



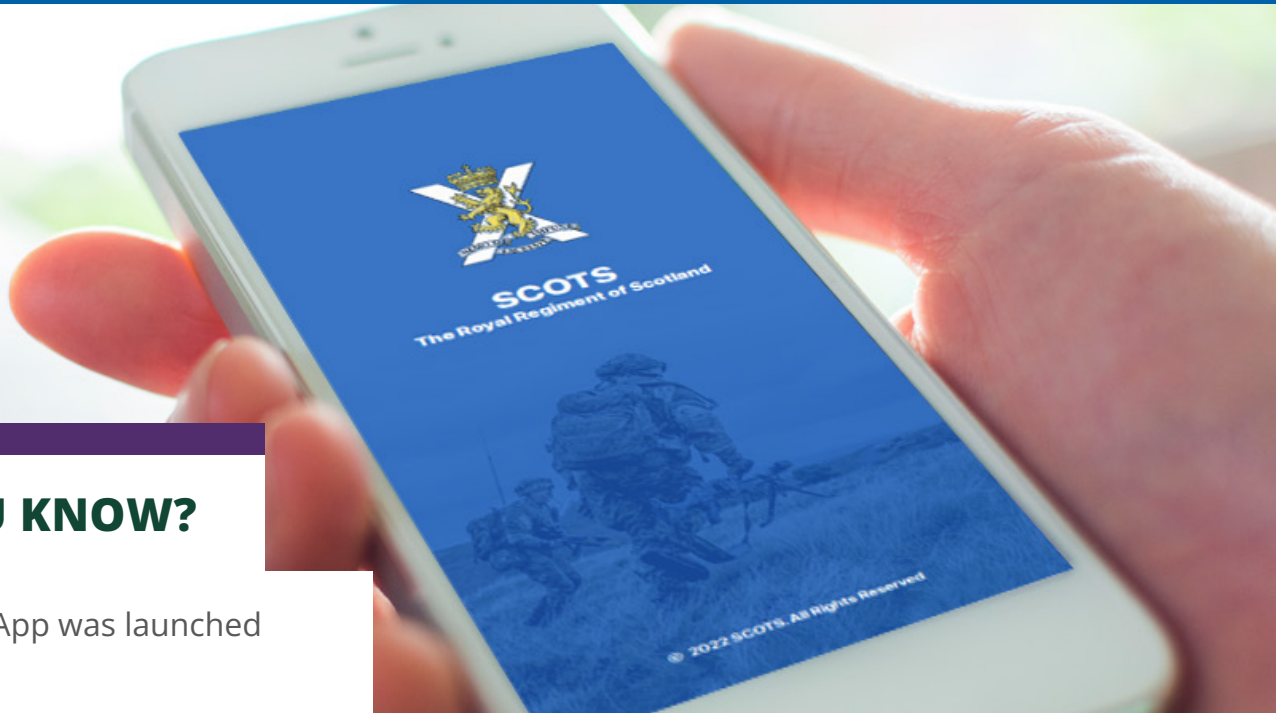
THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
EDITION 6 : DEC 22 – FEB 23



SCOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 6 : DEC 22 – FEB 23



DID YOU KNOW?

That SCOTS App was launched in Jan 23?

SCOTS App is a free to download Apple and Android App with an open (public) area and a member's area exclusively for serving SCOTS and SCOTS veterans. The aim is to improve communications across the Regiment and connectivity amongst serving and former members. The current Version is 1.1 and additional features and functionality will follow in future versions. Any comments or suggestions would be very welcome and can be submitted through the "Contact Us" function.

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



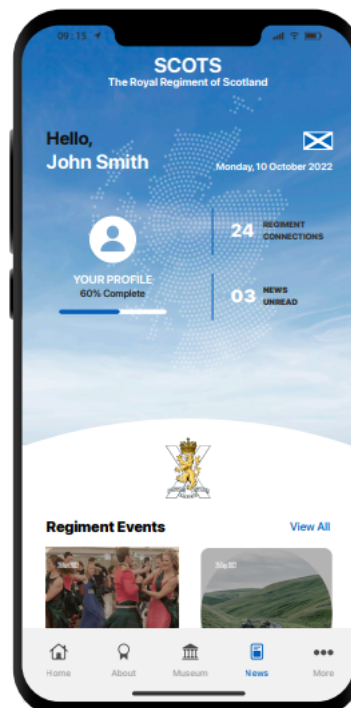
Join

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



NEW YEARS HONOURS

Congratulations to the following on being awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire):

- Lt Col Jeremy Giles SCOTS
- Maj William (Cliff) McAuley SCOTS

DEMISE OF HM THE QUEEN HONOURS LIST

The Regiment congratulates the following SCOTS who have been recognised for their outstanding contribution to Op UNICORN.

ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER

AS MEMBER (MVO)

- Lt Will Bird
- WO2 Scott Cox

ROYAL VICTORIAN MEDAL (SILVER) RVM

- Cpl Robbie Morton
- LCpl Ryan McAllister
- LCpl Jonathan Stevenson
- Pte Lyle Foot
- Pte Cameron McCabe
- Pte Kian Meikle
- Pte Ryan Ritchie
- Pte Tom Sinclair
- Pte Graeme Thomson

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following on being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel:

REGULARS

- Maj Oliver Bridle
- Maj Nicholas Moffat
- Maj David Robertson

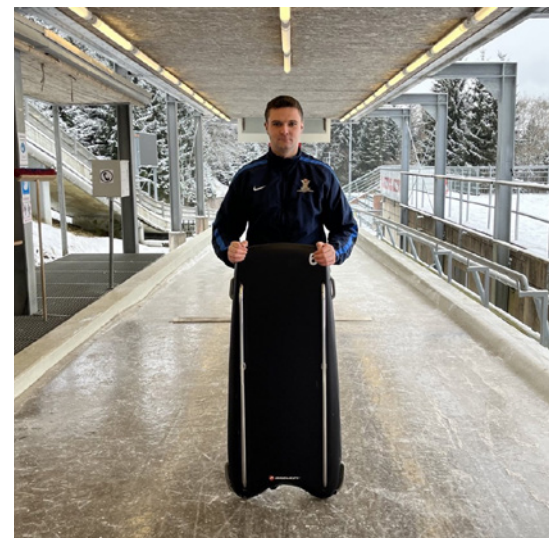
RESERVES

- Maj William Marr
- Maj Kenneth Neilson

"Be the standard for others to follow"

EX RACING ICE 1 – ACF HARROGATE

EX RACING ICE 1 is designed to give novices a chance to try either skeleton, bobsleigh, or luge. It is held every year and is open to all ranks, this year in Innsbruck Austria. I took part in the skeleton. Day 1 consisted of being balanced on the sled and positioning, followed by our first run from halfway. Letting the sled do most of the work and just getting used to it. From the second day onward, we started from the top, each day adding a little bit more knowledge of the track. Where to lean in and where to enter and leave corners. By the end of the week, we had knocked seconds from all our initial times. It's not the usual AT package but thoroughly enjoyable and well worth a crack. I made a personal contribution but have since been helped by RHQ SCOTS to offset the cost. Details for Ex RACING ICE 1 can be found on the AWSA website. Cpl Killin.





INTERNATIONAL NETHERLANDS NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS COURSE

WO2 George Lees, B Coy 4 SCOTS, was invited as a guest instructor to help the International Netherlands Non-Commissioned Officer Course (IN2C) deliver an international course which involved six other European countries. The countries that attended were the United Kingdom, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands.



The course which was delivered to Warrant Officers Class 2 was to develop leadership skills and understanding of how other countries operate.

This saw students deliver briefs on their respective Army unit's role and capabilities. They also participated in discussions on military cultural diversity, military education, leadership skills and international

organizations. The course also conducted a battlefield tour of Arnhem with students delivering a short presentation of key moments from the battle. During the course the students also visited Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery which contains the graves of most of those killed fighting in the area.



DONATION TO THE REGIMENTAL TRUST

James Caddick, Managing Director of The Regiment Support Service, presents cheques to the Regimental Secretary to the value of £7,500 for the Regimental Trust Fund. His company have been supporting the Regiment since 2008 and this



latest donation takes the total he has donated to the Regimental Trust to £65,000. The funds will be used to support the wellbeing of SCOTS serving soldiers and our veterans.



THE ELYSIUM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



By Sgt Edward McKenzie

We all know someone who has taken their own life. For us we all know of at least one veteran that has done so. During the lockdown of 2020, it got me thinking that during my time in The Highlanders, I had lost so many friends to suicide, in fact more so than to the enemy, including my best friend. It also got me wondering that if I had lost this many, then how many others had lost their friends and family unnecessarily. More so to why there's no memorial in the UK solely dedicated to military suicides.

I decided it was time that a memorial be built, solely dedicated to all veterans that have taken their own lives, so that their friends and families have a place for them to be remembered. I didn't originally intend to be a charity, as I thought, given how many people have lost someone, the donations would naturally flood in. After looking for

patron, corporate sponsors and donations I set up the charity with a fellow Highlander and my father. I then spent about 6 months planning the initial fundraiser.

