



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Royal Regiment of Scotland was granted the Freedom of South Lanarkshire on Sat 17 Jun 23?

Since formation in 2006, the Regiment has received the status of 'Freemen' of 11 out of the 32 Councils in Scotland. In addition to the Councils the Regiment has also received the status of Freeman of the cities and boroughs of Aberdeen, Perth, Stirling, Edinburgh and Canterbury and the towns, Penicuik and Berwick Upon Tweed.

A military 'Freedom of Entry' or 'Honorary Freeman' status is normally granted by a Regional Council authority in recognition of the services of the Regiment, both in peace and war. Being granted a 'Freedom' status is the highest civic honour that a Council can bestow on the Regiment.

In keeping with tradition dating back many years, a conferred 'Freedom' status is normally the right on ceremonial occasions, to march through the streets with bayonets fixed, drums beating, and colours flying. The parade gave the citizens of a region, city or town the chance to show their appreciation and high regard for the hard work undertaken by the Regiment and its soldiers. The parade also provides the Regiment the opportunity to show its gratitude for the support that it receives from the region and their communities.





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CONGRATULATIONS

Military division of the King's Birthday Honours List 2023

- Colonel of the Regiment – Lieutenant General Sir Nick Borton KCB DSO MBE on his recent appointment as Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath
- Colonel Andrew Watson – Appointment as an Officer for the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.
- Lieutenant Colonel James Campbell – Appointment as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.
- Sergeant Thomas Couper – Appointment as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Congratulations to the 26 SCOTS Corporals on their promotion to Sergeant.

- Major L McDougall
- Warrant Officer Class 2 B J Lynn
- Colour Sergeant J T Lawrie
- Sergeant E R J Christie
- Sergeant S C Dick

The Regiment congratulates Colonel NM Wight-Boycott OBE on being appointed COS SJFHQ in the rank of Brigadier in Sep 23.

Congratulations to the 26 SCOTS Corporals on their recent success at promotion board.

THE SCOTS APP

The SCOTS App was launched in January 2023 and so far there have been a total of 833 verified sign ups consisting of 380 serving personnel and 453 veterans and this number is growing each day. With the connections function available on the App, there have been 2089 connections made and 432 messages sent between connected people which is great news as the SCOTS App is a way to enable all SCOTS to have a digital gateway to connect, engage, support and be supported by a safe and trusted community. 28 Groups have, so far, been set up by SCOTS with similar interests to chat and catch up.

Verified Sign ups



The feedback we have received has been very positive and all suggestions have been passed on to the App providers and new features will continue to be rolled out with version updates. We are currently on V1.2 and V1.3 will be released at the end of July 2023. A new feature we have just introduced is the facility to share pictures in the chat function and "Add to Calendar" on all listed events.

We welcome all feedback on the App and keep your suggestions coming in!



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4 SCOTS

The 4th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland has found itself particularly active so far in 2023, a trend that seems set to continue throughout the next six months. February saw the Battalion deploy onto Salisbury Plain on Exercise WESSEX STORM alongside 5 SCOTS, and a contingent from the Queens' Own Highlanders of Canada.

The six-week exercise saw the Battlegroup tested in a variety of tactical scenarios both on Salisbury Plain and in the Corsham Tunnel Complex leading to the Battlegroup's validation for its' alignment to NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Taskforce (VJTF) in 2024.

A short turnaround back in Catterick enabled the deployments of both A and D Companies overseas. A Coy deployed on Ex SPRING STORM to Estonia, one of the largest exercises conducted in Europe, involving numerous NATO states and partners. The Company was attached to the Light Dragoons (LD) battlegroup – their role is formation reconnaissance. Working behind the



enemy front line, the battlegroup provided a reconnaissance screen and was able to strike opportune targets to set the conditions for the infantry battlegroups which followed a day or so behind.

D Coy have spent the last month deployed in Canada on Ex MAPLE RESOLVE, which was hugely rewarding OTX allowing a UK sub unit to participate in a Brigade level exercise as part of a Canadian Brigade. D Coy deployed as a combined arms sub-unit Group within the Canadian Royal 22nd Regiment (R22R) for the two-week exercise. The exercises helped develop a growing relationship between 4 SCOTS and The Canadian Armed Forces, and helped test 4 SCOTS' ability to work as a partner force in a multinational formation.

