



# **THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND**

**ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**  
EDITION 5 : SEP – NOV 22





# SCOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

As our Colonel-in-Chief, we were privileged to enjoy a close and special relationship with the late HM Queen Elizabeth II. The Royal Regiment of Scotland was formed on 28 March 2006 when HM The Queen became Colonel-in-Chief, and she presented new Colours to all seven battalions on 2 July 2011. Her Majesty was originally given the Colonelcy of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, one of the SCOTS antecedent Regiments, on her 21st birthday by her father King George VI. She has therefore been involved with the Regiment for 75 years.

As a Scot herself, Her Majesty felt a special bond with Scotland, its people, and its Infantry Regiment. Her immense pride in her Regiment and her ability to recall Regimental detail and that of its historic antecedent links was striking. She showed great pride in the Regiment's achievements, particularly during operations in Afghanistan.



It was our honour to guard the Queen during her annual stay at her beloved Balmoral. She always engaged closely with the Jocks, who loved this rare opportunity to be with their Colonel in Chief. There are many great regimental anecdotes of Jocks bumping into The Queen as she went about the estate; she loved the banter with them.

It has been a huge honour for the Regiment to play a leading role in Scotland during Op UNICORN. Notably, the Regiment provided the Bearer Party, Pipes and Drums and the Guards of Honour at Balmoral, Holyroodhouse and Edinburgh Castle, all of whom executed this most difficult of duties with intense pride and professionalism. It was our greatest and saddest duty to send Her Majesty off on her final departure from her beloved Scotland. She will forever hold a special place in the hearts of the SCOTS.

Nemo Me Impune Lacesit.  
Lieutenant General NRM Borton  
DSO MBE

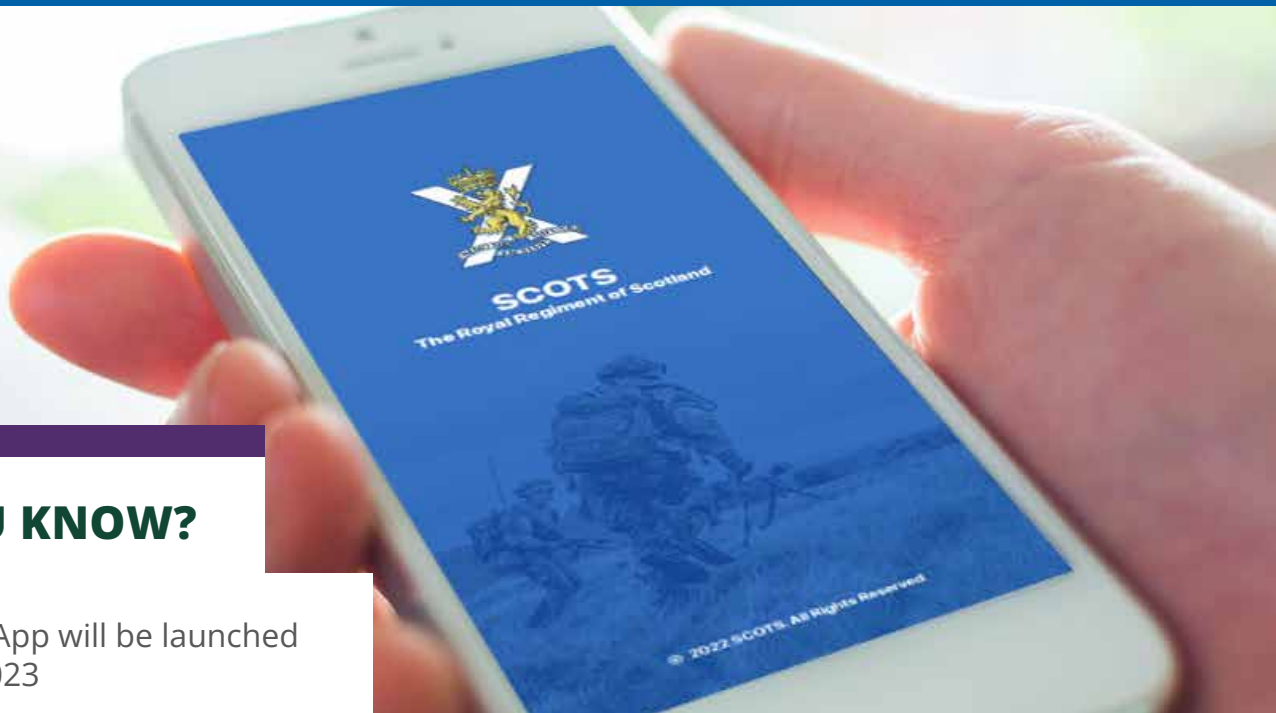
Her Majesty's Escort on the Royal Mile accompanying the impeccable Bearer Party from Balaklava Company.

