the former and bid farewell to the latter.



Sgt Mack and LCpl Rigby on QRF in Macedonia.

“Penetrate Deeper, Stay Longer”

Rece Troop has had a highly varied year since returning from Op Agricola 3. In many ways we have gone through a rolling transitional period, but in the fine tradition of Rece Troop the very highest of standards have been achieved during each of the different tasks that have come our way.

As the roles and tasks have changed so have many of the faces. The Troop Leader Captain ‘where is our

webbing’ Turpin left on posting to London as the Adjutant of the Royal Yeomanry and was replaced by Captain ‘hair like tumbleweed’ Matheson who joined us from C Sqn. Sergeant ‘the hills have eyes’ Gardiner, Sergeant ‘COMKFOR’ Hainey and Sergeant ‘gadget eyes’ McGarry all returned to the UK on postings.

Prior to Christmas 2000, the Troop’s recent knowledge and experience of Kosovo was utilised whilst training the 2RTR Rece Troop before their deployment. Ironically, in only four months, the roles would be

reversed and the same individuals would then be sent back to train us once again before our next tour.

The New Year saw us gearing up for Op Agricola 6 and started with some low level training, designed to blow out the cobwebs and get everyone back into the swing of things. One of the first activities was to play enemy for the Black Watch on Hohne Ranges. We ran into slight difficulties during a daytime CTR!! (Nice one Boss). This saw Cpl 'Jay' O'Dowd being captured, and only after careful negotiation was he released, shaken but not stirred, complete with their radio frequencies!

Post exercise, we were joined by Sergeant 'Gook' Young as the Troop Sergeant and the newer members of the Troop were warned not to go near him until after midday. Our pre-deployment range package saw the introduction of the OBEX system. It was discovered to the cost of some that if you move out of the box to fire you get a better score!

Deployment to Kosovo saw the Troop engaged in very different activities to those undertaken on the previous tour. Jobs started quickly. Within 24 hours of being in theatre, the majority of the Troop deployed to Gracanica to assist SWEBAT in the town security during a Serbian Festival. This was to be a tasking that was repeated a number of times and with extreme professionalism.



CGS visits Recce Troop.

For much of the tour we assisted the Brigade Surveillance Platoon and put in many hours behind a camera gathering vital information to build up the G2 picture and target extremist groups. The Battle Group also had regular taskings for the Troop such as providing OP matrices for Mongoose and Leatherman operations. Mission statements such as "emerge in the morning cammed up and looking mean" in particular spring to mind. It was after one such morning that the Commanding Officer renamed the Troop 'The Hoods'.

One of the main events for Recce Troop was our extremely short notice deployment to Macedonia.



Task Force Harvest Deployment.



Recce Troop in Macedonia.



C/s 21 - ready to fly to Skopje.



Monty.



"How many Sgts are in charge here?"



LCpl Lavallin collects more loggers.



Waiting for another Gate 3 convoy.



Tpr Stevenson loading for Macedonia

Within 24 hours of being warned, we were being flown to support Task Force Harvest by C-130 Hercules; one SCIMITAR per aircraft. A number of obstacles had to be overcome on the way, such as the grumpy Russian Colonel at the airport who thought we had come to take control of the airport and an over zealous RAF police Sergeant who wanted to know if we had any dangerous air cargo. He almost fainted when the Troop Leader replied that not unless a full bomb load, including white phosphorous grenades, and 400 litres of petrol on each vehicle were classed as dangerous. We remained in Macedonia as the only armoured element of the NATO Force and provided QRF for the first three weapon collections before being relieved by members of the French Foreign Legion.

During the tour, reservists Trooper 'Elvis' Hopper and Lance Corporal 'Milton Keynes' Lavallin joined us. LCpl Lavallin enjoyed his time so much that he has now re-enlisted and is back with the Troop full time. Meanwhile Trooper Jason Starkey left the Troop bound for civilian life to become one of the Boys in Blue. Both he and Elvis take with them our best wishes and good luck for the future.

On our return from Kosovo it was inevitable that a few people would move on. Sergeant Young, after a brief spell in Light Troop, was posted on promotion to Warminster and joined the Project Drum Team. A special mention must go to Sergeant 'Bugeyes' Boyd who after seven years in Recce Troop has, by his own

Air lifted out of Macedonia by Chinook.



Cpl Brett Taylor, Cpl Dez O'Connor going on a night patrol.

admission, had enough of crawling around in bushes and now goes to A Squadron. Our congratulations go to Cpl Horner, Cpl O'Dowd, and LCpl Aitken on the births of their new babies.

We now look forward to the up and coming training year and the return of our newly dieselised vehicles. We also look forward to claiming The Moncrieff Shield as our own as part of the new D Squadron. All of this is under a new Troop Sergeant - this time it is all down to Sergeant 'heed like turkey' Mack.



REGIMENTAL AID POST

The RAP has, as ever, had a busy year. Maj Carlton departed in April 01 and was succeeded as RMO by Surg Cdr Bedford RNR (yes, a sailor) in May. The second half of the year was dominated by the deployment to Kosovo on Op Agricola 6; for all the medical staff another visit to the Balkans. From March right up to OPTAG training, the medics - LCpl Helen McKenzie and Cpl "Billy" Bremner - worked extremely hard in getting the medical documentation up to scratch, the lists of vaccinations published and actually inflicting the jabs (jags) on the regiment. While in the Training Wing, Cpl "Jay" Stephens had been working hard instructing and refreshing troopers on battlefield first aid. In parallel to this, the new RMO was finding his feet in the Medical centre, seeing the usual variety of runny noses, damaged knees (infantry) and bad backs (RAC). There was the occasional case involving unexplained beer injuries and the RMPs, to add some spice.

OPTAG training was the first chance that the RMO had to get out of the Med centre and meet most of the regiment before deployment. The actual journey to the Podujevo AO was unremarkable, and for those new to the Op Agricola setting our AO was a far better location in many respects than Pristina. Morbidity (illnesses & injuries etc) was relatively low and although the readers do not really want to know the nitty-gritty, there was on average about two cases of "the runs" per week and trauma cases were mostly related to sporting activities and riot control training (where Civpop usually "lost"). Fortunately there was a negligible number of unexplained beer injuries and B-B gun misfires. Road traffic accidents were less than "expected" with only one major accident out of area. Quite a few referrals were sent down to the field hospital at US Camp Bondstee, a joint US-UK medical unit created after the Reynolds Hospital at Harden Lines closed in May 01. These referrals to Bondsteel had a useful spin-off for the staff in allowing compassionate visits to the PX.

The staff were keen to vary the day's activities so driving the RMO around on various trips almost became worth volunteering for, providing you didn't mind listening to old sea dits. All the BG locations had some interesting environmental hygiene matters for the MO to sniff or peer into. Although there was an Environmental Hygiene Team for BRITFOR, the onus was on units and departments to monitor their environment and take action when hands, for example,



Capt Bremner and LCpl McKenzie.



LCpl Foote and LCpl McKenzie prepare dinner at Gazala Lines.

were not being washed, gash not being cleared up, wild animals found to be encroaching or worse. It was good to see Cpl Cole, one of the regiment's own pest controllers, squaring up to the mice with a DIY baiting kit. Although it is largely a veterinary task, the wild dogs were continuing to breed and starting to worry a few runners and also damage the Lines' fencing: the risk of rabies or a dog attack may have been small but it didn't seem like it to a potential victim.

The ultimate training exercise was Ex Holby General where a bus "collided" with an eight tonner and numerous simulated casualties were created. The RMO and his small team had a baptism of fire, until help in the form of the Defense Fire Services & C3 staff arrived, followed later by med sqn resources and of course the helo' on a 'flying day' with the IRT.

On previous tours of the Former Republic of Yugoslavia there has been a small amount of medical input to Civil Military Operations or humanitarian work, but Op Agricola has now divested itself of this medical work, and in most cases the local health service was better able to cope.

MOTOR TRANSPORT TROOP

2001 was an exceedingly busy time for MT Troop as they trained and prepared the fleet of vehicles for OP AGRICOLA 6, the sequel to OP AGRICOLA 3. A certain sense of deja-vu was experienced. It was lucky for the troop that most of the KFOR signs on the vehicles had only just been painted out, in time for them to be painted back on about two weeks later, ready for the MT Troop to take up its operational guise of A1 Echelon with the chosen few, yet again. As per usual, we gained a few more Troopers just before we deployed. We also gained a new Head of MT (or "empty-head," as we affectionately referred to Capt Toward) and a brand spanking new MTWO, in the form of SSgt Kev Stevely. It was a bit of an eye-opener for him, as he was immediately sent on an MT SNCO course in Leconfield, with no prior MT experience. He apparently sat staring aimlessly into space for the majority of the course, until he learnt how to cheat, and the rest was then a doddle. Well done him! He then arrived back to be told he had to organise the vehicle move to Emden, which we affectionately called the Antiques Road Show, due to the cutting edge technology of our vehicles. The move went without a hitch and this time no trailers were lost in the fast lane

Tactically (if medics can be such) we had some short term deployments within the larger deployment of Op Agricola 6, and various Op or Task Force names became common parlance (eg Leatherman). The RAP was deployed into the Norweigan Telemark Battalion sector a couple of times, and also within our own AO. On a lesser scale the Battlefield Ambulance deployed with a crew of three (commander, driver and other medic) went on various convoy trips or did static duty, often at the LIP house. At times it was difficult to provide medical cover as the staff were already widely deployed, and this seemed to reflect the state of the Defence Medical Services in general – widely stretched. Thankfully there were no similar incidents to the Nis express bus bombing or the mine strike on the CVRT.

The things that this author will remember most about Op Agricola 6 were the relative lack of medical incidents, the feeling of team spirit in the Podujevo AO (assisted by wearing the grey beret) the good weather and of course getting home after the deployment but of course, not forgetting the regular training serials with the RSM & HQ SSM.

of the Autobahn, which was a bit of a result due to Pete Starr being a civvy.

As we entered Waterloo lines on advance party, it felt like we had been away on an extended R and R from the previous tour. Nothing had changed at all, which



MT heads at work.

made the MT handover – takeover from 2RTR a breeze. All this left was to await the road move up from Thessoloniki and within days we were back into the swing of things. Most of the UBRE operators and Bedford drivers had been on the previous tour, so they were able to get out and start straight away. This was helped no end by the large amount of augmentees that were veterans in theatre, having served with the PWRR and 2 RTR.

Personally I felt uncomfortable having two Sergeants in the Troop, only because they might make me look bad (OK worse than I already was!) Sgts Jim Curran and John Abbiss proved my fears to be unfounded as their help and experience was invaluable. They took up the reins of Bedford and Landrover section heads, and the vehicle states improved almost over night. Jim Curran was given the task of BG Road Safety Officer, and after a few trips to www.rotten.com, completed a impressive shock campaign with RTA pictures all over BGHQ. He also completed a time and distance study, which basically said that if you arrived in a certain location in under the time stated you were speeding. The whole campaign was mentioned in the LSI by the Master Driver, and I have no doubt it reduced the accident rate in the Battlegroup. All the augmentees worked hard and were a credit to their various cap badges. All twelve are thanked unreservedly for their hard work.

The driving standards in Kosovo had improved somewhat, probably due to the Kosovo Police Service handing out on the spot fines for speeding motorists. (I use



MT beauty treatment.

the term motorist very loosely.) We in A1 Echelon had our own Highway Patrolman in the form of Trooper (Hen Broom) Morrison, who excelled at stopping any local driver he thought was breaking the law. He was not afraid to report military drivers either, although he did almost come unstuck when one local driver he pulled over for speeding was particularly unhappy. When asked what he thought he was up to, he replied in broad Jockanese, "Do you know who I am?!" Hen replied 'Obviously not Sir'(or words to that effect), to which the Bearded, Scottish, Kosovo Albanian said, "Well you'd better find out." With that he sped away. Hen, not happy with this, gave chase. He stopped the pursuit however, when the car disappeared into the 'sneaky beaky' compound in Bde HQ. Upon Hen's return to camp, he was applauded by the MTWO, who felt it only right and proper that this was mentioned on prayers the following morning. The situation was duly announced, with a 'Well done you' from the CO. Prayers ended and the MTWO left quite happy. The Int Offr however was not so happy, and asked to be informed in future, as there were not meant to be any 'sneaky beaky' bods in Kosovo.....oops!

Everyday life in A1 Echelon was its usual hectic self. Capt Toward gave daily briefings to keep us updated on events in the area of responsibility. The only problem was we thought we were in the South Atlantic at one point, as the MTO kept referring to the area as the 'Balklands'. We got there in the end though. I found it quite amusing having two non MT type bosses in the office. Many a time I heard the MTWO telling off various SQMS' for not giving enough notice for

replens etc. How easily he forgets the last tour when he was a very demanding SQMS himself. This I may have pointed out to him once or twice. Tpr Alex Main, the Details NCO, worked tirelessly at his desk, and at my desk sometimes, until the wee small hours of the morning. With the aid of Pte Baker, many an onerous task was completed and they are to be congratulated for the hard work they put in, well done them! With reference to the office staff I would be amiss if I didn't mention Cpl Billy Gilchrist for his hard work keeping the MT G1098 store in good order, Cpls Del Bowden and Jaydee Davidson for maintaining the POL account and last but not least the MTO for the top cover he gave us during the tour. It made a refreshing change to have some back up! I would also like to thank him personally for the early morning PT he invited us to join him on. Without it LCpl Meiehofer would not have got an 8 min 50 second BPFA result, and I would not have passed it in 8 min 45. I have never believed the course was short, and Kev Stevely's Garmin would not lie, would it....

Overall, all members of the Troop are to be congratulated on their hard work during the tour. The lack of RTAs, due to safe driving techniques and careful maintenance, was very pleasing. Compared with the thirty eight accidents last tour, this time the Regiment only had nine. In seven of these the drivers were not to blame, and Al Ech, who completed the most mileage, had only three accidents, all caused by local drivers. This is amazing considering the state of the local driving. The QRH MT Sgt, who I took out on the last day, would not believe the driving was that bad. However, when a Volkswagen Golf with a trailer full of cabbages skidded off the road in front of us, flipped over and rolled down the bank, he began to change his tune. The Police car, in his haste to attend the scene, skidded past us, missing our minibus by a cigarette paper and came to a halt off the road. We



"Who made this coffee?"

then made a sharp exit, as even though the driver's finger was hanging off, he still managed to have a smoke whilst his mate frantically collected cabbages. We were then held up in a traffic jam caused by a head on collision. Even though there were bodies all over the road, the other drivers still tried to overtake... oh what a wonderful country.

With the tour over, a few mentions must be made. The maddest members of the Echelon must surely be Cpl Henriques, for signing back on for a second tour with the Regiment (Sucker) and Tpr Willie Palmer for getting sacked and having to come back to do a tour (HA HA!) Further madmen are Tpr Scougs Scougall, for getting out of the Army (I've seen the light!), Capt J Toward for becoming RCMO (Career Pierre, what career!) and last but not least a Mad Welshman who has given up the TA to sign on as a regular with the Regiment (what has the Regiment let itself in for?) From my own personal point of view, I am quite pleased to leave MT. Maj Raitt has a lot to answer for when he asked me to join the Troop in 1996 for Bosnia, just for six months...SOME SIX MONTHS! I wish all the members of the Troop (past and present) all the best for the future, and hope 2002 is a good year for all, unless you illegally park, speed or end up on ROP's.

PS I did not burn the POL Account or my car...honest!



Throughout 2001 all chefs worked extremely hard. With the ongoing problems of being short-staffed, we were able to prove that a chef can adapt to any situation, operational commitment or climate condition.

The main focus of our year was Op Agricola 6. To some the Kosovo tour will have faded into a pleasant memory, although I am sure few would forget standing in 80 °C behind a stove.

May saw our Kosovo training in Sennelager and the memorable visit of the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty the Queen, which proved to be a most successful occasion. The photograph taken on the day is one of the best a chef has ever seen, even Her Majesty looks as if she is wearing whites!

One of the highlights of the tour was giving a local restaurant at Batlava lake a cooking lesson, in the following opening ceremony of the Batlava Lake National Park, a Scottish favourite was served – 'deep fried 'Mars Bars'.

Our return in October saw a welcome dose of leave for most of us, with some working towards the Regimental Welcome Home party. This was a roaring success with Catering Troop left in no doubt as to the Regiment's appreciation.

With Christmas quickly upon us, we joined forces with chefs from the RTR, with whom we have a great repartee. Well that was until two of our youngest members decided to borrow and hold for ransom, an RTR Standard. Unfortunately all did not go to plan and the standard was cooked-well done!

The guilty were reprimanded and had to pay for the replacement. Next time boys stick to flambe crepe and not the neighbouring regiment's Standard.

We look forward to 2002 with the move to the new kitchen planned for April 2002 and all the new and exiting ideas that are put forward to the Chefs Troop to enhance our work within the Regiment. Not forgetting our first and foremost role supporting the Regiment in Canada.



Cpl Bannister.

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STABLES TROOP

It has been a quiet year for the Regimental stables. The short period between operational deployments meant that equitation suffered along with many of the 'quality of life' activities within the regiment.

A number of young officers were able to escape down to the Paderborn Equitation Centre in April in order to complete their spurs course. The Corporal of Horse was certainly amused, if not wholly impressed, by some of the riding styles on display. We have been reassured that despite his best efforts Lt Trueman should still be able to father children.

We were able to use some of the polo ponies during the Queens visit to re-enact a mounted patrol similar to those conducted by C Squadron during Op AGRICOLA 3.

Sadly Ramillies was unable to attend as he was suffering with incredibly sore hooves.

GUARD ROOM

Unfortunately we failed to have an article published last year due to a slight delay in the appearance of the article. We hope that this reaches the Editor and his Staff in good time for Publishing and that every one enjoys hearing from us for a change!

Sgt McLaughlin, despite his monumental efforts managed to redecorate the Office (rather than the world), with his beloved Tartan. We wish him all the best as he takes up the post of Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Manager. Unfortunately, we hear that he has already picked up a nickname (Rattles), and can not find enough space on the walls for his beloved "Wall of Boards".



Out with the old...

Ramillies, Sea Jubail and Tpr Clark spent the summer in the luxurious surroundings of Paderborn under the watchful gaze of CoH Semczyszyn (easy for you to say!) It was an ideal time for Tpr Clark to really learn the finer points of stable management. He will be returning to regimental duty and will run the Regimental stables whilst we are in BATUS.

As we look forward to the potential of spending a summer in Fallingbostel, we are hoping to resurrect the regimental polo team. There are a number of keen young players who are willing to invest the time and effort required to make the season work. By then we will hopefully have relocated the stables up to Deil farm, making stable management considerably easier.

LCpl Cooper has moved on to the Quarter Master's Department and is the new B300 Account Holder and Regimental Post NCO. As well as this list of honours he has also been promoted.

Tpr McCusker was also promoted and has also moved to the Quarter Master's Department. Tpr Stewart has remained with us in the Guard Room and promises to make it an even happier place to be.

Good Luck to Sergeant Smith who now takes over the Guard Room as the new Provost Sergeant, and to the new Provost Staff. We rest safe in the knowledge that they will all do a great job!



...and in with the new.

REGIMENTAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

The year started off with a refreshed detachment having enjoyed a well earned Christmas and New Year break. The new year had plenty in store, starting off with admin weeks to sort out the Regiment's documentation prior to the Easter inspection and in preparation for yet another trip to the Balkans.

Our first casualty of 2001 was Capt 'Schnell Eddie' Pickering, who was selected for an RAO post in Chester on promotion to Major. This left the detachment without a Det Commander for a while. Fortunately 2Lt Zoe Murray was posted to us in April, only to promptly disappear on course. As the Regiment went through the trauma of being administered, good news was received on the SNCO promotions front, as Sgt Scotney was selected for promotion to Staff Sergeant. In anticipation of a posting, he quickly organised his LS&GC presentation and farewell to the WOs & Sgts Mess. Unfortunately his posting was not confirmed until half way through the promotion year! We applaud him on his preparation for this - not everyone has two farewells nine months before their departure! Next on the casualty list were Cpl Muir and Saxton, who both disappeared on promotion. Around this time some of our more junior members had proved their worth, and Ptes Branigan and White were also promoted. In amongst all the goings on, Pte Prescott was posted in straight from Phase 2 training at Worthy Down and quickly took over as the Command Clerk.



Cpl 'Danny' Kaye - Yes, how can I help!

After nearly four months of frenzied activity, the Detachment was ready to receive, in the words of the Commanding Officer, "the Anti Christ and her Dwarfs" (SO2 SPS, VWO Docs and Fin) to do their worst on the MFP Inspection. They came and left giving the Regiment and Det a well deserved PASS. Without missing a beat, the detachment then started preparing the Regiment (administratively) for Op AGRICOLA 6 as well as undertaking the usual training packages prior to deployment and pre tour leave. Once in Kosovo, the set up was slightly different for us, in that the Admin Office was set up in the old Officers' and SNCOs' TV Room. There were some major improvements - everyone had a desk and chair, there were two phone lines and a fax machine had even been installed. Heating was available in the shape of electric radiators but the immediate need was for air-conditioners!! Although the office was of a fair size, it still had to house most of the detachment - some ten people. The squadron clerks set up in their respective locations and the RAO slipped back into his old office with ease, even though his desk had moved through 90° in the 10 months we had been away.

There was a sense of déjà vu for those who deployed on AGRICOLA 3, as it seemed that no time at all had passed between tours. However, time stood still for no one and the work kicked in immediately. A routine was set up with organised pay runs to the out stations, the new 'for life' phone cards were re-issued, cheques



Sgt 'Mac' McWhinnie - I'm looking forward to the next 4 months!

were cashed and Next of Kin checks were completed on a regular basis. PT was organised 3 times a week at 0600 hours, much to the joy of all. Once settled in, the RAO volunteered the detachment to organise the first of many MNB(C) AGC (SPS) functions. The aim was to give the other AGC members a chance to have a change of scenery and enjoy Batlava Lake. A walk was organised not far from the Czech



Rocky going for his driving test.

Recce location to Orlane at the top end of the lake, with a volleyball competition followed by a BBQ. The whole detachment (including the Post NCO) put a lot of hard work into making the day a success. There followed several volleyball competitions too, which were a welcome break from the routine.

Back to the office environment, an anonymous publication came to print called 'The Det Weekly'. It featured most Det members (Main and Rear) and any bloopers made, fact or fiction! Why let the truth spoil a good story. The publication came with a health warning attached. Although titled 'The Det Weekly', the publication appeared very randomly.

Some CR2 driving was organised and many of the detachment managed to have a drive round the circuit

outside Waterloo Lines. For the majority, it was the first time they had driven a CR2 or any tank for that matter. Everyone had a really fun time and had a taste of RAC life. The RAOWO, however, let the side down by stalling!! This misfortune was quickly published in the following issue of 'The Det Weekly'.



WO2 Cramb.

During all this activity Pte Vaniqui, a Fijian soldier, joined the Det straight from Worthy Down Phase 2 training. It was not long before she was Christened 'Heather'. Shortly afterwards Miss Murray arrived newly trained as the Det Comd and found her corner of the RAO's office. The RAO commented about the increase in visits by young officers thereafter – funny old thing that they never wanted to see him! Op AGRICOLA 6 came to a timely end after a good handover. All members of the detachment returned safely to Fallingbostal. After POTL (a very short one), the detachment finally reintegrated ready to continue the support to the Regiment in preparation for a long (4 week) Christmas Leave. On reflection 2001 was yet another busy and challenging year for the AGC (SPS) Detachment, rewarded by well deserved promotions and the appreciation of the Regiment.

REGIMENTAL RECRUITING TEAM

Second only to operations, the task of the recruiting Soutstrips training for importance in the eyes of Land Command. The pool of eligible young men willing to commit themselves to a career that takes them away from the 'easy' comforts of home is scarce. Many are attracted by the scourge of drug misuse that is endemic in the young population of today and there is fierce competition in the job market. But this adds to the challenge; for just like fishing they are out there, you just have to catch them!

Our Regimental Recruiting Team has the good fortune of being able to go anywhere in Scotland, whereas other regiments have their 'patch' which they guard like a 'Golden Egg' and any unwanted intruders are

eyed up and down with deep suspicion. The highly visible Land Rover Discovery and Regimental Caravan provide a highly visible focal point at the various locations and attract considerable attention from the public and former serving members of the Regiment alike. The other attractions have been provided by the loan of a Challenger 2 MBT, a Landing Craft and Sabre CVR (T). The sheer logistics of moving Challenger 2 around Scotland has provided invaluable pre-course training for a number of young officers about to attend JOTES. Just ask Capt Davies or Mr Soulsby! Fortunately for them the intention to take Challenger to the Isles of Skye and Lewis was not possible. However, the public were equally impressed by Sabre – well to them a tank is a tank!

The year 2001 was a good year for the Recruiting Team, having made contact with 170 potential recruits and enlisting 33 from March until the years end - and this does not include soldiers recruited from other sources. The highlights of the year were the Hampden Park display with the RAC Recruiting Team and the Claymores American Football team – not least because of the addition of their cheerleaders. Also the journey up the West Coast and the Islands was memorable yielding some very good press. We seem to have had a lot of interest from locals wherever we go so here's hoping there will be some more grey berets. In situations like this, Surge Recruiting has proved an effective way of promoting the Regiment in an area where it is not as well known as we would like.

This year we hosted the Cadet Challenge at Redford Barracks in late September. This team event, open to all ACFs affiliated to the Regiment is hoped to become an annual event. An informal occasion, it was designed to bring the cadets together in a friendly and

GYMNASIUM

The Regiment returned from Kosovo last year and you could hear the cheer go up when they realised that the old gymnasium had been knocked down, in preparation for an all singing, all dancing rebuild. However it was not long before it was missed as the squadrons came to realise that without it, PT consisted mainly of running (especially in the winter months.) The new gymnasium should be ready for use in April 2003, and will be a facility to match, if not better, the main P&RTC. With the gymnasium rebuild, there is therefore not much to report about on the gym front. However, despite this, one very important event certainly took place this year.

'Scotland The Brave!' was a charity event, organised by Sgt (SI) Birss for BLESMA (British Limbless Ex-Service Mens' Association) and in particular for their home in Crieff. The event saw Sgt Birss, SSgt Burns and Cpl Gowans cover the 205 miles from Lumphanan in Aberdeenshire to Home Headquarters in Edinburgh Castle, in five days on microscoters.

We got off to a bad start on the first day when SSgt Burns fell off his scooter, breaking several teeth and cutting his cheeks and nose badly (improving his looks though!) This did not deter us and after a couple of miles in the safety vehicle being patched up by LCpl MacKenzie, SSgt Burns was back on the road. Although this was the only serious fall of the week, we

challenging competition, providing something for everyone - skill at arms, drill, map reading, fieldcraft and potted sports. This year, 4 Troops participated from, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and East Kilbride. The best overall was judged to be the Chesser Troop from Edinburgh. Next year, we hope to see them all again and many more who could not make it this time.

Led by any of the officers that the Regiment can spare, the teams most valued asset is the dedicated NCO. However, this year we lose Cpl Stevie Graham and LCpl Pete Smith, who have done such a fine job. WO2 John McInnes has supported the team well, occasionally assisted by WO2 McFarlane who leaves the Regiment in order to learn how to take photographs for a living. Together this, the smallest Recruiting Team with the largest land area in the UK has somehow managed to achieve notorious success. To the team that follows - good hunting in the new season.

did have several others, some of which put smiles on our otherwise weary faces - Cpl Gowans fell over in front of the national press and Sgt Birss went head over the handle bars in Carnoustie! Although this was primarily a charity event, it also aimed to advertise the Regiment. En route, we managed to attract the attention of three national newspapers, numerous local papers and two radio stations. Most of these featured SSgt Burns and his injured face! The event raised £2700, which went towards the cost of a new coach for the Crieff home, which was delivered on 22 April 02. Of the money raised, £1900 came from within the regiment, so a big thank you goes out to everyone who sponsored the team.



Sgt Birss in training.

PADRE

Having been born, brought up and educated in Scotland, and then having worked on the Isle of Skye for five years before working in Fallingbostal for three years (with 1 RHF, 2 Bn REME and 16 Tk Tprr Sqn RLC), it was a great privilege to be posted as Chaplain SCOTS DG for the duration of last summer's operational tour in Kosovo. It was no surprise at all to be struck once more by the impressive attitude of our troops on operations. Seeing at first hand the professionalism, the comradeship and the skill is a memory which will always stay with me. And, writing as someone who is by conviction something of a Covenanter, it was very interesting - and appropriate - that one of our tasks in Podujevo was the guarding of a place of worship. How apt that we, who serve in a Regiment formed from an amalgamation involving one raised at a time of bitterly tragic relationships between fellow professing Christians in Scotland, should find ourselves working to promote peace and harmony between groups in Kosovo who affiliate to different religions.

Although Waterloo Lines has a Church tent, we found that it was far too small on the first Sunday of the tour, and thereafter moved to the Bar - which was large enough, and air-conditioned. Yes, that's right, a Church in a Bar! But we met week by week in order to worship God, not the beer that formed the decoration behind the 'pulpit'! Services were also conducted in the briefing room at Podujevo police station (although we once used the roof, to accommodate the large number of folk who met the Sunday after 11 Sep), and in the lounge up at Gazala Lines. Two particular services will stay in my mind for ever. On 12 Sep at least sixty met at a quickly arranged service, in order to pray for the huge number suffering and bereaved as a result of the terrorist atrocities in New York and Washington the previous day. Attendance at this gathering was entirely voluntary. Somehow at times like that more people than usual feel the need to find comfort and encouragement in God, and to pray for others who are going through a time of appalling difficulty. And then towards the end of the tour we held a Battlegroup service in one of the enormous vehicle maintenance buildings in Waterloo Lines. It was a real pleasure to have musical accompaniment from our pipers, and also from some musicians of the Highland Band of the Scottish Division. As it was only a short time after 11 Sep, I spoke on what God would say to us from His Word so that we can be spiritually prepared when crisis strikes us. In worry, God



Padre McCulloch's first day and his daughter Rachel's second birthday happily coincided with the Queen's visit.

will care. In loneliness, God will be near. In failure, God will help. In discouragement, God will strengthen. In danger, God will protect. In distress, God will comfort. And through death, God will give life. Such are the gracious promises God offers us in Jesus Christ, by His Spirit.

As the Commanding Officer has written in last month's edition of 'Life and Work' (the national magazine of the Church of Scotland), we are so grateful to the large number of people back in Scotland and elsewhere who supported us through prayer during the tour. Only eternity will reveal just how these prayers were used in God's purposes. Thank you to all who prayed, including those who wrote to us in Kosovo to tell us of their prayers.

At the end of the tour I returned to my present posting with 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and 32 Engineer Regiment in Hohne. Thank you to everyone in SCOTS DG who did Op Agricola 6: thank you for having me, and for every facilitation of my work. May God bless you, now and in the future. And all the best to Ian, my successor, who comes from just across the River Clyde.



REGIMENTAL WELFARE OFFICE



The only sighting of Fr Ian in uniform.

We started the year with a couple of new editions to the Welfare Office. Naomi, our Welfare Clerk, gave birth to a bouncing baby girl named Gwen, and whilst on maternity leave handed over to Caren Goathan. Caren stayed with us until Naomi came back in April and then she went to HQ Sqn for a stint, only to return later on in the year as our part time clerk for the Kosovo tour. The remainder of the team stayed the same with Capt Andy Stewart as the Welfare Officer and Sgt Sandy Beveridge as the Welfare SNCO.

In February, The Grapevine held a cheese and wine party as a prelude to the forthcoming AFF (G) Road Show, which was to be held in Hohne a few days later. For various reasons this was cancelled, but we blamed it on the foot and mouth epidemic in the UK, as everyone else was using that excuse too. At the end of the month we organized a Karaoke Night in the Wessex Club, which went down a treat. Nobody knew we had so many budding Madonnas or Spice Girls in the Regiment!

In March, the Padre (Andrew Totten) organised a mass christening for Mothering Sunday, which was taken up by a few of the families. The best news of all, though, was that the Fish and Chip van that we had been waiting on for nearly a year had finally arrived and was going to be operational at the beginning of the month. We continued to try and provide the best service we could and the latest addition to our newsletter, an electronic version, was published on the website so that those back in the UK could log on and see what was happening at

RD. The E-LINK was published every month at the same time as the normal LINK. The Grapevine held a Comic Relief day, where all dressed up as St Trinian School Girls and charged for table service. They also had some help from the Welfare Office in the form of Sgt Sandy Beveridge, his wife's bathing costume, some buckets of water and some sponges. All together they managed to collect over DM 300 for charity.

With March well and truly over, the Welfare Office started to prepare for the up and coming tour of Kosovo. There were quite a few changes in the pipeline. Monty, the PRI manager, was promoted and due to take over as Regimental Signals Sergeant, but as no replacement had been found, he was forced to double hat. This meant that the PRI shop was not open as much as normal. The Grapevine changed hands as Liz Hunter went off to pastures new and Lucille Miller took over the running of the Café. Subsequently the place closed for refurbishment and did not open until the end of April.

After Easter Leave we were back on the offensive with lots to do and not much time to do it in. The new Kosovo booklet was published and distributed. We were preparing to add another squadron to our books as we welcomed Cyclops Squadron from 2RTR who were deploying to Kosovo with us. It was also time to have the Pre Kosovo Tour Brief for all the wives, to let them know what was happening and give them the opportunity to put questions to the panel of experts that were there, namely the Commanding Officer, the Regimental

Admin Officer and a representative from Homestart. It was certainly a good night, going by the amount of wine that was drunk. The briefing was also an excellent opportunity to introduce the new Welfare Officer, Capt Bryon Connor, who would be taking over from Capt Andy Stewart. At the end of May, HRH Queen Elizabeth visited us. The whole Regiment, including families, were invited to a huge picnic out on the ranges where all could meet and chat with Her Majesty and watch the various demonstrations prepared for the day.

With June upon us, the Kosovo tour started and another member joined the team - WO2 Alan Henderson became the Kosovo Information Team Warrant Officer, responsible for the organisation of events during the tour. There were the usual Zoo trips, barbeques, shopping trips and kiddies' parties. The Welfare Officer, Capt Bryon Connor started his "Taxi Service", a shuttle service between Fallingbostal, Kaufland and The Heide Park three times a week. This would allow wives to do their shopping and/or take the kids for a day out. The Tour continued and as July arrived we organised a "Calling The Balkans" with Glen Mansell, which was held in the Wessex Club. The turnout was tremendous and everyone was able to send their love and wishes to

their partners and friends serving with the Regiment in Kosovo. Sgt Sandy Beveridge unfortunately missed this event as he was back in the UK after his wife Kate had gone into premature labour and given birth to a bouncing baby girl three weeks early. Abigail was born on the 4th July weighing 9lb 4oz, keeping in tradition with the rest of the family by being very large.

The events surrounding September the 11th have touched us all. We received a letter from an American who was amongst the debris and wreckage of what was left of the World Trade Centre. He told us that while the fire fighters were attempting to rescue any survivors a radio that they were listening to started to play Amazing Grace. All fell silent. The rescuers removed their headgear and bowed their heads. The gentleman who sent us the letter did so as the version that the firefighters were listening to was that of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

We now have a new Padre in the form of Father Ian Stevenson who joined us just prior to block leave. Naomi has left us on posting. We now also have a new volunteer in Moy Galletly, who is our unpaid and over-worked Welfare Clerk. We look forward to the many challenges of the future. We in the Welfare office assure you of our best attention at all times.

MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS

During the year 2001 the following married

Tpr RL Smith to Michelle	14 February
LCpl JE Brown to Lynne	9 March
Sgt AJ Plummer to Steven	17 April
Cpl JJ O'Dowd to Gwen Margaret	26 May
Sgt TCR Long to Alison	16 June
Cpl G Rieley to Melannie	13 July
LCpl WB Comery-Lang to Stevie-Ellen	28 July
LCpl KB Hinton to Lynsey Anne	19 August
Tpr JS Johnston to Carol	24 August
LCpl I Cassidy to Karen	6 September
Cfn G Bower to Sarah Amanda	27 October
Cfn LF Livingstone to Gillian	22 November
Cpl B Campbell to Nicola	24 November
Tpr SIR Waddington to Christine Ann	14 December
Maj JU Biggart to Jennifer	15 December
Maj DAJ Allen to Fiona Anne Laura	15 December
WO2 D McKelvie to Jacqueline	28 December

Sons were born to

Cpl and Mrs J Burke	John James	31 January
Cpl and Mrs PG Nash	Stuart	31 January
LCpl and Mrs KM MacLeod	Aiden Lee	4 March
Cpl and Mrs MA Lees	Alexander Bruce	1 April
LCpl and Mrs JD McAleese	Anton	15 April
Cpl and Mrs DA Ross	Jack Taylor	4 May
Cpl and Mrs DST Wallace	Andrew William	29 May
Cpl and Mrs I Lamb	Nathan	31 May
SSgt and Mrs BH Brotherton	Thomas Bryon	5 June
LCpl and Mrs PWT Pritchard	Andrew William John	19 June
Cpl and Mrs JA Asher	Jamie Dawson	9 August

Daughters were born to

LCpl and Mrs N Preston	Cally Anne	15 March
Tpr and Mrs JS Johnstone	Carol	1 June
Cpl and Mrs TM Morrison	Aylana Jane	2 July
Sgt and Mrs A Beveridge	Abigail Joanne	4 July
Cpl and Mrs JJ O'Dowd	Emma Louise	1 September
Cpl and Mrs PM Ingham	Chloe Elizabeth	20 September



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Livers-in post Kosovo Tour Party 2001. Pink shirts for all!

