



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 9: SEP - NOV 23



SCOTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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DID YOU KNOW?

About Project 26 and Project 31?

Project 26

In 2026 the Regiment will celebrate its 20th Anniversary. To commemorate this occasion the Regimental Trustees have approved the scoping of a possible SCOTS Memorial. Initial thoughts would see the memorial in an accessible and public location in Edinburgh where serving, veterans, families and friends can gather at any time to remember and reflect. The memorial design and the materials to be used will all be considered by the SCOTS Memorial Working Group after which options will be presented to the Regimental Trustees. Clearly a fitting SCOTS Memorial will come at a cost and a fundraising campaign will be required to which it is hoped the SCOTS Association, both serving and veterans, will get right behind.

Project 31

In 2031 the Regiment will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. To commemorate this occasion the Regimental Trustees have approved a draft outline of events which will aim to include the presentation of New Colours, the opening of an expanded, modern and engaging SCOTS museum at Edinburgh Castle and the publication of Regimental History Volume One.



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A MESSAGE FROM LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR NICK BORTON KCB DSO MBE, COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

As we close out yet another busy year, I write to thank you all for the sterling job you have done over the last 12 months. Once again, the Regiment has been at the heart of the Army's operational outputs, committed around the globe on a vast array of tasks. As I visit our Battalions and engage with the senior leadership across Defence, I am pleased but not surprised to hear that the SCOTS continue to deliver time and again. You should all be proud that, regardless of where we are committed and whatever we are asked to do, we set the standard for others to follow. The New Year will undoubtedly be busy and bring with it new challenges; each of you will be expected to continue to play your part in representing the Regiment with distinction, as you have done hitherto. As our attention focuses toward wrapping up the year, I urge you all to take the time to consider the welfare of our people and each other. Please keep safe and enjoy a well-deserved rest when the festive holidays come. To you and your families, I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

CONGRATULATIONS

His Majesty The King has approved the appointment of Major General A A B R Bruce of Crionaich, as Honorary Colonel of the 6th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Promotion to Colonel

Lt Col TJ Cave-Gibbs
Lt Col N Jordan-Barber

Late Entry Officer Commissions

WO1 Ferrier	3 SCOTS
WO1 Robertson	1 RANGER
WO1 Tuach	Edinburgh Garrison
WO2 McKnight	6 SCOTS
WO2 Noble	1 RANGER
WO2 Van Niekerk	RMAS

Promotion to WO1

WO2 Bright	2 SCOTS
WO2 Robb	3 SCOTS





OPENING CEREMONY OF THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

SO2 Welfare – Barry Wylie

Each year our nation's capital marks the start of "Remembrance" with the opening of the Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens. This year the event took place on a lovely sunny day on Monday 23rd October and as expected it was well attended by veterans and members of the public. Since the formation of the Regiment, the RHQ has invited family members of those SCOTS soldiers who lost their lives on operations to attend the ceremony.

The President of the SCOTS Association, Major-General (Retd) Bob Bruce, laid a wreath on behalf of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. At the end of the official laying of wreaths, the invited families were asked to plant a Poppy Cross in remembrance of their loved one they had lost as a result of combat. 23 Crosses were laid to honour the fallen SCOTS, who gave the ultimate sacrifice.





2 SCOTS COMMEMORATION – HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY



PHOTOGRAPHY
to remember WW1 to ne

Capt Tom Purslow

Twelve members of 2 SCOTS recently returned from Belgium following a five-day trip to conduct one reburial and two rededication services. After a long drive from Edinburgh, upon arrival to Belgium, the team jumped straight into rehearsals for a full afternoon before the first service – the burial of Lance Sergeant Robert Brand and two unknown soldiers (9th Glasgow, Highland Light Infantry) at Messines Ridge Cemetery. That evening, Pipe Sergeant Joe Davies also had the

honour of playing Flowers of the Forest at the Menin Gate act of remembrance.

The team were excellent in their execution of the reburial on the Wednesday morning, led by Padre Dave Jeal, culminating with WO2 (CSM) Pasifull presenting the Union Flag that draped the coffin to Caroline, the great niece of Lance Sergeant Brand. She was visibly moved and incredibly grateful for the efforts of the team, a theme that was echoed across the week.

