



EAGLE AND CARBINE

THE ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS
Regimental Magazine and Regimental Association Report for 2009

VOLUME 39

BAD FALLINGBOSTEL

2010

Colonel in Chief

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Deputy Colonel in Chief

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

Colonel of the Regiment

BRIGADIER SRB ALLEN CBE

Commanding Officer

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JU BIGGART MBE

Chairman of the Regimental Association

COLONEL JMA ROSS

Regimental Secretary

LIEUTENANT COLONEL RJ BINKS

Allied Regiments

The Windsor Regiment (Canada)
The Natal Carbineers (South Africa)
12th/16th Hunter River Lancers (Australia)
New Zealand Scottish Squadron

RN and RAF Affiliations

HMS Vengeance

Commonwealth Affiliations

HMAS Stuart (Australia)
61st Cavalry (India)

European Affiliations

1er/ Régiment de Lanciers (Belgium)
1/11 Régiment de Curassiers (France)
Panzerbataillon 33 (Germany)

Police Affiliation

Lothian and Borders Police

Operational Affiliations

Royal Mercian and Lancashire Yeomanry
B (Shropshire) Squadron

Historical Affiliations

The Queen's Own Yeomanry
A (Ayrshire Yeomanry) Squadron
C (Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/
Scottish Horse) Squadron

Officer Training Corps and Affiliated Cadets

RAC Troop, Tayforth UOTC
Glenalmond CCF
Aberdeen Troop ACF
Dalry Troop ACF
Dundee Troop ACF
East Kilbride No1 Troop ACF
East Kilbride No2 Troop ACF
Edinburgh Troop ACF
Glasgow Troop ACF
Saltcoats Troop ACF

2 EAGLE AND CARBINE

ADDRESSES AND CONTENTS

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Wessex Barracks, British Forces Post Office 38. Tel: 0049 5162 9712278. Fax: 0049 5162 9712620.

Home Headquarters and Regimental Association

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Castle, Edinburgh, EH1 2YT. Tel: 0131 310 5100. Fax: 0131 310 5101.

Editor: Major JMW Williamson

Email: SCOTSDG-B-OC@mod.uk

| | | | |
|--|------------|--|------------|
| The Regimental Council | 3 | The Magazine | |
| Preface by The Colonel of the Regiment | 4 | A View from the Royal Household | 121 |
| Foreword by The Commanding Officer | 5 | Soldier's Return | 122 |
| Regimental Reports | | A Day in the Life of a Royal Guard Commander ... | 125 |
| Squadron Notes | 6 | Exercise Home Eagle | 125 |
| Department Notes | 20 | Padres Macaulay's Address | 128 |
| The Messes | 39 | A Night at the Brit Awards | 129 |
| Regimental Sport..... | 48 | OPERATION HERRICK 10 | 131 |
| Regimental Gazette | 75 | CAMBRIAN PATROL 2009 | 134 |
| Honours, Awards and Appointments | 81 | Argentina Polo Tour..... | 136 |
| A year in pictures | 83 | A Squadron Battlefield Tour of Berlin | 138 |
| Home Headquarters and Regimental Museum | 92 | Army Officer Selection Board..... | 139 |
| The Regimental Trust | 95 | Lost in Translation – Language Opportunities for Young Officers | 141 |
| The Regimental Association | 96 | HQLF Wilton Balaklava Lunch..... | 143 |
| The Chairman's Report | 97 | The Birth of a School Pipe Band | 143 |
| Branch Reports | 98 | The Tam Lorimer Pipes | 145 |
| The Regimental Dinner..... | 105 | Visit to Hilvarenbeek – Holland..... | 145 |
| Members of the Regimental Association | 106 | The Royal Scots Greys at Waterloo – Did it Happen this way?..... | 146 |
| Allied and Affiliated | 115 | The Sovereign's Piper | 148 |
| Lothian and Borders Police | 115 | Obituaries | 150 |
| Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band..... | 116 | The Regimental Collect | 160 |
| Cadets | 119 | | |
| HMS Vengeance | 120 | | |

The Editor welcomes letters and articles from readers.
Please direct any correspondence to SCOTSDG-B-OC@mod.uk

General Handling: The opinions expressed in the articles of the Eagle and Carbine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Regiment or the MOD. This publication contains official information. It should be treated with discretion by the recipient. No responsibility for the goods or services advertised in this journal can be accepted by the Regiment, publishers or printers and advertisements are included in good faith.

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

REGIMENTAL COUNCIL AND REGIMENTAL TRUST

(Registered in Edinburgh, No SC016483)

President Of Council

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR NORMAN ARTHUR KCB CVO

Vice Presidents of Council

MAJOR GENERAL CA RAMSAY CB OBE
MAJOR GENERAL JMFC HALL CB OBE
BRIGADIER MS JAMESON CBE

Chairman of Council and Chairman of Trustees

BRIGADIER SRB ALLEN CBE
Colonel of the Regiment and Ex-Officio Trustee

Ex-Officio Trustees and Members of Council

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Colonel JMA Ross | Chairman, Regimental Association |
| Lieutenant Colonel JU Biggart MBE | Commanding Officer |
| Warrant Officer Class 1 J Gardiner | Regimental Sergeant Major |

Appointed Trustees and Members of Council

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Major MDA Pocock | Trustee (to 2010) |
| Brigadier HD Allfrey MBE | Trustee (to 2011) |
| Major DPG Scholfield | Trustee (to 2012) |
| Lieutenant Colonel W Raitt | Trustee (to 2013) |

Secretariat and Specialist Advisors

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lieutenant Colonel RJ Binks | Secretary to Council |
| Major CM Mitchell-Rose TD | Regimental Trust Secretary |
| Captain AD Linehan | Trust Secretary (designate) |

Home HQ SCOTS DG, The Castle, Edinburgh, EH1 2YT

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| SD Lewis Esq | Trust Accountant |
|--------------|------------------|

Woodend Farm, Hall Lane, Bickerstaffe, Lancashire, L39 0ES

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Major JC Malcolmson | Stockbroker |
|---------------------|-------------|

Quilter, St Helens, 1 Undershaft, London, EC3A 8BB

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Captain CKB Melville | Solicitor |
|----------------------|-----------|

Gillespie MacAndrew WS, 5 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 8HA

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| The Royal Bank of Scotland plc | Bankers |
|--------------------------------|---------|

Holts Military Banking, Lawrie House, 31-37 Victoria Street, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 7NR

Additional Advisors to Council

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Major SGF Cox MBE MW | Regimental Dinner & Lunch |
| Major JL James | Individual Aid |
| Lieutenant Colonel CIP Webb | Property Research |
| Major TA Wood | Cavalry Memorial Sunday |

4 EAGLE AND CARBINE

PREFACE

By The Colonel of the Regiment

It is a very welcome feeling to be back amongst the inner Regimental family after my move to the periphery 15 years ago. The Eagle is now firmly back in the grey beret and my uniform's character has been restored from its temporary anonymity by the tailor.

I am indebted to my predecessor who could not have handed me a more comprehensive and well-ordered package at the end of last year. Scotland 2009 – Soldier's Return – had been enormously successful, the books of potential officers were full of quality individuals and the Regiment's reputation at home had seldom been stronger. I am extremely grateful to Mel – and also to Sarah – for their combined efforts. Their contribution was selfless at a time when both were leading very busy lives.

The role of the Colonel is often not properly understood and sometimes it is important to remind people of the delineation between his responsibilities and those of the Commanding Officer. There is no conflict between their respective aims. In short, the Commanding Officer is responsible for ensuring that the Regiment is able to meet its commitments as part of the 'Order of Battle' by being trained, equipped and prepared for whatever comes along. It is an intensive, but relatively short-term, outlook by the Commanding Officer, as opposed to the task of the Colonel which is to look ahead, out to 5–10 years and further. Amongst other things, his job is to safeguard the Regimental ethos, ensuring the selection of high quality officers to maintain that ethos, to uphold the Regiment's standing in the community – principally in Scotland – and to act as steward of the Regiment's property and charitable trusts. Or, put more simply, the Commanding Officer manages the investment made by the taxpayer while the Colonel conducts a more holistic management of the Regiment's private side to underpin 'delivery'. I am delighted to be working with Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Biggart and I welcome the news of his successor, Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Bartholomew.

First port of call following assumption of the Colonelcy was Fallingbostal for the Moncrieff Shield Weekend in September. It did not take much to notice the vast difference in the way the Regiment conducts itself now that we have moved firmly away from the Cold War. There is a keen sense of purpose everywhere and this is underlined



by an increased gravitas with which all ranks go about their business. The banter remains and the atmosphere is as ever it was. Nevertheless, there is an absence of flippancy and a realisation that soldiering is a more serious business now than at any time since the Second World War. The families are as supportive as always, yet there is a marked increase in the amount of unaccompanied service. The thorny issue concerning length of time spent in Germany raises its head more frequently. By 2015 the Regiment will have spent 20 years in Fallingbostal. This situation suits many; it provides a great sense of community and stability, particularly when an operational tour comes

along and there is the feeling that there is a good quality of life and people are financially better off. The flip side is that the Regiment is out of the eye of the Public (and therefore, potentially, out of mind, too). Single soldiers are far from home and wives who wish to pursue a career in the United Kingdom have to make a difficult choice. There is also the separation between the Regiment and the community and the wider Regimental family, eroding the bond between present and former members of the Regiment. The debate will run on.

We are now well into the Association Branch Dinner season and the Association are very fortunate to have Colonel John Ross as Chairman. On a personal note, I am particularly pleased to be able to call upon the advice of a long-serving Regimental officer and frequently find myself doing so. As expected, I have not been disappointed in the quality of that advice. The forthcoming visit to Fallingbostal in September 2010 will be a welcome opportunity for many Association members and is eagerly awaited. Thanks for their willing attitude must go in advance to the Regiment who are very busy preparing to deploy to the Canadian Prairie in anticipation of an operational tour in 2011.

You will read elsewhere in this magazine about the exploits of those at Regimental Duty, at ERE and in the Association, so I will close my first Foreword by emphasising what a great privilege it is to be Colonel and hoping that, together, we can all lift the profile of the Regiment to put it at the very top of the Royal Armoured Corps in all that we do.



FOREWORD

By The Commanding Officer

The beginning of this year saw the Regiment revert from our 2008 operational order of battle to the more recognisable shape of an in-role Challenger 2 regiment. Key to this was a sustained period of return to role training in February and March which saw many of our junior soldiers, recently returned from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, familiarising themselves with their primary role of armoured mounted close combat. For a large number, this was their first experience of field training on Challenger 2 or CVR(T) Scimitar, which is perhaps a good indication, if one is needed, of the fluidity of our employment since 2007.

Following Easter leave, the Regiment sponsored Cavalry Memorial Sunday with our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief taking the salute. It was a memorable occasion not least because of the excellent turn out by officers, both past and present, but also because we marched to the distinctive sound of our wonderful Pipes and Drums, the tones of which are not often heard in Hyde Park. That same month we learned that they had won best album at the Classical Brit Awards 2009 for Spirit of the Glen: Journey. This outstanding achievement, with the Pipes and Drums the first non-professional musicians to be so honoured, is a testament not only to their ability but perhaps also to the esteem in which the public holds the Armed Forces. Suffice to say that the award has certainly raised the profile of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Our summer was dominated by Soldier's Return, the deployment of just under half of the Regiment to Scotland in mid-June for the Royal Guard at Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood House during Royal Week. Whilst at home in such numbers, we took the opportunity to parade through Edinburgh, Perth and Glasgow, which for the latter was the first time we have marched through the City since the Boer War. We were also greatly privileged to enjoy the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief at a regimental reception and lunch at Redford Cavalry Barracks. Held, as it was, on the first national Armed Forces Day, we were indeed honoured to have Her Majesty with us. A particularly poignant occasion was the service we held the following day to rededicate our regimental memorial on Princes Street with the names of our fallen since the Second World War.



Upon our return to Fallingbostal following summer leave, we undertook annual firing with three challenger squadrons and Reconnaissance Troop, our first full firing camp in two years. During the remaining months of 2009, each squadron also conducted low level crew and troop training, both on their tanks and on foot, as well as completing the plethora of other training required of soldiers in what is termed the contemporary operating environment, that of counter-insurgency in Afghanistan.

Alongside our core training we have made strenuous efforts to maintain the other aspects of military life in particular sport and adventurous training. The inter-squadron Moncrieff Shield sports competition took place in September with the trophy awarded to D Squadron by Colonel Simon Allen on his first visit to Fallingbostal as Colonel of the Regiment. Other traditional sports continue to flourish from equitation, to field sports, winter sports, football and of course rugby. Of note, boxing has recently made somewhat of a renaissance within the Regiment.

As the year has drawn to a close, the Regiment has started preparations for our deployment to BATUS in the spring of 2010. It is my hope that all four sabre squadrons will train in Canada with the SCOTS DG battlegroup undertaking Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1, the new title for the MEDICINE MAN exercises. This training opportunity will prepare us well for the challenges of the pre-deployment training we will undertake from next summer prior to our proposed deployment to Afghanistan in 2011.

It may appear that I have only touched upon a few of the events of 2009, however they are all covered in detail within the pages of this edition of the Eagle and Carbine. As you read this edition you will be struck by how varied life is in today's Germany-based armoured regiment, but also I hope by how rewarding it is for our officers and soldiers. They have acquitted themselves extremely well and, whilst moving with the times, continue to strive to uphold the fine traditions of our historic and unique Regiment.





6 EAGLE AND CARBINE

A SQUADRON

On a cold morning in late-January, the Squadron reformed after a well-deserved Christmas break, following the Regiment's return from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Major Spenlove-Brown took command, assisted by Captain Anderson as second-in-command and WO2 (SSM) Black as Squadron Sergeant Major. Initially the troop leaders in the Squadron were Captain Irwin and Messrs Anderson and Densham. Messrs Holtum and Majcher joined the Squadron later in the year, following summer leave.

The year began with the Squadron concentrating on refreshing itself with our core skills on tanks, after having such a diverse role in the previous year on Operations TELIC and HERRICK respectively. After several weeks of intensive Challenger 2 training, the Squadron deployed on Exercise Eagle Return on Bergen-Höhne training area. Everyone enjoyed the time out of camp, and the March sunshine was an added bonus. Captain Irwin however, will remember the exercise for different reasons as he spent most of it replacing both his tracks. Before Easter we completed small arms ranges, with everyone in the Squadron performing admirably at all distances.

When we returned after Easter, the Squadron, reinforced by 160 officers and soldiers from across the

Regiment, began to concentrate on its forthcoming responsibilities for Royal Guard in Scotland in June. This consisted of endless drill practice sessions at all times of day in the rain, sun and even the odd snow shower. One of the biggest challenges for the Squadron was to find enough sets of blues to fit everyone going, and credit must go to the Regimental Tailor who spent many hours working to alter uniforms to fit perfectly.

By the end of May, with the assistance of the Drill Sergeant and F Company Sergeant Major from the Scots Guards, we found ourselves at a proficient level of drill. This was no mean feat when you consider at the same time we were preparing our tanks for ranges in August. CATT in the first week of June provided an opportunity for the troops to practice their low level skills in a simulated environment, concentrating on troop movement and basic tactics. In the evenings everyone was able to explore the Sennelager area. Sergeant Gowland could always be found enjoying a tasty rib-eye in the Argentine Steakhouse in Paderborn.

Following last minute uniform alterations and further parade rehearsals, the Squadron deployed to Redford Barracks in Edinburgh. Our Royal Guard commitments began with the Ceremony of the Keys at Holyrood Palace on the 26th of June. The weather was



Caption

Ammo bashing





The REME as busy as ever

on our side and everyone performed very well in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, who commented on the smart level of turnout and the high standards of drill. The Squadron was strongly supported by family and friends who were able to watch from inside the Palace courtyard.

Our commitments continued at the Castle and Holyrood Palace. Messrs Ballard-Whyte and Strijdom led the Castle Guard, which in addition to looking after the Castle consisted of having numerous photographs taken of them by tourists. Some individuals collected more than their fair share of girls' telephone numbers. Messrs Anderson and Densham led the Guard at Holyrood Palace, where their drill would often be scrutinised by the Queen herself, and performed their duties to the highest of standards.

On 27 June, the Squadron helped host our Colonel-in-Chief at an extremely successful regimental reception at Redford Barracks. A Squadron then took part in the Armed Forces Day march from Edinburgh Castle to Princes Street, an event well supported by members of the public and by relatives of serving soldiers. Many of the relatives of A Squadron personnel had to make the quick dash from Redford Barracks to the Castle in order to catch the start of the parade.

As part of the Regiment's Homecoming celebrations, several parades took place through the city centres of Edinburgh, Perth and Glasgow. The Royal Guard performed very well at all three marches, whilst in

Edinburgh and Glasgow, the parades included a Challenger 2 tank and CVR(T) Scimitar, providing something extra for the public to see.

The Squadron returned to Fallingbostal in mid July for a well deserved-three weeks' leave, before we went straight into ranges in August. With limited preparation time the Squadron deployed onto the Bergen-Höhne range complex. One drawback of the fine summer weather was the frustration of constant range fires, which hampered machine gun firing and we lost over a day and a half of range time. Everyone had an enjoyable time and proved that the Squadron remains highly flexible in its ability to move from public duties to its core function as tank soldiers.

The Regimental Moncrieff Shield sports competition, where squadrons compete against each other in a number of different sports, was held in September and A Squadron performed well across the board. Of particular note was the performance of the Squadron football team who beat HQ Squadron convincingly in the final, much to the despair of the RQMS(T). The team was led and managed by Trooper Sim.

Towards the end of the year the Squadron deployed on basic troop training on the Bergen-Höhne training area, which involved not only basic tank skills, but also a dismounted exercise led by Sergeants Barclay and Brown. Here all members of the Squadron were put through their paces in a variety of challenges which many had not experienced since basic training. At the

8 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Preparing for a night out in Berlin

end of the exercise we had a Squadron smoker which was a great experience for the younger members of the Squadron. Sergeant Booth provided the main entertainment for which he should be commended, and indeed for his diverse use for cyalumes.

Following our exercise on Bergen-Höhne the Squadron embarked on a Battlefield Tour to Berlin. Organised by Mr Majcher, our tour was led by former B Squadron Leader Major Nigel Dunkley. We visited many wonderful historic sites concentrating primarily on World War 2. Highlights of the trip were the Olympic Stadium used for the 1936 Olympic Games, the Soviet War memorial, the Brandenburg Gate, and the former Gestapo Headquarters, and it would be remiss to overlook the Berlin nightlife. Every member of the Squadron who attended had a truly amazing experience with many individuals promising to return again. The Squadron owes a huge debt of gratitude to Nigel Dunkley for putting together such a fun filled and informative tour.

Another week in CATT followed troop training before the Squadron began to focus its attention on upcoming Squadron training in Sennelager in the New Year. But before that everyone is looking forward to the Christmas party season and a well-earned break before we hit 2010 and the build up to BATUS and Pre-Deployment Training.

Over the year a number of key personnel in the Squadron have departed. Captain Irwin has left to take up the mantle as Recce Troop Leader and Staff Sergeant Gibbs has moved to Bovington after serving his time as SQMS. Staff Sergeants Taylor and Fraser move over to D and B Squadrons respectively to become SQMS(T)s. Lance Corporal Strachan along with Troopers Mcneil and Taganekurukuru moved to B Squadron. Trooper Kemsley leaves the Regiment and transfers to the



Squadron Headquarters day out go-karting

Intelligence Corps. We also say farewell to Corporal Brown, Lance Corporal Magee and Trooper Thomas who leave the Army in the near future. We wish them all well in their new endeavours.

Several new arrivals joined the Squadron this year. Mr Holtum arrived after summer leave to take command of 1st Troop and Staff Sergeant Ballie arrived back from Bovington to become SQMS(T). Staff Sergeant Hendry took over as SQMS in October. We also welcomed back Corporals Ah-Sing, Imrie and Brisbane who have recently finished their Crew Commander course. Lance Corporal Kennedy and Trooper Field transferred from 2RTR and other new troopers who have joined the Squadron throughout the year include: Bower, Carmichael, Ferrie, Johnson, Kennedy, Leslie, McKellican, Nimblette, Ntanga, Spence, Syphus, and Thompson.

Throughout this year there have been several marriages in the Squadron. Congratulations go to Sergeant Barclay and his wife Kate, Lance Corporal Kennedy and his wife Jasmine, Lance Corporal Torrance and his wife Nicole, Trooper Spence and his wife Laura, and Trooper Stoops and his wife Sara. The Squadron wishes them all the best for the future. The Squadron also sends its warmest congratulations to Trooper Rae on the arrival of his son Logan and to Trooper Spence on the arrival of his daughter Hallie. Amazingly both were born on the same day.

2009 was a memorable year for all those who had the pleasure to serve with A Squadron, with many new friendships being forged and many different experiences of a varied Regimental life for all those involved.



B SQUADRON AND RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

Since Operation HERRICK 8 in 2008, Reconnaissance Troop has remained part of B Squadron providing 8 of the 14 crews in the Medium Armour squadron. Much of what has taken place in 2009 has involved both B Squadron and Reconnaissance Troop although in certain instances, one or other has operated in isolation. Where this is the case, the article will make this clear.

2009 began in earnest for B Squadron and Reconnaissance Troop with a week of Return to Role (R2R) training in February, following the Squadron's return from Operation HERRICK in late 2008. The exercise was intended to re-establish Reconnaissance Troop's traditional role as armoured close reconnaissance within an heavy armoured battlegroup, as opposed to the more contemporary roles it had been conducting in Afghanistan: escort duties and fire-support for dismounted infantry as part of a Medium Armoured (MA) half-squadron. Captain Poett led the Troop through a series of training objectives (TOs) designed around battlegroup operations, laying the foundations for exercises in BATUS in 2010.

Following the end of R2R training, Sergeant Taylor stepped down as Reconnaissance Troop Sergeant, paving the way for the newly promoted Sergeant Robinson to step into the breach, and Lance Corporals Young and Collins headed for Dorset and their CVR(T) vehicle commanders' courses. At the same time, a variety of other courses were running to qualify new drivers and gunners either re-rolling within Reconnaissance Troop, or learning the intricacies of CVR(T) for the very first time in the MA squadron.

In June, Reconnaissance Troop departed for the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT) simulators in Sennelager. This allowed those in unfamiliar roles to test new skills, albeit in a synthetic environment, via a number of exercises including traditional Reconnaissance Troop tasks such as advances to contact and withdrawals.

At the same time, the Squadron provided soldiers to the Royal Guard in Edinburgh as part of the Regiment's homecoming. Sergeant Robinson was selected as one of the Colours Party guards, and many others found themselves on duty at Holyrood Palace, being inspected by our Colonel-in-Chief, or receiving the (generally welcome) attention of thousands of tourists at Edinburgh Castle. Some even featured in a television documentary, entitled 'Rory Bremner and the Fighting Scots', which was shown on BBC television later in September. The success of this time in Edinburgh was a result of months of preparation on the Regimental Parade Square under the keen eye of Staff Sergeant McDougal, the Regimental Drill Instructor and a man quickly identified as not a person one could bluff easily. However, after the event, all those involved spoke of the great sense of pride they felt at being involved in such a successful event. It was easy to see that their efforts had paid dividends there is no doubt that those involved were a credit to the Regiment.

As the Squadron returned from Scotland, Major Turpin handed over command to Major Williamson. Whilst Major Turpin moved to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as the Senior Major in New College, Major Williamson would take the Squadron forward to begin a new training year, including several build-up exercises, BATUS and finally culminating in a tour to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 14.

Following Summer Leave, the Squadron's focus shifted to preparation for two weeks on the Bergen-Höhne range complex. Reconnaissance Troop deployed under the new Troop Leader and Squadron Second-in-Command, Captain Irwin, whilst Major Williamson commanded D Squadron, in Challenger 2, in Major Cattermole's absence. The fortnight was blessed, and blighted in equal measure, with beautiful, hot weather resulting in significant range time lost to fires. Despite the difficult firing conditions, Reconnaissance Troop achieved a very re-



B Squadron on ranges,
August 2009



*B Squadron in Glasgow for
Soldier's Return*



Lance Corporal Harley and Trooper Barker training for the Cambrian Patrol

spectable Level 5 average in the Annual Crew Test (ACT). Considering this was the first range package conducted since the Squadron's deployment to Operation HERRICK in 2008, and coupled with the high number of recruit gunners and new commanders, the results reflected the significant hard work conducted prior to the two weeks' shooting. Many of the recruit gunners achieved very high scores in their Initial Gunner Live Fire Exercises (IGLFXs) and Initial Gunner Tests (IGTs), a testament to the efforts of the three squadron gunnery instructors: Corporals Collins, Neat, and Sebok.

In September, B Squadron took to the playing fields of Fallingbostal with a spirited assault on the Moncrieff Shield. Given the number of Regimental rugby players in B Squadron, it was no surprise that the Squadron comprehensively won every single match. Sadly this display of gladiatorial spirit was not repeated in the other disciplines and B Squadron failed to trouble the leaderboard.

In November, the Squadron deployed once again on to the Bergen-Höhne Training Area to conduct Level 1 Collective Training (CT1), aimed at mounted and dismounted troop-level fieldcraft, practising such elements as harbouring, field administration, navigation and basic vehicle movement. This was completed, despite a week of miserable weather, paving the way for further progressive training as the march towards BATUS continued.

As if gluttons for punishment, B Squadron also provided a platoon to a Highlanders-run dismounted company basic skills exercise in December. This short exercise, again blighted by the very worst of wintry Fallingbostal weather, trained and tested its participants in such areas as section battle drills, field discipline and Counter-IED training, and culminated in a heavily-weighted battle march back into Fallingbostal. Once again, although they would not claim to have enjoyed the experience, those who took part gained significant training value and re-learned vital basic soldiering skills.



Trooper Taganekurukuru evidently pleased with himself

2010 also promises to be a busy period with Level 2 Collective Training (CT2) in January and the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT) in February, before a further ranges package in March. There is then the small matter of BATUS. B Squadron will send Reconnaissance Troop – and the Squadron Leader in his secondary guise as Battlegroup Warfare Officer – to Exercise Prairie Thunder 1 with SCOTSDG Battlegroup in late-April and May, before completing Prairie Thunder 2 as the Medium Armoured squadron for 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup in June and early-July. After summer leave, the Regiment will commence pre-deployment training for the forthcoming tour of Afghanistan. It looks like 2011 will be a busy year too.

In summary, 2009 has been a good year for B Squadron and Reconnaissance Troop and there have been many changes in personnel throughout the year. Departures include Major Turpin, and his wife Jen, to Sandhurst, and Captain McBride and Lieutenant Landon to RHQ. We wish them all well in the future and thank them for all they have done for B Squadron. Those joining include Major Williamson, Captain Irwin and Messrs McNeil, Emslie and Grinling. WO2 (SSM) Adams has taken over as Squadron Sergeant Major whilst Staff Sergeants Gardiner, Fraser and Chisholm have taken over as SQMS, SQMS(T) and Tiffy respectively. New troop sergeants include Sergeants Aitken and Beveridge and Sergeant Fletcher has joined the Fitter Section. We welcome one and all.

Finally some congratulations are in order. Sergeant Robinson married Samantha, Corporal Sebok married Natasha, Lance Corporal Saulilal married Adi and Trooper Taganekurukuru married Caroline. Sergeant Robinson and Samantha had a daughter, Olivia, Sergeant Aitken and Sharon a son, Casey, and Craftsman Shilton and Laura a son, Blake. Trooper Dakunimata and Litea had a son, Paul, and Trooper Saratibau and Lanietta had a daughter, Elainah. Hearty congratulations to all.



12 EAGLE AND CARBINE

C SQUADRON

C Squadron's year started in earnest in early January 2009. Having fully recovered from the operational tour of Iraq in 2008 the Squadron was eager to embrace the challenges of a new training year.

The first challenge was basic Level 0 Collective Training (CT0). This was the first time that the Squadron had deployed into the field on tanks since Iraq. The conditions were slightly different in Germany compared to the deserts of Basra, but the same tactics and thoroughness were required to complete the exercise. It also gave an opportunity for the new arrivals in the Squadron to live and work on tanks with the "old sweats" and pick up some all important hints and tips. The exercise, although short, was very effective in allowing new crews to gel. It also gave new arrivals the chance to understand their role within the Squadron.

Unfortunately, training area availability is not what it once was and the logistic burden for deploying a squadron of armour, let alone a Battlegroup, is substantial. This is where technology can lend a helping hand, in the form of the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer system or CATT for short. It is a vast complex of simulators which perfectly replicate the inside of a tank. A vast digital landscape allows all variants of vehicles to operate alongside each other or against a capable and dangerous computer-generated enemy. Using CATT, C Squadron was able to exercise engaging multiple enemies in a variety of different scenarios, testing all levels of command within the squadron without the usual worries and difficulties of maintenance and equipment availability.

The first portion of the year culminated in small arms ranges. At the time, little did we realise how important

this low level training would be for the future. The shoots were simple but allowed every soldier to gain confidence in themselves and their weapons but also in each other, a necessity for current operations.

During June, members of the squadron, as part of a wider Regimental deployment, had the honour of providing the Royal Guard for Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyrood. Preparation had been tough; the parade square is not the natural ally of a dismounted cavalry regiment. However, after many hours of drill, in varied and imaginative locations, and under the scrutiny of Staff Sergeant Dougal and a team of determined Guards drill instructors, the elusive 90 degree angle at the knee was achieved and a single "crack of rifle fire" occurred with every halt. Following the Royal Guard, those involved went on to host our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty The Queen, at a Regimental reception, to participate in Edinburgh's Armed Forces Day and to march through Edinburgh, Perth and Glasgow.

After a busy period of Royal Guard, C Squadron was quickly thrown back into normal Regimental routine back in Fallingbostal. The focus was now on a conventional armoured training year, which started off with an August firing camp on the Bergen-Höhne ranges. Getting the Squadron ready to fire one week after summer leave was no mean feat, however, after long hours on the tank park and progressive training in the gunnery simulators, the squadron was ready to deploy. At the helm was the new Squadron Leader, Major Ambrose, and, unknown at the time, it would be the last time the Squadron would get the opportunity to fire on tanks for some time.

The range period threw up many challenges. The tanks had not been used recently and, like any unexercised



Sunbathing on CT0



Mr Jackson practising his dismounted skills

machinery, they each had their share of gremlins. Parts which held up in camp broke under the strain of being deployed in the field. It is always difficult for a crew to get used to the nuances of their particular tank, but when having to use a different vehicle nearly every time to fire, life can become very tricky.

Then there was the weather to contend with. Picture the scene: It's another exceptionally hot and dry day in the middle of summer, the temperature is well over 30 degrees Celsius and there are acres of tinder dry heather and grass surrounding the targets at which an armoured regiment is firing red hot ammunition as quickly as possible. The inevitable happened, which at least left the local fire brigade a very well-drilled organisation. Unfortunately, however, the Squadron, and the Regiment as a whole, lost a considerable amount of range time to fire over the two weeks. Visibility was also difficult as every tank round produced a mushroom cloud of fine dust which took some time to disperse. Despite the challenges, the range period was a success. Old crews were able to blow away the cobwebs and new crews were able to get used to the testing and stressful conditions inside the turret.

It was not long after returning from Battlegroup ranges that C Squadron learnt of their new, Protected Mobility, role within the Battlegroup. Without tanks deployed on operations, the Royal Armoured Corps must adapt and evolve to ensure that the principles of armoured warfare can be migrated to new and varied platforms, including BV206.

Adjusting to the conceptual change of working directly with dismounts will naturally take time and can only really be cemented during BATUS in 2010. However, the foundations are there and the C Squadron vehicle crews combined with infantry dismounts will be free to concentrate on what is natural and innate – cavalry manoeuvre combined with infantry strike. Whilst training

on BV206 loomed around the corner, the soldiers also needed to remain current with their tank fighting skills. It was obvious from the announcement of the new role C Squadron would be very busy indeed.

The Squadron prepared for their new role whilst practising their old. They deployed on basic level tank training, Level One Collective Training (CT1), on the local training area in December. Many an evening before deployment was spent in lectures and rehearsals ensuring that all were aware of the procedures that are essential for operating on tanks. Limitations on the amount of track mileage available meant that healthy imagination and innovative solutions were called for; one major initiative was to devote half of the exercise to dismounted infantry training. A period of tank training, closely followed by two days of infantry skills training, produced an excellent package and one which gave a distinct flavour of things to come.

The Squadron is now nearly halfway through the training year and eagerly anticipating the challenges it faces in 2010. Deploying in the Protected Mobility role, as part of the SCOTS DG armoured battle group, C Squadron truly are at the forefront of the modern combined fighting force.

It is only fitting to finish by congratulating those in the Squadron who were married over the past year: Major Ambrose to Joy, Lance Corporal Coburn to Jordan, Trooper Hooton to Carey and Private Jammeh to Fatou.

And congratulations are also due to those who have recently become fathers. The first of the pre-Afghanistan baby boomers are: Ava Lee, Moses Tuitibou, Kaitlin Coburn and Adilala Macawai.



'Out with the old...'



'...and in with the new'

14 EAGLE AND CARBINE

D SQUADRON

The arrival of 2009 brought with it the reformation of D Squadron from Rear Party and in the middle of a cold winter, what better way to herald the beginning of a training year than to deploy the Squadron on Exercise Eagle's Return? This exercise saw the Squadron deploying to the familiar, postage stamp sized area of BR2, on the fringes of the Hühne ranges, where for five frozen days, we refreshed and relearned our core skills as RAC soldiers. Despite all the discomforts, of which there were many, numerous valuable lessons were learnt as BR2 presented mounted challenges that Iraq could not. Occupying a squadron hide, by night, in knee deep mud and driving rain, in particular offered navigational and administrative challenges to all. The maxim that when lost in a wood, one walks in circles proved all too true. Messrs Welch (the regimental orienteering captain) and Ballard-Whyte, spent some 30 minutes trying to find their way to the squadron leader's O group. Mr B-W found a tank and cautiously asked, "Whose troop is this?" A voice replied "Is that Mr B-W, sir?" "Yes". "It's yours sir."

The training continued with squadron level CATT down in Sennelager, a place the Squadron would get well acquainted with over the next 12 months. Here the

Squadron met Major Boyle who was taking over as the next SO2 Armour for CATT. The week saw the squadron refreshing its tactical skills and was enjoyed by everyone, providing time for troop nights out and time to relax away from guard duties. Mr B-W seized the opportunity to take the squadron back to its roots, getting fifty of the soldiers and seniors to the Paderborn Equestrian Centre, mounted on an array of troopers and chargers.

The final collective training event was in November, when the squadron returned to BR2 on Hühne ranges for one of the wettest exercises in living memory. This became known as the wet and walking exercise. With track mileage restricted to just 8km per tank, 6 of the Squadron's tanks were loaded onto Heavy Equipment Transporters (HETs), driven to the exercise area, driven into a hide, cammed up, cammed down and then driven back to the HETs. Whilst we would have to wait until 2010 to practise our manoeuvre skills, this week provided ample opportunity to reinforce key lessons in how to live off vehicles in the field. Also, looking to the requirement for us all to be effective on our feet as well as when mounted, we were assisted by soldiers from 3 MERCIAN, who took the troops through basic dismounted skills and drills. A very steep and valuable learning curve for all, but



Mounted and dismounted training



The Brigade Commander meets the Staff Sergeants on ranges

it was not without some pain: Trooper Jones produced some very impressive reaction to effective enemy fire, unfortunately dislocating his shoulder in the process. The Pipes and Drums, who kindly lent us three of their number, immediately regretted it as all three of them sustained various injuries and had to leave the exercise early. We now look forward to Exercise Iron Eagle in Sennelager in January, an exercise that only promises to be either wetter or colder, or both.

Aside from tactical training, for the first time in many years, we had a gunnery camp in the summer. Sergeants Cooper and Hendry and Lance Corporal Kelly worked

tirelessly to guide the Squadron through the various weapon handling tests, matrices and synthetic crew tests required prior to live firing, despite the soaring temperatures almost continually causing the various simulators to malfunction. Ranges in the summer are definitely a mixed blessing. Predawn starts, due to squadron transport being needed later for the school runs, ensured many bleary eyes and the tinderbox nature of the ranges meant that fires were a common occurrence. The use of tracer was soon banned, as was Mr Woodhams from the range tower. Fresh from his Troop Leaders' course, his garrulous enthusiasm was sadly not shared by the Squadron Leader and Range

16 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Conducting Officer, not least since they also had to contend with Corporal McCall's unintentional demonstration of how high reverse should not be conducted. The view of a barrel pointing almost vertically into the sky was only equalled by the sight of Sergeant Cooper sprinting 500m down the range to the stricken tank, only to be overtaken by the SQMS(T) in his Land Rover just shy of the incident. The Palmer Trophy, awarded to the best crew on the range, was won by the acting Squadron Leader, Major Williamson, achieving the highest ACT score in the Regiment although he was later disqualified for using a gunnery instructor, Lance Corporal Kelly, as his gunner. The trophy was subsequently awarded to Corporal Smith's crew.

In the build up to ranges, however, the squadron enjoyed no respite and had to provide some 30 soldiers to assist A Squadron with public duties in Edinburgh. It seemed that a combination of preparing a squadron's worth of tanks and turning soldiers into guardsmen, concurrently, would be an insurmountable task.

However with the whip cracking of the new SQMS(T), Staff Sergeant Taylor, and long summer daylight hours, the task was

*Trooper Dean
receiving the
Moncrieff Shield
from the
Colonel of the
Regiment*



achieved. It was also at this time that we said a temporary farewell to Major Cattermole who departed Fallingbostal for the sandier climes of Afghanistan, attached to the Black Watch Battalion, as OC Jackal Company.

In order to prove that D Squadron was not all work and no play, Major Cattermole, with his Sports Officer hat on, was keen to give the Squadron the opportunity to play some sports and enjoy the elusive Wednesday sports afternoon. This allowed the Squadron to send off a large contingent to the inter-RAC sports competition, Hodson's Horse, in March. There was a good showing by the regiment as a whole, although Mr Welch, seizing on a gap in the programme to take his orienteering team to a 4 Division competition at Sandhurst, managed to forget to take any compasses with him. But, the training paid off in the end, since in September the Squadron took to the pitches and courts once again and following wins in football, hockey, volleyball, orienteering and squash, took home the Moncrieff Shield by a comfortable margin.

On the social side of life, the squadron welcomed Captain Young as the 2IC from his posting in Bovington and shortly after that Captain Thursby, also from Bovington. We had to say a reluctant farewell to Staff Sergeant O'Connor who was to be promoted to C Squadron Sergeant Major. We also said goodbye to our Tiffany, Staff Sergeant Shakir and welcomed in his place, Staff Sergeant Ball – a familiar face to many in the regiment. There were a few smokers including one on the back of ranges that saw some memorable deaf karaoke performances. Here, the Squadron learnt why Trooper McLeish will never be allowed to work with children. The year was rounded off with an excellent Party organised by the SQMS, in Bar 12. Mr Woodhams, facing a moral challenge probably not discussed in training, pondered how he could be both at the squadron party (as all officers should be) and also hosting his mother, who was visiting for the weekend. The solution was clear: bring the mother to party. The problem was to how avoid the inevitable attentions of the troopers, who wished to take Mrs Woodhams to Cha Chas and beyond...

In all, it has been a varied year, focused primarily on individual career courses and revising core armoured skills. Coupled with an emphasis on providing maximum sporting opportunities and the public duties commitment, the Squadron's commanders have had to step back in time to cover for the absence of the younger troopers. But throughout, all ranks have done the Squadron and Regiment proud.



HQ SQUADRON

After the Christmas break, the Regiment reorganised into something resembling the traditional Regimental establishment. Both A and D Squadrons would return to their core role as Challenger 2 Squadrons, whilst B Squadron was to retrain and rerole as the Regiment's Medium Armour (MA) Squadron. C Squadron would return to Challenger 2, in the short term, before adopting a Protected Mobility (PM) role later in the year. HQ Squadron reformed into its familiar departments, less Reconnaissance Troop which remained part of the MA Squadron.

The next major task for HQ Squadron was to assist the Regiment in settling back into its 'in-barracks routine' and all that entails. The 'Return to Role' (R2R) package planned by OC Rear Party, Major Cattermole, was in the main delivered by HQ Squadron personnel. The week long package covered what most would consider 'niff naff and trivia' (administration, Health and Safety, etc) but was essential nonetheless for the Regiment to operate efficiently.

Hard on the heels of R2R training, HQ Squadron began a hectic period of individual military training including

small arms training, ranges and MATTs. Although busy, the Regiment still managed to fit in number of fun events. In March, Corporal Martin from MT organised a very successful darts extravaganza in a local German club. Also, towards the end of the month, the Regiment sent teams to participate in all the various events at the annual RAC Hodson's Horse sports competition and Corps boxing championships.

May heralded the start of a busy and extremely turbulent period for the Squadron. The Cavalry Memorial Sunday weekend provided an opportunity for all Late Entry (LE) officers (at Regimental Duty) to meet up with a significant number of their predecessors. This was the largest gathering of SCOTS DG LE officers, past and present, that I have ever seen together in one place. Later that month, the Squadron said goodbye to WO2 (SSM) McGuire who was posted back to a recruiting post in Glasgow and said hello to WO2 (SSM) Boyd who moved across from the Training Wing. Then the 'LE shuffle' began, although not everyone changed over at once. For a variety of reasons, mostly previous operational commitments and promotions, every LE officer (less the Squadron Leader) changed appoint-



Major Stewart modelling what is considered 'smart casual' in Hull

18 EAGLE AND CARBINE

ment in quick succession. WO1 Hainey returned upon commissioning to become the Welfare Officer. Captain Potter the Welfare Officer then moved to HQ Squadron as 2iC and MTO, which released Capt Montgomery to become the RCMO. Captain McDowell moved from RCMO to become the Quartermaster, and the outgoing Quartermaster, Captain Greenwood, moved back to Glasgow on posting. However this was only a part of the story. WO1 (RSMI) Gray (QRH) joined the Regiment from Bovington on commissioning and took up the role of Training Officer. This provided Captain Lillie the opportunity to move on and become the Quartermaster (Technical). Finally, Captain Anderson, the outgoing QM(T), moved on posting to Lulworth.

The main event for June was, without doubt, the provision of the Royal Guard for Her Majesty the Queen at Holyrood Palace and the 'Scotland 2009 Homecoming'. Although the commitment predominantly sat with A Squadron, members of HQ Squadron contributed. Subsequently summer leave came and went and August saw the Squadron operating, once again, in its familiar Combat Service Support (CSS) role in support of the Regiment during the Annual Firing Camp.

Although the HQ Squadron sports teams did not fare particularly well in the Moncrieff Shield, the Squadron pulled out all the stops to make sure the finals day ran smoothly. The Quartermaster must have hired every bouncy castle available, whilst the chefs and Fijians prepared a sumptuous barbecue. In addition to the sports, the Fijians celebrated Fiji Day and put on a most memorable demonstration of traditional singing and dancing to entertain the crowd.

Later in the year, the Squadron took an active part in the 7th Armoured Brigade CSS exercise, Rats Sustainer 1. The aim of this exercise was to introduce officers and SNCOs to Brigade level CSS, and to demonstrate how a Battlegroup is supported by second line logistics, equipment and medical assistance. This provided an opportunity for these CSS elements to show off their new equipment and methods. This was a very successful exercise and everyone left with a better understanding of how those 'in the rear with the gear' operate.

Finally, the year drew to a close with a truly memorable HQ Squadron Christmas party, organised by the SQMS Staff Sergeant Baird and his dedicated staff. As always, the performance of the Pipes and Drums was excellent, although they were hampered slightly by Staff Sergeant Campbell as the guest bass drummer. I am sure he might have played better had he been able to see where he was going and thus stopped crashing into coffee tables.

The Squadron is now looking forward to the New Year when the pace of life is expected to increase. The first part of the training year looks relentless with deployments on Levels One and Two Collective Training, CATT, Rats Sustainer 2, another range period and BATUS. That completes my brief gallop through what has been quite a turbulent and challenging 2009 for HQ Squadron. I hope you enjoy reading the articles written by the departments in the Squadron.



COMMAND TROOP

Command Troop has had a busy year during 2009, supporting the Regiment and facilitating Battlegroup Headquarters, both on exercise and in barracks. Over the year the Troop has gelled into a relatively large yet tight knit unit, aided by reasonably few long-term movements of personnel. This has been underpinned by the hard work and dedication of all members of the Troop, with Staff Sergeant Allan playing a key role as the Troop Sergeant.

Before Command Troop was able to sink its teeth into its own training it supported a number of regimental training events, including Return to Role training. During May, members of the Troop, and the wider

Regiment, took part in Exercise South Talk, involving units from across the British Army based at various locations throughout the UK and Germany. The exercise aims to provide signallers with the opportunity to experiment with HF communications, in particular different antenna configurations, using the Harris secure HF man pack radio. During the day, communications were established with numerous units at locations such as Bovington, Catterick and Sennelager. However, the highlight was establishing perfect voice communications with a detachment from 1 SCOTS in Edinburgh using nothing more than an HF man pack with a copper wire attached to a fire escape banister as the

antenna. Overall, the exercise proved to be a thoroughly useful exercise to demonstrate the relative simplicity and effectiveness of HF communications using the Army's latest HF radios. The regimental armoured range period in August allowed Command Troop to exercise a wide range of elements, including manning the CVs for the Squadrons, the Mosquito Net at Range Control and live firing experience for the tank crews of 11B and 22B.

Following Regimental ranges in August, the Troop played a major role in the Regiment's upgrade of Bowman equipment. 7th Armoured Brigade was chosen as the first brigade in the British Army to go through this upgrade and SCOTS DG, as the only heavy armoured unit within the Brigade, was under the spotlight due to the quantity and variety of Bowman equipment that we operate. The initial uplift to BCIP 5.2 began in August and was split into two major operations: personnel training and equipment uplift. The personnel training required everybody at Regimental Duty to go through a degree of Bowman re-training based on their role. Initially the Regimental Signals Instructors were pooled by 7th Armoured Brigade and then trained in order that they could instruct personnel from across the entire brigade. This provided them with great experience but meant that they were then committed to these instructional duties for over five months. The remainder of the Regiment were training on courses from one day to five days long. Running alongside the personnel training, all of the Regiment's armoured vehicle fleet, and a large portion of the B vehicle fleet, required some sort of software and/or hardware uplift. This was a substantial operation done in conjunction with the engineers from General Dynamics. The culmination of the whole event was the Regiment's Proving and

Confirming Exercise (PACEX). Command Troop played the primary role in this, testing voice and data communications on the Troop vehicles before going on to run the control station for the rest of the Regiment. This was done over a week under the watchful eye of the Regimental Signals Warrant Officer, WO2 Taylor and the guidance of the Bowman Systems Manager (BSM), Sergeant Campbell. The PACEX went particularly well, winning praise for both the Regiment and Sergeant Campbell in particular.

CT1 training was conducted by the Troop in October on Bergen Hühne Training Area and was split into two halves. The first half provided the Troop with its first opportunity to set up Battle Group Headquarters in the field. Due to the relative inexperience of the Troop this was a relatively slow process to begin with and there was a great deal of testing and adjustment. Staff Sergeant Allan was in his element as the rain fell and the area became boggy and boggy. Conditions were pretty miserable throughout the exercise, finally clearing as we recovered off the area. In between moves around the vast expanse of Training Area BR 2, the Troop was able to conduct numerous low-level training activities including first-aid, patrolling, counter IED, artillery-target and navigation. Morale was generally maintained, as is often the case, at the expense of others. The night navigation took the form of a challenging course set by Corporal Scally. Unfortunately one group, who shall remain unnamed, became 'geographically challenged' for the best part of the evening. This was all very amusing for the remainder of the Troop until they were informed that a search party would have to be formed to go out into the inclement weather to find the missing group. Luckily the missing party found their own way back before this was necessary. The second half of the exercise saw the Battle Group Staff Officers make their first appearance in the field



The RSWO in a typically jovial mood

20 EAGLE AND CARBINE

to work with Command Troop. This provided an ideal opportunity to get used to the construct of BGHQ in field, the equipment and go through some planning cycles. This was all in preparation for the Combined Arms Staff Trainer (CAST) exercise, which was to follow in November.

Throughout the training year, members of the Troop have been particularly busy on a plethora of career, promotion and technical courses. A common denominator for many of the Troop, from RSO to Trooper, has been training on one of the British Army's newest vehicles, the PANTHER Command and Liaison vehicle. This Italian-made 7 tonne lightly armoured vehicle is armed with a 7.62mm Remote Weapons Station (RWS), allowing the commander to operate and fire the weapon system from inside the vehicle, utilising its thermal and video sights. It can also be fitted with a full suite of complex Bowman equipment. It is crewed by a commander and driver, with space for up to two passengers in the rear. A four wheel drive vehicle, it has proved to be capable off-road, assisted by a tire inflation and deflation system that can be operated by the driver from within the cab. The RWS has proved to be very popular with commanders due to its accuracy and relatively simple operation. The PANTHERs that the Regiment has received have been utilised in their assigned roles by the Commanding Officer, EME and Squadron Sergeants Major amongst others, all with positive feedback.

CAST took place at Normandy Barracks, Sennelager and was broken down into two phases over two weeks. The first week involved setting up BGHQ outside the CAST building and ensuring that all the Bowman equipment was working correctly and communicating with that of CAST. Meanwhile the BG Staff Officers were busy being put through their paces by the CAST staff during a Staff Training Period. As the second week kicked off, BGHQ

was a hive of activity from the beginning. All the members of Command Troop present on CAST worked extremely hard to support the Staff Officers during what was a steep learning curve for everybody. BGHQ had set out to utilise the newly improved Bowman Combat software as much as possible. This was achieved but meant that there were many late nights spent assisting the Staff Officers with technical issues, creating models for Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) drills and generally ensuring the smooth running of all aspects of BGHQ. The end result for Command Troop was excellent experience on the new BCIP 5.2 combat software, using our own equipment and allowing the members of the Troop to gain experience supporting the BGHQ staff.

Following a hectic finale to 2009, all members of the Troop were relieved to spend a final couple of weeks in barracks to prepare for a busy start to the 2010 training year and enjoy the pre-Christmas leave festivities. As previously mentioned it has been a very busy year for the members of Command Troop but one that has seen some great successes. There have been a number of well deserved promotions within the Troop which warrant mention. Staff Sergeant Allan was promoted from Sergeant. Corporals Black, Burns, Chandler, Lang, McCuaig and McLennan were all promoted from Lance Corporal whilst Troopers Brown, Fisher and Kapaiwai were all promoted to Lance Corporal. There have also been some notable sporting successes with Staff Sergeant Allan, Corporals Chandler and de Klerk and Lance Corporal Smith representing the regimental hockey team. Sergeant Campbell played golf at Corps level whilst Lance Corporal Kapaiwai played rugby at regimental level. Lance Corporals Leckie and Forrest have both been involved with the Regimental football team.