Yet another year has galloped past and before anyone had noticed it was time for the Mess Secretary to once again attempt to write a pithy and informative account of mess life over the last 12 months....

2001 saw an exceptionally busy Regiment and the Officers' Mess was no exception, the amount of officers departing to, and arriving from, ERE was quite staggering and the intake of new subalterns from both Sandhurst and Troop Leaders has put a lot of new faces in the Mess. Indeed the surfeit of officers has meant that at time of writing the Mess is absolutely chock-a-block and the newly arrived Subalterns found themselves living in rather cramped conditions. Nonetheless this glut of officers has allowed the Regiment the luxury of posting subalterns all over the place. Lt Johnny Hanlon was sent as a watch keeper to Northern Ireland where his stags were made all the more entertaining by the odd run in with Capt Dell Briton (of Op AGRICOLA 3 fame) and the prospect of 10 days off a month.... soul mates Lts Richard Ongaro and Mike Ferndale joined him in Ireland as platoon commanders with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders for a taste of soldering at its best and very much enjoyed the whole experience. On the other side of the world Capt Reuben Williams was 'working' hard on Op RALEIGH in Costa Rica, as ever the diplomat making friends and influencing people wherever he went. A few thousand miles to his East, Lt Matt Hayward was attempting to teach the rudimentaries

of soldiering to the fledgling Serria Leone Army, while attached to the Light Infantry and Capt (Acting Maj) Tom Bateman was enjoying the privileges of an UNMO job in East Timor. Fuller and more exiting accounts of these adventures are secreted in hidden depths of the magazine, read on, read on...

As ever, when the Regiment is busy, so is the social life. The prospect of another four months in Kosovo meant that there was a lot to pack in during our brief summer in Fallingbostal, and pack it in we did. The year started in fine style in March with the Fathers weekend. These festivities started with Nick Burnet's father running a most enjoyable whisky tasting, which meant that Saturday started with a lot of jaded fathers and sons on the 30m range. After a bout of small arms coaching we packed our guests off to the Hohne ranges to enjoy a look around, and have a cabby in Challenger 2. The weekend was rounded off by a most memorable dinner night.

Without doubt, May was the busiest month of all. As we prepared for pre-deployment ranges, the Mess still had it entertainment obligations to fill. We started with the annual Polo tournament and ladies weekend, which was, as normal, a great success, with the exception of one unfortunate pony dropping dead yards from the road! The Polo party was particularly fun with the 9/12 and the RDG making a good effort to enjoy our hospitality and a very good attempt by the



Fullerboozee doing his thing.



The Grumpletons.



Capt Williamson would you believe.

Livers-In to dispel the vile rumour that we don't know any girls! Cavalry Memorial Sunday followed hot on its heels and the ensuing bout of lunches meant that a fantastically dishevelled Capt Ambrose rushed to catch his 'plane on Monday morning, still in his suit but minus collar and looking like he had been dragged through a bush backwards.... Only to bump into, amongst others, Colonel David and Fiona. lipstick on your collar etc etc.

On our return to Germany the tempo very much went up a gear and we enjoyed the busiest week in a very long time. On the 24 May the Regimental our Colonel-in-Chief Her Majesty the Queen came to visit the Regiment while on pre deployment ranges. The Regimental Picnic in honour of her visit was a huge success and the wonderful weather only aided the success as Sgt Wallace presided over the Officers Mess in the field, replenished with dining room

table, silver and crystal it was truly impressive. What made the whole event more special was the fact that aside from those who lunched with Her Majesty, about one third of the Regiment and their families were also introduced to her as she enjoyed her walk-about.

Without a moment to draw breath the Mess held its long awaited for, and long overdue, summer ball only two days later. The subalterns (to whom the lions share of the hard work and thus the credit must go) had been working slavishly under Lt Paddy Trueman to produce a fantastic event, screens, drapes, bars, tents that shook strangely, jungle ponds and a series of incredible theme rooms including the notorious 'Hareem' room (need I say more Halford-MacLeod.....) were created ensuring that the Flashman Ball will be long remembered for the opulent entertainment and the great fun that it was.



Observe my little finger.



Sgt Wallace, the Mess Sergeant Major, and the Colonel.



Lieutenants Jameson, Walters, Le Sueur and Hayward.



Captain Toward showing how it was done twenty years ago.

Op AGRICOLA 6 saw the return of the Mess to the charming confines of the Temporary Field Accommodation (TFA), Waterloo Lines by Podujevo. During our short absence the Mess had been kitted out with a very charming bar complete with plaques and war trophies. Nonetheless, watercolours soon hung once again on the wall and a few pieces of silver on the sideboards soon making the whole place look very much more homely.

If anyone might have thought that the pace of Mess life might change with the move to Kosovo, they were wrong. Wednesday evenings became guest nights, and for the most part, a good opportunity to see the C Sqn officers when they were permitted to escape from the Police Station. It seemed that the reputation of our hospitality had not died and the mess entertained a huge amount of people during the tour. The visits included, as ever, a host of media related guests and of course our own representatives including the CGS, CDS, the Colonel of the Regiment, DCOM BRITFOR and DRAC, to name but a few.

Our ability to entertain well, and in style, regardless of circumstances, was upheld, and personified by, the Command Group Dinner. This dinner was intended for the all the Commanding officers of the NMB(C) and the Brigade staff. The Czech Recce Coy provided a Sekirach piglet and spent most of the day roasting it on a spit, Sgt Wallace turned a bleak hillside into a tented mess, again demonstrating his ability to produce wonders in the field. The only worry, for the Mess Sec, was the Phoenix battery arriving to launch their UAV as the first Land Rovers were little over a

mile away. There was a brief real estate battle, a bit of sweating, a minor rifting received and all was well.

While the Squadron Leaders enjoyed a Commanding Officers Breakfast every Sunday with Colonel David it was felt that the Subalterns should enjoy a Subalterns supper before we left Kosovo. A thoroughly memorable occasion it was too, in particular Lt Miles Pennant on his bangilalie and his outstanding George Formby act. The Mess was very fortunate to inherit a great bunch of Officers on one sort of attachment or other for the duration of the tour, all of whom added a great deal of colour to the mess.

Back in Germany the pace did not slacken at all. The 'boys' were greatly impressed by the arrival of the Livers-In at the post Kosovo party dressed in pink shirts and jeans and all their worst fears were confirmed. What, however, the German Taxi driver thought as they marched, in review order whistling 'Colonel Bogey', past his car, goodness only knows!

Balacava night, always enjoyable, was made all the more memorable by the appearance of the 'Fuller-bomber' AKA Lt Nick Foulerton, whose arrival, with a melon strapped to his combat helmet, caused astonishment and confusion to the Warrant Officers and Pipes and Drums and great mirth to the livers-in. I am told that the Pipes and Drums received the vast majority of the exploding melon...

As ever the run up to Christmas leave was a blur of events, wine tasting, a lunch for the Garrison support

staff, Mess Staff drinks and a very long and rather boozy affair with the Senior ranks and their families after the exceptionally good Christmas Carol service. The army of children was being admirably entertained by a long-suffering Lt Steve Walters.

Leave started with The Carabiniers memorial service and the Regimental dinner, both of which were very well attended by officers both serving and retired, with the exception of those officers who were enjoying General Charles's generosity and once again stalking at Chesthill.

In such a busy year it is inevitable that the Mess should see some friends move on and new faces arrive. Padre Andrew Totten left to a general wailing and gnashing of teeth having been an exceptional and very much loved Padre for three great and happy years, we also said hello and goodbye to Padre Alan McCulloch who filled in temporarily during Kosovo. Capt James Carlton also left as RMO, having been replaced by Lt Comd Jonathan Bedford (RNVR) for the duration of Kosovo who was a great addition to the mess, for Capt Ben Cattermole the opportunity to discuss the hidden depths of the anatomy was a passion he had sorely missed. Regimentally the mess saw Lt Col Ben and Pippa Edwards, Maj Rupert and Jugsie Alers-Hankey, Maj Henry and Victoria Cummins, Capt Dill and Sarah MacKinlay, Capt Moose and Agnes Cameron, Capt Andy and Sue Stewart and last but not least Capt George and Sue Atchison all move to pastures new.

We also welcomed a bevy of new officers, Captain Lachlin MacKay-Brown arrived as the Doctor and Fr Ian Stevenson as the Regimental Padre (breaking ground and making history as the first ever Regimental



The New Avengers.

RC Chaplain outside the Irish Guards!!). Second Lieutenants Ed O'Brien, Fergus Jack, John Stone, Alex Major-banks and Graham Craig also joined us from Sandhurst and are currently enjoying the delights of their Troop Leaders course. The Mess also welcomed back Maj Tim and Sonja Brown, Maj Johnny and Jennifer Biggart and Maj Dougie and Fi Allen.

As for weddings, it doesn't rain, it pours.... Majors Aidan and Amy Stevens, Johnny and Jennifer Biggart, Dougie and Fi Allen and Richard and Anthea Boyle all deserve congratulations. If that was not enough Jonnie Hanlon and Jules Kitchener-Smith, Will Davies and Katie Haldane and Ben Cattermole and Erica Satariano all announced their engagements, and with it, it seems that finally the Fallingbostel curse is broken! Finally the mess is delighted to announce the arrival of a daughter, Alexandra, to Roger and Catherine MacMillan.



Remembrance Sunday, 2Lt Murray, Capt Kerrigan, Lt Walters and Lt Wilkinson.



Lieutenant Wilkinson, Captains MacDermot-Roe and Williams with escorts.

WARRANTS OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Having returned from Christmas leave, the Mess immediately began to look forward to the traditional Burns Supper. An excellent night was had by all and one of the most memorable speeches was the "to the lasses and the laddies". Due to a lack of volunteers, this year saw a slight difference to the normal format, in that "they" did their bit together. "Who's they?" I hear you ask. It turned out to be Sgt Rab Birss and Sgt Grant Leggate. No doubt you are probably asking who the "she" was too; lets just say Grant has a great pair of legs, but not much on top.

Not long afterwards in February, the Regiment deployed to the ranges for annual firing, which was to be the only tank experience the majority of the Regiment would experience this year. Just as the boys were getting the hang of it, the range period ended, the tanks were put to bed and we returned to our feet in preparation for another tour in Kosovo. In March, the Mess had a fantastic dinner night to say a fond farewell to RSM (Paul) Brooks who was leaving on posting to Bovington as GSM. After the meal, as the new RSM (WO1 Cameron) was finishing his speech, the dining room doors suddenly flew open and in entered LCpl Montieth doing his finest impression of a Nazi storm trooper, goose step and all. Once the dust had settled, RSM Cameron went on to explain that the grey coat being modelled by LCpl Monteith was in fact a genuine German Army coat from the Second World War and was to be the Mess' presentation to (as selected by) RSM Brooks. As for the rest of the night, well...the only man left standing was the barman!

It was good that the Mess was able to continue to function as normal in Kosovo, albeit in a smaller capacity. There were nights of activity throughout the tour. On one occasion, the Mess managed a dinner night, where the meal in the cookhouse proved to be one of WO2 (Angus) Smith's culinary delights - none had a clue what it was but it tasted great! Upon completion of the meal, the members retired to the Mess for drinks. Are the RSM & WO2 (Cammy) Gray still the table football champs or does the ASM have something to say about this? On returning to their accommodation, the RSM & RQMS (T) (WO2 Ian Miller) turned to speak to WO2 (Cammy) Gray, only to see the back of his head, as he laughed out loudly disappearing into the darkness on the RSM's motorbike. How he avoided wrapping himself around the volleyball net we will never know. On another occasion, a small number of members were able to have dinner with DRAC whilst he



Waiting to ambush the Bde Cmdr on his first visit to Scots DG AOR.

was visiting the Regiment. Again another culinary delight was served, but more importantly, DRAC received a barrage of questions which he tactfully answered, and took away with him some interesting thoughts. It was discovered towards the end of the tour that WO2 (JR) Ewing was a member of a strange cult, along with SSgt (Colin) McIntyre. Once a day for about a week, he was seen worshipping a shrine in his locker. He would then disappear for about two hours, only to reappear speaking a strange language, which sounded something like "blar blar blar fishcakes fishcakes fishcakes."

Thankfully, the tour ended successfully and we headed home. We had a great all ranks party, where you saw everybody but met nobody! The foam tent claimed more casualties than we had on tour. A week after our return, we all went on Post Operational Tour leave (all 5 days of it) before commencing work on the tanks and gunnery training. The first social event after Leave was Balaclava Night. This was a memorable occasion for all the Warrant Officers. After yet another of WO2 (Angus) Smith's delights, all mem-

bers moved through to the ante room, which was a cue for ASM (Weeman) O'Connor and his band of rugby players to change. For the rest of us it was jackets & shirts off, rugby tops on and outside to do battle. Although last year was akin to "Custer's last stand" for the Mess, on this occasion with Weeman and the other Weeman (WO2 (Sledge) McLellan) on our side, things were more even.



RSM with Capt Jaroslav Hajek.

After a few dubious decisions by the referee (Regimental 2IC - say no more) a draw was declared and it was back inside for more liquid refreshment. A few weeks later, the Mess enjoyed a memorable ladies dinner, where the mess witnessed the fastest WO2 (JR) Ewing has ever run, when the RSM called for the interval. The mess members also would like to congratulate Sgt (Jeff) Twilton on his excellent achievement in being able to complete the meal. The partying went on until the early, early hours; so early in fact that the RSM was seen making toast for breakfast. For some it was too much, and at 0630 hrs, much to the dismay of others, it was realised that Sgt (Tam) Spence was indeed a lightweight. No sooner had the Mess recovered from this, then the



Sgts Gibbs and Mckenzie.

Christmas ball was upon us. In good WO's & Sgt's Mess traditions, another excellent night was had by all.

Throughout the year there have been numerous promotions, as well as several postings out and in. To this end, the RSM, PMC and all Mess members wish the very best to those who have left, and a warm welcome to those who have returned or been promoted in. A special thought also goes out to Sgt (Spud) O'Neil and his family.



Mr Bill Bishop presents the RSM with the Kosovo painting.

CORPORALS' MESS

The Corporals Mess had a busy year in 2001. First of all congratulations and welcome to all the new members that have been promoted into the Mess and all to new members that have been posted in from other Units. Welcome. Plus congratulations are due to those members of the Mess that have moved over to the Warrant Officers & Sergeants' Mess.

The year started off with a Burns Night in the Marquee outside the Mess, with wee Brian Campbell being his normal charming self. Once he got the microphone in his hand there was no holding back, especially by the end of the night when the Colonel was Big D in Brian's eyes.

This year The Corporals this year said farewell to WO1 (RSM) P Brooks who was posted to Bovington in Dorset to take over the duties of the Garrison Sergeant Major. The dining out was held in the Regimental restaurant and was followed by entertainment in the mess, a very successful night. The new RSM WO1 RN Cameron was welcomed by the Mess.

Ranges this year were successful and enjoyable. It was good to see that we do get to fire on ranges with semi decent weather instead of fog, rain and cold weather. This year it was the turn of all the new commanders who had not yet fired, and by the end of the range period they were performing to a high standard.

We had the great pleasure of the visit of our Colonel in Chief, Her Majesty the



LCpl Smith.

Queen on 24 May. The occasion was a day to remember for many years to come. It was a beautiful day for the families and friends of the Regiment, to mix and talk with the Queen - the climax of the occasion was a photograph with the Queen held just at the back of Range 9.

The Regiment then deployed on another Operational tour to Kosovo, back to the Podujevo area and the good old TFA. A Sqn took their tanks this year, with B Sqn in a light role, and C Sqn at the Police Station in Podujevo Town. HQ Sqn were in the TFA carrying out their support role, the Pipe and Drums had a great success with the Big Blow in Pristina and B Sqn had their own Wee Blow up at Gazala lines with our Swedish counterparts that B Sqn had worked with during the tour.

The rest of the year has been taken up with some well deserved leave and the run up to Christmas. The Christmas draw was a successful night and went on into the small hours of the next morning. Looking forward now to next year will be another busy training year. However the Corporals' Mess know how to enjoy themselves and with the spare time, will use it to their best ability.



Cpl Cooper.

THE PIPES AND DRUMS

The Director of Army Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, Major Gavin Stoddart visited the Band in January for an inspection. We had been trying to have an inspection for nearly four years, but due to Regimental commitments it had not been possible. However, the wait was very much worthwhile. The Pipes and Drums started the year with a bang.

As part of the inspection the Band performed in Fallingbostal at the Kursaal (the local concert hall). It was a pre-Australia and New Zealand tour concert. All eyes were on Major Stoddart to see whether he was enjoying himself and would he enjoy the new sound. We played to a packed audience and it turned out to be a great success and the Band was given an outstanding report.

The Big Blow...



The Band's next engagement was in London at the BBC television studios for Blue Peter. Blue Peter's topic was Robert Burns and they asked the Band to perform. We will be remembered for our performance, hopefully, because of our playing, but also because the Blue Peter doors got stuck. We were struggling to enter on cue. We were pushing from behind and stagehands were pulling from in side. Terry Wogan had his say on his letters programme and the footage has been archived for "Aunties Bloomers". After receiving a well-earned Blue Peter badge it was on the bus and back to Germany to get ready for the trip down under.

The Band toured Australia and New Zealand in February. They performed every night for the whole month moving to new venues most days. The concert that we staged in January for Major Stoddart was a new way forward for the Band using a new concert format. We now had to put it all into practice. Band members became technicians, mixers, dubbbers and lighting engineers. During this tour however we had our own lighting and sound engineers who made the show run a lot smoother and easier. We were accompanied by an out of tune singer and a great looking violinist Jane Burgess. We also had the pleasure of meeting quite a few ex-members of the Greys, who we mentioned specially during the show. The tour was a great success.

We returned from down under to prepare ourselves for the production of the new album...watch this space. We had the great pleasure of having



....and wee blow.

Major Lambert's brother-in-law Mr Ant Clarke help us to produce our new sound and album. The album includes a lot of the tunes we performed on the tour. Band members composed some tunes and many of the boys have turned their hand to playing new instruments, all self-taught. We now have keyboards, electric guitars, penny whistles, Northumberland pipes, small pipes, and bodhran. The recording days were very long; we worked from 10 in the morning until 3 or 4 in the morning. We then went back to barracks to start all over again at 10 the next day. Funnily enough we all had great fun building the album in the studios. It was great to listen to our tunes growing and being made more professional by the mixing technology. Our thanks go to Ant for his wisdom and guidance as a true professional and a friend.

During the making of the album we took time out to perform at the Cavalry Memorial weekend. We started off by playing at Chelsea Hospital for the Colonel of the Regiment and the Chelsea Pensioners. We then met up with our old friends, the Dragoon Guards Band, and performed with them on the Saturday and Sunday.

In July the Band had a spot of leave before we made our annual journey back to Scotland for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We arrived a few days early so that we could attend the wedding of now Maj and Mrs Aidan Stephen. We had a great day and we surprised Major Stephen with the entire Band playing outside the church, a first for any SCOTS DG officer.

August was the usual Edinburgh Tattoo, which kept us very busy. Due to our tattoo commitments we were unable to compete this year. However we did manage to spend a day with Brigadier Allen in Perth. The weather was absolutely torrential so we ended up performing in a marquee in front of his headquarters.

After the tattoo we made the long journey to Epernay, in France to play for Pol Roger. This was in honour of the French resistance in World War Two. We then



A Royal inspection.

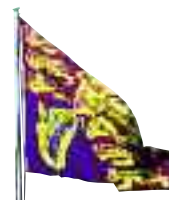
returned to Scotland the following day for the Regimental association bash at Bannockburn. After all the excitement of August it was now time for the Band to return to Germany and deploy to Kosovo. The Band spent a month in Kosovo and played at various venues. Due to the disaster on 11 September the Pipes and Drums made a special trip to Camp Bondsteel, a huge American base in Kosovo, where they performed at various concerts in honour of those who lost their lives in New York.

On the return from Kosovo the Band started to re-role and help form D Sqn. The Band is now heavily involved in the build up for the SCOTS DG Battle Group training year.

The year has been a great success from all angles and it is down to the hard work of all the members of the Pipes and Drums. Yet again, a big thank you goes out to the families for their support and we now look forward for a challenging new year.



Drumming looks so easy.



THE QUEEN'S VISIT

By Major Henry Cummins

On 24 May 2001 the Regiment in Fallingbostal was honoured by a visit from our Colonel-in-Chief. The last time Her Majesty had been with the Regiment was for the presentation of the new Standard at Holyrood and the reopening of the Regimental Museum in Edinburgh Castle in July 1995.

After much detailed planning, and numerous changes to the proposed programme for the visit due to the Foot and Mouth crisis and the revised timing of the General Election, the aircraft from the Royal Flight touched down at Hanover Airport at 11am prompt on a bright and sunny day. The Colonel of the Regiment had accompanied The Queen from RAF Northolt, and the Royal Party was met by Mrs Allfrey, ably assisted by Lieutenants Kerrigan and Trueman, the ADCs for the day.

The Ambassador's Bentley and a fleet of smart cars provided by the Royal Military Police, drove up the motorway, through heavy Ascension Day traffic, towards Hohne Ranges, the venue for the visit. The motorcade left the autobahn at Ostenholtz, and was met in the pretty Heide village by an escort provided by the shining Scimitars of Recce Troop. The convoy



HM The Queen arrives.

then made its way along the Range Road, and turned in to the area behind Range 9. On her arrival, The Colonel-in-Chief was greeted by the Commanding Officer, before receiving a Royal Salute from a Guard of honour provided by B Squadron, commanded by Major Lambert. The Queen then inspected the Guard and the Pipes and Drums.



B Squadron Guard of Honour.

Marshaled by Major Hugh Pierson, the Services Liaison Officer, local dignitaries from Stadt Fallingbostal and Bezirk Osterheide and the Ranges Kommandantur were presented to Her Majesty, who then signed the District's Golden Book. After talking with Brigadier and Mrs Binns, Major Wheeler and Regimental Sergeant Major Brooks, the Queen was guided to a covert Observation Post manned by Recce Troop. The cleverly concealed soldiers had overwatched the arrival of the Colonel-in-Chief, and showed her the results of their digital photography, and their ability to process and send images via laptop computer and mobile telephone.



Meeting local dignitaries.

The Royal Party was then picked up by a Kosovo-style foot patrol from C Squadron, led by Lieutenant Le Sueur and Sergeant Campbell. Amongst its members were Cpl and Mrs Beevor, the former dressed as a United Nations policeman, and the latter speaking her native Croatian as the patrol's interpreter. The patrol escorted Her Majesty to a vehicle checkpoint also manned by C Squadron, commanded by Lieutenant Jameson and Corporal Lamb. A passing vehicle was stopped and searched, and the threatening occupants, Sergeant Thompson and Corporal Miles, were found to be in possession of illegal weapons. Amid some blue Balkan language, they were swiftly arrested and bundled into the back of a waiting Landrover.



Signing The Golden Books.



The Colonel in Chief inspects the Pipes and Drums.



On Patrol with Lt Jameson and C Sqn.

The Royal Party then moved by car to a wooded glade where some of the soldiers of A Squadron were concealed with three Challenger 2 tanks. The Queen was guided around the Troop Hide, and met many of the crewmen who were engaged in the routine tasks of cooking, washing and cleaning weapons. Members of A Squadron's Fitter Section were also carrying out routine maintenance under the camouflage nets. The Queen then moved back to the Range Road where the dramatic tableau of a hard cordon and search operation unfolded to Major Alers-Hankey's commentary. Two Army Air Corps Lynx helicopters approached a German barn at treetop height, and dropped 10 men



House search with A Sqn and Maj Alers-Hankey.



Tpr Harnetty escorts Her Majesty.



The Regimental picnic.



Leaving the Photograph.



Wait for it...



Meeting the Mckelvies.



Second to none.



Tprs Kelly and Devine meet Her Majesty.



Georgina Mcritchie presents the B Sqn flowers.



Definitely amused!



Presentation by the youngest trooper, Tpr Alexander.

under the command of Lieutenant McLeman and Sergeant Bell. The soldiers dashed through the trees to secure the perimeter of the barn as tanks from A Squadron roared up to complete the cordon. As the Queen approached the barn, Landrovers carrying the search team arrived. Accompanied by the Arms and Explosives search dog, an entertaining black Labrador, the soldiers displayed their skills and evidence collection and preservation techniques.

As the operation drew to its close, the Royal Party moved down a wooded track, accompanied by a Slivovo-style mounted patrol with Troopers Macintyre and Harnetty under command of Lieutenant Lucas. After two or three hundred yards they arrived at the site of the regimental picnic. Masterminded by the Quartermaster, a small field had been manicured by Headquarters Squadron, and on it waited the Regimental Family. The Queen lunched with representatives of all ranks and their families, drawn from all squadrons. The Master Chef and his team provided a delicious lunch for all, whether with the Queen, or in each squadron tent.

After lunch, the Queen joined the Regiment for a photograph to mark the occasion, before meeting the soldiers and families at every squadron tent. At each, a young child welcomed the Colonel-in-Chief to the squadron with a bouquet of flowers in squadron colours. Many treasured memories of the visit resulted from the time The Queen spent in the heart of the Regiment. As the visit drew to a close, Trooper Alexander, less than a week out of recruit training, presented Her Majesty with a Regimental pipe banner to mark her visit. Accompanied by three cheers, and again escorted by the Scimitars of Recce Troop, the Colonel-in-Chief departed on the return journey to London.



Farewell.

PRESENTATION OF NEW DRUMHORSE BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

The Colonel-in-Chief formally presented the Regiment with a new Drum Horse in Hyde Park on Thursday 10 May 2001. The Colonel of the Regiment, Commanding Officer, Adjutant and Regimental Sergeant Major were on parade with the Mascot Master, Lance Corporal Ross and of course, Talavera. The presentation was to have been made at the Royal Windsor Show, but due to the foot and mouth outbreak, a smaller, although more personal, presentation was made in Hyde Park. Lance Corporal Ross had spent six months at Hyde Park Barracks, under the watchful eye of Corporal of Horse Wheller, putting Talavera through her paces.

Talavera is a 7 year old black mare; standing over 17 hands high and has proved a spirited handful for Lance Corporal Ross. Both will remain at Hyde Park Barracks until Talavera's training is complete.



Her Majesty is reacquainted with Talavera.



The RSM and The Queen discussing extras.



The Colonel in Chief and Colonel of the Regiment.

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards OPERATION AGRICOLA 6



Junior Commanders Cadre for Scots DG and TMK - the Kosovo force responsible for disaster relief and civil affairs.





LCpl Khoo and the RSM.



Security Patrol keeps an eye on the locals.



The World's largest washing-line.



CGS... "when I was a CO!"



The Anthill Mob.



"And another thing..."

"Yes Sir, all genuine CDs - including Highland Cathedral."



LCpl Miller GH, Tpr Hegarty and Tpr Jackson on the boundary Op REGAIN.





Kosovo taxi rank.



"Won't buy a horse..." Tpr Jackson.



Mitrovica Bridge.



Scots DG fan club.



Serb graffiti.





Cyclops 2RTR, an integral part of the Battle Group.



A Squadron Tank.



The Sign says "please put your rubbish in the bin"!

	<p align="center">FROM ALL AT MNB(C) G2 TO THE ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS (CARABINIERS AND GREYS)</p>	
<p><u>K-Shik PODUJEVO – K-Shik expect respite after roulement of BG2</u></p> <p>The Contact, who is usually reliable (B), has provided the following unevaluated (6) information. DOI: 19 OCT 01. KFOR PIR 3 dated 10 Nov 00. HQ MNB(C) G2 PIR 3.1 and 3.1b dated 07 Jul 01.</p> <p>1. K-Shik members in PODUEJEVO are pleased that the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (BG2) are leaving. K-Shik expects that their members and other criminal elements in the area will have some respite during the changeover in the coming weeks. K-Shik members hope the new BG will not be as pro-active and conduct house searches in the area as frequently as their predecessors.</p>		
<p align="center">FOR 'HOGGING THE AGONY' AND GIVING THEM A HARD TIME. MANY THANKS</p>		

K-Shik's comment is based on fact.

OUT & ABOUT



Anyone can fly one of these.



The Grim Reaper.

Below: Colonel of the Regiment and Capt Williams on Founders Day at The Royal Hospital.



Lt Col Bullen and Brig Deverell outside the British Embassy in Muscat before ex SAIF SAREEA.



Take a Chill pill.



Thr Adjutant waiting for a flight out of Pristina.



Balava Lak



Riot training... hotting up.



LCpl Kyle and Cpl Morris.



The Wee Blow.



Faun and bubbles for Mr Walters.



B Sqn Leader, five seconds notice to move.



LCpls Hopkins and Raey.



Mr Fovlerton takes a short cut.



Sea of Grey.



Tug O War in Pristina.



W02 Ewing on patrol.



My you're strong - ASM.



Sgts Birrs and Smith.



Ollie Lambert: expalins how to make a B Sqn baseball cap fit.



Highland Games Team in Kosovo.

REGIMENTAL SPORT



Army Champions.

Last year the ski season started earlier than ever before. Our aim was to improve on the spectacular results achieved in 2001; the Alpine ski team left camp on the 16th November. The squad of 18 officers and soldiers consisted of four of last year's team and fourteen hopefuls. The intent was to take as many beginners as possible; the first couple of weeks were going to be an introduction to the slopes where we would be able to 'talent spot' any potential racers. Under the careful supervision of Captain Matheson, Corporal Thomson or Lance Corporal MacFarlane the raw novices were released onto the icy slopes and the unsuspecting public.

The beginners were an eclectic bunch, full of enthusiasm and occasionally fear, they certainly made an impression on the locals. The nursery slopes had never seen a strapping, six foot Fijian singing merrily to himself as he hurtled inevitably towards yet another fall. It was difficult to explain to Trooper Batiuluna that there were other ways of stopping; he seemed content with his own particular style. He made an impression on the ski team and the village of Alpbach that will last much longer than his short stay. Of the

On reflection we should have known it was a dangerous idea to strap Lance Corporals 'Gordy' Brown and John Rigby onto planks and push them off the top of mountains, how we ever got insurance is beyond me! The mixture of complete disregard for their own safety and a willingness to continually get back on their feet after monumental falls highlighted their real potential. Lance Corporal 'Malky' Hendry returned after a year's absence and from early on it was clear he would compete for a place in the top flight.



Tpr Hope faces the inevitable.



LCpl MacFarlane in the Giant Slalom.

eight newcomers who came with us many showed potential, in particular LCpl Rigby who will certainly return next year and Trooper Hope who made it into the squad and went on to race as a novice at the divisional championships.

As Gerhard Margreiter's sixth year of training the team began, he was looking to go one better than last year and take 'The Scottish Team', as we are known in Alpbach, on to become Army Champions. In stark contrast to last year the snow conditions were perfect and intensive Slalom and Giant Slalom training was possible from the beginning of December. Staff Sergeant Ross Anderson adjusted very quickly to the new carving skis and style but was consistently badgered to keep his legs apart, advice he then was heard giving to a crowd of Dutch girls later in the Jakober.

As the team has become more successful, our levels of professionalism have inevitably risen. While Gerhard ensures that we are kept up to date with all the changes in ski technology and specialised racing techniques, all we have to do is attempt to keep up. A generous Sports Equipment Grant enabled us to update some of our older equipment and will help us stay competitive with the rather better financed Corps teams.

A ski season would not be complete without a drama or two along the way. Our first problem occurred on Christmas Day. The whole team had gone up the mountain to terrorise the slopes dressed in kilts. While most headed straight for the snow bar, Lieutenant Will Leek and Capt Matheson decided to risk getting powder snow up their kilts and ski for a while before joining the party. A horrific crash then resulted in Lt Leek being airlifted from the mountain having shattered his eye socket! We can only hope that next year it will be third time lucky and he will avoid major injury and complete a full training period.

Incredibly after a week in Innsbruck hospital and a second week convalescing in the bars of Alpbach he was straight back into training.

Competition was now getting very tight for the place in the team. Unfortunately Trooper Beveridge was ruled out of contention after a New Years fire work exploded on his leg. Sadly the squad also had to say goodbye to Lieutenant Rick Le Sueur who had showed considerable promise and should return next year with a view towards leading the team in the future. His classic running commentary to each of his numerous falls was to be greatly missed.

For the first time we entered two teams into the Divisional Championships. The first team consisted of Capt Matheson, SSgt Anderson, Cpl Thomson and LCpl MacFarlane. While Lt Leek, LCpls Hendry and Brown and Tpr Hope made up the second team. The Championships were to give us a taste of things to come and some valuable race practice. LCpl Brown and Tpr Hope skied extremely well on their first outing but sadly did not qualify for the Army Championships. The race experience they gained will stand them in excellent stead next year. The team left Les Contamines in buoyant mood as Divisional Champions having won three of the four team races. Already our sponsored (and vandyked) Mitsubishi Shogun Sport was becoming a well stocked trophy cabinet that turned heads where ever we went. The French were particularly interested in the Eagles emblazoned on each door!

With six skiers qualified for the Army Championships the team moved to Serre Chevalier as one of the favourites. It is here that the qualifiers from three Divisional Championships come and compete to be Army Champions. The atmosphere is much more relaxed but the courses a great deal more challenging and the competition considerably stiffer. As the teams arrive it is with great pleasure that the new team members are shown the daunting finish of the Downhill. Racers must negotiate the sheer Piste Luc Alphand at speeds of up to 130 kph and then stop in the tiny finish area to avoid taking a headlong plunge into the café at the bottom.

The Divisional Championships successes would mean nothing if we could not repeat the performance now.



Cpl Thomson in the Slalom.

Rising to the challenge the team were about to go one better. The first race was frighteningly close. Lying third after the first run of the team giant slalom we managed to overturn a 1.5 second deficit to snatch victory by a tiny margin. With five skiers regularly now in the top 20 some excellent team skiing gave us comfortable margins of victory in the next two races. The once invincible 1 GS Regiment RLC were beginning to look rather crestfallen. Only the slalom now stood between the team and a historic clean sweep. Holding our nerve we completed the first Grand Slam achieved at the Army Championships in living memory. The victory was made still sweeter by the fact that Brigadier Simon Allen handed us our prizes in his role as chairman of the Army Ski Championships.

Following a mistake in the slalom, Capt Matheson was narrowly beaten to the Army individual title. A second year in the Army team put the familiar grin back on his face, to be joined by the even dafter grin of LCpl MacFarlane who was selected as a slalom specialist. For the first time in the Regiments history we

were not only Army Champions but also had two representatives in the Army Team. The whole team had flourished under the pressure of the big races. SSgt Anderson, Cpl Thomson and Lt Leek had a number of memorable duels; racing with and against each other to consistently produce finishes in the top fifteen. In his first year of racing LCpl Hendry finished 49th overall in the Army, spookily the same position that LCpl MacFarlane and Lt Leek had achieved the previous two years (no pressure LCpl Rigby!)

The remarkable successes that the Regiment has enjoyed over the last couple of years cannot be underestimated. For a small regiment to compete in any sport at the highest Army level takes considerable amounts of dedication. The sacrifices made by the individuals as well as the Regiment are well known to those involved. The secret of our success lies in the continuity of personnel, training and the development of 'home grown' talent. The popularity of skiing must make it one of the most competitive of Army sports. The whole Regiment is rightly proud to be Army Champions and to have two people in the Army team.

NORDIC SKIING AND BIATHLON

Following the experiences of past Nordic Skiing teams, this year's incumbents headed for the Arctic Circle and its guaranteed snow. In mid-November, the first of two Land Rovers made the three-day journey from Fallingbostal to Sodankylä and the home of the Finnish Jääkäriprikaati or Jaeger Arctic Warfare Brigade in the north of Finland. With breathtakingly low temperatures, five novices (Captain Williamson, Second Lieutenant Campbell-Davys, Lance Corporal Weeks and Troopers Reynolds and Stevenson) emerged from our rather Spartan accommodation on a dark Sunday morning and took first tentative steps on skis.

Thankfully, the following morning we received our first lesson from a Finnish instructor. He shimmered over clad entirely in lurid Lycra, peered confusedly at the selection of tracksuit trousers and sweatshirts confronting him, and suggested that we might like to don our 'skiing clothing'. We peered back, equally confusedly, and informed him that the aforementioned tracksuit trousers and sweatshirts was our 'skiing clothing' and a happy understanding was soon reached. The following fortnight involved skiing hundreds of kilo-

metres along idyllic Finnish forest tracks contending with such problems as herds of reindeer, bitter cold, fast hills and corners and malnutrition brought on by an instant aversion to Finnish arctic rations. By now Sergeant Birss, Lance Corporal Chart and Trooper Kelly had joined us, and we were generally conversant with the basic techniques.

