



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 8: JUN - AUG 23



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DID YOU KNOW?

We are delighted to share the launch of a new mental health app called Leafyard for all Royal Regiment of Scotland Veterans and their families.



Leafyard

Leafyard is completely anonymous and free to use, so it's well worth taking up and giving it a go. It takes the form of a journey and has been tested, researched, and piloted in the veteran community, and the Regiment is now convinced it will work to support you and your family to feel calmer, happier, and more mentally resilient.

So, if you feel like you need support or a helping hand, visit the link below and complete the form at the bottom of the page.

If you know a fellow veteran or family member who would benefit from a little mental fitness, they can access the app for free by filling in the same form.

To find out more and get started please visit: <https://leafyard.com/scots>



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CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to Brigadier Lindsay OBE, selected for promotion to Major General, and his subsequent appointment to Army Military Secretary and General Officer Scotland.
- Congratulations to Colonel Watson, selected for promotion to Brigadier.
- Congratulations to Colonel Close, selected for promotion to Brigadier.
- Congratulations to Lt Colonel McElhinney, selected for promotion to Colonel.
- Congratulations to Major Bridle for his selection to promotion to Lt Colonel and his subsequent selection to be Commanding Officer of 2 SCOTS in October 2024.
- Congratulations to Major Kerr for his selection to promotion to Lt Colonel and his subsequent selection to be Commanding Officer of 1 RANGER in August 2025.
- Congratulations to Major Robertson for his selection to promotion to Lt Colonel and his subsequent selection to be Commanding Officer of 7 SCOTS in October 2024.

SDPG INCOME

The chart shows the income received from the periods Apr – Aug 22 and Apr – Aug 23.

As can clearly be seen the amount received so far this year has dropped when compared to the same time the previous year. This means that the numbers of officers and soldiers paying into the scheme has fallen. If this trend continues it will hamper RHQ's ability to help subsidise things like personal contributions for adventure training amongst others. Battalions are asked to encourage as many as possible to sign up to the scheme. Details of the scheme can be obtained from your Unit Admin Office.



RHQ SCOTS are pleased to announce the launch of our brand-new electronic form to sign up to the SDPG scheme. This new form makes it possible for all serving SCOTS to sign up and allows us to process immediately without the need of the JPA E014 form being signed and sent in the post. The electronic form can be completed by all serving SCOTS on mobile or tablet and MODNET.

Below is the QR Code and link to the form and it is also on the front page of our SharePoint site.



[Service Day's Pay Giving Scheme](#)



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OP SCEPTRE

Over the last 12 months Balaklava Company has been engaged in every high-profile public event, from marking Queen Elizabeth II's funeral and King Charles III's coronation. Of these public celebrations, those that took place in Scotland are the ones that sit closest within the company's heart. It was a huge honour and a privilege to march from Edinburgh Castle to St Giles escorting the Honours of Scotland and to then await the arrival of the new King. However, as with all things done well, it was not a simple as rocking up on the day and executing.



A punishing schedule of rehearsals had been planned for the tri-service Guard of Honour, under the watchful eyes of the Garrison Sgt Maj. As the parade commander, I was forced to learn a rather complex set of orders to be executed, not only by an Army contingent but also a Navy and Airforce contingent as well. My nerves were compounded as we quickly realised that both the Navy and the RAF would not actually attend the rehearsals until the final 48 hours.

However, thanks to a huge amount of coordination and effort from both 51 Brigade and the Garrison, a full dress-rehearsal took place in Edinburgh starting around 2200hrs and finishing at 0700hrs. The logistical effort was impressive and despite the long wait in the cold, whilst hidden deep inside Edinburgh Castle, the rehearsal proved the capability and, most importantly, that I could remember my lines!!

The day itself went without a hitch and in the finest traditions of the service The weather was stunning and the crowds on either side of the road were packed with tourists, supporters and people just enjoying the spectacle. After the Honours of Scotland were secured at St Giles, the tri-service Guard of Honour set. We awaited the arrival of HM The King, who was given a Royal salute. Following the service the VIPs departed we were treated to the spectacle that is the RAF Red Arrows flying over Edinburgh, releasing their red, white and blue smoke before we marched off the St Giles forecourt through cheering crowds.

It was a momentous day in Scottish history and one I will look back on fondly.