After a reception with the family, 2 SCOTS moved on to Dadizeele Cemetery. It was here that we were fortunate to be able to recognise those fallen from across the wider Royal Regiment of Scotland family as we conducted a rededication for Private Kiell (1st Battalion, The Seaforth Highlanders). He had previously been mistaken for a different soldier but using all sources available, JCCC and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission were finally able to identify Private Kiell and give the



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family in attendance closure as he was formally recognised with a new headstone.

Thursday morning saw the team conduct their final rededication service at Tyne Cot Cemetery, this time for Second Lieutenant Ferris (16th Battalion, The Highland Light Infantry). The gravity of the sacrifice during WW1 was cemented here with Tyne Cot being by far the largest cemetery we visited, including the headstones of multiple VC winners. Although already buried at Tyne Cot, his identity has only recently been established and the team were proud to finally be able to recognise Second Lieutenant Ferris in his final resting place.

After a sterling effort across all services Colonel Campbell Close, representing the Colonel of the Regiment, took the team to Black Watch Corner which further engendered admiration for all who have gone before and who's spirit is continued within all members of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. That afternoon we were also able to visit In Flanders Fields Museum before our final meal laid on by JCCC. All members of the team conducted themselves to the highest standards throughout the trip and were proud to be able to recognise the sacrifice from those who have paved the way for the Regiment to be what it is today.





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UNVEILING OF SCOTS MEMORIAL BENCH



S02 Welfare – Barry Wylie

On the 10th of November 2023, a bench was unveiled and presented to the SCOTS association in memory of all 23 fallen SCOTS.

Janette Binnie, mother of the late Sgt Sean Binnie, started working with the Ancre Somme Association Scotland to raise funds for two memorial benches. The first bench was in memory of Sean and was unveiled on 11 November 2021 at North Primary School, Kirkcaldy, the school Sean attended.

The second bench is in memory of all The Royal Regiment of Scotland officers and soldiers who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Janette wanted the bench to be placed in the community for their use and thought there would be no better place than outside Regimental Headquarters in Edinburgh Castle.



The event was attended by families and friends of the 23 fallen SCOTS, and the bench was received on behalf of the SCOTS association by the President Major General (Retd) Bob Bruce. Deputy Assistant Chaplain General Reverend David Anderson completed a dedication and blessing of the bench, and all guests then headed to the officers mess to enjoy refreshments. STV News attended the unveiling and their report featured on the 6pm news across Scotland on the 10th of November 2023. Click on the link below to view the report.

[Memorial bench unveiled for soldiers killed in middle east | STV News](#)