Though lockdown and Covid made it particularly difficult, I came up with kayaking from Liverpool to London. This would be done in 14 days and cover 280 - 350 miles. Using digital platforms and apps I worked out the route and where we could stay along the route, as unlike Scotland there's no rights to roam in England. We would still camp but needed permission.

I also asked a couple of friends from 4 SCOTS to help form a support team. We were starting to get lots of important coverage in newspapers, the National radio and social media. We also gained support from some high-ranking officers and some MP's, which led to being mentioned in Parliament a few times. All was going well and to plan.

On the 17 August 2021 to the sound of pipes from the Pipe-Major of Liverpool-Scottish we set off for London. Each day we averaged around 22 miles, depending on how many locks we had to portage, but we kayaked about 8 hours a day. Sadly whilst we were on the expedition LCpl Mackenzie (4 SCOTS) took his life in the barracks, adding further poignancy and gravitas to our efforts. On the 30 August we arrived at Putney Bridge, London to the sound of pipes from Pipe-Major Thompson of The Irish Guards and one of his fellow Piper's.

There was a good gathering of well-wishers, the media, sponsors, friends and family. We had raised almost £20,000. We are currently planning a similar expedition that will take us from Manchester to East London, via Birmingham, approximately the same distance if not further, within the same time frame, in late August/early September.

The memorial will be built at The National Memorial Arboretum. Please support and help us reach the required funds to build the memorial and get the awareness needed.

We are also looking for people to join the support team.

www.elysiummemorial.co.uk



SCOTTISH SOLDIERS TRAIN WITH CANADIAN ALLIES ON EXERCISE WESSEX STORM

Two Scottish battalions have recently returned from an intensive six-week training package working with the Canadian Army.

The 4th Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 SCOTS), and Balaklava Company, 5th Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Scotland (BKA Coy, 5 SCOTS) were joined on Exercise WESSEX STORM by a composite reservist platoon primarily led by The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa. Ex WESSEX STORM, which took place on Salisbury Plain Training Area, Wiltshire, is a routine validation exercise that runs throughout the year to ensure individual units are ready to deploy as part of a larger battlegroup.

In this rotation 4 SCOTS were tested and validated prior to the Battlegroup's employment as part of NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). The exercise involved more than 1000 personnel and 270 vehicles including Jackals, Foxhounds, Landrovers and quad bikes.



The battlegroup integration stage is the first time 4 SCOTS has had the opportunity to have all its attachments (including Infantry, Artillery, Intelligence Officers, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and others), together in one place to practice a battlegroup operation. This involved hunting an enemy across the vast training area with challenging terrain and weather, crossing obstacles including mine fields and enemy camps, securing and defending bridges and gaining ground from the enemy.





SCOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 6 : DEC 22 – FEB 23



Major Robert Weir from 5 SCOTS said:

"5 SCOTS have been doing a bridgehead crossing which involves infiltrating the company across the bridge under the cover of mortars and artillery, then seizing the far river bank where the enemy would be. This then allows the battlegroup to move across the obstacle, in this case an enemy held bridge."

"Working with the Canadians has been rewarding as the learning goes both ways, they're a fellow NATO partner, keen to be here and very enthusiastic. A lot of the Canadians are reservists and have only just met each other before boarding their flight. Morale is high and we are quietly confident against the enemy, with the Canadian and Scottish aggression I think we will get through the exercise quite well."

This is the first time Canadian forces have participated in this kind of training in the UK in more than 30 years.

Corporal Alexander Brundige, a Rifleman with The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, lead the composite Canadian platoon which is made up of 30 personnel from three affiliated Scottish units. ***"We are here to enhance our skill sets as soldiers,"*** he explained.

"It's an excellent experience understanding how different militaries operate and sharing this experience is enriching for both parties. We have been working well together and we look forward to progressing through the exercise."

As a result of this combined training 4 SCOTS and BKA Coy, 5 SCOTS enhanced their warfighting capability by completing a series of training objectives to ensure the units can deliver a very high level of operational effectiveness, as required for VJTF readiness.

4 SCOTS will be ready to deploy anywhere in Europe until June 2025, with 2024 being their very high readiness year.





THE SCOTS RALLY 2023

The inaugural SCOTS Rally was held in Edinburgh, 24 – 26 March 2023. The weekend consisted of the Black Hackle Dinner Night, a Regimental History Day at Edinburgh Castle, an All Ranks Do at Murrayfield Stadium and a Muster, March and Remember from Edinburgh Castle Esplanade, down The Royal Mile to the Regimental Kirk at the Canongate for a church service.