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2 SCOTS EX DIAMONDBACK

The start of 2023 was a busy period for 2 SCOTS, with a Platoon from A Company and sections from the Recce and Javelin Platoon and a sniper pair from B Company deploying on Ex DIAMONDBACK in the USA. The exercise took place at the National Training Centre, Fort Irwin, California and is set in the mountainous Mojave Desert. Having recently returned from their deployment to the Land Regional Hub (LRH) Oman, they were ready to take on their next challenge. Task Force Swan, under Captain Luke

Allwood, deployed at short notice and formed a light mechanised subunit that were tasked to the 3/1 Brigade Combat Team. The exercise was an Armoured Brigade level exercise that took place over 6 weeks. It is the pinnacle of training for US armoured units, and all units must go through the facility prior to deployment. It boasts numerous large urban areas and has enough real estate for an armoured brigade to effectively train. No other extant exercise can replicate the complexity and manoeuvre on this

scale. It exposes relatively junior commanders to areas which are not routinely trained: theatre entry; brigade manoeuvre; operating in a coalition; and a truly honest evaluation against a highly capable, unrestricted OPFOR. This exercise provided an amazing opportunity for many of the young soldiers and officers in the company. For some it was their first opportunity to work with a partner force and it was for the majority it was their first time to see how effective an armoured brigade can be.

Task Force Swan





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ISR after clearing a position

2 SCOTS were quickly trained on HUMVEES, Joint Light Tactical Vehicles and US weapon systems and then deployed into the field. They were quickly absorbed into the US ORBAT and began conducting offensive activity early in the exercise. The experience of operating in Brigade level combined arms manoeuvre was extremely impressive to see. Although small in numbers, Task Force Swan had a mighty punch, up against an armoured Battlegroup of enemy where 2 SCOTS were often outnumbered, outgunned and at times surrounded were able to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy. Recce and Javelin had numerous assets such as artillery, rotary and fixed wing available to them,

throughout the exercise they were able to find and call-in fires on the enemy. 2 SCOTS gained a very good reputation with 3/1 BCT and to their frustration the OPFOR.

After the main exercise the company were rewarded with a multi-activity AT package in California for their hard work. This included surfing, rock climbing and a cultural visit to the Grand Canyon before a strategically placed return flight from Las Vegas. The soldiers were able to experience what Las Vegas has to offer. The exercise was a huge success, with both US and UK personnel learning a huge amount from each other. It was also a great opportunity for soldiers to conduct AT and cultural activity in the USA.



Task Force Swan conducting a raid on an urban position being inserted by Chinook and Black Hawks.



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THE NORTHERN MEETING PIPING COMPETITION (NMPC)



The Royal Regiment of Scotland continue to support Junior Pipers from across the world by providing a McCallum Chanter to the Winner of the Under 18 Piobaireachd Competition.

The NMPC was held at Eden Court on 31 Aug and 1 Sep with the Junior Under 18 Piobaireachd event taking place on 1 Sep in the MacLean Room. 13 pipers from across the world took part and were judged by Patricia Henderson and Roddy Livingstone.

Cameron Bonar from Canada was adjudged to have played the selected Piobaireachd to the highest standard to win the event.

He is shown pictured with Glynis Campbell-Sinclair, Provost of Inverness who presented the Prizes.



6 SCOTS MOUNTAINEERING



Students set off on their first day

Seeking to exploit the world class mountaineering opportunities on 6 SCOTS' doorstep, six Charlie Company soldiers set off on Exercise NORTHERN WALCHEREN WALK in the Cairngorms National Park.

The group was made up of mixed abilities from Summer Mountain instructors to mountain novices. Having five days together meant that the focus could be firmly on the technical aspects of mountaineering whilst still covering plenty of miles and summiting a good number of Munros.



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The expedition started with a discussion over coffee about synoptic charts (which are used to forecast weather), basic navigation techniques and what to look forward to for the rest of our week. Everyone took turns leading short legs around Loch Morlich to build confidence in map reading and try out different navigation techniques. On our walk, we stopped on the sandy shores to have lunch and talked about what we should have in our mountaineering medical kits versus those in our field bags. In the afternoon we completed our lap of Loch Morlich and travelled to our accommodation.



