



EAGLE AND CARBINE

THE ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS

Regimental Magazine and Regimental Association Report for 2002

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FALLINGBOSTEL

2003

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

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HM The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief
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PREFACE

By the Colonel of the Regiment



It always gives me great pleasure to write a few words as Colonel of the Regiment. I have been Colonel for nearly five years, during which time I have visited the serving Regiment three times on operations in Kosovo, several times on training including BATUS, Canada and in barracks at Fallingbostel. As far as the Association is concerned, I have been able, together with my wife Sarah, to attend dinners and receptions in Inverness, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ayr, Bannockburn, Chester, Wetherby, Catterick, Salisbury and London.

The highlight in 2002, of course, was the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty The Queen, and our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent to a Regimental reception in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle on Friday 29th November. This event is reported elsewhere but I should like to record my huge appreciation to you all for making the event such a success. It was truly a family occasion as it allowed members of the Regiment of all generations, both serving and retired, young and old, together with some of the families to demonstrate our loyalty, pride and family spirit to our Sovereign. It also gave us the opportunity to celebrate Her Majesty's golden jubilee as well as being Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment for nearly 50 years. The regiment has been greatly honoured in recent times as both the Queen and The Duke of Kent have frequently visited the Regiment: the Queen twice in two years and the Duke of Kent four times in four years. How lucky we have been. Our Colonel-in-Chief has provided us with enduring stability and a sense of values and purpose, to enable us to face the many challenges and changes that come our way. It is remarkable that the Regiment has remained so positive and robust over such a period of contraction and demand on operational capabilities.

I remain hugely impressed and confident of the Regiment's capabilities. The serving Regiment is professional, fully recruited, positive and ready for whatever tasks that come its way. As I write this note at the beginning of 2003, the Regiment is preparing for unknown confrontation in the Middle East as Iraq continues to cause instability throughout the world. This, I know, will make many demands on you all. The Regimental family is there to play its part in helping you both individually and collectively to respond to these challenges. I know you will do whatever is asked of you to the best of your ability. It is my job along with others to ensure that you are not asked to do too much with too little. This is not easy when the Army remains, in some quarters, over-committed and undermanned. Shortage of troops, combined with increased commitments has led to a cycle of overstretch which appears never to end. This is particularly difficult for married families to cope with when there is constant separation. The uncertainty of the Middle East does not help but should war not materialise, then 2003 should offer a period of stability for the Regiment before it embarks on a tour in Northern Ireland in late 2003.

I send you all my best wishes wherever you are and wish you well in the future. I am grateful to you for all that you do to ensure that the Regiment remains second to none.

FOREWORD

By The Commanding Officer

As I write this Foreword, there is a distinct risk of appearing somewhat schizophrenic; both looking back over an event-packed training year and peering forwards into the mists of uncertainty to identify what may happen if we deploy into Iraq in the coming weeks. Currently, as I sit in RHQ in Fallingbostel in late February, A Squadron is about to depart into theatre as part of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch Battlegroup, with the remainder of the Regiment leaving over the following ten days to arrive in time to meet up with our vehicles in Kuwait. We are most fortunate to have Numbers One and Two Company of the 1st Battalion The Irish Guards as part of SCOTS DG Battlegroup, as well as our more normal affiliation of C Battery, 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron from 32nd Engineer Regiment, and an Air Defence Troop from 58 Battery of 12th Regiment, Royal Artillery. Additionally, we have a Tactical Air Control Party and, adding a little international flavour, an Air Liaison team from the US Marine Corps (known, in the concise abbreviated form that only the Americans can achieve, as ANGLICO or Air, Naval Gunfire Liaison Company).

And so to a resumé of the Training Year, including the exercise package at the British Army Training Unit, Suffield (BATUS) in Canada, and the first four months of the High Readiness Year. As some readers will recall, we reformed D Squadron at the end of 2001 and initially repackaged it - including a number of soldiers on loan from the Queen's Dragoon Guards and Light Dragoons (both Formation Reconnaissance Regiments) - for the Training Year as a Reconnaissance Squadron. This meant that the Battlegroup that deployed to BATUS for the MEDICINE MAN 1 Exercise in April was the largest in many years - at about 1400 soldiers in all, probably more than we will end up with in Kuwait! The exercise required the negotiation of some of the foulest weather on record, even by the usual extremes of the Albertan prairie, and many dined out for weeks afterwards on the entertainment of finding the Commanding Officer (I'm delighted to report that it was David Allfrey at that stage) waking up one morning feet deep in a snowdrift and without his tent, which had disappeared eastwards to somewhere in Saskatchewan.

The Battlegroup's performance was most creditable, not least because of the years spent out of role while in



the Balkans and also the very limited training time between the end of the last Kosovo deployment and the beginning of training in BATUS. A cynic might observe that a training opportunity which currently lasts a maximum of six months in any three year period is quite insufficient to maintain the core skills of armoured operations at anything more than a very superficial level.

Having handed over our tanks to B Squadron in BATUS - they took part in MEDICINE MAN 2 with The Black Watch Battlegroup - we set to the task of organising a most spectacular Golden Jubilee event for the whole of Hohne and Fallingbostel Garrison and the local German community in June. As the reader would expect from the combined efforts of the Regimental team, the day turned out to be a huge social event, with about 6000 guests visiting the various stalls, mounted events, dog show, piping competition, highland games, talent contest, mock tank battle through the barracks and all the other things one would find in a normal, 'run of the mill' street party in Britain! It was a quite wonderful day and, I would venture, was a suitable way of commemorating the fifty years' reign of our Colonel-in-Chief.

As predicted in last year's Eagle and Carbine, we did conduct our recruiting surge during the middle of July under the banner of SCOTLAND FOREVER - using the famous Lady Butler painting of the Greys at Waterloo - and we achieved a considerable hit rate in the Central Belt of Scotland. In addition to the

recruiting teams, we also managed to acquire a CHALLENGER 2 as part of our display, and the ubiquitous Pipes & Drums and the horses of the Mounted Troop lifted our profile wonderfully and took centre stage in the Golden Jubilee celebrations at the Tattoo. This splendid opportunity, combined with our current deployment which has seen soldiers extend their service to remain in the Regiment for operations and has of course enhanced our profile in the Recruiting Offices, has meant that we remain very buoyant in terms of manning. Whilst this is a wonderful situation to be in, unfortunately it will not last if we remain in Germany indefinitely.

The dreadful flooding in Central Europe in August saw over 100 members of the Regiment deployed to sand-bagging duties on the River Elbe for a week. The levels of sunburn, mosquitoes and fraternisation with the local German population were all considerable and the whole event, most gratefully received by the locals and positively reported on in the German media, provided our soldiers with both a welcome change of scenery and a medal of appreciation from the State.

Having tried to keep as much distance between ourselves and the water in August, we then spent September achieving a rather closer acquaintance as we trained with the antiquated Green Goddess fire engine fleet in preparation for Operation FRESCO, the ongoing Fire Brigade Union strike. During this period of training, we were most honoured to be visited by the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief and, to mark the occasion we held a wonderful joint dinner with the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in their Mess in Celle.

The latter part of the year was spent on individual skills training, particularly NBC and First Aid, and gunnery training, which was suddenly increased significantly as the result of a last-minute opportunity for firing (due to operation FRESCO) on Bergen-Hohne for RHQ and B and C Squadrons in the middle of November. The performance of the 2 squadrons was truly unmatched, with both of them achieving near-perfect results. This was especially gratifying bearing in mind the short preparation time before ranges. At the end of November, we were also most proud to be involved in the Regimental family's celebrations in Edinburgh to mark fifty years of the Colonel-in-Chief's colonelcy of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. It was a wonderfully orchestrated event and produced a glow of evident satisfaction for all those in the serving Regiment who travelled from Germany.

At the turn of the year it became increasingly evident that the Government was likely to involve UK forces

in any coalition operations in the Middle East and that 7th Armoured Brigade might be included; thus came the unsatisfactory but inevitable decision to merge D Squadron back into the other three sabre squadrons, as it was deemed to have conducted insufficient training in its armoured role to be included in the Brigade order of battle. Having made such strenuous efforts to re-form the Squadron, putting in place a strong hierarchy and a most valuable training progression as part of 20th Armoured Brigade, it was extremely disappointing to see it all slip through the collective hands, but I can only hope that the combination of current training and any future operations will place us well to re-establish the Squadron as an armoured entity at the earliest moment.

Although we have scored some notable successes in sport and adventure training (and I commend to you the splendid article on the Regimental diving expedition to Egypt), it was with great regret that I pulled the ski teams back from Austria and Finland just at the moment when the Alpine Team was certain to seal its position of complete supremacy by winning the Army Championships for the second year in succession. I make this bold statement in no way immodestly, but merely repeat the observations of those involved in Army Skiing – I suppose that one can only reflect that there's always next year!

Many will be aware of the considerable success that has been achieved in the release of the Pipes' & Drums' new Album, "Parallel Tracks", which reached both the record shops and the Colonel-in-Chief in November, and involved the musician Mark Knopfler from Dire Straits. It is a quite stunning album, blending traditional Pipes and Drums with a more contemporary style, and I trust that its sales will go from strength to strength as a result of our deployment.

Finally, as we depart Fallingbostal in the next days for Kuwait and a rather uncertain few months, may I thank all of our wider Regimental and associated family for the very considerable vote of support that you have expressed to us in your various ways; we are most fortunate to be able to rely on your compassion and understanding in these difficult times. On our return in the late summer, we hope to have some leave with our families and an opportunity to see many of you in the Association Branches across the United Kingdom although, at the time of writing, we still expect a reduced tour to Belfast at the end of the year, followed by considerable involvement in the introduction into service of the BOWMAN Digitisation Project. And so for another year, it is "all quiet in our Area of Operations"!



EDITORIAL

This edition has been put together under the clouds of an impending deployment to the Middle East and all the consequent pre-deployment preparations. To all the authors who have been snowed under with a huge workload I offer a debt of thanks for nearly meeting the various deadlines I have set; I know you have had many other things to do. The Regimental Secretary must also receive credit for goading the various extra-regimental organizations into producing their contributions.

The numbering of this edition is also slightly different from the established convention. Previously the date on the cover has reflected the year in which it was published rather than the year to which the various articles relate. We aim to redress that in future issues with the date reflecting the content rather than the publishing. However as a one off, to avoid confusion, this year is numbered 2002 / 2003.

I am sure that next year's magazine will be an interesting one focusing on the deployment to the Middle East. The future is, as always, uncertain and full of new challenges. The only thing I can be sure of is that next year's editor will also have to think of seventy odd new opening sentences to replace, "it has been another busy year for ***** Squadron / Dept / Troop etc"!

RSL



Her Majesty arriving on Monday 5 August 2002 for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo which featured The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards with the Mounted Troop and the Pipes and Drums.

A SQUADRON

How best to describe the manner in which A Squadron has been employed this year? While it is not very original to say so, the Squadron has again had another hectic 12 months. While this year there was sadly no opportunity to revisit the charms of the Podujevo bowl in Kosovo, we did manage to pop over to Canada, almost swung a trip to Poland and missed out on a chance to go to Edinburgh to be firemen. Most importantly of all, we enjoyed our first summer in Fallingbostal since 1998!

In line with the intention of maximising the benefits of spending a full summer in Fallingbostal, we started the year running, quite literally, by deploying within 24 hours of our return from Christmas Leave to the small arms ranges in Sennelager to hone our crew dismounted skills. Squadron Headquarters returned a week later to conduct a Battlegroup Staff Training exercise. The first time the entire Squadron deployed was for the Regimental Annual Firing period in February. It was immediately prior to this that young Trooper Ian Mitchell was so tragically knocked down by a car just outside the Garrison. The grey damp murk of Hohne in February reflected the mood of the Squadron initially, but as "Mitch" would have wished the doom and gloom of those first few days was soon eclipsed by the omnipotent SQMS, SSgt McDowell and his team of merry men, who warmed the cockles of our hearts with the now famous 'McDowell Burgers'. Indeed, Mr Walters took it upon himself to

break all records and is now the proud holder of 'the three burgers before the Range Brief' award, and is also the only man known to have demanded, and eaten, a 'triple cheese burger and all the trimmings'. He is not called Frodo the Hobbit for nothing!

In line with its reputation the Squadron shone on Ranges, and set the standard (again) for the Regimental firing period. Such was the skill and dexterity of all ranks on the range, that both the Commanding Officer and the Second in Command chose to fire with us, or was it something to do with the burgers? Despite the perpetual drizzle and dreary conditions the Squadron performed well, achieving an overall level 5. Cpl Gibbs and the crew of 32 won best Crew. Unusually however, the winners of the Troop Gunnery competition was SHQ, despite the claims of 3rd Troop leader who was unable to accept defeat gracefully!

On the completion of Ranges we loaded the tanks directly onto the trains at Hohne in a snowstorm at midnight, in order to embark on the first field training for some considerable time as a battlegroup. Indeed, Exercise PRAIRIE EAGLE was the first time this huge battlegroup was to train with all elements deployed onto the rather confined Sennelager Training Area (STA). Spring was not quite out of its



Tpr Lloyd contemplates digging out the track.

shell, and in fact decided to crawl back into it, as we charged about in wind, rain and snow, practicing the drills required to bring us 'up to speed' for BATUS. Occasional rays of sunshine enabled us to enjoy certain very attractive areas of STA, where immaculate stretches of grass scattered with cross country jumps and lovely cobbled avenues lined with trees still please the eye.

Thrills and spills were provided by the Commanding Officer and his Land Rover as he moved up to the A Sqn hide on a dark night, with no moon. Determined to let WO2 (SSM) Mackie know that he was to be commissioned, the Colonel was still keen to maintain light discipline and was a little perturbed to discover that his Land Rover was driving on an angle when it should have been on a flat road, and seconds later was firmly on its side! Suffice to say that before the night was over WO2 Mackie had plenty of opportunity to chat to the Commanding Officer, while enjoying the brightly lit spectacle of 11A being manoeuvred through 90 degrees by the ASM and A Sqn fitters... That said, we had our own night from hell, when we had to conduct a covering force battle, followed by a rearward passage of lines through a minefield gap and over a reserved demolition, on what the DS later referred to as the darkest night ever recorded on STA!

Endex having been called, it was at the wash-down that LCpl Beeby and Carrigan were particularly pleased to discover that the chefs had provided a free beef burger and hotdog for each man. Rumours that

they changed their names several times have absolutely no foundation. Before long the Squadron Leader and Sergeant Major sped off back to Fallingbostal by Land Rover, urgent business no doubt, and we settled down on the QRH tank park for the night before catching the coaches home.

It was during the redeployment to Fallingbostal that the Squadron suffered its second fatality within a month. Trooper Simi Batiuluna died as a result of a massive electric shock when the tank-train he was escorting pulled into sidings near Hannover. Days later a memorial service was held for him in the Garrison Church. The full house reflected the popularity of Simi, our first Fijian in A Squadron. Steve Walters, his Troop Leader, flew out to Fiji for the funeral during Leave.

Easter leave came not a moment too early. It was a well-earned and welcome break after a hectic, and emotionally testing time for the Squadron. Just a week after our return though we were all leaping onto a chartered 747 aeroplane bound for the Canadian Prairies. While we were able to enjoy some of the trimmings of a civilian flight, particularly those lucky few who found themselves in Business Class, there were a few anxious thoughts as we flew over a snow-bound Newfoundland; was BATUS going to be quite that cold? On arrival at Camp Crowfoot, it was apparent that there had been a few changes since we had last been there in 1999, but there had been absolutely no rain at all. The Prairies had suffered a drought for 3



The OC and the SSM who shared the same turret during the Gulf War 1991.

years, thus we were greeted with a strong, cold northerly wind and very unpleasant dusty conditions. While the preparation for the first MEDICINE MAN of the season is longer than most, all the squadron had a chance to visit the fleshpots of Medicine Hat before we went out onto the Prairie. It is even alleged that SSgt McDowell, SSgt Bradley and Sgt Montgomery were seen in the 'Golden Buckle' cowering in the corner, and claiming that they "only liked men", while being accosted by a drunken local. They went on to claim she was quite scary, even for Med Hat!

With the normally lush prairie grass ravaged by drought, wind and still sub-zero temperatures, the Battlegroup deployed to its concentration areas and threw up such clouds of dust that it must have been visible from Medicine Hat. Under this pall. A Squadron settled down in its leaguer, following pre-firing checks, for our first night on the Prairie. Morning could not have come early enough. Any excuse to get up and move around; to a man we were frozen. The option to sleep on the ground in an attempt to keep out of the wind was ill considered, and the same mistake was not made again.

Even for those in the Squadron who are somewhat longer in the tooth, the weather proved quite extraordinary. On one particular day during the live fire phase, we had enjoyed little wind and warm sunshine, but no sooner had we moved into our night time position of overwatch than a bitter NE wind blew up bringing with it a blizzard. Much to his surprise, LCpl Beeby climbed out of his sleeping bag, with nothing more on than a t-shirt, to discover that he was covered in snow! On another occasion, following temperatures throughout the day in the high seventies,

during which we were unfortunately closed down as we were conducting an NBC phase, the Squadron looked forwards to the morrow, it being a Maintenance Day and the opportunity for a barbecue. Again we woke to blizzard conditions, 18 inches of snow and bad drifting causing the Rattlesnake road to be closed for the first time in many years during an exercise. Despite the challenges of the weather A Squadron had a very successful live fire exercise, in particular, during a night shoot, in which we achieved a superb 101 rounds on target out of 111 fired. As ever there were a few mishaps; a certain proud gunner, no names, Tpr Beveridge, rather surprised everyone by firing a HESH round at the 400m default range, while meant to be engaging a long-range target at over 5 kilometres. Memories of a misfire on 0B, or was it a "no bag charge loaded"? Perhaps the most cherished moment was when the Squadron enjoyed listening to the Squadron Leader broadcast on the air his feelings concerning the failings of a certain Ex VAMPIRE; we are told that callsign '9' (Commander BATUS) found them most informative!

Exercise MEDICINE MAN 1 was a period of intensely hard work, and for many physically very demanding, but it was also exceptionally good fun. Inevitably, A Squadron had its moments as have all over the years. The rogue tank which refuses to work ever, this time it was C/S 12, and poor old Cpl Dougal was the long-suffering commander. There is always one who tries to cross the area marked in blue swampy signs on the map, usually it's a Troop Leader, and not wanting to disappoint, callsign 30, commanded by Lt Leek, took that gamble during a rapid advance. Sadly for him, it became not quite so rapid. Captain Bishop then made an interesting effort to emulate him, and



Cpl Gardiner - been on the prairie too long.

almost succeeded. Though it has to be said that the crème da la crème of cock-ups was made by callsign OC while motoring back some 30 Km to a Rehabilitation Area. Closed down, he decided to traverse at an inopportune moment; he was crossing one of only a handful of vertical objects on the Prairie, in this case an iron girder bridge.....oops!! Some might say that the Sqn Zic was a little sheepish as he drove into the Rehab Area. The fun was not confined purely to the tank crews. Trooper Scoular was so confident at driving callsign 23 B that he repeatedly tried it in his sleep. Perhaps he should have done what the SQMS(T) did, snatch 12 hours in every 24!

Our return to Fallingbostel was greeted with glorious sunshine at the end of May, and immediately frantic preparations began for the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations. A Squadron, as you might expect, was tasked with running the Garrison Horse Show. It was set up in the usual immaculate style that has become our trademark. The day featured several show jumping competitions, a dressage contest, and a demonstration Polo Match, as this was the first time many in the Garrison had seen the sport. The Show was well attended by competitors from all over BFG, and 3,000 local Germans attended the events in and out of Camp. Of particular amusement to the Squadron Leader was the moment when the local Drag Hunt, the Nieder Sachsen, paraded their hounds. A certain sheepdog proved too interesting a quarry for some of the hounds, but when the rioters set off the whole pack followed and bowled this poor dog over in front of the Clubhouse. Fortunately, the fun was in the chase, and once called off the sheepdog was totally unscathed.

June saw the raising of the Mounted Troop at Melton Mowbray, which included many members of A Squadron, but this is reported elsewhere in the Magazine. With it saw the departure, for over two months, of the Squadron Leader who also left for the 'rigours' of Mounted Troop and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, leaving the squadron in the somewhat doubtful care of the 2IC. With such a long summer to bask in, it was possible not only to enjoy several parties at the new polo ground, but more importantly to send hordes of individuals away on adventure training courses. Sailing, parachuting, paragliding, powerboat handling (for the Sergeant Major), sub aqua and even a squash course were all ours to enjoy. Indeed Trooper Imrie finished the summer as an advanced parachutist. Lt Craig, our most recent arrival from the Troop Leader's Course, and Trooper Halcrow took part in the RAC Regatta at Kiel on the back of their Day Skipper and Competent Crew Courses respectively. Sadly, despite all his chat, LCpl Uttley felt that parachuting was not for him!



Tpr Beveridge - "but it's mid May!"

Meanwhile, a 'Jonah Cup' inter-squadron football competition was being run. An exceptionally strong Squadron team featuring the likes of Tprs Hamilton and Beveridge, LCpl's Uttley, McNally, Carrigan and Cpl's England and Thomson, to name but a few, swept the board. Only D Sqn proved a worthy opponent, but they too gave way to pressure giving A Squadron a clean sweep and victory in the competition.

For a change of scenery, 24 intrepid explorers from the squadron went to Berlin for a battlefield and cultural tour, code-named MONTAGUE EAGLE, after the group's illustrious leader Sgt Montgomery. The two and a half days spent in Berlin were punctuated with visits to various museums and other 'cultural sites', culminating with Mr Craig giving a talk on the last days of the Battle for Berlin, in the shadow of the bullet-scarred Reichstag.

With the high possibility of a Fireman's Strike looming in the autumn, the emphasis shifted from training for warfighting, to training to fight fires. Immediately on our return from Summer Leave, Op FRESKO training got underway in earnest as the great 1950's vintage fire engines, the Green Goddesses arrived in Bad Fallingbostel. However, having completed the training, and looking forward to a few weeks in Edinburgh and the Borders, 7th Armoured Brigade was informed that we would not be required, but that our services were to be withheld with a view to future operations in the Gulf.

Since our return from Summer Leave, A Squadron has been task-organised to provide the armour in the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch (1BW) Battlegroup, allowing B Squadron to return to the fold of the Regiment. So it was that in mid-November the Squadron deployed for the first time with the 1 BW Battlegroup to the brand new cyber-space training facility at Sennelager that is CATT, the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer, a virtual world in which an entire battlegroup can operate under one roof. It's a dream come true for the track mileage statistician, but will never be able to emulate that tank crew camaraderie which exists over a brew on the back decks, served with the obligatory oily sandwich!

As Christmas Leave approaches everyone is trying to go about their business as usual. The endless round of social events are cluttering up the diary, the skiers are preparing to depart for Austria, indeed half the Regimental Team this year will come from A Squadron. At the time of writing we are due to return in January to deploy days later onto Hohne Ranges for a two week Range period, followed immediately by another week at CATT with the Black Watch, and so it goes on as it always has done for over 50 years now. However, things may all be different by the time you read this article. As we await the outcome of the first Weapons' Inspections in Iraq, and Hans Blix's Report in February, the Regiment and A Squadron remain focussed on the very real possibility that we may at any time be called upon to deploy once more to the Middle East. The last time it was so, the present SSM was operating as a lance corporal for a certain Troop Leader; that Troop Leader is now the Squadron Leader!



The Troop Leaders BATUS MM1 2002.

Finally, as you might expect, there has been a good deal of coming and going throughout the year in A Squadron, and it is with genuine sadness that we say goodbye and good luck to those intrepid beings with whom we have served, but who now have ventured back to civilian life. They are LCpls Barlow, Beeby, Beevor, Carrigan, and Tprs Brown, Milroy, Laird and Hamilton. On a less dramatic note we have also to say goodbye and thank you to those who have had the misfortune to move on for the time being we hope. They are Capt James Bishop (4th Tp), Capt Nick Burnet (1st Tp), Lt Will Leek (3rd Tp), WO2 Mackie (SSM), SSgt McDowell (SQMS), SSgt Higgs (Tiffy), Sgts Taff Edwards and Milly Milnthorpe, and Cpls Johnstone and Silburn, LCpl Sanderson and Cfn Cruikshank (Fitter Section), Sgt King, Sgt Arnott, L/Cpls Canon and Smurthwaite, and a number who have moved to other squadrons, they being Cpls Dougal and Hamilton, LCpls McNally and MacDonald, and Tprs Forsyth, Newlands and Black. As the old and bold leave, we welcome new blood in the form of 2Lt's Ed O'Brien (4th Tp) and Graham Craig (1st Tp), WO2 Anderson (SSM), SSgt Mackenzie (SQMS), SSgt Hanson (3rd Tp), Sgt MacKelvie, Sgt Watson, and LCpl McCheyne, who only lasted 6 months in civvy street before returning to his old squadron, and a plethora of young troopers to maintain A Squadron's youthful character! We also congratulate Cpl "Squidgey" and Mrs Shaw on the birth of their daughter Molly, and congratulations to Sgt and Mrs Kim King on their marriage during the summer. Finally, we remember "Mitch" and "Batty", forever members of A Squadron.



Waiting for action.

Having completed Kosovo, we discovered we had a very active time to look forward to with the coming Training Year, and not the relaxed sojourn we had imagined and hoped for in sunny Fallingbostal.

As soon as the Officers had returned to Germany after winter sports, the tanks and assortment of vehicles which make up the Squadron left the Tank Park and headed just down the road to the Bergen-Hohne Ranges. The Squadron worked hard, coping well with the freezing weather and blizzards! Overall the Squadron results were impressive, with LCpl Stevenson doing the Mutants proud by entering the records as the best Gunner within the Regiment. LCpl Stevenson also won the Duke of Kent trophy for achieving the best score on the Annual Crew Test. This is a coveted award as the whole Regiment competes fiercely for the prestigious trophy. Sympathy must also go to the Squadron Leader for the 8 Kg radio which fell on his head in the Range Control Tower as a result of the vibrations from firing!

In March, we deployed to Poland and Drawsko-Pomorski became the Area of Operations for Ex ULAN EAGLE over a period of two weeks. One of the most exciting things about Poland was the fascinating train journey. It was quite amazing to sit just outside Fallingbostal for four hours in a train! Sgt Potter managed to organise a much needed on-board meal of specially delivered Chinese – it is incredible the good service that take-aways provide nowadays. The Fitters came well prepared and practised their tactics by playing long sessions of the board game 'Risk'.

Once on the training area, the tanks were fitted with

training equipment ready for the battles ahead. In spite of problems with the Tactical Exercise Simulation (TES) laser equipment, in particular Mr Campbell-Davys' inability to get his equipment to work at all, the Squadron performed well. We were ably assisted by the ferocious might of the Squadron Fitter Section swapping spanners for rifles and Light Anti-Tank Weapons (LAW 94) and forming an ad hoc infantry section when we were hard pressed. This proved surprisingly effective, especially when combined with bags of enthusiasm. Major Lambert had a few exciting moments when going to and from Battle Group HQ, having to travel on foot during one memorable incident when his landrover got stuck en route!

In June, the long-suffering Canadians were visited by the Mutants for the first time since 1999, to take part in Ex MED MAN 2. As part of the 1st Battalion The Black Watch Battle Group, the Mutants performed as



Cold Tanks.

only we can, all soldiers doing their level best to escape the hundreds of roving infanteers down at the local town of Medicine Hat. Relaxing the rules led to some hoarse moments for the Squadron Sergeant Major (SSM Ewing) when Troopers White and Geddes went to town and after several drinks decided Canada wasn't so dull after all and in the process forgot to turn up for a parade. The Senior Ranks also did their best, with Sgts Potter, Dempster and Welsh lending the barman of one establishment a Kenwood walkie-talkie to ensure the delivery of quicker, cooler beer. SSgt Macintyre and SSM Ewing maximised drinking time by combining accommodation and office into one space! Not surprisingly Cpls Blair, Hamilton, Allan, Baird and the two Dudman brothers managed to party for the entire week before deployment.



LCpl Martin after an argument with the breech.

When the Battle Group finally deployed on to the Prairie, facial hair took on a legendary cavalry appearance. Soon the hairy Mutants, led by Captain 'the Lord Cardigan' Williams, were revelling in the Black Watch Regimental Sergeant Major's consternation, as more and more lamb chops and Mexican moustaches emerged from turrets, and of course, a wispy Mr O'Brien.

BATUS was a new experience for many. The weather was good overall and the Mutants were soon wearing dark squaddie tans. There was only one exception to the good weather, which was four days of relentless rain when the heavens opened and convinced us that the scientists who had designated the prairie a desert were totally wrong.

The initial live firing phase was very exciting, especially as the shoots became more and more demanding. The Squadron again performed exceptionally well, which BATUS Gunnery Directing Staff noted. The Mutants were very proud of managing to be the only squadron for quite some time to completely destroy the enemy targets in the long range high explosive shoot which was 5km away.

The second phase was the TES phase. The Squadron honed their tank fighting skills during night raids, advances across the prairie and other armoured manoeuvres. It was exciting for all and, with the tank's ability to see in the dark using its Thermal Imagery sights, the



Sgt Baird on the Ranges.



Cpl Jays explains his intent 5 up.



Off duty.



Mutants

Battle Group let the Squadron lead the way, even putting them in front of its own Recce troop. Cpl Allan had the shock of being the Squadron Leader for a day when he found that he was the only tank left 'alive'. He carried on fighting, talking directly to the BG Commander and assisting in directing artillery fire.



Sgt Welsh travels 1st class.

Throughout all the fighting the Troops all suffered little mishaps of their own. 1st Troop suffered breakdowns galore, 2nd Troop went in circles and then charged off in random directions, 3rd Troop and the Squadron 2IC got bogged in line abreast and drove into their own minefields, 4th with their 'swimming' tanks charged invisible enemy across a river.

On return to Bad-Fallingbostel, normal barrack life resumed. Many new troopers took part in Map Reading, Signals and Gunnery courses. The Squadron sent Mr De Silva, SSgt Macintyre, Cpl Kyle, LCpls Martin and Stevenson, and Tpr Cassidy to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, as part of the Mounted Troop. In order to do this, they had to learn to ride in four weeks at Melton Mowbray, before training in Hyde Park with the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. They then went up to Edinburgh and performed in front of the Queen and thousands of members of the public at the Tattoo. This was quite an amazing feat considering that they had never ridden before. Some lucky Mutants also took part in Ex ARABIAN EAGLE, a diving expedition to the Red Sea, Egypt, a fittingly warm finale to the dive training in the Baltic Sea at Kiel.

The Squadron reunited after a well-deserved summer break, the first for two years. Within a few weeks the



Definitely not our fault.

Mutants were back on their tanks, this time for a sudden surprise range package. Again back at Bergen-Hohne Ranges, but this time with new faces, the Squadron managed to complete all its Annual Crew Tests and Annual Troop Tests, performing to its now usual and expected high standards. The Tiffy showed us all why he is nicknamed 'Top Gun' with some exceptional shooting on his 432 armoured fighting vehicle.



Lt De Silva

The Squadron would like to congratulate its new Junior Non Commissioned Officers, LCpls Stevenson, Brown, Kelly and Armstrong. LCpls Pratt, Kyle and Gardinier all went up the pecking order, and Corporals Baird and Blair had their talent recognized with a third stripe. The Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant Technical (SSgt Macintyre) was promoted to Sergeant Major and left to join 'C'; in return we were blessed with SSgt Bell and SSM Spence who has come home at last. SSM Ewing was promoted to WO1, and the Squadron rests assured that one glance at 'Puzzle Palace' (RHQ) now encompasses an RSM and a Mutant who has commanded three generations of tanks. Also seated in RHQ, at the Commanding Officer's right hand, is Major Lambert who has been elevated to Regimental 2IC. It appears that the Mutants are slowly infiltrating the rest of the Regimental positions of authority!

The Squadron, and indeed the Regiment, has also said goodbye to Captain 'Crusher' Williams, Cpls Kyle and McKenzie and Tpr Harman. We wish them all the best in their future careers and ask them all to stay in touch with their very formidable friends

THE MUTANTS!



LCpls Brown and Kelly.

C SQUADRON

Since last year's article C Squadron has enjoyed another busy, productive and ultimately thoroughly rewarding time in its principal role as a 14-tank sabre squadron. Following nearly two years in the dismounted role, the focus was very much on armoured training, but with adventure training and sport being given renewed impetus.

The New Year commenced with frenzied gunnery training in the simulators at Fallingbommel, in preparation for annual firing in February. The Squadron also underwent a week of dismounted field firing in mid-January. Each tank crew finished the week with a 4-man attack; loaders and commanders manned a dismounted GPMG while drivers and gunners put in the final assault using SA80, LAW and bayonet! It was certainly an experience few will forget, given the freezing conditions of Sennelager, as well as the novelty of assaulting on foot rather than track.

Annual firing achieved very satisfactory results, given the comparative youth and inexperience of the Squadron at all levels. Callsign 30 with Lt McLeman, LCpl Duffy, Tpr Scally and Tpr Ferguson won the best crew shield and only narrowly missed winning the Duke of Kent Trophy for the best Regimental crew. The firing period culminating in a very successful squadron-company group live fire attack on ranges 1A/1C at Bergen Hohne. Driving snow failed to put crews off, but was an indication of what was to come during our Sennelager FTX in March.

Conscious of a shallow armoured skills base, the Commanding Officer agreed to turn over the first week of our two week FTX to troop and squadron level training and the majority of the second week to the squadron-company group level. Starting with the very basics, sabre troops spent time going through such matters as living in the field (on tanks) before progressing on to navigation exercises, hides and movement. Traditional troop tests followed, with 3rd Troop acquitting itself very well as the best sabre troop in the Regiment, followed closely by 4th and 2nd Troops. By the time squadron-company level operations were tackled, the fundamentals had been pretty well learnt. It was quite a feat considering the weather conditions, which were genuinely awful throughout the fortnight.

The Squadron deployed to Canada in mid April for Exercise MEDICINE MAN 1 with the aim of making the most of the valuable opportunity while giving the Opposing Force (OPFOR) a sound whipping. With the BATUS package split evenly between live fire and simulation a considerable amount was achieved during the twenty-four days on the Prairie. Again, the Squadron concentrated on getting the basics right before moving on to more demanding manoeuvres, and, by the end of the exercise, it was a noticeably different beast to that which had nervously driven off the Sennelager railhead onto the area some 2 months previously.



Capt Soulsby and Mr le Sueur preparing for the next mission.

Life in C Squadron this year has not been solely about tanks and field training. A number of soldiers took advantage of the post MEDICINE MAN adventure training package in the Canadian Rockies. There have also been three very successful adventure-training exercises. Lt Trueman took fourteen members of the Squadron sailing around Cyprus in June and in September Lt le Sueur and Sgt McKenzie led a joint C and B Squadron scuba diving expedition to Egypt. The majority of the Squadron also spent a week participating in water sports on the Mohnese Lake of 'Dam Busters' fame. The net result has been that nearly the whole squadron has enjoyed some sort of adventure training this year.

On return from summer leave, the Squadron was warned off to provide Green Goddess crews in support of Op FRESCO, the fire brigade union strike contingency operation. Almost as quickly we were stood down from the task and instructed to prepare for annual firing on Bergen Hohne ranges. With three weeks' notice, the Squadron crammed in practical and theoretical gunnery training while getting the tanks ready to fire. The results the Squadron produced were quite astonishing under the circumstances. Of the 13 crews that fired, all passed the Annual Crew Test first time with 9 crews achieving the top grade of level 6 and 4 achieving level 5. C/S 22 under Cpl Morris with Tpr Sharpe as his gunner achieved a very commendable level 6 distinction with a 100% score. The Squadron then went on to trial a new Annual Troop Test for the RAC, with all troops passing first time what proved to be a considerably more challenging test.



WO2 (SSM) Anderson (C/S 33ANGRY) returns fresh from a shower run.

Throughout the year, and particularly towards the end of it, C Squadron has seen a rapid changeover in its members. SSgt Lillie returned from the D&M School as SQMS (T) in place of SSgt Anderson who was promoted to become SSM A Squadron. In September WO2 (SSM) Anderson, also known as '33 Angry', departed the Squadron on promotion to WO1 (RSM) of The Royal Yeomanry. Shortly thereafter SSgt Macintyre took over as SSM on promotion from B Squadron. SSgt (SQMS) Spence moved to become SSM of B Squadron and in turn was replaced by SSgt McVey, fresh from the gunnery school. Other loyal C Squadron men to have moved include Sgt Bell on promotion to SQMS (T) B Squadron and Sgt McKenzie on promotion to SQMS A Squadron. Other new arrivals include Sgt Baird on promotion from B Squadron, Cpl Hendry on promotion from HQ Squadron and in November, SSgt McBeath as our new Tiffy. 2Lt Marjoribanks joined the Squadron from his troop leader's course in place of Lt Trueman, who moved on to become the Intelligence Officer. Finally, Capt Soulsby, the redoubtable Squadron 2IC, departed to become Adjutant of the RAC Training Regiment and was replaced by Capt Dobeson, an old C Squadron hand.



SSgt Spence
The irrepressible SQMS

Following BATUS, a complete troop, in terms of raw numbers, was transferred to D Squadron to help re-establish it as a sabre squadron. Thankfully numbers



Maj Biggart, a pensive Sqn Ldr before the next mission.

have now slowly crept up with an inflow of new blood and as at the time of writing, C Squadron is back to full manning. Arrivals from training welcomed into the Squadron this year include Tprs Bester, Harvey, Haw, Kelly 44, Lomalagi, Macawi, McBeth, McCall 75, McLaughlin, Minnock, Ravunamelo, Ridyrd, Senior, Thorburn and Yates, with more on the horizon.

There have also been a number of marriages this year. Tpr Green married Lisa in March, LCpl Cowan married Monika in March and Tpr Haw married Lauren in September.

No Squadron article would be complete without mention of the Fitter Section. During the training year the Squadron has been incredibly well supported by SSgt (Tiffany) Wallace and his team. Very much considered to be an integral part of the Squadron, the Fitter Section has participated in all aspects of Squadron life and under our PTIs, Cpls Garrett and Simons, whose normal job is to crew the CRARRV, have been instrumental in getting the Squadron up to and keeping it at an almost un-Cavalry like standard of fitness.

As the year closes, C Squadron can look back on what has been at times a very challenging, nearly always thoroughly enjoyable but genuinely successful period, ready to face the uncertainties of what 2003 may hold.



C Squadron sailing in Cyprus.



Tpr McBloggs was so depressed by his APWT he decided to end it, this was trickier than he expected.



SSM McIntyre prepares to restore order.....

D SQUADRON

The fledgling D Squadron, was cast as the Recce Squadron for the 2002 Training Year. This was designed as an interim measure in order to re-establish the manpower and resources for a fourth squadron within the Regimental ORBAT. No sooner had that objective been achieved then we were to have begun to readapt to form a CR2 squadron with 20 Armoured Brigade as part of the BG led by 1st Bn The Light Infantry. However, as of 6th January 2003, the squadron was put into suspended animation pending operations in the Arabian Gulf.

Major Allen, having guided D Squadron through their first 10 months, has departed for the Staff College and was replaced by Major Brannigan, fresh from 2 years at HQ 3 (UK) Division and a brief sojourn in Kabul with HQ ISAF. WO2 (SSM) Gray and Captain Kerrigan provided the continuity at the top. The P&Ds and Recce Troop have returned to HQ Squadron and SSgt Gardiner joined the squadron as 3rd Troop leader.

To recap on the activities since December 01, the reformation was a unique experience and since then the passage of time has blurred a large amount of our rigorous activity. Nevertheless, in 12 months the Squadron has been born, whipped through infancy, childhood and adolescence and now cryogenically frozen. Throughout it all, and when given the opportunity, we have strived to perfect the art of enjoying regimental life, and it's variety, as well as fulfil the intensive training requirements of the Training Year that culminates at BATUS, little knowing that there might be such changes in the ORBAT.

As the New Year blossomed, the composite parts of the Squadron were thrown together for the first time. The

snow arrived just a little late for Christmas and whilst most completed a brief visit to Sennelager to fire their rifles, the few remaining empty spaces began to fill as we took on manpower from the QDG and LD. With them came not only their families, but also a rich patchwork of experiences, accents and repartee. Very quickly it became clear that the infant D Squadron was by no means normal (although far from being an infant 'mutant'). Indeed, the very atmosphere was already marked by variety in every sense, be it at work or play.

Thrown into the maelstrom, we jumped onto the BATUS cycle. But before we landed on the prairie, a few teeth had to be cut on a local exercise or two. To the unprepared, a swift synopsis might read as insane or indeed impressive. Put simply, in the first 5 months of the year we would spend only 34 working days in camp and it wasn't long before the Squadron Leader, armed with a pocket full of soldiers, went off to BG HQ simulation training (CAST). D Squadron conducted this first task in its new role as a reinforced reconnaissance grouping or, in layman's terms, 'a gargantuan Recce troop' based upon 3 troops (CR2, Recce and Light - the Pipes and Drums manning the former, Recce Troop and a composite troop of QDGs and LDs the latter).

As simulation training proved to be our first outing, in the eyes of many onlookers it was also taken as the first hurdle. The computer-based enemy seemed beatable and at the same time we learned how to tiptoe around the vast database without being seen. LCpl Robinson both cunningly and adeptly moved us around the system. He amazingly discovered many ways of making a squadron tackle an impassable deciduous wood at 75 mph and completing a 28-vehicle replen in 3 minutes!



Fitters to the rescue

Next on the checklist we had to complete annual firing and still it was snowing. Although a successful week, there was nothing more spectacular than to see the omnipresent ‘Drummy’ (D/Maj Orr) fall headfirst off his tank (twice) having being pushed off by an indolent sabot round! Once the divots were repaired we boarded the trains for an overdue return to Sennelager – again, as luck would have it, the snow welcomed us warmly to our bivvis and it also rained continuously throughout the two weeks. At one point, Captain Kerrigan was heard to say that he had seen some sunshine, but clearly the remaining 84 of us had been blinking at that same moment. This time we took to the field as both a squadron and then later with the BG. It was an eventful fortnight for all, and not least for Recce Troop who clinched both first and second places in BG troop tests. There were some equally memorable events surrounding the Squadron’s St David’s Day festivities that were suitably celebrated by our Welsh cousins. If the reader can imagine five of the largest raw leeks known to man being consumed (in a race) by 4 people (plus one SCOTS DG officer) from Light Troop, one’s imagination need only put the missing images together to raise a wry smile or two. Finally, amongst other ‘events’, and whilst the Squadron played OPFOR for the BG, the SQMS (SSgt Reed (LD)) almost got away with attacking the BG from the rear with his UBRE. Sadly he was cunningly bubbled by Lt Col Ben Edwards at the key moment.

Over the same period there was a continual flurry of activity back in the bosom of the Regiment. Uniquely, the Squadron has many more wives than you might expect. Consequently, whilst the husbands prepared for a busy year, the new families were also establishing their own squadron identity – and the Commanding Officer’s Wives’ Drinks party was a notable occasion. On another evening, LCpl Bruce gave an honest reply at the Officers’ Mess Ladies Night when asked a question by Mrs Allen (new to life in the Army). “Oh, so you’re the chap who sits between the Sqn Ldr’s legs?” In answer, “Well Ma’am, it must be said that I am looking for promotion, but not quite in that manner!”

So, in the first 3 months of existence, and a smoker or two, this happy band of ‘D’ had completed a lot. Now it was time for the open prairie and on arrival at BATUS many confidently and kindly said we were in for an excellent exercise. Little did we know that the same cloud that snowed and rained on us thus far had also decided to take the very last flight to Canada and rejoin us the same day we deployed. Despite this we set forth and were greeted by a thoroughly welcoming and helpful BATUS staff. They seemed interested as to how we would fair as Mother Nature unleashed a howling northerly straight from the Arctic. However,



Drum Major Orr.

we struggled on and without becoming ‘bogged in’ with the detail, it could be said that we were all on a steep learning curve. Experimentation was very much the way for a few days as we found our feet and acclimatised. Indeed, even when the fight was taken to the BATUS OPFOR, all maintained a consistently pragmatic attitude and overall we fared well.

Particular thanks must go to the BATUS staff for their advice. Also to our largely undetectable Forward Observation Officer (Capt Ed Pizii) for staying alive most of the time and all those from the attached arms who battled against the continual frictions of Jock, Geordie, Welsh and Fijian chatter on the radios: Capt Matheson, Recce Tp Ldr, perfected the art of drawing the enemy to the Squadron (in high reverse) whilst Lt Wilkinson waited keenly with his tanks in ambushes – and contemplating his next approach shot to the green: Finally, to everyone in the Squadron for an utterly professional performance under some trying circumstances. Of note, Drummy made up for his hard landing on the firing point at Range 7A by being credited as ‘Top Gun’. In one instance, amongst others, he killed off an entire OPFOR Infantry Company before breakfast; the reward was to lead the BG from the prairie (reputedly after his 11th Med Man). He



Sgt Mack.

now leaves the Regiment after 27 years of outstanding service to start a widespread lecture tour of the British Army’s finest tactical establishments.

The post-BATUS enthusiasm led many back to the Jubilee celebrations in Fallingbostal whilst others took part in the BATUS adventurous training programme. Others still plied their newfound experiences as OPFOR against 2RTR. For those returning to Germany it was time to savour some family time before summer leave...the first day back being the thirty-fifth in camp since New Year’s Day! There was also a brief, but thoroughly entertaining visit to Mohnesee (a lake near Paderborn) where squadron teams would contest both the Moncrieff Shield and Winram Trophy competition. Although the photographs will bear testament to the nature and content of the activities, the level of competition and enjoyment was clearly evident. Worth remarking upon was the imagination of both the organisers (the SQMS and Sgt Birss (PT Corps)) and members of D Squadron’s team – including LCpl Glover and Tpr Grant being the main ‘U-Boat Force’ throughout. It goes without saying that we won the Moncrieff Shield, but alas, A Squadron lost out to HQ Squadron in the Raft Race and the latter just won the Winram Trophy on a rather dubious technicality.


Within any organisation made up of a large number of people there are both stories of success and also sadness. On 13th July, Trooper ‘Sammy’ Blyth was tragically killed in a road accident at Kirknewton. He was a popular member of both the Pipes and Drums and



LCpl Rigby, SSM Enay, Tpr Lovell, LCpl Burrows, LCpl O’Sullivan, Maj Williams.

the Squadron. It is with great sadness that we record this, and our thoughts and sympathy go out to his family, fiancée and friends. The squadron in Fallingbostal held a Memorial service in August.

On the marriage front, Maj Allen returned to Regimental Duty with Fiona only days after the Squadron was formed. LCpl Bob Milner married Andrea in March and Tpr Armstrong married Vanessa in June. Not to be outdone, the MacFarlanes added another child to the clan and the Smiths, Downes and McMinns are all now parents. Those to whom we must say goodbye include the Squadron 2ic, Lt Wilkinson to the KRH, Cpl Scott and LCpls Aitken and Downey. We wish them well.

There is never enough space to record all the other moments in a busy year. However the last words must go in thanks to all who have been part of the experiment of a recce squadron. Both whilst dressed in green and out, all have worked supremely hard and with creditable levels of success. Equally, the Squadron’s attitude has been both determined and unique. We are now marching to the drums of a potential war in the Gulf and the squadron manpower and equipment has been divided amongst the other three squadrons to bring them up to a war-fighting establishment. It is with some sadness that we hung up the squadron pennant having been well on the way to becoming an effective, trained and cohesive force. However, it is only a temporary measure and following the Regiment’s return to Germany we have been assured that the Yellow Pennant shall fly again. 