EAGLE AND SPANNER

The year commenced with the majority of the LAD returning from Post Operational Tour Leave, glad to be back from Iraq and Afghanistan. The return to barracks brought its own challenges, namely coping with a large chunk of manpower deserting the LAD following their operational tour extensions and also getting back onto tanks in the cold and wet climate that Germany always promises.

TECHEVAL, Combined Inspections Week, Return-to-Role training, Level One Collective Training, Armoured Ranges, CAST, BCIP 5 upgrade and cere-

monial duties in Edinburgh are but some of the major activities that have dominated the forecast of events throughout the year. The 'white spaces' between these activities have been quickly filled with extensive preparation periods, MATTs, technical trade training, sport, adventurous training and social functions, all before even considering a year's entitlement of leave. Much has been achieved this year to re-organise and prepare the LAD, and it is now ready to progress forward to support BG training in BATUS and any deployments on operations.

The Regimental Return-to-Role exercise in March provided a great opportunity to get soldiers back to operating on armour in the cold and wet again. It also gave the equipment its first run-out for some time and allowed the newly manned fitter sections a chance to bond together in the field on the usual late night tasks. The fitter sections took great joy in spending the weekends between each squadron exercise to handover the only fitter section equipment, with much loving attention devoted to the only CRARRV. HQ LAD deployed out, as tactically as is possible in a minibus, to provide many of the new arrivals their first experiences of living in the field since basic training, and also the joys of camouflaging the Foden.

Staff Sergeant Chisholm was lucky enough this year to get the task of running a stand for Ex RATS TALON, where as usual he pulled in favours from his numerous contacts within the garrison. He brought an added element to it as Dr Günther Grossschwein, a cosmopolitan German speaker who got more animated as he witnessed officers attempting to use a spanner.

Following Return-to-Role training, the regimental focus split two ways, the first of which was preparing for ceremonial duties in Scotland. This fortunately did not require REME soldiers to demonstrate drill prowess although we did manage to send a team of recruiters to join the publicity bandwagon created by the regiment, where Sergeant Johnston enjoyed swinging the lantern with some of the 'old boys'. The second was preparing the tanks for their first firing period for approximately three years, requiring a little more REME involvement.

Preparation for ranges went well, although it appeared to use up more Line Replaceable Units (LRUs) than seemed to exist in the British Army. This meant the tanks rolled out the gate with no spares reserve for many items and, as a result, the ASM was required to test our cannibalisation policy. After leave, with two new artificers, the LAD hit the ground running with just a few days before tracking out to the ranges. As ever the Annual Firing Period provided some good tests of patience for all trade groups, particularly on turret faults. Staff Sergeant Hodges, the LAD Artificer (Weapons) even managed to remove a barrel on the range, although this did not come without complications. Overall, despite limited spares availability, the LAD provided a high availability to enable all crews to fire up to Annual Crew Test.

Following ranges a mix of activities took place: squadron/troop level training (CT1) on Bergen-Höhne Training Area, an upgrade to the Bowman communications system and staff training including squadron CATTs and a BG CAST week, involving most of the section heads in the LAD. This was a riveting period for all and also crucial to ensure success in the digital era of communications.

CT1 in November was unfortunately limited due to the available track mileage for the tanks, which was good as it reduced the requirement for repairs. HQ LAD particularly enjoyed their fire and manoeuvre training in the cold and wet November, provided by a very keen 3 MERCIAN instructor. As it was November, the only



A Squadron Fitter Section under the command of Staff Sergeant Graham

22 EAGLE AND CARBINE

warm things were the thermal flasks containing a substance which appeared, smelled and was labelled as coffee, but which could just as easily have been tea. No change there. We finally managed to get an uplift to the fitter section holdings, which itself brought new challenges. As the 24A and 24D callsigns had been upgraded to Bulldog Mk 3 and 2 respectively, suitably qualified drivers and commanders were also needed. For CT1 the former was accomplished with minutes to spare, however the commander's course would not take place until late November. These trivialities were overcome with the customary 'can do attitude' and some very unorthodox seating plans.

Individual training has certainly dominated much of this year to the extent that at times fitter sections consisted of just one man, with all others away on course. The Recovery Mechanics provided instructional expertise to the 1(UK) Armoured Division Recovery Trade Training Exercise for five weeks, earning some glowing comments from the organisers (probably due to Staff Sergeant Mackay's ability to talk continuously). LAD training Fridays were also introduced, where all the REME personnel get together for their own equipment husbandry, trade training, external lectures, leadership training, and WO2 (AQMS) Carty's famous 'back pocket briefs'. This has provided tradesmen the chance to train on new equipment such as Panther or SV. It has also aided in developing confidence to do well on career courses and identifying those potential artificer or commissioning candidates.

It is always assumed that the REME gets most of the Adventurous Training (AT) and sport opportunities in the regiment, and this year the EME has aimed to keep it this way. Winter sports dominated the start of the year, with eight soldiers deploying to Les Contamines,

France, to compete in the REME Winter Sports Championships in the Alpine and snowboard disciplines. Corporal Yarnold took the lead as organiser and team captain. There were some strong performances from the team, with Corporal Clark standing out for his downhill ability, finishing 11th in the Corps and also cementing his place to train with SCOTS DG the following year. Corporal Yarnold has subsequently continued to develop LAD talent by taking a small number to the Stubai glacier for the REME race training camp in November ready for next year's championships.

A memorable trip for all was the LAD ski trip to Chamonix for 27 soldiers, many of whom were complete beginners. WO2 (AQMS) Carty organised the entire trip and in his unique style ensured all knew what was going on through the use of numerous briefings. All members left with a skiing qualification, a dent in their wallet from French beer prices and some scarring images remaining in their minds.

There has been continuous involvement in AT throughout the year from the LAD, facilitated by slight overmanning and working in the era of Unit Holdings (UH). A large number deployed to Bavaria as part of the regimental multi-activity package, focussed around mountaineering. In addition a significant number of individuals have achieved qualifications in kayaking, sailing, mountaineering and climbing to take them to the next step towards instructor level later in their careers.

Sport has remained a common theme throughout the year, when possible. Staff Sergeant Mackay and Sergeant England gelled together a number of keen football players into a convincing team that made it to the semi-finals of the Craftman's Cup. Craftsman Ross



LAD Football Competition



Lance Corporal Hylton preparing for battle

and Corporal Carter also took a scratch team to the basketball Craftman's Cup tournament. The couple of training sessions they managed obviously paid off, as they returned victorious with all the silverware. We were also helped as the impartial Corporal Carter was referee. The LAD cricket team also deserves a mention for its comendable sportsmanship in the Craftman's Cup, although its participation did not extend beyond the first round.

There have been numerous individual sporting achievements in 2009 and many that, for reasons of brevity, have not been mentioned in this article. The LAD has provided soldiers to compete in the RAC Hodson's Horse competition for the Regiment, as well

as a large number competing for their squadrons during the Moncrieff Shield week. On top of this, Staff Sergeant Shakir has coached the Regimental boxing team, a member of which was Sergeant Burdon who won his bout. Lance Corporal Rooney has also become a success story through his rugby prowess and now represents the BA(G) squad.

With the trickle posting system for REME soldiers, manpower changeover has created ongoing issues. A huge number left SCOTS DG following the recent operational tours, leaving a notable capability gap, and an increasing number of phone calls to MCM Div from the EME. This did however create a good reason to have more leaving drinks in the LAD. The shortage in certain areas resulted in a significant reorganisation which centralised all armourers and recovery mechanics.

High on the radar early this year was the TECHEVAL inspection, which comes to every LAD in the first 6 months of the Officer Commanding's command. Focus had to be shifted back from operations to in-barracks support, and ensuring all processes were mapped, compliant with legislation and with an audit trail existing for all. This was a very painful period, especially for the top corridor, which fortunately resulted in a green assessment. This soon overlapped into the Equipment Care Inspection Preparation, where LAD processes were once again open to inspection (and some would say interpretation). Although only a few sheets of paper show that either inspection ever took place, this should not detract from the significant number of ad-



The LAD formed up for inspection during DEME(A)'s visit

24 EAGLE AND CARBINE

ditional hours committed in their preparation, at the same time as preparing for key regimental activities.

There have been a decent number of social functions in the LAD. Every soldier continues to be welcomed into the LAD as they arrive, and likewise every one moving on has the opportunity to say a few words (once some of their own truthful stories have been revealed), before they sign a brick and move on. Wives have been welcomed where possible, to family BBQs, and also to the LAD 'Shanghai Noon' summer function.

The year drew to a close with the much needed Christmas Week. LAD personnel got fully involved in the Carol Service, a fun run in fancy dress and the obligatory Christmas in a Day. Father Christmas did however

make an early appearance in granting WO1 (ASM) Ward the opportunity for Late Entry commissioning.

SCOTS DG LAD has enjoyed a successful year, with significant achievements to carry forward. It has been a baptism of fire for many new arrivals and high standards have been set, and achieved, throughout. Morale remains high at all levels and *esprit de corps* remains strong amongst LAD soldiers. The LAD is now in a strong position to go forward into 2010, straight onto Level 2 Collective Training in Sennelager, and then look forward to forming as a BG LAD for BATUS and any subsequent activities.



AGC (SPS) DETACHMENT

As is the norm these days for any Detachment or Troop, it has been a very busy year. Every member of the detachment, over the past year or so has changed. In fact, everything has changed bar the furniture, more commonly known as Staff Sergeant Owen. Happily, this is the first time in living memory that the Detachment is fully manned. This has, however, presented its own problems with a large number of new personnel coming

straight to the Regiment from Worthy Down. As a result, Detachment Training has become more important than ever in developing the more inexperienced soldiers.

The Detachment has, however, managed to escape Wessex Barracks for a couple of days. We went to Church House for some training and team bonding. Of



Some of the 'more senior' members of the Detachment discuss matters spiritual with the Padre.

course this included an evening in the bar where the Padre took care of our spiritual needs. In keeping with the Regimental skiing tradition we also entered a 4 man team into the AGC Corps Skiing Championships. Unfortunately we did not mirror the high Standards of the Regiment, but our young team gained some valuable experience for the future.

As we start to prepare for BATUS next year, and with one eye on the forthcoming Afghanistan tour, our immediate focus now switches to ensuring that the Regiment deploys with the minimum of fuss.



MOTOR TRANSPORT TROOP

After Operation TELIC 12, Motor Transport (MT) Troop reformed in the January of 2009. WO2 Gray returned from his short spell on Rear Party in the Unit Welfare Office (UWO) as the MTWO, with Captain Montgomery remaining as MTO. Sergeant Starr remained in post as the Troop Sergeant and MT officially said farewell to his predecessor Sergeant Ramsay who had been filling the role of Brize Norton Liaison Officer for Operation TELIC prior to moving to the Welfare Office.

Early 2009 was an interesting period for the troop; those deployed completed Christmas and Post operational Tour Leave prior to a rebuild of MT. At this time some long-standing members of the Troop departed for pastures new within the Regiment and further afield. New arrivals were Corporals Barnes and Martin, Lance Corporals Nicholson, Matea and McMurdo and Troopers Kempton and Morrison. Those who departed were Corporals Main (for civilian life) and Ketedromo (Provost), Lance Corporal Forsyth (to C Squadron) and Troopers McCart and Reid (both to civilian life) and Private Reid RLC (to the RIT).

The following months saw business as usual as the troop carried out its non operational role of fully sup-

porting the Regiment with the provision of transport for all occasions, commitments and functions. The summer months saw the Regiment carry out the Royal Guard and Scotland 2009. Members of the troop also returned to Scotland, not only in an MT function but also as members of the Royal Guard and support staff for Scotland 2009. Corporal Martin and a small team provided the management of all MT assets in Scotland whilst Sergeant Starr held the fort in Bad Fallingbostel. During this period the MTO departed to become Regimental Careers Management Officer and the MTWO, WO2 Gray, was posted to Edinburgh after almost 22 years in the Regiment, many of which were in MT.

After summer leave, the Troop returned to work with a new MTO and MTWO, Captain Potter (the former Welfare Officer) and WO2 Watson who returned from the Army Recruiting Team in Edinburgh. Immediately preparations began for a fast-approaching Combined Inspection Week (CIW) and MT support to Regimental firing on Bergen-Höhne ranges. Most of our ammunition was arriving by train but one load had to be collected from UK. After 4 days of administration by the MTO, and a very long journey by Lance Corporals



It's best not to ask really



The MTO in a Panther, and the right way up

26 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Morgan-Williams and Weatherstone, the ammunition arrived at 0730hrs on the first day of firing, with ranges opening at 0830hrs.

Unfortunately last minute complications meant that MT had to transport all ammunition required from the railhead at Hühne to the Samlands ammunition compound without the support of a Logistic Supply Regiment. This was no mean feat when you consider that in 14 hours SCOTS DG MT emptied the ammunition train and transported 60 vehicle loads of ammunition of varying types with a value in excess of £1.5m in a safe manner. Thankfully this went well and for the following two weeks MT supported the Quartermaster in supplying ammunition to the Regiment during annual firing. Following this Lance Corporal Nailatica departed MT for the QM(T)'s department.

Concurrently the troop prepared in earnest for the CIW. This event sees an outside agency (mainly Subject Matter Experts from Divisional level) inspect the Troop on its working practices and accounting procedures. Thankfully the long hours of preparation and hard work in August and September, under the guidance of WO2 Watson, proved fruitful as the Troop was commended for its practices and given a very high overall grade.

September was an interesting month for the MTO as he, Corporal Munro and Trooper McLucas had an unnerving experience with the new PANTHER 4x4 vehicle. They rolled it on Area D whilst carrying out conversion training. At the same time Trooper Morrison visited the bank in town and forgot the height of the vehicle he was driving whilst entering the underground car park. You can imagine the rest of the story. Thankfully in both cases damage was limited, barring a few bruised egos.

The Troop continued to support the Regiment for the remainder of the year as it carried out CAST, small arms ranges, conversion training to various platforms and a multitude of daily and weekly transport requirements. Members of MT have become highly qualified as both General Service (GS) vehicle conversion and Urgent Operation Requirement (UOR) instructors. The vast majority of the Troop has therefore been in continual demand to instruct the Regiment on the variety of platforms we now operate.

MT continually provides support to the Hühne Driver Training Centre which trains soldiers on all forms of vehicles, both civilian and military, Lance Corporals Meiehofer and Williamson have done a sterling job representing SCOTS DG and have had a very high success rate in assisting licence acquisition. The majority of



The MTWO in a characteristically charitable mood

their work is instructing students to Category C (HGV) standard so that our other instructors can then teach GS or UOR requirements, a constant process throughout the year.

In preparing the Regiment to deploy to BATUS next year, Corporals Barnes, Brown and McLeod and Lance Corporal Morgan-Williams have not only carried out their MT role to the fullest but have also assisted greatly with additional GS training and matrix testing. Corporals McLeod and Burton have also been employed outside MT as BCDT and CBRN instructors respectively.

Tpr Baker left us in late 2009 for an attachment to 2RTR with the intent of staying in the UK if all goes well. We wish him well.

As we froze in Germany, Lance Corporal Mate headed off to sunnier weather in Fiji and married Ateca. Congratulations to the other newlyweds: Corporal and Clare Brown, Lance Corporal and Amanda McLennan and Trooper and Siobahn Kemptou. MT also had two new small additions: Lance Corporal and Kimberley

Morgan-Williams had a boy, Louie, and Trooper Morrison and Private Fairhurst had a boy, Brogan.

In closing I would like to thank all past and present members of MT for their commitment to SCOTS DG. Their efforts this year have been fantastic. Equally I would like to say a fond farewell to those who have left us and wish our new members every success. In addition to our new Regimental members, we now have

a civilian staff member, Mr Tony Bishop. Mr Bishop runs the Regimental Servicing Bay and it is thanks to him that the Regiment as a whole has an efficiently run facility which is crucial in our day-to-day work on the tank park. Finally, to all of our families both in Germany and in UK, thank you for your continued support both in Bad Fallingbostal and on Operations.

THE PIPES AND DRUMS

The Regimental Pipes and Drums are perhaps the busiest of any band in the Army and this year has been no exception. With numerous and diverse engagements in many parts of the world, and under the leadership of Pipe Major Munro and Drum Major Brown, they continue to maintain their high profile on a global scale. Their schedule has included playing at a Royal Banquet hosted by Her Majesty the Queen and at a musical interpretation of Monty Python's 'Life of Brian' performed at The Royal Albert Hall. Their musical talent can be appreciated not only through their performances but also in the media and through the numbers of young pipers and drummers who are now being taught by members of the band.

As is traditional, the Pipes and Drums have played at a number of parties in the Officers', Sergeants' and

Corporals' Messes during the year, all of whom consider their performance the highlight of the evening's entertainment. On every occasion, the band never fails to push traditional musical boundaries and crucially provide the guests with an experience that they will never forget.

Much of the first half of 2009 was spent preparing for the responsibilities that the band would undertake as part of the Royal Guard in Edinburgh. At the specific request of Her Majesty they were to lead the guard detachment into the grounds of the Palace of Holyrood House, as she wished to hear them playing first thing in the morning. During this period the Pipes and Drums also performed at the Ceremony of the Keys, Regimental Open Day, Beating to Quarters, Regimental Street Marches, Royal Highland Show and at the



'Edinburgh Castle Esplanade' at Sydney Football Stadium

28 EAGLE AND CARBINE



SCUBA diving at Manly Beach

dining out of the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Jameson.

After the Regiment returned to Fallingbostal, The Pipes and Drums remained in Edinburgh for a further month. Accommodation changed from Redford Barracks in July to their usual August home at Edinburgh Castle for the Military Tattoo. A regular as 'right of the line' at this international event, the band were lucky enough to have been given a personal slot during the performance in honour of their achievement of being the first Pipes and Drums in history to win a Classical Brit Award. Moreover since this, the band has also set a first by having three albums, Spirit of the Glen, Spirit of the Glen-Journey and The Ultimate Collection, in the Classical Charts at the same time.

In early 2010 the Pipes and Drums were delighted to have been invited to the second Military Tattoo to be held in Sydney, Australia. The event is based on the Edinburgh Tattoo and is very similar – right down to the two thirds scale model of Edinburgh Castle set up in Sydney Football Stadium. Despite some of the worst

weather Sydney has seen in one hundred years, and the extremely high humidity, the balance between hard work and frantic sightseeing was easily achieved.

A warm welcome must go to the new members: Corporal Peattie and Troopers Commons, Mills and Rainford. Congratulations too to those who have been promoted: Corporals Lovell, McLauchlan, Munro and Lance Corporals Keith and O'Hanlon. The band also wishes Corporal Clements and Lance Corporal Mathies all the best as they start their new careers in civilian life. The current Pipe Major will be handing over to Corporal Dodds and we wish him well at his new post in Edinburgh.

Looking forward to 2010 and beyond, the Pipes and Drums are hoping to enter the competition circuit once more and subsequently tour in the Southern Hemisphere before preparing for deployment to Afghanistan in 2011.



GUARD ROOM

During 2009, the Guardroom was kept under the ever watchful eye of the Regimental Provost staff consisting of Sergeant Pratt, and Corporals Muir and Ketedromo. Over the year, the Guardroom set the high standards required of the Regiment in barracks. However, as always, there has been no shortage of volunteers for show parades and extra work periods and even the odd one or two undergoing Restrictions of Privileges (ROPs). Having drill instructors and a PTI in the Guardroom has proved a significant deterrent to all those who think they are above the law. They have generally found out, to their cost, that this is not the case.

The Guardroom itself has undergone its usual programme of incremental improvements. The hard

standing in front of the Guardroom has been replaced which provides a surface more conducive to drill for those aforementioned volunteers. The Guardroom has also finally been repainted, which makes it a more pleasant place to be.

2010 will be a busy time for us with exercises, ranges, BATUS and pre-deployment training all ahead of the forthcoming tour of Afghanistan. It is important that, whilst we are all busy, standards do not slip. Just remember, if you don't want to spend your spare time in the guardroom, even with its new hard standing and paint job, don't do the crime and you won't do the time.



Sergeant Pratt and Corporal Ketedromo

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

The Quartermasters Department had a later than usual start to 2009 having had a longer than normal, but well deserved, break over the festive season. This was due to 3 weeks of Post Operational Tour Leave (POTL) appended to the back of the Christmas stand down period. With such a long time off, and the fact that most of the Department had spent the bulk of 2008 in Iraq, it was inevitable that the guys would need to hit the ground running as 2009 was going to be an extremely busy year.

Things kicked off in late-January and early-February with the department supporting the squadrons during their Return to Role (RTR) training. This took place under the watchful eyes of the Quartermaster (QM), Captain Greenwood and the newly appointed Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (RQMS) WO2 Barclay, who came to the department having just finished as the Rear Party Sergeant Major during TELIC 12.

In January it was also confirmed that the Regiment was to cover ceremonial duties during the Queen's annual



WO2 (RQMS) Mack (Standard Bearer) on parade during Armed Forces Day parade in Edinburgh.

visit to Scotland in June. This would include the Royal Guard at Holyrood Palace and the Ceremonial Guard for Edinburgh Castle. However in true SCOTS DG style the occasion was seized and enhanced to include a series of homecoming parades, a royal reception and many, many other smaller events to be held over the same period. To that end it was very clear from the outset that the department would be under severe pressure to get everything in place in good time. This meant that Scotland 2009 became the Department's main effort for the next four months.

One of the first and most pressing tasks was to get all the uniforms required for the Royal Week sorted ASAP. Over 110 sets of No 1 Dress (Blues) and the Scarlets for the Standard Party had to be fitted and tailored properly for those selected to form the Royal Guard. Fortunately, the Regiment had recently employed Mr John Taylor as the regimental tailor within the Department. John had recently left the army as a qualified Master Tailor and settled in the local area, and was therefore the ideal man to get the ball rolling on the uniform front. As he set about his task of sorting the uniforms required from pretty scant resources, life was made very much more bearable for both the QM & RQMS, knowing that we had an experienced military tailor sorting things out. Thanks to John's mammoth efforts, eventually the whole Royal Guard was fitted out to a very high standard.

During this time of mayhem, the department also saw a change of RQMS when WO2 Barclay was posted on promotion to the Public Sector Liaison Team (PSLT) in Bovington. All members of the Department wish him and his family all the very best for the future and thank him for his sterling work during his short time in post. Of course with every departure there is the dawning of a new era, so the departure of the old RQMS saw WO2 Mack move across from the RQMS(T) position to take up his new post at the cleaner end of the RQMS-ing scale. This also necessitated a trip back to Goldings, the tailor, in the UK to try and have the new scarlet jacket bought for the old RQ tailored to fit his replacement. There is a considerable size difference between the two of them.

So with all the uniforms fitted and copious drill undertaken, it was off to Edinburgh for the Royal Guard with the Quartermaster's Department leading the way as always. After a very long journey in the blue van, entering Redford Cavalry Barracks in Edinburgh brought back memories for the QM, as rumour has it he was stationed there when it was first built. With the ac-

commodation taken over and everything in place (or so we thought), the main body of the guard force settled in. It was soon back to drill rehearsals and all the preparations required for a royal visit, such as painting fences and the front gates of Cavalry Barracks black. Thankfully, events in Scotland were a huge success and

once they were over, all that remained to be done before some well deserved summer leave was for the Department to wrap things up and get everything back to Bad Fallingbostel in good order.



QUARTERMASTER TECHNICAL

Each year seems to blur into the next. One minute we are sunning ourselves on a summer tour on Operation TELIC 12, then the next we are preparing to deploy to Sennelager for Level 2 Collective Training. The QM(T)'s Department has seen a lot of change since its return from TELIC 12.

We have said farewell to Captain Anderson as he heads off back to Lulworth and he has been replaced in turn by Captain Lillie in the hot seat as QM(T). The



The 120mm barrel from a D Squadron tank on Range 6



The Tech Department listen to Sergeant Campbell's poor patter

RQMS(T) has changed too. WO2 Mack has moved up in the world to RQMS, to count sheets and the like, and WO2 Lamb has moved over from C Squadron to the Tank Park, to ensure the silver gate at MT remains closed. Other changes within the Department include the departure of Staff Sergeant Magee to sunny Bovington and that of Sergeant McDonald who has left to go to Ashchurch as part of the Panther Trials and Development Team.



The track mileage issue gets out of hand



Commanding Officer's tank inspection

32 EAGLE AND CARBINE

New faces in the Department continue with Staff Sergeant Ramsay as Troop Leader in from the Welfare Office. Sergeant Ross is the new Troop Sergeant, posted in from the JAMES asset management system team, and finally Corporal Stone moved over from HQ Squadron's SQMS Department and came in as the USA Storeman.

The Department has had a lot on over the last year, including supporting the Regiment on annual ranges, Collective Training on Bergen Höhe Training Area, a Combined Inspections Week, the Commanding

Officer's tank inspections and preparing for CT2 training in Sennelager. It continues, however, to be at the forefront of all that the Regiment does. The QM(T) has, as all QM(T)s do, been pulling his hair out with the sabre squadrons constantly pushing their vehicles to the limit and then complaining when they break down. The RQMS(T) has even been known to lose his cool over armoury checks on a Friday morning and over the infamous mileage returns. We may be busier than ever, but in some respects nothing changes.



TRAINING WING

Over the past 12 months, the Training Wing has had to move into fifth gear to coordinate and run a bewildering array of courses. With the Regiment's return from Afghanistan and Iraq, Return to Role training took precedence to enable our soldiers to refamiliarise themselves with their core platforms (Challenger 2 or CVR(T)), having spent so long operating on Mastiff, Viking or Bulldog to name but a few of the various Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) vehicles use on operations.

Driving and Maintenance (D&M) training, under the watchful eye of Staff Sergeant McAndrew, has come on leaps and bounds. The Regiment ran the first Challenger 2 driver course held outside Bovington since 1998. All students managed to pass at the first attempt with only a couple of kerbstones the worse for wear.

The Panther CLV (Command and Liaison Vehicle), a long-overdue replacement for Ferret, finally arrived in

Fallingbostal. This is a 7 tonne 4x4 Italian-built armoured car with an excellent Remote Weapon Station and a driver's Thermal Imaging camera. Panther is to



Warthog ATV



The MTO misunderstands the concept of Return to Role training in his Panther



BV 206 ATV

be used by all SSM's, replacing the old radio fitted Land Rovers and Spartans. Over 20 commanders and drivers were successfully trained although the MTO required a few remedial lessons.

B Squadron was reroled as the Regiment's Medium Armour squadron and began to convert from Challenger 2 to CVR(T) Scimitar BGTI (an upgraded version of the old CVR(T) with a diesel engine and a new sighting system). This was a relatively painless transition with assistance from the Regimental instructors in gunnery and D&M and the Squadron will complete its training with CVR(T) ranges and a BATUS exercise in 2010.

The new MAN Support Vehicle also arrived to replace the aging Bedford and Leyland DAF workhorses. This is a great improvement with power steering and an automatic gear box which eased the process of converting drivers.

The next D&M challenge came in the form of BV 206, a vehicle upon which C Sqn will train in Canada in 2010. Training was required to allow soldiers to become familiar with driving articulated tracked vehicles. Whilst this provides challenges in the short term, this will enable them to convert easily to the UOR WARTHOG vehicle, if required, for the forthcoming Afghanistan tour in 2011.

Gunnery Training continued apace with the new RGO (Captain Landon) and RGSS (Staff Sergeant Smith) taking the lead. Over 50 loaders and 30 Challenger 2 gunners were trained and B Squadron converted to 30mm RARDEN Cannon. Panther Commanders were trained on the Remote Weapon Station and Challenger 2 loaders were trained on the new Live Firing Crew Training System (LFCTS). LFCTS is an in-bore sub calibre device which fires 12.7mm rounds through the main armament in place of the much more expensive 120mm ammunition.



Panther CLV on ranges



CVR(T) Scimitar BGTI

Gunnery continuation training and the build up for the ranges in August took place with Royal Guard commitments and leave in between. The squadrons worked hard to relearn skills after a considerable period of time away from their primary roles. Corporal Shaw returned to the Regiment, to take up the post of PGTE simulation manager, and put his teaching skills back into practice after an equally long break.

Signals training in the Regiment has moved on with the introduction of the new BOWMAN Communications Infrastructure Platform 5 (BCIP5) software. The coordination for converting the Regiment lay in the capable hands of the RSWO (WO2 Taylor) and the BOWMAN Systems Manager (Sergeant Campbell). Over the month of October, a variety of courses delivered the Regiment as the first in the RAC to convert to the new software. In a nutshell, BCIP5 allows commanders to send secure emails enabling improved situational awareness and speeding up battle procedure. At least that is the theory. This is great for the younger generation but, for old technophobe



GPMG Ranges

34 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Clansman users, it can appear over complicated to say the least.

Military Annual Training Test (MATTs), coordinated by Corporal Lavallin, have continued to train and test the squadrons in such disciplines as fitness, shooting, first aid and map reading. Counter IED training has now, quite rightly, become part of the syllabus and seven members of the Regiment completed an instructors' course which will enable regimental training for future operations. GPMG training has been also conducted across the Regiment, with the Commanding Officer taking the lead.

All new recruits, and indeed returnees, now attend a week-long induction course. This covers workplace familiarisation, Health and Safety and an insight into the Regiment by means of various lectures and briefings. This has been well-received by all, especially attached arms who now have a far better understanding of the background of the Regiment and when, where and why it was formed.

Command Leadership Management (CLM) has been improved and is now coordinated by the Training Wing Warrant Officer (WO2 Lockwood). It covers all aspects of management from Lance Corporal through to WO1 and course modules are delivered within the Regiment, at the Armour Centre and at the Army Education Centre. Once this is completed, soldiers are awarded a Diploma in Management. Wiltshire and Somerset Collage assessors are also embedded in the Training

Wing to teach Basic Skills and engineering to all new recruits. Again once completed, the soldier gains a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ).

In the summer Sergeant Sutherland joined the Training Wing team, from the Officers' Mess, as the Regimental Blenheim co-ordinator. Blenheim is the Army's new planning tool and it provides a single portal via which all assets required for training can be requested. It is still in its infancy but will be extremely useful in the future.

In the middle of a hectic Combined Inspections Week, the Training Officer (Captain Lillie) handed over the reigns to Captain Gray (attached from the QRH). This gave the squadron seconds-in-command a real shock as the number of emails from the Training Wing, which required responses and/or action, increased exponentially.

2009 has been a particularly busy year with the Regiment heavily involved in all aspects of training. Regimental instructors have enabled the squadrons to ease back into our primary role as armoured soldiers. Without their expertise and assistance the Regiment would grind to a halt. I would like to thank them all for their hard work and patience.

GYMNASIUM

It has been another busy year in the gymnasium, with Sergeant (SI) Murphy at the helm and Corporal Muir as his able assistant. With fitness ever more important on current operations, there has been a big push on Basic Combat Fitness Tests (BCFTs) and Personal Fitness Assessments (PFA's) this year. The gymnasium staff have also supported a busy calendar of sport with major events such as the Hodson's Horse competition in Bovington and our own Moncrieff Shield.

Significant emphasis has been placed on the rehabilitation of injured soldiers bringing them back to fitness as well as on getting the slightly larger soldiers back into shape. The Regiment also managed an adventurous training package, Exercise Diamond Balaklava, in the autumn in Bavaria. This consisted of hill-walking, kayaking and indoor climbing.

The list of qualified PTIs is growing healthily, but we are always on the look out for fresh blood. If you think

you have what it takes, contact the Gymnasium. This year's roll of honour is:

A Sqn

Lance Corporal Wright and Trooper McGoochan

B Sqn

Lance Corporal Harley and Trooper Rokoduguni

C Sqn

Lance Corporal Morton, Trooper Adams and Trooper Palmer

D Sqn

Corporal Carter, Corporal Horn, Trooper Gates and Trooper Hynds

HQ Sqn

Corporal Muir

REGIMENTAL RESTAURANT

In 2009, the catering department has been stretched to the maximum once again. This has, however, produced some excellent results. The biggest event on the calendar was the Royal Week which saw WO2 Robinson, Sergeant Cole and Corporals Smith and Holmes move back to the UK to provide first class catering throughout. Sergeant Cole was instrumental in sharing his expertise and knowledge with the civilian caterers to ensure that his small team provided an outstanding cocktail party and Regimental lunch.

Next on the agenda was the annual Divisional catering competition in July, when the newly promoted Corporal Foulds assumed the mantle of team leader at the last minute. The competition tests not only a chef's catering skills, but also their knowledge of navigation, weapon handling, command tasks and driver skills over a two day period. The team did well and finished in a respectable 16th place out of 25 teams throughout 1 (UK) Armoured Division. The event culminated in an all ranks function and a dinner for all the Division's SNCOs to say farewell to the SO3, Major Wellstead.

Once again we headed back to Sennelager and to CATT and CAST. This time, catering was provided via contract services, with some meals served in the Lancashire

Kitchen. As well as this, we had two chefs competing in the Combined Services Culinary Competition back in the UK. Corporal Smith, a regular in this competition over the past few years, entered into the Intermediate Larder and Team Buffet section coming away with two silver medals, and Private Phan, an up and coming catering star, entered into the Junior Chicken section and came away with a best in class over all three services. Both members contributed to the Army's hard fought overall team gold.

As ever, the catering department personalities have changed. We have said farewell to WO2 Robinson, Sergeant Cole, Corporal Holmes, Lance Corporal Glendenning, Lance Corporal Maina and Private Phiri, all chefs who have made a significant contribution over their three years with the Regiment. We do, however, welcome back WO2 Fisher.

Unfortunately, the year ended on a depressing note and an enforced new look for the Fuller Restaurant. Just prior to Christmas, there was an electrical fire in restaurant offices which left us preparing Christmas dinner in the snow. Hopefully, following repairs and deep cleaning, normal service will be resumed.

Lance Corporal Limbu and Private Gurung prepare to feed the masses



36 EAGLE AND CARBINE

STABLES TROOP



Officers' Spurs Course

2009 has been a particularly busy year for the Regiment. Despite this, the stables and Stables Troop have gone from strength to strength. We are close to our full manning of horses: four Polo ponies, of which two are new, our drum horse Talavera and of course our stalwart Grey, Percy. The stables are run on a day to day basis by Corporal Harnetty, ably assisted by a groom from A Squadron. This year Troopers Melvin, Field and Coltman have all worked in the stables.

Whilst polo takes up much of the time (and the good weather) for Stables Troop we managed to fit in other activities before the snow and ice closed in. Mr Holtum took Talavera hunting with the Niedersachsen-Meute Drag hunt at Schloss Bredebeck. This was an excellent day with the immaculately groomed Talavera very much impressing the local Germans. Drag hunting in Germany is a very odd experience. There are usually 12

'drags' with several jumps in each drag culminating in a slightly larger jump. At this larger jump a German oompah band builds to a crescendo as hunters approach the jump. Furthermore, next to the jump are trailer loads of spectators tucking into bottles of beer and hoping for a fall. It is certainly not for a shy horse. After each 'drag' you then walk around in circles for quite some time allowing the spectators and band to be towed to the next jump and so the spectacle repeats itself.

Stables Troop also provided horses for a families day at the welfare centre as an attraction for the children. Corporal Harnetty, meanwhile, continued to try and teach the grooms how to ride, both willingly and otherwise. All told, whilst polo dominates the stables calendar, equitation in all its forms is thriving within the Regiment.



WELFARE OFFICE

At the start of July 2009, Captain Potter hurled over the reins and the mobile phone to Captain Hainey as he skipped merrily out the door into the fading sunset whistling to himself a wee merry tune. I would like to thank Captain Potter for a wonderful handover and for all the hard work and effort he put into the job as the Welfare Officer over the last two years.

Captain Potter's final swansong in the job was a Wives' trip to Mohnesee Lake which is about 2½ hrs south of Bad Fallingbostel. I was going to ask Andy to write an article on this however Sergeant Ramsay, the Welfare SNCO, wanted to give his account of the event as he says that it has scarred him for life:

“My first (and last ever) weekend trip away with the wives was a trip to British Mohnesee Sailing Club down near Paderborn. It started off with everyone meeting at the Welfare Office on the Friday afternoon and, once we had checked the nominal roll, we jumped into two minibuses and headed off on our happy trip away. With a hop, skip and a jump, the wives immediately assumed an ‘I am away for the weekend’ attitude and the fun started as soon as we left the camp gates.

The weekend went off like a dream. When we eventually arrived, after many pit stops for the loo, everyone had a great time. People lost control of their boats out on the water and seemed incapable of steering, but all was well. The raft building followed by a race at the end was very funny, to say the least.

After that, it was back to sunny Fallingbostel on the Sunday for a well earned break for the Welfare Officer and me. It would have almost certainly have been easier to look after a troop of young soldiers on a weekend in Hamburg.”

August was the Regimental standown period after a successful ‘Homecoming’ tour of Scotland. A horse and cart trip was organised for the wives and children, where about 40 family members embarked on a trip around Bad Fallingbostel in an old fashioned horse and cart, stopping off for a peaceful picnic for the children and coffee and cake for the adults. The journey took us all around the town, finishing at the back end of Fallingbostel, beside the golf course.

September brought the famous SSAFA Big Brew, when every member of the Regiment volunteered to come to the Mother Ross Community Centre, to have a brew, eat some delicious home baked cakes (courtesy of the Wives’ Committee) and to donate some money to a very worthwhile cause. As in previous years, the Regiment



Families on the tank park

donated the most money out of all the Units in 7th Armoured Brigade (who says that Scots are tight?), and a total of €900 was raised.

In October, the wives and partners were invited to a Games Night by the Wives’ Committee of the Highlanders (4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland) and 30 of us went along for a fun-filled evening. The highlight of the night was the Busstucker Trial which involved some of the ladies eating various different delicacies from around the world. The Highlanders’ Welfare Officer stitched us up, and made sure we came last, to ensure that would host the return night at some future date.

In November, we embarked on a Christmas shopping trip to the American PX in Wiesbaden. 50 wives set off at 0600hrs for a five hour journey south to the south west of Frankfurt. The two German coach drivers couldn’t believe that 50 wives would go all that way just for Christmas shopping, until they saw them return to the



Wives’ night in the Corporals’ Mess. Be afraid, be very afraid

xxx

38 EAGLE AND CARBINE

coach loaded down with jeeps, mountain bikes, computers and food. Everyone had a wonderful day out and we returned late in the evening with the coach probably over its weight restriction, and certainly filled to the gunwales.

In December we had a Christmas fair, with a series of traditional German Christmas stalls. We also managed to get a mobile ice rink, which was put up inside a marquee on the Parade Square, directly in front of the Mother Ross Community Centre. Inside the building, we had a kids' disco and entertainer, and a Santa's Grotto for our very own Santa Claus. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wives who built the grotto; it really was a fantastic display and for the children it was the highlight of the day.

As you have read the Welfare Centre is as busy as usual, and with the Regiment going to BATUS next year, followed with the deployment to Afghanistan looming, it will get even busier. There have been a few changes to my staff over the last couple of months. Staff Sergeant Ramsay has now moved the Quartermaster (Technical)'s department and he has been replaced by Sergeant McCormack. I would like to personally thank Sergeant Ramsay for all his hard work and commitment to the Welfare Office over the last year and for assisting me in settling into my role as Welfare Officer.



Sergeant Ramsay in festive spirits

The Welfare Clerk, Sherece Gates, has gone on maternity leave. We wish her all the best and hope that she enjoys motherhood.

Lastly I would like to thank the army of volunteer wives who give up their spare time to assist me and my staff to make the Regiment Welfare Office a safe and friendly place, where everyone feels welcome. Thank you.

CHURCH NOTES

Soldiers of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, like soldiers generally, are quite used to moving; not only have whole families uprooted and moved to Germany, but once there we have regularly packed our bergens and MFO boxes and flown off to BATUS or to Iraq, just as we now prepare for Afghanistan. Added to all this there are postings where once again the family packs and moves, bag and baggage... but not always.

Last summer I received my new assignment order telling me to proceed directly to SCOTS DG, Wessex Barracks, Bad Fallingbostel, as chaplain. At the time I was serving as chaplain to 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, Lumsden Barracks, Bad Fallingbostel – not only in the same station, but immediately adjacent. There would be no moving of quarter, merely the shifting of office contents over a few hundred yards. “Shall I write you reams of handover notes telling



Padre Dalton

you all about Fally?” asked Padre Stephen McCaulay, my predecessor and a good friend, over a glass of wine. In the end we settled on briefer notes than usual because I was not only familiar with the geography of Wessex barracks, but also with some of the soldiers who live there. I had covered Padre Stephen's leave times, performed at least one marriage within the Regiment and had C Squadron battle-grouped with my battalion for our deployment to Iraq on OP TELIC 12. Training in deep snow for the summer heat of Iraq remains in my memory, as does the memorial service we held on the Mission Rehearsal Exercise for Corporal Gordon Pritchard and

Lieutenant Richard Palmer, who had been killed on the very ground we would now revisit. This time, thanks be to God, we brought all our people home safely.

So, the new Padre arrived not entirely ignorant of things SCOTS DG, and indeed with a wife and son who also

love Pipe music. We already possessed the CDs of the Pipes and Drums, so my family were very pleased to be so closely associated with the Regiment, none more so than my Dutch mother-in-law, whose home in Holland was liberated in 1944 by a Scottish unit marching into town behind their pipers. Happiness, gratitude and pride – it is a heady mix, all bound up in the sound of the Pipes and Drums; that makes a good posting.

I was born in Lancashire, as was my wife, so in telling my friend Padre Stephen how pleased we were to be coming to SCOTS DG, I used the perfectly acceptable Lancashire adjective “grand.” “Oh no,” he said, “you must learn some Scottish; say ‘braw’” – and off he went to join the infantry of 2 SCOTS, leaving me to don the grey beret.

The Regiment were in the midst of a two year period between operational deployments, but that does not make life easy or quiet. For one thing everyone has to renew their skills for our core business on tanks, as well as maintaining fitness and preparedness to deploy into the most serious of theatres using other platforms. This was not, then, a rest period, but a time of intense training that stretched and tired our people and gave plenty for the Padre to do. On the ranges, on the tank park, around the barracks, I have heard the problems our soldiers face and done my best to help where I can. Lessons on military Values and Standards have been given with computer technology in warm lecture rooms and in muddy tents on the ranges, though actually these were the better ones, followed as they were by squadron ‘smokers.’

Among a busy round of visits we have welcomed the Colonel of the Regiment who, attending church on the

Sunday morning with the Commanding Officer, brought in his wake such a crowd of smartly service-dressed SCOTS DG officers that our weekly military congregation, drawn from all units in station, were well and truly outnumbered. It was good that RHQ had requested a change to the normal rotation of Padres on Sunday duty to ensure that I was leading worship that day, and a great day it was, with stirring hymn-singing from the assembled officer corps.

More formally, too, we have all paraded and worshipped together as a Regiment. On Remembrance Day, when, in the midst of honouring the Fallen, I discovered how much easier it is to lay one cavalry standard on the drums than to manoeuvre the two huge colours of an infantry unit, and at our Christmas Carol service when the competitive carol singing between squadrons was some of the loudest I have ever heard in any church, let alone a military service. On that occasion the Commanding Officer recounted the story of the 1914 Christmas Truce with original photographs and some modern film clips. In one of these clips German soldiers call across no-man’s-land to the trenches opposite, “Hey, Englander, Merry Christmas,” and the reply comes back, “Merry Christmas to you too, but we’re no English, were Scottish.”

I am afraid that I am undeniably English, but it gives me great joy and pride to be the chaplain to Scotland’s Cavalry and to have both the Welsh traditions of the Carabiniers and the Scottish traditions of the Greys behind me. It is, as I was taught to say in my first word of Scots – “braw.”

THE OFFICERS’ MESS

After a busy operational tour of Iraq, the Mess quickly resumed its place at the ‘heart of the Regiment’. We welcomed into the Mess Mr Holtum in January, who spent the first half of the year away on his Troop Leaders’ course before being properly initiated into Mess life. Our next crop of subalterns was Messrs Reith and Braithwaite who commissioned in December and who are currently on their Troop Leaders’ course.

The post operational tour social momentum gathered pace throughout the year transforming Mess life into a busy and vibrant scene, whether in Fallingbostal or away. Those resisting the ‘Fulham bungee cord’ found that there is actually a lively social scene in Germany

and this is partly due to the efforts of the Mess interpreter, Captain Landon, enticing Mess members to cities as diverse as Wurzburg, Berlin and Leipzig.

Early in the year the Mess sent a contingent of young officers, resplendent in Mess kit, to the Highland Ball, held this year in the Banqueting Halls in Whitehall. This was not an undertaking to be taken lightly and under the careful tutelage of Lieutenant Anderson and Captain Poett, and with the assistance of patient wives and girlfriends, Wednesday night reeling nights were reinstated. This ensured that the officers did not disgrace themselves and indeed, they put many of the infantry battalions to shame.

40 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Mr McNeil, Mr Jackson and Mr Densham host a strangely effete Belgian exchange officer.

Internal Mess events commenced with a Ladies' Dinner night held in March, with many wives and girlfriends enduring the Ryanair experience to be at the sides of their loved ones. Mr Strijdom, as Mr Vice, took on the Senior Subaltern, challenging him that he could not "take him down". He was wrong. One mess wellington full of port later, he discovered just how wrong he had been.

April saw the dining in of Brigadier Nick Welch, the new 7th Armoured Brigade Commander, and the 'christening' of the Mess Secretary's goblet. A rule was decreed by the Regimental 2IC that the goblet had to be filled and drained in between each port decanter. This diktat utterly destroyed the Mess Secretary and led to it being rapidly rescinded for future liver preservation.



The Operations Officer, Adjutant and Detachment Commander



What have the Romans ever done for us? Captain Thursby primes the Mess trebuchet under the watchful eye of Mr Strijdom.

Pyrotechnic activities have always been an essential part of Mess life though there was a ‘back to the future’ feel about the commissioning of the Mess trebuchet. With a degree of chemical imbalance, Mess members struggled to comprehend the ballistic principles worked out by the ancient Greeks and used to devastating effect by the Romans 2,000 years ago. Our flaming projectiles either piled into the ground having gone vertically up – scattering the launching crew – or simply set the trebuchet itself on fire.

The month of May saw the SCOTS DG Reels Demonstration Troop take to London once again, this time for the Caledonian Ball. Owing to the success of their last outing, it was more widely attended with ten officers reeling with their girlfriends or partners for the night. This proved to be the largest showing from any regiment and again, the officers did not disappoint the reeling cognoscenti gathered in the Grosvenor Hotel. We also descended on London to commemorate Cavalry Memorial and after an excellent lunch in the Cavalry and Guards Club, the young officers spurned the Salisbury Tavern for the fresh pastures of The Phoenix on Smith Street. The King’s Road was alive to the sounds of Captain Landon’s “free refills” – the Adjutant was not amused. The Colonel of the Regiment later took the opportunity to visit the Regiment and was hosted in Fallingbowl for his last occasion as Colonel with the Mess enjoying an excellent Regimental Dinner Night. Mr Strijdom, a trained sommelier, organised a wine tasting evening, on the basis of which the Mess’ general consumption of wine was to be chosen. As per usual, the tastes were entirely split with no clear consensus of what was best, although the bogey prize of a Blue Nun impersonator was swiftly identified.

After an absence of three decades, the Mess was honoured to welcome back a distinguished member of the Regiment: Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Bt. – arguably the greatest living explorer of our time. Sir Ranulph had been invited to Germany primarily to talk to the young officers

Mr Grinling perfects cavalry insouciance at the Regimental Ball in Edinburgh



42 EAGLE AND CARBINE

of the Desert Rats (7th Armoured Brigade) on the subject of leadership as part of Exercise Rats Talon, a brigade-wide exercise designed to test officers of captain and below, in military tasks and leadership. Sir Ranulph also found the time to talk to the Regiment in the Corporals' Mess and join the officers for an excellent black tie dinner evening in the Officers' Mess. Sir Ranulph clearly enjoyed being back home with his Regiment and was happy to recount amusing stories of his time as a troop leader, and some of the characters alongside whom he had served. The Commanding Officer took the opportunity to award Sir Ranulph his Regimental sports colours for his recent successful ascent of Mount Everest.

Summer proved to be a highlight in a busy social calendar as Mess members made the most of the good weather to enjoy barbeques on the veranda, canoeing trips down the river Böhme and swimming in the lake at Dushorn. Most important were the summer activities in Scotland, which are described elsewhere in this journal. However, it is worth recounting the excellent Regimental Ball that was held in Prestonfield House – the highlight of our 'season'.

Post Summer leave proved to be busy with the culmination of the Moncrieff Shield week where we welcomed the new Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Simon Allen, back into the Mess. On the Sunday, the Mess attended a church service followed by an excellent families' curry lunch. September witnessed the Fallingbostal Polo tournament, organised by Major Spenlove-Brown. This was an exceptional weekend with an enjoyable party on the Saturday night, which

reduced the goal average by half a point across the board the following day.

For the first time in many years, the Officers' Mess hosted a cocktail party and Beating to Quarters for military and civilian guests, as well as dignitaries from across the garrison and the local German community. Guests were treated to drinks and delicious canapés in the Mess before moving outside for the spectacular musical treat of our very own Pipes and Drums combined with the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas. The Pipes and Drums led the way, impressing the entire audience with a classical Brit-award winning performance. It was then the turn of the Gurkhas to put on an exciting performance which included traditional Nepali singing and a Kukri dance, something rarely witnessed in northern Germany.

Balaklava 2009 was eagerly anticipated by both officers and warrant officers alike, especially due to the Regiment's having been away on Operations in 2008. It did not fail to live up to expectations. The sound of the Pipes announced the arrival of the warrant officers as Pipe Major Munro led the way. A quintet provided by the Band of the King's Division helped lull the warrant officers into a false sense of decorum as the formalities of the evening began. With a break due to the 2008 Iraq tour, there was a large number of warrant officers who had not attended an Officers' Mess Balaklava dinner night before. Those who had received friendly advice from Mess members regarding the length of a Balaklava dinner, had grateful bladders at the conclusion of dinner. Clearly the Quartermaster

*Captain Jameson stalking
at Drumfork*



(Technical) had offered no such advice to the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant (Technical) who could not sweat quickly enough to ease the pain.

