



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
EDITION 2 : DEC 21 – FEB 22



SCOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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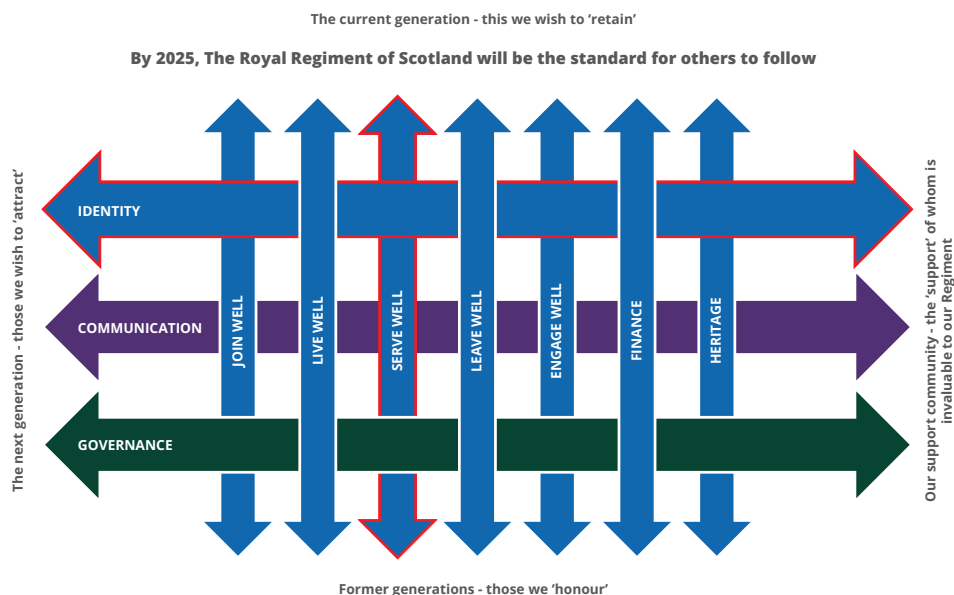
DID YOU KNOW?

On 1st December 2021 the black hackle became our Regimental hackle.

It is now worn by all SCOTS officers and soldiers except for those assigned to a Regular Battalion or Balaklava Company. This decision was made by the Regimental Council to acknowledge the significant contribution 1 SCOTS have made over the past 15 years in the Regiment now that they have been re-designated as 1 RANGER.

THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND STRATEGY 2021 – 2025

The Royal Regiment of Scotland Strategy 2021 – 2025 was launched by the Colonel of the Regiment on 30th November 2021. The strategy consists of one vision, three foundations and seven Lines of Operation (five new and two existing). Each Foundation and Line of Operation has a senior member of the Regiment appointed to lead a staff team of Regimental officers and soldiers to deliver the objectives and meet the stated outcomes in the strategy.



