



The Journal of The Royal Highland Fusiliers



2007 Edition

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**Drum Major William McDougall and Pipe Major Neil Hall at the Edinburgh Tattoo.
(Photograph by courtesy of Graeme Wallace. His book Edinburgh Military Tattoo is on
sale, see www.gwpublishing.com)**

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Royal Colonel

HRH Prince Andrew, Duke of York KCVO ADC

Representative Colonel

Major General W E B Loudon CBE

Regular Units

RHF Home Headquarters

518 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3LW

The Royal Highland Fusiliers
2nd Battalion The Royal
Regiment of Scotland

Glencorse Barracks, Milton Bridge, Penicuik

Territorial Army Units

The Lowland Regiment
6th Battalion, The Royal
Regiment of Scotland

Walcheren Barracks, Glasgow G20 8LQ

Allied Regiments

Prince Alfred's Guard (CF)

PO Box 463, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

The Royal Highland

Fusiliers of Canada

Cambridge, Ontario

11th Bn The Baloch Regiment

Malir Cantonment, Karachi 9, Pakistan

1st Bn The Royal New Zealand

Infantry Regiment

Wellington Lines, Linton Camp, New Zealand



Although there's not much room in this reduced Journal, here is something well worth mentioning. Eddie Traynor of The Tenth HLI, the well-known Rhine-crossing Battalion, has been awarded an MBE. It's not for his water-borne experiences in 1945; it's for his more recent activities in Easterhouse – "Services to the Community". We offer him our congratulations.

Foreword

This is the first Journal Foreword to be published since the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Over the last twelve months we have all tried to mark the end of an era and the new beginning with dignified support to the chain of command and the serving men as they grapple with organisational change and demanding operational commitments. In various speeches that I made in 2006 I stressed the need for the serving officers and men, regular and reserve, to know that come what may they enjoy our unswerving support. Our priorities will differ from those who serve in today's operationally busy Army but it is important that they see and feel that the wider regimental family continues to do its bit on welfare support and promoting, where we can, a positive recruiting environment and representing The Royal Highland Fusiliers in our home territory. I also, in recent years, have drawn your attention to the importance I place on nurturing contacts, 'beyond the barrack gate', through Branches of our Association and I am pleased to report that the Glasgow, Ayr and Inverness Branches all have increasing membership and an interesting calendar of events in their home areas. Their various activities are all part of the golden thread which links the past to the present and runs on into the future and in this regard the Officers' Mess and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of our regular battalion have a particular duty to carry the torch of tradition and to ensure that it burns brightly. The publication of this Journal demonstrates the determination of the Council, the staff of Home Headquarters, the Museum Committee and The Royal Highland Fusiliers Association to continue to celebrate our glorious history and to deepen the sense of comradeship amongst those who rightly consider themselves to be Royal Highland Fusiliers or members of our former Regiments.

The Battalion is looking good – well settled now in their state of the art barracks at Penicuik and maintaining an enviable reputation as a no-nonsense and professionally sound outfit. They finish their tour as the United Kingdom's Spearhead Battalion in February 2007 and after a short burst of state ceremonial and public duties in Scotland they will start preparing for an operational tour of duty overseas. We have all been pleased to learn that Her Majesty has appointed our Royal Colonel as Lord High Commissioner to the 2007 Grand Assembly of the Church of Scotland between 18th and 25th May. We had hoped that the Battalion would be providing the Guard of Honour for the Duke of York's arrival but changes in operational commitments plot appear to be amending these plans. A parade to present a new Stand of Colour to the Battalion on the 20th July 2007 has also been in planning but this too now looks like an uncertain date because of changes to the operational training commitments in the Battalion. If this parade has to be postponed, I will alert readers to the new plan through Home Headquarters and the Forum on the Regimental website.

This first Journal in its new guise marks a fresh chapter in our history. Its emphasis, rightly in my view, will develop along Association lines and on the work of our Museum. The Battalion's news will probably be briefer than it has been in recent years as their story will feature, alongside the stories of our sister battalions, in the magazine of The Royal Regiment of Scotland. The format of our Journal is not written in tablets of stone so if you have ideas for refinement or a contribution to make then Colonel Bobby Steele at Home Headquarters looks forward to hearing from you.