Meanwhile elements of BGHQ deployed on Ex WARFIGHTER to Texas in support of The 3rd Division's Command Post validation exercise. The exercise again tested the Headquarters' ability to plan and execute (this time simulating a Brigade Headquarters) in a warfighting environment, testing the possible roles of a Light Mechanised Brigade operating within an Armoured Division, as well as providing some opportunities for some appreciation of Texan culture. As we head into the second half of 2023, 4 SCOTS prepare to take on the task of delivering Op INTERFLEX and will be deployed across the UK delivering training to the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Meanwhile a newly re-formed B Coy prepare to deploy to Morocco on Exercise JEBEL SAHARA.





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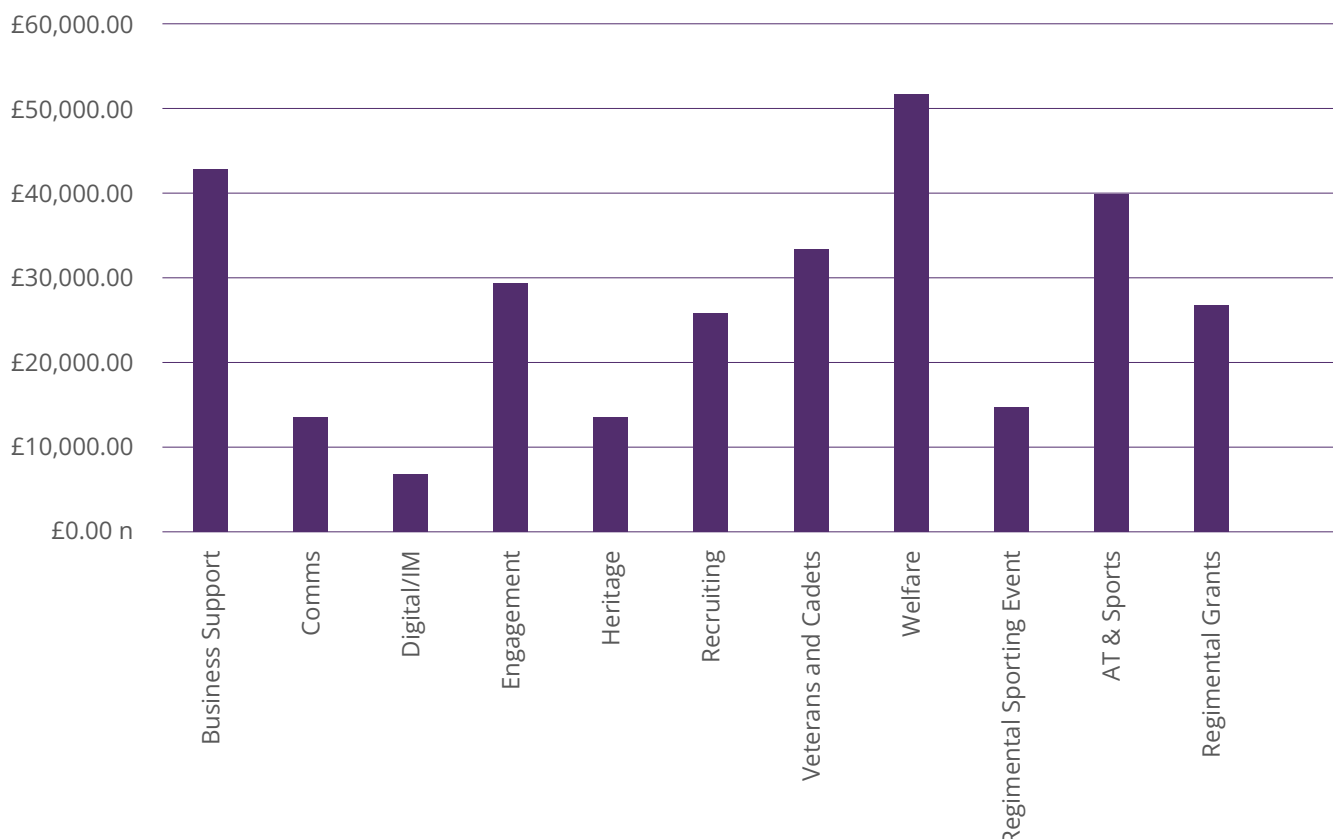
RHQ SCOTS BUDGET

The Regimental Trust is a charity with the main source of income being Service Day's Pay Giving Scheme or SDPG, to which 50% of SCOTS donate generating an income of £160K annually. All SCOTS Officers and Soldiers whether Regular or Reserve are encouraged to sign up to the scheme. Regular Officers and Soldiers donate a day's pay which is collected from source in equal amounts over a period of twelve months. Reservists donate 20% of a day's pay.