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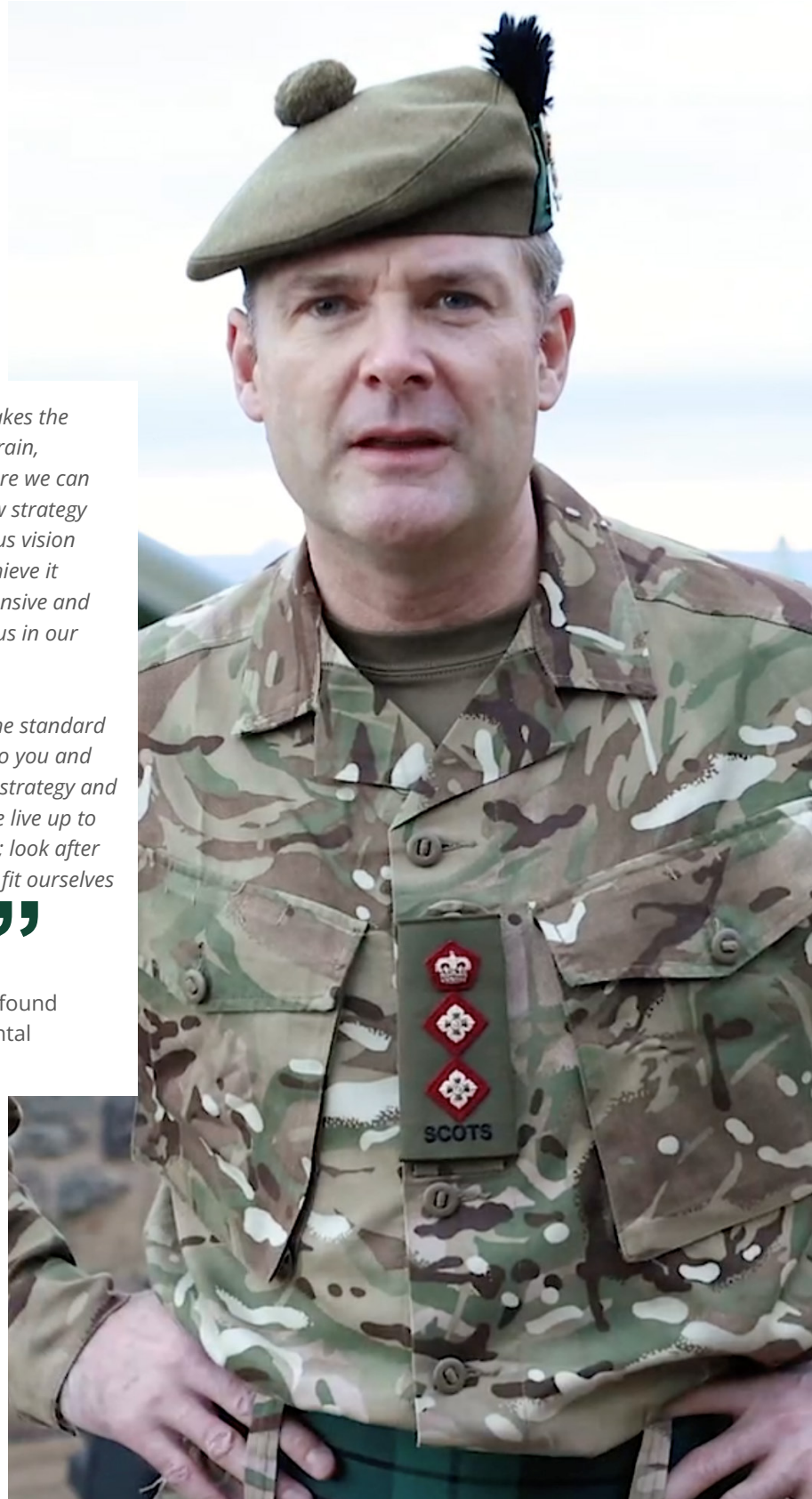


IN HIS INTRODUCTION THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT SAID,

“ Our people, serving and retired, are what makes the Regiment, and the job of the Regiment is to train, command and look after our people, to ensure we can do our duty to the highest standard. This new strategy is designed to do just that; it sets an ambitious vision for the Regiment, and details how we will achieve it across a number of key areas. It is comprehensive and deliberately challenging. It will require all of us in our Regiment to support it.

In doing so, we will achieve success and be the standard for others to follow. I therefore commend it to you and ask that we all do our utmost to support the strategy and make it a reality. Doing so will ensure that we live up to the proud heritage of those who went before; look after our people now in the best way possible and fit ourselves for the inevitable challenges that lie ahead. ”