Major General W E B Loudon CBE



Calendar of Events 2007

This is an outline calendar forecasting the various events so far planned for the period February 2007 to December 2007. Some of the events are subject to alterations and should these happen or new functions/events are added in the calendar they will be notified accordingly (See Forum in the Regimental website www.rhf.org.uk for updates). All known events that will take place at Home HQ RHF have been included to show what other dates are free for bookings. Home HQ can also be booked for almost any evening.

The Regiment needs your support at all Remembrance Day Parades in George Square, Glasgow or Wellington Square, Ayr. Please contact the Regimental Secretary for details of the next parade.

7th February 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
9th February 2007	Allan Glen Lunch at Home HQ
19th February 2007	HRH The Duke of York's Birthday
21st February 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
24th February 2007	All Ranks Dinner/Dance at Holiday Inn, Glasgow
7th March 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
9th March 2007	Allan Glen Lunch at Home HQ
21st March 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
4th April 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
13th April 2007	Allan Glen Lunch at Home HQ
18th April 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
2nd May 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
5th May 2007	HLI Reunion at Home HQ
11th May 2007	Allan Glen Lunch at Home HQ
16th May 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
16th - 25th May 2007	RHF OCA Battlefield Tour (Germany)
30th May 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
8th June 2007	Allan Glen Lunch at Home HQ
13th June 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
27th June 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
11th July 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
20th July 2007	Presentation of Colours at Glencorse Barracks (TBC)
5th September 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
6th September 2007	RSF Malaya Reunion at Ayr Town Hall
14th September 2007	Allan Glen Lunch at Home HQ
19th September 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
23rd September 2007	Assaye Day
27th September	Regimental Dinner at The Caledonian Club, London
28th September	Regimental Luncheon at The Caledonian Club, London
3rd October 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
12th October 2007	Allan Glen Lunch at Home HQ
17th October 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
31st October 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
5th November 2007	Inkerman Day
9th November 2007	Allan Glen Lunch at Home HQ
11th November 2007	Remembrance Sunday
14th November 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
28th November 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
12th December 2007	Officers' Luncheon Club at Home HQ
14th December 2007	Allan Glen Lunch at Home HQ



Location of Serving Officers

Representative Colonel: Major General W E B Loudon CBE

Deputy Representative Colonel: Colonel N T Campbell

1. General Staff List

Major General W E B Loudon CBE -

GOC 2 Div (Retires Jan 07)

Brigadier D C Kirk CBE - Comd 51(Scottish) Bde

Colonel N T Campbell -

Asst Director Plans HQ APHCS

Colonel P A S Cartwright OBE -

Col Land2 Focus Finance Mgt Sp Gp

DLO (Ensleigh)

2. Former RHF Officers in Other Appointments

Colonel J M Castle OBE - Col APS 1 DAPS

Colonel A L Reid OBE - Col Inf MCM Div APC Glasgow

Lieutenant Colonel G F Hislop OBE - BMM SANG

Lieutenant Colonel D C Richmond - CO 5 SCOTS

Major C C J W Taylor - 1 LI

Major D C Masson - 2IC 1 SCOTS

3. Regimental List

LIEUTENANT COLONELS:

P K Harkness MBE - CO 2 SCOTS

A D Johnston MBE - HQ ARRC

A C B Whitelaw - SO1 Deputy C5 (Plans/Strat) SBMR OCE
HQ LAND(Baghdad)

A C Whitmore - SO1(W) LOG IS RM LAN LAIPT
(Retires Jan 07)

W A Common - Dep Garrison Comd HQ Warminster Garrison

N H De R Channer - CO Oxford UOTC

J Garven MBE - SO1 Observer/Trainer JWC Stavanger (Norway)

A D Middleton MBE - BLO GE Inf/UK HVO German
Infantry School

D N M Mack - SO1 Team Leader Sldr Career Trg &
Education Review, Upavon

S J Cartwright - SO1 L15 DS JSC & Staff College

MAJORS:

N A Archibald MBE - SO2 G1 Pol HQ 2 Div

H M Miln - SO2 G3 ATE SEA, DOPS(DTE) - HQ

N B V Campbell - SO2 INFO OPS(PLANS/PSYOPS)
HQ ARRC

D G Steel - 2IC 2 SCOTS

N R M Borton MBE - 2 SCOTS (Att OP TELIC-MND (SE))