In order to meet the demands of the Regiment and its Battalions an annual budget of £300K is required. If those who do not currently subscribe to the scheme signed up the extra funds generated would more that cover the budget deficit. All funds raised through the SDPG Scheme are spent for the good and benefit of SCOTS soldiers, veterans and their dependents. Adventure training, sports, veterans and cadets and welfare receive the most funding with Regimental grants following closely behind.

If you would like to donate to the SDPG Scheme contact your Unit Admin Office.

RHQ SCOTS EXPENDITURE 2023/24





CHARLIE COMPANY RETURNS FROM MALI

Lt Cartwright

Charlie Company, 2 SCOTS, have recently returned from Mali after finishing their five-month tour working as UN peacekeepers. The jocks were an asset to the UN mission, MINUSMA. Mali is currently dealing with several crises. From a military coup in 2020 to a jihadi insurgency taking

advantage of cultural clashes and an environmental disaster.

Mali is a country of immense beauty, from rolling sand dunes, to kilometres of flat volcanic rock, and lively grassland. You wouldn't be surprised if I was to say it was the surface of Mars. The people live a hard life, working the land and trying their best to survive. Often the

civilians are split into two groups; sedentary farmers and nomadic herders. With climate change having a profound impact on the survivability of the country, these two groups will come into conflict with each other for resources. Where there is instability, you will often find that people will take advantage of the situation, and this has happened with the rise of





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ISGS (Islamic State in the Greater Sahara) and JNIM (An al Qaeda-affiliated Salafi-jihadist insurgent organization).

Despite the troubles within Mali, the jocks worked tirelessly to help the local civilians in our local area, Gao. Our main job was reconnaissance, acting as the UN's eyes and ears, and we would often patrol hundreds of kilometres to speak to and understand the civilian's issues. Armed with this data, we could inform the UN's civilian pillars who were best equipped to help these people. However, just because it was the civilian pillars job to provide that help, that didn't stop the jocks helping wherever they could. From providing first aid to children with cuts, to handing out women sanitary product, the jocks acted with the highest humility and maturity.

Although the British contingent has now returned from Mali, we will have a lasting impact. Both on the civilians we interacted with, and our standing of the UN. Working with multiple countries we were able to build strong relationships that will help us in future peacekeeping or warfighting operations.

As I have mentioned above, thanks need to go out to the soldiers who deployed and who were role models for the British Army and the United Kingdom. However, we must not forget the sacrifice of the friends and family who were left behind in the UK. Without their support, the soldiers could not achieve all the excellent work that they do. They are just as important to the Regiment as the soldiers who turn up every day and they must also get our thanks.



LEAFYARD

The Royal Regiment of Scotland have teamed up with Leafyard to offer their service to SCOTS veterans. Leafyard is a web app that combines science and study to motivate people to take control of their own mental health. Science has proven that there are many things we can do to improve our mental fitness: good habits, diet, sleep, exercise, relationships, changing your thought patterns. The problem is, we don't

act when we feel down. We don't do the things that make us feel better. There are people out there, every single day, who are recovering from anxiety, stress, and depression. Leafyard shows you the science behind the things they did to feel better. If you do the same things, you stand every chance of feeling better too. Leafyard educates and motivates you to take small steps every day. There are always



new things to learn and try - real, scientifically proven things that can help make you feel better. Leafyard is helping to change the way people think and feel across the world. The app will be launched for SCOTS veterans in August, so please keep an eye out on the SCOTS app and Website on how to sign up and obtain a free token.