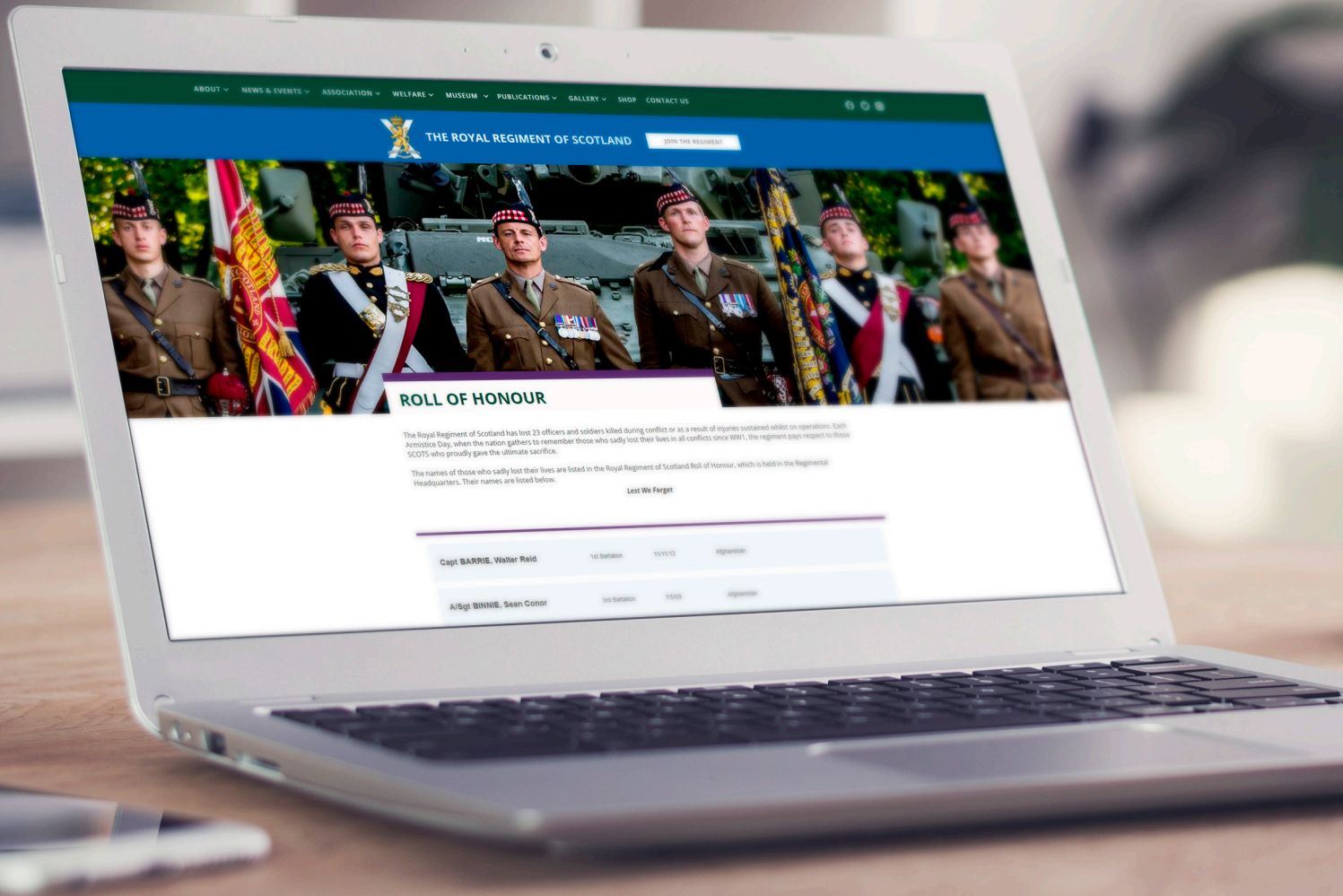
The full Regimental Strategy paper can be found under the publications tab on our Regimental website.





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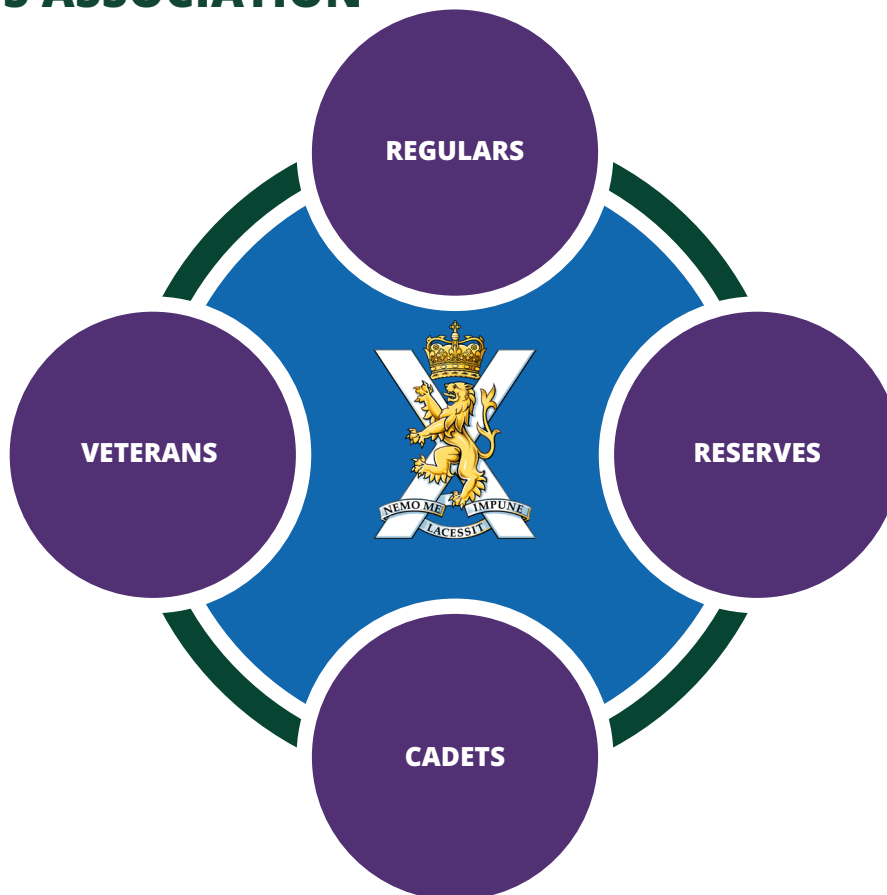
THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND WEBSITE