Following dinner it was not long before the pre-match jibes began, and it was obvious that the warrant officers were plotting something for the revered flaming hockey match. As the lawn was prepared for battle, complete with flaming goal posts, sand bagged verges and enough ambient lighting to dim the lights of Fallingbostal, the warrant officers shed their Mess coats to reveal t-shirts emblazoned in Scots dialect with: "If yer in tae wan of us, yer in tae aw of us". This set the tone and what followed must rank as one of the most fiercely contested flaming hockey matches of all time. The highlight was definitely the Commanding Officer settling the score with Sergeant Major Boyd with a tackle of which Terry Tate – of office linebacker fame – would have been proud. The match was soon brought to a halt due to the sudden disappearance of the flaming balls, perhaps a blessing in disguise. With spirits running high, the subalterns were keen to demonstrate their gunnery prowess in the direct and indirect fire roles. Mr Ballard-Whyte led the pyrotechnic extravaganza, even becoming part of it during a brief misfire. Games continued indoors into the small hours, continuing to test athletic and mental ability, which were fast diminishing on both sides. The evening concluded with a survivors' photo before the warrant officers repaired to their Mess for a round of bacon sandwiches after an excellent evening.

Remembrance weekend is always an important and sombre occasion, however, we managed to combine it this year with a memorable Fathers' Weekend. During Saturday morning our fathers were treated to a visit to the Gunnery Wing where they were able to try their hand in the gunnery simulators. It was not long before they were destroying tanks in cyberspace under guidance from their sons. The much anticipated highlight of the weekend took place on the Tank Park with the crushing of, not one but two, cars by a Challenger 2 tank. Corporal Smith had the honour of commanding the tank and he did not fail to impress. A speedy approach saw the tank bounce onto the cars, almost ejecting Corporal Smith from the cupola, and crushing the cars to smithereens.

As the year drew to a close, a busy week of socialising began. The Commanding Officer held a drinks party at Deil Farm with all officers and staff sergeants and above attending for mulled wine and mince pies. This year it was the turn of the Officers' Mess to host the Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess to Christmas drinks before they returned to their Mess with Mr Braithwaite, freshly minted from Sandhurst, to host him for one or two festive drinks.



Balaklava dinner – before the carnage.

As ever, there have been a number of officers who have left the Mess. We say goodbye to Major and Jen Turpin. Major Turpin handed over the President of the Mess Committee reins to Major Ambrose before moving to New College, Sandhurst. We also bid farewell to Major Macmillan and Catherine, and Captain Stewart. Our Regimental Administrative Officer, Captain Kennedy has moved up the road to 2 Battalion REME to be replaced by Captain Hinds. Other departures are Captain Erskine-Naylor who is now the adjutant of the Royal Yeomanry, Captain Anderson who rejoins the gunnery world in Lulworth, Captain Greenwood who is now scouring the streets of Glasgow for recruits, Captain Skene who is now with the Field Training Group and Captain Calderhead who is an ADC in London.

We congratulate Major Ambrose on his marriage to Joy, Major Williamson to Sarah, Major Walters to Suz, Major McLeman to Katie and Captain Brayn-Smith to Louise. There have also been a number of engagements starting with Lieutenant Colonel Bartholomew to Cathy, Captain Albert to Clare and Captain Calderhead to Annie.

Finally, we are delighted that there have been some new additions to officers' families: a daughter, Violet, to Major and Rebecca Fullerton, a daughter, Charlotte, to Captain and Julia Newland and a son, Angus, to Captain and Marianne O'Brien.



WARRANTS OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

2009 started flat out with the Regiment straight in to Return to Role training. This was intended to bring the Regiment back up to speed with its armoured role after a busy 2008 on various different vehicles.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess also hit 2009 running with the first of many functions on the 6th of February. This was the final transition to the Dark Side, and dining out, for Captain Lillie and his wife Fran. The night was a huge success, starting off with a very high standard of food produced by the younger members of the catering dept; I don't think anyone had any complaints. Then we moved on to speeches where the RQMS produced a slide presentation showing various pictures of Captain Lillie ranging from when a young boy at school to his days with the regiment. Some of these were very funny indeed and even Captain Lillie eventually had to see the funny side. Most of the pictures were kindly donated by family members and Captain Lillie seemed shocked that they would betray him in this manner. The rest of the pictures were retrieved from the archives of mess members' attics and dusted down to produce a very funny presentation which has become the norm on dine outs. We all moved through to the bar after the speeches where the fun really started with some of the Mess members trying to relive their youth. Some 'painful' attempts to dance resulted in various aches, pains and bruises the next day. The names of these Mess members will be

withheld but they know who they are. We would like to wish Captain Lillie and his family all the best for the future and hope that he enjoys his new position as Training Officer in the Centre of Excellence.

Next on the year planner was Mother's Day, a hit for all those mothers in the mess as they felt that little bit special. Sergeant McCusker and the President of the Entertainments Committee (PEC) put together a small gift of a box of chocolates and a small rose plant with a little message from their children. We then all tucked in to a lovely Indian buffet and the kids got their favourite of chips and chicken nuggets with ice cream and cake to follow.

In April we said goodbye to WO2 Gray and WO2 McGuire with a WOs' lunch. Once again we retired to the bar where the rest of the mess members were waiting to continue what turned out to be a rather late night for some.

In June, we held a Mess BBQ which was a great day out. The weather was wonderful and the kids enjoyed the bouncy castle, swings and football pitch set up for the slightly older ones. Some of the dads even tried to show off some of their skills but soon realised why they hung up their boots when kids as young as five were showing them how to do it. We also had an ice cream van (white van with a fridge and some stickers) at the back of the Mess which was



The Brigade Commander promotes Staff Sergeant Lockwood to Warrant Officer



The Colonel of the Regiment visits the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

kindly donated for the day by MT. This was a big hit with the kids attempting to eat their own body weight in ice cream each time their parents turned their backs. The BBQ food was a dream for those meat eaters in the mess although perhaps not for the vegetarians. There was more than enough to go round with some people filling up as much Tupperware as they could with the leftovers. Even the sauce bottles made up by the chefs disappeared.

September was a busy month starting off with the long-awaited summer ball, said by some to be the best summer function they had ever been to. This was all down to the very hard work of the PEC Staff Sergeant Chisholm and the Mess Manager Sergeant McCusker – and his wife who organised all the flowers – and also the rest of the committee who put a lot of work into what was a great night. The band on the night (The Chill Fighters) was outstanding and before the night was finished they were booked to return in December for the Christmas party. Half way through the night some of the young bar staff had a 'dance off' with those mess members who still believe they 'have it'. This included cyalume glow-sticks, much to the disgust of the RQMS(T) Lamb as they had not been signed for. The PMC, WO2 Boyd, and his wife Debbie, along with the PEC and a couple of the band members danced the night away, and were the last ones to leave just in time to get home for breakfast. Once again the mess has shown that even during a busy year it can still put together an outstanding evening.

Following the Moncrieff Shield, we hosted the new Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Simon Allen, in the Mess for a proper Sunday roast with all the families. The Colonel of the Regiment really enjoyed the day as it gave him a chance to speak to those who have worked with him before and to meet the younger members of the mess and also speak to the wives. The RSM, who



The Colonel of the Regiment appears unconvinced by his chicken nuggets

was in the UK at the time, got a shock when the RQMS(T) sent him a photo by mobile phone of the Colonel of the Regiment sitting with a paper plate of chips and nuggets for a joke.

October saw the annual outing of the Warrant Officers to the Officers' Mess for Balaklava. The evening started with the usual pre-match drinks, and photo in the Sergeants' Mess, before heading over to enjoy a full night of fine wine, food and the odd after dinner activity all courtesy of the officers. With the good names of both Messes at stake, the after-dinner games became more and more competitive. Both teams argued until they were blue in the face as to who was winning. Obviously the Sergeants' Mess was undoubtedly the better team, and after a really good night, they retired back to the safety of the Sergeants' Mess to lick their wounds, and have a spot of breakfast. The overall score for the night was never disclosed, but did include some bumps, bruises, torn trousers and a couple of missing eyebrows.

As with all Remembrance Day parades, the Regiment turned out to a man 'shiny as a new pin' in Number 2 dress boots bulled and medals polished. An unusually mild winter meant there was no need to don winter woollies underneath our Service Dress as is usually the case, especially for those going to the Becklingen War Cemetery. With all Mess members having had their fill of spiritual food from the Padre's service, it was time to head back to the Mess for a curry lunch, and a couple of

46 EAGLE AND CARBINE

refreshments. Never one to miss an opportunity, the RSM had organised the presentation of some outstanding Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. Congratulations must go to Staff Sergeants Bailie, Fraser and Taylor and Sergeant Johnston on receiving the LSGC, although how they never got caught had everyone scratching their heads.

Shortly after Remembrance Day we all found ourselves back in the Mess, however this time it was to dine in the new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Biggart. Although the new Commanding Officer had been in position for about six months, this was our first opportunity to dine him in. As always the chefs outdid themselves producing an outstanding meal, and after the Commanding Officer addressed the Mess, with an after dinner speech, it was time to retire to the bar, kick off the spurs and dance into the wee small hours. Although in the absence of our wives that night, not a lot of dancing took place.

In what seemed like the blink of an eye, 2009 was coming to an end but not before the biggest event in the Sergeants' Mess calendar: the Christmas Ball. With every Mess member having paid a small fortune into a prize fund, it was time to unleash the RQMS, WO2 Mack, and his merry band of SQMS's. They had worked themselves into a frenzy, ready to be let loose on the unsuspecting shop owners around Fallingbostal to gather prizes, decorations and to set up the Marquee ready for the big event. With military precision, the venue took shape with everything checked and double checked to ensure it was just so. The evening went off without a hitch, however we are not sure if this was due to SQMS's being meticulous, or

showing signs of having closet Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Needless to say the evening was a massive success and we are pleased to report that, unlike in Christmas Draws of the past, the REME did not win all the big prizes. As is the tradition at the Sergeants' Mess Christmas Ball, lots of food, wine and song were the order of the evening and the party carried on well into the small hours of the morning. We welcomed back the 'The Chilli Fighters' who were arguably even better than at the Summer Ball. They had learned some new songs from the 80's to appeal to the more eclectic members of the Mess (WO2 'why is there no 80s music?' Mack), and we danced the night away. The night could only be described as outstanding and huge thanks must go to the RQMS, QM's Department, SQMS's and committee for all their hard work. The gauntlet has been well and truly thrown down to the RQMS(T), WO2 Lamb, SQMS(T)s and QM(T)'s Department to produce the goods for Burns Night in February. We wait with bated breath.

2009 has possibly been one of the busiest and varied years the Regiment has seen for a while and life in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess has been no different. The Mess members who have come and gone over the past year are too many to mention, however to all the new members of the Mess who have arrived in the last year, either through posting or promotion we bid you welcome. To all those members both Regimental and attached who have moved on to pastures new, we wish you and your families every success for the future, and hope you enjoyed your time in a Mess that is truly 'Second to None'.



WO2 (SSM) Boyd, WO2 (RQMS) Mack and
WO2 (SSM) Black in good spirits

CORPORALS' MESS

The year began, when we came back from Post Operational Tour Leave (POTL), with a variety of small functions starting with a well-attended karaoke night. We then had a belated function for Captain Lillie, as his leaving drinks from his post as RSM, which was another good night although the so called comedian left a lot to be desired. With his green tweed suit and dodgy patter, he could have come from the Officers' Mess.

At the end of April, we had a very successful 'dry run' dinner night, to show those who had never attended such a night what is expected of them and how mess etiquette comes into play. We have continued our quest to help the Mess achieve its full potential, with investment to turn the Sports Bar into an ideal location for a darts event. In fact, we are still waiting for Corporal Martin to deliver. The Mess also continues to support the Welfare Officer by providing a venue for Wives' Club functions.

With the Regiment away on public duties in Edinburgh we had a visitor to the Mess, Sir Ranulph Fiennes. The chance to meet such a man was probably the highlight of my time as PMC. Our next function was a Family Day and games night. The day itself was an outstanding success due to the efforts of the PEC, Corporal Smith, who arranged it all and even managing to get it for a knockdown price. We had catered for around 130 and at by end of the day there was nothing left. That in itself was a success and not because I had eaten most of it. We finished off the day with a night time party, a disco and a makeshift casino.

Our next event was the Summer Ball, although most of the organisation was done by Sergeant McCusker who had already booked a marquee and band for the

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for the following evening. The build up to the night was pretty hectic but, as usual, everything seemed to fall into place at the right time. Our biggest worry was whether the band would make it. However, once the night got started and band had played their first set, everyone seemed happy and it turned out to be an excellent night. In fact, the band was so good that we booked them immediately to return for the Christmas party.

Following an enjoyable quiz night in the Mess, it was time to hand over my duties as PMC to Corporal Gillon. We staggered the handover to allow the new committee bedding in time. Corporal Gillon's first task was a very short notice dinner night – and by short notice, I mean a week – for the Commanding Officer's dining in. This was held at the start of November and was a great night with excellent food and the Commanding Officer and RSM staying in the mess until late for a drink.

As the year drew to a close, the last event of 2009 was the Christmas party and raffle draw. For prizes this year, Corporal Neat, under close scrutiny from the PMC and RSM, spent the 30 thousand Euros we had in the prize fund. This resulted in an excellent array of prizes. Then there was the party itself, held in a marquee, with the same band from our Summer party, The Chilli Fighters. Everyone had a ball.

With 2009 almost over, we have had a busy year in the Mess and also within the Regiment. I hope next year is as sociable as it is busy. Well done and thank you to all the members of the old committee, and the best of luck to those who took over.



Dining in the Commanding Officer

REGIMENTAL SPORT AND ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

Without the pressures of operational deployments, 2009 has allowed more time for sport and, to a lesser degree adventurous training, than seen in recent years. Sport for All returned in earnest in January, with Wednesdays devoted to training for the RAC Hodson's Horse competition and for individuals to try their hands at something new, and Fridays were given over to squadrons for their own sports training. Sports Colours, also in abeyance for several years were reintroduced, with Staff Sergeant Shakir, our boxing coach, rightly being awarded the first tie in recognition of his achievements in regenerating an effective and flourishing boxing club. Their success and that of all the other sports is covered in detail later, but mention must be made here

of another reintroduction – namely that of the Moncrieff Shield. Although one should not place too much reliance on the shield's plaque, it would seem that it has been uncontested since 2004, making the summer event even more competitive. After a hard fought series of matches, D Squadron were crowned victors and plans have already been laid for the 2010 competition. This last year, therefore, has been one of reaffirming the importance and rewards of sport and adventurous training within regimental life, hopefully setting us up for an even more successful 2010.



ALPINE SKIING

The challenge for the Alpine Ski Team this year was always going to be about developing race experience; only one member of the squad had ever competed at the Army Championships. Thus the aim for this season was to introduce new faces to the sport with the view to building up the team for future seasons. With this in

mind, a total of 16 people made the trip to Alpbach for training, reducing to nine for the race training and the Divisional Championships in Les Contamines.

The team arrived in Alpbach at the beginning of December to find green fields and worryingly little snow.



*SCOTS DG Alpine
Ski Team at the
1 (UK) Division
Ski Championships*

As a result, the lifts opened a week late and the team had to travel to the next valley, Zillertal, in order to start their training with our coach, Gerhard Margreiter. Despite the scarcity of the snow, race training started back in Alpbach on 14 December. Training took place alongside the QRH, and initially concentrated on Giant Slalom. An important part of life in Alpbach is the atmosphere. Unlike many of the purpose-built resorts in France, Alpbach is not so much a tourist resort, but rather a working Tyrolean village that just happens to be next to a ski area. This results in many unusual and unique traditions, including house visits by witches and dancing bales of hay.

Training progressed well and members of the team were given extra motivation by Gerhard's fine system for any who fell over. This varied from €2 to €5, depending on ability, with the final pot going towards a team dinner at the end of training. Slalom training was introduced after Christmas and a week after Hogmanay the team moved on to Les Contamines for the 1(UK) Divisional Ski Championships.

It was immediately evident that the high standard of training and poor standard of snow (or sheet ice) in Alpbach had prepared the team well for the Divisional Championships. Les Contamines had clearly enjoyed far more snow over the last month and whilst many of the teams complained that the courses were very icy, the SCOTS DG were enjoying the best snow conditions they had encountered this season. The first competitive race of the championship was the individual Giant Slalom. As expected, this was dominated by 1LSR, but Captain Poett came in third. In the Team Giant Slalom the SCOTS DG came second, again behind 1LSR. As was the case last year, the SCOTS DG cow bell was ever present to encourage the team (and a select few of other teams, such as the QRH). Every year, after the competitions, the bell goes back to Alpbach to be used by one of the cows in the summer.



Captain Thursby in the Team Slalom at the Army Championships

The Downhill was due to follow on from the Giant Slalom, but due to bad weather, the Slalom races were brought forward instead. This was to benefit the team, as it had done far more slalom training than many of the other regiments at the championship. Again, Captain Poett took third place in the individual, but the team narrowly missed out on second place, settling for third behind 1LSR and 7 Regt RLC. The two downhill training days followed, with the second a timed run. The weather closed in for the actual day of the Downhill and so the training run counted towards the competition, with Captain Poett coming 3rd and the team coming in 4th. The training day had also yielded the wipe-out of the tournament, with Corporal Sinclair crashing through three consecutive gates, two at head height. Fortunately he was fine, but the same could not be said of one of his skis, which had snapped in two.

The final day of the Divisional Championships was the Super G. Captain Poett came 5th in the individual competition and the team 2nd, once again behind 1LSR. This left the team in 2nd place for the overall team result. In the individual competition, Captain Poett came 4th, Captain Thursby 17th, Corporal Clark 19th, Mr Reith 32nd and Lance Corporal Strachan 56th. These results also ensured that the team won the Kenny Cup (top RAC regiment at Exercise Pipedown) and the RAC and Infantry Military Combination Challenge Cup. It also meant that six out of the team of nine had qualified for the Army Championships (although Mr Reith was unable to go, making it five).

The Army Championships were once again held in Serre Chevalier, in France, and followed the same format as the Divisional Championships. The team for the Giant Slalom saw Captain Paton step up to fill the gap left by Mr Reith, and the team ended 5th, narrowly beaten by just one second by the QRH. In the individual competition Captain Poett came 6th. The Slalom again proved to be a tight battle between the two teams from Alpbach. Due to injury, Captain Paton was forced to withdraw from the team and Corporal Sinclair stepped up. With three of the team down the hill the QRH were just one second ahead again, until Corporal Sinclair's second run which turned the tables, earning the SCOTS DG 7th place with a three second lead over the QRH. In the individual competition Captain Poett came 6th again.

Next was the Downhill, which takes place on the Luc Alphand piste and proved to be considerably faster than the Downhill in Les Contamines. The event involves four practice runs over two days, allowing competitors to get to know the course and build up the confidence for those competing for their first year. This included two timed runs with a speed gun at the bottom, with

50 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Another couple of trophies for the cabinet

competitors clocking between 100 and 120 kph as they came into the finish. One of the highlights of the training days were the new names given to various parts of the course. For those who have competed on this course before, the Meadows, Pylon, Brigadier's, Gun Barrel and Wall will all be familiar names. This year two more were added. Firstly there was Harry's Corner, ironically not actually a corner, where a Light Dragoons subaltern turned too early into what he thought was Pylon, only to find himself travelling at some speed over a mogul field. The other was Nick's Corner, named after Captain Poett, who had been watching too much of Bode Miller, and tried to ski up a barrier. It didn't work.

The competition itself was a nervous affair for many, and one of the competitors had to be heli-lifted off the mountain early in the day. Fortunately he was not badly injured. The racing continued, with Captain Poett coming 5th and the team 3rd. This left just one more competition of the season for the SCOTS DG Ski Team, the Super G. This takes place on the same piste as the

Downhill, but with more turns and a therefore reduced speed (in theory). The team entered the event in 4th place, some distance behind 3rd placed 7 AA Bn REME. With good runs from the first two team members, it looked like the team may have lost out when the third fell at Pylon, the same gate at which 3 of the top 15 had fallen. With the fourth man making it down safely, there was nothing to do but wait for the results to be published.

The team ended up in 4th place for the Super G, with Captain Poett in 5th. This was just enough for the team to leapfrog into 3rd place with 1597.15 seed points, just 0.4 of a seed point ahead of 4th place. In the individual competition, Captain Poett came 4th, Captain Thursby 22nd and Corporal Sinclair 70th.

The Colonel of the Regiment was hosted by the team at the prize giving ceremony, and the team picked up two more cups; the Royal Armoured Corps Alpine Combination Cup (also known as the Cavalry Cup) for the best RAC team in the Army and the Queen's Own Hussars Alpine Trophy for the best RAC alpine skier in the Army (Captain Poett for the second year running). The focus now shifts to next season as the Regiment looks to build on its success and introduce more young soldiers to the sport.

SCOTS DG Alpine Ski Team 2010 (those in bold went on to represent the SCOTS DG at the Army Ski Championships): **Captain J Paton**, **Captain N Poett (c)**, **Captain D Thursby**, Second Lieutenant A Reith, **Corporal A Clarke**, Corporal P Glasspoole, **Corporal P Sinclair**, Lance Corporal G Strachan, Trooper D Lowe.

BOXING

The boxing team started its 2009 training as soon as Christmas leave was over and went straight into another arduous regime of early morning cardio sessions and lengthy skills classes with Staff Sergeant Shakir and Sergeant Murphy. The addition of a dedicated Regimental boxing gym above C Squadron block over the summer helped to maintain motivation and allowed the boxers to train to their own schedule and away from the main gym. It was constructed under Sergeant Murphy's direction and is kitted out with all the appropriate punch bags, speed bags and skipping ropes and has, as such, seen its fair share of blood, sweat

and tears. The team also obtained team tracksuits emblazoned with the Eagle and Carabines cap badge on the left breast.

We started off with 20 boxers but this was, as predicted, quickly whittled down to a hardcore of nine committed individuals. These quickly bonded as a team and trained hard together for the first exciting event of the year, the RAC championships at Bovington which run alongside Hodson's Horse. It was a chance to fight in front of a large and daunting audience and a first for most. All nine made it over to Bovington for the com-



SCOTS DG Boxing Team, 2009

petition and all put on a brave show, but it was Lance Corporal Stewart and Troopers Adam and Simpson who made it through to the finals.

The final was a real spectacle at the Bovington gym and very well attended. The Regiment mustered a solid mob of supporters from all those on courses or at ERE. Trooper Simpson and Lance Corporal Stewart both put on brave shows but were ultimately defeated by worthy opponents. It was, however, Trooper Gordie Adam to whom the night really belonged. Up against a very tough opponent from the 9th/12th Lancers, he looked in some trouble for the first couple of rounds but soon rallied. With what can only be described as brute determination and an incredible display of fitness and heart, he produced a stellar performance. Having out-boxed his opponent he emerged battered and bruised to win the bout and also best boxer of the night.

There was precious little respite before the next event. The Brigade Boxing night took place on 24th March at the Roundhouse in Höhne. The team took four of its strongest fighters: Corporal Horn, Lance Corporal Stewart and Troopers Simpson and Adam. Sadly Corporal Horn met a very strong opponent from the 9th/12th Lancers and lost on points. Lance Corporal Stewart produced a solid performance against an experienced fighter from 2 Battalion REME and only lost by a very tight margin. Trooper Adam had what was

billed as a grudge rematch against his 9th/12th Lancers opponent from the RAC Championships. The fight was almost a mirror image of the last one and Trooper Adam prevailed once again. With an impressive display of force and fitness in the last round, having been knocked down in the second, he secured another well-earned another victory. Trooper Simpson had a fantastic and very bloody night, fighting lightweight against a very fast and skilful opponent from 32 Engineer Regiment. The bout was a very closely matched, fast paced display of skill and aggression and was gripping to watch. In the end Trooper Simpson won convincingly and deservedly bagged best boxer of the night.

The team's next major event was the Army Individual Championships. This represented a serious step up from anything the team had been involved in so far and provided a chance to box against some of the Army's best. Unfortunately, none of our boxers fared well against some talented opposition and all fights were stopped in the opening rounds. It was, nonetheless, fantastic exposure and glimpse at what we will be aiming for in the future.

Things went better at the BA(G) individual championships in Rheindahlen, a charity fundraiser for Help for Heroes. It was an excellent black tie dinner night full of officers and SNCOs. Trooper Adam had yet another victory against a much taller opponent and

52 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Lance Corporal Peattie had a good bout but was defeated by Rifleman who went on to be selected for the army team.

Sadly this year we said goodbye to Staff Sergeant Shakir who has taken a posting back to his hometown of Glasgow. We gave him a good farewell at what proved to be a cracking dinner night in the Corporals' Mess. As coach he (along with Sergeant Murphy onto whom we

are lucky enough to hold for a few more months) transformed the boxing team during his time here with us and it was for this unwavering commitment to the sport that he deservedly won his Sporting Colours. We wish him all the best and hope to see him back out here in Fallingbostel in the not too distant future.



CLAY AND TARGET SHOOTING

"I never knew we had this facility here in Fallingbostel", is a comment often heard at the clay shooting range on a Wednesday afternoon. The next is generally "I'm not normally this bad, just a bit out of practice..."

The clay range is usually run by Staff Sergeant Somerville and Staff Sergeant Owen who provide the coaching whilst Scottish humour provides the accompanying banter. This was particularly the case during the Moncrieff Shield competition when C Squadron and WO2 O'Connor came out as winners and HQ Squadron, with the most experienced guns, were forced into the walk of shame.

The most worrying times have been when the Unit Welfare Officer, during both Captains Potter and Hainey's tenures, brings the Wives' Club along. We are unsure whether the sight of the wives armed with shotguns or the standard of shooting is more alarming.

Following the purchase of two Browning shotguns, and several members of the Regiment qualifying for their Jagdschein (German hunting licence), we now have the

opportunity to use the nearby civilian Krelingen Ranges and open the sport to more participants. To that end SCOTS DG recently hosted a course which provided all ranks with the chance to qualify as competent shotgun user and Range Safety Officer with full CPSPA accreditation. The next step is a shotgun coach course to be run in 2010.

In Germany, Clay and Target shooting and Jagdschein belong together, and here too SCOTS DG have played a leading role with an Anglo-German Match shoot. After some competitive shooting, local farmer, Heiner Weustorf, emerged victorious and picked up a bottle of whisky as a prize.

Opportunities for Clay and Target shooting are readily available in the Fallingbostel Station and the sport is thriving with SCOTS DG support. Whether you are interested in Clay or Target shooting, please get in contact with Staff Sergeant Owen as we are always seeking new blood.



Mrs Turpin 'under instruction' with Staff Sergeant Somerville



Heiner Weustorf receiving his prize

CRESTA RUN


You never forget the first time you arrive in St Moritz. The majestic Alps rise out of the snowy landscape as the sun shines down and whether you're driving over the Juliane Pass or arriving in the dining car of the Alpine Express, the sense of grandeur never fails to impress. Our arrival was less impressive however as it followed a ten and a half hour drive, which included a broken snow chain with 25 miles to go along narrow and often icy mountain roads. However, once the journey from hell was completed, the final few turns up the Engadine valley suddenly made it all worthwhile.

The Regiment this year was represented by four individuals over the three week Services season. In the first week, Captain Irwin was accompanied by first-timer Mr Grinling. In the following two weeks Captain Brayn-Smith and Major Foulerton kept the flag flying. Below is Mr Grinling's reflection as a Cresta beginner.

Cresta may have started in the Victorian era, but it seemed hardly fair that I should be using Victorian equipment, especially as I was about to launch myself headfirst down the side of a mountain at 50 miles an hour. I may as well have been shooting in Sussex, decked out in tweed as I lay nervously on

the toboggan awaiting my first run. Staring down the tunnel of ice, I ran over my equipment one more time; metal pads, reminiscent of medieval armour, covered my hands, whilst elbow and knee pads, made out of leather, were theoretically designed to stop the impact of hitting a wall of ice at 40 mph. They were doing a better job now of preventing my knees knocking together with nerves. 'Had I fastened everything up correctly?' I've never seen more complicated rules for fastening a buckle! Only a motorcycle helmet and skiing goggles bring my attire back to this side of the 19th Century and even in these two items I wasn't completely sure about their vintage. They were probably better suited to a Mods' convention.

"It will all be all right, as long as you get round the third corner", were the only words that I could remember from my instruction. Great, which was the third corner again? The infamous shuttlecock, a safety valve and speed brake, designed to throw the out of control or too fast out before they cause themselves real damage further down the mountain. Lying there, I ask myself, 'Do I really want to get round the third corner' and risk everything at full pelt five hundred metres down what appears to be a vertical straight?



Mr Grinling concentrates on the ride ahead

54 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Suddenly the toboggan is released and I am off, faster than I ever imagined as I career down Junction straight. I desperately try to dig into the ice with spikes attached to my shoes to slow my speed, but to no avail. As I travel faster and faster, nerves and fear leave me – I am already hooked! I will be coming back to Cresta next year.

Mr Grinling had a very successful week on the Run from Junction, getting his times down after just 6 days, to a very respectable 50 seconds, just two seconds off qualification for Top. Not even a spill at Shuttlecock dampened his spirits as he returned to the clubhouse grinning and brushing away the remnants of straw and snow, proud that he had earned his Shuttlecock tie. That grin however was short lived as after only one week, Captain Irwin and Mr Grinling had to wind their way back up to Fallingbostal to prepare for Exercise IRON EAGLE and CT2 training. Somehow the snow and ice of Sennelager just doesn't quite compare to that of St Moritz.

As for the achievements of the Regiment, once again we can hold our heads high on the Cresta Run. On 21st January the Army Junction Championships took place with seven regiments competing. This is an inter-reg-

imental open pairs race with the winner receiving the 17th /21st Lancers Cup, and for the second year running it was won by the Regiment with Major Foulerton and Captain Brayn-smith riding. On 26th January the Scots Guards Cup was held. This is an open individual race from Top, used to select the Army team and for the first time, it was won by a TA rider, Major Richard Morgan. Major Foulerton came third.

On 28th January the three Services competed for the Prince Phillip Trophy, an open six man team race from Top. In addition non team riders, retired and reservists competed for the two handicapped races: The Harland Trophy (Top) and the Silver Spoon (Junction). The Scots Greys were represented by Jonno Law, an accomplished Top rider. Maj Foulerton and Captain Brayn-smith both raced for the Army, which came third, due to a very strong RAF team and Major Foulerton riding well below par. Following the traditional post-race Bloody Marys and sandwiches at Finish, and as the sun reached its peak in the sky, a lone voice heralded the end of another season with those timeless words: "Terminato, terminato".



CYCLING

With cycling generally classed a minority sport, WO2 (SSM) Dudman has previously remained its only regimental ambassador. It was a great relief for him this year, therefore, to be joined by four keen regimental officers: the Regimental 2IC, Major Benson-Blair, the EME, Captain Newland, the Operations Officer, Captain Marjoribanks and his own Squadron 2IC, Captain Young. In addition, a few novices took advantage of the Regimental pool of road bikes to train. It was, however,

an unfortunate result of a busy year that many of the BA(G) cycling races and training events were scheduled when SCOT DG were otherwise occupied.

One success story came when four soldiers from within the LAD (Lance Corporals Milne, Black and McKenna and Craftsman Cane) volunteered to cycle from Normandy to Berlin as a charity event, organised by the QM(T) Captain Anderson. All completely new to



Captains Newland and Young, Major Benson-Blair and WO2 Dudman

cycling, they pushed through some gruelling legs exceeding 120km per day, surviving some extreme weather and also an impressive number of crashes. They cycled through the Brandenburg gate in style on the final day to complete the mammoth journey with large smiles on their faces. Thanks should go to Corporals McReady and Henderson who acted as a support crew, and who also helped in running the event for the other teams by navigating, in advance, the map-selected route to ensure it was suitable for cyclists.

Finally, towards the end of the season, the cycling team had the opportunity to contest a race. They entered into a 60km team time trial, where all members have to cross the line to get a time. WO2 Dudman, Major Benson-Blair and Captains Newland and Young were immediately intimidated by some very professional looking teams from all over Germany. Having managed minimal team training due to the Regimental calendar, pre-race nerves were abundant and the team worried that they

may struggle to keep up over such a long distance. Starting well, the team overtook a number of other units and started to feel pretty confident. Due to their training regime – and very expensive looking bikes – and local rivalry, the team that SCOTS DG most wanted to chase down and beat was 3 MERCIANS. By the halfway point it was obvious that the SCOTS DG team comprised two halves: the stallions in the shape of Major Benson-Blair and Captain Newland and the donkeys in WO2 Dudman and Captain Young. Despite this, SCOTS DG managed to catch 3 MERCIANS in the last 10km and raced into a respectable 5th place, with only seconds separating the first 5 teams over a 1 hr 45 minute race.

There are bikes available in the Regiment for training and racing. For anyone wishing to give it a go, the 2010 season is likely to be hotly contested. You don't even have to shave your legs. Unless of course you want to.

Exercise DIAMOND BALAKLAVA

Exercise Diamond Balaklava did not get off to the most auspicious of starts, with the transport not appearing on time and the hire company promising that it would be with us "within two days." Luckily the minibuses turned up that afternoon and the long drive South began. Haus Magnus lodge is in Wertach, a typical, rural Bavarian village seemingly unaware and unaffected by the presence of a British Army training centre in its midst. Our first day there was taken up with cultural visits prescribed by the chief instructor due to our arrival in the wee hours. After visiting Schloss Neuschwanstein, the 'Disney' Castle built by the mad Bavarian King Ludwig, we each had a ride on the Rodelbahn, a roller-coaster cum go-kart built on the side of a mountain.

Only 24 hours late, our first day's walking was spectacular, exceptionally warm for October and with sunshine all day. Lieutenant Densham's vertigo did not have time to kick in as our three groups tackled the Aggenstein (1986m) from different sides. The final route to the summit was the same though, only accessible by climbing a steep rock section with railings to aid the ascent; the calls of "Bergheil" and people were plentiful on the peak and the Gipfelbuch was annotated by the 'Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Alpine Climbing Team'. Our fortune with the weather continued all that week and we were able to ascend three 2000m peaks with ease: the Gaishorn (2247m), the Entschkopf (2070m) and the Rindalphorn (2033m), all over half a kilometre higher than Ben Nevis. The rotation this week

Mr Strijdom, Trooper Starmore and Corporal Chalmers admire the view

56 EAGLE AND CARBINE

ran so that everyone got to go kayaking (whether they wanted to or not) and go indoor climbing (again not optional); there were some very wet and scared troopers by the end of these activities.

The snow came at the end of week one and the Bavarian Alps went from being green to having over 50cm of snow at 2000m in two days. Not discouraged by the conditions, Mr Welch attempted the Aggenstein with Lance Corporal Kennedy and Trooper Cunningham but they were forced, by the blizzard, to shelter short of the summit in a mountain hut where there was no shortage of hot chocolate, cake and Ramozotti. Mr Strijdom managed to find the summit of the Einstein (1850m) in similarly awful conditions but Mr Densham, confused by the 'H' on his map marking the Haltestelle (Bus Stop), spent the morning looking for the Helipad which he thought would mark the start of his walk. Lessons learned, the groups went the next day together to scale the slightly smaller Wertacher Hornle (1690m) which overlooks the village. After wading through waist-high snow, the whole expedition reached the summit together in brilliant sunshine. Flushed with success, the walking groups headed for the knife-edge ridge of the Rospitze (2033m), where Trooper Wasasala made it quite clear that he really was not enjoying the view downwards and that he would like to get off the mountain as quickly as possible – although not in so many words.

Conditions were very similar for the rest of the exercise, with only the occasional cloudy day to spoil the view from the high, snowy summits. The Fijians were forced to choose between a rock and a hard place, either constant walking or kayaking in the lakes which were getting ever cooler as the snow melted. Sorgschrofen, a steep peak, which according to Corporal Black, our local guide for the week, is a popular spot for New Year's Eve, proved too dangerous with a steep snow gully the only way to the top. Disappointment was met with satisfaction for a few of the soldiers who then descended their first ski slope (on foot). The highlight of the week was the Steineberg (1651m) whose summit can only be reached by means of a 20m vertical ladder, perched on a cliff above a considerable drop. Admirably, Mr Densham chose to remain and look after the group who felt the ladder was not for them. The remainder on the peak built a Scottish snowman, complete with bottle of Irn Bru, much to the amusement of a Colonel in the German Mountain Battalion who was also having his lunch on top.

Meanwhile Corporal Peattie and Trooper Cutajar dodged the walking expedition and completed their Kayaking Foundation Course under the tutelage of Sergeant Murphy, who made a point of taking his triathlon suit along to "have a dip" in the near icy waters. Sergeant Ogle, the senior instructor at the lodge, took those who had the ability on a river expedition with the kayaks. Taking in some fairly turbulent graded waters and adding a level of challenging activity that we would not have been allowed to organise on our own, the kayakers appreciated the change from the lake.

The last week saw a good number of A Squadron and the LAD coming down to Bavaria. With the weather improving and only a small group to herd, we made another attempt on the Aggenstein. This time the snow did not stop us making the top, kept company by some hardy mountain goats. More importantly, the staff of



*Trooper Wishart auditioning for
'Brokeback Mountain 2'*



Mr Welch leading the way

the mountain hut, who by now knew us by name, served up all the food that needed to be eaten as they were leaving the next day for the Winter period. A large cake per man ensured that the descent was even slower than the trip up.

Private Gray, the only female to brave the exercise, thoroughly enjoyed her first Alpine climb on the Gaishorn. In the first week this was a reasonable scramble, but with the addition of 2m of snow, it became even more challenging, especially for those without a head for heights. Trooper Cutajar, on his

second week, decided that naturism was the best way to enjoy the climb up. Luckily there were no locals around to shock, and his nudity did not survive contact with the snowline. Clear sky on top lulled us into a false sense of security as down proved to be worse than up. There was no discernible path and slow progress meant that darkness fell just as we reached the end of the descent. The following day, there was no rest for the wicked as we planned an assault on the highest peak in the region, the Hochvogel (2592m). Unfortunately, although the weather was beautiful with temperatures hitting 15°C that day in the sun, the snow proved to be too much and the risk of avalanche too high.

Overall, Exercise Diamond Balaklava was a thoroughly worthwhile adventurous training exercise. This was particularly the case for those who came after the unseasonably early snow had fallen, and had the chance to tackle some of the 15 different peaks climbed during the month. Those who chose to do so enjoyed the freezing waters of the Immenstadt lake and the Iller River and the climbing wall saw its fair share of terrified soldiers. Many, despite being little higher than a tank turret off the ground, could not move for fear. All in all this was a thoroughly enjoyable and one only made possible by the helpful staff of Haus Magnus Lodge. Perhaps we could try summer next year though.

FOOTBALL

2009 started with a bang for the football team with the Cavalry Cup (Germany) final against the 9/12 Lancers. The fixture was a home game in Wessex Barracks, therefore there was real determination to do well in front of a friendly crowd. Thanks to the efforts of the then Football Officer, Captain Greenwood, and the RQMS(T), WO2 Lamb, the team was afforded some serious time off the week prior to the game. The prize at stake was a place in the Cavalry Cup final during Cavalry Memorial weekend.

With the day upon us, the turnout for the match was tremendous with the whole Regiment lining the pitch to cheer the team on. However SCOTS DG got off to a slow start and were 1-0 down by the end of the first half. After a few tactical changes by the two team coaches (Sergeants Thomson and Pratt) the team came out fighting in the second half and were by far the better side for much of the 3rd quarter of the game. Sadly our claims for what looked like a stone wall penalty were turned down by the

referee and, before we knew what was going on, the Lancers broke and scored a second. Despite this set back, the team stuck to the task and managed to bring it back



Cavalry Cup (Germany) Final

58 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Cavalry Cup (Germany) Final 2008/2009: Troopers Gilchrist and Stewart, and Sergeant Chart

to 2–1 with a great quick free kick from Trooper Scott. Suddenly we were right back in it.

SCOTS DG pushed on hard, seeking that all important equaliser, and had the Lancers firmly on the back foot for most of the final quarter. Unfortunately our goalkeeper, Sergeant Chart, who up until the 85th minute was a contender for man of the match, had a bit of a disaster misjudging the flight of the ball in the dying moments, condemning us to a 3–1 defeat. Sergeant Chart was subsequently presented with the ‘donkey of the match’ award.

It was very good to see some of the older guys within the team, such as WO2 Lamb and Sergeant Rigby, keeping up with the young guys on the pitch. However they did later admit that their recovery period took significantly longer than it used to. The next few months saw Sergeant Pratt withdraw from coaching and the team

was looked after by Sergeant Thomson. Gradually the team began to get a few more games under their belts and pulled off some decent wins against the Engineers, RHA, 4 SCOTS and 16 Tank Transporters Squadron.

The team also sent eight players to compete in the BFG 6-a-side tournament at Rheindahlen on what turned out to be an extremely hot summer’s day. SCOTS DG managed to surprise and upset many of the other teams in the competition, especially the Signals as they saw themselves as potential finalists and were very annoyed when beaten in the quarter finals. Unfortunately the Lancers came back to haunt us, beating us in a closely fought semi-final. The only consolation was that they went on to become overall winners. Our man of the tournament for SCOTS DG was Lance Corporal Morton who played solidly in defence all day long. The Regiment finished 3rd and qualified to go to the UK to compete in the Army sixes in Aldershot for the first time ever. Unfortunately due to Regimental commitments we were unable to send a team.

As 2009 comes to a close, the football team has improved immensely thanks to the hard work and commitment of every player. The team trains twice a week under floodlights and in their own time. All members of the team would like to thank Captain Greenwood for all his help and support as Football Officer, and welcome in his replacement Captain McDowell who has taken up the challenge for 2010 and beyond. SCOTS DG are currently well-placed in the league and have an away game against the QRH in the semi-final of the 2009/2010 Cavalry Cup early next year.



HOCKEY

The hockey season began, in the traditional style, with a few hurried training sessions prior to the annual Hodson’s Horse Competition in Bovington. This gave the team an opportunity to get back into the sport and to try and understand the new rules imposed on the sport by the FIA. A select few represented the Regiment at Hodson’s Horse and progressed well through the competition only to be put out once again by previous winners, the QRH.

On its return from Bovington, the team was put through a rigorous training regime by Staff Sergeant Allan and Corporal Chandler. This was in preparation for the March BA(G) Inter Corps Competition in

Gutersloh, where the team would compete with many of the BFG Corps teams. The team held their own, and progressed to the semi-finals only to be defeated by the AGC 2–0. Trooper Keith once again proved himself an outstanding keeper throughout. The day was a success in many ways, however, as the BA(G) Hockey Secretary and Coach invited a number of the team to attend BA(G) Squad selection later in the year.

In May we entered the Leigh Trophy, held in Höhne and hosted by 3RHA. This is an annual competition and attendees include West Yorkshire Police (WYP). The competition started off with the all umpires from across BFG playing the WYP. Staff Sergeant Allan and



SCOTS DG Hockey Team 2009

Corporal Chandler were selected for the Umpire squad and, sadly for the Police, won through on penalty flicks. Over the weekend, the team was put through its paces with games against 32 Engineer Regiment, 3RHA, 1 Logistic Support Regiment and the WYP. We held our own and progressed to the plate final only to be defeated by the WYP, 2-0. The weekend was a real success, with new contacts and friends made, but it represented the end of the hockey season for BA(G).

In October, the season started once again with the traditional BA(G) 6's competition held in Höhe and hosted by 3 RHA. Again we drew the short straw and were drawn in the A League against 3RHA, 32 Engineer

Regiment, 8 Regiment RLC and 24 Regiment RLC. The team played extremely well and made good progress, but were finally defeated by 8 Regiment RLC, 2-1. Lance Corporal Frazer seemed to be 'Astroturf skiing' for the majority of the matches as the pitch was heavily waterlogged due to torrential rain.

Throughout the season, and since the Regiment's return from Operations TELIC12 and HERRICK 8, the team has grown with new members taking a keen interest in the sport. We are always looking for new players to train and to enjoy playing hockey.



The traitorous Major Bateman turns out for 3RHA



Trooper Gates pauses for breath

HODSON'S HORSE

Hodson's Horse is the Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps annual inter regimental sports competition. The event includes rugby league and union, orienteering, squash, football and hockey and coincides with the Corps boxing championships. One of the main objectives of the event, which takes place over four days every March, is to identify talent to represent the Corps at the various disciplines.

This year, as a result of returning from operations and being in their recuperation phase, SCOTS DG for the first time in a long time managed to send a full team to represent the Regiment. The Sports Officer, Major Cattermole, scheduled a number of sports afternoons designed to introduce soldiers to sports they may not have previously played and select and develop sportsmen in preparation for the competition. In the true spirit of the competition and promoting sport for all, a large team of approximately 50 made the journey to Bovington.

Most of the rugby team, managed by Captain Anderson, were involved in two separate competitions, playing both league and union. On the Monday the team had a light training session followed by a period with a qualified referee covering the rules of the hybrid 9-a-side game. The league competition itself started and concluded on Tuesday with the team playing three matches before qualifying for the final. This was a very hard fought competition and the team did well to come out as eventual victors in the final of the cup, earning maximum points for the overall trophy. In addition and as a result of their performances, Corporal Ah-Sing, Lance Corporal Tuitobou and Troopers Druavesi, Kapaiwai, Matakagi and Taganekurkuru were selected to represent the Royal Armoured Corps.



Corporal McCall on the ball

On Wednesday the team followed the same process as that on Monday, this time however it was in preparation for the 10-a-side rugby union competition. Unfortunately Trooper Batiluna had injured his shoulder and could no longer take part. This allowed Captain Anderson to dust off his boots and take part in the union matches which was not part of the original plan. A light training session on Wednesday revisited the skills required and allowed for some recuperation prior to the competition. On Thursday the team played and won all three pool matches against 9/12L, 1 RTR and 2 RTR, which set them up for the final against the HCR. All the initial pressure was from the HCR who scored first, but the team turned this around using the full width of the pitch and pace to overwhelm the HCR defences. In another hard fought victory, the team won the competition earning maximum points for the overall trophy. It should be noted that a few players picked up a number of injuries through the competition, but continued to play to ensure the team secured victories in both competitions. The following players were noted for their individual talents: Trooper Matakagi for his pace, Lance Corporals Tuitobou and Saulailai for breaking through the defensive lines and Corporal Ah Sing for leading the team from the front. Ultimately this was a fantastic team achievement and all the players played their parts in resounding victories in both the rugby league and union competitions.

The orienteering team of six, managed by Mr Welch had a thoroughly good time thrashing around the heath in Bovington. All of the runners managed to complete the course in the regulation time and incurred no penalties. The young Troopers Coltman, Millar and Sommerville put in a commendable performance and the team was placed 7th overall.



Trooper Adam receives his award from Major General Deverell, Late Royal Tank Regiment

The football team started well on day one, winning their first match against the HCR, but lost their second match, against the run of play, to the 9/12 Lancers. On the second day the team managed to beat both QRH and 1 RTR in the preliminary matches and went through to the final of the plate competition. The squad of Corporal McShane, Lance Corporals Laing, Kelly and Warren and Troopers Foley, Dougan and Stewart, led by Corporal McCall, put everything they had into every match they played, showing determination and tenacity. However, they unfortunately lost the final of the plate competition, and the team was placed 4th overall.

The 4 man squash team, comprising Captain Young, Staff Sergeants Curry and Gibbs and Sergeant Percy, arrived anticipating some good games and hoping to achieve a respectable place in the competition. Despite some exceptional rallies it soon became clear that many other teams had Corps and County level players and the SCOTS DG team was outgunned. There were some tremendous matches, which were thrilling to watch, although Staff Sergeant Gibbs was injured during one of these and sadly had to retire from the competition. The team was placed 6th overall.

Lance Corporal Chandler, the manager of the 6-a-side hockey team, took his side to play in Blandford, (the only part of the competition to be played outside Bovington). The young team including Lance Corporals Fraser and Devine and Troopers Twaddle, Peterson, Wishart and Ross and the two substitutes, Lance Corporals Warren and McShane, played with determination and passion. Largely due to a lack of experience, the team finished towards the bottom of the table. Lance Corporal Chandler, however, is to be congratulated for being selected to represent the Corps.

Running alongside Hodson's Horse, but not actually part of the competition, was the HCav and RAC individual boxing championships. Last year the regiment started with a team of 15 boxers but only managed to send one, Lance Corporal Morgan-Williams who unfortunately did not get past the prelims. This year however, the team, led and coached by Staff Sergeant Shakir (REME) and Sergeant Murphy (APTC), was nine strong, and



Trooper Millar in action at Hodson's horse



Trooper Matacagi and Corporal Tuitobou launch another attack

62 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Sergeant Burdon, Lance Corporals Stewart and Morgan Williams and Troopers Barrett, Gregory, Simpson, O'Neil, Adam and Morrison were confident of doing well.

The preliminary fights took place on both Monday and Tuesday, filtering the 50 or so boxers that entered the competition down to the 16 to compete in the finals on the Thursday night. The number of boxers at each weight determined how many times an individual would have to box to earn their place in the final. As it happened Lance Corporal Stewart and Trooper Simpson got a straight bye to the finals, while Sergeant Burdon, Troopers Barret, O'Neil, Adam and Morrison all had to box on the Monday, and Lance Corporal Morgan-Williams and Trooper Gregory on the Tuesday. Sergeant Burdon and Trooper Adam both won their bouts on the Monday, resulting in Sergeant Burdon boxing again on the Tuesday due to the large number of middleweights, and Trooper Adam earning his place in the Final. Tuesday saw Sergeant Burdon box for the second time and Lance Corporal Morgan-Williams and Trooper Gregory box their first bout of the competition. Unfortunately, after three very hard fought bouts, no other boxers made it to the final, leaving Troopers Adam and Simpson and Lance Corporal Stewart still in the competition.

On the night of the final the atmosphere was electric. First to represent the Regiment for the night was Trooper Simpson, who boxed a technical and tactical

bout but who sadly lost on a majority decision. Next up was Trooper Adam, who displayed great courage in coming back after being knocked down in the first round and receiving a standing count in the second. His opponent received a standing count in the third and both fighters continued to throw punches until the bell sounded. When the result came, Trooper Adam was unanimously declared the victor and champion of the light-welterweight division.

Last, but by no means least, was Lance Corporal Stewart of the Pipes and Drums. Lance Corporal Stewart was unfortunate to face in his first boxing bout a much more experienced opponent, who had boxed in the competition the year before. This experience showed as his opponent forced the umpire to stop the fight early. This slightly dented Lance Corporal Stewart's pride, but not enough to deter him from volunteering for the Brigade boxing night two weeks later.