At the end of our stay in Sodankylä, we were invited to dinner with the Brigade staff, which took place in the 'official entertaining sauna'. We arrived and were served the Jääkäriprikaati drink. This is made from soda water, vodka, mint and tar and looks, smells and tastes like Listermint (in fact it may even have been Listermint) but certainly packs a powerful punch. This was accompanied by local beer and we stripped off and weaved into the 'official entertaining sauna'. By now the Finnish Chief of Staff was warming to his theme and insisted in leading us in a naked roll in the snow. The natural British reticence when confronted by inebriated, naked senior Finnish officers proposing naked rolls in the snow was quickly overcome and we all trooped outside (in temperatures of around minus twenty degrees) and thrashed around in deep snow. I,

for one, have never felt cold like it in all my life. In fact I distinctly remember the sensation of my feet freezing to the doormat as we stumbled outside.

The next fortnight we spent as guests of the Lapland Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment in Rovaniemi, some two hours south of Sodankylä. The skiing here was more demanding but our proximity to a major town allowed those with sufficient energy to seek nightlife. More cold weather lunacy saw Captain Williamson, Sergeant Birss and Lance Corporal Chart, under the guidance of one of the Finnish officers and his wife, try what is surely the ultimate hangover cure. On a particularly cold Sunday morning, we made our way to a frozen lake – the ice measured just shy of a metre thick – and a ramshackle 100-year-old house, one of very few which had survived the attentions of Hitler's retreating Mountain Army in 1944. We then stripped down to the bare essentials and trudged apprehensively down to a hole in the ice, approximately 15 feet in diameter. The first sight that greeted us was that of a young man fishing out fairly impressive chunks of ice, whilst pointing out the pump which keeps the surface bubbling in order to prevent it freezing over again. None of this was particularly encouraging.

The sensory overload as we entered the water, is something I will forever be at a loss to describe. I lost the feeling in my hands, feet and other extremities almost immediately, and it was several seconds before I could garner enough breath to swear loudly. We lasted less than a minute before clawing our way, like newborn lambs, onto dry land. Ice swimming in the Arctic Circle is certainly one for the book of Never To Be Repeated Life Experiences.

Following a short break for Christmas, the squad headed for Hochfilzen and the Royal Armoured Corps Nordic Skiing Championships. The competition track is that used for the Biathlon World Cup and is something of an 'eye-opener' with hills which would not look out of place in the Himalayas. Here we were joined by the Dudman brothers who added more experience to our squad, and we took part in a variety of biathlon, classic and skating races.

Relatively disappointing race results were outweighed by valuable competition experience, and the team then headed to Les Contamines – in the shadow of Mont Blanc – to the 1 (UK) Armoured Division Skiing Championships. Here we met our downhill brethren, and prepared for a busy week. Again we competed in a variety of races – although a lack of snow meant that tracks had to be 'built' – and team and individual results improved consistently towards the culmination of the competition.



"Cpls Dudman and Dudman with Jackson"

The final race is a particularly gruesome classic-style 20-kilometre event, which rejoices in the name of Military Patrol Race. This involves carrying rifles and bergens and completing command tasks and range details, before a final weigh-in to ensure no skulduggery. The SCOTS DG team completed the race approximately half an hour slower than the victors but over three hours quicker than the slowest team, and were delighted to win the Patrol Race Fastest Novice Team Prize. This, although insignificant alongside the achievements of the Alpine team, was a welcome result for the Nordic team, and the reciprocal uproarious support at the evening prize giving was gratifying and much appreciated.

The experience of the 2001/02 season was extraordinary. An enormously varied event from start to finish, it was never dull and was usually remarkable. Continuity in Nordic Skiing is key, and it bodes well that everyone who took part this season has already agreed to repeat the experience this forthcoming season. Hopefully we can attract more new recruits, for a similar venture this year, and challenge for greater honours in the relevant competitions.

CRESTA RUN

The 2002 Army Cresta Run was a resounding success for the Regiment, although it did not start well, when Lt Foulerton broke a rib on his first ride of the season. The team showed a diverse cross section of the Regiment, from Lt Col Edwards, back on the run for the first time in ten years, through to newcomers such as Lt Walters and Tpr Hegarty.

The first race of the season was the Inter-Regimental Pairs Race for the 17th/21st Lancers Cup. Six people rode for the Regiment on the day, in a field of six Regiments and 32 riders.

Capt Clayton and Lt Col Edwards, who rode extremely well on a traditional toboggan after such a long absence, delivered the Regiment into 2nd place, behind a very strong Irish Guards team. Running alongside was the Novice Open and the Junction Handicap where Tpr Hegarty produced an incredible performance, coming 2nd in the Handicap and 3rd in the Novice Open. Lt Walters also came 6th in the Open and 8th in the Handicap. Lt Foulerton decided to have his first major fall on the run, the day before the Inter – Regimentals, resulting in him being unable to ride! Capt Clayton, riding a new flat-top took second place in the Army Top riders race for the Scots Guards Cup.

It was now time to prepare for the Inter – Services race on 31 January. Both Capt Clayton and Lt Foulerton



Capt Ambrose doing a 'Shipton Stoker' around Shuttlecock.

were selected for the Army Team. On paper the Army had the upper hand, but this was destroyed when the Army Captain, Maj Kettler and Capt Clayton crashed on the first course along with two Navy riders and one Royal Air Force rider. A fall for any team would spell the end of the race with no result. After a nail biting climax, the Army won, taking the Prince Philip Inter - Services Cup for the second year running by a 20 second margin. Lt Foulerton also came 7th in the Lord Trenchard Open Individual race.

With such a strong team the Regiment has the ability to win back the Inter-Regimental Cup and possibly add a third man to the Army team next year.



Tpr Loftus coming out of Shuttlecock.



Team photo. Left to Right standing Lt de Silva, Cpl Weir, Lt Burnet, Cpl Silburn, Cpl Gibbs, LCpl Khoo, Cpl Cramp. Kneeling Cpl Beever and LCpl Barlow.

This year saw the beginning of a new regimental winter sport in the form of snowboarding. I am serious - it has happened - we have formed a snowboarding team! The team comprised of Lieutenant Burnet, Lieutenant de Silva, Corporals Cramp, Gibbs, Weir, Beever, Silburn, Lance Corporals Barlow and Khoo. Fortunately, there was some experience in the team, as four of them had actually snow boarded before.

Sadly, owing to a lack of funds, the team did not manage to make it to the Army Championships in Austria, and so instead set off to Alpbach determined to make the most of five days snow boarding in order to set a bench mark for next season. Using Corporal Silburn as our main instructor, and with a try hard approach, we ven-



Cpls Silburn and Beever taking in the sun.

tured up the slopes to master our boards and attempt to remain balanced. This was not to happen for at least two days.

During the first two days, the team was no doubt the bane of most skiers and holidaymakers on the slopes, as the need for speed outweighed the ability of most to maintain control. Pain was a characteristic of this novel approach, but it soon paid off as by the third day, the majority of the team had mastered both turning and, more importantly, stopping, without causing harm to others.

Corporal Silburn led the team on the hardest slopes, teaching technique. Whilst Lance Corporals Barlow and Khoo flew down the slopes past us all, Corporals Cramp and Gibbs more or less kept up with the officers leading from way behind!

By the end of the week, had we gone to the Championships I am sure the team would have surpassed itself admirably. Although this package was short, it was certainly tremendous fun and a challenge for those introduced to the sport. The team should carry forth this small success and compete in the Army Championships next season.



Cpl Cramp, only just maintaining balance.

THE DAVE COLE MEMORIAL CHASE or THE RSM's FUN RUN

It was a chilly, but dry winter's afternoon on 25 November 2001. The Regiment formed up dressed in combat kit in a corner of the sports field and listened intently as RSM Cameron explained the route and the aims of his Fun Run with a difference. The scenario was that their tank or vehicle had been knocked out, they had dismounted and were to return friendly lines. Squadrons and departments were detailed to produce teams of four, as close to their tank or vehicle crew as was physically possible. No 'loaded' teams were allowed.

All crews were inspected by the RSM. Various things were checked as per the kit list, including a General Purpose Machine Gun, emergency kit including sleeping bag, bivvy bag, plus extra water in addition to that carried in the water bottles.

All clothing had to be clean and serviceable with nametags, desert rats and union flags on jackets. Time penalties were incurred for any unserviceable or deficient equipment.

On the whole the inspection went very well with only a few penalties given. Crews were set off at one minute intervals. Three hundred metres into the course, the teams encountered their first obstacle. It didn't involve swimming, however there was enough smelly stagnant water to get you wet well above the knees. At various locations on the five mile undulating cross country course the crews had to clamber over a large pile of logs (which the local Germans decided to dismantle as the race progressed), scramble under a camnet, and do thirty good BFPA press-ups and thirty sit-ups.

There are not many hills in the Fallingbostal area, but they were located for the race. One of the aims was to promote teamwork and crews had to stay together last man to count, so lots of encouragement was required to get the slower team members around the course. Fifty seven teams were involved and every single team completed the race.

All the crews gave their best, some faster than others, after all it was the "Dave Cole Memorial Chase". living up to the memory of LCpl Cole who sadly died recently. He had been buried two days prior to the competition. At the prize giving the top three teams were as follows:

1st A LAD 12	SSgt Higgs	1 hr 13 min 25 sec
2nd HQ 11	Cpl O'Connor	1 hr 16 min 35 sec
3rd C5	Lt McLeman	1 hr 17 min 07 sec

There were some other notable performances such as the SQMS and SQMS(T) of A Sqn, Kev MacDowall and Brad not renowned for their speed, but who came a creditable eighth position overall. The results and the race were the main topic of conversation at mess and NAAFI breaks for days afterwards.

The Colonel also managed to persuade the visiting PT Opeval team that it should count as a Combat Fitness Test, so in one swoop 75% of the regiment did a CFT and passed. I did lie about the length of the course, it was in fact 7.3 miles await until next year's course. I am sure the lads will enjoy it just as much, remembering Dave Cole.

Janet?Eagleton MBE?&
Son



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The Winners Cavalry Cup BA(G) SCOTS DG.

The article this year combines two seasons in one. Season 1999-2000 was a frustrating one as exercises and deployments took their toll. Despite this, the training continued under the watchful eye of WO2 "Zoot" Du Tracy and our performances in the Premier League East were promising, with the team holding its own with the best in the league. The games against 1 RHF were like "Old Firm" encounters - plenty of raw meat with no quarter given affairs - which we, "The Posh Jocks", normally won.

SCOTS DG did not enter the Cavalry Cup 99-00 as we had deployed to the Balkans in early February 2000. Whilst the Regiment were in Kosovo, a rear party team won the 7 Bde Garrison minor units football competition. At this point, I must mention the departure of the coach WO2 Guy Du Tracy whose 22 years colour service came to an end. It has to be said Zoot's expertise in football coaching reaped rewards galore for the members of the squad, especially the younger lads - and even the old sweats were taught a thing or two. We all became familiar with the "passing check list" and the "start again" phrases which were commonly used on the field of play. Everyone connected with the team sends a "Big Thanks Zoot". A new management dream team emerged for Season 00-01 - well SSgt Denzil McKelvie had hung up his boots, so it was a start. A lot of new blood came into the squad, but we did lose a fair bit of experience to postings.

On our return from Kosovo, the league campaign began in October and again good performances helped to keep us in the top five of the league. The league performance of the season took place in

October against the 9/12th Lancers - a bogey team. The team went to Hohne with 13 Men, were drawing 0-0 at halftime, but the final result was beyond belief - 6-1! The 9/12th Lancers were in a state of shock.

December saw the departure of the Football Officer Major Billy Raitt, affectionately known as "Jonah," because the team was normally gubbed when he was watching. He presented the "Jonah Cup" to the Regiment as the Inter Squadron Football trophy. A big thank you for all the behind the scenes wheeling and dealing and the help he gave the team. Capt Joe "Moustachio Man" succeeded him as the football officer. The Cavalry Cup campaign saw us take on our big rivals the 9/12th Lancers at home, which after going a goal down, we were worthy 3-1 winners. Due to other regiments commitments our next game turned out to be the BA (G) Final against QRH at the stadium in Sennelager.

It was for this match that we decided to take advantage of a loop hole in the rules that allows players who are posted to come back and play for the Regiment. WO2 Mark Beveridge and Cpl Jake Bailey from the D&M School, Sgt Alan Hainey from Army Careers in Greenock and Cpl Jnr Beveridge from AFC Harrogate all returned to help out.

Their experience certainly helped in a tough encounter which we won 2-0. The trip to London was on. That day saw the song "RSM's disco pants are the best" become the team's Number One song on the bus home. And so to London. Seventy-five percent of the squad had never experienced the Cav Cup in London.

We were based in RAF Uxbridge, an excellent venue for both training and "cultural trips."

The 86th Cav Cup Final was played against the Light Dragoons. Burton Court was in its usual bumpy, extremely hard condition. The LD started off brilliantly matching us tackle for tackle and found themselves 2-0 up inside 25 minutes. SCOTS DG rolled up their sleeves and got back into the game just before half time through Cpl Larry Lamb. We were up for it and were running the show and our pressure paid off when early in the second half Tpr Scougs Scougall equalised with a 20-yard low diagonal strike. The LD's were hanging on when SCOTS DG man of the match WO2 Andy Mackie had a goal disallowed. Both teams were then down to 10 men after a couple of double yellow card offences took their toll. Extra time loomed and two very tired teams kept going at each other. Someone had to win and as penalty kicks seemed inevitable the LD's got a corner and a deflected shot saw them go 3-2 ahead. This was a cruel blow from which there was no time to recover. The team held their heads high as they had done themselves proud.

WO1(RSM) Cameron realised an ambition by playing in a Cav Cup Final as RSM. (Has this been done before?) The camaraderie in the squad has been first class, lots of good banter and a lot of hard work by all members.

We now have a flood lit full size Astro turf complex in Fallingbostel allowing the squad to train at nights.



The second goal has just gone in. Cavalry Cup BA(G) v's QRH Sennelager.

Squad 00-01

Manager SSgt McKelvie

Team

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| WO1 (RSM) R Cameron | LCpl J McNally |
| WO2 (SSM) A Mackie | LCpl B McShane |
| WO2 M Beveridge | LCpl J Rigby |
| Sgt A Hainey | LCpl P White |
| Sgt T Boyd | Tpr S Scougall |
| Cpl P Beveridge | Tpr W Wilso |
| Cpl I Lamb | Tpr J Stevenson |
| Cpl J Baillie | Tpr T Hamilton |
| Cpl D Thomson | Cpl C Holmes |
| Cpl I Skilling | |



The midfield hound the QRH. RSM, Cpl P Beveridge, Cpl J Baillie and LCpl J Rigby.

HOCKEY

On 4 April 2001 SCOTS DG hosted the 7 Armoured Brigade hockey tournament, which promised to be an exciting day. With ten teams entered and various refreshment tents the scene was well set.

The two leagues of five teams each seemed to be pretty evenly balanced and the matches provided some entertaining hockey as well as a few cuts and bruises. As each match was only seven minutes each way the pace was fast and furious. Initially there was a shortage of goals, however this was soon put right when 32 Engineer Regiment managed to score six goals in seven minutes and guaranteed themselves a place in the semi finals. SCOTS DG showed themselves to be immaculate hosts as the A and B teams managed to knock each other out of the tournament!

In the other league, 2 Bn REME were clear leaders by completing a clean sweep and were the only team to collect maximum points at this stage.

As the semi-finals started the sun disappeared and the rain came. Both matches were hard fought and the Engineers just managed to pip the 9/12th Lancers for a place in the final, and 207 Signals Squadron narrowly beat 2 Bn REME in another close game.

The final was another hard and fast game with neither side willing to give an inch, however in the end it was 207 Signals Squadron who came out as the victors by beating 32 Engineers 1 – 0.

RUGBY

The 2000/01 season was a short one for the Regimental team, one of many highs and lows. The team managed to play three games, all at home during the season. The XV displayed some exciting play as well as an unusually strong team with depth, formidably run by WO2 Sledge) McLellan (who managed to play in all three games.

The three games played were against 32 Engineers, 16 Tank Transporter Squadron and 2RTR. Of the three matches the 2RTR one would clearly be the hardest. The team bonded quickly to produce some promising rugby after several training sessions and a committed squad. The hard work and limited training sessions were truly



Tiffany Window.

As the prize giving took place amid the gathering gloom and pouring rain, it became apparent that everybody who had taken part had enjoyed what had been a well organised day, complete with a well stocked refreshment tent. It shows that sport is still strong in 7 Armoured Brigade.

Within the Regiment hockey continues to have a good following and a number of tournaments are entered each year. This year has been affected by OP AGRICOLA 6, however with the arrival of SSgt Window and a lot of talent bubbling to the surface, the scene is set for a successful 2001 – 2002 season, and in particular some summer hockey after the Battlegroup's visit to Canada.

tested in the first match against the Engineers who had a very strong pack and even a couple of Corps players. We soon realised that our true strength was in the backs and back row of the pack, with Lt Bishop and Troopers Brown and Batiuluna as the back row. The formidable three managed to get around the pack and harass the ball, thus setting up some beautiful running rugby for the back line to capitalise upon. The partnership of Captain Davies and Lt Burnet proved costly for the Engineers who lost 37 - 22. The next match of this limited season saw the team play 16 Tanks, admittedly a smaller side but strong in their back line. After the result against the Engineers, hopes were high of another success. The team Captained by Trooper Robinson proved itself again. This time the combination of a flex-

ible, fast back row and pace in the back line again proved too much. The sight of Trooper Batiuluna bouncing back tackles and setting the ball up was a pleasant one, to say the least, for fellow team members. Trooper Robinson with the aid of Trooper Brown and Trooper MacFarlane well and truly sealed the win with a final try, putting the team well and truly clear of the opposition. The final score was 72 – 13, which was a formidable try count and final score line for a second match of the season. The final game of the season saw a weaker side play 2RTR in the Army Cup match. With commitments elsewhere and many team members on course it meant that the team did not hold the depth of previous games. The final score was a disappointing 56-0 to 2RTR. Having said this, the team should be congratulated on their continuing spirit to fight and hassle for the ball. The score itself does not truly tell the tale of the match.

The season ended with the British Army (Germany) Seven-a-side Tournament in Paderborn. With some admittedly last minute preparation, the team was initially captained by Lt Burnet and faced a tricky draw. Captaincy after the first match was handed over to Lt Bishop as Lt Burnet was injured in the opening game.

POLO

To play polo with the majority of the summer being spent in Kosovo and only three ponies was always going to be a challenge. Added to that there was very little experience of polo in Germany in the few players we had. However, these minor hurdles were never going to stop us having what little fun we could salvage from the season and a small thing like an operational tour was not going to get in the way of SCOTS DG polo and the Pol Roger team, the 'Crashing Boars'.

We started the season with an introductory course, organised by Maj Rupert Alers-Hankey, the polo officer, for the newcomers to the game. Lts Harry Jameson, Nick Foulerton and Ali Gemmell were all quick to pick up the gauntlet. Unfortunately Harry was sidelined with a damaged back, so the team shaped itself around Capts Bruce Ridge, Alex Matheson and Messers Foulerton and Gemmell

The three stalwart ponies (Duke, Gaille Brown and Java) were soon kicked into shape, but the pressures of operational training, meant the onus was falling on the wrong side of 0700 to exercise ponies. However, by the first tournament of the season, (our own), the ponies were looking in good shape and the team was as

The squad was now reduced to nine and had three more games to play before it could qualify. The electric pace of Lt Le Sueur and Trooper Brown in the back line and the combination of Troopers Batiuluna and Degie saw the team qualify for the quarterfinals of the main cup. With some fantastic spirit and excellent sevens rugby Troopers Brown (HQ Sqn), Batiuluna, Degei, Brown (B Sqn), Trooper Starky, Jeffries and Lt Bishop and Lt Le Sueur saw themselves through to the semi final of the main competition. The final hurdle to the final was to be the Royal Regiment of Wales. Their superior play and depth unfortunately knocked the team out. However, to have reached the semi-final of the BA (G) 7s tournament was a testament to the Regiment and the team.

Finally it should be said that with this character and depth in the team, when all are available, the Regiment's future in rugby can only get stronger. A special thanks should be said to WO2 McLellan for his persistence in training and managing the team. With training continued in Kosovo whilst on Op Agricola 6, the 2001/02 season should prove to be promising.



Lt Foulerton and Duke disagree as Guy Simpson canters past.

ready as we were ever likely to be. With huge amounts of help from the rest of the mess the pitch at 'Deadman's' Field was transformed and looking fit for our opening match.



The Crashing Boars.

We had drafted in the help and experience of Lt Lance Weaver QRH (the only remaining player in his regiment that season) to add extra pony power and much needed experience to the team. Much credit must go to Lance for his patience and teamwork in guiding us through the season, if not for his own timekeeping. 'Last Minute Lance' was the cause of several heart stopping moments and the re-appearance of Rupert Alers-Hankey on the polo field was only averted by a wine-stained black tie clad Lance on more than one occasion.

Two tournaments were fitted into the season, before the call to the Balkans beckoned, our own and the 9/12th



Capt Ridge and Gailic, ridden off by Hugh Peirson.

Lancers. The German teams we came up against in both tournaments were a cut above our own and we were given several lessons in polo humility. However, the battles against the 9/12th Lancers became legendary, with us just losing out on both occasions. The foundations have been laid, never the less, and the team learnt a great deal from a foreshortened season. Lt Ali Gemmell disappeared off to Argentina over the winter and should now be the backbone of the team. Regimental ponies have now been supplemented by new privately owned ponies, a new pitch has been created on the old cricket pitches so and the future of the 'Crashing Boars' is set for the next few years.

RACING

Racing within the Regiment has continued with great enthusiasm on both sides of the Channel this year. Our gladiators have included three serving officers Majors Felix Wheeler, Charlie Lambert, Capt Bruce Ridge and one retired officer Captain Bas Nichol. The 2001 Season, though greatly restricted by the Foot and Mouth Crisis, provided its customary thrills and spills.

Charlie Lambert was active on ALLTIME DANCER, a reject from a high profile Lambourn yard who had good form over hurdles. Moddie, Charlie's wife, had nursed the horse back to health from a pretty appalling state. Clearly, the horse appreciated Moddie's attentions and quickly established himself within the Wessex Area. He jumped immaculately at the Army Point-to-Point, finishing 6th and then followed up at the United Services meeting with a promising 3rd place. He then ran a brilliant race in

the Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown, disputing the lead for 2 miles. A mistake at the Railway fences on the last circuit caused the saddle to slip and it was only Charlie's masterful horsemanship that kept the partnership together. They eventually finished a gallant 6th. A brave run in a hunterchase at Huntingdon produced 4th place prizemoney. The horse was then placed in training with a public trainer, Dr Jeremy Naylor, and with the professional assistance of Andrew Thornton, finished 4th and 5th in handicap chases at Newton Abbott.

Bas Nichol returned from his assistant trainer's job based in Florida, USA to compete at Sandown in the Barclay's Bank Hurdle Race. He rode VIRTUOSO for Charlie Mann. They ran unplaced having been prominent early on in the race. Bas was suffering badly from flu – nice tan though Bas!

Bruce Ridge embarked on his third full season as a jockey with COOL WORK, a 13-year-old gelding. They contested the Army Saddle Club's race at Larkhill in January but disagreed on how to best negotiate the 6th fence and parted company. The restrictions imposed by the Foot and Mouth crisis limited them to one further outing at Mollington in February. The horse ran with great credit, jumping well and the combination pulled up after 2 miles. COOL WORK was subsequently sold to the hunting field and Bruce then mortgaged his car and mess kit in order to purchase MAGICAL APPROACH, an 11-year-old with winning chase form from Ireland, in preparation for the 2002 Season.

Felix Wheeler had a season of mixed fortunes. His four booked rides at Sandown were quickly reduced to three when Friday's racing was cancelled. He rode APPLEJOHN for Mr John Whiting in the Dick McReery Hunterchase to finish 5th. FIFTH GENERATION, a hurdler owned and trained by Dr Philip Pritchard, gave Felix a thrilling ride in the Barclay's Bank Hurdle Race to finish 4th. Felix's final ride of the afternoon was CARACOL, a 2 mile hunterchaser who was being asked to run 3 miles and 118 yards in the Grand Military Gold Cup. Leased by the Army Air Corps for the afternoon, CARACOL did not have the greatest jumping reputation. However, he surprised connections with his performance and despite some white-knuckle moments in the latter stages of the race, he managed to scramble home for 4th place prizemoney.



Maj Lambert on ALLTIME DANCER going to post at Larkhill

Felix thereafter handed over his rather dull staff job in Sennelager and returned to the Regimental fold as 2IC in early April. Foot and Mouth did not affect German racing to any marked degree and Felix's German horse, SLAGRANT, provided some exciting and quite convenient sport, despite a second Balkans tour. A flat race at Hannover in April (unplaced – well last actually) was then followed by two professional steeplechases at Bad Harzburg during Felix's R&R from Kosovo in July. Despite carrying top weight (for which the jockey was extremely grateful) the combination managed to secure 5th place prizemoney (all German jump races pay down to 5th place). 10 days later, when the handicapper looked to have thrown them in on a lighter weight (Felix was riding on a postage stamp), they were disputing the lead with the eventual winner when they were unsighted at the fourth last fence and fell heavily. Luckily the horse was fine but the jockey whined about a bruised ribcage for a month thereafter. The horse ran at Baden Baden in August under a German professional but was clearly remembering his rather unfortunate experience at Bad Harzburg and ran disappointingly. Nevertheless, he has come back from his winter break in great form and plans are afoot to raid the rich Italian programme in the late Spring and early Summer of 2002.

On return from Operation AGRICOLA 6, Felix had one further ride in the FENGENTRI series on the all-weather surface at Neuss in December, representing Great Britain. He rode a horse called KNIGHTHOOD for Herr Heinrich Klein in a flat race over a

distance of 1500 metres (about 7 furlongs). Completely unfancied but a bonny horse nonetheless, he ran well to finish 7th out of 12 runners. The jockey entered the paddock looking like a Persil advert and returned after the race resembling a motorbike scrambler!

The 2002 Season is already underway and both Charlie and Bruce have been in action. Charlie and ALL TIME DANCER were 3rd in the Army Lightweight Saddle Club race at Larkhill on the 12th January. Subsequently, this same combination won the Royal Artillery Hunt Race on January 26th in great style. They have since finished 4th in the United Services Point-to-Point and are due to next grace the race-course again in the Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown. ALLTIME DANCER is a real credit to Charlie's and Moddie's hard work. The horse possesses considerable ability and it would not be a surprise if he were to add more silver to the Lambert sideboard in the future.

Bruce and MAGICAL APPROACH ran a creditable 4th at the Army Point-to-Point, one length behind Charlie on ALLTIME DANCER. Unfortunately, the horse set fast on finishing and Bruce, naturally concerned for his partner's welfare forgot to weigh-in. A £40 fine and an interview with a rather stern looking ex-gunner steward made up for an eventful and rather expensive afternoon. However, the pair returned in the rudest of health to contest the United Services Point-to-Point in February. They disputed the lead

STALKING

This year the Regiment was again kindly invited by General Ramsay up to Chesthill for what turned out to be another hugely successful week of stalking. Exercise Galloping Glens II was led by Lt Jameson, assisted by Sgt Bell, and took place during the first fortnight of December. There was a good mix of NCOs and Troopers during the first week, which was heavily supported by A Sqn! The weather held up well and the stalkers with the various hill parties exploited this, shooting some 39 hinds and calves during the first week. Tpr Cullen was the top scorer of the week netting 5, which included a memorable day when he shot 4 with David Olds.

Officers' week was well attended this year, despite the numbers involved in other winter sports. Lt Walters was the only newcomer to the sport, but was 'blooded' on his first outing. There was more sun during the

for 2 miles and then sadly, the horse burst a blood vessel and once again set fast after the race. It seems likely that some form of viral infection has been affecting the horse but only the stresses of racing make the symptoms obvious. Hopefully, the combination will be fit and well to run at Sandown in March. Watch this space next year. MAGICAL APPROACH is a smashing horse and Bruce deserves some success.

A new addition to our jockeys ranks is Rupert Alers-Hankey, currently on his 'Dagger' course at Shrivenham. He is racing a 13-year-old gelding called HILLHEAD and has had two runs at Larkhill, pulling up after 2 miles in the first and completing the course successfully on the second. The intention is to contest one of the hunterchases at the Grand Military Meeting in March.

Racing remains incredibly strong within the Regiment and indeed, we have more jockeys within the Officers' Mess than any other cap badge. The Regimental Trust Officers' Second Day's Pay Scheme has made a huge difference to the active participants. General Charles Ramsay's Syndicate is another unique dimension that provides excellent opportunities. Rest assured, SCOTS DG racing is alive and well and continues to be actively encouraged by our Chain of Command. Good luck to everyone for the remainder of the 2002 Season and let's hope we all stay in one piece and ride more winners.



LCpl Maule with his first hind.

second week, which made for testing stalking, but everyone coped admirably. All those who came to Chesthill throughout the fortnight, shot at least one hind and some also stalked on Easter Logie or Drumfork estates for Roe and Fallow with some success. The total bag for this year was 71 (56 hinds, 8 calves, 2 yearlings, 3 roe does, 1 roe fawn and 1 fallow buck).

All involved were especially grateful to WO2 McInnes who provided us with an RB44 truck from the Recruiting Team for the entire fortnight and to LCpl Springett, who did an outstanding job as chef. He also demonstrated fine marksmanship, managing a head shot much to the delight of Bert Shearer, during the second week.

ROWING

It is a deeply satisfying sight to see the Navy disappear in to the distance, particularly when messing about in boats. The feeling of satisfaction is certainly increased when they are joined in your wake by the RAF going at anything but supersonic speed. So it was at the 2001 Joint Services Regatta in the senior mens eights race. I admit I hadn't expected it to be quite as comfortable a victory. I remembered with a shudder the confidence exuded by the Army team in 1999 at the same regatta. Defeat was simply not an option. It was with some surprise therefore in what was my first experience of rowing with the Army, that I noticed the Navy and RAF had not disappeared in a plume of spray 10 strokes into the race. Indeed by halfway, they looked to be keeping exactly level. By this stage a slight feeling of panic was beginning to enter the boat. This is a dangerous thing, for losing your head in a physically exhausting race will turn the sharpest and most effective of crews into something resembling the runners up of an Under 9s Novice Octuple Sculls (plate competition). We hung on in 1999 and the panic that could so easily have lost us the race remained, just, at bay. 2001, by contrast, was a wholly different affair. We were confident, but not too much and had got to the summer after a very successful year. The race was comfortable and we rowed exactly as planned. A strong, powerful rhythm destroyed the opposition, yielding a record-breaking margin for the competition. Unfortunately the exuberance and sense of 'greater things to come' that flowed through the squad was not to be borne out as hoped. A season that started off so well became frustrating and ultimately disappointing. The simple truth is that taking part in one of the



Sgt Bell with David Pirie at the graloch.

Army's minor sports in competitions outside the inter-services can be exasperating. It certainly is with rowing. There are some extremely talented rowers within the Army and some have rowed at, or close to, International level. Trying to get a crew together for the required length of time to achieve results with all the coaching and training required is, unfortunately, all but impossible.

Despite all this, fears were banished and, at the start of June, we began serious preparation for Henley Royal Regatta. Using the Thames at Dorney and, from time to time the new International standard rowing lake being built by Eton College, we set about mounting our challenge for a Henley winners medal. Although Captain Richard Simpson (QRH) did his best to ensure that daily outings took place at midday to maximise tanning potential, a number of the crew could only attend after work. As a result, we frequently found ourselves returning to the boathouse as darkness was falling. This led to difficulties for members of the crew in the Household Cavalry, who found it a real struggle to maintain a normal and healthy 7 day a week London based social life (something of course Subalterns in Fallingbostal will easily be able to relate to). Despite minor setbacks, all seemed to be progressing well. The lack of a regular coach did pose the odd problem, as did the lack of a boat big enough (we were a very large crew). As the weeks moved on, the boat did seem to be picking up speed.

The move to Henley brought about a real mental shift in everyone - we were all focused on one thing. All

apart from Capt Ollie Cane (AAC) who was just weeks away from a marriage and was receiving hourly phone calls from a somewhat stressed fiancée. We were all able to offer Ollie massive amounts of sympathy, agreeing that weddings did indeed look hard to organise. The temptation to drop his mobile into the Thames, however, never really abated. With the Household Cavalry unable to get into London daily the pace moved up a gear, the crew began to look sharp and confidence grew.

Race day on the Wednesday saw us drawn against a seeded Dutch crew from an extremely well known Club - Nereus. Although not as heavy, they did look very swift and none of us was 100% confident that our weight advantage was due entirely to an ability to lift massive weights and not eat massive amounts of food. The race itself however, was a good one. We never pushed ahead of Nereus, but kept them under intense pressure all the way to the end of the 2200m course. As a result, we recorded some very fast times and, given the lack of time spent together as a crew, acquitted ourselves. Nereus went on to win the Thames Challenge Cup and we set about a 'keep the Army in the public eye campaign' for the remaining few days of the regatta. The crew cut quite a dash in desert camouflage boating blazers which we had run up specially



Lt Trueman in action.

for the occasion. If Henley medals had been awarded for style and panache in the Stewards enclosure and members bar, we would undoubtedly have won.

Some clubs will spend an entire year preparing for Henley, training 5 or six times a week relentlessly hammering up and down icy rivers and lifting large weights. With only a few weeks of preparation as a crew and a great deal of determination we gave it a good go. Unfortunately, until Mathew Pinsent, Tim Foster and James Cracknell decide to improve their week-ends and join the TA, that is all we can hope to do against top level opposition. Anyway..... we still thrashed the Navy and the RAF.