6 SCOTS GOLF TOUR 2023 – EXERCISE LOWLAND BUNKER

By Warrant Officer Class One (RSM)
John Thompson

Exercise LOWLAND BUNKER had a two-fold mission. Firstly, it was to prepare the 6 SCOTS golf team for the Infantry Golf Championships, to be held in June 2023. Secondly, and most importantly, it was to focus on the mental health of soldiers by setting the conditions for them to discuss potential problems they may be experiencing in a relaxed and age diverse environment. This was achieved by bringing together a mix of regular soldiers, reservists

and veterans so as to maximise 'lived experiences', broadening the scope of advice available to all. This resulted in personnel from 6 SCOTS, 4 SCOTS and 6 RIFLES landing in Paignton, South West England. A location choice strongly influenced by the desire to avoid a "Gortex 'till EndEx" scenario! Although, poor Capt Andy Blair ended up having to drive a minibus and trailer from Glasgow to Paignton and back with no one else (admitting to) having the required driving licence.

Day 1 saw a visit to Warren Golf Club. Situated on the spit of land at the mouth of Devon's Exe estuary, the Warren Golf Course would provide a challenge to any golfer. With breath-taking views and 18 first-class greens it proved a great links golf course. Consistently finding his sweet spot WO2 McLay won the longest drive of the day, reaching the green and almost landing the ball on the head of WO1 Kris Morgan (RSM 6 RIFLES). Obviously, McLay is not one to suffer slow-play!



The tour assembled on the first tee at Warren Golf Club. How tall is RSM 6 RIFLES?!



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Day 2 involved a trip to Dainton Park Golf Club situated at the heart of South Devon. This course was beautiful with stunning views although the highlight of the day for the old and bold seems to have been the magnificent breakfast they were served... what a feast!

Day 3 and it was the turn of Wrangaton Golf Club to host our merry band of golfers. This course was literally, and to steal a quote from football, a game of two halves. The front nine was accurately described as trying to play golf on X-Range at Brecon. Undulating ground, wet under foot, wind in the face and an audience of sheep being entertained by us trying to dig shell scrapes with golf clubs (fear not, all divots were replaced). The back nine was like stepping out onto a completely different golf course with nice grass, beautiful forgiving

fairways and excellent putting surfaces. A new experience for all levels of golfers on the tour and truly something great to witness.

The final day was a round at Torquay Golf Club. Yet again another stunning course and amazing views of all of Torquay from the top, however the wind was outrageous. Nothing stopped Sgt Jason Cleland winning best golfer of the day though, which only gets mentioned as he missed the previous day due to sore feet, spent the day in bed, hobbled to and from the mini-bus and then shot the best score. "Pirate" being one of the more publishable words used to describe him that day.

In every respect Exercise LOWLAND BUNKER was a great tour. Everyone showed improvement throughout the week and there was never a

dull moment. The veterans who attended specifically commented on the positive impact the tour had on their mental health, with feeling part of the team again being a consistent point. How we treat our people is an important part of the ethos of 6 SCOTS and this tour was another example of the drive and commitment by the Unit to offer opportunities to our people to improve on basic sports skills and mental well-being. Hopefully there are many future Exercise LOWLAND BUNKERS in the future. However, 4 SCOTS and the veterans may be banned from future tours until 6 SCOTS improve at golf. Honours go to Capt Stevie Main (4 SCOTS) as overall winner with ex-WO2 'Bongo' Chalmers and ex-WO2 Alex Liddell coming second and third respectively.





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1 RANGER PSSR VISIT

On 24th May 2023 Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited the 1st Battalion The Ranger Regiment as their Royal Colonel. Her affiliation to 1 RANGER dates back to 1983 when she was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Scots. The Princess Royal continued this relationship by accepting the Royal Colonelcy of 1 SCOTS, upon formation, in 2006 and 1 RANGER, upon redesignation, in 2021. During the visit The Princess Royal received an update on how the Battalion has evolved since her last visit in 2016. In this time the Battalion has re-rolled to a Specialised Infantry unit before taking its place within the Army Special Operations Brigade. Her Royal Highness was introduced to the new weapons, equipment and capabilities the Battalion has received since redesignating to 1 RANGER and witnessed a demonstration showcasing ASOB TELEMED equipment including a live feed to the Battalion's Team deployed in Cameroon. The visit concluded with The Princess Royal meeting 1 RANGER personnel, their families and the families of those who are currently deployed.