HQ SQUADRON

This has been an extremely busy year for the complete squadron with the entire Regiment having been deployed on exercise throughout the Training Year.

This Training Year started very early in January with the Squadron deploying in support of the Battle Group who had been dispatched to Sennelager to participate in an Infantry Small Arms Package. From then on in we bounced from exercise to exercise with barely breathing space in between. Sennelager to Hohne, back to Sennelager, followed by our deployment to BATUS, returning at the end of May for a well earned short break.

The SQMS staff under SSgt Ian Ross has been stretched to almost breaking point, but they always managed to supply those essential requirements 'from toilet paper to stickies' no matter how remote or isolated the location, and the goodies were always produced just at the right moment. A great deal of thanks from the Squadron should go to SSgt Ross, Cpl Irwin, LCpl Darling and of course our deputy SQMS - Sgt McLaughlin.

HQ Squadron is largely the supporting element of not only the Regiment within barracks and also of the Battle Group whilst on operations or exercise, which throughout this training year has totalled nearly 1500 all ranks.

Whilst back in camp this year, which initially seemed to be not very often, we had the additional task of managing the Jubilee Celebrations - this was not only for the Regiment and the entire 7th Armoured Brigade organisation, but was to be an Anglo-German event. The displays which included equestrian demonstrations and competitions, parachute displays, vehicle displays, cream teas, barbeques and a complete entertainment party took place over the weekend 01 -



A2 Echelon deployed on the prairie.



The QM(T) in what can be best described as prairie pose.

02 June. The celebrations ended with an all-ranks party. A total of 6000 people from various elements of the German community attended and a great time was had by all.

With the assistance of the LAD, we continue to make an impact on the sporting front, winning the Moncrief Shield, the Tug of War and coming runners up in the Winram Trophy and the Regimental Highland games, and all this success came without the normal gladiators held within Recce Troop.

All in all HQ Squadron has produced excellent results in this extremely busy, hectic and testing year. What must always be remembered is not only has the Squadron supported fully the Regiment and Battle Group, but all those individuals, departments and troops within the squadron have had to carry out their own training at the same time, and as was highlighted in BATUS it is not always easy to achieve.

Every department within the squadron has performed to the highest of standards and produced a service, which I believe, is 'Second to None', an achievement for which all are to be congratulated.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

Doesn't time fly when you're enjoying yourself? Who would have thought a year could pass so quickly, but after another 6-month tour of Kosovo, thank heavens it did. The New Year got off to a hectic start, with the Regiment descending on Sennelager (Normandy Barracks) for a Small Arms Firing Period and was supported by the Catering Department along with Corporal Jimmy Leckie and Lance Corporal 'Dangerous' Brian Campbell.

February was a fairly quiet month, but before we knew it Exercise Prairie Eagle One was upon us and it was back to Sennelager; this time we were in the Urban Dry Training Area (Tin City to the older ones amongst us). This time the administrative support was supplied by Corporal Garry Miller, Lance Corporal Brian Campbell and Trooper John MacLennan. They were attached to the Quartermaster Technical Department for the duration of the exercise and provided no end of amusement to their counterparts. Corporal Miller started the fun with an alarming moment with a can of shoe polish, which caused Lance Corporal Jacki MacDonald to dash for a fire extinguisher. Then Lance Corporal Brain (sorry Brian) Campbell came up with a suggestion worthy of a Gems money award. He thought that if he snapped all of the cylvume sticks in advance that the troops on the ground would have instant light as soon as they opened the packaging. This training period also saw Dangerous Brian standing to attention on the telephone whilst receiving a rollicking from the RQMS(T). The moral of the story was that he should be familiar with the vehicles he was licensed to drive and not with the people he knew. February was also a good time for promotions within the Department as Lance Corporal's Kenny Cooper and Brian Campbell were both promoted to Corporal.

April saw the departure of our Regimental chippy, Corporal Jimmy Leckie, who left for his last six months service with the ACIO Glasgow. We wish him the best of luck for the future and thank him for all the hard work during his stay with the Department. The majority of the Department deployed as pre-advance party to BATUS on MM1 to ensure the accommodation, ammunition and golf courses were ready for when the main party arrived. It was also a rare excursion for Lance Corporal Craig McCusker who up until now hasn't deployed from camp (due to a sporting injury). Craig also learnt a valuable and painful lesson; do not go out socialising with Sgt Long and SSgt Wallace.

No sooner had we returned from BATUS, but we were straight back into it with setting up for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. This saw Corporal Kenny Cooper get into many strange positions with a ladder and a red van, which would have had the Health and Safety Officer having kittens.

July was a busy period for the Department with the new Fuller Restaurant (Other Ranks' Dining Facility, shared with 2 RTR) opening and the build-up to the Regimental Board of Officers for the handover of Commanding Officer. The most important occurrence however, was summer leave (3 weeks of bliss lying in the sun with your feet up and a pint of lager).

The Department also had a day out to Schumacher's go-karting facility, which saw Sgt Long winning all of the races, Kenny Cooper heading straight for the tyre wall at Mach 10, and Lance Corporal Ricky Campbell driving slower than "Miss Daisy"; even the QM overtook him. This allowed Ricky to retire to the pits to take digital photographs.

October saw the pleasant return of Mr Ian Neilson, (previously SSgt Neilson, SCOTS DG) now a civilian living in Germany who has once again joined the Department as a SHEF (Safety, Health, Environmental and Fire Warden), but unfortunately for Garry he doesn't cook egg banjos for a living.

November saw the departure of WO2 Alan Henderson and his wife Renate, who retire to civilian employment and Corporal Brian Campbell and Nicky who will be enlightening D Sqn. We would like to wish them all the best and hope that the future holds bright for them all. We also welcomed the new RQMS McDowell and his wife Bertha and look forward to working with them in the future.

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QUARTERMASTER TECHNICAL

The training year began for the Quartermaster Technical Department with preparations to go to Sennelager on Ex PRAIRIE EAGLE 1. A2 Echelon was to operate from Tin City, whilst many members of the department remember going there for other purposes! With the QM (T) having already departed for BATUS as OC Activation Party, the department was under the control of the RQMS (T), WO2 Ian Millar. Chocks and Chains safely stored after the train move, the Department settled down into the routine of working to support the Battle Group. Of course being Sennelager it rained, rained and then rained some more so all concerned were thankful for the shelter of Murphy Street! The return rail journey was marred by the tragic death of Tpr Batiuluna from A Squadron and everyone in the department was deeply affected by this terrible event.

On completion of Ex PRAIRIE EAGLE 1 Corporal McGee and LCpl McDonald moved out to BATUS to join the Activation Party by way of Greenland, Newfoundland and all points West, courtesy of a 3-day flight on a C130 HERCULES. This would have been fine until they found out that the QM (T) had managed the trip courtesy of Club Class Air Canada! The rest of the department were now busy organising the Battle Group freight for transporting to BATUS, when from Canada came the news confirming that A2 Echelon would, for the first time, deploy onto the prairie. This presented many problems for the department, not least regarding manning; would we be able to drive and crew all the vehicles required?

Once in BATUS it became clear that with additional manning from the Battle Group attached units, we would just manage but with no spare capacity at all. A2 Echelon deployed on D-Day with the rest of the Battle Group and the QM (T) was overheard bemoaning the fact that he had waited 27 years to have a job in Crowfoot Camp and was now off camping yet again! There followed a period of training when in addition to providing the normal support to the Battle Group, all members of the echelon were put through anti-ambush drills, section attacks and even firing from the backs of trucks. This was a novel experience for most and did nothing to frighten the Figure Eleven targetry population of BATUS!

The deployment of A2 echelon is still in its infancy in BATUS and one of the more bizarre results of this is that secure communications are replicated by a mobile phone. The first problem this caused was reception

and on many occasions A2 was located wherever a decent signal could be obtained. Secondly, as there was only one phone for the whole echelon this led to shouts of "where's the ***** phone?" emanating from various CV's and office trailers. The deployment was however a success and A2 Echelon was able to achieve all the training levels set for it by the BATUS staff, whilst still supporting the Battle Group with spares.

The TES phase brought new threats, as the OPFOR is renowned for attacking echelons and therefore sentry duty became less boring as the enemy were eagerly anticipated! Sadly (or luckily) the OPFOR either never found us or had heard of Cpl Wales' prowess on the Light Support Weapon and decided to look for easier targets such as sabre squadrons or companies of infantry!

Some memorable moments from the training year are; in Sennelager Cpl Wales' KFC run for 20 buckets of chicken "Is that to eat in or takeaway Sir?" Then in BATUS, the QM (T) thinking his newly bought GPS was broken "Try the contrast switch Sir," and also in BATUS, LCpl Campbell stealing Portaloos with his JCB "For ***** sake don't drop them".

And finally the whole department extends a warm welcome back to work to LCpl Chris Whinn after his serious illness this year.

**Janet?Eagleton MBE? &
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LIGHT AID DETACHMENT

Although it seems that it is said every year, I am convinced that this year was indeed busier than last. Which is of course somewhat ironic when you consider that 2001 saw an operational tour and 2002 was merely a bunch of exercises here and abroad - still I am sure the old sweats will tell me that this is the norm. Of course, the LAD soldiers have performed superbly, as REME tradesmen always do whatever the demands. Equally our families have been very supportive while we have been to-ing and fro-ing across the globe and for that we are grateful.

The year started in Sennelager with the small arms package and we were not able to escape the clutches of 'the worst lager in the world' for three weeks, what with battle group study periods and the thrilling, Command and Staff Trainer (CAST). The ASM managed to slip in a few crafty weeks ski-biking with some 'volunteers' from the LAD, though whether they had quite anticipated what it involved is another matter. In any event they are now all convinced that you have to be a lunatic to throw yourself down a hill at 90 mph on a bicycle... so will all be taking part again next year! Soon after we moved out to the ranges at Bergen Hohne doing what we enjoy best, namely helping the big guns go 'Bang'. The annual crew firing proved a great success and set us in good stead for the rest of the year. The fledgling D Squadron Fitter Section under SSgt Tel Lemmon also proved its worth, despite some severe difficulties with shoddy equipment and manpower shortages.

After a brief respite back at home, it was back to Sennelager for Ex PRAIRIE EAGLE 1. The smug grins due to the fact that we were not deploying to Poland, soon faded, as snow, rain and more snow descended. LAD Main could not whinge too much since some commandeered houses in Tin City and a swift bit of REME ingenuity produced working coal fires to keep us all toasty - well done us. For some young craftsmen the exercise was the first taste of working in field conditions, for others it was the first exercise in a long while, after several years of Peace Support Operations. Consequently there are few who did not learn something and we came away a more flexible LAD. And flexibility was to prove the watchword over the next week, as the first tranche of the LAD departed for Canada on the Activation Party. For most people, this proved to be 3 days of purgatory at the hands of Crab Air, though a select bunch did make it to Canada courtesy of a business class civilian flight. As a result of sitting alongside one of the rock



The EME in BATUS - complete with tache!

musician, Bryan Adams' roadies on the flight, the ASM and SSgt JR Richards adopted his persona. They then spent an evening in Calgary regaling gullible Canadians with wild rock 'n' roll tales and accepting free drinks for their troubles.

Meanwhile, back in Europe, another CAST was taking place in Sennelager and B Squadron fitters were off enjoying the mosquitoes in Poland on Ex PRAIRIE EAGLE 2. In Canada, the Activation Party had gone very well, after some phenomenally hard work, and the remainder of the LAD started to arrive for Ex MEDMAN 1. The 3 weeks on the Prairie seemed to fly by (though some may argue that point) and we experienced just about every kind of weather, save for a plague of locusts. Most memorable is the 12 hour dust storm, when the fitter sections provided magnificent support to the Squadrons to keep everyone moving. Exercise incidents were too numerous to relate each one, though the Prairie fire caused by a single spark from the welders was a sobering experience and Sgt Taff Edwards' heroic sacrifice of his own vehicle to an enemy tank, to allow the CRARRV to escape deserves a mention. Afterwards the usual chaos ensued, sorting out the vehicles ready for The Black Watch battle group, and again the boys worked very hard to hand the vehicles back in prime condition. Some of us managed to escape, and various bits of adventure training were achieved including ski mountaineering, alpine touring (lovingly referred to as Wapta 'Selection'), parachuting, riding, kayaking and sailing. The ASM and SSgt Steve Edwards put together an excellent rugby tour for the Regiment, although the RAF did their worst again, resulting in only one match being played. By now B Squadron were on the Prairie enjoying torrential rain. Much had been made of the fact that the training area was into its fourth

year of a drought - I am certain that, to a man, B Squadron fitters will testify that this is now well and truly over! They provided a sterling service to the Squadron and the CRARRV, in particular, was kept busy getting the Gunners out of bother. All in all this year saw a very successful period in BATUS for the LAD.

Once we were back we started to get itchy feet, so it was time to leave Fallingbostal again, this time to head for Scotland. Twelve REME and SCOTS DG soldiers made their way to the Cairngorms and Central Highlands to conquer the UK's eight highest peaks. We experienced truly atrocious weather (something of a theme in 2002) and had some very hard walks, nevertheless the team persevered and we achieved our aim. It was especially poignant that the only clear view we had in the 10 days was at the top of Ben Nevis. Back in Germany yet another CAST was under way, though our focus was quite clearly set on the impending summer break. Fresh and full of the joys of life, we returned to camp in the middle of August and stepped straight into the chaos of Op FRESCO. For the next month our training effort was centred on Green Goddesses, hoses, shiny helmets and greasy poles. At the same time the LAD headquarters deployed to Poland on Ex RAT'S SUSTAINER, a Combat Service Support exercise on Drawsko Pomorski. Several gnomes stowed away on the return journey and began to pop up all over the workshop. Notably one gnome, resplendent in fireman's uniform and grey beret, appeared in the cab of a Green Goddess during the Duke of Kent's visit. Another arranged to have himself presented to DEME (A), the head of REME. The Brigadier's face was a treat when he realised that he was not getting yet another plaque, but instead was receiving a 3 foot gnome! It now occupies pride of place in his office in Arborfield.

We also played host to two potential officers at this time and they were subjected to the rigours of tea making in A&G, making brews in HQ Fitters and 'NATO' cuppa construction with LAD Headquarters in Poland. They both enjoyed their visits and came away convinced that a career in the REME was the way ahead - and that is due in large part to the contact they had with the soldiers in the LAD. Our final contact with Poland this year was Ex LEAN RAT, a Brigade study period. Interestingly, the prospect of deploying to the Gulf seemed to crop up at every turn. Finally, as we moved into November, we went back to the tank ranges. B and C Squadron Fitters provided good cover again and also had the chance to fire their crew-served weapons. The sound of Cpl Simons, with the red mist in front of his eyes, machine-gunning targets left and right and all set to have a go at them with the CRARRV blade will endure for a long time. Now, as we



Cfn Cox hard at work.

approach the end of the year, we are concentrating on getting everything ready for any deployment order that might come.

Of course, the year would not have been complete without a fair slice of social activity. SSgt Richards and Sgt Taff Lathan did a wonderful job, designing and building a barbecue area at the back of the LAD. It involved very long hours and a lot of personal effort on their parts to create the decking area and we are all very grateful to them. It will serve the LAD well for many years to come. The football team continues to develop, now under the watchful eye of WO2 Graeme Davidson, and has produced some creditable results; hockey and golf have also featured prominently under SSgt Mark Window. The sport of athletes, 10-pin bowling, took on a life of its own in the LAD under SSgt Steve Higgs. B Squadron Fitters arranged a very interesting trip to the German Panzer museum in Munster - the OC and ASM were both spotted peering at track enviously, perhaps wondering if it would fit on our tanks! Now we are all eagerly awaiting our Christmas bash. For the record, the desert island theme was simply an excuse to coax girlfriends into bikinis and to persuade our Fijian soldiers Craftsman Vam Vamarasi and Sonny Namudu to give us a flavour of home, and not to get people used to the feel of sand between their toes.

As I depart on posting to Blighty, it just remains for me to say thank you to the LAD for their performance over the duration of my tenure as OC. They are amongst the finest tradesmen in the Corps and have a deservedly high reputation in the Division. It has been a privilege to work with you all and I am very proud of what we have done together - you should be proud too of what you have achieved this year. Best of luck for 2003, whatever it holds for you, you will be in my thoughts. *Arte et Marte!*



COMMAND TROOP

The end of January saw the training year start in earnest for Command Troop, with the BG CAST in Sennelager. With the new RSO, Captain Johnny Hanlon, still in Bovington trying to learn the finer points of the ageing CLANSMAN system, WO2 Bryon Brotherton (RSWO) was left the job of trying to bring the Regiment back up to speed.

Having spent the main part of 2000 & 2001 on Peace Support Operations in Kosovo, a return to our core role would require a steep learning curve as the Regiment tried to remember the correct voice procedure. CAST proved an invaluable exercise for the Troop, and identified a lot of areas that needed to be worked on during the Training Year.

No sooner had we returned from Sennelager, than the Regiment carried out a BG study day that gave the first opportunity for the whole BG to meet. The BG was the largest to go through BATUS later on in the year, with 3 squadrons, 2 infantry companies as well as Air Defence, Engineers, Artillery and Milan. The following week saw the Regiment deploy onto Bergen-Hohne Ranges for two weeks annual firing, including the two Command Tanks. Not content with just doing a firing period, the BG also carried out a combined arms live fire exercise at the end of the Range period - Ex EAGLE'S CLAW. All the components of the BG were in place, including BG HQ, and gave a fantastic opportunity for Troops across the Bde to see a live fire attack, accompanied by a running radio commentary by the Second in Command, Major Felix Wheeler.

After the Range period the Tanks and Warriors were loaded onto trains for the short trip back down to Sennelager for Ex PRAIRIE EAGLE, the first of the major exercises of the year. The first half of the exercise was at Troop and Squadron level, which gave Command Troop the opportunity to practice our own movement and drills. It also gave LCpl Starr the chance to blow himself up almost every morning trying to light the petrol fuelled water boiler! The first week ended with troop tests. This was followed by the BG phase, and brought together all the elements of the BG and was the first chance for BG HQ to be put under a bit of pressure.

The highlight of the year for Command Troop was undoubtedly Ex MED MAN 1 in BATUS. A month on the prairie with 15 days live fire and 15 days fight-



Sgt Winters and the Colonel of Regiment.

ing against a live enemy - in the form of the 9/12 Lancers. Command Troop did an amazing job, and with Sgt Winters always finding cunning places to site the Headquarters we were never found by the enemy during the entire exercise. We also had the RGO - Capt Richard Ongaro - on hand, always ready, finger on the trigger just in case BG HQ was infiltrated by enemy special forces.

The return from BATUS saw the first summer the Regiment had back in Germany since 1999 so gave a chance for members of the Troop to go adventure training, have some leave and just spend time with their families. Even so we still managed to find a few things to do, a Divisional Command and Staff Trainer Exercise, A Brigade Combat Service Support Exercise and a study week in Poland to name a few.

The Autumn saw a chance in the Command Troop personnel with the Troop saying farewell to Cpls Sutherland and Smith who are moving to be Troop Corporals with D Sqn. Cpls Dale and Kennan are both now in Bovington on their crew commanders course, and Cpl Hendry joins C Sqn. We wish them all the best in their new jobs. As the year now draws to an end Command Troop now looks forward to the Regiment's High Readiness Year and what ever that might bring.



RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

Recce Troop has had a rather busy year, moving from HQ to D Sqn and back to HQ and a big change in personnel. The year started with the arrival of a number of attached personnel from the LD and QDG, who managed to settle in quickly and were soon accepted into the team.

The Training Year started with Recce Troop deploying to Sennelager as a part of the newly formed D Sqn to take part in field firing. Of course, hoping to show the rest of the regiment how to do basic infantry skills, the standard of skills was as good as we could have wished considering it was the first time a lot of the troop had worked together.

Once field firing was completed it was time to head back to Fallingbostal. For the main players within the troop this was a quick turn around as it was back to Sennelager on the Sunday for BG Command and Staff Trainer (CAST) and a chance to see how the newly formed D Sqn would cope with the ISTAR situation. I'm glad to say we received the Murray Mint of the day twice that week, all this and no troop leader in sight.

We welcomed back our troop leader from skiing in time for the troop to deploy on ranges. Being in D Sqn helped the troop greatly whilst on ranges. SSM Gray dealt with the ammo and morale and the SQMS, SSGT Mickey (I've never heard of egg banjos) Reed, ripping the boys off. It let us get on with the serious task of firing, which the troop excelled at. The crew of callsign 22 scored top marks on the ACT, callsign 23 achieved best section, and I'm pleased to say the troop came away with a high level five. The range now coming to a close, the troop was split in two, with half the troop heading off to take part in the Bde Recce Concentration and half the troop taking part in the firepower demonstration.

So then it was back to Sennelager for exercise Prairie Eagle which started off with low level troop training and progressed from there. It gives me a great pleasure to remind the rest of the Regiment that recce troop finished first and second in the troop tests. That aside, the highlight of the exercise for the troop was being pitched against each other in certain exercises. This was rather amusing to the crew of callsign 22, seeing Cpl Brett Taylor going into a huff and throwing his map in the mud as he learned for the second day on the trot that he had been shot up the rear by them. He was left with the sound of laughter in his massive ears as 22 passed by.

Back in Fallingbostal the troop was preparing for the long flight to Canada. Once in BATUS we set about work in the same professional manner as always. Vehicle preparation was excellent and a lot of credit must be given to the guys from the troop who went on activation. Without their hard work we would have been struggling to say the least. So we deployed onto the Prairie for our firing package and it was good to see the same standard of firing as we had achieved on Hohne. The Tactical Exercise Simulation (TES) phase, would be the troop's biggest test yet. There were a few times high reverse was engaged with crews looking for the safety of our big brother, the integral support tank, behind us (thank god for big Shug). The enemy Sturgeon (BMPs) we could deal with quite easily as long as they were engaged with the correct type of ammunition, however, the Salamander (Tanks) were a different matter. With Exercise MEDICINE MAN 1 nearing a end it was time to go and find callsign 22A, who by all accounts was found to be rather dizzy from constantly going round and round in circles, and that's when they were on the road!

So once again back to Fallingbostal and the troop was deeply upset, for about an eighth of a second, to find out we weren't to be involved on exercise in Poland. After summer leave we learnt that recce troop would be leaving D Sqn to rejoin HQ Sqn.

It's with sadness we say goodbye to some old friends. We would like to say a big thanks and good luck to Cpl Brett (Lugs) Taylor, Cpl Billy (Des) O'Connor, Cpl Stoggie McFarlane, LCpl (who ate all the pies) Robinson, LCpl Monty (I ken better) Monteith, LCpl Gary (wasnae me wasnae there) Aitken and Tpr Jonny Parkinson. We would also like to welcome the new members and families to the troop. They will have to work hard to keep the troop up to the standard of those who have left. It just leaves me to say a huge thanks to Capt Alex Matheson who has moved on from the troop to be replaced by Lt Leek who I'm sure will do just as good a job, if we ever get this one off the Piste.



REGIMENTAL AID POST

The last year has been a busy but fruitful one for the Regiment's medical support. In addition to the daily provision of care in the Medical Centre, we have deployed on exercise several times in support of the Battle group, in preparation for our High Readiness Year. The year has also seen a period of significant change in personnel with new arrivals replacing some well-known faces.

January saw medical participation in the Command and Staff Trainer (CAST) in Sennelager. Although the system was not directly designed to assess our ability, it did provide the RAP with a broader view of Battle group organization and movement and, as such, was excellent preparation for Exercise PRAIRIE EAGLE.

This took place the following month and consisted of a two week deployment, again to Sennelager Training Area, in conjunction with an armoured med section from 1 Close Support Medical Regiment. I am sure that the foul weather of that fortnight will stick in our memories just as much as Major Chris McGarrell's enthusiastic CASEVAC scenarios. Of course, PRAIRIE EAGLE was by way of a warm up for the highlight of our Training Year, which came in April, when we left en masse for the wastes of BATUS and Exercise MEDICINE MAN I.

Canada required us to provide real time medical cover on a wholly different scale. The exercise clearly had the potential for serious casualties and the distances involved made the organisation and efficiency of CASEVAC of utmost importance. As usual, each squadron had its own attached medic who acted as the first link in the chain providing immediate triage and treatment to any casualties. Thankfully the number of serious accidents was very low and HELEVAC to Medicine Hat Hospital was only needed three times.

As I mentioned earlier, the last year has seen several changes in personalities within the RAP. Cpl Bremner left us shortly after BATUS to take up a medical stores job at the Defence Medical Services Training Centre in Ash Vale. As many will know, Cpl Bremner was originally a storeman and had retrained as a CMT. His new posting will make use of his previous experience and we wish him well in his new job and also in his recent marriage.

Another great loss to the Regiment was LCpl Helen McKenzie. In her time with us she acted as B Squadron's medic throughout Kosovo and the



The Doctor and 2IC.

Training Year and was very well liked and respected. Latterly, she filled the post of senior medic in Cpl Bremner's absence. We wish her good luck in her future career as a paramedic.

There have been two new arrivals over the last year. Firstly, LCpl Chris McConnachie joined us from 4 General Supply Medical Regiment. He had recently returned from Ex SAIF SAREEA II and arrived just in time to come to Canada as C Squadron's medic. Both he and LCpl Hinton have played an active part in regimental sport and in the preparation of the unit's medical stores.

Lastly, we have recently received a new senior medic in the form of Cpl Emma Sylvester. Cpl Sylvester has come to us from the Combat Engineer School at Minley. She arrived at the height of our preparation for our yearly inspection and has supervised this through to completion.

After the last year of training and preparation we are confident that the RAP will continue to provide the best possible standard of medical support to SCOTS DG Battlegroup as it assumes its place in the Lead Armoured Task Force.





MTWO and the guys having a smoker on Ex PRAIRIE EAGLE 1.

With the welcomed Christmas & New Year break over, it was back to business. Initially time was taken up training all the new arrivals in the troop to the required licences levels, and HAZMAT qualifications. With legislation tighter than ever in Germany, this alone was a major priority and one MT constantly has to battle with.

Sgt Pearce, “who’s that” I hear people ask? Well, he is our Troop Sergeant and to be fair to him, he has been away from the troop most of the year qualifying himself up to RAC standards. The MTWO, WO2 Stevely, has been holding the fort, due to the gapping of the MTO until April. Deployment to Sennelager on Exercise PRAIRIE EAGLE 1 came and went with not too many problems for A1 Echelon. There were problems with the availability of the Unit Bulk Refuelling Equipment (UBRE) fleet, but then again that was nothing new, and something MT, and indeed the Squadrons have had to come to live with. One SQMS, no names mentioned, but I believe he drives a blue BMW and owns McDowell’s burger bar, had a remarkable driver; Tpr Stu McKichan. On a highly difficult manoeuvre, in the dark, in a wood, he managed to hit a tree. It was the accuracy that was impressive. Not only did he hit it square on, he managed to hit the same spot again whilst his commander screamed down his lughole. To make matters more interesting the truck driver behind, LCpl Pete Pritchard thought to himself, ‘well he went right and hit a tree, I’ll go left’ and yes, hit a tree. The dark night soon turned blue.

No sooner was Exercise PRAIRIE EAGLE finished than preparation for BATUS was under way. By now

Capt Mackie had joined the troop, on commissioning, two weeks before deployment. It was noted that he was wandering around MT helplessly trying to fathom what the hell was going on. If there was any consolation, we didn’t know either. On arrival in BATUS it became apparent that the B vehicle fleet was in a worse condition than our own back home, and that a big effort was required on maintenance before deployment onto the Prairie.

Some things will never change, and one of them is the Prairie. In all the years that we have travelled to this exotic land the only changes that seem to happen is the addition of extra towers or markers as navigation aids. As normal the first phase of the exercise is the Special to Arms training, where each sub-unit is allowed to train specific to their arm. In our case it involves all the training we otherwise never get to do because of always supporting the Sqn’s. Unfortunately not all SQMS packets got the full benefit of this training package due to the constant demands of the sub-units. It was noted that all of the training that was completed was beneficial and enjoyable. As for the rest of the exercise the usual problems were there. Yes; UBRE availability. In one instance we were down to three to support the whole BG. However, the job was always done, true to A1 traditions.

At the end of the exercise some members of the troop took the opportunity to go adventure training in the Rocky Mountains and by all accounts had a fantastic time. For the rest it was back to Fallingbostal and a review on everything done so far before we headed off on a well-earned summer leave.

Once summer leave was over it was back to the grind with barrack life. The first thing to happen was the departure of some familiar faces in MT. First to leave was WO2 Stevely who took over the appointment of HQ Squadron SSM. Next we lost LCpl (Jungle) McLeod, LCpl (Pie Scoffer) Meihoffer, and Cpl (Shane) Drever who all went to the Sabre Squadrons. In exchange for these fine individuals we welcomed from the Squadrons: Tpr’s Manchester, Docherty, Newlands, and Johnstone, and once again we were in the position of having non-qualified soldiers. Another new arrival in MT was WO2 Hayes in late August as our new MTWO. For the guys that left, we would like to wish them all the best and thank them for all the hard work they did in all their time with this department.

We made the fatal mistake of saying, “great, plenty of time until Christmas to get things done”. No sooner

had we said these words than the announcement of the potential firemen’s strike came out and the potential involvement the Regiment was to have. Within weeks of this, we received 10 Green Goddesses for training and I must say considering their age, they are in better condition than our own fleet. Training started and the guys were actually enjoying it and were looking forward to deploying to Edinburgh. Unfortunately this was not to happen. Two weeks to deployment and it was decided that 7 Armoured Brigade units were to stand down and continue their preparation for Lead Armoured Task Force. Once again our focus was back onto training up the soldiers and preparing the vehicles. No sooner had we started focusing our efforts when the call came that B, C, and a QRH Squadron were deploying on the ranges for a firing camp and that we were supporting them. So once again our focus had changed and in true MT fashion nothing is ever a problem.

CHEFS’ TROOP

So another year has gone by; how they do blend into each other. If it’s not a tour then it’s live firing or exercise. So as a Troop we have been stretched to our limits in both our catering ability and manpower. But who are we to complain when this seems to be the norm within the Regiment and indeed across the Army.

In addition to our normal commitments of functions we had the added delight of the Queen’s Jubilee Weekend, which was organised by Sgt Gillett, while the rest of us were in Canada. The volume of ‘Monster Burgers’ and ‘Bratties’ snapped up from the barbeque stall was quite phenomenal and a testament to the success of the weekend. Well done Sgts Gillett and Fisher and Cpl John ‘nearly there’ Galletly. There was also a not so successful cream tea stand that managed to sell three scones and five cups of tea. (The lads are still eating them now!) I might add that the low sales of this stall was nothing to do with it’s superb manning by WO2 (RCWO) Smith or Cpl Dennis.

Before all the frivolities of the summer we had the slight inconvenience of a MED MAN exercise in Canada. Cpl Dennis, LCpl Bradbury and Pte Witt deployed on the Advance Party to rectify all the ‘leisure facilities’ available in Medicine Hat. They managed to feed everyone on 20oz steaks and King Tiger prawns everyday until the remainder of the team arrived and Cpl Dennis had to relinquish his Master Chef title. In amongst all the normal activities like maintenance

days and barbeques, the Master Chef tried to convince the Battle Group commander to use the spare catering staff as another maneuver unit. The ideal tank crew was suggested to be: WO2 RCWO ANGUS “Monty” Smith as commander, Sgt Rob “Bullet” Fisher as gunner, Cpl John “Mansell” as driver and Pte Bob “Static” Powell as the Radio operator. To round off the whole delightful MED MAN experience there was a reported sighting of two ‘young’ ladies streaking down a street in Edmonton. A sight for sore eyes!

There have also been other deployments throughout the year. Cpl Asher and Pte May have deployed with B Sqn as part of the 1st Battalion The BlackWatch Battle Group to Canada and Cpl Ingham took time out from tanning to accompany Pte Powell to feed the sandbag fillers on the riverbanks of Northern Germany. They also enjoyed a brief exercise in Poland.

Without a doubt the most important event of the year has been the long anticipated move to the new kitchen called the, ‘Fullers Restaurant’ which we are sharing with 2 RTR. The move was long overdue as the facilities in the old kitchen were of a poor standard and all the equipment long past it’s best. The new kitchen has enabled us to provide a better service and I think the lads actually enjoy coming to scoff now, even though it’s a long way to walk.

A number of people have come and gone over the year. Cpl Cresswell has gone to 7th Royal Horse Artillery on promotion. LCpl Bradbury is going to 9 Signals Squadron in Cyprus and WO2 RCWO Smith is being put out to stud in the outer limits of Scotland on the completion of his 22 years of service where he will run a training school for Jamie Oliver wannabes. We all wish them and their families the best for the future. We also pass on our congratulations to Pte Witt on his marriage to Shelly in August this year and to Sgt Fisher and his wife Pilar on the birth of their baby girl

REGIMENTAL PROVOST

Continuity within the Provost Staff in 2002, an otherwise turbulent year, has been provided by Cpl Stewart. Having joined the staff in February 2002, he has remained in post to the present day and covered the 6-month absence of Sergeant Smith, on attachment to Kenya. Sergeant Smith has since returned as Provost SNCO having had an entertaining spell away.

Joining these 2 stalwarts in the Provost has been a plethora of individuals, most remaining in post for little over a few weeks each. Amongst others, LCpl Merry, Trooper Fleming and Trooper Stewart all spent time wearing a Regimental Police arm band.

The Provost Staff provided comprehensive security cover for the Queen's Golden Jubilee weekend in June, attended by 6000 local Germans and military dependents (the first public event open to locals for over a

Katrina. Also a big welcome to LCpl "Shrek" Wainwright, who has joined us from 16 Tank Transporter Squadron, Royal Logistic Corps, a short move albeit as they are also in Fallingbostel. As an after note, congratulations must also go to Cpl Galletly, who has been selected for promotion to Sergeant, but is waiting for the vacancy in Brunei to be confirmed.



decade). The Provost has recently assumed a new and important role in the active reduction of crime through the introduction of a property marking scheme. Most memorably and against the longest odds, the Provost Staff managed to clear the ever-growing pile of unclaimed car wrecks – the blight of the RSM – that amounted finally to 22 cars, thus freeing up more car parking space.

The Guardroom is one of the many public faces of the Regiment and has managed to present an efficient and ordered impression to all those outside organisations and agencies with whom it has had cause to deal. Who knows what new challenges face the Provost in the coming year? The only thing we can say for sure is they will deal with them in the efficient manner we have come to expect.



REGIMENTAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

The year started as it meant to go on, hectic. As the Regiment deployed down to Sennelager Ranges, the AGC Detachment kept warm in the Admin Office wading through the piles of work after a month stand down leave during Christmas and New Year.

In January the Staff Support Assistant, Sergeant (Aly) Plummer, went on maternity leave after being with the Regiment for only 5 months! The Detachment also received its first Command Clerk of the year, Pte (Michael) Worboyes, straight from training.

Then in February, the Pay Office received some good news as the Systems Coordinator, Sgt (Paul) Steele, was given three days to move to 32 Engineer Regiment,

with promotion to SSgt. Cpl (Danny) Kaye, one of the Finance Clerks, was promoted to Sergeant to replace him and moved a full 2 metres across the office to assume his new appointment.

The Detachment celebrated the eventual departure of the former Staff Support Assistant, Sergeant (Pete) Scotney, in March, some 11 months after being notified about his promotion. The Detachment then spent the majority of the month preparing itself for deployment to Canada in support of Ex MEDMAN 1. The HQ Squadron Clerk, LCpl (Lisa) Branigan was the first to leave, departing on 1st March, closely followed by Sergeant (Danny) Kaye, to commence a 10 week, Canadian 'Spring Break!'

The Advance Party of the AGC Detachment arrived in BATUS on 18 March after a 48-hour marathon journey, courtesy of the RAF in a Fat Albert. The weather was a mere minus 15 degrees centigrade. After the normal safety briefs, it came to the attention of Sergeant Kaye that very few people within the Battle Group had believed the paragraph in the Admin Instruction warning everyone to take sufficient Canadian Dollars for the first two weeks. Many people arrived in BATUS with no money, no chequebook or any other means of funding themselves for nearly 2 months. The OC Activation Party, Maj Robertson, asked Sgt Kaye to brief the soldiers, which he duly did in his typically politically correct and sensitive style. Within a matter of 24 hours Sgt Kaye had managed to acquire C\$30,000 from HQ BATUS and duly started cashing cheques, much to the delight of the Activation Party (and Medicine Hat). The Admin Office was set up, computers collected and functioning within 48 hours of landing. All that was left was to enjoy ourselves and see the sights. LCpl Branigan spent a few days skiing in the Rockies, whilst Sergeant Kaye managed a cultural visit to Montana to sample the local beer, (but did he actually buy one?). The LAD organised a Party for the end of the activation period, it was at this party that Sergeant Kaye was presented with an award, bed sore cream.

The remainder of the AGC Detachment deployed to BATUS in late April with the remainder of the Battle Group. The fun then stopped and the real work began. Well, until people started to depart on Rest & Recuperation for a couple of days. LCpls Brown and Branigan decided to hire a car and drive around the Rockies, apparently looking for lumberjacks. Upon their return they claimed they hadn't been lost once, but the Detachment doubted the story on account of the lack of shopping bags! The RAOWO, WO2 (Mike) Walker, went on a memorable trip with the RCWO, WO2 Smith. Flow charts were drawn up and an itinerary produced by the RAOWO and the RCWO was seen crying and muttering "What have I done!" as he climbed into the hire car for their departure. On their return there were long and frequent arguments between the two over who it was that had been collecting brochures for full length leather coats? Uninspired by the prospect of sightseeing LCpl (Jamie) McNally deployed onto the prairie and became the first of the 'Combat Clerks', which he is still going on about even today. Not to be out done LCpl Brown also deployed on to the prairie, once she had convinced us that she would not get lost without a GPS or LCpl Branigan.

The Detachment hired a minibus for the duration of the exercise and many trips were made to Medicine



AGC (SPS) Detachment, Wessex Barracks, July 2002.
Pte Hallsworth, WO2 (SQMS) Walker, Sgt Plummer, Pte Mingard,
Cpl Moles, SSgt Davies, WO2 (SQMS) Cramb,
LCpl Vaniqi, LCpl McNally, LCpl Branigan, LCpl Frazer
Capt TP Cowley, 2Lt Z Murray.

Hat on an evening, either to the cinema, for a little shopping or to Montana's, to sample a few racks of baby ribs. The RAO would disappear with the minibus at lunchtime for a spot of bird watching. He even spent nearly 24 hours on a Greyhound bus travelling to Vancouver just to see a few of his feathered friends!

Meanwhile back in sunny Fallingbostel, the rear party consisted of: the Regimental Accountant, SSgt (Ian) Davies, having just arrived on promotion from 32 Engr Regt; the Documents Supervisor, Sergeant (Stu) Brettell; a Finance Clerk, Cpl (Marcus) Miles; and the B Squadron Clerk, LCpl (Steve) Whiteley. The old Regimental Accountant SSgt (Joe) McCallum left on promotion to 1st Battalion REME after carrying out an extended handover. The majority of Ex MEDMAN 1 was spent keeping the dependants happy and preparing for the SPS MFPI in July.

May was a busy month with regards to arrivals and departures within the Detachment. The first arrival was the Detachment's first Finance Clerk for almost two years, LCpl (Chaz) Frazer who was posted in from Northern Ireland. It was at this time that Pte Worboyes decided that the Army was not for him and opted to leave (with the help of the RAO, Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander), soon

to be replaced by the second Command Clerk of the year, Pte (Louise) Beaver, who quickly changed her name to Pte Hallsworth and is now known as 'Reg'. Another addition to the Detachment was Pte (Jay) Mingard who took over as Leave and Movements Clerk from Pte (Heather) Vaniqi, who moved to D Squadron as their clerk. The Detachment then mourned the loss of the infamous LCpl (Rocky) O'Sullivan to 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. An active social member of the Detachment and a proud Scotsman, he dedicated himself to introducing the majority of the SCOTS DG new troopers to the delights of the Fallingbostal area. The G2/G3 Clerk, Cpl Tyler-Creed, left on posting to HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, to be closer to his computer gaming friends and the Staff Support Assistant, Sgt Plummer finally returned from Maternity Leave after giving birth to Daniel.

June saw the Documents Clerk, Pte (Amanda) Prescott, and second part of the maternity tag-team, disappear on Maternity Leave while the rest of the Detachment returned from Canada. Hearing all of the BATUS tales, LCpl Whiteley then departed to Canada to provide clerical support to the 1st Battalion the Black Watch Battle Group on EX MEDMAN 2.

In July the Regiment passed its SPS MFPI with flying colours and Pte Vaniqi discovered her promotion to LCpl after opening the mail during summer leave. The RAOWO, WO2 (Mike) Walker, left, on promotion and posting to a very cold Saudi Arabia. He was replaced by the rugby loving WO2 (John) Sharples from RAC MCM Div at the APC in Glasgow. The Detachment Commander, 2Lt (Zoe) Murray, departed prematurely during Summer Leave to train recruits at the ATR in Winchester – our loss in the interests of the Service!

August was one of the wettest on record, coinciding with block leave, and the RAO's much awaited trip to Prague was literally washed out. However after a well earned break the Regiment returned towards the end of the month and by September the Detachment was once again busy with yet more arrivals and departures. The third Command Clerk of the year was Pte (Chris) Humphries, who was then replaced 2 weeks later due to a short notice posting of the fourth and final Command Clerk, Pte (Agnes) Duru. LCpl (Keith) Patterson, who was posted in all the way from 2nd Battalion REME, at the far side of Fallingbostal Station, much to the relief of the G2/G3 Empire, finally filled the gapped post of G2/G3 Clerk. Pte Prescott returned from Maternity Leave, after having given birth to Ryan, just in time to discover that she had been selected for promotion to LCpl. Another sad



BATUS 2000

departure was that of the single, gadget mad FSA, WO2 (Stu) Cramb, another proud Scot and a larger than life character, who was posted to his dream posting in Chilwell, close to Nottingham. It is reported that there are three women to every man in Nottingham, so perhaps we will be hearing wedding bells after all! He was replaced by WO2 (Mick) 'Smiler' Saunders who arrived on promotion from the Metal Factory, Banja Luka.

In November arrived a new Detachment Commander, Capt (Pat) Wright; the youngest ever AGC (SPS) LE Officer, who previously served as a Finance Clerk with SCOTS DG some 10 years earlier in the Gulf. By this time the RAOWO had been in the office too long and decided that the Detachment required a bit of military training. After the initial plan of invading Poland was scrapped, due to the lack of track mileage allowance, the Detachment deployed a Command Post, 10 minutes away from camp, to conduct basic military training for 24 hours. Pte Mingard was moved from Leave and Movements Clerk to the Docs Office and after completing more time on sick leave/ROPS he soon followed Pte Worboyes.

The year ended with the departure of the RAO, Capt (Tim) Cowley and HQ Squadron Clerk, LCpl McNally. Capt Cowley takes over as RAO, in BATUS and LCpl McNally was posted to HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade.

Overall, a busy and successful year for the Detachment with several promotions, a 100% pass rate on our course attendance, a good annual inspection, with the prospect of a virtually new team taking the Detachment forward into 2003. Nothing ever stands still...



REGIMENTAL RECRUITING TEAM

It has been a particularly busy year for the team with recruiting going very well. The team attended over 60 events, some previously visited, some new, some good, some bad, but all worth while in the long run.

This year has seen a few changes in the way the team has been working. Recruiting Group has finally seen the benefits of recruiting teams and has made them official assets with the support they require. New teams have been springing up all over the place making it more competitive and the paperwork now takes up a lot more time. On the positive side however, we have been given a new caravan and a shiny black pick up truck to tow it. Our own caravan remains the envy of the other teams and will still be used as much as possible.

August saw SCOTLAND FOREVER upon us, boosting the public awareness of the Regiment after SCOTLAND 2000. The surge was a great success, working with the Pipes and Drums (and for the first time ever, they were paid appearance money by Recruiting Group) and with four Contact Teams and ourselves working throughout the Central Belt. Challenger 2, as always went down very well with everyone even in Port Glasgow. In total nearly 70 names of potential recruits were gathered over the period the outcome of these will be established over the next few months.

The Team has seen a few comings and goings this year. Captain Clayton arrived at the Castle and proceeded to get to grips with the Tattoo arrangements. His help with the team on the more mundane matters has been invaluable. Sgt Sandy Beveridge arrived in March after his stint with the Welfare Office, only to find out



Captain Alan Macaulay hears junior war stories.

that his weekends here weren't free either. Tprs Callum, (Bob) Hope, (Willie) Wilson and (Al) Stevenson had a busy 5 months with us and have now returned to the Regiment. We also have LCpls (Barry) 'Rat boy' Muir and (Scott) Reid adding their own variety of recruiting skills to the team. There was a short visit from Sgt (Jock) 'Rocky' McKelvie who is now the undisputed holder of the Regiments shortest posting award. The team said goodbye to Cpl (Johnny) 'BATUS' Coulter who returned to the Regiment, Cpl (Stevie) Graham on transfer to the Royal Signals and to LCpl (Pete) Smith on discharge.

Recruiting Group has cut our Budget for 2003. We seem to be a victim of our own success, though this will not detract on our ability to recruit, (there are ways and means) and to attend the same events as before. In the words of a former Commanding Officer, we will, "Make It Happen".

WO2 J McInnes



The Team in action throughout Scotland.



Challenger 2 on Princes Street for the Cavalcade.

PADRE

Greetings from Germany! On Remembrance Weekend 2002 I had been here one year. Where has all the time gone? I usually say, "Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself?" although it has been said to me that it's a sign of getting old!

This past year has been one of the most hectic that I have ever experienced. At times I have felt like I was living out of a suitcase and only came back to my flat to change clothes, wash and iron. We have been on a Training Year - which meant that we were out and about to various Training Areas around Germany and also to BATUS.

Chaplaincy within the Army is so different to anything that I have ever experienced, so far. On the whole my role is minor within the big picture; totally different to the Hospital and the Parish. The nearest that I have come to this was Secondary School Chaplaincy. The rules, regulations and red tape are extraordinary - I used to think that the Church was bad, this is ten times worse! I am particularly fortunate in that my postgraduate training in counselling has proven invaluable and the skills and technique that I learnt and developed are utilised to their maximum, on a daily basis.

The Regiment are a great bunch of guys and have made me feel so welcome from the first week. In many respects I have been the 'Guinea Pig' of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department as the first Roman Catholic Regimental Chaplain in the British Army

outside the Irish Guards. Denomination has not been an issue. It's something that is regularly referred to humorously, especially with the Celtic/Rangers Banter. Realistically, pastoral every day issues are exempt from any denomination. I believe the openness and attitude of the individual Padre is more paramount. I am fortunate in that I know well the catchment area for the majority of the guys as I am from Port Glasgow, trained in Glasgow and have worked as a hospital chaplain in Paisley for six years.

I am also the Station RC Chaplain and since before Easter I worked as RC Brigade Chaplain, as that post was gapped. I am pleased to say that a new chaplain has been appointed and took-up his post early December. I now feel fewer demands on my time. My Community at St Thomas Moore is a great support and share in all the responsibilities of the parish; it's real collaboration in practice.

This has to have been one of the most challenging, yet rewarding and worthwhile years that I have experienced. The transition from civilian to army has been a very steep learning curve. However I have learned the system and am now at the enjoyment stage. I really do experience a real sense of belonging to the family of the SCOTS DG. I feel particularly honoured and privileged to share in people's lives at such a deep level, even though I frequently struggle with some of the issues. However, I am becoming very self-sufficient and independent, I even surprise myself sometimes!



MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS

During the year 2002 the following were married

Cpl KJ Patterson to Stefanie	15 February	Tpr G Brisbane to Lee Margaret	21 July
LCpl JR Milner to Andrea Clare	16 March	LCpl NJM Brown to Tammy	3 August
LCpl AM Green to Lisa	16 March	Cpl LR Hooper to Kerry Rebecca	15 August
LCpl P Cowan to Monika	16 March	Pte LJ Witt to Shelly Louise	17 August
Major WHL Davies to Katharine Joanna	6 April	Cfn KJD Benson to Annouska	31 August
Capt BJ Cattermole to Erica Constance Jane	9 June	Tpr G Haw to Lauren Patricia	27 September
LCpl AF Anderson to Tania	14 June	LCpl SE Neat to Donna Michelle	28 September
Capt JN Hanlon to Julia Claire Louise	15 June	Tpr C Barton to Clare Marie	24 October
Tpr G Armstrong to Vanessa Angela	15 June	Tpr R Fraser to Katja	10 December
Tpr JA Maclennan to Mandy Theresa	5 July	LCpl WPT Fletcher to Astrid	13 December
Cpl J Malcolm to Gerlinda	12 July	LCpl AF Main to Suzanne Rose	14 December
Cpl JR Taylor to Lorraine	13 July	SSgt RN Currie to Tracy Elaine	21 December
Cpl JW Lavallin to Dawn Marie	20 July	Tpr AD Nailatica to Meredani	27 December

Sons were born to

LCpl and Mrs MA Boyeson	Logan Shay	15 February
Cpl and Mrs SP Paterson	Hamish Stuart	23 February
Sgt AJ (AGC) and Mr Plummer	Daniel John	12 March
LCpl and Mrs NJM Brown	James	30 April
SSgt and Mrs NCG Hanson	Aaron Michael	2 May
WO2(REME) and Mrs PE Harley	Phillip Thomas	8 May
Sgt and Mrs DC Baird	Kieren Werner	18 May
Cpl(REME) and Mrs CS Lockhart	Jack Thomas	7 June
Cpl and Mrs RA McFarlane	Morgan Thomas	6 July
LCpl and Mrs RJ McRitchie	Kian Roderick	17 August
WO2 and Mrs BH Brotherton	Oliver James David	16 September
Sgt and Mrs CA Thomson	Cameron Evan	8 October
Cpl and Mrs KM Cooper	Robin Dominic	28 November
Cpl(REME) and Mrs RH Bevan	Owen Rhys	28 November

Daughters were born to

SSgt and Mrs DS Barclay	Mollie Rose	17 March
Tpr and Mrs TO Ah Sing	Abigail Teresa Joan	31 March
Cfn(REME) and Mrs KJD Benson	Chloe Nicole	1 April
WO2 and Mrs M Beveridge	Mara	8 May
Cpl and Mrs GS Smith	Kirsty Ann Smith	18 May
Cpl and Mrs JAI Allan	Chloe	8 July
Cpl and Mrs B Campbell	Ellie Jean	24 August
Cpl and Mrs JJ O'Dowd	Caitlin Jane	19 November
SSgt (REME) and Mrs IT Hinson	Alice	3 December

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THE OFFICERS' MESS

If time flies whilst having fun then 2002 must have been a very good year. With events ranging from Ladies' Weekends, Polo Tournaments, Regimental Dinner Nights, the Regimental Race, the reception in the presence of HM the Queen and shipping quantities of Champagne 6000 miles to Canada in support of the Battlegroup, we kept the Mess busy.

There have been a great number of changing faces in the Mess over the course of the year. This was most noticeable over the summer when Colonel David handed over the reins to Colonel Hugh Blackman and Major Felix Wheeler finished his time as Regimental 2IC and became Crown Equerry. It is almost impossible to imagine a more suitable job. Capt Bruce Ridge left as Operations Officer, was promoted and is currently working in weapons procurement. His first job buying a car for his new boss sets the tone nicely for the future.

Since the Junior Command and Staff Course is soon to come to an end there has been an army-wide rush to get officers onto the final few courses and a resultant increase in the opportunities for appointments at Extra Regimental Employment. Capt Doug Soulsby has taken over from Capt Richard Boyle as Adjutant of the training regiment in Bovington. Capt Jamie Halford-MacLeod is in Lulworth and Capt Alex Matheson is due to take over from Capt Johnny Williamson at the Defence Intelligence Service in London. Major Dougie Allen, having relinquished



Capt Ridge auditions for Colgate.

control of D Squadron, and Major Bertie Williams are both happily ensconced at Staff College.

In January the mess lost its fastest champagne drinker as Lt Matt Hayward took post as a platoon commander at ATR Winchester. Lt Nick Burnett also left in July to teach recruits, although for the colder northern climes of the foundation college in Harrogate. Capt Jonty Ambrose has decided to temporarily swap the relative comforts of a tank for the hills and rain of the spiritual home of the infantry in Brecon. Lt Zoe Murray finished her stint with the Regiment as the AGC detachment commander, and with great sorrow (I'm told!) left to become a platoon commander at ATR Winchester. The EME and EMELT combination has also changed, Capt Paul Johnson is moving on, although his destination seems to change on a



The Fallingbostal Lodge No 38!

weekly basis, the only fact that is for certain is his promotion – congratulations! Lt Sam Allinson is off to train recruits at Borden. Capt Tim Cowley was so enchanted by BATUS on MED MAN 1 that he is moving there shortly after Christmas. Several officers have decided to leave the fold completely and try their hand in civilian life, Capt Reuben Williams is currently off to kite-surf in warmer climes and Capt Mike Ferndale is now living in London. The mess wishes them all the very best of luck.



*The Padre
Salving his conscience!*

As people leave new faces arrive, Capt Andy Rogers has arrived as the new EME, and 2Lt Dan Lucas as his EMELT. Capt Pat Wright is the new Detachment commander and we await the new RAO Capt Dean Martin in the New Year. The Officers' Mess football team has been doubled in size with the joining of Capt Andy Mackie and Capt Robert Cameron. The Regiment can also look forward to welcoming 2Lts Roddy Christie and Simon Albert fresh from Sandhurst in January 2003.



Rehearsing the hand-over of Command



(Lt) Mr Jameson enjoying a bit of relaxation on the prairie.

In February the mess hosted the first of two Ladies' nights. For many, the party started on Friday night as 20-30 officers and girlfriends gathered in La Trattoria. Saturday night was a huge success, with so many girls the famous Oliver table had to be divided into two rows in order to fit every one in!

Ex MEDICINE MAN in BATUS focused everyone's attention in the early part of the year, however by the time the advance party had settled in, the mess was up and running. The very British tradition of having a drinks party with the enemy, on this occasion the 9/12 Lancers, the day before deploying continues. A wonderful party in stunning surroundings at a local ranch marked the end of our stay in Canada, the highlight of a great night being the Rattlesnake safety brief.

Two days after the last flight back from Canada, the Regiment marked the Queens' Jubilee by having an open day. For the mess this involved a great weekend including a fantastic all ranks party. Throughout the weekend the mess was delighted to host Capt James Bishop's parents, James' father Bill having very generously painted a picture which was duly presented to the Sergeants' Mess.

June and July formed the long awaited summer in Fallingbostal. Hot on the heels of the Jubilee weekend was the first polo tournament, the playing details of which are well reported elsewhere in this journal. The new polo pitch was looking fantastic and the first day's play set the standard for a terrific party that night. During the second day's play SSgt McDowell did an amazing job in keeping many somewhat fragile officers supplied with burgers and liquid refreshments.



Capt Soulsby and other members of C Sqn sailing in Cyprus

At the end of September the mess held its festival of polo, which promised to be the biggest yet, as amongst others Timberland had agreed to sponsor a team. Amongst the extremely good polo that was played on both days, there was a demonstration game of bicycle polo, just one of the many games the mess had striven towards excellence in during the course of the summer. Lt William Leek agreed to run the party and just when disaster threatened to strike (on Friday night the band cried off with laryngitis) a new band was found. They proved to be superb if a touch kitsch, with the lead singer standing only 5ft 4 in his Cuban heels!

To prove that last year was not a one off, there were three weddings this year, Captains Will and Katie Davies, Johnny and Jules Hanlon and Ben and Erica



Cattermole. Not to be out-done Alex Matheson and Nadine Pape, Tom "Spook" Spenlove-Brown and Holly Barrington, Angus "Bafi" Blair and Carey, Bruce Ridge and Cathy Little, James Bishop and Rachel Ellis, Bertie Willams and Audrey Marshall and last but not least, Ivor Campbell-Davys and Vicky Coyevinas, all announced their engagements. Congratulations to you all! The mess is delighted to announce the arrival of a son, Nimrod, to Henry and Victoria Cummins, and a daughter to Rupert and Juliet Alers-Hankey.

In all the Mess has seen a year of change, farewells and arrivals as always punctuated by some brilliant nights and fond memories.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

In January 2002 the Regiment was preparing for a busy start to the year, with the promise of a quiet summer in Fallingbostel with our families and friends. You remember the quiet summer don't you! We started with a Small Arms range package in Sennelager which involved most of the Sgts' Mess, during this time RQMS (T) Ian Miller was setting up the Burns Supper, which turned out, yet again, to be a great night. The poems and speeches were excellent! Thanks also go to AQMS Davidson who graced us with a "Rob Roy" outfit on his first "Burns" in the Mess.

February was a quiet period in the Mess due to annual firing and Ex PRAIRIE EAGLE. Of note was the generous presentation of Mr Bill Bishop's painting depicting a scene from the Kosovo tour 2001. How many roadwheels are there on CR2? I am sure it was a Gunnery Instructor who noticed it! You would never know the difference now and it will provide a talking point in years to come.

In April the Regiment deployed to BATUS for MEDICINE MAN 1, leaving behind the Mutants (B Sqn) who were part of the 1 Black Watch Battle Group and would be following us later for MEDICINE MAN 2. The Regiment gave the OPFOR a good run for their money (3-1) and in return they shared a port or two over lunch with the RSM, who, shall we say, slept very well that night! On return to Fallingbostel the Mess started to focus on various functions that were lined up for the summer. During the quieter periods the LIMS (Living In Members) were ensuring the bar staff were up to speed with their skills behind the bar! During the Waterloo Weekend 'All Ranks party', Sgt Adrian (Gibby) Gibbs decided to show off his diving techniques. However this was on the Regimental Square and had dire consequences when his face collided with the tarmac, much to the amusement of the Medical Reception Station staff!

The Commanding Officer's Dining Out was next, with the Mess saying farewell to the Colonel, Fiona and their family. We wish them the very best for the future. This was also a period that saw three new SSMs take over their Squadrons. This included WO1 (RSM) Ewing moving into the hot seat and Capt (Cammy) Cameron moving to the Officers' Mess in the guise of Unit Welfare Officer. We also had the pleasure of His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, visiting the Mess

for coffee and a bacon roll, taking time to chat to Mess members

In September we invited the 1st Battalion the Black Watch Sgts' Mess for a games afternoon/evening. It was a very enjoyable occasion when our Mess triumphed in the majority of the games. WO2 John Sharples was even kind enough to water the plants in the Mess garden, very kind of him considering he had only just arrived. This led into a few Warrant Officers lunches to say farewell to those Warrant Officers moving on to pastures new. It was during one of these lunches that WO2 Colin Macintyre explained that his fluent German was causing problems in the drive thru at MacDonald's, he wanted a McFlurry ice cream but with 'nae' bits on top! So he ordered a "McFlurry ohne" and waited, while the staff waited and waited! This was all happening amidst the training for Op FRESCO, which saw Sgts and SSgt's as part of crews for the Green Goddess. Then, just as we neared completion of the training, we were stood down and the main effort went back to the tank park. This led into a two-week range package, at very short notice, for B and C Squadrons in November.

We had the pleasure of dining in the new Colonel Blackman and his lovely wife, Bernadette, on 18 October, which went into the 'wee' small hours, a very



Staff Lillie wins raffle



Too many cooks spoil the broth.

PLEASE GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE



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warm welcome to the Colonel and his family. Balaclava was the next function on the calendar, a very eventful night, enjoyed by all the Warrant Officers who attended. The only real casualty was WO2 Colin Macintyre who decided to sit in the chair where the Officers scored their tries for the Mess rugby! Just as he sat in the chair and bent down to check an ankle injury, a few



Two down, two to go.

officers landed on top of both the chair and Colin, scoring a try. Unfortunately Colin suffered a cracked rib and even a 'wee' whisky could not put colour back into his very pale face. There is always next year Colin! The remainder returned at 0630hrs to the Sgt's Mess for some bacon butties. This was closely followed by the RSM's Dining Out on the 16 November, on the return of Capt Cameron's from his tour of duty with the Pipes and Drums in Australia. It was a great night, which included some unseen photographs of Cammy's youth! We wish Capt Cameron, Irene and Stuart all the best for the future.

Finally, there has been an on going programme of improvements to the Mess. This includes the new bar

that has just been opened and too many other bits and pieces to mention individually. Sgt Owney McLaughlan (Mess Manager), the Mess staff and volunteers (honest) have done an outstanding job. On behalf of the Mess, we would like to thank them for their effort; it has added great character to the Mess.



Happy Shiny people.

There have been a number of promotions and posting which has meant saying farewell to a number of Mess Members and their families, we wish them all the very best for the future. A very warm welcome to the Mess Members on return from ERE, to the attached Members newly posted into the Mess and also to the younger generation biting at our heels! It will be a lively and enjoyable tour, ensure you make the most of the Mess.

So, where did 2002 go. If anyone spotted the quiet summer anywhere please point it out! With the current volatility around our world and the short-term prospects of the Mess and its members as yet undecided, we say, "Bring on 2003"!



Sgt John O'Neill

Sgt John Hugh O'Neill or 'Spud' as most of the Regiment knew him, joined The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards on 19 August 1985, having completed basic training as a 'Catterick Commando'. He joined 2nd Troop D Sqn as a Chieftain driver where he served in Germany and then as part of 'D Regiment' in Warminster as Demo Sqn. After his first marriage to Sandra, which brought them two lovely children (Jemma and Ross), he left the Sqn for a tour with MT in Tidworth.

On the eve of his Control Signaller course at Bovington, having had a few drinks too many, Spud was unable to sleep due to the flashing time on another student's radio alarm clock. Thinking that he was extremely competent with radios, as he was on the course in the first place, he decided to take to the power cable with a pair of pliers. The result was a blinding flash and fusing the entire corridor.



Sgt John O'Neil and fellow patient Cpl Lisa Shaw (Royal Signals) at the Calvert Trust Adventure Training Centre for the Disabled.

Thankfully for him, he was using pliers with rubber grips. The instructors, upon hearing of this, never allowed him near generators or batteries during the course!

He served with MT throughout the Gulf Conflict as part of A1 on a pack fuel wagon and was promoted to LCpl on his return from the Gulf. On the Regiment's return to Catterick from Fallingbostal, his first marriage ended sadly in divorce.

At Catterick he showed some of his great skills as a football player for the pub team, 'The Fleece'. In one memorable game against a team from a village not unlike the TV series 'The League of Gentlemen,' he managed to score the winning goal with what can only be described as a bullet from his back, a trick which he must have picked up from Tam Spence, head Mutant of B Sqn.

Sensing a fresh start, Spud volunteered for A Sqn as part of Demo Sqn, again in Warminster, where he was part of SHQ. During this busy time, he met Sheelagh whose family originated in Ireland and had settled in Warminster. Before the Regiment returned to Fallingbostal they were married in Warminster.

Having arrived in Germany, he was moved to Recce Tp and was given command of 24A. He took part in the training year finishing up in BATUS where his map reading skills were constantly tested and found to be, 'Second to Everyone!' Well that's what his Tp Sgt remarked upon almost everyday. With Recce Tp not deploying as a sub unit, Spud moved to Waterloo Sqn in Baraci, as a Tp Cpl, where he managed to complete the tour without touching a drop of Slivo; well not a lot of it.

In 1997 he attempted selection for the Army Air Corps as a helicopter pilot. He managed to get through to fixed wing flying but was unsuccessful overall and returned to the Regiment. In June 1997, Sheelagh gave birth to their third child, a girl called Roisin. He moved from Recce Tp to C Sqn as a Tp Cpl when the Regiment received CR2. In September 1998 he was promoted to Sgt and stayed with C Sqn.

Sadly, in the early hours of the 5th November 2000, Spud had an accident in his house, falling down the stairs. Thankfully his wife was awake and, with the help of Sue Bradley, who made it round to the house within 5 min's of being phoned by Sheelagh, a German Ambulance moved him to hospital in Soltau. During the morning his condition gave the Doctors concern for his life and he was moved by air ambulance to Hanover, where he remained in a coma for several

months. During the early days and weeks in the coma he had to have both sides of his skull removed to allow the pressure on the brain to ease. When he became stable, he was transferred to a Neurological Rehabilitation Centre near Hessoldendorf. After being assessed and given the all clear to fly, he was transferred to Gosport hospital until a high dependency bed became available at Headley Court. He has since improved significantly and although not yet walking, in the July of this year he had his last operation on his skull. During his time at Headley Court and along with other patients he attended a Royal Garden party at Buckingham Palace.

Spud is now in the Scottish Brain Injuries Rehabilitation Unit in Murdostoun Castle near Wishaw in Scotland. The Regimental Information Team help out when they can, and he once required assistance from the AA after a trip to the pub left him without his wallet and a puncture on the way home. On the 29th November he received his LS&GC from the Duke of Kent in the Officers' Mess, Edinburgh Castle.

John is now waiting to be medically discharged from the army; a sad end to the career of a popular, well respected SNCO with significant potential. He has never given up hope of returning to a certain level of fitness and will, with a lot more help from the Doctors, Nurses, family and friends, still enjoy his life that was almost brought to an untimely end by a tragic accident.

SSgt GB Young



Sgt John O'Neil, together with patients and Staff of Headley Court, enjoying the annual review of the Fleet at Portsmouth as a guest of the Not Forgotten Society.

CORPORALS' MESS

This year has been an extremely busy time for the Corporals' mess. During the predictably hectic training year we have managed to enjoy many drunken nights in the mess. I know the PEC Cpl "Ant" Newman has managed to organise functions and nights in the mess at the drop of a hat, usually my fault, when deciding a 'do' would be good idea with only a couple of days notice!

The year kicked off in fine style with the Burns night supper, the whole night being a huge success enjoyed by all, except for maybe LCpl Brannigan, after realising the waiters had binned her notes for her address to the laddies!

We then moved on into the various exercises and other vital events that make up the training year. As a result the mess quietened down for a brief period. However, on our return from BATUS and Ex MED MAN 1 the mess got back into the mood without any prompting.

Highlights in the latter half of the year have been the dining out of Colonel Allfrey and RSM Cameron. Shortly followed by the dining in of Colonel Blackman, and RSM Ewing. I must thank all members of the Mess who helped in the organisation of these events, but particular mention must go to Cpl "Maggie" McGhee, whose invaluable advice and efforts have got many a PMC (myself included) out of a few scrapes.

Although mess members come and go, we wish good luck to them all, especially Cpl Scott Maich, and Cpl



Girls Night Out - LCpls Bradbury, MacKenzie, Brannigan and Brown.



SNP Victory meeting - Cpls Gowans, Gardiner, Matthews and Stewart.

Jack Horner, two big characters in the mess, who have now moved onto civvy life. The only bonus of their departure may be the bills on levy nights will be lowered! Good luck and best wishes to them both for the future.

Finally, looking towards the future, many Mess improvements are planned and should be pursued with speed to make an already excellent Mess even better.



The Brady Bunch

REGIMENTAL SPORT

NORDIC SKIING

The Regimental Nordic Ski Team returned to the Finnish Arctic Warfare Centre at Sodankyla for a training package prior to the RAC and Divisional championships in January of this year.

The training package was severely curtailed as to an unexpected firing period in mid November allowed only ten days to train instead of the ideal six weeks. The intrepid participants left a decidedly chilly Fallingbostal on 8 December to begin the marathon drive through Germany, Denmark and Sweden towards the Finno/Swedish border at Haparanda and on through Lapland forty miles within the arctic circle to Sodankyla. Captain Yoni Huhktunen met the exhausted drivers and showed them around the excellent facilities at the centre which comprise 5 kilometers of floodlit loipes and a 15 km course that is usable during the few daylight hours. There is also a gymnasium with floodlit skating rink, swimming pool and sauna to keep the team relaxed in the evenings.

The majority of our time on the loipes was 'self help' tuition led by LCpl Chart and Capt Williamson. We were assisted in part by some of the Finnish soldiers completing their national service, some of whom ski at

the national level, their advice and experience proved invaluable. Most of the squad skied two or three times each day, which is really too often and had circumstances permitted, training would have been restricted to a shorter time on the loipes, and a more varied fitness regime.

Towards the end of our time in Sodankyla we learnt that the Divisional Championships had been cancelled due to our operational commitments. This was perhaps a blessing in disguise, with such a short period to train the largely novice squad has been spared the trials of racing but has succeeded in introducing further soldiers to a very worthwhile and challenging sport. We have also Maintained our valuable relationship with the Finnish Defense Force and made excellent contacts for the future.

The 2002/2003 period has sadly been something of a non-starter for all Regimental Winter Sports. However, the Nordic Skiing squad in the Regiment now has firm roots and the opportunity to use excellent training facilities, all of which bodes well for the future of the sport in the regiment.



CRESTA RUN

Like so many winter sports this year, attendance on the Cresta Run was affected by preparations for the Gulf. Therefore I was the only SCOTS DG rider amongst the 15 or so Army riders to make it to St Moritz. The numbers normally range between 30 and 45. What better way to spend your last three weeks in the Army!

It was an icy -8°C when I donned my Plus Fours and Van Dyke Jumper for my first Junction ride of the season. Achieving A nifty 45 second ride followed by a 44.67 second ride (my fastest time ever). This was the day that Top opened so it was now time to get into the race suit and trek up to join the 15 or so other riders in Top Hut. The air was full of the usual excitement and anticipation as each man thought about this, their first ride on the new run and all it could lead to in the next few weeks. The run was beautiful and as the old adage goes, 'treat her like a lady and she will look after you. Treat her roughly and she will throw you out!'

The first race that week was the Inter Regimental Pairs race. With no wingman this year, I could not take part, so the prize went to the Green Jacket's team, the only large team, with six riders this year. The Army Top race for the Scots Guards Cup followed a week later. After an exciting and very close race, over 3 courses, the final result saw Major James Kettler QRL eventually win this cup after 10 years of trying! With the splits being very close I had to settle for fourth place.

With a squad of 8 ready to take on the other services we looked well set to do battle a week later, and then disaster struck. Conditions during training the next day were very icy, leading to many fallers at

Shuttlecock. I was one of them and ended up in the MRS. Luckily I had only sprained my shoulder and arm, but was unable to ride for several days. On my return to riding, temperatures plummeted again making riding fabulous for several days and we all rode safely.

The continuing preparations for the Gulf saw many Service riders drop out leaving a full Army team, most of the RAF but only 3 Navy riders for the Inter-Services Championship. With three riders of six to count the Navy could not afford a single fall. It was dark and snowy as the first riders set off but slowly improved to be a sunny day. Sadly, one of the three Navy riders fell at Shuttlecock on the first course wiping out their team. Thereafter the tension mounted between the RAF and the Army. I was riding as Back Marker in the team to ensure points on the board and no falls, posting three steady rides of 59 seconds and then two 58 second rides. Sqn Ldr Andy Green raced into an individual lead with a 55 second ride, but as the next 4 times were Army riders we began to celebrate the hat-trick which we deserved – not achieved since the 70s!

After the great Inter-Services Dinner that night, I then went on to ride the next day and as usual posted my best times ever with a 43.74 seconds from Junction and 56.61 seconds ride from Top. After seven seasons of riding for the Regiment, it was a great way to leave the Army and I look forward to a successful Regimental team next year. In the meantime I shall continue to ride Dracula's coffin on the Bob-run. Remember, Cresta is Life!

Captain RL Clayton

and experience was a strong factor, and it saw them eventually winning the tie 2 goals to nil.

The league itself was really over before it had a chance to get going, due to the announcement of the unit's deployment to the Gulf. Only one league fixture was played and that was against 1 RRF. Like us they have a new and young team so the game was finally balanced but unfortunately, being so early in the season our team was lacking decent pre-season training and

the Fusiliers eventually came out on top and won by 2 goals to 1.

The announcement by the Government and the disruption to another season will undoubtedly have a knock on effect to our team for next season. This season should have given us the opportunity to bring on all the new and younger players. The experience of playing football at a higher level would have prepared them for a successful 2003/2004 season. Never mind we will just have to wait a little longer before we bring the Cavalry Cup back to Wessex Bks.

I would like to welcome Sgt Alan Hainey who has returned to Regimental duty and taken on the job as

RUGBY

The Regimental Rugby club is back and is now a force to be reckoned with.

The close of the 2001/2002 season saw the Regiment in BATUS and an opportunity for the team to taste the delights of Canadian rugby. A tour to Calgary and Edmonton was organised for the end of EX MED MAN 1. The original plan was to take up to 50 players and hangers on for a five-day tour at minimum cost to the individual. After much hard work and many arduous recce visits to Calgary, WO1 (ASM) (Steve) O'Connor and SSgt (Steve) Edwards managed to put together a tour to remember at a cost of \$110 per tourist, including the obligatory tour polo shirt. As

team coach, and congratulation to WO1 (RSM) Cameron on his commission to Captain, who still will not hang up his boots, then again why should he. In fact one of the first events organised by the now Families Officer was to have a charity match involving two teams made up of Ranger's and Celtic supporters. The FAMO then took sponsorship for the game and what they were sponsoring was to see Capt Cameron in a Rangers strip, I know as difficult as it sounds, all precautions were taken, a Doctor was on stand by in case of any rashes he may have incurred and if need be an ambulance was on call. Just to let you know it was a very close fought game and the final score was 7-0 to the CELTS.

the team was about to depart we were informed that good old 'Crab Air' had changed the return flight details, and that this had an adverse affect on our plans. The tour was to be cut from five days to three.

The touring party departed camp Crowfoot on day four of the handover period. Each player was informed that the wearing of loud boxer shorts was necessary (more detail in a minute). On arrival in Calgary on a cold Tuesday evening and after booking in to the hotel, a scale 'A' parade was held in 'Cowboys' nightclub. As is usual with any touring sports team we had our flash object, and yes you have guessed it, ours was loud boxer shorts! On the command 'Boxers' all had to drop their trousers no matter what they were

FOOTBALL

Yet again another season has been disrupted due to commitments. It started well with a victory in the second round of the Army Challenge Cup, having secured a bye through the first round. The game was a hard fought victory against a determined 2 Bn REME team, 4 goals to nil. The third round saw us up against the 1st Bn IG, and again it was a test for the younger players. Chances were had at both ends, but no one was able to put the ball in the back of the net. So the game went into extra time but unfortunately their fitness



The Touring Party.

doing and proudly display boxer shorts. As you can imagine this was seen as a great joke, until the single lads started to chat up the local talent and were then stopped in their tracks by the need to drop their trousers in front of their would be conquests. Unfortunately Sgt (Stu) Watson wore a kilt for the tour, this led to him being thrown out of bars for forgetting that he was not wearing boxers under his kilt.

The next day was to be game one, against Calgary Irish RFC; however, we woke to find the pitch covered in snow. Unfortunately, the match was cancelled, so the team took over the hotel swimming pool and played water rugby. No one had ever played rugby in a pool before, so we made up some rules and got on with the game. Excellent fun was had by all, and some members of the team even managed to do their washing at the same time.

With the game called off, what were we to do? Some bright spark decided to take the whole team shopping. I have never heard it called shopping before, but if that was shopping then I am a shop-aholic. We had arranged to meet Calgary Irish Rugby club for a social evening in their clubhouse. After much partying, playing of the bagpipes, singing and more partying, a great night came to a close in 'Cowboys' nightclub yet again.

The next day saw the team meet up for a late breakfast with many sore heads and tales of great conquests. After breakfast the team once again split to the four winds to go shopping. Murphy's Law then decided to kick in and as soon as the team had split up the first game was rescheduled for an afternoon kick-off. After looking for the team in the Chinook Shopping mall, the guys were finally found watching an alternate sport in a friendly bar, no surprise there then.

As kick off neared, the biggest problem for the selectors was picking a team sober enough to see the ball. What followed can only be described as slow motion rugby. The match was played in a friendly but determined manner with both teams showing flare and skill. Unfortunately for us, we lost!

Moving back to the club house, the Irish showed us some excellent hospitality and laid on a meal, that turned out to be the only solid sustenance many of us had on the whole tour. Presentations followed in the normal tradition of things with yours truly being given ties and polo shirts in exchange for the tour plaque. Once again we ended up in Cowboys nightclub but this time VIP tickets allowed us to see the classy side of down town Calgary. Looking back on the tour, it was the start of better times for the Rugby club.



The Rugby officer, Lt Nick Burnet, being shown how to do it by a friendly Cow girl.

On return to Germany, a match against Hamburg Exiles was arranged for the Queens Jubilee weekend. This turned out to be a walk in the park, but gave us the chance to blood some young players.

The start of the 2002/2003 season was hampered by Op FRESCO training, but after being stood down from those commitments, the season started afresh. Training times were agreed and the team started preparing for the first match.

Once again we were let down by the opposition, who did not turn up, so a training game was played. This gave the selectors the opportunity to see the talent available. Fortunately talent is not a problem and a healthy squad of 26 players has now grown to over 48 players. The next game played was a SNCOs versus JNCOs 10-a-side match. Once again, this proved to be a good chance for some young talent to show what it could do, unfortunately there is no substitute for experience and the SNCOs were the outright winners.

Games with other units followed, with some good results. Overall we played six matches and won four of those. We clocked up 181 points along the path to victory, and only 49 points were scored against us.

The social side of rugby has also improved and the families are now encouraged to support the team. This support led to a very successful Christmas function in the Akropolis restaurant. Wives were invited to buy a small present to be put into a potluck sack. This led to some interesting activities throughout the night with lots of giggling and laughter coming from the ladies loos on several occasions. A Kegal Bahn session followed the meal and proved that the players perform better on the pitch with the right shaped balls!

A special mention must go to Cfn Vamarasi as the Player of the Year due to his willingness to play out of position and for his fantastic performances on the pitch.

HOCKEY

This year the hockey club has gone from strength to strength. The addition of SSgt Window has brought much valued expertise and resulted in hockey being stronger now than it has ever been.

The early part of the year was dominated by ranges and exercises, this was reflected in the small amount of hockey played. Once the Regiment returned from Canada, hockey reappeared on the agenda. Training started every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, and, as the July sun shone, there were regularly thirty players arriving for practice. Although there is always stiff competition from the football team, there was an element of poaching from both the rugby squad and perhaps unsurprisingly, the polo team.

The summer was dominated by one tournament; the BA(G) inter corps championship. As there was no formal RAC side willing to play, the Regiment decided that it would represent the corps. As can be imagined, the team met some pretty high level opposition, but the team matched whatever they lacked in skill with a "they don't like it up em attitude!" and came away with the respect of the other corps' sides, if nothing else!

Since then the Regiment has played ten matches and only lost one. The teams to be brushed aside were 1BW, 2 Bn REME, 7 Armd Bde HQ and Signals Squadron (twice!) and 32 Engineers amongst others. One of the highlights of the year was the soon to be promoted SSgt (now RQMS) McDowell scoring four goals in one match against 7 Armd Bde Hq and

The team and club have gone from strength to strength throughout the season, playing to a high standard and giving an excellent impression of the Regiment on and off the sports field. There are plans afoot to tour Wales for a week in April 2003, finishing with a trip to the Army V Navy match at Twickenham on 3 May. This will, of, course, depend on any forthcoming operational duties.

All those interested in playing rugby are more than welcome to come along and see what all the fuss is about. Once you come along I am sure you will want to be part of one of the most successful sporting teams the Regiment has seen in recent times.

'RUGBY FOREVER'

Signals Squadron, (are the two feats related?). In the autumn the Regiment played in the Brigade 'seven a side' tournament, with a strong side and the chance of victory was high. The team breezed through the opening rounds without conceding a goal, in the semi final we met 9/12 Lancers, and honours were even after normal time. The match then went to sudden death in extra time. Sadly the Lancers squeezed victory after a hard fought match and went on to win the competition. The team had one more match to play, the third and fourth place play off, against 1BW. This was a spirited, bruising encounter with the Cavalry seeing off the Infantry 1-0.

The Regiment is waiting to play their first game in the Army Cup, and for this season the outlook appears much brighter than it has in recent years, we will wait and see!

 <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. (Calls from outside the UK should ring (+44) 20 7218 9621)</small></p>	

SAILING

We have enjoyed a very busy year on the water. The British Kiel Yacht Club has provided fantastic boats for members of SCOTS DG.

During the summer leave period, Capt Foulerton ran a leg of Baltic Adventure, for soldiers in B Sqn, aboard 'Flamingo', a 56 foot 100 sq, (built in 1936 and once skippered by Goering). The expedition sailed from Kalmar in Sweden to Kiel in Germany, via Copenhagen. They sailed some 700 miles and qualified 5 members of the crew to Competent Crew.

In September 2Lt Jack organised an expedition for D Sqn. Over a two-week period members of the squadron were introduced to sailing. The exercise focused on the skills required to progress towards Royal Yachting Association qualifications.

The regiment has also competed in two race series, the RAC Regatta and the British Kiel Yacht Club Open Regatta.

The RAC Regatta was held at the beginning of October, in very changeable weather, the first two races were shortened because of light wind and fog, then a deep low pressure system moved over the southern Baltic and the wind increased to force 7 and 8. The highlight for all was the passage race from Aeroskobing. The course was to last 22 hours with an 8 hour upwind leg overnight. The conditions were



Flamingo under full sail,



*RAC Regatta.
It was all worth it for the cut glass.*

probably the worst any of the crew had ever sailed in before. After several more 'round the cans' races the crew came away with a very creditable third place.

The Kiel Open Regatta was crewed and skippered by a relatively inexperienced crew who worked very hard, and in the face of very stiff competition gained a much-deserved sixth place.

There has also been a sailing expedition in Cyprus, and members of the Regiment have been making the most of the courses run by the British Kiel Yacht Club and Gosport.

All in all 2002 was a very successful sailing year for the Regiment, and we look forward to improved results in the future.

BOXING

Boxing has been going through something of a revival in the Regiment in the last few months. As an after hours sport it has always excited considerable interest. After a good night at the NAAFI bar and Cha Chas many a trooper has tried his best to be the next Lennox Lewis. Enthusiasm, unfortunately, seldom lasts. Nevertheless, from this mass of occasionally keen individuals, the Regiment discovered Trooper Joe McCafferty.

Tpr McCafferty first started boxing with the Port Victoria Boxing Club in his hometown of Port Glasgow. After only a year, one fight, a minor injury and a win, he joined the Army. Unfortunately the ATR training regime is such that he could not carry on his personal boxing training and had no opportunity to fight.

Joining the regiment in March 2001, while in Kosovo, he hid his light under a bushel, that is, until the post-Kosovo party. One of the entertainments at the party was 'kangaroo boxing'. This involved a bouncy boxing ring and outsized gloves. Despite the odd liquid refreshment, it was soon apparent that Tpr McCafferty had done this before, as one after another, people foolishly took their chance in the ring, having been persuaded against their better judgement by the more mischievous element. He won every bout.



His training started in earnest soon after with lone visits to the gym. Fortunately, he chanced upon the Black Watch boxing team training under Sgt Donlan (1BW), who, once approached and seeing the goods, generously invited Tpr McCafferty to join the Black Watch team to train. It was not long before he was invited to box with the Black Watch on a more permanent basis.

There was some uncertainty as to Tpr McCafferty getting a fight, being a welterweight there was no one his weight to fight against in the Black Watch. With characteristic pluck he volunteered to fight above his weight to ensure that he got his opportunity.

On 3 December he took part in the Black Watch inter-company boxing night, representing the regiment and supported by a modest but enthusiastic Regimental following. He enjoyed an invigorating win against an unfortunate Lt Taylor (1BW), who was, pundits claim - outclassed.

The 7 (Armd) Bde charity boxing night on 9 December was the next venue, and again another win. Once again against a light middleweight from 32 Engineers, an unfortunate of 6foot 1inch named Sapper Fewz, was again defeated by the diminutive ginger menace. Two nil so far.

Tpr McCafferty has been the cause of a resurgence of interest in boxing throughout the regiment and there are now some twenty people in training and some more hidden talent has emerged. Watch this space!

POLO

On our return from Kosovo last October there were only three polo ponies in the Regiment, two of which, Duke and Gailie Brown, were immediately retired. The new stables at Deil Farm are now home to seven ponies, three Regimental and four privately owned, proving that we have gone some way to improving SCOTS DG polo in the past year. In terms of players, Lt Ali Gemmell returned from a very wet spell in Argentina and Capt Bruce Ridge survived the racing season to sponsor the new Regimental pony, Guante. Capt Nick Foulerton was seen charging around the pitch with his usual enthusiasm at every opportunity and Lt Ed O'Brien arrived from the Troop Leaders' Course in May with a very small and fierce pony called Kate. Training in Canada prevented any real polo being played before late June, but there were always enough officers around to get the ponies fit and keep them ticking over.

The return of B Squadron from Canada at the end of June meant that for the first time in the season we had all the players and ponies in one place. A three-day polo course was immediately followed by our first tournament at the new Fallingbostal Polo Club. A lengthy spell of rain made the ground a little soft but the new pitch played fantastically, and five teams played some competitive polo. We joined forces with the 9th/12th Lancers and despite being massive underdogs put in some good performances, despite being narrowly beaten in our three games. Once again, Pol Roger very kindly sponsored the tournament and was extremely generous in providing vast quantities of champagne as prizes.

The same team travelled down to Bad Lippspringe the following weekend for the Queens Royal Hussar's tournament. Once again we joined forces with the 9th/12th Lancers forming a very inexperienced -6 goal team. We were well beaten by a solid 0 goal team on the Saturday and so were apprehensive when drawn against another 0 goal team the following morning. We did not think that only three hours sleep and murderous hangovers would help our cause but, somehow, we all played the game of our lives. By the end of the match, we had scored five goals to one and totally outplayed the opposition. The excitement of this was all too much and two of us immediately started to search for new ponies.

The 9th/12th Lancer's Tournament unfortunately clashed with summer leave so we did not send a team,



Lts O'Brien and Gemmell.

although those who did go managed to slot into various teams and had another enjoyable weekend. Meanwhile, Lt Ali Gemmell was buying horses in England and soon found another Regimental pony called Pickwick and two for himself. This happened to coincide well with the Rhine Army Polo Association Tour to England, so having three ponies already forward based proved useful. The first tournament was the Captains and Subalterns at Tidworth, where, alongside Capt Lance Weaver, Lt Nick Cowley of the QRH, and Lt Matt Eyre-Brook of the 9th/12th Lancers, we won the final against the Light Dragoons. We then went to Guards where we were narrowly beaten in the semi-final of the Major Generals Trophy by a very solid Royal Navy team. We did however enjoy some very fast and exciting matches on the beautifully prepared grounds of the Guards Polo Club.

By September, the paddocks around Deil Farm were overflowing with polo ponies and we found ourselves playing chukkas at least twice a week in Soltau or Hannover. This gave us valuable practice, an excellent introduction to German polo and some strong connections for next season.

The final of the German polo season took place at Fallingbostal during the last weekend of September. The weather was kind and we had six strong teams entered from Hamburg, Hannover and Soltau. With a 5 goal, a 3 goal and several 2 goal players taking part, the standard was higher than we are used to, so Lt Ali Gemmell played for a team sponsored by Timberland whilst Capt Nick Foulerton and Lt Ed O'Brien played for team Pol Roger, who once again provided the prizes. With the usual A Squadron set up of a bar and burger stand, a Timberland shop and the local Mercedes dealer, displaying cars off to one side, the

new Club took on an air of success and permanence. The tournament was won by one of the high-powered teams from Hamburg but all of the Regimental players who took part put in strong performances and are continuing to improve rapidly.

Overall, it has been a short but very promising season with more interest in the polo now than for some years. Corporal Ross worked extremely hard in the stables and Major Tim Brown has had a terrific influence in getting the sport going again and, may even be persuaded himself to come out of retirement next season. Lt Ali Gemmell and Lt Ed O'Brien were delighted to receive a very generous contribution towards their polo from a mystery benefactor for which they are extremely grateful. Many thanks must also go to the Pol Rogers for once again supporting SCOTS DG polo and providing all of the prizes at both our tournaments. Next season bodes well with increasing numbers of players and ponies, a very good ground and strong connections with the local German clubs.

RACING

This year saw the addition of one active Regimental jockey. Major Rupert Alers-Hankey, following in the footsteps of his younger ex-KRH brother Dominic, took up the Sport of Kings. Majors Felix Wheeler and Charlie Lambert coupled with Captain Bruce Ridge completed the team all of whom rode their own horses in some 16 races – not bad whilst serving in Germany during a busy Training Year.

The season started with the Army Point to Point at Larkhill, a keen race on softish ground with Major Lambert on Alltime Dancer and Captain Ridge on his new horse, Magical Approach. The contest, in a hard ridden finish, saw 4 horses neck and neck and resulted in a Regimental third and fourth. Two weeks later, in appalling weather conditions, Majors Lambert and Wheeler walked the course in preparation for the Royal Artillery Members' race, again at Larkhill. The weather was so bad that Mrs Lambert's favourite Jazz FM umbrella was turned inside out and the two jockeys returned to the weighting already very wet and bedraggled. After another highly exciting and spirited finish the race was won by Major Lambert on Alltime Dancer.

The Grand Military Meeting fell right in the middle of Battlegroup Training in Sennelager and therefore a 'stray mortar round' has to be written into the scenario



Cpl Ross - Stables NCO.

in order to CASEVAC Messrs Wheeler and Ridge to Sandown where they met up with Major Lambert to provide a triple Regimental representation at Her Majesty the Queen Mother's last Grand Military Meeting. All three attended the Queen Mother's Reception at Royal Lodge at which she still managed to greet all her guests before retiring, despite being very frail (Her Majesty died two weeks later). Sadly the best effort on the day only produced a ninth and tenth for Alltime Dancer and Magical Approach in a very high class Gold Cup but the experience was well worth the effort – surely it's not the winning but the taking part that is important!



Le Jacobin in his heyday at Catterick.

Just before deploying to BATUS, Captain Ridge had his best race of the season in the Open at Maismore Point to Point. After a good start he and Magical Approach made a serious blunder 5 from home which resulted in the jockey ending up somewhere about his horse's ears; not ideal! He then experienced considerable ground rush as they galloped towards the fourth from home. In true cavalry style, Captain Ridge made his way rearwards to the rough area of the saddle and retrieved a stirrup (one out of two is not bad). Amazingly, Magical Approach rallied to the challenge and made up a considerable amount of lost ground, turning the corner for home in third place. Riding with 'hands and heels' for all he was worth they moved up to second place over the last fence. (It is a serious business, throwing everything you have at the last fence and risking a crashing fall, but always worth it for the thrill which is racing.) Unfortunately they ran out of track as they descended on the leader (Julian Pritchard, one of the more successful amateur jockeys on the circuit) who reached the winning post a nose ahead.

Major Lambert and Alltime Dancer, who remains most admirable trained by his dedicated wife Moddie, managed a further two fourth places in Point to Points and completed the 4 mile Hunter Chase at the Cheltenham evening meeting in May. The race resulted in a certain amount of suffering on behalf of the jockey who days before had stepped off his tank in Poland and had not sat on horses for 3 weeks.

Major Wheeler, ever the cosmopolitan, rode both 'between the flags' in Britain and on the German circuit, mostly on his own horses. He

succeeded in a commendable fifth place in a German flat race on his own horse Slagrant. He weighed out at 10st 7lb and earned himself 1000 Euro in the process - which the author suggests he spends on a decent square meal out.

It is with great sadness to report at the end of the season the demise of two fine and respected equine members of the Regimental racing team. First of all Major Wheeler's Slagrant died whilst racing at Verden resulting in a bad fall for the luckless Irish professional who had the ride in the absence of Major Wheeler. He was a huge hearted horse who loved nothing more than to attack his fences with purpose and determination. The Commanding Officer, who was representing the owner on the day, should be congratulated for stepping into the breach on the day and dealing with what is always a most unpleasant affair. Secondly, Major and Mrs Lambert's beloved Le Jacobin (alias Popeye) had a heart attack and died instantly whilst riding-work with Alltime Dancer on Salisbury Plain. Moments earlier he had been behaving like a two year old, not the 20 year old school-master that he was. A fitting, if unfortunate end, to a real character; although it resulted in a nasty fall and a cracked collar bone for Moddie Lambert.

Next season is on the way as this article is being written but there will be no mention of the thrills and spills that might detract from next year's article other than to whet the readers' appetite. SCOTS DG Racing retains the infamous four jockeys and enormous support from a wide variety of those who have since hung up their boots, Major General Charles Ramsay and Brigadier Simon Allen to mention two, and a large number of general enthusiasts who help ensure such a large contribution to military racing from a single Regiment.

Major CF Lambert



'Team Lambert' on their way to the winner's enclosure at Larkhill.

REGIMENTAL HORSE RACE

With the Regiment posted to Fallingbostal for such a long period the Equitation Officer put forward the notion of holding a Regimental Race in Britain, and furthermore to try to make such an event an annual affair, circumstances permitting. Not simplified by a busy calendar of social events this year, including of course the Reception in Edinburgh, the Colonel of the Regiment was keen that the Race was not run along the lines of a traditional Sprot Cup. The Bedale Hunt very kindly agreed to allow us to run in their Hunt Race, with a Royal Scots Dragoon Guard's Division therein. Thus, our own effort required in the organisation of the race was kept to a minimum.

Five officers made the trip back from Fallingbostal, an officer at ERE and a retired officer made up the SCOTS DG Division, in a total field of 25. All of us were mounted on hirelings, save Rupert Alers-Hankey who brought his point to pointer. The course stretched over three and a half miles, mainly over grass, albeit very waterlogged, and included 26 hedge and timber obstacles, and one gaping open ditch. From the off all made a promising start, save the RGO who unfortunately parted company at the second, a particularly muddy fence which left him paddling around in his highly bulled brown boots! The field settled into a steady hunting pace over the next mile as we headed up to the main road at Atley Hill. Sadly, Lt Ali Gemmell was forced to pull up here as he kept losing a stirrup leather. As we jumped out onto the road Lt Nick Foulerton was alongside the overall leader, with Maj Tim Brown a couple of lengths behind in third place. Once across the road, the race really took



off with Foulerton edging into the lead, Brown dropping back into fourth, and the remainder of the officers settling to a good pace in the middle of the field. Eight fences and a mile from home Foulerton and the leader were neck and neck as they flew the open ditch. It was here that the Equitation Officer was brought down in a harrowing moment when the horse in front of him collapsed on the far side of the ditch. Despite initial thoughts that both rider and horse may have been seriously hurt, on seeing the said jockey back on his feet, Maj Brown quickly remounted and continued having lost a couple of places. Major Alers-Hankey, despite having walked the course twice decided to take an alternate route, which saw him ceremoniously dumped by his valuable pointer and left to finish on foot. Meanwhile, Foulerton had a refusal five from home allowing Brown to close the gap. As Foulerton approached the third last he saw not only the



Regimental title but also the Bedale trophy in his sights, alas he took a big hedge on an upward slope awkwardly and was unseated leaving Brown to slip into third place as he approached the in and out over a farm track. Thereafter, the race finished without further upset. Major Brown, as becoming of the Regimental Equitation Officer was first home, Lt Ed O'Brien won the Subaltern's Cup after riding a thoroughly sensible race, and Capt Simon Bath who had not ridden since leaving the Regiment seven years earlier completed the course in great style.