GAZETTE

As at 1 January 2002

REGIMENTAL ROLL

Commanding Officer	Lieutenant Colonel H D Allfrey MBE
Second in Command	Major GF Wheeler
Operations Officer	Captain BDA Ridge
Adjutant	Captain WHL Davies
Career Management Officer	Captain JR Toward MBE
Padre	Father IJ Stevenson CF
Regimental Medical Officer	Captain A L Mackay-Brown
Regimental Sergeant Major	WO1 (RSM) RN Cameron

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 Lt JWH Bishop
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 Lt WRG Leek
 Lt NA Burnet
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 SSgt McDowell KG
 Sgt Boyd TW
 Sgt Gibbs A
 Sgt King IJ
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 Cpl Cramp RS
 Cpl Dougal CS
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 Tpr Forsyth SG
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 Cfn Pearce LF
 Cfn Woodbridge IR

Officers at Extra Regimental Employment

FM HRH The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO ADC – Deputy Colonel in Chief

FM Sir John Stanier GCB MBE DL

Maj Gen JMFC Hall CB OBE – Colonel of the Regiment

Brig SRB Allen	HQ 51 Bde, Scotland	A/Maj RL Clayton	UNIKOM, Kuwait
Col NDA Seymour	UK MIS, New York	Capt TJ Bateman	MOD, London
Col MH Auchinleck	UNASMIL, Sierra Leone	Capt TP Spenlove-Brown	OUOTC, Oxford
Lt Col RPH Vickers	EUOTC, Exeter	Capt AT Stewart	19 Mech Bde, Catterick
Lt Col AM Phillips	British Mil Mission, Kuwait	Capt RML Boyle	RAC Trg Regt, Bovington
Lt Col CRM Stagg OBE	NEPG, MOD London	Capt AH Blair	CAFS Course, Shrivenham
Lt Col MPA Bullen MBE	PJHQ UK Comd Gp	Capt AC Turpin	Royal Yeomanry, London
Lt Col HH Blackman	MA COMARRC, Rheindahlen	Capt JM Hanlon	RSO Course, Bovington
Lt Col BP Edwards	SO1 ARMTAT, Sennelager	Capt B Cattermole	Jun Div, JSCSC, Shrivenham
Maj KPM Ravnkilde	DGTS, Warminster	Capt JPA Halford-Macloed	RGO Course, Lulworth
Maj JHM Cushnir	Loan Service, Oman	Capt RJ Ongaro	RGO Course, Lulworth
Maj CTO Brannigan	HQ 3 (UK) Div, Bulford	Capt M Ferndale	Jun Div, JSCSC, Shrivenham
Maj JDC Bulloch	HQ LAND, Wilton	Lt C Dobeson	HQ 3 Bde, Northern Ireland
Maj RR Alers-Hankey	Dagger Course, Shrivenham	Lt ME Hayward	ATR Winchester
Maj HMA Cummins	MDA, Shrivenham	2 Lt EJ O'Brien	Troop Leaders Course, Bovington
Maj J Frew	HQ, Brunei Garrison	2 Lt FM Jack	Troop Leaders Course, Bovington
Maj W Raitt	APC, Glasgow	2 Lt JE Stone	Troop Leaders Course, Bovington
Maj AGC Fair	HQ Hereford Garrison	2 Lt AD Marjoribanks	Troop Leaders Course, Bovington
Maj JGE Batholomew	HQ LAND, Wilton	2 Lt GG Craig	Troop Leaders Course, Bovington
Maj ADG Stephen	GSUOTC, Glasgow		
Maj AJ Cameron	HQ DRAC, Bovington		
Capt RN MacMillan	HQ ARRC, Rheindahlen		
Capt WGL MacKinlay	7 Armd Bde, Hohne		
Capt G Aitchison	230 Tpt Sqn, Edinburgh		

Serving Officers at Extra Regimental Employment

Former Officers Serving with Other Arms

Brig JD Deverell OBE, late R IRISH	Defence Attache, Riyadh
Lt Col BRE Butler AAC	SO1 Army Aviation, Middle Wallop
Maj JL Melville	Transfer to AAC 1 January 2001
Capt DM Nicholls AAC	Pilot, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham

Retired from the Active List during 2001

Maj AJ Crease MBE BEM	21 June
Maj NCW Dunkley MBE	31 August
Maj JR Scrivener	9 September
Capt TE Renwick	11 October

Warrant Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and Soldiers at ERE or on Long Service List

WO1 PD Brooks	Garrison Sergeant Major, Bovington	Sgt S McGuire	21 Cadet Training Team, Stirling
WO1 WN Foster	UK Support Command, Germany	Sgt H McKenzie 26	24 Cadet Training Team, Edinburgh
WO1 RP McKenzie	Army Careers Office, Edinburgh	Sgt TM McVey	Gunnery School, Lulworth
WO1 JH Sherville	Vehicle & Weapons Branch, Chertsey	Cpl P Beveridge	Army Foundation College, Harrogate
WO2 M Beveridge	D&M School, Bovington	Cpl MA Crockett	Army Training Regiment, Bassingbourne
WO2 G Clapperton	40 Cadet Training Team, Preston	Cpl DJ Davidson	Army Foundation College, Harrogate
WO2 K Driscoll	RAC Mobile Display Team, Bovington	Cpl Dewar	Defence School of Transport, Leconfield
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WO2 DP Jones	Army Careers Office, Manchester	Cpl AK Fox	RAC Training Regiment, Bovington
WO2 G McFarlane	Home Headquarters, Edinburgh	Cpl S Graham	Regimental Recruiting Team, Edinburgh
WO2 J McInnes	Regimental Recruiting Team, Edinburgh	Cpl A Johnstone	Army School of Piping, Edinburgh
WO2 D McKelvie	Land Warfare Training Centre, Warminster	Cpl JA Junnier	Armoured Trials & Development Unit, Bovington
WO2 S McQueen	D&M School, Bovington	Cpl SM Lewis	Army Youth Team, Barrybuddon
WO2 D Orr	RMLY, Telford	Cpl I Lyttle	Army Training Regiment, Winchester
WO2 AH Simpson	Training Support Gp, Bovington	Cpl A Macaulay	Regimental Recruiting Team, Edinburgh
WO2 AD Smith	RQMS(T) Armour Centre, Bovington	Cpl RA Mcfarlane	Army Training Regiment, Winchester
WO2 A Greenwood	Loan Service, Oman	Cpl GA Pritchard	Army Training Regiment, Winchester
WO2 S Turnbull	BATUS Safety staff, Canada	Cpl BDJ Ross	Army Training Regiment, Winchester
SSgt IG Bald	15 Signal Regt	Cpl A Smiley	Provost Staff, Bovington
SSgt MR Britton	Gunnery School, Lulworth	Cpl JR Taylor	Forward Air Controller, Tidworth
SSgt RW Campbell	Wessex Yeomanry, Bovington	LCpl MP Cochrane	Provost Staff, AFC Harrogate
SSgt E Davidson	D&M School, Bovington	LCpl B Hunter	RAC Mobile Display Team, Bovington
SSgt MLW Duncan	QOY, Fife	LCpl J McCormick	51 Highland Brigade, Perth
SSgt AA Gauld	Tayforth UOTC	LCpl CR Nelson	Recruit Selection Centre, Lichfield
SSgt SB Hennebry	QOY, Fife	LCpl DT Pettigrew	Garrison Staff, Catterick
SSgt BG Lewis	RMLY, Telford	LCpl S Ross	Master Mascot, Knightsbridge
SSgt F McHugh	BATUS, Canada	LCpl GW Rennie	Provost Staff, Bovington
SSgt C McKerrill	QOY, Ayr	LCpl P Smith	Regimental Recruiting Team, Edinburgh
SSgt KH Morton	Army Careers Office, Edinburgh	LCpl AG Vietch	Regimental Recruiting Team, Edinburgh
Sgt DS Barclay	D&M School, Bovington	LCp DG Young	Armoured Trials & Development Unit, Bovington
Sgt S Boyd	Gunnery School, Lulworth	Tpr S Clark	Paderborn Equitation Centre
Sgt I Campbell	Army Careers Office, Glasgow	Tpr JS Streets	Warminster Support Unit
Sgt AE Cox	Signal School, Bovington		
Sgt J Gardiner	Army Careers Office, Hamilton		
Sgt CJ Gray	24 Cadet Training Team, Edinburgh		
Sgt AC Hainey	Army Careers Office, Paisley		
Sgt NCG Hanson	Gunnery School, Lulworth		
Sgt EZ Jutrzenka	Provost Staff, HQ Army Music, Twickenham		
Sgt GP McGarry	RAC Training Regiment, Bovington		



Major General JMFC Hall CB OBE
Colonel Commandant, Royal Army Veterinary Corps
From 1 July 1995 to 30 April 2001

In-Pensioners at The Royal Hospital Chelsea

GW Phillips (Royal Scots Greys)
C Bessant (3rd Carabiniers)

P Coffey (3rd Carabiniers)
G Wingate (RAOC with The Greys)

Honours, Awards and Appointments

Order of the British Empire

Member

Mrs Jean McGarrell for services to NAAFI

Operational Awards (Kosovo)

Joint Commanders' Commendation

Warrant Officer Class 2 AB Smith RLC
Major GF Wheeler
Major KJ Williams

Commander Multi-National Brigade (Centre) Commendation

Sergeant RP Welsh
Trooper KD Loftus
Trooper JR Deggie

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

Staff Sergeant K McDowell
Sergeant DJ McKenzie
Sergeant CA Thomson
Sergeant PCS Scotney AGC
Sergeant M Thomson
Corporal C Reid
Corporal CP England REME
Corporal P Kaye AGC

Duke of Kent Medal For 2000

The Rev MC Cowper MA BD
For 2001

Major General SRA Stopford CB MBE
Major GF Wheeler
Major C McGarrell
Warrant Officer Class 1 PD Brooks

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REGIMENTAL TRUST ALLOCATIONS 2001/02

Charitable Donations (1)	8,500
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Regimental Association	4,800
Regimental Dinner	2,000
Home Headquarters	8,100
Audit & Legal	2,500
Investment Management	2,000
Administration/Meetings	500
Regimental Support (2)	27,300
Regimental Magazine	6,500
Regimental Cadets	1,500
Recruiting/PR	10,000
Property Insurance	1,500
Property and Archives	1,500
To investment	7,000
Total	£92,700

(1) Allocated to Army Benevolent Fund, Royal British Legion, Royal British Legion Scotland, Scottish Veterans' Residences, Erskine Hospital, Thistle Foundation, RAC War Memorial Benevolent Fund, Queen Victoria School Dunblane, Sister Agnes' (King Edward VII), Star and Garter Home, Burma Star Association, Last Post Association, Canongate Kirk, Last Post Association, Royal Hospital Chelsea Chapel, RMA Sandhurst Memorial Chapel, Royal Garrison Church, Aldershot, Thiepval Project, El Alamein Memorial Museum and Blair Gymkhana.

(2) Includes Sport, Adventurous Training and Equitation.

Home Headquarters and Regimental Museum

The first year of the third millennium was notable for several reasons. The quest for our Assistant Regimental Secretary was fulfilled, the unexpected outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease had an initial impact on our Museum and Shop visitor numbers, which were later further severely curtailed after the tragic and terrible attack on New York on 11 September and when our faithful Office Manager left Scotland in August shortly before her marriage.

Having established the post of Assistant Secretary and received a number of enquiries, selection under Civil Service rules debarred all but former Regular Army officers in receipt of retired pay. Thus the field diminished to leave the way clear for Captain James Springthorpe to be appointed and join Home HQ in mid May. Jimmie, as he is more usually known, rose through the ranks of the Royal Scots to Warrant rank and was Regimental Sergeant Major of the Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officer Training Corps before receiving his commission. In later tours he was the Royal Scots Regimental Signal Officer and Assistant Schools Liaison Officer in the West of Scotland. He brings a different range of experience to the small team in Edinburgh Castle and his arrival is welcomed and timely. In due course Captain Springthorpe will assume responsibility as Secretary to the Regimental Association, despite the disadvantage of not knowing any of the members. We wish him every success for the future.

Another task for the Assistant Secretary is the routine management of the Museum. The Trustees ended the year 2000 pondering the question of access to the Regimental Museum. The numbers passing through the National War Museum of Scotland have not shown any improvement and the site in the basement of the New Barracks becomes steadily less suitable or tenable. The temporary scaffolding walkway continues to provide a relief access but is deemed by Historic Scotland to be unsuitable as a permanent feature. Thus negotiations started to identify alternatives, including a different access or possible move. The former ideas produced nothing, but with support from the architectural and historical experts of the Castle the prospect of removal within the New Barracks is under serious consideration. As the year progressed glimmers of hope indicated that we might be able to occupy an area opposite the Royal Scots Museum on the main visitor route. As the year 2001 ends we await confirmation from HQ 52 Lowland

Brigade that the SCOTS DG Museum can move. There is much work to be done to ensure survival of the Museum which was accorded fully registered status in October 2001 under the Phase 2 scheme administered by the national body Resource, the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries.

As ever, we are extremely fortunate to have Susan O'Brien as our Shop Manager. Supported by Christine Kidd and several part time volunteers, she has had the added responsibility of overseeing Museum maintenance and running the successful retail shop. Ever cheerful and reliable Susan has continued during these trying times to introduce new lines and keep a tight control on stock ordering and general expenditure. The Regiment is indebted to her.

Not only were visitor numbers affected by the outbreak of Foot and Mouth in early spring, but across Scotland patterns of life changed. Many farmers lost more than livestock, restrictions affected travel and Army units were drafted to support Ministry officials. Brigadier Hugh Monro, Commander 52 Brigade was constantly visiting sites and our neighbours in the Brigade HQ assumed a focus as they coordinated the operation and resolved matters well before the teams in Cumbria, who surprisingly attracted more media coverage. In recognition of difficulties the local Tourist Board halved the annual subscription fee for all visitor attractions. Our Museum, situated in a city, was less affected than other sites, but the reduced fee was welcome. Sadly no similar approach was made to compensate for the loss of visitors after the attacks in New York in September. The year closes with depressed numbers and no immediate sight of a return to normality.

On a happier note, Carol Laing was married in September to become Mrs Nigel Medd. Throughout the year she has prepared for her handover by producing a tome of task or desk instructions. The forthcoming happy event spurred her to encompass the myriad of activities, which although not a complete range, by then incorporated over seventy headings, from fuel cards to funerals, potential officers to postal arrangements and accommodation stores to archives. Such is the diversity of the position that had to be filled. Having arrived from a Navy post at Rosyth, she had to come to terms with the Regimental system

The BLESMA Scooter Riders



SSgt Burns, Sgt Birss and Cpl Gowans relax at the Museum.



Brigadier John Drummond welcomes the Scooter Riders SSgt Burns, Sgt Birss and Cpl Gowans to Edinburgh Castle after raising £3000 for BLESMA.



The "Greys" hoarding uncovered in Colchester

and leaves us with an enhanced knowledge. Our thanks are due to Carol for all her work over five and a half years. We wish her and her husband well in their new life in Leeds.

The search for a replacement as Chief Clerk was realised by appointment of Mr Jason Bartlett on transfer from HQ 2nd Division (formerly HQ Scotland) at Craigiehall. He is welcome to the team and as he learns the job is afforded guidance by Anne Romer our faithful and diligent typist. Without her we would not be able to make progress on many of the Archive projects. In particular the hand written diaries, held in the Archives, are steadily being transcribed and the text held on computers. This proves valuable for research and presentation of comments to support historical enquiries, answered by Major James Scott with assistance from Mr Bill Henderson and Mr Jim Murphy (also Secretary of the Association Edinburgh Branch). Throughout the year several items were deposited in the Archives and the task of producing an index and catalogue continues unabated. We are very grateful for these donations and for the help provided by our Volunteers.

Two of the more unusual items are illustrated. Mr John Reynolds of Colchester sent a picture of a hoarding uncovered during building work. It proved to be an enamel painting for "Greys" cigarettes dating from the 1930s. Major Tracey Wood spotted a gravestone for a former Grey, Sergeant Henry Mills, at St Andrew's Church, Ombersley. He recalled a previous article on the connection between Ombersley Court,

the Sandys family and the Regiment and commented that as it is next to the Wood family plot there is no getting away from Greys, even in death!

Traditional activities for Home HQ involved the Regimental Council and Trust meetings held in April in the former Court Martial rooms in Edinburgh Castle and at the Lieutenant Governor's Residence in the Royal Hospital Chelsea in December. The latter preceded the Regimental Dinner (recorded elsewhere) at which was displayed the painting by Mr Bill Bishop (father of James Bishop, a Troop Leader serving in the Regiment). Also on display were a painting of a Grey mounted on a camel, presented by Major John Scrivener and the photograph marking Her Majesty's mid year visit to the Regiment. All three items were greatly admired and has been decided that the Bill Bishop picture of Kosovo will become a future Christmas card.

In April, the Association Annual General Meeting was held in Edinburgh at the Royal Scots Club, when Branch officials were able to say farewell to Carol Laing and to get to know Anne Romer better. The Regimental Hunter Chase was held at Ayr Racecourse and the subsequent Glasgow Branch dinner is reported in later pages, likewise the Edinburgh Branch and other Branch dinners and functions. It is evident from the contact with Home HQ that all the Branches are very active in their various ways and all credit is due to Chairmen and Secretaries for their unstinting efforts.



The last resting place for Sgt Mills at Ombersley Church.

Throughout the year officer and soldier recruiting continues unabated. The small team lead by Sergeant Major John McInnes generally operate from Redford Cavalry Barracks and concentrate on the latter, leaving the Regimental Secretary to support the Colonel of the Regiment in the quest for officers. This team has taken an enhanced role and is moving from the title of Information to Regimental Recruiting Team. Mid year, from ideas inspired by Colonel David Allfrey, a further surge was devised initially by Lieutenant Doug Soulsby. To reinforce raising D Squadron, this involved landing an armoured reconnaissance vehicle on Outer Islands and many other activities throughout Scotland. The very presence of extra members of the Regiment at Home HQ creates additional pressures on the support staff, but they cope very well and the corridors are the better for the periodic invasion.

Recruiting coincided with the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and on the penultimate evening the Colonel of the Regiment and guests enjoyed the performance after a supper in the Castle Officers' Mess. Prior to that event the Regiment was accorded the unique honour to receive an Icon, as recorded in the adjacent article.

2001 had proved a memorable year, but doubts over the future of the Museum need to be resolved, although with a more sensible level of staffing Home HQ can make progress on several fronts.

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Inspired by the canonisation of Tsar Nicholas in 2000, the Caledonian Society of Moscow commissioned an Icon for the Regiment of the former Colonel-in-Chief (1896-1918). On Friday 24 August 2001, at a ceremony held in Hospital Square in Edinburgh Castle, Mr Vitaly Moronov, President of the Society, presented the Icon - a gift from The People of Russia to The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. In return Major General Jonathan Hall, Colonel of the Regiment, presented a copy of the portrait of His Imperial Majesty Tsar Nicholas II. The Russian Consul General in Edinburgh, Mr Anatoly Smirnov witnessed the ceremony.

Addressing a gathering of members of the Regiment, Museum Friends, Cossacks and Castle visitors, Tam Dalyell MP, whose ancestor Lieutenant General Thomas Dalyell of The Binns raised the Regiment in 1681, outlined historical connections between Russia and Scotland and the Regiment in particular. Brigadier Melville Jameson welcomed the Russian delegation, also performers in his Edinburgh Military Tattoo, before the gifts were exchanged with suitable words from General Hall and Mr Mironov.



Vitaly Miranov displays the Icon, escorted by the Cossacks and Cpl Bruce

All present were treated to a splendid display of music and dance from the Cossacks and the stirring sounds of the Regimental Pipes and Drums. The party repaired to the Officers' Mess for lunch.

The Icon, a religious painting in traditional striking colour, depicts the Tsar in his Emperor's robes. It was placed on temporary display in the Regimental Museum before being passed to the Serving Regiment, where the Icon is accorded a place of honour and should accompany the Regiment on future operations, as happened after a blessing in the Imperial Russian Army.



The proud Russian Delegation meet Brigadier Mel Jameson



Mr Miranov proudly displays the portrait of Tsar Nicholas as Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Scots Greys



The Colonel, the Consul General, Mr Miranov and Brig Jameson learn from Tam Dalyell's historical address



General Jonathan Hall receives the Icon of Tsar Nicholas from Vitaly Miranov, closely watched by Mr Anatoly Smirnov, the Russian Consul General in Edinburgh

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THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am delighted to report that 2001 has been a memorable year and all the Branches are in good heart. As usual, all Branches held an annual dinner at which many of them were delighted to welcome the Colonel of the Regiment and his wife and members of other branches.

All Areas hold regular meetings. Because the Aberdeen and North of Scotland Branch membership covers such a large area they hold their meetings alternately in Aberdeen and Inverness, a similar method proves successful to the North West Branch. Members who attended the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Parade and Memorial Service saw the new dress uniform of the Band of the Dragoon Guards.

The Combined Bannockburn Weekend was enjoyed by a large number of members. Our thanks are due to the Commanding Officer for the splendid musical support provided by the Regimental Pipes and Drums, who also entertained the London and South-East of England Branch at their Annual Dinner and took part in the Cavalry Memorial Parade.

In September, the North East of England Branch Chairman and Secretary visited Normandy and laid a wreath on behalf of the Association in the Bayeux War Cemetery. Various Remembrance Services and Parades were attended. Of historical note was the first opportunity for those in Edinburgh to attend the service on Sunday 11 November in The Scottish National War Memorial.

2001 was a busy year for the Association and we look forward to several projects coming to fruition, such as the Musicians' Branch attempts to form their own pipe band, and the South West of England Branch internet website.

Our thanks go to those who have retired from office. Their dedication and hard work have contributed so much to the success of the Association. We welcome new office-bearers and wish them success in their work. We welcome and congratulate the following new Life Members, elected in May: Messrs BP Liston, C Butler, D Roe and S Macey.



BRANCH REPORTS

ABERDEEN AND NORTH OF SCOTLAND

Because of our scattered membership, which extends from St Andrews to Wick, and across to the west coast, we are settling into a pattern of alternate functions in Aberdeen and Inverness. Our main function in 2001 was an informal dinner held at the

Royal British Legion Club in Banchory near Aberdeen, which was much enjoyed by all who attended. We are much encouraged by the success of the Bannockburn weekend, which seems to be shaping into an important element in the calendar of the Scottish Branches.

On Remembrance Sunday a small party joined the RBL parade in Banchory, marching through the town with pipes and drums to the East Church for the service. Afterwards we adjourned to the RBL Club for refreshments.

Our meetings on the third Wednesday in alternate months continue at the RBL Club at Bridge of Don, Aberdeenshire. We plan to hold an Inverness dinner on 28 September 2002, and look forward to the presence of the Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs Hall.



GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND

2001 became another memorable year, starting in April with the Regimental Hunter Chase at Ayr Race Course. This was followed by a gentleman's Dinner Night at the nearby Station Hotel. It was the first time that the Branch had combined a day's racing with dinner on the same evening. Twenty Branch members attended the Races and being worthy punters helped the bookies on their way to wealth and happiness. There was one exception to this when 'Bible' Tam Campbell bought a couple of rounds with his winnings. "Now there's a first", remarked one of his comrades in arms. He could of course have been referring to the horse!

Early in the day Grant Milne anticipated what was to come with the words, "We are going to have to pace ourselves. It's going to be a long day". That evening seventy sat down to dinner, then it became one less as the arrival of the soup finally out-paced the author of such sage advice. With so many of us together it was an excellent gathering of old comrades and inevitably stories got better in the telling. Branch Chairman Maj Robin Maclean still refutes the story that on exercise (years ago) he stuck his Chieftain gun barrel through a kitchen wall in what some wit referred to as the Vent Axia incident.

Cpl Johnston entertained us well with the pipes and the Commanding Officer, Lt Col David Allfrey, gave a lively and very interesting speech with the latest news of The Regiment. The Colonel of the Regiment Maj Gen Jonathan Hall also spoke as did Col Peter Kennedy, Honorary Colonel of The Ayrshire Yeomanry.

Ian Cook, Branch Secretary was responsible for getting so many of us together. He had spent hours on the telephone rounding everyone up. As sometimes happens he was one of the last to leave together with Maj Billy Raitt, RSM Cameron and WO2 Driscoll the excuse being that they were just seeing everyone home safely.

The next gathering of the Association was The Bannockburn weekend from Friday 31 August to Sunday 2 September 2001. It was another great success with over two hundred ex and serving members giving support to the weekend activities and celebrating the 30th anniversary of the formation of the SCOTS DG. As in the previous year it was held at the King Robert Hotel in Bannockburn which had been exclusively taken over for the event. Every room was full and the overflow was placed in local accommodation. Friday evening was mostly spent meeting old friends, and rem-

iniscing over times gone by. A Country and Western band played in the main suite and a running buffet continued throughout the evening serving guests as they arrived at different times. On Saturday the ladies had a day shopping in nearby Stirling while a high percentage of chair bound members of the Tartan Army watched Scotland's National football team display their skills at Hampden Park. The evening was exceptional, the highlight being a performance of The Regimental Pipes and Drums. They played magnificently, leaving the stage to a standing ovation, then returning to play an encore of 'Second To None'. Again, another standing ovation. It was a hard act to follow but the Cabaret, which provided music, dancing and entertainment, was also fully enjoyed into the small hours. We were pleased to welcome again The Colonel of the Regiment who was with us throughout Saturday evening together with Mrs Hall.

On Sunday those staying elsewhere joined in for lunch at the hotel and another good gathering of old comrades. Afterwards everyone left on a high note, determined to return next year, sad to be parting, and as the organiser Ian Cook and the rest of the committee realise, it is the meeting of friends that is the essence of the weekend.

In November the Branch was well represented at the City of Glasgow Remembrance Parade in George Square. It was followed by drinks in the City Chambers then lunch at The Tradeston Ex Servicemen's Club where the Branch uses their facilities as a base for meetings and joining in their social events.

This rounded off a good year for our Branch. Special thanks to the Pipes and Drums for their support. The Regiment is always in our thoughts.



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EDINBURGH AND EAST OF SCOTLAND

The AGM was held at the Leith Ex Servicemen's Club on Monday 12 February 2001, where, after five years of excellent service as Branch Secretary, Barry Liston handed over to Jim Murphy.

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held at the Harp Toby Hotel in Corstorphine on Saturday 21 April 2001 where presentations were given to Barry Liston and his wife Helen for all their good work and with particular thanks to Helen for her tremendous support to both Barry and the Branch Committee. We were also delighted to surprise Barry with a Life Membership.

In July a quiz night was held at the Queens Own Yeomanry Sergeants' Mess in Cupar and it was good to see some of the younger branch members attending what turned out to be a very good night.

In October, we took a mini bus of members from Edinburgh to the St Boswell's British Legion Club for an evening celebration of Traditional Scottish Fayre. The order of the day was fine ales and the opportunity to debate with old friends, experiences past, present and how today's problems could be easily solved - or in other words, a pie, a pint and a good blether. To have seen Colonel Aiden Sprout sitting in the middle of everyone with a pie in one hand, a pint in the other and a great smile on his face makes you realise what these get togethers are all about, and we did have a good time.

In November, the Branch received an invitation to attend the Ceilidh and Dinner being held at Redford by the Musicians' Branch. A large number of our



*Act of Remembrance at the Greys Memorial.
Capt John Campbell and Mr Hugh Ferrier.*

members attended and we enjoyed an excellent buffet and even better music. (We had to say that otherwise they might not invite us back next year.)

This year the Remembrance Service was held in the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle and it was extremely well supported with a great show of grey berets. Padre Cowper conducted the service with his usual meaningful style and lead the prayers at the Greys Memorial immediately afterwards. Captain JD Campbell and Hugh Ferrier laid the Regimental wreaths. Afterwards we retired to the Central Branch Club of the Royal British Legion for lunch and more than a few pints.

The year was full and interesting with many opportunities to try similar events in the future.



11 November - Princes St Gardens.

NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND

In April, the Chairman and Secretary attended the AGM at the Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh. That evening they represented the Branch at the Edinburgh Dinner and were made most welcome. It was nice to see old friends and to make some new ones too.

In early September the Chairman, Secretary and committee member, Alan Bowden went on a trip to Normandy. They were able to visit the last resting place of quite a few members of the Greys who fell on D-Day or just after. They also laid a Wreath, on behalf of the Association, following a small ceremony in the Bayeux War Cemetery.

Our annual Reunion Dinner took place at the Jarvis Hotel, Wetherby in September 2001 following postponement due to the Foot and Mouth crisis in March. The evening was well supported, with 48 members and guests sitting down to dinner. It was a pleasure to welcome Major and Mrs Alers-Hankey to the Branch and they have been enlisted as members of the future, especially as their families reside in the heart of our area. Rupert Alers-Hankey gave those present an informative and detailed account of regimental activities over the past year and concluded with a look ahead to some of the tasks the Regiment will be focusing on in the months to come. The Colonel of the Regiment, The Chairman of the Association and the Regimental

Secretary were present and their support is always appreciated, as is the support of other branches and it was also nice to welcome Jim Murphy along with Helen and Barry Liston from the Edinburgh Branch.

Alan Bowden made the journey from Stockport to London and represented the Branch at the Field of Remembrance in St Margaret's, London on 8 November. On Sunday 12 November 2001, the Chairman and Secretary accompanied by 10 dedicated Branch members, laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Darlington. The brisk march before the service got the blood circulating as the pace was rather quick and not what the Cavalry are used to! Again Ivison Wheatley, accompanied by his wife Louise, placed a wreath on the Royal Scots Greys Memorial Tablet in the Presbyterian Church, York. Ivison gave the congregation a brief outline of the Regiment's role in Kosovo and the church presented Louise with a bouquet of flowers. The Chairman again extends his thanks to those who turned out in Darlington and to Louise and Ivison for representing the Branch.

It is pleasing to report that no members have been posted to the 'big Tank Park in the sky' during the past year. Those joining the Branch during the year are as follows: Messrs A Agnew, E Dean, (Cpl) D Dewar, A McCamley, G Tagart, I Spowart, T Thomas and M Townsley.

NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND AND WALES

The Branch has continued with its policy of locally held meetings and this year the AGM was held at The Offerton Social Club, Stockport. After the meeting, we enjoyed great evening entertainment and our thanks to Dave Lallement for arranging the venue. We held our monthly meeting in June at The Britannia Inn, Denbigh where mine host, Tony "Ginge" Wright, welcomed us and laid on a super buffet for the members. Needless to say, we intend to revisit both these locations next year!

The Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 7 April 2001 at The Royal British Legion, Upton by Chester and The Annual Reunion at The United Services Club, Chester on Saturday 10 November. Members of the Branch attended a Remembrance Day Parade in

Chester on the Sunday morning and Oscar Houston laid a wreath on behalf of the Association. We will not go into too much detail about our Annual Fishing Match as we lost both home and away. Better luck next year!

We have also been busy recruiting and we designed and printed our own posters, which members undertook to display in their locality. We welcome Johnny Swannick, Dave Playford REME, Harry Lewis, Alan Hyde and Bob Lewis into the Branch and hope we will see lots of them. Sadly we learnt that a former Carabinier, Emlyn Tindall, died at the end of the year. Although Emlyn was not a member of the Association, we were able to offer support to his family through Home HQ.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND

After serving as London Branch Chairman since 1992, Major General SRA Stopford MBE retired in May. The Branch members are most grateful for all his work, help and advice during his time as Chairman and offer our thanks to him. His successor, is Colonel John Ross who chaired his first meeting in October. The Committee also bade farewell to our Vice Chairman, Captain David Prebble who, with his wife, has moved to Scotland. A vote of thanks and a happy retirement to them. We were pleased that Lieutenant Colonel David Roberts has taken over the post as Vice Chairman also to welcome to the Committee ex RSM John Rochester who is on the staff of the Royal Hospital Chelsea where we hold our meetings.

As a pilot scheme the Committee held a Nunshingham lunch in April at the Anchor Inn at Shepperton. It was a successful event with good food at a reasonable price in a pleasant venue. It is hoped that the scheme can be expanded to include an invitation to all members of the Association in the future.

The Annual Dinner of the London Branch was held at the Gascoigne Rooms, The Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London on Saturday 12 May 2001. Among the 75 guests were the Colonel of the Regiment Major General JMFC Hall, the Chairman of the Association Major General CRS Notley, the Branch Chairman Major General SRA Stopford, the Branch Chairman (Designate) Colonel J Ross, the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel HD Allfrey, Major General CA Ramsay, Lieutenant Colonel AM Sprot, and Colonel JFB Sharples, together with officers from the Regiment and friends from other Branches. The Branch Secretary John Foreman proposed the Toast to the Regiment. He remarked that as

a young trooper he had been advised never to volunteer for anything, ever, but had volunteered to propose the Toast tonight when he remembered it was 50 years ago this month that he had marched through the barrack gates at Luneberg to join the Regiment.

Quoting from his address, he said that "We were the generation that had grown up in six years of war, we had seen our fathers and our elder brothers and uncles go off to war. When we arrived in the Regiment most of the senior officers and NCOs who trained us had seen action. The Cold War was on. Then, as now, the Regiment had an important job to do. As I remember our job then was to stem any surprise attack by superior Red Forces. We understood that to mean superior in numbers, not in quality. We conscripts had been told we were in the best cavalry regiment in the army, if not in the world, and the plan was to fight a rearguard action back to the Rhine. Today, the Regiment has a very complicated job sorting the Albanians in the Balkans. I have given up trying to understand the situation, perhaps a rearguard action back to the Danube might be the order of the day. In the 50s we had the Centurion tanks Mark 2s, the army's main battle tank for 25 years, today you have Challenger Mark 2s. I have been reading on the Regimental Website about noise and vibration minimisation, air conditioning, fire control systems and a gun so accurate that it would spoil anyone's day. In 1951, recruiting was not quite the same problem that it is today. Every two weeks, every male of 18 was called up for two years service, 20 intakes a year. The pay was not too bad, £1 8s a week. A pint in the NAAFI was 6 old pence and 20 cigarettes, one shilling. I was in C Squadron and our Squadron Leader was Colonel Sprot who is a guest with us tonight, to whom I am

eternally grateful for letting me off a fizzer. In 1951 RQMS Tarry Shaw was riding in the Luneberg show, having great success with his mount Banquet, he too is a guest with us tonight. Three more of the Luneberg Regiment are with us tonight, including the one who punched Tam Dalyell MP, and descendant of the founder of the Regiment, on the nose, for founding the Regiment. In 1951 my predecessor Pat O'Rourke had just become Secretary, a job he was to do for the next 27 years. He arranged the reunion dinner that year and one of his guests was Jim Randall and he is a guest tonight. In 1951, the Regiment won the Cavalry Cup final, beating the 12th Lancers 3 goals to 2. This year they were beaten in the final. Little did I realise as I went through those gates in Luneberg 50 years ago, as a reluctant conscript, the impact this Regiment was to have on my life. My service in the Regiment allowed me to visit places and see things not otherwise possible. I have also made many good friends. Gentlemen of the Association, please stand for the Toast: Our Regiment".

In his response the Commanding Officer gave details of the Regiment's activities in the last year. The retiring Chairman, General Stopford was presented with a framed picture of Lieutenant Colonel Lord Arthur Hill, by AJ Dubois Drahonet in appreciation of his services to the Branch. The evening was highlighted by a visit from the Regimental Pipes and Drums, under the direction of Pipe Major (SSgt) Bryan Brotherton, who played a melody of their latest tunes.

The 77th Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Parade and Memorial Service took place in Hyde Park on Sunday 13 May 2001 in memory of all ranks who gave their lives in the Service of their Country. The Band of the Life Guards led the Parade playing the quick march of the Combined Cavalry Association, 'Unity'. This had been especially composed by Major ML Torrent the Life Guards and Senior Director of Music to the Household Cavalry to mark the end of his tour of duty and partnership with the Association. The Pipes and Drums were on parade by kind permission of the Commanding Officer. On this warm sunny May morning all Cavalry Regiments, past and present, were represented by their Associations and it was an ideal opportunity to see the new dress uniform of the Band of the Dragoon Guards for the first time. A brand new helmet has been made. The Bandmaster wears a metal helmet with a brass bound peak with a black out of red horsehair plume. The helmet plate comprises a silver metal plate star inscribed 'The Band of the Dragoon Guards'. The other ranks wear a white horsehair plume. The percussion section of the Band wear a black bearskin with a red feather plume secured with a grenade badge. The service took its usual form after dismissal had been sounded and we made our way to the



Band of the Dragoon Guards.

Hyde Park Barracks of the Household Cavalry for refreshments.

Field of Remembrance Service St Margaret's, Westminster Thursday 9 November 2001. The new Chairman, Colonel John Ross, took the Service at the Regimental Grave Plot. The names of 70 of the Fallen from all Regiments in both World Wars were read. The name of Geoffrey Keyes VC was included and our minds were filled with that young man's brave action in North Africa and his amphibious raid on Rommel's HQ, emulating amphibious raids carried out by the Light Troops of the Regiment in 1758.

The Carabiniers Memorial Service Parade, Chelsea 9 December. Over 50 members of the Association and some serving members of the Regiment paraded at the Memorial where a short service was taken by the Rev Canon R Thompson. After the wreaths were laid, Mr Leney whose father served in the 3rd DG, in the South African War, stepped forward wearing his father's medals and placed a bouquet of blue and white cornflowers in his memory. The Colonel of the Regiment paraded with the Association on the Governor's Parade with the In-Pensioner, a busman's holiday for him as he takes the parade one week in four. Also on parade was John Rochester on the staff of the Hospital and duty Warrant Officer. The latest member of the Association was present, representing the Natal Carabiniers, was Sgt Andy Williams, currently working in the UK. After the Parade and Service the contingent made its way to the In-Pensioners' Club to make the traditional Christmas presentation to our own Regimental In-Pensioners. A DG's plaque to complete the set hanging over the main bar was presented by the Chairman to the Hospital Sergeant Major Bob Appleby in appreciation of the hospitality shown to the Association by the Royal Hospital.



Scots Dragoon Guards Pipers...



...and Drummers.

SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND

This has been a successful year for the Branch. Our new Secretary, Ian Salisbury, has done sterling work during his first year in the post and has produced a number of innovations including an illustrated bi-annual newsletter to all members. It has proved very popular. He is also in the process of investigating the possibility of setting up a Branch website on the internet. Our Branch covers a wide area of the south and south west of England and, as a result, our membership is much dispersed. This does have an adverse effect on numbers attending our functions. It also poses difficulties in arranging committee meetings, however, we had a most successful gathering of committee members in August at our Chairman's house in Pimperne. The meeting covered a number of subjects and various ideas for the future were discussed which are now being investigated. Our Branch membership is very strong and growing but we are always looking out for ex members of the Regiment who may have slipped the net. Also ex Association members who would like to return as well as members who may have moved areas so if you know of anyone who has moved south please pass on their details.

It was good to see a number of our members at the Cavalry Memorial Parade. Our annual dinner was held in October this year. This was a little later than in the past and timed for after the holiday season. This resulted in an excellent turnout. The location for the event was once again the Royal British Legion Club in Salisbury. We are once again indebted to the staff of the club who provided us with very friendly service and very good food. The whole evening was well organised by our Secretary who was ably supported by his wife Glen who provided the excellent table decorations. Nick Oliver entertained us with the bagpipes and we were very pleased to welcome the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Jonnie Hall and Sarah and also Lieutenant Colonel Roger Binks

who timed his holiday so that he could join us. Plus we had a strong contingent of band members who came from far and wide and we hope they can make it again this coming year also. The Colonel of the Regiment spoke on the future and Captain Will Davies represented the Commanding Officer and gave us an interesting and informative talk on the Regiment's time in Kosovo and the trials and tribulations of training for the role.

We held a get-together at the Worgret Manor Hotel in Wareham in December and this year it did not coincide with the DRAC conference as in the past. This did not detract from the occasion however and the evening was very well attended by old and new friends. We also had the company of the Secretary of the North East Branch who was surprised by a few familiar faces from his past. We were also pleased to welcome Major General Roland Notley, The Chairman of the Regimental Association, and both he and past, present and past serving officers were entertained to drinks by Paddy and Sue Batholomew prior to the event.

We were very sad to hear of the passing of two of our members - Lieutenant Colonel John Walton and Captain Don Carne. A number of our members attended the funeral of Don who served with the Greys from their time in Luneburg when he was posted to them from the Middlesex Regiment. The Branch was also well represented at the Memorial Service for John who served in the Greys and SCOTS DG from 1947 to 1977. We join with many others in sending our sympathy to the families of these two most revered officers.

This coming year we will again be holding our Dinner in Salisbury and we will also hold a Gathering in Wareham hopefully at the same time as DRAC's Conference.

How you can help the Brooke Hospital for Animals

You can too easily find half crippled, malnourished working animals in the East today. Every week we give free treatment to thousands of suffering horses and donkeys and save many more from years of cruel labour.

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**Richard Searight, Brooke Hospital for Animals,
Dept GHC36, Broadmead House,
21 Planton Street, London SW1 4DR or call us on 0207 930 0210**



MUSICIANS' BRANCH (BAND, PIPES AND DRUMS)

The AGM and Ceilidh were held on 24 November in the Garrison Sergeants' Mess at Redford. It was attended by 110 members including wives and also well supported by members of the Edinburgh Branch of the Association.