The Escort included a former Colonel of the Regiment (Lt Gen (Retd) Sir Andrew Graham), three former Commanding Officers of 2 SCOTS (Brig (Retd) Paul Harkness, Brig Graeme Wearmouth, and Brig Robin Lindsay) and a former Regimental Trustee (Colonel (Retd) Angus Loudon). The Colonel of the Regiment was also a member of the Royal Company of Archers Colour Party at St Giles.



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### DID YOU KNOW?

That SCOTS App will be launched in January 2023

The Regimental Strategy places emphasis on communicating better – both internally and externally. To achieve part of this, SCOTS App (for both Apple and Android) will be launched at the beginning of next year.

The App is for our serving and veteran community, to provide a channel to connect and inform.

### Keeping you connected with the SCOTS family

The SCOTS App mission is to create a closer, vibrant, engaged community for the SCOTS family.



#### Connect

Find and connect with serving and veteran SCOTS



#### Join

Discover and join groups of fellow SCOTS



#### Create Groups

Create your own groups and catch up with SCOTS with similar interests



#### Events

Find out what's going on and attend SCOTS events



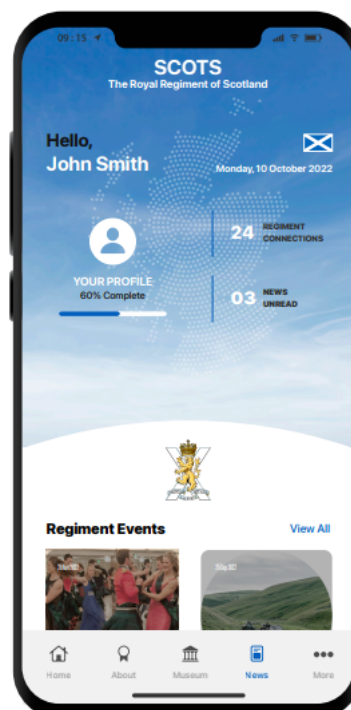
#### Support

Information and advice for serving soldiers, veterans, and their families



#### Wellbeing

Get professional help, support and advice when most needed





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## COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT VISIT TO 5 SCOTS

The Col of the Regt visited 5 SCOTS the week following Op UNICORN at Ballater whilst they remained on Royal Guard. Her Majesty The Queen's Bearer Party from 5 SCOTS had received significant accolades from external sources and significant media attention. Similarly, the reserve Bearer Party, albeit out of the limelight, had also performed equally well. The Col of the Regt thought it poignant to take the opportunity to present all with a SCOTS Col of the Regt Coin for excellence during his visit to Ballater.

Pte Baafi Antwi was also received a Col of the Regt Coin. He was recommended for his efforts within Security Platoon. Pte Baafi Antwi had consistently impressed his chain of command throughout Royal Guard. He had stepped up to 2IC of his section, had volunteered for taskings, carrying them out to a high standard. He has been noted among the NCOs as being proactive, respectful, and disciplined; all of which has led him to becoming a well trusted soldier within the platoon.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The following individuals were successful on the No2 Board and the WO1 Commissioning Board:

### BRIG APPTS

- Col Leigh Drummond to ACOS Plans Fd Army

### COL APPTS

- Lt Col Rich Forsyth to Iraq UNION FOB

### LE COMMISSIONS

- WO1 McLellan RSM 4 SCOTS
- WO1 O'Neil RSM 2 SCOTS
- WO2 Duncan CSM 6 SCOTS
- WO2 McCarthy CSM 3 SCOTS