1 RANGER is proud of its antecedent history and privileged to continue the strong relationship with the Royal Family. The Battalion are thankful to Her Royal Highness for taking the time to visit and offering her continued support.

The Ranger Regiment guarantees its personnel global operational deployments and unique training opportunities. All information on the recruitment pathway and how to apply can be found on Defence Connect by searching RANGER REGT or by using the QR code provided.



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WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION

Cadets from 2nd Battalion The Highlanders were honoured to take part in the Rededication Ceremony of Stonehaven War Memorial

The event was organised by the Stonehaven branch of Royal British Legion Scotland and attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Kinkardineshire Mr Alistair Macphie

The parade to the memorial site at Black Hill overlooking the town was led by over 100 musicians including 72 pipers from pipe bands across the North East of Scotland.

The ceremony was planned to reflect the 1923 ceremony when the memorial was unveiled by The Right Honourable Viscountess Cowdrey of Dunecht and Dunotter Castle

who had donated the area of land on which the memorial is built. One hundred years later her great grandson The Honourable Charles Pearson unveiled a commemorative plaque which will eventually be mounted on a specially designed cairn forming part of the ongoing restoration and upkeep of this iconic memorial.



SCOTTISH NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE



The annual service for the Scottish National War Memorial was held on Tuesday 6th June 2023. The service to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the opening of the memorial at Edinburgh castle on the 14th July 1927 was opened by the Chaplain general The Revd Michael Parker KHC CF.

The service was attended by the families of the fallen SCOTS soldiers. Shona and Meghan Mathews, the wife and daughter of Sergeant Jonathan Mathews, and Gus Millar the Father of Sergeant Stuart Millar. We then attended the officers mess for lunch and met some of the Senior guests who attended the service.



THE CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING AND HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



Written By Cpl J Armstrong

The 26th Apr 2023 saw some 27 members of Balaklava Company, 5 SCOTS travel from Redford Barracks to Longmoor Camp, to be our home for duration of Operation GOLDEN ORB – the Defence contribution to the Coronation of His Majesty The King, and Her Majesty The Queen Consort.

Training had started 2 weeks previously, with seemingly endless practice under the watchful eyes of WO2 (CSM) Scott Cox MVO and WO1 (GSM) A Gibson MVO. The Royal Regiment of Scotland detachment was led by OC BKA Coy, Maj Robert Weir, who held the responsibility for ensuring the Regiment met the highest standard under the gaze of the nation and Their Majesties.

A total of 7000 members of His Majesty's Armed Forces, including soldiers, sailors and aviators from the Tri-Services, and from the Commonwealth and Veterans community, were to participate in the ceremonial spectacle. Of that, a small contingent consisting of 4 Officers and 27 Soldiers, and a Colour Party and Escort, were selected from Balaklava Coy. As the ceremonial lead for the Royal Regiment of Scotland, we are used to being in the public eye, and it comes as no surprise when the Company was tasked to provide the best troops to show off Scotland. On a scale such as this, there wasn't any other choice but us to attend as Scotland's representatives.

Op GOLDEN ORB consisted of 2 weeks of training and execution, with the troops based out of Longmoor Camp throughout. We undertook specific training at the RMA Sandhurst under the watchful eyes of the Academy Colour Sergeant Instructors; including CSgts Marr and Smith. In this unique setting, we covered many miles of tarmac and saw some fairly gory sights as other soldiers took of their freshly-burnt down boots! This phase culminated in the full scale day time rehearsal at RAF Odiham, with the Regiment complemented by all who saw. Perhaps the most unique part of the training however, was the full-dress overnight rehearsal in London. Marching through London with only the beat of the bass drum for company, standing in the eery quiet



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of Whitehall with the chimes of Big Ben, or squeezing into Buckingham Palace Gardens at 0330hrs was an experience not soon forgotten.

On the morning of Saturday 6th May 2023, almost 1000 men & women from Longmoor Camp alighted our carriage at Alton, which would take us to meet our counterparts from across HM Armed Forces in Waterloo. We were finally heading to the big stage. Parade group 5B were marched off under the guidance of our marshal towards Wellington Barracks, and even at that early time the masses were accumulating.