E A Fenton - 2 SCOTS

C L G Herbert - MA to MS, APC Glasgow

A T Rule - SO2 G3 Trg Ottawa Canada

P Hutt - SO2 Instr CS&O Wg, Exch Offrs - Australia

J R Duff - SO2 EC(CCII) TAC CBM INTEROP

A J Fitzpatrick - SO2 G3 TRG HQ 3 (UK) DIV

M P S Luckyn-Malone - SO2 J3 TRG/EPS HQ BF Cyprus

T J Cave-Gibbs - SO2(W) WARRIOR UPGRA CLOSE
ARMOUR IPT (Bristol)

A S J Douglas (Late KOSB) - 2 SCOTS

T D Vincent (Late BW) - 2 SCOTS

N D E Abram - SO2 Man Plans 1 Mech Bde

K C Thomson - Gurkha Contingent Singapore Police Force

S R Feaver - SO2 Plans Req &Risk D Def Log Ops

T H C De R Channer - 2 SCOTS

N G Jordan-Barber - ICSC(L) Pk 3, Def Ac Shrivenham

P A Joyce - ICSC(L) 3 Pk A, Def Ac Shrivenham

CAPTAINS:

R R Keating - 2 SCOTS

Intermediate Regular Commission

CAPTAINS

F A L Luckyn-Malone - SO3 G3 Ops 4 Mech Bde

T A Winfield - Adj 2 SCOTS

N J L Brown - SO3(AI TRG) HQ LWCTG(G)

J A Reid - 2 SCOTS

R R D McClure - 2 SCOTS

M J Munnich - 2 SCOTS

B O'Neill - 2 SCOTS

R S Montgomery - 2 SCOTS

Short Service Commission

CAPTAINS

K Greene - 2 SCOTS

J A French - SO3 G3 NBC/Digitisation 20 Armd Bde

M J Rodger - SO3 G1 Ops 102 Log Bde Gutersloh

P V Marshall (Late KOSB) - 2 SCOTS

M K Bryce-Stafford (Late RS) - 2 SCOTS

N A Wheatley - 619 TACP Osnabruck FAC HQ 1 Armd Div

D R Taylor - ITC Catterick

N P Bridle - 2 SCOTS

D J Clark - ITC Catterick

M D Kerr - 2 SCOTS

LIEUTENANTS

E D Aitken - ITC Catterick

A G Lipowski - ITC Catterick

L G Curson - AFC Harrogate

V T Gilmour - Att 1 GREN GDS

I D Brember - 2 SCOTS

A R Gill - 2 SCOTS

J B McVey - 2 SCOTS

G W Muir - 2 SCOTS

A M Sweet - 2 SCOTS

2nd LIEUTENANTS

D J W Morgan - 2 SCOTS

D E Reed - 2 SCOTS

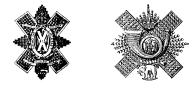
O W Bridle - 2 SCOTS

B S E Davey - 2 SCOTS

Regular Commission (Late Entry)

MAJOR:

J Frew - QM 6 SCOTS(Retires Jan 07)



Intermediate Regular Commission (Late Entry)

MAJOR:

J E B Kerr MBE - QM(M) 2 SCOTS

CAPTAIN:

G A McGown - 2 SCOTS

Short Service (Late Entry)

MAJOR:

C Kerr - 2 SCOTS

CAPTAINS:

A T Grant - 2 SCOTS

J McDermid - 2 SCOTS

J K Law - 2 SCOTS

Location of Serving Volunteer Officers

Honorary Colonel: Colonel J P Wright QVRM TD

BRIGADIER:

J G d'Inverno TD ADC WS - Asst Div Comd HQ 2 Div

LIEUTENANT COLONELS:

J L Kelly MBE - JRLO 51(Scottish) Bde

S W Burns TD - CO 6 SCOTS

H Grant TD - SO1 G3 Trg(V) 51 Scottish Bde

R Doyle - CO GSUOTC

MAJORS:

J M T Allen - OC B Coy 6 SCOTS

S J R Bollen TD - ACIO Glasgow

CAPTAINS:

P C MacDonald BEM - HQ 51(Scottish) Bde

A Blair - PSAO C Coy 6 SCOTS

H M McAulay - PSAO B Coy 6 SCOTS

D McInally - QM(V) HQ Coy 6 SCOTS

D H Coulter - PSAO A Coy Det (Galashiels) 6 SCOTS

J Donald - 2IC B Coy 6 SCOTS

J Coombes - 2IC C Coy 6 SCOTS

SUBALTERNES

A I Campbell - Asslt Pnr Pl Comd C Coy 6 SCOTS

A P Wickman - Recruiting Offr HQ Coy 6 SCOTS



Letters to the Editor

From Mr Joseph Macdonald
[joemacdonald41@hotmail.com]
3rd April 2006

From Major R M Smith TD
17 Cairnhill Road, Bearsden, G61 1AU
16th March 2006

Sir,
Re the account of Col Agnew in the *Regimental Journal* 2005 Summer Edition, **OP UNITY AND THE LIBERATOR** [and **THE DEATH OF LANCE CORPORAL ANDREW FLEMING**] [pp76-79]; I and my brother John were on that op. (My brother was [?later] evacuated by helicopter after falling when helping the wireless operator erect his aerial.)

Col Agnew's account is a good one after all this time. We were with Col Agnew on the Operation when LCpl Fleming was killed. I was in the basha to the right of Wattie Craig and John was in the basha to the left of Brannigan.

Col Agnew's account is accurate to the point when we were met by the Bn HQ party. He says that all went back into the jungle and no one from the patrol went to the funeral. That is not the case. Memory is vague but I went out with the body and I was at the funeral as you can see on the attached photograph.

I am, etc,

Joe Macdonald



Opposite is a letter from Major R M Smith TD to Mr Anthony McReavy of the Cultural and Leisure Services, Glasgow City Council. Major Smith had been somewhat disturbed that there was no mention of The Highland Light Infantry in the brand new set-up of the Art Galleries (The latter is conducted on the presently IN-thing governing many museums in Scotland, a "thematic" approach which does not contain many explanatory details). Mr McReavy had earlier replied to a letter of Major Smith's, the reply being to the effect that displays would occasionally be changed - but without specific reference to Glasgow's Own Regiment.

Thank you for your reply to my letter about the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and the Highland Light Infantry. I am pleased to learn that the Scottish Regiments will indeed be part of a "Conflict and Consequences" feature in the new Art Gallery, along with the magnificent 602 (City of Glasgow) Squadron Spitfire. However I still feel that the HLI should be given more permanent visibility than other regiments in recognition of the tens of thousands of Glaswegians who served in their own City Regiment.

A few facts: In 1788 the 74th Highland Regiment marched to Glasgow and decided that our city (not Edinburgh!) was to be its Regimental Headquarters. In 1902, the Lord Provost of Glasgow successfully petitioned Parliament that the Highland Light Infantry should be designated The City of Glasgow Regiment. In 1914, the City Council actively helped recruit at least two battalions, even agreeing that the expense of raising and equipping these battalions would be borne by the Corporation, out of the Common Good!

These battalions were the 15th HLI (raised in a remarkable 16 hours at the Copelaw Tramways Depot!) and the 16th HLI. The latter were former members of the Glasgow Battalion of the Boys Brigade who had unsuccessfully tried to raise a battalion of infantry without official War Office backing. However as soon as Glasgow Corporation passed its historic resolution the Boys Brigade was ready - and so the 16th HLI was raised. In all the HLI comprised twenty-six battalions (about 14,000 soldiers) - no mean feat for no mean City.

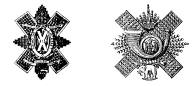
In 1948 the HLI received the Freedom of the Royal Burgh and City of Glasgow. In 1958 following a review of the Armed Services, the title of the Regiment became "The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment)".

You will understand from the above why I believe that the City of Glasgow's long and honourable relationship with the HLI should be celebrated, rather than discretely merged into one generic tartan tableau of Scotland's military memorabilia. Visitors to the newly refurbished Art Galleries in Kelvingrove need to be reminded, however gently, that the Highland Light Infantry was the proud family name for generations of soldiers who were to bear witness to the soul and substance of the City of Glasgow.