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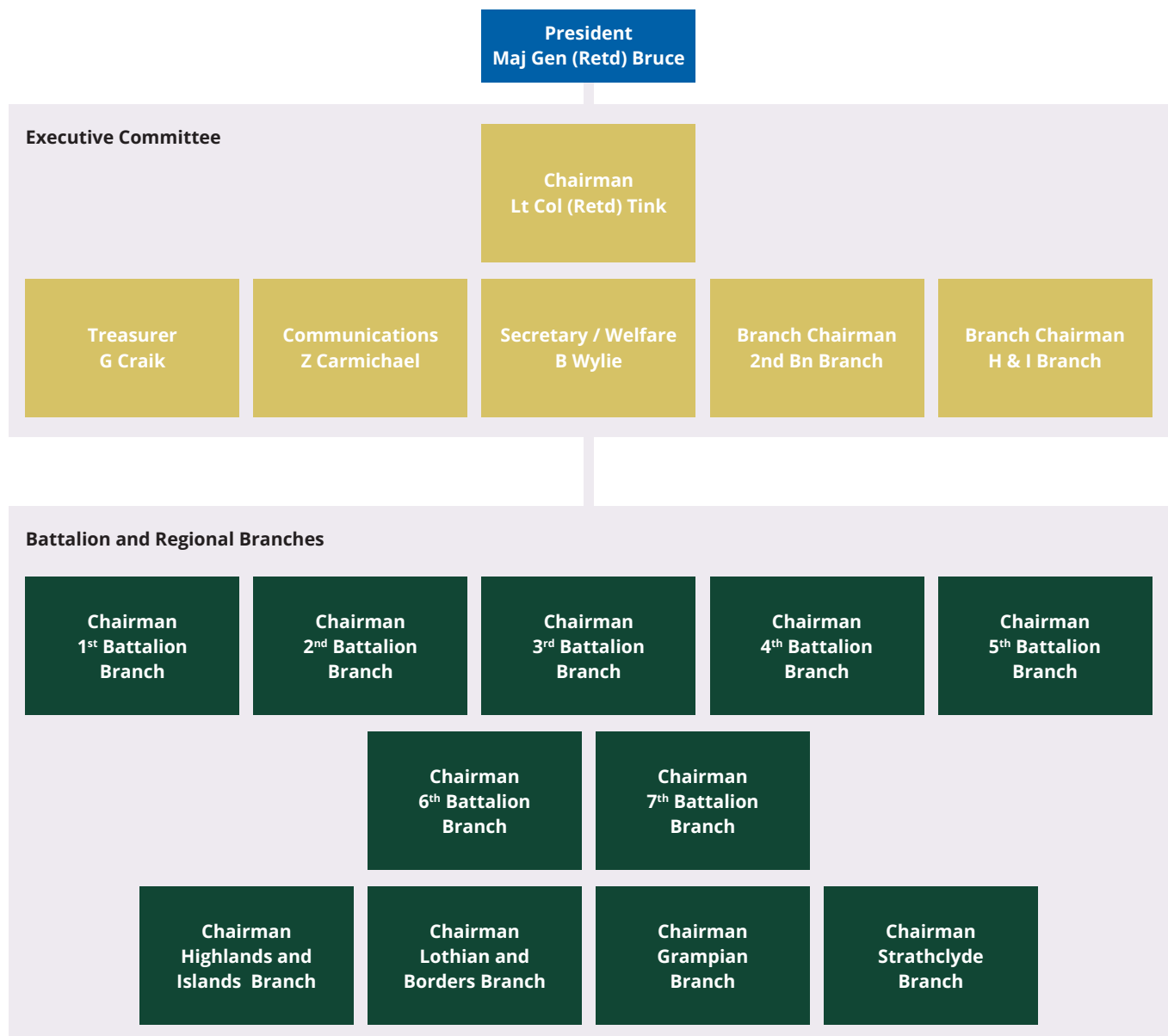


THE SCOTS ASSOCIATION

The day you join The Royal Regiment of Scotland you become a life-long member of the Association. The SCOTS Association exists to provide a lifetime of belonging and support to our serving members and our veterans. It aims to foster

and promote esprit de corps, comradeship and Regimental interest amongst serving, and former soldiers of the Regiment of all ranks, including the Reserves and Army Cadet Force units of or associated with the Regiment. It

maintains the link between the Regiment, our wider family, and our communities. The SCOTS Association is organised and governed as set out in the diagram below.





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THE SCOTS APP

It has been a whole year since we launched the SCOTS App and we now have over 1000 people registered in the members area. Over the year we have taken feedback and comments from all users, whilst making improvements and changes along the way.

Some of those changes include an announcement facility which allows RHQ to send out pop up notifications to users' phones with any important information we need to share.

We have also added a section called the "Transitional Aide Memoire" which is full of useful information to guide you through the process for leaving the service. TAM provides advice on finding a home, finding employment and resettlement, learning and development opportunities. Please find the link to TAM [here](#).

Any feedback can be directed to Maj Chris Hill christopher.hill321@mod.gov.uk



The latest addition to the app is closed groups in the "Groups" section. This enables users to set up a private group and become the administrator for that group. Other users can request to join the group and the administrator approves or rejects their request. Each Bn will be able to set up specific groups for them to manage and use as a hub for information sharing securely and within the realms of the SCOTS App.

We are currently working on an update to enable the administrator to add personnel to groups which will be coming very soon.