The Black Hackle Dinner Night





SCOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 6 : DEC 22 – FEB 23



THE SCOTS RALLY 2023

Regimental History Day





SCOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 6 : DEC 22 – FEB 23



THE SCOTS RALLY 2023

All Ranks Do





SCOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 6 : DEC 22 – FEB 23



THE SCOTS RALLY 2023

Muster, March and Remember





6 SCOTS ALPINE SKIING 2023 – EX LOWLAND PISTE 5



The team enjoying the sunny French Alps

By: Second Lieutenant Jack Lord

As some lucky members of 6 SCOTS came back from Christmas leave it was all eyes on the latest iteration of Ex LOWLAND PISTE. To be more accurate it was eyes on the weather forecast after the threats of all too grassy and sunny slopes as seen over Christmas in one of the worst early ski seasons to hit Europe in recent times. Luckily a few days before leaving Glasgow fresh snow arrived with more was forecast over the expedition week. Boyed by this fortuitous event 6 SCOTS headed to Saint Sorlin D'arves in the French Alps.

Admin was sorted early on and despite our pre order the ski shop had in fact run out of skis. This was swiftly sorted in broken French and, subsequently, lift passes were acquired, and we hit the slopes.

Despite our best wishes this did not consist of jumping immediately off piste and down the black runs, rather everyone went back to the basics. The goal was the completion of Ski Foundation Level One (SF1). Of the 14 members of 6 SCOTS, some had never set foot on a piste

before so there was lots of learning to be done. In suitable fashion and under the watchful eyes of the instructors the Jocks began skiing, falling and seemingly everything in between. This didn't last long however, and the standard quickly improved.



One of the SF1 groups in the slightly less sunny French Alps



SCOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 6 : DEC 22 – FEB 23



The valley Sorlin D'arves sits in had more than enough low-level pistes for the learning in the early part of the week and they were in great condition as it snowed nearly non-stop for the first three days. From not enough to nearly too much, madness! Even those that had never skied before had caught the bug and long days on the slopes were rewarded with big meals and some tasty French beer and wine as well - all within moderation of course.

When the latter half of the week arrived all too quick the weather had cleared up and we were treated to our first blue bird morning and valleys that were open to be skied. The groups enjoyed the opportunity to explore some more fresh snow and got some great skiing done at the upper elevations. This day was followed by a team meal out which was a great opportunity for some good food and relaxation.



The team enjoying a traditional French meal out in Saint Sorlin D'arves



The mountains at their finest on a blue bird morning

By the end of the week the SF1 standard had been reached and surpassed and all members of both groups regardless of prior experience had made it top to bottom on red runs, most of the time looking graceful and under complete control. The trip was finished in great spirits and with the only injury worth of note being to myself I am sure to all other accounts it was a great success! It is with great thanks to the Regiment and all the other supporters of the trip that provided the funds and assistance that allowed this trip to go ahead and provide the platform for 6 SCOTS to hopefully enter the Infantry Alpine Ski Championships in 2024 and hopefully bring back some Silverware.



The team enjoying a not-so traditional meal out in Saint Sorlin D'arves



SCOTS MEMORIAL

An oak memorial board created to commemorate SCOTS killed as a result of enemy action has been presented to the Regimental Kirk at Edinburgh's Canongate.

The memorial board, on loan from the Museum of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, lists the names of the 23 members of the Regiment killed whilst deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan. The names include Private Craig O'Donnell, who became the first casualty of the Regiment when killed in action in September 2006, and Private Stuart Collins,

who in 2021 succumbed to wounds sustained in Afghanistan in February 2010.

The board was commissioned by Regimental Headquarters as a mobile memorial reminiscent of those used during deployment. Known to signify longevity and endurance, the oak was supplied from the Grangehall Estate, Forres, Moray by Maj Gen (Retd) AP Grant Peterkin, a former Queens Own Highlander. The Regimental Kirk at the Canongate is a fitting home for this special item.



SAVE THE DATES

2023

Fri 9 Jun	Exercising the Freedom of Dumfries and Galloway, Dumfries
Sat 17 Jun	Bestowing of the Freedom of South Lanarkshire, Hamilton
Wed 21 Jun	Exercising the Freedom of Fife, Dunfermline
Thu 22 Jun	SCOTS Association Golf Championship, Strathmore Golf Centre, Alyth
Sat 24 Jun	Exercising the Freedom of Stirling, Stirling
Sat 16 Sep	SCOTS Race Day, Musselburgh
Thu 28 Sep	Exercising the Freedom of Berwick upon Tweed
Sat 30 Sep	Bestowing of the Freedom of Clackmannanshire, Alloa
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

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.



SCOTS SHOP ONLINE

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 keen 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.

www.scotsshoponline.com
shop@scotsshoponline.com

 **LAYBUY**
BUY NOW, PAY LATER
0% INTEREST, NO FEES!