I do wish you and your team every success with this exciting new project and trust you may feel there is some merit in my suggestions about the HLI.

Yours sincerely,

Major (Retd) R M Smith TD



From: Major A G D Gordon
5 Chess Close, Newlands, Cape Town 7700
PH & Fax: 00 27 21 6714 500
9th August 2006

From Corporal A Chalmers
(sent from) Erskine Hospital
Bishopston
PA7 5PU
22nd October 2006

From a cold, for us, and thankfully very wet winter in Cape Town with huge floods to the East and lots of snow in the high mountains.

Dear Editor,

Yesterday (Tuesday 8th Aug) I received my latest RHF Journal! It had been posted on 31st May! This time of over 2 months is common for "Surface" mail to here!

It really was a WONDERFUL Journal!

With it came John Drummond's equally wonderful "Testimonial" on Willie Shaw. How really excellent this is! Of course there are lots of its contents that I hardly knew about but it is SO GOOD to get it all put together! Willie deserves all our thanks. I will be seeing him at the Malaya Gathering on 7th September and have invited him, Hanna and Andrew and Mae Blackley to dinner at Irvine after I arrive on the 4th. Willie has been a TERRIFIC help to me over his many years at RHQ. This includes arranging for a pair of Gordon Tartan trousers to be made for me at 2 days notice by one of his Pakistani Tailor friends!

I cannot see Willie "Retiring" properly!

Bobby Steele's letter about the changes to the *Journal* also came with the *Journals* [Editor: *Major Gordon was sent two copies*]. This is depressing news but, I suppose, to be expected.

I would ask, however, that the new proposed "Newsletter" be produced TWICE per year and not just annually! If it costs more so be it!

Yours ever,

Anthony



Cpl A Chalmers and his wife Catherine ran the Glasgow Half Marathon and 10K race respectively in memory of their son Ross, after he was killed in an RTA. (See Chalmers letter).

Dear Editor,

My name is Alan Chalmers. My son Ross was serving with A Coy 1 RHF when he died in a RTA in Cyprus in September 2004. Me and my wife Catherine did the Glasgow Half Marathon (ME) and the 10K run (my Wife) on September the 3rd 2006 in memory of Ross. We raised £2782, which we donated to Erskine Hospital. The money will be used to buy a projector/screen and some reclining chairs for the ex-servicemen to watch in comfort. The lady in the photo is Catriona Connolly from Erskine and 86-year-old Alec Heron ex-Gordon Highlander. I am currently a serving Corporal in C (RHF) Coy 6 SCOTS in Maryhill and would like to thank everyone for their support. If this gesture makes the lives of these patients a wee bit more comfortable then I'm sure Rosco would have approved.

Thank you Sir

Cpl A (Bongo) Chalmers.

From Lt Col R Bromley Gardner MC
Coombe Cottage,
Malmesbury
Wiltshire
SN19 9DR
3rd January 2007

Sir,

Whatever views one may hold on the radical re-organisation of the Scottish Infantry, many will surely be concerned to find that the official abbreviation for the new Royal Regiment of Scotland is "SCOTS".

We must be the only Royal Regiment in the British Army which does not include the initial "R" in its abbreviation. I know of no other which has gone to this extreme of modernisation which can be viewed as a discourtesy to Her Majesty. Among the present Royal infantry regiments are the R IRISH and the R WELSH. Why not the R SCOTS?

Any defence that the title R SCOTS could be confused with the late Royal Scots (Royal Regiment) would fail since the official abbreviation of that regiment prior to its recent amalgamation was RS.

I wonder why the title SCOTS was chosen in preference to R SCOTS?

Yours sincerely

Dick Bromley Gardner
(Late HLI and RHF)



An initial **Editorial** explanation is perhaps necessary before the examination of the **next** letter:

*Lt Col Colin Winter wrote in December to the effect that he took issue with a remark made by the Pipe Corporal at the last Dinner concerning the presumed brevity of the assembled Officers' attention spans, that the latter might not have endured the playing of **all** our favourite tunes, Scotland The Brave, Hielan' Laddie, The 71st Quickstep and The 74th. (Alas, **we** did not note either the Pipe Corporal's intermission or their omission; we were, as usual, too engrossed in both the excellence of our company - and the contents of the nearest port decanter.)*

But the Colonel went on to make an excellent point: he regarded US (the latter not in an Editorial sense) as being as "Highland" as the most Highland of our fellows in the Royal Regiment of Scotland. With this we, who had the stupidity to resign in 1959, most certainly agreed - even if the Colonel chose to decry the King's Own Scottish Borderers' having been later allowed to wear the five-button form of "Gaiters Highland" ("spats" to the ill-informed). (Or perhaps Jackie Frew will put us right. Are they "Gaiters Lowland"?)