Brigadier Charles Sloan kindly awarded the Prizes, and the Equitation Officer publicly thanked the Masters, the race organisers, and the farmers for their hugely warm welcome. Everyone went on to hunt afterwards, some with second horses until dark. Then, having been fortified by boiled eggs and crumpets the Regiment took two tables at the Hunt Ball, where we danced the night away until the early hours of Sunday. Those that took part relished what for most of them was their first hunt race, and are already talking about next year's event. This year was an experiment to gauge enthusiasm. It was a huge success, and it is hoped that the prospect of making this a regular feature in the Forecast of Events is now that much more cer-



tain. The old adage that hunting is the image of war with five and twenty per cent the danger makes one wonder, that perhaps a Regimental Race is the image of war with five and seventy per cent the danger!

DRAG HUNTING AND HUNTING

With the arrival of the two Grey horses in September, the Regiment had the opportunity to Drag hunt in Lower Saxony once again. The hunt kennels of the Niedersachsen-Meute Draghounds are nearby at Dorfmark. One of their joint Masters, Egbert von Schultendorff and his wife, run the kennels. The mother of Casimir von Schultendorff hunted with the Draghound Pack that the Scots Greys established in the 1950's. As a result of a close friendship between her family and the Regiment, the Scots Greys gave her the hounds that formed what is now the Niedersachsen - Meute Pack.

These days the Niedersachsen - Meute start their season in late August and finish in early December, they then have a few meets in March and April. The four sponsors of the two Greys, (Balthazar and Smartie) Captains MacDermot – Roe, Lucas, Ongaro and Foulerton, started hunting in late October and achieved 12 days between them. The Germans take their 'Fox Yagd' very seriously and there is a great deal of pomp and ceremony. As British visitors to the pack we were wonderfully looked after and faced a constant stream of questions on

British Fox Hunting, as many of the Germans have hunted in Ireland.

Major Brown and Captain Foulerton took the horses out on their first day. The Greys, who had not seen hounds since the vales of Leicestershire, were raring to go. After an extraordinary meet, the drag left, followed minutes later by the hounds in full cry. Rather than waiting around a covert we were straight off at a gallop. Being new to hunting in Germany Major Brown fell foul of the Field Master, as he tore past him at the first fence. Captain Foulerton tried desperately to control the unstoppable Smartie, who, on the third point, disagreed with his rider on which line to take through a narrow ride, this resulted in Captain Foulerton hitting a tree harder than a Woodpecker!

Captain Ongaro enjoyed a fine day a week later and looked exceptionally smart in his highly bulled boots. Major Brown and Captain Foulerton then had a screaming hunt on their own after the pack took after two Roe Bucks soon after the meet. On returning the hounds to a panic stricken Master they received almost legendary status.



Maj Brown and Capt Foulerton out for a day with the Niedersachsen - Meute Drag Hounds.

On the final meet on sixth December Captains Lucas and MacDermot – Roe enjoyed a very warm welcome and enjoyed a rather chilly Church service followed by probably the best meet of the season. At the tea afterwards they entertained a group of young German hunting ladies so well that they have now been inundated with invitations to Hunt Balls across Lower Saxony.

Back in Britain the number of hunting officers grows with Major Brown and Captain Foulerton hunting with the Bedale, Captain Ongaro with the Portman, and Lieutenant Gemmell at the Heythrop. With a growing interest in Hunting both in Britain and Germany, the Mess has probably seen more days hunting than any other Regiment in the British Army.

By Captain NG Foulerton

EQUITATION

After several years in the doldrums, as a result of two successive Kosovo tours, it gives the Equitation Officer enormous pleasure to be able to report the renaissance of horsemanship throughout all ranks of the Regiment. On return from Op AGRICOLA 6 we found ourselves in the sorry situation of owning no greys, and just two playable polo ponies. Ramillies had been put out to semi-retirement pending the arrival of our new Drum horse, Talavera, who had remained at Knightsbridge under-going training since HM The Queen had presented her to us.

Thanks to the generosity of the Regimental Trust, who agreed to carry forward the two years worth of unspent grant, the Equitation Officer was able to go to Leicestershire, where two fine Greys were purchased, which he himself had already tried and tested both with the Quorn and the Fernie! In the early spring a

new polo pony was bought from Clare Tomlinson's yard, and together the horses all travelled out to Fallingbostel at the end of the Easter Leave period.

With the blessing of the new Commanding Officer, and his wife Bernadette, the Deil Farm Stables alongside Colonel Hugh's house were re-established as the Regimental Stables complete with railed paddocks. This is the first time these fine stables have been used for purpose since the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars vacated them on amalgamation in the early 1990s. Perhaps the greatest coup of all this year has been the creation of a new Polo Ground. Anyone who has visited the Regiment in Fallingbostel will remember that the old ground was beside the Range Road, where it enjoyed no protection from marauding wild pigs. Not only was it a constant battle to keep the ground in a playable condition, but it was also a desolate and

windswept place. Thanks to the efforts of Colonel David Allfrey, who badgered the Brigade Commander while in Kosovo, the Regiment has now acquired a new ground. What was formerly the Garrison Cricket Ground is now the Fallingbostal Polo Club, which this year has played host to a Garrison Horse Show, two Polo Tournaments, and numerous evenings of practice chukkas, and indeed Squadron Family Days. It boasts a clubhouse, and a pig-proof fence, not to mention a far improved playing surface. Furthermore, situated as it is in the very heart of the Camp, it encourages all members of Fallingbostal and their families to come along and enjoy an afternoon watching Polo.

In the saddle, 2002 has seen more activity on the equitation front than for many a year. In April two Spurs Courses were run, the first for young officers and the second for other ranks. Immediately on return from BATUS, the Mounted Troop, made up of four officers and 20 ORs, formed up at Melton Mowbray for a five week basic riding and stable management course. This course, run by the permanent riding staff at Melton proved a huge hit with the boys. Pitched at just the right tempo to both learn but also enjoy themselves it was a wonderful introduction to the fun that can be had from horses, and not least the abundance of girl grooms who populate Melton! From here the Troop moved to Knightsbridge for ten days and then on to Edinburgh for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, and HM The Queen's Jubilee Cavalcade, but this is all described in detail in the Mounted Troop Article.

Once again Majors Felix Wheeler, and Charlie Lambert, along with Capt Bruce Ridge continued to sport the Regimental colours on the racetrack both in Britain and in Germany. Indeed, all slipped quietly away from Regimental Training one night in Sennelager, in order to pop across the Channel and compete at Sandown in the Grand Military Meeting the next day.

Polo has enjoyed a huge surge this Season, thanks largely to the enthusiasm of several young officers. Lieutenants Gemmell and O'Brien both purchased a pair of ponies each in the UK, and the Regiment also bought a pair from Clare Tomlinson, taking our String up to 8. The new Club was born at the inaugural tournament in June. The Clubhouse was re-vamped, painting, gardening, and plenty of hard work from the A Squadron SQMS's team saw the Ground turned into a real Polo Club. A successful party in the Mess in the evening had the inevitable effect on those who assembled the following morning. However, the Commanding Officer was so delighted with the whole weekend that he announced at Prize-giving that we would be holding an End of Season Tournament at the

end of September. We did so, with eight teams assembling on the 28/29 September, and what another huge success it was. An even better party, enjoyed by many more Germans than the June party, and some wonderful polo led by several two and three goalers ensured that the 2002 Polo Season ended on a really high point with the Regiment leaving its mark well and truly on the north German circuit.

Meanwhile the Regimental Greys, who both performed impeccably alongside Ramillies throughout the Tattoo, returned to Fallingbostal in September. They constantly remain in hot demand by all ranks, and are regularly hunted with the Nieder Sachsen Drag Hunt. In fact one is part sponsored by two troopers from the Mounted Troop, which is wonderful as it enables other ranks to ride together as a pair as often as they like, and it is common now to see the Greys being exercised by a true cross section of all ranks. In early October two Regimental Cross-country Courses were run immediately after the Paderborn Hunter Trial, thus benefiting from the prepared course and good going. Both week-long courses saw the troopers outnumbering the Officers and NCOs. It is really good to see this enthusiasm throughout all ranks, long may it continue!

Finally, this wonderful year of Regimental equitation came to an end with 5 Officers from Regimental Duty, one from ERE, and a retired officer taking part in the SCOTS DG Division of the Bedale Hunt Race in early December. Success came in that no one was hurt despite the fact that all but one competed on hirelings, 3 completed the course, and 2 officers were amongst the first 4 competitors just 3 fences from home, but the full story is told elsewhere. Everyone went on to hunt afterwards, and the Regiment took two tables at the Hunt Ball, which was a resounding success, and helps to maintain our links in North Yorkshire. It is hoped that a Regimental Race of some description will now be run on an annual basis wherever the Regiment finds itself stationed, be it Germany or Britain.

Rest assured, Equitation has been well and truly re-established in the Regiment. Next year should see us competing on the Polo field as a Regimental Team, with more officers playing and more ponies being purchased. Hunting locally continues to act as both a thrill for those who take part, and as a useful means of extending our links with the very hospitable German set in these parts. Finally, it would be only right to conclude this article by expressing our gratitude from those serving in the Regiment, and that is from all ranks, to the Colonel of the Regiment for his endless support and enthusiasm this year, to the Regimental Trust for their generosity without which we would still

be wallowing around in the dirt, to the previous Commanding Officer, David Allfrey, for his drive and foresight, and to the present Commanding Officer for

his continued encouragement and enthusiasm, all of which together has ensured that equitation really is alive and well once again.

STALKING

Due to the uncertainty of imminent deployment, it was a particularly relieved and excited team from the Regiment that accepted the kind invitation from General Ramsay to shoot hinds in Glenlyon just before Christmas leave. The originally named Galloping Glens III, was led again by Lieutenant Jameson and assisted by SSgt McVey, who had been on previous trips; an established killer. For most in the first week, hind shooting was to be a new experience, the thought of which was fully relished by all participants.

There were a number of issues that could have clouded the focus of the hind cull, particularly in the first week. A call from the Regiment to ensure all had received Anthrax injections was the first blow and sadly knocked out a day on the hill. However, we managed to ingratiate ourselves with the local Gun Pack by ensuring as many of the stalkers supported it on the day we were away.

As ever the biggest factor was the weather. Usually by mid December there has been enough cold weather to bring the hinds down to lower ground; not so this year making the task of culling hinds increasingly difficult.

In spite of tricky conditions the team for the first week scored a creditable 25 hinds and Roe does. LCpl Musson (a regimental sharpshooter from – Op AGRICOLA VI) and SSgt McVey shot 3 each, preserving both of their reputations!

Officers' week was again well attended this year with most staying for at least three days. During the busier times on the hill there were testing clay pigeons to be shot as well as Roe deer to be stalked on Drumfork, where Mr Walters had some success bagging 2 Roe does. The weather became clearer during the second week, which at least allowed the stalkers to see where the 'beasts' were, which undoubtedly contributed to the higher cull figure of 39 hinds, calves and Roe. LCpl Springet deserves huge credit as the chef for the fortnight, continuing where he left off from last year both by cooking excellent food and shooting straight too, killing 2 hinds.

All who came up to Chesthill thoroughly enjoyed themselves and particularly appreciated being given the chance to go despite the onset of potential operations in the Middle East and remain enormously grateful for this wonderful opportunity given to us by General Ramsay.



Conducting the IPB - Captains Hanlon and Foulerton

RAMILLIES



Her Majesty The Queen presented Ramillies to the Regiment in 1987, when stationed at Tidworth. She had bred him herself at Hampton Court Stables from Right and Regent, a Black Shire Stallion, and the Regiment was honoured to receive him, as a 5 year old gelding, at the Royal Windsor Horse Show that year.

Having been trained by the Household Cavalry the Regiment had him for a short time before returning to Fallingbostal in 1988. He was at the time the largest horse in the British Army measuring well over 18HH and weighing over a tonne.

On arrival in Fallingbostal it would be fair to say that Ramillies took a backward step. For a long time the riding staff could do little more than remind him how to walk without tripping over himself. On parade one was never quite sure from which direction he would enter, and certainly no one could predict which corner of the square he would exit from! However, in time he became a faithful and loyal friend and servant to the Regiment. Without doubt his most endearing characteristic was his ability to break out of his box, cross the yard, and break into the feed store. He was often found the next morning looking very ill and feeling extremely sorry for himself following a night's gorging on hard feed. Indeed, while at Catterick the Quartermaster spent much of his time and budget designing ingenious ways of keeping "Rambo" in his box. Sadly, nothing ever lasted for long as the big lad invariably smashed his way out.

Ramillies took over the role, as Regimental Drum Horse and Mascot from Trojan, and, like his forebear, he too served for 16 years. It is a rather reassuring thought that the two of them have spanned the entire life of the Regiment since amalgamation in 1971. It was fitting that 2002, the year of HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee, should also have been the year in which Ramillies retired. But as one would expect, he went out with a bang. In May, he appeared at the hugely successful show at Windsor, "All the Queen's Horses", a tribute to Her Majesty's interest and contribution to all equine activities during her reign. In June Ramillies appeared on duty in Winchester, where

a new memorial was erected to the memory of all the horses that have been killed in action, but particularly to those who died in the service of the Crown during the Boer War. The final chapter in his life was his appearance throughout this year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo, where he performed impeccably; including the night Her Majesty was there to say her personal farewell. As always his character was larger than life, and he endeared himself to the crowd night after night. In September, Ramillies went out to grass at Melton to be roughed off for the last time. He was struck off strength in November, and like Trojan before him was set to see out his days at the Home Of Rest For Horses. However, at the eleventh hour the Colonel of the Regiment and the Commanding Officer were advised by the veterinary experts at Melton that, in his somewhat frail state, it would be kinder to cast him rather than allow his condition to deteriorate. His replacement, Talavera, is waiting in the wings undergoing her final period of training in Knightsbridge. She will join the Regiment in the late spring of 2003. To the great Ramillies we send our thanks for years of loyal service, and for all the fun and amusement you created during your life. Graze in peace.



With LCpl Harnetty.

REGIMENTAL GAZETTE

As at 1 January 2003

REGIMENTAL ROLL

Regimental Headquarters

Commanding Officer	Lt Col HH Blackman
Second in Command	Maj CF Lambert
Operations Officer	Capt RN MacMillan
Adjutant	Capt WHL Davies
Careers Management Officer	Capt JR Toward MBE
Padre	Rev Fr IJ Stevenson CF
Regimental Medical Officer	Capt AL Mackay Brown RAMC
Regimental Sergeant Major	WO1 (RSM) AD Ewing

Officers at Regimental Duty

Maj JU Biggart	Capt JM Hanlon	Capt RJ Ongaro	Lt MHS Jameson
Maj CTO Brannigan	Capt TEA Kerrigan	Capt AJ Rogers REME	Lt RF le Sueur
Maj TJS Brown	Capt WRG Leek	Capt PW Trueman	Lt JFS McLeman
Maj NH Robertson	Capt RS Lucas	Capt JMW Williamson	Lt ED O'Brien
Capt JS Ambrose	Capt CA MacDermot-Roe	Capt PW Wright	Lt JE Stone
Capt JWH Bishop	Capt AW Mackie	AGC(SPS)	Lt SJ Walters
Capt RN Cameron	Capt JE Martin	Lt IE Campbell-Davys	2Lt SJHF Albert
Capt G Cochlan	AGC(SPS)	Lt GG Craig	2Lt RBR Christie
Capt BT Connor	Capt AI Matheson	Lt RJAEP De Silva	2Lt AD Marjoribanks
Capt CG Dobeson		Lt AS Gemmell	2Lt D Lucas REME
Capt NG Foulerton		Lt FM Jack	

Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Troopers

WO2 Anderson RM	SSgt Johnstone ME	Sgt Boyd TW	Cpl Allan JAI
WO2 Brotherton BH	SSgt Lillie MM	Sgt Dudman GC	Cpl Baillie JD
WO2 Gray C	SSgt Little KD	Sgt Gibbs A	Cpl Balfour P
WO2 Greenwood AD	SSgt McKenzie DJ	Sgt Gray CJ	Cpl Barclay BW
WO2 Hayes W	SSgt McLaughlin OMM	Sgt Hainey AC	Cpl Beggs A
WO2 MacIntyre C	SSgt McVey TM	Sgt Hay T	Cpl Beveridge P
WO2 McDowell KG	SSgt Reed M LD	Sgt Hugill DJ	Cpl Bowden MB
WO2 McInnes J	SSgt Ross IM	Sgt Lamb I	Cpl Breslin R
WO2 Spence T	SSgt Simpson BH	Sgt Rieley G	Cpl Brown C
WO2 Stevely KE	SSgt Wallace SJ	Sgt Potter DWJ	Cpl Campbell B
SSgt Bell GJ	SSgt Winters DI	Sgt Smith MI	Cpl Cooper KM
SSgt Currie RM	Sgt Adams MV	Sgt Taylor B	Cpl Coulter WJ
SSgt Gardiner J	Sgt Baird DC	Sgt Thomson CA	Cpl Cramp RS
SSgt Hanson NCG	Sgt Beveridge A	Sgt Watson SD	Cpl Dale BT
SSgt Henderson CH	Sgt Blair SD	Sgt Welsh RP	Cpl Dougal CS

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	President, RCB, Westbury	Maj JGE Bartholomew	Staff Training, Shrivvenham
Col NDA Seymour	UN appointment, USA	Maj AGC Fair	Staff Training, Australia
Col MH Auchinleck	Mil Attache, Istanbul	Maj ADG Stephen	Trg Major, UOTC, Glasgow
Col HD Allfrey MBE	ADS Staff, Shrivvenham	Maj WGL MacKinlay	IC Media, DCC (A), London
Lt Col RPH Vickers	UNAMSIL, Sierra Leone	Maj BDA Ridge	MDS Coord, AMD(A), London
Lt Col AM Phillips	Armour Adviser, Kuwait	Maj AJ Cameron	OC AFV TSG, Bovington
Lt Col CRM Stagg OBE	Project Chief, Salisbury	Maj AH Blair	Weapons Staff, Tewkesbury
Lt Col MPA Bullen MBE	Soldier Wing, APC Glasgow	Capt RL Clayton	Home Headquarters, Edinburgh
Lt Col BP Edwards	MA, 3(TU) Corps, Istanbul	Capt TJ Bateman	GS Plans, DASD, London
Maj KPM Ravnkilde	Armour Staff, Warminster	Capt TP Spenlove-Brown	Adjutant, UOTC, Oxford
Maj JHM Cushnir	Armour Adviser, Warminster	Capt AT Stewart	HQ 19 Mech Bde, Catterick
Maj JDC Bulloch	G3 Trg, HQ LAND, Salisbury	Capt BJ Cattermole	Presentation Team, Sandhurst
Maj RR Alers-Hankey	Weapons Staff, Tewkesbury	Capt DB Soulsby	Adj, RAC Trg Regt, Bovington
Maj HMA Cummins	HQ ATRA, Upavon	Capt RML Boyle	Armour Instr, Warminster
Maj J Frew	Admin Comdt, Brunei	Capt AC Turpin	Adj, Royal Yeomanry, London
Maj W Raitt	Augmentation, APC Glasgow	Capt ME Hayward	Troop Leader, ATR Winchester
Maj KJ Williams	Staff Training, Shrivvenham	Capt N Burnet	Platoon Comd, AFC Harrogate
Maj DAJ Allen	Staff Training, Shrivvenham		

Former Officers Serving with Other Arms

Brig JD Deverell OBE, late R IRISH	Defence Attache, Riyadh
Lt Col BRE Butler AAC	Comd, 3 Regt AAC, Wattisham
Maj JL Melville AAC	9 Regt AAC, Thirsk
Maj DM Nicholls AAC	HQ 39 Bde, N Ireland
Capt MN Wilkinson	King's Royal Hussars, Tidworth

Officers Retired from the Active List

Maj GF Wheeler	September 2002
Capt G Aitchison	April 2002
Capt M Ferndale	October 2002
Capt RT Williams	December 2002

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

WO1 K Anderson MM	RSM, Royal Yeomanry, London	SSgt GA Young	OP DRUMM, Warminster
WO1 WF Foster	UK Support Command, Germany	Sgt DJ Black	Info Systems School, Bovington
WO1 RP McKenzie	Army Careers Office, Edinburgh	Sgt J King	24 Cadet Training Team, Edinburgh
WO1 S Turnbull	School of Armour, Oman	Sgt G McGarry	Training Sqn, Bovington
WO2 G Clapperton	40 Cadet Training Team, Preston	Sgt E McKenzie	Gunnery School, Lulworth
WO2 AB Henderson	Queen's Dragoon Guards, Catterick	Sgt K Thomson	Royal Wessex Yeo, Bovington
WO2 D Jones	Army Careers Office, Manchester	Sgt M Thomson	Army Careers Office, Greenock
WO2 J McInnes	Recruiting Team, Edinburgh	LSgt I Campbell	Army Careers Office, Glasgow
WO2 D McKelvie	Training Centre, Warminster	Cpl G Aitken	Forward Air Control, Tidworth
WO2 A McLellan	OP DRUMM, Warminster	Cpl MP Cochrane	Army Foundation College, Harrogate
WO2 I Millar	Military Mission, Kuwait	Cpl L Davison	Army Foundation College, Harrogate
WO2 A Potter	Info Syatems School, Bovington	Cpl D Forbes	3 Regt AAC, Ipswich
WO2 A Simpson	Training Support, Bovington	Cpl A Fox	Training Sqn, Bovington
WO2 A Smith	QM(T) Department, Bovington	Cpl J Junnier	Trials & Development, Bovington
SSgt B Britton	Gunnery School, Lulworth	Cpl J Kelly	Provost Staff, Bovington
SSgt T Burns	Army Careers Office, Hamilton	Cpl I Lyttle	Army Training Regt, Winchester
SSgt R Campbell	Royal Wessex Yeo, Bovington	Cpl AD Macaulay	Recruiting Team, Edinburgh
SSgt E Davidson	D and M School, Bovington	Cpl RA McFarlane	4 Army Youth Team, Dundee
SSgt J Dempster	D and M School, Bovington	Cpl G Pritchard	Army Training Regt, Winchester
SSgt M Duncan	Queen's Own Yeo, Cupar	Cpl B Ross	Army Training Regt, Winchester
SSgt AA Gauld	Tayforth UOTC, St Andrews	Cpl AG Vietch	Recruiting Team, Edinburgh
SSgt S Hennerbry	Queen's Own Yeo, Cupar	Cpl RA Weir	Piping Instructor, Edinburgh
SSgt F McHugh	QM(T) Department, BATUS Canada	Cpl MP Young	Trials & Development, Bovington
SSgt EZ Jutrzenka	HQ Army Music, London	LCpl S Cannon	Trials & Development, Bovington
SSgt C McKerrell	Queen's Own Yeo, Ayr	LCpl W Downey	Provost Staff, Harrogate
SSgt K Morton	Army Careers Office, Edinburgh	LCpl J Streets	Support Unit, Warminster

Honours, Awards and Appointments

The City of Edinburgh



Rt Hon The Lord Provost, Eric Milligan Esq JP exhibits the especial Pipe Tune to mark the honour of 'the right to march'

On 17 October 2002 The City of Edinburgh Council agreed unanimously to bestow on The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards the privilege of being allowed to 'march through the streets of Edinburgh with bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying'. The Regiment was very pleased to receive this honour, which was publicly announced at the Reception held in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, Colonel in Chief on 29 November 2002. On the previous day the Colonel, Commanding Officer and a delegation including the Pipes and Drums and the Dragoon Guard Band called on The Lord Provost at The City Chambers and made a suitable presentation.

Royal Victorian Order Lieutenant

Captain CR Radclyffe
For services to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

The Duke of Kent Medal

Lieutenant Colonel RJ Binks
Warrant Officer Class 2 RM Anderson

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

WO2 G Davidson REME
Staff Sergeant GJ Bell
Staff Sergeant MM Lillie
Staff Sergeant M Reed LD
Sergeant CJ Gray
Sergeant T Hay
Sergeant AT Hogg REME
Sergeant W Montgomery
Sergeant AB Pearce
Sergeant A Robins REME

Colonel of the Regiment

Brigadier MS Jameson CBE from mid 2003
vice Major General JMFC Hall CB OBE

The House of Commons

Tam Dalyell of the Binns MP
Father of the House, June 2002.

Academic Fellowship

Captain CG Dobeson
Elected Fellow of All Souls, Oxford

In Pensioners at The Royal Hospital Chelsea

GW Phillips (Royal Scots Greys)
P Coffey (3rd Carabiniers)
W Cross (Royal Scots Greys)
G Wingate (RAOC with The Greys)

SPECIAL EVENTS 2002

THE PIPES AND DRUMS

December saw the Pipes and Drums being integrated within D Squadron en mass, with the majority of the members taking up positions within 1st Troop using our own Challenger 2s. The other members filled various positions in the Squadron and, as a result, we were also heavily involved with the SHQ element. After a very successful parade to reform the Squadron, it was down to some serious training, to put the new ideas for the ISTAR squadron concept.

LCpl (Jason) Bruce, LCpl (Daniel) Brown and Tpr (Andy) Daniels went to Lulworth for their Advanced Gunners course. All three completed it with excellent results and returned to the Pipes and Drums ready to take part in the training year.

January saw Corporal (Jimmy) Johnston and Corporal (Gary) Rieley start pre-course training in preparation for the AFV Commanders course. At the same time, Lance Corporal (Davie) Dodds and Lance Corporal (Donald) McPhee were hard at work completing the theory phase of their Pipe Majors course at Inchdrewer House in Edinburgh. Both achieved Grade A (Practical playing) and Distinction (Theory Exams).

During January the Pipes and Drums were busy with the celebrations of our famous Bard, Robert Burns. We continued to air the pipes whenever we could, but the forth-coming itinerary then caught up with us and the "agony bags" went into hibernation as more and more time was devoted to training.

The remainder of the Pipes and Drums were now in a demanding training phase designed to bring D Squadron together. January saw us firing on Hohne ranges with the Troop gaining excellent scores on the ACT and Troop Tests. We then headed down to Sennelager training area to play OPFOR for the rest of the Regiment. It also saw the Troop coming sixth out of 32 crews on troop tests, well done to all. On return from Sennelager it was decided that some members of the Pipes and Drums would convert their skills and Pipe Sergeant (Derek) Potter, Lance Corporal (Jason) Bruce and Lance Corporal (Andrew) Anderson completed a Warrior conversion with our colleagues at the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch.

It was at this time that the Regiment learned of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen



The Drummers in fine form.

Mother. The Pipes and Drums returned to London to participate in Op TAY BRIDGE, which saw the Massed Pipes and Drums of the British Army lead the cortège to Westminster Abbey. The world will remember the sound of the emotional lament "Oft in the Stilly Night" as the Queen Mother was driven away to her final resting-place. All members were deeply honoured to have participated in the farewell to such a special member of the Royal family.

We were given a new addition to the Pipes and Drums with the arrival of Tpr (Andrew) Bokas from the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders. He arrived at Fallingbommel during our deployment to Canada. For the next phase of our training year we flew to BATUS to test our tactics against OPFOR on MM1. Live firing, followed by the TES phase saw Drum Major (Stewart) Orr (our one-man demolition machine) being highly praised for his commanding skills by DRAC. This was to be Drummie's last BATUS after serving 26 years with the Regiment. He was given the great honour of leading the Battle Group back to camp once 'end-ex' was called.

Corporal (Chris) Reid decided to advance his career outside the Pipes and Drums and join D Squadron. Corporal Reid had been a stalwart member of the Pipe Band for 16 years and had served us well throughout. To Corporal Reid, Abigail, Phoebe and Edward, from all the members and families of the Pipe Band, thank you for all the years of dedication to, at times, not the easiest of life-styles.

On return from Canada, the Pipes and Drums were to be involved in the running of a Pipe Band Contest, as

part of the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. The Director of Army Bagpipe Music, Major (Gavin) Stoddart MBE BEM RHF and Senior Drum Major for the Scottish Division, Drum Major (Peter) Toole judged the contest. Members of the band were very successful in the solo piping contests with Lance Corporals (Jason) Bruce and (Donald) McPhee and Piper (Andy) Bokus all gaining prizes, well done to them!



Pipe Major Derek Potter

LCpls (Jason) Bruce and (Ross) Munro then returned to Edinburgh to start their Infantry Piobreachd course, both are congratulated on gaining recommendations for the Pipe Majors course.

Sgt Derek Potter has succeeded SSgt Bryon Brotherton as Pipe Major. Pipey Brotherton served 17 years with the Pipes and Drums and was Pipe Major for five very successful years. During this time the Pipes and Drums competed in a number of competitions, winning many prizes. They remain the most successful Pipes and Drums in the British Army. They also recorded "Highland Cathedral" on compact disc and video. Sales of this recording have exceeded 100,000 and Gold and Platinum Discs have been presented to the Pipes and Drums by the music industry. We wish Bryon, Sally, Thomas and Oliver the very best for the future and hope that they will always feel welcome within the family of the Pipes and Drums.

We also adapted some very unique sounds, mixing bagpipes with other instruments, (to the frowns of some of the traditionalists). We also toured Australia and New Zealand, and completed our first concert tour, with another this year.

After three weeks leave, we set off for London and rehearsals for a parade at Buckingham Palace for Her Majesty the Queen. This was not to be our only meeting with our Colonel in Chief, as we would play for her on many occasions over the forthcoming months.

Scotland beckoned, and we embarked on a recruiting drive and mini-tour, playing at various town centres and at the Inverness Tattoo.

On Saturday 13 July the Pipes and Drums travelled to Aberfeldy to play at the Dewar's Distillery before entertaining the Association in Stirling, at Bannockburn.

Sadly, we learned that Piper (Brian) Blyth had been tragically killed in a traffic accident. It was Piper

Blyths' dream to play at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a dream he would have fulfilled later that month. The Pipes and Drums attended his funeral, and said goodbye to a person who will never be forgotten by his friends in the Pipes and Drums, and within the Regiment. We will all miss him.



Drum Major Stuart Orr on his final Tattoo

When we had finished the Inverness Tattoo, we rushed down to Edinburgh to start rehearsals for the Queen's Jubilee Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This year was to see the Regiment heavily featured, with the Pipes and Drums and the Mounted Troop of the Regiment taking part. This was to be Ramillies' last public performance and also the last Tattoo for Drummie who had already completed 10.

We celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the Pipes and Drums and Military Band reaching number one in the U.K. charts with "Amazing Grace". This saw us being joined by the Military Band of the Scots Guards, to perform the famous tune for Her Majesty the Queen at her visit to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

As well as all the commitments that the Tattoo brings, we were now heavily into a rigorous rehearsal routine for our return visit to Australia and New Zealand. The band was to tour for 8 weeks and visit Los Angeles at the end. We used our afternoons to put together a concert programme using the 'new sound' we had been developing. We were very conscious that the Tour had to reflect the new album, which soon to be released. We were to tie up with some session musicians on our arrival in Australia. The main aim of the rehearsals was to tighten up our piping and drumming, ready for what was to be a fantastic experience for all.



Pipers at the Tattoo.

It was however, an emotional last night for Drummie Orr, as he handed over his Mace to Drum Major (Gary) Rieley. Drummie Orr was not away for long though, as he was to join the band on the Tour. You don't leave a talented bass drummer and experienced Drummie behind, do you!

We also recruited the services of Cpl (Jimmy) "OML" Leckie who managed to get an eight week attachment back to the band from recruiting in Paisley. Cpl Leckie was another stalwart of the pipes and drums and even while in the QM's Department, would always come along when asked.

After a spectacular Edinburgh Military Tattoo we left Lance Corporal (Ross) Munro to prepare for his seven months of intense tuition on the Pipe Major's Course. We were in Fallingbostal for less than a week before leaving for an eight week, tour of some of the best venues in the Southern Hemisphere and then across to the United States of America. The Pipes and Drums were to be joined by the outgoing RSM (Robbie) Cameron as the tours Liaison Officer. When we arrived and started the tour he was soon to be elevated to Captain (Robbie) Cameron (stage name) MC. MC standing for master of ceremonies and not Military Cross, as he might like. Sorry Sir, only joking.

After the 26-hour flight from Frankfurt we arrived in Sydney Australia and set out to our first location minus the Drum Major's suitcase 'déjà vu' from the last time we toured Australia. The rest of us just think that it was an elaborate stunt to avoid any hard work for a few days. This was foiled as his bag arrived the next day. There were no complaints though as Drummie was

given a hundred dollars to tide him through the trauma. It certainly paid for a few medicinal beverages to help the jet lag.

We didn't get much time to recover as the next day was straight into rehearsals as the first show was scheduled for two days time. We were joined by three very experienced professional musicians who were to provide the backing for the band in order to recreate a live version of our pending album "Parallel Tracks". This, in itself, was a very ambitious venture as we had forwarded rough copies of the arrangements and they had learnt the accompaniment. When we first struck up the pipes and began to tackle the music, I think there was a sense of relief as it all came together, this turned to excitement with the realisation that our arrangements could be performed nearly identically to the recorded material. We were also joined by a compère/comedian who had worked the Scottish circuit for many years, (Billy Raymond) and a solo vocalist from New Zealand called Celine Toner. Thus began the orchestration of a three-hour show, which was to highlight a night of Scottish culture.

Later, we would employ Captain Cameron in the role as compère to add a personal touch to the performance, but also to give him a job to do so that he couldn't plan any seven mile runs around Australia for the boys. A cunning plan we thought!

After only four days on Tour, one of the most memorable experiences for everyone in the Band was the Sydney Opera House concert. Not only would we per-



Rehearsal for the Reception

form once, but, due to popular demand, a second evening show had to be put on. On arrival at Sydney Harbour we saw the unmistakable sight of the white sailboat roofs of the Opera House and we made our way up the steps and into the famous auditorium. It was a great feeling to see the billboard posters advertising our concert and to see how many other famous acts had played there before us. On stage was just as spectacular a sight, behind us probably the biggest church organ ever built and in front two thousand, eight hundred seats and balconies with more seats heading skyward. It was a venue that any musician dreams of performing in and we were privileged to have such a fantastic opportunity.

Out came the pipes and drums, the sound check was completed and we were ready to go. We walked out onto stage and I think all of us grew about ten feet. It was hard not to feel good with all the audience applauding after we finished our opener "Piobroch". The rest of the concert went without any hiccoughs, as did the second concert. After all the kit was packed away we had no rest as it was onto the coach and away to our next venue. The lads all enjoyed a few beers, and why not, they deserved it!!!

During The rest of the tour we were to play fifty seven concerts to over one hundred and ten thousand people, travel on ten flights and endure several changes of time zone. It was a marvellous experience for all involved and a tour that we will all talk about for some time to come.



Other memorable days were the trip to the Great Barrier Reef and a visit to Warner Brothers' studios near Los Angeles.

A special mention has to be given for our farewell night, in Auckland held to say goodbye to Drummie (Stewart) Orr and Cpl (Jimmy) Leckie. After the youth of the band had decided to launch into the air with the reverse bungee and then encourage Pipey, Drummie and Captain Cameron to get involved with the madness, it was off round the pubs to drink to the health of two people who had contributed so much to the success of the Pipes and Drums over the years.

Cpl Leckie joined the Pipes and Drums in the summer of 1981 and later joined the Quartermaster department. He rejoined the Pipes and Drums on our

return to Fallingbostel in November 1988 and left the band again, only to return to us in 1995. He was a valuable asset to the Drum Corps, and whilst with the Pipes and Drums played at the highest level in competitions at Grade 1 level. He was part of the band when they achieved their highest ever result with third in the European Championships. All in the band will sadly miss him and we would like to thank him for all he has done.

Drummie Orr joined the Regiment in 1975 and joined the Pipes and Drums in 1983 where he learnt to play the bass drum. He also competed in 1988, with the band at Grade 1, winning many competitions. In 1988-1989 he was part of a Bass section that was awarded best bass section at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow. He left the band in Catterick to work with the Quartermaster Department during 1994-1995. On return to Fallingbostel, Drummie Orr returned to the Pipes and Drums and was made Drum Major in August 1997, a position he held until this year. It was fitting that he finished his term whilst on the Edinburgh Tattoo where he had originally started. He was also awarded the Duke of Kent's Medal for his services to the Regiment. He was a dedicated member of both the Pipes And Drums and the Regiment and has devoted twenty six years to The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. Drummie Orr has also been a great source of knowledge of Regimental history, a subject he enjoyed immensely and spent many hours studying. He will be missed by all and we wish him well, now he has finally put his George boots away in the cupboard. Thank you for your time and dedication.

Both Drummie Orr and Cpl Leckie had, for most of their Regimental life been dedicated to the band and we must thank them for all the time and passion given through out their careers. Best wishes to Drummie Orr, Yvonne, Eilidh, Ewan, Cpl Leckie and his family, we hope that you take with you happy memories that you may cherish forever. All the pipes and drums look forward to sharing a dram when we see you again.

After a very successful Tour the band was to have a quick rest before heading back to Edinburgh to play for our Colonel in Chief, Her Majesty the Queen at Edinburgh Castle. This was to coincide with the Regiment being given the honour to "March through Edinburgh with bayonets fixed, drums beating and standard flying." The pipes and Drums paraded on the Esplanade and marched accompanied by the Band of Her Majesty's Dragoon Guards to the City Chambers. The Lord Provost received a presentation of a pipe tune to commemorate the occasion.

Another important milestone was achieved with the release of the Pipes and Drums new album "Parallel

Tracks". A project with many twists and turns but was worthwhile as the end result was outstanding. All those involved should be very proud of an album takes pipe music in a new direction and captures the new sounds developed by the band over the last ten years.

At the visit of Her Majesty, The Pipes and Drums and Military Band performed a 'Beating to Quarters', in which we played our famous tune, "Amazing Grace". It was also during this performance that Pipey had the honour of presenting Her Majesty with a copy of "Parallel Tracks". Her Majesty accepted the compact disc and replied, "I believe it is very modern."

The Pipes and Drums returned to Fallingbostel the following day leaving Pipey and Drummie behind to carry out a Promotional tour of Scotland advertising the album. During the week, we travelled to radio stations and conducted live interviews as well as several interviews for the press.

Before we could have time to stop to think December had arrived again. One last engagement to conduct as BFBS Television visited to film the Pipes and Drums for an interview on the new album and take some behind the scenes footage.

It has again been a very busy year and the time spent away from the families has been greater than any previous year. During 2002 we saw two members of the band enter into wedlock, LCpl (Sean) Brennan to Debbie and LCpl "Haggis" Anderson to Tanya. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them both and welcome them and their families to the Pipes and Drums.

We would also like to congratulate several members of the band on their promotion to higher rank, Pipe Sergeant (Derek) Potter to Pipe Major, Cpl (Gary) Rieley to Drum Major, Lance Corporal (Ross) Munro to Corporal and Trooper's (Andrew) Anderson and (Andy) Daniels to Lance Corporal. Congratulations to you all.

As we close this year and look forward to the next I would like to say a personal thank you to all those involved with the Pipes and Drums for what has been a very busy year. The band has achieved so much and kept the high standards set by those members before us. This high standard has been achieved by the members and families sacrificing a great deal. Without the continued support of all those involved, this group of talented individuals would not be able to carry on their love of piping and drumming to such a high standard. To a group of dedicated individuals I give my thanks, long may the Pipes and Drums spread friendship through their music.



THREE MONTHS ON GREYS

(The Mounted Troop)

by Captain PW Trueman

Melton Mowbray is a long way from the Army's training area in Canada in much the same way that a Troop of Greys is rather a different fighting unit to a Troop of Challenger II tanks. However, with our omnipresent flexibility, it was an easy jump to make from tank to horse. Certainly, most of the soldiers who had volunteered to take part in the Mounted Troop, adjusted to life in Melton surprisingly easily. By the time I had arrived at the Defence Animal Centre in the small hours of a Monday morning in early June, most had already spent a week-end in this small Leicestershire market town and were fully acquainted with Tubes, Crocodile Rock and The Kings Head. However, when not getting to know locals, it was quite easy to annoy them by driving around the town's one way system in a BMW wearing shades with the windows down and pipe music playing.

The home of the Veterinary Corps and of Army riding has recently been rebuilt and is now leased to the Army by a private company. In many ways, it resembles a giant Travel Lodge (with conference facilities) but, as everyone gets a decent sized room with a bathroom, there were few complaints, although a few might have preferred a minibar. The equine school is home to four permanent instructors drawn from the Household Cavalry and The King's RHA and around 150 horses. We arrived in Melton with a lot to achieve - to turn twenty novices into competent riders and then to put together a mounted troop in a little over five weeks. With one or two exceptions, none of the soldiers had ever been near a horse before, but, by the end of the first day, everyone had been issued with crash hat, boots, riding breeches and a horse.

Mornings started at 0730 with mucking out the dirty bedding and, although there was some initial fear about being shut in a stable with only a fork for protection, it soon became clear that most horses were not flesh eating monsters. The group was split into two and while half went off for instruction in the indoor school the other group would be given a horse D & M lesson. The pace of work was fast and the instructors pushed us hard. Without exception, everyone responded well and worked hard to improve. Mounted drill was added to normal drill and the words of command echoed around the stables. After an inspection of ones horse, its tack and oneself, we were expected to vault on - quite a challenge for the bulkier members of the Troop. Initially everything took place at walking pace, but even so, a few individuals managed to throw them-



A fine Troop of Greys.

selves from their mounts from time to time. By week three, the improvement made was superb and each group had learned a variety of drill movements at walk and at trot. People were still occasionally dismounting headfirst and Trooper Parkinson gained some notoriety for choosing to do so only when it meant landing on something hard. The newly purchased Regimental Grey 'Smartie' showed a degree of independent thought and after an extensive Rodeo routine proved successful at unseating Capt Lucas and one or two others who had the pleasure of riding him.

By July, we had been joined by a contingent from B Squadron who had only just completed MEDMAN 2 in BATUS. Although some way behind everyone else, they made a concerted effort to catch up. At this stage, swords were introduced and most of the riding was done with one hand. Civilian tack was swapped for military 'brown kit' and the pace moved up a gear. The introduction of ceremonial kit and bear skins caused a few disturbances on the first day and a number of the horses reacted with terror at the sight of Troopers dressed in full kit.

As the final week approached, it was incredible to see the change that had taken place. It was going to be hard to select only twelve, as everyone had made a giant leap forwards. We were treated to glorious sunshine for the pass off parade and Major Brown and all members of the riding staff looked justifiably pleased with the standard of horsemanship of all who took part. The riding staff of: Captain Boyd, WO2 (Cpl Maj) Weller, CoH Arkley and SSgt Harnett had done an amazing job and we were extremely grateful for all their help and hard work. Next stop the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment (HCMR) in Knightsbridge.

Whoever designed Hyde Park Barracks in the 1960s may have been labouring under the impression that he had created a thing of beauty, though it seems more likely that he harboured an intense dislike of the Household Cavalry. Resembling an East End council estate the barracks is home to the HCMR comprising a Squadron of Life Guards and of Blues and Royals. The working routine in barracks is hectic



Major Tim Brown almost ready for action.

and members of the SCOTS DG mounted troop who had previously expressed an interest in transferring into the Household Cavalry soon showed a change of heart. The working day starts at 0630 and everything that can be made to shine must shine. The amount of time spent polishing or 'bobbing' is incredible and everyone is under constant scrutiny. Even Captain Trueman was seen using an iron after having been threatened by Cpl Maj Pearce who had been given the daunting task of looking after us. Orderly Officers in the Household Cavalry are required to change their uniform no less than six times in the course of a day and although helped by an orderly, it made duties look even more unappealing than usual. A glorious sunny week was spent with the grey horses loaned to us for the Tattoo and each day we rode out into Hyde Park to practice.

On 20 July, the Edinburgh bound convoy left London and just under 30 horses plus kit were dispatched to Redford Cavalry Barracks. Included in the group was the Regimental drum horse Ramillies who, although getting quite ancient, was still an impressive sight. He was famous in his younger days for escaping from seemingly bombproof stables, using tactics such as pushing the wall down. Now, the solution to keeping him locked up was to ensure he had so much hay at his disposal that escape became a pointless exercise.

Interest in the Tattoo increased markedly when the coach loads of Scottish country dancers from around the world began arriving at Redford. A truly eclectic mix of people was to be involved: Dutch musical cyclists, Gurkha pipers, Canadian Mounties and Indian sword dancers to name but a few. We now had just ten days to get ourselves ready for the first performance. Although the Troop had been formed and we had been rehearsing the drill for some time there was still a great deal to do to ensure a slick and professional performance. Some of the horses were showing a



The Standard with Ramillies and Escort.

tendency to ignore their riders and do their own thing but more importantly we had no idea how they would react to the sights and sounds of the Tattoo. Initially, we had to get them used to gunfire as the SCOTS DG Kosovo act before us involved the firing of blank ammunition from rifles and from two Sabre recce vehicles. Needless to say, the first few bangs caused some excitement but there were no headlong dives and gradually everyone calmed down.

The build up to the Tattoo was extremely nerve racking, nobody quite knew how the horses would react to a full crowd, or to the fireworks and to add to this, the Queen was due to attend in the first week. Cpl Cramp and LCpl Chart did an excellent job as section commanders, while Major Brown and Captain Lucas took up position as escort to the Standard carried by Ramillies. SSgt Macintyre carried the standard, helped occasionally by LCpl Harnett, and had completed a two-week crash course and was looking relaxed and



SCOTS DG Mounted Troop - Edinburgh 2002.

comfortable on the mighty Rambo. By the opening night all was in place and the sight of eight soldiers in full dress, swords drawn, trotting up the Esplanade on Greys was an unforgettable one. Almost everyone got an opportunity to take part in the Tattoo at some point and there were also opportunities to ride with the Lothian and Borders Police on mounted patrols through the city and surrounding areas. The unpredictability of the horses meant that every evening required maximum concentration to avoid embarrassing disasters. On only one out of twenty eight performances did we have an obvious disaster although congratulations must go to Lieutenant De Silva for his individual dressage act in front of the rest of the Troop!

Over the ensuing weeks, every member of the Troop worked hard to ensure that the horses were fed and well looked after. We were rarely back in barracks before 10pm on weekdays and much later on Saturdays and up early in the morning to muck out and feed. Occasionally, we would ride up into the Pentland Hills that rise above Redford Barracks. The first trip caused so much excitement amongst the horses that a number of them disappeared off into the distance leaving a trail of bodies behind. On the penultimate Saturday, we took a dozen horses down to the beach at Musselburgh. Riding as a group bareback over the sand proved enough of a challenge and it was fairly obvious that if one horse bolted they would all follow. Sure enough, one of them couldn't resist a full pace gallop and soon everyone was flying through the surf at a rate of knots. Of the twelve, five made it back on a horse looking somewhat smug. Unfortunately, three of the horses that had dispatched their riders were having so much fun that they carried on up the path and off the beach destined for Musselburgh High Street. There was a



Passing the Greys Memorial on the Cavalcade.

certain amount of surprise amongst those strolling through the town who saw three horses canter by and in particular by those who saw one of the horses jumping over two car bonnets in an effort to reach a roundabout with a healthy supply of grass.

As the lights went down for the final time at the end of August, there was a certain amount of relief amongst all involved in the Tattoo. It had been a very busy month and everyone was looking forward to a few days off. The three months spent in Melton Mowbray, Knightsbridge and Edinburgh were enormous fun and provided everyone with a truly memorable experience. Everywhere we went we were well looked after and there are dozens of people to whom we owe a great debt of thanks. Since returning to Fallingbowl a number of those who took part in the Tattoo, Tpr Dodds and Tpr Miller have taken part in a jumping course in Senelager and LCpl Cassidy has worked hard in the stables. A number of others have ridden out the regimental horses and hopefully their enthusiasm for riding will continue to grow.



