



EAGLE AND CARBINE

THE ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS

Regimental Magazine and Regimental Association Report for 2010

VOLUME 40

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

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 Army)

European Affiliations

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

Police Affiliation

Lothian and Borders Police

Livery Company Affiliation

The Worshipful Company of Pewterers

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-D-OC@mod.uk

The Regimental Council	3	West Lowland Battalion Army Cadet Force	126
Preface by The Colonel of the Regiment	4	C (Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/Scottish Horse)	
Foreword by The Commanding Officer.....	5	Squadron, Queen's Own Yeomanry	129
Regimental Reports		The Worshipful Company of Pewterers	130
Squadron Notes	7	12th/16th Hunter River Lancers.....	131
Department Notes	30	HMS Vengeance.....	133
The Messes	59	The Magazine	
Regimental Sport and Adventurous Training	66	Crew Training School.....	134
Regimental Gazette	87	Military Stabilisation Support Group	136
Honours, Awards and Appointments	93	A year with the Light Blue.....	138
Images of 2010.....	94	Warthog	140
Home Headquarters and Regimental Museum	96	The Battle of Alam El Halfa.....	144
The Regimental Trust	99	Troop Leading at the Royal Armoured Corps	
The Regimental Association	100	Training Regiment.....	148
The Chairman's Report.....	101	Life with The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards – An	
Branch Reports	101	Intelligence Corps Perspective	150
The Regimental Dinner.....	110	Forty Years Ago (Serving with the Air Squadron in	
Members of the Regimental Association	111	Ulster)	152
Allied and Affiliated	119	A Cavalry Troop Leader in an Infantryman's	
Lothian and Borders Police.....	119	World.....	156
Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band.....	123	A Day in the Second World War	157
		Now and Then	158
		Obituaries	159
		The Regimental Collect	168

The Editor welcomes letters and articles from readers.

Please direct any correspondence to SCOTSDG-D-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
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
Warrant Officer Class 1 I Lamb	Regimental Sergeant Major (designate)

Appointed Trustees and Members of Council

Brigadier HD Allfrey MBE	Trustee (to 2011)
Major DPG Scholfield	Trustee (to 2012)
Lieutenant Colonel W Raitt	Trustee (to 2013)
Captain JD Campbell OBE	Trustee (to 2014)

Secretariat and Specialist Advisors

Major MDA Pocock	Regimental Property
Lieutenant Colonel RJ Binks	Secretary to Council
Captain AD Linehan	Regimental Trust Secretary

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
Major BDA Ridge	Pictures and Fine Arts

4 EAGLE AND CARBINE

PREFACE

By The Colonel of the Regiment

In June this year we shall mark the 40th Anniversary of the raising of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. What a very busy and successful 40 years we have had! In the 1970s and early 1980s the Regiment played its part on operations in the Northern Ireland campaign. After the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, we spearheaded the 1st Armoured Division's push into Kuwait, along with our allies, routing the Iraqis at the Basra Road. We then played an active and successful part in NATO's operations in Bosnia and Kosovo before finding ourselves again, engaged with Saddam Hussein, during the invasion of Southern Iraq and subsequently on Operation TELIC. Add to all this a small, light armour, foray into Afghanistan in 2008, followed by the present deployment into Helmand and nobody can accuse us of not having 'done our bit'. Starting out in the reconnaissance role and moving into armour, we have seen a quantum leap in the technology employed on operations. Our primary equipment has 'morphed' from the humble Ferret Scout Car and its big brother Saladin to the mighty and complex Challenger 2 tank. Flexible as ever, the Regiment is now negotiating the plains and valleys of Southern Afghanistan on Warthog and Mastiff, to name but two of the 'funnies' from the latest array of armoured vehicles.

Meanwhile the debate continues into the future role of the Royal Armoured Corps whilst we remain based in Fallingbowl. A financially challenged Ministry of Defence considers the Government's desire to remove British Forces from Germany as part of their simmering Strategic Defence and Security Review and we watch with interest as the Royal Air Force prepares to reduce its size and vacate bases in Scotland and elsewhere. Meanwhile the decision of the Egyptian people to oust their leader probably could not have come at a worse time for the world's foreign policy makers, as several of their Middle Eastern neighbours, scenting victory, launched their own campaigns for 'democracy'. At the time of writing, it is Libya that seems to have caught the lion's share of the Government's attention and, whilst Japan copes heroically with the greatest earthquake ever recorded, the Middle East threatens to implode as the rulers in Yemen and



Bahrain begin their crackdown on domestic unrest. Almost unnoticed, Iran quietly takes advantage of the situation and the Israelis dust off their contingency plans. To call it an uncertain world would be an understatement, and hardly a time at which the United Kingdom should be considering a reduction in capability. Up until now the most likely effect of SDSR on the Regiment has been a mooted reduction in squadrons from four to three in 2015. We shall have to wait and see.

As the Regiment deploys, I would like to remind everyone of the very serious nature of this operation. Afghanistan is constantly in the news for many different reasons. It remains a very dangerous place and the risks, as with every operational

deployment, are huge, although calculated. To cater for unforeseen contingencies and to complement the excellent system that the MOD has in place, the Regimental Trust has launched an appeal to look after our soldiers and their families in case they need our help as the result of operations. I have already enclosed a more detailed letter in the Newsletter and on the website www.caringforcourage.com. In short, we aim to raise a substantial sum of money in a truncated period and I am appealing to everybody to give either Time, Talent or Treasure to the Appeal, which we have called Caring For Courage. While I know that every member of the wider Regimental family will wish them well and a safe return we must be prepared. Never before has there been a more deserving cause than this; please try and get involved with ideas and schemes. Time is short.

You will have noticed that we have a new Regimental Secretary. After 15 years Roger Binks has handed over the post to Major Jamie Erskine, formerly of the Black Watch. Roger has transformed the post of Regimental Secretary, coping with huge changes in Home Headquarters, the Museum and Edinburgh Castle. Ably supported by his very patient wife Rhiannon, Roger has been a tower of strength and we hope to see them at Regimental events in the future. Here I acknowledge the herculean efforts of our staff running the office, the Museum and the shop and I thank them for another successful year. In welcoming Jamie Erskine and Jeffy to the Regimental family, we look forward to a new chapter in our history in the Castle.

Staying with the theme of handover, I would like to close by paying tribute to the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Biggart, as he takes the Regiment on operations. In June, Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Bartholomew will assume command and bring them back to Germany. Having accompanied our Deputy Colonel In Chief on a visit to Fallingbommel as the Regiment was deploying, I can report that they are well trained, well equipped and ready to carry on the noble spirit of our forebears. Their high level of preparation and confidence in

their own ability has been remarked upon by several very senior officers and is no coincidence; I have no doubt that their finest hour will come on operations, after which Johnny can take up his staff appointment, confident of a job well done. On behalf of all of us, I offer both Johnny and his very supportive wife Jennifer our grateful thanks and best wishes for their future.



FOREWORD

By The Commanding Officer

For the Regiment, 2010 commenced with a ten-day period of Level Two Collective Training in Sennelager with temperatures which dropped as low as minus 18 degrees Celsius. Battlegroup Headquarters, the squadrons and Reconnaissance Troop endured the coldest German winter for 30 years conducting all too rare but extremely valuable troop and squadron-level training in role on Challenger 2 as our final field preparation for the forthcoming PRAIRIE THUNDER exercises at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS). This was quickly followed in February by a battlegroup exercise on the simulators of the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT) in Sennelager.



very satisfyingly came away with the victor's trophy beating all other RAC Regiments in the process.

Much has been written elsewhere about the degree to which BATUS has changed over the last year. Gone are the familiar MEDICINE MAN exercises and in their place we have PRAIRIE THUNDER. This new exercise is based firmly on the Contemporary Operating Environment (COE) and provides a series of challenges more redolent of current operations in Afghanistan and, in April, the SCOTS DG Battlegroup was the first to complete it. The new exercise practises force elements in conventional 'force on force' operations but adds significant complexity in the form of operating

with, and within, a civilian population over complex terrain and with indigenous security forces.

In March the Regiment continued training in its core role with an extremely productive and successful range period. On the Bergen-Höhne range complex, A and D Squadrons fired Challenger 2 whilst B Squadron, in its Medium Armour role, and Reconnaissance Troop fired CVR(T). C Squadron also took this opportunity to complete their conversion to the BV206 'Snowcat' tracked Protected Mobility vehicle. We comprehensively exceeded DRAC's mandated gunnery standards and left the ranges with our heads held high and looking forward to the challenges of the Prairie. Towards the end of that month we sent a large team of sporting gladiators to compete in the RAC Hodson's Horse sports competition, across a series of sports from rugby to hockey and from cross country running to football, and

The SCOTS DG Battlegroup was a complex organisation in its own right. At nearly 1,000 men and women and over 250 vehicles, its order of battle included A Squadron 9/12L (Formation Reconnaissance), D Squadron SCOTS DG (CR2), C Squadron SCOTS DG (BV206), A Company 3 MERCIAN (Armoured Infantry) and X Company 45 Commando Royal Marines in the light role. We were supported by 39 Armoured Engineer Squadron, C Battery Royal Horse Artillery and assets from 2 Logistic Support Regiment, 2 Medical Regiment, the Royal Military Police and RAF Tornado GR4s from 12 Squadron. When the complexity of such a large and eclectic battle

6 EAGLE AND CARBINE

group combined with the complexity of a brand new and extremely ambitious exercise, the training the Battlegroup received during those weeks on the Prairie was outstanding. Generally the only certainty was uncertainty, perfect training for a demanding tour of Afghanistan, and the Regiment proved that it remained expert in Mounted Close Combat whilst retaining the flexibility of mind required to operate effectively across the broadest spectrum of conflict. The coveted goal of Collective Training Competence Level 4 (battlegroup operations in a brigade context) was achieved by some margin with plaudits received from across the chain of command.

During our time on the Prairie we were honoured to host a visit by our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief. His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent was keen to see his Regiment in action on the Prairie and spent time meeting and speaking to battlegroup personnel. Once the exercise was finished, many of our soldiers and officers took advantage of the outstanding adventurous training facilities at Trail's End Camp in the Rockies whilst others took the opportunity to see more of Canada itself.

In June we sent a contingent to Scotland for Armed Forces Day and a series of related activities allowing us to participate in an event which means a great deal to the regimental family whilst helping keep the Grey Beret in the public eye in our key recruiting grounds. Meanwhile A Squadron in role on Challenger 2 undertook Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A as part of the 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup whilst B Squadron provided the enemy force (known now as COEFOR) for exercises PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A and 2B. Many other SCOTS DG soldiers and officers remained in BATUS as Temporary Staff and it was not until mid-July that the whole Regiment finally returned to Fallingbowl. That same month the Regiment achieved the satisfaction of winning the 7th Armoured Brigade Commander's inter-unit sports cup which saw teams from across all units within the Brigade competing against one another in nine sports.

Following summer leave the Regiment was reorganised into our order of battle for Operation HERRICK 14. A Squadron is providing a Kandak Advisory Training Team (KATT)¹ and a number of smaller Tolay Advisory Training Teams (TATTs)² who will work alongside Afghan Army colleagues on day-to-day operations. They will work under 3 MERCIAN but are likely to be detached to 45 Commando Royal Marines. B Squadron is providing crewmen for Mastiff and

Ridgeback wheeled protected mobility troop carrying vehicles for 4 SCOTS (The Highlanders) as well as REME Fitter Sections to 42 and 45 Commandos RM and is also responsible for training and holding our Battle Casualty Replacements (BCRs) and Individual Reinforcements (IRs). C Squadron has re-roled as a light role infantry sub-unit detached to 4 SCOTS and D Squadron is providing the Warhog Group and will work directly to Headquarters Helmand Task Force. SCOTS DG Battlegroup Headquarters is the reserve BGHQ for the Task Force and, whilst not fulfilling that task, is also providing staff officers to fill positions in Headquarters Helmand Task Force.

Headquarter Squadron formed the core of the 1 (UK) Armoured Division Crew Training School which, based in Sennelager, trained nearly 2,500 soldiers and marines on the tactical employment of theatre specific vehicles. In addition the Squadron is providing the framework for the Brigade Troops Echelon based in Camp Bastion and individuals for some key posts in Camp Bastion itself including the Quartermaster and Garrison Sergeant Major (our HQ Squadron Leader and Regimental Sergeant Major).

In December the Regiment formally switched to under command 3 Commando Brigade, the lead Brigade for Operation HERRICK 14.

As ever, I have not managed to cover the year's events comprehensively. They are, however, recorded in the various articles in the Eagle and Carbine you are holding. It seems that every year the Commanding Officer writes that the year past has been the busiest in recent memory. I will not break with tradition but I will also tell you that the Regiment is in tremendous form. That 2010 was a demanding year there is no doubt, but our officers and soldiers rose to the challenge in true form and showed they could not only master combined arms manoeuvre at BATUS but in short order re-role to unfamiliar tasks on secondary and tertiary platforms and on their feet; not a bad achievement in only 12 months. The coming year will be a testing one but I have no doubt that in the hearth of demanding operations will be forged a yet stronger Regiment with officers and men who have shown themselves to be up with the best and certainly Second to None.

¹ A Kandak is an Afghan Army Battalion.

² A Tolay is an Afghan Army Company.

A SQUADRON

Following a well deserved Christmas break the Squadron came back to work at full speed. Two days after returning to Fallingbowl, we deployed to conduct squadron training on the Sennelager Training Area. With temperatures dipping towards minus 20 degrees centigrade, it was one of the coldest exercises many could remember. The tanks generally stood up to the test with only starter motors proving troublesome in the extremely low temperatures.

On our return from Sennelager, the Squadron continued intensive training for the forthcoming annual tank ranges on the Bergen Höhe range complex. It was a tall order to turn the vehicles around in such a short space of time and to have them in the best possible condition for firing. However all members of the Squadron worked tirelessly and the vehicles were presented for the Commanding Officer's tank inspection in the best possible order. The troop sergeants in particular, Sergeants Brown, Chart, Gowland and Mathews, must be applauded for their late nights on the Tank Park under the constant gaze of the SQMS (Technical), Staff Sergeant Baillie.

Annual ranges, in the first two weeks of March, showed a marked improvement in results from the previous August when firing was hampered by seemingly endless range fires. The Squadron's ability to get

fourteen crews through night firing in one night is testament to the leadership and administrative ability of the hierarchy. Several level six scores were achieved during the Annual Crew Test, with the crew of 0B (Major Spenlove-Brown, Sergeant Barclay, Trooper Walker, and Trooper Sim) gaining the Regiment's top score and winning the 'Prince Edward Trophy'. Throughout, the SQMS, Staff Sergeant Hendry and his staff kept all members of the Squadron well fed and watered.

After ranges, the Squadron took Easter Leave before final preparations for the forthcoming Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A in Canada as part of 3 MERCIAN BG. While the rest of the Regiment were deployed to Canada on Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1, A Squadron worked to prepare a number of tanks for delivery into Whole Fleet Management, at the Theatre Fleet Support Unit (Germany), in preparation for the forthcoming tour to Afghanistan. However there was still opportunity for some enjoyable squadron excursions. An officers' lunch to the fish market in Hamburg proved particularly enjoyable, while several squadron sport events were also organised.

The first week of May saw the Squadron deploy once more to Sennelager, although this time to participate in a 3 MERCIAN BG Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT), to practise squadron level tactics and troop



Captain Landon watches over A Squadron in BATUS

8 EAGLE AND CARBINE

movement. As always with A Squadron, there were several visits to the Argentine Steakhouse in Paderborn. At the end of May, the Squadron deployed to BATUS to take part in Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A as the armoured squadron attached to 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup. The PRAIRIE THUNDER exercise replaces the old MEDICINE MAN exercise, and focuses more on the hybrid operating environment found in Afghanistan. A live firing phase precedes an intensive Tactical Engagement System (TES) exercise with a number of different scenarios from escorting Combat Logistic Patrols to clearing IEDs.

With a month on the prairie looming, individuals escaped to Medicine Hat for last minute supplies and a good steak dinner. The live firing phase proved a demanding yet rewarding time for the Squadron, where we were able to practise all aspects of gunnery, including squadron night firing on the move. This was a challenging exercise for not only the less experienced crews but also for the 'old hats' in the Squadron. Staff Sergeant Graham and his fitter section worked endlessly to keep the fleet on the move and the success of the exercise is in no small part due to his professionalism and to the dedication of his team.

The TES phase enabled the Battlegroup to practise traditional armoured tactics initially, and then move onto the more unfamiliar hybrid context. The Squadron was split into half squadrons with Major Spenlove-Brown and 1st and 2nd Troops working with C Company 3 MERCIAN, and Captain Anderson and 3rd and 4th Troops working with B Company 3 MERCIAN. The enemy was B Squadron SCOTS DG in CVR(T) and it was satisfying to see Major Williamson's 'Light Horse'

Company feel the brunt of A Squadron's cunning and aggression. *(Editor's note – happily this situation was totally reversed during Mission Three)*

After the exercise, and upon our return to Camp Crowfoot, the Squadron prepared the vehicles for handover to the BATUS workshops. This was so successful that the BATUS hierarchy commented that the Squadron's handover of vehicles was the best they had seen in recent years. Having returned the vehicles, several members of the Squadron were able to enjoy the delights of the famous Calgary Stampede which conveniently began shortly afterwards. The SQMS (Technical), SQMS and 2IC took a well-planned road trip to Edmonton and Calgary which included being taken to the Rodeo by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Mr Holtum took several members of the Squadron to the Army's Adventurous Training centre at Trail's End Camp in the foothills of the Rockies. Activities included riding, ice climbing, parachuting, kayaking and white water rafting. The latter proved very popular, and everyone who took part enjoyed the experience enormously.

A Squadron returned to Fallingbommel in the middle of July in time for summer leave and, of course, for a Squadron summer party. We said a fond farewell to many members of the squadron, as the Regiment rearranged its Order of Battle for Afghanistan. Major Spenlove-Brown handed over to Major Ambrose and moved to the Army Inspectorate in Upavon. His leadership will be missed by all members of the Squadron. WO2 Black moved on, to become Sergeant Major at the newly formed Crew Training School in Sennelager, before he leaves the Army in January. He too will be

B Squadron and A Squadron Leaders agree to a temporary truce



sorely missed by all those in A Squadron. WO2 Boyd took over as SSM whilst Staff Sergeant Baillie moved, on promotion, to B Squadron as SSM. We wish all those moving on the very best for the future.

Following summer leave, the Squadron reformed into its new structure as the Kandak Advisory Training Team (KATT), with the task of deploying to Nad e-Ali in Helmand Province in early-2011. The Squadron's role is to provide advice and guidance to the Afghan National Army (ANA) which will be working closely with 45 Commando Battlegroup, from RM Condor near Arbroath. For this role, the size of the Squadron shrunk to its new strength of eighteen. We welcomed Mr Braithwaite after completing his Troop Leader course and Mr Woodhams from D Squadron, and Staff Sergeant Beveridge became SQMS after leaving B Squadron. Staff Sergeants Blair, Chantry and Taylor, and Sergeants Anderson, Culbert, Khoo, Roberts and Smith also moved in to take up the challenge of advising the ANA. Trooper Weir is the Squadron's only trooper.

With this new role for the Squadron, it was vital to begin developing the key skills that would be required on operations. Thus the coming months proved demanding with almost every individual away on specific training courses at any one time. These courses varied in nature from specific weapons courses to cultural awareness, and IT courses for all the new operational computer systems now in use.

In September and October the Squadron sent representatives to take part in 45 Commando's Command and Staff Trainer (CAST) and CATT in the UK. We also made the journey over to Lydd and Hythe, in early



Captain Anderson catches his breath



10 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Preparing for FOB defence

November, to take part in dismounted small arms ranges with the assistance of personnel from 3 MERCIAN. Although the weather was best described as bleak, all individuals performed admirably on a variety of weapon systems.

Later in the month, just as the weather was beginning to turn particularly cold, A Squadron made the journey north to Otterburn to complete a Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX). Everyone completed firing up to section level at night, with a few individuals lucky enough to call in live artillery and attack helicopter missions. Eventually the snow took its toll on the exercise, although we managed to get to the end without too many incidents.

Between the CALFEX and the Confirmatory Exercise (CFX) in Norfolk, the Squadron was invited by Captain Douglas to visit 1 Squadron RAF at RAF Cottesmore, where he is the Ground Liaison Officer. After meeting some of the pilots and conducting a walk around a hangar of Harrier Jump Jets, we moved to RAF Wittering where everyone had the chance to fly a Harrier simulator. To say this was fun would be a significant understatement. Special mention must be made of Staff Sergeants Taylor and Blair who managed to fly under two bridges at full speed. It was an extremely enjoyable



Route planning in Sennelager

visit and our thanks go to Captain Douglas and the members of 1 Squadron RAF for their hospitality.

As we approached Norfolk for the start of the CFX, the temperature dropped dramatically. This made the rotation between different training scenarios even more challenging, given the 'Green-Zone' phase would see soldiers up to their waists in a river, masquerading as one of the many tributaries of the River Helmand. Fortunately there was a warm tent available following this particular phase where everyone's kit could be dried to a certain degree. The CFX was extremely beneficial for the Squadron as it was the first time we had the opportunity to work closely with real Afghans. We returned to Fallingbowl in the second week in December and just in time for the Regimental festivities.

The Squadron is very much looking forward to the Christmas break and in the meantime sends warmest congratulations to Staff Sergeant Beveridge and his wife Nikki on the arrival of their son, Lleyton, who was born on the 30th of November. 2010 was a memorable year for all those involved with A Squadron, with many new experiences and friendships forged. We look forward to the New Year and our next challenge in the form of HERRICK 14.



A Squadron leaguer up in Sennelager

B SQUADRON AND RECONNAISSANCE TROOP

Shortly after Christmas Leave, the B Squadron CVR(T)s were loaded onto Heavy Equipment Transport System (HETS) vehicles and moved to Sennelager for Exercise IRON EAGLE, ten days of Level Two Collective Training (CT2). CT2 focuses on sub-unit training and is part of the training progression which culminates in Battlegroup manoeuvre in BATUS. Reconnaissance Troop, still part of B Squadron, would complete Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 after which B Squadron, as a full Medium Armour (CVR(T)) squadron, would carry out Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A as part of the 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup. Both, therefore had to complete CT2.

Reconnaissance Troop spent a number of days practising identifying suitable battlefield control measures as well as practising withdrawal operations and route marking before rejoining other Battlegroup assets for higher level training. The Troop also participated in the Troop Tests, scoring very well. Overall, the Troop achieved a lot from the exercise, notably a number of cold fingers and toes as a result of the extremely low temperatures (minus 18 degrees Celsius for prolonged periods). The almost constant driving snow made many tasks extremely difficult, and the challenges of having to thaw drinking water that had frozen overnight (as well as boots in many cases), made it harder still to see the positive side of life. However, in

retrospect, it was an extremely valuable exercise and one which prepared the Troop well for BATUS.

Meanwhile, the remainder of the B Squadron personnel were tasked with providing an enemy force to provide an element of realism to the exercise. Ably headed up by the SSM, WO2 Adams, this small band of determined, but cold, men launched repeated attacks upon the Battlegroup, giving them a chance to rehearse defensive techniques. The enemy force also supplied a target for the Battlegroup's offensive operations. Throughout all of this, the Squadron Leader provided Battlegroup Headquarters with a Warfare Officer.

Following our return from Sennelager, and with fingers and toes finally thawed out, B Squadron and Reconnaissance Troop deployed to the Bergen Höhne range complex for CVR(T) ranges. The firing was conducted successfully under the watchful eye of Staff Sergeant Richardson from ARMTAT, who was there to ensure that the gunnery was of a sufficient standard to qualify us for BATUS. Despite this being the first CVR(T) range period for a majority of the gunners and commanders, B Squadron and Reconnaissance Troop were comfortably passed fit to deploy to BATUS.

Soon the majority of the Squadron headed to BATUS. Reconnaissance Troop would conduct Exercise



B Squadron as COEFOR

12 EAGLE AND CARBINE

PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 as part of SCOTS DG Battlegroup with Major Williamson again Warfare Officer. Many other members of the Squadron were employed with other squadrons or as part of the considerable manpower bill for BATUS temporary staff. Our arrival in Canada was greeted by spectacular weather with alternating heavy snow and 25 degrees Celsius heatwaves. As soon as we deployed onto the Prairie however, the traditional blizzards and rain settled in. This now meant, rather depressingly, that the Squadron had been on exercise, or in barracks, in the snow for over six months.

PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 saw Reconnaissance Troop conduct live firing for the first ten days, followed by a longer period of Tactical Engagement Simulation (TES) training. BATUS has changed considerably since many of us were last there in 2007. The exercise is no longer called Exercise MEDICINE MAN and is no longer based upon a traditional armoured 2:2 battlegroup (two tank squadrons and two armoured infantry companies). Instead PRAIRIE THUNDER seeks to retain elements of conventional warfare, but focuses upon the hybrid warfare challenges of the Contemporary Operating Environment (COE) and counterinsurgency operations.

As ever, Reconnaissance Troop provided the Commanding Officer's 'eyes and ears' for the exercise as his close reconnaissance asset and the Troop was tested

over a number of different operations. These included tasks ranging from armoured warfare to aiding in stabilisation operations and providing security for civil and military interaction with the indigenous population, all tasks pertinent to the Regiment's forthcoming tour to Afghanistan. Reconnaissance Troop had an excellent exercise attracting praise from Commander BATUS and the Brigade Commander, testament to hard work throughout the entire training year. During PRAIRIE THUNDER 1, it became apparent that BATUS was not equipped to train an organisation as large as the 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup and so B Squadron would miss out on Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A. Following some quick negotiations, it was decided that B Squadron would provide the SALAMANDER (Tank) Company to the 9th/12th Lancers COEFOR (Contemporary Operating Environment Force – or enemy) Battlegroup. B Squadron had effectively 'swapped sides'. If we weren't going to be part of the 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup, we would do our very best to give them a bloody nose.

At the end of Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1, Reconnaissance Troop disbanded and was fully subsumed into B Squadron as part of the Medium Armour Squadron with Captain Irwin resuming the role of Second-in-Command. After an all too brief spell of Adventurous Training and R&R, the Squadron paraded in BATUS, under WO2 (SSM) Boyd, along with the other members of B Squadron who had remained in Fallingbowl during Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1. As part of the 9th/12th





Sergeant Robinson, WO2 (SSM) Boyd and Corporal McGovern endure the transition from snow to heatwave



Trooper Davison maintains a Reconnaissance Troop CVR(T)

Lancers COEFOR Battlegroup, we took over our fleet of SALAMANDER 'tanks', in reality SCORPION CVR(T)s with mock-up longer barrels and anti-aircraft guns and designed to replicate T-72 tanks. We also donned tiger-stripe uniforms manufactured for the Honduran armed forces. These were made of denim and extremely heavy which was fine when temperatures were low, but they took hours to dry when wet and were a positive liability when temperatures climbed above 30 degrees Celsius.

The start of Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A provided B Squadron with an excellent opportunity to

practise conventional squadron tactics before our first contact with the exercising battlegroup. This came soon enough in the form of Major Spenlove-Brown's A Squadron and spun out over the course of a week and three major missions. In the first, B Squadron provided a protective screen to a defensive operation, culminating in a swift dash across a bridge whilst pursued by numerous CHALLENGER 2s. Happily the manoeuvrability of CVR(T) provided a foil to the firepower of CR2 and we suffered negligible casualties whilst inflicting significant damage on the lumbering tanks. The second mission, where we were held in reserve through-



B (SALAMANDER) Squadron vehicles prepare to move out on Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A

14 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Lance Corporal Harley, Sergeant Robinson and Lance Corporal Saulalailai

out, left us little time or room for manoeuvre and A Squadron exacted their revenge. With honours even, B Squadron was given command of the defence of the village of Tondoz in the face of the 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup's final attack. This went extremely well from our perspective as we managed to stop the Battlegroup to the east of the village until a large proportion of their destroyed tanks and warriors were regenerated for a subsequent, more successful, attack. The long weeks on exercise suddenly seemed worth every minute.

At the end of the armoured phase of the exercise, B Squadron hurriedly changed into Afghan dress and proceeded to the village of Pakshar, in the middle of the Prairie, to begin life as the local civilian population for the subsequent stabilisation phase. We were delighted to remove our Honduran combats and settle into a far more pedestrian pace of life until we realised that we were required to provide a 'pattern of life' for the exercising troops to study. This included answering the wailing 'Call to Prayer' which was piped out of the local mosque every few hours throughout the day and starting at around 0500 hours. On the bright side, the Afghan role players, who added a degree of realism to our Afghan / Scottish / Fijian village, taught us the basics of Muslim prayer and many lessons on general cultural awareness. They also made kebabs and taught us how to make kites so our time in Pakshar was at least productive.

During Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A, we were told that B Squadron would form the basis of the COEFOR to oppose the 9/12th Lancers Battlegroup during the week-long Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2B. The Squadron thus abandoned Pakshar and remounted our SALAMANDERS, complete with the obligatory Honduran tiger-stripes. Once more we 'swapped sides' and took under command a company from 3 MERCIAN, elements of a 9th/12th Lancers reconnaissance squadron and the

BATUS Insurgent Group who would operate as 'terrorists' and give us the option of asymmetric attacks. It is not often that an exercise can be described as 'a joy' but this came close. Major Williamson had virtually free rein to attack the exercising battlegroup wherever and whenever he wanted and the vehicle commanders were only too willing to oblige. The Squadron's final mission of PRAIRIE THUNDER 2B was to get as far as possible through the 9th/12th Lancers Battlegroup and to seize and hold a prominent hill, by a certain time. We moved out in darkness and soon came across the enemy reconnaissance screen which we quickly bypassed. After several hours of playing 'cat and mouse' with the exercising battlegroup, we punched through their main body and headed for our goal. To our enormous satisfaction we seized our objective with over an hour to spare and having created havoc on our way. The icing on the cake, from the Squadron Leader's (MS) perspective, came in the form of our Brigade Commander who was watching from the top of the hill and who heartily congratulated us on our efforts. The smiles on the Squadrons' faces were, by now, indelible and even the following morning's futile (and thoroughly hampered by BATUS staff) defence of our new vantage point did nothing to dampen our spirits.

When Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2B finally ended, most members of B Squadron and Reconnaissance Troop had spent three months in Canada and were more than ready to return to Fallingbowl. Following the handover of our beloved SALAMANDER fleet most took the opportunity for final trips into Medicine Hat before the coaches left for Calgary Airport and the long-awaited flights back to Hanover. With Pre-Deployment Training for Afghanistan looming after Summer leave, every man wanted to know where he would end up in the new Order of Battle.

When the Regiment's Order of Battle was confirmed, B Squadron took on the role of training and providing MASTIFF and RIDGEBACK crews to the Ground Holding companies whilst also training and administering Battle Casualty Replacements (BCRs) and Individual Replacements (IRs) for the other squadrons. The squadron's nominal role changed beyond recognition with Major Halford-MacLeod returning as the Squadron Leader, WO2 Baillie arriving as Squadron Sergeant Major and Sergeant Pratt as SQMS.

Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) started with an All Ranks Brief (ARB) and Tactical Commanders' Course (TCC). This was due to be followed by a period of cascade training although this proved extremely difficult to achieve. With most of the Squadron lacking the necessary driving licences and with a constantly

changing Order of Battle, Squadron Headquarters endured a chaotic time tracking and managing soldiers scattered across Fallingbowl and Sennelager and also back in the UK.

Crews were duly organised into multiples and assigned to the 9th/12th Lancers, 4 SCOTS, 3 MERCIAN and to C Squadron SCOTS DG. The initial requirement was to provide 90 trained crewmen, but this was reduced to 45 as the requirement from 9th/12th Lancers and 3 MERCIAN was reviewed. The balance of crews were thus reassigned to other squadrons or remained with B Squadron to be held as BCRs or IRs.

Messrs Emslie and Grinling were attached to 3 MERCIAN in order to act as company operations officers. Staff Sergeants Crockett and Gowans were integrated into A and B Companies of 4 SCOTS to act as company Intelligence SNCOs and to provide figure-heads for the other SCOTS DG soldiers attached to their respective companies. The MASTIFF crews assigned to C Squadron were formally handed over and swapped their red B Squadron T-shirts for the green of C Squadron. Throughout all this time, two REME fitter sections from the Light Aid Detachment trained with the Squadron with a view to deploying with 42 and 45 Commandos Royal Marines.

Although extremely busy, the Squadron managed to push C Squadron hard in the Moncrieff Shield competition and missed out on first place by the narrowest of margins. This was a great achievement for the Squadron and testament to Sergeant Pratt's organisation of the

teams. The Squadron also found time to arrange a number of parties which were notable successes.

Training with 4 SCOTS continued apace with multiples required to complete the same training as their infantry counterparts. It is to the credit of those soldiers involved that they adjusted to their new role and surroundings. As expected, the requirement to operate as infantrymen tested their fitness and weight carrying ability, but they applied themselves to the task at hand and completed all that was asked of them. Indeed, their expertise in operating crew-served weapons was immediately apparent as the companies trained on the Heavy Machine Gun and Grenade Machine Gun. Their intensive training programme culminated in the Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX) in Norfolk and in the Dismounted Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX) in Otterburn prior to Christmas.

It was with great regret that the Squadron Leader was sent to Castlemartin in October in order to support the Mounted CALFEX. This commitment would leave him stranded in Wales until the New Year leaving WO2 (SSM) Baillie in the unenviable position of having no Squadron Leader, no Squadron Second-in-Command and no Troop Leaders. It is worthy of note that despite all this he still managed to guide the squadron through a very demanding and dynamic training programme. Thus B Squadron set the conditions to enter 2011 in the best possible position to support the various Regimental elements deployed on Operation HERRICK 14.

B Squadron gets a lesson in Islamic prayer from Afghan role players



16 EAGLE AND CARBINE

C SQUADRON

C Squadron returned from the fun of Christmas leave to a very snowy and chilly Fallingbommel and the prospect of deploying to Sennelager to undertake Level Two Collective Training (CT2) on CHALLENGER 2. Rumours on the 'tank park' abounded amongst the troopers that the exercise had been cancelled for a variety of reasoning including minimum operating temperatures, too much snow for tanks and radical budget cuts. It was astonishing to find out how many soldiers seemed to have a hotline to CGS.

Despite these stories the Squadron deployed on exercise to the Sennelager Training Area to refine their core tank skills. The scenery was a true winter wonderland, the ground blanketed with snow and thigh-deep drifts, and the temperature provided constant entertainment for all with the low recorded at minus 18 degrees Celsius. Despite the challenging conditions, CT2 was an excellent exercise and allowed both new arrivals and seasoned members of the Squadron to practice troop and squadron-level tactics and manoeuvre. Due to the low temperatures all that was seen of most members of the Squadron throughout the exercise was a bundle of cold-weather clothing and the SSM struggled with visitors to the back of his SPARTAN to keep the door closed and the heat in. The tough conditions sadly took their toll on Lance Corporal Mitchell who goes down in Squadron history as the first man defeated by a coffee sachet. Unfortunately the sachet proved too strong for his front tooth and the latter came off worse.

Back in Fallingbommel the Squadron switched its focus to preparation for BATUS in April and the new

Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1. C Squadron would crew the BV206 vehicle in a Protected Mobility role whilst X Company from 45 Commando Royal Marines would provide the vehicle dismounts. This required us to develop our own dismounted skills and ensure that the Squadron became fully conversant with our new vehicles. Corporals Chalmers and Mitchell spear-headed vehicle instruction and the Squadron carried out a small arms range period culminating in a live firing pairs fire and manoeuvre. During this period new arrivals to the squadron had the opportunity to take part in the tank ranges conducted by A and D squadrons, gaining invaluable experience.

A large proportion of the squadron deployed to Canada in early April as either Activation Party or as BATUS Temporary Staff. They arrived in BATUS to scenes reminiscent of CT2 with snow covered prairies and freezing temperatures. The arrival of the main body, however, was delayed due to the timely eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland and the resulting ash cloud. This in turn led to another timely eruption of 'tank park' rumours that Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 would be cancelled and that all C Squadron personnel already in BATUS would have the luxury of Adventurous Training for over a month. Alas the cloud eventually dissipated, as did the wild speculation, and soon we were partnered up with our Royal Marine dismounts and heading down the Rattlesnake Road and onto the Prairie.

Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 was a newly designed hybrid exercise encompassing an initial live firing phase





Lance Corporal Mitchell after his fateful encounter with a coffee sachet



Track-bashing on BV206

and the main Tactical Engagement Simulation (TES) phase. It is designed to replicate the Contemporary Operating Environment (COE) and C Squadron spent considerable time operating in an unfamiliar environment and interacting with civilian populations. The BV206s provided a steep learning curve for everybody but, whilst it soon became apparent that they were not noted for their cross-country speed or comfort, they proved exceptional at crossing all manners of terrain. Throughout the whole exercise not one BV206 suffered the ignominy of a 'boggy' nor did any lose a track – a true rarity for a BATUS exercise. Nevertheless we persevered with them and spent a month on the Prairie interrupted only by the respite of maintenance days. This was where the BV206s provided a real advantage in that maintenance was exceedingly simple and quick in comparison to CHALLENGER 2.

Upon completion of the exercise, the Squadron raced back down the Rattlesnake Road and towards Camp

Crowfoot hoping to be first through the washdown. We were thwarted, however, by our lack of speed and consequently were up until the small hours of the next morning still working on our vehicles. The only saving grace was the continuous supply of free burgers that sustained us throughout the night. The Squadron then went their separate ways with the majority heading off for some well-deserved adventurous training. The remainder prepared to go back out onto the Prairie for Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A, with other squadrons or as safety staff, and Mr Jackson headed back to Germany with the Squadron's shooting team to take part in the British Army Germany Skill at Arms Meeting (BAGSAAM) shooting competition.

Once the Squadron had recovered back to Fallingbostal, our focus switched again to servicing and preparing the tanks to be handed back to the Theatre Fleet Support Unit (Germany) (TFSU(G)) before Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) for Operation HERRICK



C Squadron on Level Two Collective Training in Sennelager

18 EAGLE AND CARBINE

14. This required endless hours on the tank park in order to get all the vehicles to a pristine condition.

The Squadron celebrated the arrival of summer with a party to celebrate what we had achieved throughout the year and as a final gathering before the Regiment changed its Order of Battle for Afghanistan. The Squadron heading to Schumacher's (a local go-karting centre), where Lance Corporal Fitzpatrick proved his driving skills, beating all comers, before heading to Sergeant Stewart's guest house for a barbecue and well-deserved drinks.

C Squadron returned from summer leave reformed in the guise of what can best be described as an infantry company. A new Squadron Leader, a brace of new Troop Leaders and a whole host of new faces were thrown together, ready to embark upon an arduous programme of Pre-Deployment Training (PDT).

The overwhelming memory from these first few weeks of PDT is the vast array of courses that had to be filled. Minibuses back to training areas around the UK were a common occurrence, a plethora of vehicle courses, weapon courses and a healthy dose of physical training became the norm. Once we became fully acclimatised to this frenetic pace, the enormity of what faced us – fielding a ground holding subunit on Operation HERRICK 14 as part of the 4 SCOTS Battlegroup – became more apparent. There was no doubt as to the

challenge we faced; many had been crewing tanks in Canada only weeks before, but the opportunity that we had been given as a squadron was not one to be spurned.

The Squadron spent two weeks in Sennelager conducting field firing alongside our infantry counterparts from the Battlegroup. The effort and resulting performance of the Squadron over this fortnight gave all involved great confidence. We were able to keep pace with our infantry brethren, and even outperform them, throughout this period of training. Those who had perhaps doubted our abilities were forced to reassess their opinions.

From there we spent a couple days on the local training area, practising for the first time our operational Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) at troop level under the spotlight. Yet again, we turned in a strong performance, and confidence within the Squadron was steadily rising. Our next test, and quite a test it proved to be, was the Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX), conducted at Thetford in Norfolk. Those of us who found ourselves up to our navels in chilled Norfolk water on a Sunday morning, hours after getting off an overnight coach journey from Fallingbøstel, will not forget the experience in a hurry. In what can best be described as 'a testing day in the field', we learnt that perhaps we were not quite at the standard that OPTAG had expected. Over the course of the next five days however, the Squadron listened,



BV206 on Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1

adapted, persevered and received some character-building debriefs as we fought to prove we were ready and capable of rising to the challenge presented. We finished with our heads held high, knowing we had come a long way throughout a highly demanding week.

From Thetford the Squadron moved straight to Warcop, a small camp within spitting distance of the Squadron Leaders' Cumbrian home. Thoughts of a restful evening or two in a local hostelry to revive some ailing bodies were quickly quashed with the infantry policy of confining the entire Battlegroup to camp firmly in play. Nonetheless, we acquitted ourselves well in the Battlegroup sports afternoon; the fact that the results were never published hints at a strong performance from C Squadron. The real work was on the ranges, however, getting people through the requisite shoots prior to the Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX), where we would be blessed with the full spectrum of Cumbrian weather.

Our final 'training event' before Christmas was the CALFEX, held at Otterburn, a popular autumnal holiday destination in the North-East of England. It was predictably bleak and miserable, however, live firing compound clearance at troop level was a particular highlight. The exercise also encompassed a live Forward Operating Base (FOB) shoot at night, a spectacle of firepower, and a squadron-level compound clearance down a river valley to finish. A quick scrub



WO2 (SSM) O'Connor

of the weapons, a few hours' sleep, and we were on our way back to Germany via the Newcastle-Amsterdam ferry. Considering the reputation of this infamous ferry route, it was quite remarkable that there was not a single incident of note on the high seas.

Further training in camp followed, as thoughts turned rapidly to Christmas leave. A number of the squadron escaped for Regimental stalking as well as a spot of skiing at Alpbach in Austria despite the busy schedule. Christmas in a week was a fitting finale to a tremendously successful year for C Squadron, with all eyes eagerly anticipating the operational tour to follow.



20 EAGLE AND CARBINE

D SQUADRON

With 2009 behind us, it was clear that 2010 would be every bit as hectic with Exercise IRON EAGLE (Level Two Collective Training) starting almost immediately on our return from Christmas leave. Winter had not relinquished its icy grip on the Sennelager Training Area and we met some mightily relieved A Squadron soldiers and officers, from whom we were taking over, bringing their tanks to the washdown. With all of the D Squadron vehicles ready to deploy, we made our way onto the Belle Alliance part of the Sennelager Training Area and waited for the exercise to begin.

Sennelager is a busy training area but even then it came as a surprise to the Squadron second-in-command when, on one of the first moves, his operator warned him that there were tanks following him. As he was supposed to be the last vehicle in the Squadron's order of march, he wondered if perhaps the Germans or Dutch were exercising at the same time. However these were CHALLENGER 2 tanks and turned out to belong to C Squadron. As he pulled up alongside the second-in-command, Captain Densham shouted over the engine noise: "Where am I?" It appeared that his vehicle navigation systems were not working. Neither, it appeared, was his map.

With over a foot of snow on the ground Exercise IRON EAGLE was guaranteed to be tough and cold however D Squadron could take comfort from the fact that they were mounted on tanks and not CVR(T) or worse still, on their feet. The exercise built up slowly with Major Cattermole exercising the Squadron's ability to conduct mounted and dismounted drills, casualty evacuation, deliberate and hasty attacks and withdrawals. The Squadron soon came to know the Belle Alliance area

intimately if not fondly. Overnight temperatures dropped to minus 18 degrees Celsius which made getting out of a sleeping bag for the 3am radio stag particularly unpleasant. In order to stop boots freezing stiff, crewmen slept with them in the sleeping bags and we had to rotate drivers and gunners to allow the former to take advantage of the turret heating systems. The obligatory troop tests signalled the end of the exercise and it was with great relief that we made our way back to the washdown and 'elephant sheds' and eventually got all the tanks loaded onto Heavy Equipment Transport System (HETS) vehicles. Even then the weather seemed to conspire against us as the HETS were delayed by the blizzards that closed down much of Northern Germany. Happily they cleared within 24 hours.

In preparation for ranges in March, the Squadron spent long hours in the Precision Gunnery Training Equipment (PGTE) building getting crews through the various qualifying shoots and also ensuring that the tanks were fit and ready. Mercifully this range period saw no repeat of the endless range fires that had blighted the previous period in August. Only the odd foggy day limited our firing and the Squadron recorded some excellent results in the Annual Crew Tests.

Following ranges and the preparation of tanks for Whole Fleet Management at the Theatre Fleet Support Unit (Germany) the first elements headed for Canada as the BATUS Activation Party. The remainder of the Squadron had some leave and provided manpower to the Regiment's successful assault on the Royal Armoured Corps Hodson's Horse competition in Bovington. The end of this leave period was memo-



D Squadron's finest on Exercise IRON EAGLE

rable due to the activities of the unpronounceable Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland which led to rumours that BATUS might be shortened or even cancelled. Irrespective soldiers and officers, whose travel arrangements had been disrupted, used every conceivable means of transport to return from the world over to Fallingbostel, much to WO2 (SSM) Dudman's relief. Mr Welch, stranded in Mexico, left his packing to Mr Ballard-Whyte with predictable results. He was grateful for the limited exercise kit which greeted him on his arrival in BATUS, although decided that he would probably have less use for his blues and mess kit.

When the volcanic activity in Iceland finally diminished, we found ourselves on flights to Canada for Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 and having left sunny Fallingbostel it was a shock to the system to arrive in a cold and wet Calgary. With the vehicles packed and ready, we drove out of Crowfoot Camp and onto the exercise area, the sun quickly came out and things looked promising. This did not last and by day three or four the temperature had dropped significantly and menacingly. Following field replenishment it started to snow with a vengeance and by morning there was a foot of snow across the Prairie, proving the age-old adage that in BATUS you can experience four seasons in one day.

Within a short space of time Exercise Control imposed a movement ban, due to safety restraints, and once again we were grateful for our back decks upon which to keep warm. The Squadron Leader ensured that this time was not wasted and all officers prepared and deliv-

ered a series of presentations on a range of relevant topics. When the weather improved we made our way to the first maintenance day before starting the long days and nights of the live firing phase. The culmination of this phase was a 40-kilometre battlegroup night move which was never going to be simple and D Squadron were to be the last packet.

The move started with Mr Grinling taking the Squadron on a 'scenic tour' of Davies Corners before a series of delays as the slower BV206 vehicles of C Squadron struggled to keep pace. With the cumulative effect of long days and nights it was no surprise that unscheduled stops began to occur. After one particularly long halt, the second-in-command looked ahead to see a number of stationary vehicles in front. However, when he walked to the lead vehicle to establish the reason for this new delay, he found that the Squadron Leader and First and Second Troops had already moved on and the attached Royal Engineer vehicles were now first in the order of march. After waking the crew, the Squadron quickly reassembled. The move ended as the sun came up and having fitted the Tactical Engagement Simulation (TES) equipment, the Squadron took advantage of some time to catch up on lost sleep.

The new PRAIRIE THUNDER exercise provided D Squadron with an excellent opportunity to practise operating alongside other arms. At times, we had under command half of the Battlegroup's close reconnaissance troop, a troop of BV206 carrying Royal Marines, a Royal Engineer troop and often a WARRIOR platoon. As the exercise is more in keeping with the Contemporary

WO2 (SSM) Lockwood debriefs a section on the Confirmatory Field Exercise in Norfolk



22 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Rural patrolling during the Confirmatory Field Exercise

Operating Environment (COE), much of the action centred upon Key Leader Engagements and fighting in villages and the Squadron's role was often one of over-watch. Occasionally armoured hordes, from the 'Samarkistani Republican Guard', would attack from the coulees but these were always swiftly repulsed.

With the mixed weather palette of blazing sunshine and torrential rain, the Prairie was a tricky place to safely cross and with the exception of the Squadron Leader (or so he claims) every tank crew got 'boggied' on numerous occasions, ensuring that the Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle (CRARRV) was busy and that the REME Recovery Mechanics were exercised as well. Following several gruelling weeks the Squadron happily made its way back to Crowfoot Camp and started preparations for some Adventurous Training and the return to Germany. It was at this stage that we said a fond farewell to WO2 (SSM) Dudman and Staff Sergeant (Artificer) Ball. Their hard work will be sorely missed.

Following summer leave, the Regiment's Order of Battle changed completely and D Squadron re-rolled as the WARTHOG Group for the forthcoming tour of Afghanistan. Major Cattermole moved on to become Chief of Staff of 20th Armoured Brigade in Sennelager and Major Williamson made the short trip from B Squadron to replace him. Captain Irwin accompanied him and WO2 (SSM) Lockwood completed the command element of the Squadron. D Squadron would work directly to 3 Commando Brigade Headquarters in Afghanistan, as Brigade Troops, and quickly settled into Pre-Deployment Training.

Following the All Ranks Briefing (ARB) and Tactical Commander's Cadre (TCC), the soldiers began to concentrate upon the training that would prepare them for their forthcoming operational tour of Afghanistan. This included a number of new skills such as Operation BARMA (route clearance), Operation KALA (compound clearance) and a host of other techniques in widespread use in theatre currently, but which many of us had never before experienced. On top of this we had to learn to operate and maintain an entirely new vehicle and the officers had to pass their H (tracked) Licence driving test. So began a wearisome procession of soldiers and officers spending weeks at a time on courses or exercises. Certainly the first few months following Summer Leave were some of the busiest that the Squadron has ever experienced, and it is true now that many are looking forward to going to Afghanistan "for a break".

One of the major hurdles to jump before our deployment on Operation HERRICK 14 was a dismounted Confirmatory Final Exercise (CFX) run at Thetford in Norfolk. This is the same exercise that dismounted



Mr Grinling shows how it's done properly



The Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Major Cattermole and Mr Grinling

24 EAGLE AND CARBINE

infantry companies conduct and would be particularly challenging for a mounted squadron. In preparation, the Squadron completed a three-day dismounted exercise on the Bergen H hne Training Area to reaffirm many of the skills learnt as well as to introduce new ones such as biometrics and arrest and detention. The Squadron also practised Forward Operating Base (FOB) defence, and dismounted patrolling both of which would prove extremely useful during the forthcoming CFX.

Both Command and Staff Trainer (CAST) and Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT) took place during October in Sennelager, and these rehearsed the Squadron Headquarters in all areas from reports and returns to planning for likely missions and tasks. CATT gave the Squadron its first 'run out', albeit in a synthetic environment based upon the area of Nad-e-Ali (South) in Afghanistan's Green Zone, an area where the squadron may soon find itself operating. Both exercises were successes and the Squadron was in good heart as it boarded coaches for the long drive from Sennelager to Norfolk and the Stanford Training Area (STANTA).

The CFX took the form of four 36-hour stands based out of different FOBs, each with its own peculiar atmospheric dynamics. It took D Squadron soldiers and officers out of their traditional mounted comfort zone and they suddenly found themselves heavily laden and on their feet. The exercise serials were varied and relentless and included clearing insurgent positions in a Green Zone, rescuing downed helicopter pilots, conducting shuras with village elders, conducting joint patrols with indigenous forces and defending FOBs when under attack. The employment of heavily made up amputees contributed to the realism of the exercise and everyone, from the Squadron Leader down to the junior trooper, was exhausted by the end of the week. Regular, and very frank, After Action Reviews informed the Squadron as to their progress and highlighted areas for improvement. Equally there were several occasions where our work was described as 'textbook' which provided a great source of pride to us all. Our final report was remarkably complimentary which made all the effort worthwhile. Once again, D Squadron had proved that it could rise to any challenge.



Practising Operation KALA or compound entry techniques

An added complication to our training came in the form of the requirement to send soldiers and officers away on seemingly endless courses. Not only were these pre-HERRICK courses such as driving courses, medical training, sniper courses, Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) courses, etc, etc but also standard career courses such as Commanders' Courses and Junior Command Courses (JCCs). When the dust settles and we finally deploy, soldiers from this squadron will have completed over 50 courses since our return from Summer Leave in 2010. This is a remarkable feat which conclusively proves the hard work and dedication of each squadron member and, just as importantly, that of our families and loved ones.

Upon our return from Christmas Leave, the first six weeks of 2011 will see D Squadron on exercise in Castlemartin and on Salisbury Plain before returning to Fallingbowl for final preparations for Operation HERRICK 14. We have achieved an enormous amount over the last year, even before taking into account next year's operational tour, and 2011 will be just as busy. The Squadron is in good heart however, looking forward to Afghanistan with our new vehicles and proud to maintain the Regiment's reputation as second to none on mounted operations.



WARTHOG training



HQ SQUADRON

The year began with the Regiment deploying to Sennelager for Level 2 Collective Training (CT2) (tank troop and squadron training in 'old money'). The severe wintry conditions did not hamper the Squadron's ability to provide a first class service to the wider Regiment. The Squadron then supported the Sabre Squadrons as they conducted a firing period on the Bergen Hühne ranges complex. After some Easter leave, a large proportion of the Regiment headed off to BATUS, initially as the Activation Party, then subsequently to sustain the SCOTS DG Battlegroup on Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1. The training in BATUS has changed beyond all recognition and each department in its articles will have its own opinion on the positives and negatives of the new exercise.

By the time A and B Squadrons had returned to Fallingbostal after Exercises PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A and 2B, it was time for summer leave. However before everyone scattered, the Regiment reformed into its Operation HERRICK 14 Order of Battle. These manning changes did not adversely affect HQ Squadron, nonetheless, as soon as everyone returned from leave we were straight into Pre Deployment Training (PDT) and a daily rigorous Physical Training regime.