A quick stop at An Lochan Uaine

On the second day we started off at the visitor centre at Loch Morlich with everyone taking longer legs as leader we targeted the peak of Brynach More. The route selected allowed us a stop by the beautiful

An Loch Uaine and along to Ryvoan Bothy. With everyone successfully leading their legs we were on our way to Brynach More when suddenly the weather took a turn for the worse. With strong winds and heavy rain, the decision was made to turn back leaving Brynach More unconquered.



Still smiling despite the heavy rain

A return of the sunshine and generally fairer conditions raised spirits and we set off from the lower ski centre car park, focussing on honing our micro navigation skills. Throughout the day we worked on being able to navigate very precise points like a ring contour or a bend in a stream. Using several techniques such as pacing and walking on bearings we successfully navigated to each point.

The overnight expedition phase was eagerly anticipated, not least with a summit of Scotland's (and the UK's) second largest mountain, Ben Macdui, to complete first. Unsurprisingly there was a steep and arduous climb to the summit with our increased overnight loads. Although this was clearly worth it as we were taken aback by the incredible views at the 1,309m peak. Some steep declines saw us descend quickly to our campsite at Loch Avon for some much-appreciated rest and food.



Our medic looking pleased with her tent



Leaving our campsite on the last morning

The first part of the final day was definitely the hardest with a grade 1 scramble up Alt Corrie Railbert which got the adrenaline flowing and hearts beating. From there it was a short walk back to our vehicle but since everyone was feeling good, we decided to finish on a high and summit Cairn Gorm. From the 1,244m summit of Cairn Gorm, it was only a short walk back which marked the end of a great five-day expedition which left everyone wanting more.



Getting ready to go up Alt Corrie Railbert



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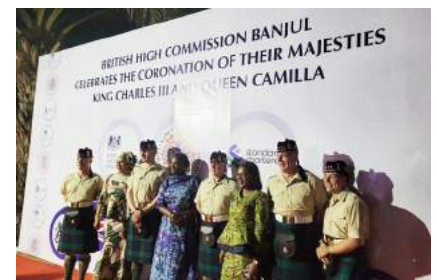


3 SCOTS GAMBIA

11 Soldiers from 3 SCOTS B Company, 1 Ranger, 32 Engineers and 5 Medical conducting training with QRF 1, a Task Force that's draws from personnel across the entire Gambian Armed Forces (GAF). The training occurred in Banjul and Yundum Barracks, The Gambia. The training package for QRF 1 of the GAF including the Estimate and Process, CIED, Team Medic, Light and Mechanised Infantry Tactics, Reassurance Tactics and how to operate from a FOB.

The UK is a long-standing and reliable partner for the GAF and has deployed multiple STTT rotations with the intent to build up the capability of both QRF 1 and 2. This is done to support HMG in its line of effort to aid the GAF in their UN QRF bid for either Op MINUSCA or MINUSMA. Further to this, each STTT rotation partnering with the GAF Training School's instructors further develops the quality of GAF's self-supporting training. The troops developed a strong relationship with their Gambian counterparts and was the highlight of many of Army careers so far.

The team's performance was summed up by the DA to the Gambia 'It was clearly the best in my 3.5 years. The relationship they build up with the Gambian soldiers was extremely impressive and they were clearly highly respected; Gambians quoting the extremely high quality of their instruction, imagination and challenge of the exercises and their character.'





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2 SCOTS EX CLANSMEN ASSEMBLE



Charlie Company deployed to Brecon for the second half of June. Fittingly, it was the only place in the UK where summer hadn't been booked. The Company was greeted with sideways rain as the most popular training area once again earned its reputation.

The two-week exercise was broken down into three phases. Phase 1 was a focus on individual excellence within a section, Phase 2 was focused on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) proficiency, and Phase 3 aimed to build section capability within a platoon context.

The first and last phase was an intensive skills and drills development package aiming to gain the foundations of working within a

section. The company worked hard and quickly started regaining the conventional skills that had faded through a busy operational period. Whilst the Company was deployed on Op NEWCOMBE our focus was on peacekeeping, it was reviving to be going back to our more traditional practices and techniques.

The second phase was a validation exercise to get the Company green in the boxes to take over as CBRN Standby for NATO. This entails the Coy being held at readiness as part of a larger CBRN Protection Group. The week involved developing

various specialist teams that can provide different solutions to potential CBRN scenarios. Although not the most glamorous, it is certainly an important tasking that Charlie Coy are proud to deliver.