The app is updated every month, and it is still in its early stages of development. We welcome any suggestions for anything you would like to see included as a feature on the app, so please get in touch.



BKA COY WINS THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MASONS MASTER PRIZE AND CERTIFICATE



Maj Rob Weir – OC BKA Coy

Congratulations to Pte David Holmes who won this year's Master's prize and certificate.

Pte Holmes has had a very successful year with the company and has set himself apart. As well as being a reliable infantry soldier, he took it upon himself to conduct a charity kilt walk for the Army Benevolent Fund raising £276 after completing a 21-mile route. Pte

Holmes has also demonstrated his academic acumen during a personal development week, run by 27 AEC, where he won the debating prize having been declared as 'best orator' by the ETS staff.

As an infantry soldier Pte Holmes has impressed his Section and Platoon Commanders in several exercises. Most notably on Ex WESSEX STORM where he demonstrated a positive and

proactive attitude during an arduous Battle Group level exercise. During the Aden Patrol competition in Cyprus, Pte Holmes was essential to his section particularly in the later stages where he was noted as being able to shrug off the effects of fatigue during checkpoint tasks.

This year Pte Holmes has displayed a willingness to push himself outside his comfort zone both in and out of camp. He is deserving of recognition.



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3 SCOTS



CSM McClurg briefing 1RGR Scheme of Manoeuvre.

Delta Company have just completed their first SFAB task on Ex VIGILANT ISLES in Japan. Establishing a new relationship with our partner force, the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force (JGSDF), whilst working alongside 1 RGR and 16X ISTAR. Delta Coy deployed with three teams:

- 4x Observer mentors
- 4x Liaison Officers (LOs)
- 4x Drone pairs

Each team were embedded into a JGSDF Airborne Company throughout the deployment, and were intricately involved in planning, tactics, physical training, and warfighting on both dry and

live exercises. The drone pairs were able to give Coy Commanders live updates during tactical actions with their Parrot Anafi Drones as well as being used as riflemen. The observer mentors produced an after-action review and delivered it to the JGSDF 3rd Bn at the end of the FTX. The LOs worked with the Coy/ Bn Commanders and communicated with the 1RGR partner force to reduce friction and improve information flow. On completion of the closing ceremony, Delta Coy headed to Tokyo and Kyoto for a cultural R&R package which was very kindly supported by Army and Scotland trust, 51X Welfare fund and Perth Forces Charitable trust. 3 SCOTS will continue this relationship with the JGSDF and work alongside them as an enduring partner.



Cpl Hall on the receiving end of some JGSDF hand-to-hand combat.



Pte Marler briefing his JGSDF Coy Comd from his Anafi Drone.



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SCOTS MUSEUM UPDATE



Volunteer Debut At Dalkeith Palace

The SCOTS Museum welcomed a new team of Learning and Engagement volunteers this autumn to assist our Learning Officer with the delivery of our popular school and community sessions.

Some of the team made their debut at Remembrance 2023, a collaborative exhibition between the Royal Scots and Dalkeith Palace. The SCOTS Museum team provided a successful schools session in partnership with Poppyscotland, which highlighted the continuing importance of understanding the role the Army plays in our society and the ways in which we remember that contribution both in our museums and everyday life. The sessions were advertised to local Midlothian Primary schools, and we hosted around 150 Primary 7 learners over the course of three days.

Our volunteers were an integral part of the success of the sessions as they provided much needed support to facilitate the workshops on offer, spending much of their time honing their sewing skills to help learners create their class Keepsake Bear! We look forward to getting them and the

rest of the volunteer team involved in more museum activities in the near future.

Cruachan IV Visits The Museum!

Cpl Cruachan IV made history for the SCOTS Museum in October as the first equine visitor to cross the threshold!

Cruachan and his team spent the day in Edinburgh Castle greeting visitors and explaining the role of our Regimental Mascot. Inside the Museum, our younger visitors decorated their own mini ponies to take home as a memento of their day.