Its 1120hrs, on the forecourt of Wellington Barracks, we begin, formed up and ready to step off. As we pass Buckingham Palace, up through the Mall there is no other sight quite like what we see. The music, the flags, the people

is something I don't think we will forget. With what feels like an extra spring in our step and an extra sway to the kilt, we pass under Admiralty Arch and round to Whitehall where we stand tall and proud, waiting for our new King and Queen to depart Westminster Cathedral. We spend the next hour or so waiting intently on the two magic words of 'quick march' which will set us off. Eventually, in the pouring rain, the words of command arrive and the bands strike up. Over 3000 marching troops step off (mostly) in the correct step to the cheers of the crowds lining the whole route. As the detachment approaches the Queen Victoria Memorial in front of Buckingham Palace, the slightly interesting 'form sixes' drill sequence takes place without issue, moving us into a narrow enough column to march into the Buckingham Palace Gardens.

As we jostle through the gates and over the gravel, we squeeze the ranks together to ensure we can fit the whole procession in, ready to greet Their Majesties for the first time in their new positions. Silence falls over the parade as the final troops march in and all that remains are rows upon rows of uniform, fluttering Colours, and proud men and women packed shoulder-to-shoulder.

"Three cheers for His Majesty the King, and Her Majesty The Queen!"

It had been a long two weeks, a long and tiring day, but most certainly worth the effort.

Long Live the King.



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7 SCOTS

Exercise Husky highlander

7 SCOTS recently took part in a Battle field study in Sicily to commemorate 51st Divisions part in the operations to retake the island.

Members from across the battalion travelled to Sicily early March where they visited various battle sites to see where lessons from the past have impacted on the way we operate today.

The battle to retake the island was Operation HUSKY thus the exercise name. This was an action that took place between June to November in 1943. The 51st Highland Div landed on D Day on the south east of the island and fought against an axis force of two Italian and two German Panzergrenadier Divisions.

7 SCOTS took the opportunity to pay their respects for the 2062 that paid the ultimate sacrifice with a small remembrance service supported by a 7 SCOTS Piper (Pte Innes).

Cateran yomp

7 SCOTS took part in the Cateran Yomp that is the Soldiers Charity main fund and awareness raising event in Scotland.

The team from across the battalion including the CO took part in the event that was held across Perthshire on the 3rd June. This seen members from as far as Stornoway Conversion in Dunkeld to take part.

The 7 SCOTS team was made up from some newbies to the event and some seasoned individuals who have completed the Yomp in the past.

Along with taking part in this, 7 SCOTS also play an active part in supporting the Allied Forces Foundation who are a predominantly American/British Charity bringing veterans together in community activity's across the globe. This year seen members of the Ukrainian forces take part also.

Image to left shows WO2 Smith from Stornoway cooling down, Lol.

1 UK Division Operational Shooting Competition (OSC)

The Divisional OSC seen members converge from across the UK, both Regulars and reserves to pit their shooting skills and see who top dog is.

The competition that took place in Mid May seen the 7 SCOTS team being positioned fifth in the reserves contest and, as a result obtaining a place to compete in the Army OSC that takes place in June of this year. A big well done to the team, #Be the standard to follow.

A Coy, 7 SCOTS have provided key leadership training to the RNLI

Leadership is a fundamental necessity within the RNLI, in the same way it is to the SCOTS, and this was a great opportunity for Reservists from 7 SCOTS that also work for the RNLI, to showcase



their unique skillset which the Army Reserves provides them with. The event saw A Coy, who have Army Reserve Centres (ARCs) in Dundee, Kirkcaldy and Aberdeen, provide interactive sessions for the RNLI. This provided a great benefit for all involved by understanding more about Reservists' training, as-well-as highlighting the true value in what strong leaders can bring to an organisation.

Exercise Highland Stalk

Exercise Highland Stalk took place on the castle law training area. This was a Company sponsored training event that forms part of the normal drum beat of training for 7 SCOTS.

The training allowed for Individual Training Requirements (ITR) to be completed in a testing environment. This seen The skills practised that weekend culminating in an attack Lane that pushed their abilities, video is available.



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SCOTS MUSEUM

The Museum has been working on a series of small displays to accompany the Freedom Parades happening across Scotland throughout 2023 and 2024, with the first installed in Hamilton in late May. Freedom of a region is the highest civic honour a council can bestow upon the Regiment, and is given in recognition of its services to the people of Scotland.