AFTER SIX MONTHS OF PROJECT WORK THE SCOTS WEBSITE WAS LAUNCHED ON THE 1ST DECEMBER 2021.

After six months of project work the SCOTS Website was launched on the 1st December 2021. The site gives access to information on the Regiment (including access to the Museum page) SCOTS news, future events, the Association and useful publications. It will serve as an information portal to serving SCOTS and veterans to enable them to contact any branch within Regimental Headquarters. In the Spring/Summer of this year the website will host our new online shop where Regimental PRI items, clothing and equipment can be purchased.



THE SCOTS ASSOCIATION



NEW YEAR HONOURS AND AWARDS

The following members of the Regiment have been recognised for their outstanding service in the New Year's Honours List.

Brigadier Robin Ronald Edward LINDSAY CBE

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy James Jonathan DRAPER OBE

Lieutenant Colonel Callum Angus Mackay LANE MBE

Major Angus Donald STEELE MBE

Colour Sergeant Perrie Michael LEITH MBE

Corporal Joseva Koroi VAKACOKAIVALU MBE (**formerly SCOTS now RANGER**)

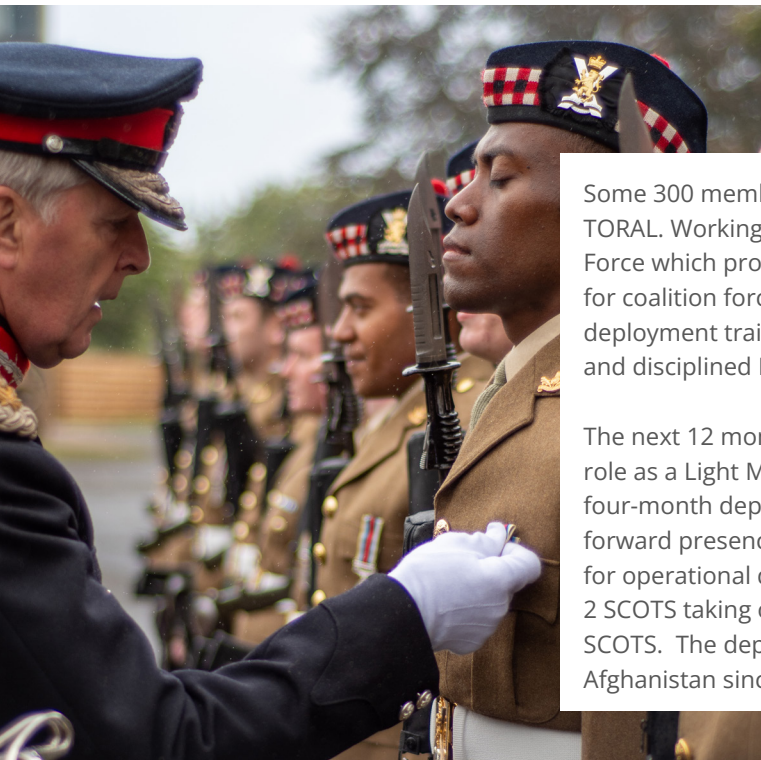
Warrant Officer Class 2 Daniel BUIST (Retired) MSM

Warrant Officer Class 2 Ryan Gerard ROBERTSON MSM (**formerly SCOTS now RANGER**)



2 SCOTS MEDAL PARADE

On 23 September 2021 the Colonel of the Regiment awarded medals to officers and soldiers of 2 SCOTS who returned from operational deployment of Op TORAL (Afghanistan) in early 2021. The parade took place at Glencorse Barracks. In attendance was the Lord Lt of Midlothian, Lt Col Richard Callander LVO OBE TD, Maj Gen (Ret'd) Euan Loudon CBE and Commander Edinburgh Garrison, Lt Col Hugo Clark MBE. Cpl Cruachan IV, the mascot of the Royal Regiment of Scotland and the Pipes and Drums of 2 SCOTS lead the parade. The 23 September also marked Assaye Day.