## NORTHERN MEETING PIPING COMPETITION

The Northern Meeting Piping Competition (World Solo Piping Championship) was held in Eden Court, Inverness on 1st and 2nd September. Over 100 of the world top pipers attended (a third from overseas – Australia, NZ, USA, Canada, France, Germany). The competition benefitted greatly from the support and knowledge of the judging panel (including our 'own' Pipe Major's Stuart Samson MBE and Bruce Hitchings MBE BEM) and outstanding 'stewards' from the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming under the watchful eyes of Major Gordon Rowan MBE and PM WO1 Colin Simpson.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland provided a prize to the winner of the Under 18 Piobaireachd in the form of a chanter. This year 17 junior pipers competed for the honours which was judged by Stuart Samson and Bruce Hitchings. Competitors were given 10 minutes to warm-up before performing, not knowing which tune they would be asked to perform by the judges.

Top honours this year went to Lewis Maxwell from Alva, near Stirling, who won the PM Ewan Macrae Trophy and the SCOTS chanter.



The photos show him being presented with the PM Ewan Macrae Trophy by Inverness Provost, Glynis Campbell-Sinclair.

Lewis Maxwell can also be seen in the winners group photograph on the left side of the centre row.



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### SCOTS SHOP ONLINE

In partnership with Ammo & Company, The Royal Regiment of Scotland has launched the SCOTS Shop Online, providing a new, efficient, and assured way to meet your demands for uniform and accoutrements, sport and leisure wear, gifts and presentations.

THE OFFICIAL ONLINE SHOP OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

**SCOTS Regimental PRI Items**

- Combat Clothing
- Off Parade
- Survival Kit
- Uniform Clothing & Accessories
- Webbing & Carriage

We aim for every officer and soldier to have a trusted source for uniform items, field equipment and 'off parade' items, with timely delivery. Additionally, Scots Shop Online supports our veterans and immensely supports our Cadet Forces. Scots Shop Online has become a staple of regimental life and an essential tool for quality items. Importantly, the more Scots Shop Online is used, the more money the regiment raises as every sale generates a percentage donation.

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### WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MASONS - MASTER'S PRIZE AND CERTIFICATE

Congratulations to Cpl CA Gray 3 SCOTS on winning this year Master's Prize and Certificate.

Cpl Gray promoted in April 22 and deployed in May 22. He played a critical role in the success of Op COPPERWING. As the only deployable section commander in the company, a huge amount of responsibility was placed on Cpl Gray, he was instrumental in helping the prepare the company for an unusually short notice deployment with very limited information. Running ranges, delivering mission specific training and ensuring junior soldiers were motivated, administrated and as best informed as possible before even deploying. Cpl Gray proved himself to be dependable and diligent, characteristics he exemplified throughout the operation.

When deployed, Cpl Gray was assigned to lead the more complex tasks and it was under his command that various objectives critical to the missions of not just Op COPPERWING, but other operations and agencies operating within the AO were achieved. Cpl Gray facilitated recces of key infrastructure including hospitals and BXPs necessary for the development of a Med Plan viable for all FE in theatre. Gray repeatedly demonstrated his military skills, command presence and his ability to adapt to an unconventional environment for which he has received very limited training.

Throughout his deployment, Cpl Gray supported high ranking officers (OF6+) from both British Armed Forces and HNSF. All expressed how thoroughly impressed they had been by his professionalism

and the rapport he established with said individuals was invaluable for future relationships between Op COPPERWING and its various stakeholders. The hard work of Cpl Gray will have a lasting positive impact on the reputation of 3 SCOTS, Op COPPERWING and the British Army in forging enduring relationships.

#### **RUNNERS UP THIS YEAR WERE:**

- Cpl A Devlin 2 SCOTS
- LCpl CMV Walkden 4 SCOTS
- LCpl A Williams 6 SCOTS
- Pte P Gordon 7 SCOTS
- Pte G Thomson 5 SCOTS







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### COL OF THE REGT'S COIN FOR EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

Maj T Towler 3 SCOTS  
WO2 D Bruce 3 SCOTS  
Cpl C Coull 3 SCOTS  
Pte B Antwi 5 SCOTS

### HELLO AND GOODBYE

The Regimental Headquarters welcomes Gillian Craik and Jodi Beard. Gillian comes from 5 MI where she worked in the RAO Dept as the FSA and assumes the role of SO2 Business Support. Jodi also comes from 5 MI where she worked in Ops Sp in the G3/G7 branch and assumes the role of SO2 Digital/IM.