Overall, a hard exercise that the Company thoroughly enjoyed, it was great to be back battling babies' heads and running up the travelator again. For the lucky Jocks that will be returning to Brecon in the coming months for different courses they now have a flavour of the area and what to be excited for – Mission Success.





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7 SCOTS

Brothers in Arms

July saw another one of the Lapslie Brothers join 7 SCOTS. Henry Lapslie commissioned from Sandhurst on the 26th July. He is joining the Battalion as a Platoon Commander in Dumbarton. His Brother, Angus who is a Platoon Commander in Caithness joined him for today. This builds on an already very strong family tradition with both parents being ex members of the armed forces.



Museum Rebuild

Members of A Company 7 SCOTS based in Aberdeen help to rebuild a weathering exhibition. The Platoon helped rebuild the gun pit in the Gordon Highlanders Museum in Aberdeen. This saw members of the Platoon refreshing their Infantry Engineering skills in terms of sand bag filling and bunker rebuilding.



Ex Northern Highlander

Members of the Battalion took part in this year's level three Adventure Training expedition. Soldiers from across the Battalion took on the trek around Mont Blanc. This saw them take on a gruelling trail around the White Mounting taking in some of the sites along the way. The weather during the expedition started of promising with temperatures in the high 20's but as the progressed the weather changed. Those attending thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are now looking forward to some rest before attending this years annual deployment exercise (ADE) in Croatia later in September.

Ex Highland Thistle

Exercise Highland Thistle was a Alpha Company lead training weekend that took place on the sunny landscape of Gareloch head. This was the final chance for those deploying on exercise SAVA STAR

in Croatia later in the month the ensure their skills are up to scratch. This involved a number of different elements from basic Infantry Dismounted Close Combat (DCC), Staff training for our leaders and on the Sunday, Individual Training Requirements (ITR) in the form of RFT. This ensures those attending the overseas exercise are fit and ready for the arduous conditions they will face.





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SCOTS MUSEUM



Capt Parker offering some creative direction on the old rail tracks.

The Museum's Learning Hub is now home to a series of films depicting life in the trenches during the First World War. With thanks to the Scots at War Living History Group who kindly offered their time - and hand-dug trench at Lathalmond, Fife - and the SCOTS Infantry Engagement who supplied the technical know-how and equipment, we are delighted to launch a 10-minute film (don't worry, we've broken it down to 3 shorter clips for those short on time!).

The idea was to create a 'virtual object handling' session, just like we would do in the Museum, where learners could see a First World War soldier wearing and explaining their objects as if they had been transported back in time. Much more interesting than the Museum team in their civvies!



Cpl Knott in the trenches with the Scots at War.

In an attempt to capture the true conditions of trench life, our Learning Officer Sharon headed off to Fife on a bitterly cold and wet Sunday in December. The aim to capture the climate, uniform and equipment of a First World War soldier was certainly achieved as the trusty Scottish weather delivered muddy, flooded trenches. The Scots at War group, styled as members of the 'Dandy 9th' (9th Battalion,

The Royal Scots), demonstrated cooking in the trenches, showed off their uniforms and explained how soldiers would pass the time - they even had a go at cooking a very large haggis!

Why are we focusing on the First World War? Our unique learning programme takes in over 390 years of Scotland's military history, with many of our school and community workshops journeying participants through the World Wars to compare with the experiences of our modern SCOTS. These films serve as a valuable resource for teachers exploring the First World War and will give learners a greater understanding of how uniform was worn and objects used. See the films for yourself at learning-hub.theroyalregimentofscotland.org





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SAVE THE DATES

2023

- 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

2024

- SCOTS Rally
 - Fri 22 Mar Officers' Black Hackle Dinner Night, Edinburgh
 - Sat 23 Mar SCOTS Association Dinner Night, Edinburgh
 - Sun 24 Mar Muster, March and Remember, Edinburgh
- Sat 11/Sun 12 May Granting of the Freedom of Aberdeenshire, Peterhead
- Sat 8 Jun Granting of the Freedom of Moray, Elgin
- Sat 29 Jun Granting of the Freedom of North Lanarkshire, Motherwell
- Sep (Date TBC) Granting of the Freedom of The Western Isles, Stornoway



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Webbing & Carriage

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