Wishtan Cross Preserved

Conservation work was undertaken in October to preserve the oak memorial cross formerly housed at FOB Wishtan, Afghanistan. The cross was first built while the Regiment was stationed in Wishtan in the late 2000s, and became a focal point for members of 1 SCOTS who formed part of the 3 RIFLES Battle Group during Op HERRICK 11. It remembers Corporal Johnathan Moore and Private Sean MacDonald, both sadly killed in an IED explosion in Helmand Province in February 2010.

Having spent so long exposed to the elements in the desert climate, the base of the cross had begun to rot and become brittle. Through careful treatment we have added a resin coating which has stabilised the base and will prevent future loss of the oak structure.

A significant monument to those who served in Wishtan, our aim is to introduce the cross to our permanent museum display in 2024.





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2 SCOTS EX SUNDA PATROL 23



Lt Hamilton-Cox **Charlie Coy 2 SCOTS**

The Sunda Patrol is a gruelling, section level, competition that takes place in the jungle of Brunei, hosted by the Royal Gurkha Rifles. This was the pilot competition that will hopefully become an annual international event. 2 SCOTS put together a team of volunteers at short notice and quickly flew out to Brunei.

The team were greeted in country by 95% humidity which was a bit of a contrast from our frosty Scottish autumn climate. We were busy as soon as we touched down, acclimatising at the double with early morning runs to get the body used to the heat. The rest of the days of our first week were spent in back-to-back lectures, where we learnt how to operate and survive in the jungle. Tactically, the jungle environment is very different from what we're used to in the Scottish hills, and so the learning curve was

steep. We spent most evenings going over what we had learned that day and running rehearsals of what would be expected. CSgt McGregor was pivotal in developing the team, having completed Jungle Warfare Instructor Course, he understood the environment and what was expected.

After our week of lessons and acclimatisation it was time for the competition. The thirteen teams were divided into three groups, each team doing a round robin of different stands over the three-day competition. We kicked off with a river crossing straight into close target recce, which meant our clothes and equipment were suitably wet (and heavier!) for the remainder of the competition. Our second day consisted of a 10-hour survival stand, attempting to replicate what we had learnt the week prior. Here our Commonwealth soldiers led the way, demonstrating an impressive knowledge on preparation of food

and how to make different shelters, all whilst I struggled to tie a simple knot. The third day was by far the most testing, we conducted an 11-hour tactical patrol through the jungle. The team was fatigued and degraded by this point, but the determination to succeed was obvious. We remained disciplined throughout and completed the route with a commendable score.

The results of the competition were given on the final day. We all sat impatiently slapping mosquitos and scratching irritable bites, apprehensive about how we'd performed compared to the other teams... We were elated however to find out we had achieved a silver medal, not only finishing second out of all the international teams but also being one of the few teams to finish the competition with our team complete. Overall, the team did exceedingly well, we look forward to attending the competition next year with our sights firmly set on that gold medal.



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6 SCOTS MUDMASTER COMPETITION

Warrant Officer 2nd Class Gary Stewart

For the second year 6 SCOTS competed in MUDMASTER – an off-road vehicle event. This is Scotland's preeminent civilian/military off-road competition and challenges teams on navigation, vehicle handling and arduous off-road skills. There are categories for trucks, four-wheel drive cars and motorcycles. 6 SCOTS Motor Transport (MT) Platoon entered the truck category using a 6-Ton SV Mann Truck. One of 33 truck, 47 four-wheel car and 10 motorcycle teams.

With Sgt Gary "Patch" Duncan declared Vehicle Off Road "VOR" for the event, knives were drawn to assume the driver seat in a team of two. Cpl John "Fergie" Ferguson was victorious in the ensuing battles leaving WO2 Gary Stewart relegated to navigator.

Storm Ciarán had done its damage in the week building up to the event and would prove to make the arduous off-road challenges ultra-difficult. Yet full of confidence the team started the event from Redford Barracks, Edinburgh early Saturday morning. Points were awarded for competing all legs of a prescribed route, recording orienteering-style locations, and completing the off-road skills sections. The first three stages saw full points for the team completing a low level off-road and some on-road driving.