The Mounted Troop escorting the State Coach at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

The Queen's Jubilee Cavalcade

Edinburgh – Sunday 4 August 2002

By JP Murphy

The traditional Edinburgh Festival Cavalcade, which is led by tattoo performers, was enhanced to incorporate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, under the direction of the Tattoo Producer, Brigadier MS Jameson CBE. Additional elements were drawn from all three Services and Regimental Associations, affording them the opportunity to parade along with the Tattoo and Festival performers from around the world. We were delighted to have Bob Richardson and Colin Wilson from the London Branch to parade the Association Standard at the Head of our Contingent.

When we initially went to form up with the other Regimental Associations we discovered the Scots Guards detachment in parade order ready to take the lead. Unfortunately they were very disappointed to discover they were not after all second to none but second to us and they were required to move back which made us very unpopular.

The parade was a good fun event which also included a Challenger tank, Sabre AFVs, a fly-past from the RAF and AAC, and the Tattoo contingent included the SCOTS DG Mounted Troop and the Pipes and Drums. Fifteen Association members suitably dressed in grey berets and regimental ties took part in the parade although it would have been more with greater support from the Glasgow contingent.

The mile long route for the Cavalcade passed west along Princes Street where thousands of

spectators cheered us all along the route, including Major General Ramsay who gave us a really nice wave! The day itself was very hot and it was amazing how we all managed to carry on without anybody dropping out and Bob Richardson did extremely well carrying the Standard. Directly in front of us were three old soldiers in their eighties from the Normandy Veterans Association and they really did well marching proudly along the whole route.

After marching along Princes Street we proceeded down King's Stables Road into the Grassmarket where finally we fell out exhausted and footsore. Most of us then went to the Royal British Legion Club in Rodney Street where golden liquid refreshments and a buffet were gratefully received to complete a memorable day.



'Go past the Scott Monument and advance down Princes Street'



The Association Banner passing the dais attracted a wave from Gen Charles Ramsay



The Troop saluted the Greys Memorial

THE REGIMENTAL GATHERING

28-30 NOVEMBER 2002

By Major J U Biggart

On a crisp November day the combined Military Band of the Dragoon Guards and our own Pipes and Drums stepped off smartly from the Castle Esplanade toward the City Chambers a short distance down the Royal Mile. This wonderful spectacle of military pageantry and fine music watched by many hardened tourists prepared to brave a winters day together with intrigued citizens of Edinburgh, marked the start of our Regimental gathering in the City that has become our spiritual home.

The gathering, held between Thursday 28th and Saturday 30th November, saw past and present members of the wider regimental family attend a wide variety of events around the centre piece of a reception held in the gracious presence of our Colonel in Chief, Her Majesty The Queen, in the Great Hall of the Castle on Friday 29th November. Other events included a luncheon party for our Deputy Colonel in Chief, Field Marshal the Duke of Kent, at the Castle Officers' Mess concurrently with an Association luncheon party at Redford Barracks. That evening the annual officers' dinner was held in the splendid surroundings of the University of Edinburgh's Playfair Library while at the same time Mrs Sarah Hall hosted a ladies dinner at Over-Seas House on Princes Street. The finale was an officers' and ladies' luncheon party held in the Georgian magnificence of Craigiehall, the officers' mess formerly to Headquarters Scotland and now 2nd Division.

It was following the heart lifting strains of Scotland the Brave, Highland Cathedral and Amazing Grace that The Right Honourable the Lord Provost of The City of Edinburgh, Eric Milligan JP, announced that the City Council had seen it fit and proper to grant the Regiment the right to 'march through the streets of Edinburgh with bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying'. This rare symbol of civic trust, the military equivalent of granting the freedom of the city, was a reflection of the historic association and long held mutual esteem between the City and our Regiment. Appropriately, the Colonel of the Regiment was delighted to accept this honour in the presence of the Lord Provost's old acquaintance and current Father of the House of Commons, Tam Dalyell MP, who as a direct descendant of 'Bloody' General Tam Dalyell of the Binns, founder of the Regiment, has been a long and loyal supporter to the Regiment. The Lord Provost spoke of the Regiment's historic role as a defender of the City and its people and as such how delighted he was to bestow the honour.

Pipe Major Potter presented the Lord Provost with a framed score of a march he had specially composed to mark the occasion, appropriately entitled 'The Salute of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards to The City of Edinburgh', after which he performed a solo rendition of the piece. The Band and Pipes and Drums then marched back to the Castle, again drawing crowds from shops, the Scottish Law Courts and Scottish



The Band of the Dragoon Guards and the Pipes and Drums played at Edinburgh City Chambers to mark the 'right to march'.



The Pipe Major returns to the Band after presenting 'Parallel Tracks'. Parliamentary buildings in and around St Giles' Cathedral.

The following day at precisely 1215 hours, the Union Flag was lowered and Royal Standard raised to fly triumphantly above the ramparts, so marking the entry of our Sovereign and Colonel in Chief into her ancient Castle of Edinburgh. The ceremonial guard became that little bit more rigid at attention and the reception line shuffled nervously as Her Majesty's Bentley wound its way up through the Castle to Crown Square. As the motorcade pulled into the square the Guard was brought up into a Royal Salute and a fanfare was sounded by the trumpeters of the Dragoon Guard Band from the steps of the Scottish National War Memorial. Her Majesty was greeted by the Governor of the Castle, Maj Gen Nicholas Parker, Late Royal Green Jackets, who offered the Keys, an ancient ceremony symbolic of the fortress being held in trust for the monarch by her Governor. Maj Gen Hall, our Colonel, was then presented to Her Majesty and in turn presented a number of Regimental dignitaries including Field Marshal Sir John and Lady Stanier, Lt Gen Sir Norman and Lady Arthur, Maj Gen and the Honourable Mrs Charles Ramsay, Maj Gen and Mrs Roland Notley and the Commanding Officer and his wife Bernadette Blackman.



Tam Dalyell MP and Lt Col Hugh Blackman verify that the Lord Provost has the 2nd Dragoon screen presented to the City in 1994.

With the Commanding Officer escorting Field Marshal The Duke of Kent and the Colonel of the Regiment escorting Her Majesty, the entourage entered the Great Hall for the reception. Around 300 guests were present, the vast majority of whom were retired officers and Association members and their spouses. The serving Regiment was also represented by a cross rank group of guests ranging from Trooper through the Regimental Sergeant Major to Squadron Leader. Towards the close of the reception the Colonel of the Regiment gave a short speech in which he thanked Her Majesty for her continuing commitment and support to the Regiment over her fifty years as Colonel in Chief, a time of tumultuous change in the country and the world as a whole.

Following the presentation of a gold hatpin with Cairngorm stone in its crown into which an image of our cap badge had been engraved, Her Majesty presented Duke of Kent Medals for service to the Regiment to Maj Gen Stopford, Maj Wheeler, Maj McGarrell and WO1 Brooks. Her Majesty then departed the reception to visit The Scottish National Memorial escorted by the Chairman, Maj Gen Sir John Swinton, as well as The Duke of Kent, Colonel and Commanding Officer. On this, Her Majesty's first visit to the Memorial, she viewed our Regimental



The Colonel and Commanding Officer escort The Duke of Kent to the Castle Officers' Mess.



The Commanding Officer meets the GOC 2nd Division and Governor of Edinburgh Castle, Maj Gen Nick Parker and Brig Robbie Scott-Bowden, Commander 52 Infantry Brigade



The fanfares, including the Carabinier Reveille, were played by Trumpeters of the Dragoon Guard Band.

Book of Remembrance and that of The Black Watch (The Royal Highland Regiment). As the Royal Party re-emerged from the Memorial the combined Band of The Dragoon Guards and our own Pipes and Drums together with reception guests and members of the public greeted them. A magnificent Beating to Quarters was then performed in Crown Square. At its conclusion the Pipe Major broke ranks and advanced to the steps of the Memorial to present a copy of the Pipes and Drums newly released CD, Parallel Tracks, to Her Majesty. A picture of this wonderful scene, a delighted looking Sovereign talking to her Pipe Major while clasping a copy of the CD, was subsequently displayed prominently across many national newspapers the very next day. Our Colonel in Chief then departed to three deafening cheers from onlookers, led by the Regimental Sergeant Major.

Following Her Majesty's departure, the Deputy Colonel in Chief was escorted to the Castle Officers'



LCpl Chart commanded the Guard for the Reception.



Sgt O'Neill receiving his Long Service and Good Conduct award from the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief.

Mess to award Sgt O'Neil his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Sgt O'Neil had been injured whilst off duty and is now in the care of the Central Scotland Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre in Murdounstoun Castle. It was a brief and moving ceremony attended by Sgt O'Neil, close members of his family, the Regimental Sergeant Major and Commanding Officer.

The annual officer's dinner held that night at the Playfair Library was attended by some 130 guests including the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment and a number of other prominent guests including Monsieur Pol Roger, Mr Robin Blair, Lord Lyon of Scotland, Capt David Younger, secretary to The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, the Reverend Charlie Robertson JP, Minister of the Canongate Church and Queen's Chaplain in Scotland and Maj Gen Nicholas Parker, GOC 2 Div. The Colonel of the Regiment and Commanding Officer spoke of the challenges of the past year and those of the year to come in what were both very well received speeches. It should also be noted that Mrs Hall very kindly organised a ladies' dinner that night at the Royal Over-Seas League. Some thirty ladies attended what was a very enjoyable evening with many old friends catching up for the first time in some years.

The final event of a quite excellent gathering was a lunch for officers and their wives at the officers' mess Craighall. Attended by just over sixty people it provided an excellent conclusion to a memorable weekend. The Regimental Signals Officer, Capt Johnny Hanlon, gave a quite excellent slide show presentation to those who attended with nearly all remarking quite how much had been achieved by the Regiment over the last year or so.

The gathering was undoubtedly one of those occasions that touched all those who attended, not least our Colonel in Chief whose gracious presence provided



The Colonel made the presentations and introductions.



Brig Simon Allen making notes for later.



Brig Allen with Barry and Helen Liston enjoying the moment; The Earl and Countess Haig beyond Her Majesty.



Lt Col Aidan Sprot was in splendid form.



During the Colonel's Address, the RSM, Regimental Secretary, the Lord Provost and Maj Felix Wheeler (Crown Equerry) paid avid attention.



Brig Mel Jameson talked with Lord and Lady Haig.



Warrant Officer Class 1 Paul Brooks received the Duke of Kent Medal from the Colonel-in-Chief.

the focal point for all events. It was our great privilege to be able to host The Queen in this Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee Year and provide an opportunity for the wider regimental family to give thanks for our Colonel in Chief's long support to the Regiment. Of course the main and surrounding events could not have been possible without the support and encouragement of a considerable number of people from many agencies too numerous to name in this article but the goodwill shown by all shows the kind regards in which we, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, are held in Scotland and particularly Edinburgh. For one brief moment, which many shall remember with fondness, the 'Greys' had come home.

REFLECTIONS OF 2002



Maj Johnny Biggart was next in line after the Regimental Secretary and Rhiannon Binks.



The Deputy Colonel-in-Chief with Capt John and Jill Dawes.



Maj Gen Sir John Swinton, Chairman of Trustees of the Scottish National War Memorial escorted Her Majesty to the Regimental Roll of Honour.



Captain Leigh Sharpe rehearsed the Dragoon Guard Band whilst the cleaners pressed their uniforms.



The Regimental Standard was paraded every evening at the tattoo.



Her Majesty prepares to leave with her Lady in Waiting, Lady Elton.



The entourage arrived at the Mess to Pipe Calls.



Her Majesty appeared to enjoy the occasion as much as the guests at the Reception.



Drum Major Orr and Ramillies prepare for the final March Off.



Lt Ed O'Brien ensured that everyone arrived on time.



A reminder of more normal activities...



The Challenger almost lost in the crowds on Princes St for the Cavalcade.

SCOTLAND FOREVER

By Captain RL Clayton

The 'Scotland Forever' project aimed to reinforce the Regiment's public image in Scotland, through a recruiting and advertising surge during the summer, linked into the Regiment's participation in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2002.

One of the main efforts was to emphasise 'SCOTS DG' as a title and 'Scotland's Cavalry' as a recruiting 'brand', along with the Regimental Website: www.scotsdg.com. Using Radio, Newspaper and Poster advertising, the central theme of Lady Butler's 'Scotland Forever!' image was merged with a Challenger 2 tank to become the backdrop for this year's marketing campaign. 'Scotland Forever 02' took in a variety of events that began with the Pipes and Drums piping tour around Scotland in July. They spent a week at the Inverness and then played at events in Aberfeldy, Bannockburn and at Moy, for the refurbished Stone.

With over seventy officers and soldiers committed to the Tattoo, this became the main focus of late July and most of August. As preparations began, Scotland experienced some of the heaviest rainfall ever and we were all soaked to the bone in several rehearsals.

Luckily this was the last of it and the weather largely held off for most other performances. In addition to the Mounted Troop, Light Troop and Sabre Troop provided the real military excitement to the Tattoo this year, demonstrating a Balkans style 'Cordon and search' operation on some shifty Balkan farmers with an old Massey Ferguson tractor and trailer. As you might expect the baddies did not co-operate with the patrol, leading to a noisy fire fight and an excuse to bring on the Sabre CVR(T)s to save the day. (Sadly the Esplanade was not up to letting a Challenger 2 loose!) In complete contrast, the Pipes and Drums and Mounted Troop then entered for a short musical ride and a very poignant rendition of 'Amazing Grace' with the Band of the Scots Guards, before marching off the Esplanade.

The Regiment was especially lucky on 5 August, to be performing for our Colonel in Chief, Her Majesty the Queen, on the last night of her Golden Jubilee celebrations. The clear, warm weather provided the ideal backdrop for a very special night and a magnificent firework display to celebrate her return after a break of some 30 years.



The Scotland Forever Team delighted crowds across the country.

Few will forget the Tattoo Cavalcade on 1 August, when the Pipes and Drums, Mounted Troop and a Challenger 2 from the Regiment paraded down Princes Street. All the logistic and access problems faded as WO2 McInnes and I fulfilled childhood dreams by driving a tank through the crowds on Princes Street! Despite a near miss on a policeman we failed to take out any traffic lights whilst dipping the barrel in salute to the GOC.

In addition, the 'Scotland Forever' recruiting surge took place over the last week of July and first ten days of August. This saw the strengthened RRT road show with its Challenger 2 Tank, being supplemented by four 4-man Contact Teams based at their homes in Glasgow, Paisley, Hamilton and Bathgate. Each Team's aim was to raise the Regiment's profile in their local communities and to bring likely candidates into see the RRT and our tank. The surge took the RRT from Redford Barracks, to various Leisure and Shopping centres all over the Lowlands and finally Greenock Green Fair. We were very lucky to have our own Transporters and outriders from 8 Regt RLC in Catterick. With our particular role, it is no use recruiting without the hardware to show any potential recruits. The new QOY Squadrons at Cupar and Ayr kindly lent us several Sabre CVR(T)s for much of the summer. The Challenger 2 came from the RAC Mobile Display team for several weeks. These were massive

crowd pullers and coupled with lively and motivated young soldiers spread over the Lowlands during the surge, we are slowly seeing the results, hopefully to be converted to more grey berets.

In terms of advertising we moved into new areas this year using radio adverts and a huge poster campaign using a modernised version of Lady Butler's 'Scotland Forever!' Despite the best-laid plans to have these displayed at prominent points in Edinburgh and Glasgow the exorbitant cost led us to use 'Ad-Vans' instead. Consisting of a large lorry with huge posters on each side, these spent several days driving around likely recruiting areas in the Lowlands in the vicinity of the Contact teams and the RRT roadshow. The Radio advert was aired on Beat 106 FM, a popular radio station that covers most of the Lowlands and the Borders. It seemed to spark some interest and led to our RRT locations being well attended.

The success of reforming D Squadron for 2002, is indicative of the success of previous drives but the Regiment still needs to maintain this recruiting momentum. The SCOTS DG Regimental Recruiting Team has been one of the most effective of all RRTs due to a mixture of hard work, long hours and well directed effort to reinforce the successes. 'Scotland Forever!'

THE REGIMENTAL DINNER

Officers of the Regiment dined in the Playfair Library of The University of Edinburgh on Friday 29 November 2002 in the presence of their Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO ADC(P). Major General JMFC Hall CB OBE, Colonel of the Regiment, presided and Lieutenant Colonel HH Blackman, Commanding Officer gave the Regimental report. Captain JDB Younger JP, General Sir Michael Gow GCB DL, RO Blair Esq LVO WS, Lord Lyon, Major General NR Parker CBE, Major E Harding-Newman MBE, Reverend C Robertson JP and M. C Pol Roger were guests of the Regiment. The Music programme was compiled and directed by Captain L Sharpe and The Band of The Dragoon Guards; the Pipe Sets were presented by Pipe Major DJ Potter and Regimental Pipers.

Those attending were:

Field Marshal Sir John Stanier GCB MBE DL
 Lieutenant General Sir Norman Arthur KCB
 Major General CA Ramsay CB OBE
 Major General CRS Notley CB CBE
 Major General SRA Stopford CB MBE
 Brigadier SRB Allen
 Brigadier MS Jameson CBE

IF Albert Esq
 Major RR Alers-Hankey
 Captain TJ Bateman
 Colonel AJ Bateman OBE
 Major JU Biggart
 Lieutenant Colonel RJ Binks
 Captain M Black late Royals
 Lieutenant Colonel MD Blacklock
 Captain ERR Boileau
 Captain LM Borwick
 Colonel PTS Bowlby TD
 Major CTO Brannigan
 Captain TRG Brown
 Captain K Brown
 Major TJStC Brown
 Colonel The Lord Bruntisfield OBE MC TD DL
 Captain NA Burnet
 Major JH Callander DL
 Captain JD Campbell
 Captain BJ Cattermole
 Reverend MC Cowper
 2nd Lieutenant GG Craig
 Captain DDE Crawford
 Major AJ Crease MBE BEM
 DS D Cross MVO
 Captain AN Cuming
 Captain RC Cunningham-Jardine
 Tam Dalyell MP
 Captain WHL Davies
 Captain JS Dawes MC
 Captain CG Dobeson
 The Marquess of Downshire
 Major PJ P Drummond
 His Hon Judge Dyer
 Sir Archibald Edmondstone Bt
 Captain RA Elliott Lockhart
 Captain AAC Farquarson of Invercauld MC
 Captain JC Findlay
 Captain WJK Galbraith
 A Gilchrist Esq OBE
 Captain PJS Gray
 Captain JM Hanlon
 Captain ME Hayward
 Colonel J Henderson TD
 Major RY Henderson TD
 RE Henderson Esq QC
 Captain MC Henry RN
 Major JL James
 Lieutenant MHS Jameson
 Major AMA Johnston
 Captain DJ Kahn
 Major CF Lambert
 Major J Leslie
 Major DAM LeSueur
 Lieutenant RF LeSueur
 Major MHL Lycett CBE

Captain TN McEwan Scots Guards
 Captain RD MacGregor
 Captain PG Mackesy
 Major WGL MacKinlay
 Captain RC MacLachlan
 Major RWB MacLean TD
 Lieutenant JFS McLeman
 Captain RN Macmillan
 Major HI Macrae
 Major JC Malcolmson
 Lieutenant AD Marjoribanks
 Captain JPF Marsh
 Major SGP Martyr
 Captain CKB Melville
 Captain DS Mentz
 Major CM Mitchell-Rose TD
 SA Moore Esq
 Ch Insp BP Muir
 Lieutenant ED O'Brien
 Lieutenant Colonel MD Oliver
 Captain NS Orr
 Major MDA Pocock
 Captain DL Prebble
 Major W Raitt
 Captain WB Ramsay
 Colonel RAB Ramsden
 Major NH Robertson
 Colonel JMA Ross
 Major DGP Scholfield
 Major DMA Scott
 Major JKC Scott
 Lieutenant Colonel JFB Sharples OBE
 Major MK Shennan
 Lieutenant Colonel DAH Sievwright
 Major R Sligh
 Captain DB Soulsby
 Captain AF Spink
 Captain J Springthorpe
 Lieutenant Colonel AM Sprot of Haystoun MC JP
 Major MJ Stanley
 Major ADG Stephen
 Lieutenant JE Stone
 Captain JF Swetenham
 Reverend AJ Totten MBE
 Major AR Trotter
 JH Trotter Esq
 JJ Watts Esq
 Captain CA Webster
 Captain IS Wheatley
 J Wheatley Esq
 Major GF Wheeler
 Major KJ Williams
 Major HJ Willis
 Major AR Wood
 Major TA Wood



M. Christian Pol Roger was delighted to receive a print of Sir Winston Churchill's horse - Pol Roger.



Alastair Cuming, Christian Melville and Jonathan Marsh.



Charlie Lambert, Rory MacLachlan, John Campbell and Felix Wheeler.



Lt Fraser McLeman, the author of a successful Reception.



Anthony Wood, Maj Alex Trotter, Gen Charles Ramsay and Capt Foster Swetenham attended to the speech...



.... as did the Chairman of the Association.



The Pipers played a Set to complement the Dragoon Guard Band.

THE REGIMENTAL TRUST 2003

Registered in Edinburgh, No CR41113

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Colonel of the Regiment

Ex-Officio Trustees

MAJOR GENERAL CRS NOTLEY CB CBE - Chairman, Regimental Association

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HH BLACKMAN - Commanding Officer

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 1 AD EWING - Regimental Sergeant Major

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REGIMENTAL TRUST ALLOCATIONS 2002/03

Charitable Donations (1)	8,000
Individual Aid Fund	10,000
Regimental Association	6,400
Regimental Support (2)	22,500
Property and Archives	1,200
Home Headquarters	8,100
Audit & Legal	2,500
Investment Management	3,500
Administration/Meetings	500
Regimental Magazine	6,500
Regimental Cadets	1,500
Recruiting/PR	6,000
Property Insurance	2,300
To Investment	7,000
Total	£86,000

(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, British Commonwealth Ex-Servicemen's League, Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, Royal Hospital Chelsea Chapel, RMA Sandhurst Memorial Chapel and Blair Gymkhana.

(2) Includes Sport, Adventurous Training.

Home Headquarters and Regimental Museum

The close of 2001 left unanswered questions over the future of the Museum, some of which were resolved during 2002, but others continued for further consideration. In January, we were delighted to learn that sufficient floor space would be made available, albeit on a floor one flight above ground level. Thanks are due to HQ 52 Brigade (who changed their title from Lowland to Infantry on 1 April) for identifying rooms near to the present Home HQ so that both the Museum and HQ would in time occupy adjacent accommodation in the New Barracks. Provided that financial constraints are overcome, this new site opposite The Royal Scots will prove more accessible to visitors who use the main Edinburgh Castle route.

During the year the Museum Trustees made substantial progress to identify the broad costs of preparing the site, removal and consideration for new displays. They continue to receive strong support from the Scottish Museums Council and special advisers. In the meanwhile SCOTS DG Museum receives many favourable comments from the wide range of visitors. In support of the Museum, Miss Susan O'Brien manages the Regimental Shop with continuing enthusiasm and efficiency. She is assisted by Mrs Christine Kidd with part time help from Mr Douglas Stewart and Mr Alan Torrance. Amongst the volunteer helpers are Jim Murphy, Tom and Pat Lorimer, Jim McDonald, Sheila

Henderson, Margaret Moffett, Peter Abercrombie and Mary Pathmanathan.

As an adjunct to Museum activities, and managed from Home HQ, the Archives attract many enquiries. Initially these are investigated by Major James Scott for a reply signed by the Regimental Secretary. Assistance from volunteer helpers is always welcome and during the year much valuable work was completed by Bill Henderson and Jim Murphy, who continue to improve and develop the computer data. They were joined by Peter Slater, and, for part of the year,



Mr Raymond Anderson Green, owner of Teelin Bay received the SCOTS DG Challenge Cup at Ayr Racecourse on 19 April.



The Regimental Council, November 2002. Clockwise: Blackman, Allen, Nottley, Sharples, Binks, Hall, Mitchell-Rose, Malcolmson, Melville, Crease, Pocock, Ewing, Jameson. Empty chair: Lewis (playing golf)

Rebecca Scobie, both of whom delved into specific matters such as the 1934 Ride of the Greys and Drum Horses. Hopefully, results of their work will be available in published form in due course.

Over fifty items arrived at Home HQ, including a dozen collections of photographs or original paintings or reproductions and from the 1st Bn 366th Regt, 91st US Army Div a framed print of 'Prayer at Valley Forge'. We received several gifts of documents including a personal account of a soldier's life during the Crimean campaign and an important original note book containing the list of casualties suffered by the Carabiniers in Burma between March and June 1944. We are grateful for all such donations which complement the Archives or displays.

Two sets of gifts are of particular interest and in due course could be displayed. The family of William Casey presented a vast collection of sporting cups, medals and trophies awarded to him at various military tournaments between the wars. His obituary is recorded in this volume. The other valuable gift contains the Crimean medals and a portrait of William Connell. We are attempting to find more information on this gallant man who in 1855 was awarded one of the first Distinguished Conduct Medals created in 1854.

All matters affecting Home HQ of necessity pass through the Office Staff and we are fortunate to have Anne Romer as the Association Membership Secretary and first rate typist. Her life has been less easy of late for Jason Bartlett, after only a few months, decided to leave the Civil Service. Although the difficulties of covering the post of Chief Clerk are sadly not unknown to us, it took a while before we were pleased to welcome back Gerry McFarlane, our erstwhile Warrant Officer. His knowledge of the Regiment is invaluable and his professional expertise in photography already proves useful. We hope that we can draw on his experience over the years, especially with development of the property lists and histories. His presence provides welcome assistance to Colonel Roger Binks and Captain Jimmy Springthorpe, both of whom attended the RAC Regimental Secretaries annual meeting and dinner held in Bovington and afterwards stayed for two days training on the computer system to manage potential officers et al. Who says that old dogs cannot be taught new tricks!

As previously Home HQ has welcomed temporary additions for specific projects and this year was no exception. Initially Captain Roger Clayton occupied the Recruiting Team room to plan the 'Forever Scotland' campaign; he was replaced by Lieutenant Fraser McLeman for the intensive preparations for the

November Reception. Both of these events are reported elsewhere, and it was a pleasure to have them with us to add to the merry round of welfare, newsletters, magazine, Regimental Race, Cavalry Memorial, Remembrance, Christmas cards, music promotion, recruiting, funds management, archive questions, press releases and so on.

The allocation of a box at the Tattoo, by kind permission of GOC 2nd Division, provided an ideal opportunity on 23 August to thank friends of the Regiment at a supper in the Castle Officers' Mess. On this occasion a special award was made by Dougie Stevenson of BGS Scotdisc to thank the Edinburgh Woollen Mills for their positive and effective marketing of 'Highland Cathedral'. It is hoped that the new release 'Parallel Tracks' will prove equally successful.

During the year the Regimental Secretary represented the Regiment at official events mostly in Edinburgh. 15 January - The Duke of Westminster opened the refurbished Cheshire Military Museum in Chester, where several of the Carabinier artefacts are held and displayed. 1 March - The Princess Royal opened the Edinburgh Erskine Home built beside the Murray Home of the Scottish Veterans Residences, followed by a reception at The Drum. 3 July - The Prince of Wales attended the 75th Anniversary of the opening of The Scottish National War Memorial, and afterwards, in passing, commented that the Regiment has a fine line in tweed.



Mrs Chapman's grandfather served in the Royal Scots Greys and was a Yeoman Warder at The Tower of London. On 20 August 2002 she handed over his Greys Illustrated History to the Colonel, witnessed by the Resident Governor, Maj Gen Geoffrey Field

Home HQ also made arrangements for the Council and Trust Meetings held in April in Chester, courtesy of Headquarters The Cheshire Regiment and in November in the Court Martial Rooms at Edinburgh Castle, as depicted. The Association AGM was again held in the Royal Hospital Chelsea. In addition Museum business continues to be conducted at Home HQ and hopefully a workable solution and plan for the new site can soon be found.

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Registered in Edinburgh, No CR44590

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Major HI Macrae
Mr JM Hill

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HONORARY OFFICERS

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Tam Dalyell Esq MP

SD Lewis Esq

Monsieur Christian Pol Roger

Major JKC Scott

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The highlight for 2002 was without doubt the Regimental Reception held in Edinburgh Castle in November and reported elsewhere in the Journal. The members of the Association and their wives who attended had a special and most enjoyable day and to be able to meet The Queen or The Duke of Kent made the day even more memorable. We were proud to be involved in celebrations for this Golden Jubilee year, but were saddened to learn of the death, so soon after that of Princess Margaret, of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, consort of our former Colonel-in-Chief, His Late Majesty King George VI.

It is pleasing to report that the Branches of the Association are in good heart. They all hold regular meetings during the year, an AGM and attend local Remembrance Parades. Additionally a very successful Scottish Night was held at Redford Barracks and later a Reunion Dinner for A Squadron, Royal Scots Greys. In August several members took part in the Festival Cavalcade in Edinburgh. The selfless devotion of the Colonel of the Regiment and Sarah Hall in attending almost every Branch Reunion Dinner is an example to us all.

The Association is fortunate in having so many dedicated Branch Secretaries. Their sterling efforts are much appreciated. Of particular note this year are Mr Ian Cook (Glasgow) for arranging the Bannockburn gathering and Mr Jim Murphy (Edinburgh) for arranging the Greys A Squadron reunion and also for his work in locating the site of the grave of Sergeant Major John Grieve, who was awarded the VC after Balaklava. Efforts continue to mark his grave appropriately and also to locate in Ireland that of his fellow Grey, Sergeant Henry Ramage.

At the Association AGM in the Royal Hospital Chelsea we were pleased to confer well deserved Life Membership on Major AP Haynes, and Messrs JL Foreman, JC Randall, RS Richardson, K Pritchard and RB Evans. For the record, after ten years an increase to the annual subscription from £3 to £5 was approved to take effect on 1 January 2003. Membership of the Association brings the pleasure of renewing old contacts and sharing memories. It is especially important for those far from large centres of population and we welcome anyone who wishes to experience the enjoyment of Branch activities. Please seek out your friends and help strengthen the Association.



AGM at RH Chelsea. (seated) Gen Roland Notley, Colonel, Col Tony Bateman; (mid) Mo Potter, John Forman, Regt Sec, Dick Hill, Jim Murphy, Capt Jimmy Springthorpe; (rear) Colin Bithell, Col John Ross, Rod Evans.

BRANCH REPORTS

Aberdeen and North of Scotland

The Branch continues in the pattern we have recently adopted, with annual dinners alternating between Aberdeen and Inverness. On 28 September 2002 we met for dinner at the Royal British Legion Club in Inverness and the evening was much enjoyed, with a number of our northern members and their ladies, whom we had not met before at our functions, attending. These included Tony and Leslie Boyle (Dallas), Ian Durrand (Wick), David Fraser (Inverness), Duncan Macdonald (Abriachan by Inverness), Donnie and Norma MacKay (Helmsdale), and Billy and Kathy Hendry (Tomatin). Other northern members who joined us again were Charles Alden and George Manson (Huntly), David and Sandra Sutherland (Wick), and George and Barbara Thomson (Lossiemouth). From further south came Charles and Sandra Crabb from Brechin, and Hugh and Irene Stewart (Portlethen); and of course our Secretary Alistair Black accompanied by Ann. Colonel Aidan Spot once again undertook the long journey from Peebles. General and Mrs Hall made the noble effort of joining us for, alas, his final visit to the Branch as Colonel of the Regiment, flying in from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, just in time for the dinner and returning on the first plane the next morning. We are immensely grateful to both of them for all they have done to support our Branch and its functions.

Glasgow and West of Scotland

This was a good year for the Branch starting with a visit to Ayr Races on Friday 19 April to support the races that afternoon including the SCOTS DG and ILPH Hunter Chase. Everyone enjoyed themselves and most managed to make it to dinner that evening at the Station Hotel, Ayr. It was the Annual Branch Dinner and is always quite lively following on from a day at the races.

Once again the Bannockburn week-end was the main event of the year when some 175 members of all Association branches gathered on the Friday evening of 12 July at the King Robert Hotel and depart on the Sunday 14 July after lunch. It is a week-end when members come from far away places. In recent years these have included Australia, Canada, and America. The main party was on Saturday evening and this year we were very pleased that The Chairman of the

On Remembrance Sunday a small party joined the Royal British Legion parade and service in Banchory, and adjourned afterwards to the Royal British Legion Club for refreshments. We were delighted that Bill Murphy, who had dropped out of sight recently, was able to be with us.

A party from the Branch attended the Edinburgh Reception for our Colonel-in-Chief on 29 November 2002. Captain and Madam Farquharson of Invercauld came up from Norfolk and joined our group. It was a special pleasure to see them as Captain Alwyne Farquharson has been for many years Chairman of the Branch. The splendour of the Great Hall and the resonance of the bands in the courtyard will long remain in our memories.

We were distressed to learn at Christmas of Ann Black's illness, but relieved to hear that her recovery is proceeding well. She has always been a most positive and supportive presence in the Branch, and we wish her a complete and rapid recovery.

Our meetings continue on the third Wednesday in alternate months at the Royal British Legion Club at Bridge of Don, at 8pm. Visitors welcome!

Association Maj Gen Roland Notley could be with us. We were also delighted to welcome the Regimental Pipes and Drums all the way from Germany. Their presence makes it a very special occasion and our thanks go to the Commanding Officer. The hotel was completely booked out for the week end which itself was all arranged by the Branch Secretary Ian Cook.

During 2002 a new Association Banner was made for the Glasgow Branch. It carries the Eagle and Carbines badge and is beautifully embroidered in silver and gold, being so well made that it is heavy to carry on parade. The first public appearance was at the Remembrance Parade in George Square, Glasgow when it was carried by Kevin Mearns, who now holds the title of Banner Bearer for the Branch. The Banner will be dedicated at a suitable future event.

Ian Cook organised a walk along Hadrian's Wall for a few keen members and managed to raise over a hundred pounds for branch funds with his heroic effort. This might be repeated another year if enough volunteers can be found.

Edinburgh and East of Scotland

The year 2002 has been a very busy period for the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch, starting with the AGM at the Royal British Legion Scotland Central Branch Club in Edinburgh on Monday 14 January. Fifteen members attended and after a good meeting, steel helmets and buckets of sand were produced to add credence to the war stories.

A Scottish Night was held at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in Redford Cavalry Barracks on Saturday 9 February. Some eighty members, wives and guests, including staff from Home Headquarters and the Museum, attended what proved to be a really good night. After an excellent meal we were entertained by the 'Brigadiers' ceilidh band and it was good to see so many people up on the dance floor. After the success of the evening we hope to repeat this event.

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held at the Bruntsfield Hotel in Edinburgh on Saturday 20 April where we were served an excellent meal, the Colonel of the Regiment attended and gave us a briefing on what has been happening with the Regiment. He also informed us of the changes in soldiering in an Armoured Regiment compared to when many of the Association members were young. He also told one of the best jokes we have heard this year, unfortunately we are unable to print it. Major Aidan Stephen attended as a representative from the Regiment and Major Hamish Macrae, Musicians' Branch Chairman, entertained us with a few tunes on the pipes.

On Saturday 19 October a reunion dinner was held in the Garrison Mess at Redford Cavalry Barracks for ex members of A Squadron, Royal Scots Greys. The meal was excellent and the evening itself exceeded all our expectations. Most members had not seen each other for over 31 years and it was good to renew old friendships. It was also amazing just how little many of us had changed. Unfortunately due to defence cuts the mess was unable to supply us with buckets of sand and steel helmets, this obviously caused many to experience severe headaches on the Sunday morning. It is hoped that another reunion will be held in the year 2004 when we expect to exceed fifty who attended this year.

Branch Membership has increased a little more this year and it is good to see it growing. Meetings are held most months on a Sunday evening in the Tradeston Ex-Serviceman's Club and all are welcome, so please contact the Branch Secretary for details.

The traditional Edinburgh Festival Cavalcade, which took place on Sunday 4 August was enhanced this year to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee. This afforded the opportunity for Regimental Associations in Scotland to parade along with the Tattoo and Festival Performers from around the world. We were delighted to have Bob Richardson and Colin Wilson from the London Branch to parade the Association Standard at the head of our Contingent.



Davie Shearer was appointed Branch Piper.

On Monday 4 November the annual City of Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance opened beside the Scott Monument on Princes Street. Mr J McDonald laid the Regimental Wreath and the Branch was represented by Mr GC Campbell and Mr J Reid.

The Remembrance Service was held on Sunday 10 November. Members formed up at the Floral Clock in Princes Street Gardens then following a short march to the Greys' Memorial where the Service was held. As normal, Padre Cowper conducted the Service with the Branch Chairman, Capt JD Campbell and Mr J Randall laid the Wreaths. Surprisingly Jim Randall has not missed a Remembrance Sunday in 47 years,



A pensive gathering at the Greys Memorial, Princes Street.

yet this is the first time he has been given the honour of laying the wreath. As usual, we had a very good turnout and afterwards members retired to the Royal British Legion for drinks and a buffet lunch.

The Regimental Reception for HM The Queen in the Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle on Friday 29 November included 26 members and their wives from the Edinburgh Branch, who thoroughly enjoyed the historic event. Afterwards, over one hundred Association members retired to the Garrison Sergeants' Mess at Redford Cavalry Barracks where drinks and an excellent lunch were served. That afternoon a presentation of a framed SCOTS DG print was made to the PMC WO2 John McCallum Scots Guards on behalf of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch of the SCOTS DG Association with thanks for allowing us to use the Mess, for the service provided



Branch Sec presenting to PMC, WO2 McCallum.

by their staff on so many occasions and the excellent relationship we have developed. Hopefully we have now found a most suitable venue for our Branch Dinner.

North East of England

The Jarvis Hotel, Wetherby, was the venue for a 2002 Branch Gathering and Buffet Supper, which saw us break from our usual formal dinner, due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak in early 2001. The six months postponement would have resulted in two reunion dinners within 6 months and this was felt to be too expensive for members. Not wanting to wait 18 months before meeting again, we organized a gathering and buffet, by way of a compromise. Forty people attended with the Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs Hall supporting us, as usual. We were unable to invite a serving member from the regiment to visit, due to the pressures of regimental life. Instead, the Commanding Officer wrote, and his letter was passed around during the evening. We were also very pleased to welcome the Vice Chairman of the Association, Major Hamish Macrae, on his first visit to Wetherby and it was nice to welcome Captain Jimmy Springthorpe and Teresa from Home Headquarters again. The Edinburgh Branch was also represented. Tam Lorimer and Davie Yates, ably assisted by Tam Purvis, who travelled up from Fleet to be with us, spent the evening 'dishing the dirt' on Chairman Mo Potter. To see them together enjoying a yarn is what the Regimental family is all about. Thank you, Gentlemen, for your support, you know that you're always welcome. Major General Hall also won a pair of binoculars in the raffle and couldn't wait to get back to Chelsea to 'try them out'. Thankfully, Mrs Hall assured us that she would be in close attendance to monitor subjects for observation.

The Cavalry weekend, in May, saw the Chairman, Secretary and Committee member, Alan Bowden



Rod Evans (Secretary), Gen Jonathan Hall, Maurice Potter (Chairman), Maj Hamish Macrae (Association Vice Chairman).

attend the AGM, the London Branch dinner and the Memorial Service in Hyde Park, on the Sunday. Prior to the AGM on Saturday afternoon, the Branch Secretary unfortunately got stuck in a lift in the Royal Hospital and missed Lunch. After raising the alarm, he was assured by some In-Pensioners 'on the outside' of the lift, that they would go for help but he couldn't help wondering if they would remember why they were going for it! They were true to their word and he was released in time to be made a life member for services to the Branch, which came as a complete surprise.

On Remembrance Day, the Chairman and Secretary laid a wreath in the Memorial Gardens, Beverley, following a service in the Minster. The weather was very poor and heavy rain had everyone scurrying to the service. Fortunately the rain had stopped before the wreath laying ceremony took place. Arrangements

were also made for a wreath to be laid on the Royal Scots Greys Memorial Tablet in the Presbyterian Church, York. Our usual representatives, Ivison and Louise Wheatley, were not available this year due to commitments abroad.

The highlight of the year and covered in detail elsewhere in this Magazine, was the Regimental Reception for the Association in Edinburgh on 29 November 2002. Those from the Branch who had expressed a wish to attend were fortunate enough to be invited and thoroughly enjoyed the day. Everyone met up in the Garrison WOs' & Sgts' Mess at Redford Barracks, before being transported to the reception in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle. Fortunately, all of the NE Branch members were lucky enough to meet and speak to Her Majesty even though we were in different groups. After Beating to Quarters it was back to Redford Barracks for Lunch, before the long trip home and a chance to reflect on a special day for the Branch in this Golden Jubilee year.



'Old Friends' - Mo Potter stands to hear his fate from Davie Yates, Tam Lorimer, Yorkie Robinson and Tam Purvis.

We are sad to report the passing, in 2002, of Mr George Hunt (Greys 43 - 46) who was a life member of the Branch. Those joining the Branch during the year are Mr K Clayson, Mr J Curry, Mr A Franklin, Mr EJH Mill, Mr JP Starkey and Mr PL Otley.

North West of England

The Branch continues to thrive despite the fact that soldiers leaving the Regiment who reside in our area have virtually dried up. We have been able to recruit a few people on our travels around the region and this has to be our way of sustaining the Branch strength.

In April 2002 we held our annual dinner and the same weekend, we hosted the Regimental Trust meeting in Chester. This was a great success and the dinner was boosted by the attendance of most of the members of the Trust. On the Sunday morning we held an Association Service at Chester Cathedral and General Roland Notley read the lesson. The Cathedral visitors that morning were delighted to hear the Piper playing Amazing Grace, the acoustics in the Cathedral certainly enhanced his fine playing.


We have been around the various locations this year and we shall continue to visit Stockport, Wallasey, Denbigh and Menai Bridge again in 2003. It certainly brings people out of the woodwork that we would not normally see if we stayed in Chester!

The Branch notes with sadness the passing of Paddy Lynch and Philip Mantle who were both well known to all our members. In November we held a memorial service for Philip at All Saints Church, Hoole, and his son Michael and his family attended.

The Annual Reunion was held at the United Services Club Chester in November 2002 and many of you will remember Janet Kelly (now Mabbut) who attended with her husband Ray. Janet generously donated a Carabineer's Car Badge to the Branch to be auctioned to raise funds and it was eventually knocked down at £56. Sunday morning saw us on parade and it was pleasing to note that we are the largest cap badge contingent in Chester.

A party from the Branch attended Edinburgh Castle for the visit of HM The Queen in November and those who made the trip thoroughly enjoyed the occasion

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London and South East of England

This very busy year commenced with the Annual General Meeting at The Royal Hospital Chelsea, with Colonel John Ross in the chair and only the committee present. After the inspection of the accounts, Colin Wilson agreed to continue to be wreath bearer, Bob Richardson agreed to continue as standard bearer, John Rochester agreed to be membership secretary, John Foreman agreed to continue as secretary and treasurer and Lieutenant Colonel Dave Roberts agreed to be our new Vice Chairman. The committee which includes Major Tarry Shaw, Len Keyworth, Derreck Moring, Alastair McLean Gibbs, Paul Savage, Tony Gray, and Norman Hopkins, were re-elected 'En-Bloc'. Arrangements were then made for the Nunshigum Lunch and the Annual Reunion Dinner and Cavalry Memorial Weekend. The lunch, arranged by Bob Richards, took place at the Anchor Inn at Shepperton in April. We were pleased that Dick Teese, who was in the battle at Nunshigum, was able to attend and listen as the battle citation was read. He proposed the toast to absent friends, and their health was drunk, thanks to the generosity of Major David Scholfield, another former member of the London Branch Committee. The lunch was rounded off with our own Piper, Alastair MacLean Gibbs playing 'Flowers of the Forest'.



John Rochester delivers the Branch address.

The Annual reunion dinner took place at The Gascoigne Rooms, Union Jack Club, on Saturday 11 May. We had a good attendance and many other Branches were represented as the Association Annual General Meeting had taken place earlier in the day at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. We were glad to welcome representatives from Edinburgh, the North East and the North West. Sadly no members of the Regiment were able to attend due to operational circumstances, however, the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General JMFC Hall, addressed the guests with a speech about the Regiment's activities in the past year. John Rochester



The Colonel, escorted by In-Pensioner Bill Cross leads the contingent at Cavalry Memorial.

proposed the toast to the Regiment; Paul Savage organised a splendid raffle and Alastair once again played the Pipes for us. As always it was a good reunion with friends old and new renewing acquaintances.

The Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Parade and Memorial Service took place in Hyde Park on Sunday 12 May 2002. This was the 78th Anniversary of the unveiling and dedication of the Cavalry Memorial. The Duke of Gloucester took the salute, the Bands of the Life Guards, Blues and Royals, Dragoon Guards, Hussars and Light Dragoons and the Band of the Royal Yeomanry lead the various divisions on parade. The weather was fine and a good number of Branch Members were on Parade to pay tribute to the memory of those who gave their lives in service to their country. Len Keyworth, Colin Wilson and Bob Richardson are our Combined Cavalry representatives, together with Paul Savage who assists.

The Queen's Golden Jubilee London Weekend Festival Procession took place on the afternoon of Tuesday 4 June 2002 along the Mall. The Regimental Association Banner was paraded by Bob Richardson, accompanied by Colin Wilson and John Rochester at the head of the Confederation of British Service Organisations, taking right of the line amongst the other Cavalry Associations. The Association Banner was taken north to be paraded in Edinburgh as part of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations in July, once again Bob Richardson was accompanied by Colin Wilson and George Aitchison was the third man.

The Field of Remembrance Service took place on Thursday 7 November 2002 at St Margarets, Westminster, at the Regimental Grave Plot in the morning at 1030 hours and in the evening at 1800 hours a short service was taken by the Rev Roger Hall. The names of the fallen were read, and SSgt J Spence of the Royal Yeomanry played the Last Post, and Alistair played the pipes. The name of Mark Bodley was read this year, the War Diary of the Scots Greys for 17 December 1942 reads, "Arrived Nofilla about 1030 hours on ridge SW of the village. On a false crest the light squadron under Major FS Bowlby and two Stuarts of the RHQ in one of which were Lt Col Fiennes and Lt M Bodley came on a position strongly held by anti-tank guns of the 15 Panzer Division, during the attack the RIO's tank was hit twice by 50mm at close range, the IO Lt M Bodley being killed and the Commanding Officer wounded. One Honey tank was set on fire and the key hill, in the ensuing action, was known as 'Honey Hill'."

Several invited members of the London Branch were introduced to Her Majesty The Queen during the



Bob Richardson and Colin Wilson carried The Banner and Regimental Wreath.

Regimental Reception at the Great Hall in the Castle, Edinburgh on Friday 29 November. To our great delight, the Colonel-in-Chief presented the former Chairman of the London Branch, Major General SRA Stopford, with the Duke of Kent Medal. The London Branch members would like to thank the Edinburgh Branch for arranging the post reception lunch at the Sergeants' Mess, Redford Barracks, and the hard work of the Home Headquarters in arranging the Reception that was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Carabiniers War Memorial Service was held on Sunday 8 December 2002 by the Royal Hospital Chelsea at 1000 hours. A brief service was taken by The Rev Canon R Thompson, wreaths were laid by the Commanding Officer, and the Chairman of the Regimental Association. SSgt J Spence of the Royal Yeomanry played the Last Post and Alistair played a Lament. The members then attended the Governor's Parade in the Figure Court of the Royal Hospital before the service in the Chapel. After the service we gathered in the In-Pensioners' Club to present our In-Pensioners with a Christmas present and card. After a buffet and a wee dram we drifted away, another year in the life of the Association over.