As part of 7th Armoured Brigade's support to 3 Commando Brigade for Operation HERRICK 14, SCOTS DG were tasked with heading up and running the Crew Training School (CTS) in Sennelager with the Squadron supplying the hierarchy and MT supplying many of the Subject Matter Experts. There is a separate article on the CTS further on in the magazine, however what I can say is that it was a resounding success and has been described by many, including a number of very senior officers, as the very 'model' for how a CTS should operate.

The remainder of HQ Squadron continued to support the sabre squadrons throughout the many mandatory serials and exercises as the Regiment prepares to deploy to Operation HERRICK 14, with the majority taking place in UK. There were also a number of inspections, covered in articles by the QM and QM(T)s' Departments, throughout the year and I am delighted that the Regiment came through them all with a clean bill of health.

As ever there have been a number of comings and goings with the majority occurring after the return



Captain Potter pipes Major Stewart away from the CTS

from BATUS. In August the Squadron Leader, Major Stewart, handed over the reins to Major Cameron who returned from a posting to HQ ARRC. Major Stewart's reward was a posting to BATUS as QM(T) however, before he went to Canada, he became the Officer Commanding CTS, an appointment that Major Cameron would take on after Major Stewart's departure. Major Stewart should be very proud of his



*HQ Squadron
Leader handover*

26 EAGLE AND CARBINE

achievements during his tenure as Headquarter Squadron Leader and it is fitting that he was awarded the Duke of Kent Medal.

Captain Gray completed his time as Training Officer and returned to the QRH, to be succeeded by the newly commissioned Captain Hanson. The SSM, WO2 Boyd, moved via B Squadron and Exercises PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A and 2B to A Squadron with WO2 (SSM) Potter arriving on promotion. Staff Sergeant Baird was promoted to Training Warrant Officer and Staff Sergeant McAndrew took over the

mantle as SQMS. The SSM and SQMS both did sterling jobs during their time in post and their hard work was very much appreciated by their successors. The Squadron would like to wish all those who have moved on and their families all the very best for the future.

I hope that you enjoy reading all the HQ Squadron troops' and departments' tales and experiences from over 2010.



COMMAND TROOP

As ever the pace of life for the Regiment in 2010 was fast and furious and it was no different for Command Troop. After some well earned Christmas leave, the year started with Level 2 Collective Training (CT2) on a frozen Sennelager Training Area. For most of the younger members of Command Troop this was the coldest exercise in which they had ever taken part. The exercise, although particularly arduous, was a great success with morale and team spirit remaining undaunted under the most demanding of conditions.

A Regimental Gunnery Camp was the next big event, in early March, and Command Troop once again supported the Regiment, providing vehicles and manpower to the squadrons and to the safety net at Hühne. On

several occasions the BSM (BOWMAN Systems Manager), Sergeant Brian Campbell, took the opportunity to check on the welfare of Command Troop and of course to sample the various SQMS' burgers. Reports back were varied, but in the main positive; although A Squadron needed more mustard, D Squadron's were too expensive. With the range period over, the majority of Command Troop took leave prior to their deployment, as the Activation Party, to BATUS and Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER in early April.

For Activation, the RSO, Captain McBride, and the RSWO, WO2 Taylor, headed up the Battlegroup signals element. During the flight over Staff Sergeant Campbell managed to secure an upgrade to first class, much to the

Command Troop at ENDEX





BGHQ setting up in a crucifix formation

annoyance of Staff Sergeant Taylor and the Quartermaster (Technical) Captain Lillie, who then had to deal with his woeful banter for the duration of a long flight. Typically as the Troop reached Suffield the weather turned Arctic, however it warmed our hearts to hear that barbecue season was in full swing back in Fallingbostal. The takeover of the BGHQ vehicles had its usual problems; even locating them on the base proved a fairly significant task in itself. However Sergeant McAleese got a grip of this, and ensured that everything was taken over in a professional manner. Whilst in BATUS the activation was in full swing, Staff Sergeant Allan was back in Fallingbostal, with the remainder of the Troop, ensuring that all the Regiment's command vehicles were serviced prior to Easter leave. Meanwhile Staff Sergeant Campbell and the RSO put together the technical elements of the communications plan for the exercise and ensured that the finer details were checked and rechecked. With all matters BOWMAN, prior planning and hard work are essential to the success of the Battlegroup in the field and the BSM spent many a long night, with the rest of the BOWMAN 'geeks', talking in the strange jargon they adopt.

At this point a lot of talk centred upon a certain volcano in Iceland, and some members of the Troop had convinced themselves there might be no exercise for which to prepare with the remainder of the Battlegroup stranded in Germany. Indeed many had their hearts set on trips to the United States and extended adven-

ture training. Happily any such rebellious undertones were quickly quashed by the RSWO who pointed out that nothing Mother Nature could throw at the Regiment would stop them rolling out the gates and onto the Prairie.

On cue, the remainder of the Troop arrived from Germany and were quickly whipped into shape by Staff Sergeant Allan whose work ethic ensured that sleep was soon a distant memory. The Battlegroup 'Plug Up' (essentially a giant radio check but one which, in the BOWMAN era, can go on for days) began and our communications experts, Corporals Chandler, De Klerk



Major Williamson and Captain Marjoribanks enjoy their ENDEX cigars and cups of tea

28 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Day One – an inauspicious start

and Lang got to grips with the massive variation in user knowledge across the deploying sub-units. It is much to the credit of the Junior NCOs and signallers within the troop that come D-1 the Battlegroup was 'comms fit', having confirmed both voice and data communications between Battlegroup Headquarters and the sub-units. During all this hard work we did manage some fun time, and Captain McBride was surprised to learn that his troop notes were inaccurate. It transpired that most of his soldiers' birthdays fell at around the same period and coincidentally during trips to Montana's Steak House.

Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER itself had its ups and downs, but high morale and a sarcastic sense of humour saw us through. The tank crews under command of Staff Sergeant Smith disappeared off to the squadrons for the live firing period and achieved excellent results



Staff Sergeant Allan resorts to bribery to convince Captain McBride to improve his annual report

whilst the BGHQ element took advantage of the opportunity to practise their own tactical procedures. This gave the commanders a good chance to hone map-reading skills, and gave Corporal Duncan a good chance to follow his GPS arrow over the top of every contour in BATUS. Corporal Lang clearly decided at the start of the exercise that he was going to attempt to break the BATUS 'no sleeping record' and had to be ordered to his sleeping bag on more than one occasion.

During the exercise a competition developed between the RSWO and BSM as to who could 'boggy' their PANTHER command vehicles more often. The runaway winner was the BSM who towards the end of the exercise decided to test the PANTHER's submersible qualities by driving some 200 metres into a lake with entirely predictable results. The Tactical Engagement System (TES) phase of the exercise also provided its own

Commanding Officer's tank



special moments. During one enemy attack the Command Troop 'militia' managed to fire off a Battlegroup's quota of hand held illumination in one twenty minute session of collective madness. However the attack was repulsed and medals were issued. In another notable incident, the RSWO managed to get his weight and motion calculations wrong with spectacular results. Chasing an enemy SALAMANDER tank he screeched to a halt, whilst simultaneously 'de-bussing', only to rip the door clean off the PANTHER. The result of this act of heroism resulted in his having to use the PANTHER's top hatch for the remainder of the exercise.

The Troop in the field is traditionally dominated by more technically minded soldiers, and has to be controlled by a strong-willed (and patient) individual. This task throughout the whole training period has fallen to Command Troop Sergeant, Staff Sergeant Allan. During moments when all seemed to be going wrong and tempers were running short, Staff Sergeant Allan could always be relied upon to grip the situation and, excusing rank if appropriate, deliver a stern word when required. After a BATUS exercise, memories are generally recorded in photographs and stories told by those who were there at the time. The Intelligence Officer, Captain Landon, can however boast a more permanent reminder. Whilst asleep under a camouflage net which he was supposed to be helping take down, a camouflage pole fell and hit him in the face. This resulted in a coin-shaped puncture wound to the nose and a swift trip to the local hospital.

The whole training period culminating in Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER can be regarded as a huge success for the soldiers of Command Troop. From the tank soldiering expertise of the CHALLENGER 2 crews to the technical skill demonstrated by the signallers on what was the first BATUS exercise using BOWMAN in its current configuration, all the JNCOs and troopers alike distinguished themselves in their work to support the busy BGHQ staff. The technical proficiency demonstrated throughout the lower ranks was excellent, and they can be rightly proud of the standards achieved, both individually and collectively.

Upon their return to Fallingbostal, the HERRICK 14 reorbat took place and the Troop changed beyond recognition. Those moving on included Sergeant McAleese, Corporals Chandler, De Klerk, Duncan, Lang, McCuaig, Musson and Stevenson and Lance Corporals Brown, Dominy, Kapawai, Leckie and Smith. Promotions included Troopers Batiuluna and O'Connor to Lance Corporal and our congratulations go to both. Staff Sergeant Allan moves to D Squadron, having maintained the Troop to an excellent standard throughout his time as Command Troop Sergeant and



RSWO braving the Arctic weather in BATUS

his personal work ethic served as a great example to those working around him. Special Mention must go to Captain McBride, who now moves on to civilian life. Throughout his tenure as RSO he led the Troop with a high degree of professionalism whilst always remaining approachable to all members of the Troop. The whole troop wishes him good luck for the future.

Command Troop is now under command of a new RSO and Troop Sergeant, Captain Anderson and Sergeant Chart respectively, with Staff Sergeant Campbell remaining to provide continuity. We wish them all the best for their forthcoming challenges. Finally, from the RSO and RSWO, thank you to all those who made the last year the success it proved to be, and good luck to you all in the future.



30 EAGLE AND CARBINE

EAGLE AND SPANNER

After returning from Christmas leave, another momentous year began with a final, and very hasty week, of preparation for the impending Level Two Collective Training (CT2) exercise. The CR2 fleet had spent a week training on Bergen-Höhne Ranges during the previous November, which when combined with the run up to the festive season and also the Commanding Officer's inspection, left minimal time for rejuvenation. As always, the wheels of motion turned somewhat faster and very much longer to ensure that the Regiment trained in role and to full capacity.

The ten-day CT2 exercise held in Sennelager would more than meet our expectations. The cold had been a given, especially as Germany had been white for over a month experiencing temperatures well into the minus late teens. What we had not anticipated was that temperatures would plummet towards minus 20 degrees centigrade. Vehicles were incapacitated due to diesel waxing and linkages froze much to the crews' dismay. On one morning, in order to get dressed, Corporal Main had to use a gas cooker to release his boots from the frozen earth. Corporal Wilcox's hopes of breakfast meant he had to shovel snow into the vehicle's Boiling Vessel (BV), as the jerry can's contents had frozen solid during another bleak night on the North German plains. Following a challenging and unenviable experience, the Regiment returned to barracks where the focus immediately switched to the two weeks of armoured ranges scheduled for March.

The Bergen-Höhne range complex was the scene of much frantic effort by trade groups, crews and control towers alike to get the vehicles through the pre-firing

checks. Ensuring that the main armament is correctly aligned was only achieved through the dedication of the Squadrons' fitter sections in providing vehicles fully fit in all aspects automotive, turret and gun. Given the timelines and effort required, maintaining a regiment of CR2 tanks prepared for use on operations is something from which all involved can take great pride.

During the Easter period, SCOTS DG LAD said farewell to WO1 (ASM) Ward following his commissioning in the rank of captain and his departure for a new post in Northern Ireland. His successor, WO1 (ASM) Buck, made the short journey to Wessex Barracks from 2 CS Bn REME in the adjacent St Barbara Barracks. Following successful range periods, the Regiment and LAD headed for Canada. Their combined expertise would be put to the test throughout the newly designed Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1, as SCOTS DG formed the pioneering Battlegroup Headquarters. Deploying later, as part of 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup, A Squadron would be left behind to submit the first five tanks to the Theatre Fleet Support Unit (Germany) (TFSU(G)), in Ayrshire Barracks near Mönchengladbach, as part of the Regiment's temporary reduction in tank holdings for Operation HERRICK 14.

The LAD's Equipment Support role in BATUS was very much the same as that in Germany, with the added complication of large quantities of unfamiliar vehicles. As an example, C Squadron deployed, in conjunction with elements of 45 Commando Royal Marines, on the Hägglunds' Bandvagn 206. Known as BV206, the Swedish translates into English rather unimaginatively as 'tracked vehicle'.



A Squadron Fitter Section on ranges



Corporal Webber, Staff Sergeant Hodges, WO1 (ASM) Buck and WO2 (AQMS) Thornton

The rubber tracked BV206 and mine-resistant PANTHER Command Vehicle were new to most, if not all, tradesmen however this did not prevent some of the highest levels of vehicle availability recorded in BATUS history. Unpredictable weather conditions, as always, played a major part in the repair environment and morale in general. Before the Regiment left the comparative luxury of Crowfoot Camp and headed out onto the prairies, the heavens opened and the Dust Bowl turned into a grim swamp. When out on the exercise area, weather conditions changed dramatically from one day to the next, from sunny warm weather to horizontal snow and freezing conditions. It was even cold enough to warrant the use of a dew liner, thermal underclothing and the infallible 'Deputy Dawg' hat.

As the snow melted, vehicles gearboxes and running gear were pushed to their limits by soft, wet and sandy terrain. The Equipment Casualty Collection Point (ECCP) quickly inundated with casualties from the outset, with one of the heavy vehicles ominously failing less than one kilometre from Camp Crowfoot. From Day One, the 'fun' really did seem endless. The SCOTS DG Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle (CRARRV) was deployed on a nigh on permanent basis and individuals from various fitter sections could be seen swarming around the ECCP, shrieking profanities, drinking tea and smoking cigarettes, but most importantly, effecting repairs.

Spares availability became an issue as the terrain took its toll on both minor and major assemblies alike. It remained firmly the REME tradesmen's responsibility to use a combination of initiative and creativity as far as repairs were concerned. This military version of 'artistic licence' was at times invaluable in supplying a squadron leader or company commander with the equipment he required to perform his assigned task.

B Squadron had the unenviable task of doing 'back to back' exercises, which in this case meant staying in BATUS to perform the role of COEFOR (enemy) during Exercises PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A and 2B. The B Squadron Fitter Section took advantage of the short gap between exercises for a memorable visit to Cancun, Mexico. As for the rest of the LAD, many managed to squeeze in a slice of R&R locally. This generally involved a 'sight seeing' trip around Medicine Hat's bars, clubs, poker joints and other regrettable premises.

A Squadron represented SCOTS DG as the independent squadron in 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup on Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A and, within the Squadron's fitter section, all trades worked together regardless of the task. Sergeant Burdon's insatiable appetite for work ensured that, at the end of the exercise, A Squadron was the first Battlegroup sub-unit to hand over their vehicles, and indeed to assist other sub-units in their efforts. Commander BATUS highlighted the excellent state of the SCOTS DG vehicles on their return to the BATUS workshops, a tribute to the work of the Fitter Section and of the SQMS (Technical), Staff Sergeant Baillie. This could only be achieved through teamwork and thorough cooperation between SCOTS DG and REME personnel. On completion of the post-exercise maintenance, many of the Fitter Section enjoyed a week at Calgary's fabled Stampede, whilst Staff Sergeant Graham and Sergeant Burdon headed for the delights of Seattle.

Upon the Regiment's return to Fallingbowl, significant effort went into delivering much of the Regiment's tank fleet to TFSU(G) and assisting our Germany-based sister unit, QRH, in their endeavours to do the same. At this point the EME, Captain Newland, moved on to pastures new and was replaced by Captain



CRAARV calamity



Minor Units Ski Champions 2010

32 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Mackay who emulated WO1 (ASM) Buck's mammoth journey from St Barbara Barracks to Wessex Barracks.

Summer leave came and went, and the LAD split into three discreet groups: those earmarked for PDT for Operation HERRICK 14, those setting up and maintaining the Crew Training School (CTS) and those submitting vehicles to TFSU(G) whilst maintaining the remainder of the Regiment's fleet.

The Regiment juggled its Order of Battle to reflect these new roles, inadvertently creating fitter sections featuring old and new friendships. Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) officially began with the obligatory All Ranks' Brief, a three-day 'belt fed' course on anything and everything Afghanistan-related. It soon moved, via a Tactical Commander's Cadre, into endless lessons and rehearsals of Operation BARMA (Counter-IED) drills, equipment courses, medical training, 9 Liners and much other theatre specific training would be taught, practised and then further reinforced through more practice. The Regiment created a realistic compound for Op KALA to be improved upon and an IED lane constructed from sand to strengthen ground sign awareness and Valon mine detector use in a practical manner. Equipment such as Electronic Counter Measures and Osprey body armour were supplied by the relevant SQMS staff to ensure realistic training. Physical training became progressively more testing, with REME and regimental personnel participating at an equal level.

C Squadron, which is due to deploy in a Ground Holding role, boasts REME tradesmen in its ranks (unconventionally out of trade), whilst D Squadron, with a conventional vehicle fitter section, has REME soldiers integrated as vehicle crewmen. Towards the end of the year, and with another miserable winter approaching, each squadron headed for the UK to carry out a Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX)

and a gruelling dismounted Confirmatory Exercise (CFX) in Castlemartin or Otterburn, and Thetford respectively. All those involved returned with grim tales of carrying casualties across rivers and marshes in wintry Norfolk. Two fitter sections have also been attached to the Royal Marines, with Staff Sergeant Herron's fitter section working for 42 Commando and Staff Sergeant Graham and his merry men supporting 45 Commando.

As ever, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, or so the old adage goes. Fortunately a number of the LAD have managed, over the course of the year, to get away for some Adventurous Training (AT). Early in 2010, in the midst of an extremely busy period, LAD personnel travelled to Bavaria for both skiing and snow boarding, and another team recently spent two weeks in the Stubai Valley in Austria. A stalwart of REME winter events and organiser of many ski trips, Corporal Yarnold also gained instructional qualifications in snowboarding. However not all adventures would be snow orientated, with Corporals Black and McCready gallivanting around the hills of Slovakia, during August, as part of AT organised by Captain Densham of A Squadron.

Sport also featured wherever time permitted, much to the delight of Corporal Smyth who was injured during a football tournament and spent the rest of the year hobbling around in a specially made shoe which attracted many, many creative monikers. Exercise RHINO SOLDIER is 1 (UK) Armoured Division's equivalent to an Iron Man competition and was held on a snow swept Sennelager Heath. This resulted in two teams of 'volunteers', submitted by WOII (AQMS) Thornton and Staff Sergeant Graham, being chased through sand, sleet and ice encrusted rivers.

2010 has now drawn to a close with a successful Equipment Care Inspection (ECI) result followed by a



Staff Sergeant Chisholm



WO1 (ASM) Buck as industrious as ever

Christmas week which reinforced its reputation as 'full throttle' and definitely blurry. As members of a Light Aid Detachment, of fitter sections and as attached arms, REME personnel continue to provide a confident, professional and positive addition to the Regiment. The Lord's year of 2010 has been an intensive but enjoyable

year, one in which the LAD has achieved everything asked of it. 2010 has been a stepping-stone to go on and deliver further success in 2011 and on operations.



AGC (SPS) DETACHMENT

In 2010 the Adjutant General's Corps Staff and Personnel Support (AGC (SPS)) Detachment has been as busy as the remainder of the Regiment, with exercises ranging from BATUS to Pre-Deployment Training (PDT). BATUS was an enjoyable experience for all the AGC soldiers and officers, particularly those deploying to Canada for their first time. Once the exercise was complete, a number managed to conduct Adventurous Training (AT) whilst others managed to do some sightseeing.

Upon returning from BATUS the Detachment was subjected to a very successful Annual Operational Readiness Inspection which examines the Regiment's administrative readiness for an operational deployment. This bodes well for our deployment on Operation HERRICK 14. With the start of PDT, what we first expected to be a minor deployment for the SPS, quickly grew arms and legs with half of the Detachment supporting deploying elements or soon to do so.

Despite all this work there has still been time for play. Corporal Deshong joined an AGC Sailing Expedition and Private Togneri attended a 1 (UK) Armoured Division

SPS AT Expedition to Bavaria. Others from the Detachment also attended AT organised by the Regiment.

Most notable of our departures in 2010 was Staff Sergeant Owen who finally managed to remove himself from the Detachment and move onto Gütersloh where he will spend his final couple of years in the Army. However he has maintained his close ties with the Regiment by attending the regimental stalking trip in December.

We look ahead now to 2011 and what we are sure will be a successful tour in Afghanistan. Significant changes are afoot on completion of Operation HERRICK 14 with the RAO, Detachment Commander and RAWO all expected to depart by the end of the year. These new faces will look forward to being as much part of the Regiment as those currently in post and to continuing to support this fine regiment.



Corporal Deshong at the helm



34 EAGLE AND CARBINE

MOTOR TRANSPORT TROOP

Motor Transport (MT) Troop returned from a well-deserved period of Christmas leave and immediately prepared to deploy to Sennelager Training Centre in order to support A Squadron SCOTS DG and A Company 3 MERCIAN on Level Two Collective Training (CT2). Both MT and the Quartermaster (Technical) Department formed a combined A1/A2 Echelon under command of Captain Potter, the MTO, aided by the RQMS(T) (WO2 Lamb) and the MTWO (WO2 Watson). The Echelon occupied the 'Elephant Sheds' in Normandy Barracks for the majority of the month of January. Utilising this area and converting it into a comfortable but effective working environment, MT sustained round-the-clock resupply to those deployed. Following A Squadron's training the combined Echelon then supported the SCOTS DG Battlegroup on CT2 training in extremely cold conditions that tested both man and machine. The conditions, coupled with the challenge of every fuel-carrying vehicle in British Forces Germany being quarantined due to manufacturing issues, certainly tested all concerned to the fullest. However in true SCOTS DG fashion, tenacity shone through and all Battlegroup elements were fully supported. During this period, Sergeant Starr attended his Defence Road Safety Advisors course in UK and Corporal Martin held the fort in Bad Fallingbostal with a small rear party. In the New Year, Troopers Connell, Cunningham and Dougan joined the Troop.

Following CT2 training, the Regiment carried out Challenger 2 Ranges. As is the norm, MT deployed in support of the Quartermaster for the duration and throughout this period delivered all natures of ammunition to each of the firing squadrons.



Lance Corporal Weatherston checks the communications equipment on a MASTIFF

After a short spell of Easter leave, the Troop began to focus on its role in BATUS. MT provided a sizeable activation party in order to activate the BATUS fleet from winter storage prior to SCOTS DG carrying out Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 (PT1). Corporals Burton and McLeod, assisted by Lance Corporals Mate, McLelland, McMurdo and Weatherston and Troopers Cunningham, Kempton and Nolan deployed to BATUS in early April. For some this was the start of a three-month spell in Canada. The MTWO and Sergeant Starr managed A1 Echelon on PT1, as the majority of MT supported SCOTS DG squadron echelons. Again Corporal Martin and Trooper Connell remained in Fallingbostal as the rear link and provided an excellent service ensuring that all transportation requests were managed effectively. During this time Lance Corporal Williamson was seconded to the Unit Welfare Office as the post orderly.

One member of MT had a less than enjoyable experience in BATUS; Lance Corporal McLelland took some soldiers to Edmonton for a shopping trip, however the large yellow bus he was driving did not quite fit into the Edmonton Mall's underground car-park. Much to his surprise he had to reverse out with most of his roof still attached to the shopping mall. This seems to be a common trait in MT as last year Trooper Morrison went to the bank in Bad Fallingbostal and did exactly the same thing. After Exercise PT1, approximately one third of MT remained in BATUS to support A and B Squadrons on Exercise PT 2A. After many years of dedicated service in MT Lance Corporal Morgan-Williams departed to pastures new in the Quartermaster (Technical) Department. MT's loss will be the QM(T)'s gain. Simultaneously Troopers Cunningham, Melvin and Sim left to join other deploying elements of the Regiment.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the MTO missed BATUS however on the Troop's return from Canada he was informed that one of SCOTS DG's future tasks would be to run the Crew Training School (CTS) for Operation HERRICK 14 in Sennelager between August 2010 and January 2011. The task was to set up a training school to teach Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) Platforms to the deploying forces of both 3 Commando and 7th Armoured Brigades. Along with mainly 7th Armoured Brigade troops, the majority of whom were SCOTS DG, members of the Troop were given a variety of roles within the CTS and deployed to Sennelager for five and a half months. Sadly at this time the troop lost Lance Corporal McLelland to

a recruiting post in Scotland. Thankfully we understand that all car parks in Glasgow are still in one piece.

Under direction of two previous MTOs, initially Major Stewart and then Major Cameron, the MTO adopted the role of Training Support Officer at the CTS. He was responsible for all logistical support to training and this included managing a fleet of over 200 vehicles, in excess of 12 UOR variants (ranging from Quad Bikes to MASTIFF armoured vehicles), Land Rovers and white fleet support vehicles. Corporal McLeod ably assisted the MTO with fleet management and managing the JAMES inventory management system for many a long hour, often at weekends and in the silent hours. Sergeant Starr was employed as a troop sergeant whose main duties involved the day-to-day management of the fleet, no mean feat when the majority of students were from non-armoured backgrounds. Meanwhile Lance Corporal Williamson ran MT supported by Troopers Connell and (now Lance Corporal) Kempton until the latter departed on course to UK. Whilst Lance Corporal Weatherston took control of the significant quantity of BOWMAN communication systems at CTS, Corporals Barnes and Martin and Lance Corporal Nicholson qualified as MASTIFF Driving Instructors and joined the team of UOR instructors who taught almost 2,500 students. When Major Stewart handed over command of CTS to Major Cameron, the MTO 'piped him out' on his great grandfather's nineteenth century bagpipes, as he rode in a UOR JACKAL platform. This was the first time that these bagpipes had been played in public for a number of decades.

Along with BATUS, CTS took up the majority of 2010 for MT. Back in camp the MTWO and Corporals Brown and Burton supported the Regiment as it carried out Mission Specific Training for Operation HERRICK 14. This task was significant and without the hard work and dedication of many of the Troop, both in Sennelager and in Bad Fallingbommel, the success that SCOTS DG achieved may not have been possible. In the latter stages of CTS, MT underwent a Combined Inspection Week and Logistical Supply Inspection. Many long hours were spent preparing for these inspections before the Troop achieved an extremely commendable green light pass in the disciplines inspected. During this period, Lance Corporal McMurdo assumed the role of JAMES NCO in the absence of Corporal McLeod. Along with Corporal Burton he strived to keep the Regimental light vehicle fleet in good order. Thankfully his efforts were well-received and during the Equipment Care Inspection the Regiment achieved another good pass.

For the whole of this year Lance Corporal Meiehofer has remained in Hühne on secondment to the Driver



The MTO hosts Director Equipment, Brigadier Talbot-Rice, on his visit to the CTS

Training Centre as a Driving Instructor where he is a most welcome asset. Latterly the Troop has welcomed Corporal Munro from the Pipes and Drums and Lance Corporal Keith and Troopers Mills and Riley from B Squadron. Lance Corporal Kempton has redeployed to BATUS, as part of the Winter Repair Program, for much of the winter. Troopers Nolan and Morrison have married Kellie and Tracey respectively. To both new spouses go our congratulations and welcome.

Throughout 2010 the majority of the Troop spent almost ten months out of station and I would like to thank our spouses and families for their continued support during such a busy year. Finally to the members of MT past and present, thank you for your commitment and flexibility in what has been a varied, testing and extremely successful period in the history of the SCOTS DG.



36 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Beating to quarters

THE PIPES AND DRUMS

After a successful Australian tattoo in Sydney the Pipes and Drums returned to Fallingbostel and reintegrated themselves into their respective squadrons. Corporal McLauchlan, Lance Corporal Warren and Trooper Commons joined A Squadron, whilst Corporals Dodds, Lovell and Peattie and Lance Corporal Vula joined D Squadron. Several members of the Pipe Band also went on to form part of Headquarter Squadron and Vehicle Troop. In March members of the Pipes and Drums carried out a lot of work to prepare vehicles for the forthcoming range period, and also provided entertainment for the occasional dinner night in the Officers' Mess. With the preparation over, the tanks and CVR(T)s rolled out onto the Bergen H hne Range Complex for two weeks of early mornings and night shoots. After a gruelling fortnight of range stew and Corporal Dodds 'resting' in the trailer, Corporal Lovell and the remainder of the crew of Callsign 41 emerged with a Level 6 pass at Annual Crew Test and with the trophy for the best crew in D Squadron.

Shortly after returning from ranges, seven members of the Pipes and Drums came together in Inverness for the Pipes and Drums Cadet Week. This included Drum Major Brown, Corporal McMinn and Trooper Richardson teaching various levels of side drumming with Corporal Lovell and Trooper Hutchison instructing the bass section, not to mention doubling up as Physical Training Instructors much to the amusement of their fellow band members. Troopers Duncan and O'Hare were given the task of preparing the pipers to perform at the 150th anniversary parade at the end of Cadet Week.

After a very successful two years, in which time the Band won a Classical Brit Award, we said goodbye to Pipe Major Munro who went on to be the Pipe Major for the Piper's Trail in Stirling. Pipe Major Munro spent 14 years with the Pipes and Drums and he will be sorely missed; we wish he and Julie all the best in their new posting. Although it is always sad to say goodbye to one Pipe Major, we happily congratulate Corporal Dodds on his appointment as the new Pipe Major.

After two weeks of well-earned leave the Pipes and Drums returned to Fallingbostel and continued their preparations for BATUS. Corporal Bruce and Troopers Duncan and Loudon became part of the Regimental Aid Post and Corporal McMinn and Lance Corporal Clements went on to join C Squadron. Lance Corporals O'Hanlon and Keith and Trooper O'Hare stayed in Fallingbostel to form part of the Rear Party. We also wished Corporal Mowbray well as he went to Brecon to

complete a Skill at Arms course coming away with an extremely creditable B Grade. Following this success in Brecon, he went on to complete a Class One Piper's course and received a recommendation to attend a Pipe Major's course.

The Pipes and Drums next went off to complete the five week Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 in BATUS where Drum Major Brown perfected the art of making brews for the QM(T). We also congratulate Pipe Major Dodds, who commanded callsign 12 in D Squadron and remembered to put the correct fuel in his tank. If only he had managed to do the same thing with his car. Corporal Munro also became an expert in erecting nine by nine tents, as the Commanding Officer's driver. After a demanding five weeks, with little help from Mother Nature, the band reformed to prepare for the forthcoming Cape Tour and Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The pipes and drums would like to congratulate Pipe Major Dodds on his well-earned promotion to Sergeant, whilst saying farewell to Lance Corporal Vula, who spent four years with the band, and Trooper Mills who left the band to pursue other avenues.

The Pipe Band travelled to Rosyth and took over their accommodation for the Cape Tour. Here we were treated to joys of Royal Marines Physical Training, much to the dismay of the bulkier members of the Band. We spent countless hours rehearsing for the competition in North Berwick and happily won the following trophies:

- 1st place Grade 2 Lothian and Borders Open Champions
- 1st place Grade 2 Lothian and Borders Champions
- 1st place Grade 2 Lothian and Borders Drumming, Champions of Champions

Just before the start of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo the Band went their separate ways for a week's leave, however, they reunited for the wedding of Corporal Munro to Stefanie on Friday 30th July. We wish them a long and happy future together.

We moved to Redford Barracks for the Tattoo, and began the week with four long days of rehearsals. Trooper Duncan had the privilege of being the lone piper for the dancing set, with Corporal Bruce stepping in during his well-deserved nights off. Corporal Lovell fulfilled his personal ambition to be the Centre Bass

38 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Drummer of the Massed Pipes and Drums, although missed out on his own coveted night off. At the same time the Pipe Band awarded the Brian Blyth Memorial Trophy, for outstanding achievement throughout the year, to Trooper Duncan.

After a long and tedious coach journey back to Fallingbommel the Pipes and Drums readied themselves for the Waterloo Weekend. Many hours of practice preceded the Beating to Quarters on the Thursday night, followed by an Officers' Mess dinner night the following evening. The weekend was rounded off by an All Ranks party on the Saturday night, at which the Band received a warm welcome.

The Band then separated again as we said goodbye to Corporal Peattie and Trooper Commons who went off to six-month Class Three Piper and Drummer courses in Edinburgh and also to Drum Major Brown who joined Trooper Richardson to complete a Class One Drummer's course. Also around this time Corporal Munro became an instructor at the Crew Training School in Sennelager, where he instructed others in the operation of various vehicles for the forthcoming deployment. After completing the training himself, he became an instructor on the JACKAL, WOLFHOUD and HUSKY vehicles and also completed a BULLDOG commander's course. We congratulate him on his achievements.

Following three months in tartan, a return to the green side of life awaited the Pipe Band. Pipe Major Dodds, Corporal Lovell and Trooper Hutchison travelled to Sennelager with B Squadron to complete Command and Staff Trainer (CAST) and Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT). At around this time Trooper Hutchison was promoted to Lance Corporal and we all congratulate him for his hard work. After CAST and CATT had finished, Command Troop moved to the

Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX) in Norfolk, along with Corporals McLauchlan and Mowbray who soon discovered that 'Green Zone' didn't necessarily mean grassland, but more accurately swampland!

In November the Pipes and Drums bade farewell to two established side drummers. After many years with the Band Lance Corporals Clements and Stewart left to pursue life in 'Civvy Street'. We all wish them well in their future endeavours.

The Pipes and Drums wish to welcome to their family three new additions. Our congratulations go to Lance Corporal Keith and Daniela on the birth of Zackery Patrick on 12 April 2010, to Lance Corporal Warren and Lynne on the arrival of Gregor on 1 May 2010, and to Corporal Bruce and Kat for completing their five-a-side football team with the addition of Riley John on 30 June 2010.

As the year draws to a close we would like to mention the part our wives and girlfriends play in ensuring the success of the Pipes and Drums. Without their support our work would not be possible and we thank them all for their patience.

It has been a busy year for the Pipes and Drums, both in green and in tartan, and 2011 will be just as busy. We would like to wish the members of the Pipes and Drums who are deploying on Operation HERRICK 14 a safe and successful tour. As always our commitment and dedication to our profession will allow us to maintain our reputation, and that of the Regiment, as 'Second to None'.



The Drum Corps at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo



The Pipe Corps prepare for another performance at Edinburgh Castle

GUARD ROOM

2010 saw the beginning of a new Training Year. The Regiment would be busy and it was no different in the Guardroom. The Team, headed up by Sergeant Pratt and Corporals Ketedromo and Muir, kept the Regiment in good order during this very busy period in typical Provost Fashion, particularly for those who strayed to the wrong side of the disciplinary line. Traditional Show and Extra Work Parades followed for those who fell into this category. With a busy programme including troop and squadron level training, dismounted exercises, CR2 and CVR(T) ranges, CATTs and CASTs, and Battlegroup training in Canada however, the Provost Team's resources were soon spread thin.

Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1, in BATUS, saw Sergeant Pratt deploy his well-oiled discipline machine to Crowfoot Camp where he took charge of the Guardroom and it was not long before the first customers started arriving. The exercise was a success however, whether in the field or in the Guardroom, and Crowfoot Camp was handed over to 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup, which had A Squadron attached and B Squadron as their enemy. SCOTS DG Battlegroup headed back to sunny Bad Fallingbostel, and as Exercises PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A and 2B came to an end, A and B Squadrons came back to where they belonged, with the Regiment.



The Guardroom looking about as festive as it gets

With the Regiment rearranging its Order of Battle for Afghanistan, we saw full-blown regime change in the Guardroom. Sergeant Pratt handed over the reins to Sergeant Gowland, a man renowned for his Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), in August, with Sergeant Pratt moving to B Squadron's Mastiff Group for Operation HERRICK 14. Corporal Muir was posted to the Army Training Regiment Basingbourn on promotion to Sergeant, and Corporal Ketedromo, although remaining part of the Provost Team, headed off to



Corporal Ketedromo, Sergeant Gowland and Lance Corporal Torrance

40 EAGLE AND CARBINE

unleash the Provost 'Kraken' on the Crew Training School Team in Sennelager. We wish them all the very best in their new posts.

The new team took over, eager to continue to enforce discipline, with Sergeant Gowland and Lance Corporal Torrance at the helm back in Fallingbospel. Inevitably there were many changes in the Guardroom as the Provost Sergeant's OCD spiralled out of control.

Sergeant Gowland claims this is merely attention to detail and that it helps to maintain the high discipline standards required by our fine regiment. Irrespective of who you believe, remember this and you won't go far wrong: "Do as you ought and not what you want". Fail the test however, and we will not be far behind you.



QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

In contrast to our slightly later start to the year in 2009, the Quartermaster's Department (QM's Department) had to return from Christmas leave early in 2010 to get down to Sennelager and take over and sort out Theatre Barracks in time to support the Regiment on Level Two Collective Training (CT2). CT2 proved extremely challenging for all involved as the temperature on the Training Area wavered around the minus 20 degrees

Celsius mark. The exercise lasted throughout most of January and, from a Quartermaster's perspective, was extremely successful in proving that we can support the Regiment's training despite constantly battling the freezing conditions.

In addition to supporting CT2, the majority of the Department spent their spare time in Sennelager prac-



Back Row: Corporal Beggs, Trooper Gilchrist, Lance Corporal Collingwood, Trooper McCrindle.
Front Row: Mr John Taylor, Sergeant Ross, Captain McDowell, WO2 (RQMS) Mack, Mr Wayne Dutton



Captain McDowell, WO2 (RQMS) Mack, Lance Corporal Sommerville, Trooper Gilchrist, Corporal Campbell, Sergeant Ross and Corporal Merry

tising for a skit, organised by the QM and RQMS, for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Burns Night. The QM and RQMS would dress up as boxers and take to the stage to the theme tune of the 'Rocky' films and then spar against one another throughout the skit whilst taking cheap digs at members of the respective messes. Other notable characters included Sergeant Ross dressed as a hotdog as a tribute to Captain Hainey whilst Corporals Merry and Campbell, dressed in lederhosen, impersonated Staff Sergeants Owen and Baird. Finally Lance Corporal Sommerville dressed as a warrant officer to impersonate WO2 Black and Trooper Gilchrist appeared as Sergeant Cambell. On Saturday 6th February, all the hard work paid off and the skit was a resounding success, contributing to a fantastic Burns Night celebration.



Corporal Beggs in the boat's café feeling a little the worse for wear

Picture from front to back: Wayne Dutton, Corporal Miller, John Taylor, WO2 (RQMS) Mack, Captain McDowell and Tpr McCrindle at sea

After a short spell back in Fallingbostal, the majority of the Department soon found themselves back in Sennelager. This time, however, it was to support the Regiment at the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT), where they would conduct further training for the fast approaching deployment to the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) in Canada. Once CATT was over, the next big event for the Department was the Annual Firing Camp on the Bergen Höhe range complex. Despite repeated requests and endless false promises, the usual Second Line support for this range package never materialised. This resulted in the RQMS and Corporal Irwin having to carry out the role of RLC soldiers, after they had completed their usual day jobs and processing huge quantities of ammunition. Regardless, normal service resumed and the Firing Camp was a huge success. Even with the Department's extra workload, they managed to keep an eye on the squadrons' ammunition accounting ensuring a smooth end to the range period.

Despite the hectic programme, the Department still managed to fit in our regular and very popular trip, boat fishing on the Baltic Sea based from the picturesque Island of Fehmarn. Following an early departure from camp (0400 hours), the two and a half hour road trip was made easier by the presence of Staff Sergeant Dougal as duty driver, and some light refreshments. Upon our arrival, we decided that the first day's fishing should be a friendly competition with prizes for those who caught the biggest, and the most, fish.

As day broke and we set sail for the first mark, the water was extremely calm, much to the relief of Corporal Beggs who had not fared too well on a previous fishing



42 EAGLE AND CARBINE

trip. The day was a great success with everyone managing a catch. The winner of the biggest fish competition was the QM's son, Will McDowell, who caught a three-kilogram cod and the prize for most fish was shared between Staff Sergeant Dougal and Trooper McCrindle who landed 13 fish each.

With Easter Leave over we lost a significant proportion of the Department as the RQMS, Sergeant Ross and Corporal Irwin left for BATUS with the Activation Team. This team was to pave the way and prepare the facilities in BATUS for the remainder of the SCOTS DG Battlegroup on the first ever Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER. The remainder of the Department joined them in BATUS at the end of April as we flew out for what was to prove an extremely challenging six weeks. Not only had the old, and very familiar, MEDICINE MAN Exercise changed into PRAIRIE THUNDER, but we had to squeeze another whole Combat Service Support Battlegroup (CSS BG), which was there to support the exercise, into Crowfoot Camp. Once everyone had been shoehorned into their accommodation, the Department set about organising and delivering the ammunition for the live firing phase of the exercise – a task which took nearly three days.

The first night did not go well as Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) drivers and commanders battled with unfamiliar ground and appalling weather conditions. Some sub units had to wait until the early hours of D-Day before taking delivery of their ammunition for that day's serials. The first few days of the exercise provided a steep learning curve for the RLC and CSS BG as they struggled to come to terms with the Prairie and how to navigate around it in darkness and bad weather. We take this knowledge for granted, gained through years of experience on the Prairie, but these were inexperienced drivers and long columns of heavy wheeled vehicles stuck in the mud on the Ten Mile Circle were not uncommon.

However, as time went on and everyone found their feet, things got better and the majority of the first ever Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER proved to be a huge success. There was one incident, which deserves a quick mention, and I am sure the RQMS would be disappointed if it were omitted. One day the QM received a call on his mobile 'phone from someone on the Prairie, however this was slightly out of the ordinary as it was a request for vehicle recovery. This task usually falls to REME recovery assets but on this occasion it was the RQMS and he was keen to limit the publicity of his having forgotten to refuel his Landrover before commencing the long journey from Camp Crowfoot.

As Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 drew to a close, the next challenge was to try and fit yet another battle-

group into Camp Crowfoot as the majority of the SCOTS DG BG outward flights were not due to depart until the incoming battlegroup (3 MERCIAN) had arrived. This required the juggling of bedspaces – and some 'teddy-throwing' by the QM – but was ultimately achieved and the handover and takeover between the SCOTS DG and 3 MERCIAN Battlegroups went very well. Most people even got the opportunity to get away for some well earned Rest and Recuperation before returning to Germany.

Upon our return from Canada, the Department had a week to ensure the return of 24 correctly attired soldiers to Edinburgh for a ten-day period including the Armed Forces Day celebrations. Once more it was all hands to the pumps for endless fittings and re-fittings of uniform with names changing, unhelpfully, over and over again. Once all the preparation was complete, the RQMS and Captain McBride made the long journey back to Edinburgh via the Channel Tunnel, arriving at Edinburgh castle on the Friday.

With no rest for the wicked, they unloaded the equipment and conducted a quick recce before heading for the Stirling Military Show the following day. Here the soldiers marched, in Number One Dress, along the high Street and into the park where there was a parade and Brigadier Allfrey inspected the regimental soldiers. After Stirling, we moved onto recruiting in Glasgow and Edinburgh where there was the usual banter with the public and the soldiers seemed to go down a treat. Also during the week, the RQMS had to don his scarlets for the Installation of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle. As this was the third time he had been called upon to do so, he knew the drills better than most and was able to provide advice as required.

The week culminated in the Armed Forces Day march through Edinburgh. The route had changed slightly from last year, and now included marching down Cockburn Street with its steep gradient and treacherous cobbles. It was remarkable that, despite marching in ammunition boots, none of the marching troops slipped or fell whilst navigating the cobbles but no surprise that the Regiment, once again, stole the show.

Back in Fallingbostal, our focus switched to supporting Pre Deployment Training (PDT) for Operation HERRICK 14 in 2011. This would include a Quartermaster's recce to the UK to gauge the facilities available in Norfolk's Stanford Training Area (STANTA), scene of the forthcoming Confirmatory Exercise (CFX). In the meantime however, the Department had to convene a Board of Officers (BOO) stock take and a check of all accounts. The BOO was to be completed during the three weeks prior to Summer

leave as this was the only time available in an increasingly busy calendar. Happily the BOO turned up no nasties and the accounts were all accurate.

Immediately after Summer Leave in August, the Department took the lead in organising the Regiment's first big Waterloo Weekend for a number of years. Although initial planning had taken place throughout the year, the end of leave signalled a two-week count-down to the event itself. The whole department was involved in some way with all the SQMSs detailed to help cover different aspects of the weekend as well. Near-daily coordination conferences were required to keep track of ever-changing requirements but, by the time the weekend was upon us, everything had come together and we were ready for a wonderful weekend.

It was great to see so many members of the Regimental Association visiting Fallingbostel and enjoying what we had laid on, but equally satisfying to see so many of our own regimental family (husbands, wives and children) turn out to enjoy the Family Fun Day and Saturday night's all ranks party. The whole weekend was frantic but fun with something for everyone. My thanks to all those who worked so hard in the background as without your efforts the weekend would not have been the success it turned out to be.

After the excitement of the Waterloo Weekend, in October we turned our attention to the less thrilling Logistic Support Inspection (LSI). The LSI is a mandatory external inspection which goes over our accounting practices with a fine toothcomb and gives



Family Fun Day at the Waterloo Weekend

the Regiment a grade which indicates our levels of efficiency. Following a great deal of work by all concerned, we were awarded an overall Green grade for the inspection. This was a truly excellent result, particularly when taking into account how busy the calendar had been, and the Department can take great pride in such an achievement.

With barely time to draw breath after the LSI, we majority of the department headed for STANTA and the CFX. This was to prove to be an extremely tough exercise, designed to provide the troops deploying to Afghanistan next year with a challenging environment in which to learn but also to be tested. This had a knock on effect as our support to the squadrons had to be flexible but robust in order to allow them to exercise as required. Again the Department rose to the challenge and provided the exercising troops with the support they required to get the most from a demanding week. At the end of the exercise, there was very little time for the squadrons to complete their post exercise administration before the coaches left for the return to Germany. As ever, they pulled it off and probably slept all the way home on the coaches after what was an extremely hard week for them all. The Department then stayed a few more days to facilitate the handover to 4 SCOTS Battlegroup, which went very well allowing us to come away with heads held high.

November seemed to fly past as we continued to support the various sub-units' PDT whilst concurrently managing ongoing improvements to Wessex Barracks and also attending numerous study periods and courses in the UK in preparation for Operation HERRICK 14.

As is no doubt clear, 2010 has been an extremely busy time for the Regiment. However due to the continued hard work and dedication of all those within the QM's Department, all the various events throughout the year have been huge successes. 2010 has been a very stable period within the Department with very little movement of personnel. However, one very important "well done" is due to Trooper Gilchrist who was promoted to Lance Corporal just before Christmas Leave.

With Christmas approaching, all that was left to do was to get through the usual week before leave with liver and kidneys still intact. The Department also had a very enjoyable joint Christmas function with the QM(T)'s Department at the local Chinese Restaurant, which seemed a good way to break up for leave, whilst looking forward to whatever 2011 brings.



44 EAGLE AND CARBINE

QUARTERMASTER TECHNICAL

This has been another hectic year for the Quartermaster Technical (QM(T)) department. We have completed Levels One and Two Collective Training, a CR2 and CVR(T) range period, Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1 (MEDICINE MAN 1 in old money), various Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) events and have even managed to draw down to our Unit Holdings of four CR2, two Scimitars and one of every other vehicle variant to allow the Regiment to keep training in the run up to Afghanistan.

The Regimental range period went well, with only the occasional equipment-related drama. As every QM(T) and RQMS(T) know, it is an extremely busy time, and it is important to ensure correct equipment use and maintenance in order to keep availability figures high. Most importantly, it is advisable to watch the squadron leaders and their 2ICs to ensure they are actually using the kit for the purpose for which it is designed.

BATUS? Well it was an experience and I think we will leave it at that. A2 (for you old boys) moved a total of 17 times which I believe could be a world record, unless anyone knows any different. Weather conditions ranged from blizzards to sun to rain and then back to blizzards within a 24 hour period. The new MAN truck was put to the test on Day Three when it took A2 seven hours to move 100 metres cross country. Staff Sergeant Ramsay was embarrassed at winning the 'most boggies' competition at the end of the exercise and even managed, despite being a Driving Instructor, to have a couple of Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs). Having said all of that, that the RQMS gave him a good run for his money.



Captain Lillie, in Number 17 Dress (sandals and socks) enjoys a well earned rest outside the tent he shared with the RQMS(T)

One afternoon, towards the end of the exercise, D Squadron SQMS(T), Staff Sergeant Taylor, was sent into Crowfoot Camp to deliver a vehicle oil sample for diagnostic analysis and with a supplementary task to collect some pizzas. A couple of hours later, the following cryptic message came over the administration radio net: "The chicken is in the basket. I say again, the chicken is in the basket". Following Staff Sergeant Taylor's safe return we were all enjoying a pizza when the QM(T) asked if he had successfully delivered the oil samples. His face told the answer and, muttering "but it's a four hour round trip", he and Lance Corporal Humphries climbed back into their Landrover.

A shortage of certain spares became a problem, especially for the Landrover fleet, and in particular brake pads. The RQMS(T) was therefore less than impressed when his brake pads were removed and put onto the



WO2 (RQMS) Mack is rescued by WO2 (RQMS(T)) Lamb



Staff Sergeants Taylor and Ramsay trial the latest Personal Protective Equipment



Would anyone like a lift?

QM(T)'s vehicle, only for the QM(T)'s dodgy ones to be fitted to his own Landrover. After the exercise, and as the Technical Department got stuck into the chaos of a handover to 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup for Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 2A, the RQMS(T) found time to go for a haircut. He returned less than pleased however, as the hairdresser had asked him if he "wanted the grey bits cut out".

Upon our return from BATUS, the Department prepared for Pre-Deployment Training and a variety of trips to such glamorous locations as Sennelager and Thetford. To make the situation a little more bearable, the RQMS(T) somehow managed to arrange a hire car which raised the Commanding Officer's eyebrows.

At the time of writing, we have finally got the last five tanks into Whole Fleet Management or Whole Fleet Storage depending upon your point of view. We now have only four CR2 on the tank park, which seems strange. After having four squadrons' worth, it is a little



Chalk what chalk!!!

like a ghost town. We have also just achieved an excellent result on the most recent Equipment Care Inspection (PRE in old money) having been ably assisted by the LAD. Although, judging by the picture above, I am not entirely sure who is learning from whom.

I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all those in 'Tech' and to the various SQMS(T)s who have worked extremely hard all year. Finally the Department would like to say "farewell" to the RQMS(T) who takes up the lonely position of RSM in December. WO2 (RQMS(T)) Lamb has been a steady hand and has, as all good Warrant Officers do, steered us through some difficult times. When the QM(T) outlines a plan which clearly will not work, it is the RQMS(T)'s place to tell him so. We all wish he and Sam all the very best, and thank them for all their hard work and devotion to the Department.



TRAINING WING

As with the remainder of the Regiment, the Training Wing has had a very busy but ultimately rewarding schedule since the 2009 issue of the Eagle and Carbine. Personnel within the department have delivered a wide range of courses and have deployed on exercise in their 'field roles'. Further to this there has been the usual flux of personnel and constant activity within the civilian wing of the department. In addition, the demands placed on the Training Wing by the wider regiment have meant that on occasions we have had to work under strength. However we are proud that this

has not prevented us from providing the required results.

Throughout 2010, the Wing has been a hive of activity, primarily due to pre-deployment training, which has diverted effort from mainstream RAC training. It has been refreshing to see soldiers training on a wide and varied range of equipment, for example specialist weaponry such as the Heavy Machine Gun (.50 calibre) and Grenade Machine Gun. The sight of many an individual covered from head to toe in bandages, on one of

46 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Captain Gray on the Prairie in BATUS

the seemingly endless Team Medic courses that have been run in the Wing, has also provided some light amusement. Pre-deployment training has also seen the Training Wing entertain various capbadges and nationalities, for instance hosting Afghan nationals teaching cultural awareness and providing facilities for different units from throughout the Brigade. Indeed the Training Wing has taken great pride from comments from outside units and individuals about the standards of hosting within the department and within the Regiment as a whole. However some visitors were shocked to discover that moving around Wessex Barracks on foot required them to form squads; it's all about old-fashioned discipline.

The three major training disciplines of Gunnery, Signals and Driving and Maintenance (D&M) have continued throughout this period. Sergeant Ward has put many soldiers through their gunnery paces, often using the dreaded dark hours 'shift system' to maximise the numbers getting through the Precision Gunnery Training Equipment building. On the signals front a variety of instructors have taught basic signals and advanced communications under the watchful eye of Staff Sergeant Campbell who continues to try to convince the 'old and bold' of the Regiment that BOWMAN is reliable and efficient. He is, however, fighting an uphill battle on this as the majority of our more senior soldiers are still convinced that analogue communications and BATCO represent the way forward. D&M has been slightly more challenging and Sergeant Cooper has had soldiers all over Germany and the UK chasing all manner of driving licences and training on various different vehicles and platforms. It did nothing to help his blood pressure when one course wrote off the Commanding Officer's Land Rover. However these things are sent to test us and can generally be resolved with some paperwork and a little shouting. Finally Corporal Lavallin has at last returned



Sergeants Ward and Cooper

from Canada where he 'endured' a six-month holiday running adventurous training at Trails End Camp. He is now back into the far more rewarding activity of ensuring that the building runs smoothly and that all of our policy paperwork is up to date.