In summary, Hodson's Horse is exactly the kind of activity which attracts both officers and soldiers into the army. The event was very well planned, superbly organised and efficiently executed with all competitors enjoying competitive and healthy competition. Finally we would like to thank all of the administrative and coaching staff and officials, both at DRAC and in the Regiment for making sure events like this take place.

NORDIC SKIING

After much frantic last-minute activity, particularly with C Squadron only coming off exercise 12 hours previously, the Nordic Ski Team departed for Norway at 0100hrs on Saturday 21st November. After 16 hours' driving, 2000km and one long, boring ferry journey we arrived in Sjusjøen, close to Lillehammer in Norway. Due to disagreements with the tourist office in previous years, they seemed determined to make life difficult. Consequently, the team was split between two very isolated traditional log cabins, 3km and a very treacherous car journey apart.

The training camp we were booked on, 'Nordic Blowfish,' was run by a slightly mad ex-APTC ski guru called Keith Jenns and his band of similarly qualified (and similarly loopy) instructors. Over a month we learned the techniques necessary for both disciplines, Langlauf (classic) and skate, and became physically inured to the physical demands and the extreme cold.

Our days started with a warm-up run, then morning and afternoon ski sessions with either a lecture in the



Trooper Mostert checking his directions

evening, some more (night) skiing or weapons drills. The weekend was signalled by an endurance ski on Fridays of anything up to 25km, or in Lance Corporal Jarret's case, 35km. A few expensive Friday nights in Lillehammer and the subsequent menacing of the REME camp provided our weekly entertainment. Saturday was our rest day and was filled mostly with eating and resting as Sunday was another working day.

On the ranges, we worked first on marksmanship. We then concentrated on shooting when tired and with a high heart rate, all whilst learning drills to make us as quick as possible into and out of the range. Our REME Armourer, Craftsman Butler, showed off his knowledge of weapons and their use: "Were these .22 rifles the ones they used in the Falklands?" As Nordic Ski courses consist mostly of hills, negotiating the downhill sections was an important skill and one which Mr Strijdom took to like a duck to water – except water would have been less painful and less likely to break skis. It seemed that whoever designs Nordic Ski courses puts sharp corners at the bottom of every hill, something to keep the heart rate high on the momentary rest downwards and to remove the inattentive from the course. In the practice races, good results by Mr Majcher and Trooper Williams kept us ahead of the other (some more experienced) teams from 1 AAC, 7 RLC and REME Trg Battalion, although the national athletes of the AGC Ladies' Team still eluded us. We had a very productive month and an enjoyable one, on the occasional days when the weather was not atrocious. When it was, the team's adopted motto became, as instructor Steve Blount said to Trooper Dean, "It could be worse Deano, you could be in a foreign jail having the soles of your feet beaten."

After an eventful trip back from Norway, a brief sojourn for Christmas and some New Year's training, the team headed to Hochfilzen, Austria. This was the venue for Exercise White Fist, the RAC, RA and AAC Championships, and a World Cup Nordic Ski circuit. Due to a lack of snow, the first two races were combined into a pursuit, with a classic race in the morning then a skate after lunch. It was a hard first day's racing and the team gained a mid table result with Mr Majcher narrowly beating Lieutenant Colonel Bromley-Gardner, a veteran of 29 years Nordic Skiing. The days off were spent on the range which at only -10°C , was positively balmy compared with Norway.

After several races we identified the teams that, realistically, we could and wanted to beat: our bunkroom buddies, 29 Commando RA and 1 AAC, along with the Household Cavalry and 16 RA. When 29 Commando RA claimed that they had over 30 years' skiing experience in their team, we told them that simply made them old. In our first biathlon 10km, consistency was key with the A Team all finishing between 45 and 47 minutes. This gave us a victory over our various rivals bar 12 Regt RA, whose ex-national skier had an excellent result and dragged them up the rankings. In the 4 x 7.5km biathlon relay, the B Team had another great result, beating a number of A Teams, including the QDG, 1 AAC and several artillery regiments, to claim silver medals in the B Team prizes. In fact, they came second only to 1 LSR B Team who in turn came second in the A team results. Overall the SCOTS DG A team came 12th out of 23 and were the highest placed all-novice team, an excellent result for our first competition.



The Military Patrol Race team with DRAC at the Army Championships

64 EAGLE AND CARBINE

After an early morning drive across Austria and Switzerland, we arrived in the French town of Les Contamines-Montjoie for the Divisional Championships to be met by the RAO and Captain Anderson enjoying their working holiday in the Alps. The Alpine team were amused to see us and especially to see our training and race programme. Apparently we enjoyed less après-ski than they were used to. With some stiffer competition than at White Fist and with some teams who had only a week on snow it was hard to know what to expect. Our first races went well and we were the highest placed novice team in both the 4 x 10km relay and the 15km Classic races. The biathlon, which had been our strong point previously, saw some poor shooting costing us much time and several positions in the rankings. The biathlon relay proved a mixed bag in the shooting and we placed quite well leaving only the military patrol race to give us our final position. Knowing that qualification for the Army Championships hung in the balance, the team practiced its Nordic ski drill, made up uniforms, quizzed each other on acronyms, personalities and battle procedure and ate a lot of pasta.

With their borrowed white lycra suits, the lucky four, Mr Holtum, Lance Corporal Jarret, Trooper Williams and Craftsman Butler set out for the patrol race with very little idea of what to expect. Rain was certainly not expected but turned up in bucket loads rendering the suits entirely see through. The race was 20km with each man carrying 10kg (no mean feat on skis) and with command tasks at various points. We had been told this would be 'different' from normal races and so it proved. The race started with a ski up an alpine slope to the bemusement of 'normal' French skiers who were waiting for the gondola at the bottom. The next trial was a rope climb before the descent of a different alpine slope. This proved too much for the team so the skis came off



Lieutenant Majcher transitioning from Langlauf to skating

and they started to run. And they ran, and ran. Through some good performances on the range, as well as on the command tasks, and some solid skiing (and running) the team came a very respectable 10th out of 23. We were the highest placed novice team thus securing (by the narrowest of margins) our qualification for the Army Championships.

The Army competition, which doubles as the British National Championship and is held in Ruhpolding, Bavaria, the self-proclaimed best Biathlon venue in the world, saw us arrive as little fish in a big pond full of national-level athletes. Included in the course was the legendary 'Wall,' a hill almost too steep to ski up and a downhill (the Cannonball) with a corner at the bottom to turn skiers into snowmen. We were accommodated up in the mountains with a nice old couple, who owned enough stuffed animals to start a macabre zoo.

As usual our racing got better as we went on, with the initial heavy snow not at all helping us against a more experienced field. Our results improved through the 15km Classic and 4x10km Relay and heading into the biathlon weekend we were optimistic of beating our rivals, 29 Commando RA and 12 Regiment RA. On Saturday and Sunday there were a 10km Individual Sprint Biathlon and 10km Mass Start Biathlon respectively which served as practice for the team 4x7.5km Relay two days later. In a closely contested race, we beat 29 Commando RA by just 2 minutes finishing in a time of 2:45.17. The difference equated to two dropped shots on the range, but our training again paid off. The last race, not so much awaited as dreaded by its competitors, was the Military Patrol Race, but conditions and the course could not have been more different from those in France. The sun was shining and due to the threat of avalanche, the course was mostly on tracks. Mr Welch, Lance Corporal Jarret, Trooper Williams and Craftsman Butler completed the 35km ski, including a stretcher race, a jerry can hike and a memory test, in under four hours, knocking down 32/40 targets to beat the QRH, who skied slightly faster, on penalties. At the final prize-giving, we made our first stage appearance to collect the Best RAC Ski Team, combined Nordic and Alpine, and the best RAC Military Patrol Race Team trophies.

Despite the extreme cold and several hundreds of miles of skiing uphill, everyone in the team enjoyed their time as Langlaufers and we were delighted to bring home some trophies. Hopefully with some more experience, the team can improve upon its results in the future and continue climbing up the Army scoreboard.

ORIENTEERING

Orienteering was revived as a Regimental sport this year, and contested by a band of regulars on the ever more sadistic courses laid out on a Wednesday afternoon. All parts of Fallingbostel were taken in on the routes from the Russian Cemetery to the ranges, with course names such as the Mosquito Dash, the Boar Run and the Nettle Lope gave a clue as to the obstacles facing competitors. Special mention must go to the masochistic regulars who put up with the organised abuse every week and came back for more. The Quartermaster's Department was represented by Corporals Beggs, Miller and Irwin who always went around with enthusiasm if not necessarily speed. Recce Troop's finest, Lance Corporal Lowdon and Lieutenant Benik (his long suffering dog) who clearly enjoyed the afternoon run more than his master. D Squadron Troopers Cunningham and Mostert definitely need to spend more time map reading and less time running and even Majors Cattermole and Spenlove-Brown competed. Major Spenlove-Brown was usually the victor, quite possibly an inherited skill.

Hodson's Horse, the RAC Sports competition, included orienteering as an event this year and, as the Regiment was sending teams to compete, the usual crowd descended on Bovington for the week long contest. The

team consisted of Corporals Stevenson and Glasspoole, Troopers Millar and Sommerville, with Mr Welch as the reluctant player-manager. It quickly became apparent that some of the less busy UK-based Regiments had sent teams of brand new subalterns who, straight from Sandhurst, were very quick, six-foot Silva compasses. In the three events, Corporal Glasspoole, an experienced orienteer performed very well, consistently getting the best scores and Trooper Millar used his pace to get around quickly. Trooper Sommerville took advice about not finishing late a little too literally and came in five minutes early. At least he avoided a penalty for going over time

As there was a two-day break between the final events, we decided to enter a British Army Orienteering Club competition held on Barossa, Sandhurst. The competition was much stiffer (and older) than at Hodson's Horse. No matter how quickly one arrived at a check-point, there would always be the same crowd of very experienced, very deliberate and very retired people striding towards you without even breaking into a sweat. Corporals Glasspoole and Stevenson did well, narrowly beating Major Spenlove-Brown's father.

POLO

2009 was one of the most successful seasons for Regimental polo for some time. We entered two major overseas tournaments, hosted our own tournament with a great party afterwards and doubled the number of Regimental polo ponies. We also played chukkas every Sunday and most Wednesdays under the leadership of Major Spenlove-Brown and continued our programme of bringing on new players. For those on Royal Guard there was also an intensive programme of polo organised by the Ramsay family at their Border Reivers Polo Club.

The season started with a match against Young Scotland at Dundee and Perth Polo Club at Scone Palace. This was where Captain Anderson and Mr Holtum had first played polo, and for Captain Anderson this would be his first time back on the pitch in almost a decade. The Pipes and Drums marched around the pitch with both teams displaying some excellent mounted drill just behind, and the sound soon drew many spectators from



Action from the Fallingbostel polo tournament

66 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Mr Holtum, Captain Albert, Captain Anderson and Mr Anderson at the Captains' and Subalters' match in Tidworth

the Scone Game Fair a few hundred yards away. This, coupled with the mad commentary of polo doyenne Mervyn Fox-Pitt and some liquid picnics, created a great atmosphere for the start of the first chukka. As this was the first time the SCOTS DG team had played together we were not expecting to win, but from the outset it was clear we were going to challenge Young Scotland throughout the match. For Messrs Anderson and Ballard-Whyte, this was their first taste of competitive polo and they shared the goal striking position and the Number 1 shirt. We held Young Scotland for the first two chukkas but in the third their greater experience started to tell and they sneaked a lead they held until the end.

A few weeks later was the Captains' and Subalters' match at Tidworth where on the Saturday we played a very challenging match against the Royal Wessex Yeomanry who came out on top. The next morning, feeling refreshed, we took on the might of the Royal Air Force. This was a hard fought match that went to an extra 30 seconds sudden death at the final chukka. Regrettably the RAF managed to sneak a goal through our defence to win the match.

Back in Fallingbostel through the hard work of Major Spenlove-Brown and the generosity of the Trust we had bought a further two polo ponies to add to our existing two. Declan and Rubel, 4 and 6 years old respectively, should be playing polo for the Regiment for many years



Polo with the Ramsays at the Border Reivers club

to come. This winter they are wintering at Paderborn under the watchful eye of Major Boyle so no doubt they will come back in the New Year fitter and better schooled than when we sent them.

Our own polo tournament in September was a roaring success. We entered a SCOTS DG Pol Roger team consisting of Major Spenlove-Brown, Captain Anderson and Messrs Holtum, Woodhams and Ballard-Whyte all sharing chukkas. We also had as part of the wider Regimental family Stefan Diepold playing for us. Ranged against us were the Delhi Spearman, Gug Berkhof and Herrenhausen. The goal for the Regimental team was to get as many enthusiastic players participating as possible. As a result the team was not as strong as it perhaps could have been, especially with Major Boyle playing for the Delhi Spearman. As such we showed the manners not to win our own tournament but everyone certainly had an excellent time. That evening we had a party in the Mess for players, spectators and guests with a large marquee,

superb band and a sumptuous dinner. The next day, with many nursing some fairly sore heads, the polo was markedly slower and the spectators noticeably fewer.

We are currently waiting for the snow to melt so we can bring the polo ponies back from Sennelager and start to get them fit and ready for the 2010 season. Despite BATUS cutting the season in half, we are looking forward to a long and successful summer of polo before the rigours of Pre-deployment Training and an operational tour in 2011 curtail equitation for a while.

Polo in Fallingbostal is in a healthy state. It provides an excellent medium for establishing relationships with the local German community who regularly play with and against us at the weekends, and who grace our Mess parties. It has a strong following amongst the officers and we very much look forward to the 2010 season.



RUGBY

The Regimental rugby team has had an exceptionally successful 2009, building on the hard work put in by Captain Anderson over the last couple of years. On taking over the reigns as the Regimental Rugby Officer, I was pleased to see that the team was eager to get stuck into both sevens and XVs after the Operational tours in Afghanistan and Iraq at the beginning of the 2008/09 season.

Our first taste of success came at the end of April when the Regiment entered two teams into the annual British

Army (Germany) Sevens tournament. In separate halves of the draw, both the nominal 'A' and 'B' teams despatched their group opposition with aplomb with some serious pace and skill on show. The SCOTS DG 'A' team, curiously containing our 'second string' players, came up against 1 PWRR and ARRC in the knockout stages, beating both against the odds and met the SCOTS DG 'B' team in the final after they had, in turn, beaten 4 SCOTS in the knockout stages. I am not sure what the spectators thought of watching the two Regimental teams play each other in the final. In fact, the players themselves took a moment to see their colleagues as competitors rather than as friends. This did not, however, diminish their will to win as once more the Regiment put on an exceptional display of running sevens, with the 'B' team becoming the BA(G) champions for 2009.

After BA(G) success, the Regiment qualified for the Army Sevens tournament in Aldershot. After a tough group stage, SCOTS DG advanced through to the knockout stages. Reaching the semi finals and thus confirming the Regiment as one of the top four teams in the British Army, we came up against the Army champions, 1 SCOTS. They boast four full Army players as well as two international players. Although they could not outrun the SCOTS DG, their organisation and the sheer size of some players brought our progress in the competition to an end.



Lance Corporal Rooney, Mr McNeil and Troopers Rokoduguni and Dakunimata on the BA(G) tour of Italy

68 EAGLE AND CARBINE



SCOTS DG sevens team – Army Sevens semi-finalists 2009

This early success for the Regiment continued into May with Lance Corporal Saulailai gaining his Full Army cap for the Army versus Royal Navy match at Twickenham. Troopers Rokoduguni and Wasalala also represented the Regiment for the Combined Services Under 23s in the precursor game that day, which is an excellent achievement and it is encouraging to see some younger blood performing at the highest levels.

Closer to home, German civilian rugby is growing all the time and there were plenty of tournaments hosted all over Germany throughout the summer in which the team was very keen to play. We returned to Kiel in the hope of taking the title after narrowly missing out last year. The team did not disappoint, with victory against our Fallingbostal neighbours, 1RRE, in the semi final before playing Hamburg-based St Pauli in the final. After a close initial few minutes, the pace and skill of the SCOTS DG team began to pick St Pauli apart, which saw the Regiment win the final and collect player of the tournament in the process.

A humbling and memorable feature of playing with the Regimental team is the singing of a Fijian prayer, led by Corporal Tuitubou, at the tournament's conclusion. The entire crowd of over 400 spectators stood and watched in silence, as the players sang, before applauding rapturously and demanding an encore following the prize giving. There were some excellent voices on display that day, as well as some scintillating rugby, and the tourna-

ment proved an outstanding advertisement for the Regiment.

Over the year, numerous SCOTS DG players were selected for the BA(G) representative team at both sevens at XVs, and Regimental commitments permitting, some went to Amsterdam to participate in the international sevens tournament. There was also a tour to Northern Italy for which five SCOTS DG players were selected. This provided an opportunity to play rugby against teams from the Italian premiership. It also allowed the players to sample some excellent pasta dishes and general Italian hospitality – a welcome break from the sound of tanks firing on ranges. Two members of the Regiment also went back to Twickenham to play for the Army in the Middlesex sevens, against the best players in The Guinness Premiership.

Heading into the 2009/10 season, the focus switched to XVs once more and the team was confident it could perform well after its summer successes. Our new neighbours, 3 MERCIAN, provided our first opposition in the BA(G) cup and a hard fought game. Happily the SCOTS DG XVs side began to show ability similar to that of the sevens team, and the result was very much in our favour by the final whistle.

Beating 5 RIFLES in the semi-final, the Regiment was drawn against the Queens Dragoon Guards, in an all-Cavalry final, at the beginning of December. With the

Pipe Major, Scotland's Cavalry set off south to meet Wales' Cavalry in Sennelager. Although the Welsh had larger numbers in support, there was no match for noise levels when 'Flower of Scotland' accompanied the team onto the pitch. Once more, our skill and speed in the backs was too much for our cavalry brethren and SCOTS DG were crowned BA(G) champions in both sevens and XV's.

To round off an outstanding 2009, Trooper Rokoduguni was selected for the Combined Services against the world renowned invitational team, The Barbarians. He and Mr McNeil were also selected for the Army senior squad leading up to the Army versus Royal Navy match 2010, with Lance Corporal Saulailai also in the running for a return to Twickenham in May. SCOTS DG rugby is thriving at present and although the talent is on the pitch for all to see, thanks and a lot of credit must go to the squadrons for allowing the players the time to train and represent the Regiment.

What is in store for 2010? Having won the BA(G) cup, the Regiment is now entered into the Army Community Cup at the Quarter Final Stage, providing an opportunity to take on the rest of the Army at unit level. Players will also be selected for the BA(G) teams,



Corporal Ah-Sing, Trooper Matacagi and Mr McNeil meet Waisale Serevi (arguably the greatest rugby sevens player in history) at the Amsterdam Sevens, 2009

the Army 'A' and Senior teams, and in the sevens as the season begins again. In the meantime, the Regiment hopes to take advantage of current successes and organise a tour in the latter half of 2010.

SAILING

2009 has proved to have been a very good year for sailing in the Regiment. The calendar was dominated by three main events, alongside a number of soldiers completing vital shore based theory courses.

April saw Captains Landon and McBride, along with Staff Sergeant McKelvie, enter the RAC Regatta. This was held at Seaview, on the east coast of the Isle of Wight, using the traditional 'Mermaid' class of dingy. The Regiment competed well against some tough opposition and although not victorious, performed very respectably indeed.

The 7th Armoured Brigade Regatta was next, at the start of September, which set out to introduce novice sailors from across the Brigade to offshore sailing in the Baltic. The crew of Captain Poett, Lance Corporal Qica, Troopers Kendrick, Cagi and Kemsley were skippered by Mr Ballard-Whyte and truly put through their paces. At one stage they faced a force eight on the run through Areosund. The regatta was a huge success and is now an annual event in the Regiment's calendar.

Exercise 'Baltic Challenge' followed one month later involving a series of passages in and around the Danish

Islands. It proved another very good opportunity to stimulate interest in offshore sailing within the Regiment. Lance Corporal Fish and Troopers McLaughlin, Cabemaiwasa, Pickard and Butler all found it to be very challenging but fun at the same time.

The year was rounded off well with Corporals Cargill and Sebok successfully completing the Day Skipper Theory course, run at the Kiel Training Centre at the end of November. These qualifications will stand the Regiment in good stead for next year's sailing. In early 2010, Mr Ballard-Whyte and Corporals Smith and Crawford will attend a Coastal Skipper Theory course, scheduled to run in Wessex Barracks with Kiel Training Centre instructors travelling down for a week. This will lead on to next year's RAC Regatta at Seaview and 'Exercise Diamond Rats Breeze II', which is currently scheduled for September. There are also plans for a Regimental sailing expedition around the summer leave period which will consist of three 'Hallberg Rassey 34' yachts sailing challenging passages in and around the Danish coast.

FIELD SPORT – SHOOTING

This year has been a particularly fruitful one for field sports in Fallingbostal with most of the Regiment in camp during the hunting season. Also in 2009, the authorities in Niedersachsen, realising that they had a growing boar problem, reassessed and increased their culling plan. We have therefore benefited in Fallingbostal with the Federal land of the Bergen-Höhne ranges available to us and from the considerable and unstinting generosity of a number of local landowners.

Shooting in Fallingbostal has been organised this year by the indomitable Staff Sergeant Owen, instantly recognisable in his unique Lada. He has encouraged a number of people to complete their Jagdscheiner qualification including Captain Poett and Mr Holtum. Other existing 'Jagdscheiners' have been doing their bit to keep the wildlife cowering, led from the top with the Commanding Officer and the Regimental Sergeant Major making a formidable team in the field.

Completing the Jagdscheiner course is akin to joining a secret cult as shooting in Germany is rich in tradition and replete with idiosyncrasies. Not only is there the language to master, but many of the practices seem positively alien to one brought up shooting in Britain. For example, after the shoot has finished the beasts are laid out on parade and, in good military tradition, different animals, like Regiments, have seniority over others. Once they are laid on parade, with the grandest at the right of the line, a long mournful tune is played and the game is saluted. Also, in terms of practicality, there are considerable differences between shooting in Germany and at home. Driven rifle shooting is not something seen in the UK but with the greater space available in Germany, it is the most popular sport alongside high seat shooting. Stalking, by contrast, is not particularly popular.

The main game in our part of Germany is rehwild (roe deer), rotwild (red deer) and schwarzwild (boar). Interestingly enough, if the stories of frightened soldiers on stag are to be believed, the Bergen-Höhne range complex is home to boar the size of elephants. The local hunting group, of which Staff Sergeant Owen is the secretary, is very active in developing links with local German landowners and nourishing those that exist already. Crucial to this is the peculiarly German tradition of the 'Last Drive'. This is either supper after the shoot or liquid sustenance after the parade of the game and blowing of the horn. In German etiquette, it is unforgivable to attend the shoot and then disappear without taking part in the 'Last Drive'. It is at the 'Last

Drive' where, in poor German and in embarrassingly good English, the 'Jaegers' enjoy a drink, swap war stories about the size of the one that got away and sip 'Jaegermeister' by a roaring fire. It is as quaintly German as small family pheasant shoots are British.

Completing the Jagdscheiner does require application but it is an excellent way of integrating with the local German community and seeing different parts of the very beautiful area in which we are privileged to live. It also allows one to experience a type of shooting not available to those who shoot predominantly in the UK. Driven rifle shooting is a thoroughly enjoyable experience and anyone who considers themselves true sportsmen is much the poorer for not participating in this sport found on our doorstep.



The Commanding Officer after a day's sport

SQUASH

In the event of poor weather, many indoor sports become increasingly popular. At the beginning of 2009, this was most certainly the case with squash. Torrential rain dissuaded all but the hardiest outdoors sportsmen and the squash courts had people queuing up outside to escape the cold. This was of considerable benefit to the squash team which suddenly saw an influx of potential recruits for Hodson's Horse in March.

As with most Regimental sports, there was a wide spectrum of talent on display. There were those whose rackets seemed to require restringing frequently to account for balls passing straight through them. Equally, there were those who 'dominated the "T"' and put all comers to the sword. Sports afternoons on Wednesdays and Fridays were popular with the courts busy from 2 until 4 when only the dedicated remained. Sergeant Percy identified the malingerers – those who wanted to escape the rain but not really play – and evicted them from the courts.

Soon the standards started to rise and the nucleus of a team emerged. After a series of punishing play offs, a team was selected with Sergeant Percy as Number One seed, Staff Sergeant Gibbs in as Number Two and Captain Young as Number Three. Staff Sergeant Curry

was the reserve. Putting the seeds into order proved frustrating as the third seed beat the first, who in turn beat the second who then beat the third. However, finally, the order was settled and the team headed for Bovington and Hodson's Horse.

At Hodson's Horse, we met some very strong competition and learned some valuable lessons. We learned that we had been playing bad squash well whilst other teams, including County and Corps-level players, played good squash well. We may not have been victorious this year, but we will return stronger next year.

With Hodson's Horse over, it was not until September and the Moncrieff Shield that the squash courts were busy once again. After a keenly contested competition, D Squadron, with Sergeant Percy and Captain Young, won the squash, contributing to their squadron's overall victory in the competition. Meanwhile, Corporal Neat has now set up the SCOTS DG squash league, open to all comers and with this, and the MERCIAN and REME ladders, there is ample opportunity for players of all levels to meet other players and to improve their game.

Mr Ballard-Whyte 'in action'



FIELD SPORT – STALKING

In December, several members of the Regiment descended on the beautiful Chesthill estate in Glenlyon to shoot and spend a week in the wilds of Perthshire. With kind permission from General Charles Ramsay, the first and second weeks of December saw soldiers and officers respectively visit Chesthill keen to participate in the annual Scottish hind cull. Exercise RED EAGLE, the Regiment's annual stalking exercise, takes place on the South Chesthill estates, and through the generosity of other owners and factors, on other estates in the area. This year we were fortunate enough to put out rifles on the South Chesthill and Inverinain estates, as well as Innerwick and Meggernie / Lochs. This gave participants the opportunity to experience shooting on different terrains as well as taking advantage of the experience of four or five different keepers.

Soldiers' Week began frustratingly with the Land Rover – generously leant to us by 3 Rifles in Redford

Barracks – breaking down on the middle of the Forth Road Bridge. By the time the occupants had managed to recover it to Redford, borrow another one and then drive to Glenlyon, it was 3 o'clock in the morning. This did not bode well for what was going to be a physically demanding week. However, the week went superbly with all participants – none of whom had ever stalked before – managing at least two kills. Lance Corporal Milne from C Squadron Fitter Section proved to be the week's top shot with a total of nine kills – the highest single total seen in Regimental Stalking in recent years.

Corporal Young from Reconnaissance Troop provides the following account of his experience:

I arrived around 7.30pm on the Sunday night with Lance Corporal Harley after a journey of around three hours. With the failing light it proved a bit of a challenge, but we got there in the end. We were met at the front door by Staff Sergeant Owen who showed us to



Glenlyon

our rooms and gave us the guided tour of Chesthill house. The guys, including myself, were really taken by the sheer size of the house. It was the first time many of us had seen such a sight. Slightly different from a two bedroom flat on the outskirts of Glasgow.

On the Monday morning we were up nice and early for breakfast and eagerly awaiting the day ahead. We were split into "beats", which is really a small team consisting of a game keeper and two or three other men. Lance Corporal Harley and I were in the first beat and met up with our game keeper Hamish. Hamish is the head gamekeeper for the Chesthill estate, and on first impression we thought we had some old unfit guy to spend the day with. We were so wrong!

At around 9am we set off on our first stalk. The animals we were stalking were hinds as stags were out of season. We were using a civilian rifle fitted with a telescopic sighting system and a suppressor. The calibre was the equivalent to the military 7.62mm.

As we headed up the hill on our first stalk the adrenalin started to pump. We moved across the mountainous terrain as stealthily as we could while the game keeper tracked a heard of deer. We soon got close enough to take a shot. Getting into position was pretty difficult, but very exciting. There were many



Meeting the locals

things to consider like wind direction, use of ground and fall of shot. As I was first to shoot I eagerly started to crawl into position, I got 75m from the beast, put the rifle into my shoulder and looked through the sights. It took me a few seconds to steady

Major Hayward after a successful day



74 EAGLE AND CARBINE

myself due to the adrenalin pumping through my body, but once steady I took the shot. I heard the thump of the round strike the animal and saw it fall to the ground. It was a pretty exciting time.

We quickly went to the animal and performed the gralloch, which was pretty disgusting but it made the animal lighter to drag off the hill and it kept the meat good. The drag was pretty emotional but good fun at the same time, as we must have dragged the carcass around 2km down the hill to our Land Rover where we loaded and took it back to the house for butchering.

Every day consisted of going out in small teams and stalking and every man on the exercise got a minimum of two kills. In the evenings we would all meet in the dining room for a meal and a few drinks before retiring to the sitting room to relax for the evening. I really enjoyed the week, as did the other guys, and would recommend it to anyone even if it's just as a once off experience.

During Officers' week, a number of officers who had never stalked before arrived in Chesthill. In total there

were 12 and again the week proved successful with each participant getting at least one kill. Top shot from Officers' Week was Major Hayward who not only bagged five hinds, but got four of these from one firing position and with only three bullets as one passed straight through one hind before also killing the one behind. Mr Densham, however, clearly has no career as a butcher as he went an alarming shade of white when facing the gralloch.

Warm evenings by the fire and plenty of whisky helped to ensure that the time after stalking was as enjoyable as the stalking itself. As always, the event would not have been nearly so successful had it not been for the talents of our chef, Corporal Holmes, who not only provided the house with a fantastic array of dishes, but also took the opportunity where he could to come out and stalk. Our thanks go to the Regimental Catering Warrant Officer who released Corporal Holmes, but mainly to Corporal Holmes himself for the food which everyone present agreed was second to none.



TRIATHLON

Triathlon has always been a difficult sport for which to recruit, probably because many consider it too much like hard work. The Regiment has helped reduce the number of excuses, by purchasing four road bikes which can be loaned out for training and racing. The result of this approach saw a sizeable team to begin the race season.



'Men of Iron'

SCOTS DG entered the BA(G) Triathlon series based in the few military camps in Germany still with a swimming pool. The team started off with an Olympic distance event, held in JHQ, having completed little preparation and training. Due to hard work and determination alone, SCOTS DG finished in the top third of team results, with WO2 (SSM) Dudman even scoring maximum points in his category. Some people have rather unkindly suggested that this may have been due to a lack of other competitors his age. Following the Olympic distance event in JHQ, the band of many sadly became the band of few. Corporal Muir and a few of the REME boys were heard moaning about saddle sores and blisters and have not been seen since. The accompanying photograph remains the only proof that they were there. The remainder of the team tried hard to make every event but unfortunately missed out on a number which clashed with Regimental commitments.

The Triathlon Team will be back with renewed energy and vigour for the 2010 season, and with new bikes. Please feel free to come along and join the Team.



GAZETTE

As at 31 December 2009

Regimental Headquarters

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Commanding Officer | Lt Col JU Biggart MBE |
| Second in Command | Maj AH Benson-Blair |
| Adjutant | Capt SJHF Albert |
| Operations Officer | Capt AD Marjoribanks |
| Career Management Officer | Capt W Montgomery |
| Padre | Rev AI Dalton |
| Regimental Sergeant Major | WO1 (RSM) J Gardiner |

HQ Squadron

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Maj AT Stewart | Sgt JO Cole | Cpl J Martin | LCpl AJ Leckie |
| Capt TB Gray | Sgt PJH Macdonald | Cpl C McCall | LCpl T Leyland |
| Capt AC Hainey | Sgt DR Mann | Cpl T McCann | LCpl PD Lippeatt |
| Capt S Hinds | Sgt JD McAleese | Cpl BW McCheyne | LCpl ST Mate |
| Capt JJ Johnston | Sgt C McCusker | Cpl S McCuaig | LCpl JM McLelland |
| Capt DGA Landon | Sgt D McKee | Cpl G McLaughlan | LCpl LJ McMurdo |
| Capt MM Lillie | Sgt LE McMann | Cpl VP McLeod | LCpl A Meiehofer |
| Capt TSH McBride | Sgt MS Murphy | Cpl IA Merry | LCpl BJ Morgan-Williams |
| Capt KG McDowell | Sgt JM Pratt | Cpl GP Miller | LCpl MJ Murney |
| Capt RD Newland | Sgt DA Ross | Cpl BJ Muir | LCpl AD Nailatica |
| Capt ACM Potter | Sgt JF Ross | Cpl P Musson | LCpl SA Nicholson |
| 2Lt DD Murphy | Sgt B Scott | Cpl JJ O'Dowd | LCpl S Nuttall |
| WO1 (ASM) D Ward | Sgt PA Starr | Cpl ALS Prince | LCpl JRG O'Hanlon |
| WO2 (SSM) TW Boyd | Sgt K Sutherland | Cpl GW Rennie | LCpl SR Oram |
| WO2 (RQMS(T)) I Lamb | Sgt D Thomson | Cpl MMH Reynolds | LCpl AS Paterson |
| WO2 (TrgWO) | Cpl HR Barnes | Cpl J Scally | LCpl L Short |
| DM Lockwood | Cpl A Beggs | Cpl DL Shaw | LCpl MR Smith |
| WO2 (SQMS) J Lynch | Cpl M Black | Cpl AJ Silva | LCpl MM Spoor |
| WO2 (RQMS) FRJ Mack | Cpl D Boardman | Cpl PJ Sinclair | LCpl N Thapa |
| WO2 (RSWO) B Taylor | Cpl PA Burns | Cpl MJ Smith | LCpl SR Thomas |
| WO2 R Thornton | Cpl MJ Burton | Cpl B Smyth | LCpl S Tupou |
| WO2 (MTWO) SD Watson | Cpl BC Chandler | Cpl CJM Stone | LCpl SG Weatherston |
| SSgt JAI Allan | Cpl DJ Cook | Cpl P Sutherland | LCpl MJ Williamson |
| SSgt DC Baird | Cpl HJ De Klerk | Cpl KIF Webber | LCpl KJ Wilson |
| SSgt ME Fellows | Cpl DJ Duncan | Cpl MD Yarnold | Pte SF Atkinson |
| SSgt PMT Hodges | Cpl MR Foulds | LCpl PJ Bentley | Tpr LR Baker |
| SSgt GS Mackay | Cpl CS Fraser | LCpl CT Broomhall | Tpr NM Batiuluna |
| SSgt H Mackie | Cpl KW Gillon | LCpl CH Brown | Cfn DW Butler |
| SSgt A McAndrew | Cpl DM Hawkes | LCpl SR Brown | Cfn MS Cornish |
| SSgt JCH Owen | Cpl G Holmes | LCpl JR Clements | Cfn IM Davies |
| SSgt AW Potter | Cpl JK Horn | LCpl PA Collingwood | Tpr AVT Druavesi |
| SSgt SG Ramsay | Cpl SJ Irwin | LCpl LE Dominy | Cfn MET Essex |
| SSgt MJ Robinson | Cpl RS Jackson | LCpl IA Fisher | Pte TAC Fairhurst |
| SSgt MB Smith | Cpl SN Ketedromo | LCpl SM Fitzpatrick | Cfn BW Foreman |
| SSgt R Thornton | Cpl CJ Lang | LCpl DA Forrest | Tpr CC Gilchrist |
| Sgt RJ Allman | Cpl JW Lavallin | LCpl S Glendenning | Pte SE Gray |
| Sgt G Burdon | Cpl JA MacLennan | LCpl JS Johnston | Pte R Gurung |
| Sgt B Campbell | Cpl KM Macleod | LCpl KV Kapaiwai | Cfn SDP Hancock |



76 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Tpr WD Hepburn
Tpr A Kempton
Tpr SJ Ladley
Pte S Mall
Cfn J Mann
Tpr C McCrindle
Cfn KM Miller

Tpr RW Morrison
Tpr CB Muir
Tpr TPJ O'Connor
Cfn WG Parsons
Pte V Phan
Rfn J Pun
Tpr ISK Radredre

Pte SR Rai
Cfn ML Raynor
Pte GA Reid
Tpr DJ Richardson
Tpr T Sommerville
Cfn DK Stacey
Tpr K Stevenson

Pte Y Thapa
Cfn SB Warder
Cfn AM Wilding
Cfn DRS Wray

A Squadron

Maj TP Spenlove-Brown
Capt NJL Anderson
Lt RHG Anderson
Lt RPA Densham
Lt RJM Holtum
Lt CPS Majcher
WO2 (SSM) DJ Black
SSgt JD Bailie
SSgt D Gibbs
SSgt P Graham
SSgt M Hendry
Sgt BW Barclay
Sgt NJM Brown
Sgt SM Chart
Sgt R Gowland
Sgt DA Mathews
Sgt P Warrender
Cpl TO Ah Sing
Cpl M Black
Cpl G Brisbane
Cpl S Brown
Cpl A Cambridge
Cpl SD Cowie
Cpl JH Halcrow
Cpl PA Harnetty

Cpl KJ Imrie
Cpl J Macleod
Cpl RP McCready
Cpl LD McKenna
Cpl AJ Mowbray
Cpl MJ Munro
Cpl P Quinn
Cpl SW Scoular
Cpl AJ Shand
LCpl EL Barson
LCpl SE Clarke
LCpl MP Devine
LCpl GA Evans
LCpl M Fraser
LCpl R Fraser
LCpl B Gillespie
LCpl BR Kennedy
LCpl JM Knight
LCpl SEO Magee
LCpl W McCormick
LCpl B McLevy
LCpl VT Naga
LCpl GC Strachan
LCpl CD Torrance
LCpl AC Warren

Tpr RP Arnold
Tpr WK Batiuluna
Tpr MR Bower
Tpr MD Carmichael
Tpr DGD Coltman
Tpr MS Commons
Tpr R Connell
Tpr BD Cutajar
Cfn TA Evans
Tpr J Ferrie
Tpr D Field
Tpr PEF Johnson
Tpr AD Kemsley
Tpr JG Kennedy
Tpr DJ Leslie
Tpr DD Lowe
Tpr I Matacagi
Tpr KM Mills
Cfn TJ McCluskey
Tpr RA McEwan
Tpr JP McGoochan
Tpr SG McKellican
Tpr CT McQuarrie
Cfn AJ McShane
Tpr GJ Melvin

Tpr M Nakaralutu
Tpr DD Needleman
Tpr CRJ Nimblette
Tpr S Ntanga
Tpr PM Peterson
Tpr NEI Pocock
Tpr HE Rabua
Tpr CC Rae
Tpr J Scott
Tpr NC Sim
Tpr TDJ Spence
Tpr DJD Stewart
Tpr MA Stoops
Tpr ME Syphus
Tpr DM Thomas
Tpr SA Thomson
Tpr TT Twaddle
Tpr G Walker
Tpr MR Weir
Tpr KPD Wilson
Tpr RL Wilson
Tpr SD Wright

B Squadron

Maj JMW Williamson
Capt J St G Irwin
Capt NIJ Poett
Lt BA McNeil
2Lt HI Braithwaite
2Lt CF Emslie
2Lt RJG Grinling
WO2 (SSM) MV Adams
SSgt MSP Chisholm
SSgt GM Fraser
SSgt AS Gardiner
Sgt GT Aitken
Sgt P Beveridge
D/Maj DF Brown
Sgt WPT Fletcher
Sgt RJD Johnston

Sgt S Robinson
Cpl SMR Collins
Cpl MA Lovell
Cpl GW Main
Cpl IJ MacKenzie
Cpl S McGovern
Cpl SE Neat
Cpl SWG Robertson
Cpl MW Saayman
Cpl CG Scott
Cpl JG Sebok
Cpl DM Toughill
Cpl GCJ Wilcock
Cpl PAW Young
LCpl JG Cormack
LCpl W Dalgleish

LCpl SA Feeney
LCpl CRA Gallacher
LCpl M Hallam
LCpl D Harley
LCpl BD Jameson
LCpl NJR Little
LCpl AT Lowdon
LCpl MA Riddell
LCpl MR Saulilalai
LCpl S Stewart
LCpl KB Taylor
LCpl AP Webb
Tpr L Aitken
Tpr JW Barker
Tpr CHM Christie
Tpr C Cowan

Tpr V Dakunimata
Tpr S Davison
Tpr DR Galloway
Cfn JI Harris
Tpr D Kelly
Tpr NWD Kenrick
Tpr S Kurewaka
Tpr JW Louden
Tpr CJ McInnes
Tpr D McNeill
Tpr RS Neish
Tpr PA Reay
Tpr RO Rainford
Tpr S Rokoduguni
Tpr EB Saratibau
Tpr G Shannon



Cfn JA Shilton
Tpr S Sovinisalevu
Tpr MM Starmore

Tpr SD Taganekurukuru
Tpr FKK Tamani
Tpr AM Tootle

Tpr S Waqairatu
Tpr AC Ware
Tpr JS Wasasala

Tpr RI Wishart
Tpr ARW Wyness

C Squadron

Maj JS Ambrose
Capt JRJ Paton
Lt MS Erskine-Naylor
Lt JA Fyvie
Lt AW Jackson
2Lt AJS Reith
WO2 (SSM) WD
O'Connor
SSgt JM Chantry
SSgt CS Dougal
SSgt JA Lee
Sgt SA Cannon
Sgt JG Rigby
Sgt G Smith
Sgt CF Stewart
Sgt C Ward
Sgt JS White
Cpl RJ Ashley
Cpl JI Bruce
Cpl AI Chalmers
Cpl RJ Crumley
Cpl BM Fraser

Cpl PC Glasspoole
Cpl MA Henderson
Cpl NJ Jones
Cpl FC Kyle
Cpl I Lynn
Cpl B Matagasu
Cpl WJ Monaghan
Cpl CJ Parker
Cpl CJ Roberts
Cpl TBM Tuitubou
LCpl ST Barrett
LCpl IR Bruce
LCpl AE Clements
LCpl CG Coburn
LCpl K Dornan
LCpl A Duncan
LCpl C Elliott
LCpl BL Fish
LCpl SG Forsyth
LCpl RGA Hylton
LCpl G Jarret
LCpl DA Kennedy

LCpl I Macawai
LCpl E McCormick
LCpl RJ McLaughlin
LCpl EFB Miller
LCpl DW Milne
LCpl K Mitchell
LCpl CAG Morton
LCpl JA Palmer
Tpr GN Adam
Tpr E Akogyiram
Tpr CW Brown
Tpr KW Buakula
Tpr RM Cabemaiwasa
Tpr J Cameron
Cfn NRE Cane
Tpr TR Chisnall
Tpr JS Colley
Tpr B Duncan
Tpr DS Edwards
Tpr T Foley
Tpr R French
Tpr AW Grieve

Tpr Hooton
Tpr AJ Hughes
Tpr G Hutchison
Tpr MA Keith
Tpr U Kilaiverata
Tpr JF McGinlay
Tpr LWC Millar
Tpr SA Milne
Tpr SL Nicol
Tpr DJ Nolan
Tpr DB O'Neil
Tpr ID Ratuqalovi
Tpr M Robinson
Tpr NA Ross
Cfn TL Ross
Tpr CC Sim
Tpr A Stewart
Tpr D Wallace
Tpr SJ Witrylak

D Squadron

Maj BJ Cattermole
Capt E St J Young
Capt DCD Thursby
Lt LO Ballard-Whyte
Lt MD Welch
Lt NGB Woodhams
WO2 (SSM) GC Dudman
SSgt SK Ball
SSgt JFI Morris
SSgt JR Taylor
Sgt KM Cooper
Sgt G Culbert
Sgt J McCormick
Sgt S Percy
Sgt AS Simpson
P/Maj RA Munro
Cpl NR Boakes
Cpl TJ Campbell
Cpl DR Cargill
Cpl SD Carter
Cpl AJ Clark
Cpl DA Dodds
Cpl CP England

Cpl SG Green
Cpl PF Kelly
Cpl BP Khoo
Cpl C McCall
Cpl BD McShane
Cpl MK Peattie
Cpl EM Smith
Cpl DRJ Steel
Cpl R Stevenson
LCpl KL Betteridge
LCpl ML Crawford
LCpl P Davis
LCpl SC Duncan
LCpl MA Fitzpatrick
LCpl CJ Garrett
LCpl RJ Humphries
LCpl DJ McLucas
LCpl GR Mowbray
LCpl TC Qica
LCpl A Ravunamelo
LCpl SF Rooney
LCpl K Tilley
LCpl DJ West

Tpr SJ Cagi
Tpr SM Crosbie
Tpr AD Cunningham
Tpr KH Davies
Tpr CJ Dean
Tpr MA Dougan
Tpr GTD Dryburgh
Tpr CD Ferrier
Tpr WA Fischer
Tpr CP Fitzsimmons
Tpr DS Gates
Tpr DC Gemmell
Tpr TW Gilman
Tpr SC Glachan
Tpr A Glasgow
Tpr JS Glasgow
Tpr B Granville
Tpr SR Greenhill
Tpr GN Halliburton
Tpr KW Hynds
Tpr CJM Jones
Tpr JP Keith
Tpr MB Koloba

Tpr MT Komaiyasa
Tpr W Lamb
Tpr L MacDonald
Tpr WG Makinson
Tpr PJ McLeish
Tpr REM Millar
Tpr RC Mostert
Tpr D O'Hare
Tpr CM Paton
Tpr FL Pickard
Tpr SA Ralph
Tpr C Ramsamy
Tpr W Riley
Tpr JL Simpson
Tpr JL Smart
Tpr JM Stodart
Tpr JJ Ubitau
LCpl LT Vula
Cfn DJ Wilks
Tpr AJA Williams
Tpr L Wright

Marriages

LCpl Edwards to Eileen Daniels, 27 March 2009
 Sgt Robinson to Samantha Henderson, 11 April 2009
 LCpl Coburn to Jordan Ritchie, 14 April 2009
 Cpl Sebok to Natasha Brown, 18 April 2009
 Cpl Tagikakibau to Dwayne Prince, 10 June 2009
 LCpl Torrance to Nicole Rudolph, 13 June 2009
 Maj Williamson to Sarah Auchinleck, 13 June 2009
 LCpl Kennedy to Jasmin Guth, 10 July 2009
 Capt Walters to Suzannah Ferrand, 11 July 2009
 Cpl Robertson to Gayle Folkes, 19 July 2009
 Tpr Spence to Laura Munro, 24 July 2009
 Tpr Millar to Joni, 25 July 2009
 Tpr Cagi to Ulamila Daveta, 31 July 2009
 Cpl Wilcock to Verena Klein-Endebrock, 22 August 2009
 Pte Jammeh to Fatou Hydera, 10 September 2009
 Tpr Stoops to Sara Clarke, 12 September 2009
 Maj McLeman to Katie Norriss, 26 September 2009
 Capt Brayn-Smith to Louise McLellan, 3 October 2009
 LCpl Fitzpatrick to Nicola Bell, 3 October 2009
 Tpr Kempton to Siobhan McArtny, 17 October 2009
 Sgt Barclay to Kate Hollness, 24 October 2009
 Cpl Brown to Clare, 24 October 2009
 Tpr Gallier to Trina Stalford, 7 November 2009
 Cfn Wilks to Cherie Kenrick, 5 December 2009
 Maj Ambrose to Joy Harkness, 19 December 2009

Births

Tpr and Mrs Cunningham, a son, Thomas, 6 January 2009
 LCpl and Mrs Ravunamelo, a son, Niko, 6 February 2009
 Cfn and Mrs Wilks, a daughter, Grace, 23 March 2009
 Cfn and Mrs Shilton, a son, Blake, 18 April 2009
 LCpl and Mrs Paterson, a daughter, Alexia, 19 May 2009
 LCpl and Mrs Fitzpatrick, a daughter, Naomi, 25 May 2009
 Sgt and Mrs Culbert, a son, Logan, 13 June 2009
 LCpl and Mrs Rennie, a son, Lochlan, 5 July 2009
 Capt and Mrs Newland, a daughter, Charlotte, 8 August 2009
 LCpl and Mrs Ketedromo, a daughter, Esther, 16 September 2009
 Tpr and Mrs Saratibau, a daughter, Elainah, 16 September 2009
 Cpl and Mrs Macleod, a daughter, Kayleigh, 5 October 2009
 LCpl and Mrs Morgan-Williams, a son, Louie, 13 October 2009
 Cpl and Mrs McShane, a daughter, Grace, 21 October 2009
 Sgt and Mrs Thomson, a son, Brodie, 6 November 2009
 Tpr and Mrs Coburn, a daughter, Caitlyn, 12 November 2009
 Sgt and Mrs Aitken, a son, Casey, 27 November 2009
 Capt and Mrs O'Brien, a son, Angus, 14 December 2009
 SSgt and Mrs Lee, a daughter, Ava, 17 December 2009

80 EAGLE AND CARBINE

WARRANT OFFICERS, NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS AT ERE OR LONG SERVICE LIST

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| WO1 D Barclay | PSLO, ARMCEN, Bovington | Sgt P Mullet | Panther Team, CD Branch, Land Command |
| WO1 AR Gauld | 2IC Trg Sqn, RAC Trg Regt, Bovington | Sgt S Patterson | SI, CADT, HQ DRAC, Bovington |
| WO1 NCG Hanson | SO3 Trg, LWCTG (G), Sennelager | A/Sgt DRT Perry | Viking Instr, CTCRM, Bovington |
| A/WO1 (P/Maj) D Potter | Sovereign's Piper, London | SSgt C Reid | SQMS Trg Sqn, RAC Trg Regt, Bovington |
| WO2 C Gray | WO ART, Edinburgh | Sgt G Rieley | Recruiter, Bathgate |
| A/WO2 CR Long | WO ISTAR, LWDG, Warminster | Sgt S Ross | SI, D&M School, ARMCEN, Bovington |
| WO2 EA Mackenzie | Gp WO, AFV Gunnery School, ARMCEN, Lulworth | SSgt JG Stevens | SI, CIS School, ARMCEN, Bovington |
| WO2 S McGuire | Ops 2IC, AFCO, Glasgow | A/Sgt D Thomas | FAC, 1 RHA, Tidworth |
| WO2 RP Welsh | Data Cleansing Team, APC Glasgow | Sgt D Wallace | SI, CIS School, ARMCEN, Bovington |
| A/Sgt A Anderson | Instr, 21 CTT, Barry Buddon | Cpl P Balfour | Tp Cpl, Trg Sqn, RAC Trg Regt, Bovington |
| SSgt SD Blair | SQMS, RMAS, Camberley | Cpl SJ Brennan | Instr, RSS, Blandford |
| SSgt M Crocket | SI, D&M School, ARMCEN, Bovington | Cpl MC Byrne | Regimental Support Team, Edinburgh |
| Sgt L Cummings | SI, D&M School, ARMCEN, Bovington | Cpl D Deacon | Dvr/Op, 601 TACP, 1 RHA, Tidworth |
| Sgt BT Dale | CIP Intr, HQ 4 Mech Bde, Catterick | Cpl J Degie | Tp Cpl, ATR Bassingborne |
| Sgt SJ Davies | Tp Sgt, Trg Sqn, RAC Trg Regt, Bovington | Cpl T Hamilton | 51(Scottish) Bde, Stirling |
| SSgt GV Dudman | SI, D&M School, ARMCEN, Bovington | Cpl P Hirst | Instr, ACOS, Sennelager |
| A/Sgt Gardiner | PSI, A Sqn QOY, Ayr | Cpl C Jackson | Team Member, ART 27, Glasow |
| SSgt D Gibbs | Instr, CLM Wing, ARMCEN, Bovington | Cpl J Kelly | Admin NCO, ADSC Glencourse |
| Sgt S Gowans | Instr, 24 CTT, Edinburgh | Cpl S Kelly | JCC Instr, ARMCEN, Bovington |
| A/Sgt D Grant | SI, D&M School, ARMCEN, Bovington | Cpl CA Manchester | Tp Cpl, ARMCEN, Bovington |
| Sgt D Hamilton | PSI, C Sqn RWxY, Barnstaple | Cpl J Messenger | PTI, ATR Bassingborne |
| SSgt T Hay | Special Recruiter, AFCO Glasgow | Cpl TM Morrison | Provost Cpl, Catterick Garrison |
| SSgt DG Hugill | Instr, DST, Leconfield | Cpl J Pescod | Instr, CSD Networks Branch |
| SSgt A Kennan | PSI, C Sqn QOY, Cupar | Cpl S Prentice | Provost Cpl, ARMCEN, Bovington |
| Sgt IJ King | Instr, 24 CTT, Edinburgh | Cpl T Pride | Special Recruiter, ACIO Hamilton |
| Sgt R Lennox | PSI, A Sqn QOY, Ayr | Cpl D Rae | Tp Cpl AFC Harrogate |
| Sgt IF Lyttle | PSI, A Sqn QOY, Ayr | Cpl AG Storrier | Tp Cpl, ARMCEN, Bovington |
| Sgt R Macfarlane | SI, CIS School, ARMCEN, Bovington | LCpl R Barr | CRT, HQ DRAC, Bovington |
| Sgt K McGee | QM(T) Dept, ARMCEN, Bovington | LCpl AF Bokas | Regimental Support Team, Edinburgh |
| SSgt J McKelvie | PSI, A Sqn QOY, Ayr | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| LCpl C Boyle | Regimental Support Team, Edinburgh | LCpl D Mullan | Crewman, ATDU, Bovington |
| LCpl M Fitzpatrick | Team Member, ART 28, Glenrothes | LCpl DL Ridyard | Dvr/Op, RMAS, Camberley |
| LCpl GT Gordon | Crewman, ATDU, Bovington | LCpl SW Trivett | Regimental Support Team, Edinburgh |
| LCpl D Laing | Team Member, ART 26, Edinburgh | Pte DP Reid | Regimental Support Team, Edinburgh |

HONOURS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

Her Majesty's Lieutenancy

Brigadier JB Palmer – Deputy Lieutenant for Hertfordshire

Order of St John of Jerusalem

Officer

Major JL James – for services to Land Forces medical welfare in Scotland

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

Staff Sergeant JD Bailie

Staff Sergeant GM Fraser

Staff Sergeant JR Taylor

Sergeant RJD Johnston

Sergeant PA Starr

Sergeant CF Stewart

Pipe Major RA Munro

Joint Commander's Commendation

Captain RBR Christie

GOC's Commendation

Trooper TT Twaddle

The Duke of Kent Medal

Major AT Stewart

M. Christian Pol Roger



THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY



We all need somebody to lean on

At some time in our lives, we all need somebody to lean on. The Army Benevolent Fund has been supporting the entire Army family for over 60 years. But we need your support too.