We had a very good dinner followed by music provided by Fleming Maclay's Ceilidh Band from Grangemouth. Our own Ceilidh Band was difficult to assemble this year due to several key players being away at university, but Fleming Maclay was excellent and, on the whole, more versatile. He certainly got many people dancing and could play in the key of B Flat, an essential skill when playing in combination with the pipes. Tony Crease and Robert Veitch provided a most entertaining duet including tunes such as 'The Conundrum'. They were then joined by David Shearer and Tam Lorimer, both of whom left the Army many years ago. David left having completed National Service in 1959 and Tam in 1966 in Fallingbostal. Later in the evening Alan Paul and Hendry White produced their guitars, which encouraged certain well known vocalists such as David Yates to keep everyone going until about 3.00am.

The Committee were particularly pleased to see several ex-Military Band members this year. Up to now we have been concerned that, because our events are normally held in Edinburgh, it is too far for those who live in the South of England and Wales.

Lastly, we unfortunately could not form our pipe band again this year. Not enough of us play regularly so we are looking for newcomers from those who have left the Army more recently. We know that some people



Tom Knox, George Robertson, Sandy Fowles and Jim Ray pretend to be serious.



L to R: Rab Veitch, Tony Crease and Alan Paul complement the Ceilidh.



Rab Veitch and Tony Crease raise the tone whilst Brig Mel Jameson checks the pitch. L to R: Bill Howe, Dave Yates, Rab Veitch, Brig Jameson, Jimmy Hill and Tony Crease.

having finished with the Regular Army service play with Police and TA bands so we would welcome their presence on the occasions when we do get together.



Another Piper's tale enjoyed by Tom Currie, Dave Yates, Tom Lorimer and Jock Allen.

THE REGIMENTAL DINNER

Officers of the Regiment dined at The Cavalry and Guards Club on Tuesday 11 December 2001 in the presence of their Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO. Major General JMFC Hall CB OBE, Colonel of the Regiment presided and Lieutenant Colonel HD Allfrey MBE, Commanding Officer gave the Regimental report. General Sir Edward Burgess KCB OBE, Lieutenant Colonel Sir Malcolm Ross KCVO OBE, Major General RDS Gordon CBE and William Bishop Esq were guests of the Regiment.

Those attending were:

Field Marshal Sir John Stanier GCB MBE DL,

Major General CA Ramsay CB OBE,
Major General CRS Notley CB CBE,
Major General SRA Stopford CB MBE,
Brigadier WCW Sloan CBE,
Brigadier MS Jameson CBE,
Brigadier SRB Allen

IF Albert Esq	Major BH Garai TD	Lieutenant Colonel D Roberts
Lieutenant Colonel JH Allason OBE	Captain RE Gather	RM Roberts Esq
2nd Lieutenant S Allinson	Major MR Grant Peterkin	Colonel JMA Ross
Captain TJ Bateman	Captain JPA Halford-Macleod	Colonel NDA Seymour
Colonel AJ Bateman OBE	Captain JM Hanlon	Lieutenant Colonel JFB Sharples OBE
Lieutenant Colonel RJ Binks	Captain TMM Hargreave	Major GB Shaw
Lieutenant JWHM Bishop	Major AP Haynes	Major MK Shennan
Lieutenant Colonel MD Blacklock	Lieutenant ME Hayward	Major RA Sligh
Lieutenant Colonel HH Blackman	Captain SRN Hearn	Captain MA Somers
Captain ERR Boileau	Colonel JDS Henderson	Lieutenant DB Soulsby
Captain RML Boyle	Major AMA Johnston	Captain TP Spenlove-Brown
Major CTO Brannigan	Captain DJ Kahn	Captain A Spink
Major TJStC Brown	Major CF Lambert	Captain J Springthorpe
Lieutenant NA Burnet	Captain ME Lapping	Major ADG Stephen
Captain RPK Carmichael	Major DAM Le Sueur	Major AJ Stormonth-Darling
Captain DA Cavanagh	Major J Leslie	Captain JF Swetenham
Major CD Clark	Captain RS Lucas	The Rev Canon RI Thomson
Rev MC Cowper	Dr KS MacKenzie	Major DHS Thorburn
Major AJ Crease MBE BEM	Captain RC MacLachlan	Rev AJ Totten MBE
DS D Cross MVO	Captain CA Macrae	Major AR Trotter
Captain AM Cumming	Major HI Macrae	Captain AC Turpin
Major MJA Cummins	Captain JPF Marsh	Lieutenant Colonel RPH Vickers
Tam Dalyell Esq MP	Captain CWH McFall	Lieutenant SJ Walters
Captain WHL Davies	Major CM Mitchell-Rose TD	Captain DJ Walton
Lieutenant RJAEP De Silva	2nd Lieutenant ED O'Brien	Captain MB Warwick
The Marquess of Downshire	Lieutenant Colonel MD Oliver	JJ Watts Esq
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Major NCW Dunkley	JH Pardoe Esq	Lieutenant Colonel CIP Webb
His Hon Judge Dyer	Major MDA Pocock	Captain IS Wheatley
Lieutenant Colonel BP Edwards	Major DL Prebble	Lieutenant MN Wilkinson
Major SAB Edwards	Lieutenant Colonel Sir Humfrey Prideaux	Captain JH Williams
Captain RA Elliott-Lockhart	Major W Raitt	Major TA Wood
Major HJ Elston	Captain WB Ramsay	Captain PD Young
Captain M Ferndale	Captain NB Richards	
Colonel PCA Fishbourne		

MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

(At 1 January 2002, and Officers supporting the Regimental Trust)

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Sir William Gordon
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Bowman D
Brisbane G
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Brunton DW
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Burr TB
Byrne R
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Harte T
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Hayes L
Hendren A
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Hopkins RD
Houghton E
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Hughes T
Jacobs N
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Johnson R
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Jones G
Jones GM
Jones HL
Jones MG
Jones MW
Jones PW
Jones W
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May B
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Miller SL
Mitchell R
Morrison JR
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Oddy B
Ogden W
Oliver E
Palmer RD
Pike A
Playford D
Podmore S
Price RJ
Prichard D
Pritchard KW
Ralphson S
Reay PA
Riley A
Roberts WE
Robinson S
Rogers H
Sanders AM
Sands RA
Seddon T
Shaughnessy P
Shaw A
Shaw EE
Shearer WA
Shirley J
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Skerratt MG
Smith J
Stott B
Stradling W
Sutton JF
Tippett SL
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Turnbull J
Vaughan-Jones G
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Ward P
Webster JK

Welch GN
Wild G
Wildman JA
Williams C
Williams D
Williams G
Williams GO
Williams M
Williams PJ
Williams RG
Williams W
Wilson WJ
Woods L
Woods P
Wright A
Wright S

**LONDON AND
SOUTH EAST OF
ENGLAND**

Officers

IF Albert Esq
Lt Col JH Allason OBE
DW Astor Esq CBE
Lt Col GP Badham
Maj(QM) JA Barnes
Sqn Ldr JH Barnes
Col AJ Bateman OBE
Capt S Bath
JR Bettinson Esq
Maj Sir Anthony
Bonham Bt
Capt K Brown
Capt TRJG Brown
Col JTM Childs CBE
Maj MM Coombs
CPP de Westenholz Esq
RE Dimsdale Esq
Col MAD Donnithorne-
Tait
DPA Downs Esq
His Hon Judge Dyer
J Fielden Esq
Brig JR Fishbourne CBE
DL
Col PCE Fishbourne
Capt ID Fleming
Capt IR Fraser
Maj BH Garai TD
WJR Govett Esq
Maj Gen JMFC Hall CB
OBE
Capt SNR Hearn
Capt RW Hilder
ADS Horne Esq
HM King Constantine of
Greece

Capt HJC Humfrey
DA Innes Esq
HRH The Duke of Kent
KG GCMG GCVO
RLH Lyster Esq
JHA Maberly Esq
Maj JJ Macnamara TD
MW Macquaker Esq
Capt JC Malcolmson
Capt JPF Marsh
RWD McKelvie Esq
Maj MJ Mockridge
Maj CWD Morgan MBE
Maj MD Murphy MC
Maj DJ Nevison-
Andrews MC
Maj Gen CRS Notley CB
CBE
Maj W Olphert
Lt Col BW Pain
JH Pardoe Esq
DAER Peake Esq
AJ Pilcher Esq
The Hon R Pleydell-
Bouverie
Capt GRS Plowden
Maj MDA Pocock
Capt DL Prebble
Lt Col Sir Humphrey
Prideaux OBE DL
Capt CR Radclyffe
Capt JEB Rae
Capt NB Richards
Lt Col D Roberts
Lord Robertson of
Oakridge
JM Romanes Esq
WM Ross-Wilson Esq
Maj DGP Scholfield
Maj GB Shaw MBE
Lt Col DAH Sievwright
Maj SA Simmons
RDFC Skene Esq
Maj RA Skinner
RA Sligh Esq
Capt LG Sourbutts
FM Sir John Stanier
GCB MBE DL
DC Stewart Esq
Maj Gen SRA Stopford
CB MBE
Dr JSK Swanston
Maj JE Swetenham BEng
Capt JF Swetenham
The Rev Canon RI
Thomson
Maj AC Trevelyan

Brig PG Tynan CBE
Capt GPD'A Waud
RS Weir Esq
AC Whitaker Esq
Maj JA White
Maj MS Whitfield
Capt JH Williams
Capt PD Young
Mrs JE Swetenham

Life Members

Bampton WH
Hopkins NA
Wiles L

Members

Anderson J
Atfield JA
Baldwin S
Barnes G
Barnes HP
Bessant C
Blackman D
Brabham VG
Brackenbury R
Branch PS
Brimmicombe-Wood VR
Brown JE
Brown S
Brown S
Browning HS
Burnham RR
Butler DL
Calverley C
Carter RA MM
Casey WP
Chantry JM
Clews D
Cole B
Cole WM
Cooper M
Cordery GW
Cormack JG
Cox JL
Davey JM
Davidson JC
Dean LJ
Derrett D
Duffy MP
Fairweather C
Fancourt R
Fish D
Foote AA
Foreman JL
Foster DJ
Freer AF
Gaunt GE

Gaunt GE
Gilpin K
Gow NP
Grant DS
Gray AF QPM
Grounds WT
Gushlow G
Haig AJ
Hammond ME
Hancock GW
Hanning K
Harfield SC
Harmsworth RSW
Henderson AD
Hepton J
Hill T
Hitchens RS
Holmes E
Hudson AH
Hughes AA
Jackson KT
James Maj JL
Jones D
Jordan RM
Keyworth LS MBE
Lee RJA
Leggate GW
McClellan MF
McGrath T
McIntosh DM
McKerral J
McKinnon RN
McKnight J
McQuade WH
McSweeney DMc
Miller J
Moncur I
Moore RC
Moring DE
Morrallay DKF
Newton JS
O'Connor E
O'Rourke B
O'Rourke Mrs S
Panting HL
Parkin E
Parry HR
Pearce KG
Phillips GW
Quinn J
Randall JC
Randles RHR
Rawes EA
Reid DF
Reynolds J
Richardson RS
Robertson R

Rochester JS
Rowlands KJ
Rumbles P
Ryman RE
Sandford LJ
Savage PF
Sedgewick RL
Setterfield WE
Shorter DB
Silverman AG
Sivewright GWH
Smallwood F
Smith M
Smith W
Sproxtton RA
Stoddart GRMcK
Stone D
Stroud T
Taylor CR
Thomson AR
Toole J
Turl BJ
Waddock DV
Walker JT
Warden MD
Watson J
Weaver H
Welham S
Wilson CR
Woods FM
Woolerton BM

**SOUTH WEST OF
ENGLAND**

Officers

Capt ERR Boileau
Maj BDMcD Booth
Col MEC Coombs
Maj G Devenport
Maj SAB Edwards
Capt Sir Ranulph
Fiennes Bt OBE
Maj DV Ford MBE
Maj GAS Hancock
Maj AP Haynes
Col JDS Henderson
Lt Col RR Horne
TG Kirkbride Esq
Maj J Leslie
SGP Martyr Esq
Maj IE Morgan DL
GT Neil Esq MBE
Lt Col MD Oliver
Maj GL Scott-Dickins
Maj MK Shennan

Lt Col JA Speirs
TR Spenlove-Brown Esq
Lt Col EI Stanford

Life Members

Blundell Capt J
Braine BD
Swain JJ

Members

Adkins JH
Atkinson E
Baxter RD
Bell FP
Blake D
Breslin CT
Budge JWV
Butcher DA
Cashmore L
Clifford AR
Corson AD
Cross W
Doak M
Douglas SC
Griffis RG
Hartley IB
Harvey A
Hatfield T
Hiscock SG
Hobson CW
Hodges JA
Holden A
Hutcheson BR
Jackson EJ
Jackson GF
Jacobs KC
James Maj RA MBE
Joynes CG
Kelly T
Kennedy WFB
Knowles-Wilkinson AJ
Long TCR
Mackie AWM
Mason JAT
Mills R
Milroy BE
Morgan JR
Packwood MA
Pearce GW
Powell EG
Pritchard WJ
Rattue AL
Rea MJ
Robertson J
Salisbury IC
Scaife I
Shields A
Smiley A
Smith I

Spain-Gower PG
Taylor TJ
Teese R
Tiley JM
Tylee JD
Walker WM
Ward D
Ward FL
Warrender R
Welham DR
Welsh DP
Western J
Wilkinson LJ
Wilson EJ
Winchester T
Young D

MUSICIANS (BAND, PIPES AND DRUMS)

(with links to Branches)

Headquarters List

Officers

Maj AJ Crease MBE
BEM
Maj HI Macrae
Capt CKB Melville

Members

Baxter C
Booth A
Bruce J
Carcary AHD
Clarke P
Dick I
Docherty T
Falshaw R
Gardiner AS
Hildreth I
Hogarth J
Kidd CS
Knox R
Lothian BT
McLeod I
Macrae AD
Massie JC
Paterson A
Phyall D
Whittaker AE

Members

Brady M
Cruikshanks AB
MacKay DF
Macrae D

Officers

Lt Col MD Blacklock
Capt JD Campbell
Brig MS Jameson CBE
Maj Gen CA Ramsay CB
OBE
Lt Col AM Sprot of
Haystoun MC JP
Maj AR Trotter

Members

Bannerman Mrs E
Boyle Mrs C
Bigham WJ
Carmichael J
Carr JW
Carroll BJ BEM
Colquhoun A
Currie ARK
Dickson JSK
Fairbairn RJ
Glass R
Hill JM
Kerr L
Lavallin RE
Lorimer T
MacMurchie D
McVean W
McQueen D
McVie A
Moffat G
Page A
Paul AS
Ralley C
Shearer DH
Smith G
Sneddon R
Tomkins HWG
Veitch R
Vine JM
Williamson D
Yates D

Officers

Lt Gen Sir Norman
Arthur KCB
HJ Howard Esq
Mrs IR Readman OBE

Members

Hutchison PJ
Jackson C
Little P
MacKenzie JC
Stitt G
Whitelock T

Members

Allan JA
Hill P
Peat TW
Proud P
Wells PC

Members

Geraghty JR
Last D
Quincey JA
Whyte WD

Officers

Cummins MJA Esq
R Fleming Esq DL
Capt JL Potter
Capt WB Ramsay
Col JMA Ross
Maj DMA Scott
Lt Col JFB Sharples
OBE
Maj AJ Stormonth
Darling
Maj TA Wood

Members

Gibbs AM
Gordon JR
Hoare ET
Johnston T
O'Rourke PJ
Purves T
Rainger ID

Officers

Lt Col RB Anderson
OBE
Lt Col PGE
Bartholomew
MR Grant Peterkin Esq
Col CMcA Pyman
Lt Col CIP Webb MA

Members

Leslie RWC
Meikle JA
Standing P
Wall G
Walton LG
**HEADQUARTERS
LIST**
Officers
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Maj GV Cope
Maj SGF Cox MBE MW
AN Cuming Esq
Brig JD Deverell OBE
Capt DJ Galloway
Sir Peter Hutchison Bt
Dr JT Mainwaring
Capt JC Telfer
Rev AJ Totten MBE
Capt HN Whitfield
Maj KS Williams
Honorary Members
SC Wood Esq

Martin B
Members
Boode ALM
Boston R
Brennan JJA
Cameron Dr AJ
Cameron-Ilott VJ
Coates G
Connolly M
Convery J
Cowan LA
Dawson HP BEM

Dunbar R
Gibson C
Gordon C
Grant JD
Hanna J
Harris GP
Heilig G
Henderson C
Hendry A
Henry G
Jones GA
Jones M
Kellow P
McDougall CJ
McIntosh J
Moffat C
Neilson JJ
Oakes P
Prichard D
Rose P
Rowberry TDE
Russell AL
Shaw T
Spencer RW
Williamson E
Young DG

ALLIED AND AFFILIATED

THE BAND OF THE DRAGOON GUARDS

After the initial honeymoon of moving to Swanton Morley, we are now firmly in our new posting and life for the Band of The Dragoon Guards is as hectic as it ever was in Germany.

Last year started with visits to many of the schools in Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire (our Corps of Army Music recruiting areas), in our ongoing effort for recruitment. By the end of the year it seemed as if we had visited every school in eastern Britain. Indeed, we had performed with nearly a thousand young musicians.

After Easter, the Band spent ten days in Pakistan performing at the Queen's Birthday Celebrations at the High Commission and Deputy High Commission. The flight out via British Airways lulled everyone into a false sense of civilisation as part of the tour saw us making the journey from Islamabad to Karachi and then onto Lahore on a Pakistani International Airlines flight. You know things aren't going to go quite as expected when the pilot welcomes everyone on board with a short prayer! Still, travelling in the air was surely considered safe after experiencing Pakistani driving skills on the ground. Three hours driving down the GT Road to the Pakistani Army School of Music made even the most experienced trav-

eller vow to renew their life insurance the minute they returned to Norfolk. The travelling arrangements and various bouts of 'dehli belly' aside, a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all!

Two days after returning home saw the Band performing for the Anglo-Australian memorial service in Norwich Cathedral. We performed a similar service in the Cathedral in November last year, for the American Air Force veterans. (Norfolk and Suffolk being where the vast majority of Americans were stationed during the last war).

May was a busy month and among it many other events, we performed with the world famous Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. This was at the final of the Cavalry Cup football competition. A match during which we had to feign split loyalties between our hosts here in Norfolk, the Light Dragoons, and the Scots Dragoon Guards. However, once a SCOTS DG....

At the end of May, the Band took part in the first of the Summer Concerts that take place at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall every year. Affiliated as we are to all three Dragoon Guards regiments, we rotate the playing of the regimental march-



The Band in Pakistan.

es and on this occasion it was the turn of the 3 DGs, Regimental March of the SCOTS DGs. Not wishing to blow our own trumpets (so to speak) it has been said in band circles that this was one of the best performances of the summer by a band marching down to the bandstand.

A day later and the Band were performing a Beating to Quarters at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea by the kind invitation of the Lieutenant Governor, Major General Jonathan Hall.

In July we returned to Germany for a few days to perform in the Schutzenfest at Willich, a small town near JHQ. It's a tough job but somebody has to do it!

Many of our engagements during the summer months were cancelled due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease (the Royal Norfolk County Show to name but one). This gave us a little more time to rehearse for the week we spent in Eastbourne, performing on the promenade bandstand. Seven days at the seaside in the middle of August – this job really is hell!

We said farewell to Captain Barry Wassell (Director of Music), last year and welcomed Captain Leigh Sharpe to replace him. Captain Wassell is currently the



and on R+R.

Deputy Chief Instructor at Kneller Hall. We also said farewell to Musician Nigel Jane who left us to join the Band of the Parachute Regiment in Colchester.

2002 will be a similarly busy year for the Band with a repeat tour of Pakistan in April, two weeks in Cyprus during June and short trips to Willich and Austria in July. Later in the year we look forward to joining up with the Pipes and Drums, and indeed the rest of the Regiment once again, for the Reception in Edinburgh.

HMS GLASGOW

HM S GLASGOW, a Type 42 destroyer, affiliated to The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, left the UK on 5 February 2001 for Atlantic Patrol Tasking (South). APT(S) covers the South Atlantic from Africa to South America and anything in between, including the Falkland Islands. The first few months were spent sailing around West Africa, primarily in support of British Forces in Sierra Leone. While in Sierra Leone, GLASGOW was berthed alongside RFA Sir PERCIVAL at Queen Elizabeth Jetty, Freetown. Her main job was to help reassure the local populace that the British Government was serious about its commitments to them, especially after Freetown had been overrun by the notorious RUF. GLASGOW also showed the Flag in a number of African countries, notably Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana and Angola. Most of these countries were still classed as dangerous and armed escorts were needed when venturing ashore. However, surprisingly, most of the ship's company thoroughly enjoyed their visits. Exercises were conducted with the French West African Guard ships *Ventose* and later the *Surcouf*. The latter won the flight



The 4.5 inch gun in action

deck volleyball competition while GLASGOW won the shoot against a floating target.

In late April GLASGOW started transiting southerly to Namibia and then on to Simonstown and Cape Town for May where she stayed for 10 days giving the Ship's company the opportunity to take some leave, or

fly their families out for a holiday. Whilst transiting between Simonstown and Cape Town. GLASGOW participated in a 2 day exercise with South African Navy.

Leaving Capetown on 25 May, GLASGOW sailed into a storm force gale, which remained with her for most of her trip to the Falkland Islands, a journey of about 10 days. While in the Falklands, some members of the ships company took advantage of the facilities to go adventurous training, whilst others decided to pay their respects to fallen comrades by visiting the memorial to HMS COVENTRY, a Type 42 destroyer sunk during the conflict. The ship's divers also took the chance to change the ensign on HMS ANTELOPE which lies in San Carlos waters.

After a brief stay at East Cove, the military jetty in the Falklands, GLASGOW set off to South Georgia. It was already the southern hemisphere's autumn and temperatures as low as 9°C recorded giving new problems to a ship not long out of the tropics. The visit to South Georgia took only a few days but was one of the highlights due to the magnificent scenery.

In July, GLASGOW turned north towards Rio de Janeiro and then back to the UK. After a brief 3 day visit to Rio and an exercise with the Brazilian Navy ship *Rademaker* (ex HMS Battleaxe) she headed east across the Atlantic stopping for fuel at Ascension Island then Sierra Leone again. Leaving Sierra Leone on 24 July, GLASGOW called in at Cape Verde, her last port of the deployment, for another short fuelling stop.

HMS GLASGOW arrived back in Portsmouth at 1000 on 3 August after a deployment covering some 33000 miles. Then, while the majority of the Ship's Company enjoyed a spot of leave, the advanced maintenance party prepared the ship for the International



HMS GLASGOW (Foreground) and Brazilian Ship RADEMAKER



The spectacular views of South Georgia

Festival of the Sea that was held during the August Bank Holiday weekend. Although only the upper deck was open to the public GLASGOW received some 12000 visitors in 4 days

GLASGOW's programme during the latter part of the year was dominated by the training role. Initially she played host to Principal Warfare Officer (PWO) training, followed by Commanding Officer designates before heading off to Gibraltar for another bout of PWO training, this time involving live 4.5 inch gunnery firing. Finally after a busy year GLASGOW returned back to the UK on 18 Dec for Christmas Leave.

2002 sees an equally busy programme up to April, culminating in visits to our affiliated city of Glasgow, and then on to Gibraltar and Lisbon. Thereafter, the ship will be in dry dock in Portsmouth for routine long term maintenance until September. GLASGOW will emerge with new Command and Control facilities and updated engineering plants. The ship and its people will then conduct a work up period to meet the highest readiness states, integrating once more into the surface fleet as a key element in a world class navy ready to fight and win.

HMS VENGEANCE (STARBOARD)

By Lt David Alcindor RN

HMS VENGEANCE is the fourth and last Trident submarine, commissioned for service in 1999 and based at Faslane 20 miles from Glasgow. Since completing post-build trials, work-up and missile outload, she conducted her first deterrent patrol in early 2001, returning to the Clyde, in time to be the centrepiece for the Submarine Centennial celebrations in June 2001. At this point she acquired her second crew, who moved across from HMS VICTORIOUS, supporting the concept that each of the Royal Navy's "active" deterrent submarines have 2 crews – one of whom has responsibility for the hull, whilst the other is recovering from the last patrol, training for the next one, taking leave and fulfilling other multifarious tasks. This article reflects a snapshot of a year's life of one of HMS VENGEANCE's two crews. (Port and Starboard).

2001 has been a busy year for the Officers and Ship's Company of HMS VENGEANCE (Starboard), culminating in the 2001 Christmas and New Year patrol, which was the 268th of the unbroken National Strategic Deterrent Patrols undertaken since 1968. On top of this 2001 was an important year for the Submarine Community being the Centenary of the Submarine Service (Holland 1, the first British Submarine was commissioned in 1901).

The year began with our identity still associated with HMS VICTORIOUS, completing a patrol in March before assuming our new identity with a rôle transition to HMS VENGEANCE in early April. This involved not only changing submarines, but also the associated administrative burden, such as changing all the stationery and telephone numbers!

Despite changing over in the spring, the crew did not actually get any hands on experience on their new boat until September, since VENGEANCE (Port) were the 'On Crew' and we were therefore in the support role. However this generated a good opportunity to get to grips with our changed affiliations, of which one was a visit to our affiliated town, Bury St. Edmunds, in June. This was supported by both crews, in which a morning with the Mayor and civic dignitaries was followed by a visit to Riverside School, a special school for children with learning difficulties. This was probably the best received event of the day, both for the children at the school and the VENGEANCE representatives. We took the opportunity to talk to the children in the classrooms and also to play some sports with them out



Operations at sea (clockwise): Support Party hose tending, Damage Control Headquarters, Ship Control at Emergency Station, Fire Fighting Attack Party.

on the field. A close tie was established with the school, and the children often send us cards and pictures that they have made. We also visited the local SCOPE centre and witnessed the care that the staff provide to people with cerebral palsy. Later in the afternoon we were invited to TS St. Edmund – one of our affiliated naval cadet units. Once the Captain had taken the salute in a set of divisions, the cadets took the chance to ask our sailors about life and a career in the Royal Navy.

Before we took charge of the boat from the Port crew, the Submarine Service held its centenary celebrations, for which VENGEANCE was the senior RN representative. The boat was opened up to a variety of visitors. There were also visiting submarines from around the world sharing in the submarine community's celebrations. On completion the Port crew completed the Base Maintenance Period, with our assistance, before sailing for their final exercise of the year which ended with a 5 day run ashore in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

VENGEANCE (Starboard) became the 'On Crew' in early September, and we were quick to mark our new identity with an affiliations and families weekend. This allowed us to return the favour to all our affiliates from Bury St. Edmunds by allowing them to spend a day at sea on a Submarine, together with our sponsor, Sandra, Lady Robertson, accompanied by Lord Robertson taking a break from the events of late September. They were all treated with a demonstration of many of the submarine's capabilities including tracking and prosecuting a simulated enemy subma-

rine by firing water shots from the torpedo tubes, and also the countdown to a strategic weapon launch. There was also the chance to witness a damage control exercise, where the ship's damage control team fought against simulated fires and floods. Many of the visitors dressed up in the fearnought suits and got to 'have a go' themselves! The event was repeated the next day for the families of all the ship's company, which always helps to give them some understanding of what we do when we disappear for months at a time. Everyone really enjoyed both days, and most people were surprised to find that our submarine was quite different to their preconceptions from watching John Mills in "We Dive at Dawn", although many of our drills are unchanged!

The priority after this was to prepare the crew and submarine for our Christmas Patrol. The boat had already undergone its Base Maintenance Period undertaken by the Port Crew, and so our own preparation started with a visit to the Explosive Handling Jetty (EHJ) in Coulport to load 6 practice Spearfish torpedoes for tactical weapon certification. Once loaded we sailed for a 30 day period of Operational Sea Training. During this we embarked a whole host of expert training staff who simulated every conceivable tactical situation and emergency and helped us to develop our skills before we sailed on patrol. The period included a two day Submarine Tactical Exercise against HMS TALENT who was also on work-up. For the Command Team, it is of fantastic value to interact with another submarine, as, on patrol, we avoid all contact so far as possible.



The boat sailed during late November. The patrol was very quiet from all aspects, taking place against a seasonal backdrop of very low activity within the areas we were in. During a patrol the crew need to continue honing the skills learnt on work-up and the benign tactical environment allowed a constant torrent of training and exercises to be undertaken. Many of these are internally generated, but the submarine is also required to respond to Weapon System Readiness Tests. These tests are initiated as far up as the Cabinet Office and measure our ability to respond to the message to fire our missiles within the ordered response time and provide an assessment for the patrol. Internally, virtually every conceivable activity was addressed, with at least one set of whole ship evolutions and machinery drills conducted each week, supplemented by daily departmental exercises, lectures and forums. Of particular note are the 109 Qualification Boards (underpinning professional qualifications and promotion) successfully carried out during the patrol that should be viewed against the total numbers borne of 145.

Christmas and New Year were celebrated in traditional fashion, and we were lucky enough to receive a visit from Father Christmas who insisted on having all the sailors sitting on his lap! On Christmas Day the Officers served a spectacular Christmas Dinner to the Junior and Senior Rates before settling down for their own meal. Morale was also boosted by the threat of Tesco's Supermarket giving a free Christmas Hamper to all service personnel serving overseas. I'm sure they benefited from the free publicity, but it's now the end of February and we've seen nothing yet – so that's why we're called 'Silent and Secret'!

After conducting a pleasant surfaced passage up the Irish Sea HMS VENGEANCE returned to the Clyde in late January 2002 having completing her two month patrol.

12TH/16TH HUNTER RIVER LANCERS

Big Year Down Under

In 2001 the Regiment undertook its busiest year for over a decade. The year was also marked by a number of changes in key personnel and also, significantly, in the role and tasks of the 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers within the Australian Army.

The year kicked off with a Regimental range practice. The full complement of AFV weapons, small arms and support weapons were employed during a variety of challenging shoots. Senior cadets joined us from one of our fostered units, a practice discontinued for some years but now bearing fruit as a good source of recruits.

Training weekends soon became complex affairs in planning, execution and logistics. Combined-arms activities were carried out with other 8th Brigade units, including the 2nd/17th and 41st Battalions of the Royal New South Wales Regiment and our Gunners, 7th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. M113 AFVs and crews were frequently moved over 200 kilometres to and from training areas to take part. Regimental logistics staff were assisted in this task by the Brigade's 8th Combat Service Support Battalion.

Weekend training led-in to our annual field exercise in November. The Regiment, supported by the 8th Combat Engineer Regiment, honed drills and procedures during an advance across open country in western New South Wales. This area, comprising mostly private land, is ideal for armour and likely to become a favorite in years to come. Following the 'dry' exercise phase, Brigade units moved over 400 kilometres to Singleton Range for confirmatory combined-arms, live-fire practices. These shoots were demanding and



Lt Col Christopher Chayco wrestles command from Lt Col Phil Harris at Singleton Range

demonstrated the combat power that largely part-time units are capable of delivering.

Along the way we farewelled a number of the Regiment's long-serving Officers, Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers including Quartermaster, Major Jeff Swann, RSM Ron Follington, and rifle team stalwart, Sergeant Barry Cox, who retired after service totaling almost 100 years. Major Swann was also awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal in Queen's Birthday Honours, which was applauded by all ranks. The Regiment received a veteran back into



12th/16 Veterans - A White Scout Car (with original crew) comes back to haunt the Regiment.



Lancers at Singleton Range NSW

its ranks with the return of a White Scout Car, not seen since the 1950s, to the Association for restoration.

With the end of the year came many changes. We farewelled our Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Phil Harris at a mounted parade in the field and welcomed back Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Chayko to command. Major Gary Stone found that after two years of leading A Squadron that he couldn't get enough military service. He transferred back to the Regular Army and will be missed by the Regiment and archaeology, his short-lived civilian profession.

The end of the year also brought changes to the Regiment's role and tasks. From 2002 the 12th/16th

Hunter River Lancers will be required, foremost, to train light armoured force elements and individuals for operational service. Six Junior NCOs and soldiers from the Regiment have already completed peace support tours in East Timor. Over ten others transferred to the Regular Army in 2001. An establishment that requires both armoured reconnaissance and protected troop lift has been developed to ensure that the Regiment can provide balanced capability to meet a range of contingencies. Force elements up to a squadron minus will be required to be prepared as part of planning to sustain Australian Army light armoured operations. The Regiment has embraced its new role with customary tenacity and we look forward to reporting our progress in future.

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS POLICE

Chief Inspector Brian Muir

I trust that this article finds all of our friends in the Regiment well and looking forward to whatever challenges lie ahead. Another very successful spell in Kosovo will, I am sure, have left you in good shape to handle anything that is thrown at you. Any of you foolish enough to have read my articles over the years will know that I normally spend some time outlining the various activities in which the Force has been involved, before going on to talk about any contacts which have occurred between the Force and the Regiment during the previous year. This year's article, however, will be a little bit different. I was promoted to Chief Inspector in July, 2000, and was seconded to the Scottish Police College at Tulliallan Castle for three years, I thought that readers may be interested to know a little bit about the College and my duties there.

Shortly after the Second World War it was decided that Police Officers from all the Forces in Scotland should be trained nationally, there having been no central training previously. This was also to include some form of higher training for senior officers. The result was that Tulliallan - from the Gaelic Tullach-Aluin (beautiful knoll) - was purchased by the then Scottish Home Department. The Castle and 90 acres of parkland cost the princely sum of £9,100. The Castle, built between 1821 and 1824, consists of a mixture of Gothic and Italian-style architecture and is situated just north of where the Kincardine Bridge spans the River Forth. It

was built for Admiral Lord George Keith Elphinstone, one time senior officer of Lord Nelson and the money to do so came from the sale of prize ships captured during the Napoleonic Wars. The labour force was said to include French prisoners of war.

During the Second World War the Castle's history took on another dimension when it was used by the Free Polish Army as their Headquarters in Scotland. The legacy of this spell of 'occupation' is a great many artefacts dotted about the College and a steady stream of visitors from Poland wishing to look at the establishment which housed their fathers and grandfathers during a very difficult time for their country. Earlier this year, I had arranged for the then Major Hugh Blackman to come to the College for lunch and a tour of the premises but, at the last minute, he called off, muttering something about a promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel! I have a standing invitation with Colonel Binks for anyone who is interested to pay us a visit here. You only have to contact me and you will be made more than welcome.

The first courses to be held at Tulliallan, for Sergeants and Inspectors, began in 1954. Since then, large sums of money have been spent improving the College facilities. Probationary officers began to attend the establishment in the late 1950s and, in 1964, stables and garages were converted for driver

training, with a skid pan and manoeuvrability area being added. A great many improvements have followed, including a well-appointed Recreation Block, Resource Libraries, single study bedrooms and an extremely realistic practical training area - recently used by the BBC as part of its programme *Crimewatch UK*. The Scottish Police College is therefore rare among central training establishments in the United Kingdom, providing management, probationary, traffic and detective training all on the one campus.

As to my current role, I hold the grand title of Accelerated Promotion Programme Co-ordinator and part of my job is to attract applications from graduates to the Scottish Police Service 'fast track' scheme. I am aware that the Army runs a similar scheme as I see recruitment representatives from the various arms of the military as we traverse the country participating in Careers Fairs and talks at universities. Applicants are thereafter put through a series of tests in order to establish whether they are acceptable for the Scheme or not and these include psychometric tests, selection boards and assessment centres. Each year, a small number are successful in getting on to the Programme and I find the most interesting part of my work is to liaise with these individuals and their Forces, establish their training and developmental needs and ensure that they enjoy as smooth a progression as possible through a long, tough developmental period of up to eight or nine years. One of my primary responsibilities is to arrange outside attachments and visits for the participants and, who knows, perhaps one day we will arrange for one or two of them to visit the Regiment?

The Force, you will not be surprised to learn, has not been standing still whilst I have been living in the lap of luxury at the Scottish Police College. Things are as hectic as ever although one source of hope has been in the area of recruitment. The government has provided sufficient funds for us, and other Forces, to recruit up to full strength and there has been a great deal of activity in this area for several months. We are getting a lot of good people through the doors but, unfortunately, it normally takes about three years before they are sufficiently trained and experienced for the Force to really enjoy the benefits of the extra numbers.

Another important piece of news is that we will soon have a new Chief Constable. The current Chief, Sir Roy Cameron, whom many of you have met, is leaving us early next year to take up the post of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary. His replacement will be Mr Paddy Tomkins, currently working with the Metropolitan Police. I will take the opportunity to brief the new Chief as early as possible concerning the Regiment and the affiliation which exists between our

two organisations. I am confident that he will be as supportive as Sir Roy was and, of course, the Deputy Chief Constable, Mr Tom Wood, remains to provide continuity.

Life is full of ironies and the most recent to involve the Force is the fact that we are about to build a joint control room at Bilston Glen, Midlothian. These will be fairly large premises and will replace all of the current control rooms dotted about the Force area. The irony lies in the fact that for about a year, 1984/85, hundreds of us were deployed on a regular basis in the area due to the miners' strike and associated difficulties. A large coal mine was at that time situated at Bilston Glen and it has now been closed and its buildings razed to the ground. We are now to occupy this site and it will seem a little strange, all these years later, for a large number of our staff to be working in the exact place where the Force faced one of the greatest challenges in its history.