*That wasn't all, however. The Colonel decried the Argylls as well! Having "lost" Sutherland and now recruiting largely from Paisley, Greenock, Gourock and their environs, they should, perhaps, have been Lowlandised and rechristened such as The Dumbartonshire and Renfrewshire Rangers. By all means! - But if one does so, let's throw away the Highlandness of the HLI, the genetic make-up of much of the population of Paisley etc **AND** the geographical course of the Highland Line.*

Because of some of the above (and also the Colonel's miscounting of the post-Cardwell-reforms' total of Lowland Battalions) (eight, not seven; the eighth resulting from the

amalgamation of the 90th Perthshire Light Infantry with the 26th Cameronians), we initially refused to publish his letter. But he fought back. Here's his reply.

From Lt Col C S Winter, Shellachan
Kilchrenan,
Taynuilt, Argyll
PA35 1HD
22nd December 2006

Dear Alastair,

I was completely baffled to receive your recent letter stating that "we don't think it would be polite" to publish it [*the Colonel's letter*]. Had my letter been abusive of individuals or intemperate of language, I could have understood this, but in truth my letter was bland and innocuous.

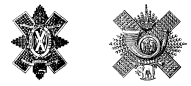
Can it be true that at a time when censorship in the world at large is on the decline, the RHF Journal wishes to impose it? Surely the life blood of any magazine is stimulating articles and letters which provide debate and further correspondence? For my part, I would welcome any refutation of the views expressed in that letter and do not fear criticism.

Is it your intention in future editions of the *Journal* only to publish letters which meet the qualifications of being factual, insipid, sycophantic and afraid?

Best wishes

Yours aye,

Colin



Obituaries

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN STEWART MAKEIG-JONES OBE HLI



Lieutenant Colonel John Makeig-Jones, who died recently in Devon at the age of 89, succeeded to command of the 2nd Battalion The Highland Light Infantry on the beaches of Sicily at the age of 26. He had up to then been 2IC of the Battalion, which had been formed into a Beach Landing Group for the invasions, its commanding officer raised to full Colonel's rank.

Shortly after the first waves of landing craft had touched down the Commanding Officer, Colonel Douglas Thorburn DSO OBE MC, landed with his battle HQ, went forward to reconnoitre and was killed – almost certainly by a sniper. John Makeig-Jones automatically assumed command, which was promulgated a few days later.

For three years, until June 1946, John Makeig-Jones remained in command of the 2nd Bn HLI, always leading the Battalion with dedication and conspicuous success. He was an outstanding commanding officer in many ways. He was completely imperturbable, never losing his temper or his steadiness in times of stress. He had a ready sense of humour and a quiet deprecating sense of gratitude for his own good fortune in getting command. He was greatly admired by all his officers who felt that whatever honest mistake they might make he would always stand by them; but heaven help anyone who did not pull his weight. At least two rather more senior officers were sent out to take command of 2 HLI, but John remained its CO. His Generals saw no reason for any change of command.

John Makeig-Jones, who was born on 20th February 1917 in Devon, was commissioned, via Eton and Sandhurst, into the Indian Army in August 1937. However, his initial (statutory) attachment was to 2 HLI (The 74th Highlanders). John so much enjoyed this (and had made so many friends) that he applied for a permanent transfer into The Highland Light Infantry. It was granted.

The 74th (and John) was in Palestine in 1938, the next year in Egypt and in 1940 in the Western Desert (Mersa Matruh). In Eritrea, during the Battle of Keren, John Makeig-Jones was wounded while commanding "A" Company but rejoined his company a month later. He was Mentioned in Dispatches for this campaign. In 1942, after Egypt, then Iraq and a brief spell in Cyprus, the 74th returned to the Western Desert. John was with the 74th throughout – with a brief attachment as a liaison officer to Corps Headquarters.