Please think of us when you fundraise, whether you're running a marathon or holding a charity fair, every penny counts.

Your contributions will help us to continue our vital work and be there for Army families in need.



Images reproduced with the kind permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

For a fundraising pack:
call **0845 241 4820**
or visit **www.armybenfund.org**

Mountbarrow House, 6-20 Elizabeth Street, London SW1W 9RB



ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
SUPPORTING THE BEST

Registered Charity No 211645, Scottish Registered Charity No SC039189.

A year in pictures 2009



Challenger 2 turret lift



Major Benson-Blair receiving the Pipes and Drums' Classical BRIT Award from Simon Bates



The Late Entry officers at Cavalry Sunday



84 EAGLE AND CARBINE



John Foreman and Bill Cross after the Cavalry Memorial Sunday parade



The Brigade Commander promotes Sergeant Taylor to Staff Sergeant



The RSM at Cavalry Memorial Sunday



The Deputy Colonel-in-Chief at Cavalry Sunday



Captain Potter at Cavalry Sunday

Major General and Sarah Hall with Captain Greenwood





Staff Sergeant Smith at Cavalry Sunday



Pipe Major Potter at Buckingham Palace



Who says parking in central Glasgow is impossible?

86 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Marching through Glasgow



Staff Sergeant Gibbs and friend



Corporal Hametty and Captain Greenwood in Perth



The Colonel-in-Chief with her officers



Drum Major Brown



The Allfreys at Redford Barracks



Alex Salmond speaking to members of the Pipes and Drums



The Pipes and Drums on the Mound



Armed Forces Day parade



Pipe Major Munro tuning up at Redford Barracks



88 EAGLE AND CARBINE



The Queen presents the Duke of Kent medal to Major Joe Toward



The Colonel-in-Chief explaining the intricacies of GPMG to Captain Irwin



Major Henry Callander, Captain Christian Melville, Major Robin MacLean and Major James Leslie on duty with the Royal Company of Archers Guard



Lieutenant Colonel Ian Shepherd briefing the officers at the National War Museum of Scotland



Perth Polo



The Colonel-in-Chief presenting his leaving present to Colonel Mel



The Colonel-in-Chief



The Commanding Officer and Major Spenlove-Brown at Drumfork



The Pipes and Drums at Perth polo

90 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Moncrieff Shield closing ceremony – Fijian style



Early morning on Training Area BR2



The Adjutant annoying the neighbours at Drumfork



Major Cattermole slips in to something a little more comfortable



The Doctor gets into the Christmas spirit



Major Williamson, Sergeant Percy, Lance Corporal Kelly and Trooper Glasgow fire the first D Squadron Annual Crew Test



Corporal Munro on Panther Overhead Weapon Station ranges



Captain McBride, the RSM and Captain Potter



Captain McBride and Captain Newland refamiliarise themselves with the General Purpose Machine Gun



Major Benson-Blair and Sergeant Robinson at the Fallingbostal polo tournament

D Squadron Night Firing



The Regiment wishes to thank the Buckingham Palace Press Office and Mark Owens at Headquarters 2 Division for their kind permission to use images which feature in this magazine.

HOME HEADQUARTERS AND REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Following the safe return of the Regiment from the separate operational theatres in Iraq and Afghanistan, preparations for events in Scotland concentrated effort at Home HQ. Captain James Springthorpe (Assistant Regimental Secretary), ably assisted by Colin Mack (Chief Clerk) and Margaret Irvine (Membership Secretary) fielded the bids for a reception and several other gatherings planned for mid 2009, as reported elsewhere. However, The Regimental Secretary (Lieutenant Colonel Roger Binks) was initially intent on finding a new Retail Manager to replace Susan O'Brien who left at the end of January to open her own business. Her considerable achievements were recorded in the last volume and on leaving she was presented with a suitable gift of a Regimental brooch; we wish her every success.

The list of applicants for retail manager was quickly reduced with Teresa Park selected and appointed from mid January, allowing a valuable hand-over period; she has already proved herself as a worthy successor. Surpassing the turnover of the previous year, considerable credit is due to Teresa Park and her team for the success of the Museum and Shop. Assisted by Christine Kidd she had to overcome disruption to rota patterns when Jane Taylor was off work for most of the year. Part-time cover from Joanne Findlayson and Kristin Loeer was supplemented with Allan Nelson and also Deborah Newman for a few months, replaced by Victor Blanco Vega, with volunteer support from Margaret Moffett and Jim Murphy. Home HQ bene-

fitted from his assistance, and that of Bob Swan, although Jim Murphy decided to retire from his activities at Edinburgh Castle in December; it is likely that he will keep in contact.

Every year has high and low points, notification of deaths contributing to the latter; amongst the many recorded elsewhere, we saddened to note the passing of Tom Lorimer, a former volunteer, who succumbed to motor neurone disease in January. One of the high spots was the opportunity to mark the 90th birthday for Lieutenant Colonel Aidan Sprot in June when the Regimental Secretary and a section of the Pipes and Drums surprised him prior to his lunch party at the Haystoun Estate.

Success of the Shop is integral to survival of the Regimental Museum, which continues to attract many thousands of visitors and receive favourable comments and compliments. The Regimental Trust benefits from the distribution of net funds, allowing greater support to be given to the whole Regiment, whilst the Museum Trust receives funds for a Curator and Archivist and routine maintenance. The success of the Museum Project provided capital to improve the displays and the objects in the collection. One particular example was the purchase of the campaign medals and Russian decoration of the late Lieutenant Colonel WH Hippisley, Royal Scots Greys, representing his service from 1876 to 1902. He had volunteered for the Zulu War (1879),



Colonel Aidan Sprot celebrates his 90th at Haystoun (a bottle of Scots Grey in the bag)

commanded a Greys detachment in the Heavy Camel Regiment in Egypt and commanded the Regiment during the 2nd Boer War (1901). As one of the four Greys who visited St Petersburg, shortly after the appointment of Tsar Nicholas II as Colonel-in-Chief, he was awarded the Order of St Stanislas (second class). The importance of these medals, which were bought by the Museum Trust with valuable assistance from the National Fund for Acquisitions, is heightened by his personal diaries housed in the Regimental Archives. It was especially pleasing to place on display the Classical Brit Award, Album of the Year for 'Spirit of the Glen – Journey', thus adding to the continuing success for Regimental Music.



Lieutenant Colonel William Hipplesley circa 1902 (from *Almack's History of the Greys*)

Such acquisitions enhance the Regimental Collection and provide valuable sources of information for research within the Archives. Major James Scott continues to open the initial investigation on all historical and archive enquiries; in some instances he is assisted by Peter Slater, who has added to the integrity of the growing Archive database and provided support to Major Robin Maclean, Curator and Archivist. Work to complete the substantial supporting documents to attain Accreditation for the Museum continued to absorb time and effort. The submission to Museums Galleries Scotland was passed to the UK arbiters, Museums Libraries and Archives, resulting in a provisional award with opportunity to rectify

outstanding matters by May 2010. Although disappointing and requiring further documentary work, the result was received in the knowledge that the Museum continues to be managed to the national standard. Later in the year an opportunity arose to purchase one or more of the watercolours by Orlando Norie from the collection of the late Captain Randal MacGregor; other items were purchased by members of the Regiment.

In addition to visitors to Edinburgh Castle over the traditional 360 days a year, the Museum was open out of hours to selected groups, including the Friends of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and we were pleased to note the grant of the Royal title to the Tattoo in December. Regimental members and guests were also able to view the exhibits during one of the receptions in June. The following month a film crew from Scottish Television began work on a programme for *The Scottish Soldier* which would feature elements from Waterloo and Balaklava.

Earlier in the year the fixture at Kelso Racecourse was well attended and deemed very successful by the party of almost fifty, who after lunch in the Tweedie Stand Box were joined by some twenty members of the Association in time to watch the SCOTS DG Hunter Chase. Tradition newsletters were distributed and the sweepstake in the Derby managed to raise £1450 for the welfare



Brigadier Jameson and General Ramsay presented the winner's trophies to The Rev Fiona Sample and Miss Lucy Horner, who rode *The Reverend*

94 EAGLE AND CARBINE

element of the Regimental Trust for which Major Jimmie James continues to review cases for assistance, and with the Regimental Secretary allocates funds to needy cases throughout the year. As Major James ended his career at Craigiehall (HQ 2nd Division) he was rewarded with an appointment as an Officer in the Order of St John of Jerusalem for his considerable work to all soldiers in Scotland placed on the sick or injured list. Our congratulations go to him and we are pleased that he is not handing over the welfare role for a while.

The traditional round of activities covered from Home HQ took an expanded form in 2009 with SCOTS DG taking the lead at Cavalry Memorial and all those events in Scotland connected with Royal Week and the Regimental Soldiers' Return, Veterans Day and the national Homecoming. Cavalry Memorial on 10 May saw one of the best attendances for many years, the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief took the salute and the Colonel of the Regiment commanded the Parade, which included the Pipes and Drums (to the consternation of the Band Directors of Music). The London Branch then hosted a lunch at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for the Association, whilst the officers and their ladies took lunch at the Cavalry Club with HRH The Duke of Kent. The previous day had seen the Association Executive General Meeting at RH Chelsea and the London Branch Dinner.

Returning to Edinburgh, the final preparations were put in place for the Ceremony of the Keys, the Royal Reception at Redford Cavalry Barracks, Dedication of commemoration plaques on the Regimental Memorial, Lunches, and Marches in Edinburgh (including Armed Forces or Veterans' Day), Perth and Glasgow, as well as a Regimental Dinner, Polo at Perth and the officers' training week. Fortunately serving officers were responsible for these activities with Home HQ in support, for there is a limit to what can be achieved with so few staff. The memorable occasions that stemmed from these historic events are recorded elsewhere; suffice it to say that the year will be remembered for a long time, both for its success and complexity of coordination. All these events provided a suitable and fitting sequence for Brigadier Melville Jameson in his final days as Colonel of the Regiment, who handed over to Brigadier Simon Allen on 31 July. Home HQ will miss his visits, more frequent since leaving the Tattoo Company, but know that he will continue to be supporting the Regiment through the Museum Trust and the Shop. We all wish him well for the future and welcome our new Colonel, who brings a different pattern, working from London and living in Dorset.

Contact and links with the allied and affiliated vary from year to year, but in 2009 the Army Cadet Force

detachments provided a strong contingent to meet the Colonel-in-Chief at Redford Cavalry Barracks. The Recruiting Support Team has renewed contact with the Cadet Troops in Scotland and there is talk of a further detachment for next year. We had considerable contact with the Lothian and Borders Police, but little with HMS Vengeance. Sadly it was announced that 43 (Fighter) Squadron would be disbanded earlier than expected. On behalf of the Regiment

Colonel Roger Binks attended the parade at RAF Leuchars and witnessed high quality drill, the march on and march off of the Squadron Colour, two fly-past formations and a meaningful speech from the equivalent of their Honorary Colonel. The final fly-past, formed by leaving out one of the usual four aircraft, was all the more poignant as the Squadron had lost two of their officers in a local flying collision only a few days before. Following a reception, lunch was taken in the Officers' Mess, where towards the end of the proceedings a live Gamecock, the insignia of 43 Squadron, was let loose to parade along the table. This did not prevent the presiding officer from advising that the Colour would be laid up at RAF Cranwell, where it would stay until the Squadron could be restored to operational duty. It was agreed that the link with RAF Leuchars should continue in the hope of the return of 43 (Fighter) Squadron, the battle honours for which match some of those for SCOTS DG, and renewal of the affiliation. The Squadron was particularly grateful for the music provided by the Pipes and Drums, who were flanked by a pair of static Tornados.

Towards the end of the year the usual round of Remembrance parades and services were held and well attended by Regimental members; Branch notes provide further information. Brigadier Jameson laid a wreath at the dedication of the Edinburgh Garden and the Colonel of the Regiment attended the opening of the Field at Westminster. The Regimental Dinner at the Cavalry Club was well attended and the Carabiniers parade at Chelsea was succeeded by the traditional service in the Royal Hospital and festivities with the In-Pensioners. Any member of the Association is welcome at these acts of remembrance, wherever they are held in the country.

2009, one of the busiest for a number of years, drew to a close with the promise that the next year might bring a little stability, even though SCOTS DG would be preparing for a further operational tour, towards which Home HQ will continue to provide the important links to all parts of the Regiment.



THE REGIMENTAL TRUST

The Regimental Trustees, as the executive body, administer and manage the funds and property "for the improvement, efficiency, benefit and welfare of the Regiment, the Regimental Association and Charities which benefit ex-Servicemen and their families". Trust income is derived from Subscriptions from serving and former members, interest on invested capital, ad hoc donations and appropriate tax recoveries. The Trustees, whose names are listed after the Contents page, approved allocations for the year from April 2009 to March 2010, as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Charitable Donations (2) | 10,500 | (1) Total sum includes a contribution from the Museum Trust and unallocated funds brought forward from previous years. |
| Individual Aid Fund | 11,000 | |
| Regimental Association | 4,000 | |
| Anniversary Reunions | 2,500 | (2) Allocated to: |
| Regimental Support (3) | 52,100 | Army Benevolent Fund, Royal British Legion, Royal British Legion Scotland, The Earl Haig Fund (PoppyScotland), Combat Stress (Hollybush House), Gardening Leave, Scottish Veterans' Residences, Erskine Hospital, RAC War Memorial Benevolent Fund, Queen Victoria School Dunblane, Sister Agnes' (King Edward VII), Star and Garter Home, Burma Star Association, Last Post Association at Ypres, Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, Yeomanry Benevolent Fund, Veterans Scotland, Royal Hospital Chelsea Chapel, RMA Sandhurst Memorial Chapel, and Community Primary School, Catterick |
| Archives and Research | 4,600 | |
| Property Insurance | 3,000 | |
| Property Maintenance | 6,000 | |
| Home Headquarters | 10,000 | |
| Accounts & Legal | 4,000 | |
| Investment Management | 4,000 | |
| Administration/Meetings | 1,000 | (3) Includes Sport, Adventurous Training, Equitation and Full and Parade Dress. |
| Regimental Magazine | 9,000 | |
| Regimental Cadets | 1,000 | |
| Recruiting/PR | 3,000 | |
| Regimental Memorials | 7,800 | |
| Soldiers Return 2009 | 12,200 | |
| Total (1) | £145,700 | |

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AND SHOP

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM TRUST

Registered in Edinburgh, No SC006547

Ex-Officio Trustee

BRIGADIER SRB ALLEN
BRIGADIER MS JAMESON CBE

Chairman of the Trustees

MAJOR GENERAL CA RAMSAY CB OBE

Appointed Trustees

CAPTAIN RC MACLACHLAN
MAJOR RWB MACLEAN TD

Ex-Officio Trustee and Secretary

LIEUTENANT COLONEL RJ BINKS

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM SHOP LIMITED

Registered in Scotland, Company No 173103

Chairman of the Board

MAJOR GENERAL CA RAMSAY CB OBE

Appointed Director

MAJOR RWB MACLEAN TD

Director and Company Secretary

LIEUTENANT COLONEL RJ BINKS

Consultant to the Board

JH TROTTER ESQ

Shop Manager

MISS T PARK

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Patrons

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF KENT

President

THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

Vice Presidents

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

Chairman

COLONEL JMA ROSS

Vice Chairman

CAPTAIN LM BORWICK

Branch Chairmen and Secretaries

Aberdeen and North of Scotland

(Chairman and Secretary)
Mr AA Black

Edinburgh and South of Scotland

Captain JD Campbell
Mr R Swan

Glasgow and West of Scotland

Major RWB MacLean TD
Mr I Cook

Musicians (Band, Pipes and Drums)

Major HI Macrae
Mr JW Carr

North East of England

Major AJ Crease MBE BEM
Mr RB Evans

North West of England and Wales

Major J Scrivener
Mr RA Hill BEM

London and South East of England

Major HJ Elston
Mr JL Foreman

South West of England

Lieutenant Colonel MD Oliver
Mr IC Salisbury

Secretariat

Individual Aid Fund Officer

Major JL James

Honorary Treasurer and Aid Fund Administrator

Lieutenant Colonel RJ Binks

Honorary Secretary

Captain J Springthorpe

HONORARY OFFICERS

His Majesty King Constantine of Greece
Tam Dalyell Esq MP
SD Lewis Esq
Monsieur Christian Pol Roger
Major JKC Scott

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

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2009 was a special year for the Regiment as a whole and spring saw us as the lead Regiment at the Cavalry Memorial Parade. It was good to see so many of the Association together with a sizeable contingent from the serving Regiment, including the Pipes and Drums, saluting our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief as they marched past the dais. The London Branch provided the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association Banner party in addition to carrying the SCOTS DG Association banner and laying on an excellent lunch at the Royal Hospital after the parade.

I am glad that so many members of the Association were able to make it to Edinburgh for our Colonel-in-Chief's visit on 27 June. Her Majesty's time in Redford Barracks was the high point of the Regiment's activities in Scotland and is covered extensively elsewhere, but I was very pleased that many of those who contributed so generously to the silver eagle for the Colonel and the brooch for Mrs Jameson were there to see The Queen present them during the reception. It was a fitting climax to Brigadier Mel Jameson's period as Colonel of the Regiment and President of the Association; he and Sarah have always had the interests of the Association close to their hearts and have, I know, very much enjoyed coming to our reunions. His farewell letter to the Regimental Family is reproduced below.

After lunch on 27 June a large contingent from the Association joined the Armed Forces Day march from the Esplanade down to the National Gallery. It was heartening to hear the cheers of the crowds and to know that the grey beret was getting such good exposure in the capital city.

Early July saw the Association joining the Regiment's Homecoming Scotland programme with events in Edinburgh, and Perth, culminating in a march and civic reception in Glasgow on 10 July. It was excellent that so many old comrades turned out on these occasions to fly the flag and help maintain the profile of the Regiment in Scotland. I hope that we can now use the opportunity of the annual Armed Forces' Day celebrations to keep people aware of Scotland's senior regiment.

The Branches have organised a splendid range of dinners and other reunions, each with its own particular style and customs. I was pleased to hear of the first Clerk's reunion in May and look forward to other new ideas coming up. Those that I have been able to get to – and the others, I am sure – have been happy occasions well organised by dedicated Branch committees. They are always enlivened by injections of new blood, by members of other branches and by the Commanding



Amongst others, Kevin Mearns, Bryn Evans, Ronny Johnson, Bob Richardson, Tom McDonald, Captain Spenlove-Brown, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver and Captain Oliver march past the saluting dais on Bank Street, Edinburgh

98 EAGLE AND CARBINE

**Farewell letter from
Brigadier MS Jameson CBE**

Having handed over the Colonelcy in late July to Brigadier Simon Allen, I wanted to use the opportunity of the Autumn Newsletter, to extend a word of thanks to everyone.

Sarah and I are deeply grateful for the wonderful presents, the silver Waterloo Eagle and the gold Cipher Brooch, given to us by the Serving Regiment and The Regimental Association; of course being then presented by our Colonel-in-Chief was the greatest honour and a hugely memorable occasion.

Furthermore, I have recently received a number of wonderful trees from the Association Branches, a mini Arboretum indeed, which will certainly remind us of so many happy times.

With so many thanks and very best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Melville Jameson

Officer or his representative giving the report 'from the front'. Brigadier Simon Allen was welcomed to his first major Association event as Colonel when he and Mrs Allen attended the Salisbury dinner in October. I know that he feels strongly about the importance of the Association and is determined to be at as many of our events as he can. We all welcome him warmly to his key position in the Regimental family.

John Foreman has stepped down as Secretary of the London and South East Branch of the Association after what must surely be the longest period in one office: thirty three years. That he lasted so long resulted in great measure from his devotion to the Regiment, but perhaps he was also seeking to out-do his predecessor, Pat O'Rourke, who lasted a mere twenty seven years. He and Pat have been towers of strength in the Branch and I would like to say how very grateful I am for all they have done.

As this article goes to press it is clear that the Regiment will find itself in Afghanistan in 2011. The support by the Association during deployments in 2008 was magnificent and I know that those on Operation Herrick itself, and those remaining in Fallingbostal, will appreciate all the help that we can give them in the future.

BRANCH REPORTS

Aberdeen & North of Scotland

The Branch is still in good stead though it would nice to meet a lot more of our members on a more regular basis. Unfortunately age and geographical size tends to dictate what we can and cannot do but it is always a pleasure to see the members who regularly attend our annual dinners. Last year's dinner in the Ravenswood Country Club in Banchory went extremely well and it was nice to see some members down from the Inverness side. It was sad that David Sutherland and Sandra from Wick who had paid to attend were unable to do so because of ill health. It was also unfortunate there was no attendance from any other of the Association's Branches or the Regiment but a good night was had by all who attended. At the dinner I was given a picture by George McLeod of the Greys on their grey horses taking part in a recruiting drive in the early 1930's. A stone was erected at Moy to commemorate this event.

It is quite remarkable what people get involved in and I have to admire two of our members Tony (Boyle) and Lesley who have now got involved in training guide



General Charles Ramsay admiring the refurbished and repositioned Stone at Moy Hall on 27 July 2002

dogs. Apparently the need for guide dogs has become greater and an increase in manpower in Forfar means they now cover the whole of Scotland and Northern Ireland. Tony and Lesley got their first puppy in 2009 for intensive training and it left them in December 2009. They are now expecting their next recruit in February 2010. If anyone wishes to know more about guide dogs and how to get involved I would be more than happy to pass their contact details on to Tony and Lesley. I am sure they would be delighted to pass on their knowledge on such a worthy cause.

We again took part in the Banchory Parade of remembrance and laid a wreath on the memorial at the town square. As the service was conducted by a stand-in, with no ministers available, the service left something to be desired which was rather disappointing. Apart from the above there is nothing more to say except that

it is heartening to be able to report that we had no deaths last year (long may that continue) though we did lose one member Jim Kelly who has now moved down to the Bovington area and should now be established under the watchful eye of Ian Salisbury.

We continue to have our dinner nights on a rotational basis between Aberdeen and Inverness and our dinner for this year is to be held on 16 October 2010 in the Royal British Legion, Inverness. We also continue to meet every third Wednesday of every second month at the Royal British Legion, Oldmachar Branch at Bridge of Don, Aberdeen. Anyone wishing to attend the dinners or the meetings will be more than welcome. The meetings for 2010 are February, April, June, August, October and December.



Glasgow and West of Scotland

The Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch had a busy and rewarding 2009. It started with a joint Dinner on 25 April when Glasgow Branch joined the Edinburgh Branch to mark the departure of Brigadier Melville Jameson as Colonel of the Regiment. East and West even got together to present the Colonel with a brace of Wellingtonia trees as a leaving present.

In June when the Regiment came to Scotland from Fallingbostal, members attended the Ceremony of the Keys at The Palace of Holyroodhouse where a Quarter Guard was formed to welcome HM The Queen's arrival in Edinburgh. The next day, Saturday 27 June a few branch members went to Redford Cavalry Barracks where the Queen was visiting the Regiment. Branch Chairman, Major Robin Maclean was part of the Honour guard provided by the Royal Company of Archers, Queens Bodyguard for Scotland and Kevin Mearns, Banner Bearer to the Branch proudly displayed the Banner which was inspected by Her Majesty as she visited displays on the Square.

Members also gave their support to serving members of the Regiment as they marched through Edinburgh and Perth, but the highlight of our year was the parade of serving soldiers and veteran members from all branches that marched in Glasgow on 6 July. The Regiment was cheered by the crowds from Blythswood Square all the way to the City Chambers in George Square where the deputy Lord Provost took the salute. When the veterans approached the saluting base shouts

of "well done auld yins" were heard which bolstered spirits and put new life in old legs. After the parade we were all invited into the City Chambers for a civic lunch where the Deputy Lord Provost Councillor Allan Stewart presented some members from the Branch with their Veterans' badges. After the Civic reception the Branch invited all supporters from other branches to the Ex-Serviceman's Club for some hospitality. Sadly the serving Regiment were unable to join us at the club and disappeared on their buses back to Edinburgh. However it was a great success with lots of old friends meeting up and an excellent free buffet provided by the branch was enjoyed by all.

In September we had our annual Bannockburn weekend organised by branch secretary Ian Cook. As usual it was well supported by other branches and a few serving members of the Regiment led by Lieutenant Ross Anderson. Unfortunately the golf tournament on the Friday was called off due to flooding of the course. Brigadier David Allfrey, Commander 51 (Scottish) Brigade, was all set to present the prizes at the end of the day but hopefully that will keep for another year.

Our Remembrance Day Parade was also well attended and all on Parade were pleased to see the well kent face of Brigadier David Allfrey take the salute at the City Chambers. Lastly a thank you to the Branch Vice Chairman Willie McLaughlin for putting together these notes and for standing in for the Chairman on occasions.



100 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Edinburgh and East of Scotland

The Hunter Chase was held on Sunday 29 March at Kelso Racecourse. We had an excellent turn out from Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch. Members met up at Kelso Golf Club where we had a hot buffet. The weather held out for us and one or two winners came our way.

The 2009 Dinner was held in The Edinburgh Capital Hotel on Saturday 25 April. We had guests from Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch and from London and South East Branch. 70 Members and guest attended. Captain Jamie Paton gave us an update on what was happening at Regimental level. We were of course delighted to welcome the Colonel of the Regiment (Brigadier Mel Jameson) and his wife Sarah, join us for his last dinner with us in the role. It was a great evening catching up with many friends and enjoying the culinary delights of the night.

Friday 19 June once again saw us at St Boswells for our annual Borders Gathering which continues to be well supported. The wonderful buffet, this year, was supplied by Eileen Duncan (Roly's wife). Sixteen members travelled by minibus from Edinburgh for the event.

Saturday 27 June was Regimental Open Day and a Reception was held in Redford Barracks in honour of our Colonel in Chief. The day was very well attended by all Branches of the Association. In the afternoon, members took part in the Veterans Day Parade in Edinburgh.

The North East of England

Our year was overshadowed by the death of Brigadier Charles Sloan CBE. He joined the 3rd Carabiniers in 1934 and part of his war service in India and Burma was with the 25th Dragoons. He was formerly a Commanding Officer of the 3rd Carabiniers and Colonel of the Regiment, on amalgamation. He was also Chairman of our Branch for very many years and his dedication, enthusiasm and determination all those years ago laid the foundation for the strong membership we have today, in the North East of England. In November, his Memorial Service at West Tanfield, near Ripon, was packed to capacity with those wishing to pay their last respects and to remember the life of a true gentleman.

The Jarvis Hotel in Wetherby was the venue for the 2009 North East Branch Reunion Dinner on 21 March. The evening was well supported with 67 people attending. Barry and Helen Liston, George Campbell and Bob Swan travelled from Scotland to be with us. Ian

On Sunday 28 June a Service was held at the Greys Memorial in Princes Street Gardens to dedicate two plaques. Our Branch Padre Rev Haisley Moore together with The Regimental Padre officiated. Sadly, the weather was not so good. After the service, members and guests adjourned to the Royal Scots Club where a buffet lunch was laid on.

Three hard days in July saw us tried and tested. 4 July saw us marching with the Regiment in Edinburgh before attending a Civic Reception at the City Chambers. 7 July we turned out in Perth this time which incorporated Veterans Day. The focus then turned to the 10 July when we marched with the Regiment in Glasgow and attended another Civic Reception, this time in Glasgow City Chambers. It was very pleasing to see the crowds line the streets at all the Marches.

After a summer break and by November we had recovered our energy to attend the traditional Remembrance Service at the Regimental Memorial in Princes Street Gardens. Again, Rev Haisley Moore gave us inspiration and those two new plaques were afterwards admired. We were very pleased to see In-Pensioner Bill Cross suitably in uniform for the occasion. The Branch lunch was held at the Navy Club at Canonmills, which proved to be a successful venue, whilst the officers once again held their lunch at the New Club.

Salisbury with his new wife Ann, Tam Purvis, 'Jubes' Jutrzenka all came up from the South of England, as did Brian Woolerton who kindly escorted 'In Pensioner' Pete Stevenson from The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Bryn and Joan Evans came across from the North West Branch. New Branch member Campbell Baxter and his wife also joined us for the first time as did Maureen Clark (widow of Pete) and we trust they all enjoyed themselves. The Committee thanks them all for their support and for making their respective journeys to be with us once again. Captain Roddy Christie represented the Commanding Officer and gave a short slide presentation on the training that the Regiment was currently undertaking, which was very informative. The Colonel of The Regiment, Colonel Mel Jameson, addressed those present for the last time in his capacity as Colonel. Despite a very busy schedule he has attended every Branch Dinner during his five years in office and we could not have asked for a more tangible demonstration of his support. We wish both him and Sarah continued health and happiness in the future. The evening con-



Brigadier Simon and Fee Allen with Alan and Pam Bowden, who represented the North East at the South West Dinner in Salisbury

cluded with a raffle, where those attending provided lots of excellent prizes and £127 was raised which will be used to subsidise the 2010 dinner.

The only Branch members to get a horse in the Association Grand Derby Draw were Maria Dalton and Ron Stafford but, sadly, neither had a result on the day.

Mr Alan Bowden represented the Branch at the Carabinier Memorial Service opposite Chelsea Bridge in London, on Sunday 29 November.

North West of England and Wales

For the North West Branch, 2009 was another successful year in terms of functions and events. We held our Annual Dinner in April but, unfortunately, with the anniversary of the Battle of Nunshigum falling during Easter, the attendance was slightly down and none of our invited guests were able to make it to Chester. We were, however, enlightened by an illustrated talk by Captain Jamie Paton and joined by The Regimental Secretary and his wife, Rhiannon.

May saw some of the Branch at Chelsea for Cavalry Memorial Parade and they all enjoyed themselves, many thanks to John Rochester for all his help and assistance with accommodation. We all enjoyed meeting old friends and swapping stories.

In July we had hoped to go to Bury for a ride on 3rd Carabinier but it is still off the road! Instead we went to the Chairman's house for a barbecue which was greatly enjoyed by all those who attended. This was not only a social gathering but a map reading test since the Chairman lives in a remote part of Denbighshire! Route

Mr Tony Hannon was awarded Life Membership of the Association in recognition of his support of the Branch over the years and for his efforts regarding the shoebox initiative, where Tony sent over 100 boxes to our troops on operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

On Remembrance Sunday, the Secretary laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Beverley, following a Service in Beverley Minster. Captain Ivison Wheatley, accompanied by his wife Louise, laid the wreath on the Royal Scots Greys Memorial Tablet at St Columba's United Reformed Church in York. They were, as usual, made very welcome. The Branch would like to thank Ivison for taking the time and effort to act as its representative in York.

We are sad to report the passing of the following Branch members during the year: Mr RC Lamb (a member of B Squadron, 3rd Carabiniers, at Nunshigum), Mr C Parker (Life member) and Mr Reg Dalton (Life member) who along with his wife Maria (who he had met during the Greys advance through Holland towards the end of the Second World War) supported the North East Branch for many years looking after the raffle during our annual dinners.

On a brighter note we welcome Mr RW Armstrong, Mr J Goupillot and Mr G Walters to the Branch.

maps, sat navs and the ability to use a sextant were all required. Many thanks to John and Liz (not forgetting daughter and son-in-law) for their generous hospitality.

In September we had a clash of events between the Menai Meeting and Bob Lewis getting married. To ac-



North West Branch at Cavalry Memorial Parade – Mick Jones, Charlie Colwell, Colin Butler, Tom Coates and Dick Hill

102 EAGLE AND CARBINE

commodate both, Menai was put back a week but it seems that some people misunderstood and thought it was cancelled (sounds like send three and four pence we're going to a dance!).

The Annual Reunion and Remembrance weekend in November was a huge success, without our contingent the Sunday parade would look quite bare. Nice to see the Hamm brothers, John Gerrard and Mick Hughes came down from Scotland again to meet up with Nev Castell and definitely not forgetting Charlie Colwell who made it over from Ireland. Our thanks to Alan Bowden who brought along his superb collection of

Regimental memorabilia for everyone to enjoy. Thanks also to Terry Birkett who provided an oil painting of 3rd Carabinier and a hand made model of a dismounted WW1 Trooper, the sales of which raised a considerable amount for the Branch funds.

Sadly we lost one of our members this year, John (Jack) Hughes (595). Members of the Branch were able to attend his funeral and we took along the Branch Standard which was very much appreciated by his family.



London and South East of England

The London Branch of the Association celebrated its centenary this year, formed in 1909 it has tried to follow the principles laid down then to obtain employment for all its members, to assist any member who has fallen into bad health, to enable men who have served together to keep in touch and to foster the esprit de corps of the regiment. This year the regiment was the sponsor regiment at London's Hyde Park Cavalry Memorial Parade on Sunday 10 May when HRH The Duke of Kent took the salute. What better way for the London Branch to foster the esprit than to invite members of the regiment to a meal and drinks after the parade at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. We were pleased also to welcome the Pipe Band who gave a performance in the grounds of the Royal Hospital. I spoke to one member of the regiment after the buffet and he had become enthusiastically aware of the regimental association.

Many members of the regiment also attended the annual branch reunion at the Barley Mow. Last year we had one of the smallest attendance at an annual reunion, this year one of the largest, that included the Colonel of the Regiment Brigadier Mel Jameson, and the association chairman Colonel John Ross. Mr Swan secretary of the Edinburgh Branch, and many other old friends, including I am pleased to say In Pensioner Bill Cross who is in his nineties also attended. A large sum of money was raised by the raffle and went towards branch expenses, and the food was enjoyed by all.

In April Bob Richardson organised the annual Nunshigum Lunch at the Anchor Inn in Shepperton with a loyal gathering of association friends to remember the Burma campaign.

On Thursday 5 November at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster, the new Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier SRB Allen headed the Regimental

Plot when HRH The Duke of Edinburgh reviewed the plots. The London Branch held its own private ceremony in the evening when our chairman Major Howard Elston took the service to remember the fallen.

Sunday 29 November 2009 a large gathering of serving and association members gathered at the Carabiniers memorial at Chelsea to lay the wreaths of fresh flowers in memory of the fallen of the Boer War. Later we paraded in the colonnade to be inspected by the Governor of the Royal Hospital before the church service in the chapel. Next a buffet lunch was arranged in the Ives Room and Major Elston made the Christmas presentations to our In Pensioners Phillips, Stevenson, Cross and McLelland.

In May members of the branch attended the Founders Day Parade at Royal Hospital Chelsea. In June some members were present at the regimental weekend in Edinburgh and the reception at Redford Barracks for our Colonel in Chief. They also took part in the Armed Forces day march on the Royal Mile and were at the dedication of plaques, commemorating those who have fallen since 1945, at the Grey's Memorial in Princes Street Gardens. In October members attended the Royal Armoured Corps Sponsored Sunday service at the Royal Hospital.

In October the branch made a donation to Combat Stress in sponsorship of Chris McEvoy's Charity Walk. They provide a unique service to ex-service men and women who have been psychologically injured through active service.

I feel in the centenary year of the London Branch we have lived up to the spirit of the objects of the Association.

On a personal, note through advancing years I have decided to stand down as secretary of the branch after 33 years, my thanks to all those members who have

written to me over the years offering encouragement and thanks. My thanks go to the chairman of the branch over the years, Major Murray, Captain John Dawes MC, Colonel Tony Bateman, General SRA Stopford CB MBE, Colonel John Ross, and Major Howard Elston, who have always been such a great help, to my wonderful committee always helpful and encouraging and giving of their time unstintingly, Home HQ and the staff always helpful, and last but not least my dear wife Pam who has always supported me through the good times and bad. In my first branch

report in 1977 I wrote that I hoped the branch would not suffer too much while I was secretary, and I started by emulating the previous secretary Pat O'Rourke who was secretary for 27 years, and exhorting all members to pay their subscriptions, to notify the secretary, or Home HQ, or both if they change their address, to encourage ex members to join the association, and please attend association functions. I exhort you all for the last time.



South West of England

Well it is the end of the first decade of the 21st Century, and 2009 saw the Branch get slightly smaller as we said farewell to old comrades moving on posting to the big parade ground on high.

The rest of us soldiered on and attended our annual dinner in October held as usual at the Royal British Legion Club, Endless Street in Salisbury. This year it was felt that we should try a variation on the formal seating plan, it was prompted by the fact that the modern day soldier may in his short career not experience as most of us did many a formal mess dinner. Today's service personnel spend more time in combat dress than they do in any other type of service uniform.

The layout of the tables was changed to make for smaller more intimate groups and the senior officers were also spread out amongst the members. The basic formalities were maintained the Chairman's table had the principal Guest from the Regiment and personal guests. We maintained the basic formalities but relaxed the remainder. I can only say that the result was a success and with a few amendments this will be our format for 2010, planned for 8 October.

Following on from a good dinner we held our winter gathering at a new venue in Bovington. Thanks to having friends in the right places we were able to hold our gathering in the Royal Wessex Yeomanry Drill Hall. After our disastrous last year's gathering we worried that people would be put off. How wrong could



Bob Warrender, Major Charles Trevelyan and John Rochester at Salisbury

104 EAGLE AND CARBINE

we have been, we had a great turn out of Branch members and loads of local Regimental members who were either working at Bovington or were posted close enough for them to attend; our thanks to them all for turning out on a cold winters night for a great evening. The venue was perfect the Buffet first class and the company Second to None. Unfortunately our Chairman, Colonel Mike Oliver, was indisposed in hospital having an operation from which he is recover-

ing well. Needless to say we have asked if they will have us back next year and they have agreed. We are looking at the 19th November but will confirm dates in the autumn newsletter. Rather than waffle on anymore let the picture's do the talking; remember if you are in the area pop in and say hello a warm welcome is guaranteed.



The convivial evening in Bovington with some serving members



Norrie Robertson beyond Richard Teese



Mike Packwood with Norrie Robertson, the Bowdens, Fee Allen and John Rochester enjoying the evening



Major Macmillan, Colonel Gedney and Lieutenant Colonel Oliver

**Musicians
(Military Band, Pipes and Drums)**

Not much has happened since our 2007 Reunion. A few more of our pipers have stopped playing their pipes for various reasons and also we have had the loss of ex piper Corporal Tom Lorimer in 2009. Tom was well liked by everyone as could be seen from the very big turn out at his funeral in Cupar, Fife.

The Branch is preparing for their next reunion at Dunblane in July 2010, where all are welcome.

Our congratulations go to Pipe Major Derek Potter on his appointment as the Sovereign's Piper and to Ross Munro as Pipe Major of the Regiment. We look forward to meeting them again at Dunblane.



THE REGIMENTAL DINNER

His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO ADC (P), Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, dined with the Officers of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) at the Cavalry and Guards Club on Tuesday 9 December 2009; Brigadier SRB Allen, Colonel of the Regiment presided. Having conveyed Loyal Greetings from all Officers, the Message from The Colonel-in-Chief was received. Tribute was paid to Brigadier MS Jameson CBE marking the end of his tenure as Colonel of the Regiment. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel JU Biggart MBE, delivered a resume of Regimental activities during 2009. The Queen's Piper, Warrant Officer (Class1) Pipe Major DWJ Potter SCOTS DG, presented the Pipe Set.