As regards continued contact between our organisations, it has not proved possible to bring representatives of the Force and the Regiment together this year to the extent we achieved last year. That said, I was able to participate in the Cavalry Memorial Parade in London again and took lunch in the Cavalry and Guards Club thereafter. In November I took part in Remembrance Day events along with members of the Regimental Association. The Service was held within the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle and was a very moving and emotional experience. Lunch at the new Club afterwards allowed my wife and I to cement existing friendships and, hopefully, make some new friends.

Next year is sure to be as busy as ever, however, I am confident that the two organisations will see a bit more of each other. Another Force Family Day is planned for June 2002 and I have already secured the services of Warrant Officer John McInnes and the Regimental Recruiting Team for same. Bob McKenzie's team were the stars of the show the last time a Family Day was held in 2000 and I know that the current outfit will prove to be equally as popular. I am also aware that activities are being planned for Edinburgh in November next year and, obviously, if called upon, the Force will provide assistance in making these events a success.

In the meantime, on behalf of Lothian and Borders Police, I would extend our best wishes to every member of the Regiment and their families and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming year.

THE CARBINEER SPIRIT

by Regimental Sergeant Major John Hall, The Natal Carbineers

When, in 1854, the British Government perceived the threat posed by the Zulu Nation to the Colony of Natal, British forces were fully engaged in the Crimea. For the first time, Imperial Forces were not in a position to protect their colony and Queen Victoria signed a proclamation in December, 1854, allowing the formation of volunteer corps. Although, many bands of militia were in existence prior to this date, their legitimacy was questionable.

The news that the Queen had authorised such forces led the citizens of Pietermaritzburg, Capital of Natal, to meet in the Raadsaal (Dutch Council Hall) on 15 January 1855 and agree to found the Pietermaritzburg Irregular Horse. Three weeks later, the Regiment was joined by a contingent from the nearby settlement of Richmond and given a new name - The Natal Carbineers. Since that time, the Regiment has only had two changes. The first being the addition of the prefix, "Royal", an honour granted by King George V during his Silver Jubilee Year and the subsequent removal of that prefix, in 1961, when South Africa became a Republic and withdrew from the Commonwealth.

The Natal Carbineers served South Africa, their homeland, through the Zulu wars, Boer Wars and uprisings of early Colonial days, the two World Wars, the South West African Campaign and Peace Keeping within our own borders during the Republic. They now serve the new, all encompassing, South Africa.

Throughout its history, volunteers have staffed the Regiment and its strong family links were inevitable. Among the early volunteers was E. M. Green, the second Regimental Sergeant Major, who rose to Command the Carbineers at the end of his career. He was the first in an unbroken line of family members in the Regiment ending with the resignation of Lieutenant Nic Lovell-Green in the late 1980s. Two of the three Molinoux brothers succeeded each other as Regimental Sergeant Major. Sons followed their fathers in the Regiment, including Colonel Peter Francis, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, and his son, Simon, Lt Colonel, Nigel Pinnell and his son, David; the Wright cousins, Bill and "Brocky", and their sons, David and "Rocky" and Alan and David, the legendary RSM Marcus Johnston and his son Cyril and CSM Herbie Willson and his son, Corporal Gary Willson.

Relations between the Regiment and the community have caused many to speak of the "Regimental Family" including the Regimental Padre Victor Shaw, who preached on this subject at the Drumhead Service celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Regiment's founding. Serving volunteers and community members of both genders, all races, colours and religions are part of the "Carbineer Family". They take part in the sporting and cultural activities of the Regiment's community outreach programme. The Family includes the Junior Football Club 3 and 4-year old Lucky legs teams" and the oldest members of the Genealogical Society. There are athletes, badminton players, Karate and Judo exponents, dog lovers, pigeon racers, and the Amateur Radio Club. Communications links at all major sporting and cultural events, and in times of trouble and disaster are provided by the Radio Club. The Regiment hosts the Natal Carbineers Social Soccer and Volleyball Leagues, as well as the local chapter of the Tour Guides Association.

The Hall family of Pietermaritzburg has a unique family tie with the Regiment. Alfred George Hall joined the Regimental Band as a clarinet player in 1920 and was solo clarinet with the rank of Staff Sergeant, until his sudden death, at the age of 72, in November 1976.

Alfie's son, Eddie, joined the band, as a trumpeter, in 1950, and by the mid fifties, was a regular member of the Shooting Team, winning 12 Gold Cups and many Emma Thresh and Royston Memorial medals. He rose to Sergeant before his commission as Assistant Veld Korneit (2nd Lieutenant), held Company appointments and relinquished command of the Carbineers, in mid 1990, to accept a Staff Office position and promotion. During this time and in his current capacity as Chief Liaison Officer (Colonel) for the Reserve Forces in KwaZulu Natal, Eddie continued playing first trumpet in the band. He completed three terms as Chairman of the Regimental Association and served on the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Committee and as Officers' Mess Secretary and Mess President. Currently he is the Chairman of the Natal Carbineers Trust and the Regimental Council and the Band President.

Regimental Sergeant Major John Hall is the third generation of the Hall family to serve in the Regiment. He joined the band as a schoolboy on the 12th September 1966 and became a fully attested member of the Regiment in August of 1973. For the first time in the Regiment's history, three generations of the same family

were actively serving in the Regiment at the same time. John first competed in the Shooting Teams in 1973, becoming Team Captain in 1990 when Eddie relinquished the position.

None of the achievements of Regimental members would have been possible without the active involvement of their wives and families. Eileen Hall, John's wife, emulated her predecessors and has arranged the annual Children's Christmas Tree Party for twenty five years as well as being an integral part of the planning and running of many other functions and activities in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

The Carbineers are the extended families of members who do not have their own extended families. From the leaders of the Regiment, came the leaders in the city and the business community. Carbineers employed Carbineers and treated them as their own kin. John has long dreamt of seeing this family spirit depicted in some concrete form. Inspired by the interpretation by his friend and artist Andy May, on the cover of Mark Coghlan's history of the Regiment, and the efforts of artist, sculptor and friend Roly Stewart-Hill, his dream is now realised.

Standing nearly 18 inches (45cm) high on a base of white marble are three bronze figurines on a bronze



base shaped as South West Africa / Namibia, where the Regiment campaigned during World War I and again from 1976 to 1983. The figures are blackened by smoke of battle and weathered by the harsh African sun and the mud and dust of the country. A Carbineer in blues with the hill of Isandhlwana at his feet is the traditional spirit of the Regiment, ever vigilant and ready to protect his family but not aggressive. His rifle on his back and binoculars in his hand imply wisdom to look ahead and avoid obstacles whilst being prepared to assert himself when required. The crouching soldier in his battle fatigues and with his rifle across his knee is the blend of quiet approach with the readiness to take on the world. By squatting down, he has a friendly eye to eye pose and appears gentle and approachable, yet firm. He offers knowledge and support to the youth, who feels free to lay a hand on the soldier, whilst straining forward to see and learn. The three generations are looking forward to the future of the country about which their motto is written. "Pro Patria" - "For the Fatherland."

The Hall family presented this piece, dedicated to the Carbineer Spirit, to the Regiment on 28 September 2001 in the hope that it will form the centrepiece of the Regimental Plate.

MAGAZINE SECTION

QUEEN FOR A DAY

By Victoria Cummins

The exciting possibility of a visit to the Regiment by The Colonel-in-Chief during the early summer of 2001 had been in the air for some time. As the Regiment conducted its Annual Firing on Hohne Ranges in early March, the advanced planning for the visit, scheduled for Friday 8 June, went ahead. My husband spent his evenings preparing presentations and programmes but the girls had more pressing questions of dress to think of. As the big day approached rumours began to grow of the Election being postponed from May to June, due to the Foot and Mouth crisis. The smart money had it that the day most likely to be chosen would be 7 June, the day before The Queen was due to visit us. One evening in May my husband returned home looking harassed; I asked him what was troubling him. "Well, the Queen's visit has been brought forwards by two weeks, but that's not a problem. What could prove a nightmare is that the chosen date, 24 May, is Ascension Day. This is a German public holiday, and anything much more advanced than breathing is expressly forbidden, no matter who you are."

This threw a number of spanners into the works of the planned Allfrey spectacular. Plan A had involved comprehensive demonstration of the capabilities of Challenger 2, accompanied by much in the way of flashes and bangs. Because there could be no fast moving tanks and ear splitting noise, and even the use of helicopters was heavily frowned-upon, a radical rethink was called for. The Commanding Officer applied himself to the problem, the visit was soon on track and looking suitably spectacular (in a non-banging, 'religious holiday observing' sort of way) to create an atmosphere of relaxed formality, and with a theme reflecting the forthcoming tour in Kosovo. The serving family of the Regiment would enjoy a picnic and the opportunity to meet their Colonel-in-Chief.

The rehearsal date grew closer and there were only two things missing, a stand in for the Queen and for her Lady in Waiting. When Major Cummins was asked by the Commanding Officer if he had found two suitable 'actors', he of course said "yes Colonel!" while his mind whirled through a range of options, wondering who would fit the bill. He chose to enlist the help of two wives, and realising if he wanted any supper he had better ask his wife to be Queen for the day; Mrs Alers-Hankey nobly agreed to play Lady-in-Waiting.



'Queen Victoria'...

The day of the rehearsal dawned and everything followed the programme like clockwork.

I received my first ever "Royal" salute and after pretending to shake the hands of imaginary dignitaries, rather bizarrely in front of real TV crews and photographers, the rehearsal tour began. During one quick interview a German television team were very interested in what it was like to be the Queen. After lunch there were some muttering and discussion about the photograph rehearsal and I took the Queen's place for a photo taken with 'My regiment'.

Being Queen for the day was an experience I shall never forget. Although it was nice to be chauffeur driven, escorted and looked after, I must say I found the whole day quite exhausting and for me it was only a one-off. Sadly one is always brought back down to earth, and with my husband's cry of "what's for supper?" My day as Queen came to an abrupt close



...yes Madam.

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THE MILITARY KNIGHTS OF WINDSOR

A SHORT HISTORY



The Military Knights of Windsor proudly claim to be the oldest military establishment in the Army List. Formed in 1348 by King Edward III shortly after the Battle of Crécy, the foundation consisted of Knights who, having taken their private armies to France to fight for the King, had been taken prisoner by the French who demanded heavy ransoms in return for their release. In most cases, these unfortunate warriors were reduced to absolute poverty and were forced to beg for alms.

Known as the Alms Knights and nicknamed "Poor Knights" they formed part of the College of St George that was created to support the establishment of the Most Noble Order of the Garter. Twenty six "Poor Knights", mirroring the 26 Garter Knights were given accommodation in the Lower Ward of Windsor Castle in exchange for daily prayer in St George's Chapel for, and on behalf of, the Garter Knights.

In 1559, Queen Elizabeth I, acting on the Will of her father King Henry VIII, signed a statute reducing the original establishment of 26 Alms Knights to 13. New accommodation was built for them in the Lower Ward, and from then on, they were allowed to be married. The post of Governor was created and is now a retired officer of General rank. King William IV, in 1833, changed the designation of the Alms Knights to the more respectable title of "The Military Knights of Windsor" and at the same time granted permission to

wear the uniform of Army Officers on the Unattached List. This is still worn today and comprises a scarlet tail-coat, sword, sash and cocked hat with plume. King Edward VII added a cross-belt with a belt plate bearing the badge of St George inside the Star of the plate bearing the badge of St George inside the Star of the Order of the Garter.

The Knights are retired Army Officers who can expect to end their lives in the Castle. Preference is given to applicants who are in needy circumstances and are married. Installation takes place before the age of 65 and the individual must be prepared to take an oath of allegiance to the College of St George and be willing to observe the Anglican faith as followed in St George's Chapel. He must also be prepared to undertake the numerous duties expected of him over the year, most of which entail being on parade every Sunday that the choir is present. The main event of the year is the Garter Ceremony when the Military Knights head the procession from Upper Ward to St George's Chapel, the spiritual home of the Order of the Garter. Additionally, there are four obits in the year, plus the occasional military funeral and the laying up of a Garter Knight's Banner. Being on parade for State Visits to the Castle is a further duty expected of the Military Knights.

The Knights' homes in the Lower Ward are theirs for as long as they can carry out their duties. All have now

been brought up to a high standard with central heating and modern facilities; the responsibility for furnishing rests with the occupants.

Current Military Knights, who come from a variety of Corps and Regiments, range in rank from Major to Brigadier and include four Late Entry Commissioned Officers, though seniority within the Military Knights is determined by the date of installation; the most senior Knight being the longest serving.

A waiting list is maintained by the Ministry of Defence (MS1), to whom any initial application should be made.

A board is held to establish suitability for inclusion on the Ministry of Defence waiting list. When a vacancy occurs a second board, consisting of a day at Windsor for the candidate and his wife, establishes who is offered the post. Officers should be married and under 65 years of age on installation.

LIFE AFTER SCOTS DG

Becky Beckwith. - SCOTS DG 1992 to 1999

The day was Tuesday, the Tank Park was relatively silent this morning prior to the NAAFI wagon's arrival. Then again the hangers usually are quiet for the first week following Christmas block leave. Recce Troop hanger, cold with the German sunlight streaming through the window, echoed only to the sound of sweeping this morning. Beckwith and Beveridge, the only two with little or no admin to do as I recall, or were they just skiving, trying to look busy? There's never much to do after Christmas leave and so, time spent with a brush in hand is time spent wondering, pondering over moments shared at home in our relative lap of luxury and sanctuary from the Sergeant Major. It was here I decided, much against my heart, that my future in the Regiment was to come to an end. Unsure of the reception I would receive on informing Mac McKelvie (Recce Troop Sgt) of my future plans, I took the bit between my teeth and climbed the metal steps to the Troop office.

His reaction was a surprising one of understanding and calm as I explained to him my reasons for leaving, maybe for his own reasons he could appreciate my plight. A short time later I was on my way to SHQ. to "Sign Off". If the truth be known, the now Cpl Beveridge, husband and father to a lovely little boy, almost followed me, testimony in itself that we do the strangest things following leave. Through talks with my Father, the Sqn Leader, other members of the Regiment and Recce Troop, and after six months with the Regimental Recruiting team in Edinburgh, I remained true to my decision and left the Army for a life with the girl I had chosen to spend my newfound future with. The door to Civvy Street soon opened and closed fast behind me.

I make no bones in telling you, the months following my departure were terrible, I truly missed the Regiment in every way, good friends, banter, sport, Regi football, structure to a life where you feel you are

someone and not just a Mr, when you're there at the heart of it all. When the Sergeant Major's breathing down your neck and your whole world seems to be surrounded by extras, it's far too easy to say, "I'm sick of all this, I'm signing aaf". When I think back to hearing people complain of "HAVING" to attend Regi Football training every afternoon in the blistering sun of a German summer I cringe. Today I would give my right arm to have a job that entails such "rigours". Life outside the Forces is a lonely one, believe me. Don't get me wrong, you can be surrounded by your whole family, your wife, your children, your parents, life long friends you've missed whilst away but still you will feel different, for something very big is missing. A void has opened and there will never be anything to replace the way of life the Regiment will always be.

For the first time in my adult life I found myself in search of somewhere to live, I had to save for our forthcoming wedding and to top it all I had a job to find. A simple enough task given my newfound driving skills recently acquired through resettlement. They would bring work in the interim. Not! Such work in Civvy street is hard fought for, as is any job these days. For ex-forces who know not of tachographs, drops, different gear boxes and the local area, the door slowly closes. I then applied for the post of prison officer with the Scottish Prison Service and was successful in doing so on my first attempt.

A house was purchased, or should I say my name was put to a mortgage, and we duly moved in. At last I was king of my own castle. Work soon began after a month long training period at the S.P.S. College near Polmont and I soon made my way daily, all 16 miles of it, over the Kirk O' Shotts from Hamilton to Scotland's Premier jail. H.M.P. Shotts.

For those who have never seen beyond the walls of a prison, I'll tell you of what you will find. Litter is scat-

tered everywhere and blows freely from one end of the jail to the other. Newspapers, tea bags, excrement and burning duvets are thrown from the windows. Scar faced and tattooed from head to toe, Scotland's hard men wander the corridors. And the new boys? "Fresh out thae wrapper" are plagued by such for sweets, lights and a fag. I can only describe the atmosphere you encounter as one not too different from that which you would receive being a solitary Trooper, wearing a Regimental T-Shirt, in the Pegasus Bar in Aldershot. Get my drift?

You very quickly become evermore aware and alert to your new surroundings. The day to day occurrences of fights, slashings, stabbings, drug dealing and alarm bells become the norm. Life in the jail can be going just great. On a cold Sunday morning, with a cup of tea in one hand and the newspaper in the other, it was doing just that. The alarm bell sounded in the gatehouse, a quick glance at the alarm board and we were off, running as fast as we could to A Hall. As is the way, officers converge on one area from all parts of the jail, unsure of what they will be confronted with. Only running with the knowledge that a colleague is in need of immediate assistance and could be receiving the kicking of a lifetime, or a fate far worse. For the next four hours, with A Hall ablaze, we fought our way in through the smoke and 'cons' to secure the hall. Riot gear, batons and shields and still they fought. A normal days work and all for less than £800 a month. High profile prisoners, infamous men who in years gone by sold many a tabloid newspaper, become day-to-day people in your life. The conversations you find yourself listening to would turn the strongest of stomachs, although how much of this 'embroidered truth' you choose to believe is entirely up to you.

My newfound ambition to be a Police Officer had me applying for Strathclyde Police the moment they began recruiting in 1999. The Prison Service and its £800 a month just wasn't for me. On applying for the Police you receive an application form large enough to lay your life's history on. Once passing 'The Sift' you are asked to sit an entrance examination. Preparation for such was long and arduous with many nights spent re-learning with my Father-in-Law (a school teacher). Going over both Maths and English saw me sitting my first spelling test in nearly fifteen years. After a three hour-long examination I left with a heavy heart knowing I had failed. Two weeks later I received a letter from the Police asking me to attend for my first interview. I had passed and a new belief in myself began to grow. After an initial interview, a home visit by an inspector and a sergeant, a final interview in front of a panel of three including a Chief Inspector, a medical and a fitness test I was appointed to the rank of

Constable at Pitt Street as part of intake 01/00 and duly issued with a Warrant Card. "Holy S****, I'm a Cop!" So many hoops over so many months and in the meantime I had married my girl.

Twelve weeks at the Scottish Police College in Tulliallan and my head literally hurt. Some nights found me revising for five to six hours. Having passed out on the parade square with the Royal Marines Band I headed home to Hamilton. Come Monday morning I made my way to my new station in Coatbridge and to the Monklands, Buckfast, capital of the world. Having left school with little or no qualifications I am today surrounded by colleagues with more degrees than the Officers' Mess put together. It's my time spent in the Army and in particular the Regiment, that has given me the ability and opportunity to be where I am today. Do you think an application form with three CSEs for art, geography and tech drawing would look good next to a job title such as Safeway Store Manager? I don't think so. Put it next to nine years in the Armed Forces with The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, PTI, Recce Troop, etc . . . and you are getting somewhere.

I have been very fortunate in my endeavour for a life outside the Army, in the woman I have and in the choices I've made. Jamie Gardiner lives across the street from me and has commented that I have fallen on my feet. It takes a lot of hard work to fall on your feet in Civvy Street. It takes time and twice the effort required to do well here than that which is required in the Army. I would not be where I am today if it had not been for the people I have around me and for my time spent in the Regiment. If this is the place for you be prepared to work hard for your money, and be sure there will be less fun involved in the process.

Dean Gibbs is as regular a visitor as he can be. We ventured south to Gretna in the summer of 2000 and to Junior Beveridge's wedding. Even today I am constantly meeting and coming across people who have relatives or friends in the Regiment. The old saying, "You can take the man out of the Army, but you can't take the Army out of the man" is so true. I see it in myself today and in my father, ex SSM 4 RTR 1966 to 1988.

I have been lucky but it's my opinion that's what Civvy Street is all about. It's anything but easy and you do have to make your own luck for no one does it for you. As much a pain as he can be, there is no Sergeant Major here to bail you out when you are in trouble, no extra guards, just the sack or jail. No pay office to go crying to when you've spent a months wages in two days, just a bank letter informing you of how much more you now owe them. No Regi football every afternoon and

the cost of using the local gym is £35 a month. If you are considering leaving the Forces think long and hard before doing so. Do it for one reason only. Do it with the knowledge that there is something more for you to go to than that which you leave behind. Don't just go home because you're sick of it all. Life's like that sometimes, it's far better to be sick of it all there than it is here. Ask yourself, do I want all I have today to become a memory and chance I shall miss tomorrow?

I do miss the Regiment, and I do miss the times I've had. I miss Canada and its diverse temperatures, the

ranges and blating off a few hundred round of taxpayer's money. I even miss guards and the simple things like BFTs and an APWT from time to time. You will never find a job to equal that of the one you are in today. The grass is no greener here, it just blows in a different direction. I am proud to say, that on the advent of my 30th Birthday, my wife and I are looking forward to our first baby in October 2001. I wish you all the luck for the future, at both home and in whatever field forces life takes you.

Keep "Chewing the fat" lads and take care.

OP SILKMAN - SIERRA LEONE

by Lt ME Hayward

Being 'heavy cavalry' made me a little unsure as to whether I really wanted to go on an attachment to the Light Infantry. My brother officers in the mess guffawed and took great pleasure in constantly remarking on how many battle fitness sessions, 'tabs,' log races, digging exercises and other generally unpleasant light role infantry tasks I would be forced to take part in. These are something that we normally try not to get too much involved in as cavalry. But in the end, the lure of most of May in the UK and then a further three months in West Africa proved too great and I packed for the tropics as the remainder of the mess prepared for the Balkans, again. Before long, I was firmly settled in at Bulford Camp, near Salisbury - home of the Second Battalion of the Light Infantry.

2LI, as they are known, are quite a different organisation to say the least — rifle brigade, rifle green berets, rifles(!) and no armour anywhere...but plenty of light division drill and buglers. I felt a little unsettled, but the mess did their best to welcome me and on my first Thursday night initiated me. From the little I remember it involved a vodka bar in Salisbury and a nightclub called The Chapel. When I eventually made it back to the mess the sun was up and most of the other officers were on there way out... in lightweights, boots and webbing...aaargh! CO's fitness. Thank you chaps. After what can only be described as a painful blur of a morning, I was sitting in the mess awaiting lunch when I was approached by the Commanding Officer. He asked when and where I had last seen subaltern X. By all accounts he had been last seen with me at a taxi rank at 4 am. Pass. One on sport please. Subaltern X eventually reappeared mid afternoon, blamed my influence on his current poor physical state and was promptly dispatched to the Adjutant to receive extras until Africa and a three month warning. My plan for



Lt Hayward and friends - 'nice slug'.

playing the grey man had failed dismally. The difference between light and heavy perhaps!

After several weeks build up training, focusing on individual training directives and a rather visually harrowing build up package including an UNTAT video of the 1997 battle of Freetown, we left Brize Norton on 28 May 2001 bound for Sierra Leone. As we flew over southern Europe I was still recovering from the Flashman Ball. Thankfully, we had a one night stopover in Dakar, Senegal, to recuperate. We were, as Officers, given suites and the soldiers standard rooms, in one of the finest hotels Dakar had to offer. Obviously this had been organised by the RAF. Anyway the several French families staying at the hotel were distraught to discover 200 soldiers lounging around the pool in various states of undress quaffing beer as if it was their last night of freedom, because it was. Ruined Forts, Desert, Legionnaires, Arabs and rather good surf all added to the rather strange start to Operation Silkman.

Africa, the “dark continent”, was, much to my dismay, also very wet. To describe to you all that was Freetown would take far longer than I have room for here, but I will say that it was very overpopulated, very hot, very wet and very, very poor. Use your imagination. The British army had established Benguema Training camp a couple of hours away from Freetown at the base of the hills that formed the Lions Head peninsula that gave the country its name. It was how I had imagined arriving at a Foreign Legion outpost would be. It seemed to be raining so hard as to make it difficult to breathe, the fact that we were soaked to the bone was really irrelevant as the humidity here, inland, was much-higher than at the port, and we were all soaked with perspiration anyway.

The outgoing battalion all seemed to be sporting very good tans and were very excited about our arrival. It meant they had only “days to do”. As it was the sister battalion, 1 LI, the banter was rife. They claimed that it had not rained for their 3 months and that today was the start of the rainy season. This of course meant leeches and snakes and all sorts of other horror stories around camp over the next few days. My favourites included the one about a soldier falling into a pit latrine and the ‘seven day storm’. Every year, for one week in August, is said to rain for 24 hrs a day for a week, flooding the tents and latrines and because there is no sun your tent and kit don’t dry out. Great. I struggle to remember a day in the next three months when it did not rain for several hours.

We then split down in to our training teams (4 JNCOs, a Colour Sergeant, a Warrant Officer and me) becoming responsible for two companies — over 200 Republic of Sierra Leone Army (RSLA) men. We settled in to the camp routine quickly and got used to the pit latrines, wet tents, cold showers, and pre- dawn PT. During this acclimatisation, the first battalion gave a thorough handover and before long we were awaiting the arrival of the 1500 soldiers of the 1 and 2 Bn RSLA - hardened veterans who had been surrounded up-country for the last 5 years. 5 years! As I lay on my cot in my damp tent (grateful to the mosquito net which kept out the multitude of insects that invaded the tent nightly and were the size of a small family car) I wondered what I, a two year Lieutenant, could possibly offer to men with that kind of experience.

The two short term training teams of which I was a part had six weeks to try and teach the RSLA as much as possible about the way we soldier. The idea was that they could learn from our ways, adapt it to their particular situation and soldiers, and return to the front with a better understanding of the theory behind British infantry tactics and methods. Ideally, we hoped

they would employ this new found knowledge to enable them to be more effective and accountable. Whether we achieved this stated aim is debatable.

The RSLA arrived, were fed, sheltered in tents, clothed, given old British SLRs, and then the training began. The job, in the end, varied greatly and was always enjoyable. We fired mortars, ran ranges, did lots of battle PT, first aid, map reading and theory lessons culminating in practical test exercises - the whole training nine yards. However the most rewarding for me was instructing on, and then running the senior leadership package. Essentially this tried to fit the RMAS commissioning course into one month. All RSLA officers had to do the course, and although it was very demanding, most completed it successfully. This was a pass or fail course, and if an officer failed, then as a training team we could recommend to their Battalion or Brigade Commander that their commission be reviewed or that they were not to be promoted. In severe cases, after repeated failure, we could recommend that they were removed permanently. This was, of course, a tremendous responsibility as an officer’s pay would often be supporting a large family. This was a responsibility that none of the training team took lightly. The officers on course were also aware of the responsibility we held and were mostly very motivated to achieve the results required. Everyone was more than aware that in a few short weeks they would be returning to the front line and would once again be leading (hopefully!) their men into battle.

The quality of the officers taking part in what we jokingly referred to as, the ‘Future Dictator Cadre’, varied greatly. Some were old - one in fact was a 22 year lieutenant having joined the army aged thirty! Yet despite their health being terrible —chronic malaria, dysentery, blindness and dozens of old war wounds, they worked hard and often showed the best leadership qualities.

Some were young (the youngest was twenty three) but they were often very motivated and capable and very eager to learn. As with any group of men, the good were very good and the bad, well lets just say that there was never a dull moment. Strangely, two of my best officers, graded overall on the orders and estimate process, fitness, ability, command of tactics, leadership, practical exercises, and a dozen other criteria, were two very amiable padres. I cannot think of two more ruthlessly intelligent and capable men. They were of different faiths - one catholic and the other Muslim - and every morning they would lead the battalions in prayer, one followed by the other. Interestingly, for today’s world, there appeared to be no animosity between the two faiths. It was as if

everyone practised both faiths as they were unsure which was the true faith and rather than be wrong, they were covering all their bases. Others practised a local faith called Ju-Ju, a form of witchcraft, which, we were assured, was very powerful and enabled the soldiers who practiced it to be bullet proof. On many occasions one such officer or soldier offered the training teams freedom to shoot them at point blank range to see the effectiveness of the trinkets and mirrors that formed this Ju-Ju protection. At times it was hard to dissuade some of the Light Infantry corporals not to prove them wrong. TIA. This is Africa.

On finishing the course the battalions took part in a formal passing out parade at which the President was the inspecting officer. Afterwards we would have a few days to recuperate before the next group of 1500 SLA

appeared. On the day of their departure, the SLA officers presented me with can only be described as gold Jesus wings. They appeared to be ‘airborne’ wings with the word Jesus in the middle. I wore these proudly until my return to the UK. As with many things that we did, I think we would only get away with it in Africa. They had made a real impression on me and I hoped that what I had done would, one day, be of some use to them.

I can only offer a brief insight here into what was a really a very interesting and rewarding time in Sierra Leone. The Light Infantry were very professional and enjoyable to work with and the Sierra Leoneans were really very remarkable. I can only hope that they are soon able to end their civil war and make better use of their beautiful country. Would I go back? Perhaps, but by then I hope I will be staying at the four seasons and not in the jungle!

PLATOON COMMANDING WITH THE ARGYLL’S IN NORTHERN IRELAND

NORTH BELFAST, APRIL - OCTOBER 2001

By Capt Rf Ongaro



Mr Ongaro and platoon in Belfast

“Drink lots of coffee and smile a lot” were the words with which the Commanding Officer bid us goodbye. With this firmly in my mind, Mr Ferndale and I were met in April at Belfast City

Airport in a CMV and taken up to Palace Barracks, the operational home of the Battalion. Some way out of the city, this allows for the incorporation of soldiers’ families into life in Northern Ireland. Having just

taken over from the Green Jackets, the arrival of two platoon commanders from the SCOTS DG coincided with the beginning of a two year residential tour of Northern Ireland for the Argyll's. Both headed for Support Company, commanded by Major R Whitelegge and then by Major D Spinner. I had visions of 51mm mortars and .50 calibre machine guns escorting us on patrol. I was however quickly informed that no such weaponry would be in use as we were to be employed as a normal rifle company.

The Battalion worked four rifle company rotation system with north Belfast as the TAOR. This meant that the Battalion would cycle through duties and taskings both in Palace Barracks and on the ground in north Belfast itself. To that end the Battalion made thorough use of Girdwood SF base, near to both the Shankill and Ardoyne areas as well as other flash points in the TAOR. From here it could provide a constant and dominating presence on the ground in order to facilitate military aid to the civil power, which came in the form of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, a highly professional and excellent police force.

The role of the rifle companies on the ground came in two forms: Counter-terrorism and Public Order. Counter-terrorism taskings could range from conducting vehicle and foot patrols through the city, carrying out snap and deliberate VCP's and P-Checks, to providing static guards at various key flash points in the TAOR, thus dominating the ground. Public Order taskings came in the form of riot control with the aid of full riot kit and heavier vehicles as well as Engineer assets, utilised in the more "overt" situations. In all scenarios the commander could be both proactive or reactive in containing civil disorder and had the flexibility, manpower and capability with which to do so effectively. This would also mean a very close working relationship with the RUC, which was absolutely imperative for the use of all resources in the most efficient manner possible. With years of experience the Argyll's are masters at this.

Our main concern during this period was with the troubles brought on by the marching season. Essentially a popular expression of both Loyalist and Nationalist sentiment over the controversial history of Northern Ireland since 1679 and The Battle of the Boyne, marches can involve anything up to thousands of protesters, some peaceful, some violent, but many are treated as potential riot situations and are approached with caution and detailed planning. Most of the marches fall between April and October, the culmination being in the months of July and August. This year however saw the controversy at the Holy Cross Primary School.

This catholic school, situated in a protestant area just to the north of the Ardoyne, saw considerable dispute and violence over the route taken by the catholic schoolchildren through the protestant area. Most of the trouble began when the school re-opened after the summer holidays. To that end, and for the last two months of our tour, our main effort, as the Security Forces, was with the securing of the route up to and including the school to allow the children and escorting parents to pass unhindered and without fear of physical injury. This meant that three times a day we, along with the RUC, would literally line the route and block off any approach from those wishing to disrupt the school childrens' walk. In the bigger picture this dispute also led to other tensions in Belfast, many of them turning into fully blown riots which we had to contain.

All of this meant, at times, extremely long hours and an exceptional amount of work, patience and self-discipline of behalf of the soldiers. International media attention could be so intense at times that one slight mistake or loss of temper, in increasingly frustrating situations would have meant a complete loss of faith in the army. I would like to say that the events of September 11th curtailed violence in Province. It did not. The only time that the situation calmed was when people were obviously watching the news. When they grew bored of that they came out to cause more violence.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders are truly a remarkable Battalion. Very professional and extremely hard working, they are very much the unsung heroes of the British Army, having seen almost all of their operational service for the past twenty years in Northern Ireland. The platoon itself was extremely well behaved, friendly and very easy to work with. This meant that from a platoon commander's point of view my job was made so much easier. Almost every soldier had seen operational life in Northern Ireland before and therefore I had, through my soldiers, a tremendous amount of experience from which to draw.

In conclusion what can I say? A brilliant time for both Capt Ferndale and myself, naturally with some high points and low points. The high points however far outnumbered the low points. Without delving into unwanted sentimentality we both will sorely miss a battalion and a company with which we both struck up a good friendship and tremendous camaraderie. A fitting conclusion would therefore be one of nothing but praise for an excellent battalion and thanks for allowing us to learn so much.

RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITIONS

CHILE

By Capt Bf Cattermole

Deploying an expedition of 200 volunteers over the 60,000 square km of Chilean Patagonia has its amusing moments. For want of a fuse, the alternator burnt out; for want of an alternator, landrover, trailer and 10 people grind to a halt 100km short of their destination; for want of 25% of the landrover fleet, the phased deployment may collapse. Enter stage left a man of empty wallet, precariously balanced minibus and, more disturbingly, one leg. The deployment can continue once again.

For the 15 volunteers - 12 venturers (aged 17-25), doctor, group leader and scientist) - this was the beginning of 3 weeks in the rain forest, 40 degrees south of the equator, surrounded by imposing glacial valleys, clad in thick temperate jungle, capped with ice and snow. This was to be the culminating stage of a 3 year investigation into the kodkod, a small and almost extinct native Chilean/Argentinian wildcat. They would trap, track and chart the few kodkod living in the Queulat National Reserve and their seminal results will form the basis of all future research into this elusive feline creature. Being a rainforest, their biggest battle would be against the rain and within a week, with their camp under 2 metres of flood water, the rope bridge into the research area had been washed away.

Not far away, a trekking group of one mountain leader, a nurse and 12 venturers were struggling through thick forest in a bid to break out of the tree line. Given that the local maps only depict 50m contour intervals and no reliance can be placed on forestry markings, navigation becomes more difficult. This trekking group soon found out the hard way when, free of the tree line they found their return route impassable. Being on a day trip only, they had no shelter and so spent the night huddled for warmth, praying that the rain would hold off until dawn.

In a world apart, another group, this time including an architect from London, planned to build a fire station. In an area devastated by wide sweeping forest fires, bomberos (firemen) are all volunteers akin to our Royal National Lifeboat Institution, held in the highest esteem by the community, subjected to rigorous selection procedures but lacking funding for the necessary

equipment. Blessedly for this group, the nearby river teemed with trout and salmon and spare moments were spent perfecting the art of fishing with a coke can. Chilean bureaucracy did its best to confound our plans, but within a fortnight the first cement was laid and in the local fiesta, the Raleigh group were guest judges for the Miss Perfect, Miss Big Breasts, Mr Big Nose and Mr Big Head competition. Tape measures resolved hung votes.

Amid the southern Patagonian Andes, 1000km south of Santiago, nestles Coyhaique, regional capital of Chile's Region XI and home to Raleigh International's expedition field base. From here, Raleigh International have mounted some 30 expeditions, although with 50 volunteer staff (builders, medics, mountain leaders, logisticians, a Portuguese accountant and my good self) and with 150 venturers, that of early 2001 is the largest. Drawn by a multitude of reasons, these staff and venturers come from a variety of backgrounds and nations - Great Britain, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, France, Portugal, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Every Raleigh expedition includes local venturers and here there were 12 from Santiago and Coyhaique. As well as the 100 or so self-funding venturers, there were 18 from the Raleigh International's At Risk Programme -young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, whose year long youth development scheme culminated in the expedition.

While Raleigh may have been coming to Chile since the Commanding Officer's recesses in 1984 for Colonel Blashford-Snell's Operation Raleigh (predecessor to Raleigh International), this was to be our first foray into South America. A staff selection weekend during Kosovo R&R, a DCI form completed and despatched and, with the Commanding Officer's consent, all was set for 3 months paid leave in Chile as Deputy Expedition Leader. Keen to make the most of the opportunity, Erica and I flew into Peru where we spent 3 weeks chasing the Inca and condor prior to overlanding through Chile's Atacama desert to the cultural oasis of Santiago.