At last, Storm Ciarán decided to make its mark on the event at Hassockrig Bing quarry near Harthill. Failing to ascend the technical slope saw a loss of points, although all was not lost in the competition standings as event marshals had their work cut out with many competitors sliding to the same result. A short following leg and lunch provided by 6 SCOTS's SSgt Jennifer Lawrence boosted morale.

Following a forced rest break there were a series of navigation legs through Kilsyth, Denny, Sterling and Balloch before reaching Garelochhead for the night. The following wet morning saw longing faces on the motorcycle competitors. A series of off-road skill tests were conducted on

Garelochhead Training Area before heading to Glasgow and completing more off-roading at Linwood. The biggest challenge there was avoiding the other competitors in a small and congested area. A timed off-road event finished off the competition.

Cpl Ferguson and WO2 Stewart came in 19th out of 33 truck teams. A target to improve on next year, and an opportunity to get a second team entered too. This was a great opportunity for 6 SCOTS MT Platoon to socialise with and compete against mainly RLC teams.



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2 SCOTS – C COY – EX STEADFAST JUPITER



In September 23, 2 SCOTS Charlie Company, with backfill from B and FSp Coys, deployed at very short notice to Romania to provide force protection for the major NATO Exercise STEADFAST JUPITER. We deployed out of Glencorse in good order and began our journey to Bucharest via JMC and Brize Norton. We arrived to the Romanian army camp 24hrs later, after linking up with 22 Signal Regiment, who were the unit we were attached to for the duration of the exercise. We had a good day integrating with the Gurkha squadrons, with Fus Gallacher presenting the history of 2 SCOTS as well as the close-knit history of Scottish and Gurkha soldiers.

The initial five weeks consisted of the build phase. For 2 SCOTS this consisted of understanding the

compound we were to guard, setting up a guard room and building perimeter wire defences. Once our guard was set up, the signals and engineers could begin their build phase. During this time there was opportunity to explore Bucharest. A particular favourite was the thermal spa where Jocks, NCOs and officers alike could relax and have some downtime on a rare day off. The weather throughout the exercise was exceptional, rarely below 25 degrees and always sunny.

Once the build was complete, the ARRC staff began to arrive in preparation for the Execute phase of the exercise. During the execute phase the role for us did not change, and the Jocks continued to provide protection, not only of personnel but also of important equipment. At no point did their enthusiasm

levels drop and their professionalism and sense of humour remained exemplary. The execute phase also saw the Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant General Sir Nick Borton KCB DSO MBE, arrive as COMARRC. He was extremely keen on meeting the Jocks at every opportunity and was very proud to tell visiting guests that we were a part of his regiment. The Execute phase lasted 10 days, and on completion the collapse of the CP began. We were the last ones to collapse and afterwards thoughts quickly turned to the journey home.

The return to Glencorse was eventful to say the least! Morale was certainly tested after a literal case of “on the bus, off the bus” on the airport tarmac. Thankfully however, we only had to wait four days until we were split into three groups and through planes, trains and automobiles eventually made it back to camp. Luckily, all were accounted for unscathed, and everyone took something away from this broadening experience.





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7 SCOTS



Ex SAVA STAR

This year's Annual Deployment Exercise (ADE) for the Bn took place in Croatia working alongside the Croatian Forces.

The exercise took place over the month of September and saw Reservists from 6 and 7 SCOTS, with support from 3 SCOTS, deploy on exercise alongside the Croatian Armed Forces (CAF), 2nd Mech Bn (Pumas). The "Pumas" are part of the Croatian Guards armoured Bde and are a key NATO member.



The exercise was split into several phases and formed the main effort for this year's training. Soldiers and Officers took part in staff training,

field craft, medical and tactical actions, all designed to test the force the projection and collaboration between a British reserve and NATO regular force.

Ex URBAN ARGYLL

D Coy's training weekend saw members of the Bn take part in an urban skills package on Garelochhead training area. This involved the use of simulation ammunition in order to ensure every accurate shoot can be recorded and analysed.



Those that attended the training weekend had a fantastic time and built upon skills learned on Ex SAVA STAR.

LBGTQ+

Cpl Flanagan was short listed for this year's defence LBGTQ+ awards. Originally from Wirral, Cpl Flanagan now resides in Aviemore and is an aircraft engineer, fulfilling a management role.