The Officers who attended were:

Maj Gen JMFC Hall CB OBE
 Maj Gen CRS Notley CB CBE
 Maj Gen JD Page OBE
 Maj Gen CA Ramsay CB OBE
 Maj Gen SRA Stopford CB MBE
 Brig JD Deverell CBE
 Brig B Gotts

Capt SHJF Albert
 IF Albert, Esq
 Lt Col RR Alers-Hankey
 Maj JS Ambrose
 Capt RM Anderson
 RHG Anderson Esq
 LO Ballard-Whyte Esq
 Lt Col JGE Bartholomew
 Maj TJ Bateman
 Lt Col RJ Binks
 Maj JWHM Bishop
 Capt ERR Boileau
 Maj RJI Bower
 Lt Col CTO Brannigan
 GP Brasher Esq
 Capt SR Brayn-Smith
 Maj BH Brotherton
 Capt WB Calderhead
 Capt JD Campbell OBE
 Capt RPK Carmichael
 Maj BJ Cattermole
 DA Cavenagh Esq
 Maj RBR Christie
 Maj SGF Cox MBE MW
 Lt Col JHM Cushnir
 Capt PA Douglas
 Capt PJP Drummond
 Capt CD Eames
 Col BP Edwards OBE
 Maj HN Elston
 Capt BG Erskine-Naylor
 MS Erskine-Naylor Esq
 Col PCE Fishbourne
 Maj JW Forbes
 Maj NG Foulerton

JA Fyvie Esq
 Capt PJS Gray
 Maj JPA Halford-Mcleod
 Maj ME Hayward
 Capt SNR Hearn
 Maj Sir Richard Henderson KCVO
 AW Jackson Esq
 Capt MHS Jameson
 Maj TG Kerrigan
 Lt Col CF Lambert
 JW Law Esq
 T Leech Esq
 Maj RG Leek
 Maj J Leslie
 Capt AD Linehan
 Capt PR Loyd
 Maj WGL Mackinlay
 Capt RC Maclachlan
 Col JHS Maclean TD
 RDL Maclure Esq
 Maj JJ Macnamara TD
 Maj JC Malcolmsen
 Capt AD Marjoribanks
 Capt JPF Marsh
 Capt TSH McBride
 Capt KD McDowell
 Capt CWH McFall
 Maj JFS McLeman
 Capt CKB Melville
 Maj CM Mitchell-Rose TD
 Maj MJ Mockridge MBE
 Capt W Montgomery
 Capt NS Orr
 HRH Prince Pavlos of Greece
 Maj MDA Pocock

Capt ACM Potter
 Lt Col W Raitt
 Capt Lord Ramsay Scots Guards
 Capt WB Ramsay
 Lt Col D Roberts
 RM Roberts Esq
 Maj NH Robertson BEM
 Col JMA Ross
 Maj DGP Scholfield
 Lt Col JFB Sharples OBE
 Maj MR Sheldon
 Capt RJM Skene
 RA Sligh Esq
 Maj DB Soulsby
 Capt TR Spenlove-Brown
 Maj TP Spenlove-Brown
 Capt AF Spink
 Col CRM Stagg OBE
 Capt JG Stewart
 Maj AT Stewart
 Maj JE Stone
 Capt JF Swetenham
 Maj JE Swetenham
 Capt RN Targett-Adams
 Capt DHS Thorburn
 Maj AR Trotter
 Col RP Vickers
 AM Warburton, Esq
 Lt Col CIP Webb
 Maj JMW Williamsom
 Maj TA Wood
 NGB Woodhams Esq
 Capt PD Young
 Capt ESJ Young

MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

(At 31 December 2009; Officers supporting the Regimental Trust)

ABERDEEN AND NORTH OF SCOTLAND

Officers

Capt AAC Farquharson of Invercauld MC
Capt PG Mackesy

Life Members

Crabb C
MacCallum A
Stewart H
Stott JE

Members

Alden C
Angus PC
Beattie BR
Black AA
Boath AS
Boyd IP
Boyle AM
Brazendale C
Brien A
Cook Mrs M
Drever LD
Drever S
Durrand I
Ferrier A
Fraser DM
Fraser JAB
Graham D
Grant J BEM
Grewar AS
Hendry WW
Lawson TA
McFarlane G
MacKinnon A
MacRae S
Melvin WA
Moore RS
Morrison JG
Murphy W
Murray J
Nicoll D
Roger DJ
Ross R
Scott A
Statish-Muller AJ
Stewart A
Stewart P
Stirton DS
Stuart J
Sutherland DJ
Thomson G

EDINBURGH AND EAST OF SCOTLAND

Officers

Capt G Aitchison
Capt JM Barber
EF Bell Esq
Capt NA Burnet
Capt JD Campbell OBE
Capt DDE Crawford
Capt RA Elliott-Lockhart DL

Maj RA James MBE
Capt AD Linehan
Maj MHL Lycett CBE
Capt RC MacLachlan
Maj C MacNab
Maj CM Mitchell-Rose TD

JH Trotter Esq

Life Members

Binks LE
Brookes LC
Ferrier HJW
Liston BP
McBean E
Millbank J

Members

Adams J
Agnew A
Ali JY
Anderson WL
Armstrong FM
Baxter G
Beagrie A
Bell AW
Bell HT
Bell J
Bene JR
Beveridge A
Beveridge D
Beveridge M
Beveridge R
Beveridge W
Bishop SJ
Black S
Blair M
Bonar GM
Bowman D
Brennan JJA
Brisbane G
Brown AN
Brown C
Brown DJ
Brown NDH

Brown Mrs T
Brunton DW
Bryson WH
Burr TB
Byrne R
Callan R
Campbell GC
Campbell JTC MSM
Carse J
Carter H
Castle-Smith I
Clark EFS
Clark WLF
Cooper JF
Convery M
Cormack JG
Coulter AB
Cowley LP
Currie J
Currie TH
Davies Mrs RA
Dempster NS
Dewar AW
Dewar DAW
Dewar WO
Dickson J
Dickson J
Dickson W
Diggins AW
Docherty GH
Dolan D
Donnolly E
Downes T
Drever TJ
Driscoll KJ
Duffy Mrs I
Duncan IR
Duncan K
Duncan RJ
Durrington MN
Evans DJ
Ewan R
Ewing AD
Fairbrass Mrs A
Fascia J
Ferguson J
Fitzpatrick M
Frier Mrs I
Geddes ST
Gerrard HG
Gibb JS
Gibson R

Girvan C
 Glonek R
 Gold CT
 Gold RS
 Gorrie ST
 Grant DW
 Grant Mrs L
 Gray C
 Gray Mrs V
 Hall EL
 Halpin M
 Hardie IM
 Harris R BEM
 Height DJ
 Henderson AS
 Henderson C
 Hogarth A
 Hogg C
 Hogg MA
 Hood A
 Hood AI
 Howie WF
 Hynds JW
 Innes AH
 Irvine J
 Jarvis JW
 Jeffrey PJ
 Johnston AD
 Johnstone A
 Johnstone BJ
 Kerr PMcF
 Kerr W
 Kitching N
 Knox T
 Kydd J
 Laing S
 Latta J
 Lawson A
 Leggat A
 Leggett DC
 Lithgow J
 Logan JW
 Lyons C
 McAndie RJ
 McBain MD
 McCabe P
 McCafferty A
 McCafferty R
 McConnell T
 McDonald TG
 McDowell WJ
 McGilp L
 McKay G
 McKellar RJ
 MacKenzie D
 Mackenzie HM

McKenzie R
 Mackie K
 McKinlay Mrs D
 McKinlay W
 McKinney J
 McLauchlan W
 McQueen S
 Macrae R
 McShane AW
 Maplesden J
 Marshall J
 Martin D
 Mason A
 Mellon F
 Melvin E
 Middleton P
 Millar DW
 Millar PJ
 Miller DA
 Miller J
 Mitchell GA
 Montgomery WM
 Moran SMF
 Morgan J
 Morris AD
 Morrison JR
 Morton A
 Nangle S
 Nayar IO
 Nicholson DAM
 O'Donnell B
 O'Neill SKP
 O'Riordan P
 Ostapko M
 Ostrowski B
 Page S
 Paisley W
 Paterson GL
 Patullo A
 Patullo S
 Penman R
 Pennycook KJ
 Perrie RJ
 Poldard A
 Porteous Mrs C
 Prentice RH
 Procter SMA
 Proudfoot SA
 Ramage JMR
 Ramsay JH
 Ramsay S
 Rattray JJ
 Ray JS
 Reid JA
 Reilly E
 Robertson DA

Robertson G
 Robertson K
 Saetta J
 Salmond J
 Samson G
 Scobie Miss J
 Scougall AG
 Scullion E
 Slaven J
 Smiley J
 Smith P
 Steen J
 Stevenson A
 Stewart WK
 Stirrat Mrs P
 Strachan G
 Stoddart DW
 Sutherland A
 Swan R
 Temple RN
 Thomson GT
 Thomson M
 Thomson T
 Toole R
 Trimby I
 Turnbull SW
 Ure D
 Urquhart S
 Waddell Mrs JRM
 Wales TP
 Walker CA
 Ward DP
 Ware-Lavis A
 Warrender KT
 Watson D
 Watt B
 Wilkie S
 Wilson IG
 Wilson WJP
 Wood PW
 Young T

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND

Officers

Capt LM Borwick
 CD Clark Esq
 His Hon Wm Crawford QC
 Capt RC Cunningham-Jardine
 CVO
 Sir Archibald Edmonstone Bt
 Mrs N Findlay
 Col J Henderson TD
 Maj Sir Richard Henderson
 KCVO TD
 Maj RWB Maclean TD

108 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Maj HJ Willis

Life Members

MacFarlane GB

McKenna D

McLaughlin WM

Paterson P

Patterson J

Members

Aberdeen H

Agnew WB

Anderson N

Anderson R

Balmer R

Bates K

Beckwith RA

Berry M

Bootland WA

Bootland Mrs WG

Bough W

Bristow S

Brown DJM

Brown R

Bryden K

Buchanan A

Burns R

Cairney G

Cairney P

Cairns SJ

Caldwell A

Cameron A

Cameron G

Campbell HH

Campbell I

Campbell R

Campbell TT

Carey R

Carr MG

Cassidy JC

Cavanagh D

Clark HMCK

Clark S

Clark W

Collie GJ

Coltart S

Cook I

Cousland KG

Crawford J

Crease G

Currie JE

Currie R

Dempster J

Devine K

Devoy D

Dick D

Dick J

Dickson D

Docherty T

Donaldson GA

Donnell RH

Dorricott H

Dunachie G

Dunbar R

Dunn PD

Eckeford W

Ferguson R

Forrester SA

Fowler A

Fraser J

Fulton A

Gerrard JH

Gledhill N

Goldie PDJ

Graham P

Haddow D

Hale AE

Hartness R

Haxton WF

Herbison D

Hill I

Hobbs TF

Hughes M

Hughes TW

Hunter J

Hunter JP

Innes-Alum A

Irwin SJ

Jeffrey T

Johnston RL

Johnstone JW

Jones JW

Junnier A

Just R

Kelly J

Kyle FC

Leggate R

Lennox RJK

Lindsay A

Lindsay C

Loage M

Lyll C

McCafferty J

McCallum JA

McCrae C

McCrinkle LB

McDade E

McDonald DJ

McDonald P

McDonald T

MacEachan NI

McEvoy C

McEwan B

McGarva R

McGregor N

McGuigan D

McGuire N

McInnes J

McIntyre DH

McIntyre GS

McIntyre IC

Mackay FD

McKerrell

Mackie D

McLaughlin OMM

McLean DJ

McLean J

McLean JS

Maclean Mrs WM

McLeod I

McMorran GM

McNulty M

MacPherson G

McRitchie J

Mair H

Mair J

Mallon S

Mathieson JW

Maxwell H

Mearns E

Mearns K

Milby S

Millar I

Milne G

Monaghan P

Montgomery J

Moses JR

Muirhead D

Mullen C

Murray A

Murray J

Nesbit I

Nimmo J

Paterson B

Paton JD

Patterson D

Pettigrew R

Ramsay AS

Reid G

Reid J

Robertson J

Rooney M

Ross AC

Salisbury W

Shankland AF

Shearer RG

Shoebridge J

Skerratt MG

Small DJ

Smith M

Speirs R
 Spence T
 Stark G
 Steveley J
 Stewart J
 Stirling A
 Sturrock A
 Tait R
 Taylor F
 Thomson CA
 Thomson G
 Todd G
 Urquhart A
 Walker F BEM
 Warburton I
 Wark JMCM
 Whelan R
 Wilson A
 Wilson JF BEM
 Wilson S
 Woodcock M
 Woods E
 Woods P
 Wright G
 Wright DW
 Yeo C

NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND

Officers

Capt K Brown
 Maj TJStC Brown
 Capt BT Cullen
 DH Davidson Esq
 Lt Col M Graham MBE
 MJW Hall Esq
 Maj E Ingram MBE
 Capt APT Johnson
 Maj E Johnson
 Capt PR Loyd
 Dr KS MacKenzie
 SA Moore Esq
 JSR Nicholl Esq
 Capt NS Orr
 Capt IS Wheatley
 AR Wood Esq

Life Members

Bowden AT
 Downs E
 Evans RB
 Greendale R
 Hannan A
 Macey SW
 Robinson E
 Roe D

Members

Agnew A

Airdrie G
 Anderson Mrs T
 Armstrong RW
 Astles G
 Atkinson GA
 Baker R
 Barfoot B
 Berry P
 Bradley DE
 Brown W
 Browning Mrs J
 Burkenshaw EG
 Cameron I
 Clark D
 Clark Mrs EPR
 Clayson K
 Connors Mrs TW
 Craven AB
 Cross R
 Curtis KJ
 Dalton Mrs R
 Darbyshire J
 Dobson AN
 Downey TP
 Eastwood BF
 Edwards G
 Ferry P
 Franklin AA
 Garrett DC
 Gilmour NM
 Goupillot JD BEM
 Gower M
 Gray KS MBE
 Greenway SJ
 Hart T
 Henderson A
 Holland C
 Howarth GR
 Hydes C
 Jutrzenka EZ
 Kelly D
 Kendrick HA
 McCamley AT
 MacGregor WJ
 McKennan R
 McLeod IR
 Martin E
 Morgan H
 Pearce BW
 Pittaway G
 Potter Mrs ME
 Roberts AS
 Samuels JR
 Sandy A
 Scarth AD
 Scotter RH

Sherville JH
 Shield P
 Simmonds RF
 Stafford RS
 Stokes G
 Stubbs WR
 Thomas JD
 Thorpe Mrs FC
 Thubron D
 Thubron E
 Thubron MD
 Tosh EL
 Walker PRH
 Walters G
 Ward JA
 Whitfield G
 Wild D
 Wilkinson AH
 Wilkinson LJ
 Wood P

NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Officers

Capt RPK Carmichael
 JJG Dawes Esq
 Col JHS MacLean TD
 Maj MR Sheldon
 Maj WG Thomas
 Dr DH Wright CBE MSc MB

Life Members

Bithell C
 Butler C
 Dell CA
 Hill RA BEM
 Houston OG
 Ogden JA
 Ogden W
 Pritchard KW
 Sands RA
 Shearer WA

Members

Andrews M
 Baggott C
 Bailey H
 Baker L
 Barton A
 Beasley R
 Berry IR
 Bidston L
 Bloor P
 Bohana AW
 Boole JB
 Brookes AO
 Brooks PD
 Campbell B

110 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Camps B
 Campsie W
 Cashman PE
 Castel N
 Chadwick P
 Challinor A
 Chantry NM
 Clark R
 Clark R
 Clayton A
 Coates TO
 Colwell C
 Connolly J
 Dady B
 Davidson B
 Davies R
 Dawson J
 Devine A
 Dorrington B
 Drake J
 Dutton C
 Edwards W
 Egleton BA
 Emery D
 Evans
 Evans BC
 Evans JDA
 Evans JE
 Evans K
 Evans KC
 Evans RM
 Farley P
 Ferbrache T
 Fielden PK
 Fletcher M
 Gaskell K
 Gaskin M
 Gibbs A
 Gray JW
 Green RJ
 Green SD
 Greensmith M
 Griffin E
 Hamilton S
 Hamm L
 Hamm RA
 Hampson OW
 Hardy MA
 Harper JH
 Harris B
 Hay A
 Hayes L
 Heason WH
 Hendren A
 Hide AGM
 Hopkins RD

Houghton E
 Hughes DW
 Hughes J
 Hughes JH
 Hughes T
 Jacobs N
 Jerome DR
 Jones CJ
 Jones DP
 Jones GH
 Jones GM
 Jones HL
 Jones MG
 Jones MW
 Jones PW
 Jones R
 Jones RLL
 Jones WP
 Kay Mrs E
 Keates KL
 Keatings BT
 Kimpton RJ
 Kinnair N
 Lallement D
 Lancake D
 Lewis H
 Lewis R
 Lloyd J
 Long M
 Lord D
 Lunt T
 McAlister E
 McDonnell P
 Martin A
 Mason D
 Mather M
 Meyers E
 Miller SL
 Moriarty MW
 Morris P
 Morrison JR
 Noonan J
 Oddy B
 Oliver E
 Orr D
 Owen JH
 Owens L
 Palmer RD
 Partington J
 Pike Mrs A
 Podmore S
 Price RJ
 Pritchard R
 Prydderch K
 Purviss KA
 Reay PA

Reynolds BL
 Richardson B
 Riley A
 Riley RM
 Roberts E
 Roberts WE
 Rogers H
 Rothwell G
 Seddon T
 Shaw A
 Shaw EE
 Shirley J
 Sinclair K
 Smith D
 Smith J
 Smith MJ
 Stott B
 Swanick J
 Tippet SL
 Tipping DW
 Toplass BJ
 Turnbull J
 Vaughan-Jones G
 Ward H
 Ward P
 Webster JK
 Welch GN
 Wildman JA
 Williams C
 Williams G
 Williams M
 Williams PJ
 Williams RG
 Williams W
 Willis KB
 Wilson WJ
 Wood M
 Woods L
 Youngman BM

**LONDON AND SOUTH EAST
 OF ENGLAND**

Officers

IF Albert Esq
 Lt Col J H Allason OBE
 P Allfrey Esq
 David Astor Esq CBE
 Col AJ Bateman OBE
 Capt S Bath
 RE Dimsdale Esq
 Col MAD Donnithorne-Tait MA
 His Hon Judge Dyer
 Capt PT Earp
 R Elliot-Square Esq
 Major HJ Elston
 Capt M Ferndale

J Fielden Esq
 Col PCE Fishbourne
 Capt IR Fraser
 Maj BH Garai TD
 WJR Govett Esq
 Maj Gen JMFC Hall CB OBE
 Capt WL Hannay
 Capt SNR Hearn
 Capt HJC Humfrey
 DA Innes Esq
 Capt DJ Kahn
 MJStG Kelton Esq
 JStG Kelton Esq
 HRH The Duke of Kent KG
 GCMG GCVO
 PWA Lake Esq
 Maj RH Lorimer
 RLH Lyster Esq
 Capt CWH McFall
 RWD McKelvie Esq
 Capt DM McLennan Fordyce
 Maj JJ Macnamara TD
 MW Macquaker Esq
 Maj JC Malcolmson
 Capt JPF Marsh
 Capt HBP Martin
 Capt AI Matheson
 Maj MJ Mockridge
 Maj CWD Morgan MBE
 Maj Gen CRS Notley CB CBE
 Lt Col BW Pain
 JH Pardoe Esq
 DAER Peake Esq
 AJ Pilcher Esq
 The Hon R Pleydell-Bouverie
 Maj MDA Pocock
 Capt DL Prebble
 Lt Col Sir Humphrey Prideaux
 OBE DL
 Capt CR Radclyffe LVO
 JPA Readman Esq OBE
 Capt NB Richards
 AD Rickett Esq
 Lt Col D Roberts
 WM Ross-Wilson Esq
 Maj DGP Scholfield
 Lt Col DAH Sievwright
 RA Sligh Esq
 Capt MA Somers
 Capt AF Spink
 DC Stewart Esq
 Maj Gen SRA Stopford CB MBE
 Maj JE Swetenham
 Capt JF Swetenham
 The Rev Canon RI Thomson
 Maj AC Trevelyan

Capt MC Wallace
 Capt DJG Walton
 Major JA White
 Capt JH Williams
 Capt PD Young
Life Members
 Bampton WF
 Brabham VG
 Carter RA MM
 Cox JL
 Cross W
 Dean LJ
 Derrett MH
 Foreman JL
 Freer AF
 Grounds WT
 Hancock GW
 Leyin J
 McKnight J
 Pearce KG
 Phillips GW
 Randall JC
 Richardson RS
 Stoddart GRMcK
 Walker JT
Members
 Anderson J
 Baldwin S
 Barnard B
 Barnes G
 Barnes HP
 Bedingfield RA
 Bester MF
 Blackman D
 Blake D
 Branch PS
 Brimmicombe-Wood VR
 Brown SA
 Brown SL
 Browning HS
 Buckle WAJ
 Burnham RR
 Butler DL
 Campbell R
 Carnachan W
 Clews D
 Cole B
 Conroy-Callaghan P
 Cooper M
 Curtis J
 Davey JM
 Davidson JC
 Duffy MP
 Elliott K
 Field FW
 Fish D

Foote AA
 Foster DJ
 Fowler A
 Gilpin K
 Gray AF QPM
 Haig AJ
 Hammond ME
 Harvey LA
 Hayward NR
 Headridge D
 Hill T
 Hinde RHF
 Holmes E
 Horner EC
 Hudson AH
 Hughes AA
 Jordan RM
 Keatley J
 Keogh-Waddock DV
 Keyworth LS MBE
 Kyle A
 Lavi C
 Lee RJA
 McClean MF
 MacCuaig JMcP
 McGrath T
 McKerral J
 McKinnon Mrs RN
 McLelland JH
 McLintock J
 McQuade WH
 McSweeney DS
 Maher J
 Maher Mrs J
 Moring Mrs DE
 Morralley DKF
 O'Brien GP
 O'Connor E
 O'Rourke B
 O'Rourke Mrs S
 Parkin E
 Parry Mrs HR
 Poile G
 Porteous MF
 Potter GE
 Quinn J
 Randles RHR
 Rayner KA
 Reid DF
 Reynolds J
 Rochester JS
 Rowlands KJ
 Rumbles P
 Sander NE
 Savage PF
 Sedgewick RL

112 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Setterfield WE
 Shorter DB
 Silverman AG
 Sivewright Mrs GWH
 Smallwood F
 Southon JC
 Stevenson PM
 Stroud T
 Taylor G
 Thomson AR
 Turner K
 Waddock DV
 Ward G
 Warden Mrs MD
 Weaver H
 Welham S
 Wiles Mrs L
 Wilson CRH MSM
 Winters DI
 Woods FM
 Woolerton BM

SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND**Officers**

Brig SRB Allen
 Col MH Auchinleck
 Capt ERR Boileau
 Maj JRI Bower
 Col MEC Coombs
 Maj Gen HSL Dalzell-Payne CBE
 Maj SAB Edwards
 Captain Sir Ranulph Fiennes Bt OBE
 Maj GAS Hancock
 Maj LSP le Sueur
 Maj J Leslie
 Mrs BD McDonald-Booth
 Maj IE Morgan DL
 Lt Col MD Oliver
 Lt Col AM Phillips
 Col JTM Ryan TD
 Maj MK Shennan
 Lt Col JA Speirs
 TR Spenlove-Brown Esq
 Lt Col EI Stanford

Life Members

Braine BD
 Griffis RG
 Rattue AL
 Salisbury IC
 Teese R

Members

Adkins JH
 Allen Mrs FG
 Anderson K MM
 Atkinson E
 Bain W

Baker JM
 Baxter Mrs RD
 Bell FP
 Black S
 Blake DV
 Blick PDB
 Breslin CT
 Budge JWW
 Butcher DA
 Clifford AR
 Corson AD
 Cropper JM
 Davidson EG
 Davis Z
 Doak M
 Douglas SCB
 Feeney BJ
 Gardner Mrs DH
 Gibb I
 Gower PR
 Harvey A
 Hodges JA
 Jackson Mrs EJ
 Jacobs KC
 Jones AB
 Joynes CG
 Junnier JA
 Kennedy WFB
 Knowles-Wilkinson AJ
 Long TCR
 McEwan B
 Mackie AWM
 McLachlan K
 Milroy BE
 Morgan JR
 Packwood MA
 Pearson SA
 Pritchard Mrs Julie-Ann
 Pritchard PWT
 Pritchard WJ
 Pullin KS
 Ray J
 Rea MJ
 Reid P
 Reid T
 Scaife I
 Shields A
 Smith I
 Spain-Gower PR
 Taylor TJ
 Tylee DG
 Tylee J
 Walker WM
 Ward D
 Warrender R
 Watson PC

Welham DR
 Welsh DP
 Western J
 Whyte J
 Wilson EJ
 Young D

MUSICIANS (BAND, PIPES AND DRUMS)**Officers**

Headquarters List
 Maj HI Macrae
 Capt CKB Melville
Edinburgh and East of Scotland
 Lt Col MD Blacklock
 Brig MS Jameson CBE
 Maj Gen CA Ramsay CB OBE
 Lt Col AM Sprot of Haystoun MC JP
 Maj AR Trotter
Glasgow and West of Scotland
 Lt Gen Sir Norman
 Arthur KCB CVO
 HJ Howard Esq
 Mrs IR Readman OBE
 North East of England
 Maj AJ Crease MBE BEM
North West of England and Wales
 Maj JR Scrivener
London and South East of England
 Sir Michael Cummins
 R Fleming Esq DL
 Maj DAM le Sueur
 Capt JL Potter
 Capt WB Ramsay
 Col JMA Ross
 Maj DMA Scott
 Lt Col JFB Sharples OBE
 Maj AJ Stormonth Darling
 Maj TA Wood
South West of England
 Lt Col PGE Bartholomew
 Col CMcA Pyman
 Lt Col CIP Webb
Life Member
 Shearer DH
Members
Headquarters List
 Bickers Mrs G
 Booth A
 Bruce J
 Clarke P
 Dick I
 Docherty T
 Falshaw R
 Henderson C
 Hogarth J

McCroskie Mrs L
 McLeod I
 Macrae AD
 Massie JC
 Paterson A
 Redpath W
 Thomson Mrs M
 Whittaker AE
Aberdeen and North of Scotland
 Brady M
 Cruickshanks AB
 Macrae D
 Manson GD
Edinburgh and East of Scotland
 Bannerman Mrs E
 Bigham WJ
 Black SL
 Brashier RD
 Boyle Mrs C
 Carr JW
 Carroll BJ BEM
 Currie ARK
 Dickson JSK
 Fairbairn RJ
 Gilfillan DJ
 Glass R
 Hill JM
 Kerr L
 Lavallin RE
 Lorimer Mrs T
 MacMurchie D
 Mackay D
 McVean W
 McVie A
 Moffat G
 Orr S
 Page A
 Paul AS
 Ray RW
 Ralley C
 Smith Mrs G
 Sneddon R
 Starr J
 Terris DG
 Tomkins HWG
 Veitch R
 Vine JM
 Watson W

Williamson Mrs D
 Yates D
Glasgow and West of Scotland
 Hutchison PJ
 Jackson C
 Little P
 Mackenzie JC
 Stitt G
 Whitelock T
North East of England
 Allan JA
 Baxter CM
 Kidd CS JP
 Peat TW
 Wells PC
North West of England and Wales
 Broadbent F
 Geraghty JR
 Holmes JB
 Last D
 Quincey JA
 Whyte WD
London and South East of England
 Hersey TM
 Hildreth I
 Hoare ET
 Johnston T
 McLean-Gibbs AM
 O'Rourke PJ
 Purves T
 Rainger ID
South West of England
 Barritt S
 Carcary AH
 Hayle D
 Leslie RWC
 Meikle JA
 Phyll D
 Standing P
 Thyall D
 Wall G

HEADQUARTERS LIST

Officers
 Maj TWP Connell
 Maj SGF Cox MBE MW
 AN Cuming Esq
 Brig JD Deverell CBE

DJ Galloway Esq
 Maj RIG Hale
 Sir Peter Hutchison Bt
 Lt Col GRK Lyon OBE
 Maj BA McSwiney
 Maj RCS Mahony
 Dr JT Mainwaring
 Brig JB Palmer
 Col NDA Seymour
 Rev AJ Totten MBE CF
 Capt HN Whitfield
Honorary Members
 SC Wood Esq
 WMC Grant Esq
 Mr B Martin
Life Member
 Maj JL James
 Murphy JP
Members
 Atkinson P
 Beechcroft-Kay Mrs R
 Beveridge M
 Boode ALM
 Brooks Mrs PJ
 Cameron Dr AJ
 Cameron-Ilott VJ
 Convery J
 Cowan LA
 Croot TG
 Dunbar R
 Gibson C
 Grant J
 Hamilton G
 Harris GP
 Heilig G
 Hendry Mrs A
 McDonald GI
 McKenzie DJ
 Mathers W
 Neilson JJ
 Nuttall GA
 Perrins E
 Potter W
 Rose P
 Rowberry TDE
 Russell AL
 Sharp SG
 Smart A

In Pensioners at The Royal Hospital Chelsea

W Cross (Royal Scots Greys)
 GW Phillips (Royal Scots Greys)
 JH McLelland (Greys and SCOTS DG)
 P Stevenson (Greys and SCOTS DG)



Parade marshalling for SCOTS DG during the March down the Royal Mile, Edinburgh on 4 July 2009

ALLIED AND AFFILIATED

Lothian and Borders Police

by Superintendent Brian Muir

I am delighted to be able to present my annual update on behalf of your affiliated Police Force, Lothian and Borders Police. 2009 saw a great deal of contact between our respective organisations and, whilst I will make mention of some other events which occurred, the bulk of my article will centre around the activities which took place in Edinburgh in June and July. On a personal level, I have enjoyed a very varied year within the Force and I will therefore provide a little information on that area.

In last year's article I described my role as 'Maritime Security Co-ordinator' with the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS). I thoroughly enjoyed that particular secondment but it came to an end in August and I moved on to another post. I was asked, however, if I would maintain the ACPOS post alongside my new 'day job' and I readily agreed to do so. I believe that we have made real progress in terms of the development of local and national Action Plans and in the forging of links with partner agencies and government bodies. I will be delivering a presentation on the current UK maritime security position in Rome in March, 2010 and I am very much looking forward to that. It is a tough job but someone has to do it!

My new role is Branch Commander of my Force's Specialist Operations. This means that I am responsible for our firearms officers, search teams, public order units, mounted section, dog section and Marine Unit. Basically, I get to look after all of the Force toys. It is a very varied and interesting role and it is very useful to be able to engage with maritime issues not only at a national, strategic level but also at the local, operational level.

2009 was a tremendously important year for the Regiment and I was honoured to be able to play some small part in it. I took the opportunity to attend the Cavalry Memorial Parade in London again in May and for the first time I was accompanied by both my wife and my daughter. The three of us had a marvellous time and I was really pleased that Isla and Natalie were able to participate in a notable Regimental event and, also, that they were afforded the opportunity to meet some of my 'old friends'.

The Royal Visit to Redford Barracks in Edinburgh on 27 June was perhaps the highlight of the year. I was very fortunate to be asked to perform the role of Police 'Silver Commander' on the day. Basically, I was responsible for the security of the event and I was in charge of all of the civilian police in attendance and also the Ministry of Defence Police who were deployed to Redford that day. We were also able to provide a small Force display as part of the associated Open Day, which was pleasing. Although the weather was not particularly kind, this failed to dampen the spirits of all of those in attendance and Her Majesty the Queen was in fine form, taking the time to speak to each and every person who was braving the elements on the Parade Square that day. From a police perspective, there were no incidents of note, which meant that I kept my job! Almost as importantly, it meant that I was able to hold Roger MacMillan to his promise of a glass of bubbly for me at the end of the day should everything go smoothly, a commitment he gladly met once the vast majority of the guests had departed.

The following day saw a dedication ceremony take place at the Scots Greys Memorial within Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. This was a poignant, moving occasion and there was great pride, tinged with sadness, when the new plaque, containing the names of fallen members of the Regiment, was unveiled. The name of my great-uncle, who was killed whilst serving with the Scots Greys in World War II, is displayed on the monument, so I have a particular interest in what it represents and for the sentiments it embodies.

Thursday 2 July 2009 was a very significant day in terms of joint activities between our organisations. I participated in a morning meeting that day with our then Deputy Chief Constable Tom Halpin, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Biggart, and his Adjutant, Captain Harry Jameson. I should point out that Mr Halpin has now retired from the police service. He has been replaced as Deputy by Mr Steve Allen, who transferred to Edinburgh from the Metropolitan Police Service. I have taken the opportunity to brief Mr Allen about our unique relationship and I am confident that he will be as supportive of the affiliation as all of his predecessors.

116 EAGLE AND CARBINE

A wide range of subjects were discussed at the meeting, including greater collaborative working and the possibility of exchanging personnel from time to time. We then moved to the Force's Lecture Theatre, where a number of inputs were delivered to a group of junior officers from the Regiment. I had arranged for a Sergeant to outline current Force structures and challenges whilst I delivered a presentation on maritime security, the use of intelligence and police/military relations around the United Kingdom. Both of the presentations engendered a great deal of discussion and debate and I am sure that we all learned from this. The day culminated in visits to stations within two of the most demanding areas of Edinburgh in order that the officers were able to witness the police 'in action' and get something of a feel for some of the challenges faced. I received very positive feedback following the visit and was grateful for the opportunity to provide an insight on Lothian and Borders Police to the next generation of the Regiment's officers.

That evening, Isla and I were delighted to accept an invitation to attend a Regimental Cocktail Party at the Officers' Mess, Edinburgh Castle. As with all Regimental events, it was extremely well-organised and enjoyable and it was a pleasure to meet so many people who had also had the privilege of working with SCOTS DG. We returned to the Castle in late August as part of the Regimental contingent who were guests of Sir Richard Dannatt when he 'took the salute' at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. It was lovely to see a number of friendly faces and a great evening was had by all.

I always try my very best to attend the Remembrance Day event in Princes Street Gardens every November

as part of the Regimental Association contingent because it is such an important event in the Regimental calendar and also because the lunch in the New Club afterwards is most enjoyable and an excellent way to see old friends and perhaps make some new ones. I was, unfortunately, unable to attend this year as I found myself on a cruise in the Caribbean at the time, celebrating my Silver Wedding Anniversary. I did take the opportunity, however, to find a quiet spot on the ship at the appropriate hour and pay my private respects to fallen comrades.

As we now look forward to 2010, we can be sure that many challenges lie ahead for both SCOTS DG and for Lothian and Borders Police. Our Force will be holding a Family Day, as it does every two years, in June and the Regimental Information Team will, I am sure, be playing an active role at that event. The police service in Scotland is facing unprecedented levels of cost savings, along with all of our public sector colleagues. This will undoubtedly place demands on our ability to provide the level of service we would wish but I am confident that we can adapt our structures and approaches to meet this latest challenge. I am well aware that this is nothing new for the Army and the remainder of the military.

I hope to meet as many members of the 'Regimental family' as possible next year and I look forward to deepening and strengthening our relationship as we go forward. I would conclude by extending best wishes from all of your friends at Lothian and Borders Police.



Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band

It has been a very busy and successful year for The Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band. The Band has travelled extensively during the summer, visiting Germany, France, Belgium, Holland and most recently Northern Ireland. During this time the Band has appeared at Royal events and has provided musical support to the Forces through performances at medal and freedom parades, whilst continuing to support ITC Catterick with their passing out parades. The Band has also proudly supported their affiliated regiments: in July the Band worked with 1st Queens Dragoon Guards during their 150th anniversary celebrations in Cardiff in the presence of HRH Prince Philip and supported the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards with parades in Edinburgh and Perth. The Band has also worked closely with the Pipes

and Drums of the Royal Dragoon Guards who performed alongside the Band at the Gala summer concert at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

Quite significantly, whilst in France, the Band premiered their newly designed ceremonial uniform at the 51st annual Military Pilgrimage in Lourdes. Since formation in June 2006, The Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band has performed in various orders of dress. The Band first appeared in mixed uniforms inherited from their disbanded Dragoon Guards and Royal Tank Regiment Bands. In 2008, just in time for Cavalry Memorial Sunday in Hyde Park, the Band appeared for the first time wearing Cavalry Blues with their new cap badge, whilst the Band eagerly awaited the arrival of their new



The full complement outside Joint HQ in Rheindahlen

ceremonial dress and helmets. The Band's ceremonial dress is based on the late Dragoon Guards Band red tunic with a tank on the right sleeve representing the amalgamated bands. The badge on the helmet comprises a lyre, cross swords and carbine and the RTR tank.

On return from summer leave, the Band travelled to Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall to provide support as the Roulement Band for 3 days assisting in phase 2 and 3 training. Later that week, the Band travelled back to Catterick to rehearse with The Queen's Royal Lancers for their Royal visit from Her Majesty the Queen on the 12th September. The purpose of the Queen's visit was to present posthumous medals and visit the Regiment to mark the 250th anniversary of their formation. On arrival, the regiment and the Lance Guard were formed up awaiting inspection and the Band played the National Anthem. Following a photograph, the Band marched down to the sports arena for the afternoon events which included musical accompaniment to the Cavalry re-enactment troop (akin to the Household Cavalry Musical Ride), and also performed the National Anthem as the Queen departed later in the afternoon.

The following week, the Band's pop group 'Tanked Up' travelled to back Kneller Hall to perform at Rhythm Force 2009. Rhythm Force has been running for four years and showcases the versatility of Army Musicians in the field of pop music. Tanked Up were one of only a handful of pop groups chosen to play this year, and they were all determined not to let down the reputation of the Band. Our theme for this year was Take That, and three extra singers had been picked to support WOII (BSM) Gary Chilton: Sergeant Nick Southorn, Corporal AC Brown and Musician Perry O'Brien completed the vocal line up, and gave a new feel to the group. Also Lance Corporal Lindsey Barry played key-

boards to help recreate the string sounds of Take That's songs, and Sergeant Andy Donaldson featured on auxiliary percussion. Corporal Dickie Homer from the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps also joined the group on lead guitar. However, the highlight of the evening was listening to the Army Big Band perform with Jools Holland.

Throughout October, the Band performed at concerts in Bridlington for the Royal British Legion and in Hurworth near Darlington raising money for a number of charities. October was also an extremely busy month with regards to recruiting: the Band hosted an open day for the Bradford Youth Wind Band and also travelled to Northern Ireland to take part in the Army Exhibition for Schools event in Belfast to showcase a career in Army Music. Whilst in Northern Ireland, the Band's workshops took place in the band block of the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment (TA) and two schools per day attended the workshops. At the end of the week, the Band performed two concerts, the first at Wallace High School in Lisburn and the second at Banbridge High in County Down alongside musicians who had attended the workshops. Both concerts were in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund and were a huge success. The final day, and the culmination of the tour, was the highlight of the week with the Band visiting the Belfast Music Centre. Over 130 young musicians attending the Saturday morning music centre where the standard of musicianship is extremely high, The Band worked with both the intermediate and senior bands, performing a small concert with each centre-band at the close of the morning.

On return to England, the Band prepared for the annual Remembrance Celebrations. This began with a concert for the Royal British Legion in York where the band performed alongside the York Male Voice Choir and York Ladies vocal group with guest Opera singer

118 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Janina Sweetenham. The concert was a scaled down version of the Remembrance Concert at the Royal Albert Hall and various representatives from the Armed Forces, British Red Cross and the British Legion complete with standards were present. The following week, the Band returned to York to provide musical support to the annual parade through the city centre to the Garden of Remembrance where the main Remembrance service was held. On Armistice Day itself, the band performed at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick for their annual service with over 500 people in attendance. Later that week, the band travelled to London for its final Remembrance service at the Cenotaph for the Royal Tank Regiment. This event involved contingents from both 1st and 2nd Royal Tank Regiments and old comrades who parade from Horse Guards Parade onto Whitehall to the Cenotaph. This is a poignant parade for the band and its affiliated regiments.

In December, the fanfare team for the band were invited to perform at the Royal Variety performance at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. On arrival, the band was fortunate to be accommodated at the Hilton prior to an early morning start the day of the engagement. The band were hired to provide the opening fanfare to the performance and after rehearsals were fortunate to meet many of the celebrities involved in the show including Michael Buble, Bette Midler, Britain's Got Talent Winners, Diversity and Miley Cyrus. On the arrival of the Queen, the band performed the fanfare and the National Anthem which was accompanied by 'The Soldiers'.



The Band in winter order at home in Catterick

It has become a tradition for the band to perform Christmas concerts prior to leave in both the Garrison and our neighbouring town Richmond. Both concerts really signify the spirit of Christmas and draw large audiences, with many people attending both concerts. The concerts were in Aid of Help the Heroes and the Mayor's Charities and over £600 was raised

The band would like to extend their congratulations to their Band Sergeant Major Gary Chilton for his success with 'The Soldiers'. They also send their warmest wishes for the future to Corporal Marc Bonham and Corporal Dave Moody, both of whom have completed 22 years in the Army and have embarked on their new chosen careers.



Armed Forces Day Parade through Perth with SCOTS DG

Cadets

Cadets affiliated to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the Scottish Yeomanry took part in the SCOTS DG Homecoming Regimental Day at Redford Barracks on 27 June. Cadets from Lothian and Borders Battalion Army Cadet Force provided a stand with a Guard of Honour and a demonstration on the mobile climbing tower. Cadets from Glasgow & Lanarkshire Battalion and West Lowland Battalion, along with cadets from Highland Reserve Forces and Cadets Association battalions were invited to attend, to visit the stands and to

meet the Queen and have lunch. The Regimental Day was part of a larger programme which included the Regiment parading through Edinburgh, Perth and Glasgow. Glasgow and Lanarkshire and West Lowland Battalions were unable to take part in the Glasgow parade as they were at Camp but Lothian and Borders Battalion again provided a stand in Holyrood Park at the end of the Edinburgh parade.



Brigadier Mel Jameson, in his capacity as Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, visits the Pitlochry ACF Detachment



The Queen inspects SCOTS DG cadets from West Lowland Cadet Battalion



SCOTS DG cadets from Lothian and Borders Army Cadet Force provide an Honour Guard for Her Majesty the Queen

HMS Vengeance

by Lieutenant D Rich RN

HMS Vengeance was the last of the nuclear powered Vanguard class Trident Ballistic Missile Submarines, or “Bombers”, to be built and she is tasked with maintaining the United Kingdom’s independent strategic nuclear deterrent. This task keeps her exceptionally busy all year round; in the last year alone Vengeance has undertaken 3 deterrent patrols, extensive periods of sea training and tested out some of the Royal Navy’s latest equipment.

In order to help maximise this year-round availability she has two separate crews, Port and Starboard. This allows her to be at sea as much as possible, while still allowing for her Crews to catch up on leave, courses and adventurous training. In total Vengeance has spent 8 of the last 12 months at sea and throughout most of this she has been dived, under radio silence and with the crew receiving only a weekly 120 word message from their family to keep them up to date with life at home.

Nonetheless, the two Ship’s crews have still managed to fit in a lot whilst they haven’t been at sea. There was a healthy representation at the annual Royal Navy Ski Championships in Meribel, where a number of medals were won and Able Seaman Mitchell went on the represent the Navy at snowboarding at the subsequent Inter-Services Competition. Then just before Christmas, officers and sailors from Vengeance’s Starboard Crew paid a visit to Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, her affiliated town. Whilst there the Ship’s Company took the opportunity to visit some of the Submarine’s friends and affiliates and presented over £1000, raised by the two crews, to local charities and good causes.

Back at sea, Vengeance had the opportunity over the summer to conduct a test firing of some Spearfish torpedoes. Always an exciting prospect, these firings took place in unusually good weather off the Hebrides. Spearfish is one of the most advanced torpedoes in the world today and would be used by Vengeance to defend herself against enemy surface ships and submarines. As a result she is periodically required to help verify the effectiveness of this system. The firings ultimately proved successful, and following further training at sea, Vengeance was given a solid tick in the box to proceed to sea for a Deterrent Patrol.

Once she returned from Patrol, and following a period of maintenance alongside in Faslane, Vengeance spent the run up to Christmas proving the Royal Navy’s new electronic navigation system: WECDIS. As the first



HMS Vengeance at sea

“Bomber” to receive the fit she had to undergo a series of trials before being accredited as safe to navigate with the new system. Following this successful accreditation, Vengeance sailed on her latest Deterrent Patrol with the Starboard Crew as the most up-to-date Trident Submarine in the Royal Navy.

Soon after Vengeance left for this recent Patrol, the Port Crew began the mandatory period of rigorous training and preparation for her return. The control room team spent weeks in Veracity, a simulator replicating the operations centre, or where the submarine fights from. Meanwhile her marine engineers were being put through their paces in the manoeuvring room simulator, from where the nuclear reactor and other submarine systems are controlled around the clock. The pace of training proved to be relentless and after a number of assessments and a brief period of leave, the Port Crew now await the return of Vengeance so that they may take over as the “On Crew” and prepare to sail on the forthcoming Deterrent Patrol.



MAGAZINE SECTION

A View from the Royal Household

by *Charlie MacDermot-Roe, SCOTS DG 1997-2006*

Just before I hung up my grey beret for the last time in October 2006, my Chief of Staff attempted to persuade me to withdraw my resignation and maintain my relentless trajectory towards future Chief of the General Staff. To the relief of most, I declined this generous offer, as, whilst flattered, I was neither convinced by his expectations of my career, nor attracted by the proposed job working in a G1 (manning and discipline) job in Glasgow. I have absolutely no doubt that the Glasgow post was worthy and interesting, but it was not something towards which I had any particular aspiration at that time. It is therefore rather ironic that I now find myself acting as a sort of G1 staff officer in the Royal Household.

Clearly, one of the things one misses most about leaving Regimental Duty is one's friends and the camaraderie and banter between all ranks. When the last of my kit was handed back to the Quartermaster, and I drove out the barracks gates as a 'civvy' with an uncertain future, I was not to know that a few short years later I would be serving alongside both serving and retired members of the Regiment once again. Nor indeed could I have imagined that I would be working alongside them in the Colonel of the Regiment's 'head office'.

As many of you will know, the SCOTS DG have recently made their presence felt in the Royal

Household. The appointments of Major Will MacKinlay, as Equerry to HRH The Prince of Wales, and of WO1 Derek Potter, as the Sovereign's Piper, have established the Regiment in both high profile and visible roles at all manner of official, private and State occasions. I am fortunate enough to see Will on the odd occasion when he is not gallivanting around the world, and whilst I see less of 'Pipes Potter' (as he is known here) I usually hear him play every morning at Buckingham Palace when The Queen is in residence. One has to have a certain amount of sympathy for Mr Potter too as, whilst at Balmoral, one of his duties is to teach the uninitiated the delights of Scottish country dancing and the intricacies of the Pas de Basque. I suspect that secretly it is one the highlights of his post.

Behind the scenes, and keeping the home fires burning, are the retired members of the Regiment. I am in Buckingham Palace and the former Drum Major, Stuart Orr, is at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. Based with the HR team in Buckingham Palace, one particular advantage of my post is that I am occasionally required to travel to Palace of Holyroodhouse for work. More often than not, this provides an excellent opportunity to catch up with Drummy Orr and 'swing the lantern'. We discuss the 'good old days' and relive all the scrapes troop leaders



HRH The Prince of Wales visits camp Bastion, Afghanistan, with Major MacKinlay on his far left



WO1 Potter, the Sovereign's Piper, at Buckingham Palace

122 EAGLE AND CARBINE

got themselves into before being rescued by long suffering troop sergeants. This, of course, is only one memory of events. As many of you will know, Stuart Orr has maintained a close link with the Pipes and Drums, and caught up with a many familiar faces, last Summer, when the Regiment mounted Royal Guard.

Finally, and ensuring that the Regimental family is appropriately represented in all areas of the Royal Household, Captain Ralph Lucas's wife, Anna, works for the Royal Collection in St James Palace.

One particular advantage of working at Buckingham Palace is that one sporadically 'comes by' snippets of useful information. For example, when Colonel Felix was handing over command to Colonel Johnny and both were presented to Her Majesty with Brigadier Mel, jungle drums ensured that Pipes Potter and I were

able to catch up on who was doing what, where and when. As those on ERE will know only too well, it does not take very long to become ignorant of day to day events in Fallingbostel, and the opportunity to have a bit of a catch up is not one to be missed.

Whilst the general perception is that the primary military representation within the Royal Household is of the blue-red-blue variety, I can assure you that this is not the case. Indeed, the Vandyke is very much alive and well. Who knows, with such Regimental ambassadors as ourselves (!), and the exemplary performance of the Royal Guard at Holyroodhouse over the summer, we may yet see the Pipes and Drums lead a Squadron to mount Guard outside Buckingham Palace some day soon.



Soldier's Return

By Major TP Spenlove-Brown

Planning started in January 2009 for a series of events in Scotland, with the aim of celebrating the successful return of the serving Regiment from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We also wanted to raise the profile of the Regiment in Scotland and take advantage of the prevailing economic conditions to recruit and achieve full manning. The main events centred on Royal Week in Edinburgh, with a detachment guarding Her Majesty at the Palace of Holyrood House during her official stay in Scotland. We also planned a Royal Reception for our Colonel in Chief and three regimental marches through Edinburgh, Perth and Glasgow. Further to this we planned to rededicate the Regimental memorial in Princes Street gardens and hold an officers' ball in Prestonfield House Hotel.

Preparations began in Fallingbostel with a planning team under Major Spenlove-Brown concentrating on a multitude of detail and coordination with local councils, bands, caterers and palace officials. Captain Paton was appointed 'Our Man in Scotland' and went to work full-time, representing our interests in Edinburgh. Redford Cavalry Barracks, our old barracks and built for the Greys in 1914, was chosen as the location for the Royal Reception. Our initial task was preparing 130 soldiers for drill, but the main problem we faced was uniforms. New blues had been demanded, however finding enough soldiers to fit into them proved the real problem. Over half the Regiment was away on career courses, the reality of recently returning from an operational tour. Our regimental tailor worked tirelessly. Each pair of trousers needed its

stripes sewn on, not to mention the buttons, badges of rank, chainmail, etc. Meanwhile Staff Sergeant Dougal began drill parades every afternoon, ably assisted by a Drill Sergeant from the Scots Guards. He arrived in May and drilled us over an intense week on the Regimental Square with the RSM ensuring that the required soldiers were released from duties every afternoon. Happily our efforts at drill impressed our friend from the Scots Guards and we finished with a full dress rehearsal parade in front of the Commanding Officer.

On 17 June, 164 officers and soldiers departed Fallingbostel and headed for Edinburgh. We spent the next six days rehearsing on Redford Cavalry Barracks parade square and transforming the aging transit camp into a SCOTS DG barracks. The Quartermaster and his team worked round the clock painting, scrubbing and cleaning. The main parade during Royal Week is the Ceremony of the Keys, which consists of a guard of 102 men, a standard party, and a military band with the Pipes and Drums. The ceremony welcomes Her Majesty to the City of Edinburgh and is the first event in Royal Week. During the parade, The Lord Provost presents Her Majesty the key to the city of Edinburgh. We worked incredibly hard to practise the parade format, and were inspected on the dress rehearsal by GOC 2 Division, Major General Mackay who was particularly impressed with our performance. The day of the parade went without fault. The Queen was on good form and enjoyed seeing her Regiment on parade. We then mounted guard in Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyrood House where our duties lasted for eight days.

Saturday 27 June saw the first Armed Forces Day across Britain, and we were honoured to host our Colonel-in-Chief at Redford Barracks. The drizzle and cold wind did little to dampen our spirits and Her Majesty arrived at Redford to a Royal salute from the Quarter Guard commanded by Captain Anderson. Met by the Commanding Officer and Colonel Mel, she then inspected the Royal Company of Archers Guard formed from retired officers and commanded by Major Alex Trotter. This led her onto the equipment display where she spoke to soldiers recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan. Her Majesty met SCOTS DG wives and the wider regimental family comprising association members, affiliated cadets, Lothian and Borders Police, Home Headquarters and representatives from locally affiliated units HMS Vengeance and 43 Squadron RAF.

The reception was held in a marquee at the back of the Officers' Mess where 380 officers and ex-officers, soldiers, association members and their families met the Queen in groups of ten. Her Majesty enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces and took time to talk to everyone. The Colonel-in-Chief presented Troopers Spence and Dalglish with Operational Service Medals and Christian Pol Roger and Major Toward with the Duke of Kent Medal. She also surprised Colonel Mel, by presenting him with his silver eagle and Sarah Jameson with a gold cipher brooch as a thank you from the Regiment for their loyal service. The Colonel of the Regiment gave a short speech thanking Her Majesty and presented her with a Wellingtonia tree on behalf of the Regiment. We all then retired to the Mess for a delicious lunch and an officers' photograph, after which the Queen departed. We were lucky enough to make the front page of the Daily Telegraph the next day with a wonderfully jovial picture of the Queen enjoying a joke with her officers on Armed Forces Day.



Major Spenlove-Brown, the Colonel-in-Chief and GOC 2 Division

Later on that afternoon, 50 of us marched down the Mound as part of combined parade for Armed Forces Day in Scotland organised by Brigadier Allfrey. The crowds were enormous and the soldiers enjoyed the attention from the public and were very proud to have the opportunity to march. The Pipes and Drums played for a 'Tea Party' in Princes Street Gardens later that evening.

The next morning, having assembled in Princes Street Gardens at the Regimental (Greys) Memorial, with a Lance Guard, soldiers in blues and the officers and Association, Padre Macaulay performed a very moving service to commemorate six officers and soldiers who have fallen in service since 1945. Wreaths were laid and a bronze tablet was unveiled bearing their names. Lunch was held afterwards in the New Club, where Major General Charles Ramsay and his son, Captain Will Ramsay, presented a copy of 'Grey Lady' by Sir



Ceremony of the Keys

124 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Captain and Paula Anderson after the Ceremony of the Keys

Alfred Munnings to the Officers' Mess. It is a stunning picture and we are indebted to the Ramsay family for their generosity.

With the weekend's extravaganza over, we continued to mount guard at Holyrood House and Edinburgh Castle with 40 officers and soldiers on guard at any one time. We were supported by two military bands and our own regimental Pipes and Drums, who played at the mount and dismount every morning and evening. Four officers from the guard were lucky enough to be invited to dine with Her Majesty at Holyrood throughout the week. It was a special occasion and one we very much enjoyed.

During Royal Week, the Officers' Mess ran an educational and professional development week. This 'Officers' Week' followed three themes, education and culture, professional development and challenging outdoor pursuits. The highlight took place at Drumfork, near Blairgowrie, with the Jameson family entertaining the Mess in style and a full account of Officers' Week can be found in a separate article. Part of the week also included a lavish Mess dinner in the New Club to bid a sad farewell to Colonel Mel on his relinquishing his position as Colonel of the Regiment. It was a great evening with everyone in blues, and enjoying the talents of the New Club chefs. The celebrations continued long into the night, with many George Street bars and clubs boasting some very dapper men in uniform!

Prestonfield House Hotel hosted an excellent Officers' Ball on Friday 3rd of July. 175 guests attended and as usual the hotel produced immaculate service, wonderful food and plenty of refreshments.

In the morning sunshine on the 4th of July, the Regiment exercised its freedom of the city and marched through Edinburgh. At 11 o'clock, with bayonets fixed and the Standard flying, we stepped off from the Castle Esplanade to huge applause from the assembled crowd. Marching downhill on cobblestones is not easy with spurs; the infantry prefer to march up the Royal Mile, which is much harder work. Our tank, which had caused huge issues with the local council, joined the parade at the Mound and drove down to the City Chambers. The saluting dais was opposite the City Chambers and the Lord Provost took the salute, accompanied by Colonel Mel and the Commanding Officer. We were accompanied by officers and soldiers in desert combats and a wonderful turn out from the Edinburgh Association. After a lengthy march, we were honoured to be allowed to march into the courtyard of Holyrood House, to fall out the parade. The Lord Provost then hosted all ranks for a buffet lunch in the City Chambers. It is a beautiful setting and has some of the most magnificent views over Edinburgh.

Our march in Perth on the 7th of July was not a regimental parade, but a joint parade with local units under the banner of Armed Forces Day. We did, however, outnumber every other contingent by about 30 to 1. We do not have the freedom of Perth so marched without weapons or our Standard. Our own association members were joined by the Black Watch Association, and they then marched, together, with us through the crowded streets. Everyone in Perth turned out to cheer us on, with the salute taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, otherwise known as Brigadier Mel Jameson. Later that evening we performed a beating to quarters and were hosted by the Provost of Perth at the Perth Concert Hall.

Our final march was in Glasgow on the 10th of July and it was a beautiful, sunny day as we marched onto George Square. Over 100 soldiers, 2 horses, a Scimitar recce vehicle and a Challenger 2 tank marched passed the saluting dais in front of City Chambers, with the Deputy Provost of Glasgow taking the salute. The Glasgow Association turned out in great numbers on the march, with over 30 present on parade. After the parade, we were joined by the Secretary of State for Scotland, who addressed the soldiers and spectators from the top of a tank in the middle of George Square.

Soldiers' Return finished in Glasgow with Colonel Mel leaving the City Chambers, signifying his departure as Colonel of the Regiment. Everyone lined the route and applauded him to his waiting car. A fitting end to a great career and a marvellous set of events in Scotland.

A Day in the Life of a Royal Guard Commander

by *Lieutenant RHG Anderson*

In July 2009, the Regiment provided a Royal Guard for Her Majesty the Queen in Edinburgh. Commanded by Major Spenlove-Brown and with Captain Anderson as the Second-in-Command, the Guard welcomed Her Majesty to the Palace of Holyrood House with the traditional 'Ceremony of the Keys'. The Guard, predominantly made up of members of A Squadron, was subsequently split in order to cover its responsibilities. Messrs Anderson and Densham commanded the Holyrood contingents whilst Messrs Ballard-Whyte and Strijdom commanded the contingents at Edinburgh Castle.