Soon came the Cauldron Battle, after which the 74th was down to half its officers and two-thirds of its men. Ad hoc

columns were then formed – to harass the Germans and rescue lost and wounded men. John Makeig-Jones was given command of one of these columns with the orders to relieve a company of the HLI and a battery of 25-pounders in a box south of Mersa Matruh. Unfortunately, he was intercepted by a Corps Commander who sent the column off with a new task. Very few of the Mersa Matruh men managed to get back to our lines.

Early in 1943 the 74th was changed into a large unit called a Beach Group, its task to land and secure the assaulted beach. This the 74th did, near Avola, south of Syracuse in Sicily. It was then that Colonel Douglas Thorburn was killed by a sniper's bullet and Makeig-Jones took command. Sicily soon fell and the next step was the invasion of Italy. However, before the assault across the Straits of Messina there was a visit by the GOC, General Montgomery. When the latter was met by Colonel John Makeig-Jones Montgomery asked how old he was? The reply was "twenty-six". As Montgomery would not have any full Colonel in the 8th Army under thirty, not much later Makeig-Jones received a letter from HQ 8th Army reducing him to the rank of Lt Colonel – but leaving him in his present job.

After the landing in Italy and the Salerno landing an armistice with the Italians was announced. The Beach Landing Group was disbanded and the 74th reformed as an infantry battalion. Egypt was its next posting – and almost immediately Lebanon, to be trained as a Mountaineer Ski Battalion. This was wonderful news, but all (save for a handful of older key personnel) had to be under the age of twenty-eight and also of A1 physical fitness. The 74th had to lose about 150 Jocks and three Officers – who were replaced by Argylls.

But after six months of rock climbing and skiing the 74th returned to Italy – to find no prospect of mountain operations. It was attached to 2 Commando Brigade on the island of Vis, in the middle of the Adriatic, and raid after (sea-borne) raid began. Most were by small patrols commanded by a captain or subaltern, some of company strength, and just occasionally a full-blown battalion raid.

In the autumn of 1944 Makeig-Jones took the 74th back to Italy, only for it to be sent to Greece again. In the daily skirmishes there with the Communist (Russian-inspired) ELAS the Battalion lost one of its best officers and about twenty-five Jocks. But in January 1945 the 74th were back in Italy – in the mountains. After Peace and then Austria and back to Greece again (and after twenty-seven years abroad), the 74th came home in November 1947, to be "placed in suspended animation".

Lt Colonel John Makeig-Jones handed over command on 6th June 1946 and returned to the UK. He retired from the Army about a year later to farm in Devon. After eight years there he moved to Kenya with his family – and held various farming appointments until 1966. That year the Kenya Government's policy swung strongly in favour of promoting ethnic Africans into senior posts irrespective of their lack of knowledge or ability.

Upon returning to England he settled in Barnstaple and purchased a small company called Devon Paints Ltd, which



he expanded to include production and marketing of specialist paints for Government and MOD requirements. He retired as Company Director at the age of seventy.

John Makeig-Jones married Mona Avril Saunders in Kavala, Greece, on 5th January 1946, where she was working for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency. He is survived by his wife and two sons and a daughter, Stewart, Antonia and Robin.

R B-G

(The above is a brief and therefore inadequate report. Our new Journal hasn't got the room to say much more – and therefore Dick Bromley Gardner has not only written the far more effective "Insert" but has also permitted this abridged version to be published.)

COLONEL KENNETH DONALD BRIGHT OBE DL RSF

Colonel Ken Bright died at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds on Boxing Day, 26th December 2006 after a short illness. He was 90.

He was born in Bournemouth in 1916. Whilst training to be an engineer the war came along and, following in his father's footsteps, he was commissioned into the Scots Fusiliers in 1940. He was engaged in the defence of SE England with the 1st Battalion. This was followed by fighting the Vichy French in Madagascar in 1942. In 1943 he was off to India and then to Burma where he spent the rest of the war fighting the Japanese with General Slim's successful XIVth Army. After the war it was back to India where he married Murette, a Q.A. in 1945.