When asked what surprised him about being part of the Army Reserve, he said: "The Diversity. For an organisation where everyone is expected to be uniformed in turn out, there are so many individuals, each with their own part to play."





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7 SCOTS

Cpl Flanagan enlisted into the Infantry in 2015 and has enjoyed numerous exercises in Cyprus and around the UK. His operational highlight was taking part in Op DEVERAN in Kent supporting the UK home office.

Coy Range weekend and engagement activity

7 SCOTS have recently completed two range weekends to ensure the battalion are at the correct start standard for the operational shooting competition, in February next year. The range weekends are run over alternative weekends, to provide Reservists with a choice on which weekend to attend. Both range weekends took place in Barry Budden – a first class training facility for skill at arms training and testing.

Football Success

Cpl Stuart Pollock is a Reserve Soldier, currently serving with the SCOTS Highland Band. Pollock plays football for the Army at a national level and is a music instructor for South Lanarkshire council.



Since joining the Army Reserve Cpl Pollock has had a musical and sports career filled with many opportunities, from playing at the Canadian Nova Scotia Tattoo and the Edinburgh Tattoo, to being part of the team that lifted the Challenge cup, then going on to play with the Army Reserve team in the Super cup final.

Cpl Pollock has been a member of the band since 2005 and enjoys the challenges and experiences that the Reserves has to offer. Cpl Pollock stated that the skills he has learned since becoming a member of the Highland Band are: "Teamwork, collaboration and determination as well as massively improving my musical skills".

Rugby Success

2nd Lt Henry Lapslie plays for the Army U23 Rugby squad. Lapslie recently commissioned into the Army reserve, where he joined his brother who is also a Plt Commander in Caithness.



2Lt Lapslie and his brother come from a line of military service. When asked what surprised him about being part of the Army Reserve he said: "I know the Army Reserve has a strong sense of unity and family; however, the extent to which this goes has been the most surprising thing. People I have met will be friends for life, and you can feel like you have known someone for years, when you have only known them for a few weeks".



Remembrance

The Bn took part in may parades across Scotland, from Stornoway to Perth, and all of the bits in-between. Remembrance is a poignant time where we can remember our comrades that we have lost in recent conflicts. Remembrance also allows us to pay our respects to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to allow the freedoms we have today.





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2 SCOTS MRX – EX SHADER TEMPEST

Lt Finn Macpherson

On the 7 October, A and B Companies deployed to Caerwent Training Area for the Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRX) for Op SHADER. Given a lot of our focus had recently been directed at getting visas, passports, and other vital-but-not-particularly-thrilling admin points in order, I am sure I am not alone in saying that I was very keen to get to started.



The MRX had been preceded by a week-long All Ranks Brief in Bassingbourn which first and foremost gave us a more complete understanding of the nature of Op SHADER, and an idea of the situation in Erbil. Unsurprisingly, that situation has changed considerably in the months since. The training element of the ARB focused on the mission-specific skills that would be the basis of our role while deployed, and what our multiples would ultimately be tested on during the MRX - predominantly geared towards operating in vehicles, with a real emphasis on medical responses. The feedback from the directing staff showed that the Jocks had engaged well, and, with that, we were ready for MRX.



For those who have been fortunate to have been in other, hillier, parts of Wales, the bright sunshine and crisp, dry weather which greeted us came as a bit of a shock. Indeed, Caerwent continued to provide us with unusually realistic Erbil-style weather for the best part of a week. To everyone's relief, this was soon remedied, and just in time for the test phase of the exercise to begin. As we'd been warned, the serials across this phase were equal parts varied and unpredictable. One day you would find yourself in the middle of a major civilian road traffic accident, and the next escorting an 'Italian' Colonel with a suspiciously Welsh accent to a vital KLE, during which he would suffer a catastrophic cardiac arrest. Indeed, of such high quality was the medical attention he received from the men and women of 3 Platoon that same Colonel was back to work the very next day! The large redbrick building which we called home for two weeks was suitably comfortable, and the ops room and offices were abuzz with activity throughout. A great deal of importance was also put on the ability of both companies to deal with the various threats to consider while in camp. Most common was the ever-present danger of drones,

the sighting of which triggered the rapid movement to the safety of a nearby collective protection shelter. One eye was always kept looking skywards as a result, though this did give rise to the occasional false alarm. More lessons in drone recognition required perhaps - in one instance a Boeing 747 was misidentified as a 10kg quadcopter drone, but always better to be safe than sorry!