A day on Royal Guard would begin with an early breakfast at Redford Cavalry Barracks, followed by a first parade in order to ensure that each member had brought the necessary uniform and equipment. The Guard Sergeants included Sergeants Chart, Gowland, Mathews and Stewart, who always ensured that each man was present and not lost in Edinburgh. Once this had been confirmed, rifles and bayonets were drawn from the armoury and the Guard boarded the coaches.

The Guard at Holyrood mounted at eight o'clock each day. They were led into the grounds by the Pipes and Drums as Her Majesty had stated in advance that she wished to hear the band first thing in the morning. The Guard then mounted within view of her bedroom window so that she was able to watch the new sentries being posted for that day. An hour later at Edinburgh Castle, the tourists were treated to another Guard Mount. This took place to the music of the bands of the Royal Regiment of Scotland and the Light Cavalry.

The day-to-day business of the Guard in each location was very similar. Once sentries had been posted, and the Guard Commander had continued the tradition of ensuring that there were no deserters, the onus was on the Troop Leader and Troop Sergeant to ensure that each member of the Guard carried out their sentry duty

to the highest standard. It was also important to watch that nobody was suffering too much from the heat – an unusual but most welcome treat in Edinburgh.

The peculiarities of each Guard also very quickly became apparent. At the Palace, the Guard in the rear sentry box had to tread carefully when taking his post. This was to avoid kicking up too much dust from the gravel path leading up to it. This was particularly important as the Queen often took impromptu strolls through the garden and she has a keen eye for the state of uniforms. The Palace Guard were also expected to 'Turn Out' and 'Present Arms', whenever a member of the Royal Family left or returned to Holyrood. The Guard at the Castle received much more attention from tourists during their duty and will now be in many photograph albums around the world. Indeed, some tourists were so impressed by the uniform and bearing of the Guard that they often slipped contact details and invitations to parties into their pockets.

Edinburgh Castle closes at six o'clock every evening and with this came the end of the day's duties for the Guard. After performing the dismount they would board the coach back to Redford Barracks. The Palace Guard ended a little later each night at ten o'clock. Her Majesty would always finish at dinner in time to watch the Guard dismount and gave her undivided attention to the procedure, in which she was an expert. Her Majesty kindly hosted each of the Guard Commanders to dinner and expressed a keen interest in the Regiment and in its members.

Once the Royal Guard duty had been completed for the day, it was back to administration in barracks. Frantic scenes of drill and kit preparation would ensue and, of course, occasionally answering a party invitation.

Exercise Home Eagle, 29th June to 5th July

by *Captain OMB Berry RAMC*

Exercise Home Eagle, or Officers' Week as it quickly became known, was devised by Major Cattermole, who put together a varied and interesting programme to provide educational and professional development to officers serving at Regimental Duty. Sadly he was not able to attend due to his pre-deployment training commitments for his forthcoming tour of Afghanistan

The Regiment could not have chosen a warmer week to deploy the officers. Scotland was basking in temperatures in the high twenties with a high of 33 degrees Celsius recorded. However, the first weekend of Exercise Home Eagle was the exception and when the Colonel-in-Chief inspected the Regiment, it was raining. This did not dampen spirits, however, and it

126 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Officers' Week on the steps of Drumfork

was a truly memorable day with a Challenger 2 and a CVR(T) Scimitar lined up on the parade square at Redford Cavalry Barracks. There were displays of other equipment used recently on operations and the Regiment was joined by affiliated ACF's alongside 111 Sqn RAF from Leuchars. The Colonel-in-Chief was accompanied by the Royal Company of Archers, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and the Colonel of the Regiment. Following the displays, we were treated to a drinks reception and the Colonel-in-Chief lunched with members of the Regiment and their families. This occasion coincided with Armed Forces Day and several of the officers represented the Regiment on parade in Edinburgh's city centre.

Sunday saw many members of the Association and their families, as well as officers of the Regiment, gather for a service at the Greys Memorial, in Princes Street Gardens, for the dedication of plaques in memory of, amongst others, Corporal Gordon Pritchard and Lieutenant Dicky Palmer. It was a special occasion with some hearty singing and a very moving sermon.

After an exhilarating start to Officers' Week, Monday morning saw the commencement of the 'educational' portion of the programme. There are many aspects to the modern officer's education and it would be fair to say that all areas were covered. We spent a very enjoyable morning with Sir Tam Dalyell at the House of the Binns in Linlithgow. After a minor delay to proceedings, as the Commanding Officer and Operations Officer, took a scenic detour, we all gathered for tea and cakes. What followed was a fascinating tour and talk from Sir Tam, and his wife Kathleen, on the history of the house and the part the Dalyell family had played in the formation of the Royal Scots Greys.

With a tightly packed programme, it was onwards to Brigadier Allfrey's house for lunch and a talk regarding the part 51 (Scottish) Brigade plays within Scotland. This was given on his front lawn which enjoys spectacular views over the Forth River valley, Stirling and beyond to the Ochil hills. We were also given a very informative talk from Strathclyde Police on their relationship with the Army in Scotland and

some of their initiatives in the more colourful areas of Glasgow. This was rounded off with an insight into Army recruiting within Scotland. Fiona Allfrey spoilt us with a delicious lunch which many enjoyed basking in the glorious sun.

Tuesday saw the officers back in Edinburgh. The designated drivers found themselves negotiating the miserable traffic within the city centre as the roads were dug up for the tram works. If you were not caught out by yet another road closure then you were certain to be ensnared by one of the army of traffic wardens that patrol the streets. After some informative talks from the RST at Redford Barracks, the Army Careers Information Office and a parking ticket or two, it was up to the Castle. Here we were educated on the workings of Home Headquarters and the Regimental Trust by Roger Binks and Colin Mitchell-Rose. We were also privileged to be shown around the Scottish National War Memorial by Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Ian Shepherd. This is a beautiful building, perched almost directly on top of the rock where the castle stands, and is an incredibly moving place to be. It was designed in 1927 by Robert Lorimer in conjunction with many other Scottish artists and records all those that have fallen whilst serving their country, from the First World War to present day Operations in Afghanistan. We were also shown around the Scottish National War Museum by Mr Stuart Allen, a free museum which records over 400 years of Scottish military history and which is well worth a visit.

With no rest for the wicked it was onwards and upwards to Perthshire and Drumfork to begin the 'challenge' part of Officers' Week. The Adjutant and his wife Frippy kindly hosted an absolutely fantastic event. The evening

started with a thought-provoking discussion on counter terrorism, led by Max Taylor, a Professor from the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews. It was then onto the lawns of Drumfork for drinks in the evening sun before dinner. Under the stars of a glorious Perthshire sky the officers enjoyed al fresco dining with a delicious hog roast, followed by much whisky-fuelled tomfoolery. The newly arrived Jamesons' au pair was a highlight for many of the young subbies.

We awoke early on Wednesday (well, most of us anyway), eagerly anticipating the challenges that lay ahead. Bacon butties and pots of coffee were vital after the excesses of the night before. However, there was little some could do to ease the pain of the belting sunshine that awaited us. With teams allocated we set off, first to the clay pigeon shoot. There were some notable exceptions but clearly the previous night's events had affected the majority in terms of accuracy and the forecast orange haze of clay dust did not materialize. A dip in a chilly loch was welcome, as temperatures climbed into the low thirties, and definitely refreshed a few flagging competitors. However, the ascent of Mount Blair was to prove the real test. Mount Blair, at 744 metres, sits just to the north of Drumfork and with no clearly marked path it soon became a very competitive event. There were a few stragglers but almost everyone made it to the top. The summit party made the most of the gentle breeze to cool down and take a few snaps of the stark panorama. Nobody managed to spot the Detachment Commander though. Fortunately the descent was a little quicker and many chose to take a refreshing dip in the loch, which provided interesting views of its own, before heading back to the house for the final golf chipping challenge and a very welcome cold beer.

The Mount Blair summit party



128 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Wednesday evening saw us regroup back at the New Club in Edinburgh for drinks on the balcony, with stunning views over the castle and an evening to dine out the Colonel of the Regiment. Prior to this was an inspirational talk from Sir Tom Farmer, most renowned as the founder of Kwikfit. He spoke with such enthusiasm and passion about his life's work; it was a great start to a fantastic evening. Dinner was delicious and it was a fitting celebration in recognition of all that Colonel Mel has done for the Regiment during his many years of service.

On Thursday morning the Officers found themselves at Lothian and Borders Police Headquarters at Fettes, thankfully due to a prior appointment with our affiliated police force. We were welcomed by Deputy Chief Constable Tom Halpin and Superintendent Brian Muir before receiving a number of interesting and informative briefs on the structure and functional aspects of Lothian and Borders Police, and specifically an overview of counter-terrorism in Scotland from a Police perspective. Following this we split into two groups and went out to two separate police stations at Wester Hailes and Corstorphine to gain an insight into policing at the operational level. It was enlightening to hear first-hand some of the challenges that the police face on a daily basis. For those who went to Corstorphine, we were able to meet an armed response unit and have a look at some of the firearms and equipment that they use.

Following Lothian and Borders Police we headed out of Edinburgh to Glencorse where we visited the Army Development and Selection Centre and 2 SCOTS. Here Lieutenant Colonel Raitt gave us an overview of the selection process which soldiers undertake. We then headed over to 2 SCOTS to receive a brief from OC B Company, Major Nick Abram, who had commanded

his Mastiff company around Musa Qala during Op HERRICK 8. This was an incredibly interesting and informative brief with information that will no doubt prove useful for the Regiment's forthcoming deployment to Afghanistan. In the evening, a number of the officers were hosted in the 2 SCOTS Officers' Mess for a delicious dinner before heading into town to sample some of the nightlife.

As the end of the week approached we had one final part of our education to complete with a trip to the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood. Sadly we were not able to meet any of the MSPs as they were on recess. Friday evening saw the Regimental Ball, held at the Prestonfield House Hotel. This was a fantastic occasion and marked the Regiment's return to Scotland in style. On Saturday morning the Regiment formed up on the Esplanade at Edinburgh Castle, with the officers marching in desert combats, as we exercised our freedom to march for the first time since 1978. It was an memorable occasion, with cheering crowds lining the length of the Royal Mile to watch the formation, which included the Pipes and Drums, a Challenger 2 and a CVR(T) Scimitar, march past to Holyroodhouse Palace.

The Finale of Officers' Week was a Regimental polo match and picnic held at Scone polo ground. This coincided with the BASC Game Fair so there was plenty of entertainment throughout the day. Once again we were blessed with glorious weather to watch the match, which saw Perth and Dundee Polo Club seal a convincing victory to win the SCOTS DG cup. Nonetheless, it was a fantastic day to round off a thoroughly enjoyable week.

Padres Macaulay's Address at the Rededication of the Regimental Memorial in Princes Street Gardens

The last time that I was here by this memorial to the dead of our Regiment was two years ago. I was in Edinburgh for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and I arranged to come down to the Greys Memorial with another Chaplain because he claimed that he had never seen it. When we got here, he realised that he had walked past this memorial for years without realising what it was. To him, it was just a statue of a man and a horse. And at one level that is true. That is what it is, the statue of a Scots Greys soldier on his horse; the model for the statue, as you will all know,

was Sergeant Major Anthony Hinnigan and his horse, Polly.

In 1906, when this memorial was unveiled, the horse was an universal sight in Edinburgh and Scotland. Even then though, the bond between a cavalryman and his horse was special. The soldier cared for his mount before himself. He made sure his horse was fed and watered, and his horse carried him safely come what may. Each relied on the other. The crowds who gathered for the unveiling would have been struck by

the majesty of the image before them: an image which spoke of the bond between horse and rider, an image which spoke of strength, steadfastness, loyalty, courage and determination. Today, in a city where the horse is rarely seen, this image is still powerful and the values and strengths that it speaks of are still real, still needed.

It is a long time since the Regiment last fought from horseback but those who fight in armoured vehicles still need, and still display the same values, the same strengths that our forebears did. Living, working and fighting together, whether it is in a Centurion, a Chieftain, a Challenger or a Scimitar make for close bonds of friendship, of loyalty. A tank crew needs each other; they support each other, look out for each other. And even when we operate in another role, the bonds of loyalty, comradeship and friendship that exist in an armoured regiment are hard to beat.

For those of us in the know, this memorial is far, far more than a statue of a man and his horse. It is a symbol of the sacrifice, the duty, the loyalty and the love that has been shown by the men of this regiment down through the years.

Almost 103 years ago, this memorial was unveiled to commemorate those who lost their lives in the South African War. Even then our regiment was old and illustrious. The names of those who fell in the Crimea, at Waterloo, in Spain and in all the actions fought in the years before then are not here, but it is their memorial

as well. Since 1906, many more names have been added to it as our regiment has served the nation in conflict after conflict. Today six more names join their brothers. As we remember them, we remember all who have gone before them.

On the day that this memorial was unveiled, the Earl of Rosebery, speaking about those who had died in the South African campaign said:

“Honour... the unreturning brave, the brave who will return no more. We shall not see their faces again. In the service of their sovereign and their country they have undergone the sharpness of death, and sleep their eternal sleep... Their places, their comrades... will know them no more, for they will never return to us as we knew them. But in a nobler and higher sense, have they not returned to us today? They return to us with a message of duty, of courage, of patriotism. They return to us with the inspiration of example. Peace, then, to their dust. Honour to their memory. Scotland for ever!”

Those we remember today: John Walker, Ian Caie, Donald Davies, Anthony Sutton, Gordon Pritchard and Richard Palmer bring us that same message. They give us the same inspiration. Through our lives and our service may we honour them. And may they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

A Night at the Brit Awards

by Major AH Benson-Blair

In 2007, an unlikely headline appeared in the national press: “Royal Scots Dragoon Guards win £1m record deal.” At first it looked like an April Fool’s trick but the date was wrong and the headline was genuine. A

few months later, the first album was released. While our Pipes and Drums have had major chart hits in the past, most notably with *Amazing Grace* in 1971, we were not sure how this latest album would sell even



Corporal Bruce playing Amazing Grace



Major Benson-Blair giving his speech

130 EAGLE AND CARBINE

with the full force of the Decca record company's PR machine behind it. To our great joy the album made it to number one, stayed there for several weeks and was then nominated for a Classical Brit Award. Although pipped at the post for the award, everyone within the Regiment was delighted, not because we had been narrowly beaten but because we had produced a chart topping album which was being compared favourably with the best artists in the business. It was incredible.

The second album was produced shortly afterwards. Few of us expected it to do as well as the original as we felt the novelty of the Pipes and Drums might have diminished. Sales figures backed this up, to some extent, although they were still sufficient to see the album nominated for a Brit award as 'Classical Album of the Year'. Of course we wanted to do well however, when the other nominations came to light, any hope of success started evaporating quickly. We were up against the likes of Andrea Bocelli, Mike Oldfield, Katherine Jenkins and The Priests. How could we compete?

In order to have any chance of winning we needed votes, and lots of them. By making use of Facebook, Twitter, Beebo and other social networking internet sites, we established huge support from within the Regiment, the Armed Forces, from families and their



Myleen Klass and Corporal Bruce

friends. We still needed a huge vote from the public if we were to be in with any chance of winning but there was little more we could do to influence this. Voting closed on 1st May and it quickly became clear that final numbers were very close and, rather surprisingly, we were in with a very good chance of winning.

The Brit Awards were held on 14th May in the Albert Hall. Sadly only three of us could attend due to the rest of the band being committed to the Royal Windsor Tattoo. The evening commenced with us being taken into the depths of the Royal Albert Hall where we



Recording the album in Basra

would find our changing room. Once changed, we were whisked down to the tradesman's entrance where we were transferred by Mercedes to the front of the concert hall to make our 'Red Carpet Arrival'. In front of us were the Priests and a wall of journalists waiting to take their photos and grab their stories. Press attention then turned to us and suddenly the whole experience, already only faintly believable, became utterly surreal.

Having passed through the press we were shown to our tables in the centre of the auditorium where a wonderful dinner was served and the award ceremony started in earnest. The Album of the Year category was last to be announced by which time nerves were frayed. As they read through the nominations, the enormity of winning became abundantly clear. The Priests had sung earlier in the show to rapturous applause and we genuinely felt that they were the likely winners. As Simon Bates read out the result we stood aghast. It took a short while for us to collect our hats and instruments and to walk to the stage and then something else dawned. All of the previous winners that evening had been given huge applause but no standing ovations. As we reached the stage the crowd were on their feet. What dawned on us was that we had won the award not just for the quality of the album, but perhaps also due to a vote of support by the general public for the wider Armed Forces. Given the way a soldier in uniform might have been treated, on the streets of Britain, just a couple of years before, this was truly remarkable.

It was then time to make the speech before a verse of Amazing Grace:

"There are four thank yous that I wish to make. The first three are to Tom Lewis, Jon Cohen and to everyone

at Decca Records. Without their help and support this album would never have been possible.

Before I move onto the fourth thank you, I would just ask everyone, if you don't mind, to picture the following: A young man, aged 19, on his very first operational tour. He is just about to go out on a patrol having been briefed that the likelihood of making contact with the enemy isn't likely but certain. He is very nervous. So what is it that makes this man leave the relative safety of his base and conduct the patrol with the utmost professionalism?

Is it the confidence he has forged from his highly professional training? Confidence in his equipment? Is it his sense of duty and honour?

Without doubt it is all of the above but another driving factor is knowing that he, as a soldier, has the keen support of the public back home. Whilst tonight's award is focused on our album, I know that everyone in the Armed Forces will also see each vote as a vote of support for everything we do. And so, from every soldier, sailor and airman I would like to say a huge and genuinely heartfelt thank you to each and every person who voted for the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. Thank you very much."

As soon as the speech and Amazing Grace were finished, we were whisked away for another press call and the 'after show' party. After an impeccably hosted evening, and in the first light of day, we wondered where fortune might take the band in the future.

OPERATION HERRICK 10

By Major Bj Cattermole

On the thin plyboard wall of the Company Commanders' office in Kandahar are pinned four black and white portraits. Ostensibly, these seem to constitute a vain attempt by the British to show some form of multinational awareness, as the photographs of the Dutchman, the Australian and Englishman carry the same subtitle: "This man is your friend. He fights for freedom." The fourth picture, however, shows a Scottish soldier, complete with outside tam o'shanter, edited by some stalwart of anti-sentimentality who had daubed in a red hackle, erased a tooth or two and stuck an alternative inscription over the text: "This man isn't your friend. He fights everybody." To infer too much from this montage would be academic, and a little boring – although I note with interest that it



The author second from left

132 EAGLE AND CARBINE

was an infantryman who had misplaced the apostrophe. But it was with these infantrymen that I had the good fortune to serve in summer 2009.

There is, of course, no greater reward than to deploy with one's own squadron or regiment on operations. Having worked with rear party during the deployments of 2008 and with the next deployment not until 2011, this was not going to happen. So, while regretting leaving behind my family and the soldiers of my squadron, there was little doubt when asked whether I would like to spend three to four months with Jackal Group of the Regional Battlegroup (South) in Afghanistan. All too often, officers are 'trawled' to join an operational headquarters, exchanging the challenges of command for the essential, but far less fun purgatory of hours glued to computer screens, where statistics, strap lines and staffwork are served, and process rather than outcome become all-consuming. To be offered the opportunity to command soldiers, without having been through the mill of pre-deployment training, is rare in the extreme and not something to be passed up. Of course, even in Fallingbowl we had heard of the extensive early summer exploits of the battalion, but one is always healthily sceptical of media hyperbole. But little could have prepared me for the sheer breadth and success of their operations undertaken – and what they continued to achieve throughout their long seven month tour.

I was rightly nervous of what I was letting myself in for. After

all, I was not an infantryman, I had not been to Afghanistan and the media was, unsurprisingly, far from positive about our wider national and international efforts in Helmand. I was, however, reassured that the soldiers of D Squadron would be well led by the officers of the squadron, an excellent sergeant major and a team of high quality senior NCOs. Wading and crawling through the individual battle skills range in Hohne, regretting having not paid sufficient attention to my last real exposure to infantry training at Sandhurst some thirteen years previously, however, it all seemed a little surreal. Leaving the family behind, not because I had to, but because I wanted to; replacing tank ranges and radio training for ranges where the targets shoot back and lost communications can be fatal. One comfort was that my intended role was to be mounted in Jackal, a relatively new acquisition by the Army which offered superb off-road mobility and firepower. Visits to 3 Commando Brigade, who had put the Jackal to great effect over the winter, driver training on the dunes and beaches of north Devon and long hours spent reading back copies of the Infantryman reinvigorated my confidence a little. But there is little that one can do to prepare for taking command of soldiers half-way through a fraught and exhausting tour, soldiers who have been in the thick of combat, soldiers whom one does not know, soldiers with whom one hasn't trained and whose technical and tactical knowledge far exceeds one's own. Except to trust in them, since for all the gadgetry, newspaper headlines and bold political assertions that lay claim to the essence of modern soldiering, they are for naught without the people who make up our battalions and regiments.



Major Cattermole flying the D Squadron pennant in Afghanistan

Not so long ago, we concentrated our training on a recognisable enemy who fought us on relatively empty ground. But the enemy in Afghanistan is not so recognisable; he is, for the most part, one of the people among whom he lives and fights; and he fights us from beneath the ground with IEDs that are increasingly complex. And every time that the Black Watch Battalion has deployed, it is to areas where the threat from this unseen but all-seeing enemy is particularly high, deep into insurgent safe-havens. Many soldiers have rightly been formally recognised for their gallantry and courage, but this may belie the bravery of every single man and woman who sets foot outside the confines of Bastion or Kandahar. One cannot fix bayonets against a pressure pad, only keep patrolling day after day, trusting in one's drills and those of one's comrades. The degrading effect of this constant pressure, which knows no relent, must never be underestimated – and yet this is what the Jocks, alongside their colleagues from all nations, have stoically endured, never knowing when the enemy might choose his moment to strike. And when he does strike, the next level of courage kicks in: rushing to the aid of a friend critically injured by an IED, private soldiers risking the threat of secondary devices to bring vital life saving first aid.

Even in the darkest moments, when casualties have tragically been taken, humour is never far away. The doctor, busy treating the wounded, passes his rifle to the Jocks giving covering fire. “Did you use it?” he asks, after the event. “Aye, sir, just ten to twelve rounds, eh.” During the next lull, the doctor sets to cleaning his weapon, and is surprised at the amount of carbon and grime that was engrained into it. Needless to say, the opportunity to fire a weapon and not have to clean it had been to hard to resist, especially after actually firing ten to twelve magazines through it. But these same soldiers are not superhuman, they still share their personal grief, arms round shoulders, heads bowed as they listen to the Fijian choir sing words unknown, but which somehow mean so much.

They include the soldier who questioned my plea for him to take cover from fire that was coming in at all directions: “I am bullet-proof, sir, I am a corporal in the Black Watch”. This same questionable logic underpinned the exchange between another NCO and a rather large, rather scary special forces soldier. “So, what made you join the special forces?” asked the NCO – who wasn't very large. “Well, I was a sergeant in my own old unit, and enjoyed the operational side of things,” was the explanation. “Ah,” concluded the NCO, “so you're a sergeant in the special forces?” “No, I am only a private soldier in my new unit,” came the answer. A pause. “Well, pull your feet together when talking to a lance corporal in the Black Watch!” I am not sure which of these two NCOs was the braver – but

neither courage nor humour was ever in short supply. My lexicon has expanded considerably courtesy of incessant viewings of ‘The Inbetweeners’, the extensive repertoire of Will Ferrell and countless back copies of Zoo and Nuts. Far from the urbane ‘twittering’ of the literati who share their deep-founded wisdom in the pages of the broadsheets, these mindless trips of fancy were fundamental to pass the time between deployments when mindlessness becomes an end in itself.

Indeed, when I joined the battalion in late July, towards the end of Panchai Palang, I had time aplenty. The arrival in theatre of the 82nd Combined Aviation Brigade had given the battlegroup a massive uplift in the availability of helicopters – and understandably the focus was increasingly on aviation assault operations. The soldiers of Jackal Group were, therefore, required in their second role as dismounted fire support groups in the rifle companies. A week long foray down to Lashkar Gar, as a Jackal Group, seemed to put the concept of a mounted regional reserve capability back onto the planning table. So, when called down to Kandahar to plan for a battlegroup reconnaissance operation in the Sangin Valley, and having pored over the maps and consulted the various brigade troops who had travelled their before, I was confident that Jackal Group would be rolling again very soon, my squadron pennant fluttering in the dust-heavy wind.

Instead, there was no pennant – and the dust came not from the wind, but the down-draft of the Blackhawks and



Major Cattermole skulking

134 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Chinooks that carried the Jackal-less Jackal Group far from Kandahar, and me even further from my comfort zone as a tank commander. Unlike Staff College planning exercises, the faultlessness of one's logic and deductions would not win leather bound memoirs of venerated Generals; this time the logic was academic; the conclusions all critical. And mistakes would send young soldiers to join the long-dead Generals. The planning tools taught over many hours in anodyne classrooms in Wiltshire do, however, pay real dividends, enforcing strict deliberation and consideration of most eventualities. But it was the trust that I could place in the highly experienced soldiers of the company that won through. When at the eleventh hour, intelligence indicated that a key enemy leader was in a compound just 100m from where we were due to land, there were no questions. When I needed someone to break cover and recover an ANA section which had chosen to advance line abreast against an insurgent firing position, there were no questions. When spotters were needed to direct helicopter fire, there were no questions. And when sections deployed on patrol, having been contacted twice in just a few hours on the same ground that they were to cover again, there were no questions.

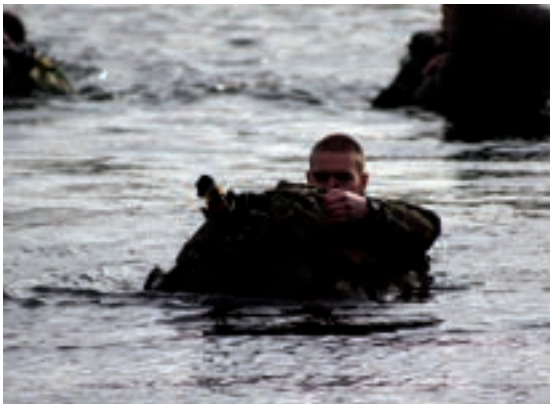
Now, in late October the plyboard walls are gradually being stripped down. The United Kingdom will no longer send a battalion to Kandahar to be the Regional Battlegroup (South); instead, British forces will be concentrated in Helmand Province. The luxury of having four or five spare Chinooks for a battlegroup assault, the intelligence available from having two or three UAVs dedicated to the operation, the firepower of teams of Apache and Kiowa helicopters at one's fingertips – all will disappear. But the individual memories will remain for years to come, of personal challenges overcome, of friendships forged, of soldiers killed and broken. I only hope that whoever occupies this building sees the same four portraits and reflects on what makes soldiers of the British Army such fearsome and capable contenders in battle, humorous and stoical, brave and dependable. I know that when our own soldiers deploy to Afghanistan in 2011, they will bring these same qualities to whatever roles and tasks they are tasked to perform.

CAMBRIAN PATROL 2009

by *Lieutenant BA McNeil*

The Regiment has not taken part in Exercise CAMBRIAN PATROL for as far back as the oldest minds currently in station can remember. Before this year's entry therefore, some research had to be undertaken into this dismantled infantry exercise over the Brecon Beacons. The exercise consists of a 50 kilometre patrol and a series of stands testing the patrol's low level infantry skills over a 48 hour period. It was not for the faint-hearted. The next question was where to find volunteers to undertake such a task and all the training

required to go with it? This proved not to be a problem as many were keen to get away from the tank park and test themselves in an arduous environment. Once that had been solved, and upon looking at a map of Fallingbostel, the surrounding area and even in the whole of Nieder Saxony, there was a difficulty in finding a slope let alone some hills to prepare for deepest, darkest south Wales. Oh, and with such a busy regimental calendar, the team had just 3 weeks to prepare.



Trooper Jarrett negotiating the river crossing.



Trooper Rokoduguni pleased to reach the far bank.



Trooper Davison displaying the state of his feet after travelling 50km through Brecon bog

None of these issues proved to be a problem whilst training the team under the tutelage of Sergeant Beveridge. A training plan was drawn up and an exercise constructed in order to simulate what was required throughout the patrol. 32 Engineer Regiment very kindly helped set up a river crossing to test the team's mettle whilst wading across a tank crossing on the Bergen-Höhne training area. Swimming 50 metres with all your equipment and your rifle fashioned into a floatation device whilst trying to maintain a degree of tactical security highlighted just how difficult this patrol would be. It also allowed Sergeant Beveridge, the team leader, to identify who could swim and who would sink in Brecon. Quite literally.

With training complete and in high spirits, the team set off from Fallingbostel to South Wales via Tidworth



Team cleaning rifles after the Patrol

in order to collect rifles from our recently departed German neighbours, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Still not knowing what to expect we gleaned information from Cambrian Patrol veterans we came across, providing some accurate, and some not quite so accurate, information. With this knowledge we ensured we were happy with our preparation and looked forward to what was ahead.

Upon arrival in Brecon, final preparations were underway and there was a quiet, focused atmosphere surrounding the team. The team had four support staff who went off to recce the drop off route, ensuring the team would set off on the best possible footing. Thankfully the famous Brecon weather was absent and the team set off on the patrol in quite pleasant conditions.

After Sergeant Beveridge had given a set of orders, and the rest of the patrol had performed a kit check, they set off on the 47km route encountering different scenarios en route. Stands included reaction to contact, prisoner handling, signals, a recce of an enemy position at night and of course the infamous river crossing. Despite having only three weeks training behind them, the team performed exceptionally well. This was due to a positive attitude which allowed them to compete with teams who had spent months preparing for the patrol. Their 'one step at a time' mindset meant the team could concentrate on what they were doing and not worry about what was coming next.

Trooper Shannon feeling the cold in training



136 EAGLE AND CARBINE

46 hours into the patrol, and in the dead of night, the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Cambrian Patrol ended with some exceptionally tired legs but with a great sense of achievement in completing such an arduous physical test.

A veil of secrecy surrounds the exercise itself and teams are not informed as to how well they have done until many hours later at the prize giving. Commander in Chief Land Forces and Director Royal Armoured Corps were on hand to hand out the prizes with Sergeant Beveridge and his team doing exceptionally well and receiving a bronze medal. No other RAC regiment performed better and indeed many infantry teams either withdrew or failed to win a medal, further emphasising the team's achievement.

Hopefully, pre-deployment training permitting, the Regiment will enter next year's Cambrian Patrol competition, in order to build upon this most promising of starts.

CAMBRIAN PATROL 2009 team:

Patrol Leader: Sgt Beveridge

2ic: LCpl Harley

Tpr Davison

Tpr Mostert

Tpr Barker

Tpr Rokoduguni

Tpr Mitchell

Tpr Jarrett

Support Staff:

Team manager: Lt McNeil

Drivers:

Tpr Kapawai

Tpr Tamani

Tpr Galloway

Tpr Shannon

Argentina Polo Tour

by Lieutenant NGB Woodhams

After leaving Sandhurst in August 2008, I was sent out on a three week trip to Basra which was quickly extended to four months. I decided that the suffering my social life was enduring would be best remedied by getting away on Sandhurst's Polo tour to Argentina. I produced a PowerPoint presentation, replete with sound effects and animation, advocating its benefits to the Regiment. Happily the Adjutant acquiesced, giving me the chance of a lifetime to fly to Buenos Aires whilst the rest of the Regiment dealt with moving back to a freezing Fallingbostal.

Hopping on the first plane out of Basra, and the first plane out of Hamburg, I arrived in a very sunny Buenos Aires to be greeted by a Dutchman called Paul. He looked anything but the stereotypical polo player I had imagined and we jumped into his pickup truck and rolled through the bustling metropolis to the town of Pilar. This is where all the large polo farms base themselves and it is rather strange to jump from the archetypal Argentina Gaucho town to what looked, with its manicured lawns and coiffured hedges, more like Surrey or Berkshire. I was greeted at our farm, Don Augusto, with a glass of Malbec and a



Team outing to the Palermo Polo stadium in Buenos Aires



The Final of the Argentine Open

discussion of the week's events. It turned out I would be the only one from Sandhurst and the rest of the team would be made up of the Army Ladies Squad. Could this trip get any better? Yes it could.

The week panned out perfectly. Every morning was dedicated to 'stick and ball' and in the afternoons we played four chukka matches. We were given ponies light years ahead of any I had ridden back in the UK, with Argentineans teaching us all the tricks. Inevitably standards shot up and it was joy to see how competitive the afternoon chukkas against local teams became. Suppers would last long into the night but a few minutes in the saddle was enough to knock any notions of a hangover out of you.

At that time of year the Argentinean Polo season is reaching its conclusion, the world famous Argentine Open. The tournament, at a stadium devoted to polo in the Palermo district of Buenos Aires, is the highest level you'll find anywhere in the world. The players take to the pitch for six chukkas rather than the regulation four and the final, which I had the privilege to watch, included only one player under a plus ten goal handicap. To put this into perspective, the highest handicapped player in the UK is only a plus five goaler.



The Army Ladies Polo team line up (fifty percent of whom are men)



Prize giving after the Argentina versus the Rest of the World match

The finalists this year were La Dolfina and Pilar and watching the grace, majesty and splendour of the teams as they battled it out was fantastic. They played shots from implausible angles and the ball was almost always off the ground. After the first chukka, I felt as if I was watching a hurling match on horses rather than the game we had been playing back at Don Augusto. The final finished with La Dolfina, captained by the famous Adolfo Cambiasso, as clear winners and the after match party went on long into the night.

When we made it back to Don Augusto everyone attacked the pitch with a renewed vigour and ended the week with an Argentina versus the Rest of the World match. This was fought competitively by the Rest of the World but the result went comfortably to the South Americans. After presentations and yet more Malbec, we spent our final night learning to tango, very badly, and were given what can only be described as half a cow to eat. I was stuffed and my whole body ached, but the last thing I wanted to do was get on a plane and leave a country full of passion and pride. However all good things must come to an end and playing polo in Argentina is a very good thing.



A Squadron Battlefield Tour of Berlin

by Lieutenant CPS Majcher

A squadron-level Battlefield tour to Berlin was first proposed at the beginning of 2009. In mid-November the project came to fruition and 60 of A Squadron's finest, augmented with a handful of assorted others, boarded coaches to the German capital.

Following a three hour journey, we reached the bright lights of Berlin and our hostel, where little time was wasted before setting out to discover Berlin's fabled nightlife.

Not long after most of the Squadron had returned from the previous evening's exertions, we were on the coaches and the battlefield tour was underway. Our first stop was the 1938 Olympic Stadium complex, an impressive structure which has witnessed a great deal of history. It was here that we were met by our tour guide Nigel Dunkley, a former Squadron Leader with the Regiment, who was responsible for the cerebral input to the tour.

Nigel has a wealth of experience, having served in Berlin during the 1980s and having spent time on both sides of the Wall during this period. His knowledge of the German capital is first class and he proved to be a hugely entertaining and informative guide.



A Squadron with Nigel Dunkley at the site of the Berlin Wall

The layout of Berlin is such that it is possible to visit a number of sights in quick succession. The Soviet Memorial, the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate and the site of the Berlin Wall are all within a stone's throw of one another. Spending time learning about the significance of each of these, you begin to realise how much suffering Berlin has witnessed over the past seventy years. Learning of the level of dev-



A Squadron at the Brandenburg gate

astation in Berlin in 1945, much of it inflicted by the RAF, and seeing photos from that time, was a shock to many of the younger soldiers and a timely reminder of the horrors of Total War. Nigel gave an excellent insight into the subsequent impact of the Cold War on Berlin, and the hardships and fear that many lived under in East Berlin. Many of us were already aware of the Berlin Wall and its significance, but Nigel was able to provide the younger members of the Squadron with an insight as to why the Regiment have been based in Germany since before many of them were born.

We spent the afternoon investigating the plot to kill Hitler at the old Wehrmacht High Command Building, the subject of the recent film 'Valkyrie'. Nigel was an historical advisor for the film and gave a detailed insight into the events leading up to the assassination attempt. From there, we moved onto the former SS Headquarters where we gained an insight into some of the quite horrendous techniques used by the SS during the war. The educational element of the day ended at Checkpoint Charlie. Rather disappointingly very little is left this most famous of landmarks, but Nigel yet again really brought the piece to life.

We all enjoyed a Squadron dinner that evening, with many heading out afterwards to enjoy a second night of Bacchanalian fun.

The next morning, the indefatigable Nigel took us to the site of Hitler's Command Bunker. There is nothing left of the bunker today and those expecting a walk through some murky tunnels were left disappointed. Our final stop was to the Allied Museum on the outskirts of Berlin which pays tribute to the sacrifices made by Allied Forces throughout the last century. This was a fitting farewell to Berlin and the Squadron returned to Fallingbommel having thoroughly enjoyed their time away. The aim of the exercise, to give an insight into the brutal and complex nature of urban warfare, and to provide an overview of the Cold War, was achieved.

A final note of thanks, on behalf of the entire Squadron, must go to Nigel Dunkley for his work towards this enterprise. Without his support the project would not have got off the ground and would not have been such a tremendous success.



Army Officer Selection Board

by Captain JG Stewart

For the past year, I have been posted as a Group Leader at the Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB) in Westbury, responsible for assessing and selecting po-

tential officers to continue onto Phase 1 training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS). AOSB replaced the Regular Commissions Board (RCB) and



Good preparation for exercise in Bergen-Höhne



You want me to do what..?

was primarily introduced due to the unification of both Regular and Territorial officer assessment and selection; we now have a Single Officer Selection Process. All Regular and Territorial Army officers now complete the same assessment and selection process (same tests / same programme), which is entirely appropriate as both types deploy side by side on operations.

The first step when seeking a commission is to attend the 24 hour interactive Briefing at Westbury. For many, this is the first encounter with anyone wearing 'green kit' and it is conducted in a relaxed manner. The aim of the Briefing is to introduce candidates to the various facets of the selection process at the Main Board, whilst allowing AOSB staff to advise and make an assessment on the best course of action for each individual before they return. It is an opportunity for candidates to become a little more familiar with the environment in which they will be tested. It also allows them to meet and ask questions of Army Officers with recent opera-

tional experience, and importantly mix with like minded individuals also considering a career in the Armed Forces.

The vast majority of candidates attending the Briefing proceed to the Main Board at some point in the future. Main Board is effectively the point at which we select those with the potential to go on to training at Sandhurst. The Main Board programme largely takes place from midday on Tuesday to Friday morning (a mid-week board), although we do also conduct weekend boards from Friday to Sunday. AOSB is commanded by a Brigadier, with assessment and selection of candidates primarily the responsibility of a full Colonel, assisted by an Educational Advisor, a half Colonel and a Captain. Throughout the week the rounded ability of each candidate is tested within a group environment, although there are specific individual tasks. The mental capacity, physical ability and character of the individual is tested both inside and

outdoors in discussions, essays, interviews, practical tasks, physical tests and planning exercises.

Many of the AOSB tests have stood the test of time and remain the same as used at the RCB, but importantly the standard required to be selected to attend RMAS has not changed. To the older serving officers there has been one significant loss which they may recall – the ‘window’ on the individual obstacle course. This required a Superman-style jump through the window frame to oblivion on the matting but has now sadly gone.

Across the week, there are various tests of an individual’s personality, their ability to operate within team, and their mental rigour. Such an array gives an indication as to a candidate’s flexibility and potential for future training and operational deployments. Last week I experienced, at first hand, the continuing demands of testing as I had to step in as a candidate in a small group. Hanging upside down on ropes and being pre-

sented with a variety of different practical problems fully tests the ability of the individual, particularly within the group dynamic. Innate abilities and potential soon become apparent.

The AOSB remains a demanding selection process with robust criteria for assessment and a wealth of current operational experience amongst the assessors helps to produce the correct result. The majority of today’s successful candidates are state educated, primarily university educated and motivated by the leadership challenges ahead. Whatever their background, candidates receive a scrupulously fair assessment on their performance in each activity and the result produced reflects their potential to lead soldiers. This remains as important as ever at a time when young officers on operations are called upon daily to show character, flexibility and courage.

Lost in Translation – Language Opportunities for Young Officers

by Captain WG Calderhead

“Billu-san” the Admiral said “can we please go over London Bridge?” “Why yes, of course Admiral. May I ask why?” I replied, slightly confused. “So we can sing London Bridge Falling Down!” And that is how I found myself redirecting our driver to pass over London Bridge (it was actually Tower Bridge but they were not to know) whilst singing the popular nursery rhyme with the Japanese Admiral and his aides.

This all started with a rather spurious ‘phone message from, above all people, the Orderly Officer when abroad on leave. Fearing that I was being chased for a late mess bill I duly complied with the instruction to call a number in London. Even more intrigued, I was connected through to a charming Major who said that he wished to use me as an “Escort Officer”. I stumbled slightly creating an uncomfortable pause as I pondered why I had especially been chosen to fulfil this task. He proceeded to bridge the gap and explained he was hoping I would host a Japanese delegation who were attending the Defence Systems and Equipment International exhibition (DSEi) at ExCEL, London. It later transpired that the genesis of all of this was, as with many a successful enterprise, an Embassy cocktail party in Tokyo where Will McKinlay was engaging the Ambassador citing my time on TELIC VII as the UK Japanese Liaison Officer (affectionately known as the J-LO). Little did we both know that this conversation would gestate some 18 months later.

The biennial DSEi is considered one of the highest profile Defence exhibitions, attracting over 1300 companies from over 40 countries. For me, it was the largest gadget / toy shop imaginable. I spent a week feverishly polishing my Japanese and then met the UK Trade Department representative for a brief including a detailed run-down of what the delegation was interested in seeing. Their priorities were maritime electronic propulsion systems, anti-submarine detection equipment, maritime life preservation systems and naval CBRN capabilities. I think my vacant face accurately portrayed my wholly limited subject knowledge which disappointed her. I was then whisked off to talk to a submariner who, at great length and in great detail, explained these ‘things’. At the end of this, I remained unable to regurgitate the information in my mother tongue let alone Japanese.

The day I met the delegation, I checked into our 5* hotel in Kensington and then hopped in the chauffeur-driven Mercedes and headed for the airport. The delegation was easy to spot in the arrivals hall (as was I, in Service Dress) and they woosily shuffled over. We made our formal introductions in a mash of Japanese and English as we explored to what extent we could brutalise each other’s language. The Admiral had attended American Staff College and was at a good standard, if a little rusty. His aides, however, considerably lacked

142 EAGLE AND CARBINE

their superior's prowess pushing me into the language breach.

We drove in convoy to Reading North Station, a drab and inefficient 70s block, where I proceeded to subject them to the vulgarities of the British rail system. Ironically it was the British who nurtured the birth of the Japanese rail network; it would now seem a distant, dated and embarrassing relative. Thankfully our welcome by Rolls Royce at Bristol was much better and we were taken to their 'Guest House' on the outskirts of the city. The delegation was most impressed by the old converted farmhouse and the many Rolls Royce paintings and objects that filled the impressive rooms. Dinner was a five course feast, meticulous in its presentation and most thoughtful in the fusion of Anglo-Japanese cuisine. I enjoyed the evening immensely in getting to know the officers whom I would be chaperoning for the week.

The following morning was spent at Abbeywood, an establishment I consider myself fortunate enough never to have set foot in until that day. An exhausting series of presentations and discussions ensued and my translation of such technical topics as "strategic item tracking" was not very accurate. Thankfully the delegation was not particularly interested anyway. It was a relief to both the delegation and to me when the session finished and I even think that they enjoyed the British Rail experience on our way back to London. That night we were hosted by a large defence company, the first of the week. This nightly occurrence became somewhat of a highlight for us all as we enjoyed fine dining at the end of a tiring day (and at someone else's expense). I particularly enjoyed being hosted by BAe Systems and sitting beside someone who explained to me exactly why the CR2 CTCS was so very effective in Basrah.

The DSEi was a fascinating place. It took some time to appreciate the enormity of the exhibition and the sheer number of companies and items on display. There was an eclectic mix of sales people, shadowy buyers and many ex-forces people making it on the 'outside'. In amongst the stands there was a constant stream of flowing uniforms representing the armed services from across the globe. From Trinidad & Tobagans to Chinese, Estonians to Colombians there was constant buzz of activity as they all surveyed the vastly diverse equipment: attack helicopters to C-IED robots, armed UAVs to combat nappies (genuinely). Some of the technology was fascinating and put what we have to utter shame. Others, though, were ill conceived, ill designed and ill made. A rather watery presentation would soon be found wanting by a series of direct questions; the language barrier does not mask a mediocre item.

A routine developed whereby we spent the morning going around stands following a strict programme. Lunch was hosted by a defence company which was then followed by another several hours pounding the exhibition floor. After a short rest at the hotel, it was then time for a sumptuous dinner hosted by another defence company capped off with a 'cultural' visit to a local pub. It really could have been worse.

I may have created the impression that this was a rather casual week of comedy and lavish dining. It was, in fact, another fascinating insight into Japanese Defence and the wider-political influences. An example of an anomaly (from my perspective) was that the Japanese Military (ergo Government) were prohibited from buying arms by the 1945 post-surrender Constitution. This is done by a third party, a private company called a "Trading House" who buys on Defence's behalf. Mostly made up of retired senior officers, they frequently ambushed the delegation as they approached a stand where they had the licence to sell. It was blatantly obvious which products they had the rights to, as they generously described the merits. If it was not one of 'theirs', then the item would be quickly glossed over. The DSEi was held in September 09, a short time after the end of 40 years of rule by the Japanese Liberal Party in favour of the Democratic Party. This constituted a time of great political change and uncertainty, especially for Defence, with the delegation in a stasis with regards to overall defence policy. Finally, from the language side, it was an invaluable week-long crash course in naval terminology and cutting-edge capability. It rekindled my affinity for working with the Japanese, navigating through the strict formalities (both business and social), and immersing myself with the complexities, subtleties and beauties of the language. Above all this, though, was the opportunity to work with people so loyal, polite and thoughtful that even the most trying circumstances were a genuine pleasure.

Language opportunities for young officers, even within the constraints of the current financial climate (and maybe even because of it in terms of energising foreign trade and investment), are out there. The DESi uses officers who do not possess any language skills (there were a significant number of TA officers working) but is especially keen to use those that have. Fortunately my escorting skills were not catastrophic (either that, or they are desperate) as I have been taken on for the Farnborough Air Show in July. I hope to see some of you there.



HQLF Wilton Balaklava Lunch

by Major JPA Halford-Macleod

Headquarters Land Forces (HQLF) celebrated Balaklava Day 2009 with a lunch in the Erskine Barracks Officers' Mess, Wilton. Amongst those present was a good contingent of grey berets including: Colonel Gedney (AD Future Plans), Lieutenant Colonel Robertson (CO Wilton Support Group), Major Kerrigan (SO2 Command Plans), Major Soulsby (SO2 Defence Overseas Language Support Unit) and Major Halford-Macleod (SO2 (B) Reserves (Army)).

The lunch concluded with a brief presentation on Balaklava given from a light cavalry perspective and providing a fresh approach. Woven in were many fascinating factors including training, equipment and the role of key personalities and their interrelationships. It will come as no surprise that many parallels can be drawn with our experiences of expeditionary warfare in the modern era.

HQLF moves to Andover in summer 2010 and this will bring a union with those on the Upavon site.

This move comes as a result of the Top Level Organisational Review 2 (TLOR 2) process and seeks to support current operations in the most efficient way and ease decision making. From a Regimental perspec-



Major Soulsby, Colonel Gedney, Lieutenant Colonel Robertson, Major Halford Macleod and Major Kerrigan on Balaklava Day

time, it will increase the number of grey berets further with the addition of Colonel Edwards (Assistant Director Individual Training) and Major McLeman (MA to DG Personnel) which can only be a good thing.

The Birth of a School Pipe Band

Major HI Macrae – Pipe Band President 1971–1973 and 1976–1979

Starting up a pipe band, or any band, from scratch is never easy. Firstly you must have a quorum of players who have the ability and enthusiasm to play together. Secondly sufficient instruments need to be available

and thirdly practice time as a band is essential. Above all the most important ingredient is having someone as Pipe Major putting in tuition and creating enjoyment both for those playing and those listening. Uppingham



144 EAGLE AND CARBINE

*Band practice*

School in Rutland is a classic example of how this has been achieved in a remarkably short time thanks to an ex member of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, namely Piper Ian Hildreth who served between 1980 and 1985.

His home is in Corby, where many Scots reside largely due to the closure of certain Lanarkshire steelworks such as Ravenscraig. The position of piping instructor at Uppingham became available in 2005 so Ian applied for it and was successful. At the time there were barely 3 boys playing and no drummers so coupled with the fact that only a handful of Scots attend Uppingham School the prospects of producing a pipe band at all were remote.

At Uppingham huge importance is attached to music. The school orchestra is magnificent as is the choir and there are jazz bands and rock bands headed by some very talented musicians. Many pupils take up music as a career after they leave and thanks to this emphasis the interest in piping has developed during Ian Hildreth's time at Uppingham. Unfortunately practice time is limited to one session per week and has to be fitted in alongside academic work, sport, and private study for GCSE, AS and A levels. If a pupil starts from scratch on the pipes he, or she, can only reach a certain standard by the time the five years at Uppingham are complete. Ian spends as much time as he can teaching each student individually on the practice chanter and eventually the pipes, whilst the drumming is taught by percussion tutors in the school's music department. Some of the drummers play other instruments in the school orchestra, and even one of the housemasters has learned the pipes. He spends most evenings practicing in the house so quite how much disruption this is to the students' private study I am not quite sure.

The pipers in the band all own their own set of bagpipes and the school has bought bass, tenor, and side

drums for the drum corps. Everyone wears the kilt with a different selection of tartans but I am sure a school tartan will eventually be selected and a full set of kilts made. The headdress is a Glengarry with our Regimental badge and white hackle.

On Speech Day 2009 the band consisted of seven pipers and five drummers. They marched through the main school gate and formed a circle in the quad which is the focal point of the school. A well known selection of slow Marches, Two Fours, and Six Eights were played. Included in this was a Hornpipe and, of course, 'Amazing Grace'. The sound was remarkably proficient and greatly appreciated by parents, staff and pupils who had assembled for Speech Day.

A pipe band at Uppingham has never existed during the 420 year history of this famous school. Thanks to Ian Hildreth it has started and should grow from strength to strength.