South West of England

Another year has passed and we have lost more comrades to the Brigade in the sky. It seems strange to be in the position of being an Old Comrade. It only seems a year or so that I was serving and doing all the things that a soldier does, but, when I sit down and think about it, it was sixteen years, this year that I was sent back to civvy street to start my life as an Old Comrade. Yet today, the memories are as fresh as if they were only yesterday. I can now appreciate how the Old Comrades that I knew, felt during my serving years felt when visiting the Regiment. Being able to talk about "my time in the Regiment" to serving soldiers is rewarding. As a serving soldier the Regimental Association is some intangible element that is there but not really a concern to me today. I know I thought that, but the Association is the link, not only to the past, but a window on the future. It is during my time as secretary of the South West Branch that I have come to realise that being a member of the Regimental family whilst serving was a good feeling, that feeling carries on throughout the time I spend in the Association and I am still a member of the Regimental family. I cannot describe how it feels when the phone rings and the voice on the other end is a pal from many years ago, or the pleasant surprise of getting a letter or an e-mail from some distant part of the world. To regain contact with long lost pals that you have not seen since you left the army is great, but it can also be sad to hear of friends who have passed away and unfortunately, it becomes a regular thing these days, as those who went before us are now getting into their later years. So whilst you enjoy years of service look forward to even better times with the Regimental Association. When your Regimental service ends join your local Association Branch and do not become one of the many that disappear, stay in touch. If you know of any past members of the Regiment who have lost touch encourage them to get in touch with their nearest branch or Home HQ at the Castle, Edinburgh for information.

Our annual dinner at the Royal British Legion Club in Salisbury was once again a great success, well supported and, as always, we were made very welcome by the secretary and his staff. We were very pleased that Major General Jonnie and Sarah Hall were able to attend as this was their last dinner with us in his capacity as Colonel of the Regiment before he hands over to Brigadier Mel Jameson. Likewise, the get-together at the Worgret Manor Hotel in Wareham provided a convivial evening which was much enjoyed by all who attended. We are looking into the feasibility of staging a further get-together in the Exeter area for

those who live deep in the South West as they find it difficult to attend our functions in the Dorset area. A number of our members attended the Cavalry Memorial Parade in London. Lieutenant Colonel Mike Oliver, our Chairman, attended the Reception for our Colonel in Chief, Her Majesty the Queen, at the Castle in Edinburgh. This was followed by the officers' dinner and ladies' lunch party, a very memorable weekend. All in all the Branch continues to thrive and we will be pleased to welcome anyone to future functions, the pattern for which is usually the Annual Branch Dinner at the Royal British Legion Club, Salisbury in October and the DRAC Gathering at the Worgret Manor Hotel, Wareham, in November.

As a post script, whilst at magazine editorial stage, we learned of the death of our stalwart friend, Major Pat Haynes in February 2003. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Lucy, Nicola and her family.

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Musicians' (Band, Pipes and Drums)

Having held a successful function late in 2001 it was decided to defer a similar event until early 2003. Members appreciated a reduced call on their pockets and were encouraged to support the geographical Branches whenever possible. We were pleased to be represented in London and elsewhere at dinners and the Jubilee events in London and Edinburgh as well as several Remembrance commemorations in November.

Our limited numbers, widespread across the globe cause difficulties in arranging gatherings, such as the

long remembered weekend at Dunblane (and in Edinburgh). Whenever the Branch next holds a ceilidh or dinner, all members of the Association are always welcome to attend.

On a very sad note, in early September, we were distraught to learn of the sudden accidental death of Henrietta, eldest daughter of Joanna and Major Hamish Macrae, our Branch Chairman. Our deepest sympathies are extended to their family.

A Squadron, Royal Scots Greys

Reunion 19 October 2002

by Mr JP Murphy

Over the past few years, at various Association events, former A Squadron, The Royal Scots Greys members often talked about having a reunion. It was only when working at Home HQ as a volunteer, and became Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch Secretary after I retired, that I realized that I had both the contacts and the time to organise one.

Fortunately the Garrison WOs' and Sgts' Mess was made available to us and we planned a full weekend of events which included a Saturday Night Reunion Dinner, Sunday Morning Church Service and Sunday Lunch, where it was intended to invite wives and other members of the Association. The Commandant

of Redford Cavalry Barracks also agreed to give us Barrack and Officers' Mess accommodation on a B&B basis. This had all the ingredients required for a good weekend. Unfortunately the accommodation was cancelled due to the impending fire fighters industrial action, as Redford was to be a base for the Green Goddess fire engines and service personnel using them. The Sergeants' Mess was still available so we decided to go ahead with the Reunion, although it was necessary to reduce the event to a dinner only.

To find ex A Squadron members The Eagle and Carbine was combed and almost three hundred people were sent a letter informing them of the reunion and



A happy reunion for A Squadron, The Greys.

asking them to let others know. I received a number of replies from people sending their regards and apologising that they were unable to attend but thought it was a great idea and asking to be informed of future reunions.

The final number for the event was fifty six but, unfortunately, Major Dennis Nevison-Andrews had an accident and Captain John Dawes was required to go into hospital. Both had really been looking forward to attending and were really sorry they could not do so. They each gave a donation from which we purchased the wine and we toasted their health.

On the evening of the dinner the tables were beautifully set up with silver goblets and Susan O'Brien our Museum and Shop Manager had made up excellent souvenir menu cards which included an old Greys toast and poem.

Guests started to arrive at 7pm and it was unbelievable how easy it was to recognise people considering most had not seen each other for over thirty years. The main comments were "good grief I don't believe that is really you" (or at least words to that effect which we are unable to print). We had all changed in some way, getting older, fatter, thinner and balder except one who shall remain nameless (but we all thought it the best one yet Joe). Prior to sitting down for the meal Gerry McFarlane took a Squadron photograph and while we were posing for it someone started singing Bonnie Mary o' Argyle and everybody joined in. This really set the atmosphere for the rest of the evening.



Rowley Duncan, Tom Young and Jim Murphy re-enacted a return to A Sqn lines from the NAAFI.



Capt Richard Elliot Lockhart remembers absent friends.

Tom McDonald 83 gave grace for what was to be an excellent six course meal then I thanked everyone for attending and read some of the apology letters from Major Malcolm Shennan, Lord Robertson of Oakridge, Tam Dalyell and Lt Gen John Coates, Australian Army. The guests were also reminded of some of the events from our past that some would rather forget, they won't be put into print as their families may read this, but it was Billy Beveridge who painted independence on the Regimental square resulting in every living in member of the Squadron having his shoes checked for paint by the Military Police. Johnny Trotter was also reminded of the time two tanks from his troop and three ARVs were bogged, a new road had to be laid and recovery took seven days. This was the Greys last exercise on tanks.

Lt Fraser McLeman who was detached from the Regiment to Home Headquarters for a short period gave us an update on the regiment and explained the vast difference between when we served and what is expected of soldiers in today's Armoured Regiments. The changes are unbelievable and we even appear to speak a different language.

Richard Elliot Lockhart offered a toast to absent friends but first asked us to spend a few minutes just calling out the names of some of them and it was good to remember those with whom we have lost contact and others who have passed away.

Dave Yates thanked us for inviting him and other fellow Greys to the reunion which he enjoyed but being B Squadron felt that he had been in the better Squadron, we humoured and thanked him for this but felt it strange how the memory is the first thing to go.

Dave Shearer who has kindly offered his services as the Edinburgh Branch Piper entertained us with a few memorable tunes which we thoroughly enjoyed but, thankfully, nobody started a sing song as we still have nightmares of Tom (Jubes) Young singing "Tell Laura I Love Her".

To say the evening was a success is a real understatement as it surpassed all our expectations, it was so good to renew old friendships and talk about some of the things we did as soldiers and what we have done since leaving the army. It reminded me of a recent Mel Gibson film called "We Were Soldiers Once and So Young".

At the end of an evening of pure nostalgia, we all agreed that we must hold another reunion but felt it should not become an annual event. We therefore hope that 2004 will prove equally successful.

MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

(At 1 January 2003; Officers supporting the Regimental Trust)

ABERDEEN AND NORTH OF SCOTLAND

Officers

Capt AAC Farquharson of Invercauld MC
Capt PG Mackesy

Members

Alden C
Anderson H
Angus PC
Beattie BR
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Boath AS
Boyle AN
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Brien A
Brown EE
Clouston DJ
Crabb C
Drever LD
Durrand I
Ferrier A
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Fraser DM
Fraser JM
Graham D
Grant J
Grewar AS
Hendry WW
MacCallum A
MacDonald DE
MacKinnon A
MacLoughlin W
Manson GD
Moore RS
Morrison JG
Murphy W
Murray J
Nicoll D
Prati J
Robertson AG

Roger DJ
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DL KStJ
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Maj MHL Lycett CBE
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Culbert AC
Liston BP
McDonald J
Millbank J
Richardson TD
Smith AN

Members

Adams J
Agnew A
Ali JY
Anderson A
Anderson R
Anderson WL
Armstrong FM
Arneil G
Bann W
Baxter G
Beagrie A
Bell HT
Bell J
Bene JR
Beveridge A
Beveridge D
Beveridge R
Black S
Bonar GM
Bowman D
Brashier RD
Brennan JJA
Brisbane G
Brookes LC
Brown T
Brunton DW
Bryson WH
Buchanan R
Burr TB
Byrne R
Callan R
Campbell GC
Campbell JTC
Carse J
Cassidy J
Castle-Smith I
Clark E
Clayton S
Convery M
Cormack JG
Coulter AB
Cousland KG
Cowan LA
Crolla J

Currie J
Currie TH
Davies Mrs RA
Davison S
Dempster NS
Dewar AW
Dewar DAW
Dewar J
Dewar WO
Dickson J
Dickson J
Dolan D
Downes T
Drever TJ
Driscoll KI
Duffy Mrs I
Duncan IR
Duncan K
Duncan R
Duncan RJ
Durrington M
Evans DJ
Ewan R
Fairbrass Mrs A
Fascia J
Feast J
Ferguson J
Ferrier BP
Ferrier HJW
Fitzpatrick M
Fowler A
Fowler S
Geddes ST
Gerrard HG
Gibb JS
Gibson M
Glonek R
Gold RS
Gorrie ST
Grant Mrs L
Gray Mrs V
Hall EL
Halpin M
Hannah R
Harris R BEM
Height DJ

Henderson AS	McKinlay D	Scobie J	Life Members	Culbert R	McCheyne B	Patterson J	SA Moore Esq
Henderson C	McKinlay W	Scougall AG	Bootland WG	Currie JE	McCrae C	Pettigrew R	JSR Nicholl Esq
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Hogg MA	McLaren SAR	Sinton J	McLaughlin WM	Denning AJ	McDade E	Reid G	Brig WCW Sloan CBE
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McBean E	Patullo S		Cameron A	Hughes TW	Mearns E	Wright DW	Cameron I
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Gibson KP	Stockton A	Boole JB	Hetherington T	Playford D	LONDON AND	Maj Gen CRS Notley CB	Life Members
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Gower M	Stubbs WR	Brookes AO	Hopkins RD	Price RJ	ENGLAND	Maj W Olphert	Foreman JL
Graham AW	Taylor AD	Brooks PD	Houghton E	Prichard D	Officers	Lt Col BW Pain	Hopkins NA
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McKeown PM	Maj WG Thomas	Emmerson A	Lancake D	Sutton JF	Capt IR Fraser	Maj SA Simmons	Brown SL
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Miller RC	Butler C	Evans RM	Lloyd J	Vaughan-Jones G	Capt WL Hannay	Capt AF Spink	Carter RA
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Musham AA	Norman WD	Fletcher M	McAlister E	Webster JK	Capt HJC Humfrey	DC Stewart Esq	Cole B
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Pittaway G		Gibbs DA	Mather M	Wildman JA	Capt JStG Kelton	Dr JSK Swanston	Cordery GW
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Scotter RH	Beasley R	Hampson OW	Oddy B	Williams RG	Maj JJ Macnamara TD	Brig PG Tynan CBE	Derrett D
Shennan J	Berry IR	Hardy MA	Ogden W	Williams W	MW Macquaker Esq	Capt GPd'A Waud	Duffy MP
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Fancourt R
 Fish D
 Foote AA
 Foster DJ
 Freer AF
 Gilpin K
 Grant DS
 Gray AF
 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
 Jones D
 Jordan RM
 Keogh-Waddock DV
 Keyworth LS
 Lee RJA
 Leggate GW
 McClean MF
 McGrath T
 McIntosh DM
 McKerral J
 McKinnon RN
 McKnight J
 McQuade WH
 McSweeney DMAC
 Maher J
 Maher J
 Miller J
 Moncur I
 Moore RC
 Moring DE
 Morralley DKF
 Newton JS
 O'Connor E
 O'Rourke B
 O'Rourke Mrs S
 Panting HL
 Parkin E

Parry HR
 Pearce KG
 Phillips GW
 Poile G
 Potter GE
 Quinn J
 Randles RHR
 Rawes EA
 Reid DF
 Reynolds J
 Robertson R
 Rochester JS
 Rowlands KJ
 Rumbles P
 Ryman RE
 Sandford LJ
 Savage PF
 Sedgewick RL
 Setterfield WE
 Shorter DD
 Silverman AG
 Sivewright GWH
 Smallwood F
 Smith W
 Stoddart GRMCK
 Stone D
 Stroud T
 Taylor CR
 Thomson AR
 Turl BJ
 Waddock DV
 Walker JT
 Ward
 Warden MD
 Weaver H
 Welham S
 Wilson CR
 Woods FM
 Woolerton BM

SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND

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 Col MEC Coombs
 Maj G Devenport
 Maj SAB Edwards
 Captain Sir Ranulph

Fiennes Bt OBE
 Maj DV Ford MBE
 Maj GAS Hancock
 Maj AP Haynes
 Col JDS Henderson
 Lt Col RR Horne
 Maj RA James MBE
 Maj J Leslie
 Maj BD McDonald-Booth
 SGP Martyr Esq
 Maj IE Morgan DL
 The Hon AAO Morrison
 Lt Col MD Oliver
 Maj GL Scott Dickins
 Maj MK Shennan
 Lt Col JA Speirs
 TR Spenlove-Brown Esq
 Lt Col EI Stanford
 RAR Wilson Esq

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 Blundell Capt J
 Braine BD
 Swain JJ

Members
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 Allen F
 Atkinson E
 Baker JM
 Baxter RD
 Bell FP
 Black S
 Blake DV
 Breslin CT
 Budge JWV
 Butcher DA
 Caldwell J
 Cashmore L
 Clifford AR
 Corson AD
 Davis Z
 Doak M
 Douglas SC
 Feeney BJ
 Gibb I
 Gower PR
 Griffis RG

Hartley IB
 Harvey A
 Hatfield T
 Hiscock SG
 Hobson CW
 Hodges JA
 Holden A
 Jackson EJ
 Jackson GF
 Jacobs KC
 Joynes CG
 Kennedy WFB
 Knowles-Wilkinson AJ
 Kuleta R
 Long TCR
 Mackie AWM
 McLachlan K
 Marshall J
 Mills R
 Milroy BE
 Morgan JR
 Packwood MA
 Pearce GW
 Powell EG
 Rattue AL
 Rea MJ
 Robertson J
 Salisbury IC
 Scaife I
 Shields A
 Smiley A
 Smith I
 Taylor TJ
 Teese R
 Tiley JM
 Townsend RW
 Tylee D
 Tylee J
 Walker WM
 Ward D
 Warrender R
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 Wilson EJ
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 Maj SGF Cox MBE MW
 AN Cuming Esq
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 Neilson JJ
 Oakes P
 Prichard D
 Rose P
 Rowberry TDE
 Russell AL

Shaw T
 Spencer RW
 Trout S
 Williamson E

MUSICIANS (BAND, PIPES AND DRUMS)

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 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

Glasgow and West of Scotland

Lt Gen Sir Norman
 Arthur KCB
 HJ Howard Esq
 Mrs IR Readman OBE
 Maj AJ Crease MBE BEM
 Maj HI Macrae
 Capt CKB Melville

London and South East of England

Sir Michael Cummins
 R Fleming Esq DL
 Maj DAM le Sueur
 Capt JL Potter
 Capt WB Ramsay
 Col JMA Ross
 Maj DMA Scott
 Lt Col JFB Sharples OBE
 Maj AJ Stormonth
 Darling
 Maj TA Wood
South West of England
 Lt Col RB Anderson
 OBE
 Lt Col PGE Bartholomew
 MR Grant Peterkin Esq
 Col CMcA Pyman
 Lt Col CIP Webb

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Aberdeen and North of Scotland
 Brady M
 Cruickshanks AB
 MacKay DF
 Macrae D

Edinburgh and East of Scotland
 Bannerman Mrs E
 Bigham WJ
 Boyle Mrs C
 Brashier RD
 Carr JW
 Carroll BJ
 Colquhoun A
 Currie ARK
 Dickson JSK
 Fairbairn RJ
 Glass R
 Hill JM
 Kerr L
 Lavallin RE
 Leslie RW
 Lorimer T
 MacMurchie D
 McQueen DG
 MacQueen LM
 McVean W
 McVie A
 Moffat G
 Muirhead G
 Munro J
 Page A
 Paul AS
 Ralley C
 Shearer DH
 Smith G
 Sneddon R
 Terris DG
 Tomkins HWG
 Veitch R
 Vine JM
 Williamson D
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Glasgow and West of Scotland
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 Jackson C
 Little P
 Mackenzie JC

Stitt G
 Whitelock T
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 Dick I
 Docherty T
 Falshaw R
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 Hogarth J
 Kidd CS
 Knox R
 McLeod I
 Macrae AD
 Massie JC
 Paterson A
 Phyll D
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 Allan JA
 Hill P
 Peat TW
 Proud P
 Wells PC

North West of England and Wales
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 Last D
 Quincey JA
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London and South East of England
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ALLIED AND AFFILIATED

HMS GLASGOW

After a busy operational start to 2002, from late March HMS GLASGOW's programme settled into the more routine demands of an extensive Contract Support Period, including 2 months in dry-dock. Although originally due to return to sea for trials in mid-November 2002 and Operational Sea Training in January 03, she now remains alongside her base port of Portsmouth awaiting the return of 100 of her Ship's Company (over half) allocated to provide cover for the firefighters' strike. Consequently, her programme for 2003 is in abeyance and will remain so until the dispute is settled and all personnel are returned. It would be dismissive of the calibre and enthusiasm of her personnel, however, to declare 2002 a year of frustration for the ship. Despite the uncertainty that has surrounded her, it has still been a demanding and rewarding year.

Having deployed the previous year, 2002 began with a fairly standard package for a "UK-running" ship. Minor equipment trials and weapons training were conducted in the South Coast Exercise Areas (off Devon and Cornwall) and the ship's Flight Deck was used by the Fleet Air Arm's Lynx Training Squadron (702 Sqn) to conduct an intensive period of deck landing practice (good training in the Channel in January!). A period assigned to the operational task of Fleet Ready Escort ensured the ship was maintained at a high state of readiness throughout February and March to provide an immediate response to a variety of threats to UK interests as and when required. Even then, the ship continued to provide a high-quality training platform. Alongside staff from the Maritime Warfare School at HMS COLLINGWOOD, GLASGOW conducted 2 weeks of Sea Assessment for the Royal Navy's next generation of specialist Navigators, in the process negotiating a number of complex navigational situations along the south coast and around the Channel Islands.

A successful 4-day visit to Glasgow, our affiliated city, in late February allowed the ship to host an Official VIP Reception (complete with a Beat the Retreat on the jetty alongside performed by the Royal Marines Band). Members of the ship's company were also able to host visits onboard and call upon a number of our affiliates in the local area, including several Glasgow



Sea Cadets units, Kelbourne School, Yorkhill Hospital and the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.

March saw the ship leave UK waters for 4 weeks, heading south for the sunnier climes of Gibraltar for the live gunnery firing phase of the Principle Warfare Officer (Above Water) course. During this intensive training period, full use was made of GLASGOW's 4.5" gun, with each of the 6 "students" is required to conduct serials of increasing complexity, firing the gun in its Naval Gunfire Support (NGS) and Anti-Surface Ship roles. Further training in Anti-Ship Missile Defence and Close Range Weapon (20 mm Guns) Direction also take place, aided by UK based Hawk and Falcon aircraft accompanying the ship on this mini-deployment to provide realistic Air Defence Exercise (ADEX) simulations.

On the return transit, following a well-deserved port visit to Lisbon (our only foreign "run ashore" of 2002), GLASGOW joined up with the aircraft carrier HMS ILLUSTRIOUS for further exercises on passage. She returned to Portsmouth in late March.



On 15 April, GLASGOW was declared, albeit temporarily, as a "Non Fleet" unit; and passed from the hands of CINCFLEET, coming under the authority of the Warship Support Agency. The Ship's Company would now be working alongside civilian contractors, preparing the ship for the Contract Support Period (including 2 months in dry-dock), and conducting the necessary maintenance to ensure she will remain materially sound for the next stage of her operational life. After de-ammunitioning and de-fuelling, the ship successfully docked down on 12 September and, for the first time in four years, we were all able to see the unusual and imposing sight of the ship's keel and underwater fittings. A lot of work and money has gone into the support package and GLASGOW has emerged looking refreshed and with some new and impressive capabilities.



Alongside the upkeep work, the Ship's Company has provided acquaint visits, introductory instruction and more advanced training to new recruits from the Engineering and Warfare Schools around Portsmouth. A great number of non-service visitors, from a variety of disparate organisations, have also been hosted whilst alongside in Portsmouth and all our guests have been given a traditionally warm HMS GLASGOW welcome. Aimed at providing an insight to life onboard an operational warship, the Ship's Company have hosted groups of schoolchildren on behalf of the Director of Naval Recruiting, Beaver Scouts and even a team of youngsters from Chernobyl in the Ukraine, the site of the infamous nuclear reactor disaster. All such visits are greeted with enthusiasm by both guests and Ship's Company alike, designed to be enjoyable for the trainees as well as a good opportunity for our people to pass on their knowledge and experiences to the trainees and, hopefully, to our future recruits.

On 12 May GLASGOW was visited by members of her Ship's Company who had served onboard during the Falklands War of 1982. This visit marked the 20th anniversary of the day the ship was struck by an Argentine bomb during an air attack in Falkland Sound and was led by Rear Admiral Paul Hoddinott CB OBE, the Commanding Officer in 1982. Fortunately that bomb passed straight through the

ship without exploding and GLASGOW was able to resume her role in the conflict before returning home after the Argentine surrender with all hands onboard. More "old boys" returned to their former ship on 30 June when the ship hosted a visit from the HMS GLASGOW Association. Mr George Stone (see left), a Stoker 1st Class on the previous HMS GLASGOW from 1946-47, took the controls in the Machinery Control Room and was amazed to see the brass ship-builder's plate from his own ship sitting atop the control panel as a proud reminder of the past. It is on occasions such as these, where many happy and emotive memories are rekindled, that our modern day sailors come face to face with the traditions of the Service and come to fully appreciate the Service ethos they have inherited.

1 October saw Commander David Dutton's final day as Commanding Officer of HMS GLASGOW. After handing over the reins of Command to his successor, Commander Mike Wainhouse, Cdr Dutton swapped the 50,000 Shaft Horse Power of Glasgow's Olympus Gas Turbine engines for the more sedate single horsepower of a horse and carriage. To a rousing 3 cheers from his sailors and accompanied by his wife, Henrietta, and a glass of champagne, he was driven away in style in a horse and trap, thus maintaining the best traditions of the Navy (that a departing Captain should not walk away from his ship).

It was at this time that some 100 personnel from GLASGOW left the ship to carry out training in preparation for the Firefighters strike. Throughout October and November, personnel were involved in training for, and carrying out tasking in support of, Operation FRESCO. GLASGOW personnel, along with other Royal Navy, Army and Air Force officers and ratings, are contributing effectively to the emergency cover being provided in Greater London. This has, however, left the ship somewhat undermanned and, with only 2 duty watches left onboard, the effects of the dispute are being felt across the board.

Which brings us up to date. HMS GLASGOW is afloat again, re-ammunitioned, re-fuelled and materially ready to carry on with her programme. Despite the lack of manpower caused by the Firefighters' dispute, work continues in earnest as she prepares for her trials programme and subsequent Operational Sea Training which will take place in early 2003. Thereafter, she will conduct a Joint Maritime Course off the north-west coast of Scotland (inevitably seizing a further opportunity to visit the City of Glasgow) before, hopefully, deploying to an operational theatre in the later part of the year. Somewhere sunny please.

12th/16th REGIMENT HUNTER RIVER LANCERS



Following successful Combined Arms live firing with other Australian Army 8th Brigade units at Singleton Range in New South Wales on November 2001, the 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers (HRL) passed to the command of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Chayko. RSM Bob Hawton arrived in January 2002 to complete the new leadership team and the Regiment settled into a period of consolidation with a major mid-year exercise already in view.

January and February were devoted to individual training. This model suits Australian Army Reserve units, due to the availability of part-time instructors and students, and will be expanded in 2003 to the conduct of full M113 Crewman and Commander Courses. The Regiment's B Squadron facility at Muswellbrook NSW provided a first class base for the training, with lecture rooms, messes and the best AFV hangar in the Southern Hemisphere.

Following another well tried model, Squadrons 'shook-out' in March and then came together for a three-day Regimental Gunnery Camp. As Australian Army Reserve units necessarily have an annual training cycle, due to personnel turnover, the focus was on completion of individual competencies and crew drills and procedures. Collective training was at patrol level, culminating in live-fire battle runs. Morale boosting night defensive shoots customarily set the range ablaze.



The arrival of RHQ and the Guidon Party, 12th/16th River Lancers, at the head of the Regiment for the parade on 2 Nov 02 to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of the Regiment's victorious Charge at Beersheba.

Tactical training at home locations in April saw A Squadron roaming over vast private lands in the New England, a feature of 12/16 HRL training in recent years as public land has become less accessible. To make best use of time for collective training, the Regiment has embraced a 'bull-ring' method, involving intensive coaching and practice of tactical techniques before linkage within a continuous exercise. This has led to better consolidation and retention of the 'building bricks' of collective capability, appreciated by all ranks.

To beat the blues of security, health and safety, fraud awareness and equity training in May, the Regiment threw hand grenades between periods of instruction and duelled at the pistol range with 'Glocks' supplied by our tame coppers (Bobbies, the Old Bill). A hangar barbecue amongst the armoured vehicles was well received by all, with a few sore heads emerging the morning after following a savage attack on the Bundaberg Rum or 'Bundy' store.

In June we gathered in Tamworth, home of RHQ and Operational Support Squadron, to march in bright sunshine, with swords drawn and guidons flying, though the streets of the City. The Regiment, resplendent in parade dress, was accompanied by the City's pipes and drums, Regimental Association and ex-service contingents, a riding troop, and Australian Defence Force Basic Flying Training School overhead at the Salute. That evening a picnic ball in fine light horse style set the sabres to the champagne (or Aussie fizz) and was pronounced the party of the year. The unattached men had more than one reason to be

happy due to a very well turned-out draft of 'Cinderellas' imported for the evening.

Back to field soldiering, a week later the Regiment deployed to the west of Lightning Ridge NSW and 150,000 broad acres for the mother of all bull-rings and a continuous exercise under excellent conditions for light armour. The tactical setting was peace enforcement. Willing landholders and a cunning enemy, under the command of 'Red Wolf', provided abundant opportunities for the planning and execution of key-point defence, road blocks, observation posts, convoy escorts, patrols and ultimately offensive action against the Wolf's lair.

With the Regiment prepared to execute its role to provide force elements, to armoured personnel carrier troop level (Captain + 29 and 15 LAFV), for operational deployment at medium readiness, further collective development continued throughout the remainder of 2002. A second Gunnery Camp in September featured demanding troop battle runs and night attacks by fire. A high tempo three-day exercise of deployable groupings in October consolidated field training for the year. Although not called for deployment in 2002, the Regiment remains ready to meet its operational obligations in an uncertain world.

On 2 November, the closest Saturday to the 85th Anniversary of our victorious First World War charge at Beersheba in Palestine, the Regiment conducted a mounted parade to Exercise Freedom of Entry to the City of Armidale NSW. The Parade was executed



LAFV on the start line - 12/16HRL field training at Lightning Ridge 2002.

faultlessly and the cheering crowds present confirmed the Regiment's close and familial ties with our recruiting area. The parade was followed by a splendid Beersheba Dinner at the magnificent, 19th Century, A Squadron 'Gaza' Drill Hall with the Regiment and friends, including Beersheba descendants, in attendance. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the recently refurbished sword, carried by Lieutenant Rodney Robey MC, a hero at Beersheba, to the outstanding subaltern of the year, 2nd Lieutenant Christopher Cook.

Following Beersheba, a day and a night to remember which capped the year for the Regiment, 12/16 HRL prepared for leave and an early start for 2003 courses. To all Royal Scots Dragoon Guards we again extend an invitation to visit and spend some time with us in the Land of Oz.

FIRST REGIMENT OF BELGIAN LANCERS

By Michel Janssens



The year 2002 began relatively quietly for the Lancers of the First Regiment (1L). Some of them, mainly privates from the scout platoon, were in Kosovo, reinforcing the 12/13 Régiment de Ligne (12/13 Li), infantry battalion on the BELUROKOS 8 mission. (The 12/13

Li is one of the two mechanized infantry battalions of the 7th Mechanized Brigade to which the 1L also belongs).

In March, the tempo increased. Serious activities started with the deployment of our Regiment to Castlemartin Camp (UK) where we stayed for two weeks. Immediately afterwards, one platoon from our "Bravo" Squadron went to LEHNIN (Germany), for two weeks, to take part in an exercise with the "Régiment des Chasseurs Ardennais" (Regt ChA)

which is the second infantry battalion of our brigade. In May, the command-posts of the battalion and squadrons were deployed on an exercise at the brigade level about the use of the Belgian information and command system (SICBEL).





Moreover, more than half the Regiment participated in the European March of Remembrance and Friendship. The 4 marching days were “swallowed” with the best spirit; the Cavalry one of course. Four days of intense harmony with the civilian walkers, great integration and an excellent way to keep in touch with real life outside the military environment.

These contacts were to go on in July for the “Alpha” Squadron which was responsible for the organisation of the traditional “youth week”. A team from that squadron received 20 teenagers between 13 and 15 for a weeks work experience, to let them experience a few aspects of a soldier’s life.

From 21st July till 2nd August, a team of 17 Lancers went to Canada to take part in the Canadian Forces Small Arms Competition (CFSAC). In spite of a very short preparation and of much less support than the other teams, results were of the best quality and even several first places were won.

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS POLICE

By Chief Inspector Brian Muir

I trust that this article finds the Regiment in fine fettle and prepared, as always, for what the next year will bring. Looking back over 2002, I am aware of the immense training programme the members of the Regiment have undergone and, equally, am confident that you will have performed your duties to your usual exacting standards. Whilst training also plays an integral part in the Police Service it tends, on occasions, to play second fiddle to the increasing operational demands made on our organisation. The current Force strength of 2,600 Police Officers with appropriate support staff is the highest it has ever been but the number of calls we deal with has risen manifold in the last 10 to 20 years and it proves increasingly difficult

In August again, a detachment of our B-squadron participated in an 8-day-mountain-trekking period in ANDERMATT (CH). Afterwards we stayed for 3 weeks in BERGEN-HOHNE from 19th September till 11th October. Activities succeeded one another with furious speed: day and night gunnery and tactical exercises to climax with an FTX exercise organised by our brigade.

Once back in Marche-en-Famenne, there was another exercise, aiming to check the Regiments ability to occupy and live in a dispersion area. We practised living in the field and reaction to NBC-threat. This was a last check before taking and passing the exam of the NATO tactical evaluation between 18th and 20th November. Therefore we were granted an “excellent” for an outstanding execution (these are the words of our Brigadier!!!).

To finish this year in a splendid way, the Regiment settled in MÜNSINGEN (Germany) where we spent the first two weeks of December.

In addition to these different major activities a whole lot of nevertheless important so-called minor tasks have been completed. These have included numerous sport competitions in order to “tighten the bonds” between the Army and the Nation and I’m sure you will easily understand that the Lancers from the First Regiment are happy to have the opportunity to spend a few days of rest and recuperation in the family sphere for Christmas and New Year’s Day.

The Lancers from the First Regiment wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to their Brothers in Arms from The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

to provide the level of service we believe is appropriate. However, in the time-honoured tradition of both the military and the police we will continue to ‘make it work’.

In last year’s article I mentioned the work being carried out in-force in an effort to develop a joint control room at Bilston Glen, Midlothian. This project is rapidly heading towards a conclusion and will bring substantial benefits for the Force in terms of improved communications and a rationalisation of practices. At the same time, however, a large project team has been engaged on ‘Operation Capital’. The team has been charged with a wholesale review of the current system

for policing the city of Edinburgh and devising a new approach, more suited to the demands of the 21st Century. The changes recommended thus far by this group have been numerous and far-reaching but the most obvious change is the suggestion that the current system of three City Divisions, each headed up by a Chief Superintendent with associated support, be replaced by one City Division with a Chief Superintendent in charge. This ‘super Division’ will contain 1,250 Police Officers and 250 support staff and is itself considerably larger than many of the Police Forces which currently exist in Scotland. The opportunity is also being taken to alter the structure of policing within the City. Six Local Policing Areas will be established, headed up by Chief Inspectors, which will, where possible, shadow the existing electoral ‘wards’ within the City, thereby providing a much closer match to the local government set up in Edinburgh. These, and many more changes to the policing structure, too numerous to mention here, have largely been accepted by the Chief Constable and it is intended that they take effect from April 2003. In next year’s article I will be able to report on the effect these changes have had on the citizens of Edinburgh!

As ever, the day to day work of the Force goes on. 2002 has seen us struggle with the eternal problem of achieving increased visibility for our officers on the streets. Every effort is made to provide as many foot patrols as possible but, with finite resources, this is always going to be difficult to reconcile with an immediate response to ‘999’ calls. Some initiatives have



recently been introduced in this regard by our new Chief Constable, Paddy Tomkins, and it is to be hoped that these bear fruit. On the positive side, our officers are unquestionably better equipped now for the hazardous job we carry out than they have ever been. I am Secretary of our Force Uniform Group and serve on a national uniform body and, hopefully, have played some small part in obtaining some of the new uniform and equipment utilised by our officers. Reflective jackets, new batons and CS spray are some of the most recent innovations seen in the Force. If I move on to the subject of contacts between our two organisations over the past year I am pleased to report that there has been a fair level of interaction. I was able to offer some assistance to Captain Roger Clayton and his team in August in connection with the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and he was kind enough to invite my wife and me to the final dress rehearsal. It was a tremendous



evening and, of course, the segment involving the Scots DG contingent was clearly the highlight! As an added bonus I was able to engineer some joint patrols through the streets of Edinburgh involving the Regiment's Mounted Troop and members of our Force's Mounted Section. I am not sure what the city's fine residents thought of it all but I know that those involved enjoyed themselves immensely.

Later in the year the Force and the Regiment almost found themselves working together in a far more serious, operational manner as a result of the Fire Service's Industrial Dispute. I am aware that Major Norrie Robertson, amongst others, spent some time with members of the Force when it appeared that our two bodies would require to work together in an effort to provide cover during the then proposed firefighters' strikes. As it turned out, the Regiment was subsequently diverted to other duties, but it was interesting that we found ourselves working closely in an area few would have predicted a few months ago. As you will know, strikes did eventually take place and I am pleased to say that armed services personnel did a fantastic job throughout.

There is a heavy irony, then, in the fact that this year's Regimental Dinner took place at a location only a stone's throw from one of the largest conflagrations seen in Edinburgh for decades. The fire took place only a few days after the dinner and eventually gutted 13 old buildings and damaged many others. A number of properties had to be pulled down and it has, quite literally, left a gaping hole in the historic Old Town. As to the Regimental Dinner itself, this took place in the Playfair Library of Edinburgh University and proved to be a great success. It afforded me the opportunity to offer personal congratulations to my oldest friend in the Regiment, Lt Col Hugh Blackman, in becoming Commanding Officer. We tend to stay in touch by e-mail only these days and it was good to see him in the flesh again. The guests at the dinner were a tremendous mix of the old and the new, the familiar and the not so familiar and I really enjoyed the occasion. I particularly enjoyed the fact that seated at my table were three individuals I have met many times during my association with the Regiment – Major Tony Crease, Major Billy Raitt and my old friend, Major Norrie Robertson. A large number of stories were exchanged and we generally managed to put the world to rights!

2003 promises much activity for both of our organisations. I am due to complete my attachment to the Scottish Police College in April and return to the Force. I await my new posting with great anticipation. In the meantime, I am busy organising an Open Day as part of the College's Golden Jubilee celebrations in



June of next year. Warrant Officer John McInnes and the Regimental Information Team, who were a big hit at the Force's Family Day this year, have kindly agreed to come along and I am sure that they will prove to be a huge success. They will be joined by numerous other participants, including the Golden Arrows Parachute Display Team, The Blue Arrows Motorcycle Display Team, Police Dogs and Horses and numerous other attractions.

The Regiment, of course, may well find itself involved in yet another large military operation next year. If this should happen, the thoughts of my colleagues and I will be with you and we know that you will carry out your duties with the same courage, organisation and discipline which has continually made The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards 'Second to None'. I take this opportunity to extend the best wishes of all your friends at Lothian and Borders Police and look forward to meeting you all again soon.



MAGAZINE SECTION

EXERCISE ARABIAN EAGLE

by Lieutenant RJAEP De Silva

The aim of this expedition was to reintroduce sub-aqua diving into the Regiment and to take soldiers abroad to a new and exciting location. Initially the plan was for a squadron level adventure training trip, however this was soon expanded into a Regimental expedition with a total of twenty-four people taking part including instructors. The Red Sea in Egypt was the ideal location after much research – good weather, a diving infrastructure and affordable with exciting diving, indeed some of the best diving in the world!

The initial problem was getting everyone qualified as an Open Water diver. It required a weeklong course of theory and practical lessons. Fortunately the Fallingbostal Dive Club on camp and Kiel Adventure Training Centre just up the road helped to achieve this.

The course was organised and we sent soldiers away to Kiel to brave the waters of the Baltic. It was freezing – and very hard diving conditions. It is said that if you can dive in the Baltic you can dive anywhere. The visibility was poor, the water was cold and one touch on the bottom and you were lost in a cloud of silt!

Having qualified everyone to dive in the open waters of the Baltic we were then hit with Op FRESCO Fire Brigade training and the possibility that the trip would be cancelled! Careful negotiation with RHQ and the Squadrons ensured the trip was still alive and when the Regiment was stood down from firefighting duties we all breathed a sigh of relief. The trip was still on. We collected all our equipment and then eagerly waited for the departure date.

On the early hours of the 30th September the expedition flew out from Dusseldorf having spent most of the night at the airport. As we flew over the Pyramids I breathed a sigh of relief, it was actually happening!

A short and hair-raising bus journey from Sharm El Sheikh airport and we arrived at the Tropicana Rosetta Apartments, our home for the next two weeks. The temperature was in the thirties and within minutes everyone was sitting at the poolside bar with a drink in hand for a quick planning brief.

The first day was an acclimatisation day giving us time to sort out kit and organise groups and dive sites. The next day we went down to the jetty and embarked the Emperor Marcus. The excitement mounted as we sped across the clear turquoise waters to the first site named Ras Katy. When we got to the dive site the water was so clear we could see the ocean floor and the teeming sea life; there was almost no need to dive! The first dive was nice and relaxed, a confidence booster for all those who had only just completed their training. It was good to watch the beginners relax as they dived, not having to worry about poor visibility and battling the cold. In fact the water was so warm that only T-shirts and trunks were worn, even 30m down.

The next few days we all got into the rhythm of meeting at 7am, onto the minibus for the short trip to the jetty, checking our kit, going to the dive site, giving a dive brief and then diving. After the first dive we had lunch, worked out the dive tables for the second dive, motored to the next dive site, had a brief and then dived again. It was then time to head back to the apartments, have a quick shower, and head into town.

The diving was amazing and the Red Sea was a great place to teach the Open Water divers the Sports Diver skills. The instructors were kept busy, teaching both the practical skills in the water and the theory in the evenings. Also all the Sports Divers were learning the skills necessary for Dive Leader qualifications.

One of the most exciting dives was at Yolanda reef; a long narrow reef that levelled out at about 25m. There was a plethora of wildlife, including a turtle that was feeding off the coral. As we swam up to him he placidly looked around and then carried on his meal – it was an amazing site. There were also dangerous looking Scorpion fish and Lion fish, and a moray eel that watched us with its mouth wide open displaying rows of razor sharp teeth!

By the end of week one everyone had qualified as either Sports or Dive leader, and so the first aim of the expedition was fulfilled. We then had a couple of days rest and recuperation, diving was surprisingly tiring, and a chance to see some of Egypt. The group

dispersed, some going to Cairo to visit the Egyptian Museum and the Pyramids, others going to Dahab to wind surf and kite surf. A few carried on diving and some went quad biking in the desert. A very fulfilling time was had by all.

Week two was much more exciting, going down to a maximum depth of 30m, doing drift dives in some quite strong currents, and even night diving. The night dive was quite an adventure, the greatest threat being from the Lionfish that are attracted to the light. A few close calls soon got hearts racing, as their sting is particularly toxic!

One of the best dives was on the wreck of the Thistlegorm. The Thistlegorm was a British transport ship built in 1940. It was lying at anchor early in the Second World War when German bombers from Crete attacked it. It had just come from Cape Town loaded with supplies for the British troops in North Africa. The German bombers struck the Thistlegorm directly with two bombs. As a result it sank 30m before coming to rest on the seabed in an upright position. It is in remarkably good condition, virtually intact and still containing its cargo in an amazingly well preserved state.

Our first dive was around the exterior. It was amazing swimming around the hull of the ship, seeing where the bombs had struck and the cargo that was on the sea floor. One of the two locomotive engines lies 30m away from the ship, all in an amazing condition. We

saw the heavy machine guns at the front, and the train sitting on the deck. The anchor winches were huge, as were the propellers. Whilst going around the hull we noted the entry points for our next dive. There was a strong current on this dive and we all had to hold on to the shot line whilst doing our stops. This was hard work as everyone was trying to hold onto the same bit of rope, using all their strength in order to not get dragged away by the current.

The second dive was a wreck penetration dive. We entered the wreck through Hold 1, nearest the bow. There were a few nervous divers as this was the first penetration the new Sports Divers had done. As we slowly swam through the large hold we saw Lee Enfield rifles in their crates, boxes and boxes of them, rubber boots, tyres, and rows of BSA motorcycles. Further into Hold 2 we found what looked like Bedford trucks with boxes of boots in them, and more motorcycles. Also there were some Morris cars which are not dissimilar to landrovers. It was an amazing experience, and quite eerie to see the size of the holds and the amount of supplies the ship carried, all 30m underwater! Everyone agreed that it was the best dive of the expedition – a brilliant ending to a great diving expedition.

The expedition was a truly remarkable trip. Twenty-four soldiers on a Level 3 adventure training expedition and everyone enjoyed themselves! It is hoped to plan another diving expedition in the near future with even more adventurous diving.

EXERCISE LONG LOOK 2002 – NEW ZEALAND

by Corporal MT McAlister

After completing a live firing section attack on Sennelager ranges in January 2002 I was approached and asked if I would be interested in taking part in Exercise Long Look in New Zealand. I jumped at the chance but then four months passed with almost no word and I had almost given up hope. However first day back at work after returning from MED MAN 1, Major Allen asked if I was still interested. One week later I was on a plane to New Zealand.

Exercise Long Look is run during the Northern Hemisphere summer and Southern winter. It is an annual exchange of officers and soldiers between The UK and the Antipodes. One hundred and sixty three service personnel are selected from the British Armed Forces with about two thirds going to Australia and

the remainder to New Zealand. The exercise is designed to test the knowledge of exercising personnel through different procedures, equipment and cultures.

Due to my late departure I flew with British Airways / Qantas. I departed Heathrow to Los Angeles and then on to Auckland. The final flight from Auckland to the Capital of the North Island, Wellington, was amazing due to the fantastic scenery. On arrival WO2 Chesswas, the Long Look Admin WO took me to Trentham Camp. I then learned that I was to be attached to the Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles in Waiouru situated in the center of the North Island and would be attached to 2 Troop, A Squadron.

My first day at work was interesting to say the least. This was largely due to the incompatibility of my Scottish accent and the Kiwi accent resulting in the fact that we couldn't understand one another! However I was made to feel very welcome and after a week a degree of understanding crept into proceedings. In the first week I was shown the M113 A1 T50 which is their APC but is soon to be replaced by the Canadian built LAV 111. I also trained on the .50 Cal MG, Steyr AUG, Sig Saur 9mm, C9 and M203 Grenade launcher as well as various radio and communications equipment.

Over the next four and a half months I was employed as a vehicle commander during various exercises at Troop and Squadron level. We practiced ambushes, route recce, contact drills, raids and so on as well as dismounted drills such as CTRs and OPs. Ranges were also completed on the vehicles incorporating static and manoeuvre shoots and I must say that firing the .50 Cal is challenging but what fun! We also had a chance to take part in some quite extensive dismount-

ed field firing incorporating all the above small arms as well as grenades, Carl Gustavs and claymores. Whenever one deploys on exercise the weather is a risk; Waiouru is no exception. As it is on the highest plateau on the North Island the weather is very changeable and it is not unusual to experience snow, wind, rain and sun in a 24-hour period. Anyone who has been to Sennelager will have a good understanding of what Waiouru is like, only it's higher.

Being on Exercise Long Look and especially with QAMR allowed me to see a lot of this gorgeous country. Wellington, Taupo and Auckland are all worth a visit and I must say that the Kiwis are some of the most helpful and friendly people I have ever met. I also managed some skiing on the South Island and two trips to Australia over the course of my stay.

Long Look was the experience of a lifetime and something I thoroughly enjoyed. I recommend it to anyone and thank the QAMR for their time and effort in hosting me. I got on to the course because someone else dropped out; thank you.

DESPATCHES FROM SIERRA LEONE

by Colonel MH Auchinleck

The wet season is still with us and last night there was another spectacular electric storm. The sky lights up with both fork and sheet lightning, sometimes for several seconds at a time. While that was happening I was enjoying a very good dinner of sweet and sour prawns in a Lebanese owned and operated restaurant a few minutes away from the British Military Observers' house at 9 Glasgow Street.

These last two months have been busy - as is the case with any new job. There are 260 of us observers - MILOBS in local UN speak - from 31 nations. My boss is a delightful Pakistani General, who operates at his level and lets me get on with running the show. Very satisfactory. The Chief Operations Officer is a Russian Colonel who has served in Afghanistan, Chechnyas one and two, Rwanda, the US Army War College and has now been here for 18 months. I found him this morning poring over a map of Moscow trying to decide where to buy his next property. After all this time on UN missions, he is a very wealthy man in Russian terms! A couple of weeks ago we put on a medal parade on the beach near the HQ and for the first time I was pinning a medal to Russian, Chinese,

and all sorts of African and Middle Eastern chests. Quite bizarre!

The UN force is much bigger at about 17,500 and headed up by a Kenyan Lieutenant General. Our main effort now is the continuing Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration roles. The Observers are heavily committed to the DD bit and there are some interesting moments....