All this training has been organised and delivered during a period when the frequency of courses has increased dramatically. Further pressure resulted from a requirement for the Training Wing to provide manpower to the tank park and to the Crew Training School in Sennelager, and it is very much to the credit of the instructors that they have managed to continue to provide a high standard of training throughout. Further to all of the above, the Training Wing also continues to accommodate our civilian friends from the Salisbury College Partnership who deliver Key Skills and National Vocational Qualifications training to soldiers within the Regiment.

As usual the Training Wing has seen plenty of comings and goings in 2010. The regimental email system is



D Squadron conduct Team Medic training under the watchful eye of Corporal Lavallin



The Training Officer, Captain Hanson

slowly recovering as our previous Training Officer, Captain Gray, has returned to the QRH. Many believe that the email server problems in Fallingbostel can be attributed solely to him and to his blanket approach to electronic communications. Captain Gray gave a great deal of service to the Regiment during his time here, and also provided excellent guidance to the Wing throughout

a demanding training period. He will be sorely missed and we wish him all the very best for the future. Elsewhere WO2 Lockwood has moved on to take over as D Squadron SSM, and has been replaced as Training Wing WO by WO2 Baird, whilst Staff Sergeant (now WO2) Smith has left Fallingbostel for Lulworth and Staff Sergeant McAndrew has taken up the post of SQMS with HQ Squadron. On the civilian front Mrs Jo Spence has left for Paderborn and has been replaced by Mrs Debbie Hewitt, and Lisa Scoular has left the NVQ office for a move back to Bovington. As always we thank everyone who has moved on for their efforts whilst part of the training team, and wish them good luck for the future.

Finally we welcome Captain Hanson as the new Training Officer. In fact we have welcomed him twice now, as upon his initial return to the Regiment he was immediately kidnapped to take up post at the Crew Training School in Sennelager. Once again 2010 has been a demanding period for the Regiment's Training Wing, and one that disproves the myth that Building MB66 in Wessex Barracks is something of a sleepy hollow.



GYMNASIUM

With a deployment to Afghanistan looming next year, the focus on physical training has moved firmly towards long, weighted runs and battle PT. That said, there have still been opportunities for fun in the physical calendar and some notable successes from the perspective of regimental sport.

Hodson's Horse took place in Bovington in late-March and provided the Regiment's first opportunity to prove its physical mettle against the other regiments in the Royal Armoured Corps. Later in this magazine an article covers the event in detail but suffice to say that we were not found wanting.

Whilst the Regiment was in Canada, many took the opportunity for some adventurous training at Trail's End Camp. Personnel could take part in various exercises from Exercise ROUGH RIDE (trail riding on horseback) to Exercise BEAR DAWN, a five-day multi-activity package consisting of rock climbing, canyoning, mountain biking and white water rafting. As ever, these exercises were far more popular than those available on the Prairie.

Mere days after the Regiment returned from Canada, a 'Festival of Sports', involving all the major and minor units within 7th Armoured Brigade, was convened in

the spectacular July sunshine. So with little time to practise for the event the Regiment selected and trained its teams. The festival took part within H hne Garrison Camp and consisted of a range of sporting events varying from a gruelling obstacle course races to cross country races. Competition was tough but, with the sun shining on the hottest day of the year, the Regiment defeated all comers from the other units within the brigade. Despite the announcer doggedly insisting that the winners were the Royal Scottish Dragoon Guards,



Members of B and D Squadrons 'feel the burn'

48 EAGLE AND CARBINE



the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Welch, awarded the trophy to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

The Moncrieff Shield events are normally spread throughout the year. In 2010 however, this was not possible due to the various exercises and training events, particularly months spent in Canada. The competition was thus crammed into a small gap in the Regiment's hectic training program, with the finals contested over the Waterloo Weekend. The event was closely and fiercely contested as ever, before C Squadron narrowly edged out B Squadron to win.

Later in the year, members of the Regiment competed in Exercise RHINO SOLDIER, billed as the 'ultimate test of fitness, strength, endurance and mental toughness'. The regiment entered three teams and one individual runner (Major Cameron from HQ Squadron) for the charity event which took place on the 25th of November. With the 16 'would-be-warriors' arriving on

the day to find snow falling thick and fast around them, and facing a course of over ten miles of soft sand, hills, water obstacles and rope swings, they all found time to smile prior to the start. To their credit, all three teams completed the event under 1 hour and 50 minutes and Major Cameron was presented the trophy for 1st veteran and 3rd overall for the individual runners on the event.

There has been the usual flux in personnel working in the Gymnasium which itself has recently gone under a refurbishment. New cardiovascular equipment has been installed, along with a new sound system just in time for unit personnel to benefit from it prior to their deployment on Operation HERRICK 14.



	Football	Rugby	Volleyball	Hockey	Cricket	Assault Course	Tug-o-War	Swimming	Cross Country	TOTAL POINTS	FINAL POSITION
207 SIGS BDE HQ			3	10		5				18	6th
SCOTS DG		10	7	7	5		4	3	10	46	1st
9/12 LANCERS				5	10				3	18	6th
4 SCOTS	10	7	10	3		3			7	40	2nd
3 MERCIAN		3						5		8	9th
3 RHA							10			10	8th
32 ENGR REGT	5				3	7		10		25	3rd
2 LSR					7	10	7			24	4th
2 MED REGT	7	5	5						5	22	5th
2 CS BN REME	3						4	7		14	7th
16 TANK 50 OPR										0	10th
GLOUCESTER SHOOL	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10th

7th Armoured Brigade Festival of Sports – the final reckoning

REGIMENTAL AID POST

2010 has been a busy but enormously successful year for the Regimental Aid Post (RAP). As a result SCOTS DG has started 2011, and the final preparations for deployment to Afghanistan, in a position which is the envy of other units. This is a result of the tireless work of the Combat Medical Technicians (CMTs) within SCOTS DG, both Regimental and RAMC, as well as the willingness by the wider Regiment to embrace the demands of medical force generation and opportunities for additional training.

Following a much needed and thoroughly enjoyable Christmas leave, SCOTS DG RAP started 2010 with only four personnel: one GP, the now Major Johnston, and three CMTs, the newly promoted Corporal Silva, Lance Corporal Short and Lance Corporal Ednie. Lance Corporal Ednie had only recently posted in from 2 Medical Regiment (2 Med Regt) in order to sample life with the Cavalry before he decided whether to transfer cap badge from RAMC to SCOTS DG. The approaching deployment to BATUS for Level 4 Collective Training meant an arduous three months of long days and extra evening and weekend clinics in order to meet the medical force preparation demands required for Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER. In addition, medical cover was required for multiple exercises and range days, leaving the undermanned RAP torn in a number of directions. Nonetheless the Regiment reached the start state for BATUS in good order allowing those deploying from the RAP to breathe a sigh of relief as they stepped on the plane for a relative break.

Exercises PRAIRIE THUNDER 1, 2A and 2B provided a valued excursion away from the administrative demands of the MRS to the favoured field environment and consisted of a combination of traditional and counter insurgency orientated phases. These were the first PRAIRIE THUNDER exercises ever run and the medical package provided was clearly in its infancy and both poorly developed and resourced. Nonetheless a number of scenarios provided helpful opportunities for special-to-arms training and the exercise showed potential to develop into a formidable training tool for both Regimental and RAMC medical assets.

Aside from the targeted exercise medical training, deploying in the field for four weeks as part of an armoured battlegroup (BG) and providing real time medical cover during extremes of weather with the option of air evacuation, provided countless opportunities for both personal development and internal

military and medical training and there is no doubt the exercise was beneficial to all within the RAP. This was helped by the friendly rivalry that developed between the RAP and the Medical Section (Med Sect) from 2 Med Regt who reinforced the medical assets within the BG. The Med Sect were a great asset to work with and impressed quickly with the speed with which they could assemble and disassemble an RAP. Not to be outdone the SCOTS DG Pipes and Drums soldiers attached to the RAP, ably led by the ever cheerful Corporal Bruce, set to work and by the end of the exercise were at least matching, if not beating, the Med Sect. The band members fully embraced their work within the RAP and were soon collecting, triaging and, in some cases, treating exercise casualties along with the CMTs. Indeed Trooper Duncan proved particularly adept at scribing for the exercise trauma cases and was missed when he was called away to play his pipes for visiting VIPs. Trooper Melvin, attached to the RAP as the RMO's driver, should also be commended for his quick thinking and skilful driving which prevented an attempted kidnapping by exercise 'insurgents'.

Following BATUS, attention turned towards Operation HERRICK 14 and preparation for Afghanistan. Thankfully this proved significantly easier than preparation for Canada, both as a result of the depth of medical force generation carried out prior to BATUS and also as the Regiment began to see the return of the RAC soldiers it had loaded onto training to become Regimental Combat Medical Technicians (RCMTs). RCMTs can be soldiers from any capbadge who successfully complete common core medical training at the Defence Medical Services Training Centre in Keogh. This six-month course is almost identical to that completed by RAMC medics and includes extensive training in trauma management along with other medical skills. Successful soldiers receive a National Vocational Qualification in Health and Social Care and the City and Guilds Certificate in Primary Healthcare (Technical). They also benefit from a placement in a hospital to consolidate their clinical training.

The encouragement SCOTS DG has given to its soldiers to train as RCMTs in preparation for Operation HERRICK 14 is a real testament to the Regiment's foresight. These soldiers can be deployed in their trade role or as a CMT on the ground. Furthermore they can combine both skill sets, thus significantly increasing the established medical laydown and, as a result, improving survival rates and quality of life following injury. During 2010 five SCOTS DG soldiers returned

50 EAGLE AND CARBINE

from RCMT training: Corporal Toughill, Corporal West, Lance Corporal Forrest, Lance Corporal Hughes and Trooper Needleman. In early 2011 Lance Corporal Walker and Trooper Cabemaiwasa will also return. In addition the Regiment has been reinforced by RAMC CMTs including Lance Corporal Holby, who promoted to Corporal in December 2010, Lance Corporal Hughes and Lance Corporal Dallyn. Unfortunately for the RAMC, Lance Corporal Ednie decided The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards were the best way forward for him and transferred cap badge soon after BATUS, however he remains a medical asset within D Squadron. Lance Corporal Short will be posted in early 2011 but will be replaced by Lance Corporal Gurung. This leaves the Regiment in the incredibly strong and possibly unique position of having five RAMC CMTs and eight RCMTs.

In addition to the uplift in CMTs, Captain Barlow, a General Duties Medical Officer from 2 Med Regt, attached to the Regiment in September 2010 as Assistant Medical Officer. Captain Barlow has embraced regimental life fully, both professionally and socially, and has proved invaluable in supporting the Regiment's medical preparation for deployment. He will spend the first half of Operation HERRICK 14 in Fallingbowl supporting Rear Operations and enabling optimal medical communication between the RMO and RHQ element in theatre and those at home. He will then deploy to Afghanistan for the second half of the tour where he will work as a Close Support Medical Regiment asset. Once Captain Barlow completes his AMO attachment with SCOTS DG he will enter specialist medical training to become a military anaesthetist, where he will be able to use his field experience for the benefit of those he treats.

As the deployment date for Operation HERRICK 14 draws closer the Regiment can rest assured that it is well prepared medically for the demands of working in Afghanistan, both in respect to individual force protection and in relation to medical training and strength of medical assets. This was evidenced in July 2010 when the Regiment underwent an Operational Medical Evaluation (OME) and received a green (the highest possible grading) in all RAP areas. The success of the OME was followed in December by the Equipment Care Inspection for which the RAP also received a green across the board, predominantly as a result of the endeavours of Lance Corporal Holby who worked tirelessly in order that the RAP reach the optimal standard. The RAP itself will be split for the tour. The RMO is deploying to Nad e-Ali South with 45 Commando Royal Marines Battlegroup and A Squadron SCOTS DG, whilst the CMTs are split between C and D Squadrons SCOTS DG, the 4 SCOTS RAP and the Brigade Advisory Group. However this wide coverage is appropriate given the multiple locations within which SCOTS DG personnel will be deployed.

Finally the author cannot resist including early mention of an achievement in 2011: Trooper Needleman, a RCMT 2, was named as the most impressive student on the Battlefield Advanced Trauma Life Support course he recently attended. This course trains doctors, nurses, paramedics, CMT 1s and CMT 2s simultaneously, so this is an exceptional accomplishment by Trooper Needleman and one of which the Regiment should be very proud.



CMTs assessing a soldier during sick parade



Sergeant Jones undergoing Team Medic training

CATERING DEPARTMENT

The start of a new training year, and preparations for Operation HERRICK 14, saw the Catering Department exercising in temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees centigrade. Corporal Smith headed up a small team who provided meals from the Lancashire Kitchen in Sennelager Training Centre and also from field locations on the training area itself.

The year's major challenge for the Department took the form of Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER where the chefs deployed to Canada to feed the SCOTS DG Battlegroup and take advantage of the much-appreciated R&R locations. It also saw the Department increase in number, with additional chefs coming in from around the Brigade and from the Royal Marines. The Department also had an excellent opportunity to showcase their fine culinary skills in the form of a Royal Visit and prestigious cocktail party.

Upon our return from Canada, we started preparations for Exercise RHINO CATERER headed up by Sergeant Mann. With little time to prepare a team we still came back with an award for Best Driver and having achieved a respectable position in the competition. We soon found ourselves catering for the usual summer parties, in the form of a barbecue in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and an oriental themed dinner in the Officers' Mess, both of which were great successes.

After summer leave the Regimental Weekend meant a busy time for the Department. We catered for a barbecue for the families and old comrades, a formal dinner in the Officers' Mess and Sunday lunches in the respective messes. Once again the various events were extremely successful and 3 MERCIAN chefs kindly catered for the All Ranks Party on the Saturday night so that the SCOTS DG chefs could enjoy a night off.

Later in the year, Corporal Smith and Private Phan once again headed off to the Combined Services Culinary Challenge. Competing against the best chefs in all the services, they returned with gold medals and Private Phan was awarded Best in Class and Judges' Choice. This is a great achievement for Corporal Smith and Private Phan, not only as members of the Catering Department, but also as representatives of the Regiment.

During this time, we also had the pleasure of providing catering support to the Crew Training School in Sennelager where Sergeants Mann and Dennis provided excellent results despite the absence of some of the Brigade's more experienced chefs who were preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. The Confirmatory Exercise (CFX) saw the Catering Department deploy to the UK and cater for the Forward operating Bases (FOBs). FOB 3 was reputed to have the best cuisine of all locations, and praise goes to Lance Corporal Oram and Private Gurung 36 for their efforts in this location. Throughout the year, Sergeant Dennis has continued to ensure that all chefs continue their training in National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and the Department has enjoyed success with five candidates passing at Level Two and four at Level Three.

2010 has been yet another successful year for the Catering Department. This is due to every individual pulling their weight and to working together as one Department. Let's continue the good work into 2011 and continue to provide SCOTS DG with the catering support to which they have become accustomed.

*The Fullers Restaurant
Catering Department*



*Mr Holtum and
Corporal Harnetty on Pip*



STABLES TROOP

Last year I started this article by noting how busy the Regiment had been and that, in spite of this, we had managed to maintain the equitation side of life. This year I am afraid that I start with exactly the same comment. BATUS took up most of the spring and summer and Pre-Deployment Training most of the winter. Despite this, we have had one of our most successful polo seasons to date, and also kept the SCOTS DG flag flying at the local hunt. Corporal Harnetty still runs the stables with his usual care and professionalism and he has been assisted this year by Trooper Rae, who has regrettably now left the Army to pursue a career as a fireman in Dunfermline. He will be sorely missed at the stables. Major Spenlove-Brown handed over the role of Equitation Officer to Major Foulerton and Mr Holtum remains the Stables Troop Leader.

As polo is covered in a separate article I will restrict myself to other equitation events, which have thrived in the few stolen moments of calm this year. We have sent four officers on a spurs course to the Paderborn Equitation Centre, all of whom passed although for Mr Reith it was somewhat touch-and-go. Suffice to say that Mr Reith's talents lie on the ski slopes and not in the stables. Major Foulerton has also taken Talavera out to several meets with the Niedersachsen-Meute drag hunt, including the meet at nearby Bredebeck. As a favour to the 9th/12th Lancers we trained two of their officers in ceremonial riding and loaned them the Drum Horse Talavera and Percy the Grey for their amalgamation parade celebration. Both horses acquitted themselves admirably; so admirably, in fact, that the rather cheeky 9th/12th Lancers used a photograph of our horses on parade for their Christmas card. Imitation is indeed the best form of flattery.

We have had the horses on parade for numerous events and for the Waterloo Weekend. As has likely been mentioned elsewhere, the BBC is filming a documentary on

the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and has, amongst other areas, filmed life in Stables Troop. To this end, we have donned scarlets and been filmed interacting with the horses, hacking them out and staging a few dramatic canters and charges for the camera. Whilst I was slightly worried that Talavera or Percy would find the cameras off-putting, they knew what was required and showed off with true cavalry élan.

Next year, as we head off to Afghanistan our horses will also move elsewhere, although only a few hours down the road to Paderborn. Talavera and Percy will go to the Paderborn Equitation Centre to be looked after by Corporal of Horse Betts, and the polo ponies will go to Major Boyle. Corporal Harnetty will be posted to Paderborn to assist in the care of all the horses. He is sponsoring two of the Regimental polo ponies and Major Boyle one, so despite Operation HERRICK 14, the Regiment will be represented on the polo fields next year.



A meeting of minds



Messrs Reith, Emslie, McNeil and Majcher at the Paderborn Equestrian Centre



Mr McNeil in flight

WELFARE OFFICE

2010 has been an incredibly busy year for the Welfare Office, with many positive changes in the Welfare Centre, including great upgrades to the building and to its facilities. We welcomed over 30 new families to the Regiment over the course of the year, and wish all of our families who left the best of luck in their new endeavours. The improvements and upgrades programme started with new flooring at the start of the year. Summer saw the construction of a fantastic new swing park in the garden, as well as the addition of glass-topped tables with umbrellas on the patio so everyone could enjoy the sunshine – and there was certainly plenty of it. This year also saw the introduction of a games area, with two Xbox Kinect games consoles. It's hard to say who enjoys playing with these more, the children in the afternoon or the soldiers during their NAAFI break. Irrespective, it's great to see everyone enjoying the facilities and services we now provide in the Welfare Building.

In January the Office had a new addition. Welfare Senior NCO Sergeant McCormick joined us as we said farewell to Sergeant Ramsay. In January, we hosted a delicious curry lunch for the wives, and we followed this up with not only a Sunday Lunch in February, but also by hosting the Garrison Games Night when 120 wives from all units in Fallingbostel joined us for an evening of games and socialising. In March we waved 'bon voyage' to Padre Dalton as he set off on a tour of Australia as part of Exercise Longlook, and we welcomed Padre 'Mozz' Sullivan to Fallingbostel in his stead. 'Mozz' was an enthusiastic addition to our office, providing the children who stopped by with an endless supply of amazing balloon animals. He was kind enough to pass this skill on to our new Junior NCO



Padre Mozz meets one of the younger members of his flock at the Families' Lunch

Lance Corporal Sommerville before heading home to his family in Australia in July.

April saw a further two new additions to the Welfare Office family. Our Welfare Clerk, Sherece Gates, and her husband Lance Corporal Gates welcomed a son, Kian (congratulations!), and Jess Barbier-Marsden joined us as temporary Welfare Clerk while Sherece was away, just in time for the Regiment's deployment to BATUS and an exercise on the Canadian prairies. Whilst the lads were away in May, we participated in a station-wide trip to the Tierpark Animal Park in Hagenbeck. Five busloads of families joined us on a drizzly day, but the rain didn't dampen our spirits and everyone enjoyed a great day out at the zoo. It was amazing how close you could get to the animals and the trip proved so popular that no doubt we'll be visiting the Tierpark again next year.



Nigel Dunkley explains Colonel von Stauffenberg's plot to kill Hitler in Berlin

We celebrated the arrival of summer in June with a Families' BBQ at the Welfare Centre. Everyone enjoyed the glorious weather and the kids had a great afternoon playing on the new bouncy castles. In addition to the departure of Padre Sullivan, July saw the return of Padre Dalton to the Welfare Centre, bringing with him tales of barbecues, beaches, and other adventures he enjoyed during his sojourn in Australia. In July we also received a generous donation from SSAFA, allowing us to purchase new toys and mini-tables for the indoor children's play area – Thank you SSAFA! Holly Spenlove-Brown handed over the reins of the Happy Nappy Music Group to Emma Halford-MacLeod in late summer and the group is proving more popular than ever, learning new songs every Monday morning and giving mums and tots



The Commanding Officer at the SSAFA Big Brew with Mrs Halford-Macleod, Mrs Albert and Mrs Davies

across the Regiment the chance to meet and build friendships. Older children have enjoyed the seasonal arts and crafts activities during Kids' Club on Wednesday afternoons throughout the year, run by Brenda Hainey, including everything from painting ceramic mugs for Fathers' Day to making and filling their own Christmas crackers.

The Regimental Waterloo Weekend was a great start to September with a Family Day on the Saturday afternoon as the squadrons competed for the Moncrieff Shield. Our congratulations go to C Squadron, this year's winners. Later on in the month, a small but determined group of wives went down to the Möhnesee Lake for a weekend of sailing and swimming. As it turned out, there was very little sailing or swimming as the uncooperative and rainy weather saw the wives remaining safe and dry whilst turning their hands to karaoke and dancing in the local town instead. We also celebrated the 125th anniversary of SSAFA with the Big Brew Up at the end of the month. As ever, there was a huge selection of goodies baked and donated by the Regiment's families, the highlight of which was a cake beautifully iced with the SCOTS DG capbadge, prepared by our top-notch chefs in the cookhouse. Despite several of the squadrons being away, the event still managed to raise close to €700.00 for this wonderful cause. Thank you to everyone who donated and participated; your support really makes a difference.

In October we welcomed back Sherece and Jess moved next door into the WISMIS Clerk's position to manage sickness and absences for the upcoming deployment. Sergeant McCormick still has not forgiven her for kicking him out of his office. October also saw a memorable wives' trip to Berlin. 21 ladies joined Captain Hainey and Staff Sergeant McCormick in Germany's beautiful capital city for a weekend of shopping and sightseeing. The definite highlight of the weekend was



Sergeant Pratt is consigned to a watery fate at the Waterloo Weekend

a tour of Berlin's historic past, hosted by Nigel Dunkley, on the Sunday afternoon.

November started off with a coffee morning to welcome all the families who had joined us over the summer. Once again, thank you to everyone who donated the delicious selection of baked goods. Despite a punctured tyre on the Autobahn, and a few other mishaps, the wives' trip to the American PX shopping centre in Ramstein, on the first weekend in November, proved to be a successful Christmas shopping expedition for all. Brenda Hainey also organised a Christmas wreath-making evening on St Andrew's Night, complete with mulled wine and mince pies, for a festive start to the holiday season. The evening was fully booked and everyone who attended came away with an unique and beautiful wreath with which to decorate their home for the holidays.

December was, as ever, a particularly busy month, with a wide range of activities organised. Christmas Fairs were held at both Heide and Shackleton Schools. Our thanks go to Kate Chantry who won the Heide School Fair's grand prize, a 1980s-style jukebox, which she kindly donated to the Welfare Centre. Everyone who went to the wives' Christmas party had a blast, with entertainment provided by drag artist Miss Cookie Monster; her vocal dedication to an unsuspecting Post NCO Lance Corporal Johnston was certainly an unforgettable performance. Santa even appeared in his magical grotto at the families' Christmas party again this year, assisted by his elves Brenda Hainey and Clare Albert. Sergeant McCormick took studio portraits of the children meeting Santa that were later turned into lovely Christmas cards for their mums and dads.

Sadly, Lorraine Black left the Grapevine Café at the end of the year, having managed it for four years, and we wish her the very best of luck as she and her family start their new life back home in Scotland. Fiona McCuaig

56 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Father Christmas has his hands full at the Wives' Christmas Party

has taken over as manager of the café and is doing a grand job. Keep up the good work!

To everyone who has volunteered throughout the year, whether by baking cakes, helping out with childcare, event set up and clean up, or just by taking the time to



One of Santa's elves

attend our events, we extend a heartfelt 'thank you'. Your help and support are invaluable and always appreciated. We wish everyone all the best as we say farewell to 2010 and look forward to another busy year in 2011.



CHURCH NOTES

In 69AD Ancient Rome had its 'Year of the four Emperors', Germany had a 'Year of the three Emperors' in 1888 and in 2010 SCOTS DG had their 'Year of the three Padres.' It all started normally enough, with the Regiment returning to duties after Christmas leave and deploying to Sennelager in the January snows for Crew Training. As we stamped away the cold out on the area I learned, from no less an authority than the Commanding Officer, some of the finer points of leaguering up our Challenger 2 tanks in a tree line. This enabled me to make intelligent conversation with the soldiers about something other than the usual Padre topics. In the bitter cold there was, of course, plenty of the normal Padre's fodder – the grumbles and aspirations to be elsewhere – but I was happy enough with this as I went about my business. Like an old western movie, it is when things are too quiet in the Regiment that one ought really to worry. So far all was well; the soldiers saw the 'normal' Padre trundling about, glasses on a string, speaking with his accustomed Cumbrian accent. In our military world, however, things rarely stay 'normal' for long.

Barely had we returned from Sennelager when my telephone rang and the senior Chaplain to British Forces Germany told me: "You're our man for Exercise LONG LOOK this year." Though I had never applied to go

on LONG LOOK I knew what it entailed, so I asked: "Is that to Australia or New Zealand?" which seemed like a sensible question. In seconds I could see wonderful opportunity vanishing away as he growled: "What difference does it make?" to which I replied immediately: "None at all. I'll go to either."

Having thus sort of volunteered for over four months in Australia, I had to tell significant others about this new



Padre Tony presents a SCOTS DG plaque to the Commanding Officer of the Australian 1st Aviation Regiment, Lt Col John Ferwick

Padre Tony with Australian Army ABRAMS tank



plan. The Commanding Officer was fairly easy to convince. We would have an Australian exchange Padre in a man-for-man swap, so the Regiment would never be without chaplaincy cover in station or on BATUS. My wife was less understanding, as, yet again, the Army was sending me away over our wedding anniversary and her birthday. Apparently I have been present for these family events only once in the past 8 years. She has obviously been keeping score.

So Padre Number Two entered the scene. As I flew off to the Antipodes the SCOTS DG welcomed Padre “Mozz” O’Sullivan from the Australian Army, who would be with the Regiment until the end of July. That at least was the theory. Unfortunately Mozz went ‘man down’ fairly early in his time in Germany, losing the sight in one eye for some unknown medical reason. This made him unable to drive the Padre’s duty car, or to deploy to BATUS. In this emergency 7th Armoured Brigade sent SCOTS DG their third Padre of 2010, Revd Heather Rendell, chaplain with 3rd Royal Horse Artillery in Hohn. This was her first experience of the Royal Armoured Corps and of exercise on the prairies. Thus the Regiment replaced an English Padre with an Aussie, and then with one from Northern Ireland. There were clerical accents galore, but none of them Scottish.

Being absent, I cannot report on the experiences of either Padre Mozz or Padre Heather with the Regiment, but instead can relate some of the experiences of the English Padre from a Scottish regiment whilst in Australia. Before I left, Mozz told me that in the Officers’ Mess in Darwin shirts had to have collars. T-shirts were not allowed but polo-shirts with an open

neck were fine. Shorts were allowed, but footwear had to have a back, i.e. no flip-flops, but sandals with a heel strap. “That’s remarkably relaxed,” I thought, as I told him he would need a jacket and tie for two nights a week and a suit for four. Being good at arithmetic he figured that there was one night unaccounted for. “That will be the ‘dress-down’ night,” he said, already amazed at the levels of formality. “Ah, no, that will be the black-tie night, and don’t forget Mess Kit for special occasions.” You can imagine the reaction of a laid back Aussie travelling with a 25 kilogram luggage limit.

So off I went, flying the SCOTS DG flag with Black Stewart tartan trews for dinner nights and a polo-shirt bearing the legend ‘Scotland’s Cavalry’. Inevitably I was singled out as the ‘***** Pom’ in the Officer’s Mess which my Australian hosts, 1st Aviation Regiment, shared with other units in Darwin, but my polo-shirt soon drew even more flak. Though it said ‘Scotland’s Cavalry’ across the back, these Aussies weren’t fooled. They knew I was English and they knew that the Scots too have a word for we southern types. Soon their greeting became “G’day, you ***** sassenach Pom”. I must confess that in return I succumbed to a lack of political correctness by making reference to colonists and convicts. It was great banter and good fun throughout.

1st Aviation Regiment fly armed reconnaissance and attack helicopters, specifically the Eurocopter Tiger, so I was able to attend exercises and training both with these and with ordinary pilot-training airframes. Beyond this, the nature of chaplaincy work was predictably similar to that in the UK or in Germany; soldiers still brought their problems to the stand-in

58 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Padre. Sometimes, however, the nature of those problems was not always immediately obvious even when the soldiers described them.

“We’re having bother with the bogans and long-grassers around our quarter”. Well I decided ‘long-grassers’ would probably be wildlife, but ‘bogans’? I had no idea. There is a lot of dangerous wildlife in Australia, and everything from crocodiles to spiders will bite you, so “difficulty with the ankle-biters” must definitely be wildlife. I was convinced that I knew what an RTA was. Road Traffic Accident? “Things have never been right since my RTA, Padre”. “OK. Were you injured in the crash? Was anyone else involved? Had you been drinking?” Across the coffee cups the soldier looked at me in total bemusement. It turns out that ‘long-grassers’ are homeless people living, predictably, in the long grass, and ‘bogans’ is a term for rednecks. ‘Ankle-biters’ are children, and ‘RTA’ stands for Return To Australia after operations. Once I understood what the issues actually were, it became plain that they are the same issues faced by British troops both at home in barracks and during or after operations. Soldiers are soldiers, and armies are armies, the world over.

Before departing on Exercise LONG LOOK, I visited Fromelles War Cemetery in France and watched the British and Australian dead of WW1 laid to their final rest, each carried by 3 Aussies and 3 Fusiliers from the First Battalion Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, my previous unit. In 1916 those Brits and Aussies fought and died side by side, and side by side we remember them. Thus it was a privilege and an honour, early in the exchange to lead the worship at my host regiment’s Dawn Service on Anzac Day. Then at the end of my time I stood amongst Australian soldiers at a memorial service for two of their comrades killed in Afghanistan. They died in Oruzgan, the province adjacent to Helmand, because in Afghanistan today Aussies and

Brits are still serving side by side. In that service it was clear again, as hard fighting men blinked back a tear, then downed some beers, that soldiers are soldiers the world over. And padres, too, are padres the world over so I knew, even whilst thousands of miles away, that someone, be it Mozz or Heather, was available for our people should they need a chaplain.

Back in Germany, and sobered by that final memorial service for casualties of Afghanistan, we ratcheted up our own training for the forthcoming deployment to that very theatre. In autumn and early winter SCOTS DG ran the Crew Training School in Sennelager for all of the various platforms our troops will be using in theatre. Visits there were happily uneventful until one of the attached soldiers was killed in an accident. As I did a little service and talked with those present, both collectively and individually, it was reassuring to see the ease with which the TRiM (Trauma Risk Management) process swung into action to shepherd our people through this difficult time.

Due to the pace of our training schedule we held our Waterloo Weekend not in June, but in September. Once again the officer corps paraded en masse for the church service which this time, acknowledging our history and our future, took episodes from the Scots Greys’ experience at Waterloo – blazoned across the church wall in scenes from the 1970 film – and applied the lessons to the Afghanistan tour. Never underestimate your enemy and exercise restraint where appropriate; the truths our forebears learned on that bloody day so long ago can still guide us, because as I have observed ‘soldiers are soldiers,’ and not just across oceans but across time.

For the forthcoming Operation HERRICK 14, SCOTS DG do not go as a battlegroup, but are spread to the four winds across Helmand, conducting a variety of tasks. There is therefore no critical mass of our troops for me to minister to in theatre. So, I have been cut away to a different role and once more must see ‘my’ soldiers become part of other chaplains’ ‘parishes’. Fortunately my theatre job with the Counter-IED Task Force and Engineer Group means that those for whom I am responsible will, like SCOTS DG, be spread all over the area. This will necessitate travelling to search them out, so rest assured that the dulcet tones of a Scots accent, the sight of a grey beret or a Vandyke Tactical Recognition Flash, will see me rushing across to touch base with, and pray for, our people. I ask all those at home who read this to pray for them too.



Padre Tony with an Australian Army BLACK HAWK helicopter

THE OFFICERS' MESS

The Officers' Mess was well aware that 2010 would be a busy year with a BATUS exercise awaiting our return from Easter leave and pre-deployment training looming after Summer leave. However this did not dent the appetite for 'social manoeuvre' and we welcomed new subalterns Messrs Watson and Ramsden into the Mess to join the fun before their departure for Bovington and their Troop Leaders' course. By the end of the year, a further four officers had commissioned with Messrs Cunningham and Kelly arriving in September and Messrs Crawford and Probst in December. The annual change over of Squadron Leaders also saw the return of Majors Halford-MacLeod and Foulerton in the summer.

In Fallingbommel the social calendar gradually filled up and, as we lost the RGO (Regimental German Officer), Captain Landon, to BATUS, most attention turned towards London. The Caledonian and Highland balls once again proved excellent opportunities to display both mess kit and interesting interpretations of the Dashing White Sergeant. In between Level 2 Collective Training and annual ranges, Captain Fyvie and Mr Woodhams did however manage to sample the delights of the Berlin Film Festival. The highlight of the event was the chance to meet a number of 'world famous' Romanian actors whilst sneaking in to the premier of the Romanian smash hit 'If I Want to Whistle, I Whistle'. Unfortunately the film was three hours long, in the original Romanian and with German subtitles, and thus the glamour was lost.

Following a gruelling November exercise, six unsuspecting subalterns (Messrs Emslie, Erskine-Naylor, Fyvie, Grinling, Holtum and Jackson) were sent to Munich to complete the Adjutant's Challenge. Their brief was to complete a series of taxing and often unusual tasks set by the more senior members of the Mess. Whilst some tasks, such as swimming the main river in Munich proved impossible, others such as 'Putsching' the Hofbräuhaus went down very well as five immaculate officers in blues marched into the hall to the sound of Mr Emslie and his bagpipes. This display of combined musical talent and martial excellence managed to quell about 2,000 inebriated Germans into a stunned silence and guaranteed us all many free drinks.

The Mess also embarked upon two enjoyable trips to Denmark,

the first to Sønderborg and Svendborg and the second to Copenhagen. These had been labelled kite surfing adventures but ultimately involved neither kite surfing nor adventure. They did however involve Viking-level carousing and negotiations with members of the Danish women's gymnastics team over who could do the best forward roll. Captain Fyvie lost.

For civilians, Niedersachsen's favourite Scottish cavalry regiment hosted various adventures of its own starting with a ladies' dinner night just before Easter leave. The event was a huge success, starting with the obligatory pick-up from Hamburg Airport and night out in that most vibrant of cities. This was followed by car crushing and shooting on the Saturday before the main event in the evening. During the party the Commanding Officer was delighted that he hadn't lost his 'touch' with the ladies when he received a number of name cards professing undying affection. Towards the end of the year another ladies' dinner night proved that the Adjutant also had not lost his touch – at clearing a dance floor – with his interpretations of classic 1980s power ballad dances.

2010 also saw the founding of the Regiment's relationship with the Worshipful Company of



Mr Majcher in one of his James Bond fantasy moments

60 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Mr Ramsden opens proceedings

Pewterers. Members of this esteemed guild were invited to Fallingbostel for two dinner nights during the year with the promise of many more to follow. The second of these occasions was a particularly memorable evening for the senior members of the mess due, in the main, to the arrival of Major Jonty Michel-Jarre on keyboards accompanied by Mr Woodhams on drums. After a typically resounding set from the Pipes and Drums, Major Ambrose spotted the synthesiser unattended in the anteroom and soon became transported into his very own parallel dimension producing sounds that truly defied description. C Squadron Leader's own 'set' seemed to be heading to some form of conclusion on several occasions, with Mr Woodhams thrashing the drum kit, standing up and repeatedly shouting "thank you Fallingbostel and goodnight", but alas Major Ambrose didn't take the hint. Eventually the power to the keyboard was cut off for fear of permanent psychological damage.

The unparalleled ability of the Mess to produce fire and loud bangs, sometimes concurrently, was somewhat reduced by the middle of 2010 with the laying to rest of the Mess Trebuchet and the classification as a firearm of the Potato Mortar. However fears were allayed when a legal loop-hole in Anglo-German export law was exploited and the Mess is now patiently awaiting the deployment of the Thruster 4000, a hybrid potato mortar



Mr Grinling in an extremely unfamiliar position

and blunderbuss which should arrive early next year from its factory (Captain Landon's garage). Meanwhile the arrival of Major Foulerton or 'Foulerbomber' has meant bangs galore, but more on that later.

After successful exercises in BATUS the Regiment reinvigorated the social calendar for the Summer Ball. The Silk Route was eventually chosen as the theme and the Mess was quickly transformed into various areas of that ancient commercial pathway. This transformation included a Japanese lake for which five carp were inadvertently asphyxiated or sacrificed depending on one's point of view; according to Captain Young, this is a traditional Zen ritual. The Commanding Officer arrived on a dromedary and was greeted by a scantily clad snake charmer and fire breather who enthralled all with her somewhat risqué movements around a one and half meter albino python. At dinner we were entertained by a wonderful belly-dancing troupe and by a less wonderful individual belly-dancing show from Major Benson Blair. The party continued into the small hours and some believe has yet to really stop for Mr Murphy, our resident lager connoisseur. The following day many of the guests visited the lake at Düşhorn on one of the few occasions during the summer when mess members were brave enough to scale the lethal inflatable 'iceberg of skin burns'.

As always Balaklava Night was eagerly anticipated by officers and warrant officers alike and it lived up to its usual billing of merriment and aggression all under the banner of camaraderie. Dinner was excellent and it was a great relief to all that all the warrant officers managed to control their bladders this year. Some of the younger members of the Mess were unable to recall what happened next but the more seasoned campaigners recount a tale of derring-do not seen since the exploits of the Chindits. During the fireball hockey match,

Major Foulerton took to the stage as his alter ego 'the Foulerbomber' with a watermelon containing a thunderflash strapped to the top of his head. He approached a rather sweaty Sergeant Major Potter who initially laughed at the strange sight. Major Foulerton did not say a word but stood patiently waiting for the thunderflash to explode, which it duly did with some ferocity. Sergeant Major Potter was less than impressed with watermelon flesh in his eyes and mouth and, like a shark sensing blood, he rampaged blindly around the hockey pitch as the game continued around him. Eventually, with no serious injuries but with Major Williamson's mess kit in tatters, the game was abandoned. Champagne corks were popped, acquaintances renewed and the convivial atmosphere continued until it was time for the warrant officers to make their way back to their own mess for bacon sandwiches and their traditional day of recovery.

As the year drew to a close the Commanding Officer invited all the officers and senior NCOs to Diel Farm for drinks and canapés, and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess invited the officers over for drinks in the last week before Christmas Leave. The sound of conversation was punctured periodically by cries from subalterns as they lost yet another game of 'killer' on the billiards table. It is strange that, to this day, no officer has ever managed to work out the rules of this most



Mr Emslie with B Squadron in Pakshar



*Messrs Jackson and
Erskine-Naylor in BATUS*

62 EAGLE AND CARBINE

complex and ultimately expensive game. Upon the departure of the officers, Mr Watson was left behind for a private tour of the building but was returned to the Officers' Mess in relatively good order a few hours later.

The tradition of zig-zag (or Vandyke) tie nights is as strong as ever with young officers and attached arms alike. One significant addition to the pantheon is Stuart Donaldson who, after years of involvement with the Officers' Mess, richly deserved the honour of consuming a bottle of Pol Roger from a silver vase. He now sports his tie proudly and very fine it looks too.

We have, as ever, had to say goodbye to officers who have left the Mess. Major Spenlove-Brown and Holly have moved to Upavon and Major Cattermole and Erica have moved to Sennelager where Major Cattermole is now the Chief of Staff of 20th Armoured Brigade. We congratulate Captain Erskine Naylor on his marriage to Emma, Captain Albert on his marriage to Clare and Captain Calderhead on his marriage to Annie. Congratulations are also in order to Major Kerrigan on his engagement to Zoe and to Mr Ballard Whyte on his engagement to Sophie.



WARRANTS OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

As I sit here looking through my back catalogue of Eagle and Carbine magazines I realise that all previous PMCs have started their articles with something along the lines of "this year has started off at full speed" or some other observation about the pace of life. I will not break the mould; this year started at warp speed factor five.

2010 started off with the normal post leave 'return-to-work' dramas and last minute tasks to get ready for BATUS. This included a trip for most personnel to Sennelager on the coldest Level Two Collective Training exercise since Captain Scott's trip to the Arctic, followed by a slightly warmer trip to the CATT facility.

We held Burns' Night at the Fullers Restaurant and this proved a very successful evening with a full array of entertainment from the RQMS(T), WO2 Lamb. WO2 (SSM) Black receives a special mention for concentrating on the difference between the Number One dress hat and the warrant officer's brown hat from the Quartermaster's department with their sketch about characters from the mess. This was highly amusing for all those not mentioned.

As Easter approached, elements of C Squadron headed for BATUS as part of the Activation Party for the very first PRAIRIE THUNDER exercise. We said

Staff Sergeant Beveridge in BATUS



farewell to WO2 (RCWO) Robinson and Sergeant MacDonald whilst postings in, from other units, saw the return of some familiar faces, WO2 (RCWO) Fisher and Sergeant Dennis.

With summer fast approaching most of the Regiment were still in BATUS but for those who had made it back to the Mess planning for the Summer Ball was already in full swing. June was also a busy month for movement into and out of the mess. We said our farewells to Captain (until recently ASM) Ward, WO2s Adams, Ball, Dudman and Smith, Staff Sergeant Fellows and Sergeants Booth, Munro, Murphy and Sutherland. These gaps were quickly filled as we said welcome to WO1 (ASM) Buck, Staff Sergeants Doherty, Gowans and Herron and Sergeant Cummings. Well-deserved, and well-celebrated, promotions included WO2s Baird, Smith and Ball, and Sergeants Cowie, Crumley, Dodds and Khoo.

The Summer Ball was an absolute ‘belter’ of an occasion as is the norm for the Mess. In the garden we had set up a mobile bar of the type normally found at a German beer festival, and supplied by a local friend of Sergeant McCusker, and a full outdoor kitchen set up by the chefs who as usual produced some outstanding food in a barbecue style. The theme was fancy dress and every single member of the mess made a great effort including Sergeant Allman who (we think) came as a tax inspector. We enjoyed the musical delights of Mike “Kapowski” and the DJ talents of Sergeant ‘spin the wheels’ Cannon. Although there was a fully prepared wet weather program in the form of a professional disco inside, Kapowski and Cannon helped us rave the night away resulting in one of the best mess photographs ever to adorn our office walls. The usual suspects were still there when the sun came up and breakfast had long gone and the lawn resembled a scene from Glastonbury with piles of spent cyalumes that the RSM had been dishing out to his ‘Dance Posse’.

August provided a most welcome quiet period as most were on summer leave. We returned, however, to form the new Regimental Order of Battle ready for the start of our Pre-Deployment Training for Operation HERRICK 14. In September we welcomed Staff Sergeant Crockett and Sergeant King and bade farewell to Staff Sergeant Hodges and Sergeants Mathews and Thomson. Sergeant Beveridge was promoted to Staff Sergeant and Staff Sergeants Gardiner and Potter to Warrant Officer Class 2.

The Regimental Weekend was an occasion in itself with sports and events held on the regimental sports pitch. The finals of the Moncrieff Shield competition were played out and eventually C Squadron emerged victo-

rious. After the day’s exertions we all returned to the Mess with several members of the Regimental Association. What followed was an evening with a difference as we discovered what the RQMS(T) would do for gainful employment when he left the Regiment. WO2 ‘Bingo Caller’ Lamb had clearly spent days in preparation, knowing that one wrong move would see him ripped to death by the Regimental Association wives. Happily he did not disappoint and his “legs eleven and two little swans” were a triumph.

October swiftly arrived and brought with it Balaclava Night continuing a long tradition of joviality and high jinks. The majority of the fireside games ended up drawn depending on who you listen to but needless to say we won most of them. Someone (no names required but you know how you are) had an explosive headache which caused others to suffer mild ear discomfort and watery eyes. This year saw our mess members sported a new shirt which, much like a World Cup football shirt of old, included a tally of your Balaclava experience dis-



Sergeant Gowland patrols the Welfare Office

64 EAGLE AND CARBINE

played on the back in the form of stars. As per the norm, the night lasted well into the wee hours and it's reported but not confirmed that after breakfast in the Mess, A Squadron SSM, the PMC and the ASM continued the celebration in 'Jakes Bar'. The PMC is reported as having returned home at midday in extremely hot water.

November saw the majority of the Regiment on their Confirmatory Field Exercise (CFX) in the UK and the month therefore slipped away quietly in the Mess. This soon changed on our return at the end of the month with the unofficial party season almost upon us. After the usual Force Protection lectures the fun started. With our last minute Equipment Care Inspection (ECI) preparatory work checked, and double checked, we let our hair down and had a whopper of a Christmas party. The RQMS managed to convert our prize draw fund into an impressive pile of goodies without a lady shaver in sight. We had welcomed, back by popular demand, The Red Hot Chillies and Mike "Kapowski" to entertain us all night and the RSM presented Mrs Lamb with her birthday present from the Mess as we all sang Happy Birthday, much to her embarrassment.

'Christmas in a Day' followed and the day ended with the seniors from the Mess visiting the Commanding Officer's house for a sociable drink and a few canapés. Inevitably as it was Staff Sergeant Campbell's first visit

he made the most of it and nailed as much expensive cider as he could. The Commanding Officer drew another year to a close with a parade in the gymnasium as outside the weather had turned for the worse and a blizzard was in full force.

Our congratulations go to Staff Sergeant Chantry on his promotion to Warrant Officer Class 2. We say our fondest farewells to WO1 (RSM) Gardiner and his family and wish them all well following his commission. Congratulations also go to the newly promoted WO1 (RSM) Lamb.

As we see out 2010 we have had yet another action packed year full of challenges and changes. We have seen fellow colleagues posted out and new colleagues arrive with their families and we welcome them to the Mess. The majority will deploy next year, as an independent squadron or attached to other Battlegroups, and we look forward to a safe tour and returning to our loved ones. But regardless who we go with, we will always wear a grey beret and remain 'Second to None'.



Staff Sergeant Allan
contemplates his next move



Staff Sergeant Hendry in the SQMS' usual mode
of transport

CORPORALS' MESS

The year kicked off with final preparation for our Burns Night celebration held at the Forellenhof Hotel in nearby Walsrode. The night was organised by Corporal Martin of Motor Transport Troop with assistance from Corporal Musson of Command Troop who stood in as Mess Manager and made sure the Mess had all of our preferred drinks. The night was a great success due to the combination of location, food and entertainment. The poems went down well and raised a few laughs, including a toast to the 'ladies and lassies' with Lance Corporal Smith and Captain Potter having their say. Apart from a few piping mishaps, which were covered up by Lance Corporal Mowbray, and a short set from Captain Potter the night was a resounding success.

Due to regimental commitments the Mess had been extremely quiet but our next venture was our Summer Ball. This had to wait until all the Mess members came back having completed Exercises PRAIRIE THUNDER 1, 2A and 2B in BATUS. Despite the temperature in the marquee once again everyone enjoyed a magnificent night. As ever, the entertainment was excellent and the caterers from Fullers Restaurant provided a lovely spread. We were joined that evening by the RSM and RQMS(T) along with their wives

Nicola and Sam. It was a memorable evening and everyone partied long into the warm summer night.

After the Summer Ball, the Mess had a change in Committee members as the PMC (President of the Mess Committee), Corporal Gillon handed over to Corporal McGovern and Corporal Stone became PEC (President of the Entertainments Committee).

With the Regiment moving into Pre-Deployment Training there was another lull in the activity of the Corporals' Mess. Our main effort then became the Christmas Ball. With a significant sum of money available for the prize draw, Corporal Burton had a mammoth task ahead of him. He managed to pull it out of the bag, however, and arranged some wonderful prizes. On the day of the prize draw we said our farewell to WO1 (RSM) Gardiner and presented him with a gift we hope will be of great use to him in the future.

Following on from there it was all hands to the pumps in the marquee to set up for the night's activities. These included making sure the band was set up properly and the finer, but equally important, points like table decorations and each wife being presented with a small gift from the Mess. There was the usual issue of the weather, and the fact that we were having a party in a marquee in December and in Fallingbowl. However, once the huge fan heaters were cranked up it was toasty warm.

The Catering Department once again did us proud. They produced some great food and we thank them for taking the time and effort to decorate the Welfare Centre and for turning it into a themed buffet for the Christmas Ball. The event drew many comments and much praise for how well the evening was put together and for all the small details to which we gave attention.

After all the partying had finished we said our farewells and congratulations to Sergeants Roberts and Smith on their promotion to the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. Although it has been relatively quiet in terms of entertainment, due to the current pace of Regimental life and next year's tour to Afghanistan, I think we can all agree that it has still been a successful and enjoyable year in the Corporals' Mess.

Corporal Steel
relaxes at sea



REGIMENTAL SPORT AND ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

Last year this foreword observed that an absence of operational pressure had allowed a greater focus on sport and adventurous training than in previous years. Unfortunately 2010 saw a resounding return to form. With the combined demands of long exercises in Sennelager and Canada and an extremely busy Pre-Deployment Training schedule the time available for sport and adventurous training was significantly reduced. The keen-eyed amongst you will note the resulting omissions from this year's magazine: clay and target shooting, cycling, Nordic skiing, orienteering and squash all fell victim to a particularly busy year.

The news is not all bad however as 2010 turned out to be one of the Regiment's most successful sporting years for some time. With a number of challenging adventurous training expeditions and impressive results in the RAC Hodson's Horse competition and 7th Armoured Brigade Festival of Sports, not to mention the annual spirited contest for the Moncrieff Shield, sport remains an important aspect of regimental life. Operation HERRICK 14 will have a significant impact upon sport and adventurous training in 2011, but the Regiment boasts enough strength in depth to pick up where we left off upon our return to Fallingbommel.



ALPINE SKIING

On the 15th of December, the snow reports from Austria sounded poor with little snow whereas in Germany there was horizontal snow. Everywhere. Undaunted, the alpine skiing team may have been smaller and may have had a later start than they had hoped, due mainly to pre-deployment training for Afghanistan, but by the small hours of the 16th we were in Alpbach, our habitual training venue. The QRH, with whom we train, had arrived in Alpbach at the beginning of December, so there was some catching up to be done.

After meeting up with Gerhard Margrieter, the team's trainer of 15 years, the first three days were spent free skiing and teaching Trooper Middleton the basics of the sport. Unfortunately all this proved too much for Trooper McInnes who had an unlucky fall and injured himself on day two. After a few days, under the supervision of some Austrian nurses with whom he was reluctant to part, he returned to Scotland to complete his recovery. As the team appeared to have reduced to three racers (Captain Paton (team captain), Corporal Clarke and Trooper Middleton), the call went out to previous team members for a replacement. As Christmas passed it looked like we would have to race carefully; alpine team events require three out of four racers to finish a course, otherwise the team is not placed, however Lance Corporal Strachan rose to the

Corporal Clarke launches himself out of the start gate



challenge and flew out to meet the rest of the team on New Year's Eve.

After two weeks of skiing through GS and slalom gates, interspersed with some early morning speed training down empty pistes, the team finished their training on the 7th of January without further incident and prepared for the drive over to Les Contamines, in France, for the Divisional Championships.

Les Contamines is a far cry from picturesque Alpbach, with far too many people parading around town in lycra arguing over which type of wax to use in obtuse weather conditions. The competition started off with seeding GS, an event designed to shake out the racing order into something resembling its proper form. Unfortunately both Lance Corporal Strachan and Trooper Middleton fell and didn't climb up through the ranks as far as they had both hoped. However, over the course of the competition they did make steady progress. Individual and Team GS saw Corporal Clarke finish 15th, Captain Paton 19th and the team placed 12th overall. The following two days were set aside for downhill training. The first was successful with all team members completing two good runs of the course, but the second was a write-off with fog settling on the course. The race itself was more eventful. The course was much more icy and faster with some 'ice cookies' on it from the warm day and cold night before the event. The end result was some spectacular falls and only a few injuries. Captain Paton, having briefed the team to make sure they completed the course and didn't 'overcook it' did, of course, exactly that! The remainder performed admirably and secured a result of 12th place with Corporal Clarke finishing 15th and Lance

Corporal Strachan and Trooper Middleton coming in 57th and 61st place respectively.