It is also time to say farewell to Maj (Retd) Norrie MacKinnon and Maj

(Retd) Maurice Gibson MBE, both of whom retire at the end of the year. Norrie joined the RHQ in October 2015 as SO2 Welfare and Maurice initially joined as SO2 Area Secretary North in January 2007 but laterally took on the role of SO2 Engagement. We thank them for their long, loyal and excellent service and commitment to the Regiment and wish them both a long and happy retirement.



### SCOTLAND VS FIJI RUGBY WEEKEND

On the weekend of the eagerly anticipated Scotland vs Fiji international game, both 3 and 4 SCOTS rugby teams travelled to Redford Cavalry Barracks in Edinburgh. The meeting saw a combined training session followed by a friendly match between the two Battalions. The rugby brought together soldiers from both Fiji and Scotland. The players eased into the morning with a training session, led by the newly appointed Infantry Rugby Coach, Pte Junior Bulumakau of 3 SCOTS.

During the game 3 SCOTS demonstrated their ability to produce their own 'Fijian' style of rugby taking the first points. 4 SCOTS fought back with both sides exchanging points for the lead. 3 SCOTS managed to maintain momentum and were ultimately victorious. The day proved to be an excellent opportunity for the 3 and 4 SCOTS players to build their relationship; and for some of the families from the Fijian community to meet up prior to the game at BT Murrayfield.

It was then onto BT Murrayfield for the big game and some continued team bonding. Fiji displayed a great display in the first half, much to the frustration of Rugby OC Maj McRobbie. The result however went the way of the Scots with a clinical second half. The team and their families met afterwards in a more social setting to reflect on a great day of rugby. All in all, the day proved to be a great success, bringing two battalions and two communities even closer together.