Friday was not a good day. A Russian built, SL Army owned, South African flown helicopter gunship with an international group of passengers had a double engine failure. The pilot managed to get it down from 100 feet, but it was a rough put down and bits of engine were flying around inside. Then it caught fire and burnt out completely. Fortunately only one badly injured, but so sad she was a British Officer who died in hospital afterwards. I took a letter from my General to Brigadier Nick Parker (the British Advisor to President Kabbah) at the UK national HQ beside SL Defence HQ. Everyone there was looking very gloomy.

There was one great day, Tuesday when I flew up half an hour north of Freetown to see a remote Civil Defence Force (CDF) "pocket" in a Revolutionary United Front (RUF) dominated district disarm. They had been located by a UK Team Leader. He's actually a TA officer mobilised from the Scottish Executive and doing a grand job. After much painstaking negotiation over the past couple of weeks, he finally got them to agree to disarm. I took three of the CDF leaders from Freetown with me and there was a fair spectacle. Overnight the combatants and locals had cleared an area 120m. square from the bush and disassembled the school for the big (Hercules size!) helicopter to take them away to the Demobilisation camp. On arrival the senior CDF were greeted with much shouting, saluting and stamping of feet. Our Team Leader had the previous day's group of 150 sitting under a tree, well guarded by Bangladeshi soldiers. He had also bought them rice to persuade them to stay there overnight. The next group, also 150, were divided into two lines - those with weapons and those without. There were also 14 small children the RUF had captured and then been recaptured and "cared for" by the CDF. All very orderly thanks to a combination of a British Officer, Bangladeshi soldiers and an unusually co-operative local CDF commander. He looked a real rogue and was wearing what seemed to be a coal sack over a pair of very old and dirty combat trousers.

The three Freetown CDF leaders then whisked me off to the village meeting house for food. As it was only mid morning and I had already had a good breakfast at our house, and knowing what "food" can be like, I was somewhat apprehensive. I was placed on a chair and then told I was the guest of honour. They sat on rudimentary bamboo benches. The cook was the local commander's wife, quite a pretty girl in her early 20s who was one of the teachers in the school. Two large pots were on a low table. They told me the meat was

bush meat and a tatty old sack was produced containing a piece of what they called 'deer' or bush meat. No bad after effects so far.

After an hour or so we flew off to another couple of Team Sites to try to resolve a few problems and persuade an extremely bolshy, fat, smiling and obsequious Lt Col that he really did need to put on uniform, fit in with the rest of the team, cease threatening the New Zealander, stop abusing the cooks and take a more active role in the Team. He agreed to do so and promptly went on short leave a couple of days later! The things I have to deal with all part of life's rich tapestry!

In my first week here I visited a RUF pocket in CDF controlled territory. The whole village turned out to meet the helicopter and I think the Russian pilots really did fear for the safety of their aircraft! There was music, dancing and singing: "We want peace. We want to disarm. When will you build us a bridge?" We were led through the village to the meeting house which was absolutely packed out with several hundred heaving sweaty bodies, with the front row seats all taken by ample ladies. The agenda was read out and the meeting opened with prayers - both Moslem and Christian. The Lord's prayer was definitely the 1660 version! After many protestations of good will and co-operation I was presented with a goat. Billy came peaceably enough in the helicopter back to Freetown, and, after a few tugs on his string, up to my office on the top floor of UNAMSI HQ/Mammy Yoko "Hotel". Billy promptly peed on the floor. I had decided to present him to my Pakistani General at the Force Commander's daily briefing. The General looked a little nonplussed, but his MA positively beamed at the possible prospect of Barbecued Billy! I was then accused by the civilian UN security people of abusing a goat and denigrating UN Property. So life goes on.

EXERCISE BEINN DIAMOND

In June this year the EME, Capt Johnson, asked if we would be interested in doing a bit of hill walking. Having been given the impression that this would be a stroll in the park, we foolishly agreed.

The day of our departure arrived and we were en route to Scotland, but not before the long and tedious drive to Zeebrugge. We eventually made it to the port just in time to board our ferry and once aboard we took a walk round the ferry to see what was on offer. We soon found ourselves in the 'relaxation' area (the Bar) where we settled for the night. After a good night's sleep we landed in sunny Kingston-upon-Hull. Our first task was to stock up on supplies, so the nearest Asda had its shelves emptied. From there we had another long drive up into the Highlands, making it to the Glenmore campsite, situated on the shore of Loch Morlich. We set up our tents and received our briefing for the day that was to follow. Later we went into Aviemore, to prepare our minds and bodies for the inevitable pain and anguish that was surely awaiting us (courtesy of the Expedition Leader, Capt Johnson).

We awoke to a surprisingly nice morning and set off after breakfast. Our first objective was the conquering of Britain's second highest mountain, Ben Macdui. All began well with everyone map reading and leading the group in turns. Halfway into the trek our esteemed leader pointed up the steepest hill he could find and said "just over this and around the corner boys!" It was several days later that we were shown a guidebook describing this route as 'an endless slog to the top for masochists only'. However, at this point the clown of the group Tpr 'Ferengi' Wilkinson removed his tartan jester's hat (complete with bells), to everyone's amusement. The peace and tranquillity was shattered as we fell about in fits of laughter at the sight of a thick black band around his head, caused by the dye in the hat. After the 'slight' incline we went on for a few more hours just to get to a drop that seemed to be as steep as the one we had climbed earlier in the day. Once at the bottom, the Expedition Leader thought it would be a good stopping-place, though it seemed boggy and was blowing a gale. As the tail-enders came in, the question was posed as to who had brought the food. Silence fell; we realised we were in for a cold and hungry night. Fortunately the expedition gigolo Tpr Sagnia had some of his own food in his bergen, and so became the saviour of the hour. Whilst setting up their boudoir Cpl Thomas and Cfn Cruickshank thought they would do a little

exercise, chasing their tent to the loch's edge, across 2 burns and a hill, as the wind caught it. When they returned to the site they were greeted with the applause from 2 tents-worth of civvies who had set up camp nearby.

We all awoke refreshed and ready for another day's activity and set off swiftly. We were directed towards another depressingly steep hill, which after an hour's hard climb rewarded us with the sight of the peak of Cairn Gorm. We had soon conquered its summit and with joy in our hearts we started the long trek back to civilisation (downhill thankfully). Not long after we reached the Cable Car top station. We all looked forward to visiting the cafe to have some hot food and drink, especially after seeing everyone inside filling their faces. Our hopes were soon dashed as we were told that, as we had not used the cable car on the way up, we were not allowed in. So, resigned to our fate, we shrugged off our setback and carried on our merry way back to the campsite. After sorting out our kit we headed into Aviemore for our first real food in 2 days, washed down with plenty of well-deserved beers. Our illustrious leader then unveiled a plan to climb 2 peaks in a day, thus giving us Sunday off to watch the World Cup final and give our feet a good rest.

We were raring to go on Saturday but unfortunately the weather turned on us and, even wearing waterproofs, we were quickly soaked to the skin. The weather saw a steady 70-mph wind with 80-mph gusts, horizontal rain and thick low cloud. The instructors were on the verge of turning us back when conditions improved enough for us to continue. So we pushed on, covering 28 km and conquering both Braeriach and Cairn Toul. Needless to say, our feet really needed the next day off and nobody had any problems falling asleep. The next day began early as we headed to Fort William; when we arrived we booked into Glen Nevis campsite and we hobbled into town to get into the football spirit. Monday dawned with another 2 peaks, Aonach Mor and Aonach Beag. For this epic encounter we were again split into 2 groups led by the EME and Lt Le Sueur, with Capt O'Loughlin, from Aberdeen UOTC, and WO2 Cocliff sweeping the route. It was obviously also a day out for the midge population of the Highlands and the only person to escape unscathed was Cpl Thomas, though he did suffer in other ways when mistaking a camera flash for lightning! Top marks to Cfn Strong for falling through a log bridge and hobbling back to the minibus, avoiding both of the day's peaks (hmmm!).

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Yet again the low cloud obscured most of the views throughout our 16-km trek.

Tuesday saw us tackle Ben Nevis, via the Carn Mor Dearg Arête (a knife edged ridge), which was to prove very rewarding, enabling some members of the party to overcome their fear of heights. It brought out the best in the group, as they helped and encouraged the others through their ordeal. After a distracting start (next to a distillery), we began the ascent to Carn Mor Dearg. The EME had already ruled out the tourist path as too easy and so after some creative map reading we began the longest climb of the week. Once at the summit of Ben Nevis we were rewarded with 5 minutes of sunshine and our first views, which were well worth the climb. A quick phone call was made to Colonel Allfrey proclaiming "mission accomplished" and in return the Colonel bellowed down the line "bloody marvellous, well done EME!" much to the surprise of the other walkers at the top. Our final descent was not all an endlessly hard slog as there was plenty of morale at the expense of everyone in the group, especially after the AQMS slipped and fell while trying to negotiate an extremely simple river crossing. The end was near and we had the distillery in our sights, just a shame it was not open or we would have had to pop in for a swift dram.

So it was back to the campsite to clean all the equipment and to freshen up before we hit Fort William to celebrate our achievements with a well



Q Cockliff ponders the next hill.

deserved meal washed down with some of Scotland's finest. The fun was not quite over as our Jester pushed himself into the limelight again. He managed to attract the attention of the waitress and went on to describe in great detail the physical attributes and habits of the most famous and mysterious of Scottish creatures, the Haggis! She agreed with his every word and left with a wry smile. The next morning saw an early start with a quick breakfast and the packing away of all the equipment into the minibuses, before we departed for Edinburgh. We found accommodation in a hostel and then went to visit the Castle, our main aim being a visit to the Regimental Museum to view Ewart's Eagle. Then it was off sight-seeing around the historic city and to sample the famous nightlife. The following morning we headed back to the ferry, but not without one of the trip's greatest blunders. Cfn Cruickshank, who stayed in Scotland for the weekend, left his passport in the minibus... which was now en route to Fallingbostal. A quick trip to his local Careers' Office and a lot of sucking up resulted in the issue of a NATO travel order, before he sheepishly made his way back for work on Monday morning.



Cfn Cruickshank cracks up.

This was a fulfilling week that left us with a great sense of achievement. We all enjoyed ourselves immensely and would jump at the chance to go again... Britain's eight highest peaks? Easy peasy!



The team at the top of Ben Nevis.

A TROOP LEADER IN THE ARMY TRAINING REGIMENT, WINCHESTER

by Capt ME Hayward

In his capacity as Adjutant, Capt Will Davies had offered me two potential postings, one was to BATUS to be one of the safety supervisors, - the bleak Canadian prairie, hundreds of miles from civilisation (and at least an 8 hr flight from London). The other, was to go back to the UK to be a Troop leader again at the Army Training Regiment, in Winchester, an hour southwest of London. Obviously, after much deliberation, I packed my car, completed a record time for the Fally-Calais rally and prepared to enjoy my first summer in the UK for three years.

ATR Winchester is nestled in the rolling Hampshire countryside, two miles from the city centre. Once the home of the Light Division, it is a purpose built camp opened in 1984 - one of the newest and 'best' camps the army has to offer. The regiment consists of three sub-units that are responsible for turning 'Joe and Josephine public' into trained soldiers over a period of 12 weeks. A Squadron is responsible, primarily, for the Armoured Corps recruits. I was to take command of 4 (Dettingen) troop. The hand over- take over, with an RTR officer, was conducted in the usual thoroughly professional manner of the RAC in various pubs in the town, culminating in him vaguely describing the location of the troop lines, the mess and on which channel I might find MTV. I remember thinking how tired and aged he looked.

Each training team consists of an Officer, a troop Sgt, and three or four Cpls - this depends upon the number of recruits that you form up with. In my ten months at ATR we have had Musicians, Intelligence Corps, RAC, AGC (all variations of), a few Infantryman and lots of Army medical services. We have had graduates, South Africans and even the occasional Fijian!

Thankfully, I am not the only SCOTS DG representatives at Winchester as three other members of the regiment are also here. Life at ATR (W) is very much a section commander's war. They conduct the vast majority of the instruction and during the first 4 weeks will often be in before 0600 and not leave before 2000 seven days a week. Cpls Pritchard and Lyttle are both working hard and producing excellent results. Cpl Ross ('posh Ross' formerly of A Sqn) is also here in his capacity as a PTI. Also, this November saw the marriage of Cpl Ben Ross to Cpl Sheena Bryant RMP, a fellow instructor here at ATR. As we are all in different troops and all the troops run sequentially, we do not see each other very much, but they are keeping up the regiment's excellent reputation and it is a shame we do not have more grey berets on view at this high profile establishment.

In its capacity as a phase one training establishment the Regiment's mission is 'to be prepared to train



Capt ME Hayward ATR (W)

1,819 standard entry recruits in order to deliver 1,546 Phase 1 trained soldiers to Phase 2 training'. The emphasis being on 'training in' and not 'selecting out'. My role in this 'training in' has involved teaching various military skills such as map reading, fieldcraft and military knowledge. I have also run small arms ranges, three lots of adventure training, completed nine BPFA's and nine CFT's, hundreds of endurance lessons, been on countless battlefield tours, written and conducted nine exercises on Salisbury plain and dealt with more spurious welfare/compassionate cases than you can shake a stick at.

You must be irreproachable in the eyes of the recruits, you have to be fitter than them and the rest of the training team, know the answers to questions as diverse as "what will I do as trooper in the Vet Corps?" and "Sir, what are the political complexities of fighting a land war in the Gulf?" (Int Corps graduates!). You must be able to disguise your hangover from the Squadron Leader on the twice weekly 7 am PT, yet drink as much as a Cpl in the Green Jackets who wants to thank you, again, for being his defending Officer on that last assault/ bullying/ sexual harassment/ AWOL charge.

The other side of life here in Winchester, is of course the 'play'. Being so close to London has revived what was becoming a flagging social life and now I am almost too busy. Almost.



Capt Hayward and Recruit Platoon.

I have played a season of Cricket and half a season of Rugby, captained the ATR Clay Shooting team, managed several days on the Barton Stacey shoot, learned to ride a motorcycle. I have made it through to the novice championships of the Army Bob-Skeleton (Cresta for 'real men'), have also played some Polo, and watched a lot more, and, here's the real bonus – I have been able to attend countless parties and balls, both military and civilian, which I would have otherwise probably missed

Yet, it must come to an end eventually, and I am looking forward to moving on. I need the rest. However, I am not sure whether I am ready to become a warrior monk of the north German plains once more. Not yet anyway...

THE ARMY FOUNDATION COLLEGE (HARROGATE)

By Captain NA Burnet

In June 2002 I began working at the Army Foundation College as a Platoon Commander. Initially I knew little of what the College actually did, or indeed, what my new job entailed. Despite asking questions and making enquiries I discovered little. I therefore hope that the following article gives its readers, and any prospective arrivals, a better appreciation of both the College and the job.

The Army Foundation College is situated near Harrogate in North Yorkshire. It is the Army's flagship training establishment and shares many similarities with both Sandhurst and what was formerly known as Junior Leaders. Recruits arrive for the 42-week foundation course in either January or September aged sixteen to seventeen years old and

begin a syllabus that combines vocational education with military skills and leadership training. In addition to basic soldiering, Junior Soldiers work towards NVQs and the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award. On completion of the course recruits move to Phase Two training before joining the Royal Armoured Corps, the Royal Artillery or the Infantry.

The College aims to train in excess of 1,000 recruits annually. There are presently five companies with six platoons in each. Each platoon usually starts with upwards of fifty recruits, but subsequently lose many in the period when recruits can 'discharge as of right' (DAOR). Each platoon training team comprises a Platoon Commander, a Platoon Sergeant and four JNCOs.

The training programme at Harrogate is always busy. In addition to the normal working week, permanent staff assist twice weekly with Duke of Edinburgh award evenings and again with military training on Saturday mornings. Needless to say, the work can be intense, particularly after one has accounted for exercises, external visits and College duties.

Aside from the usual 'Phase One' benefits of knowing exactly what the Platoon will be doing from one day to the next, a posting to the Army Foundation College does have some unique benefits. Training teams have the same Platoon for the entire 42 weeks. It is therefore much easier than at other Phase One establishments to develop individuals, foster platoon identities and achieve a real sense of job satisfaction. Opportunities for adventure training are excellent. The College has a leadership and initiative training department dedicated exclusively to adventurous pursuits. In short, a period at the AFC is an eye-opening and refreshing opportunity to work with individuals from many other different units, in an environment that can be as frustrating as it is rewarding.

Since February 2000, the College has under-gone an £80 million pound re-development programme. The last two years have seen the appearance of one new

building after another. In addition to accommodation and messing halls the new College will comprise a purpose built swimming pool, lecture halls, computer centres and flood-lit sports pitches. It is very much a joint civilian/military co-operative with, amongst others, civilian run clothing, administrative, messing and accommodation services. The move towards integrated civilian/military support services has provoked a significant amount of controversy and is certainly an emotive issue amongst the permanent staff within the College!

Such has been the success of Harrogate that there are already plans to establish another College, the location of which has yet to be decided. The challenge for The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards lies in filling future posts with suitable NCOs and officers. Since the recruits do not choose their cap-badge until week 22, it is absolutely vital that we continue to attract and retain junior soldiers from day one of the course. This can only be done if high quality, professional and enthusiastic individuals are selected to represent the Regiment. The responsibilities of a posting to Harrogate should not therefore be underestimated, but for anyone who can rise to the challenge an enjoyable and rewarding year or two is here for the taking.

SCOTS DG TROOPS CALLED TO ASSIST AT ELBE FLOOD

by Major C McGarrell

One hundred SCOTS DG soldiers responded rapidly to a request from the German authorities to help with flood prevention measures in the north-east of the country. Within a few hours, the troops were working against the clock on the River Elbe in the Luchow-Dannenberg area.

Three hundred soldiers, from four units of the 7th Armoured Brigade, under command of SCOTS DG were accommodated by the German authorities but were otherwise entirely self-contained, taking with them food, cooking facilities, and transport. The soldiers remained in place for 4 days until the flood tide had passed.

Units involved were The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, from Fallingbostal, and 32 Engineer Regiment RE and 3rd Royal Horse Artillery, based at Hohne.

It was initially planned to use the soldiers in the Schnackenburg area, southwest of Hamburg, but a more urgent need arose at the village of Soven, south of Dannenberg, when water forced back up drainage canals from the rising Elbe threatened to break down a dyke.

The British contingent, under Major Chris McGarrell, OC HQ Sqn, SCOTS DG, built sandbag barriers in order to contain the flood danger. Later, they handed the task in the Soven area to a German infantry battalion and moved to Schnackenburg, under the Elbe dyke, against which a mass of water was pressing.

The deployment was hard work but fun and adds to the rich diversity of tasks that fall outside our primary role.

Who knows what next?

PLAY TIME WITH IMJIN SQUADRON

By Captain TE Renwick

Captain Tom Renwick left A Sqn in 1999 as a Troop Leader and completed a tour at the RAC Training Regiment in Bovington before leaving the Army to take up studying for a Law conversion degree. Amongst his studies he is also a member of RARO and a Squadron leader in the Northumbrian Universities Officer Training Corps.

Oh how the mighty have fallen! The unchecked descent from mediocre Troop Leader to impoverished student was a rapid one. However I soon found myself posturing at the Northumbria Universities Officer Training Corps, in less time that it takes to say, "Renwick, what the devil are you doing prancing around in the attire of a SCOTS DG Captain?" Well, the answer to that question (and I know that I am obliged to give one) is that, as 'RARO', I was meant to be. RARO stands for something that means that I was able to lend my services in the role of a regular army reserve officer.

Through contact with my local TA Regiment, The Queen's Own Yeomanry, I had learned that there was a job in the offing with the OTC. It sounded like my sort of thing, having spent my last year and a half in Bovington training Phase 2 soldiers, TA Yeomanry recruits and shepherding Troop Leaders through their courses. So I made contact and was taken onboard. This meant giving up two weeks of a long student holiday to go to Brecon, of all places, for the OTC summer camp in June. It was all rather fun really. The Officer Cadets are put through their paces in the skills they have learnt throughout the year. These are, basically, Recce skills, though probably not recognisable within the context of any regular Army role. The chaps, and chappesses (for girlies abound in OTCs as stalwarts of both the Infantry and the Cavalry), train to conduct reconnaissance tasks both on foot and mounted in landrovers. Sometimes, they conduct patrols, static or mobile, in the same manner as that of the infantry; sometimes they conduct tasks in vehicles that might smack of CVR(T) tasks, though in a rather shy manner due to the nature of the vehicle, and not in any kind of formation, or even Battle Group context. Probably something akin to the old Yeomanry light recce role. The point, of course, is to provide 'training in a military context', as opposed to 'military training' and, at the same time, to make damn' sure that these university students with sufficient 'get up and go' to break the mould and actually participate in the OTC, have a very good time. Many will never see the real Army, but it does not hurt to have successful graduates thinking fondly of the Army as a result of their days of playing with the OTC, whatever they end up doing.

The nature of the job, and of the 'soldier', is such that it is a rather unique place to work and rather fun, too. It is a shame that, at some levels, it tends to be the reserve of the amateur, the sidelined and the retired (I think that I fall into the last category). These student types are canny and know when they are being bluffed (unless, perhaps, you are as good and experienced at it as I). They get far more out of a little professional training in terms of fulfilment and enjoyment and in terms of preparation for any future dabbings with the Army (and Northumbria is a very fertile breeding ground for Sandhurst entrants), than they do from some vague farting around in a landrover, on someone's recollection of what they think an exercise used to be.

The OTC flourishes, at least in Newcastle. The job is tremendous fun and to be recommended to anyone with the time to spare. The Officer Cadets form a thoroughly interesting and entertaining 'medium' with which to work and many of them go on to successful careers, both in and out of the Army. It is a most enjoyable way to spend Wednesday evenings and the odd weekend and it is good to be able to inject something at this fledgling stage in peoples' careers.

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LUSITANIA REVISITED - SUMMER 2002

By Major James Malcolmson

The Lusitania was a 32,000 ton vessel, torpedoed by a German submarine off the southern coast of Ireland on 7 May 1915, with the loss of over 1200 lives.

We all assembled in Swansea for the first time on the Friday evening (26 July). It was unusual for an Expedition of this kind that we had not dived together before. The team consisted of eight mixed gas divers with a substantial degree of experience. (Dives in excess of 50 metres need to be carried out on a mixture of Helium, Oxygen and Air to reduce the toxicity of Oxygen and narcosis of Nitrogen and we were to be diving to 93/95 metres in cold British waters.) Our training, equipment and the team had been building up for these conditions. It was the culmination of 18 months of planning, letters and e-mails for Alan Clegg, the organiser, and it was now all coming together.

Our vehicle (a large white transit van) was loaded to capacity, scraping the ramp and groaning under the weight as it went on board the ferry. We estimated that there was at least £100,000 worth of diving gear in the van between the eight of us.

We arrived in Cork at 0700 hrs and moved onto Kinsale where we met up with Loyal Watcher - our home for the next week. Saturday was spent organising the boat, our kit and building the decompression (deco) station - the latter would be important for our decompression when returning to the surface after each dive. It is like a climbing frame, floating in the water, with cross bars at 12, 9 and 6 metres. Over 90 mins and as much as 130 mins decompression would be completed by every diver on the station during the ascent from each dive.

Sunday was to be our first attempt to locate, shot (put a line down onto the wreck) and then put a team of divers in. Everything seemed to be against us; the weather, the actual co-ordinates were not as accurate as expected and there were a number of green faces! We were also introduced to two Inspectors from Duchas (Irish Underwater Heritage) who were to join the boat every day and monitor each dive. We were not allowed to remove anything from the wreck. The Irish Government rarely grants more than one licence each year to dive the Lusitania and this has to be applied for about twelve months in advance. In addition to the two Inspectors from the Heritage, the Coastguard, Customs & Excise and the Navy are all informed of the



Loyal Watcher

expedition, as the immediate area is a "No-Go" zone. The next day was much more successful with fine-tuned GPS details of the wreck, calm water and no green faces.

The routine was, that after a two-hour "steam" from Kinsale harbour, where we moored every night, the shot was thrown into the water at the point on the wreck that we wanted to dive. (The Lusitania is nearly 800 ft long - a large wreck by any standards). The first two divers would go down and, if the line was successfully in place on the wreck, a red buoy was sent up, if not, then a yellow buoy was despatched. It avoided the problem of dropping all the divers in the wrong place. We would descend in pairs, placing our nametags at 40 metres on the shot, making the first gas



Kitted up and ready to go.

switch at 51metres (the water temperature was usually 16°C in the first 10 metres, dropping to 10°C at the bottom). Torches were usually switched on at about 60 metres and the wreck could be made out at about 85 metres. Our vision acclimatised to the dark conditions as the dive progressed. It normally took 4-5 mins to reach the bottom, this then allowed us 20-25 mins on the wreck before starting the long haul home.



About to enter the water

Each dive, as we descended to the wreck, would retain that hidden surprise of what part of the liner we were actually going to see. In the end, during the week we had dives on the mid-ships, one just forward of the bridge and two on the bow. As the wreck came into view the sheer size struck us all...it was vast. Initially, the hardest part was orientating ourselves, in near darkness, to where we had arrived on the wreck. It was like going into a pitch-black room with only a torch beam. The bollards, anchor chain and capstan (all shown in photographs) were enormous. Each link of the anchor chain was the size of a car tyre, does that put it in perspective?! Although dark, the visibility was excellent at 10-15 metres. Sadly, the wreck is starting to break up and collapse, consequently we did not dare go inside, nor did we really have the time.

Watching our gas and our gauges was critical and it was soon time to leave and start the long, two-hour ascent to the surface. The first decompression stop was usually at around 61 metres and the first gas switch came at 51metres onto our weak trimix (25/20). At 40 metres we met the "mid-water diver" who would check us back in as we collected our nametags, we



Head of Kinsale, 12 miles from dive site.



Bollard with rope on foredeck.

would then move across the line towards the deco station. At various stages we would be stopping for decompression, which varied at this depth between 2 and 3 minutes. Once above 21 metres we could switch onto 50% pure oxygen and, when in the 15 metre area, the length of deco increased to 15 mins at 12 metres, 20 mins at 9 metres and then about 50/70 mins at 6 metres.

Returning to the surface was completed with relief and excitement, as it was the first chance we had to talk about what had been seen, the awesomeness of the wreck and to re-live the experience with the others.

We returned to Kinsale Harbour each night. However, it took until about 11 pm most evenings to pump the cylinders for the next day's diving but it still allowed for a quick visit to the pub to check on the local Guinness!

We also had the owner of the wreck, Gregg Bemis, with us who had flown across from New Mexico for the week. He is a very fit 72 year old who joined in with every aspect of the expedition (except the diving). He had acquired the salvage rights back in 1967 and his knowledge was fascinating. One aspect of the wreck that has always been a mystery is whether it was



Capstan on foredeck.
Each link of the chain was the size of a car tyre.



On the Decompression Station.



Decompression.

carrying munitions when it was torpedoed in 1915. There is a vast hole at the bottom of the bow, rumoured to have been caused by the explosion of these munitions when she sank. There is no evidence to substantiate this as the bow has not been subject to an explosion or implosion - perhaps we will never know. There are mixed reports in various books as to whether 1,200 or over 1,800 passengers and crew were killed when she sank but one thing is certain and that

is, it was one of the final factors to bring America into WWI. Had it been secretly engineered by Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, in order to gain the support he needed from the US?

I have listed below, the kit carried by each diver on a dive:

- 2 x 18 litre cylinders (for bottom gas, usually 13/55 - i.e. 13% oxygen, 55% helium and the balance, 32% air)
- 2 x 12 litre cylinder (for 50% & 100% Oxygen)
- 1 x 10 litre cylinder (for travel gas, usually 25/20)
- Dry suit and 300 gram under suit
- Fins, mask, gloves and hood
- 5 regulators
- Main torch and back-up
- Harness and back plate
- 2 x mixed gas computers
- 1 x depth gauge
- 2 x reels, 2 x red buoys and one emergency yellow buoy
- 2 x knives, line cutter, surgical scissors, slate and pencil

There is also a website, set up by one of the team, where more photographs can be seen:

www.derwentelec.clara.co.uk

Pictures courtesy of Peter Steggles

EL ALAMEIN REUNION, PERTH 26 OCTOBER 2002

By Lieutenant Colonel AM Sprot MC

51st Highland Brigade (descendants of the famous 51st Highland Division) organised a reunion for Scottish Regiments to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein in Perth on 26 October 2002.

Being unable to go to the main reunion at Westminster on 23 October, I went up to Perth and took part in a wonderfully moving day-long commemoration. It was unfortunate that there had not been more publicity outwith the 51st Division Old Comrades; as a result there was only myself and two others in our grey berets and medals (E McBean and D McKenna).

It was a full day from 10am till 5pm! We assembled in a hall for coffee then made our way to the lovely old St John's Parish Kirk where the Very Reverend James Harkness, one time Chaplain General and Moderator of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland, who had preached on the 23rd at Westminster Abbey, took the Service and gave a stirring Address. Then all four hundred veterans paraded and together with six hundred Territorials and Cadets of all three Services,

marched past the Lord Lieutenant, representing the Queen, and the Provost. This included thirty veterans in wheel chairs, assisted by Army Cadets. The march with massed Pipes and Drums, covered at least a mile of streets, the pavements packed with people of all ages cheering and clapping till we came to the 51st Division Memorial in the South Inch where a Drum-Head Service was held and there was a fly-past of war time planes.

We then broke up and walked across the park to Bell's Leisure Centre where there was a very good hot two course meal awaiting us and ample free whisky and beer. With a military band playing all the good old tunes with Lili Marlene being the main item!!

It was indeed a wonderful day in brilliant sunshine and it brought back many happy memories and the opportunity to speak to so many Veterans from other Regiments. We were all most grateful for the efficient organisation of the day by 51 (Highland) Brigade and the generosity of the Provost of Perth and Kinross and his Council and others.

THIS IS TURKEY

by Lt Col Ben Edwards - posted to 3rd Turkish Corps.

It is four o'clock in the morning. The drummer starts up in a village across the valley and for 30 minutes his thumping echoes about our heads. Just as peace returns, Muezzin begins his call to morning prayers. It is Ramadan, or Ramazzan as it is called here in Turkey, and everybody must be up to eat before the fast begins. The days during Ramadan are pleasantly quiet. It is a good time to visit the city centre, but one has to be sure to be off the roads by 4.15 in the afternoon. Hunger and thirst crazed Turks, whose driving is pretty erratic at the best of times, flood onto the roads to get home before dark when they will break the fast.

This just one of the many colourful inputs that have bombarded our lives since we arrived here in Istanbul in July. I hardly need dwell on the excitement there is in living in this great city. We sit at one of the worlds great crossroads; one of geography, culture, religion and history. A modern day crossroads of air, road and rail transport. The Bosphorous carries over 40,000 ships per year, so it is a bustling and busy place. It is tempting to try and tell endless long tales of our great experiences, but I shall instead try to give you one or two vignettes of life in Turkey.

We drove from Paderborn through Romania and Bulgaria in 6 days. It was a stimulating, but long six days. At each border the bureaucracy increased, as did the endless un-receipted little bills to be paid. 6 Dollars here, 10 Euros there, nothing too significant but increasingly irksome none the less. Sam, Rory and Kitty ensured we stayed awake with endless place swapping. Daisy (the cat) just sat there thoroughly under impressed with the whole performance, despite nearing her Kosovan homeland, and Wellington worked the hardest, guarding the car by night, and putting off wide girthed eastern female customs inspectors by day. We arrived in the sort of sweltering heat you imagine for Istanbul feeling quite part worn. It was a relief to stop.

We live about 10 miles to the north of the main city close to both the Bosphorous and the Black Sea. Our house is delightful, surrounded by astoundingly rich Turks and nestling against the Belgrade Forest. We enjoy Balkan weather with extremes in both summer and winter. We have already had one morning on



The first road sign to Istanbul.

which the road out of the village was blocked by cars unable to climb the hill because of the snow. The third lot of snow is lying as I write this.

In August we had torrential rainstorms that swept in from the Black Sea. On the most memorable occasion, we were returning from trying to walk at the beach with Mark and Honor Auckinlech, who had stopped on their drive to Ankara. We were both glad to be driving a solid product of Lode Lane, Solihul as our wash splashed up against the abandoned cars in the swamped road.

Have you ever visited Gallipoli? It is only 5 hours drive away from Istanbul (another tale to be told another day – our scenic yellow road on the map turned into a precipitous farm track carved into cliffs 100s of feet above the Sea of Marmara!). Neither of us are great Battle Field Tourists, but as we sat in the fading light on ANZAC Beach, out the front of a small cottage run by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission one could not help but be swept up with the enormity of what happened some 80 years ago. We promise a few nights in Istanbul and help organising the cottage for anyone who wants to come and do the same thing. The whole Gellibolu (as the Turks call it) Peninsular is stunningly beautiful; the boys could still find things left from the battles, and the sunsets were just as contemporary writers described them – awesome.

We had to import our car into Turkey. Now that was an experience. I wrote a long account of just one stage in the lengthy process. Here is one part of it, which begins in the small office of a little, chain-smoking woman. She is the Deputy Chief of Customs and

seems to wield great power. I have christened her in my mind, the 'Dragon'.

"She says she cannot work with these conditions. It is impossible to be efficient when so many things are in this state. It is impossible to do things when so many people do things the incorrect way." Mustapha said. I saw my chance. With the hands on my watch rapidly closing to lunch time, with a Dragon surrounded by her shopping and looking as if she was not coming back to work after lunch, I suddenly had visions of being car-less for at least the weekend. "Tell her I can get her some file dividers," I said to Mustapha. "Really?" he questioned. "Yes, tell her I can get her some UK ones, I am sure I have some I brought with me."

As he told her this, a kind of hush fell on the building. There ensued a rustling, like the leaves on a tree signifying a squall. Down the passage outside swept four large men in large suits, heading for the Chief's office. Mustapha had bent closer to quietly explain my offer, but with animal like awareness he had also seen the men outside. He bent further and very deftly swept half the Dragon's shopping under her desk, the Dragon rapidly pushing the other half after it. She straightened her chair, put out her cigarette, looked at me and smiled. Mustapha made the last few copies that we required at an agonising rate. It was a photocopier of the type on which the glass plate that the document is placed upon moves slowly across the light. The Dragon was by now packing up, and the passage outside was full of workers streaming off for lunch. She looked at our papers and sent us back to the open plan office, which was now empty except for one man who had been asked to wait. He divided up our paperwork, logged it into a register and sent us back to the Dragon. She had all her shopping out and was engaged with her last cigarette in the office before

lunch. Placing the rapidly diminishing stub between her lips she produced the hugest stamp yet, and stamped every sheet of paper. She handed us one set of copies, and five minutes late for lunch we trooped out of the office, making a fond farewell on the steps outside. "You will send me those papers?" she asked in English. Surprised by her hidden command of our language, I said "Mustapha will deliver them next week."

We were free. We had followed the course of an application form through a Turkish office that would take anything up to four weeks, in just three hours.

"What was that all about with her shopping? Was she not supposed to have slipped out during the morning?" I asked Mustapha as we walked back to the customs sheds. He looked at me quizzically. "That was not shopping" he replied "those were gifts. The men who arrived were from the headquarters that run this customs office."

We came round the corner to the customs shed outside which stood the Land Rover. I now understood the logic of keeping the keys and parking it outside. The entire compound was dead of people and activity, except the gate guards. As we climbed in to drive away I said. "Would you give her the File Dividers please Mustapha?". "Yes, When will you give them to me?" he asked. "In two days Mustapha "Thank you Mustapha. That way you keep your connections with the Dragon, and I get my car. Tell me, would you have offered her something if I had not?" "Oh yes." He readily replied." He nodded. "Maybe I will take her out to lunch again and give her the file dividers then." I shot him a look of complete surprise, Mustapha lurching out with the Dragon! He took all this in within an instant. "This is Turkey." He said"



Floods in Istanbul/

And that is Turkey; a country where nothing happens fast. In which quality of work is often judged by how long is taken to complete it - the longer the better. In which I have had quoted at me their own version of 'More Haste, Less Speed', which is 'Acele giden, ecele gider'. A place where if you try to do two things on the same day you are grouped with the mad dogs, and men out in the midday sun. It is a wonderful place. Nothing is impossible, anything can be done, Inshallah. My job is beautifully under stressed, and yet my day more than full. As we begin to slip into the

TURKISH SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

by Colonel MH Auchinleck

A chapter in Jeremy Seal's excellent and mischievous book "A Fez of the Heart" starts thus:

"The Turks about here," declared an exasperated Sivas minister in the late 1800s, "are just about the inside-outside and the outside-inside, the bottomsides-upward and the topside-downward people I have ever seen."

Over a century later not much has changed, at least in one respect. Honor and I recently went to shop at one of the local supermarkets. Nothing much, just the usual domestic supplies. On arrival at the checkout I produced my Mastercard, and, as usual, also showed my kimlik, or diplomatic identity card, as proof of residence and credit worthiness. Normally the till operator just does her job, rings up the purchases, gives me the chit to sign, hands over the receipt and off we go - no problem.

Today was different. The first item out of the basket was a large packet of loo rolls. The attractive young lady at the till asked if we had a store discount card. "No," I replied "I've left it at home". She hesitated, looked at us rather accusingly, fired off a short burst of Turkish at minigun speed, pointed to the packet of loo rolls, held them up in the air at arm's length and pressed the bell beside her. "Aha," I wondered, "perhaps they're not bar coded. No, this wasn't the problem. I suggested she get on with the remainder of our shopping and deal last with the loo rolls. My proposal was met with another burst of rapid, incomprehensible Turkish. The young lady began to look anxious. Honor muttered sotto voce, "Çok zor, fazla bilgi" (very difficult, too many papers). Less charitably I thought we were up for another case of discrimination against yabancis - foreigners.

way of Turkey I worry about coming home. We will be real nightmares, ignoring every rule and convention of the road, remaining eternally slippery to being tied to anything. We will be understanding but unbending until tea is served. We won't buy a thing until we have been able to haggle for it. We will expect boundless and courteous service from waiters and workmen alike. We will spend hours over lunch, expect to be pummelled and bathed weekly, wonder where all the ruins have gone and generally suffer from a real culture shock. That is the joy of Turkey.

After a few minutes another young lady appeared. She had an air of authority about her and was clearly a supervisor. A short, fast exchange ensued between the two of them. I recognised the words for diplomat, foreigner, lavatory paper and discount. Still no start at ringing up our purchases. A queue of other customers was building up, all watching with interest and perceptible impatience at the delay. More help was summoned, this time in the form of a young man waving a couple of official looking forms. I wondered if these were to replace the store card left at home. Wrong again. Nothing could be so straightforward or logical - at least to us.

The arrival of the forms satisfied the supervisor and the lady at the till. Honor opined that the paperwork might simply be in lieu of the store card, thus entitling us to the general discount being offered to all customers at Bayram time. Wrong again. The loo rolls were put to one side while the rest of our goods were checked through. I was invited to sign the docket and given a receipt. But the supervisor kept a tight grip on the packet of loo rolls and began to fill out the forms, carefully copying all the details from my kimlik. I finally managed to summon up sufficient Turkish to ask the purpose of the form filling. Her reply caught us both on the hop. "You get a diplomatic discount on lavatory paper, but you have to pay separately! May I please have four million seven hundred and ninety thousand Turkish lira in cash? I have deducted seven hundred and thirty thousand six hundred and seventy eight lira."

Honor and I looked at each other and laughed, as did the three shop assistants. They were undoubtedly laughing at us, but we were thinking of that minister in Sivas in the 1880s...

BATTLEFIELD TOUR TO YPRES AND THE MENIN GATE

by Lance Corporal R Sagina

In November 2002 Captain Trueman suggested taking a small party to Belgium to participate in the Armistice Day commemorations. The following is an account of the trip written by one of those who took part.

The tour started on Friday, with an initial briefing of facts and figures on the First World War which proved difficult to take in, though this would change on arrival in Belgium. The drive itself was long (8 hours) and uneventful. We arrived in our hotel, which was the best in the area, checked in with Capt Trueman's credit card after being given a warning not to steal the towels. Capt Trueman then disappeared with 2Lt Jack, to meet up with a representative from the Last Post Association after the service held every night at the Menin Gate. The Gate was built in 1927 as a memorial to British and Commonwealth soldiers from the war missing in the Ypres Salient.

Saturday saw us leave on an organised battlefield tour (the guide, we soon discovered, had a nervous stammer although he was very knowledgeable). First stop was Essex Farm Cemetery were the body of Lt Col John McCrae lay. He had been a field surgeon who wrote 'In Flanders Field's, a famous poem that set the tone for the rest of the tour. We then visited a German cemetery which was very cold and bleak and held a staggering 24,000 bodies in an astonishingly small space. After a quick lunch we moved onto Passchendale, an area where a great many Canadian Australian and New Zealand casualties were sustained. This site was particularly poignant for Tpr Alexander whose relative had been killed here. It has been calculated that at Passchendale 35 soldiers died for every metre of ground that was gained. Next, onto Tynecot, the largest British and Commonwealth cemetery where over 12,000 bodies lie and the names of a further 35,000 missing in action are listed. Captain Trueman paid his respects to a great, great uncle from the Enniskillen Dragoon Guards whose name is commemorated here.

Unfortunately the tour guides stammer had got so bad that he was finding it very difficult to speak, so we adjourned for a 20 minute break. At last we pressed on to Sanctuary Wood, one of the only preserved trench networks in this part of the Western Front, certainly a worthwhile end to the tour. With a few hours left we headed off to the 'In Flanders Fields' museum situated in the centre of town next to the magnificent Cloth Hall. This wrapped up a long but interesting day and we all felt justified in heading out for an evening of relaxation.

On Sunday we drove to town called Poperinghe to visit Talbot House where soldiers would go for a rest away

from the frontline. Talbot House or Toc H was the forerunner of the Church House organisation. It is a fascinating place with an exhibition to those that ran it during the war and provided support to the thousands of soldiers who passed through. There was a pleasant relaxed feel about the place in the garden and especially in the small makeshift chapel upstairs. The last two stops were Hill 60, a battlefield that represented a monumental waste of life and finally the Pool of Peace. The Pool of Peace is a water filled crater left after 90,000 lbs of explosives were detonated under the German lines. The day ended with a visit to the Menin Gate. The sight of over a hundred wreaths lying at the foot of the stone tablets bearing thousands of names and the sound of the last post made the occasion very haunting.

The Remembrance Day ceremonies began with us marching to the small British church (St George's) to take part in a simple service. There was a mixture of dignitaries, tourists and most importantly two World War One veterans. Afterwards, we marched through the crowds thronging the street to the Menin Gate where LCpl Weeks, LCpl Pescod, Tprs Alexander, Slowe and Evans took up position. They proved to be worthy representatives for the Regiment and looked extremely smart in Service Dress. They proved to be irresistible to a great many photographers. Capt Trueman laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment and everyone observed two minutes of silence. A very moving act of remembrance then followed, culminating in the dropping of thousands of poppies from the roof and the playing of the Last Post. Afterwards, we spent some time looking at the plaques commemorating those from the Scots Greys and Carabiniers who were recorded as missing in action.

The trip was undoubtedly very thought provoking and made the dry facts and figures we had listened to at the beginning seem very real. Thanks must go to Capt Trueman and 2Lt Jack for organising such an enjoyable trip. The reception we recieved from those at the service was extremely warm and I was particularly touched when an old veteran came up to me and said how proud he was to see the young soldiers standing to attention underneath the Menin Gate. I hope that the Regiment makes this an annual trip to improve education amongst soldiers and as a means of paying respects to those who fell in the Great War.

THE STONE AT MOY

A report from Home HQ

On Saturday 27 July 2002 an ambition, inspired by Lieutenant Colonel AM Sprot MC, was fulfilled. Having noticed that a granite Stone commissioned in 1934 needed renovation he reported his concern to the Regimental Council. This particular stone was originally erected to commemorate the visit by the Royal Scots Greys who camped at Moy Hall, south of Inverness, during their 1934 Regimental Recruiting Ride around Scotland. The Greys completed a 470 mile ride from 16 July to 7 August. 20 officers and 250 men mounted on their Greys and supported by motor transport, started from Regford Cavalry Barracks. Halts were made at the House of Binns - where the Regiment was raised - and many towns and villages throughout the Highlands including Inverness, Nairn, Aberdeen and Perth before returning to Edinburgh.

The Greys camped beside Moy Hall on 23 July 1934 and to commemorate the event the Mackintosh of Mackintosh, the Clan Chief, erected a granite stone carved with the legend, 'faiche nan each glasa an righ,' meaning 'the field of the grey horses of the king'. This stone stood beside the same field now used as a vehicle parking for the Moy Game Fair, but in time suffered from the weather and encroachment of under-



growth. Thanks to the agreement and efforts of the Mackintosh family, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards arranged for the Stone to be refurbished, mounted on a new plinth with an appropriate inscription and re-erected near the original site.

Major General Ramsay, representing the Colonel of the Regiment, invited Mrs Mackintosh of Mackintosh and her son, The Mackintosh to unveil the refurbished stone. The Pipes and Drums provided stirring music as the Recruiting Team, various Regimental Association members and many local residents wit-



nessed the occasion. Thanks were also recorded to Major Edward Harding Newman for arranging the stone carvings which will be seen by countless visitors to future Game Fairs at Moy.

After the ceremonial, most of the Pipes and Drums returned to Inverness for the Tattoo whilst the Pipe Major and Drum Major joined the Mackintosh and Regimental members at the Tomatin Inn for lunch. Before moving into the dining room and still wearing his Bass Drummer's leopard skin, Drum Major Orr was greeted by a few of the local populace with the kind words 'look, here come the Flintstones'.



WINCHESTER MEMORIAL PARADE FOR HORSES KILLED IN THE BOER WAR 1899 – 1902

by Major Donald Scott

On a fine day in June 2002 Ramillies, the by then supposedly retired regimental drum horse, had a fine day out in Winchester. He was ridden by LCpl Harnetty, his groom, and appeared to be enjoying a day out from Knightsbridge, (Talavera, the new drum horse presented by the Colonel in Chief in 2001, was not yet ready for public duties.)

The pair, flanked by two troop horses ridden by a Life Guards LCpl and Blues and Royals Trooper in service dress were the centre of attention for a crowd of about 600 in the middle of Winchester. They led a small parade to commemorate the 450,000 or so horses that died in the Boer War to coincide with the centenary of the end of that war in 1902.



Donald Scott imparting words of wisdom to LCpl Catt LG while LCpl Harnetty and Tpr Ghelabhi RHG/D maintain a discrete silence

The commemoration took place in front of a horse trough that was given to the City of Winchester in 1905. The trough is only 9 feet long and situated at a crossroads in the centre of Winchester's singular one way system. This constrained the size of any parade, not to mention the length of time that the police were prepared to hold up the traffic!

The choice of date was simple. With the Jubilee celebrations, the Armed Forces Review in Portsmouth and the impossibility of being allowed to hold up the traffic on a weekday, it had to be Sunday 23 June.

The size of the parade had to be appropriate to both the event and the size of the horse trough. All Cavalry regiments, the Yeomanry Association, the Royal Artillery and appropriate Corps were invited to take part but to limit their presence to one or two representatives. The response was almost completely positive with the result that we had what amounted to a mini cavalry memorial parade with the addition of trumpeters from the Kings Troop RHA and representatives from the Royal Engineers, the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and the Australian Army. Added to this were representatives from three Livery Companies (the Saddlers, the Farriers and the Lorrimers), the RSPCA, the British Horse Society and the Sidesaddle Association. The two ladies were appropriately and immaculately attired in habits as Mrs Clowes (the donor of the Trough) would have ridden to hounds at the end of the nineteenth century. The Army was represented by almost every rank from Trooper to Lieutenant General and in age from 19 to 92.