From Santiago, by a combination of plane and landrover, we moved to field base. With less than a week before the 50 staff arrived, time was at a premium: flights had to be booked, recesses and even 'estimates' completed and projects finalised. On this expedition there would be 12 projects, split into adventure, envi-

ronment and community categories. The intent was that every venturer would spend 3 weeks on each category, while the staff would remain relatively constant within individual projects. The 4 community projects included the construction of 2 fire stations and premises for herb-drying and handicraft production. For adventure, 3 treks were planned and one sea-kayaking expedition. The European Community funded 2 environment projects, one marine and the other land-based. In addition longer term surveys of 2 endangered mammals were carried out — the huemul (a deer and Chile's national symbol) and the kodkod.

Dreams of Patagonian tranquility were rapidly shattered by concerned consideration of how to deal with 200 people within the confines of field base — all needed first aid, communications and campcraft training, but more basically, all needed feeding and washing. There would be 22 seconds per person per shower, 60 minutes to feed 200 people and limited time to sleep for the jet-lagged volunteers. Fortunately, such planning soon became a distant memory as I was finally able to get out and visit the various projects sites - a mobile trouble shooter on a week long road trip through some of the most awe inspiring scenery in Chile.

The Raleigh 'ethos', although different to that of the Army, is undoubtedly complementary to the way all ranks are required to operate. New skills, hard and soft have to be assimilated rapidly, not least adapting to working within a global Noah's Ark, (including an allegedly fairer sex). Meanwhile, those skills and practices fundamental to military life are constantly reinforced. Teams of 15 people from all backgrounds, thrown into a strange environment for 3 week stretches have to combat their own weaknesses, physical or moral. Courage, loyalty, trust, responsibility, respect, pride and self-discipline soon come to the fore; there also comes awareness of different modi operandi - what we bring with us is not always the best way to do things. Lateral thinking cannot be avoided. For the project staff, planning a 3 week trek, for example, through uninhabited tracts of land, where casevac can only be by air, is not an easy task. Leading the trek itself presents even more problems - group fitness, poor maps, poor weather and lost rations test even the most accomplished mountain leader. Expedition life is intensive, often draining, thrilling, challenging and ever changing. As soon as one thinks the situation is under control another challenge presents itself - a highly effective training tool.

No matter where Raleigh goes, geographical and perceptual exploration is centremost. Social, physical, mental and moral challenges will all be encountered and in that respect, Patagonia is second to none.

COSTA RICA

By Captain RT Williams

After a year of training sixteen year old recruits at ATR Bassingbourn near Cambridge, what better way to recuperate than head off to the Central American jungle, looking after yet more youngsters in need of "development." Or so the theory went, as I wrote gingerly to the Colonel to gain his approval. As luck would have it, my proposal was granted, and in September, I packed my bags and headed off to banana country for three months.

Raleigh International is a charity that aims, through community, environmental and adventure projects, to "facilitate" the personal development of young people in the 17 – 25 year old age group. Based on the "Coca Cola and Bridges" theory, venturers are put to work on projects in remote locations. If you can cross a river using a bridge or chance upon a shop selling bottles of Coke you are far too close to civilisation, or so the theory goes. In these alien conditions, the idea is that venturers carry out various projects and look after themselves. Staff members are in attendance, and meant only to intervene when absolutely necessary, to avert potential 'Lord of the Flies' type scenarios!! In this way, Raleigh ensures that its brand of Youth Development takes place, and as I found out, it is very successful in what it does.

Costa Rica is a small and very beautiful country, situated in the Central American isthmus between Panama and Nicaragua. Culturally, it is made up of those of Spanish descent, indigenous tribes and descendents of Caribbean peoples. The Pacific side of the country is predominantly Spanish in its culture, whilst the Atlantic coast is more Caribbean. The indigenous tribes tend to live in reserves scattered about the country. This ethnic mix gives the country a multi cultural atmosphere, and all live in apparent harmony. The Armed Forces were abolished in 1948, and despite civil war in almost every other Central American country, Costa Rica has remained peaceful for decades. Consequently, the welfare system is one of the most advanced in Latin America. By way of an example, every village has a church, clinic and school, for which a teacher is provided if the village has three kids of school age. The country even passes the ultimate "development test" - buses run to timetables and do not allow anybody else on when full. Costa Rica is also dedicated to conservation. A quarter of the land mass of the country is officially protected in varying degrees of conservation states, and the flora and fauna is varied and breathtaking.

It was to this environment that I arrived in San Jose, the capital, the day before the World Trade Centre was attacked. As I flew via Miami, this was indeed a close shave and I counted my blessings. After a week's acclimatisation, surfing on the pacific, I made my way to join my fellow staff members in a town called Turrialba, famous in the country for its coffee and dairy produce. Our new home, called "Fieldbase", comprised a barn, bungalow and former artificial insemination building, together with a few outlying fields. It was in this environment that I soon encountered the phenomena of working with strange people called "civvies". Luckily, I had backup in the guise of an RAF Officer with spikey bleached hair, who cunningly avoided leading any treks, stating that navigation from aircraft was totally different to attempting it on the ground. I made a quick mental note of this comment and tried to work out something that had a similar ring. Navigation from a tank travelling at 80 kph is totally different to attempting it on the ground, I claimed. Unfortunately, this fell on deaf ears, and I was offered my expedition role – Project Manager for Adventure Project Gentoo – Callsign Alpha 8. You can imagine the scene as my jaw hit the floor when I was discovered I was to spend the next three months hiking up hills through the jungle with a pack on my back! This was precisely why I did not join the Gurkhas! However, my diplomatic colours flew high as I gracefully accepted the offer, saying I would love to!!

The two week "staff induction package" which then followed, comprised of various "fluffy" sessions, safety briefings and a recce to our project sites. Thus the two other Adventure Project Managers and I set about planning an 18 day trek in a country we had neither been to before, nor had any knowledge of. We had no idea where to start. "Surely you have some notion of where you want us to go and what you want us to do?" I asked the expedition leader before we set off. "Urm, I haven't had time to sort out the adventure projects...you're on your own," was his reply. "But here is the phone number of a private guide I picked up from the friend of a park ranger I met last month. He may be of use," he added. So, armed to the teeth with this one lead, we set off in a 4x4 with a doctor and a few hangers on to meet the answer to our problems, a dodgy little character called Alberto. The fact that he chose MacDonalds in San Jose as the RV should have warned us all was not going to run like clockwork... we soon encountered the first catch – the oldest one going – money! He wanted lots and we did not have much to give him! We told him Raleigh was a charity, and so began an interesting week and battle of wits, where he wanted to rip us off at each turn and we tried to get useful information out of him at no cost! At the

end of it we had been to three conservation areas, met lots of his cronies and even visited his friends farm, yet had found nothing at all that fitted our criteria. We soon decided that either my Spanish was not as good as I thought, or that Alberto had a problem processing information. We thus returned to fieldbase none the wiser, without a plan and with the Venturers arriving in under a week. After some cunning detective work, we discovered the name of a fellow who was to prove vital – and a call was made to the President's nephew, former Minister of the Environment, a man with all the connections we needed. A quick chat with him ("Leave it with me, I can pave your way"), and a few phone calls later, we were off on a second recce to visit the head of the largest national park in the country. A useful three hour chat with him solved all our problems, and we then set about planning routes, logistics, resupply, casevac plans and all the rest of the essentials needed to make the projects work.

The basic aim of each trekking phase was that Venturers would complete a lowland (beneath 2000m) jungle hike and ascend a peak of at least 3500m. Each mini phase was to last eight days, with a day off in between. This was a sound idea in theory... it was not until we got underway with the precious Venturers that I began to fully understand Von Moltke's maxim "No plan survives contact with the enemy." Our first problem involved actually getting to the drop off points. Local bus drivers were reluctant to take their vehicles off paved roads, even though they had assured us in advance that they could reach our desired DOPs. This put us behind schedule before we even started, which then had a knock on effect on the rations we had left in pre-arranged RVs. Flexibility, an alien notion to most I was to discover, soon took on paramount importance to get ourselves started. Once we were finally underway, however, I discovered the true enemy was none other than the very Venturer him or herself! Whilst working out the daily routes, I had assumed a basic level of fitness on the part of the Venturers – little did I know that they were, in the main, custodians of large guts and spineless attitudes! Thus legs that I (conservatively) forecast would take six hours to complete required nine or ten! Additionally, the slightest injury needed medical attention. As the expedition leader had deemed me medically competent (due to some ITD I had completed in the distant past) I was sent off without a medic; consequently I had to consult the fieldbase doctor daily via radio about a wide range of issues and then administer any first aid required. It was here that I fully appreciated the excellent HF short wave radios we used, which took two minutes to set up and enabled you to talk to fieldbase (and indeed all corners of the globe if required) with little or no interference.

Progress was therefore very slow, and it was soon obvious that our route was a little too demanding for the Venturers on this expedition (all Millenium Award Winners from Northern Ireland.) Indeed the number of Casevac's we had on the first phase numbered more than all of Raleigh's casevac's in the previous year. Of my initial starting line up of fifteen, I ended up with seven (including me) three weeks later!

The second phase took place in the same area and was remarkable only in that three venturers nearly drowned crossing a swollen river. All ended well, however. The final phase then took us to Corcovado National Park, where rain forest meets the Pacific and jaguars are often spotted walking along the beach. This was an incredible location to end the expedition, and I returned to fieldbase looking emaciated but sporting a good tan.

After the expedition ended, I made my way through Nicaragua and Honduras to Guatemala, before returning



Arriving at Corcovado National Park, James Bond style!

to snowy Fallingbostel. All in all, I had a fantastic experience, and would recommend Raleigh and Costa Rica to everybody.

For more information, contact Raleigh International Head Office on +44 20 7371 8585. or visit: www.raleighinternational.org.

FOOT AND MOUTH CRISIS IN DEVON

by Lt Col Robin Vickers SCOTS DG, CO Exeter UOTC

FMD spread rapidly in Devon during early March 2001. The scale of the crisis quickly overwhelmed the limited resources available to MAFF and the Army was deployed on 19 March to assist. A contingent of RMP's proved insufficient to deal with an increasingly large and complex task and others were deployed to supplement this force. I was given command of this military element at a time when the officer cadets of my own unit were on holiday or deployed on adventure training exercises abroad. The ad hoc gathering of soldiers, sailors and marines, restyled as the Exeter Military Group, was rapidly expanded to something over 300 personnel, and was made up of both Regulars and Territorials and included B Squadron The Queen's Dragoon Guards from Catterick.

The complexities of this crisis faced by many people right across the UK appeared to be magnified in Devon! MAFF Headquarters had to be drastically reorganised to accommodate my military command and control cells. Those deploying onto farms had to be accommodated in Okehampton Camp on the edge of the Dartmoor National Park, a highly sensitive location mindful that the Park was home to the single largest concentration of animals in the UK. The piecemeal nature of farms, the complex geology and high water table, and the widely spread population



Lt Col Vickers with members of 158 Provost Company RMP the first military personnel deployed.

across almost every part of the county made the cull and disposal tasks particularly challenging. Of the 60 sites inspected for mass carcass disposal only 4 were suitable for use, and none were popular with those who lived nearby! Complex and often heated negotiations continued with local people and numerous interest groups. Both media scrutiny and political involvement were intense. Health advice was contradictory and provoked fear and discontent. Notwithstanding the lack of emergency powers, these many difficulties were overcome and, assisted by intense interest by

Government Ministers and other national and local personalities, the carcass backlog was eventually removed in time for the General Election to be called.

After some 40 days at the helm, I returned to my day job commanding Exeter UOTC, handing this responsibility on to Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Andrews, CO QDG. At the time of writing this article, the military has withdrawn from direct involvement in Devon and the newly styled DEFRA has the helm, although there remain contingency plans to re-deploy military assets to the region if so required. Happily, public support for the military remains strong and its reputation appears intact. Faced with a difficult and emotionally charged situation, the professionalism and versatility of the soldiers, sailors and marines once again was proved and they rapidly became indispensable to those agencies that they supported. Certainly,



The controversial pyres awaiting burning.

the military's experiences abroad in the Balkans and elsewhere proved invaluable when it was called upon to deal with the numerous FMD related warring factions at home!

THE ARGENTINE EXPERIENCE

by Lt AS Gemmell

Due to the Regiment's deployment to Kosovo in June last year, my polo season was limited to two weekend tournaments. This was enough to increase the enthusiasm for the game that I had developed the previous summer at Sandhurst and I soon found myself planning a trip abroad. Fortunately, the Commanding Officer is extremely keen to see the standard of polo improve in the Regiment and gave me permission to go to Argentina for three months.

I arrived in Buenos Aires at the beginning of October having spent three days at the Beaufort Polo Club in Gloucestershire being instructed by Claire Tomlinson. This was a serious shock to the system, made worse by a long flight. By the time I got off the plane I could barely move a muscle. My arrival also coincided with a period of extremely heavy rain, which continued to plague me for the next six weeks.

My itinerary had been organised by Claire Tomlinson and her son Luke, a six-goal player who was based in Buenos Aires for the Argentine season. Luke took me to their farm, two hours west of Buenos Aires. After a few problems getting through the floodwater we arrived at the farm, consisting of a bungalow, a kraal and a lot of open space – the Pampas. This was where I would spend the next three months, living with one of the grooms called Ruben and his family who were absolutely charming but did not speak a word of English. My inability to speak any foreign language



A groom exercising ponies, complete with grey beret.

made communication somewhat complicated. Little time was wasted and twenty minutes later I was launched onto a horse to go and stick and ball. The pony promptly dispatched me whilst getting on leaving me wondering how I was going to survive the next three months.

October in Argentina is usually a fairly dry month and by November little rain is expected. This year was the exception with an enormous amount of rain and bad flooding across much of the country. This meant that we were unable to play chukkas and it was impossible to get the car within five miles of the farm. I was therefore stuck on a farm, unable to speak the language and with no telephone. Fortunately a small hill

meant that I was able to stick and ball and school the horses almost every day which meant that by the time the ground dried out and we could play I was hitting the ball a lot better than previously.

Once the weather improved a typical day would involve getting up and cleaning all the tack and then taking about sixteen ponies over to the El Rincon Polo School, about a five-mile ride. I would usually stick and ball two or three lots in the morning, returning after lunch and a welcome siesta to either play chukkas or stick and ball another three or four lots. I was extremely fortunate that Claire Tomlinson came out for most of December and so I was receiving expert tuition on a constant basis, whether I was schooling, stick and balling or playing. Luke also gave me some valuable instruction and often had me to stay in Buenos Aires at weekends. This enabled me to go and see many of the Argentine Open matches, including the final where two 39-goal teams battled it out in front of eighteen thousand supporters at Palermo. The match was considered by many to be one of the all time great polo matches - an unbelievable spectacle.

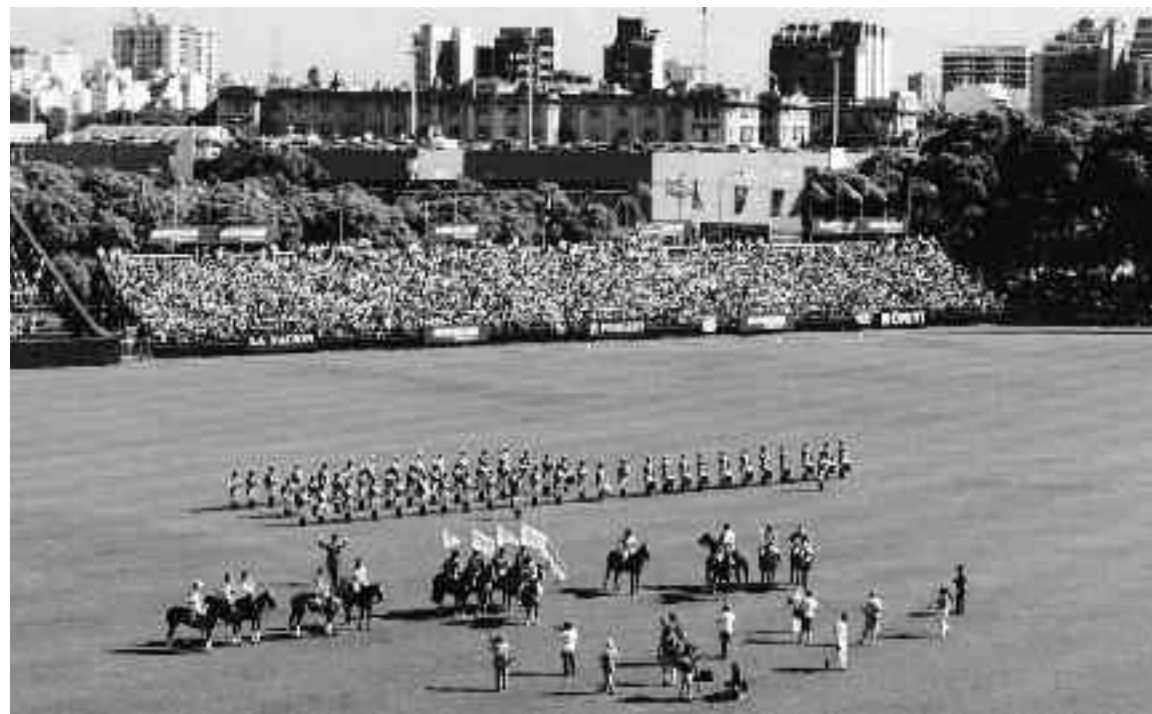
By December the weather was as it should have been throughout my stay but the economic and political situation was going into meltdown. Fortunately the rioting in the cities never spread out into the country but the mood was unhappy over Christmas as the shock of



The view from my room following a long day in the saddle.

all bank accounts being frozen set in. I spent my final two weeks trying endless ponies either for myself or for the Regiment and hope to see some of them gracing the hallowed turf of the Fallingbostal polo club before too long.

My three months in Argentina was an unforgettable experience in which I was lucky enough to receive some expert tuition, ride some fantastic ponies and even learn a bit of Spanish. I am extremely grateful to the Tomlinson family who organised everything for me, spent hours trying to teach me the finer points of the game, and are even continuing to offer me help and advice as the German season approaches.



Palermo, the world famous polo ground in Buenos Aires.

A FRENCH REMEMBRANCE

Capt TEAG Kerrigan

Two weeks after our own day of Remembrance, the French honour their fallen comrades on 25 November. As Epernay was part of occupied France, these memories are often directed towards the resistance - those brave men and women who, when arrested, were often shot without trial. Of those who were sent away, very few returned home.

2001 saw a double celebration and commemoration. On 28 August the Pipes and Drums marched through the town to celebrate the 58th anniversary of the Liberation of Epernay (by General Patten's 6th Army) and on 25 November two young officers were fortunate enough to be in Epernay and were able to take part in their Remembrance Sunday parade.

The Liberation celebrations had been masterminded by the Pol-Rogers, and the evening was a great success. The people of Epernay came out in force (about 5000 people) and a very impressive VIP list, including General Ralston (SACEUR) and the British Military Attaché to France, Brigadier Roy Ratazzi, Vice Admiral Larry L Poe, the American Military Attaché from the US Embassy and Brigadier Mel Jameson, all ensured that the evening would be remembered for some time to come. A few members of the public were a little confused as to why the Regiment wore a Napoleonic Imperial Eagle in several prominent positions on their uniform!

During the Second World War the Germans installed a Champagne Führer, whose sole job was to oversee the production of Champagne and to organise its distribution to the Third Reich. As the population of Epernay was the workforce, the Germans were immediately handicapped as a variety of ruses were employed to limit the amount of champagne that went to the enemy. These ranged from derailing trains, to deliberately mis-labelling bottles and giving out the wrong amounts. Often the champagne that did make it through to the Germans was wrong in quantity and quality. In one instance the Pol-Rogers asked the Germans for bricks and mortar to carry out essential repairs on their caves, however they used the material to construct a false wall behind which they hid their very best champagne, where it remained for the rest of the war! In addition the resistance made frequent use of the caves and although the Germans attempted to patrol them, they had little or no chance against locals who had spent years working in them.



*Pipes and marching down the Ave De Champagne.
From Left: Pipe Maj., Cpl Johnston, LCpl Bruce, Sgt Potter)*



Lt Jameson and Lt Kerrigan (The march up)

As well as the modern day VIPs, Mme Pierre Servagnat was present on both occasions. She had been arrested by the Germans in 1942 and was loaded onto a train truck along with thirty people and sent away to Germany. Along with her fellow resistance fighters, she was interrogated by the Gestapo and spent the rest of the war in captivity. Out of the thirty people who were in the truck, she was the only one to return home. For her work during the war she was awarded the Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur, Croix de Guerre, Médaille de la Résistance, King's Medal, Medal of Freedom and the Médaille Militaire. Despite her age she managed to make a speech in two languages to mark the anniversary of the liberation, and to lay a wreath to the three hundred and fourteen resistance fighters who were killed during the war, an example to us all.



*Wreath/Flower laying parties.
(From Left: Chief of Police, Epernay Official, Lt Jameson,
Mme Servagnat, Lt Kerrigan, Mme Lundy)*

Although the atmosphere was very different between the two events, the feeling of gratitude to the generation that fought in the war remained constant. In addition, the Regiment was made to feel extremely welcome, and as always the Pol-Rogers' hospitality was Second to None. It was a real privilege to have taken

part in both the Liberation celebrations and the Remembrance Day parade, and the reception that the Pipes and Drums received confirmed that there is a unique and very special friendship between the Regiment and the people of Epernay. VIVE L'ECOSSE

Presentation inside Epernay town hall. (From Left: Pipe Maj., Mayor of Epernay, Drum Maj., Brig. Roy Ratazzi - British MA to France -, General Ralston - SACEUR-)



THE LIFE OF A UNITED NATIONS MILITARY OBSERVER IN KUWAIT

By Capt R L Clayton



The Kuwaiti tank graveyard

As I drove up the near empty motorway from Kuwait City towards the Iraqi border, a watchtower and several portacabins surrounded by Hesco Bastions and lots of barbed wire emerged in the empty desert shimmer. This was POB N9, a Patrol Observation Base and my home for the next few months.

I had arrived several days beforehand to start a six-month tour as a UN Military Observer on the border with Iraq and Kuwait. A great idea a few months back but this was 19 September 2001 and at the time it seemed very likely that Iraqi or American tanks were going to be touring the area again very soon. As it happens, the War on Terrorism moved against the Taliban into Afghanistan and the DMZ area remained quiet except the usual cross border verbal skirmishes over stray camels, alcohol smuggling and Allied jet sorties.

The UNIKOM mission observes the 280 km border and the 15km deep De-militarised Zone (DMZ) from the Persian Gulf down to the border with Saudi Arabia. It is split into three sectors - North, South and Maritime. The border is now a huge electrified fence, defended to front and rear by a 5m ditch and boom with several crossing points for UN personnel only. 38 different nations are represented as Observers along with a Bangladeshi Force Protection Battalion, an Argentinian Logistics Company and Engineer Squadron.

For my first four months I lived in a POB with 6 other officers - an American, an Irishman, a Ghanaian, a Swede, a Russian and a Uruguayan. Its amazing how national stereotypes can be so confirmed sometimes. Each POB is self sufficient with a daily rotation of all the duties, with varying personal standards. We cooked for ourselves in the POBs. For my last two months I moved to one of the sector HQs to do a staff job, sharing a camp with a Bangladeshi motorised company.

As UN Observers we spent our time patrolling a lot of desert from our POBs, mainly on tracks but often through the cleared minefield lanes. There are still plenty of tank hulks on the Iraqi side of the border but the Kuwaiti side has been cleaned up. The air pollution is still bad along the border caused by the Iraqi oil-field burn-offs. We conducted two three-hour patrols in a 24hr period - varying the times to keep the border guards on their toes. When I arrived, the deserts daytime temperature had been 50C, the flies interminable and I soon understood why little happens during the day in hot climates. By Christmas it had dropped to a cool 1C and from November I also learnt how much it rains in the desert. We had some amazing lightning storms, flash floods were common and one actually washed away a whole UN Border post, APCs included. In reality the biggest danger in the DMZ was speeding local vehicles and blowouts. Every few weeks, an Iraqi

shepherd or child would wander into a minefield leading to some horrific injuries but more often death, despite the best efforts of our German medical teams. Victims were often driven many miles for UN medical assistance rather than chancing the bug ridden and under-supplied Iraqi hospital in Basra. There is no shortage of medical supplies coming into the country, just political gain for holding them back at the locals' expense.

The multinational aspect of the tour was fascinating in terms of culinary and sporting variety but also in the opportunities for R&R. We entered a truly United Nations team for the Dubai Rugby sevens tournament with team members from Argentina, Ireland, France, Germany and Scotland. Sadly the Fijian and Kenyan dropped out! I managed to catch up with April and

Andrew Phillips for a bit of motor boating in Kuwait City and also with James Cushnir, whilst on leave in the Oman. He and Jessica kindly kitted us out with all their camping equipment, which was perfect for a week exploring castles and hidden oases in the desert and the Hajar mountains.

All in all it was an interesting six months, if not for the job but the interaction with so many different representatives of other countries armed forces in a fascinating part of the world. You need plenty of diplomacy and time to get anything done in the UN, which could be incredibly frustrating for its creaking bureaucracy sometimes. Military men are very much the same around the world and agree that it is the civvies that get in the way of solutions. The UN is no different.

EXERCISE OCEAN CORMORANT

THE FASTNET RACE 2001

JOINT SERVICES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE ENTRY

By Maj J U Biggart

The Fastnet is a biennial race from Cowes round the Fastnet Rock, just off the South-Western tip of Ireland, and back to Plymouth. The race is often described as "notorious" after the tragic race in 1979 when several boats sunk and 17 people died in an atrocious freak storm. The race is more than 600 nautical miles long and can take up to a week to complete. Over 200 yachts enter, ranging from large multihulls to smaller cruising boats. Boats are split into International Racing Classes (IRC) based on their size, type and performance and yachts are handicapped. This year's race took place in August and was the first race of the Millennium and one in which I was lucky enough to race as part of a Joint Services Command and Staff College 'purple' team.

An Army team first planned to enter the 2001 Fastnet Race while at RMCS. Major Gary Deakin 1 KINGS led the team in a number of the Royal Ocean Racing Club summer series cross-channel races. We therefore started the year with the bones of a crew and the makings of a plan. As the year progressed, we learnt a lot about putting a large sporting project together. We elected not to use a Service boat, but to make it truly the race of a lifetime by chartering a Farr 65 offshore racing yacht, *Spirit of Minerva*. At 65 foot and just over 2 years old she was by far the largest and most capable

yacht any of us had raced and could be considered to be in the 'formula one' of ocean racing. Coincidentally, and to add a Regimental connection, she had in fact won the recent Millennium Round the World Race in 1999/2000 with Hugh Martin as her skipper. It cost us over £2,000 per day to charter, bringing the project total to around £25,000 – most raised from individual contributions, but including substantial support from the Services, from Regiments and a very generous contribution from the Staff College. Our attempts to raise money through sponsorship were less successful.

The boat required a crew of around 20. We therefore trawled the college for people who might be prepared to give up over a week of their leave to join the team. In doing so, the team had grown from its Army roots into a truly Joint crew. Concurrently we put together a campaign plan, linking our training, financial, media and sponsorship lines. For much of the year running up to the Fastnet, we raced *Redcoat*, the Army's offshore racing yacht in both the Hamble Winter and Spring series. These were a series of short Sunday races with what appeared to be a completely different crew each time. The only cross-channel race we were able to compete before the Fastnet was the Cervantes Trophy, from Cowes to Oustreham. We raced *Redcoat* and sailed the Household Division boat *Gladeye* along-

side for experience, thus enabling almost 20 people to experience a decent 160 nm race. The conditions were poor, a stiff breeze and choppy water and on the return to Britain several of the yachts in the race had to be rescued. This resulted in some of the crew having a radical rethink about their commitment to taking part in the Fastnet.

As part of our work up training we took *Spirit of Minerva* out for a weekend sail training before the race and were lucky enough to have Hugh Martin join and coach us through the finer points of racing such a large yacht. His contribution was invaluable as he was able to impart knowledge that he had gleaned from a year's racing on the world's oceans. The training also enabled us to shake out crew positions and responsibilities and start to speed up our drills. The boat was generally described as 'awesome' without a trace of hyperbole. At almost double the size of *Redcoat* she was a real challenge to master and she certainly bit if you got it wrong!

At the start of the week running up to the race the crew met at Haslar Marina, where the yacht was based, and set about preparing her for racing at the end of Cowes week and the Fastnet. This required the offload of much unnecessary equipment, so reducing weight, and the addition of the 3 Service recruiting logos to each side of the hull. It was at this stage that we also received some much needed sponsorship from among others Carphone Warehouse whose CEO, an avid sailor himself, seemed to be impressed with the 'Corinthian Spirit' of our essentially amateur team taking on some of the best in the world. Our sponsors help certainly took the financial pressure off the project although it gave us added responsibilities in maintaining the correct profile.

We participated in the penultimate race of Cowes Week but were defeated by dying winds, although it provided a refresher on the relatively complex and over-crowded starting sequences that typify racing in the Solent and Cowes Week in particular. Our planned 'families day' was frustrated by technical faults which had to be rectified before the race but by the Saturday evening the boat was ready for the start, or so we thought.

The exit from the western end of the Solent proved all too much for some and gear failure was very evident around the fleet. After a hard fought tacking match with another Farr 65, *Spirit of Isis*, we cheered as her No 3 showed the strain of many thousands of miles and split from leech to luff. We made swift progress down the South coast and without mishap, save for a replacement genoa sheet being required.



Maj Biggart trimming the spinnaker on the final leg home.

At about 0130 however, we discovered a disturbing amount of water entering the boat through the stern gland. Those on watch bailed furiously and the leak was eventually stemmed with sail and cable ties. We were beginning to feel slightly wary of what might happen next but nevertheless reached the Lizard by first light and more importantly in the company of 2 other Farr 65s, one of whose professional skippers remarked at the end of the race how he couldn't believe we were up there with them after over 24 hours at sea.

As so often is the case, the next hours of daylight passed without incident and with an increase in wind to about 20 Knots in the North-West we made steady progress at 13-15 Knots. During Monday night it appeared that we had run out of gas, but confirmation was a job for daylight. Unfortunately, it did not take long to establish that all 4 gas bottles were empty, something we should have checked but had overlooked during our work up preparation. Breakfast was to be cold ORP, as was the menu for the next 48 hours, and while Army members of the crew revelled in being 'on hard routine,' although certainly missing their 'brews,' our Naval and Airforce colleagues were less than impressed. Morale and banter did eventually

pick up, even with the prospect of cold food for the remainder of the race, to the extent that our guest photographer from Yachting Monthly decided we were probably 'not all there'!

During the same night the diesel engine and generator provided engineering challenges that representatives of the RLC and Royal Engineers could not resist. Cross connecting fuel tanks and using a manual water pump to take fuel to the header tank the team managed to restore power in about 12 hours. It was testimony to the ingenuity and skills of the Services and certainly surprised the owner's on-board representative. It also allowed us to make full use again of the on-board computer and associated navigation systems, if not provide a 'hot wet'.

We rounded the Fastnet Rock early on Tuesday evening in a persistent drizzle. Supper although cold, was accompanied by some chilled Pol Roger Champagne consumed under the watchful gaze of a film crew covering the race. After a murky and miserably damp day, the sun broke through to offer a fine sunset before we gybed at last light and headed for Scilly. As we hoisted the new lightweight spinnaker for the first time, all attention was now on trimming and spotting the opposition. We had intentionally come west of the rhumb line in anticipation of a windshift from NW to W which, although forecast, never materialised and we were keen to see how much we had lost by sailing the

extra 10 nm or so. We maintained best possible boat-speed in the lighter winds by gybing on a regular basis, conscious that if we fell out of the back of the South moving weather system there was nothing behind it and we would almost certainly be becalmed.

We rounded Bishop's Rock in the late afternoon and enjoyed a stunning sunset astern of us and as we pushed East, still under spinnaker, while enjoying a fantastic display of shooting stars with the Milky Way beyond. We eventually crossed the finish line at 0410 with Carmen playing loudly in the background courtesy of Classic FM, in an elapsed time of 3d:11h. After cleaning the boat in preparation for the handover we were called by the Royal Ocean Racing Club office en route to the bar with the news that we had provisionally won the Culdrose Cup, for fastest Service yacht to the Fastnet rock on corrected time. A day later this was renounced after another boat had made an entry for the trophy after she had finished the race. We nevertheless maintained second place in the Culdrose Cup and took third place amongst the Service boats for the overall race. In our class, Class Zero, we came 22nd out of a fleet of about 40. Given many of our near competitors were professional sailors we were delighted with our performance. It was without doubt a tremendous experience and one which we hope may lead to future Joint Service entries in world-class sailing, for only if we go 'purple' will the Services have the weight and support to compete with the best.



The team rounding the Fastnet Rock (top right)

TAM DALYELL AND THE RUSSIAN CONNECTION

By Major James Scott, Honorary Archivist

Following the presentation of the Icon to the Regiment, the Russian link to the Dalyell ancestry was marked on Tuesday 28 August 2001 when Mr Mironov presented Tam Dalyell with a plaque to commemorate this long and valued association. Tam and Kathleen Dalyell very kindly gave a Reception at The Binns, followed by a tour of the House and then a luncheon party at which were present Mr and Mrs Vitaly Mironov, the Cossack Dancers, Lieutenant Colonel Roger Binks, Captain Jimmy Springthorpe and Major James Scott from Home Headquarters. On arrival all were given glasses of a delicious white wine and masses of bliny (smoked salmon on little pancakes).

Having gratefully received the plaque, Tam presented the Caledonain Society with a picture of his ancestor the General and gave a most interesting talk, translated by Mr Mironov into Russian. General Tam had been captured whilst fighting for Charles II at the Battle of Worcester in 1650 and was imprisoned in the Tower of London. He escaped from there and joined his King in France from whence he returned to Scotland to oppose the Parliamentarian forces in the campaign of 1654. Returning to France briefly he then travelled to Russia and fought for the Tsar for ten years until, as a Russian general, he was summoned home by the restored King Charles. The Russian



Tam Dalyell MP with members of the Cossack Ensemble

guests obviously understood the talk, laughing and applauding at the appropriate time.

Following a guided tour of the House all were given a copy of Kathleen Dalyell's excellent Guide Book and were entertained to a delicious lunch set in the dining room and on the terrace. Afterwards the Cossack dancers gave a short display, a group photograph was taken and the guests returned to Edinburgh. Tam and Kathleen Dalyell were wonderful hosts, the weather was fine and it was a most happy occasion.



The gathering at The House of the Binns

PILGRIMAGE TO OVERLOON - 14 JUNE 2001 (A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL SIR DEREK LANG)

From A Report By Dr Tom Renouf

The concept of The Liberating Scots Trust developed by General Sir Derek Lang from proposals inspired by the Highland Division Pilgrimage to North Brabant in 1994 to celebrate with the Dutch the 50th Anniversary of their Liberation. The Trust, which continues to need funds, was founded to establish a museum to portray the part played by Scottish and Scottish related Regiments in liberation of the Netherlands. General Lang persuaded Sir Charles Fraser to accept the Chair of the Trust with Colonel Donald Hardie as Director and Dr Diana Henderson undertaking the historical research.

After successful negotiations the Dutch authorities approved the preferred home for the museum at the Dutch National War and Resistance museum at Overloon, some 35 miles east of Eindhoven. Alan Harriot, was commissioned to design and construct the display for an opening date of 14 June 2001. Although General Sir Derek Lang did not see plan come to fruition, his wishes that all Scottish Regiments should be represented with a colour party and guard of honour provided by Scottish veterans were almost met.

Twenty two veterans were delighted to make the journey and extend the visit to six days to justify the expense incurred, giving the opportunity to revisit some of the battle sites and the towns liberated by our Regiments. Assembling at Schiphol airport the party travelled to Gennep. Final preparations were made at Overloon on 14 June before the ceremony at noon.

Outside the Church two young Dutch pipers played a traditional Scottish welcome for the guests, many of whom came from towns liberated by our Regiments. The guard of honour took their seats followed by the colour party who laid up the standards. The Very Rev James Harkness conducted a beautifully structured service with appropriate readings by Sir Charles Fraser and Donald Hardie and with sonorous à capella singing by all

The pipers then led the way from the church through the woods to the museum compound. At the gates the veterans lined up for inspection by Lieutenant General Sir Jeremy MacKenzie, Deputy Commander NATO Forces, General van Baal C-in-C Royal Netherlands Army and Brigadier Simon Allen (late

SCOTS DG), Commander 51 Highland Brigade. The veterans felt greatly honoured by the sincere interest shown in each of them and were much refreshed by a welcome apéritif and magnificent buffet after a 400 yard march to the lunch tent. During his welcoming address, the Museum Director, Dr Temmings presented a bouquet to Lady Lang, representing Sir Derek.

The veterans moved to the museum's main building, where the Trust's exhibition is given due prominence. With the colour party and guard in place Dr Temmings called on the Padre to give the blessing and dedicate the exhibition. Having officially opened the Liberating Scots Museum, General Mackenzie, in an eloquent and fluent delivery, paid tribute to General Lang, praised the choice and design of exhibits and commended the tireless work carried out by members of the Trust. He observed that the objectives had been realised and that the grim realities of war would impact on future generations. He acknowledged the generous concessions of the Dutch authorities, granting space in their National Museum and recalled the suffering of the Dutch people and the bravery of their resistance fighters. In addressing the veterans, he indicated that he had a good understanding of their war-time experiences - the hardships, the sacrifice, the tragic loss of fallen comrades - as well as their present attitude to war.