The Super G took place on the same hill with a more technical course that deceived several racers. However, the complete SCOTS DG team made it down and achieved 8th place with Trooper Middleton awarded best novice for the event. The competition was drawing to a close with only slalom to go and in both the individual and team events SCOTS DG racers did well ensuring that the team was placed 11th. Trooper Middleton, who had professed that slalom was his least favourite event, went on to win best novice and, for the overall event, most improved skier for which he was awarded a very large pair of off-piste skis. In the overall competition the team came 9th out of 24 teams and qualified for a place at the Army Championships. Unfortunately, due to ongoing pre-deployment training, we had to turn this place down whilst proud of our achievement given our lack of training time and experience. All that remained was the long drive back to Fallingbowl for the majority and for Corporal Clarke the journey to the Army Championships as an individual under the wing of 3 Battalion REME.

Next year's racing is looking well set. Following operations in Afghanistan a larger team should make the journey to Alpbach to train. Meanwhile we achieved our aim of keeping the SCOTS DG alpine ski team on the slopes over the winter of 2010 with great enjoyment and modest success.



BOXING

The Regiment's boxing team has had another strong year, continuing to grow in numbers and showing some real talent. However the 2010 calendar, as busy as it was, meant that we were unable to take up all our invitations to box or to realise some of our own ideas for matches. For example, as our old Adjutant General's Corps Detachment Commander is now fulfilling the same role for the QRH, the idea of an inter-regimental match was mooted but unfortunately abandoned due to our commitment to exercises in BATUS. Both 4 SCOTS and the 9th/12th Lancers were also keen for a match, proving the appetite for boxing is still keen in 7th Armoured Brigade. As it was there was only time to focus our preparation effectively for the Royal

Armoured Corps Boxing Championships at the annual Hodson's Horse competition, and focus we did.

With three new boxers joining the squad at a variety of different weight categories, Captain Thursby at Middleweight, Mr Woodhams at Cruiser and Trooper Ramsamy at Middleweight, an atmosphere of tangible excitement began to emanate from the makeshift boxing gymnasium in the attic above C Squadron's lines. The Commanding Officer gave clear direction that the team would be allowed to train for an hour every morning and two to three hours every afternoon in the six weeks prior to our departure for Bovington. This enabled us to get everyone boxing correctly,

68 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Corporal Campbell and Staff Sergeant Murphy coaching Trooper Ramsamy

passing their medicals and becoming fit enough to survive three, two minute rounds of intensive physical and mental activity. There was one casualty from this when Mr Woodhams broke his nose whilst sparring with Lance Corporal Morgan Williams but he seemed pleased that he had inflicted a black eye in return.

All participants enjoyed the competition in Bovington. It showed the passion that exists for the sport and highlighted some of the talent the Royal Armoured Corps has to offer. Most impressive for the Regimental Team was Trooper Simpson (Lightweight) who won his weight category in true style, relaxing into his fight from the bell and making his moves in an intelligent manner and only when required. Captain Landon (Light Heavyweight) proved he had the fitness but not quite the technical expertise to outmanoeuvre his opponent. Captain Thursby was badly matched but showed real courage against his opponent who went on to win the championship at that weight category. Defending champion Lance Corporal Adams (Light Welterweight) fought extremely well as did Corporal Kyle (Light



Corporal Kyle in action

Welterweight). Corporal Kyle was even asked to fight again due to his impressive style. At the heaviest weight Lance Corporal Morgan-Williams unfortunately broke bones in his hand and was unable to complete the final round of his title fight.

The team, under coaches Staff Sergeants Burdon and Murphy and Corporal Campbell, came away from the tournament believing that we have the talent to win at least three of the weight categories when we next attend the championships. There is also a keen sense that an inter-squadron fight night would be very successful and would inspire more soldiers and officers to have a go at what must be one of the best sports to prepare them for their profession.



The boxing team at Hodson's Horse



Trooper Simpson

CRESTA RUN

Whilst still at Sandhurst we heard rumours that two young subalterns were needed to ride the Cresta Run that winter. Major Turpin's confirmatory request was met with the expectant faces of two young children on Christmas morning.

Two months later, Messrs Crawford and Probst found themselves standing at 'Junction' (the half way point for beginners) on an ice run three quarters of a mile long, dropping 514 feet and with a maximum gradient of 1 in 2.8. A general description of riding the Cresta goes along the lines of 'rather like a bob run but without the high banks at the corners, so one can fall out', which was less than reassuring once travelling at 60mph. Equally worrying, were comments by St Moritz Tobogganing Club (SMTC) members: "I wouldn't worry too much," opined one "the incident where an officer lost his leg was a freak accident". If only to increase our anxiety, upon our arrival at the clubhouse a man was being treated for having recently lost half a finger. It was going to be a fun week.

The first morning consisted of basic tobogganing lessons. Our 'guru' gave instructions and demonstrations whilst his gaggle of pupils collectively nodded their heads. Whilst standing upright these seemed clear, yet after assuming the position (lying prone, head



Mr Watson contemplates the course

first) things were not quite so clear. "Simply use your feet to brake. Move the sliding seat forward to go quickly, and backwards to steer" he said. Easy, so just like sledging? Cresta is a sport best learned by practising. So off we go....

One starts off slowly, however the pace quickens. Quickly. Exponentially. By the point the rider reaches the infamous 'Shuttlecock' corner a few hundred metres down the course, he is at times, literally flying and all talk of steering the toboggan becomes merely theoretical.



Major Foulerton en route

70 EAGLE AND CARBINE

With lots of force and a touch of skill the toboggan is directed around the left-hand hairpin corner, renowned for humbling even the best of riders. Those who fall join the exclusive 'Shuttlecock Club', of which Mr Probst is now a member. After Shuttlecock comes the really fun bit, a couple of long sweeping banks, some nice fast straights and a leap, and in a bundle of giggly adrenaline the rider finds himself at the end of the course, heart pounding and grinning from ear to ear. Long it is not (riding the course from 'Junction' takes around 50 seconds, whilst from 'Top' it takes a little longer) but furious adrenaline it provides in bucket loads.

However, we were not in St Moritz just to have fun. There was the serious business of the 17th/21st Lancers

Cup Inter-Regimental Championship and we were under strict instructions not to return without silverware. When race day came things did not look promising. Teams posted by other regiments had actually been here before and some teams had been riding for years. Predictably success was not ours, however honour was saved in the Novice Junction Championships where Mr Crawford came third and Mr Probst came fifth ensuring we returned with some silver.

The end of such a week always comes too fast; it had been fantastic and completely unforgettable. More to the point can we do it again next year?



Exercise DIAMOND EAGLE

On the 12th of August a small group of determined adventurers loaded up a minibus and set off for Corsica. The drive to Genova was painful with nearly all expedition members taking their turn behind the wheel and co-drivers under strict instructions to provide stimulating conversation throughout. We eventually reached the ferry port after 15 hours' driving and had a good look around the port city. With a full six hours remaining before the ferry departure, we approached some policemen for advice on where we could seek sustenance. Surprisingly their advice was to return to our minibus unless we wanted to be mugged, or indeed worse. Clearly Genova wasn't the best place to kill time.

As the ferry departure time approached, our minibus was slowly surrounded by cars and vans piled high with everything from bicycles to dishwashers, all balanced precariously and strapped on with bungees. It was a scene more reminiscent of the Indian sub-continent but we soon discovered that with the high cost of living on Corsica, it is considerably cheaper to shop in mainland Europe. Finally we boarded and secured seats to stretch out and relax for the four-hour crossing.

Upon our arrival, the heavens opened and we feared we might have a week of rain to which to look forward. Fortunately this was the only rain we saw during the whole of our visit. Following a rapid pit stop in a supermarket for food for the expedition, we drove to the airport to pick up our Joint Services Mountain Expedition Leader (JSMELE). Finding the first campsite was an easy job and having pitched camp we had an early dinner and conducted final preparation before resting in anticipation of our first day's walking.

The GR20 is generally regarded as the toughest of the series of Grand Randonnées routes and one of the most arduous walks in Europe. This is principally due to the lack of contouring and a number of huge ascents and descents. The GR20 was established in 1972 and stretches 200 kilometres (124 miles), at an average altitude of 1,000 to 2,000m (3,300 to 6,600ft), from Calenzana, in the Balagne region, to Conca, about 12 miles north of Porto Vecchio. The path is divided into 16 stages and takes experienced and fit hikers about two weeks to complete at an average of seven hours' walking per day. We however were only going to complete the

*A pause at Cascade des Anglais
before the final descent*



Northern half of the route. We set off from Calenzana at 0800 hrs on the Monday morning and it soon became clear how the GR20 had earned its reputation. The initial ascent warmed up stiff legs as the path rose sharply. And by the end of the day we had climbed 1,295 metres over ten kilometres. Arriving early at the Refuge d'Ortu di u Piobbu (1,570 m) before the hordes, we were able to take our pick of pitches and start cooking. This proved essential as the only two gas rings provided for the whole campsite were quickly employed cooking our pesto, pasta and chorizo (nothing but gourmet fare for these trekkers). The French hikers behind us in the queue could only look on with abject jealousy as they waited to heat up their Super Noodles. With full bellies it was time for a 'mountain shower' and a good deal of squealing as the water temperature took its toll.

On Day Two we walked from Refuge d'Ortu di u Piobbu to Refuge d'Asco Stagnu via Refuge de Carrozu (1,270 m). The highest point was the ridge at 2,020m above Col d'Avartoli with a total ascent of 1,457m and descent of 1,555m. This particularly strenuous route was 14 kilometres long and was to end in the old ski resort of Haut Asco. The morning started before the dawn chorus and we broke camp and departed whilst the other guests still slept. Napoleon, the Refuge's dog led us out of camp and on our way. When his owner came past leading a donkey and cart and another, very yappy, dog, he disappeared and we thought we had lost our guide. Less than 100 metres further on however, Napoleon was waiting for us. After a steady morning's trekking we arrived at Carrozu (normally a day's trek away) and had a locally made omelette. Lunch digested, we set off for Haut Asco. This required regaining all the altitude we had lost during the morning and then descending 600 metres in less than 500 metres as the crow flies. This was particularly tough on the knees and, by the time we finally arrived at Asco, everyone was utterly exhausted, even Napoleon. With an opportunity to practise his French, Captain Young set about charming (or more likely boring) the lady who ran the Refuge with the unexpected result that we were allowed free use of pre-pitched tents, and no longer required to pitch our own tents in what had become a fierce wind. Ms Cotton, however, chose to pitch her own tent. This was an ill-judged decision as the wind picked up considerably during the night, resulting in the collapse of her tent.

Day Three was the big one and would finish in the Refuge of Tighjettu. With a total ascent of 999 metres and descent of 738 metres, the route is eight kilometres long and saw the expedition tackling the Cirque de Solitude, a portion of the route that so steep and treacherous that the route creators had fixed chains and

ladders to the rock. Before we set off, Sergeant Roberts and Lance Corporal Brawn went to collect the minibus from Calenzana, a journey requiring a train, a bus and a taxi to reach the initial campsite. As we walked up the snowless piste, under the chair lifts, we noted that Napoleon was no longer with us. This we concluded was a good sign, as we doubted that he could scale ladders. We had walked a few hours and had remarked on the sad absence of our canine friend when he should appear, but Napoleon? He seemed to know the route impeccably and never begged or barked. He simply lay down with us in the shade, whenever we took a break, and lapped up water from mess tins and wolfed down the scraps of chorizo we gave him.

We paused for lunch just before we tackled the Cirque de Solitude and as a group came from the opposite direction we asked them take Napoleon with them and return him to his owners. He was not interested in this plan however, and rapidly proved that, when traversing precarious ridges and slopes, four feet are better than two. When it came to the ascent of ladders, his troubles began. As we climbed further, and it became increasingly apparent that he wouldn't be accompanying us, Napoleon started to howl and the group fell silent as we listened to him. We quietly continued on our way and as we paused at the Col, Craftsman Stacey calmly pointed out that Napoleon was back, tail wagging and ready for some water. The refuge was a short descent from there and soon our tents were pitched.

Day Four was to be the final day of walking. From Tighjettu we would have a short climb but the emphasis would be on the long descent to the half-way point of the route. This stage saw perhaps the greatest variation in scenery starting off in woodland, climbing into a boulder landscape, then up to a striding ridge-line and contouring around an (admittedly Corsican) alpine meadow before descending further into a valley. Napoleon once again led the way and here we had our first experience of alpine streams. It was the hottest day of the expedition and Craftsman Stacey initially took the plunge, albeit unintentionally. We passed the Refuge de Ciottulu di i Mori at speed before one of the most spectacular portions of the entire route appeared and the view was quite breathtaking. We then started the final descent, encountering an alpine stream at the base of the steepest slope. Fortunately it had a conveniently placed rock for diving into the naturally formed pool. About four metres deep, it was ideal for everyone to try their hands at swimming at altitude. Regrettably we had to move on if we weren't to finish the route in darkness and following some encouraging wolf whistles from passers-by we dressed and set off again. Eventually we reached the end of the route and were

72 EAGLE AND CARBINE

relieved to find the minibus waiting for us. We said our goodbyes to Napoleon having left him with another group and started the return trip to Calenzana, pausing briefly to have one of the most delicious pizzas we had ever tasted.

Day Five was an opportunity to have a look around Ile Rousse and immerse ourselves in both the Mediterranean and the local village. The day passed all too quickly and, following a presentation to Ms Cotton to thank her for all the hard work she had put into the planning of the expedition, we headed out for supper and a couple of drinks before heading back to the

campsite. On Day Six we dropped our JSMEI off at the airport then headed for the ferry back from Bastia to Genova. The crossing was particularly noisy with hundreds of holidaying children rampaging around the boat. The drive back north was uneventful and it was with great relief that we finally arrived back in Fallingbowl early in the morning. We were exhausted but satisfied at the conclusion of a fantastic expedition from which we had all returned in one piece.



Exercise DIAMOND MARMOT

The morning after a squadron party is never the best time for a long drive from Fallingbowl to the French Alps, but the members of Exercise DIAMOND MARMOT all managed to make the 0700hrs muster and we were underway in body, if not in mind. Ten hours, some hitchhikers and several fast food stops later, we were in Chamonix and the shadow of numerous snow-covered alpine peaks. If one looked closely, one could see Captain Welch starting to shake with excitement.

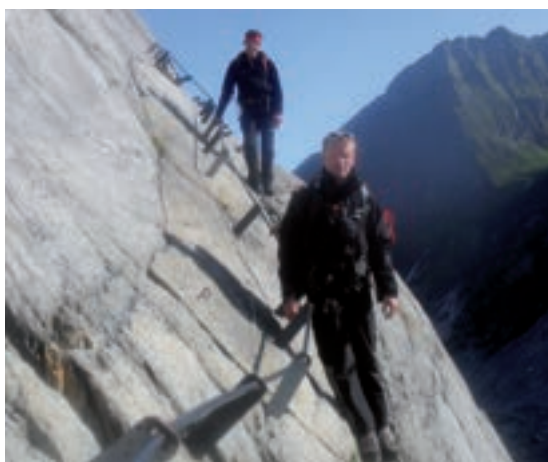
Our first day's activity was an acclimatisation walk to Lac Blanc, the beautiful lake used in many photographs of the Alps, reflecting the Mont Blanc Massif in its icy, glacial water. The heat and altitude meant that there were a few red faces before the climb was finished. To add to the sunburn, the next day we hired ice axes and crampons and climbed aboard the mountain train

heading to the Mer de Glace glacier. Lance Corporal Millar looked slightly off-colour as we descended the 300 metre cliff from the train station using rusting, old ladders. Once down on the glacier, we roped up, trekked to the head of the glacier and practiced ice climbing in the cavernous crevasses, which were perfectly suited to the task. Everyone agreed it was probably the best experience of the expedition.

The overall aim of the expedition was to reach the Goûter Hut at 4,000 metres on the main tourist route of Mont Blanc. Following a cable car ride up to the Nid d'Aigle, or the Eagle's Nest, we ascended to the Hunter's Lodge from where we could take some fairly spectacular photos above the vertical 2,000 metre drop to the valley floor. Accompanied by several Ibex mountain goats we carried on up the Goûter Ridge to the Tête



Captain Welch enjoying some interesting weather



Captain Welch and Trooper Hepburn traverse the cliffs



On the Mer de Glace glacier

Rousse hut at 3,400 metres to make the evening's cold, tented camp. Unfortunately due to an unseasonably large quantity of snow (over a foot in two nights) we could not continue up the perilous Grand Couloir, statistically the most dangerous piece of mountain in the world. In retrospect, this was probably for the best.

After descending we had a day's mountain biking followed by an evening sampling Haute-Savoie Cuisine; Mr Grinling looking even redder by the end of this phase, due to an excess of sun, altitude, cheese and perhaps wine. Adventurous Training expeditions like DIAMOND MARMOT provide soldiers and officers alike with an opportunity to test themselves in arduous conditions and in environments outside their normal experiences. This expedition was no different. All in all, we had a very successful and enjoyable week, even without making it to the Goûter Hut.



Lance Corporal Fischer ice climbing



Corporal Steel catches his breath

Exercise DIAMOND ROUGH RIDE

What follows is a diary record of Exercise DIAMOND ROUGH RIDE, which took place in the Triglav National Park in Slovenia from 25 July to 1 August 2010:

Sunday 25 July began early with a 0600hrs start and a long minibus journey down to the Triglav National Park. The group set off in two minibuses and arrived some 13 hours later at Bohinj where we stayed at a pleasant family run pension.

On Monday 26 July, we were greeted with a traditional Slovenian breakfast of cold meat, yoghurt, cheese, bread and thick tar-like coffee. The group split into two, with Mr Emslie coordinating the purchase of food for the expedition and Captain Paton finalising the reservations for mountain huts in town. The minibuses were deposited in the car park at Stara Fuzina and the group enjoyed an excellent lunch of salami, cheese, tomato and lettuce wraps on the shore of the lake. With Troopers Brown and Forrester in charge of navigation and Mr Braithwaite 'check navigator' we set to tackling our first ascent to Dom Planina na Uskovnici. The route up the hill proved more challenging than many were expecting, and it remained very steep all the way to the summit. Some of the junior soldiers received a valuable practical demonstration of what contour lines very close together on a map represent on the ground. After about four hours of strenuous walking we reached the mountain hut in the early evening and received our rooms, had a dinner of traditional Slovenian oat stew with sausage and planned the route for the next day.

On Tuesday 27 July, and having acclimatised ourselves to the hills, the route to Dom Vodnikov mountain hut was significantly longer. However, as we gained altitude, the trekking became much more rewarding and we broke through the thick forest of the foothills to mountain proper. Having started early we stopped for lunch at the top of a saddle at Veliki Draski vrh (2,243m) and were treated to some fine sunny weather and majestic views down to the valley floor below and across the Julian Alps. The rugged beauty of the mountain vistas and remote Alpine glades struck the entire group, even those who were starting to tire. We continued our way across some interesting terrain and round the side of the mountains to Vodnikov Dom mountain hut, arriving again in the early evening. Here we began the first of many games of cards, planned the route for the next day and were treated to a scintillating lecture on Slovenian history from Mr Emslie.

The route for Wednesday 28 July led up to Dom Planika, in effect the base camp for those attempting to ascend the mighty Mount Triglav, Slovenia's highest mountain. Steep and winding ascents remained the order of the day, although by now we were getting used to it. When we encountered the cohort of the rather old, but also the astonishingly young, who were also attempting the same route, it quickly stopped any grumbling from our intrepid expedition members. In fact, proof of the high morale of the group remains as a semi-permanent monument about 1,000m below the peak of Mount Triglav. A magnificent 'SCOTS DG', marked out in white stones, stands proudly amongst the rather banal collection of first names and love hearts which also adorn the same site. We reached our destination in the early evening, at approximately 1700hrs, and settled into the now familiar routine of hearty mountain hut fare and games of cards, including poker played using stones for chips. Indeed, there was but little apprehension of the enormity of the task which lay ahead, the ascent of Mount Triglav, and the fitful sleep we all experienced was due more to a damp and poorly ventilated dormitory than to any sense of grim foreboding.

On Thursday 29 July, the group arose to sunny weather, and a dearth of running water, to prepare them for what in Slovenia is considered the ultimate test of central European manhood, the ascent of Mount Triglav (2,864m). Some members of the expedition found their head for heights desert them at this point. I will not name and shame those who fell by the wayside, merely list here the names of those who can now qualify themselves as true Slovenes should they so wish upon relinquishing the colours. Thus Captain Paton, Messrs Emslie and Braithwaite, and Troopers Brown and Porch had by late morning scaled Mount Triglav's imposing heights and made it down safely in time for a late lunch and pleasant gloating session at Dom Planika. The entire group then pressed on down the mountain.

Unfortunately our journey back down to Stara Fuzina on Friday 30th July was somewhat soggy as we were greeted by torrential rain, however all expedition members appreciated the change in gradient from very steep to a relatively gentle downhill. We got down the hill in good order and were relieved to find the minibuses in one piece and in the same place. The group then enjoyed a pleasant stay in the vicinity of Lake Bled and emerged fresh and early on Saturday morning.

On Saturday 31 July the team rose early for a day on the River Soca, and for a few their first experience of white water rafting. Luckily the previous day's rain had topped up the river from a sedentary pace to one that gave some good but easily manageable sections of rapids for the crews to enjoy.

The following morning, on Sunday 1 August, our day began early for the long minibus journey back to Fallingbostal. The exercise administration was quickly wrapped up on the square and we all dispersed for leave after a thoroughly entertaining and challenging week.



FOOTBALL

2010 has been a very quiet year for football in the Regiment due to our training commitments in the lead up to Operation HERRICK 14. The Regiment did however manage to get through to the quarter-finals of the British Army (Germany) cup although this was due more to luck than to anything else. We proceeded past the first round with a bye and were subsequently drawn against our great rivals and neighbours 4 SCOTS. On the day of the match however, due to inclement weather and their own equally hectic training schedule, 4 SCOTS awarded us the match. This meant that we would next play 1 Logistic Support Regiment at home. With the squadrons so busy, trying to cobble together a team proved harder than we first imagined. We did

manage to field a team however and, although it wasn't our first team, the players who represented the Regiment certainly did not let us down. Although we lost the match 4-1, 1LSR left Fallingbostal knowing that we had given them a game. This also proved an ideal opportunity to blood the new crop of players at Regimental Duty and gave some of the 'old and bold' (Major Cameron and WO2 (RQMS) Lamb) a chance to blow away the cobwebs. Hopefully once the dust settles and Operation HERRICK 14 is but a memory we will be able to compete at our usual level and aspire to a trip to London for the 2012 Cavalry Cup final.



HOCKEY

Despite a remarkably frenetic year in Fallingbostal, the Regimental hockey team managed to participate in several events this year, putting in a number of notable performances.

In the British Army (Germany) Cup, the Regiment battled through to the semi-finals without having to play a game owing to a number of withdrawals, a textbook example of 'economy of effort' by those involved. Having made it through to the business end of the competition, we were involved in an incredibly tense game of hockey against 26 Regiment RA. At full time the scores were locked at 1-1, SCOTS DG having come from behind with seconds remaining, with a cracking strike from Corporal Imrie keeping the game alive. Extra time failed to separate the sides and thus penalty flicks ensued. Following the regulation five flicks a piece, still nothing could separate the sides. Staff Sergeant Allan appeared to have scored the winning flick, only for dubious umpiring to deem it illegal. 26 Regiment RA went on to win, following well

over two hours of action on the Astroturf and they went on to win the competition overall.

Our next outing was to Bovington and to the Hodson's Horse competition. Drawn in a pool with the QDG,



D Squadron take on HQ Squadron

76 EAGLE AND CARBINE

QRH and KRH, a strong early win over QDG set us up to qualify for the latter stages. Goals from Lance Corporal Fraser and Corporal Imrie, coupled with an assured display from Sergeant Brown in goal, spared our blushes on a number of occasions and put us in a good position for the knockout stages. Throughout, the weather conditions were nothing short of appalling, making for some scrappy yet enthusiastic hockey. In the semi finals we met 1 RTR, and as with our game against 26 Regiment RA a few weeks earlier, it went to penalty flicks. Once again, we fell at the final hurdle, despite some lovely flicks from Corporal Chandler and some more fortuitous efforts from Staff Sergeant Allan. Mr Majcher once again failed to trouble the scorers from the penalty spot.

Our final game, the dreaded play off to decide third and fourth place, was against the Light Dragoons. In the wider competition, they were our closet rivals, and gaining an extra point against them could prove crucial overall. Some tired legs took to the pitch for the final time, with our full complement of substitutes used to bolster our fortunes. Some frenetic hockey ensued, with numerous chances at either end, until midway through the second half, Corporal Imrie once again, latched on to a through ball and slipped it past the opposition keeper. The match finished 1-0 and the extra point we earned helped the Regiment to pip the Light Dragoons in the overall competition.

In the summer our hockey stalwarts took to the field for the 7th Armoured Brigade Festival of Sport, where a strong performance from all involved saw the team through to the final. Once again, we were agonisingly pipped at the post by 207 Signals Squadron.



Staff Sergeant Percy representing D Squadron

The Moncrieff Shield hockey competition was as fiercely contested as ever, with seasoned players playing alongside many novices, and provided some highly entertaining matches. D Squadron came out on top, defeating B Squadron in the final, orchestrated by the ever reliable Staff Sergeant Allan. The final outing for the hockey team in 2010 was the Leigh Trophy, where an understrength team once again reached the final, and again came off second best.

2010 has been a frustrating year overall with the Regiment's hockey team playing the perpetual bridesmaid. With operational commitments looming, hockey will doubtless take a back seat in 2011. However, there is definite talent within the Regiment and come 2012 we hope to build on the promising signs from this year and start winning some tournaments.



Corporal Chandler takes a penalty flick

HODSON'S HORSE

Exercise HODSON'S HORSE is the annual Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps inter-regimental sports week and competition held in Bovington, Dorset and sponsored by The Hodson's Horse Association. Major William Stephen Raikes Hodson (1821–58) was a Victorian cavalry commander of distinction and is remembered for various notable achievements in his lifetime. Moreover, his military career won him respect and praise from many quarters including recognition from the Minister for India, the Prime Minister, and the Sovereign. Added to the many tributes from his friends and colleagues, Hodson received special recognition after his death from HM Queen Victoria and her Prime Minister.

From the Prime Minister, "Hodson was a model chief of irregular forces. By his valour, his rigid discipline, and careful attention to his men's real wants, comforts, desires, and even prejudices, he had obtained an influence which was all but marvellous. This enabled him to lead his troops so formed and disciplined into any danger and into any conflict as if they had been British soldiers. He has met a soldier's death. It will be long before the people lose the memory of Hodson."

This recognition of Hodson by the Prime Minister was reflected in the special pension granted his widow by the Secretary of State for India in Council, who declared that it was "testimony of the high sense entertained of the gallant and distinguished services of the late Brevet-Major W.S.R Hodson." Some months after the Prime Minister's speech Her Majesty Queen Victoria honoured Major Hodson posthumously by granting his widow private apartments at Hampton Court Palace "in consideration of the distinguished service of your late husband in India".

The battle honours won by Hodson's Horse (4th Duke of Cambridge's Own Lancers) include: Delhi 1857, Lucknow, Abyssinia 1878–80, Suakin 1885, Chitral, Punjab Frontier, Givenchy 1914, France and Flanders 1914–18, Somme 1916, Bazentin, Flers-Courcelette, Cambrai 1917, Megiddo, Sharon, Bamasus, Palestine 1918, Khan Baghdadi and Mesopotamia 1916–18.

SCOTS DG sent a strong team to the 2010 competition. Having committed to entering a team in all six competition disciplines, we had high hopes of performing well. The table below shows the running order for the week's competition:

The week started with good solid performances from both the football and orienteering teams. The orienteering team secured our first seven points with an excellent overall team performance of 2nd place. The final positions from 41 runners were as follows: Mr Majcher 3rd, Major Brotherton 10th, Mr Emslie 13th, Trooper Cunningham 20th, Mr Grinling 21st and Corporal Riddell 23rd. Congratulations go to Mr Majcher who picked up an individual prize for his 3rd place finish.

Day Two was to prove to be an even better day with the football team securing 4th place overall and securing SCOTS DG a further five points. The team lead by Lance Corporal Humphries also included Lance Corporals Leckie and Taylor and Troopers Gilchrist, Lovatt, Kieth and Ware who all put up a courageous fight and were only narrowly beaten into 4th. As the footballers fought hard at the top of Bovington Camp, the rugby league team had already started their competition down on the rugby pitches. Lead by Mr McNeil, Corporal Tuitubuo, Lance Corporals Kapawai, Naga and Rooney and Troopers Komiyasa, Matakagi,

Date	Event	Location	Remarks
Mon 29 Mar	5-A-Side Football	Bovington All Weather Pitch	
	Orienteering	Bovington Training Area North	
Tue 30 Mar	Rugby League	Bovington Rugby Pitches	Final at end of day
	Football Finals	Bovington All Weather Pitch	
	Squash	Stanley Barracks Gym	
Wed 31 Mar	6-A-Side Hockey	Blandford All Weather Pitch	Final at end of day
	Squash Finals	Stanley Barracks Gym	
Thu 01 Apr	Rugby Union	Bovington Rugby Pitches	Final at end of day
	Prize Giving	Bovington Pavilion	

78 EAGLE AND CARBINE



The victorious SCOTS DG HODSON'S HORSE team outside the Directorate of the Royal Armoured Corps building

Ratuqalovi, Rokoduguni, Saratibau, Sovinaselevu, Taganekurukuru and Wasasala were showing all their opposition how the game is played properly. They comprehensively beat the competition with the following results: QRH 16–6, KRH 36–0, LD 30–6, 1RTR 40–0 and 2RTR 28–10. This gave SCOTS DG our first overall win and secured a further 8 points.

Team morale was high as we entered Day Three with SCOTS DG two points ahead of our nearest rivals by the end of the first two days of competition. From the outset the overall Team Captain (Captain McDowell) had insisted that, regardless of each individual team's programme, at all times our teams would offer reciprocal support to SCOTS DG competitors, irrespective of sport. This team spirit was no more evident than when Team SCOTS DG turned up at the hockey pitch in Blandford by coach and en masse. Each time SCOTS DG took to the pitch for a match, the Blandford air filled with the sound of a Fijian Choir as the rugby team sang hymns to geld the loins of our hockey team. Hockey Team Captain, Staff Sergeant Allan tells the story of the competition:

The competition consisted of seven teams broken down into two pools, with the top two teams from each moving onto the knockout phase of the competition. SCOTS DG were drawn in Pool A with the QDG, QRH and KRH. In Pool B the LD were faced with both RTR Regiments. Our first match was against the QDG and there were numerous shots on goals from both teams in a quick, free flowing match. We were fortunate to

have Sergeant Brown from A Squadron (known as 'The Cat') as our goalkeeper. Despite being little more than a novice in goals, he played extremely well throughout the tournament, pulling off a string of top-class saves. The two starting forwards, Corporal Imrie and Lance Corporal Fraser, played with real fluency and put the ball past the QDG keeper on four occasions with Lance Corporal Fraser claiming a hat trick. In defence, Mr Majcher, Staff Sergeant Allan and Corporal Chandler, provided a steady backdrop to the more energetic affairs up field. We conceded a sloppy goal towards the end of the match but in the end ran out comfortable 4–1 winners.

Our second game of the competition was against our British Army (Germany) rivals QRH, a strong team. Prior to the start of the match it was all agreed that we would start defensively and try to catch the opposition on the break. Both teams played extremely well throughout and the tense game finished goalless which was a fair result. Lance Corporal Hallam and Troopers Pocock and Twaddle all played their part, allowing our two frontline forwards a chance to rest their aging legs. The day's weather did little to make for an entertaining match with bitterly cold with strong winds and more than a hint of sleet.

Our third and final group game against KRH was similar to our previous encounter with the QRH and once again the game ended goalless. We created chances throughout, but failed to convert them. With all the results in from the group, we finished second

and faced 1RTR, who had finished top in Pool B, in the semi-final. Semi final games were increased in duration to eight minutes each half and our legs were starting to tire after three energetic group games. 1RTR proved very capable opposition, boasting at least one Army-level player, which resulted in a hard fought game. Sergeant Brown fended off numerous attempts on goal from 1RTR, whilst we similarly failed to score at the other end. Still goalless at full time, we played a further three minutes each way for extra time. Again, nothing could split the teams, and penalty flicks loomed after a thoroughly entertaining 0-0 result.

The SCOTS DG line up for the dreaded flicks was Mr Majcher, Staff Sergeant Allan, Corporals Chandler and Imrie and Trooper Pocock. The match was extended further into Golden Goal (or sudden death) penalty flicks after the first five still failed to produce a result. 1RTR eventually snatched the vital winning goal, which left us deflated and facing the hated Third/Fourth place play-off. This match was of great importance to both teams for the overall Hodson's Horse positions and the team steeled themselves for one final performance. Fitness levels became increasingly important as the final game progressed with much of the initial pace and verve now diminished and the weather continuing to worsen. There were plenty of attempts at goal from both teams before, deep into the second half, Corporal Imrie latched on to a through ball and sent a shot fizzing past the Light Dragoon's goalkeeper. A frantic final three minutes followed, with the defence and Staff Sergeant Allan in particular, pulling off some first-rate last-ditch tackling, to foil all opposition attempts on goal. A final result of third place in the competition was probably a fair reflection and gave us a vital point over the LD which would prove valuable in the final competition standings. Congratulations go to all members of the squad who contributed to a well fought competition. Particular praise must go to Sergeant Brown for several 'Man of

the Match' performances throughout the day, and for saving our blushes on a number of occasions.

Whilst the rest of Team SCOTS DG were enjoying the spectacle that was the Hockey tournament in Blandford, the squash team was playing its part back in the gymnasium in Bovington. Captain Young, Mr Ballard-Whyte, Staff Sergeant Percy and Corporal Peattie all played their part in securing 5th overall and securing a further valuable four points to add to the SCOTS DG tally.

As we went into the final day of competition the scores were very close and several teams still had realistic chances to win the overall competition. Everything hinged on the result of the rugby union competition. Team SCOTS DG formed up again at the side of the rugby pitches in order to cheer on the rugby team, and dish out some friendly banter to our opponents if required. Once again Mr McNeil had the team well prepared and professional performances from all team members saw SCOTS DG win every one of their games. The resulting eight points won us the Hodson's Horse competition by a single point from the Light Dragoons.

Every single member of the Hodson's Horse Team played their part in our success, whether the players mentioned above, Corporal Muir as the Administration NCO or Captain McDowell as overall Team Captain. Our team spirit throughout was, as always, 'Second To None', which ultimately led to a memorable victory. Pre-Deployment Training will make it difficult for SCOTS DG to defend our title in 2011 but we will certainly aim to bounce back in 2012.

The table below shows the final results of all competitions (1st Number = Position / 2nd = Points):

	2RTR	1RTR	LD	KRH	QRH	RDG	SCOTS DG	QDG
RUGBY UNION	6/3	4/5	3/6	7/2	5/4		1/8	2/7
RUGBY LEAGUE	4/5	5/4	2/7	6/3	3/6		1/8	
ORIENTEERING	3/6	5/4	4/5	6/3	1/8		2/7	7/2
HOCKEY	6/3	1/8	4/5	5/4	2/7		3/6	7/2
SQUASH	2/7	3/6	1/8	6/3	4/5		5/4	
SOCCER	2/7	5/4	3/6	1/8	7/2	8/1	4/5	6/3
TOTAL POINTS	31	31	37	23	32	1	38	14
FINAL POSITION	5	4	2	6	3	8	1	7

POLO

2010 has been another very successful year for Regimental polo, which is surprising as most of the Regiment was away for almost two months of the summer, the prime playing season. With equitation falling initially under the remit of A Squadron, who were left behind whilst the SCOTS DG Battlegroup went to BATUS, we worked very hard to get the ponies fit and started playing some evening chukkas and afternoon stick and ball sessions. A Squadron then prepared to go to BATUS with 3 MERCIAN Battlegroup, and the plan was for Corporal Harnetty to keep up the ponies' fitness until most of the polo players returned from BATUS. Like all good plans this one did not last long; three days before we were due to deploy to BATUS, Corporal Harnetty fell off Declan and broke his arm. A few hurried decisions saw to it that two polo ponies would remain in Fallingbostel to be looked after by Stables Troop and Mrs Spenlove-Brown, and the remainder would go down to Major Boyle in Sennelager. This worked very well and on our return in late July the ponies were returned in peak physical fitness and ready for a busy season.

We played chukkas every Wednesday and every Saturday from the end of July until mid-September. In addition, Mr Holtum played for local German teams in Timmendorf, Bad Bentheim and Berlin. RAPA, the Rhine Army Polo Association, also played in two tournaments this season with all military members drawn from the SCOTS DG – quite an impressive feat. The 9th/12th Lancers ran a tournament in which we played extremely well, earning a place in the final, but were outclassed by Team Bosch who beat us comprehensively. It was, however, a brilliant game.

As the end of the season drew near we prepared for our own Regimental tournament that nicely marked the end of the German season and is increasingly becoming a feature in the local calendar. This year we had six teams drawn from across Germany, including a team from Frankfurt, some of whom were introduced to polo by the British Army 30 years ago. Several teams had two or three goal professionals, so the play was fast and furious and great for the hundreds of spectators. Despite our lack of a 'hired gun', our team play and dogged determination were rewarded with a well-deserved second place, the best possible result in our own tournament. After the first day of the tournament we had an epic party in the Officers' Mess with some 45 German players, supporters and families. The party was magnificent and, whilst it may have accounted for some more average play on the Sunday, it served as an excellent reminder of what polo is about in Germany, a fantastic way of integrating the Regiment into the wider German community, meeting some terrific individuals and most of all having an enormous amount of fun.

Polo is indeed alive and well in Fallingbostel and although next year we will again miss a summer due to operational commitments, I am certain that the enthusiasm and corporate knowledge exists to ensure its survival. I know these articles always start with a comment on how busy the last year has been, however we always manage to fit in polo and I hope we always will.



Major Boyle, Mr Diepold, Mr Holtum
and Corporal Harnetty

RUGBY

Rugby has been somewhat hampered this year by the Regiment's deployment to BATUS through the spring and summer and then by Pre-Deployment Training leading up to Operation HERRICK 14. However the team has still managed to participate in tournaments, sometimes with a weakened side and managed to perform well, true testament to the strength and depth of quality in the players at our disposal.

There have also been individual successes with Mr McNeil and Trooper Rokoduguni being selected to play for the Army Senior XV leading up to the Army versus Navy match at Twickenham. Trooper Rokoduguni continued this success with his selection for the Combined Services against the famous Barbarians team. In what was a very close game, he managed to grace the score sheet with the footwork and lightning pace that opposition teams have rightly feared over recent years.

The Regiment managed to send a team to the British Army (Germany) (BA(G)) sevens tournament in late April. Missing eight of our first choice sevens players, this provided a good opportunity for other squad members to play against the best teams the Army in Germany has to offer. The team looked more than comfortable through the group stages playing some truly outstanding sevens rugby. Unfortunately in the semi finals a momentary lapse in concentration, and some 'interesting' refereeing decisions, meant we could not recover from our opposition's early lead and we narrowly missed out on retaining the trophy we won last year.

Whilst in Canada the Regiment managed to enter a team into the Calgary Stampede Sevens Competition only a few days after coming off the Prairie. Again the Regiment looked very sharp in the early stages, beating all the teams in their group, including an ex-Canadian international team. In the semi-finals again however, a



Post-match debrief

lack of concentration and some tired legs meant that we narrowly lost to a touring Fijian team who went on to win the tournament comfortably.

Due to the pre-deployment commitment from August onwards the Regiment only managed one XV's game against our neighbours and local rivals 4 SCOTS. Both teams were more than ready for the game since SCOTS DG had been victorious on the previous few occasions and 4 SCOTS were keen to redress the balance. The first half saw some outstanding play by the SCOTS DG backs, compensating for a smaller pack than our 4 SCOTS brethren. The second half saw the SCOTS DG once again stamp their authority on the game, however, and we ran out eventual winners 32-12.

With a large proportion of the Regiment deploying on Operation HERRICK 14 next year, Mr Watson as part of the Rear Operations Group, will be keeping the rugby ticking over through 2011 and you can rest assured that there will be rugby balls packed in our bags for Afghanistan!



Calgary Sevens team talk



Trooper Rokoduguni warming up

82 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Yachts Tern VII and Petrel VII making way North towards Sonderborg in the calm before the storm

SAILING

This year the Regiment's sailing calendar was dominated by two successful exercises. The first was Exercise DIAMOND HAMLET DRAGOON which was a Level Three Adventurous Training expedition that saw 17 soldiers from the Regiment carry out offshore sailing in the Baltic Sea at the beginning of August. The aim of the exercise was to provide qualified personnel the opportunity to practise their Skipper or Mate skills in preparation for their next progressive qualification, whilst at the same time introducing

complete novices to the sport and hopefully inspiring them to gain their own qualifications.

The exercise was nine days long and covered a total of over two hundred nautical miles. The three, almost brand new, 'Halburg-Rassy' yachts were skippered by Mr Ballard-Whyte, and Corporals Smith and Steel with Sergeant Culbert, Lance Corporal McLucas and Trooper Fischer acting as their First Mates. All concerned found themselves tested to the limit of their abilities on a number of occasions. A sudden Force Eight gale proved a real challenge to the crews who dedicated themselves as much to their evening activities as they did to their sailing and seemed to find any form of physical activity at any time before midday particularly difficult.

The passages, starting from the British Kiel Yacht Club, took the expedition as far away as Svendborg, a picturesque and lively student port. Imagine therefore our surprise when the crews found themselves in the midst of a live music festival. This was more through luck than planning, honestly! The exercise was a complete success with only one incident worthy of note. One evening, Trooper Glachan appeared to lose his sea legs and found himself taking a long walk off a short pier. Upon waking the following morning, he was surprised to find that both he and his clothes were damp. Every cloud has its silver



The crew of CURLEW VII under the watchful eye of their Skipper Sergeant Smith making way bound for Sonderborg

lining however, as this was also the only time his Celtic football shirt received any form of laundering.

Exercise DIAMOND HAMLET DRAGOON inspired Troopers Coner, Dryburgh and Gemmel to take part in the second sailing exercise of the year, Exercise DIAMOND RATS BREEZE 10. This exercise took place at the end of September, again from the British Kiel Yacht Club, and was not only the 7th Armoured Brigade Regatta but also a Competent Crew course. The three troopers were joined by Lance Corporals Brawn and Crawford who, with only a 'little help' from the Kiel Yacht Club instructor, managed to secure a close second in the 7th Armoured Brigade Regatta, as well as gain their Competent Crew qualification.

Unfortunately, due to our operational commitments, 2011 is likely to be a quiet year for offshore sailing but we will endeavour to enter a team into Exercise DIAMOND RATS BREEZE 11 and load novices onto Competent Crew courses throughout the year wherever possible. Thanks to the two sailing exercises this year, interest, experience and current qualifications are all plentiful



The fleet along-side at the British Kiel Yacht Club (BKYC)

within the Regiment at the moment, and this should stand us in good stead for the 2011 offshore sailing season upon the Regiment's return from Operation HERRICK 14.



FIELD SPORT – SHOOTING

This year all members of the Regimental Field Sport fraternity have been busy with Hybrid Foundation Training and Mission Specific Training in preparation for the Operation HERRICK 14 deployment. This has meant absences from Fallingbostal for months at a time during key hunting periods; however we have all managed to attend some memorable events this season.

The hunting season gets into full swing at the start of September and the Roe buck season ends in early October as everything else with hooves come into season. The winter this year saw Germany experience the coldest December on record for 40 years, which led to a temporary hunting ban due to the snow and frost levels. The ban ran through until the end of January, which put a

Amongst the local German hunting community, the Commanding Officer, WO1 (RSM) Gardiner, WO2 Baird, Major Ambrose and Staff Sergeant Owen



84 EAGLE AND CARBINE



The Adjutant hobnobbing with Major General Bradshaw and Staff Sergeant Owen

dampener on what is traditionally the best month of the year.

The next event in the hunting calendar prior to our deployment on Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER was the legendary 36 hours of madness at Aki von Reden Spring Ansitz which consisted of high-seat shooting for Roe and wild boar and concluded with an evening duck shoot. This is completely different to the British version of flight shooting as the hunters shoot the ducks when they have settled on the water and then again as they take flight. It is still great fun although not for the faint hearted. Afterwards we all retired to Aki's Farm to pay our respects to the bag in good German fashion with an excellent session by the Hermannsburg Jagdhornblasers, followed by food, beer more beer and storytelling that Hans Christian Andersen would have enjoyed.

Although our workloads have reduced the time available for Field Sports, it has been a case of every man for themselves when seeking opportunities for sport. The



WO1 (RSM) Gardiner with his Heide stag

majority of Regimental Hunters are embedded within the local German Jaeger community and have ample opportunities to hunt when they have time. The Bergen-Höhne JagdGruppe, of which we are all members, constantly offer fast and furious invitations throughout the season to all sorts of hunting events. These include Druckjagds (driven shoots) all over the country, trips to Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to hunt the infamous wild boar on massive drives, and hunting down in the South with our fellow American hunters to name but a few. Finally the Bundesforstbetrieb Ansitz on the training area, saw a very tired Commanding Officer, Major Foulerton, Captain Albert and WO1 (RSM) Gardiner all take part in three high seat shoots, with Major Foulerton bagging a Roe kid and the RSM shooting his first Heide stag.

As The Commanding Officer stated in last year's article, we are all very privileged to be part of this wonderful experience and the fellowship is growing nicely.



FIELD SPORT – STALKING

This year the Regiment was once again very kindly invited by General Ramsay to two excellent weeks of stalking at Chesthill in Glen Lyon and Exercise RED EAGLE 2 was duly organised by Captain Densham and Mr Watson. Due to the hectic nature of life at Regimental Duty numbers were a little thin for Soldiers' Week with only C Squadron able to spare participants from their various exercises and courses. As ever Officers' week was very well attended.

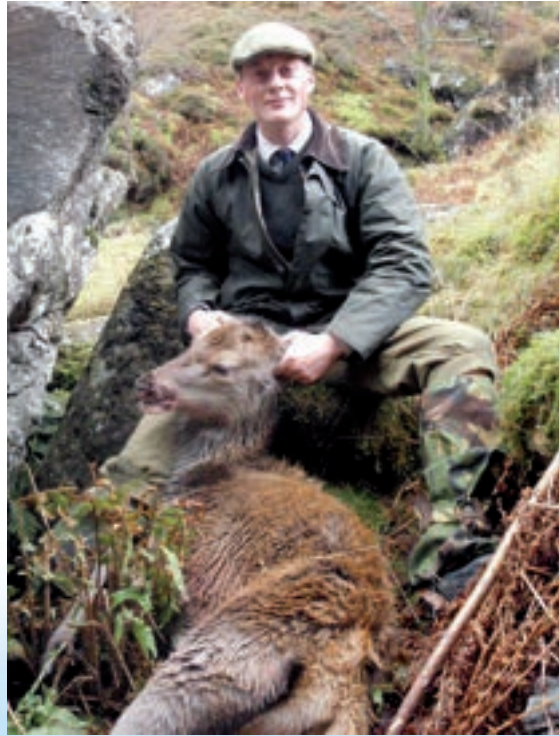
All the soldiers enjoyed a challenging week with weather so bad and snow so deep that only South Chesthill and Inverinain were accessible. Nonetheless the first timers showed great enthusiasm even after they realized that once you had taken the shot the work had only really just begun. It must be said that the dragging was certainly made a lot easier by the vast quantities of frozen snow. It was also noticeable, and doubtless due to the Regiment's punishing training schedule, that this year's participants

were noticeably fitter and better marksmen than in previous years. Special mention must go to Corporal Smith, our chef for the fortnight, who managed a score of three hinds and one calf, the highest of the week.

Officers' Week was well-attended with every stalker bagging a decent number of hinds. As the weather improved, the top of the Glen became accessible and clear skies mixed with lots of snow produced some spectacular views. Sadly due to a second consecutive hard winter there was a reduction in the number of hinds we were allowed to shoot and we only managed one day's stalking on the Lochs Estate. Major Stone and Captains Douglas, Marjoribanks and Young did however enjoy a day's fox shooting courtesy of the Lochs Estate, an experience I'm sure they enjoyed despite the bitter cold.

As ever the evening entertainment was varied, with highlights including Captain Anderson's Connect Four championship and the obligatory charades, all of which was well lubricated with a prodigious quantity of whisky. Captain McBride and Messrs Majcher and Strijdom all shot their first hinds, with all now firm converts to the sport. Major Foulerton requires special mention for carelessly allowing one of his shot hinds to be 'acquired' by local persons unknown after a lengthy drag. Sadly the following vehicle stalk around the roads of Glen Lyon failed to identify a culprit. Mr Holtum, despite having stalked on many occasions before, found the experience educational with the concept of a lengthy drag entirely new to him. All in all an excellent week was had by all.

Special thanks must go to Corporal Smith, who cooked some superb meals throughout both weeks and finally,



Captain Jackson after a successful morning

tremendous thanks go to General Ramsay for his continued support and generosity in enabling another highly enjoyable and successful Regimental stalking party.



A beautiful day in Glen Lyon

86 EAGLE AND CARBINE

TRIATHLON

With the Regiment busy with exercises, ranges and then in BATUS for most of the summer, there was little opportunity to become involved in the 2010 Triathlon scene until later in the season. However, upon his return from Canada, WO2 (SSM) Lockwood was tasked with training a team for the British Army (Germany) Swimming Gala and Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) 125 Big Swim. With limited time to resuscitate the 2009 team, WO2s Lockwood and O'Connor set about recruiting soldiers and officers with an interest in, or aptitude for, swimming and from here some unlikely potential triathletes sprouted. Unfortunately following the departure of stalwarts like WO2 (SSM) Dudman, there were some large shoes (and some garish Lycra) to fill. Fortunately Captain Young and Sergeant Robinson were keen to fill the gaps.

With the Hühne Triathlon a fortnight after the Big Swim all that was required to complete our training was to ride to an outdoor pool and to do some occasional running. It should be pointed out that this was merely to finish an Olympic distance race, rather than to be in any danger of troubling the leader board. For those unfamiliar with the discipline, Triathlon is a multi-sport endurance race which starts off with competitors swimming (in open water or in a swimming pool) then dashing from water to bike and cycling a set distance before finishing with a run. The distances for each vary for differing types of event. A 'Sprint' includes a 750 metre swim, 20 kilometre cycle and a 5 kilometre run, whereas an 'Intermediate' or 'Standard' (commonly referred to as 'Olympic Distance') involves swimming 1.5 kilometres, riding 40 Kilometres and running 10 kilometres. A 'Long Course' (such as the 'Half Ironman') requires a 1.9 kilometre swim, before a 90 kilometre ride and a 21.2 kilometre run whereas the 'Ultra Distance' or 'Ironman' involves a daunting 3.8 kilometre swim and 180 kilometre ride before a final marathon run (42.2 kilometres). These races can often be completed as relays with different team members completing individual legs of the race.

The Hühne Triathlon was an Olympic Distance race although, with temperatures of 35 degrees Celsius, the race organizers chose to reduce the distances for safety reasons to a 1 kilometre swim, followed by a 30 kilometre ride and 5 kilometre run. They also kindly provided a cold shower to cool runners down before the slog around Hühne Camp. The Regiment acquitted itself well and placed fourth overall as a team. With the squadrons then undergoing a change in Order of Battle



Captain Young putting in the miles

and in light of the burgeoning Pre-Deployment Training, time available to train for events was drastically reduced. Nevertheless time was found and Captain Young competed in the Celle Triathlon alongside three officers from the 9th/12th Lancers beating all three. He then went on to compete in the Hannover Triathlon and London Duathlon, coming a very creditable 18th out of 1,370 competitors in his age group.

With the season having closed in October and Pre-Deployment Training now at fever pitch, our bikes have been put in the sheds and Lycras (mercifully) hidden from view. Competing in 2011 will be difficult due to our forthcoming tour of Afghanistan so next year's Triathlon article may be somewhat less eventful, but there is certainly the appetite and ability to renew our assault on the various competitions in 2012.