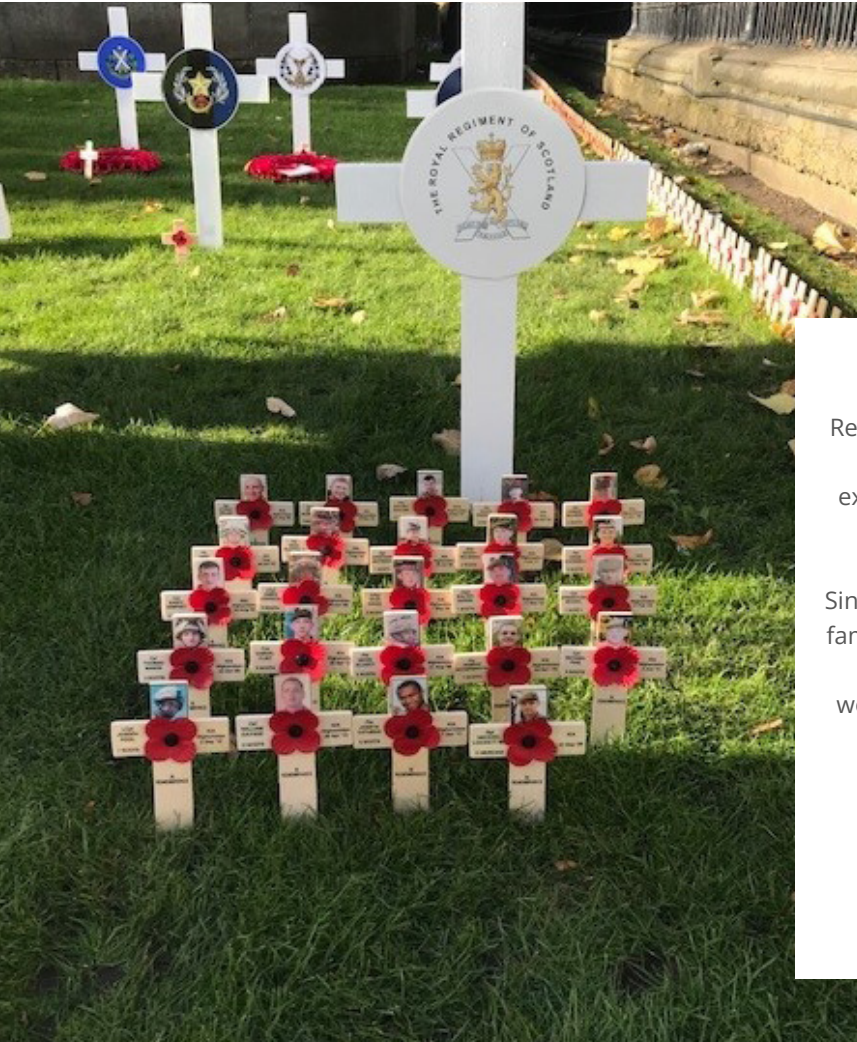
Some 300 members of 2 SCOTS had deployed to Afghanistan as part of Op TORAL. Working as part of the NATO coalition they formed the Kabul Security Force which provided Advisor Force Protection and a Quick Reaction Force for coalition forces in Kabul. 2 SCOTS had to significantly adapt their pre-deployment training due to the pandemic, testing their agility as a professional and disciplined Infantry Battalion.

The next 12 months will see 2 SCOTS complete specialist training in their role as a Light Mechanised Infantry Battalion. This will culminate with a four-month deployment to Oman as part of the Army's Regional Land Hubs forward presence around the globe. Following this they will begin training for operational deployments to Mali in 2023. Deploying to Afghanistan saw 2 SCOTS taking over from 4 SCOTS and on departure handing over to 3 SCOTS. The deployment marked the fifth time the Battalion has deployed to Afghanistan since 2008.