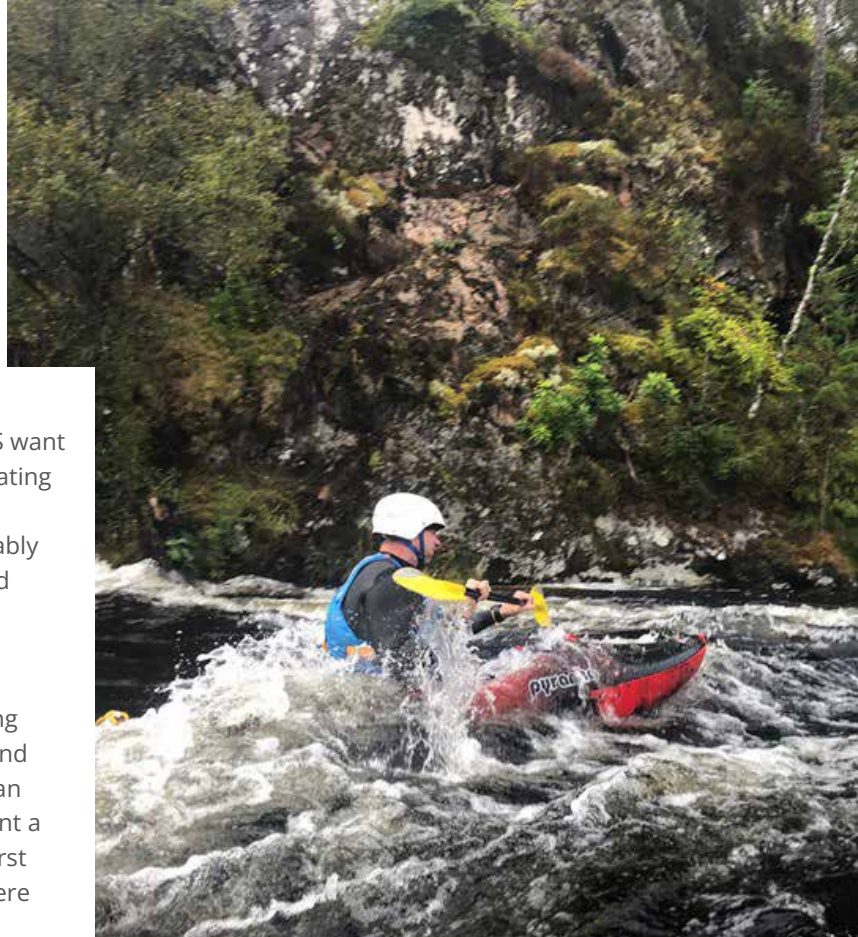




## KAYAKING AND CANOEING WITH 3 SCOTS

3 SCOTS is in prime location to take advantage of the fantastic Adventurous Training opportunities. 3 SCOTS want to set up more unit generated opportunities, concentrating on rock climbing, mountain biking and canoeing - with WO2 Roadnight leading the latter. To ensure he is suitably qualified he took advantage of the conveniently located Foundation AT Centre in Cameron Barracks.

WO2 Roadnight's training began with a Foundation Kayaking course (K2F), focusing on basic set up, learning different strokes and how to negotiate moving water and the many hazards. The training also taught how to do an assisted rescue as predictably some on the course spent a fair amount of time upside down in the water on the first day! Towards the end of the week, the course team were comfortable enough to go on to River Ness.



After a week's break WO2 Roadnight attended the Kayaking Intermediate course (K3N) and after initial checks on the basics he and those on the course were off on River Spey, to attempt the self-righting Eskimo rolls. The highlight of this week was the trip down the River Morriston where the water was faster and higher than previously encountered.

Once he completed this element WO2 Roadnight needed to achieve 10 hours assisting a course instructor, which he did as part of another K2F course at Cameron Barracks. Following this he is one step closer to being able to attend the Canoe Instructor Level One course, ensuring the battalion would have the ratios required to conduct their own planned local canoeing expeditions.





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## HIGHLAND GAMES SEASON

5 SCOTS' recent deployment on Her Majesty's Royal Guard was, amongst other notable events, highlighted by participation in Aberdeenshire's packed calendar of Highland Games. The season kicked off with mixed results. Captain Atkinson-Clark secured a cash prize with a placed finish in the Half Mile at the Aboyne Games. The Tug O' War Team, despite plentiful enthusiasm, brawn, and aggression, started the season with a resounding loss. On further inspection, it was found Altberg is unable to put up a fight against the behemoth that is the

Tug o' War boot. As with any success story, training was hard, equipment was acquired, and they came back fighting. The Ballater Games brought home a silver in the TOW, and impressive performances in the Hill Race. The first gold was won by Fus Grubis in the piping.

The Lonarch Games were, if anything, a mental and physical battle for the Officers of Balaklava Company. Armed with enthusiasm and a sore head, the OC and Pony Platoon Commander ambled up to the hill race start line. Both achieved

impressive finishes, if only the crowd knew that the previous 48 hours had been defined by the Ghillies and Donside Ball.

The pinnacle of the season is the Braemar Gathering. Football has Wembley, Cricket has Lords, and when it comes to the Highland Games, there is no finer arena than Braemar. Balaklava Company entered a team into the Inter-Services Relay. After a monumental fightback, we rounded off the season with a close silver medal.



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## CRUACHAN AND NIGHTCAP ON THEIR TRAVELS

This quarter has seen Cruachan and his companion Nightcap out and about on their travels again! They attended the Wrexham Military Tattoo along with their friends and fellow Army Mascots. These include ponies, a goat, a ram, and dogs, all of whom behaved well 'for the most-part'. All the Army Mascots represented their respective Regiment with 'pride'.

En route to Wrexham Cruachan and Nightcap stopped off at Woodlans Primary school in Ellesmere Port to see the children who have been following him on social media and sending him letters and drawings. The Pony Major judged some of the drawings and pictures of Cruachan and Nightcap and awarded prizes to the best in each age category. A wonderful visit and lasting memories for the children.