GAZETTE

As at 31 December 2010

Regimental Headquarters

Commanding Officer	Lt Col JU Biggart MBE
Second in Command	Maj WHL Davies MBE
Adjutant	Capt SJHF Albert
Operations Officer	Capt AD Marjoribanks
Career Management Officer	Capt W Montgomery
Padre	Rev AI Dalton
Regimental Sergeant Major	WO1 (RSM) I Lamb

HQ Squadron

Maj RN Cameron	SSgt SG Ramsay	Cpl SJ Irwin	LCpl A Kempton
Maj JJ Johnston	Sgt GT Aitken	Cpl RS Jackson	LCpl ST Mate
Capt RHG Anderson	Sgt RJ Allman	Cpl IK Jardine	LCpl SA McCurdie
Capt JA Fyvie	Sgt KM Cooper	Cpl SN Ketedromo	LCpl LJ McMurdo
Capt AC Hainey	Sgt GS Culbert	Cpl JW Lavallin	LCpl A Meiehofer
Capt NCG Hanson	Sgt KT Dennis	Cpl PD Lippeatt	LCpl DW Milne
Capt S Hinds	Sgt R Gowland	Cpl KM Macleod	LCpl AD Nailatica
Capt DGA Landon	Sgt DR Mann	Cpl J Martin	LCpl SA Nicholson
Capt MM Lillie	Sgt J McCormick	Cpl BW McCheyne	LCpl JRG O'Hanlon
Capt AC Mackay	Sgt C McCusker	Cpl VP McLeod	LCpl SR Oram
Capt KG McDowell	Sgt D McKee	Cpl IA Merry	LCpl AS Paterson
Capt ACM Potter	Sgt LE McMann	Cpl BJ Morgan-Williams	LCpl HL Popple
Lt H Haslam-Greene	Sgt DA Ross	Cpl MJ Munro	LCpl CD Scott
Lt JWW Kelly	Sgt JFI Ross	Cpl MK Peattie	LCpl JD Smith
Lt DD Murphy	Sgt PA Starr	Cpl PJ Pratt	LCpl TL Sommerville
Lt JG Strijdom	Sgt CF Stewart	Cpl GW Rennie	LCpl NC Thapa
WO1 JT Buck	Sgt JL Sumner	Cpl MMH Reynolds	LCpl CG Torrance
WO2 DC Baird	Sgt C Ward	Cpl J Scally	LCpl SG Weatherston
WO2 DJ Black	Cpl HR Barnes	Cpl CJ Scott	LCpl MJ Williamson
WO2 RGM Fisher	Cpl A Beggs	Cpl MJ Smith	LCpl KJ Wilson
WO2 J Lynch	Cpl G Brisbane	Cpl B Smyth	Tpr TR Chisnall
WO2 FRJ Mack	Cpl DF Brown	Cpl CJM Stone	Pte GS Coleman
WO2 AW Potter	Cpl BS Brown	Cpl KB Taylor	Tpr R Connell
WO2 B Taylor	Cpl JI Bruce	Cpl DJ West	Cfn AL Craven
WO2 R Thornton	Cpl MJ Burton	LCpl PJ Bentley	Cfn IM Davies
WO2 SD Watson	Cpl J Christie	LCpl AF Bokas	Tpr MA Dougan
SSgt RB Bettles	Cpl AJ Clark	LCpl PA Collingwood	Pte SE Gray
SSgt B Campbell	Cpl SE Clarke	LCpl BD Duncan	Pte R Gurung
SSgt AP Doherty	Cpl DJ Cook	LCpl GK Dunn	Cfn J James
SSgt GM Fraser	Cpl SA Feeney	LCpl MET Essex	Cfn S Kerr
SSgt PA Hanna	Cpl CS Fraser	LCpl SM Fitzpatrick	Pte B Kerung
SSgt GS Mackay	Cpl KW Gillon	LCpl CRA Gallacher	Tpr JW Loudon
SSgt H Mackie	Cpl TR Hamilton	LCpl CC Gilchrist	Pte SE Matana
SSgt A McAndrew	Cpl PA Harnetty	LCpl SR Greenhill	Tpr C McCrindle
SSgt JFI Morris	Cpl NA Holby	LCpl MJ Hudson	Tpr RW Morrison
SSgt PDL Price	Cpl JK Horn	LCpl JS Johnston	Tpr DD Needleman

88 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Tpr DJ Nolan
Tpr S Ntanga
Tpr D O'Hare
Pte AR Pearce
Pte VT Phan

Pte J Pun
Tpr CC Rae
Pte SR Rai
Tpr PA Reay
Pte GA Reid

Tpr DJ Richardson
Tpr M Robinson
Tpr J Scott
Pte Y Thapa
Pte P Vaniyan

Tpr SJ Witrylak
Cfn DRS Wray

A Squadron

Maj JWHM Bishop
Capt NJL Anderson
Capt RPA Densham
Lt HI Braithwaite
Lt RJM Holtum

Lt NGB Woodhams
WO2 TW Boyd
WO2 JM Chantry
SSgt PJ Beveridge
SSgt SD Blair

SSgt BR Taylor
Sgt NJK Brown
Sgt BP Khoo
Sgt CJ Roberts
Sgt G Smith

Cpl AJ Silva
Pte T Gurung
Pte MI Togneri
Tpr MR Weir

B Squadron

Maj JPA Halford-
Macleod
Capt ESTJ Young
Lt JWP Crawford
Lt CF Emslie
Lt RJG Grinling
Lt STA Probst
WO2 JD Baillie
SSgt MA Crocket
SSgt SN Gowans
SSgt P Graham
SSgt CAN Herron
SSgt JA Lee
Sgt AF Anderson
Sgt SM Chart
Sgt SD Cowie
Sgt RJ Crumley
Sgt DA Dodds
Sgt IJ King
Sgt JM Pratt
Sgt B Scott
Sgt AS Simpson
Sgt JS White
Cpl KL Betteridge
Cpl MW Black
Cpl NR Boakes
Cpl PA Burns
Cpl A Cambridge
Cpl MP Devine
Cpl S Fairbairn
Cpl DJ Farrell
Cpl PJ Ferguson
Cpl A Hollingsworth
Cpl RJ Humphries

Cpl MA Lovell
Cpl JA MacLennan
Cpl SJ Martin
Cpl PR McCready
Cpl LD McKenna
Cpl AH McMin
Cpl SE Neat
Cpl MW Saayman
Cpl MR Saulilai
Cpl R Stevenson
Cpl MD Yarnold
LCpl NM Batiuluna
LCpl CT Broomhall
LCpl MSP Cornish
LCpl JG Crosbie
LCpl AM Dallyn
LCpl K Dornan
LCpl TI Finlow
LCpl BL Fish
LCpl DA Forrest
LCpl R Fraser
LCpl CJ Garrett
LCpl B Gillespie
LCpl AJ Hughes
LCpl GTD Hutchison
LCpl CGM Jones
LCpl KV Kapaiwai
LCpl JPA Keith
LCpl BR Kennedy
LCpl DA Kennedy
LCpl AJ Leckie
LCpl E McCormick
LCpl JP McGoochan
LCpl GJ McKenna

LCpl RJ McLaughlin
LCpl SA Milne
LCpl MJ Murney
LCpl S Nuttal
LCpl TPJ O'Connor
LCpl NEI Pocock
LCpl SJ Ratcliffe
LCpl A Ravunamelo
LCpl S Rokoduguni
LCpl MC Sim
LCpl MR Smith
LCpl WJ Stokes
LCpl TT Twaddle
LCpl LT Vula
LCpl SB Warder
LCpl SM Wilding
LCpl RI Wishart
LCpl SD Wright
LCpl ARW Wyness
Tpr CA Aitken
Tpr J Aitkenhead
Tpr E Akogyiram
Tpr RR Arnold
Pte SF Atkinson
Tpr WK Batiuluna
Tpr AN Boulton
Tpr MR Bower
Cfn DW Butler
Tpr J Cameron
Cfn NRE Cane
Tpr RA Chinsen
Tpr CHM Christie
Tpr KL Clark
Tpr TCS Clayton

Tpr JS Colley
Tpr MJ Collins
Tpr DGD Coltman
Tpr MSP Commons
Tpr SM Crosbie
Cfn JA Dixon
Tpr AVT Druavesi
Tpr D Field
Tpr A Forrester
Tpr DR Galloway
Cfn SDP Hancock
Tpr JF Hannah
Tpr PEF Johnson
Tpr CJ Kelly
Tpr S Kurewaka
Tpr RJW Lee
Tpr DJ Leslie
Tpr DD Lowe
Tpr CA MacLachlan
Tpr TJ McCluskey
Tpr OR McConnachie
Tpr JFI McGinlay
Tpr PT McGuire
Tpr SG McKellican
Tpr AJ McNally
Tpr D McNeill
Tpr CT McQuarrie
Cfn KM Miller
Tpr RS Neish
Tpr SL Nicol
Tpr P O'Neill
Tpr KAE Polson
Tpr ISK Radredre
Tpr RO Rainford

Tpr SA Ralph
Tpr ID Ratuqalovi
Pte ML Raynor
Tpr J Reid
Tpr W Riley
Tpr DL Robb
Cfn TL Ross

Tpr DD Sannachan
Tpr EB Saratibau
Tpr CC Sim
Tpr CCM Slater
Tpr S Sovinisalevu
Tpr TDJ Spence
Cfn DK Stacey

Tpr K Stevenson
Tpr ME Syphus
Tpr SD Taganekurukuru
Tpr JC Thomason
Tpr AM Tootle
Tpr LF Veitch
Cfn MT Vickers

Tpr D Wallace
Tpr S Waqairatu
Cfn DJ Wilks
Tpr DJ Wilson
Tpr DA Wilson
Tpr GA Wren

C Squadron

Maj NG Foulerton
Capt AW Jackson
Capt JPJ Paton
Lt HE Cunningham
Lt CPS Majcher
Lt BA McNeil
Lt JB Watson
WO2 WD O Connor
SSgt CS Dougal
Sgt BW Barclay
Sgt LG Cummings
Sgt SJ Davies
Sgt JG Rigby
Sgt S Robinson
Cpl TO Ah-Sing
Cpl AI Chalmers
Cpl BC Chandler
Cpl SMR Collins
Cpl HJ De Klerk
Cpl SC Duncan
Cpl MA Fitzpatrick
Cpl M Hallam
Cpl D Harley
Cpl KJ Imrie
Cpl SC Kyle
Cpl I Mataiasi

Cpl C McCall
Cpl SDP McCall
Cpl K Mitchell
Cpl P Quinn
Cpl DP Rae
Cpl SF Rooney
Cpl PR Stafford
Cpl PAW Young
LCpl GN Adam
LCpl ST Barrett
LCpl ML Crawford
LCpl V Dakunimata
LCpl WG Dagleish
LCpl S Davison
LCpl LE Dominy
LCpl DS Edwards
LCpl IA Fisher
LCpl AW Grieve
LCpl G Jarret
LCpl MA Keith
LCpl D Kelly
LCpl U Kilaiverata
LCpl AT Lowdon
LCpl I Macawai
LCpl PJ McLeish
LCpl B McLevy

LCpl DJ McLucas
LCpl REM Millar
LCpl EFB Miller
LCpl VT Naga
LCpl JA Palmer
LCpl JL Simpson
LCpl A Stewart
LCpl DJD Stewart
LCpl GC Strachan
LCpl AJA Williams
Tpr L Aitken
Tpr JW Barker
Tpr CW Brown
Tpr S Brown
Tpr KW Buakula
Tpr DD Charlery
Tpr MJ Coner
Tpr SA Cushley
Tpr BD Cutajar
Tpr CJ Dean
Tpr MG Delaney-Gould
Tpr J Ferrie
Tpr CP Fitzsimmons
Tpr A Glasgow
Tpr WD Hepburn
Tpr TP Hooton

Tpr AJ Irvine
Pte L Jammeh
Tpr JG Kennedy
Tpr NWD Kenrick
Tpr SJ Ladley
Tpr BA Lovatt
Tpr CJ McInnes
Tpr GJ Melvin
Cfn RMW Menzies
Tpr C Middleton
Tpr LWC Millar
Tpr KM Mills
Tpr RC Mostert
Tpr KA Nelson
Tpr PM Peterson
Tpr KT Porch
Tpr HE Rabua
Tpr K Ramage
Tpr NA Ross
Tpr M Saunders
Tpr JL Smart
Tpr JW Stevens
Tpr JM Stodart
Tpr FKK Tamani
Tpr KG Tibbles
Tpr JS Wasasala

D Squadron

Maj JMW Williamson
Capt J Gardiner
Capt JStG Irwin
Capt MD Welch
Lt LO Ballard-Whyte
Lt HMR Ramsden
Lt AJS Reith
WO2 DM Lockwood
SSgt JAI Allan
SSgt MSP Chisholm
SSgt M Hendry

SSgt S Percy
Sgt JD McAleese
Sgt DM Roberts
Sgt EM Smith
Cpl RJ Ashley
Cpl CH Brown
Cpl TJ Campbell
Cpl DR Cargill
Cpl LA Deshong
Cpl DJ Duncan
Cpl SG Forsyth

Cpl JJ Halcrow
Cpl N Jones
Cpl PF Kelly
Cpl CJ Lang
Cpl I Lynn
Cpl IJ Mackenzie
Cpl GW Main
Cpl B Matagasau
Cpl T McCann
Cpl W McCormick
Cpl S McCuaig

Cpl S McGovern
Cpl G McLauchlan
Cpl BD McShane
Cpl AJ Mowbray
Cpl PJ Musson
Cpl TW Pride
Cpl MA Riddell
Cpl DL Ridyard
Cpl SWG Robertson
Cpl JG Sebok
Cpl DRJ Steel

90 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Cpl SR Thomas	LCpl NJR Little	Cfn A Found	Tpr FL Pickard
Cpl DM Toughill	LCpl GR Mowbray	Tpr SRJ Gallier	Tpr A Pollock
Cpl TBM Tuitubou	LCpl CM Paton	Tpr DC Gemmell	Tpr C Ramsamy
LCpl DC Brawn	LCpl TC Qica	Tpr TW Gilman	Tpr RK Richard
LCpl IR Bruce	LCpl L Short	Tpr SC Glachan	Cfn JA Shilton
LCpl CG Coburn	LCpl G Walker	Tpr JS Glasgow	Cfn LD Smith
LCpl AD Cunningham	LCpl AC Warren	Tpr GN Halliburton	Tpr MA Stoops
LCpl CW Ednie	Tpr RM Cabemaiwasa	Tpr MB Koloba	Tpr JJ Ubitau
LCpl GA Evans	Tpr SJ Cagi	Tpr MT Komaiyasa	Tpr ACM Ware
LCpl WA Fischer	Tpr MD Carmichael	Tpr C Lochrie	Tpr RDG Watson
LCpl DS Gates	Tpr HJ Chadwick	Tpr I Matacagi	Cfn J Wild
LCpl GTD Gordon	Cfn PD Downey	Tpr MJ Nakaralutu	Tpr GJ Williams
LCpl RGA Hylton	Tpr GTD Dryburgh	Tpr PM Nelson	Tpr RL Wilson
LCpl KW Hynds	Tpr CD Ferrier	Tpr CRJ Nimblette	Tpr L Wright

Births

Tpr and Mrs Gilchrist, a son, Harvey, 6 January 2010
 Tpr Morrison and Pte Fairhurst, a son, Brogan-Lee,
 01 February 2010
 Cpl and Mrs Tuitubou, a son, Moses, 2 February 2010
 Tpr and Mrs Arnold, a daughter, Lioba, 13 February 2010
 Sgt and Mrs Mann, a daughter, Amber, 18 February 2010
 Maj and Mrs Davies, a daughter, Matilda, 18 February 2010
 Cpl and Mrs McKenna, a son, Sylvester, 28 February 2010
 LCpl Millar and Miss Grott, a daughter, Emily, 5 March 2010
 LCpl and Mrs Macawai, a daughter, Adi, 11 March 2010
 Trooper and Mrs Gates, a son, Kian, 4 April 2010
 LCpl and Mrs Mclaughlin, a son, Lucas, 13 April 2010
 Cpl and Mrs Martin, a daughter, Aubree, 19 April 2010
 Tpr and Mrs Paton, a daughter, Katie, 30 April 2010
 LCpl and Mrs Warren, a son, Gregor, 1 May 2010
 Sgt and Mrs Salt, a son, Ben, 2 May 2010
 Cpl and Mrs Jackson, a son, Joe, 5 May 2010
 LCpl and Mrs Nailatica, a son, Lival, 6 May 2010
 Cpl and SSgt Scott, a daughter, Daisy, 14 May 2010
 Cpl and Mrs Fraser, a son, Alasdair, 9 June 2010
 Cpl and Mrs Bruce, a son, Riley, 13 June 2010
 Tpr and Mrs McQuarrie, a son, Joshua, 6 July 2010
 LCpl and Mrs Qica, a son, David, 2 August 2010
 LCpl and Mrs Humphries, a son, Ollie, 17 August 2010
 WO2 and Mrs Lockwood, a daughter, Elin, 7 September 2010
 Tpr and Mrs Buakula, a daughter, Sainimere, 22 October 2010
 LCpl and Mrs Palmer, a daughter, Keeley, 3 November 2010
 Sgt and Mrs Barclay, a son, William, 4 November 2010
 Cfn and Mrs Found, a son, Jaxson, 28 November 2010
 SSgt and Mrs Beveridge, a son, Lleyton, 30 November 2010

Marriages

Tpr Wren to Victoria, 6 February 2010
 Tpr McQuarrie to Natasha, 27 March 2010
 Tpr McLeish to Lisa-Jane, 25 April 2010
 Capt Calderhead to Annie, 30 May 2010
 Tpr Wyness to Zanna, 5 June 2010
 Sgt Connell to Joanna, 1 July 2010
 Capt Albert to Clare, 10 July 2010
 LCpl Fisher to Stacey, 25 July 2010
 Cpl Munro to Stefanie, 30 July 2010
 LCpl Scott, to Christina, 30 July 2010
 Tpr Clayton to Kirsty, 6 August 2010
 Tpr Tootle to Hayley, 6 August 2010
 Tpr Matacagi to Maravunaua, 10 August 2010
 Tpr Glasgow to Michelle, 14 August 2010
 Tpr Kurewaka to Siteri, 14 August 2010
 Tpr Ubitau to Arieta, 16 August 2010
 LCpl Sommerville to Victoria, 19 August 2010
 Cpl De Klerk to Melanie, 20 Aug 2010
 LCpl Kennedy to Charlotte, 20 Aug 2010
 Tpr O'Neill to Caroline, 20 September 2010
 Tpr McNeill to Andrea, 12 November 2010
 Tpr Stodart to Karlie, 4 December 2010
 Cfn Craven to Neil, 24 December 2010

Officers at ERE

FM HRH The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO – Deputy Colonel-in-Chief
 Brig SRB Allen – Colonel of the Regiment
 Brig HD Allfrey MBE – COS Pers & Sp, HQ LF, Andover

Col RPH Vickers	Col PS10 (A) MoD London	Maj ED O'Brien	Student ICSC(L), JSCSC, Shrivenham
Col HH Blackman	IMATT, Freetown, Sierra Leone	Maj RJ Ongaro	SO2 ARMTAT, Thirsk
Col BP Edwards OBE	Col Indiv Trg, IPAT, Upavon	Maj BDA Ridge	MSSG Div Planning Team, Camberley
Col FG Gedney OBE	Asst Dep Dir Future Plans, HQ LF, Andover	Maj DB Soulsby	SO2 Dev DOLSU, Upavon
Lt Col RR Alers-Hankey	SO1(W) Force Dev, HQ DRAC, Bovington	Maj TP Spenlove-Brown	SO2a Pan Army, Army Inspectorate, Andover
Lt Col DAJ Allen	Comd Offr, Gunnery School, Lulworth	Maj AT Stewart	Quartermaster BATUS
Lt Col JGE Bartholomew	SO1 G7, HQ 3(UK) Div, Salisbury	Maj J Toward MBE	PSAO RWxY, Bovington
Lt Col TJ Bateman	MA to DCDS(C), MOD Main Bld, London	Maj AC Turpin	College Sen Maj, RMA Sandhurst, Camberley
Lt Col CTO Brannigan	SO1 Team Ldr, Army Inspectorate, Andover	Maj SJ Walters	SO2 Support Eqpt Prog, EC, HQLF
Lt Col MPA Bullen MBE	Defence Attache (North Africa), Algeria	Capt RM Anderson	Offr Comd Armd Wing, Gunnery School, Lulworth
Lt Col HMA Cummins	SO1 ARMTAT, Sennelager	Capt WG Calderhead	ADC to DSF, MoD London
Lt Col JHM Cushnir	DCOS CTG, HQ LW Centre, Warminster	Capt PA Douglas	GLO, RAF Cottesmore, Oakham
Lt Col CF Lambert	SO1 JF Trg PJHQ, Northwood	Capt BG Erskine-Naylor	Adj, Royal Yeo, Croydon
Lt Col W Raitt	Offr Comd Recruit Selection Centre, Glencorse	Capt RIL Gorman	Adj, ATR Bassingbourne
Lt Col KPM Ravnkilde	SO1 Observer NATO, Jatta	Capt AD Greenwood	OC Army Rect Team, Stirling
Lt Col NH Robertson BEM	SO1 (LE) RAC/CAMus Offrs, APC, Glasgow	Capt RJM Skene	SO3 Armd/ISTAR, Fd Trg Gp (UK), Warminster
Maj AH Benson-Blair	SO2 Ind Surv, DSTL Fort Halstead	Capt JG Stewart	C2 Exec, RC(SW), HQ, Op HERRICK
Maj RML Boyle	SO2 Armd CATT, Sennelager	Lt MS Erskine-Naylor	Tp Ldr, RAC Trg Regt, Bovington
Maj BH Brotherton	Sen Instr, AFV CIS School, Bovington	Retirements	
Maj BJ Cattermole	COS 20 Armd Bde, Sennelager	Capt TSH McBride	Retired from Active List
Maj RBR Christie	BG ISTAR & SO2 Armd.CAST(N), Catterick	Capt NIJ Poett	Retired from Active List
Maj GG Craig	Student ICSC(L), JSCSC, Shrivenham	Serving with other Arms on transfer	
Maj ME Hayward	SO2 JLP, Def Log Programmes, Bath	Col BRE Butler OBE	DD Ops&Plans, DCDS
Maj TEAG Kerrigan	SO2 ESP(IS) Req, HQ LF, Andover	late AAC	Pers RFC, MoD
Maj WRG Leek	SO2 Sp Pol, JSJET, DCDS Pers, London	Col JHS Maclean TD	Colonel Yeomanry, HQ DRAC, Bovington
Maj WGL MacKinlay	Equerry to HRH Prince of Wales, London	Lt Col JL Melville AAC	Mil Asst, NRDC HQ France, Mons
Maj JFS McLeman	MA to DG Pers, HQ AG, Andover	Lt Col AGC Fair DSO	Comd Offr, Light Dragoons, Swanton Morley
		Maj DM Nicholls AAC	SO2 J7 Cap/ISTAR, Defence Staff, DSF, London
		Maj MN Wilkinson KRH	Sqn Ldr, King's Royal Hussars, Tidworth

92 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Soldiers at ERE

WO1 D Barclay	G3 Trg PSLO, ARMCEN, Bovington	Sgt R Munro	P/Maj, Pipers' Trail, Stirling
A/WO1 D Potter	Queen's Piper, Buckingham Palace, London	Sgt S Paterson	CADT SI, DRAC, Bovington
WO2 M Adams	CIMIC WO, MSSG, Afghanistan	Sgt D Perry	SI, AFV D&M School, Bovington
WO2 G Dudman	Course WO, AFV Gunnery School, Lulworth	Sgt P Sinclair	Instructor, 24 CTT, Edinburgh
WO2 A Gardiner	CTT WO, 12 CTT, Bovington	Sgt K Sutherland	Team Member, BCIP 5 E&P, Bulford
WO2 C Gray	2IC, ART 26, Edinburgh	Sgt D Wallace	SI, AFV CIS School, Bovington
WO2 D Hugill	MAS WO, DST, Leconfield	A/Sgt D Thomas	FAC, 1 RHA, Tidworth
WO2 C Reid	RQMS, ARMCEN, Bovington	Cpl R Barr	Team Member, RAC Recruiting Team, Bovington
WO2 M Smith	CADT WO, DRAC, Bovington	Cpl M Black	Tp Cpl, AFC(H), Harrogate
A/WO2 C Long	Instructor, 1 (UK) Recce Bde, Warminster	Cpl S Brennan	Tp Cpl, RACTR, Bovington
SSgt Gibbs	Instructor, RAC CLM Wing, Bovington	Cpl S Brown	Special Recruiter, ACIO, Hamilton
SSgt T Hay	Special Recruiter, AFCO, Glasgow	Cpl M Byrne	Temp, HQ 2 Div, Edinburgh
SSgt A Kennan	Sig PSI, C Sqn QOY, Cupar	Cpl J Degei	Tp Cpl, ATR(B), Bassingbourne
SSgt P Mullett	CQMS, RMAS, Sandhurst	Cpl P Hirst	Team Member, BCIP 5 E&P, Sennelager
SSgt G Rieley	Recruiter, ACIO, Bathgate	Cpl C Jackson	Provost Cpl, ARMCEN, Bovington
SSgt J Stevens	SI, AFV CIS School, Bovington	Cpl J Kelly	Admin NCO, ASDC, Glencorse
Sgt P Balfour	Tp Sgt, RACTR, Bovington	Cpl S Kelly	Tp Cpl, JCC Wing, Bovington
Sgt T Burrows	Signaller, 264 Sqn, Hereford	Cpl C Manchester	Provost Cpl, ARMCEN, Bovington
Sgt S Cannon	Gny PSI, C Sqn RMLY, Chester	Cpl J Messenger	PTI, ATR(B), Basingbourne
Sgt B Dale	App Spec, HQ 4 Mech Bde, Catterick	Cpl W Monaghan	Tp Cpl, RACTR, Bovington
Sgt B Fraser	Gny PSI, D Sqn RMLY, Wigan	Cpl T Morrison	IT NCO, QRL, Catterick
Sgt D Gardiner	Sig PSI, A Sqn QOY, Ayr	Cpl C Morton	PTI, Episkopi Garrison, Cyprus
Sgt D Grant	SI, AFV D&M School, Bovington	Cpl J Pescod	Team Member, Bowman Trials Team, Blandford
Sgt D Hamilton	Sig PSI, C Sqn RWxY, Barnstaple	Cpl S Prentice	Provost Cpl, ARMCEN, Bovington
Sgt R Lennox	Gny PSI, A Sqn QOY, Ayr	Cpl S Scoular	Tp Cpl, JCC Wing, Bovington
Sgt I Lyttle	Sig PSI, A Sqn QOY, Ayr	Cpl D Shaw	Temp HQ, 1RTR, Warminster
Sgt P MacDonald	Team Ldr, Panther Installation Team, Ashchurch	Cpl A Storrier	Tp Cpl, RACTR, Bovington
Sgt R MacFarlane	SI, AFV TSG, Bovington	A/Cpl J Cormack	Tp Cpl, RACTR, Bovington
Sgt D Mathews	Instructor, 21 CTT, Aberdeen	LCpl A Duncan	Team Member, ART 28, Glenrothes
Sgt K McGee	Tech Storeman, ARMCEN, Bovington	LCpl D Laing	Team Member, ART 26, Edinburgh
Sgt B Muir	Tp Sgt, ATR(B), Bassingbourne	LCpl J McLelland	Team Member, ART 27, Glasgow
		LCpl D Mullan	Crewman, ATDU, Bovington

HONOURS, AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

Her Majesty's Lieutenancy

Major General JMFC Hall CB OBE – Deputy Lieutenant for Dorset

Distinguished Service Order (Bar)

Lieutenant Colonel AGC Fair DSO – Commanding Officer, The Light Dragoons in Afghanistan

Order of the British Empire

Officer

Lieutenant Colonel JGE Bartholomew

Member

Lieutenant Colonel TJ Bateman

The Duke of Kent Medal

Mr IC Salisbury – Secretary South West of England Branch

Major AT Stewart

Academic Award

Captain Sir Ranulph Fiennes Bt OBE (Polar Medal) – Honorary Doctor of Science,
Robert Gordon University (14 July 2010)

Museum Libraries and Archives Award

Regimental Museum of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Edinburgh Castle,
Granted Full Accreditation (22 July 2010)

Affiliation

The Worshipful Company of Pewterers

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

Staff Sergeant M Hendry
Staff Sergeant S Percy
Sergeant C J Roberts
Corporal D J Duncan

Joint Commander's Commendation

Major SJ Walters



Images of 2010



Level Two Collective Training in Sennelager



A balmy BATUS evening



C Squadron in a BATUS leaguer



The Adjutant and Operations Officer in BATUS



Trooper Taganekurukuru gets in touch with his 'inner elk'



*SCOTS DG Battlegroup –
Exercise PRAIRIE THUNDER 1*



Captain Landon with Percy



C Squadron Moncrieff Shield tug o' war team



The Commanding Officer on the Confirmatory Field Exercise



Mrs Ross, Mrs Allen and Mrs Biggart with Sergeant Graham at the Waterloo Weekend



The Pipes and Drums



D Squadron practise helicopter casualty evacuation

HOME HEADQUARTERS AND REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The hope at the end of 2009 for stability and a more manageable year in 2010 was partially achieved although external factors continued to exert their influence on all activities at Home HQ in Edinburgh Castle. Effects of the Government's dire financial situation translated into reductions in budget allocations and stringent constraints on manpower management. All this in the year that Lieutenant Colonel Roger Binks expected, in October, to complete his term as Regimental Secretary. Despite attempts to start the selection process early, the ban on recruitment delayed matters for several months. One of the many constraints made it necessary to obtain express approval of the Cabinet Office to widen the applicant field beyond those already employed with the Ministry of Defence. At the same time the rules on departure at the designated retirement age were eased and so he was able remain in post throughout the year. A solution was found at the end of the year, as reported below.

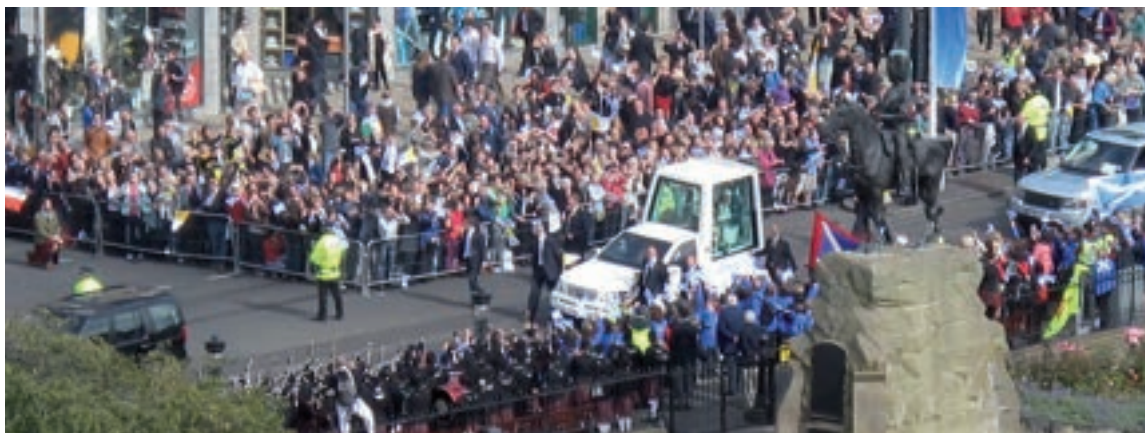
The pattern of work at Home HQ, the Museum and Shop was broadly similar to previous years, but without the addition of a major reception as in 2009. Support to the Association under the care of Captain James Springthorpe (Assistant Regimental Secretary), ably assisted by Margaret Irvine (Membership Secretary), continued unabated with valuable coordination of many areas from Colin Mack (Chief Clerk). The Sweepstake on the Derby was another success, raising £1,600 for welfare support and the Regimental Trust. On that matter, Major Jimmie James (Individual Aid

Officer) continued to work very closely with the Regimental Secretary to satisfy the needs of those Regimental members who meet occasional difficulties. Over the year some 65 cases, predominantly not from Association Branch members, were received and, with generous help from ABF The Soldiers' Charity and Poppyscotland (The Earl Haig Fund), over £26,000 was passed to SSAFA ForcesHelp or The Royal British Legion who undertake the casework. The Aid Fund remains at the top of the priority list for Home HQ.

The Regimental Council and Trust Meetings were both held in London and suffered from the common denominator of travel disrupted by snow. Major James Malcolmson kindly offered to host the meeting on 31 March at the offices of Quilter & Co in the City and that on 7 December was held at The Cavalry and Guards Club, immediately prior to the Regimental Dinner. On both occasions the Regimental Secretary had escaped from Scotland before transport was disrupted, but others from the North were not so fortunate.

On Sunday 11 April the fixture at Kelso Racecourse was less well attended than previously although nonetheless it was deemed very successful by the party of just over twenty who, after lunch in the Tweedie Stand Box, were joined by members of the Association in time to watch the SCOTS DG Hunter Chase.

Other support to the Association included the AGM of the Executive Committee, which meeting was held at



In September 2010 Pope Benedict XVI visited Edinburgh and his route passed the Regimental Memorial on Princes Street



Lady Stanier with the Field Marshal's commemoration

The Royal Hospital Chelsea with the help of John Rochester, the new London Branch Secretary, two days after the General Election in May and resultant change of Government. On Sunday 9 May, the traditional parade and service for the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association was held in Hyde Park with a strong contingent from the Regiment, even though the Serving Regiment was in Canada for pre-operational training.

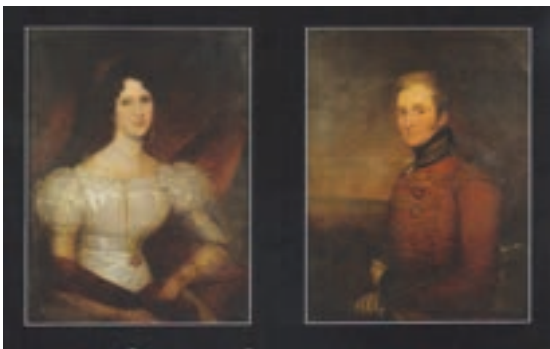
The usual supply of newsletters and correspondence flowed from Home HQ although with a larger proportion sent by electronic means than by the increasingly expensive postal system. Sadly the number of deaths reported remains high; it is always distressing to lose another stalwart member from the various Regiments, but pleasing when an obituary is received which does justice to a full and varied life.

Towards the end of the year the usual round of Remembrance parades and services were held and well attended by Regimental members. As a trial, it was decided to apply to attend the parade and service at The Cenotaph in London on Remembrance Sunday. The inspiration from Major Howard Elston was translated by Captain Jimmy Springthorpe into a successful attendance, which might be repeated. This event offset the decision to move the Carabiniers service, previously held in December to the following February. Branch notes provide further information on all these and other events.

Through the year Home HQ provided support to the Edinburgh Branch and reciprocal assistance from Bob Swan, occasionally with Jim Murphy, was much appreciated. They were also very helpful to Major Robin Maclean (Curator and Archivist) in work to improve the Reserve Collection store, located in the former Museum rooms. At last it is possible to manage the array of items which will lead to a greater understand of the Regimental Collection and provide depth to the Museum. Within the Archives, Major Maclean receives valuable help from Major James Scott (Hon Archivist) who opens 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 expanding database.

One of the most pleasing highlights of the year was confirmation that the Museum had achieved Full Accreditation status in May. The UK national award from Museums Libraries and Archives via Museums Galleries Scotland is an essential component of remaining a military museum partly funded by the Ministry of Defence. It is hoped that the next round will be more appropriately focused on how the Museum can develop, rather than a form of inspection report. The Museum Trustees congratulated Major Maclean on achieving that recognition and also on creating a fine display to mark the career of the late Field Marshal Sir John Stanier GCB MBE DL. A reception and an official commissioning on 29 June with Lady Stanier and most of her family celebrated the culmination of the work. The new display has drawn several comments of admi-

98 EAGLE AND CARBINE



The portraits of Anne and Captain Francis Stupart

ration from the many visitors, who in 2010 were counted by a digital process and reached the surprising figure of over four hundred and eighty seven thousand, which would have been higher had not snow forced closure of the Castle for five days in December.

A further bonus, and pleasing addition, to the Museum Collection was the extremely generous gift of several personal items from Captain Sir Ranulph Fiennes, including his father's and grandfather's medals and those recognising his own recent achievements. Since opening the Museum in 2006, this display has attracted considerable favourable comment and now it has more permanency to complement the range of displays. During the festival season in August groups from the Friends of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo visited the Museum before Tuesday performances and in early December a number of Scottish Tourist Guides and Edinburgh Castle Historic Scotland staff became better acquainted with Regimental History and the variety of tasks managed at Home HQ.

Mid year saw the acquisition of a pair of portraits and swords originating from the Stupart family. The Museum was assisted with a welcome grant from the National Fund for Acquisitions administered by the National Museums of Scotland. The portrait of Anne Stupart is on loan to the Cavalry and Guards Club whilst that of Captain Francis Stupart in his Royal North British Dragoons uniform, hangs in the Officers' Mess in Wessex Barracks adjacent to his Waterloo Medal. His swords from the eighteenth century are to be incorporated into a Museum display.

Despite variations in the economic climate, visitor patterns held up strongly and the success of the Shop is proportional to appreciation of the Regimental Museum. Assisted by Christine Kidd, Teresa Park (Retail Manager) had to manage tight rota patterns to cope with staff replacements when Jane Taylor returned for a few weeks before she and Victor Blanco Vega left for other appointments. Allan Nelson took on a full

time position and was joined by Ewan McLee with additional part-time cover from Joanne Findlayson and Kristin Loeer and volunteer support from Margaret Moffett. The results for the year reflect the hard work and dedication of that small team. 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.

Throughout the year the Regimental Recruiting Support Team promoted the Regiment and included visits to all the Army Cadet Troops affiliated to SCOTS DG, with 2010 the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Cadet organisation, predating the Territorial Army by forty nine years. As ever, it was pleasing to welcome the Pipes and Drums to Edinburgh; in addition to performances at the Tattoo, they toured Scotland to encourage recruiting and started work on a new recording expected in 2011. The contribution of the music of Pipes and Drums cannot be underestimated, especially when it translates into sales of compact discs and the resultant royalties. During the year a Piping Committee, under the guidance of Brigadier Melville Jameson, was set up by the Regimental Council and much work was done to provide support to the Commanding Officer and establish a forward plan for SCOTS DG Music.

Notwithstanding the busy training schedule in preparation for the tour in Afghanistan, an invitation to visit the Regiment in Wessex Barracks, Fallingbowl was welcomed by the Association. In early September Captain Jimmie Springthorpe and Teresa Park took advantage of the ferry and coach travel, ably arranged by Bob Swan, and joined members from several Branches, the Regimental Secretary and Rhiannon Binks driving independently to enjoy the four day programme, which events are recorded separately. Sincere thanks are due to all the Serving Regiment for the excellent hospitality and welcome, which provided ample opportunity to renew former contacts and forge new links, all vitally important as SCOTS DG prepares for a further operational tour.

Progress towards replacement of the Regimental Secretary reached fruition in mid December when the selection board endorsed the application from Major JMK Erskine MBE. After fifteen years in post, Colonel Roger Binks expects to welcome Major Jamie Erskine, a former Black Watch officer, on his move from HQ 2nd Division, Craigiehall in February 2011, and wishes him every success to ensure that Home HQ continues to provide support to 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 2010 to March 2011, as follows:

Charitable Donations (1)	14,000	(1) Allocated to:
Individual Aid Fund	14,000	Army Benevolent Fund, Royal British Legion,
Regimental Association	6,000	Royal British Legion Scotland, The Earl Haig Fund
Anniversary Reunions	10,000	(PoppyScotland), Combat Stress (Hollybush
Regimental Support (2)	51,250	House), Gardening Leave, Scottish Veterans’
Archives and Research	4,600	Residences, Erskine Hospital, RAC War Memorial
Property Insurance	3,500	Benevolent Fund, Queen Victoria School
Property Maintenance	7,000	Dunblane, Sister Agnes’ (King Edward VII),
Home Headquarters	10,600	Star and Garter Home, Burma Star Association,
Accounts & Legal	4,250	Last Post Association at Ypres, Royal
Investment Management	4,000	Commonwealth Ex-Services League, Yeomanry
Administration/Meetings	1,000	Benevolent Fund, Veterans Scotland, Royal
Regimental Magazine	12,000	Hospital Chelsea Chapel, RMA Sandhurst
Regimental Cadets	1,000	Memorial Chapel and Houses for Heroes (in
Recruiting/PR	4,000	Scotland)
Regimental Minibus	5,000	(2) Includes Sport, Adventurous Training,
Capital investment	12,000	Equitation and Full and Parade Dress.
Total (3)	£164,200	(3) Total sum includes unallocated funds brought
		forward from previous years.

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

100 EAGLE AND CARBINE

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 OBE
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 J Rochester

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 of The Binns
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

2010 saw a number of excellent events with the highlights for some being the visit to Fallingbostal and the march past the Cenotaph in London on Remembrance Sunday.

Both events are covered extensively in the branch reports. I would, however, like to repeat my thanks to Mr Bob Swan for organising so well the coach trip from Edinburgh to Fallingbostal, and to the Commanding Officer for four splendid days with the Regiment. I must also thank Captain Angus Hay for proposing that we march on Remembrance Sunday, something that does not seem to have happened in living memory, and Mr John Rochester for his manful, and mostly successful, efforts to keep us in step.

The branch committees have organised excellent reunions and I have especially enjoyed seeing not only their members, many of whom have travelled long distances to join their old comrades for a bit of a blether, but members from other branches at these events as well. Apart from the good food and wine, many particularly enjoy the briefings on what the Regiment is up to and I am most grateful to the Commanding Officer and the officers concerned for the effort that I know goes into keeping us all 'in the picture'. I have also been impressed by the number of people who have taken part in events on Armed Forces Day and by the number of less formal get-togethers that have been organised and that often attract the younger members. I am thinking of the Barce (for the less young), Clerks', Borders and

Granby reunions among many others. It was sad that the flag-ship of these informal gatherings, Bannockburn, was less well attended in 2010 than usual because of the clash with the visit to Fallingbostal. Unfortunately the Regiment's time-table was very tight and it was not possible to alter the arrangements with the King Robert Hotel, but I am glad that Mr Ian Cook's efforts were so well rewarded by the enjoyment of those who turned up at Bannockburn on the 3rd September.

By the time that you read this the Afghanistan appeal should be well under way. The efforts made by the branches, to support the Regiment when they were in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2008 were truly amazing, and I know that 2011 will see some wonderful fund-raising ideas and achievements.

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Roger Binks who is about to hand over after fifteen years as Regimental Secretary. He has always had the Association close to his heart and he and Rhiannon have been regular and enthusiastic attendees at our events. We wish them both a long and happy future and look forward to welcoming Major Jamie Erskine, late of the Black Watch, who takes over in February 2011.



BRANCH REPORTS

Aberdeen and North of Scotland

Yet another year has come and gone and it seems like only a couple of months since I last wrote the script for the Eagle and Carbine. That said, 2010 passed much the same as previous years with the highlights being the Armed Forces Day in Aberdeen and our Association Dinner.

Armed Forces Day in Aberdeen started with a parade down Union Street and we managed to field a grey beret contingent of seven members which, considering the age of most of our members and the vast area covered by the Branch, was a very good turnout. Following the parade there was an open day held in the Bridge of Don Barracks which consisted of various stalls and weaponry displays along with a mini tattoo.

Several of our members visited the Regiment for the Waterloo celebrations in September and by all accounts had an excellent time. They were more than delighted by the reception they received and with the way they were looked after by the Regimental members who pointed out many of the changes in Army life which have occurred over the years. I have come to the conclusion that our serving days seem much more preferable to life in the services today but that is just my personal opinion.

We again held our dinner night in October at The Royal British Legion Club in Inverness and again it proved to be an excellent evening for all who attended. Our sincere thanks go to Colonel Simon Allen, Brigadier Mel Jameson and his wife Sarah, Colonel John Ross and his wife Buffy and of course Captain Tim

102 EAGLE AND CARBINE

McBride and his wife Olivia for gracing us with their presence and making it an even more enjoyable evening.

Remembrance Parade saw us again taking part in the Anchor Parade and laying a wreath at the memorial in the town square. I can also report that this year's church service was a much better reflection on a Remembrance Day service than last year's one. Angus Hay decided to go to London to take part in the parade at the Cenotaph and kindly sent me an email with a video showing the parade. Unfortunately, for some strange reason I managed to get about quarter of the way through it before it crashed my computer so I did

not get to see the grey beret contingent, but Angus certainly appeared to enjoy the experience.

Our dinner night for 2011 will be held in the Aberdeen area with location and date still to be confirmed. We still meet at The Royal British Legion Club, Loadmaster in Bridge of Don, Aberdeen every second month though instead of every third Wednesday it is now every third Thursday. Our next meeting is on Thursday 17 February at 2000hrs followed by April, June, August, October and December for 2011.



Glasgow and West of Scotland

As always happens early in the year it was the AGM that started our branch activities for 2010. The meeting was held in The Tradeston ex-Serviceman's Club in Glasgow. This is where most of our monthly meetings are held and it has served us well over the years. A very enjoyable Annual Dinner at the Horizon hotel, in Ayr, soon followed on 10 April. Thirty-six attended the dinner, including Colonel John and Buffy Ross our Association Chairman and his wife. The piper for the evening was Jimmy Cook from the Irvine Pipe Band. Sadly it clashed with an event being held by the Ayrshire Yeomanry, which meant that four serving members of the Regiment attached to the Yeomanry and one former member of the SCOTS DG were unable to attend. They were sadly missed.

Apart from the Bannockburn weekend in September, the main event this year was the unveiling of a new headstone for Trooper Andrew Swan who was killed on exercise in Germany in 1981. A fellow crew member at the time was Graham McIntyre who recently stopped by Andrew's grave to find it in a sorry state. Graham then organised fundraising, including a sponsored walk, and raised £2,200 for the new headstone. Following an appeal to trace his family in the local press, a cousin came forward and gave his consent to refurbish the grave. Graham organised the new headstone and fifty people attended the unveiling service on 23rd October at RHU cemetery. These included family and friends with the majority members of the Regiment or Association who remembered 'Swannie' twenty nine years ago. It was well reported by the local press.

Bannockburn Weekend took place from 3-5 September and this year Ian Cook, Branch Secretary and organiser of the event, also organised a visit to the King Robert

Hotel about a month beforehand to check all was well. This required about ten members from all branches of the Association, staying at the hotel overnight in a single barrack-like room reminiscent of the good old days. Doubtless the so-called 'recce' served its morale-boosting purpose well enough as the main event was again enjoyed by everyone. Special mention also goes to Jimmy Murray for organising the golf on Friday 3rd September as a starter to the Bannockburn weekend. Numbers for the weekend were down on previous years because of the clash with the Association visit to the Regiment in Germany on the same date. Sadly the hotel could not manage an alternative date as it is mostly booked up for other events about two years in advance.

At the Remembrance Day Parade once again there was a good turnout with over twenty branch members joining the large parade in Glasgow's George Square in front of the City Chambers. As usual the SCOTS DG led the Army contingent in the March Past with Vice Chairman Willie McLaughlin and Lieutenant Colonel Billy Raitt in the lead. Billy Bootland laid the wreath. After the parade, Glasgow hosted a reception in the City Chambers for all those who took part, their partners and family. This show of support is always appreciated and was again enjoyed by branch members.

Other news involving branch members includes the marriage of Brian and Nicola McEweon on 30 April in Falkirk followed by a reception at the Crowwood Hotel. They took their honeymoon in the Dominican Republic. During May, and with Spring in the air, six members of the branch and their wives went for an adventure weekend on Loch Lomond based at the Tarbert Hotel. And it was some adventure! It included dinner, dancing and a champagne cruise on the loch but

there was hill climbing on the Saturday which perhaps represents a bit of adventure.

At the end of August Grant Milne, former SSM HQ Squadron, organised a barbecue at his home in Dundee for former members of the Regiment and Tony Wilson

also organised a fabulous day at Doncaster Racecourse on Friday 10th September for The St Ledger race weekend.



Edinburgh and East of Scotland

Early in 2010 the Regiment extended an invitation to the Association to visit Fallingbostal in September of that year. The Branch Secretary made an early decision to hire a coach and book a ferry passage, confident that he would fill the coach and not be out of pocket; within a matter of weeks all the places were filled.

The coach departed Edinburgh on Wednesday 1 September arriving in Newcastle in time to board a DFDS ferry for the overnight crossing to Amsterdam. It was a pleasant crossing and gave people an opportunity to socialise and get to know each other. The group also had the opportunity to visit the ship's bridge and meet the Captain and ship's officers. After being shown around the bridge, we presented the Captain with a SCOTS DG plaque which was greatly appreciated.

The coach journey from Amsterdam to Fallingbostal went without a hitch although due to road works we were quite late in arriving. On arrival the RSM and RQMS allocated our accommodation. We then gathered in a marquee on the Regimental Square to watch and listen to beating to quarters and this proved a great spectacle as the Pipes and Drums of the SCOTS DG and the Military Band of the Welsh Guards gave a wonderful display of music and discipline. Afterwards we were invited to the Corporals' Mess for drinks and a buffet, this ending a long and most enjoyable day.

The next day started with a sumptuous breakfast in the Fullers Restaurant before venturing off on a battlefield tour. The tour was amazing and Major Will Davies helped to give a great insight into the last battle in which the SCOTS GREYS took part in April 1945. Rounding of the morning, we paid a visit to a local Gasthaus for some German cuisine – Bratwurst and pomfrittes. In days gone by, many of us 'oldies' had enjoyed these as a late night feast! Later in the evening dinner in the Sergeants' Mess, followed by a game of bingo, completed our marvellous day.

After breakfast on the Saturday we spent some free time before meeting on the sports field for an open day which consisted of a great number of lively and impressive activities and games. A fantastic buffet was served



Len Brookes on his 100th birthday

and this opportune time gave the Association members a chance to mingle with the soldiers and their families. In the evening the All Ranks Party was held in the marquee on the Regimental square. The weather continued to hold out and a super time was had by all.

All too soon Sunday arrived and after breakfast we set off on an arranged trip to Bergen-Belsen, all too often read about and now seen.

It was now time to visit the NAAFI shop and make final purchases before the trip home. In the afternoon an invitation had been extended to lunch as guests of the Sergeants' Mess with refreshments at the bar. After the last of the banter, it was time to say our goodbyes to our Regiment until the next time.

104 EAGLE AND CARBINE

To conclude, I think the visit, on the Association's part, was a huge success and we must say a big thank you to the Commanding Officer, all officers and soldiers and in particular to RSM 'Dodger' Gardiner and RQMS Frank Mack for all their help which made the visit so memorable.

11 April 2010 saw us once again at Kelso Racecourse for the SCOTS DG Gold Cup and the event was well attended by Branch members and their guests. As usual a buffet, in the form of a carvery, was served at Kelso Golf Club and transport was arranged from Edinburgh. An enjoyable day was had by all.

The Branch Dinner was held in the Edinburgh Capital Hotel on 24 April. Once again we had a good turn out including Colin Wilson, Brian Woolerton and Vic Waddock from the London and South East Branch. The meal was excellent and being amongst so many friends and catching up on news and generally mixing in good company made it another wonderful evening

as part of our many Association Events. Captain Tim McBride gave an update on the Regiment's recent activities.

We are delighted to announce the 100th birthday of one of our Branch members, Len Brookes, who reached the grand age on 23 July 2010. Bob Swan, Jim Murphy and Ronnie Harris travelled to Arbroath to congratulate and celebrate with Len on his birthday and spent a few hours reminiscing over old times and all thoroughly enjoying the time spent together. He was very complimentary of the nursing staff who look after him very well at the nursing home in which he now resides. Len was presented a bronze eagle which he was delighted to receive on his special occasion and of course he was very pleased to be the recipient of a special birthday card from our Colonel-in-Chief! Len saw service in the Greys 1939-1945.



North East of England Branch

As usual, the first of the Association branches to hold its reunion dinner in 2010 was the North East of England Branch. March 20th saw us gather at our regular venue, the Jarvis Hotel in Wetherby, where the staff provided us with everything we had expected. From the room and table layout, the excellent three course meal and friendly staff, to the accommodation and hearty Yorkshire breakfast the next morning (for those who stayed over), the event was perfect. Seventy two people attended, with the new Colonel of the Regiment, Simon Allen and his wife Fee joining us for the first time. It was also nice to have Colonel John Ross, Chairman of the Association and his wife Buffy with us. Our friends from the Edinburgh Branch Barry and Helen Liston, George Campbell and Bob Swan travelled down from Scotland once again. Brian Woolerton and Vic Waddock came up from the London and South East Branch to meet up with friends. A warm welcome was also extended to John Scrivener, Chairman of the North West and Wales Branch, who came to support us.

During the evening, Colonel Simon talked briefly about his appointment as Regimental Colonel and how important the role of the Association is to the serving Regiment. We wish him (and Fee) well during his Colonelcy. Captain Jim Fyvie, representing the Commanding Officer, travelled across from Fallingbowl to be with us and gave a slide presentation

on the wide range of activities the Regiment was undertaking as they prepare for 2011. A raffle was held thanks to the efforts of Stan and Marion Macey together with Don and Jean Roe. They sold the tickets during the evening and marked up the prizes donated by those attending, which resulted in our raising a fantastic £244 which will be used to subsidise our dinner next year. A great evening was had by all and we thank all those who travelled such long distances to be with us.

In other news, Don Roe did very well in the Association Grand Derby Draw, winning the first prize of £500. Mr Alan Bowden represented the Branch at the Field of Remembrance at St Margaret's in London, on Thursday, November 11th. On Remembrance Sunday, the Branch Secretary once again laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Beverley, following a service in the Minster. Ivison Wheatley, our Branch representative in York, accompanied by his wife Louise, laid a wreath on the Royal Scots Greys Memorial Tablet at St Columbia's United Reformed Church, where they were made very welcome after the service. During 2010 we lost contact with Mr Ron Baker of Leeds but welcomed Mr Mike Greenan, Mr Jay O'Dowd and Mr Graham Walters as new members. We also welcomed back Mr Andrew McCamley following a loss of contact due to a change of address.