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EDINBURGH GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE 2021

Each year our nation's capital marks the start of "Remembrance" with the opening of the Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens. The event took place on a sunny day on Monday 25th October and as expected it was well attended by veterans and members of the general public.

Since our formation Regimental Headquarters has invited family members of the SCOTS soldiers who lost their lives on operations to attend the ceremony. Normally they would then be invited to the Royal Scots Club afterwards for refreshments but unfortunately due to COVID restrictions this did not take place this year.

At the end of the official laying of wreaths various dignitaries, the Heads of the Armed Forces in Scotland and the invited families were asked to plant a 'Poppy Cross' in remembrance of their loved one.

REMEMBRANCE 2021

SCOTS and Veterans marked Remembrance in various locations. The Cenotaph in London saw a contingent of seven former SCOTS and a HLDR, a small number but they managed to keep in step all the way round! Pictured from left to right: Kieron Potts, Jonathan Tink, Norrie Mackinnon, Kev Wood, Stuart McCauley, Graeme Smith, Kev Gartside, Gordon Vevers.





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REMEMBRANCE 2021

Pete Marshall, Roddy McPhee, Mike Duffus, Colin Marshall from the SCOTS Association Highlands and Islands Branch paraded at Inverness with the very smart SCOTS veteran CSgt Roddy McPhee as the Branch Standard Bearer.



SCOTS Association Veteran Cpl Paul Anderson paraded for The West of Scotland Branch standard alongside the RHF Association standard for the Glasgow remembrance parade. Both bearers were immaculately turned out for the service.



At the Garden of Remembrance in Westminster the Regiment was represented by Brigadier Adrian Reilly who was the senior SCOTS Officer on parade. He was accompanied to the 2021 opening event by Major Frazer Stark, Major Findlay Anderson, Major Mike Payne also representing the SCOTS.



This year's Aberdeen Remembrance parade saw GORDONS, HLDERS and SCOTS veterans parading together. Ex WO1 (RSM) Lance Darling is working towards coordinating SCOTS Association activities in Aberdeenshire, check out the Association area on the SCOTS website.



6 SCOTS formed a large part of the Remembrance Sunday Glasgow Parade with the Guard of Honour comprising entirely of Reserve soldiers with full credit going to 6 SCOTS RSM WO1 John Thompson for coordinating and executing the parade to such a high standard. This parade included working closely with Glasgow City Council, St Andrews Ambulance Association and Police Scotland Counter Terrorist Unit.



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THE RE-DESIGNATION OF 1 SCOTS

The 1st December 2021 saw the re-designation of 1 SCOTS to become 1st Battalion Ranger Regiment (1 RANGER). 1 SCOTS were part of the Specialised Infantry Group, and all the units in the Group have become battalions within the new Army Special Operations Brigade (ASOB). Other units include 2 PWRR – 2 RANGER; 2 LANCS – 3 RANGER and 4 RIFLES – 4 RANGER. 1 RANGER will remain in Belfast.

To mark the occasion, they paraded their colours for the last time as 1 SCOTS at Palace Barracks with their Pipes and Drums and the Colonel of the Regiment took the salute. The parade was attended by RS, KOSB and SCOTS veterans.



Later that evening a Beating Retreat was held followed by a final 1st Battalion Regimental Dinner Night. The following day 1 SCOTS formed up in the morning for a flag raising ceremony, marched to the Kirk and then formally removed their SCOTS Tam O' Shanter and replaced them with the RANGER beret.



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YOUNG OFFICERS REGIMENTAL INDUCTION

In mid-December RHQ SCOTS welcomed six Young Officers to the Castle for a Regimental Induction week following their commissioning from RMAS in August 2021 and the successful completion of the Platoon Commanders Battle Course at Brecon. This included 2Lt Kris Boyle AAC attached to 4 SCOTS pending the commencement of his flying training in 2023. The Young Officers received briefs and presentations on a wide range of subjects and conducted a few visits including the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming and enjoyed coffee with veterans at the Erskine Edinburgh

Home. They also visited Canongate Kirk (Regimental Kirk) and met with the Reverend Neil Gardiner who informed them of the history of the Kirk and explained where it fits within the community and wider Edinburgh Garrison units. In addition, they maximised the opportunities the city nightlife presented to assist in their decompression from a tough 18 months of training prior to joining their Battalions. A huge welcome to 2Lts Kris Boyle (AAC), Alex Cartwright, Luke Carver, Grant Drummond, Andrew Duff and Fraser Harley.