The directing staff were always complimentary of the conduct of the troops of A Company. The coy worked hard throughout the exercise and are deserving of their places on Op SHADER, so too a bit of pre-deployment leave.





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BRANCH STANDARDS



On Thursday 19th October 2023 each branch of the SCOTS Association sent a representative to Edinburgh Castle to collect their new Branch standard. This marks a significant move forward for the SCOTS Associations which will continue to grow, with your help.

In total, there are 11 branches of the SCOTS Association. Currently, there are four Veterans branches: Strathclyde, Highland & Islands, Lothian & Borders, and Grampian. Each SCOTS Battalion is also an Association branch, with the Regimental Sergeant Major as the chairperson.

The aim of the SCOTS associations is to bring SCOTS Soldiers and Officers, from the serving and veteran communities, together, to build, maintain and rekindle bonds of friendship.

If you fall into one of the categories above and wish to get in touch, download the SCOTS App to register. Be the standard for other to follow.



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THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND (SCOTS) RACE DAY

The annual SCOTS Association Race Day took place on Saturday 16th September and was a huge success. The event took place at Musselburgh Racecourse and saw The Royal Regiment of Scotland sponsor two races – The Royal Regiment of Scotland Trophy and The SCOTS Association race.

The event saw many from the SCOTS Association come together, including those from the Veteran, serving and wider SCOTS community, to enjoy the races and lunch, not to mention the celebration of a few wins and the inevitable commiserations of some betting losses.

RHQ were thrilled to host the Provosts from North Lanarkshire and Inverclyde, both of whom have expressed their interest in bestowing the Freedom of the Region to the SCOTS. Both Provosts were able to interact first hand with the Jocks and hear what an honour it is for the Regiment to be granted the Freedom.

SCOTS plan to build on the success of this years' event and will be in attendance at Musselburgh again next year. Watch out for the save the date!





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THE SCOTS RALLY 24



Fri 22 Mar 24

SCOTS Offrs Black Hackle Dinner Night (New Club, Edinburgh)



Sat 23 Mar 24

Antecedent Association Brief and Lunch (RHQ and Castle Mess)

SCOTS Association Dinner (Murrayfield Stadium)



Sun 24 Mar 24

Muster, March and Remember (Edinburgh Castle, The Royal Mile and Canongate Kirk)

SAVE THE DATES

2024

- SCOTS Rally
 - Fri 22 Mar Black Hackle Dinner, New Club, Edinburgh
 - Sat 23 Mar SCOTS Association Dinner, Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh
 - Sun 24 Mar Muster, March and Remember, Edinburgh Castle / Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh
- Sat 11 + Sun 12 May Bestowing the Freedom of Aberdeenshire (Peterhead, Alford and Laurencekirk)
- Sat 8 Jun Bestowing the Freedom of Moray (Elgin)
- Thu 20 Jun SCOTS Association Golf Championships, Alyth, Blairgowrie
- Sat 29 Jun Bestowing the Freedom of North Lanarkshire (Motherwell)
- Sat 14 Sep SCOTS Association Race Day, Musselburgh Racecourse,
- TBC Sep Bestowing the Freedom of the Western Isles, Stornoway
- Sat 9 Nov The Lord Mayor's Show, London

2025

- SCOTS Rally
 - Fri 21 Mar Black Hackle Officer's Dinner Night, Royal Scot Club, Edinburgh
 - Sat 22 Mar SCOTS Association Annual Dinner, Edinburgh
 - Sun 23 Mar Muster, March and Remember, Edinburgh Castle / Canongate Kirk
- Thu 19 Jun SCOTS Association Golf Championships, Location TBC



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