North West of England and Wales

For the North West Branch, 2010 started off badly when we heard in early January that one of our old 3DG stalwarts, Paddy Harte, had died. Paddy served with the Regiment in the late forties and early fifties and his death was a great shock. Sadly, his wife Joyce also died a couple of months later.

Socially, the Branch held an excellent dinner in April where we welcomed the Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor John Ebo and the Lady Mayoress, and in November we had our annual reunion. It is amazing how every year, we manage to get someone new coming along! This time we welcomed Georgie Bone and his wife who had travelled down from Scotland and Donald McSweeney came up from Kent to be with us. Bernie Feeney came over from Germany and Charlie Colwell managed to get over from Spain. It is strange when you think that the Irish economy was so bad that Charlie felt compelled to move. As soon as he settled in Spain their economy looked like it was starting to struggle too! Must be the way he tells 'em.

Remembrance Day in Chester saw another great turnout and we counted 22 in the United Services Club after the parade as you can see by the photograph. Our AGM was held in Wallasey and we had a good turnout. Regular meetings have taken place at the United Services Club and in July we had what is now becoming an annual fixture, The Chairman's Barbeque. This was



NW Branch Members after the Remembrance Day Parade

another great day and once again our thanks go to John and Liz for their hospitality.

For the North West Branch the year ended as it began with the death of two of our popular members, Ronnie Kimpton and Tony Barton. Both had been ill for some time but their passing still came as a shock.

We hope that 2011 is a better year for all of us and look forward to seeing you at one of our functions. Hopefully as well, this year, 3rd Carabinier might be fully repaired and our long postponed trip to Bury will become a reality.



RICHARD CRADDOCK

by TO Coates 3DG 1960-69

The North West of England and Wales Branch of the Regimental Association held their Nunshigum Dinner in April, and had Richard Craddock, grandson of SSM Bill Craddock B Sqn 3 DG (later RSM 3DG), as a guest.

Richard was installed as an Honorary Member of this Branch at the Dinner, and read the B Squadron 3DG Citation for the Battle of Nunshigum to all members and guests.

We were fortunate to have the Lord Mayor of Chester, John Ebo, in attendance and a photographer from the Chester Chronicle took a group picture of Richard, the Mayor and Wilf Ogden, who served in Burma with 3DG.

The photograph is of deep significance to our ex-Carabiniers, and also I think to our Regiment as a



*Wilf Ogden, the Lord Mayor of Chester, and Richard Craddock.
Reproduced by kind permission of the Chester Chronicle*

whole, since it highlights an important Battle Honour to the Regiment, and also a continuing bond with the family of SSM Craddock.

London and South East of England

2010 has been a busy year one way or another and the key feature was the way in which the year started at the AGM. The Secretary, John Foreman, announced his retirement after 33 years in post during which time he has always been a staunch supporter of the Association in all its workings. Over the course of his tenure his efforts on behalf of the membership have been rewarded with an award of the Duke of Kent Medal for services to the Association. It must be remembered of course that John came to us as a double act and he has been staunchly supported throughout by his wife Pam. It is of great comfort to us that his resignation as Secretary does not mean a total loss to the Committee. He remains a member and continues to act as both a font of historical knowledge of branch matters and also to regale us with his latest discoveries whilst researching regimental history, a passion of his. To mark the occasion and as a gesture of appreciation, his farewell presentation was a Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess silver eagle, which the RSM and Mess members graciously agreed to the branch purchasing for him. As John remarked, during his National Service the only time he would have been in a position to hold one was when on fatigues!

April saw the branch commemorate Nunshigum over lunch at Shepperton. A rather small but nonetheless sociable group of branch members and their guests, including the Indian Military attaché to the High Commission in London, Commander Singh, and his wife attending as representatives of the Dogra Regiment, enjoyed another fine lunch and liquid refreshment, as once again the exploits of B Squadron the 3rd Carabiniers high above the Imphal plain were reviewed.

In May, the Cavalry Memorial weekend followed the usual format with the addition of the Regimental Association AGM held in the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Once again this resulted in a few extra faces from the other branches appearing at the reunion that evening at the Barley Mow. As always it was good to see you all and as a branch we try to reciprocate wherever possible. Certainly in 2010 there has been a London presence at both the North East and South West dinners, and more are in the planning stages for 2011. Sunday saw a good turnout in Hyde Park for the parade and service of the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades Association, where the Colonel with his entourage of banner and wreath bearer were joined in the line up by a party of four branch members as the CCOCA wreath party. This plethora of Grey berets in the parade adding a touch of class to proceedings.

November saw the branch busier than usual as, in addition to the regular attendance at the RBL Field of Remembrance at St Margaret's Westminster, we provided the nucleus of the Regimental Association detachment at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. Back to the field however and despite a few hiccups in the organisation and setup, not to mention a new and improved security access system which saw the entrance queue snake around the local streets for some considerable distance, we eventually got the team together in time for the review by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. Afterwards, as has become tradition here, we retired for a 'warmer into the banks' to toast Absent Friends. That evening we returned to the plot for our Regimental observance and decided that more toasting was required again at the Westminster Arms. This package of events is always well-attended considering that it is on a 'school day'. As always it is good to see branch rep-



Colonel Simon Allen, Mark 'Pierre' Smith and Colin Wilson



Jim Davidson, Tony Gray, Mick Smith and Brian Jeffrey



Dave Roberts, Bob Richardson, Howard Elston, Dickie Teese, Brigadier Anil Mehta and Stephen Stopford

resentation from far and wide including Alan and Pam Bowden from the North East branch and of course where possible we endeavour to coax a few Regimental faces from the corridors of power at MOD Main Building just around the corner.

This year the branch adopted the role of sponsor for the Regimental Association participation in the RBL Service and Parade at the Cenotaph on Whitehall. Our allocation this year was a detachment of 30, however we were joined on Horse Guards Parade by Burt Kendrick who had planned to march with another organisation until he saw the gathering of Grey berets (and a smattering of bowler hats) and old allegiances took precedence. The behind the scenes organisation for this parade is huge and it involves a great amount of 'hurry up and wait', so participation is not necessarily for the faint-hearted or weak-bladdered. However it was very much worth it for the rousing applause we got whenever we marched around, or perhaps that was simply because we were behind the Gurkhas. It is interesting to note that an observance of the written instruction for the parade by the Association Chairman now sees us with a new Regimental tradition, and all



The gang back on Horse Guards after the parade

personnel are now to salute when passing the Cenotaph even as a formed body. It is already established custom and practice that when passing the Cenotaph all service personnel pay due respects by saluting when in uniform or by doffing the hat when in mufti. The marching party, whilst predominantly based upon London members, also saw branches nationwide represented and hopefully in subsequent years numbers will grow.

Contrary to previous notices, the branch observance at the Carabiniers Memorial in Chelsea was rescheduled for February 2011. This was due to a combination of issues within both the Royal Hospital and the Branch. These were predominantly based upon the increasing commitments members have at this time of year and also in light of the attendance at the Cenotaph. It was therefore decided to reschedule the gathering at the Carabiniers Memorial for as close as possible to 15th February, as this was the date in 1900, during the Boer War, on which the Relief of Kimberley by General French's cavalry division led by the Carabiniers took place. The previous shift from February to December took place in the late 1960s to accommodate similar commitment issues and to accept the seasonal offer of hospitality from the In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital.



James Leslie, Michael Mockridge, Jim McLelland and John Ross with John Foreman in the background but "fronting the Regimental plot"

In looking forward to 2011, there are two specific SCOTS DG events to be commemorated: the 20th anniversary of the now First Gulf War in 1991 and the 40th of Amalgamation. With these in mind, the branch is looking at a somewhat changed focus, however it should be emphasised that this does not detract from what we do as a branch only perhaps how we go about it. Time is moving on and in order to accommodate the future generations of Old Comrades who will be predominantly SCOTS DG, it was felt that the Old Guard members from the pre-amalgamation era should consider relinquishing control of the reins and thereby let the SCOTS DG old comrades drive the Association forward towards whatever awaits us in the future. This

108 EAGLE AND CARBINE

does not mean that the Old Guard are to be sidelined, rather that they have done their stint on frontline duty and now need to consider acting in an advisory capacity to the next generation!

At the time of writing there have been 39 years of solid recruiting in Scotland and the knock-on effect of that has been diminished numbers of potential Old Comrades who come from London and the other regions south of the border. However that does not mean there is a dearth of potential members in the region, merely that for a variety of reasons they do not actively engage. In today's technological environment of mass communication it is understood that members can remain abreast of news and keep in touch with their contemporaries much better than in yesteryear. It is this fact that has prompted this branch in particular to re-evaluate our *raison d'être*, to look again at the aims of the Association and to channel our efforts into an area which has not received as much attention as perhaps it should have in the past, namely welfare and support. This is especially pertinent as we face the Regiment's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan and consider just what could transpire as a result.

Even in the best of circumstances there is a role for Regimental Family support to families and friends here in the UK or those in transit from Germany and so this will be a focus for the Branch in 2011. One way in which the Branch has been endeavouring to foster the relationship between the Old and the New has been to sponsor visits to the Royal Hospital Chelsea where

soldiers under training at RACTR Bovington and 'badged' to join the SCOTS DG are able to socialise with members of the Association and the In-Pensioners. The Association bonds are thus established early in their careers rather than when they are concentrating on demobilisation some years later. So far we have had two such visits since 2009 and the resulting bar tab was in one instance quite a shock, so it is obvious that all aspects of Regimental life are being covered in training!

In an effort to understand what the branch members wanted from their membership a questionnaire was distributed to over 150 registered members. With a response rate of about 35%, which I am told is good, this means that either 65% are happy to go on with things as they are or that our address lists are woefully inaccurate. However the responses to the survey we did receive confirmed that in essence the Association does fulfil their needs with regards to maintaining a link to the Regiment. It also confirmed the belief that in many cases cost is a prevailing factor for members when deciding whether to attend events in the capital and, if so, how many. This is an issue which will receive due attention in 2011 and beyond as the economic situation in the country remains tight. The Branch however remains in good order, but as with all things can always do with a spot of reinvigoration. That is what we hope to do in 2011 as we follow the exploits of our successors as they deploy on operations once again.



The South West of England

Where do I begin? 2010 was a good year for the branch. We had excellent attendances at our two functions and also had members represent us at many other parades and gatherings throughout the year.

There is, however, one underlying subject which worries not only this branch but many others and that is that our members are not getting any younger. Those of you who may have read the Association thread on the web site (<http://royalscotsguardsguards.com>) will have discovered many of the reasons why members of



Richard Old and Colonel Ross



Peter Standing and Major Spenlove-Brown

the Regiment on discharge have a low opinion of the Association and its principles.

However after many posts from all sides it has caused a few to rethink their attitude towards the association. I am pleased to say that I have actually had contact asking for details on the Branch from someone about to leave the serving Regiment who wishes to join the many retired members in the association and remaining part of our huge proud family.

So onto our Dinner at Salisbury British Legion, and since we altered the format of our dinner the attendance has increased. The more relaxed and informal atmosphere seems to be a hit. Yet whilst enjoying the new we still, as all branches do, maintain the formal parts to uphold our Regimental traditions.

So, onto the functions, my thanks to all who attended and helped make both evenings such great successes. I will let the photos tell the story.



Captain Spenlove-Brown with Mike Packwood, Arthur Rattue and John Adkins



Lieutenant Colonel Mike Oliver speaks as the Colonel of the Regiment, Mrs Jill Oliver, Major Spenlove-Brown and Mrs Fee Allen look on

Musicians (Military Band, Pipes and Drums)

Our biennial gathering was once again held at the Queen Victoria School in Dunblane. Thanks to our committee member, Bert Tomkins, we have been most fortunate to have the use of the school for this event on a number of previous occasions.

The weekend started on the evening of Friday 2nd July and it was heartening to see so many friendly faces arriving through the front door of the school. After supper, John Dickson entertained us on a set of electronic pipes which he plays more regularly now than the traditional bagpipes. Our AGM was held on the Saturday morning followed by a dinner and dance that evening. The usual excellent dinner was provided by the school and we enjoyed the added bonus of listening to a mini-band from our serving Pipes and Drums which had arrived from Germany prior to taking part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. One thing we noticed was how crisp the sound of present day side drum is. After dinner, Jack Delaney's Scottish Country Dance Band produced some wonderful entertainment and the floor was full for most of the evening.

The attendance this year was as high as ever and it was particularly good to see so many of the Military Band. Sadly Bert Tomkins has decided to retire from the committee after many years of loyal support and he has been replaced by David Mackay. We were delighted that Colonel Simon was able to join us on the Saturday night and all look forward to another hugely successful gathering in 2012.



The Musicians' Branch biennial gathering at Queen Victoria School

THE REGIMENTAL DINNER

The Officers of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) dined at the Cavalry and Guards Club on Tuesday 7 December 2010; Brigadier SRB Allen, Colonel of the Regiment, presided. Having conveyed Loyal Greetings from all Officers, the Message from The Colonel-in-Chief was received. The Colonel welcomed Niall Edworthy Esq, author of 'Main Battle Tank' and guest of the Regiment and expressed thanks to M. Christian Pol Roger for the gift of champagne. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel JU Biggart MBE, delivered a resume of Regimental activities during 2010. Trooper B Duncan SCOTS DG, presented the Pipe Set with dignity and skill, receiving a rapturous round of applause.

The Officers who attended were:

Maj Gen CA Ramsay CB OBE
 Maj Gen JMFC Hall CB OBE DL
 Maj Gen CRS Notley CB CBE
 Maj Gen SRA Stopford CB MBE
 Brig MS Jameson CBE
 Brig HD Allfrey MBE
 Brig BD Gotts

IF Albert, Esq
 Capt SJHF Albert
 Lt Col RR Alers Hankey
 Capt RM Anderson
 Capt RGH Anderson
 LO Ballard-Whyte, Esq
 Lt Col JGE Bartholomew
 Maj AH Benson-Blair
 Lt Col RJ Binks
 Maj JWHM Bishop
 GP Bracher Esq
 Lt Col CTO Brannigan
 Maj BH Brotherton
 Maj TJStC Brown
 Capt RPK Carmichael
 Maj CD Clark
 Maj SGF Cox MBE MW
 Maj GG Craig
 AN Cuming, Esq
 Maj Sir Michael Cummins
 HE Cunningham Esq
 Lt Col JHM Cushnir
 Capt WD Dane
 Capt PA Douglas
 Maj NCW Dunkley MBE
 Col PCE Fishbourne

Capt RE Gather
 MR Grant-Peterkin, Esq
 Capt PJS Gray
 Maj GAS Hancock
 Maj ME Hayward
 Capt SNR Hearn
 Capt JSG Irwin
 Capt DJ Kahn
 JWW Kelly Esq
 Maj TEAG Kerrigan
 Lt Col CF Lambert
 Capt DGA Landon
 JWAS Law Esq
 Maj WRG Leek
 Capt CA MacDermot-Roe
 Capt RDL MacLure
 Maj JFS McLeman
 Maj JJ Macnamara TD
 Maj RCS Mahony
 Maj JC Malcolmson
 Maj JPF Marsh
 Capt HPB Martin
 Maj MJ Mockridge MBE
 Capt ND Oliver
 Maj MDA Pocock
 Capt WB Ramsay

Col RAB Ramsden
 HMR Ramsden Esq
 AJS Reith Esq
 Maj BDA Ridge
 Lt Col D Roberts
 Col JMA Ross
 Maj DGP Scholfield
 Lt Col JFB Sharples OBE
 Maj MK Shennan
 RA Sligh Esq
 Capt MA Somers
 Maj DB Soulsby
 Capt TR Spenlove-Brown
 Maj TP Spenlove-Brown
 Capt AF Spink
 Maj MJ Stanley
 DC Stewart Esq
 Maj JE Stone
 JG Strijdom Esq
 Capt JF Swetenham
 Capt RN Targett-Adams
 Col RPH Vickers
 Maj SJ Walters
 JJ Watts Esq
 Lt Col CIP Webb
 Capt PD Young

MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

(At 31 December 2010; 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
WN Foster Esq

Capt PJS Gray
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
Murphy JP
Ray JS

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 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

112 EAGLE AND CARBINE

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 MA
 Hood A
 Hood AI
 Howie WF
 Hynds JW
 Innes AH
 Innes-Alum A
 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
 Reid JA
 Reilly E
 Reynolds J
 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

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
 Howie W
 Hughes M
 Hughes TW
 Hunter J
 Hunter JP
 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
 Lyell C
 McCafferty J
 McCallum JA
 McCrae C
 McCrindle 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

114 EAGLE AND CARBINE

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
 Capt PR Loyd
 Dr KS MacKenzie
 SA Moore Esq
 JSR Nicholl Esq
 Capt NS Orr
 AHW Sutcliffe Esq
 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
 Clayton 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
 Greenan MJ
 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
 Woodward FC

**NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND
AND WALES****Officers**

JR Bettinson Esq
 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
 Beasley R
 Berry IR
 Bidston L
 Bloor P
 Bohana AW
 Boole JB
 Brookes AO
 Brooks PD
 Campbell B

EAGLE AND CARBINE 115

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
 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
 Capt AO Blayney
 GW Deterding Esq
 RE Dimsdale Esq
 Col MAD Donnithorne-Tait MA
 His Hon Judge Dyer
 Capt PT Earp
 R Elliot-Square Esq
 Major HJ Elston

116 EAGLE AND CARBINE

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
 Capt JStG Kelton
 HRH The Duke of Kent KG
 GCMG GCVO
 PWA Lake Esq
 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
 The Lady Robertson of Oakridge
 EAT Roscoe Esq
 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
 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
 Edy RT
 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
 Porteous MF
 Potter GE
 Quinn J
 Randles RHR
 Rayner KA
 Reid DF
 Rochester JS
 Rowlands KJ
 Rumbles P
 Sander NE
 Savage PF
 Sedgewick RL

Setterfield WE
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 J Leslie
Mrs BD McDonald-Booth
Lt Col MD Oliver
Lt Col AM Phillips
Col JTM Ryan TD
Maj MK Shennan
Lt Col JA Speirs
TR Spenlove-Brown Esq
Lt Col EI Stanford

Life Members

Braine BD
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 JWV
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
Weld TJ

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 Pymon
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

118 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Macrae AD
Massie JC
Moffat G
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

Lorimer Mrs T

MacMurchie D

Mackay D

McVean W

McVie A

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

Phyall 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

Capt JC Findlay

DJ Galloway Esq

Maj RIG Hale

Capt AM Hay

Sir Peter Hutchison Bt

Maj RH Lorimer

Lt Col GRK Lyon OBE

Maj BA McSwiney

Dr JT Mainwaring

Brig JB Palmer

Col NDA Seymour

Rev AJ Totten MBE CF

Capt HN Whitfield

Maj MS Whitfield

Honorary Members

SC Wood Esq

WMC Grant Esq

Mr B Martin

Life Member

Maj JL James

Smart A

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

Rose P

Rowberry TDE

Russell AL

Sharp SG

In Pensioners at The Royal Hospital Chelsea

W Cross (Royal Scots Greys)

JH McLelland (Greys and SCOTS DG)

GW Phillips (Royal Scots Greys)

P Stevenson (Greys and SCOTS DG)

ALLIED AND AFFILIATED



Lothian and Borders Police

by Brian Muir



It all started for me in early 1994. I was, at that time, a Sergeant in Lothian and Borders Police and was working within our Headquarters in Edinburgh in the role of Staff Officer. I was summoned to the office of one of our Assistant Chief Constables, Tom Wood, and he asked of me "What do you know about The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards"? I replied that I was aware that it was a famous regiment, formerly known as The Scots Greys and that one of my great uncles had served in it during World War II. He then said "Well, you had better brush up on your knowledge. They are organising a series of events in Scotland later this year and I have been asked to coordinate the Scottish Police Service's involvement and, in the greatest tradition of the Service, you, as my staff officer, will be doing all the 'donkey work'. We have a meeting next week with three officers to make some preliminary arrangements."



By land...

So began my (and my Force's) association with the Regiment. The three officers concerned were Hugh Blackman, Ian Fleming and Bas Nicholl and the event was, of course, 'Scotland 94 – Coming Home'. There then followed numerous meetings, discussions and negotiations at a wide range of locations including Police Headquarters, Army Headquarters (Scotland), Edinburgh Castle and The House of Binns which culminated in a number of activities

in August to October of that year. Everything went well. 'Coming Home' was seen as a great success and my Force had been able to assist the Regiment with a wide range of tasks and issues. As a result, the SCOTS DG kindly suggested that perhaps Lothian and Borders Police would like to become an 'affiliated' organisation. We gladly accepted the invitation and approval was thereafter sought and

...and by sea



120 EAGLE AND CARBINE

obtained from Her Royal Highness The Queen. It was decided that the official link at Force level would be our Deputy Chief Constable but that day-to-day contact would be carried out by me. In order to facilitate this, I was afforded 'honorary officer' status and I am well aware that this places me in a very select 'club'. I also agreed that I would supply an annual article to the Eagle and Carbine and have done so ever since.

I retired from the Police in May 2010 in the rank of Superintendent. A new liaison officer is therefore required and I have identified an excellent replacement in the form of Inspector John Cooper of whom, more, later. Throughout my 31 years in the Service I had many enjoyable experiences but few, if any, can compare with the times spent with the Regiment. I was acutely aware that I was part of a unique relationship and treasured each opportunity to assist in any way that I could. Over the years I have had some fantastic times with the Regiment. I have visited Catterick and Fallingbommel on several occasions, participated in Waterloo Weekends, Cavalry Memorial Parades, Regimental Dinners and many other events, too numerous to mention. I have organised training inputs, exchanges of personnel, joint mounted patrols and facilities at the Police College at Tulliallan. Of equal importance, however, are the friends that I made along the way. There are many, all of whom, without fail, showed me the kindness and respect for which the Regiment is noted. It would be impossible to list everyone in this article but I have particularly fond memories of time spent with Hugh Blackman, David Allfrey, Norrie Robertson, Nick Burnet, Roger Binks, John Campbell and Jimmy James.

In order to provide a flavour of the affiliation, here are some of my favourite memories:

1994 – At an evening out with some police colleagues and the aforementioned Messrs Blackman, Fleming and Nicholl we managed to set our restaurant table alight by means of a spilled sambuca. Great panic ensued amongst this group of hardened professionals before the blaze was extinguished by a passing waiter merely blowing on it.

1994 – Balaclava Night, Catterick. I was deeply honoured to be asked to participate in this event and readily accepted the invitation to drive a Chieftain tank around the ranges beforehand. Unfortunately, I managed to fracture one of my fingers whilst applying the handbrake! A great night ensued, however and I was surprised and delighted to receive a painting of the 'Charge of the Heavy Brigade' from the Regiment, suitably inscribed, which still has pride of place in my sitting room. Unfortunately, I had not been sufficiently briefed in the various Officers' Mess traditions and I

think that that I broke every rule in the book. I believe that I greatly inflated Ian Fleming's mess bill with all the 'fines' of bottles of Pol Roger I received!

1997 – My first Regimental Dinner, at Edinburgh Castle. A grand occasion but I made the mistake of allowing myself to be dragged through the fleshpots of Edinburgh's Grassmarket area afterwards by some of the Regiment's young Turks. I made my escape from this happy band when it quickly became apparent that I was not as young as I thought I was.

1999 – My family and I spent a week with Norrie Robertson and his wife, Anne, at their home in West Lulworth. Norrie was working within the Gunnery School at Bovington at that time and we all had great fun clambering about on tanks and trying our hands at the simulators. They are not as easy to operate as they initially appear and cries of "I can't get the damned chopper" from my good lady caused much merriment all round.

1999 – Following the Remembrance Day Parade in Edinburgh, a number of us attended the Ex-Serviceman's Club in Leith. Six of us then attempted to make our way to the New Club in Princes Street for lunch in a vehicle owned by John Campbell which was patently not designed for that number of, how can I put it, well-fed gentlemen. As a result, I enjoyed the singular honour of making the journey with Colonel Aidan Sprot perched on my knees in the front of the car! I will never forget my close encounter with this legendary Regimental figure.

2000 – I arranged a joint 'Beating the Retreat' on the playing fields of Force HQ that year at which the Regimental Pipes and Drums and our own Pipe Band played together, to an audience of Regimental Officers and Force personnel, with a beautifully setting sun as a backdrop. Impressive and humorous speeches were thereafter delivered by then Deputy Chief Constable Tom Wood and the Commanding Officer of the SCOTS DG, David Allfrey. Towards the end of the evening Tom suddenly retook the stage and regaled the audience with a tale of how, as a young Police Sergeant, he had been present on Princes Street in 1978 during the Regiment's Tercentenary Parade. He had witnessed one of the tanks 'lopping off' the head of a set of traffic lights near to the Scots Greys Memorial and he had the presence of mind to snatch up the offending object and place it into the boot of his car. It was therefore his pleasure to now present the very same traffic lights to the Regiment as a reminder of that famous occasion. The room erupted with laughter and even David Allfrey was speechless for a short time, before accepting the gift with great grace. The traffic light event described definitely happened, but were those the original lights involved? My lips are sealed.



Eagle and Carbine 1999 – Lothian and Borders Police Pipe Band members

2004 – This year saw the retirement of Deputy Chief Constable Tom Wood, a consistent and loyal supporter of our affiliation. It also marked the completion of Hugh Blackman's spell as Commanding Officer of the Regiment. With great assistance from Roger Binks, I was able to arrange a dinner at Edinburgh Castle in June of that year at which a small number of colleagues from each of our organisations was present. Suitable gifts were exchanged and a great night was had by all.

2005 – I spent a tremendous week with the Regiment in Fallingbommel, staying in the Officers' Mess whilst there. I, and Force colleagues, were royally entertained and a particular highlight for me was the opportunity to get into a CHALLENGER 2 tank and fire its weapons on the range. My shooting abilities were no threat to any of the Regiment's gunners but I thoroughly enjoyed blasting away at everything in my path! A further highlight, although of a very different nature, was an affiliated members' trip to Hamburg and the infamous Reeperbahn. Uninterested in some of the more dubious attractions on offer, I confined myself to drinking copious amounts of beer, followed by Schnapps chasers. This seemed like a great idea until the following morning. Never again!

2006 – Her Majesty the Queen opened the Regiment's new museum in Edinburgh Castle and I was in charge of the policing of the event. We arranged for two police horses to be positioned outside the museum throughout, with a police officer in dress uniform on one of the horses and a member of the Regiment on the other, a grey. It was particularly pleasing, therefore, when Her Majesty showed great interest in them and spent a considerable time talking to the personnel concerned. I had been invited to the Regimental Lunch which was held immediately afterwards in the Prestonfield House Hotel. Unfortunately, due to my operational commitments, I was forced to dive headlong, in full uniform,



Eagle and Carbine 2000 – The Muir family on a Challenger 2 at Bovington

into the final car in a convoy of official vehicles making their way to the hotel. After a quick change into mess kit, I thoroughly enjoyed the lunch, the highlight of which was an introduction to Her Majesty.

2009 – This was a tremendously important year for the Regiment and I was honoured to be able to play some small part in it. The Royal Visit to Redford Barracks in June was, perhaps, the highlight and I was fortunate to be asked to perform the role of Police Commander of the event. I am pleased to say that, from a security perspective, no incidents of note occurred and the occasion was viewed as a great success.

2009 – I have always sought to foster as much contact between our respective organisations as possible and I was therefore delighted to be able to organise a 'familiarisation day' in the July. This consisted of meetings between senior personnel and inputs on policing in general and the Force in particular, to junior officers from the Regiment and it culminated in the officers visiting Police Stations in two of Edinburgh's most demanding areas. I received very positive feedback and this was a nice counterpoint to the various social functions I, and my wife, were invited to at this time.

So, there you have it, a potted history of my time working with the Regiment. The highlights above do not come close to covering all of the events I have participated in and the people I have met. It is no coincidence that most of the highlights are of a humorous nature. Whilst I participated in many serious and important events it tends to be the funny side of life that one remembers and I make no apologies for that. Out of all the things I am going to miss in retirement, the Regimental liaison role is top of the list. I performed that unique function for 16 years, made many friends and had experiences which no-one else in the Scottish Police Service has had. I am extremely

122 EAGLE AND CARBINE

honoured and privileged to have done so and I will, of course, remain in the Regimental Association and continue to assist the Regiment in any way possible.

Time marches on, however, and I would therefore like to introduce you to two new Force 'faces': Deputy Chief Constable Steve Allen and Inspector John Cooper. I present a brief résumé on each of these individuals below and I am confident that they will ensure that the unique affiliation which exists between our respective organisations is nurtured and enhanced as we move forward together.

Deputy Chief Constable Steve Allen – From 1985, Steve served with the Avon and Somerset Constabulary in a variety of operational posts. In 1998/99 he attended and graduated from the Joint Services Command and Staff College, where he studied with officers from the three armed services of the United Kingdom and many other countries. Steve then became Divisional Commander for the city of Bath and North East Somerset. He joined the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in 2003 and took command of the MPS Diversity Directorate. As MPS lead for Family Liaison he managed the response to families affected by the tsunami in 2005 and again, in the immediate aftermath, to the families affected by the London bombings of July, 2005.

In 2006 Steve was given the task of creating the MPS Violent Crime Directorate. This gave him responsibility for a range of public protection and volume violent crime performance across London. Between April 2007 and January 2009 he was the Commander of the City of Westminster, responsible for policing the heart of the capital city, leading a team of over 2,000 police officers and staff. Steve was then posted to the Human Resources Directorate where he was the MPS Director of Training and Development. From 2006 until he took

up his new post, he held the national lead for Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage.

Steve was appointed Deputy Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police in January, 2010. He has responsibility for Corporate Communications and Complaints and Conduct, as well as deputising for the Chief Constable. I have briefed him on our affiliation and the shared history of our organisations and he has expressed strong support for the maintenance and development of our relationship.

Inspector John Cooper – John was born and brought up in Zambia, where his father was in the Colonial and, latterly, the Zambian Police. He left Zambia in 1980 and was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh. In 1987 John joined the Royal Marines and on passing out was awarded the King's Badge. He was based with 45 Commando in Arbroath and served operationally in Norway, Northern Ireland, Iraq and Kurdistan during Operation HAVEN.

In 1993 John joined Lothian and Borders Police. He carried out a number of operational roles before qualifying as a Firearms Instructor and joining the Firearms Support Unit at Force Headquarters in 1997. Four years later he was promoted to Sergeant and posted to Drylaw Police Station in the north of Edinburgh. He carried out a number of roles before returning to Firearms Operations, where he was involved in the establishment of the Force's Armed Response Unit.

John was promoted to Inspector in 2008 and is currently based at South Queensferry Police Station. He also carries out duties as a Firearms Tactics Adviser, Authorised Firearms Officer and Close Protection Officer. John is extremely fit. He was a member of an expedition that climbed Mount McKinley in Alaska and,



Eagle and Carbine 2001 – Captain Davies, Inspector Muir and Sir Ian Bosville Macdonald of Sleat



Eagle and Carbine 2004 – Deputy Chief Constable Tom Wood and Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Blackman



Eagle and Carbine 2005 – The gunner must have some fun with all this gadgetry

in 2009, he successfully completed 'The Marathon des Sables' in Morocco, fundraising for Cancer Research.

I have known, and worked with, John for many years. He is one of the most dedicated, professional police officers I have ever come across and his standing within the Force is second to none. I am certain that, given his military background and his pride in the Force and its association with the Regiment, he will play an active part in the development of our unique relationship in the years to come. I wish him every success in the role and am extremely grateful that he has taken it on in his usual enthusiastic manner. The affiliation is, I believe, in good hands!

So ends my final article for the Eagle and Carbine as liaison officer, although I will, of course, be available to assist John with future submissions if that is found to be helpful. Although my official responsibilities have



Eagle and Carbine 2006 – Constable Jackie Jack with Corporal Harnetty on Merlin and Sergeant Alison Humphrey on Viscount

now ended, I fully intend to maintain my contacts with the Regiment and to continue to participate in as many Regimental events as possible. I may have now retired from the Police but I do have another job, Safety and Operations Manager at Hampden Park in Glasgow, Scotland's National Stadium. Should any member of the Regiment find themselves in the vicinity please do not hesitate to drop in and see me and I will show them around the facility.

I am sure that The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards will continue to go from strength to strength and will secure many more honours as Scotland's Cavalry Regiment. I am deeply honoured that I, and my former Force, have been allowed to make a contribution to your continued success. We look forward to playing our full part as we go forward together.



Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band

Service charities are very much in demand at this time due to the war in Afghanistan, with the charity 'Help for Heroes' featuring heavily in the media. On 26th January 2010, the Cavalry Fanfare Team travelled to Alnwick Gardens for the opening ceremony of the Heroes Past and Present Festival in aid of SSAFA. The fanfare team announced the arrival of the Duchess of Northumberland, who organised the festival as she arrived at the gardens for lunch with the organising committee and various Armed Forces personnel. The festival took place in the summer in Newcastle from 13th to 18th July 2010 with the official opening at Newcastle Cathedral and followed with a Gala concert at the Sage in Gateshead.

In May the Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band travelled to London for the 86th annual Combined Cavalry Memorial Parade in Hyde Park. There were four other bands performing alongside us: The Life Guards Band, The Band of the Blues and Royals, the Light Cavalry Band and the Royal Yeomanry Band. The saluting officer on this occasion was HRH The Prince of Wales. The Prince, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Dragoon Guards, placed a wreath at the memorial during the Service of Remembrance in honour of all Cavalry regiments. Following this service, the massed bands performed 'Spirit of Pageantry' before reforming ready to march to Hyde Park Barracks where the parade would finish. En route, the massed band performed

124 EAGLE AND CARBINE

'Abide with Me' accompanied by the State Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry. This was in memory of the victims of the Hyde Park bombings in 1982, where four soldiers and seven horses of the Blues and Royals were killed, as well as the victims of a bomb detonation in Regent's Park the same day killing seven musicians from the Royal Green Jackets Band.

More recently, times have been filled with great change for The Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band. The Director of Music, Captain Stewart Halliday, left the band on posting to the Falkland Islands, and Bandmaster WO1 Ian Mitchell, retired on completion of his Regular Army Service. In place as the new Director of Music we are fortunate to receive Captain Sean Riley on posting from The Band of the Prince of Wales's Division.

Earlier in the year, the female members of the band took part in the 2010 Tesco Race for Life event which raises money for Cancer Research UK. All of the girls were excited at this prospect including the band's civilian administration officer Ms Dee Lewin-Jones. On Sunday 4th July at 1100 hrs, they embarked on the five kilometres run around Durham City. The girls raised over £400 and although a little tired, they all felt a sense of achievement at having participated.

After a well deserved summer leave in early August, the band returned to work in preparation for a short five-week tour of Canada in support of the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS). The first three weeks

were spent supporting the British Forces in Canada performing displays and concerts in BATUS including one at the local school. The band also performed in a number of British Legions in the local towns surrounding the area of Medicine Hat. The highlight of the tour culminated in a week in Spruce Meadows, where the band performed throughout the Masters International Horse Show Jumping Championships. The event demonstrated our marching and static abilities and closed with a performance of Sibelius' Finlandia, synchronised with a huge fireworks display. The final week of the tour gave the band a chance to participate in adventurous training where everyone was split into different groups, each undertaking various challenges from hill trekking and mountain biking to white water rafting and canoeing. This was a great experience for everyone involved.

On Saturday 2nd October 2010, the band travelled to Bridlington Spa to take part in the Royal British Legion's Weekend Rally. The concert was filled with the ever-popular Last Night of the Proms music from Henry Wood's Fantasia on British Sea Songs to Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 by Elgar, as well as a more sombre and moving rendition of Hymn to the Fallen, from the film Saving Private Ryan in honour of our fallen.

November is a notoriously busy time for Military bands and the Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band is no exception. Firstly, we performed at the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance at The Theatre Royal in York. The band takes part in this event every



The Band at Cavalry Memorial Sunday



The Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band performing at the Sage in Gateshead

year, and the performance is recorded and played via hospital radio around the area of York on Remembrance Day. Secondly, on Remembrance Sunday itself, the band paraded in York's Memorial Gardens. Veterans, local dignitaries including The Lord Mayor of York, Councillor Sue Galloway, and senior military personnel all surrounded the memorial for the ceremony and wreath laying. The final engagement in the act of remembrance was to participate in the Royal Tank Regiment's Cambrai Day, which takes place every year at the cenotaph a week after remembrance Sunday.

On the 6th December 2010, the band performed alongside Russell Watson and Hayley Westenra at York Minster. On this solemn occasion, we provided music for a thanksgiving service for the safe return from Afghanistan of the 4th Mechanized Brigade and Task Force Helmand. HRH The Prince of Wales attended along with representatives from those units under command of 4th Mechanized Brigade whilst in Afghanistan and those who supported the Brigade from the UK, Germany and Brunei. The following day, the band performed a Christmas Concert at the Catterick Garrison Memorial Church. Admission was free and

included mince pies and mulled wine, which were served at the half time interval.

During the year, The Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band offers a number of One Day Personal Development Music workshops. Located at the band complex at Piave Lines, the Band offer activities aimed at musicians who are in their GCSE year or older and who are Grade Five Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) standard or equivalent. These workshops are designed to give musicians an insight into the daily activities of a military musician. Workshops can accommodate a maximum of 30 students and are aimed at improving a musician's theory and practical skills. This also gives the student the opportunity to experience working within a team. Activities during the workshop give students the opportunity to experience Concert Wind Band Rehearsals and Performance, Marching Band and Ensemble Work. At the end of the workshop there is a presentation on the career opportunities within the Corps of Army Music.



West Lowland Battalion Army Cadet Force

Commandant: Col K J Connor TD
 Deputy North: Lt Col P O'Meara
 Deputy South: Lt Col D J Taplin
 CEO: Major I S Mackenzie
 RSM: RSMI B Burns

The West Lowland Battalion Army Cadet Force covers a huge area in southwest Scotland including Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Dumfries and Galloway. It has no fewer than thirty-four detachments with two affiliated to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. Both detachments are located in our C Company area in North Ayrshire, one in Saltcoats and the other in Dalry, although the Dalry Detachment temporarily located in Beith during the redevelopment of their Cadet Hall.

Whilst the Battalion is in a healthy position with the numbers of cadets, (534 males and 218 females) we are under-strength in our Officer and Adult Instructor establishment. We have a very committed group of adult volunteers who always rise to the challenge to ensure only the best for our army cadets, and the Battalion at present has vacancies for 20 Officers and 18 Senior Non-Commissioned Officers. If you have some free time, are leaving the services or are simply missing the green kit then please get in touch.

Cadet150

The Commandant, Colonel Kevin Connor, stated that during 2010, the Cadet150 year, First Aid was to be a priority and that it was paramount the Cadet Force should be seen in their local community. In true military fashion, the Nursing Officer, Captain Sam

Bunyan answered: "Yes, sir". But how was she to implement this directive?

To overcome the First Aid training request, she decided to bring in a group of adults from throughout the area to complete the First Aid at Work qualification. Twelve adults completed the first course with more passing in June and more still in October. They can now deliver training, up to certificated level, for the 700 plus cadets in the battalion area. The Army Cadet Force has around 140 qualified instructors in the area available to pass on their skills to community classes in basic life support.

Heartstart Ayrshire and Arran trained around twenty Army Cadet Force instructors to teach basic first aid techniques to community groups and schools. With Army Cadet Force Instructors already competent at teaching, the Heartstart Instructors Course only took around four hours. Over the next few months Army Cadet Force personnel continued to run two-hour basic life support classes in local communities and schools.

Brenda Gemmill, the Heartstart Training Officer for Ayrshire and Arran said: "Heartstart is co-ordinated by the British Heart Foundation and is a registered charity. We are lucky in this area as Ayrshire and Arran Health Board contract us to deliver to the public training to do simple skills that saves lives. With the Army Cadet Force Instructors onboard we now hope to reach 50,000 people trained since we first started training in 1996."

Recruits Easter Cadre

The Easter Cadre introduces all young recruits to basic



Army Cadets in Belgium



Second to none. Layla Lee from Saltcoats, Top Cadet on the Recruit Cadre

military training ranging from marksmanship to first aid and field craft to the inevitable visits to the drill square. The Cadre gives the recruits a good grounding and certainly eases them quickly through their basic training. The real benefit, however, is for the young people. They learn how to be away from home where mum will not be around to clean up after them, that they can get out of bed at 6.30am, that they can iron their own clothes and polish their own boots and that they can generally take responsibility for themselves. They also make new friends that may last a lifetime, as the battalion recruits from Ayrshire and Renfrewshire as well as from Dumfries and Galloway.

On Easter Monday afternoon around 120 parents, brothers and sisters (with PGs (Proud Grandparents)) were invited to the Training Centre in Ayr for the passing out parade. The new members of the Army Cadet Force did themselves proud with a professional looking parade, after being presented with their certificates and their basic badge. One interesting development was that Best Cadet and the runner-up were both female recruits. To top that, one was Nicola Watson from Beith and the Best Cadet was Layla Lee from Saltcoats, the two Royal Scots Dragoon Guards detachments within our battalion.

Belgium 2010

Although it is over 90 years since the guns fell silent on Armistice Day in 1918, army cadets from the West Lowland Battalion Army Cadet Force still make an annual pilgrimage to the Ypres area of Belgium. The cadets travel from Hull to Zeebrugge on the overnight ferry before their five-day visit to the area. The trip was shortened this year owing to increased costs, as well as having to rely on volunteer adults to accompany cadets. They always visit Tyne Cot, the largest commonwealth

graveyard in the world which houses the graves of 11,954 servicemen.

The cadets visit Passchendale, Essex Farm, the Scottish War Memorial at Zonnebeke, Sanctuary Wood trenches and the German graveyard at Langemarck, with 44,234 graves of which 24,917 lie within a mass grave. Many people will remember going to a service at a War Memorial which makes you feel immensely proud. Can you imagine providing the Guard of Honour at a service at the Menin Gates? Our visiting cadets march on each year for the Sunday evening service. The service has been held each evening at 8pm since 11th November 1929, with the only exceptions the four years of German occupation during World War 2.

The Scottish Memorial at Frezenberg near Zonnebeke, is a huge Celtic Cross which was unveiled only a few years ago. The area around the memorial has now been landscaped, with numerous benches gifted by Mauchline Burns Club in Ayrshire.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*



Scottish War Memorial

128 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Annual Camp 2010

Annual Camp 2010 took place at Barry Buddon. Despite the odd moan from seasoned Officers and Adults, Barry Butlins proved a great camp for nearly 300 cadets and around 110 Officers and Adult Instructors. All the cadets conducted a two-day field craft package laid on at the iconic Lighthouse area on Buddon Ness. It made a change for cadets to put up their poncho in sand dunes rather than in woods with trees and branches for their bungees and string. A three-day expedition package was laid on at Tarfside in Glen Esk in some beautiful walking country and many cadets used the time to qualify for their bronze or silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition.

All junior cadets shot on an air rifle range or on the indoor range locally whilst the senior cadets travelled up to use the Barrack Range at Royal Marines Condor near Arbroath. Only the March and Shoot teams and our Bisley shots used Barry Buddon Ranges. For the challenging pursuit package, Monikie Park a few miles north was used for canoeing and kayaking. It also has a high-wire course which tested many cadets to the limit. In the barracks area we used the assault course, our own inflatable obstacle course, our mobile climbing wall and a couple of archery ranges. In the inter-company competition, the Lucas Tooth Trophy based on numerous military skills, C Company from Northern and Eastern Ayrshire came away winners. 2010 was probably the best-contested competition for many years, decided on the final training day at Annual Camp.

Sergeant Major 'Inch' Quinn

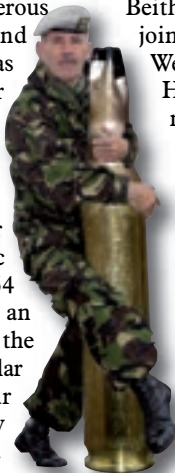
He has been nicknamed 'inch' as long as our memories serve although, as we are now a metric country, perhaps he should now be known as 2.54 centimetres. Sergeant Major Derek Quinn is an instructor at our Saltcoats detachment, badged to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, but he did his regular service in the Royal Highland Fusiliers. Our thanks go to Major Alasdair Bunyan, C Company Commander, for his time spent with photoshop.



Canoeists at Monikie Park

Cadets are rewarded for Charity Work

Beith Royal Scots Dragoon Guard Cadet Detachment joined forces with other detachments in C Company, West Lowland Battalion Army Cadet Force, to aid Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion raise money for various charities. They engaged in events such as a supermarket collection in Beith as well as street collections. The favourite event proved the sponsored go-karting held in Stevenson, a monthly event due to continue until spring 2011, where each cadet must raise at least £25 sponsorship to gain entry into the tournament. The money raised to date for the various charities is now in excess of £20,000 and the total is still growing.



C Company, Lucas Tooth winners 2010

C (Fife and Forfar Yeomanry / Scottish Horse) Squadron, Queen's Own Yeomanry

C (FFY/SH) Squadron QOY made a positive start to 2010 despite the uncertainties facing the Territorial Army which marked the latter stages of 2009. Parade attendance remained high as we looked forward to a busy and varied year's training. 2010 would see members of the Squadron take part in activities including training in the UK, operations in Afghanistan and trekking in the Himalayas.

Over the course of the year, six members of the Squadron deployed on operations either as individual replacements or to work with the Royal Artillery on PROJECT CORTEZ as operators for base-located ISTAR systems. In November, the QOY was tasked to provide a minimum of 50 individuals for Operation HERRICK 15. To date 12 members of the squadron have volunteered to deploy with the QRH, QDG or with 3 SCOTS. This demand saw an instant change to the nature of our training programme as the focus switched to training specifically for current operations. As such, the tempo of life at C (FFY/SH) Squadron picked up greatly and everyone has enjoyed the corporate benefits resulting from this.

Prior to the demand to provide manpower for Operation HERRICK 15, the squadron had spent the year training in the core skills required for Formation Reconnaissance. A courses camp was held in April allowing a large number of the Squadron to attain their required qualifications in Gunnery, Driving and Maintenance and Signals. C (FFY/SH) Squadron also supported Exercise SUMMER CHALLENGE, the residential seven week Territorial Army recruit training course, running a BOWMAN signals course for the Specific to Arms phase. We then joined the remainder of the QOY on regimental exercises in Galloway Forest in addition to having a strong presence at the regimental Annual Camp on Salisbury Plain. We would normally attend the regimental patrols competition, held on the Duke of Westminster's estate at Abbeystead, but this year the Squadron was granted dispensation to provide an Honour Guard for a wedding. Normal service will be resumed next year. The Squadron has also been busy beyond the formal bounds of the training programme. On numerous occasions squadron members have organised adventurous training activities ranging from hill walking in the Cairngorms to skiing at Glenshee. We sent a five-man team to take part in the annual Commando Speed March held at Spean Bridge near Fort William. The event is designed to commemorate the commandos of the Second World War in addition to



Messrs Foster and Murphy at Annapurna Base Camp in the Himalayas

raising money for the Commando Benevolent Fund and Airborne Charities. Through individual effort and by means of events such as a wine tasting we were able to raise enough money to support both these designated charities and the building of a new hospital in our home town of Cupar. We also provided assistance to Tayforth UOTC's Nordic skiing expedition to Sjusjøen in Norway in January and plans are a foot for a much larger scale expedition in January 2011. Two subalterns, Messrs Murphy and Foster, ventured a little further by taking part in a charity expedition to the Himalayas which raised over £50,000 for the charity Childreach International. We remain a well-recruited squadron and our presence at the Musselburgh Fair and Army in Scotland rugby matches helped greatly with our recruiting. Our links with our local UOTCs are developing well, with officers transferring to the Squadron from both Edinburgh and Tayforth UOTCs. In addition, three officer cadets have bought into the Territorial Army Sponsored Officer Scheme. Regular functions in both the Officers' and Senior Ranks' Mess and the Junior Ranks' Mess have done a great deal to assist retention in addition to developing a strong squadron ethos. 2010 looked favourably upon C (FFY/SH) Squadron QOY and we achieved a great deal to ensure that we are ready to respond to the challenges of 2011.



The Worshipful Company of Pewterers

The Worshipful Company of Pewterers is one of the oldest of the 108 livery companies in the City of London, ranked 16th in the order of civic precedence. We were granted our first charter by King Edward IV in 1473. This licensed us to regulate the pewter trade throughout England to ensure the quality of pewter was maintained. This is unlike the majority of other companies, whose jurisdiction was limited to the City and its environs. This enabled us to exert much greater control than other companies and to protect the business of the City master craftsmen.

For two centuries from 1474 pewter was unrivalled as a material for plates, dishes, drinking vessels and similar ware. From the 16th century a Freeman setting up as a master craftsman had to record his 'touch' or trade mark on large pewter sheets retained by the Company in the Hall. The early touch plates were lost in the Great Fire; the five that survive today record the marks of Master Pewterers from then until the beginning of the 19th century when the Company no longer exercised the power to enforce this regulation.

The prosperity of the trade reached its zenith in the late 17th century. It was also a time of great trial as we lost

our Hall and much of our wealth because of the Civil War, the Great Fire and subsequent political upheavals. During the 18th century the trade declined, partly due to the introduction of tea and partly due to the introduction of new materials as a result of the industrial revolution. By the late 18th century the number of those in the Company who actually followed the trade was small.

Today, we are still active in support of the pewter trade and host an annual design competition 'Pewter Live'. We have a strong charitable tradition and endow a research fellowship at the Institute of Neurology, provide educational bursaries and give grants to a wide range of charities. We also support the Lord Mayor and the City of London and currently have two elected members on the Court of Common Council, the main governing body of the City. This year, our Immediate Past Master, Nicholas Bonham, whom some of you may have met when he visited the Regiment, is running for election as one of the two Sheriffs of London. Finally, we encourage fellowship among our members and hold a range of events, mainly in Pewterers' Hall. These include a number of dinners, one of which is in honour of the Lord Mayor each year.



The current Master, Professor John Donaldson (second from right), on civic duties

Pewterer's Hall is our home. The first Hall, completed in 1496, was destroyed in the Great Fire. The second Hall, on the same site in Lime Street, was demolished in 1932, although we still own the site. The present Hall in Oat Lane, near St Paul's Cathedral was opened in 1961.

The Company's military connections date from mediæval times, when it was required to equip and contribute armed men, both from within the Company and mercenaries, for the defence of the City and if necessary further afield. Indeed, in 1554 a member of the Company, the first Lord Howard of Effingham, commanded the defence of the City of London against the rebellion of Sir Thomas Wyatt. He succeeded in preventing Wyatt's force from entering the City at Ludgate, which effectively ended the rebellion. The Pewterers contributed twenty armed men to his force and our current military affiliations are an extension of this age-old practice. We greatly value our affiliation to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the whole Company wishes God speed and a safe return to those of you deploying to Afghanistan.



Pewterer's Hall

12th/16th Hunter River Lancers

Commanding Officer:
Regimental Sergeant Major:
Regimental Motto:

Lieutenant Colonel R.V. Cox
Warrant Officer Class One L.J. Stein
Virtutis Fortuna Comes (Fortune is the Companion of Valour)

In early 2010, the enduring primary output required of 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers (12/16 HRL) was identified as Protected Mobility. This was demonstrated when a directed task from Forces Command ordered 12/16 HRL to deliver a squadron level Protected Mobility capability. Working to achieve this task has been a challenge due to a shortage of Protected Mobility Vehicles (PMVs) but we have pursued every possible opportunity to source vehicles for Collective Training. Indeed 2010 culminated in a combined driver's course and troop-level Collective Training, at Puckapunyal in November, using vehicles from the Motorised Combat Wing (MCW). Happily, with a change in the training continuum in training year 2009/2010 the Regiment has seen an increase in attendance by 25 percent.

Unfortunately in 2010 we have not had the continued opportunity to detach crews to fill vacancies at B

Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment. Nor, due to a lack of PMV, have our support tasks to the School of Infantry, Special Forces Training Centre promotion courses and the Royal Military College been the usual



A BUSHMASTER PMV negotiates demanding terrain at Puckapunyal in Northern Victoria, home of the Australian Army School of Armour

132 EAGLE AND CARBINE

fixtures in our program to which we had become accustomed. 12/16 HRL has, however, continued in the provision of support to the Motorised Combat Wing and a variety of PMV qualification courses throughout the year, including qualifying 7 Brigade personnel on a course run early in the year.

We also still have a number of members of the Regiment deployed across the full spectrum of current operations. These deployments includes Operations ANODE (Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands) and RESOLUTE (protecting Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests) with multiple nominations remaining for Operation ASTUTE (the maintenance of peace and stability in East Timor). In total, the 12/16 HRL contribution to operations since 1999 now stands at 121 personnel.

With our soldiers' trade based on Cavalry Scout skills we continue to commit to Initial Employment Training (IET) and individual career courses. This year has seen the introduction of the Combined Arms Module to replace the Cavalry Scout Grade 1 course. Given that the Army's identified capability requirement is Protected Mobility, it is time to review the trade with a view to returning to one that is crewman based as opposed to vehicle focused. The Regiment has also been working with 1/15 Royal New South Wales Lancers (1/15 RNSWL) and 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse (4/19 PWLH) to expand the Protected

Mobility capability across the 2nd Division Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) units.

The Reserve Response Force (RRF), to provide a short-notice response to domestic security and terrorist incidents, continues to be a priority for 12/16 HRL and members of the Regiment have successfully participated in Individual and Collective Training as part of the 8 Brigade RRF.