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REGIMENTAL BOXING

On Thursday 18th November 2021 at the Oriam Sports Performance Centre Edinburgh, The SCOTS held their Regimental Boxing Night. This was an internal competition where boxers from four of the Regiment's regular battalions and one of the Regiment's reserve battalions competed for individual and battalion pride. This was the fourth iteration of this event, which was first tested in Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh in 2014, again in the same venue in 2016 and followed by the Oriam Sports Performance Centre in 2018. This year the event drew a slightly smaller audience (complying with the maximum allowed capacity of 500) from the Regiment, Regimental family and invited guests from the community who were welcomed on arrival by a Piper from 4 SCOTS and the Regimental Mascot Cpl Cruachan IV.



There were ten bouts in accordance with the UK Armed Forces Boxing Association regulations. 4 SCOTS Pipes and Drums opened the competition and prior to each bout, boxers were introduced to the waiting crowd by their respective battalion pipe tune before the lights are engaged and the boxer's personal choice of music covers their short walk to the ring.

'Best Boxer' went to Fusilier Lamond from 2 SCOTS with 'Fight of the Night' going to Fusilier Mowles 2 SCOTS and Private Lyall 3 SCOTS.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant General NRM Borton DSO MBE, closed the evening by congratulating all the gladiators who had the courage to step into the ring and represent both themselves and their battalion, exemplifying the Army's core values and standards.





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SCOTS ASSOCIATION REUNION

On 27th November 2021 all SCOTS veterans who we could contact were invited to gather at the Royal George Hotel Perth for a get together and 'blether'. It was a fantastic day with good pipe music, food and craic, with everyone re-connecting.

The RHQ SCOTS team of Jonathan Tink (Association Chairman) and Kev Wood (Association Secretary) took the opportunity to provide Regimental and Association updates. It was also a chance for an informal Q and A session regarding reaching out to those veterans who are not connected to the wider Regiment family.



The 4 SCOTS cartel consisted (from left to right) of: Rab McLeod, Lance Darling, Roddy MacPhee, Kev McWilliam, Jamie Wallace, Scott MacKay and Craig Marsden. Balaklava Company supported the event with Lt McWilliams, Sgt Ross and Pte Jennison.

ARE YOU A SCOTS VETERAN?

If you have not already done so, please register on The Royal Regiment of Scotland website under Association.

COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT COIN FOR EXCELLENCE

Over the last few months, the following members of the Regiment have been presented with the Colonel of the Regiment Coin for Excellence.

Maj	McDougall	L	OC HQ Coy	1 SCOTS now 1 RANGER
Maj	Falconer	A	QM	1 SCOTS now 1 RANGER
WO1	Duncan	A	RSM	1 SCOTS now 1 RANGER
WO2	Couper	J	RQMS(M)	1 SCOTS now 1 RANGER
Capt	Duncan	CP	Adjt	1 SCOTS now 1 RANGER
Sgt	Kerr	PR	Team Sgt	1 SCOTS now 1 RANGER
Cpl	Bogitolu	EV	Team SAA Cpl	1 SCOTS now 1 RANGER
Cpl	Feeney	DA	CMT	1 SCOTS now 1 RANGER
Cpl	Wilkinson	MA	Pony Major	Infantry Engagement Team
Sgt	Baird	CM	Welfare SNCO	1 SCOTS now 1 RANGER
SSgt	Hewart	SJ	Unit Catering Manager	1 SCOTS now 1 RANGER



SCOTS OFFICERS' REGIMENTAL DINNER NIGHT

Some ninety of the Regiment's officers gathered in Edinburgh at the Royal Scots Club to attend the annual Officers Club dinner in October last year. As one of the first post COVID lockdown events it was good to see so much representation from across the Regiment, including the Regiment's first two commissioned female officers. Spirits were high and the table conversation ranged from strategy and doctrine at the top table down to Instagram followers with the young team. The Colonel of the Regiment's address was particularly inspiring, and everyone should take great pride in the standard of officers and soldiers in the Regiment and their achievements within the military landscape.



The food, wine and service from the club was first class and the entertainment provided by The Royal Regiment of Scotland military band and pipers from the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming. Of note was the inaugural rendition of the Regimental Pipers Toast and the real serenity in the room brought about by a quite excellent Piobaireachd.