General van Baal endorsed General Mackenzie's words before recalling the gratitude felt by the Dutch people to the Scottish Regiments for the sacrifice they made in driving the forces of darkness from their country. Proceedings closed appropriately with Scottish ballads and verse by Caroline Kraat, an accomplished singer for



General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie gives the opening address

many years settled in Holland. City plaques of Aberdeen and Dundee and Divisional flags were handed over and the veterans presented an album of wartime experiences and personal photographs.

The opening ceremony was most impressive and successful. It was also a fitting tribute to the late General Sir Derek Lang, who had proved more than a friend to the veterans, had supported pilgrimages to the battle sites for over ten years and was the inspiration behind the Liberating Scots Trust and the Museum at Overloon. Standing before the model of his beloved Highland Division monument brought back memories of the times some veterans were privileged to share with him - the Return to St Valery, the grand 50th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Holland, those magnificent VE celebrations in Perth. Wherever he went Sir Derek left the mark of his achievements, none more valued than the mark he left in the heart of his veterans.



Overloon Church - Colour Party and Guard



The Veterans march to the Museum at Overloon

The One o' Clock Gun at Edinburgh Castle

30 November 2001 marked the end of an era when the 105mm Light Gun replaced the 25 pounder time gun after faithful service from May 1952. Picture by the Regimental Secretary who was trained on the 25 pounder. A video of the history of The One o' Clock Gun is available from The Army Benevolent Fund Scotland through Home HQ SCOTS DG.



Regimental Archers on Parade July 2001



This picture records Regimental members of The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, The Royal Company of Archers on duty for the Annual Service of The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle at which HRH The Princess Royal was installed as a Lady of the Order. The ceremony was held in the Chapel at St Giles Cathedral.

Depicted at Dregorn Barracks, Edinburgh before the parade, from the left, are Major Jamie Melville, Captain Christian Melville, Major Henry Callander, Major Hamish Macrae, Major Robin Maclean, Lieutenant General Sir Norman Arthur (an Ensign), Major Alexander Trotter, Major General Charles Ramsay and Captain Luke Borwick. The picture was taken by Major Brain Poett, late 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

OBITUARIES

It is with regret that we record the deaths of former Officers and Members

The last few years have not been the best in terms of those friends we have lost. All will be missed and to all the families, we hope that these few words will provide a lasting remembrance of them.

Whilst compiling this journal, which traditionally reports the events of 2001, we were very sad to lose two more Soldiers by accidental death early in 2002. Trooper Ian Mitchell was killed in a tragic road accident in February, closely followed by Trooper Simone 'Batty' Batiuluna in a freak accident only a month later, whilst escorting the squadron tanks back from Sennelager. Both were members of A Squadron and are sadly missed.

Additionally, we wish to apologise unreservedly to the family of Trooper Christopher 'Dinger' Bell, who died on 11 October 2000, for errors in the previous journal. We wish to give assurance that the mistakes in date and name were not deliberate and should not detract from the high esteem in which he was held.

Officers

Lieutenant Colonel HS Ball
 Captain WD Carne
 Colonel RH Cuming MBE JP DL
 Captain IH Dudgeon MC
 Dr J Griffith
 Major JM Haldane JP
 RA Stuart-Hunt Esq
 Lieutenant Colonel JC Walton DL

The Serving Regiment

Trooper S Batiuluna
 Lance Corporal D Cole
 Corporal K Hill
 Trooper I Mitchell

Not in the Association

PR Bedford
 P Butler
 A Chisholm
 W Jackson
 J Kell
 KC McDowall
 R Pritchard
 C Rayner
 E Robson
 E Tindal

Association Branch Members

Aberdeen and North of Scotland

SK Milne
 C Sutherland

Edinburgh and East of Scotland

T Brown
 A Fairbrass
 JF Gunn
 JE Preston
 R Stowe

London and South East of England

JG Edwards
 REN Rawlings

North West of England and Wales

S Bury

South West of England

GA Fraser
 WHB Robinson

Musicians

J Thomson

CORPORAL 'GEORDIE' HILL

Corporal Keith 'Geordie' Hill died in his car on the A69 in Cumbria on Saturday 27 May 2001. Cpl Hill transferred into the Regiment in 1990 after service with the Royal Pioneer Corps. He spent most of his career in the Regiment as a driver of both Logistic vehicles and Staff cars. In the latter role he was particularly well qualified in Advanced driving and high-speed techniques. He drove many of the Regiments recent Commanding Officers and a number of other senior officers as well. Most notably, he was the personal driver to Maj Gen JMFC Hall, initially whilst Bde Comd in Osnabruck, as DRAC in Bovington and as GOC Scotland. He was laterly posted to work as part of the Regimental Recruiting team, in Edinburgh.

Geordie Hill was a popular soldier whose military life can be characterised by a friendly manner and a 'service before self' attitude. He never sought advancement for himself but was content to do the best job he could under the circumstances in which he found himself. His death came as a great shock and our thoughts go to his family, in particular his parents Mr and Mrs John Hill, his son Lewis and his girlfriend Angie.

HDA

LANCE CORPORAL DAVID COLE

David Cole died on Tuesday 13 November 2001 in North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary after a short and sudden illness. He enlisted into the Army in Manchester on 25 January 1998, initially planning to join the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, but somewhere along the line he jumped ship and joined the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, very much to the gain of the

Regiment. Before he joined the Regiment in Germany, he spent 5 days based at home on the 'Satisfied Soldier Scheme'. He made quite an impression. The Army Careers Officer in Manchester wrote

"He spent a full day with me at a major careers convention and attracted more attention, particularly from the female gender, than any of the 4 senior Non-Commissioned Officer recruiters present! Thanks in part to his presence we managed to complete 86 forms from those interested in further information about joining the Army".

On arriving at Regimental Duty, he joined 3rd Troop B Squadron as a tank driver, taking part in the In Service Reliability Demonstration to bring CHALLENGER 2 into service. He took part Ex MEDICINE MAN 3 in BATUS on the Canadian prairie, followed by a period of adventure training that he had his first taste of free fall parachuting, a sport for which he was to develop such a passion. By now he had become an experienced crewman and after a short period as the Squadron Leader's tank driver he went to work for the SQMS (T). He deployed to Kosovo for 6 months on Operation AGRICOLA 3 through the spring and summer of 2000. He and the SQMS (T) had a very wide remit. At that time the situation in Kosovo was rather unclear. Slobodan Milosovic was still in power and there was still a real threat that the Serbs might use force to retake at least part of Kosovo. Equally, there was a vital requirement to help the local population to get back on its feet. David tackled all aspects of his work with focus and a ceaseless energy. Indeed, his contribution was quickly noticed and at the close of the tour, he was 'talent spotted' for a move to Command Troop where he achieved promotion to LCpl. David did not deploy to Kosovo in 2001. Instead he was attached to the Joint Services Parachute Centre to become a free fall parachute instructor - perhaps the first ever in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. It was here that the first signs of his illness were to show.

David was an extraordinarily popular and talented young man. His bravery over the last few weeks of his life was nothing short of remarkable and it touched all who witnessed it. The whole Regiment offers its deepest sympathy to his family; in particular, his Mother - Una who nursed him to the end, and his Stepfather and valued friend - Chris. Our last thoughts go to Conner, his young son, who will have to rely on the stories of others to know how highly his father was regarded.

CFL

TROOPER IAN MITCHELL

Trooper Ian Mitchell, known as 'Mitch' or 'Butch', died on 10 February 2002 as a result of a tragic car accident, despite the valiant attempts of friends to save him. It is a very great loss, not only to his Squadron, but also to the Regiment as a whole.

Perth born and bred, and from a Services background, Trooper Mitchell did not take long to turn towards the army. Progressing through his local ACF and the hurdles of the Army Training Regiment at Winchester and then Bovington, he arrived at the Regiment in August 2000 as we returned from Kosovo.

Trooper Mitchell quickly settled into life with A Squadron as the driver of the Squadron ambulance. It was not long before the Regiment was once again very busy, pre-deployment ranges and the Queen's visit preceded the departure, in June, of the Squadron to Kosovo on Op AGRICOLA 6.

Wherever he went, be it on course or training, Trooper Mitchell left in his wake a hugely positive impression on all those he met. Charming, hard working, amiable and cheerful, were words often used to describe "Mitch", an archetypal example of the classic British soldier. For those of us who knew him better, he was all that and more, a true Squadron character. Memories of him in the blazing Kosovo sun, stripped down to his T-shirt, cigarette in hand, working on or driving his ambulance spring to mind. On one occasion, having hosted and entertained the dancing girls of the CSE show, he proudly showed them around the Squadron Leader's tank. Later in the day, while driving the self-same tank in a tight spot he glanced a telegraph pole, bringing the whole thing crashing down in a welter of sparks and wire, much to the amusement of the Squadron, and the embarrassment of the Squadron Leader.

An irrepressibly cheerful individual, Trooper Mitchell was greatly liked by all ranks within A Squadron, and indeed across the whole Regiment. His loss has not only left a great sense of absence, but also a sense of privilege to have served with him. He will be greatly missed by all.

SJW

TROOPER SIMIONE BATIULUNA

Trooper Simione "Batty" Batiuluna died on 11 March 2002. A member of Second Troop, A Squadron he had joined the Regiment in January 2001. In fourteen months he participated in two exercises in Germany and was an integral part of his Troop during Op AGRICOLA 6 in Kosovo, where he served for four months.

Despite the differences in his upbringing and culture, he made - in a comparatively short period - an indelible mark on the Regiment; a touch that has been felt by everybody who has served alongside him. Batty was an excellent soldier and his sense of fun, hard work and dedication to his job and the Regiment made him extremely popular amongst all ranks.

Batty was a keen sportsman and kept himself very fit. During his Phase 2 training in Bovington he completed the log run eight times before the PTI told him he had probably done enough! Batty excelled at rugby and was an extremely powerful player. He represented the Army Germany side in both the European Sevens and the Amsterdam Tens as well as playing for the Regiment. He went to Austria with the Regimental Ski Team in November 2001. He was not a natural skier but, characteristically, he tried his best and enjoyed himself immensely.

Trooper Batiuluna loved life and his time with the Regiment. Always cheerful, he was a great friend to all of us in A Squadron and many more besides. He was larger than life both in character and in build. We'll remember his easy going nature, his big smile and the way he would do anything for his friends. Batty was a wonderful man who was adored by all - it will be very hard to forget him.

SJW

OFFICERS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JC WALTON DL



Colonel John Walton was a much loved member of the Regiment who served for thirty years and, after retiring, continued his involvement with the regiment in a number of different ways. For some years he acted as Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, helping the then Colonel with the interviewing and selection of young officers; then later he became Chairman of the Regimental Association, an

appointment which he held for seven years. He was awarded the Duke of Kent Medal in 1997. He paid his last visit to the Regiment in Fallingbostal in the summer of 2000, where he was welcomed by, among others, his son, Captain David Walton.

John Cusack Walton joined the Royal Scots Greys in Luneberg in 1947, soon after leaving Marlborough. During his service he took a very active part in all regimental activities, representing the Regiment at hockey, cricket and athletics, at which he was an exceptional hurdler. His particular love was for hunting which he was able to enjoy whenever the Regiment was at home. He served with the Regiment in Aden, Libya and Bahrain, besides many years that he spent in Europe and with the Greys. He was appointed Adjutant of the Regiment and later Training Major to the Glasgow Yeomanry and the Ayrshire Yeomanry, a time of his service in Scotland which he particularly enjoyed. For a while also he served at the RAC Gunnery School at Lulworth. Back with the Regiment, he commanded B Squadron with great flair under the colonelcy of Colonel Aidan Sprot and later became Regiment second-in-command. Throughout his service he enjoyed the admiration, respect and affection of all who knew him, as a man of outstanding charm, loyalty and good sense. He entered into every regimental activity with huge enthusiasm, but he also had the wisdom to steady his Commanding Officer, when he thought the latter needed it! He left the Regiment in Fallingbostal on 28 October 1968 and was promoted Lieutenant Colonel. He was appointed to command first the RAC D and M School at Bovington and latterly the RAC Ranges at Castle Martin. His final appointment in the Army was with the Regular Commissions Board at Westbury. He retired from active service in 1977.

In the same year that the Greys were amalgamated with the Carabiniers, Colonel Walton married Elsabe Whetstone, herself the daughter of a past commanding officer of the Carabiniers. After leaving the Army, the Waltons made their home at Longworth Manor, near Abingdon. Here he became a County Councillor for Oxfordshire, Chairman of the Thames Valley Police Authority and a Deputy Lieutenant of the County. For many years he was Secretary and later Chairman of the Old Berks Hunt. They had a son, who served in the

Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, and a daughter. He died in September 2001 after a long battle against cancer. A great congregation attended his memorial service at Longworth at which a Regimental Piper played Amazing Grace rather than a lament, for which he would not have wished after such a happy and rewarding life. It was those of us left without him that would have wished for a lament.

JWS

MAJOR JOHN MORTON HALDANE JP



John Haldane died suddenly on 3 March 2001, aged 72. He was a loving family man devoted to Carol and his two daughters, Nicola and Katie, of whom he was immensely proud.

After attending Wellington College and Sandhurst he joined the Greys at Luneburg in Autumn 1949. Rapidly proving himself an excellent Troop Leader John

was popular with his peers and men. He was a good games player, excelling at Hockey and actually beating his great friend, John Walton, over the hurdles - no mean feat as John moved like greased lightning and was the regimental champion. (Sadly, the death of John Walton is also here recorded.)

Johnnie remained with the Regiment until 1953 when he was appointed ADC to General Martin at Tidworth for two enjoyable years. In 1955 he became Adjutant, Glasgow Yeomanry and the following year married Sheila Crystal. True to form their house was often full of friends being entertained in style and he organised a number of holidays in villas in the South of France for his friends.

He left the Army in 1960 and remained a staunch supporter of the Regiment all his life. He joined

Stenhouse Insurance Brokers in Glasgow where he used his formidable ability to open doors and become their youngest director. He joined the Royal Company of Archers in 1965 and was until he retired an enthusiastic Archer. He maintained his reputation for leg-pulling by persuading a very inebriated colleague after a presentation by Freddie Laker that he had agreed to underwrite all Laker's debts - the poor fellow was appalled.

In 1968 he moved to London and first met Carol, his future wife, at one of Ronnie Angel's annual parties at the Inns of Court - they were married in 1971. In 1974 he joined the new Hill Samuel team in Glasgow and the family moved to Ayrshire and in 1985 from Knockbuckle in Beith into the Wing at Blair.

John retired in 1989 but kept a foothold in finance by becoming a consultant to Bowrings and pursued a full and energetic life. He was a JP for 10 years sitting on the North Ayrshire Court and Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Ayrshire. He was a SSAFA visitor from 1983 and much enjoyed calling on service families and was particularly good at helping to solve their problems. For many years he was Secretary of the Regimental Trust and was responsible for the comprehensive amalgamation of funds from the Carabiniers and Greys.

John was rightly proud of his long and distinguished association with the Erskine Hospital. He really had the interests of the Scottish servicemen at heart being appointed to the Hospital's executive committee in 1978 and later committees for Finance and Publicity. He was an energetic and effective fundraiser for the new ward of 1998 and Erskine 2000 which achieved its target of £5M on time.

Whilst he was particularly fond of parlour games, he treated Bridge seriously. Of all the different sports John adored Golf and he achieved a good standard after retirement. He was always very considerate and encouraging when playing with people of a lower standard than himself. It was perhaps fitting that his last day was spent playing the game he loved, on his favourite course at Prestwick with two of his oldest friends

John was a man who had not a trace of cynicism in his make-up. Unselfish, kind and generous, he was positive, enthusiastic and humorous. To his many friends who came from all walks of life, he was immensely loyal. He was the rock on which his family, Carol, Nicola and Katie was founded; his family was his anchor. We will all miss him.

DDEC

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GP WARDEN

Geoffrey Warden who died on 20 March 2000 aged 94 joined the 3rd Carabiniers from the TransJordan Frontier Force as the Regiment went to India in 1936. He was Adjutant during the difficult process of conversion from horses to tanks in 1938. Home on leave in 1939 he married Bridget, but returned to India with her and served with the Regiment throughout the war. After the war he had staff appointments in Germany, Tidworth, Malta and finally with SHAPE in Paris.

A professional soldier to his fingertips Geoffrey was also devoted to all field sports. He formed the Ramla Vale Hunt in TransJordan; he shot and fished enthusiastically in India; there was more hunting, shooting and fishing in Germany after the war; and for three years in Malta from 1950 he was able to play polo seven days a week in the golden days of Prince Philip and Lord Louis Mountbatten. He retired from the Army in 1957.

In retirement he ran a market garden at Whittington in Staffordshire. He became a great figure in the life of the village, particularly in the church to which he was devoted. He had much sadness to face. His wife died in 1993 and a daughter Lynda in a motoring accident. In ill health at the end he lost a leg. Strongly supported in all this by a devoted family his courage and humour never failed. He will be remembered not only for his professionalism in the army but also for his consideration of others and his basic Christian qualities.

HPTP

CAPTAIN IAN HUME DUDGEON MC

Captain Ian Hume Dudgeon died aged 77 on the Isle of Man after a long battle against cancer. The second child and only son Sybil and Colonel Joe Hume Dudgeon, Ian was born on 21 June 1924 at the Royal Military College Sandhurst where his father was equitation officer.

He followed his father into the Royal Scots Greys and took part in the Normandy campaign, joining A Squadron in Mouen on 12 July 1944 as second lieutenant. At the end of July, he had a narrow escape when his tank was hit whilst he was outside it, talking. He could see nothing wrong until the breach of the gun was opened. There, rammed up against the point of the shell in the chamber, was the shot that had hit the tank. It had gone right down the barrel and come to rest against the other round, the soft nose of which

was corkscrewed. Luckily for the crew, it was not loaded with HE. The odds against such a remarkable event must be many millions to one.

Towards the evening of 18 August, an enemy tank started shooting indiscriminately into the bushes where the squadron was located. It was thought to be firing from a sunken lane, but was never spotted, although it sounded as if it was some four hundred yards away. Ian went forward through the bushes to locate it. He did not find the tank but found instead a 75-millimetre anti-tank gun and its half-tracked tractor on the other side of the bushes within twenty yards of the tanks. The next minute, he was severely wounded in both legs by high explosive, probably from the tank. He was awarded an MC for his gallant action. The tank continued to give trouble for the rest of the day until it was dealt with by the Piat mortars of the Highland Light Infantry.

After a long spell in hospital and being de-mobilised, Ian returned to Ireland, where he studied the works of Federico Caprilli and relearned to ride with emphasis on balance, to compensate for his loss of grip. In 1953, the Dudgeon family moved to Leopardstown, where Burton Hall became one of the world's most renowned riding schools.

He was enormously successful, riding in the very first Badminton - where he was second, to John Sheddon, on 'Sea Lark' - and nearly every Badminton up to 1964. He represented Ireland in the Olympic three-day event at Helsinki, Stockholm and Rome. Possibly his greatest eventing success was at Harewood in 1957, when riding 'Charleville'.

When his father died in October 1965, he took over running the school until a compulsory purchase order on the property meant a move to Herbertstown near Fairyhouse in 1970. The school continued there, but on a much smaller scale until 1976, when he closed it down and moved to the Isle of Man.

He was equally successful in show jumping. On his great horse 'Go Lightly' he won no less than 11 championships at Dublin Show, including both the national and international trophies. Wembley (HOYS) was another happy hunting ground. These wins included two Daily Telegraph cups.

Ian Dudgeon was also one of Ireland's most successful show jumpers. As well as victories at Harringay and Balmoral, he won the Irish Grand Prix at Dublin in both 1950 and 1952 with 'Go Lightly', netted a total of 11 championships at the RDS and was twice a winner of the Daily Telegraph Cup at Wembley.

He was both a great rival and great friend of Iri Kellett, sharing the Wylie Trophy for the national championship with her and Rusty in 1954. He won the trophy again with 'Go Lightly' in 1959, when he shared the honours with Tommy Wade and 'Dundrum', before winning it for the third time in 1962.

Ian will be remembered as much for his kindness as for his flair and dash. He is survived by his wife Valerie, their three children Margaret, Emma and Andrew, and his elder sister Kathleen and niece Jenny, to whom deepest sympathy is extended.

HHQ

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HARRY BALL

Lieutenant Colonel Harry Ball died on 25 January 2001 aged 75. Born in Cheshire in August 1925 he was educated at Imperial Service College and joined the Army in 1944. Commissioned from the OCTU at Sandhurst in 1945 into the RTR he was posted to India just too late for the war in the Far East. He joined the 3rd Carabiniers at Risalpur at which time the Regiment, the last British Cavalry Regiment to leave India after partition, was receiving officers from other RAC units disbanded after the Japanese war ended.

Harry returned to England with the Regiment in 1946, serving in Aldershot, Borden and Perham Down. In 1949 he was posted to Mons OCS as an instructor, returning to the Regiment in Osnabruck in 1951. It was here that he met Hermione who was staying with the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Ley.

Married life started for Harry and Hermione in Dodesheide Osnabruck on 26 March 1955. While with the Regiment at this time he was a member of the Fencing team which won the Army Championships at the Royal Tournament in London in 1953. The Commanding Officer - Hugh Ley - who had not fenced before, was recruited into the team, subjected to a crash course and won four of his five foil bouts in the finals.

After a posting as a Staff Captain (Intelligence) to the Infantry Brigade in Kenya during the Mau Mau troubles he returned to the Regiment. After further tours at the MOD and as GSO 2 (Int) in Malaya and at the School of Military Intelligence he transferred to the Intelligence Corps in 1967. He returned to Malaya to command the Intelligence Company in FARELF in 1969-70 before returning to the School of Military Intelligence at Ashford. In 1973 he retired from the Army and bought a farm in Devon where he and Hermione raised a very successful pedigree herd - every calf had a smile on its face. After some ten years

as a farmer he retired to Kent and became involved in Church matters in the village of Charing. He became concerned with Intelligence Corps policy and other matters at the Depot at Ashford.

Harry was a highly professional soldier, very efficient and occasionally impatient of those who were not so efficient. He ran his farm on military lines. His animals were well drilled and all the machinery well maintained. He was a physically fit officer who played hockey for the Regiment and fenced very successfully for the Regimental team. He was widely read and collected a very large military library. He maintained links with the Regiment in retirement and had many friends among us until his death. Our sympathies go out to Hermione, to Jonathan and to Fleur and his stepson Tony.

JAS

DR JOHN GRIFFITH MB CHB



John Griffith, born in Dolgellau in 1914, graduated from the Medical School at Liverpool University in 1939, shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War. As a Captain in the RAMC he was posted to India 4 January 1942 attached to the 3rd Carabiniers (The Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards). The regiment was engaged in fierce fighting on the Imphal Plain during which they had to capture Nunshigum, a ridge fortified by 250 Japanese 1000 feet about the plain. During the attack seven of the officers in the eight tanks involved were killed. Their places were taken by the Squadron Sergeant Major and NCOs who succeeded in clearing the ridge. After this encounter John was mentioned in Despatches for Distinguished Services 5 April 1945.

The Regiment then fought the enemy and tropical forest diseases throughout the monsoon in Burma down to Rangoon. Following the crossing of the Irrawaddy John was mentioned in Despatches for the second time 1 March 1946. After demobilisation he began in general practice in Caernarfon and retired in 1980. He was greatly respected in his Regiment and attended regular reunions. It is an indication of his sensitive nature that he could never at any time talk about the horrors he saw in the war but at the local memorial service, for over 50 years he placed a wreath bearing the crest of the 3rd Carabiniers and the message "We remember with pride and thanksgiving our comrades who fought and died on the Burma front".

His main interest in life was the welfare of people. He had an excellent memory and was greatly loved in Caernarfon. He took an active part in the social life of the town, St John's Ambulance Bridge, sailing, mountain walking and travelled extensively in France and Spain. John Griffith died on 30 October 2001 following a paralytic stroke in 1999. He leaves a wife, Nora, to whom he had been married for 53 years.

JFHJ

CAPTAIN BRIAN PRIEST



In November 2001, Home Headquarters received a request for a member of the Royal Scots Greys to attend the funeral of Captain Brian Priest who had recently died at the age of 84. Although he had never served with the Greys he had been a member of the Beach Brigade that landed the Regiment on the Salerno Beachhead. He had a great love of the Greys for the courage and friendship they had shown during this difficult period. As the Edinburgh Branch Secretary, and a Grey, I attended the funeral service and was amazed at the personal concern and affection his old friends and nursing carers had for him.

On speaking to his friends I discovered that Brian was born in Liverpool and that he was a member of the TA when World War 2 broke out. He was quickly called up to active service with the Liverpool Scottish then the King's Regiment before going to the Beach Brigade as a Captain. He was not a big man in physical stature but he was to prove many times over that he had a big heart - the heart of a lion was how his friends described him - as at Salerno and in the D Day landings he had revealed commendable bravery and courage. Aidan Sprot in his book *Swifter than Eagles* described the Beach Brigade as absolute bricks and Brian always said that after Salerno the D Day landings were easy.

In 1947 Brian married Mildred Brown whom he met in Calais at the end of the war and they had a son, Victor who died tragically while in his twenties. After the war Brian became a wholesale fruit and vegetable merchant in Edinburgh until his retirement. Unfortunately Mildred died a few years ago but he did have good friends who miss and will always remember him and it was an honour to attend his funeral service.

JPM

BRANCH AND OTHER MEMBERS**TOM BROWN**

Tom Brown was born at Port Seton in 1938 and on leaving school worked as a miner until he was called up for National Service at the age of twenty one, where for a very short period he trained as a Royal Scot before deciding to make a career for himself as a regular soldier and transferred to the Royal Scots Greys. There Tom served in C Squadron from 1959 to 1963 in Germany and Hong Kong. Unfortunately while in Hong Kong he developed emphysema which was a legacy from his period as a miner and he was given a medical discharge.

After leaving the Regiment he tried a number of jobs, such as sales rep, milkman, pub manager. He also spent three years with the Army Bomb Disposal Unit at Craigiehall. For over twenty years he was a security officer with Uniroyal at Newbridge, before taking early retirement due to ill health.

Tom was very proud of the Regiment and he kept up his Association membership with the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch and attended events such as Remembrance Sunday, Annual Reunion Dinners, the opening of the new Museum at the Castle and visits to the Regiment in Tidworth and Catterick where he made many friends within the Association.

His social life centred around the East Calder Bowling Club where his skills as a bowler were classed as indifferent but he was an excellent cribbage player and in this he managed to maintain his credibility within the club and even served for a period on the committee.

After a long illness Tom passed away on the 27 May 2001 and a service was held at East Calder Parish Church where a large number of Association members attended and as he had requested the burial service was carried out by Rev Mac Cowper the Scots Greys Padre when Tom served. A piper from the Regiment was also in attendance.

The Branch will miss Tom as he was a good friend to us all and our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Jan, son Nicky and daughter Marsha.

*JPM***JOHN THOMSON**

It is with regret that we have to report the death of John (Spud) Thomson in February 2001. Spud joined the Army as a boy soldier and became a Drummer in The Gordon Highlanders Pipe Band in 1964. He transferred to The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in 1973 and served until 1984. He was one of the Pipe Band's real characters and his ability in the drums assisted greatly towards the band's eventual promotion to Grade 1 status through competing in international competitions.

His last three year's service was spent as the Regimental butcher, a trade which his father had taught him. He eventually took over his father's business in Ellon, Aberdeenshire, where he and his wife Marj settled. Unfortunately Spud was diagnosed as having Leukaemia and given only a year to live. He refused to acknowledge this and through strength of character and sheer determination he lived for a further five years. During this time he and Marj went to Las Vegas to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. They had met in New York on the Gordons and Scots Greys band tour of 1969.

Spud's vocal talents will long be remembered. Many an evening was spent listening to him singing "My Big Kilmarnock Bonnet" and The Barnyards of Dalgettie". He is survived by his wife Marj, a son, a daughter and three grandsons.

*HIM***BOB STOWE**

Robert Stowe died at his home in Glasgow on the 11 February 2001, after a short illness. He was born in Lenzie near Glasgow in 1944, the son of a farmer. He was one of a family of six, having three brothers and two sisters. His father moved from place to place working on the land and this gave Bob a great love of animals and the beauty of nature which remained with him always.

On leaving school at the age of fifteen years, Bob worked as a tailor for two years before joining the Greys in 1961. As a member of B Squadron, he served, in Aden, Germany, Libya and Cyprus. As a

crewman, he was one of those soldiers who got the job done with a minimum of fuss, and although a very quiet soldier who did not suffer fools easily, he was popular within the Regiment and had a very dry sense of humour.

On the amalgamation in 1971 he transferred to the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards where he served until 1976 finally leaving after 15 year's service. Like so many of us, he still missed the Army and decided to join the Ayrshire Yeomanry, where he served for 2 years along with his brother John.

In his civilian occupation, Bob still felt the draw of the uniform and joined the Scottish Prison Service in 1978. He served in HMP Dungavel and HMP Barlinnie where, in a constantly hostile environment, he was respected by both staff and inmates alike, as he was a very fair officer who remained calm in dangerous situations. In 1998 he retired from the prison service after 20 years.

After leaving the Army he maintained his links with the association and would attend functions and armistice parades whenever possible and he was known to socialise in his local prison officers' club, where he enjoyed the odd glass of guinness, and there is no doubt he will have ensured a supply where he is now.

Our condolences go to his wife Francis and children Karen, Mark and Shona.

*IC***SANDY FAIRBRASS**

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of Sandy Fairbrass on the 28 September 2001 following a tragic accident. He was born in Edinburgh on 21 January 1939 but was brought up in a farm cottage near Mid Calder where as a young boy he helped out on the farm. Farming was not his intended career as he enlisted in the Royal

Scots Greys at the age of sixteen in January 1955. He served until the amalgamation in 1971 when he was transferred to the 15th/19th Hussars where he served a further six months before returning to civilian life in January 1972. A total of fifteen years and three hundred and sixty days.

He served in Detmold, Aden, Fallingbostal, Edinburgh and Northern Ireland, working mainly in the MT section both as a driver and finally as MT Troop Sergeant where he was well liked and respected by all who worked with him.

After leaving the army he worked for a number of years as a Continental coach driver, touring all over Europe, but felt he was away too often for too long and left to become a bus driver with Lothian Region Transport in Edinburgh. He retired early due to ill health in 1997.

Sandy was a very quiet private person but he was easily identified and remembered by those he served with and he maintained his link with the Regiment and old comrades through his membership to the Association and will sadly be missed by the Edinburgh Branch members.

We send our sincere condolences to his wife of 23 years Rosalind, son Michael and daughter Marie.

*JPM***JIM EDWARDS**

Jim was the Carabinier's Association Secretary until amalgamation and then for the next five years he was the Joint Secretary with Pat O'Rourke when the new Regiment was formed. Born in Islington in 1913, he spent his working life in a stock brokers office. When the war started he became a Special Constable before his call up. He did his training at Catterick, was posted to the Carabiniers and served

in Burma from 1941 until 1945 as gunner-wireless operator. He was promoted to Corporal and he played for the Regiment both at cricket and football. Many of us will remember him at our reunions and for his devotion to his wife Grace who pre-deceased him. Despite his failing sight he never failed to keep in touch with the Association until his death aged 88. Our condolences go to his son Brian who informed us of his father's death and provided a picture of Jim taken somewhere in Burma.

JLF

JOHN PRESTON

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of John Preston, known as Daisy Roots, who died of Motor Neurone disease on 28 November 2001 at 72.

John was born in Deptford, London in January 1929 and was evacuated to the country when war broke out. Unfortunately he did not quite understand the

strange ways of the rural community and he was sent home for chasing chickens and spent the rest of the war at home in London experiencing the Blitz. On leaving school at fourteen, he worked as a butchers boy but he did not see this as his future, so at the age of seventeen, he joined the Royal Scots Greys in August 1946. He served in North West Europe, Palestine, Aden, a number of times with the BAOR and the UK before retiring as a Warrant Officer, after 22 years service, in 1969. He loved army life and the Regiment where he served mainly with HQ Squadron and, when the Regiment was in Luneberg, John was a despatch rider, a job he loved but found it necessary to give up when he earned his first promotion. Although a very sober and disciplined soldier, John was a great character, quick witted, popular with all ranks, always cheerful and with a good sense of humour. He received his nickname 'Daisy Roots' because he had a thing about highly polished boots. During his career in the Army he proved himself to be an excellent soldier and an extremely efficient and capable Warrant Officer who was considered well above average, with considerable initiative and thoroughly reliable.

After leaving the Army John found a job with Scottish and National Breweries where he eventually became Transport Manager until his retirement, and up to last year had remained the same strong, funny, kind man he had always been, very popular with his neighbours and always ready with a kind word or helping hand. He felt he had had a very good life and loved his army days and was incredibly proud to have been a Grey. We have been proud to know him both with the Regiment and as an Association member with the Edinburgh Branch for the past 33 years.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Muriel and all his family.

JPM

BILL JACKSON

William J Jackson was born on the Hirsell Estate in Coldstream on 15 October 1930. His father was a gamekeeper and after a brief stay in Wales, the family returned to Traquair. Bill enjoyed a very happy childhood there, attending Traquair Primary and Peebles High Schools.

He saw an advert for the Army, decided that was for him and spent three very happy years at Chepstow. One of the many friends there was Jimmy 'Smiler' Robertson who became an ASM with the Greys.

When the Royal Scots Greys moved to Detmold from Munster in 1959, they were lucky to find Staff Sergeant William Jackson already there waiting for them, having engineered his posting from the 9th Lancers from whom the Regiment took over Lothian Barracks. He enjoyed pulling their leg by saying that they had joined him, rather than the usual REME attachment to the Regiment, and Harry Willis, then Troop Sergeant, tells the story of being shown around by Bill. He was told, "This is my office, this is my workshop". He thought, "Hello, we're going to have to watch this one". However, they went on to be great friends!

This was the beginning of a long and affectionate association with the Greys. He and his family travelled to Hong Kong with them. This short tour was enjoyed by all immensely. It was Bill's second tour there, the first being in 1949 with 16 Infantry Workshop, before a stint in Korea. Sailing became a great passion - one of his proud possessions was a photograph of the Duchess of Kent presenting him with a race trophy.

After a Christmas in Scotland, Bill re-joined the Regiment at Fallingbostal. However, this was a short stay as he was promoted to AQMS and posted up the road to Munsterlager with the Gunners. He discovered their mess finished at ten o'clock on a Saturday, so many Saturday evenings were spent among his many friends in the Greys. This entailed a journey up the Autobahn and occasionally resulted in missed turnings off the Autobahn on the way home!

During the bleak winter of 1965-66, Bill travelled to Ayr to join Harry Willis, Charlie Seelhoff, Terry Morton and others at the Ayrshire Yeomanry. He felt this was a most enjoyable reunion and really enjoyed his time with his

old Greys' colleagues. It was at this time he purchased his first boat, an Orkney clinker long boat.

Returning to Germany for a spell with the RCT in Duisburg, Bill was on exercise one week and spotted an Army vehicle bearing the Greys insignia. He explored further and found an old friend in John Barnes, and so enjoyed a wonderfully convivial evening with him. With a little bit of 'string-pulling' by both sides, Bill rejoined the Greys in 1968 at Fallingbostal once again, this time as ASM, arriving with his leg in plaster, having snapped his Achilles tendon. Again, he remembered this time with fond memories. Not long after joining the Regiment, they were all on exercise on the Hohne Ranges. One tank became bogged down in mud, followed swiftly by another and finally joined by the ARV! Bill had one of his bright ideas and very soon had all vehicles 'unbogged' and motoring once more. He impressed the powers that be, covering himself in glory and not doing his career any harm either!

Bill returned to Edinburgh to Redford Barracks in 1971 and, after four attachments to the Regiment, including one to its affiliated Yeomanry, he earned a short term commission. His posting came through and once more he headed to 7th Armoured Workshops, Fallingbostal! During this time, he was sent to Northern Ireland for four months and on his return, was posted to Bielefeld where he ended his Army career with 1 BR Corps as OC to Troop Regiment Workshops.

After retiring from the Army in 1976, Bill bought a garage in Walkerburn in the Scottish Borders. For

eight years, Bill was in his element - back in the Borders, building up the business, and renewing old friendships. He joined the St Mary's Loch Sailing Club, upgrading his Enterprise for a Drascombe lugger. He spent many happy hours cruising around the west coast of Scotland and sometimes in France.

Bill joined the Department of Transport thereafter, travelling all over the Borders and Edinburgh, inspecting buses and trucks, making good friends in his new job.

After eleven years, Bill retired at the age of sixty-five, and spent many a happy hour sailing or walking with his faithful border terrier. He was often to be seen on a motor bike with the dog on the pillion, in a specially constructed box-seat.

Despite a heart bypass in 1990, Bill kept fit and well. It was a great shock to find he had a kidney tumour, but he appeared to recover very well from this. Sadly, the loss of his son Ian, at Easter 2001, in a motor bike accident, devastated him and he died in the same year, just four months later on 29 August 2001. Just before Bill died, he was asked if there were any regrets. He replied, "No, if I had the chance, I would do it all again".

Bill, surely, was the most ardent and loyal of those many excellent members of the LAD that the Regiment was lucky enough to have attached to them both in war and in peace and our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow and daughters, whose sadness we all share.

AMS

The Regimental Collect

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

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