Our focus for 2011 will be the further development of the Protected Mobility capability. To achieve our directed task this will have to include squadron level Collective Training. With a shortage of vehicles and other limited resources this will be a challenge but given the support we enjoy from higher headquarters it can be achieved. Whilst this year has had its frustrations, the unit members have responded positively which bodes well for next year when we look forward to developing our capability in conjunction with the other 2nd Division RAAC units.

The 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers very much appreciate their links to the British Army and particularly to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, and send continued support and best wishes to the Regiment on the eve of another operational deployment.

Corporals' and Sergeants' Mess Mixed Formal Dinner on 16 Oct 10. This dinner formed part of a JNCO Training Weekend at Beersheba Barracks.



HMS Vengeance

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 three deterrent patrols, conducted 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 ordinarily has two separate crews, Port and Starboard, however in early 2011 she will be changing to a single crew called 'Gold' Crew. This is in preparation for the Long Overhaul Period she will begin in Plymouth in early 2012. In total Vengeance has spent nearly seven months at sea during 2010 on deterrent patrol.

Despite this busy year, Vengeance continued with an extremely successful Personal Development programme that saw members of her ship's company take part in the Royal Navy Ski Championships in January as well as a host of charitable fundraising events throughout the year. Of particular note were the Three Peaks Challenge and a long distance cycling event, both of which raised significant funds for Help the Heroes and various other charities with which Vengeance has close ties.

Vengeance was the duty submarine for the Christmas patrol in 2010 and her Starboard Crew spent the festive period beneath the waves whilst the Port Crew underwent the various manning changes required to deliver the Gold Crew on her return. These changes included a new Commanding Officer, Commander Paul Blythe, and a new Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander John Gray.

Despite the rigours of 2010, Vengeance is looking forward to a busy 2011 with another deterrent patrol to complete once her ship's company is fully accredited. On completion of this patrol in early 2011, she will visit the United States as part of the UK's close partnership with the American military before she is sent down to Plymouth for a lengthy bout of maintenance.

HMS Vengeance remains extremely proud of her history, as well as her long-standing affiliation with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. It is said that the quality of a man can best be judged by the quality of his friends and we would like to think that the same could be said of our close affiliation with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

HMS VENGEANCE sails from HM Naval Base Clyde with the Arrochar Hills in the background



MAGAZINE SECTION

Crew Training School

By WO2 Df Black

As summer leave approached, the Regiment was tasked by 7th Armoured Brigade to set up the Crew Training School (CTS) at the Sennelager Training Centre. Recces were conducted to the UK to glean as much information and experience from 2RTR who ran a CTS on behalf of 16 Air Assault Brigade. After summer leave, a large contingent of HQ Squadron packed their bags and headed off to Sennelager and the luxury of Theatre Barracks which was to be our new home for the next four months. Also joining us at CTS would be over sixty Driving and Maintenance Instructors (DMIs) and 26 Tactical Vehicle Crew Commander Instructors (TVCCI) trawled from across the units of 7th Armoured Brigade. Although much planning and preparation had already gone into setting up the CTS, the enormity of what we were about to embark upon was rapidly becoming apparent.

The CTS is a relatively new concept that aims to train all the vehicle crews from brigades preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. This gives crews their first opportunity to train together having completed their individual training at the Defence School of Transport (DST) in Leconfield. The courses were generally five days in duration and designed to train crews in tactical movement. They also allowed vehicle gunners to transition from firing weapons on the ground to firing from a protected weapons station on a vehicle. Working and living on an armoured vehicle is something that Royal Armoured Corps soldiers learn from an early stage, however this is not necessarily the case for other arms. For this reason the set up and running of

the CTS fell to the Regiment. In early July, HQ Squadron Leader, Major Stewart, and his 2IC, Captain Potter, spent many late nights in the office planning the CTS down to the last detail. All areas had to be meticulously planned, from required staffing levels to how many vehicles would be needed to train over 3,500 personnel, and which training areas would be available to us. Statements of Requirement were produced and sent to 7th Armoured to Brigade for further action. Slowly, and after much work and negotiation, things gradually started to take shape and in September over 150 Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) vehicles arrived from the UK along with the 140 staff required to support the CTS.

As with any new undertaking, the initial weeks were fairly hectic. The CTS SQMS (Staff Sergeant Fraser) and his staff set about the task of making the accommodation habitable. This was no mean feat, as anyone who has ever stayed in Theatre Barracks will readily testify. Under the direction of Sergeants Starr and Stewart, the DMIs and CTS LAD began checking the training fleet of 150 vehicles to ensure they were serviceable and ready to deliver the training requirements. As if by good fortune, Sennelager Training Centre was able to provide HQ CTS with a building the Engineers' Training and Advisory Team (ETAT) had vacated and which would prove to be invaluable. The building had all the necessary office and classroom space and was fully equipped with a computer network system which made life a little easier. After a great deal of hard work and long hours, with everyone looking a little bit older and greyer for



CGS test drives a JACKAL



MASTIFF



the experience, on the 6th of September 2010 the CTS finally opened for business and training commenced.

The first courses were intentionally run at less than capacity to allow the DMIs time to settle in although this did not last long as word spread quickly that we were open for business. CTS Chief Instructor, Captain Hanson, and his assistant Staff Sergeant Westwick, soon had their work cut out as more and more students flooded through the gates, frequently unannounced. Captain Hanson often had to guess how many students were likely to turn up on a Sunday evening so that he could allocate resources and instructors. Although all the course prerequisites had been sent to units, this did not stop students turning up without driving licences, driving permits or any of the other required paperwork. Before long these individuals were affectionately known as 'basket cases' and were the first order of business each Monday morning.

Once the CTS was running to full capacity it saw a throughput of up to 300 students a week from both 3 Commando and 7th Armoured Brigades. This meant that, including support staff, the CTS had a total strength of around 500, two thirds of whom changed on a weekly basis. This was not without its challenges for the support staff under CTS SSM, WO2 Black. The Provost Staff, under Corporal Ketedromo, was often

*CTS SSM, WO2 Black
with his charges*

required to ensure students were conducting themselves appropriately and not letting down the Regiment's good name. Unfortunately the bulk of the CTS vehicles were parked directly opposite the 20th Armoured Brigade parade square, thus no misdemeanour went unnoticed, and WO2 Black occasionally had an interview (without coffee or biscuits) with the Sennelager RSM.

An occupational hazard of running a new and high profile organisation is that everyone wants to come and visit. Captain Fyvie, soon had this completely under control as visitors flocked to the CTS. Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Peter Wall, accompanied by a host of high-ranking officers, visited us in the Autumn and the visit programme had to be planned down to the last detail. Happily everything went according to plan and CGS left with a huge smile on his face after we let him loose on a JACKAL for fifteen minutes. Although Captain Fyvie had about two visits a week to contend with, he also landed the unenviable task of closing down all the course paperwork at the end



Quad bikes



The Commanding Officer gives CGS a copy of Main Battle Tank

136 EAGLE AND CARBINE

of each week which meant working late on Friday evenings once everyone else had finished. To his credit he persevered with a smile on his face and ensured all the courses were closed down meticulously.

Within a few weeks of the CTS officially opening, we said farewell and good luck to Major Stewart who departed for BATUS to take up the role of BATUS Quartermaster (Technical). In his place, we welcomed the new Officer Commanding CTS, Major Cameron, who wasted no time getting stuck into the task at hand. He was soon part of the fixtures and fittings of the CTS, bringing his own unique style and sense of humour to the party.

Keeping 150 UOR vehicles on the road, when every student passing through CTS seemed determined to break them, was no mean feat. The bulk of this work fell to the Training Support Officer, Captain Potter, and to the CTS ASM, WO1 Buck, who were ably supported by the Light Aid Detachment, servicing bay and

support staff. Captain Potter and his team worked tirelessly to ensure that all the vehicles were available for training when required. Captain Potter was often to be found hidden behind a sea of paperwork and pulling out what is left of his ever receding hairline.

Needless to say, all the hard work and determination eventually paid off and, before we knew it, it was time to handover to the Queens Royal Hussars, pack up and return to the relative sanity of Fallingbowl. Over the period that the CTS supported 3 Commando and 7th Armoured Brigades, it trained over 3,500 students, hosted countless visits and maintained a fleet of 150 complex UOR vehicles whilst still achieving an excellent grading on an Equipment Care Inspection (ECI). This could only be achieved with a great deal of dedication and hard work from all involved and is evidence that the Regiment remains truly Second to None.



Military Stabilisation Support Group

By WO2 MV Adams

When I was informed that I would not be deploying to BATUS as B Squadron SSM, I was a little disappointed. The transformation from 24-man Reconnaissance Troop to a full Medium Armour squadron of 71 fully trained personnel had required an enormous amount of hard work and training. So when the opportunity to deploy to Afghanistan with the Military Stabilisation Support Group (MSSG) came up, I readily accepted the challenge.

I joined the group on the 7th of June 2010. The main headquarters is at Minley Barracks in Camberley, however the training camp is an old Royal Engineers

establishment called Corunna Barracks in Ludgershall, near Tidworth in Wiltshire. As usual, I took far too much kit on the flight back to the UK and exceeded my baggage allowance by a full 30 kilograms. The group of volunteers, who made up the 38 members of the course, came from across the forces with the oldest member a WO2 Roberts (56 years young) who had served with SCOTS DG Battlegroup on Operation TELIC 7 in Al'Amarah.

The next 13 weeks' training comprised small arms ranges, Key Leader Engagement and shuras with real



WO2 Adams discussing crop rotation and new governmental initiatives with local farmers



Major Willett (OC MSST LKG) testing out a new motorcycle for his 'Long Way Round Afghanistan' trip

Afghans, learning about compensation claims, some basic Pashtu and a lot of physical training in the glorious English summer months. Then we conducted the ubiquitous week with OPTAG in Lydd although at least now we were allowed out in the evenings. We subsequently completed a week-long exercise on Salisbury Plain and this was the first opportunity we had to meet up with the infantry companies we would be working with. Comments like "Who's granddad?" or "Do you need a hand carrying some of that kit?" could be heard every now and then from the young soldiers, but that soon stopped when we proved we could easily keep up. The final week of the course was a live firing package in Thetford. Here we spent six days in a Forward Operating Base (FOB) honing our skills on a wide range of weapon systems, which was great fun but hard work at the same time.

Three weeks of pre-deployment leave in Germany followed during which time I managed to say my final farewells to close family and friends. The Regiment was away during this period, preparing for HERRICK 14, but I hope to catch up with most of my friends and colleagues during my R&R around the New Year.

We deployed to Camp Bastion on the 14th of September 2010. An intense but useful seven-day Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (RSOI) package ensured that the basics we learned in training were in line with current in-theatre practices and allowed us to acclimatise to the heat in the desert. This was the last time the whole group would be together as we were soon to split into smaller Military Stabilisation Support Teams (MSST). My job was to be 2IC of the Lashkar Gah MSST, which meant handling logistics for the rest of the team and also Battlegroup Headquarters. However, when we landed in the Main Operating Base (MOB) on the evening of 21st September, I learned I would be deploying to Check Point Attal, on Route 601 running from Lashkar Gah East towards Kabul.

When my handover was complete, I was eager to see the area so joined as many patrols as possible. With the battlegroups deploying only three weeks later, I wanted to glean as much information as possible about the stabilisation work required in this part of Helmand. The MSST role is to advise commanders as to the infrastructure required throughout the area of operations (AO), including support to areas such as education, health and irrigation. In the UK this task would fall to local councils but in Afghanistan there is no such thing at the moment. Our job therefore is to engage with local leaders and identify the needs of the population, helping to establish projects which will create infrastructure and develop local governance. Ultimately,

when ISAF forces leave Afghanistan, the Afghan government can continue this role and deny the insurgent influence over the civilian population.

Our AO is six kilometres from North to South, with Route 601 running through its heart, and 43 kilometres from West to East, making it the largest British AO in Helmand Province. It is a rural area with a population of around 17,000, the vast majority of whom are from a farming community. A member of the training staff described life in the majority of Helmand to me as 'biblical' and if some cars and a few tractors are added to the equation, then this description would be remarkably accurate. One thing I will say about these people, however, is that they are resilient. I came across an elder who was still working his fields and who claimed to be 70 years old. As the average life expectancy in Afghanistan is only 44 years, he may not have been quite as old as that but he certainly looked it.

Three months have now passed and I have been working closely with Officer Commanding Delta Company, 5 SCOTS (Major Wight-Boycott) and the Commander of the 2nd Kandak, Afghan National Police (Colonel Sattar). My first impression of the Afghan National Police (ANP) was that they were very lazy, unprofessional and corrupt and I am glad to say that I am being proved wrong every day. At the moment we are in the middle of the 'partnering phase' but in another six to eight months we should be able to do the same job with smaller numbers.

I am soon to move on from the 601 AO and revert back to my original task in Lashkar Gah. However there may be a new operation on the horizon for which we have been told to prepare. I would recommend working with the MSSG to anyone and would gladly serve on such a tour again. I have enjoyed my time working with Delta Company, and with the ANP, but mostly I have enjoyed working with the local nationals who have never failed to surprise me. It makes me proud that they will now have a better life because of what we have done. I look forward to returning to the Regiment in April 2011.



138 EAGLE AND CARBINE

A year with the Light Blue

By Captain PA Douglas

"In Las Vegas? On exercise? Four weeks. Living in a hotel?" This was the standard response from Army friends when finding out exactly how the Royal Air Force goes on exercise. My response on being told I would be on said exercise was simply: "When does the plane leave?" (Virgin Atlantic, not RAF) with memories of crew shelters on a snow covered Sennelager fading into the distance.

I'd been posted to No. 1 (Fighter) Squadron for what was to be a two year stint as their Ground Liaison Officer, responsible for liaison with supported ground forces, general Land education for the aircrew and the day-to-day co-ordination of Close Air Support Training. The Squadron formed part of Joint Force Harrier, based out of RAF Cottesmore, in Rutland. With the last Harriers having only returned from Afghanistan six months prior to my joining the Squadron, they were then busy re-familiarising themselves with their carrier and deep strike capabilities. Prior to its disbandment JFH was roughly equivalent to an Army brigade and consisted of two operational fast jet squadrons, commanded by wing commanders and an operational conversion and training squadron. In manpower terms it was a highly eclectic outfit, comprised mainly of Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, with a smattering of Royal Marines and US Air Force and US Marine Corps pilots on exchange. I had some 'green' moral support in the form of the Army SO2 Land in the Force headquarters and a further GLO with the second squadron.

Culturally the RAF and the Army stand some distance apart, with very different mindsets and differing styles of leadership. They find cavalry officers the most alien

of all Army species with Armoured Corps officers widely perceived as something akin to mythical creatures in funny uniforms. Everyone in the Army is equally familiar with the standard stereotype image of the RAF and in many ways this is quite accurate: tannoy systems in the Officers' Mess, fruit machines in the bar and uniforms more commonly sported by Tesco security guards. But as ever this is a broad brush approach and I was privileged to work with some extremely intelligent, operationally experienced and driven individuals. I'd some previous experience of working with the RAF having just finished tour as a Forward Air Controller with the Light Dragoons and had only just returned from Afghanistan with them, so had some idea of what to expect. I'd even worked with a number of the 1 (Fighter) Squadron pilots whilst there and it was good to put faces to what had previously been only voices on a radio. Within the RAF there are clear differences between those personnel on operationally focussed, front line, fast jet squadrons and some of the supporting elements. It is fair to say that the left and rights of arc, in terms of professional effectiveness, are greater in the RAF, but that's not to say



GR9 in Afghanistan



Show of Force during Exercise AURIGA


Ark Royal from a Lynx

GR9s on Ark Royal

they don't know their business. When it comes to Close Air Support or Kinetic Strike, there are few air forces as skilled as our own. The RAF also operates at a more strategic level than we are familiar with and as such its young officers tend to be more comfortable in this mindset than our own subalterns might be. On the whole the RAF has a better appreciation of Air-Land Integration than the Army does. The parochial Army view of the relationship between Land and Air is the RAF simply doing what the Army wants. In reality it's far more complex.

Joining the Squadron in late January, I deployed two weeks later with them on Exercise RED FLAG. This is a month long, US led, Coalition exercise run out of Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. It practices strategic and tactical level, air warfighting techniques, utilising the vast desert bombing ranges to the north of the city, with packets of up to sixty aircraft airborne at any one time. It was frankly humbling to see squadron after squadron of fast jets, bombers and electronic warfare platforms of all types parked on the edge of the taxi way. It was a scene more familiar to Hollywood and one that only the World's premier military power could produce. The exercise was also memorable for fulfilling every stereotype the Army has of how the RAF does deployments. Trying to explain to brother Regimental officers how I'd managed to find myself living in a hotel on the Vegas Strip for a month, deployed on an exercise that routinely stopped for the weekend took some doing.

Back in the UK, day to day life on the Squadron was a relatively relaxed affair. Whilst I ultimately worked to an Army SO1 in Air Command, I enjoyed an enviable amount of independence in my everyday work. Much of my time was spent in improving the aircrew's knowledge of ground operations and how the Field Army operates. Due to the nature of their training, the pilots

often have little knowledge of the military outside their own cockpit, with confusion about even the difference between a division and a troop. Some of this education was best achieved by way of organising visits to and from Army units, including from A Squadron and getting the pilots face time with troop leaders and NCOs. On the whole the pilots I worked with were an impressive bunch, bright, keen to learn and easy to get on with. The majority of pilots will live off-camp though enjoy a good shindig when the opportunity arises. There was a certain amount of shock and awe when they were first introduced to fireball hockey, but they quickly got into the spirit of it.

Midway through my posting I again deployed across the Atlantic, this time on Exercise AURIGA, operating from the carrier HMS Ark Royal as part of a joint US/UK amphibious exercise off the coast of South Carolina. We initially joined Ark Royal in Halifax, Canada for a royal review of the Canadian fleet by the Colonel in Chief, with a number of UK and US ships taking part, before cruising south. Prior to its decommissioning, Ark Royal was a Royal Navy flagship and the largest in the fleet, though still dwarfed by US helicopter assault ships. Simply finding one's way around the numerous decks and corridors was frankly baffling and required more than a basic knowledge of navigation. What was more baffling was the variety of nautical terms the pilots and one Army officer continually failed to grasp, much to the consternation of our dark blue friends. The Navy live in a very isolated world and whilst generous hosts, get very confused by the concept of chukka boots and riding crops on the high seas. It was the Squadron's first deployment on the carrier for some years and there were the expected number of hurdles to get over before dark and light blue operated effectively together again under the auspices of the Carrier Strike Group. As the carrier moved south into ever more hot and humid conditions,

140 EAGLE AND CARBINE

it was joined by elements of 3 Commando Brigade for the final phase of the exercise. Amphibious landings are probably the most complex of military operations to plan and execute and it was hugely rewarding to be involved in the process at first hand. Being a qualified Forward Air Controller, I was also of benefit to the Squadron in as I could act as an air weapons range safety officer afloat. I had never imagined, on leaving Sandhurst, that one day I would stand on the deck of an aircraft carrier controlling multiple aircraft dropping live bombs on a target floating in our wake.

In the autumn, thoughts across the Air Force inevitably began to turn towards SDSR, with the knowledge that a number of undisclosed fast jet squadrons were facing disbandment. Amongst the Harrier community there was a general sense that the axe would fall on the Tornado fleet and it wasn't until the weekend before the final announcement that many pilots came to fully appreciate that they could be out of a job in only a few days' time. The announcement had been planned for the afternoon, but in the wake of 'death by a thousand leaks', it was brought forward and a stunned Harrier Force began to come to terms with its future. It's difficult for Army personnel to understand the level of attachment of air force personnel to an aircraft they've spent five years learning to fly or countless hours servicing in austere conditions to ensure another successful

sortie. The Station wide wake which followed within hours of the announcement was testament to the depth of feeling for the loss of this iconic aircraft. It was established that the Harrier would continue flying until Christmas to meet its commitments to Land Pre-Deployment Training, with the aircraft taking its final bow in an impressive sixteen ship formation over southern England in mid-December.

Whilst my tour with the Harrier Force came to a premature end, it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. There remain a number of opportunities to work as a Ground Liaison Officer on Typhoon and Tornado squadrons, with the potential to exercise and deploy anywhere in the World. In my short tour alone, I've visited environments as diverse as the Falklands to Nova Scotia and the bright lights of Vegas to the Carolina swamps and the beaches of Florida. Army Manning is currently working hard to improve the quality of officers it puts into Air Land Integration roles, with ALI now being rightly recognised, along with ISTAR, as a major growth area in which we need to invest. Apart from being an extremely varied and enjoyable role, it is also hugely beneficial in terms of widening an officer's military education and the opportunity to view the Army from an external perspective is of great value.

WARTHOG

By Major JMW Williamson

On Operation HERRICK 14, D Squadron will form the 3 Commando Brigade WARTHOG Group, an independent squadron taking its orders directly from the Brigade's headquarters. Badger Squadron 2RTR, the current WARTHOG Group for 16 Air Assault Brigade on Operation HERRICK 13, successfully introduced the WARTHOG to replace their VIKING vehicles in

late 2010, but D Squadron SCOTS DG will be the first to use the WARTHOG for the full duration of their tour.

WARTHOG is an Urgent Operational Requirement vehicle procured by the MoD from Singapore Technologies Kinetics and is a modified and better-protected version of the Singaporean BRONCO. Powered

*Cross country driving training
in Castlemartin*





D Squadron wait for night firing

by a 7.2 litre Caterpillar engine, it is an highly agile articulated tracked vehicle which can wade through deep water, climb steep gradients and cross challenging terrain and obstacles. Weighing 20 tonnes and nearly nine metres long, it is fitted with extremely effective mine blast protection and Electronic Counter Measures (ECM). It also has a protected weapons mount fitted with either a 7.62mm General Purpose Machine Gun, a 0.5 Calibre Heavy Machine Gun or with a 40mm Grenade Machine Gun.

The WARTHOG vehicle has four variants: a Troop Carrying Vehicle (TCV), a Command Vehicle (CV), a

Repair and Recovery Vehicle (RRV) and a Battlefield Ambulance (BFA). Whilst the WARTHOG group's primary role is Mounted Close Combat and providing fire support to Dismounted Close Combat, the vehicle lends itself extremely well to a Protected Mobility role in tandem with infantry or other dismounted force elements. Each of the two 13-vehicle WARTHOG troops within D Squadron will also carry their own BARMA teams of SCOTS DG soldiers who dismount to clear areas where Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are suspected. Capable of operating in a range of environments including the Green Zone and desert areas of Afghanistan, WARTHOG has proven itself the most adaptable vehicle in the Task Force Helmand Order of Battle.



The D Squadron emblem for Operation HERRICK 14

D Squadron personnel first saw WARTHOG in October when the first vehicle operator and maintainer courses were convened in Bovington. The training, including preliminary driving tests for the officers who do not qualify for tracked vehicle licences on their Troop Leaders' courses, took one month and covered maintenance and fault finding and road and cross-country driving. Those who had worked previously on VIKING were struck by the similarities between the two vehicles although WARTHOG was a little slower and larger but certainly better armoured. The course concluded with a basic package of range firing before the Squadron next encountered their vehicles at the

142 EAGLE AND CARBINE



The organised chaos that is night firing using parachute illumination

Daybreak on Salisbury Plain



Mounted Combined Arms Live Firing Exercise (CALFEX) in Castlemartin.

The CALFEX provided an excellent opportunity for D Squadron to practise firing different weapons from their vehicles whilst stationary and whilst mobile and reacting to targets within a dynamic tactical situation. There were plenty of 'judgemental' targets – those that require a close understanding of the prevailing Rules of Engagement – to catch out the trigger-happy and to test commanders in their decision-taking procedures. The range periods also included operating with helicopter fire support during the day and by night and several iterations of an extremely entertaining live-firing Forward Operating Base (FOB) defence.

After escaping the challenges of living in a FOB for two weeks during a Welsh winter, D Squadron headed for worse conditions still. Corunna Barracks in Ludgershall masqueraded as Camp BASTION, D Squadron's base location for the final 3 Commando Brigade Field Training Exercise (FTX), and a very large, very cold hangar became our new home. The exercise was extremely useful as WARTHOG troops spent three weeks operating alongside the other elements of 3 Commando Brigade. This allowed the

Squadron to practise the same tactics, techniques and procedures we will use when deployed. It also allowed us to establish relationships with those alongside whom we will operate for six months.

D Squadron will continue training throughout the early months of 2011 before deploying, as the last elements of the Regiment and indeed of 3 Commando Brigade, to Afghanistan in late April. Throughout history the Regiment has operated on a variety of vehicles, and indeed aircraft, and WARTHOG is just another in that long line. In another link to our Regiment's (more recent) history, a former officer and now renowned wildlife artist, James Maberly, very kindly agreed to design the Squadron's emblem for Operation HERRICK 14. Hailing, as he does from Zimbabwe, and related by marriage to the Squadron Leader, he seemed the natural choice.

D Squadron takes great pride in the Regiment's reputation for expertise in Mounted Close Combat and more pride still that we have the opportunity to enhance that reputation on operations once again.



The Battle of Alam El Halfa

By Captain Tim Spenlove-Brown

During a trip to Egypt I was fortunate to visit the Alam el Halfa battlefield where the Greys fought their first tank battle. The most striking aspect was the lack of physical features and the great range of visibility and fields of fire. With 'ridges' barely 30–45 feet high, every indentation and depression was valuable cover. I soon realised how short, by modern standards, were the ranges at which these armoured battles took place and the 'whites of their eyes' nature of some tank engagements.

In August 1942 the Panzerarmee commanded by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel had reached the so-called Alamein Line in Western Egypt. A little over two months earlier Rommel had turned a similar defensive line at Gazala with his characteristic speed and surprise and gone on to capture Tobruk. He was now poised to strike at Cairo and the Suez Canal, a move which could give him victory in North Africa. The armies have been compared to two boxers who had fought each other to a standstill. They were both in need of rest and replenishment, time to draw in supplies and repair tanks and equipment.

Rommel, however, knew that time was not on his side as the British forces were rapidly constructing a deep defensive line across a forty-mile front from the Mediterranean to the Quattara Depression in the south (The Alamein Line). Soon there would be no flanks to turn, or would there? The southern quarter of the front was sparsely manned and presented the only chance for an audacious 'right hook' which would cut off the British lines of communication. The German plan was to breach the minefield to the south of the 2nd New Zealand Division. The armoured columns would then drive eastwards before swinging north in an encircling movement around the Alam el Halfa Ridge to cut the coast road behind the Alamein front. The Germans were severely short of fuel but Rommel gambled on refuelling at captured petrol dumps before racing for the Delta.

The Royal Scots Greys had arrived in Egypt in February 1942 from Jordan, where, only five months earlier, they had handed over their horses for tanks. They were commanded by Lt Colonel Sir Ranulph T-W Fiennes, (affectionately known to all as 'Colonel Lugs'). Now they had American tanks – two heavy squadrons of M3 General Grant tanks (known at the time as ELH or 'Egypt's last hope') and one squadron of Stuart Mk 1 tanks. The Grants had a 75mm gun which was capable of engaging the German tanks and anti-tank crews on equal terms. It was a sponson gun, mounted low on one side of the hull, which made the tanks difficult to conceal. These were the same as the Lee tanks

used by the 3rd Carabiniers to good effect in Burma from 1943. The Stuarts, nick-named 'Honeys', were light tanks with a 37mm gun. They were fast and manoeuvrable and used by B Squadron in a reconnaissance role.

General Bernard Montgomery became 8th Army Commander in mid-August and immediately set about developing the plans that had already been drawn up to defeat any outflanking attack on the British line. Intelligence reported that this was likely to happen during the period either side of the full moon on 26th August. In the short time available, a defensive battle was devised which would deny Rommel the Alam el Halfa ridge and the area to its west (Bare Ridge) as well as threatening any outflanking move to the east. The minefields in the south would be covered by the two light mobile Brigades (7th Motor & 4th Armoured) of 7th Armoured Division, who would harass the enemy and withdraw in front of them. If an outflanking move (right hook) was attempted, it would meet enfilade fire from the Alam el Halfa Ridge and be faced by 8th Armoured Division as a 'long stop' in the east. If the enemy swung earlier to the north, it would come up against the heavily-defended Alam el Halfa Ridge (22nd Armoured Brigade) and the New Zealanders to the west, with 23rd Armoured Brigade blocking the centre.

The Greys joined 22nd Armoured Brigade under Brigadier 'Pip' Roberts, a short, energetic commander who was later to lead 11th Armoured Division from Normandy to the Baltic. The majority of the Brigade was to be deployed on the south-western slopes of the Alam el Halfa Ridge below Point 102. It was, in Roberts' own words, 'a motley collection of combined units', which reflected the heavy fighting and losses that had gone before. 3rd and 4th County of London Yeomanry was centrally positioned on the southern slopes where the folds of the ground were deepened by tank dozer blade and hand-digging to improve their protection. These were not, however, full hull-down positions for the Grants and they were very exposed. 1st and 6th Royal Tank Regiment was to the west of them while 5th RTR with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars were to the east in similar terrain. Between them in the central, flatter area, facing south, the anti-tank Platoon of B Company, 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, was located. The Greys became a mobile reserve, as the only complete tank regiment and more mechanically reliable. The perimeter was completed by an Artillery anti-tank battery further up the slope covering west and close artillery support was provided by 1st Royal Horse

Artillery, placed behind 5th RTR. The whole position from east to west was three miles across. At the opening of the battle the Brigade had 92 Grants, making it the strongest unit in the Division.

The plan for a static, defensive battle was rehearsed in detail during the short time remaining, with 'telephone battles' (CPXs) for the Field Headquarters and rehearsals of rapid movement to battle positions, as well as gunnery practice. Landmarks at different ranges were noted and the anti-tank platoon even placed old petrol cans at 500 and 300 yards to their front. The gunners were also busy setting up a defensive fire programme with SOS tasks on vital positions. Until called up, units remained in open leaguer south of their defensive positions. Brigadier Roberts expressed the feeling of most of his men when, after a series of complicated schemes that had gone before, they now had a firm plan and one position to occupy. As a result they all felt better.

The full moon had passed but Rommel was still not assured of sufficient fuel to complete his plan. Eventually on 30th August, certain only of a week's petrol, he ordered the attack. At 2040hrs German forces started to clear gaps in the two mine fields in the south of the British defences. Very soon and much to their surprise, they came under fire from ground forces and were bombed by the RAF. They continued to make laboured progress eastwards through the night under what Rommel described as 'relay bombing'. By dawn Rommel had lost the element of surprise and ordered

an earlier turn northwards than had been planned. This he claimed was to conserve petrol but, in daylight, it was no longer possible to by-pass the heavily-defended Alam el Halfa Ridge as well as defeating 8th Armoured Brigade to the east.

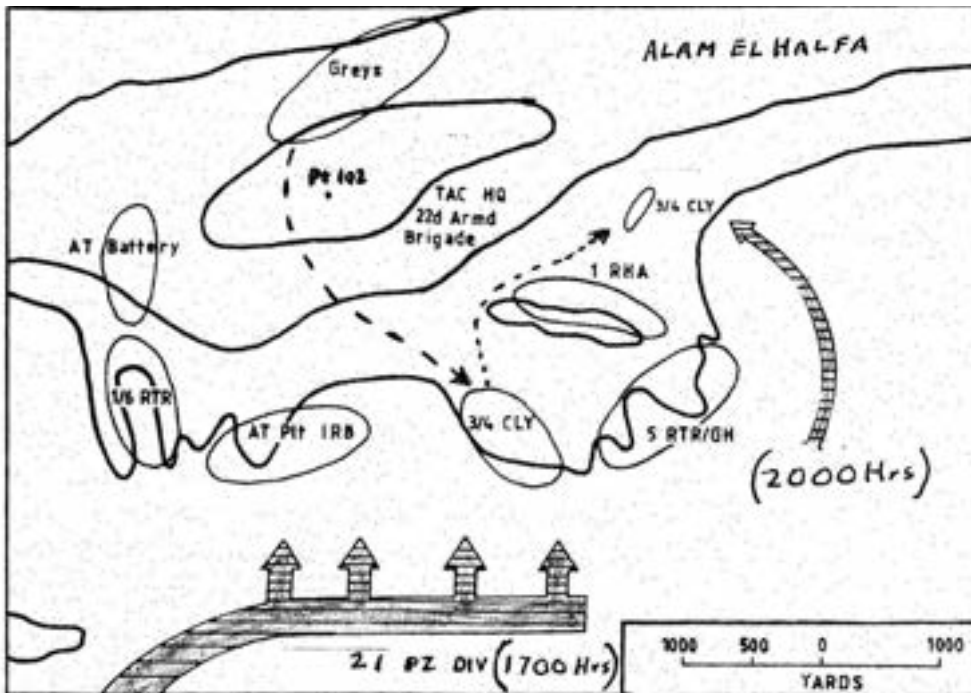
At 0230am on 31st August the Adjutant, Captain Bowlby, received the codeword "Twelve Bore" which gave the order to move to battle positions. The alarm (three bursts of MG fire from an RHQ tank) was given by Lieutenant Sprot and soon the whole Regiment moved in the dark to their battle positions, using compass bearings. They were to wait some time for the enemy and were unable to see the battle unfold, as they were on the reverse slope of the ridge, some two miles behind the forward troops. Lunch was a welcome interlude to calm the nerves – a tin of bully beef and hard tack biscuits with a mug of tea. Water was strictly rationed, usually at half a gallon a day, a pint for washing and shaving and a pint to drink with each of the three meals. Under extreme water shortage, washing and shaving water was sometimes saved and re-used to wash clothes.

The enemy, having been harried by the mobile defence and bombed for most of the night, were only clear of the minefields by 1000hrs. At 1500hrs they had reached the central depression of Deir el Ragil and stopped to refuel. Rommel considered calling off the attack, which was now severely behind schedule and taking heavy losses, but he decided to continue,

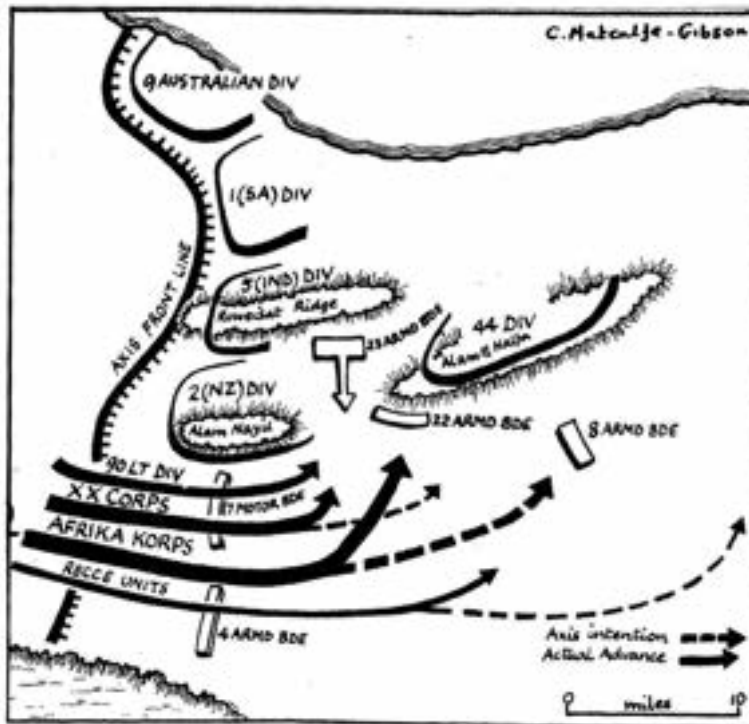


Stuart Mk 1 light tanks (Photograph courtesy of the Royal Armoured Corps Tank Museum)

146 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Sketch map of Alam El Halfa Battlefield



The Battle of Alam Halfa: 30th August to 3rd September 1942



A 6-Pounder Anti-Tank gun and crew

ordering a change of axis to the north-east. But seeing the British light squadrons withdrawing in front of them, the leading German tanks swung north following a line of telegraph poles that lead directly to the 22nd Armoured Brigade's position. At 1730hrs the crews stood-to and Roberts watched ... "as one might watch a snake curl up ready to strike". 87 tanks of 21st Panzer Division, in six lines, came up the slope, led by their latest Mk IVs with a powerful long-barrelled 75mm gun. The defenders were about to experience one of Rommel's concentrated armoured thrusts which had been battle winners in the past. The 3CLY War Diary states: "Although we had only 27 Grants to oppose them we had prepared positions and the advantage of the light". The defenders were well concealed and knew the ranges to important land marks. Brigadier Roberts had ordered them not to open fire until the enemy were less than 1,000 yards away. The Germans were attacking into the sunset and the low angle of the sun hampered their gunners.

At 1,500 yards the first artillery 'stonk' came down right on the first line of tanks. This disrupted the momentum but then tanks in the rear came forward to fill spaces in the lines and the attack continued. They were engaged at 1,000 yards by the Yeomanry Grant squadrons who gained the early initiative and surprise but soon the Panzer's 75mm guns took their toll and within minutes A Squadron, which took the main force of the attack, ceased to exist as a fighting unit. Eagerly the Germans advanced into the gap they could see before them and ran straight into the trap of the hidden anti-tank guns. The crews of the Rifle Brigade showed great courage, waiting to engage at a range of 300 yards.

One gun alone claimed 5 enemy tanks and their bravery halted the advance in its tracks.

Roberts now had a gap in the centre of his defensive line and he ordered the Greys to fill it. Further SOS artillery fire was called for, which managed to hold the line, but Roberts showed his frustration when he shouted over the radio "Come on the Greys, get out your whips!" In fact they had not been long and as they come over the crest of the ridge, he described the situation to them over the radio. At 1830hrs the two Grant Squadrons roared down the slope; C Squadron swung to the right over a five foot drop, followed by A Squadron to the left and RHQ in the centre.

The arrival of a fresh regiment with 30 new Grants was a genuine psychological blow to the attackers and



M3 Grant Tanks (Photograph courtesy of the Imperial War Museum – Negative 14053)

148 EAGLE AND CARBINE

proved a turning point in the battle. As the Greys opened fire, it was noticeable that the German rear tanks were not moving forward to take the place of the knocked-out tanks to their front. Dismounted crews were seen hitching tow-ropes to their disabled tanks; 21st Panzer was withdrawing, taking its casualties with it. The County of London Yeomanry History describes the scene ...“in the last few moments of light, jerkily and leaving a squadron’s worth of blackened wrecks on the ground, the whole German force began to move backwards, until it was out of range of our empty guns”.

It was now 1930hrs and 5RTR/GH, on the left flank, reported enemy tanks moving across their front and threatening the gun lines of 1RHA. Roberts ordered what was left of the 3/4Yeomanry to move across and cover the gap between 5RTR and units of 44th Division, further to the east. This they did to good effect, losing one tank but halting the attacking force, who later withdrew. Casualties were now counted. For the Greys, Sergeant McLaughlin’s and Sergeant Killin’s tanks were knocked out and two tanks damaged. B Squadron

3CLY claimed 11 tanks and lost none themselves. A Squadron 4CLY, which bore the brunt of the attack, lost all 12 of their Grants. The Rifle Brigade Anti-Tank Platoon claimed 16 kills from their four guns but had one section over-run and its crew captured. Roberts lost 17 of his Brigade strength of 87 Grants and judged “at least 30” enemy tank casualties. On the 1st September there was again a probing attack on the Brigade’s left and right flanks but they were repulsed. In late afternoon the German forces steadily withdrew to the west.

Thus ended a vital battle that defeated Rommel and forced him on the defensive. The Greys had played an important part in their first armoured battle. Their timely intervention, described by Colonel Sir Hugh Brassey as their ‘Mechanised Waterloo’, had tipped the scales and helped to win the day.



Troop Leading at the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment

By Lieutenant MS Erskine-Naylor

Since arriving at the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment (RACTR) in October 2010, I have noticed a dramatic improvement in the type of training now delivered to the Phase Two recruits or, as they are more commonly known, Soldiers under Training (SuTs).

Over the course of the last 12 months, the RACTR has gone through a significant transformation in its

training procedures and in the delivery of its training programme. The old ‘Soldier Training Wing’ (STW) used a simple system whereby Phase Two recruits arrived at Bovington, attended their signals course, obtained their driving licences and then waited to attend their driving and maintenance (D&M) or gunnery courses. This system worked to the extent that SuTs were able to pass out of Bovington with a working

GPMG ranges



*Casualty evacuation*

knowledge of the vehicles, but they did not necessarily have any other skills, and fitness certainly was not high on the agenda.

I am pleased to say that these days are gone and the programme has now changed to produce a new and improved training environment. The new training programme, now known as the 'Pipeline', trains young soldiers in the original core skills but also incorporates new training schemes such as the Basic Close Combat Skills Week. This provides the SuT with the opportunity to enhance their 'skills and drills' in the field with the backdrop of a contemporary Afghanistan-related scenario. The Pipeline also provides the SuT the chance to conduct L7 GPMG ranges alongside their normal SA80 A2 range package and the LMG range package is to be introduced into the programme next year.

However, the highlight of the training programme is the Troop Exercise. This has grown from a weekend exercise incorporating a 'round robin' of basic Military Annual Training Test (MATTs) and dismounted skills to a three-day, non-stop Forward Operating Base (FOB) based exercise set in the Contemporary Operating Environment (COE). The exercise has now become a Regimental Main Effort with the SuTs constantly challenged through various difficult and challenging serials. These include suicide bombers attacking the main gate of the FOB, contacts on patrol, influence missions with local nationals and Counter-IED opera-

tions. There is an ever updating intelligence picture and orders are delivered to various section commanders and troop leaders to help support the exercise. RACTR personnel have VALLON metal detectors, IED simulation kits, Afghan clothing for the 'civilian population' and Hilux four-wheel drive vehicles to add realism.

Fitness at RACTR has improved considerably with the SuTs completing five physical training (PT) sessions a week culminating in Commanding Officer's PT on Friday mornings. This usually consists of log races, stretcher races, booted runs and assault courses. This makes the SuT not only fit but also physically and mentally robust before joining their respective regiments and possibly deploying on operations within a few months.

So why have Bovington and the RACTR changed? In simple terms, the training that the RACTR delivered had to change in order to allow regiments the capability to concentrate on Mission Specific Training (MST) and deployments. Too often previously, regiments found themselves having to train new recruits in basic skills which reduced the time available for operationally-specific training. It is vital that the RAC soldier remains flexible due to the environment in which the Army is currently operating. Therefore training establishments, such as Bovington, need to provide relevant and up-to-date training that mirrors the current operational situation. It is also the

150 EAGLE AND CARBINE



Soldiers Under Training practising Operation BARMA with a view to forthcoming operational deployments

RACTR's vision to develop capable, confident and contemporary crewmen and so traditional trade training is still a vital part of the training pipeline.

As a troop leader now totally committed to the Pipeline, I have watched it evolve. I have seen how SuTs embrace the new training procedures and how they now complete their training with the experience they need before joining their own regiment. The fitness of each and every SuT has improved significantly, and because of this so has mine. As the Troop Leader I am expected to run with my troop every Friday on the Commanding

Officer's PT and I am also expected to run every Personal Fitness Assessment (PFA) the SuTs run over the course of their time at Bovington. With each section completing 5 PFAs, I average a PFA every three weeks.

The pace of life has also increased within the Regiment. With the new and improved training regime, the training staff have to complete courses relevant to the COE and these include Skill at Arms courses, Battlefield Causality Drills Trainer (BCDT), and various coaching and sub coaching courses.

My role as a troop leader is ever-changing. One moment I am in the office exchanging great quantities of paperwork with various Adjutants, and the next I am on exercise with my troop or planning range periods, exercises, Adventurous Training expeditions and regimental or garrison parties.

My time in Bovington has certainly been challenging. I have learnt a great deal about life in a training environment from the perspective of a permanent staff member. I have had to use my skills, experience and personality to get through some difficult times, however I would thoroughly recommend a posting to the RACTR. It provides a young officer or NCO the opportunity to improve their own skill set but also an invaluable insight into how a training establishment should run, and how he can use the experience he gains here to best effect at Regimental Duty.



Life with The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards – An Intelligence Corps Perspective

By Lieutenant H Haslam-Greene

In Volume 38 of the Eagle and Carbine, a predecessor of mine wrote an article outlining an Intelligence Corp Officer's outlook on life with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. Two years later I too was asked to produce a piece reflecting on my time with the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and what better time to be asked than in the week following the Regiment's pre-deployment leaving ball? The event represents a culmination of my time spent at Regimental Duty in Fallingbowl and perfectly capped off what has truly been a fantastic six months.

Having commissioned from Sandhurst in August 2010, I watched with mounting apprehension as my contemporaries from the Academy went off to their Phase Two and Young Officer courses, whilst I prepared myself,

with no additional training, for the ultimate baptism of fire: going straight into the headquarters of a Battlegroup gearing up to deploy to Afghanistan. It was nerve-racking to say the least and I felt like I wanted nothing more in that instant, despite having pushed hard for a posting to a Cavalry regiment, than to go off to continuation training safe in numbers with my fellow newly commissioned officers.

I realise now, however, that I got far and away the best deal. Much as it is has been a case of jumping straight in at the deep end, an attachment with a Combat Arm straight from Sandhurst has undoubtedly been the best way to learn how the Army functions. I have learned so much in the six months since commissioning that I

could not have hoped to pick up in the recreated environment of a Junior Officer's course. Due to the nature of the pre-deployment build-up cycle, I have attended a number of courses and, having worked in Battlegroup Headquarters through the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer, Command and Staff Trainer, Confirmatory Field Exercise and Formation Training Exercise, I have witnessed the real-time planning cycle of a battlegroup, working in the Intelligence Cell and assisting with the Question One planning process. This latter experience remains one of the most valuable things I will take away from this attachment. Clearly it is highly relevant to anyone within the Intelligence Corps but I also feel quite strongly that it has been more beneficial to take part in the planning cycle when it is about to be implemented for real in Afghanistan, than it would have been to carry it out on exercises on the Junior Officer's Course. In the unusual circumstance of finding myself working in Battlegroup Headquarters as a second lieutenant, I have also been able to draw on the breadth of experience of those around me and have benefitted from plenty of informal and beneficial advice.

The experience has been challenging at times, and I have had to conceal my nerves on various occasions when I have found myself the most junior officer, by far, on courses or on exercise and have been expected to brief those much more senior than me. This has done a lot for my own confidence however and will undoubtedly stand me in good stead both in Afghanistan and when I undertake my Young Officer's course after the tour. There is certainly a great deal to be said for exposing newly commissioned officers to daunting situations; operating outside of your comfort zone, you have no choice but to learn quickly. Having recently discovered that my role in Afghanistan is heading up the Female Engagement Team in Lashkar Gah, I hope my experiences over the last six months will stand me in good stead. The role, which sits outside traditional Intelligence Corps roles, requires resolve and confidence and I feel this is something I have been given ample opportunity to develop.

My attachment has also given me a taste of life in a Cavalry mess, which as an Intelligence Corps officer with no formal mess life has been a great experience. The SCOTS DG Officers' Mess is an institution in itself, and I have made some great friends during my time here. The Regiment strikes the ideal balance between work and play and I have enjoyed the many formalities of the mess along with its long-standing traditions. Highlights for me have included the Balaklava dinner and hosting the Duke of Kent during Regimental week, although I did take some abuse for standing out amongst the sea of red in my green mess



Miss Haslam-Greene and Captain Anderson

uniform! All the officers have been incredibly welcoming to me from the beginning and I have appreciated the fact that attached arms here are completely immersed in mess life and included in all its aspects.

I am very sad to be coming to the end of my attachment. I am however delighted to be returning to Fallingbowl after the tour in Afghanistan to conduct the homecoming parades with the Regiment. Considering Intelligence Corps Young Officer attachments are generally no more than six months in duration, this is a pleasant turn up for the books. The quality of a party is ultimately determined by its guests, and the people I have met over the course of the last six months have really made this experience great. I could not have asked for a more worthwhile or rewarding time with a regiment, and I look forward now to the forthcoming tour with anticipation.



Forty Years Ago (Serving with the Air Squadron in Ulster)

By Major Howard Gater-Smith

"Twenty men of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards patrolling the Ulster border were yesterday fired upon by four snipers operating from inside Eire. There were no casualties. The soldiers had been called to a spot near Keady, Co. Amargh, after an Army helicopter crew had seen twenty men filling in a border road which had been cratered some weeks before for security reasons. Troops returned fire before the gunmen fled."

"Seven men were detained in Dundalk, Co. Louth, yesterday after the cattle examination station at Killeen Customs post, Newry, had been wrecked by a bomb. After the explosion 20 shots were fired at an Army helicopter from behind cover on the Republic side of the border. Army authorities said that one gunman was believed to have been hit but there were no military casualties."

"Three IRA gunmen were believed to have died in a burning farmhouse just inside the border with the Republic yesterday after they had ambushed a patrol of Royal Marines. A military spokesman said the Marines were patrolling in two armoured vehicles when shots were fired across the River Newry at Narrow Water. The troops fired back and called up reinforcements. At the height of the exchange about fifty marines backed by two Saladins and two Ferret Scout Cars of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards kept the gunmen pinned down. A Marine spokesman said later that the battle fought across Carlingford Lough was observed from a helicopter circling above..."

Just weeks following the pomp and ceremony of the July amalgamation between the Carabiniers and Greys

in the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty the Queen, the Regiment (-) was to deploy on its first operational tour. Only ten days before emplaning for Northern Ireland, the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards had re-entered camp at Harewood Barracks, Herford after three weeks training on Exercise FOREFRONT, the annual BAOR autumn exercise. By mid-October, RHQ, C Squadron, and the Edinburgh based D Squadron, supported by the Air Squadron had, under the guise of Operation BANNER, taken up residence at various locations in Ulster. During the short time between these two events some frenetic turnaround activity had taken place, which in retrospect seems incredible. There was, however, little time for much pre-Northern Ireland training.

The six Sioux of the Regimental Air Squadron, commanded by Major Nick Muers-Raby RH, took off from Herford on 15th October 1971 en route to Ulster. The epic flight took five days, with planned overnight stops at Middle Wallop and Carlisle. A two-night stop had been arranged at the Army Air Corps Centre in order to link up with Captains Roger Horne and Charles Trevelyan, both of whom were mid-way through their army pilot training. A memorable lunchtime session was held in the Five Bells public house at Nether Wallop, a favourite watering hole of countless aviators who passed through the Wallop system.

Carlisle was reached by the third evening despite encountering some vicious turbulence somewhere over



Air Squadron, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards 'on parade' following post Operation BANNER leave, at Harewood Barracks, Herford in May 1972. The author is seated and third from the right

the Lake District. It was pretty unpleasant, to say the least, and caused one pilot to grip the cyclic control so hard that he inadvertently pressed the radio transmit button. A yelp followed by several expletives flowed over the airwaves. After a comfortable night in an hotel we took off again the following morning for the flight across Kirkcudbrightshire, Dumfries and Galloway, the next destination an intermediate refuelling stop at West Freugh. Alas, we did not make it. The westerly head wind was much stronger than forecast. Our resulting ground speed meant insufficient fuel was available to reach West Freugh, so there was no alternative but to turn back. A second attempt the following day, however, proved successful.

For flight over water during the winter periods, helicopter aircrew are obliged to wear immersion suits. With waterproof 'socks' welded to the rubber suit legs and tight seals at the neck and cuffs, the garment is watertight. In order to relieve oneself of excess bodily liquid, an appropriately positioned zip existed. Having undone the zip, one had to unroll a six by four inch rubber tube through which one then urinated. On landing at West Freugh there was an urgent call of nature. I unzipped and rolled out the tube to discover a message written in tailor's chalk: "This suit was made by Sharon". It caused a wry smile, particularly so, as the cheeky lady had added her telephone number to the text. The continuing flight over the Irish Sea was uneventful except to say that the grey choppy water below looked petty inhospitable, not a place in which to ditch even in October. I suspect we were all relieved though to be over solid ground again on 'coasting in' near Bangor.

Accommodation in the Province was somewhat sparse. RHQ quartered itself at Bessbrook RUC station which, if my memory serves me right, was a typical stone-built residential looking property. The Regimental ops room found itself squashed into a box room. A helicopter landing site (HLS) was located just down the road on the football pitch behind Bessbrook School. C and D Squadrons were a little more fortunate with space in which to dwell. They had been allocated Gosford Castle, a vast mid-19th century pile, nearby to Markethill. It had been constructed in the Norman Revival Style for Archibald Acheson, 2nd Earl of Gosford, in the earlier part of the century and completed in 1850, thereby replacing the original dwelling of 1617 which had been destroyed by fire. Between the Army's occupation in the 1970s and the end of the millennium it was used as an hotel, restaurant and night club. More recent investigation has revealed that the castle is now being converted into smart apartments.

The Air Squadron was located some distance away at Long Kesh near Lisburn. This drab ramshackle patch had been a wartime aerodrome laid out with a typical

triangular runway system. Long disused, it seemed the ideal spot on which to build an internment camp. At some later date its status changed to that of a prison and it was known thereafter as the 'Maze'. The internment compound accommodation consisted of Nissen Huts constructed on one of the runways and surrounded by a double high wire fence complete with watchtowers. It would have made an instant film set for a Second World War POW camp. Rusty hangars and sprightly new Portacabins surrounded the compound and these were used by the prison guard force and other units occupying the airfield. The Air Squadron's presence in Northern Ireland was also a 'first'. Previously, aviation support in the Province had been provided by UKLF assets. The Regimental Air Squadron was the first BAOR-based aviation unit to deploy to Ulster.