The dinner night was a huge success and as the night came to an end many officers went on to sample the delights of what Edinburgh has to offer culturally. The next dinner is planned for the Thursday 17 March 2022 and it's hoped that a similar level of support for this event will be forthcoming.



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4 SCOTS CHARITY EVENTS 2021

4 SCOTS have initiated several charity events, all of which have raised large sums of money for some very worthy causes.

4 SCOTS LAD held a charity event late November and virtually cycled 840 Miles from Lands' End to John O'Groats, raising £1,334 for the Meningitis Foundation.

LCpl Andrew Betts spent the night sleeping outside for those sleeping rough in Glasgow, an annual event for LCpl Betts that raises money and awareness for those in need. This was done in aid of The Rangers Charity Foundation who have been partnered with the Glasgow City Mission for a number of years.

B Coy who were deployed on Op ORBTIAL in Ukraine took part in a 4, 4, 48 Challenge for Mental Health. To raise money for Combat Stress three of their NCOs; CSgt Buntine, Sgt Dick and LCpl Gough ran 4 miles every four hours for 48 hours - almost two marathons. They raised £3,218 for Combat Stress, smashing their original target of £1,200.



Finally, the Bn has raised £940 for Movember which raises awareness of men's mental health and cancer. Most people taking part (and their spouses) report they are happy to be rid of their moustaches now that it is December! No photos have been supplied for obvious reasons!



SCOTS MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES

6 SCOTS recently deployed four individuals to provide Military Aid to the Civil Authorities in the West and East of Scotland. WO2 Lynn provided ambulance driving, Sgt McAllister provided chef support and both LCpl Sanchez and Pte McEwan providing driver support.



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WISHTAN REUNION

Members of B Coy 1 SCOTS who served in WISHTAN Afghanistan got together for Remembrance weekend in Edinburgh. The event was arranged by Captain Paul Naismith of 1 SCOTS (Pink shirt) and both he and the jocks hope to make this a annual reunion event and be on parade in Edinburgh for the service.

MR BRYAN DICKINSON RHQ SCOTS

The RHQ Welfare Team suffered the sad loss of their Welfare Clerk who died on 29 December 2021. Bryan had worked in RHQ for almost 10 years and was a diligent, thoughtful and popular member of our team. He will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

4 SCOTS HERRICK 14 REUNION

On Saturday 23 October 2021, 10 years since the deployment of Op HERRICK 14, 60 personnel who were deployed as part of the 4 SCOTS Battle Group gathered in Redford Calvary Barracks for a reunion to mark the 10 years anniversary. Although many could not attend due to work commitments, an even split of serving and veterans reunited to share memories and exaggerated stories from the tour in a relaxed environment.



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DEPUTY CHAPLAIN GENERAL VISITS RHQ SCOTS

The Regimental Secretary welcomed the Rev Mike Parker QHC CF to RHQ who was in Edinburgh Castle for a Chaplains study day. The Deputy Chaplain General was keen to learn about the Regiment, the role of RHQ and the impact of the Integrated Review. In addition, the Regimental Secretary took the opportunity to brief on the new Regimental Strategy and how it was going to be delivered out to 2025. The Rev Mike Parker will assume the appointment of Chaplain General in May this year and we wish him well in his new role.



REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS BID FAREWELL TO THEIR CURATOR

After 10 years as Curator for The Museum of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, Desmond Thomas is off to pastures new as he starts a new chapter to his professional and personal life in Amsterdam with his family.

Desmond's contribution as Curator throughout his tenure has been outstanding and the Museum has benefited significantly from his time at the helm.

We wish him and his family every success and happiness in their new adventure. Desmond is being replaced as Curator by Ms Alli Spark and we would like to formally welcome her to the Regimental Headquarters in the Castle. Alli has previously worked in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum and we are delighted to have her on board the Heritage team as we look to develop the museum over the next few years.



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REGIMENTAL TWEED

Regimental Tweed is available
at £35 a metre.

SAVE THE DATE

Thu 17 Mar 22 – Regimental Black Hackle Officer's Dinner Night, Edinburgh

Sun 1 May 22 – SCOTS Association Munro Bagging Day, Dalwhinnie

Thu 23 Jun 22 – SCOTS Association Annual Golf Day, Alyth, Perthshire

Sun 13 Nov 22 – Remembrance Sunday, London and Edinburgh

Sat 26 Nov 22 – The Royal Regiment of Scotland St Andrew's Ball, Edinburgh