Cruachan also supported Poppy Scotland at Waverley bridge in Edinburgh for Remembrance Day 2022. He was wearing his poppy rug with pride and the public were extremely happy to see him, all helps to add to the Poppy Scotland collection pots.







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### BISMARCK CHALLENGE RELAY

The Bismarck (4x4) Relay Challenge is a military endurance event which takes place over a four mile, off road, undulating route. In October at Queen Elizabeth Barracks training area in North Yorkshire, 6 SCOTS entered a team with Sgt Bell as captain. The other members of the team where Maj Coppard, Cpl Graham, and Pte McCall.

The four members each carried a daysack of 15 kgs plus a water bottle. The event saw runners start in four batched starts at 10-minute intervals. 6 SCOTS were led out by their Sgt Bell, who completed the race in 45 mins, followed by Maj Coppard in 38 mins, then Pte McCall in 39 mins with Cpl Graham bringing the team home in 44 mins.

6 SCOTS's consistency in times led to a good overall position, but all racers are committed to improving individually next year!





## MOUNTAIN BIKING IN SPAIN

In September, fifteen personnel from 6 SCOTS travelled overseas to undertake six days of mountain biking in the Marina Alta mountains of Southern Spain. The group consisted of two mountain bike leaders and riders ranging from those with very little experience through to endurance event competitors.

Unlike the UK, where most mountain bike trails are graded, marked, and often consist of man-made elements, the riding in this region of Spain consists of almost entirely natural single-track linked by sections of fire road. It proved unlike anything that even the experienced riders in the group had experienced.

Over the week the group undertook five rides across the region, averaging around 20km per ride and climbing between 300m and 400m; apart from the final day epic which involved a 1000m climb to the highest point in the region. The punishing climbs were worth the effort not only for the breath-taking views but also for the adrenaline-fueled single-track descents.

The week provided a great opportunity for personnel to challenge themselves in a way that they wouldn't normally do and gain some valuable experience of mountain biking. The generous hospitality in the hotels added a welcome cultural element at the end of the long days.







## 47<sup>TH</sup> MARINE CORPS MARATHON WASHINGTON DC

A team of soldiers from 7 SCOTS completed the 47th Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) in Washington DC.

The team spent eight days in the US Capital as guests of the Allied Forces Federation (AFF) where they had time to visit places like the FBI HQs Hoover Building, United States Secret Service and Arlington National Cemetery where a wreath was laid at the tomb of the unknown soldier.

The MCM is one of the biggest marathons in the US and is known as the "Peoples Marathon" as it is the largest marathon in the world that does not offer prize money making it perfect for beginners.

The event has been run annually since 1976 apart from the last 2 years where it was done virtually due to the pandemic. After this hiatus the marathon returned to the streets of Washington and the

7 SCOTS team were delighted to be included in the 27,000 starters this year.

To date the team this year have managed to raise £2,550+ for SSAFA Perth and Kinross Branch. Which totals circa £18.5k raised for UK service charities from all 7 SCOTS MCM teams.

## CANONGATE KIRK MEMORIAL BOARD



In 2018 the Regiment purchased a piece of oak from the Grangehall Estate, Forres, owned by Major General AP Grant Peterkin Late of the Queens Own Highlanders. It was decided to use it as a mobile memorial to commemorate the 23 officers and soldiers from the Regiment killed as a result of enemy action whilst deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan. The first name recorded was Pte O'Donnell (5 SCOTS), KIA in September 2006, only 6 months after our formation. The latest entry was Pte Collins (1 SCOTS) who died of wounds sustained whilst serving in Afghanistan in 2010, eventually succumbing to his injuries in September 2021.

The Memorial board was handed over to the Reverend Neil Gardner,

our Regimental Padre at the Canongate Kirk for safe keeping. It can be found in the Memorial Chapel within the Kirk.

Why was the Canongate Kirk was chosen? The Royal Scots, one of our antecedent regiments, direct link with the Canongate extends back to 1937 when The Reverend Dr Ronnie Selby Wright, Minister at the Canongate, became Padre to their 7th/9th Battalion. The Kirk was officially adopted as the Royal Scots Regimental Kirk on 22 May 1983, as part of their 350th Anniversary activities. In 2005 the Regiment selected the Canongate as our Regimental Kirk, due to its connections with the Royal Scots and the fact the Kirk is situated close to Regimental Headquarters.