The Pipe Major

The Tam Lorimer Pipes

On Monday 22 June Mrs Pat Lorimer presented a superb set of silver ringed bagpipes to the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. The Pipes belonged to her late husband Tom who died in January 2009. Tom Lorimer served in the Greys from 1959-65, mostly with the Pipes and Drums where he was Pipe Corporal. The set of bagpipes was handed over outside the entrance to the Regimental Museum in Edinburgh Castle and were received by Pipe Major Ross Munro who took them back to the Regiment in Germany. Also attending the presentation was Lieutenant Ross Anderson, Troop Leader for the Pipes and Drums.



Pipe Major Munro, Pat Lorimer and Lieutenant Ross Anderson (flanked by the Piper modelled on former Corporal A Johnston)

Visit to Hilvarenbeek – Holland

By Reg Dalton (Former Corporal in A Squadron, The Royal Scots Greys)

My wife Mary and I returned from a short visit to Hilvarenbeek, Holland from 2 to 7 June 2009 where we had the pleasure of meeting the burgemeester of that village. The significance of that meeting was that Mary was representing Great Aycliffe Town Council in Co Durham where she is the Mayor. The special interest of this meeting was that Hilvarenbeek is where Mary was born, and that in October 1944 the Royal Scots Greys helped to liberate the village from the German occupation. As a member of A Squadron I was involved with that liberation and as a result met my future wife, Mary, there. My Troop Leader and tank commander was Lieutenant Edmiston, better known as Commando Joe. The name of the gunner in our tank crew was

Trooper McBean. Unfortunately I cannot remember the names of the three other crew members.

On the third night of our regiment's occupation of the village we were attacked by a strong German unit, at about midnight which lasted about an hour, but this attack was beaten off with no casualties to us. A few days later the Greys were in action supporting the 15th Scottish in the liberation of Tilburg, a much larger town about five miles from Hilvarenbeek. This action took place on the 28 October 1944. The following day the Regiment had moved to another Dutch town called Gilze-Rijen and that morning quite early, all the tanks were parked in the main street and the crews were preparing breakfast. Suddenly



Amidst former comrades at Nederweert



Presentation of the Greys Plaque to the Burgemeester of Hilvarenbeek

146 EAGLE AND CARBINE

we were heavily mortared by the Germans, as a result three of our men, Lieutenant de Sales la Terriere, Sergeant Major Robertson and his Dingo driver Trooper Hunter, were mortally wounded and another six to eight men badly wounded. Sergeant Major Robertson and Trooper Hunter are buried in a military cemetery a short distance from Gilze-Rijen which I visited a few years ago.

During this visit, my wife and I also visited the British military cemetery in Nederweert, Holland where five more Scots Greys soldiers are buried. I believe four of these were in one tank, an officer, a sergeant plus two troopers. The fifth soldier was Trooper Bates of A Squadron; I think he accidentally shot himself. This happened when the Regiment was billeted in Someren, Holland in about December 1944.

I informed Home HQ in Edinburgh prior to our intended visit to Hilvarenbeek and was kindly supplied with a Scots Greys plaque which I duly presented to the burgemeester on behalf of the Regiment, as a commemoration of the Regiment's involvement in the liberation of the village in 1944. This plaque is now displayed in the town hall in Hilvarenbeek. The visit and subsequent discussions with the burgemeester were enjoyed by both my wife and myself, and I believe that it will be a lasting reminder of the important role that the Regiment played in the liberation of Hilvarenbeek back in 1944.



The Royal Scots Greys at Waterloo

Did it Happen this way?

by John Foreman – Secretary of the London Branch (for 33 years)

We four old Scots Greys arrived on the battlefield of Waterloo at 9.30 am on Sunday 19 September 2009, 194 years after our regiment had fought in the battle, and were asked to give an account, to a fellow tourist, of what the Greys did that day.

We were on the Ohain Road, a ridge to the centre left of the Duke of Wellington's line. Marlborough had noted the strategic value of this position for the defence of Brussels, when he was planning the battle of Ramillies (another battle at which the Greys distinguished themselves) in 1706 at Chateau Frischermont, a chateau not a stone's throw from where we now stood. We looked back towards the Farm of Mount St Jean and noted the

sloping ground that gave protection to the Regiment and to the rest of the Union Brigade, the Royals and the Inniskillings, from the guns of Napoleon's Grand Battery situated on a ridge in the valley to their front. We spoke first of the 'esprit de corps' of the Regiment and as young men, when we served, we were told we would be expected to do as well in battle as our forebears and to uphold the honour of the Greys.

We then spoke of the advance of the French d'Erlon corps, consisting of four divisions of some 16,900 infantry in columns 15 files wide. Marcognet's Division advanced up the valley, led by the 1st battalion of the 45th Infantry of the Line, and appeared in front of the 92nd (Gordon Highlanders) at a distance of only about 30 yards. They began to deploy in line and received a volley from the Gordons. The Greys were now ordered forward and their advance took them straight through the ranks of the Gordons. Some of the Gordons grabbed the stirrups of the Greys and, shouting "Scotland for ever", charged the short distance into the 1st battalion of the 45th Infantry who were by now in disarray and unlucky enough to be at the front facing the Greys' rough sharpened sabres.

Quickly the Greys were in the midst of the 45th. Sergeant Ewart singled out a French officer and, as an expert swordsman, disarmed him and was set to cut him down before Cornet Kinchant ordered Ewart to spare his life. Ewart obeyed and the French officer surrendered his sword. As Ewart was preparing to join the



Four old Greys on the Ohain Ridge, site of the first charge 194 years before, Colin Wilson, Tony Gray, John Foreman and Bob Richardson

charge, he heard a shot and saw Kinchant falling from his horse and the French Officer hiding a pistol under his coat. Wheeling around, he heard the French officer cry for mercy, to which Ewart replied: 'Ask mercy from God, for a deil a bit will you get at my hands'. With a stroke of his sabre, Ewart cut the French officer down. This act of summary revenge seems to have given Ewart more pride than taking the Eagle Standard of the 45th a few minutes later. He was then ordered to take the eagle to the rear which he did, reluctantly, but sat for some time watching the engagement before setting off for Brussels with the trophy.

The valley was now clouded by smoke from the guns and the Greys could only see about five yards ahead. They pressed on, regardless, into the French division with the Regiment suffering many casualties. Having carried out a successful defensive action, the Regiment had lost cohesion but reached the bottom of the valley intact, where the ground was slippery with deep mud. The Greys were given recall several times at this point but it was not obeyed. They were no longer a regiment of cavalry but a disjointed series of detachments. The Colonel, badly wounded, was last seen riding towards d'Erlon's artillery batteries. Some of the Greys rode up the other side of the valley with him and also attacked the gunners. The French reaction was to send in the Lancers attached to d'Erlon's Corps, and Farine's Cuirassier Brigade (6th and 9th Regiments) who began chasing down the scattered remnants of the Greys. As they tried to return to their lines, their horses blown and struggling knee deep through the thick mud, the Regiment suffered many more loses, including three Greys trying to rescue their brigade commander, Ponsonby, whose small horse was also stuck.

Peter Swan of Captain Fenton's D Troop (the only officer in the Regiment previously to have seen active service) had suffered a lance wound to the right hand, a dislocation of the thumb and a lance wound to his right knee. He would later declare, in August 1862, on his honour as a soldier, that he was present when the Eagle of the 45th was captured. It was first taken by a trumpeter named Hutchinson, who with his horse was immediately killed. Sergeant Ewart then seized the Colour and fought hard to keep it. On coming out of action after the first charge, Captain Cheney, the Regiment's senior surviving officer, ordered Captain Fenton to take four good and true men with him, and carry the Eagle to Brussels with Ewart.

The Greys mustered some 300 sabres in six troops that day. Of these, the Regiment lost seven Officers killed, another who died of wounds and seven wounded. Three sergeants were killed, another died of wounds and ten were wounded. Three corporals, one trumpeter and 72

troopers were killed, with 16 later dying of wounds, and a further 72 wounded. 164 horses were killed or lost and a further 60 wounded. However d'Erlon's Corps fell back, in disarray, and would not recover that day.

One nickname of the Greys, after their capture of the eagle of the 45th, is the 'Bird Catchers'. The true nickname of the 45th Regiment of the Line, commonly but incorrectly referred to as the "Invincibles", who were recruited in Paris was "Les Enfants de Paris". The Greys adopted the eagle as their capbadge 40 years after the battle. Waterloo Day is still celebrated by the Regiment. In our day, the Greys and Gordons always exchanged the message "Scotland for Ever".

In trying to give an honest account of our regiment at Waterloo, we old Greys relied upon the accounts of others. We humbly submit our apologies, for any mistakes, to all the Royal North British Dragoons (Scots Greys) who fought that day. Incidentally, we had to explain to one lady present, that the Eagle we captured was not a live bird, but a wooden one on a pole.

Author's Note: The Eagle and Standard are displayed in the Regimental Museum in Edinburgh Castle, as are Fenton's sword and Waterloo medal, along with other artefacts from that era.

Acknowledgements

Waterloo Battle of Three Armies

Edited by Lord Chalfont, 1980

The Face of Battle

John Keegan, 1976

The Scots Greys at Waterloo

WA Thorburn, 1998

Reminiscences of the Last Survivor of the Famous Charge

Sergeant Major Dickson

The Waterloo Roll Call

Charles Dalton, 1978

Records of the Royal North British Dragoons

Anonymous, 1827

Scots Greys Association Report

*Sergeant Ewart
Lt Col ACE Welby, 1936*

Muster Roll Greys Waterloo

E Dwelly, 1934

Times August 1862

Peter Swan

Coopers Waterloo Tours

Graeme Cooper



The Sovereign's Piper

by A/WO1 (Pipe Major) D Potter

In December 2007, I was informed by the Commanding Officer that I had been selected to take up the post as the Sovereign's Piper and that I would commence my handover in June from Pipe Major Alistair Cuthbertson (1st Battalion, The Royal Scots) who was to be commissioned and appointed Second in Command at The Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming.

I had recently returned from an arduous tour of America with the Band of Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards where we had performed from one coast to the other. On our return to Germany, I handed over the reins to Pipe Major Munro and Drum Major Brown. I then bade a fond farewell to the Pipes and Drums, where I had served for twenty years during which time I had been attached to each of the sabre squadrons. I arrived in London at the end of May 2008 and began my handover, initially at Buckingham Palace then at the various Royal residences. This culminated in my taking over as the Sovereign's Piper on the 20th August

2008, the day after the first Ghillies' Ball at Balmoral Castle.

The history of piper to the Sovereign goes back to the start of Queen Victoria's reign in 1837. Queen Victoria and Albert paid a visit to the Highlands in 1842, when they stayed in Taymouth Castle with the Marquis of Breadalbane. The Queen was so taken with the ceremony provided at the Castle that she wrote to Her Mother, the Duchess of Kent: "We have heard nothing but bagpipes since we have been to the beautiful Highlands and I have become so fond of it that I mean to have a piper". She sought the advice of the Marquis of Breadalbane and he recommended that the famous Angus MacKay be appointed to the post with the result that Angus was admitted by the Clerk Marshal as first piper to Her Majesty on July 25th 1843. It is a position steeped in history and involves many duties and responsibilities in support of the Queen's daily programme. It has been an Army appointment since 1966 and I am the 13th piper to be appointed to this post, and the first from a cavalry regiment and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. As Sovereign's Piper I am a member of the Master of the Household's Department and my principal duty is to play every weekday under The Queen's window when Her Majesty is in residence at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, the Palace of Holyrood House or Balmoral Castle. I am also respon-



Pipe Major Derek Potter at Balmoral Castle



Pipe Major Derek Potter And Captain Andy Potter at the 2009 Ghillies' Ball at Balmoral Castle

sible for the co-ordination of the twelve Army pipers who play around the table after State Banquets and have been fortunate enough to do so at four such occasions during my time in the Regimental Pipes and Drums.

In my role I also act as an Honorary Page of the Presence at events such as audiences, garden parties, investitures, state functions and receptions. It is my role to escort Her Majesty to the various audiences she has throughout the day. At 9 o'clock I strike up the pipes and step off with my first set which lasts approximately seven minutes, marching four lengths of the garden. I then stop for a one minute break and repeat the process with a second set. I choose the music to be played on a daily basis, playing approximately 130 tunes without repetition. I normally rehearse the pieces to be played prior to going out into the garden, whilst at the same time tuning the pipes. I will play irrespective of the weather conditions whether wind, rain, hail, sleet or snow.

I play nightly as requested around The Queen's dinner table in the Palace of Holyrood House and Balmoral Castle for Her Majesty and her guests, each time playing a new set of tunes with the history of each recorded on the reverse of the pipe-programme cards.

I am also responsible, at Balmoral Castle, for all the clocks in the private rooms, for making sure they are all keeping time and that the main Tower Clock is fully wound and chimes correctly. During Royal Court at Balmoral Castle and prior to the Ghillies' Ball, I am responsible for teaching all those attending the Scottish country dances and am Master of Ceremonies. Members of the Royal Guards will be taken through the steps just in case they have the privilege of dancing with Her Majesty.

I have three uniforms unique to the Sovereign's Piper and I have three different kilts. I still wear my Regimental kilt pin, the only piece of uniform which denotes my origins. For normal daily duties in Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Palace of Holyrood House I wear the Hunting Stewart tartan and a Patrol jacket with the Royal insignia and Pipe Major's Rank badges. My headdress is a traditional Balmoral with red and white dicing and the cap badge has been handed down from Pipe Major to Pipe Major. In full Ceremonial dress I wear two Golden Eagles feathers. This tradition has been carried down from the clans to mark the piper's position as a Clan Chief.

At Balmoral Castle I wear the Balmoral tartan which is only permitted to be worn by members of the Royal family, the Sovereign's Piper and the Ghillie Estate

pipers. This tartan was designed by Prince Albert and Queen Victoria and depicts the grey stone so prominent in Aberdeenshire. The hilt of the sgian-dubh, worn in the right sock just below the knee, is thought to have belonged to John Brown, Queen Victoria's faithful highland servant. Whilst in Balmoral Castle I wear the Balmoral kilt with a full plaid and a unique white dress sporran.

Whilst at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Palace of Holyrood House, I wear the Royal Stewart kilt with a fly-plaid on such occasions as Trooping the Colour, the State opening of Parliament, state banquets and Garter Day.

The role of Sovereign's Piper is a very varied and challenging one, and one I am enjoying immensely. It is an unique opportunity and a great honour to personally serve Her Majesty within the Royal Household, especially given some of the great names that have previously held the post. Angus MacKay, William Ross, James Campbell and Henry Forsyth (who held the post for 31 years) were the greats of their day and pipers such as Pipe Major Alexander McDonald (Scots Guards) and Pipe Major Brian McRae (Gordon Highlanders) held the post for 21 years and 15 years respectively. It is a great honour to play daily for our Colonel-in-Chief and to represent the Regiment in such a prestigious appointment, something of which I am aware at all times.



'Pipes Potter' at Windsor Castle

150 EAGLE AND CARBINE

OBITUARIES

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

Officers

Maj Sir Antony Bonham Bt
ANS Bryce Esq
Capt MM Coombs
Maj G Devenport
Maj HJD Gunn MC
Maj The Earl Haig OBE DL KStJ
Maj DR Heron-Weeber
Capt PR Jaye
The Hon Alasdair Morrison
Maj W Olphert
Capt GRS Plowden
Maj Lord Robertson of Oakridge
Brig WCW Sloan CBE

Serving Soldier

Sgt BDJ Ross RMP (Late SCOTS DG)

Glasgow and West of Scotland

Mr WM Maclean
Mr A Stewart

Edinburgh and East of Scotland

Mr A MacKay

North West of England and Wales

Mr DR Lee
Mr M Sampson

North East of England

Mr R Dalton
Mr J Heath
Mr RC Lamb
Mr C Parker

London and South East of England

Mr C Bigland
Mr C Briggs
Mr C Fairweather
Mr RS Hitchens
Mr DM McIntosh
Mr DE Moring

South West of England

Mr RW Collins
Mr A Holden

Musicians, Pipes and Drums

Mr T Lorimer

No Branch Affiliation

Mr DR Bakewell
Mr J McInnes
Mr SJ Ostapko
Mr MS Pateman
Mr J Pryde
Mr S Youngman

Brigadier WCW Sloan CBE



Charles Sloan will probably be remembered by most members of the Regiment as the Colonel of the 3rd Carabiniers at the time of amalgamation in 1972 and more recently as a most marvellous host to the Regiment when we were stationed in Catterick in the 1990s.

Charles, born in 1914, grew up in Ayrshire and was educated at Loretto. At Sandhurst, he had thought to join the Black Watch, but his delightful and daredevil friend, Desmond Baring, thought a Cavalry Regiment would suit him better, so he joined the Carabiniers stationed in Aldershot in 1934.

Charles moved to India with the Regiment in 1936, when an early edition of the regimental magazine reports that, 'Sloan may one day become an international polo player, but has trouble in getting his ponies from A to B, but when he does, his striking of the ball is the envy of Sialkot'. Charles met Patricia Betham in India while her father was the British Resident

Minister to the Court in Nepal. They were married in Calcutta Cathedral in 1940.

The war took a few years to influence matters in India, and in spring of 1941 a new Armoured regiment the 25th Dragoons, officered almost entirely from the Carabiniers, was raised to support 7th Indian Division. Lt Sloan was one of these. In January 1944 the 25th Dragoons were deployed to the Arakan in Western Burma with Charles commanding A squadron. Warfare in Burma against an uncompromising enemy was a truly dreadful experience. The fighting was intense. For over a month the Regiment was surrounded by the Japanese in what was called the 'Delhi Box'. Gen Messervy's Divisional Headquarters was over run and for some time the GOC ran the battle from the Regimental Headquarters of the 25th Dragoons. The Arakan offensive was critical to relieve pressure on Imphal where the Carabiniers were fighting in that great and decisive battle of the Burma campaign. By late 1944 Charles was back in Calcutta en route home with his family.

He was soon off to join the Fife and Forfar Yeomanry in France and also spent a short spell with the Skins after crossing the Rhine. His reminiscences speak of taking the surrender of Lubeck.

During the post war years he held a number of staff appointments but during a tour at regimental duty, he led the Regimental contingent at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Feather and Carbine quotes 'that in spite of being soaked to the skin the party returned commendably sound after their long march through London. The daily training carried out by Major Sloan obviously produced results as the odds that were being offered against him finishing the course were long'.

After a tour as Squadron leader in Osnabruck, he was posted as GSO2 to the New Zealand Royal Armoured Corps, where he was quickly back in the saddle and spent a most enjoyable two years with his family. He then returned home in 1955 to command the Carabiniers in Osnabruck where life was more similar to pre war India with the routine of manoeuvres, the annual horse show, racing and polo. His horse Owenbrook, with Roger Roberts in the saddle, won the BAOR version of the Grand Military at the Hannover Race course.

I first knowingly met Brigadier Charles when I was a very junior subaltern with the Regiment at Tidworth. The Sloans were living nearby, while Charles was working at the War Office. Much was seen of Vanessa and Caroline at our various mess parties, but the Brigadier with his inspiration and enthusiasm got us all going well, both in the hunting field with the Cricklade Hounds and on the polo ground. After this tour he was appointed Brigadier RAC Northern and Scottish Commands operating from Catterick.

In 1966 he succeeded Brigadier Joe Fishbourne as Colonel of the Regiment when the Regiment was stationed in Detmold, Chester and then Munster where the news came through that the Regiment was to be amalgamated with the Greys. While this decision would have come as a great shock, he and Tim Readman, who was Colonel of the Greys, were great friends and together they produced the union of two very proud and independent Cavalry Regiments, to create one of the most successful amalgamations of the many which happened at that time.

In retirement Charles was Bursar at Heriot Watt University for a few years before moving to Ripon where they were to spend 30 years enjoying life in Yorkshire. He raised money for the Conservative party, was County Chairman for SSAFA, and was a steward on several local race courses. He loved his racing, especially hosting lunch parties at York races with Patricia. Lady's Walk was always full and would offer the warmest welcome. Room would be found in his stables for visiting regimental horses for the Sprot Cup when the race was held in Yorkshire.

The 69th anniversary of their marriage was the day that Charles died aged 95. He will be sadly missed as one of the last of the generation who served before the War, and remembered by many for presiding over a highly successful amalgamation.

CRSN

Major The Earl Haig OBE KStJ RSA DL



Dawyck Haig who died on 9 July 2009 aged 91 was one of the last of his generation of Greys to have served in the mounted regiment prior to mechanization.

Born in 1918, he was only nine years old when his father, the famous Field Marshal, died. Inheriting both the title and the mantle of the Royal British Legion which his father had played a major part in forming, he was brought up at Bemersyde in the Scottish Borders where many of his neighbors had served in the Greys.

At Stowe his ability as an artist was recognized and encouraged and during his formative years he had support from several interesting friends. Paul Maze, a Frenchman and artist who later taught Churchill to paint, had served with distinction as liaison officer to the Greys in the First World War. He had written a well received book on his experiences with the Regiment, "A Frenchman in Khaki", and was a regular visitor to Bemersyde where he encouraged Dawyck's painting. Also, as a boy on a visit to France for the unveiling of two war memorials, Sir Edwin Lutyens, the architect, had taught him how to draw horses as they sat in the back of a bus.

Before going up to Oxford, Dawyck spent six months living with a family in Munich perfecting his German, an accomplishment which was to prove unexpectedly useful in the years to come. At Christchurch he hunted in the winter, played polo in the summer and was President of the Bullingdon. Later in life he said, 'Our academic ambitions were not great, but we learnt the art of living. We explored our tastes. We found our personal response, our choice of friends and occupations.'

But the storm clouds were gathering and as he amusingly recounted in his memoirs; 'A Fourth Class Honours Degree, together with the fact that I had served in the Oxford UOTC qualified me for a commission in The Royal Scots Greys.' He joined the

152 EAGLE AND CARBINE

regiment in Palestine in October 1939, two months after war was declared, when their role was to keep the peace between the Jewish settlers and the Arab population. But by the spring of 1940 the desert campaign had started and much to the regiment's frustration the chances of mechanization were still slim for there were not the vehicles available. Dawyck was fortunate in being appointed as temporary ADC to General Dick O'Connor who commanded the Western Desert Force in the early campaign against the Italians and thus had his first taste of warfare.

Returning to the Regiment that November, mechanization was approaching and his friend John Warrender described how the Colonel decided that Dawyck should go on a course and return to teach 400 Scots Greys how to drive and look after their vehicles" Dawyck in the Army's eyes was the ideal officer for the job. After all he was old enough to have had a driving licence before the war and had even owned a car in peacetime. Furthermore he was the epitome of a cavalry officer, a fine horseman with a good leg for a boot and perhaps the least mechanically minded of all us subalterns. These qualifications, in the Colonel's eyes, made him tailor-made for the appointment. So off he went and after a very few weeks returned with an armful of training manuals. Attempting to explain the cycle of the combustion engine he hit on the phrase, Suck – Squeeze – Bang – Banish.' I don't quite understand this sucking, squeezing, banging and banishing business', said one subaltern. 'How on earth does that make the wheels go round?' Dawyck searched frantically in his manual, to no avail. 'That,' at last he said brightly, 'will be the subject of our next lesson.' However all went well and in March 1942 Dawyck was appointed GSO3 of the 1st Armoured Brigade in the desert, but during the German advance towards El Alamein his tank was brewed up and he was captured.

Incarcerated in POW camps, first in Italy then in Germany, Dawyck determined to put the time to good use and thanks to the Red Cross acquired some materials and started to paint. Eventually he was sent, on Hitler's direct orders, to Colditz as one of a select group of prisoners, The Prominente, well connected officers whom the Germans thought they might use as bargaining pawns as the tide of war turned against them. Here, in this depressing fortress were also housed the serial escapers from many nations and though the conditions were hash the atmosphere, with the Russians approaching, was electric. It was here that Dawyck was to paint some of his most interesting portraits which, on returning to Britain after the war, gained him a place at the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts. Here he rehabilitated himself and studied under four famous painters, Coldstream, Rogers, Pasmore and Gowing.

Returning to Bemersyde, still a young man, he threw himself into the management of his estate, hunting with the Buccleuch, fishing his beat on the Tweed and shooting, but also doing much for the local community with a social conscience that had been developed by regimental life and his days in captivity. He served as Chairman of the Royal British Legion Scotland and President of the Earl Haig Fund as well as being a member of The Scottish Arts Council, President of the Scottish Craft Centre, which he founded, and a Trustee of The National Gallery of Scotland. He was Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant for the county of Roxburghshire and a regularly attended the House of Lords where he coupled his wisdom and experience with a keen mind and spoke eloquently during debate. He was also Chairman of the Edinburgh Branch of The Royal Scots Greys Association for many years.

His individual style of painting soon attracted much attention and he exhibited widely and successfully, later being elected as a member of the Royal Academy of Scotland.

Some years after the war a new generation of would be historians found it fashionable to vilify many of the heroes of the past, paying little heed to the period and sensibilities of their day. Dawyck's father, the Field Marshal, was heavily criticized and Dawyck spent much of his later life defending his father's reputation and putting his record into a historical perspective. It is pertinent to remember the many tens of thousands of old soldiers who having survived the horrors of the trenches then queued to file past his coffin to pay their respects as he lay in state, and the hundreds of thousands who lined the streets at his funeral.

On his 90th birthday we organized a celebration lunch for Dawyck with his neighbouring old Greys. As he stepped out of his car on arrival two jet fighters almost scraped our chimney pots, for we live in a low flying area. "That's your birthday fly past", we said. "Good gracious", he replied. "How on earth did you organize that?" To this day, such was his good sense of humour, that we are still not sure who was pulling whose leg. Later at lunch, aided by Aidan Sprot, he fascinated us by telling us about their lives in the mounted regiment and his time in Colditz.

Dawyck loved the Greys and was a proud supporter of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. He is much missed.

MDB

Sir Antony Bonham Bart

From 1916, Tony Bonham grew up in Surrey where the family lived in "Knowle" a beautiful house and park with views that can only be described as spectacular, extending across acres of rolling countryside towards the beautiful Hascombe Hills. It was here that Tony started and nurtured what was to be the greatest love of his life, which was of course riding and horses.

Following his time at St David's Preparatory School he went onto Eton where he rowed in the 2nd Eight and then to Sandhurst before joining the Royal Scots Greys in 1937.

His first deployment was to Palestine as it then was, to maintain order in the protectorate. This involved riding before mechanisation had begun and he was in his element with the regiment's horses. The knowledge and understanding he absorbed from his time in the 'Holy Land' also informed and developed his Christian Faith which was to be a central pillar of his being.

At the outbreak of war the Greys were sent to Egypt as part of the 8th Army where they became mechanised and fought in the desert campaign culminating in the allied victory at El Alamein in 1942. He then moved with the regiment to the Italian theatre and took part in the invasion of Italy and the bloody battle of Salerno, returning to the UK in 1944 to take part in the D Day landings.

After the war he started a job in the Wine Trade in the City and moved to Essex. He was very knowledgeable on his wines and all those who came to his Dinner Parties in Essex testify to that! Life in Essex again centered around horses, he hunted with the Essex Union, supported the Hunt Ball, went to Point to Points and would ride every morning before setting off for the City.

In 1971 he left the City to devote his life to those things he valued most dearly. The family moved to Gloucestershire and bought a house in the walled garden of Ampney Park. He devoted his time to furthering the work of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust in Gloucestershire, became the Senior Church Warden of the Church of the Holy Rood in Ampney Crucis, as well as supporting the other churches in the surrounding villages of Ampney St Peter, Ampney St Mary, Driffield and Harnhill.

After 30 years in Ash House, Ampney Crucis he spent his final years in Fairford, Gloucestershire until his death in October 2009. His wife, Felicity predeceased him in 2003.

He is survived by his eldest son, Martin who succeeds to the title and his two brothers Simon, married to Liz (née Ducas) and Tim married to Hester (née Cleminson).

MB

Major HJD Gunn MC



On godforsaken Luneburg Heath during the bitterly cold winter of 1951-52, I was a 19-year old tank gunner-operator National Serviceman, I just could not get the wireless signals to function. A Major arrived. He did not bawl me out. He got into the Centurion, expertly synchronised the signals, and patiently

explained what I should have done. His only gentle rebuke was: "Don't flap!" I suppose that if you have fought from Palestine 1937 via Alamein, Salerno, and Normandy to the Elbe, winning a Military Cross as a captain on the way, you do become a little impatient of flapping. Major John Gunn, who served the Scots Greys from 1937 until 1959, was among the bravest and the calmest.

Henry John Dymock Gunn was born in Bristol in 1917, where his father worked at a senior level for Imperial Tobacco. The family had its roots in Caithness, where the smallish clan Gunn had suffered at the hands of the Sinclairs, the Mackenzies and the Sutherlands, and Gunn's great-grandfather came south to be a Methodist minister in Chard, Somerset, where he married a Miss Wills. His grandfather, Henry Wills Gunn, became deputy chairman of Imperial Tobacco.

At Eton, where he boxed for the school team, Gunn was in the House of Charlie Hayes, for many years head of science at the school. Gunn had a technical bent, unusual in Etonian cavalry officers; and finished his military career at the School of Nuclear and Chemical Ground Defence, having previously spent a year at the Fighting Vehicle Research and Development Establishment.

Commissioned into the Royal Scots Greys, he was posted with his regiment to the Levant, where British and French forces had an edgy relationship in Syria. His near contemporary, the nonogenarian Colonel Aidan Sprot MC, himself a pivotal figure in the Greys, recollected to me that: "John Gunn was a most conscientious officer, and deeply popular member of the officers' mess, excellent in his relations with NCOs and

154 EAGLE AND CARBINE

men, partly because he was the acknowledged regimental expert on the vital area of wireless communications, so important for an Armoured Regiment in North Africa and Italy.”

Towards the end of the war Gunn found himself involved in fighting in the Low Countries. During bitter fighting, he enhanced his reputation for resourcefulness and was awarded a richly deserved Military Cross. His citation noted: “Four POWs were captured who declared that the enemy had withdrawn on hearing the approach of tanks over such an unexpected route to a position of such advantage and our infantry advanced and occupied their objectives,” and that “by his determined action over extremely difficult country and under heavy fire Captain Gunn enabled our infantry to occupy their objectives with the minimum of loss and reorganise their new position secure from counter-attack which might have proved serious.”

Before retiring in 1959, Gunn served as a squadron commander, and in other senior capacities. As a horseman, he was second only in the regiment to his friend and commanding officer, Colonel Douglas Stewart DSO, who was, with Wilfred White and Colonel Harry Llewellyn, Britain’s only gold medallist at the Helsinki Olympic Games of 1952, where they won the team event.

On the horse Memphis, Gunn rode in the 1947 Royal Tournament at Olympia and he was a major open competitor in the Cologne horse trials. In retirement, he was the doer of many good works, not least for the riding community in the Chippenham area of Wiltshire. For family and friends he was a proverbial “saint” for the way in which, for many years, he tended to his wife, stricken with multiple sclerosis.

TD

Captain GRS Plowden



Giles Plowden died on 21 May 2009, aged 79. His wife Sally had predeceased him in 2006. Many friends attended his Remembrance Service later in London. His father, Lieutenant Colonel Piers Plowden, had been in the Greys. His education was both in England and, during World War II, in the United States

from 1940–44, including at Milton Academy in Massachusetts. After Sandhurst he obtained a Regular

Commission and joined the Greys at Luneburg in 1949. He later served with the 68th Training Regiment at Catterick and attended a Gunnery Course at Lulworth before re-joining the Regiment in 1952 in Libya. Also in 1952 he commanded the Regimental Detachment at the funeral procession of King George VI, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Scots Greys.

He married Sally Maconochie in October 1955 in Bath. His best man, Captain Christopher Gaisford-St Lawrence, who remembers the priest who took the service was also playing the organ, then escorted the newly-weds to London – ending up in the 400 Club! Soon afterwards Giles rejoined the Regiment at Catterick and later moved to Munster in Germany where he remained the Gunnery Officer. He used to joke about HE (High Explosive) being easier than AP (Armour Piercing) because you could see where it landed!

In summer 1960 he left the Army and was for many years a successful stockbroker in the City of London – with Chase Henderson & Tennant, who ultimately became Shephards & Chase. He succeeded his father as organiser of the annual regimental dinner at The Savoy. In 1977 he moved with Sally to Bermuda where for nearly 20 years he was a Partner in Charles Taylor, Insurance Brokers. They had a lovely house there and later purchased a retirement home in France, after which they divided their time between France, Bermuda and London. Giles thus had a distinguished business career, but always maintained his regimental links.

Giles adored Sally; between them they loved the theatre, musicals, opera and ballet. He was a great friend and companion to many people and very well read. He was always well turned out, but on one occasion as a young officer walked out of the Cavalry Club into Piccadilly without his bowler hat on – which was compulsory under regimental dress regulations in those days; unfortunately he met the Colonel of the Regiment (Brigadier George Todd) and three days extra orderly officer were imposed! Sally and Giles are both now very much missed by their good friends. One happy memory for many will be the pleasure of dining with the Plowdens when they were at regimental duty – the food and wine was always ‘par excellence’.

CAR

ANS Bryce Esq



Andrew Bryce moved to the UK from America in 1986 and attended Glenalmond College where he quickly demonstrated a clear sporting and academic ability. His first experience of rugby saw him play on the wing where his pace and formidable tackling (learned playing American Football) made him a key member of

some very successful junior teams. As Andrew progressed through school he moved into the scrum and was a permanent 1st XV choice for three years. Although rugby played an important part in his life, and only illness prevented him representing Scottish Schools, he was also a gifted swimmer and field and track athlete. He gained school colours in both these disciplines and proved an inspirational captain of both.

Even though a sporting star, Andrew's academic ability was of great importance to him. Determined to go to Oxford he set about the Oxbridge exam with typical determination and was subsequently offered a place to read chemistry. As if success on the sports field and in the classroom were not achievement enough, Andrew Bryce was also a clear leader of men. His appointment as Captain of College in his last year at Glenalmond was a fitting recognition of his ability and inspiration to others.

Whilst at school, Andrew was introduced to the Army through the CCF. It was no surprise that following a CCF Annual Camp, hosted by SCOTS DG in Tidworth in 1988, that the Regiment caught his eye. Having successfully passed through RCB and the Sandhurst, he arrived at the Regiment, on a Short Service Limited Commission in 1991. Whilst with the Regiment Andrew was given the name 'Batman' following a series of practical jokes. He thoroughly enjoyed his time at Regimental Duty, and went up to Oxford in 1992 having had a very good year.

Whilst at Oxford, Andrew progressed with his rugby, gaining a Blue in his second year, a very proud moment for all who knew him. Despite his sporting success it was at about this time that he decided to leave university. Oxford's loss was Sandhurst's gain and Andrew embarked on a full military career. Sadly this never realised its full potential as Andrew left RMAS before commissioning.

Determined to pick himself up, Andrew set about a civilian career. Falling down a staircase and ending up wheelchair-bound was a cruel blow to a man who had

left school with the world at his feet. After a long and frustrating time coming to terms with his new disability, Andrew applied himself to accounting with a view to making this his career. He moved into his own flat near Portsmouth and began once again to make a life for himself.

He talked fondly of his short time with the Regiment and watched its progress with great pride. When I last spoke to him he talked of attending the parade at Cavalry Memorial; sadly he never did.

RDFC Skene Esq

Douglas Skene died on 27 September 2007. His death, after a year of illness, was anticipated but still a dreadful shock for Judy, Milo and Millie and his beloved sisters Frances, Prue and Lucy. His many friends could not believe that his death would ever come as he fought each day with such defiance and dignity. Indeed, in his last year, he rallied several times enabling him to share precious moments with his family and some of his friends. He bore his illness with a quiet and understated strength that was the hallmark of this exceptional man.

In his brief 60 years he had 5 testing and varied careers in which he excelled: in the law, in the Army, in the 'Security Service', as financial adviser and as an historian.

Douglas Skene was born in April 1947. The son of Robert and Mrs Skene of St John's Wood, he went to Winchester and although often critical of his old school he clearly left as a bright and clever young man. He started as a pupil barrister, but soon became bored and decided to join the Army. He was released for three years on the understanding that he would return to his chambers. After Mons where he was the top cadet of his year and, Senior Under Officer, he joined the Royal Scots Greys in Fallingbommel in 1968. His time as a young troop leader in the Regiment was all too brief, but he fitted in many a brush with authority, some of his stories running happily with David Niven's descriptions of subaltern misadventures in 'The Moon's a Balloon'. His first night as Regimental Orderly Officer saw him careering over to Celle to sort out some terrible scuffle between the Greys and Black Watch 'squaddies'. In the mayhem of the occasion the offenders were able to vanish into thin air before the RMPs could catch them and Douglas found that it was he who had to account for himself back at the Military Police HQ. In his last year in the Regiment he went with B Squadron to Cyprus as part of the United Nations force. He returned to the Bar in 1971 and joined the 4th Green Jackets, a TA battalion in London. After 3 years he

156 EAGLE AND CARBINE

realised that he might spend the next forty years at the same desk and gladly responded to an approach from the Ministry of Defence. He had some demanding assignments and the work was exciting, but again he soon found the hierarchy a little too restrictive and left; this time to work for himself. It is a tribute to Douglas that some twenty-five years later 'The Office' not only wrote to Judy, but also sent a representative to the memorial service. He was remembered for his outstanding work in this department.

He set himself up as an independent financial adviser under the name of Robert Langley, his innovation and integrity brought remarkable success for his many clients and built the company into a formidable organisation that runs successfully to this day.

However it was his love and knowledge of history that enabled him to proceed to his defining vocation under the banner of Robert Langley Travel. Here he and Judy realised their dream by taking hundreds of friends to 'see for themselves' the First World War battlefield in France, Flanders and Gallipoli; they even brought the Cold War to light in Berlin and Potsdam. Douglas's apposite and evocative phrases still haunt my memory: 'A warning from History', 'Voices from the Past', 'The Road to the Somme', 'Spring Manoeuvres' - Verdun/Argonne, Picardy and Ypres - October Manoeuvres, and Berlin 'The Secret World of the Cold War'.

On 25 September 2009, a collection of rare trees and a memorial stone were dedicated to him at the National Memorial Arboretum in recognition of his work as historian, and guide par excellence.

He was a rare man who stimulated debate by challenging the accepted view; he excelled in all he did. He leaves behind Judy his wife and their children Milo, who has followed him into The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, and Millie his daughter.

DLS

Cyril Parker



Cyril Parker sadly passed away on 29 December 2008 aged 91. He had joined The Royal Scots Greys just before the Second World War and was a Horse soldier, riding all over Israel and Palestine and then went into the Tanks where he saw a lot of action in North Africa, Italy, France, Holland, Germany and towards the end

of the war went into some of the prison camps at Belsen.

A life member in the North East Branch of the Association he enjoyed going to the Regimental Dinners and functions and looked forward to reading the Regimental Journal and Newsletters.

Towards the end of his life he talked a lot about the good friends and comrades he made during the war and of how much he had enjoyed his time in the Army. He said he joined the Greys because of his love of horses.

Cyril was in a wheelchair for the last two years of his life and in great pain but he never lost his dignity and pride. His family have been left with a big hole in their lives but have many wonderful memories and stories of his time in the Greys.

He left these words with his granddaughter: "I was in every campaign from El Alamein to Wizmar. Very proud of my Regiment and the men I served with. Once a Grey Always a Grey".

NT

Jack Albert Atfield



Jack, but known to many, as Johnny Atfield was born in Rochester, Kent in March 1922, one of four children.

He joined the 25th Dragoons in Burma, and like so many of his generation never spoke about his war time experiences to his family. The 25th were raised in Sailkot, India, and disbanded after the war. The founding members were mostly from the Carabiniers, plus some other regiments and two large intakes from the UK and commanded by Lt Col Frink, late of the 4th/7th Dragoons. They took part in the Arakan campaigns in Burma that culminated in the first British victory over the Japanese, the 25th were cut off deep in the Arakan jungle for almost a month and supplied from the air during all that time. They were in the heart of the Box in 1944 and every time the enemy attacked, the Dragoons led the counter attacks, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. Eventually the siege was broken and the enemy retreated to the south. After the victory General Bill Slim and Lord Louis Mountbatten visited the Regiment to congratulate them and the Indian in arms who during the fighting lost many friends.

After the war Johnny became a civil servant, rising to the position of senior principal in the Home Office. He was awarded the Imperial Service Order on his retirement an honour that was both merited and greatly valued. After many moves in his career he and his wife finally settled down in Orpingdon, Kent.

Retiring in 1982, he had many interests, The Great Western Railway, Kent and East Sussex Railway, model trains, DIY, gardening, and the Gurkhas. He enjoyed an active roll in the church of St Giles, Farnborough, and drove his woefully underpowered Rover everywhere.

His wife Joyce pre deceased him and we offer our condolences to his sons Roger and David and the rest of the family.

JF

Reginald Stephen Hitchens



Born in Putney in 1921 Reg won a scholarship at age 13 to attend the Hammersmith School of Building and Arts and Crafts and qualified as a plumber. Starting his apprenticeship in Baker Street, he cycled from home each day and had a two hour ride to his night school at Shepherd Bush, winter or summer, hot

or cold. At 18 on the outbreak of the war he joined the Home Guard, guarding the local telephone exchange and Putney railway bridge. With the outbreak of the London blitz, he was sent on jobs all over London, working long hours and walking home late at nights during the raids with shrapnel falling everywhere. He had a near miss one night when a shell came through the roof and landed on his bed.

On a Friday the 13th in 1942 he got his calling up papers and was ordered to report to the Royal Armoured Corps at Farnborough to train as a tank driver and gunner. After 5 months in the army he was given embarkation leave and had another near miss when a bomb landed in the street where he was staying. With leave over he went to Bovington then by train to the Clyde and onto the old converted meat ship The Boisatane. While waiting to sail he heard the Duke of Kent had been killed in an air crash. After five weeks they arrived in Durban. It was another three weeks through the Red sea and landing at Port Said and onto Cairo, it was now October 1942 and the Battle of El Alamein had begun.

After transporting tanks through Palestine, Lebanon and Syria to the Turkish border and working in Cairo he was sent to Tripoli, had a spell with the Staffordshire Yeomanry and then transferred to 'A' Squadron the Greys in time for the Salerno landings in September 1943; his job co driver of the ammunition truck. This was his worst experience of the war so far with shells dropping and orders to evacuate back to the boats, however, it came to nothing and the regiment moved on with Reg back in the tanks only to fall ill with fever and be sent to an American hospital in Beirut where he met a lot more of the regiment. From there, on Christmas day 1943 he was sent with a bully beef sandwich to Algiers, spending a few weeks there, he was sent back to England to re join the regiment who were being sent home from Italy. He re joined the regiment at Worthing where they were preparing for the invasion of Europe, and became Major Duggie Stewart's driver. By chance the landing craft that landed Reg and his tank on D day plus two on Sword Beach was the same crew who had landed him at Salerno. Towards the end of July 1944 the day after Caen had been taken, he was wounded in the leg, his Sergeant Major taking him to a field hospital where it was decided he had a Blighty one and evacuated to a hospital in Wales.

After recovering from his wounds he joined the regiment in Holland and heard about the casualties including the sergeant major who had taken him back, had been killed. Major Lewis was now his tank commander, Major Stewart had been made the Commanding Officer. He took part in the Rhine crossing and so was in the thick of the fighting again, he remembered going along a country lane the third tank in line, the first tank went by a side turning alright, but the second one was hit by an armoured piercing shell that passed right through one side and out the other, killing all the crew. He took part in the action for Bremen and the final advance to Weismar where he met up with the Russians. The war was over. He took part in burning down the Belsen concentration camp with Churchill tank flame throwers, and was finally demobbed in October 1946.

After the war, Reg, still working hard, became self employed, got married, had a family, bought a house and finally settled down in Bexhill. His daughter said of him, "he was a wonderful father, kind and generous, even when his own health caused problems, he struggled on looking after his wife who had developed alzheimers".

A life Member of the London Branch proud to have served in the Greys he asked especially that Greys flag be placed on his coffin at his funeral. Our condolences go to his wife, his children, 11 grand children and 3 great grand children.

JLF

158 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Reginald Dalton

Reg Dalton was born and brought up in Thirsk, North Yorkshire. He began work as an errand boy with the Home and Colonial Company, just as the Second World War began and he was called up in April 1942.

Initially he spent time travelling the length and breadth of the country, camouflaging airports and aircraft, which, in itself was dangerous work with no safety harness or Health and Safety Regulations, when painting high buildings and planes.

Eventually Reg was transferred to Catterick Garrison because there was a requirement for tank drivers and he was posted to 109th RAC Regiment. In March 1944 he was transferred to The Royal Scots Greys. He was immensely proud of his Regiment and of his part in the liberation of Europe when the Greys landed on the Normandy beaches, just north of Caen, between the 7th and 9th of June 1944. By the end of September 1944 the Regt was in the Netherlands and, in October, was involved with liberating the village of Hilvarenbeek, where Reg met and fell in love with Maria (who he always called Mary). He was with A Squadron, in February 1945 when, with accompanying forces, the Greys fought their way into Germany, through the Hochwald, to open the road to the Rhine, but in April, Reg was wounded in action.

Reg left the Greys in May 1947 and set about getting Mary over to the UK. They were married by special licence in February 1948 and settled down to family life, bringing up their two sons, Jan and Michael, firstly in Thirsk, before moving to Richmond. In 1952, Reg joined the Ambulance Service and, over a 30 year period, rose from driver to Station Officer, a position he held for the last 15 years of his service. He took the needs of the working man very seriously and was a member of the Labour Party and also a union shop steward.

In 1983, Reg took early retirement and settled down to a life of leisure. He was an avid gardener and took great pride in everything he grew. He enjoyed holidays in Scotland and Holland, where he felt completely at home and would have willingly moved if there had been a need. He maintained his interest in tanks through books and was well read on the subject. He was also a member of the local branch of the Normandy Veterans Association and was Secretary for 8 years, where he was proud to be of service to the membership.

In the mid Nineties the Family moved to Newton Aycliffe where Mary became a councillor and, later served as Mayor. Reg supported Mary as Consort and attended many events during the times she spent in office. He was very proud of Mary's achievements.

Reg was a Life Member of the North East of England Branch, served on the committee and always enjoyed attending the annual dinners. Reg and Mary always organised the raffle, selling tickets, carrying out the draw and making sure that there were plenty of prizes on the night. If there was a branch event organised in the area (Remembrance Parades etc) Reg would always turn up to provide support.

He was very proud of his family, both here and in Holland and he enjoyed nothing more than getting together for special occasions. He was a grandfather to Robert, Lisa, Colin and Sue. He was also great grandfather to Rhianna, Andrew, and Tyler. In recent years, with a gradual decline in health, Reg had been able to do less than he would have liked. However, he still found the strength and resolve, in the early part of 2009, to visit Mary's relations in Hilvarenbeek, a trip he enjoyed very much.

Reg will be sadly missed by his many friends in the North East of England Branch and the Regimental family send their condolences to Mary, Jan, Michael and the extended family.

RE

Tom Lorimer

In his 66th year Tom, who was affectionately known by many as 'Piper Tam', was diagnosed with motor neurone disease and died in January 2009. The cruel illness robbed him of his ability to play his beloved pipes and the Remembrance Day service in Cupar in 2007 was the last occasion on which he was able to perform.

Born in Perthshire, Tom was the son of a shepherd and lived near Auchtermuchty as a lad before making his home in Cupar. Having learned the pipes in the Boys' Brigade, he enlisted in the Royal Scots Greys in 1959 and was a valuable member of the Pipes and Drums, becoming Pipe Corporal. During his military career he saw service in Aden, Singapore and Germany, where he met his wife Pat, then a teacher in an Army School.

An accomplished soldier dancer, Tom was named best dancer in the British Army at Oban Highland Games in 1964, and in the same year he appeared on the popular TV programme "The White Heather Club". He also danced with his regimental team at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo on numerous occasions.

After leaving military service, Tom worked for Danskin's haulage company before joining the then Fife and Kinross Water Board, later East of Scotland Water, where he stayed for 34 years until he retired in 2000.

Co-founder of Cupar Piping Society, he went on to become the piper for Cupar Burns Club and played at regimental dinners for the Fife and Forfar Association and the Queen's Own Yeomanry. He was a staunch member of the Cupar branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland and played the lament on Remembrance Day. He was also in much demand for occasions such as weddings and ceilidhs and after he

retired he was instrumental in re-forming Cupar Pipe Band, which had lain dormant for many years.

Over the last nine years Pat and Tom, usually clad in his Black Stewart trews, provided valuable support to the Regimental Museum and Shop. They seldom missed any of the Edinburgh Branch gatherings and Tom was always at the forefront of musical events and ceilidhs.

As well as his wife Pat, Tom is survived by two sisters and their father, also Tom, aged 97. Our condolences pass to them all; Tam is sorely missed.

HHQ

THE SOLDIERS' CHARITY



**One Army
One charity**

As the soldiers' charity, The Army Benevolent Fund supports all soldiers and former soldiers when they find themselves in need. Please continue to fundraise for us and help us raise our profile, so we can continue to help those who need us.

To fundraise for us, please call **0845 241 4820** or visit **www.armybenfund.org**



**ARMY
BENEVOLENT
FUND**

SUPPORTING THE BEST

Registered Charity No 211645. Scottish Registered Charity No SC039189.

The Regimental Collect of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ,
 Gave us a perfect pattern of service,
 Give us Grace that we, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards,
 May be Second to None in following His example,
 Swifter than Eagles to overtake His enemies,
 And serve Thee in Thine everlasting Kingdom,
 Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen

The Regimental Collect of The Royal Scots Greys

Almighty God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
 Give thy Grace we pray thee, to The Royal Scots Greys,
 That we may be Second to None in obedience to Thy will,
 But swifter than eagles to overtake Thine enemies
 And spoil the powers of evil
 In the strength of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

*Matthew Tobias
 Chaplain to the Forces, 1930.*

The Regimental Collect of The 3rd Carabiniers

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who in His life and death gave a perfect example of service to all mankind, may it please Thee to behold this our Regiment, the 3rd Carabiniers. Grant us the protection of Thy Holy Spirit so that in all things we may serve Thee faithfully.
 Inspire in us all a worthy sense of our great calling that, in peace and in war, we may uphold the right. Bind us in one communion and fellowship with our brothers who have gone before, and bring us all to serve thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Originally composed by the Rev. A. V. Kingston, O.B.E.,
 later Dean of Bulawayo, Hon. Chaplain to the Regiment, on the
 occasion of the Re-dedication of the War Memorial in 1950.*