The commemoration started with an inspection by the Deputy Mayor that was followed by an explanation as

to why so many horses died (see separate article). Mrs Clowes' great grandson who had served in the RHA then read prayers. He did this so well that people were heard to remark, "whom was that vicar reading the prayers?" The ceremony ended with the Lord Lieutenant acting as Honorary Colonel of the Hampshire Yeomanry and the Deputy Mayor laying wreaths and with trumpet and bugle calls of 'Feed' and 'Charge'. This was thought to be more appropriate than 'Last Post' and 'Reveille'. While the horses pricked up their ears at the first call, they were restrained by their riders not to charge into the crowd on the second.

The parade then marched up the High Street for a photo call under the arches of the medieval West Gate of the city. The two little mares of the sidesaddle association took a shine to the eighteen hand Ramillies who behaved impeccably, if a little flattered. The proceedings ended with a picnic lunch on the green in Peninsular Barracks with the horses happily tethered.

One elderly Yeoman remarked after the commemoration that he had become quite sentimental as it reminded him of the time he had had to part with his horse.



Ramillies and LCpl Harnetty prepare for the parade



Representatives from the Australian Army, RAVC, Trumpeters of RHA and RAVC, Col David Norris QDG, Duncan Barber Light Dragoons, The Lord Lieutenant, Lt Gen Sir Roddy Cordy Simpson and Maj D Scott with mounted Life Guards, Scots DG and Blues & Royals.

WHY DID SO MANY HORSES DIE IN THE BOER WAR?

by Major Donald Scott

This article was inspired by his attendance at the memorial parade in Winchester for the Horses killed in the Boer war.

During the South African War 1899-1902 (The Boer War) no less than 518,800 horses were supplied to the British Army, of these 67% or 347,000 were to die. If one adds an estimated 100,000 horses lost by the Boers, the thousands of brood mares and foals that were removed from Boer homesteads into "Protective Care" and allowed to starve to death without rations, and if a similar proportion of the 149,600 mules supplied also died, the total equine deaths would be around the half million mark. The comparative figures for men who died in the campaign was 21,942 including 800 accidental deaths and 13,139 of disease.

How did such losses happen? How was it that so many horses died in action, at sea, through starvation, exhaustion or disease? The basic reason stems from Whitehall's belief that this would be a short war. So certain were they, that in November 1899 they even cancelled orders for stores. Only belatedly did they realize they had a major war on their hands, and a supply organization that had been untested on any scale since the Crimea War.

The sorry story of the inadequate supply of stores and scarcity of trained men was only countered by the extraordinary efficiency of a small department of the War Office working from a three-room office in Victoria Street. General Truman of the Remount Department managed to purchase and ship over half a million horses to a war zone 6,000 miles away, and spent at to-days prices, Sterling 830 million doing so. Unfortunately his very efficiency and success in meeting the demands that were consistently made of him for more and more horses exacerbated the need for stores and for men trained in the care of horses. Other departments were unable to catch up with the consequential needs.

It was soon realized that the source of horses from the British Isles would be inadequate. This was in spite of the large pool of horses that was becoming available from bus companies whose horse drawn buses were being electrified. Horses had to be purchased and shipped from all over the world with the exception of the Low Countries.

Losses at sea were between 4% and 9% and were particularly bad when shipped from Ports like Southampton, but even so only two shipments were lost. The 10th Hussars lost 315 of their horses and one

other transport the "Suffolk" foundered off Port Elizabeth with a loss of all but two of the 930 horses on board.

Horses bought in winter in Eastern Europe with long winter coats arrived in South Africa in the heat of the summer to find there were no horse clippers and no men trained to clip.

Horses bought in America, (some of whom had trekked from Canada), during the hottest summer then on record, arrived on the High Veldt in cold mid-winter. Both suffered grievously.

Horses weakened by three weeks at sea were given little if any acclimatization where one month or more was considered the minimum. They were then sent to the front where they were expected to bear an all up weight of 20 stone or if they were unlucky enough to be sent to an Australian or New Zealand unit 21 or 21.5 stone, as their soldiers were one to one and a half stone heavier than the under fed British! Half a million saddles were provided but with horses of such diverse proportions as the tiny Burmese ponies and Australian Walers (a cross between a hunter and the local horses of New South Wales) severe saddle sores through badly fitting saddles caused many casualties. This was not helped by the practice of keeping horses saddled for unnecessarily long periods for fear of harassment by the Boers, or through reluctance as it took two men to unsaddle a horse with full accoutrements.

Five million sets of horseshoes were shipped to South Africa but there were often insufficient to shoe all the new arrivals, or there were no farriers available to shoe them. There was a shortage of farriers in the army and extra civilian ones had to be hired at four times the soldiers' pay. This naturally caused dissatisfaction in the ranks. Without shoes some horses wore their hind hoves down so badly that they had to be destroyed. There was overcrowding on the railways in trucks never intended for horses. Some of these were steel trucks in which tightly packed horses slipped and were tramped on, while others were badly injured by projecting bolts on the inside walls. The feeding and watering facilities were often inadequate over the great distances from the coast to the front. There were examples of no feed or water being provided for up to two days and shortages of feedbags and feeding

troughs led to the feed being spread on the ground and a third of it was lost in the earth in wet weather.

The main cause of deaths was the inadequate rations. Rations were set for peacetime work in the spring when much supplementary grazing was available. These were quite inadequate for horses expected to work under active service conditions on the Veldt in the autumn with little or no grazing available. Horses just died of starvation, exhaustion, and diseases common in Africa. During sieges horses were killed for their meat. The average wastage over the 32 months of the war was 336 horses a day or the equivalent of one shipload of horses every two or three days. In one month in 1902, 140,000 horses and 2,000 mules had to be destroyed.

On a regimental scale, in two and a half years the Inniskilling Dragoons who landed with 406 horses were issued with 3,884 remounts only 3.9% died in action or from shell fire. The Royal Dragoons in three years got through 3,275 horses or six times the number of horses with which they left England. The casualties for these two regiments were 7 officers and 91 other ranks, and 7 officers and 135 other ranks respectively. The Scots Greys had 4,537 horses drafted to them in 2.5 years with 7 officers and 67 other ranks killed, and 4 officers and 82 other ranks wounded. (These figures include losses when C Sqn. was captured at Ziliket's Neck.)

In spite of all these difficulties there were many examples of care being taken for the welfare of horses. The

14th Hussars instituted a system on board ship of bringing horses up on deck to stretch their legs and many units took great care to minimize saddle sores. The efforts of the Remount Department in South Africa have never really been acknowledged. Short staffed and with little support from GHQ they did their best against some callous and in many cases shortsighted orders from superiors. The necessity to sacrificed both men and horses on occasions must be acknowledged but it is tragic that so many died in whatever circumstances. The lessons learnt from these losses were put to good use in the 1914-18 war when the newly formed Royal Army Veterinary Corps was able to care for equine casualties in horse hospitals and return to duty four times more horses than the Germans. It is arguable that one of the contributory reasons for the German collapse in this war of attrition was their inability to provide sufficient horses to continue the war.

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THE LAST LEAGUER

by Mr D Moring

It was about the middle of 2002 whilst trying to improve my natural talent for Egyptian PT in my garden, when I was informed by that great 'Perham Downer' Norman Hopkins that our wonderful CO of those days, Joe Fishbourne, had passed away. This struck me very hard. He had been like a father to us teenagers. In those days we had very few tanks so we had to form up in groups of five men to represent one tank. He persevered with our training introducing the first Regiment NCOs cadre since pre-war days. Both Tony Holden and I gained the honour Distinguished, one who failed deserted.

We were worked very hard by Colonel Joe and we rewarded him by becoming the best Regiment in the Rhine Army even to bringing NATO exercises to an

end days before planned, leaving our tank transporters over a hundred miles away from our position.

We were in every way a family Regiment more Musketeer than Carabinier. After I left the Regiment the CO and his lady visited us at home to see if they could assist us in any way. Having founded a driving school in Colchester we became aware of the high standard of client we were gaining compared to other schools.

At one London meeting Colonel Joe introduced me as "Mr Moring Purveyor of High Class Driving Instruction to the Landed Gentry". So he was still looking after us and probably still is!

MOTHER ROSS

By Major General Jonathan Hall, Lieutenant Governor, Royal Hospital Chelsea

I am sometimes asked by those interested in Regimental history about Mother Ross, who allegedly served in the Regiment (North British Dragoons) in the early 18th Century. I thought it therefore useful to undertake some research within the Royal Hospital and publish my findings in the Regimental journal. Here they are.

Although no woman has ever been officially admitted to the Royal Hospital as an In-Pensioner, at least two have been registered as Out-Pensioners: Christiana Davis, alias Welsh, also known as Mother Ross, was awarded a pension of one a shilling day in 1717. Mother Ross first served in the 24th Regiment (Col Marquis de Puizar's – Ensign Welsh was appointed Ensign to Captain Ben Tichborne on 8 August 1693 in this regiment), then in Flanders with the North British Dragoons where she was at the battle of Ramillies in 1706. She was wounded whilst serving with the Inniskilling Dragoons in Ireland. She died at Chelsea on 7 July 1739, aged 72, and is allegedly buried in the Royal Hospital burial ground. The other woman, as a matter of interest, was Hannah Snell who was awarded a pension also of a shilling a day in 1750, having successfully petitioned the Duke of Cumberland on her return from service with the Marines in India. She had been wounded at the battle of Pondicherry in 1748 but managed to keep the identity of her sex undetected throughout the four and a half years she was a soldier. She became something of a celebrity when her story became public news; but sadly she died in 1792 in the lunatic asylum, Bedlam, and is supposedly buried in the Royal Hospital burial grounds.

But returning to Mother Ross, the admission roll at the Royal Hospital of 18 November 1717 states:

"Stairs Dragoons. Christian Welsh. A fatjolly [sic] woman received several wounds in the service of ye habitt of a man from the 19 July 1717 by letter from Secrey at War."

Faulkner's history of Chelsea (page 276, volume II) records the following:

"Mrs Christiana Davis, died at Chelsea July 7, 1739. For several years she served as a Dragoon, undiscovered, in the Royal Irish Enniskillen Regiment; but receiving a wound in her body, in King William's wars, at Aghrim in Ireland, she was then discovered,



Mother Ross.

though her comrades had not the least suspicion of being a woman. She behaved with great valour afterwards in Flanders, and was very useful in a battle at a siege to supply the soldiers with water and other necessaries [sic], even to the mouth of a cannon. For her courageous behaviour, she obtained, through his Majesty, George I, an allowance out of Chelsea College of one shilling per day, which she received to her death. She was interred, according to her desire, amongst the old Pensioners, and three vollies were fired over her grave. She was well respected by many persons of distinction, and General Officers. She married her third husband, a Pensioner of The Royal Hospital, and resided the latter part of her life at Chelsea, being principally supported by the charity of some persons of quality."

She was apparently buried in the Royal Hospital Cemetery in July 1739. An internal note written by the Assistant Secretary on 21 March 1911 says:

“I do not clearly identify her burial from the Royal Hospital Register now at Somerset House. On 26 July 1739 there is an entry of burial of a “Welch”, the Christian name is illegibly written but does not look like Christiana or Christian; possibly the entry of her burial is somewhat circumstantial” – signed WH Willcox [Assistant Secretary]. He later adds in a letter to Lady Lyttelton written on 9 February 1917 that “ I worked myself through the burial register at Somerset House... found an entry of someone named Welsh whose Christian name was so illegibly written that it was quite impossible to guess what was meant – my own conclusion is that she was buried here but the exact spot no-one can find out.”

Further research in November 1930 by the War Office Deputy Librarian reveals the following:

In an Appendix to ‘women-at-arms’ held in the Public Record Office (WO 4/20 page 182) it states that Welsh served in the Scots Greys.

In the Gentleman’s Magazine for July 1939 is an obituary notice which records her service.

An autobiography was written entitled ‘The Adventures of Mother Ross [I can find no trace of such a publication – it may exist still in the MoD library]. In the preface to this biography Sir John Fortescue apparently writes that she was buried in St Margaret’s Church, Westminster!

A Monsieur JA Didier in Paris requested information from the Royal Hospital in July 1935 about Mother Ross as he was “on the point of writing on some characters in the works of Daniel Defoe, I should be much obliged if I could ascertain from you that Mrs Christian Davis commonly called Mother Ross, as Defoe puts it, was really a pensioner at the Royal Hospital... [So you must read Defoe to find out more!]

There is an account of Mother Ross in the Dictionary of National Biography (1930)

Our files at the Royal Hospital reveal nothing more. Sadly I can find no evidence which sheds light on the entry of our official records which indicates she served in Stair’s Dragoons. So it’s over to those interested readers to do more research and add to this dossier on Mother Ross. The enclosed ‘picture’ was on the cigarette packet ‘Scots Greys’.

Bringing the issue of women In-Pensioners up to-date, from time to time the media gets excited as to whether the Royal Hospital will admit women In-Pensioners. The answer is yes! Indeed, the decision has already

been made. The Commissioners of the Royal Hospital decided in 1999 that female ex-soldiers who meet the eligibility rules of the Royal Hospital may apply for entry, but **only** once suitable accommodation has been identified and prepared. Such an arrangement is linked to the Royal Hospital’s Development Plan; it will therefore be some time before suitable accommodation is ready. It was further decided by the Commissioners that a quorum of at least six females must be achieved before entry can start. At the moment (January 2003) we have only received one lukewarm sign of interest. It is, as you can see, a matter of time before women are here.

It is only since the end of World War Two that women have had a full career in the Army. As a result few meet the eligibility rules: to be eligible for admission as an In-Pensioner today the candidate must be:

In receipt of a service or disability pension awarded for service in the Army.

Normally at least 65 years of age; exceptionally a candidate may be admitted earlier through disability.

Free from the obligation to support a wife/husband or children.

Passed medically fit for admission.

I look forward to finding out more about Mother Ross. If you have any information, please get in touch.



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.

Officers	London and South East of England Branch
Captain JP Audis	C Bessant
Major JA Barnes	WP Casey
JN Cumming Esq	GE Gaunt
Sir William Gordon Cumming	RA Sproxton
Brigadier JR Fishbourne CBE DL	J Watson
Major Peter JC Fraser	
Major AP Haynes	North East of England Branch
The Earl of Kingston	G Hunt
Major P Mantle	EJ Kiernan
Captain RG Patterson	
Major MD Pocock	North West of England and Wales Branch
Captain MB Warwick	R Lowbridge
	JJ Lynch
The Serving Regiment	P Woods
Trooper BG Blyth	
	South West of England Branch
Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch	JAT Mason
J Dickie	F Ward
M Gargaro	
	Not in the Association
Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch	D Tether
J Cluness	
RA Davies	

TROOPER BRIAN BLYTH



Trooper Brian Blyth joined the Pipes and Drums in January 2001 as the band were preparing to embark on a tour to Australia and New Zealand.

He was 'Sammy' to his friends in the Pipes and Drums and the Regiment, due to his remarkable resemblance to Captain Stuart Samson of the 1st Bn The Highlanders. Shortly after joining the Regiment he attended the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming for a six month Class 3 piping course. He was very popular with the instructors as well as his fellow students. During his short stay at

the school he left his mark as a joiner, renovating the display cabinets, a trade he had learnt before he joined the Army.

Brian was taught to play the bagpipes by his father Stan and played with him as well as his brother Philip in the Colinton and Currie Pipe Band. He also played with the Vale of Clyde Pipe Band and pipe band of the 71st (Scottish) Engineer Regiment Volunteers Territorial Army unit.

He had a keen interest in the Boy's Brigade, was a member of the 43rd Edinburgh and Lothian Company. Whilst attending the Piping School at Edinburgh he went back to be the Inspecting Officer at one of the Boy's Brigade Displays. He would spend his spare time returning to tell others of his experiences of Army life.

Brian returned to the Regiment where he completed his tank courses and began advancing his piping skills.

The Pipes and Drums then returned to Scotland to take part in various KAPE events and it was whilst they were based at Dreghorn Barracks in Edinburgh that Brian's character began to emerge.

A very polite, quiet soldier, Brian was always willing to help his fellow band members with no thought for himself. A lasting memory is of Brian in the swimming pool at Dreghorn playing water polo. He was a very experienced swimmer, a sport at which he excelled.

Brian was tragically killed in a traffic accident on the 13 July 2002 as he travelled to join the Pipes and Drums on route to performing in Aberfeldy.

It was his dream to perform at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, an ambition he would have fulfilled later that month.

Brian is buried in the Military cemetery at Costorphine, Edinburgh, his resting place marked by the Eagle and Carbines of his newly found friends.

Brian will be remembered always and sadly missed by all members of the Pipes and Drums and also the Regiment.

DWJP

BRIGADIER JOE FISHBOURNE



Joe Fishbourne was the only son of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Fishbourne who died in World War I commanding a battalion of the 5th Fusiliers. He was born in India, educated at Harrow and spent his early years in Kent and London to be commissioned into his late father's regiment in 1929. With the Fifth he served at York and in Jamaica where he met his

wife Jean whose family owned a plantation. He served in Cairo as ADC to Weir who was Colonel of the 3rd Carabiniers, and who persuaded him to join his regiment then serving in India in 1937. Joe and Jean set up house in Sailkot in Northern Punjab. To the delight of the subalterns, a succession of lovely girls came to stay at this hospitable Fishbourne bungalow which came to be known as Grimsby - home of the fishing fleet. His photograph albums showed that as

he learned how mounted cavalry operated. He also was able to enjoy a lot of polo, a game he had learned in Jamaica. In 1940 he attended the Quetta Staff College before becoming a staff officer with the 3rd Indian Motor Brigade with whom he went to North Africa. This brigade was still training for desert warfare when it was caught up in a push by the German Africa Korps and large numbers were captured. For two years Joe was in POW camps at Rezzanello and Padua in the South of Italy. Then in 1943, when being moved to Germany by train, he joined in an escape and after a number of months on the run eventually reached Switzerland. Here his staff training was put to use to organise the increasing numbers of escaping POWs reaching this neutral country. For his work he was awarded the MBE but it delayed his repatriation until 1943. He returned to the 3rd Carabiniers as Second in Command for the closing months of the Burma campaign. Later in life he felt that, for a career officer, fortune had presented him with a disappointing war. After serving in Canada and more interestingly in Berlin during the Airlift, he took command of the 3rd Carabiniers in Tidworth, before taking them to BAOR in 1953. Joe gave a commendable lead in the horse sports scene by acquiring a formidable horse for hunter, and other trials. Being temporarily grounded by injury, he put up the Second in Command for an event at Soltau, where, disregarding orders, this said officer parted company with his horse with much indignity at a drop fence.

In 1952 he was promoted and became AA and QMG to the Commonwealth Division in Korea. Here he found one of his early tasks was to welcome the Glosters back from captivity. On returning to the UK he took command of the 23rd Armoured Brigade at Chester. He much enjoyed this type of soldiering especially when he could escape to go out with the Cheshire Hunt.

He was Colonel of the 3rd Carabiniers from 1961 to 1967 and was a much valued source of advice and support to his successor in the run-up to the amalgamation of the 3rd Carabiniers and The Royal Scots Greys. During his time as Colonel, he took great pleasure when the regiments polo team became the Inter Services Champions with a team comprising only Captains and Subalterns.

He retired in 1957 to become the Country Landowners Regional Secretary for Essex, Suffolk and Hertfordshire. He was excellent at the staff work needed to help his members sort out their estate problems but most of all, he enjoyed the contact with people whether at the County shows or on visits. Over this time he found plenty of opportunity to shoot and took up fishing both locally and on regular visits to

Scotland. Towards the end of his life he used to regret that he had not started fishing earlier. He became a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex and for many years was involved with a number of Essex charities for the disabled. In 2001 Jean required more care than he could provide so he moved the two of them into a nearby residential home where he died in May 2002 aged 92. To his end he was ever a gentleman interested in everything but especially the Regiment and other people.

PCEF

COLONEL HUGH CUMING



Colonel Hugh Cuming died on 21 April 2001. Shortly thereafter his ashes were interred under a war-grave style stone carved with the cap badges of both the Seaforth Highlanders and the Royal Scots Greys, placed in a sunny spot in Buckinghamshire; thus reflecting three of his greatest loves; the Seaforth, the Greys and his time in Buckinghamshire.

Educated at the Oratory, Hugh's first and enduring love was sport. An all-round sportsman, he won the Victor Ludaram in both of his last two years at the school, even though he was asked not to enter some events, so that others might collect some of the trophies. He played both rugby and cricket for his school. He played (rugby) for Wasps and had a trial for England. He might well have had a similar chance in cricket but the war came along and put an end to such thoughts.

Like many others Hugh carried both English and Scottish blood in him, but his heart was clearly north of the border. In December 1939, he enlisted at the recruiting office in the Glen Morangie distillery. As a result, their whisky was a lifelong friend save for an interlude when overindulgence forced a temporary reticence.

After a period with the Cameron Highlanders, he was commissioned into the Seaforth, where he spent the next two years in Shetland and Northumberland. In 1942, he joined Phantom in North Africa. Phantom was one of the small, highly secret and hugely successful operations such as the Long Range Desert Group and the Lovat Scouts.

With Phantom, Hugh took part in two landings, one

in North Africa and one in Sicily, where he rejoined the 2nd Seaforth in 1943. The Seaforth landed on Juno Beach on D-Day plus 1 and Hugh served with them, both as a company Second in Command and as Intelligence Officer, until twelve days before the end of the war, when he nearly came to a sticky end.

This time, his third, Hugh was very badly hurt. He spent twelve months in and out of hospital and was told that he would never run again and might need to use a stick to walk. After his convalescence he returned to his battalion, the 2nd, as Adjutant.

Those with whom he served in the Seaforth, remained friends for life and he always treasured his membership of the Cuidich'n Righ, the Dining Club for the Officers.

In 1948, Hugh became Aide-de-Camp to the Military Governor of the British Sector of Germany, General (later) Lord Robertson of Oakridge. At this time he transferred to the Royal Scots Greys, partly because of his disability and partly because they were somewhat short of officers.

The General's father had been the famous Field Marshal Sir William (Wully) Robertson (the first trooper to rise through the ranks to collect his Baton). The Field Marshal had been Colonel of both the Greys and the Carabiniers, a useful connection when the two Regiments amalgamated in 1971. The General's son Ronald was also in the Greys, Hugh's son Alastair served in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the next generation has a potential officer in Thomas Chapman (the Field Marshal's great grandson)!

More importantly it was here that Hugh met the General's daughter Christine, with whom he was to share the next 40 years. They were married on 13 August 1949 in post-war Germany. Not allowed by the General's formidable wife Edith to attend the post reception party, they dined on Hitler's private train which by then was the General's. Able to hear the party but not join in, they dined alone before it took them away on their honeymoon!

With the Greys, Hugh served as Adjutant, Squadron Leader and Second in Command. He attended the Staff College and also had two staff jobs, in one of which with NATO he was awarded the MBE. It was at that time that Hugh proved the medics wrong by winning the Rhine Army Squash Championship at the age of 39!

The Greys became his second home. He served with them from 1949 to 1962, but many of his fellow offi-

cers and their wives remained extremely close friends. He saw them regularly at Cavalry Memorial and the Regimental Dinner. In his latter years, he also made grand tours of Scotland to spend time with them, always welcomed, as is the wont of the Regiment, as if he had just stepped out the day before.

In 1962, Hugh and Christine brought their family to Buckinghamshire where, against everyone's advice they set up a Quarantine Dog Kennels. This business flourished, through some good and some less good times for the next 26 years. They also spent their retirement close by.

In his 39 years in the County, Hugh was at different times: County Cadet Commandant, Army Cadet Force, Justice of the Peace and Chairman of the Milton Keynes Bench, the Buckinghamshire County Court Committee and SSAFA in Buckinghamshire. He was also appointed Deputy Lord Lieutenant.

More important than this, however, was the new friendships which they made in and around the County where Hugh and Christine made a large number of lifelong, loyal friends with whom they shared a love of good food, wine and jolly company.

Hugh was still keen on sport. His interest was now mostly in shooting and fishing; he was a neat shot and threw a straight line. Despite his gammy leg, he could still be coaxed to Ptarmigan level. In later life he took up golf too. He was only allowed complete freedom to enjoy all these activities if he agreed in exchange to attend Ascot with Christine.

There, as always, he was a particularly dapper figure. Successfully combining a touch of cavalry panache with the traditional qualities of a highland officer, he had enormous charm and was as good a conversationalist as he was a listener. His standards were high and he expected others to confirm to them. If asked for advice, it would be delivered, after due consideration straight from the hip. There may still be Seaforth and Greys officers who remember being on the end of one of his dressing downs, but most people saw a mild mannered and courteous man, albeit with a twinkle for the ladies.

Their latter years became increasingly difficult as they tend to for so many. Christine died on 21 April 1997 from cancer and Hugh died, after a stroke, four years to the day later; exactly 56 years to the day after his major wound at the end of the war!

Hugh lived through some of the most interesting days of the twentieth century. It is to his credit that he was

much less preoccupied with what he had done than with whom he had done it. That is why that gravestone in Swanbourne, Buckinghamshire near to the church with a window commemorating Christine so well sums up his life for her, the Seaforth, the Greys and his friends living nearby.

ANC

MAJOR PAT HAYNES



It would not be easy to find a more dedicated and loyal member of his regiment than Pat Haynes, both during his service in the Greys and then SCOTS DG. The name Haynes was synonymous with the name of the Greys as his brother Bill also had a most distinguished career in the regiment but sadly died a few years ago. As

well as his strong feelings for the Regiment (woe betide anyone who said anything detrimental about it!), Pat had a great love for the countryside and country field sports - especially hunting and shooting. He was in fact born into a hunting family. His father was in hunt service all his life and was huntsman to the Sevington and the Axe Vale Harriers and thus started Pat's passion for hunting. He was RSM to the Greys in Fallingbostal having climbed rapidly up the ranks. His brother Bill was then Quartermaster, an unusual if not a unique situation, with both brothers serving in the regiment at the same time. Whilst at regimental duty, Pat kept his passion for shooting alive by forming a wives' club using .22 rifles; this carried on for a number of years and was much enjoyed by all who participated.

His period as RSM was followed by postings to Bicester Garrison and Home HQ in Edinburgh. All his efforts were rewarded when, in 1972, he was commissioned and returned to the Regiment as MTO and then Technical Quartermaster. After a posting to 9 Regt AAC he was promoted to major and returned to SCOTS DG as Quartermaster. He then moved to Lulworth, where he took up the post as Range Officer at the RAC Gunnery School. Here Pat was able to resume his love of shooting and take part in both driven and rough shooting. He much enjoyed this posting and was very sad when he retired from the Army in 1985 after 36 years military service. He was now able to take part in his passion for hunt-

ing as a foot follower with the Portman Hounds. His red and silver 4 wheel drive vehicle was to be seen at most meets and next to most coverts being drawn. He got to know the area over which hounds hunted very well and he was never happier than when out with hounds. He was a member of the Hunt Supporters' Club and subsequently elected to the committee. In 1994, he helped to set up the South West Branch of the Regimental Association and, for a number of years, he was both secretary and treasurer. Nobody could have served it better. He ran many dinners and other events. He was very proud to be awarded the Duke of Kent Medal, in recognition of his long service with the regiment and his work with the Association. He was also made a Life Member of the Association.

Pat will be much missed by his devoted wife Lucy, his daughter Nikki and all who knew him. The Regiment has lost a much admired member.

MDO

THE EARL OF KINGSTON

Asked to identify the Earl of Kingston among the six newly-commissioned officers let loose on the Fallingbostal tank-park in January 1964, few would have picked the stocky, freckled, red-haired, chain-smoker posted to A Squadron. Barclay Robert Edwin King-Tenison soon made his mark; his Alsatian Indo had already made hers on the carpets of a Belgian hotel while in the temporary charge of young officers less well trained in dog-handling than the 11th Earl. Bee had been in the athletics team and Captain of Boxing at Winchester, had two seasons in the Sandhurst Soccer XI and boxed for the Academy against Cambridge. The nick-name, 'Thuggers', did not follow him to the Regiment where he was generally known as Bee, BK or Mr Kingston, Sir'; probably because, however thug-like he may have looked he was never remotely a bully. Good-natured and generous he was good company to those who did not mind the expressions he devised (colourful to put it politely) to describe events, people, places and the world in general. Whatever the time of night, he was always ready enough and-at least by the standards of the day-sober enough to drive a party to and from Hamburg or Travemunde, two places he came to know better than most.

Bee played his full part in Regimental sports; he was in, among other teams, the Greys 4x100 (yards in those days) relay team; his son Robert would later compete

internationally as a hurdler. He also played hockey for the Regiment.

Barclay Kingston's short life in the Regiment was much more than sports and revelry. We had arrived in Wessex Barracks to take over from a Regiment that appeared not to believe in the value of bazooka plates. The significance of this tactical heresy only dawned on our advance party as the rear party of the other Regiment was well on the way to the airport. A month later, A Squadron were still trying to match the skirting plates to tanks which had been cleverly grouped so that two different variants of Centurion were on charge to the same Squadron; naturally the bolts of one would not fit the captive nuts of the other; and there was a shortage of bolts. Barclay soon put these challenges behind him ensuring that endless hours on the tank-park were put to better use than cleaning vehicles. He organised courses for his troop using instructors and experienced crewmen to train the others so that each of his soldiers became proficient in his duties. Whenever the rigours of the 'scheme' allowed it, he would ensure that crew positions were rotated, relieving some of the tedium for the unfortunate gunners and making training infinitely more valuable for all concerned. Troop socials enabled him to get to know not only his soldiers, but also their wives and girl-friends and they soon took him to their hearts. BK led a well disciplined, well-trained, motivated and happy troop. He was, in words of one of his NCOs a high calibre and efficient young officer.

It was no surprise that an officer if his talents should be selected to be a Troop Leader at the RAC Junior Leaders Regiment. Part of the reason for his posting, however, may have been his determination to marry Patricia Killip in November 1965 and after two years at Bovington decided to leave the Army.

Many young officers served with the Regiment and left after three or four years, but few left so vivid an impression as Bee Kingston. It would perhaps be trite to say that his days before he left the Army were the best. But those who knew him as a soldier forty years ago will be much happier to remember him from then than through the rather lurid newspaper accounts of his later years.

Barclay Kingston died on 19 March 2002.

JMAR

MAJOR MICHAEL DUNCAN POCOCK



Michael Pocock was the son of Major Duncan Pocock who fought gallantly in World War 2 with The Midlothian and Border Regiment in France and gained an MC and Bar.

Shortly after the war - 1946 - the Pocock family departed for Cape Town, where his father was given the task of building Reckitt & Colman's interests in the African continent. At the age of 12 years, he returned to England after the tragic death of his father in the first South African air accident at Kokstad and had to concentrate his mind and take Common Entrance for Oundle.

Being a good mathematician, the accountancy profession looked the obvious choice of a career. Accountancy may have been tedious and boring, but life outside was exciting and he enjoyed every moment of it - he was renamed "Bacchus" and enjoyed this nickname to his dying day amongst close friends. However, a more exciting life in the army appealed to him and he joined the Scots Greys in Fallingbostal in 1963 and served in Aden before joining the School of Tank Technology in January 1966. He was promoted to Captain in 1967 and continued to serve with the Scots Greys until amalgamation in 1971 when he transferred to The Life Guards.

He gained his majority shortly after joining The Life Guards and was posted to Samur, France as the British Liaison Officer. France suited Michael greatly and discovered that there were opportunities to create a commercial life outside the army. He retired from The Life Guards in 1975.

He was never frightened to try his hand at commercial ventures. Using his language skills, he set up both an antique and wine business operating between France and England. Two of his great interests were travelling and reading and on closing his wine business in Malton in 1985, he followed the sun. He loved Malaysia and Sri Lanka but felt more comfortable closer to home. While in Mykonos, a beautiful island where there was little to do other than read he was inspired to open Michael's Book Swop and had great ideas of covering all the islands in the Med. As with all good ideas something gets in the way - he met a delightful Swedish lady and fell in love. In 1987 he closed the business and moved to Sweden. It was only towards his later life that he discovered where he was most suited; he became an English teacher in Uppsala,

Sweden where he excelled. His adult pupils held him in great respect and is greatly missed by them.

Anyone who may have asked Michael what was the best part of his life, his reply would be his life in the Scots Greys. He held his career with the Regiment close to his heart.

Michael was a great fighter and would never take "No" for an answer - however, a cancer took its hold and sadly won on St Michael's Day, 29 September 2002.

He will be greatly missed by his brother, Christopher, and his two children, Peregrine and Georgina and his partner of 16 years in Sweden, Elisabeth.

CP

CAPTAIN RON PATTERSON



Ron G Patterson, a Carlisle man, joined the Greys, and the Orderly Room staff, at Barce in 1953. He very quickly made his mark and his promotion in the Orderly Room was rapid. He was already married to June and she soon joined him in Barce.

Always conscientious and hard working, Ron had a sharp intelligence and these qualities quickly brought him responsibility. Indeed, he found himself in the position of Chief Clerk in Germany as early as 1958, an astonishing achievement. Regimental service in Aden, which followed in the early 60s, was a difficult and not altogether happy time for the Regiment and the responsibilities falling on the Chief Clerk led to a nervous breakdown.

His resilience overcame the problem, however, and in due course he was back in harness as Chief Clerk and accepted commissioning in 1972. He was Assistant Adjutant and Records Officer during the early years of the amalgamated regiment. Today's regiment owes much to his influence, for he was careful and wise, forward-looking and of strong integrity.

A slightly built man, he kept himself fit and played golf well. I remember that, during training for Northern Ireland, he took a cold shower every morning and claimed that it kept him warm all day! Outwardly serious, he had a neat sense of humour and enjoyed company and a social occasion.

Leaving the Army in 1978, he worked for the Cumbria Social Services in Carlisle for 14 years and became extremely well respected, in particular for his work with young people. His work as a Care Officer matched his service duties as a personnel officer and, in both, he demonstrated his gifts of wise compassion.

He fell seriously ill and, after progressive suffering over five years died in December last year. He leaves June, his wife and true partner for 49 years, and a son David. Their daughter, Sandra, died in 1991.

Ron was a fine and faithful servant to the Regiment.

JNSA

JOHN NEILSON CUMMING



John Cumming, on recommendation, came to Home Headquarters in 1997, to work as a Volunteer in the Archives and as a curator. His great experience, enthusiasm and energy made him the ideal person for the many and varied tasks he undertook and his puckish sense of humour and great charm made him a popular colleague with all the staff. On one occasion he

asked the Regimental Secretary to remind him of the arrangements for the Staff Christmas Drinks - referring to it as the Servants' Ball! He accomplished much in the two years he was at Home HQ. Ready examples spring to mind: he proof read and edited the Hippiusley Diaries, turning them into a useful source of information on the life and work of the Greys at the turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries; he reorganised the medal display cases for the Regimental Messes and created new medal displays for the Museum, and he compiled the successful submission for Phase two Registration.

Sadly for Home Headquarters, he and Carol moved to Dorset in 1999 although he managed to keep in touch. He continued to keep busy, working in the archives of the Diplomatic Service, until shortly before his death on 20 January 2002.

John was born in 1936 and grew up at Glenrinnies, the family estate in Scotland. He was educated at Glenalmond from 1950 to 1954. He spent the next three years in National Service with the Gordon Highlanders. When he was seconded to the 7th (Kenya) Battalion, King's African Rifles, and saw active service in the Mau Mau conflict. He also served with the Territorial Army in the 15th (Scottish) Battalion of the Parachute Regiment.

He went up to Cambridge and, after graduating from Emmanuel in 1960 with a degree in Agricultural Economics, went to Australia. There he worked as a jackeroo until 1963, and then as an economist with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Canberra. He had several articles published in the *Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

After a short spell with the International Wool Secretariat in London he made an unusual change of career when he joined the Diplomatic Service in 1970. He spent much of the next fifteen years in Dacca, Dar es Salaam and Khartoum and in 1986 was awarded the OBE. He remained with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office until 1991, and then transferred to the Ministry of Defence working on national security projects and retired in 1996.

For thirty eight years John was married to Carol. He was immensely proud of his family and fortunately lived to see his three sons, Andrew, Johnathon and Charles marry in the same year, and each produce a grandchild.

Our sympathy extends to Carol and her family.

RJB

WILLIAM PATRICK CASEY



William Casey died on the 23 February 2002 aged 98.

He was born in London in 1903 and joined the 3rd Carabiniers in 1921. He served in the Regiment for 18 years until he retired in 1939.

He had two periods of service in India, firstly in 1922 and secondly as RSM from 1936-1939, when he was accompanied by his wife and two young sons.

He was very skilled in the use of all the weapons in service at that time and he was an accomplished horseman. He took part in the Royal Tournament on numerous occasions and won many cups and medals in disciplines ranging from Hotchkiss Gun through Sword Lance and Revolver to Dummy Thrusting. He also won a medal at the Royal Tournament in the Team Jumping Competition. He won the Regiment's Smythe Sword in 1928 and every year from 1933-1937. The sword was kept in the Sergeants' Mess of 3rd Carabiniers and is currently in the Sergeants' Mess of the SCOTS DG.

He served as a Sergeant Instructor at Weedon, Northants and also at Sandhurst in the 1930s.

He served with the Leicestershire Yeomanry as RQMS for the duration of the 2nd World War.

At the end of the war William joined a pharmaceutical company in Loughborough as a Supervisor, and was employed there for 23 years until his retirement in 1968. It was a long retirement, lasting 39 years. The last 3 years were spent in a Nursing Home in Nottingham.

RC

SIDNEY MILNE

SK Milne, whose death was recorded in the last number of the Regimental Journal served in The Greys during the command of Lieutenant Colonel Aidan Sprot who selected him to work for the Duke of Kent. Colonel Sprot kept in touch with Sidney, usually through his parents in Keith.

The Duke described him as "indeed an excellent man who came to me from the Regiment when Katherine and I were first married and did us very well until I went to Hong Kong with C Squadron in 1962. We were fond of him and I was sad to learn of his death".

Later Sidney left the army and worked the next ten years or so for Major Peter Cazalet, the racehorse trainer who died in 1973. He then went to work for Princess Margaret of Sweden, Mrs John Ambler. On the occasion of Mrs Ambler's father's state visit to Holyrood, Lieutenant General Sir Norman Arthur and the Colonel, who were Archers on duty at the evening reception, were told by Mrs Ambler that Sidney was in her car outside. They went to find him and had a chat.

With the Kent's, then the Queen Mother's trainer, and finally the Ambler's, Sidney remained in the Royal circuit for some 40 years.

JKCS

JOHN MASON

I would be sad if the passing of my first Troop Sergeant, John Mason, who died on 24 March 2002 aged 63 went unrecorded. My first contact with him was when C Squadron went out to Aden in 1960 on the Troopship Dunera and I had the good fortune to have him as my Recce Troop Sergeant.

A delightful character, always cheerful, reliable, efficient and smart, he had joined the Army as a boy soldier, when with his elder brother in the Skins and from there to the Carabiniers. By the time I got to know him he must have been about 25, two years older than me and knew all the ropes. Nevertheless he always treated this inexperienced National Service subaltern with total loyalty and respect (tempered sometimes with quiet and tactful advice!).

We had five Ferret Scout Cars. Our main task was to escort the convoys from Aden to the camps at Dhala and Lawdar on what was then the border with North Yemen. It took one day to get to Dhala and two to Lawdar. I recall two incidents to demonstrate how he looked after me and how he never detracted from an officer's authority.

One day I was offered a trip to French Somaliland by the Royal Navy and another National Service subaltern jumped at the opportunity to lead the convoy. You had to be a bit careful not to get lost and accidentally cross the border - but John Mason promised to keep an eye on things, as was customary, bringing up the rear. Somewhere near Fort Thumeir, the leading ferret scout car was fired on. The subaltern reported the problem to Sgt Mason by radio, to which he was reputed to have replied "You stay where you are sir. I'll come and sort them out. Can't have my young officers being fired at".

On another occasion he conducted an ammunition check at a rest halt to find that a recently promoted and very keen young Lance Corporal had gone over a bump and accidentally discharged a number of rounds from his Browning narrowly missing the Armoured Recovery Vehicle in front of him. This might get him into serious trouble so Mason and I had a private chat. I was all for easing the situation somehow but John Mason would have none of it and of course I knew he was right. Nevertheless when it came to the point it was "Mr Pilcher says I have to charge you..." After some months it was my half squadron's turn to go up the Gulf, so I had to say goodbye to Recce Troop.

John Mason rose to WO2 and then left the Army to manage Brickwood Brewery's Transport Depot from whence he went as landlord of the Anchor Inn at Swanage, Dorset, where I dropped in one (rather lengthy) lunchtime many years later and renewed our acquaintance.

Some months ago I heard from his wife Jean, that he had not long to live and I went to Swanage to see them. He was as smart and chirpy as ever. Over a pub lunch

and old jokes he told me how he had tidied everything up for Jean. Not a hint of self-pity or complaint; a wonderful example.

The Church was full for his Memorial Service at St Mary's, Swanage on 2 April 2002. They had many friends. His two daughters Debbie and Tanya were there, and from the Regiment, Peter Hedley and Simon Edwards of Aden days. The recorded Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards came through clear on the loudspeakers; the Hymn was Amazing Grace. He would have been very proud of the way his young grandson read an appreciation of his grandfather.

A great character. I was fortunate to have known him and his family.

AJP

JAMES WILLIAM CLUNESS



Jim (Posie) Cluness died on the 16 July 2002 following a long illness. He was born in Leith, Edinburgh on 13 August 1920 and, after leaving school, he worked as a trace boy or in other words he sat on the horse while it pulled a wagon and, when old enough, progressed to the position of driver. This gave him a love of horses and a reason for enlisting in the Royal

Scots Greys at Redford Cavalry Barracks on the 11 August 1939. After a period of training, he was posted to Palestine where the Regiment was still mounted on horses.

Initially he was in C Squadron before being transferred to A Squadron as a horse clipper, a job that required a lot of skill. Then when the Regiment converted to armour, Jim became a member of the motor transport section and served as a driver throughout the North Africa and Italian campaigns, before returned home with the Regiment in February 1944, to prepare for the Normandy landings.

During his home leave he married his sweetheart Jemima to whom he had written for two years. She was now serving with the WAAF at Kirkham near Blackpool. Strangely, they had both gone to the same school in Leith, at the same time, but did not know each other until later when they met at the local dancing in Edinburgh.

After the Greys landed in France Jim carried on serving as an MT driver, as he had been left partially deaf, following a German bombardment in Italy and was unable to hear the commander's orders "reigns were tried unsuccessfully". During the advance in France, he was one of the Greys drivers who broke through the German lines to supply a surrounded Royal Tank Regiment with food and ammunition and preventing them from being captured.

Eventually Jim became Duggie Stewart's driver, a job he particularly liked as his staff car was a big green Mercedes Benz fire engine, procured from an unknown source and it was in this that he and Jim McDonald were among the first British troops to meet up with the Russians at Wismar, unfortunately they had trouble convincing them they were British and were almost shot. Apparently the male Russians were reasonably friendly but the females appeared to be quite bloodthirsty.

After leaving the army in 1946, he was employed as a driver; initially, driving light vehicles locally and then he progressed to HGV, driving long distances throughout the UK. He worked with various transport firms before finally retiring as foreman for Bells (Whisky) Transport at Broxburn.

During this period he actively maintained his links with the Regiment through the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch of the Association where he served as a Committee Member of the Greys Club in West Maitland Street and also Branch Secretary for a number of years. In 1979 the executive committee thanked him for his services by making him a Life Member of the Association.

He was also a member of the Royal British Legion in Edinburgh for whom he played bowls and has been known to pick up a few prizes on a Saturday night at the local British Legion Club. Jim and Jemima could still be seen dancing together after almost sixty years.

On a number of occasions Jim McDonald and myself visited him and it was so interesting listening to their many tales of the days when the Greys still had horses and events during the war also some of the real characters they served with. We all have stories to tell but these old war stories seemed special. Jim's passing has been a great loss to the Association and he will be missed.

We offer our sympathy to Jemima, his wife of 58 years, and his sons Finlay and Murray and Granddaughters.

JPM

The Regimental Collect of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ,
Gave us a perfect pattern of service,
Give us Grace that we, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards,
May be Second to None in following His example,
Swifter than Eagles to overtake His enemies,
And serve Thee in Thine everlasting Kingdom,
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Regimental Collect of The Royal Scots Greys

Almighty God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
Give thy Grace we pray thee, to The Royal Scots Greys,
That we may be Second to None in obedience to Thy will,
But swifter than eagles to overtake Thine enemies
And spoil the powers of evil
In the strength of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

*Matthew Tobias
Chaplain to the Forces, 1930.*

The Regimental Collect of The 3rd Carabiniers

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who in His life and death gave a perfect example of service to all mankind, may it please Thee to behold this our Regiment, the 3rd Carabiniers. Grant us the protection of Thy Holy Spirit so that in all things we may serve Thee faithfully.
Inspire in us all a worthy sense of our great calling that, in peace and in war, we may uphold the right.
Bind us in one communion and fellowship with our brothers who have gone before, and bring us all to serve thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Originally composed by the Right Rev. A. V. Kingston, O.B.E.,
later Dean of Bulawayo, Hon. Chaplain to the Regiment, on the
occasion of the Re-dedication of the War Memorial in 1950.*



A comfortable, intimate hotel... superbly placed at the heart of Scotland's vibrant capital city

1 USE THE CARLTON'S HEALTH & LEISURE CLUB

2 SUNDAY NIGHT SAVER

3 BANK HOLIDAY VALUE

4 THEATRE BREAKS

5 CITY TRIPPER – free taxi to Victoria
City Bus Bar

6 SUPPLEMENTS per room, per night
+ Breakfast from £5... + Daily view £10
+ Garden view £10-£15

Out and about

- Visit the famous Edinburgh Castle
- Fun at Deep Sea World
- Visit the animals at Edinburgh Zoo
- Visit the historic Holyrood Palace
- Shop in world-famous Princes Street
- Art galleries, museums and theatres
- Discover crystal in the making at the fascinating Edinburgh Crystal Centre
- City Bus Tour

Enjoy a break to remember in beautiful Edinburgh, the jewel in Scotland's crown. Witness marvellous views across the city to world-famous Edinburgh Castle, and sample the varied delights of some fine shops, right here on Princes Street. For lovers of culture and the arts, Edinburgh offers rich pickings, with fabulous attractions such as theatres, museums, art galleries, the Royal Yacht Britannia and Holyrood Palace all within easy reach.

• WiFi (free)

The Old Waverley is a landmark building in the very centre of this Scottish capital. Overlooking Princes Street Gardens, it's just seven miles from Edinburgh Airport, and only five minutes walk from Waverley Train Station. Visitors are superbly placed for exploring all that this wonderful city has to offer.

• Relax and unwind

Each of the hotel's 65 en suite bedrooms provides a comfortable base from which to enjoy your stay. The buildings and facilities are of good quality and the standard of service second to none.

• Energise your stay

Keep fit and healthy using the vibrant facilities of the nearby Carlton Hotel. Enjoy a refreshing swim in the pool, then relax in the spa, sauna and steam room. Other fine facilities include a gym, squash courts, tennis and fitness studio and cafe.

• Wine and dine with us

For an excellent, enjoyable meal travel no further than the hotel itself. We'll pleasure a fine selection in Clarendon Restaurant and the Waverley Lounge and Bar, both of which offer superb views across Princes Street Gardens and the Castle.

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