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### DESERT RATS MEMORIAL

The photos are of members of 4 SCOTS attendance at the Desert Rats Memorial on 22 Oct 22 at the national arboretum to commemorate the Second Battle of El Alamein 23 Oct – 11 Nov 1942.







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### GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

On the 24th of October 2022 the annual Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance was opened. It was the first time the SCOTS Association Lothian and Borders Branch Standard was on parade along with several SCOTS veterans.

The standard was carried by the Branch Chairman and a former member of 4 SCOTS Kevin MacWilliam. Although the standard bearers were collectively reprimanded by the parade Senior Non-Commissioned Officer after the parade, Kev was immaculate throughout - well we and he thinks so!







## REDEDICATION SERVICE NORTHERN FRANCE

On Thursday 17 November 2022 five members of 4 SCOTS travelled to Northern France to conduct a rededication service for two soldiers killed during the Great War.

Padre Clarke-Wood, Lt Clayden-Spence, WO2 Smith, Drummer Faulds and LCpl Foley facilitated the service in respect of Private James McNeilage McLean, 10th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders at Fosse 7 Military Cemetery (Quality Street) and Lance Corporal Brunton Smith of the 1/8th Royal Scots at Bancourt British Cemetery.







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## NAIRN REMEMBRANCE PARADE

On Sunday the 13th of November A Company 4 SCOTS took part in the Nairn Remembrance parade, joining local cadet, scouts, and reserve units. Once the ceremony was completed, they were hosted by the Royal British Legion and Seaforth club for lunch. In the evening the entire company moved to the Seaforth club for a fantastic evening with the members and the 'Grenadier' lounge was opened as a thank you for our support. It was a poignant experience for all those involved, remembering the service given by members of our antecedent regiments.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT THE CENOTAPH

At the Cenotaph twenty-one SCOTS Veterans were on parade. They were led by Brigadier (Retd) Adam Griffiths, the senior SCOTS veteran on parade, who retired from the Army on 31 August 2022.





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### REMEMBRANCE IN TUNISIA

2 SCOTS personnel (Cpl Roberts and Fus Tytler) supported remembrance activities in Tunisia 9-13 November 2022. They also played for HM Ambassador at the Embassy and during a ship's visit from HMS Albion, on an official visit to the country to reinforce the friendly relationship between the British and Tunisian navies.







## EDINBURGH REMEMBRANCE PARADE

SCOTS Veteran Roddy Watson, laid a wreath on behalf of the Lothian and Borders Branch at the Edinburgh Remembrance Parade.



## ST ANDREW'S DAY BALL

On Saturday 26th November the Regiment held its inaugural St Andrew's Reeling Ball at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh. The evening brought together Officers past and present as well their guests to enjoy a fine dinner and enthusiastic dancing until the early hours.

Music this year was provided by the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland and the Pipes and Drums of 4 SCOTS, who treated the assembled guests to a spectacular display of piping, drumming and highland dancing. The raffle raised £1200 for the SCOTS charity, The Regimental Trust.

Following this year's resounding success, the Ball Committee looks forward to seeing many familiar faces for the second iteration on Saturday 25th November 2023!



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### SAVE THE DATES

#### 2023

The SCOTS Rally (24 – 26 Mar)

- Fri 24 Mar Black Hackle Officers Dinner Night, Edinburgh
- Sat 25 Mar Regimental History Day, Edinburgh Castle
- Sat 25 Mar Regimental All Ranks Evening Function, Edinburgh
- Sun 26 Mar Regimental Muster, March and Church Service, Edinburgh

Thu 22 Jun	SCOTS Association Golf Championship, Strathmore Golf Centre, Alyth
Sat 16 Sep	SCOTS Race Day, Musselburgh
Sun 12 Nov	Remembrance Sunday, London and Edinburgh
Sat 25 Nov	The Royal Regiment of Scotland St Andrew's Ball, Edinburgh
Nov – date tbc	Regimental Boxing Night