Recollection of the Regiment's Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) is a little hazy, but reference to my Aircrew Flying Logbook revealed that we were operating in South Armagh roughly below the line Caledon – Armagh – Castlewellan. The British press sometimes referred to this area of real estate as 'bandit country'. As already noted from the above-mentioned Daily Telegraph quotes, many incidents involved cross-border engagements and culvert bombs (IEDs). The latter were often constructed in milk churns and activated through command wires of several hundred yards in length. Much time was spent patrolling in the reconnaissance vehicles of the day, Saladin Armoured Cars and Ferret Scout Cars. Mobile vehicle check points (VCPs) were operated and control and inspection of cratered border road crossing points took place daily. Where ground activity was ongoing, the Regiment's aircraft were always near to hand.

An RAF officer once described Army flying as, "Long periods of boredom punctuated by moments of stark terror". To some extent, this was the case in Northern Ireland. The Commanding Officer, Colonel Tony Bateman, requested a helicopter be airborne throughout daylight hours, thereby being able to react rapidly to any hostile situation. This was achieved during our tour by deploying two aircraft at Gosford Castle. Whilst one Sioux was airborne the other would be re-fuelled and the crew briefed/debriefed, fed and watered. The daily routine involved quite a bit of droning about and sometimes one was inclined to get up to mischief in order to relieve the boredom. A quick nip, low-level, along a stretch of uninhabited coastline east of Warrenpoint, or a dogfight with another aircraft out of sight in the Mourne Mountains helped to spice up the day. Occasionally, 'Contact' excitement was to be had spotting for those ground troops who had, to use a modern military term, 'gone kinetic'. On at least three separate occasions, the Regiment's helicopters were fired upon from across the

154 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Ulster – Eire border. Fortunately, none was damaged, neither the crews injured. Sometimes more than two helicopters would be deployed over South Armagh in order to cover ‘special’ events. Crews rotated through a five-day routine. Two days were spent at Gosford, day three engaged on other tasks, and the fourth as standby crew at Long Kesh, which often involved air testing repaired aircraft. The last day in this sequence was taken as a day of rest. During the four-month tour a week’s R+R was spent out of the Province.

In addition to hostile engagements, some routine activities produced pulse-racing moments. Certain landing sites were considered to be in such dangerous locations that time spent on the ground was minimized. A rotor shut down was definitely ‘verboden’. One of these sites was situated at a small factory complex nearby and in full view to the occupants of the notorious Divis Flats in North Belfast. I had been tasked to pick up a Royal Marines officer there and transport him to Bessbrook. On touchdown at the helipad, I found myself confronted by a large apparition. The Marine was pure bulk. Not only was he six feet plus in height but also possessed of the girth of Falstaff. This image was enhanced by the fact that he was wearing webbing over a Parka, a Bergen on his back and carrying a kitbag too. I motioned him to open the door and put on the headset. I then instructed him to place the rucksack on the centre seat and strap the kitbag securely into the Stokes litter fitted to the starboard skid. This he did and climbed in, proceeding then to do up the safety harness. To my dismay, whilst adjusting the right-hand lap strap the man pulled it out of the anchor point buckle. His cumbersome equipment thus prevented him retrieving the situation. Since this part of the cockpit was farthest from my reach I had to screw down the flying control locks, climb out with rotors turning and sort out the predicament into which he had so clumsily put us, all the time praying that nobody was lining me up in a gun sight. We eventually got airborne and, not wanting to risk his senior wrath, I kept my thoughts to myself. Sending a Scout Helicopter to move him to Bessbrook would have been far more sensible!

Pottering around one Sunday morning in mid-December, I noticed a wonderful garden a thousand feet below. Nothing was in bloom of course, so near to Christmas, but the garden’s layout was the subject of quite some horticultural initiative. I got the observer to scribble a note of praise and made a slow, low pass over the property. The owner, I presume, came out of the house to see what was going on. The crewman scrunched up the note, tossed it out of the window onto the lawn and we flew off. On Christmas Day, when passing the garden again, I looked down to see a message written in the middle of the lawn which greeted us with

the words, ‘Happy Xmas Sioux’, proving that not all was negative about serving in the Province.

Boxing Day brought more light relief, for, by chance, during a lull in any serious activity, I found myself observing the Killylea Hunt, not on foot or by courtesy of Land Rover, but in one of Her Majesty’s helicopters. It is a spectacle which remains vivid in my imagination today: the red, black and tweed coated figures astride their mounts at full gallop after the hounds. Sadly, my observer and I were not in at the kill as we were recalled to military duty again, rather spoiling the fun of this new exciting facet to being a ‘hunt follower’.

The Sioux’s engine, like some cars today, was fitted with a turbo charger. This device sometimes, but rarely, failed as it did on me in the Mourne Mountains near to Castlewellan. We had not long been airborne and therefore close to the aircraft’s maximum permitted operational weight, known as ‘All up Weight’ in the trade. Without the turbo charger’s assistance there was insufficient power available to keep us afloat and therefore we were committed to a forced landing. I selected a flattish looking meadow, bordered by a road, a short distance from a farmhouse and carried out a limited power approach and landing. There we sat for a quarter of an hour or so, awaiting help. I have to say, we were pretty poorly placed for a hostile engagement. Although the field was surrounded by a stone wall our defensive armament consisted of two Browning pistols and twenty-four rounds of ammunition between us. Anxiety was soon to be dispelled, because, on our way down my observer, Trooper Jim MacGregor, had transmitted a distress call to another aircraft in the vicinity. Within a short space of time, and in true fashion, the cavalry came to the rescue. Lieutenant Tracy Wood and his troop charged down the lane and surrounded the field in all-round defence, Browning machine guns pointing outwards. Saved! Sometime later, a REME recovery team appeared on scene, removed the rotor blades, and our injured Sioux was airlifted out by an RAF Wessex and transported to the aircraft workshop at Aldergrove.

Trying to obtain photographic evidence of the actress Vanessa Redgrave from a thousand feet proved nigh on impossible. On 6th February 1972 she, together with other ‘dignitaries’, was leading the ‘Newry March’ which we had been tasked to monitor. The demonstration had been deemed illegal and, to make the point, an RUC officer flying as a passenger in a second helicopter tried in vain to put this message across with the aid of ‘Sky Shout’. This specialist piece of equipment consisted of a large loudspeaker fitted to the exterior of the aircraft and wired to the intercom system. His efforts to get the demonstrators to disperse failed, mainly due to the fact that his instructions could

not be understood. Eventually the pilot received an order from the ground to put someone on who could speak clear English. Alas, his own cultured tones, although understood, were completely ignored and the march continued into the centre of Newry.

Again on a lighter note, I found myself tasked one morning with carrying out a familiarisation sortie. A Sandhurst cadet, with a distinguished career ahead of him, had arranged a visit to his chosen Regiment. He was introduced to me as Officer Cadet Allen, after which I flew him round our patch. Towards the end of the flight, the young man requested a favour. "Could we possibly visit my aunt who lives close by?" He indicated Caledon House surrounded by parkland. We approached to a well-manicured stretch of lawn in front of the building, came to a hover, waved to his aunt and wafted away again back to Gosford Castle. Brigadier Simon is now our Regimental Colonel.

The four-month tour eventually drew to a close. We were spared the long flight back to Herford. Instead, and sensibly so, the Sioux were airlifted from Aldergrove to Gütersloh by courtesy of the Royal Air Force in the aptly named Belfast. No doubt, we were glad to be leaving, although this Operation BANNER deployment had been a welcome and exciting change from the BAOR routine. On average, the aircrew achieved between 70 and 80 hours per month, the BAOR norm then being about 20 to 30. Of course, this phenomenal rate of flying was due to the outstanding efforts of the REME aircraft technicians and our Regimental ground crew in keeping the Sioux fit and flying.

So, to finish off this piece, herewith an odd ode, composed at the time, in order to pass on information to our successors, Sioux Flight 657 Squadron Army Air Corps based in Soltau:

To those of you who are Ireland bound,
A point or two that we have found,
Might prevent many a tear,
Sometime, in this coming year.

Give some thought to the All up Weight,
Don't forget the Armour Plate,
Remember Nitesun and Dectrac,*
Plus those bulky jackets Flac.

Fly above a thousand feet,
Fear not, no jets will you meet.**
Beware of border and scrap yard spots
From which many a Paddy fired his shots.

The weather too, has its quirks.
Don't get caught like other berks.



Allan Hogton (left) and the author at the controls. This photograph was taken from the Gosford castle ops room.

Avoid low cloud and swirling fog
And surely many hours you'll log.

With greetings from all at SCOTS DG,
This information is all quite free.
Till February then and much glee,
The Sioux from 657 we'll be pleased to see.

* Dectrac was a 'bolt-on' navigation aid. It relied on three ground stations emitting signals, thereby giving the user a fix on the aircraft's position. One of the ground stations in Ulster had been neutralised by persons unknown, so the receiver in the cockpit gave unreliable information. Only one of our aircraft had this gadget installed and we chose not to use it, regarding it as unwanted extra weight.

** When flying in Northern Germany it was not unusual to observe, sometimes alarmingly so, NATO fast jet traffic on low-level missions passing underneath the helicopter.

Footnote:

The author of this article was to deploy again to Ulster in 1975 with 1RTR Air Squadron. The tour marked the final presence of a Regimental Air Squadron in the Province. In 1976, the last of these teeth-arm assets were absorbed into Army Air Corps Regiments. Integrated flights had been part of the British Army's Order of Battle for nearly a decade and a half. Of the many regimental officers and senior NCOs who took up flying, some returned to their parent units to continue at Regimental duty, many transferred to the Army Air Corps and others pursued careers in civil aviation. The period of integration though, certainly enriched the lives of all who were connected with this facet of army flying.



A Cavalry Troop Leader in an Infantryman's World

By Lieutenant CPS Majcher

Having completed a full training year as a Challenger 2 Troop Leader, finishing with a month charging around the Prairie in BATUS, whatever followed was always going to struggle to match the experience.

On hearing the news that I was moving to C Squadron, following a thorough reorganisation of the Regiment's Order of Battle, it took me only a short while to establish that this was to be a dismounted light role squadron, working within the 4 SCOTS Battlegroup, which is a rather convoluted way of describing an infantry company. I was to be, to all intents and purposes, a platoon commander, an appointment role I had last held at Sandhurst. Undaunted I fondly reminisced of days as a young officer cadet, hours of tabbing, vast quantities of camouflage cream and barking orders

during command appointments hoping to impress a grizzled Colour Sergeant. With the dawning of the 'new look' C Squadron, it became apparent that all these things were soon to become a big part of my life once again.

Following the birth of the new squadron, its infancy was spent learning a host of new weapon systems and Afghanistan Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs), as well as conducting lengthy small arms range periods in Sennelager. The Troop Leaders, and remainder of the hierarchy, were engrossed in the Command and Staff Trainer (CAST) and the Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (CATT), which are far less interesting when one has to move a virtual man and not a virtual tank around the synthetic environment. Nonetheless the infantry began to get a feel for our cavalry mentality, with the Squadron Leader memorably warning some infantry attachments prior to an Orders Group that it was going to be 'a cavalry set of orders' which seemed to go down rather well.

A short exercise on the Bergen-Höhne training area gave the Troop Leaders a first opportunity to command their subordinates in the field, juggling the complexities of numerous weapon systems, Electronic Countermeasures, radios and metal detectors for the first time. The learning curve at this point was still near vertical, but a feeling of accomplishment, and competence, was beginning to creep in.

The next stop on our journey towards Afghanistan was the Confirmatory Field Exercise in Norfolk. At this point we had been together as a squadron for a little over two months, and a mood of quiet confidence was perceptible. This mood entirely evaporated during the first two days, as our Directing Staff managed to find fault at our every turn, working in a highly pressurised environment. Our lack of experience as a dismounted sub unit was highlighted, as it became apparent that we were in grave danger of failing to make the transfer from tanks to boots on the ground. Great credit must go to the squadron as a whole for turning our performance around for the remainder of the exercise, much to the chagrin of some members of the Directing Staff I might add. As a Troop Leader, it was undoubtedly the most testing exercise with which I had been involved. BATUS and tanks were but a distant memory. Aching backs, Improvised Explosive Devices and traipsing through rivers became the (wholly unpleasant) norm.



Mr Watson practising Operation KALA, dismounted compound clearing drills

The remainder of the training involved a live fire exercise, for which the squadron won many plaudits, and the final exercise on Salisbury Plain, which I had last visited on a Challenger 2. By this stage of training we had gained a certain amount of momentum, and put in credible performances, winning over any remaining doubters within the Battlegroup as we proved our professional competency, physical fitness and ability to carry out complex operations. Indeed, I believe that our approach to planning and orders, empowering junior commanders and being able to appreciate the bigger picture, is of huge benefit. As and when the plan changes, we are more readily able to adapt and think through the problem, a mentality gained working with armour. I am sure this will come to fore during our deployment to Afghanistan.

A quick note on report writing which has become a far bigger part of my life than I had anticipated when I

joined the Regiment, and something which I had not fully appreciated. With troops almost thirty strong, writing reports and tracking careers has become a near full time job; I do not envy my infantry brethren in this respect.

Finally, having worked tirelessly this year to rerole, I look forward (with a touch of schadenfreude) to the 2012 training year after our return from Afghanistan. 4 SCOTS will return to being an Armoured Infantry battalion, following several years out of role. Perhaps they will appreciate what we have experienced this year once they have had to undergo a similar transition themselves, albeit in the opposite direction.



A Day in the Second World War

by Desmond Murphy

We were advancing down the Irrawaddy in pursuit of the retreating Japanese. Resistance was spasmodic but tenacious. We had reached the town of Pagan, the place of a thousand temples and our tanks were trundling along through the outskirts. Suddenly there was a violent explosion (at least I suppose there was because I remember nothing more until I became aware that I was lying on the ground surrounded by the debris of a shattered tank with which were intermingled various parts of a number of human bodies, interspersed with pieces of equipment). There was a single hand and a leg quite close to me. Then hearing a groan I turned my head and saw a severely wounded man lying face downward with the blood oozing out of his head. In a sort of trance I staggered to my feet and went over to him. I knelt down beside him. I could see that he was dying.

Looking about me I saw some men – enemy I think – running off through scrub. I felt I must find a place to conceal my comrade. There was a small Pagoda close by, and by exerting myself to the utmost, I managed by means of a fireman's lift to carry the wounded soldier inside. I laid him down in the cool – and half collapsed beside him. The man was groaning and obviously in great pain, though hardly conscious. He was dying. I saw that he was my tank driver. He could not be much more than seventeen years old. He was popular amongst the men and used to entertain them with his fine tenor voice. One of the refrains he used to sing kept going through my mind: "This is a lovely way to spend an evening".

At that moment he half raised himself on one arm. "Oh God", he said and fell back and I knew that he was dead. I remember thinking, "I shall have to write to his parents". I sat down in a queer detached sort of way. I cannot explain it; I was numbed. Out of the six man tank crew, I was the only one alive, (if indeed I was alive). I could not be quite sure.

The tank must have gone over some sort of bomb. A few pieces of twisted metal were all that now remained. I felt as if my soul was somehow separated from my body, yet not completely so. It appeared to be attached by some sort of umbilical cord. I seemed to be rather like an astronaut, who had climbed out of his spaceship and was walking in outer space, separated, yet not completely isolated; except that whereas the spaceman could get back to the security of his ship by a conscious effort, I, (that is my soul) could do nothing to get back into my body, in fact I felt I might float away altogether.

How long I sat there I do not know, but gradually I realised that some sort of consciousness was returning to me. I must have been there some hours. I only knew that I felt pain and bewilderment and I got up stiffly and stumbled to the Pagoda entrance. There was no sun, but it was still daylight. Everywhere I looked I saw Pagodas. There seemed to be thousands of them, and they had probably been there for as many years.

158 EAGLE AND CARBINE

I could still not think properly. I only knew that I was lost, and without, it seemed, a friend in the world. Had I been able to think, I could have found my direction fairly easily, by walking to the river. I went back into the Pagoda and sat down on the floor. Then I suppose I must have dozed, for when I came to, I was fully conscious. Getting stiffly to my feet, I went out. It was now quite dark with no moon, but the sky was bright with stars. I knew what I was about now.

There was Orion with his shining belt, the Great Square of Pegasus, the Pleiades star cluster, and what relief, the Plough, with pointers bright to show the North Star. Turning, as if to convince myself that I was not seeing things, I looked for Cassiopeia, the drunken W as the soldiers called it. My mental bisection of its larger angle confirmed that I was not dreaming. I knew where I was and with some show of confidence, I stumbled forward in the direction I knew would lead me to safety.

How I eventually found my comrades I cannot tell. I could not have known where they would spend the night for that would not have been decided until the battle had been broken off. I can only presume that I was guided by that same Divine Providence that had cast my body almost unharmed upon the earth after being blown sky high with 20 tons of steel. But, there I was, being greeted by Laurie as if I had come back from an afternoon stroll in the country. "Hello you old so and so", he said, the usual mug of grog dangling from his hand. "Wondered when we'd see you again. Here, have a drop of this". He gave me his glass. I swallowed the contents at a gulp. "Thanks a lot", I said. My spirits soared "War or no war", I thought, "It was indeed good to be alive".



Now and Then

By Captain NCG Hanson

Troopers Gardiner, Hainey and Hanson all joined C Squadron in the mid to late 1980s and started their careers as Chieftain tank drivers. Over a beer in the NAAFI bar one day Trooper Gardiner suggested that we would all become Squadron Sergeants Major one day at which Hanson and Hainey laughed. The three young troopers deployed to BATUS as Challenger 1 drivers together in 1990 and then on to Operation GRANBY in 1991. Hanson was the first to be promoted to Lance Corporal, with Hainey and Gardiner hot on his heels, and all three progressed through the ranks with various appointments along the way, including time in Reconnaissance Troop.

The turn of the century saw Sergeants Hainey and Gardiner posted as recruiters to Greenock and

Hamilton respectively, whilst Sergeant Hanson was posted, as a Schools Instructor, to the Armoured Fighting Vehicle Gunnery School in Lulworth. Shortly afterwards, all three returned to Regimental Duty and deployed on Operation TELIC 1. Staff Sergeants Hanson and Gardiner were CR2 Troop Leaders on operations whilst Staff Sergeant Hainey steadied the ship as a Squadron Headquarters Troop Sergeant in B Squadron. Gardiner's early prediction became reality with all three becoming SSMs in 2003 or 2004 before moving onto bigger and better things. Gardiner became RSM SCOTS DG, Hainey RSM of the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry and Hanson RSMI at the Armoured Training Advisory Team (ARMTAT).

After completing these appointments, all three were selected for Late Entry Commissions. Having achieved and exceeded Gardiner's prediction, the three friends will now spend the next six years working together at Regimental Duty. I very much doubt that anyone in C Squadron in the late 1980s listening to our conversation would have expected what followed.



Now...



...and Then



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

Rev D Lister MA BD
 Capt P Woodall
 Col JTM Childs CBE
 RAH Hearn Esq
 Maj HJ Willis
 J Aldous Esq
 Maj IE Morgan DL
 Maj GS Dinnie
 RN Younger Esq
 Maj PWS Maxwell
 JHB Gundry Esq
 Maj JN Redfern TD
 RAR Wilson Esq
 Maj MD Murphy MC
 Maj JH Callander DL
 Maj LSP le Sueur

Edinburgh and East of Scotland

Mr J Millbank
 Mr E McBean
 Mr C Hogg
 Mr AW Dewar

North West of England and Wales

Mr T Harte
 Mr RJ Kimpton
 Mr A Barton

London and South East of England

Mr DAB Shorter
 Mr G Poille
 Mr WTB Grounds

South West of England

Mr RG Griffiths

Musicians, Pipes and Drums

Mr JA Meikle
 Mr RE Lavallin

No Branch Affiliation

Mr D Thomson
 Mr MJM Kelly
 Mr WGMcK Smith
 Mr V Martin
 Mr A Karr
 Mr M Bull

Major the Lord Robertson of Oakridge



Ronald Robertson died in January 2009 aged 79. He was the son of General Sir Brian Robertson who had a very distinguished military career and, in retirement, chaired the British Transport Commission, which included British Rail. For this service he received the barony of Oakridge. Ronald's grandfather was the famous

Field Marshal Sir "Wully" Robertson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff 1915-18 who, uniquely, rose from the start of his service as a trooper in the 16th Lancers to reach the very top of the Army. He was honorary Colonel of the Greys and then, appropriately, of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, before his death in 1933. Completing the family picture as it touched the Regiment, Ronald's sister, Christine, was married to Colonel Hugh Cuming MBE, who transferred to the Greys after the war having been a Seaforth Highlander and former ADC to Sir Brian. Their son, Alastair, also served in the Regiment.

Ronald spent much of his childhood in South Africa, was educated at Charterhouse and joined the Regiment from Mons Officer Cadet Training Unit in 1949. He turned down an Exhibition Scholarship to Oxford University and took a regular commission instead. Service as a troop leader, in A and B Squadrons, was

followed by appointments as Intelligence Officer, Technical Adjutant and Reconnaissance Troop Leader. Ronald commanded A Squadron in 1966 and 1967 but left the Army to become a City Stockbroker in 1969. In sport, he was a cross-country runner and hockey player and followed racing and professional cricket with enthusiasm. Spreading his talents more widely, he enjoyed music and was, himself, a fine singer. Diligent and of good brain, he attended Staff College early and held various staff appointments at Grade II level. Perhaps he was of a different cast of mind from many of his fellow officers, with a touch of the academic and a faintly quirky sense of humour. He was very conscientious towards duty and responsibility and was of a strong and developing Christian faith. He earned the affection and trust of the officers and men with whom he served.

The true depth of his character and qualities came to light in his later years. City life brought him into the Livery and then to the Mastership of the Salters' Company and into work and study as a cross-bencher peer in the House of Lords, where he advocated, as his theme, the values of strong family life. He both initiated and pursued a range of charitable projects including, to the end, his work as an active Christian prison visitor. In this he was joined by his wife, Celia, who continues with it still. Throughout these civilian years, for twenty seven years indeed, Ronald was afflicted by progressive Parkinson's disease, becoming so severe that, at the end, both speech and movement were

160 EAGLE AND CARBINE

beyond his powers. During the long years of his suffering he showed patience and courage, humility, a great sense of humour and a firm faith in God, always with Celia's love and untiring support at hand. Their son, William, who is a qualified solicitor and practising Chartered Surveyor, succeeded to the title.

JNSA

Major Ian Morgan

Major Ian Morgan was a trooper in the Inns of Court Regiment before the 1939-45 War. The Regiment was embodied on 3rd September 1939 and, very shortly after that, was sent to Sandhurst to form the basis of 101st OCTU RAC. He was commissioned into the 3rd Carabiniers in February 1940 and after several postings in the UK, joined a draft of officers bound for the Regiment, then stationed at Sialkpt, Punjab.

After a voyage of nearly two months, they reached the Regiment in May 1941, to find that it had lost all its armoured vehicles, which had been sent to the Western Desert, and that it had been split into two, the other half forming the nucleus of the 25th Dragoons. In the early days, when the Regiment was training for desert warfare he was, variously, Regimental Navigation Officer (after a month's training with the Royal Indian Navy in Bombay) and Regimental Camouflage Officer (after 2 weeks training in Poona, where, for some entirely irrelevant reason, the Khyber Pass was chosen as the terrain), then to C Squadron as Second-in-Command under Tom Dimsdale, where he remained for the rest of the war apart from a short spell commanding HQ Squadron pending the arrival of Pat Dorman from the UK.

He was heavily involved during the campaign in Imphal. C Squadron's main function during the early stages was to assist various infantry units in resisting the incursions of the Japanese from the north, then forcing them to withdraw, finally linking up with the troops who had defeated the enemy blockade of Kohima. In the subsequent breakout from the Imphal plain, one half of the squadron supported 5th Indian Division during the campaign driving the Japanese back down the Tiddim Road into Burma; Tom Dimsdale commanded this during the first half of this long, tedious and hazardous mission, after which Ian Morgan took over with a complete change of personnel to complete the journey to the Kabaw Valley. There then followed the campaign in Central Burma, Ian Morgan finally taking over command of the whole Squadron when Tom Dimsdale was seriously wounded. He was repatriated in May 1945, handing over to Dicky Scott Dickens.

After a spell as an Instructor at the RAC OCTU, first at Sandhurst, then at Bovington, he was demobilised in May 1946 and returned to being a solicitor's articled clerk. He qualified as a solicitor in 1948, was in private practice for a while, then joined the Colonial Service in Kenya, where he became Chief Land Registrar. After Kenya's independence, he joined the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and became its Legal Adviser and Solicitor.

In 1977 he became an elected member of Berkshire County Council, of which he was Chairman from 1983 to 1986. He was also Chairman of the Thames and Chilterns Tourist Board and various other organisations. He was twice Mentioned in Dispatches and was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Berkshire in 1987.

The Regiment was stationed outside Karachi in January 1941 when he took advantage of his 21st birthday and proposed to Audrey Bozier, then in the Air Ministry in Harrogate, using the newly introduced air letter (mail normally took two to three months to reach the troops in India). Happily Audrey accepted by cable, and they were married on 14th July 1945, two weeks after his arrival back in the UK. They spent their honeymoon at the Compleat Angler in Marlow, little expecting that they would live immediately opposite it much later in life. Sadly, Audrey died in 1993, but Ian is survived by a son, also a solicitor, a school teacher daughter and three grandchildren. He died peacefully on 6 August 2010.

ITEM

Major Harry Willis



Harry, born in 1924 in Sussex, was of age to join the armed forces by the middle of the Second World War. He went to the Royal Navy, serving first in fast patrol boats, which would have suited him, then in minesweepers, his duties in which took him across the Atlantic, into the Mediterranean and, finally, to the Channel, sweeping ahead of the invasion fleets. At the war's end, on demobilisation, he tried his hand in civilian life, working in the London Docks, didn't like what he saw, and joined the Army and, fortunately for all of us who knew him, the Greys.

I first met Harry, by then a troop sergeant, when I joined B Squadron at Luneburg in 1951, and continued my acquaintance of him during two years in Barce,

Cyrenaica, now Libya under the dictatorship of the evil madcap, Gaddafi. My admiration for Harry, as a born soldier who met boldly and cheerfully all the challenges of life, was widely shared. Later he served with the Ayrshire Yeomanry where he met and married his dear wife Isabelle. Later again he became Potential Officer Wing Sergeant at Catterick where he had the cocky young potential officers drilling at the double on the square and, under David Crawford, taking on formidable initiative tests. Harry's great cry was "sense of urgency, you must develop a sense of urgency!"

In due course he was promoted staff sergeant and appointed SQMS of C Squadron in Hong Kong, under Major Tim Olphert, when his reputation for reliability and initiative blossomed further. I was fortunate, on coming to command C Squadron at Fallingbowl in 1964, to find Harry as my squadron sergeant major. He was both loved and respected by officers and men alike and the Squadron rapidly developed a lively sense of urgency.

After further service with the Yeomanry, as Regimental Sergeant Major, he was commissioned and came in due course to command Headquarters Squadron during the formidable John Stanier's tour in command of the Greys. Harry's clear philosophy as a soldier and a leader may be illustrated by this simple story: late one night, comfortably at home in his quarter, he was roused by John Stanier who had returned from a visit to Reconnaissance Troop, part of Headquarter Squadron, training at Putlos on the Baltic Coast, more than 100 miles from the Regiment's base. John had found the Troop's competence to be below par. "Harry, get up there, at once, and sort them out!" A couple of days later I expressed a little sympathy to Harry who, however, looked surprised and said "But that's the Army, and how it has to be." Read the story of the Roman Centurion and his sick servant (St Matthews Gospel ch.8 v.5-10) for a parallel.

Leaving the Regiment after 34 years service Harry was appointed Station Staff Officer at Hamm for a couple of years or more, where he and Isabelle were active and popular members of garrison life. Then it was a happy retirement to Ballantrae on the Ayrshire coast, to golf and to hospitality to their many friends. Finally came the move to the Normandy coast, where, in 2010, Harry suffered the illness which brought him to a peaceful death in July. His grandson, Harry Braithwaite now serves as an officer in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. How thrilled his grandfather would be! Our condolences on the death of a proud soldier and much loved husband and father go to Isabelle and all her family.

JNSA

Major Henry Callander



The following is an edited version of the address by Major CM Mitchell-Rose at the memorial service in the Canongate Kirk on 20th November 2009

John Henry Callander was born in London on the 9th of May 1948. His father David had married Mary Crompton

Roberts in July 1945 after distinguished service with the Scots Greys in North Africa, Italy and the Normandy Landings, where he gained an immediate MC at Hill 112. Later, in Germany his squadron fired what were possibly the last shots of the war in Europe. He left the Greys in 1952 to run the family estate at Preston Hall.

Henry went to prep school at Scaitcliffe near Windsor and then on to Eton. His education was largely unencumbered by today's fashion of achieving triple A*s. He was described in his reports as "industrious, conscientious, sensible, a lively and interested boy". His house-master, GI Brown did slightly temper the praise in the report by saying that "some statements, such as 'he is clearly one of the most intelligent members of the division' ought to be put into perspective by my pointing out that the particular division is the bottom one of five". Brown concluded, perhaps rather unkindly – that "it is unrealistic for anyone to begin to think that Henry is a great scholar". He did, however, distinguished himself at games. He was House Captain of Games, rowed in the Lower Boats, played for the Oppidans and got his colours for the Eton Wall Game.

On leaving Eton, Henry went to Australia for a year before going to Mons and then joining the Greys in 1968 at Fallingbowl on a short service commission. There his future talents must have been immediately spotted as he was put to work as the Garden Member trying to revive the Officers' Mess so-called garden which a combination of dogs and thunderflashes had reduced to an arid wasteland.

In 1969, the Greys moved back to Redford Cavalry Barracks in Edinburgh and it was there that I, as a young and extremely nervous newly commissioned officer, first met Henry. He had been given the unenviable task of being my Nanny and trying to steer me away from the more obvious pitfalls and sins that tempt a young officer. If this was less than a complete success, then it was not for lack of trying on his part. I vividly remember meeting him for the first time as he strode

162 EAGLE AND CARBINE

across the square greeting anyone within 50 yards with a loud and cheerful “Good Morning Trooper X”, and “Good Morning Sergeant Y”, his face the seemingly permanent beaming smile of someone who was loving life and supremely confident and happy with what he was doing.

David and Mary Callander had moved into Preston Hall shortly after the death of Henry’s grandfather. With the Regiment practically on their doorstep, they were hugely hospitable and Preston Hall – PH to everyone fortunate to visit there – became the Officers’ Mess Annex, welcoming everyone, as long as they did not come up the drive too fast for David’s liking. PH was even the scene of a pop video of “Amazing Grace” when it topped the charts.

Some soldiering did intervene and C Squadron – under Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and in which both of us were fortunate to be serving – had a brief trip to Northern Ireland and a wonderful six month holiday – sorry, deployment – with the UN in Cyprus. There Henry quickly adapted to tropical hours and particularly the siesta after lunch. There was a wonderful description in an article that Prince Edward wrote for the Regimental Magazine of “the boyish figure.....being roused from his deep slumber and appearing clad only in a bath towel supported by Old Etonian braces”.

On 2nd July 1971 the Greys amalgamated with the 3rd Carabineers and I know that Henry was very proud to be in one of the guards on parade that day. It was only fitting that the Amalgamation Ball that evening should be held at Preston Hall where Henry had the privilege, given to only a few, of dancing with Her Majesty in his own home.

After Amalgamation and on return to Germany with a regular commission, Henry’s military career prospered with spells of regimental duty as a troop leader, as a captain and later as a squadron leader. These duties were interspersed with varied assignments such as looking after the Pipes and Drums on tour in America; as ADC to General Sir John Stanier (I’m never sure who was looking after whom); Korea with the UN and, one that he particularly enjoyed, a six month tour in the 1980s to the Falkland Islands. Only he would take his R&R from those islands, not in the fleshpots of Montevideo, but on a cruise in an ice-breaker down to South Georgia. He loved to tell of flying in a helicopter over a beach full of penguins; they all looked up at the strange flying machine and watched as it passed overhead, only to fall over backwards as they strained to keep track of it.

Meanwhile events had been conspiring very much to Henry’s advantage. In 1980 he met a delightful and attractive young lady called Jackie Crocker. Their friendship slowly blossomed and it was soon clear to everyone that they were perfectly matched and very much in love; clear, that is, to everyone except Henry who, as he rather irritatingly could be at times, seemed blissfully unaware of the situation. Fortunately fate intervened in the form of the Arthurs. General Norman was Colonel of the Regiment and GOC Scotland with Tessa well placed to see what was going on and concerned at Henry’s apparent “lack of urgency”. Having interviewed Henry on some pretext or other the Colonel finished off by saying “and for Heaven’s sake get on and marry Jackie”.

Spotting good advice when he got it, Henry immediately proposed and they were married at the Canongate Kirk in 26th of September 1987. As he and his best man, John Campbell, waited in the church, the message came through the Jackie had arrived. “Thank heavens the old girl’s made it” said Henry and thereafter always maintained that he was referring to the family’s vintage Bentley and not the future Mrs Callander. Ever thoughtful, he had chosen to be married on the day of the Regimental Dinner in Edinburgh. Unfortunately he was not able to be at the dinner – apparently he had a prior engagement on an aeroplane bound for the Seychelles.

Henry could at last escape bachelor life in the Officers’ Mess and Jackie became a good Army wife as they set up home, first in Tidworth, then in Fallingbostal and finally in Catterick. Soon Alice appeared, followed shortly by Will and then Harry. There was also a rather noisy cockerel that Henry kept while they were living on the patch in Fallingbostal. This led to a definite cooling of relations with their neighbour, a civilian headmaster, who obviously did not appreciate the early morning wake-up calls and retaliated by phoning Henry every morning at 5.30 to complain. Fortunately with the telephone safely wedged in Henry’s jersey drawer, his sleep was not disturbed. History does not relate whether Jackie’s skills as a cook were needed to resolve the situation.

David Callander died in 1988 and four years later, when the government was having one of its periodic defence reviews, Henry took the opportunity to retire and return to his beloved PH. There he and Jackie threw themselves into reviving and renewing the house and estate and, in an act that might have amazed an older generation, made the house pay its way by hosting numerous house-parties, weddings and even B&Bs. It came as no surprise to their friends that this was a huge success.

He had many other interests and was soon busy with his duties and responsibilities as a Deputy Lieutenant for Midlothian. He was for over 20 years a keen and loyal member of the Kevock choir, who sang at his funeral. He was also on several boards such as the Baird Trust. Perhaps one of his best legacies was the reel class at Belhaven. He had been appalled to learn that many of the pupils did not know how to do the simple Scottish country dances, so for many years he would regularly drive over to Dunbar to put matters right. One of his pupils wrote to him later saying:

"Last night I went to a fantastic party in Cumbria. Half way through a 51st, it suddenly occurred to me that this huge joy of life is entirely down to you. Your tireless work over the years at Belhaven has meant that countless lucky people have a skill which is the envy of everyone else around them.....I hope this letter goes some way to demonstrating how grateful so many people are to you".

Henry Callander was proud to be a member of the Royal Company of Archers. In 2009 he was part of a small guard that paraded for Her Majesty when, as Colonel-in-Chief, she visited the Regiment in Redford Barracks. There is a delightful photograph of him smiling broadly as he talks to Her Majesty. The Queen must have been pleased with it too as it was included in the opening sequence of her Christmas broadcast that year.

Henry loved PH. He was determined to pass it on in better shape than when he got it and he spent long hours discussing his plans with Bill Gray, his long-standing farm manager and friend. He was never happier than when taking friends around and telling them of the history of the place and of his plans for its future. He had a particular love for trees and had collected seeds and acorns from many of the places he visited. There is an oak he loved to show off which was a souvenir of his time in Korea; one from the field of Waterloo; and the "Gosford Oak". He had taken an acorn from Gosford Castle in Armagh during one of his many tours in Ireland. The oak survived to become a splendid specimen, despite spending much of its early life in a pot that was mistaken for an ashtray by some of his brother-officers. The need to guard the acorn might explain why he was often to be found curled up in an armchair in the mess with the television showing only the white dot of close-down. If woken, he would indignantly say "I was watching that programme".

But it was of Jackie and their children, Alice, Will and Harry that Henry was quite rightly, most proud. Together they form a strong family unit and helped one another during the dark days of the last months of his life.

In 2009 Henry was diagnosed with motor neurone disease. In typical fashion, he was determined that he was not going to let this get in the way of what he was doing and he was certainly not going to sit about feeling sorry for himself; he was a soldier. In fact the evening that he received the terrible diagnosis, he went over to Belhaven to keep his regular appointment teaching reels. It was very much business as usual, even though fate threw in the cruel complication of cancer. Despite the pain, he followed the prescribed course of chemotherapy as he knew that it might prolong the precious time he could have with his family. Henry's determination not to let his illness interfere with his life, often not even to accept its presence, was at times very hard on his family, and particularly on Jackie.

As his speech deteriorated, his children had the brilliant idea of getting him an iPad and this enabled Henry to keep in touch with his many friends, few of whom would have thought that he would embrace the cutting edge of technology. Only a few hours before he died he was using Google Earth to point out to his younger son where he wanted a new avenue of trees planted.

Henry Callander embraced life with a vigour and confidence that many of us can only envy. He was a gifted and knowledgeable countryman, a kind and generous friend, who would always see the best in people, and a wonderful husband and father. He was the perfect gentleman and those who knew him can count themselves fortunate.

Major MD Murphy MC



The second youngest of nine children, Mark Desmond Murphy outlived his two sisters and his six brothers who all served in the Second World War. Captain Peter Castella Murphy MC (Royal Irish Fusiliers) was killed in action; Lieutenant Colonel Louis Michael Murphy OBE Legion d'Honneur Croix de Guerre (Indian Army) was GSO1 at HQ Second Army from 1944 and alongside Col Joe Ewart organized the rounding up of the German Generals for the signing of the treaty on Luneberg Heath 1945. When Himmler walked into the Allies' camp he was handed over to Louis and Mike Osbourne, in the room at the suicide.

Born in 1918 Desmond's family lived at Dunsland Court in the six thousand acres family estate near Dartmoor. His schooling at Ladycross and under the

164 EAGLE AND CARBINE

Jesuits at Beaumont was followed by reading Law at Oxford, becoming an Oxford Rowing Blue. Commissioned in July 1939 into the 3rd Carabiniers he was sent to the Burma campaign, but rarely spoke about the war, having suffered from severe jungle sores and paralysis for six months, the sole survivor when his tank was hit. He commanded A Squadron through most of the campaign in Burma and in 1945 was awarded the Military Cross. The citation, in his rank of temporary major and war substantive captain, highlights his skill and determination during the five weeks to 15 May 1945 when his squadron covered five hundred miles in tanks past their prime, capturing Japanese guns and inflicting many casualties.

Handing over his Squadron in 1945 he became an instructor at Sandhurst, after which he returned to The Carabiniers in command of B Squadron. He then served on the staff of 65 Training Regiment and was, by 1954, Second in Command of the Royal Armoured Corp Records. His career was completed with a final tour at Regimental Duty, the essence of his life.

At Beaumont, his close friend was Richard van Cutsem whose sister, Mary Christian known as May, he met when he was seventeen. His best catch in 1946 was his marriage to May, second child of Papal Count Richard van Cutsem (Chamberlain of the sword and cape to Pope Pius the XI), despite his opposition to the union and refusal to attend the wedding. Married life was interesting for neither of them had ever cooked before. It was a regimental tale that each time the dog had a litter May invariably expected a baby. On one occasion their dog was caught stealing the Colonel's Sunday lunch. He went round to have words with Desmond and was promptly given the family's fare, the inevitable black potatoes and rare chicken. Desmond promptly decided to learn culinary skills and quickly became an excellent cook; he loved to give parties and entertained regularly.

Serving for twenty years, they had twenty two moves and were given two quarters to house their growing family.

After leaving the army in 1959 Desmond attained a post graduate teaching degree at Exeter University and the family lived at Dennington House near Swimbridge. He had always wanted to teach and loved the work and holidays. He taught at the Braunton secondary school and the family moved to Croyde in 1970. To the exasperation of the staff when the teachers went on strike, he always crossed the picket line because he would not be told what to do by union officials. Officious governors demanded to know why he had not done a course qualifying him to take school parties to Exmoor. His

reply was that as he had taken his soldiers through the Jungle and fought the Japanese there, he could see no need for extra training. He retired in 1987. At times both May and Desmond went through great financial hardship. His bank manager had a sense of humour and suggested it would be helpful for him to look at his statements.

Desmond was a very good organizer who ran a shoot and gymkhanas. Throughout his life he was a keen shot, fisherman, rider, gardener, painter, racegoer, polo player and latterly was interested in birds, butterflies and all kinds of wildlife.

A devout Roman Catholic, Desmond worshipped at Branoc's Chapel in Croyde for forty years. His faith helped him to come to terms with the loss of their sons Kevin and Shaun and to look after May, in her long illness until her death in 1988. As his own health took a gradual downturn he was strongly supported by friends and neighbours until his death on 26 October 2010. Survived by Tara, Moira, Dermot, Brian and Brenda he was devoted to his family of twenty seven descendants. Desmond took great care of his appearance, lived a full and rich life during which he achieved an enormous amount and was widely popular.

DM

Alexander Webster Dewar



In his 71st year 'Eck', as he was more commonly known, was diagnosed with Melanoma Cancer. After a short illness he, sadly, passed away on 1st September 2010 at the family home.

Eck was born in Kirkcaldy and was the son of a bus driver. After attending local schools

he went to work in Haleys, the local dye works. It was during this time, and while attending the dancing in Cupar, that he met Elspeth Young. In 1958, Eck and Elspeth decided to get married and about the same time Eck decided to enlist in the Royal Scots Greys.

During his service Eck served in Hong Kong, Germany and the United Kingdom. Whilst serving in Germany Eck had the present Duke of Kent as his vehicle commander for a short period of time. Whilst in the United Kingdom, Eck was part of the team trialling the prototype chieftain tank which went on to become the main battle tank of the British Army.

On leaving the army in 1967, Eck and family returned to Kirkcaldy where he worked for a number of companies, mainly Wimpey Construction and the Seafield Colliery, where he remained for the rest of his working life.

A large part of Eck's life was his 40 years as a member of the Masonic Lodge where he became a Past Master. For 21 years Eck was also an Almoner, visiting the sick and elderly members of the Lodge. Eck also worked tirelessly, raising funds for outings and social evenings for pensioners and widows; this was a post he still held when he passed away. As commented by many of the members at his funeral his energy and his enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

Eck had many other interests taking immense pride in his garden and greenhouse. He also liked to attend regimental reunions and social evenings. He enjoyed keeping in touch with old comrades via the internet and watched with interest how the Regiment of today was getting on.

As well as his wife Elspeth, Eck is survived by his son and three daughters, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He will be sadly missed.

DAWW

D McW McIntosh



David McIntosh was born in a 'hole in the wall bed' in a third floor tenement in Govan on the south side of Glasgow in 1920. Twenty four years later, in February 1944, in the Arakan along with the rest of the 25th Dragoons and part of XV Corp in Burma, he was surrounded, besieged and outnumbered by the enemy in the

Admin Box close to the Ngakyedauk Pass. They were about to make history, inflicting the first defeat on the Japanese of WWII in SE Asia in the Battle of the Box prior to the decisive Battles of Imphal and Kohima.

Glasgow in the 1920s was a dynamic shipbuilding mercantile city attracting people from all over Scotland. David's parents came down from the Highlands and instilled in him the values of hard work, thrift and honesty – values much needed in the depression of the thirties. Education was highly valued and David, who had a quick intellect, flourished at Govan High School and there developed his love for Robert Burns poetry, which he learnt by heart and which he could recite even in his older days. His parents were members of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland and his mother an

active member of the Co-operative Movement. He imbibed his mother's ideals and actually ran away to join the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War until his age was discovered.

In 1941 he joined the 1st Lothian and Borders Yeomanry, an armoured regiment, and carried out his tank training at Catterick and Tidworth before, in 1942, he was posted to the reformed 25th Dragoons. In early 1943, The 25th Dragoons were posted to Risalpur, in India's North West Frontier, for training prior to entering the theatre of operations in the Arakan, via Cox's Bazaar.

The Battle of the Box occurred in February 1944, in Burmese jungle, at a place called Sinzey to the east of the Nfakyedauk Pass. The battle was contested by 7,000 men of the XV Corp, including tanks of the 25th Dragoons and the field guns and infantry of the 5th and 7th Indian Divisions. They were cut off in an area of 1,000 square metres by 10,500 men of the Japanese 55th Division and they relied upon parachute airdrops by Dakota planes for their supplies. The fighting was severe, with the tanks of the 25th Dragoons pivotal with their bunker busting which allowed the infantry to prevent the Japanese overrunning the Box. By the end of the battle the British and Indian forces had lost 3,500 killed or wounded and had inflicted a first defeat on the Japanese who had lost 5,000 killed or wounded and who were now in retreat.

David McIntosh, already suffering from the inevitable malaria, suffered an abdominal wound during the battle and was evacuated to Calcutta. He was then shipped back to his RAC depot in the UK, via Bombay in 1945. After further training and towards the end of 1945 he was posted to the Headquarters of the BAOR in North West Europe. There he remained, spending more time in hospital with the recurring effects of malaria, until late 1946 when he returned to UK, was demobbed, and was placed on the Reserve List.

He married Jean, whom he had known at school, in Glasgow in 1948 and commenced a new career in teaching, attending college at Freckleton near Preston.

His first teaching position was in East London, but he spent the rest of his career in a number of schools in Willesden, now part of Brent in North West London, culminating in an Headmastership at a local school. David was a firm but fair teacher, respected for his knowledge and for his desire to bring out the best in his pupils. Many owe their success, in life and in career, to Mr McIntosh and his important early lessons.

166 EAGLE AND CARBINE

When he retired, he remained in the community in which he taught. Throughout his life he enjoyed participating in, and watching, sport. He played golf and bowls in his retirement and was a member of many local sports and social clubs. He was also a freemason and was invested with LGR. He enjoyed convivial companionship and always looked forward to the annual parade and service at the Carabiniers Memorial organised by the London Branch of the Association at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. He was proud to represent the Regiment, when he laid their wreath at the Cenotaph, attending the Cavalry Parade and Buckingham Palace Veterans' lunch on the 60th anniversary of VJ Day.

In his prime he could be quite formidable, tall with restless energy, a sharp wit and a dry sense of humour. He was no lover of the word 'can't' nor was he ever afraid to speak his mind, but he had a powerful sense of loyalty to family and friends and he stood by those he loved and respected. He never forgot his humble upbringings or his country.

Although deeply grieved by the premature death of his youngest daughter Heather and by that of his loving wife Jean, he carried on enjoying life for many years with family and friends, never allowing sentimentality or a lack of perspective to cloud his judgement.

After suffering a heart attack at Paddington Station, he eventually gave up the good fight in February 2008. He is survived by his son Ian and daughter Lindsey, who he reminded after Jean's death that for their generation every year after 1937 was a bonus. It was also a bonus for all his family, friends and pupils.

A verse from Robert Burns:

*An honest man here lies at rest
As e'er God with his image blest;
The friend of man, the friend of truth,
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warmed,
Few heads with knowledge so informed:
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this*

IWMcI/LAS

Jimmy Percy Millbank



Jimmy was born in Juniper Green on the 31st October 1916. At an early age he and his parents moved to Dundee, where he spent most of his childhood, and on leaving school he got a job as a message boy for Paterson the butcher.

After seeing them mounted on their grey horses during a recruiting tour, Jimmy, aged seventeen years and six months, enlisted in the Royal Scots Greys in 1934 at Trades Lane, Dundee, and did his training at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh. His first posting was to Hounslow in Middlesex, where the Regiment was stationed.

Since the First World War, Britain had maintained responsibility for Palestine. The quarrels between Arabs and Jews grew worse and, in October 1938, the Scots Greys were ordered to Palestine. There they carried out operations including the cordon and search of villages, combing the hills for rebels and their hide-outs and assisting the police in the prevention of inter-racial feuds. By 1941 the pro-Axis Vichy French were encouraging the German occupation of Syria on the northern Palestinian Border and in the late spring of 1941 the Scots Greys, who were still horse mounted cavalry, were ordered to provide RHQ, the Machine Gun Troop and B Squadron as motorised infantry to invade Syria as part of the Australian 7th Division. By July 1941 the regiment had converted to tanks, the last cavalry Regiment to do so, and became part of the Royal Armoured Corps. During the fighting in Syria, Jimmy was wounded by shrapnel and put on a hospital ship to South Africa, then on to the UK, where he convalesced in Renfrew before being sent to the Army Assessment Centre in Catterick. He wanted to rejoin the Greys but was told he was to be re-badged to the RASC, now the Royal Logistic Corps, with whom he saw action in Europe until the end of the war. On demobilisation, circa 1944, Jimmy returned to Penicuik where he became a miner with the National Coal Board and worked as a brusher.

After seeing an advert, in the Edinburgh Evening News, for volunteers to join the Canadian Dragoons, he travelled down to London where he enlisted for 12 years and served in Canada at Camp Petewawa Ontario on Centurion tanks. He was posted to Hemer, in BAOR, in 1956 and in Nova Scotia where he rose to the rank of Sergeant. On discharge he was repatriated to Scotland where he took up employment with the Penicuik Co-operative Society.

His family recollect his horse in Palestine was called Lena.

Both Mary, his wife, and one of their daughters, Lorna predeceased Jimmy. He is survived by two daughters, Marion who lives in Canada and Jenny who lives in West Lothian.

GCC

Martin Bull



Born and raised in Huddersfield in 1950, Martin Bull was a county swimming champion, a fact he kept to himself when he joined the Army in 1968. Enlisting in the 4/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, he soon transferred to the 3rd Carabiniers then stationed in Chester. He subsequently served with B and C squadrons

as a tank operator in El Adem, Libya. In 1969, he moved to Munster and Headquarter Squadron until the Regiment moved to Herford in 1970, preparing for amalgamation with the Royal Scots Greys to form the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards where he served in B Squadron.

In 1972, he was posted away from the Regiment to the Royal Armoured Corps Parachute Squadron in Wiltshire. He rejoined the Regiment, now in the armoured role on Chieftain main battle tanks, in 1974, in Osnabruck. Here Martin was to find his niche as A Squadron Leader's Land Rover driver, which suited his outgoing temperament better than being confined to the turret of a tank. During his tour in Osnabruck he not only completed his Junior Non Commissioned Officer Cadre Course, but found time to complete a Freefall Parachute course at Bad Lippspringe in Germany. This course actually had three ex-Parachute Squadron personnel and nine others from the Regiment on it.

In 1976, still in A Squadron Headquarter Troop as the Squadron Leader's driver, he patrolled the lanes of the countryside around in Cookstown in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. This was the environment where he felt most at ease, with boots and flak jacket on, plodding through the countryside. When the Regiment moved to Catterick, as the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment in 1977, he stayed with B vehicles and was employed in D Squadron as a driver with the Radio Wing.

In 1978, Martin completed his nine-year engagement with the Army and was demobilised, returning to live

in his hometown of Huddersfield. After a couple of unsettled years there he moved to York and started work at the Department of Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs as a statistician, a position he retained until ill health forced him to retire in 2008. He remained in the York area and eventually went into a hospice where he finally succumbed to cancer in October 2010.

Those of us with A Squadron in Osnabruck will always remember Martin for his ability to simply pack a rucksack and head off around Europe as if on a gap year, very casually and enjoying every minute of it (usually with the author in tow). We will also remember his capacity for sociability, especially in the squadron bar on a Saturday afternoon following a shopping trip downtown. On one notable occasion he had to give his new blue leather jacket a good try out. Needless to say it, and Martin, passed the test with flying colours and I do believe that jacket went with him into 'civvy street' and that it features in family photo albums.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Maureen, and by two nieces, Michelle and Tracey, and their families, all of Huddersfield. To them all, we offer our heartfelt sympathy and best wishes.

"Rest ye well old pal."

JSR

Ronnie Kimpton

Ronnie Kimpton lost his long fight against illness and passed away on 2nd September 2010, aged 66. He joined 3DG in July 1961, serving in Tidworth and Detmold, and spending a period with the Army Air Corps on casualty evacuation duties in Aden, and then Chester. He also had one thing which made him unique: upon amalgamation, he rebadged to the new Regiment on 1st July, as a full Corporal, and was demobilised on 2nd July. This made him the shortest serving Royal Scots Dragoon Guard!

He married Marjory in 1968 and they had three sons, Martin, Mark and Simon and many grandchildren. He was a fantastic father and grandfather and was proud of them all.

Following demobilisation, he worked in a variety of jobs and places, as a slate quarrier and then a weaver, and he enjoyed working on his car. He had a real interest in all things military and was very proud of the time he served.

TC

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.*