The 'Great SCOTS' displays introduce members of the public to The SCOTS; their campaign history, awards and achievements, notable characters and their role in today's society. This has been a brilliant opportunity for the Museum to share elements of our fantastic collection which are not usually on

public display such as the items carried by Private Paul Lambert (1 SCOTS) during a life-altering IED blast on patrol in Afghanistan in 2009.

In addition to the static displays, the Museum team have been heading along to Freedom Parade locations to promote the collection and encourage people of all ages to get involved in our learning programme. This has included giving out our popular 'Make Your Own Cruachan' craft packs to get some creative juices flowing! Being out and about in local communities has been a welcome change of pace, and the team are enjoying the opportunity to hear recollections of the Regiment and its antecedents.



Lambert's items include an SA80 magazine which was almost completely destroyed by the blast, currently on display at South Lanarkshire Council Headquarters in Hamilton.





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3 SCOTS



D Coy Jocks have been very busy over the last few months working on their low-level dismounted infantry skills.

This started with a weeklong live fire range package conducted at Fort George, which saw the Coy complete their annual shooting on several ranges including Moving Targets, IBSR, as-well-as conducting night shoots using both the HMNVS and LLM.

Week two saw the Coy advance on to the LFtt package, where they operated as individuals, pairs, as a fireteam and in section attacks, both day and night.

Upon completion, D Coy then moved on to conduct Ex Golden warrior 2 (EXGW2),

EXGW2 consisted of Sect Comd Led Lessons moving onto sect Attacks both during the day and at night.

This was a good opportunity for the Sect Comds to develop their sections. During the EX, the sections covered various terrains using no artificial light at night. This was a valuable experience for the Jocks, enabling the use of both the LLM and the HMNVS. By the end of the EX all sections had covered day and night navigation as well as conducting casevacs and all other low-level Skills.



2 SCOTS RFC: CELEBRATING A TRIUMPHANT STREAK OF VICTORIES.

By Lt LC Carver

In the realm of rugby sevens, the 2 SCOTS Rugby Club has emerged as a force to be reckoned with. Their recent achievements have brought them well-deserved recognition in the Army sporting community. Over the past year, the team has claimed commendable results, including a third-place finish at Dubai 7s (Social) 2022, a first-place finish at Penicuik 7s 2023, and a well-deserved win of the Men's Elite Shield at the Edinburgh City 7s 2023.

The journey of 2 SCOTS Rugby Club began at Dubai 7s 2022, where they displayed remarkable skill and teamwork. Despite fierce competition, 2 SCOTS showcased their tenacity, resilience, and unwavering determination. With each match, they grew

stronger, ultimately securing an impressive third-place finish. This achievement not only highlighted their exceptional performance but also solidified their position as formidable contenders.

Building on their third-place finish in Dubai, 2 SCOTS RFC continued to develop, winning Penicuik 7s 2023. The team demonstrated their unrivalled talent, impeccable speed, precision, and strategic gameplay. Their commitment to excellence shone through as they dominated the tournament, securing a resounding victory.

The pinnacle of their achievements came at Edinburgh City 7s 2023, where 2 SCOTS RFC claimed the Men's Elite Shield. This feat showcased their exceptional teamwork, astute decision-

making, and unyielding spirit. Their performance in this event served as a testament to their dedication and hard work.

On top of many team successes at rugby 7s tournaments across Scotland and overseas, there have been some commendable individual achievements. LCpl Raivou, Fus Canakaivata, Fus Tawanayavulala and Fus Vatuloka were selected to represent Army 7s throughout the 2023 season.

The successes of 2 SCOTS RFC have not only demonstrated the talent within the Battalion but, has also given the club opportunities for community engagements, gaining invites to rugby tournaments across Scotland for next years season.





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6 SCOTS FOOTBALL SEASON

By Warrant Officer Class Two Neil Watt

After winning the Army Reserve Challenge Cup last season, 6 SCOTS Football Club's first match this year was against 4 Regiment RLC in the Army Super Cup at Toryglen sports complex, Glasgow. Despite dominating the game, it was drawn one-a-piece and then lost 5 – 4 on penalties.

As previous winners of the Challenge Cup we were ready to defend our title and in the quarter final 6 SCOTS were drawn away to 159 Regiment RLC. With other commitments reducing the team to only 11 available players on the day it looked ominous. The boys pulled their socks up, dug in deep and produced a 5 – 4 result. Down 4 – 2 with 15 minutes to go, victory was rescued with three unanswered goals. Goals from Shaun Begbie, Craig Thomson, Ryan Campbell (2) and an own goal saw 6 SCOTS into the semi-finals.

Semi-final time and another away trip to Preston to play 156 Regiment RLC. Again, short on players led to desperate measures with the more senior coaching staff, Sean McKnight and Neil Watt, re-rolled as impact substitutes. A solid performance from the team and especially Steven Bell, who played in goal as a last-minute replacement, saw 6 SCOTS dominate the match. A frustrating deadlock was broken in the 35th minute from a right-hand side cross to Martyn Orr who scored with a

powerful header from 10 yards out. 6 SCOTS pressed the game and sealed victory on the 90th minute when Ryan Campbell received a pass and beat the offside trap to slot the ball neatly into the net. New super substitute McKnight did manage to get his glory and came on and played exceptionally well for 15 minutes; perhaps not to retire a one-cap wonder?!

On to the final at Aldershot Stadium against our rivals 4 LANCS. Appropriately the two best teams in the competition came head-to-head. In the opening five minutes a nasty challenge from Kieran Donoghue, resulting in a yellow card, set the tone in this fiery battle. An early mistake from 6 SCOTS was capitalised on by 4 LANCS who sprung the offside trap and scored to go 1-0 up. Jolted into action 6 SCOTS started to play their own game and were rewarded with a goal when Kieran Donoghue produced a cross diagonal ball for Alexander Stevenson who knocked it down with a one-touch pass for Martyn Orr who slid the ball past the keeper: 1-1. The second half was all 6 SCOTS's with several chances to take the lead. Missed opportunities were compounded and punished in the 84th minute with sloppy defending from a free kick; 4 LANCS scored and again took the lead. Despite throwing the kitchen sink at it 6 SCOTS's efforts were in vain against a resilient 4 LANCS defence.



Another excellent season in all. However, having tasted victory and silverware in 2022 losses in two finals has hurt. Fired up to regain the trophies and honours, 6 SCOTS Football Club is eagerly anticipating next season starting in September.



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6 SCOTS FOOTBALL SEASON

Val Thorens – a high and visually spectacular ski resort, made slightly less photogenic in Mar 23 by the arrival of the Army Personnel Centre's military staff. The veteran cohort, average age creeping past 40, deployed to conduct Ski Proficiency 1 and 2 certificates, although more accurately to regain their ski legs after absences from the piste varying from seven days to ten years. For six glorious days, the career management crew progressed from distinctly average to legends in their own minds, whilst experiencing an acceptable rate of attrition as creaking limbs protested at the stresses imposed by mogul fields. By the end, we were reassured that we could still compare favorably with the youth, at least in skiing proficiency if not in style and nocturnal stamina. In the margins, as proof of value for money to the taxpayer and to demonstrate the modern hybrid working



approach, a considerable volume of APC business as usual was achieved; not least a No 5 Board Sweep Up delivered from the dining table of a six-man flat.

Was it worthwhile sending a group composed largely of staff officers to France for a week's skiing? Absolutely. Regardless of age and rank, Adventure Training offers a

great opportunity to step outside of one's comfort zone whilst building group cohesion. For the APC gang, the steeper runs offered an abundance of the former, whilst the requirement to live cheek by jowl with colleagues from other branches in cut-price accommodation blocks certainly achieved some sort of cohesion. Even if the Après ski chat stank worse than the ski socks...

SAVE THE DATES

2023

Sat 16 Sep	SCOTS Race Day, Musselburgh
Thu 28 Sep	Exercising the Freedom of Berwick Upon Tweed
Fri 29 Sep	Exercising the Freedom of Penicuik
Sat 30 Sep	Exercising the Freedom of Clackmannanshire
Sat 11 Nov	Lord Mayor's Show, London
Sun 12 Nov	Remembrance Sunday, London and Edinburgh
Sat 25 Nov	The Royal Regiment of Scotland St Andrew's Ball, Edinburgh
Thu 30 Nov	Regimental Boxing Night, Oriam Sports Centre, Edinburgh



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