In 1947 he returned to the U.K. with a posting to the War Office in London – with a brief and somewhat clandestine mission to Greece. In 1948 he was off to Germany with the BAOR in Dortmund and then Bielefeld.

In 1950 he was back in action, this time in the Korean War where he was mentioned in dispatches. This was followed by a second tour of duty with BAOR, this time in Lunenburg with BH31 Lorried Inf. Brigade.

1954 saw a posting to East Africa, where he was seconded to 4 Kings African Rifles dealing with the Mau-mau uprising. He was again mentioned in dispatches. He then took over as Second-in-Command of 6 KAR in Dar-es-salaam.

On returning to the UK in 1957 he was at the War Office in Chessington before becoming GSO2 Mercian Brigade in Shrewsbury. Whilst there he and General Lewis-Pugh walked the entire length of the Cumbrian Mountains (he was never one to ask his soldiers to do what he couldn't!). In 1961 he was awarded the OBE before retiring from the Army in 1962 when he became Secretary to the Staffordshire TA association. In 1966 he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire. His final appointment was as Secretary to the West Midlands TAVR association in 1976, a post he held until he retired in 1981. He moved to Tenerife for ten years before moving to East Anglia to be near the family.

He was always a man of great charm with a great sense of humour and fun.

He is survived by his widow Murette, his son, granddaughter and great-granddaughter. He will be missed by all who knew him.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL R M DUNLOP TD HLI



Colonel Bobby Dunlop, who died on the 17th of September aged 85, enlisted in 1941 and was commissioned into 5 HLI in 1943. He served throughout the NW Europe Campaign with the Fifth Battalion but when peace came he was posted to 1 HLI. 1 HLI was soon in Palestine and then Egypt – where Bobby commanded S Company. He returned to civilian life in 1946.

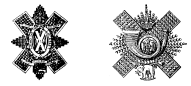
From 1947 onwards he taught Physical Education in various schools in Glasgow and in the same year joined the newly-formed 5/6 HLI – as well as taking an active part in the High School of Glasgow FP Rugby Club. With 5/6 HLI he was an enthusiastic (and well-versed) Officer. Awarded the TD in 1956 his final appointment came ten years later. In 1966 he became the Battalion's Commanding Officer.

Unfortunately it was that year that the TA came to a virtual end, re-emerging in 1967 as the TAVR, but Bobby has his place in history. In 1966 he was at the head of his Battalion on its final parade. With bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying, 5/6 HLI marched from Hill Street (the Battalion Drill Hall) to join and merge with the Glasgow Highlanders at Hotspur Street. In 1967 the two Battalions became little more than two companies of the 52nd (LOWLAND) Volunteers.

Bobby continued to attend the Wednesday Luncheons at RHQ RHF in Sauchiehall Street – especially as the latter were a continuation of the 5/6 HLI Luncheons in Hill Street. When he retired, as Deputy Headmaster of Knightswood Secondary, his attendances were constant – as they were also to the RHF Luncheons in the Castle. Indeed, Bobby was at a Castle Luncheon just a few days before he died. (And being ex-First Battalion he was wearing the green and buff HLI tie.)

Bobby, who was also a dry wit, had a great gift for delegating authority, whether as a Company Commander in 5/6 HLI or as CO. He firmly believed that this was a means of developing his subordinates' powers of leadership and responsibility – and he would of course back them to the hilt if anything went wrong. He was also a charming and young-looking man, almost as young-looking as his even more charming wife Marlene.

She, in concert with his son Forbes and his daughter Jean Anne, profoundly misses Bobby, as do his four grandchildren. So do we.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANDREW MORTON POLLOCK RSF/RHF/PARA



Lt Colonel Andrew Morton Pollock, who was born in Ayr in 1935 and educated at Ayr Academy, died on 20th September 2006 after a long illness.

In 1955 he was called up for National Service, completing his basic training at Churchill Barracks Ayr, before proceeding to Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School. He was commissioned as a National

Service Officer into The Royal Scots Fusiliers and was posted to the 1st Battalion serving in Malaya. Morton loved Malaya and the jungle and it was there that he came under the influence of Lt Col Mike Evetts, then as Major Evetts the Battalion 2IC, and who Morton always swore had given him the basis and foundation on which his career was built.

In 1958 Morton converted to a Regular Commission and served with the RSF in Shorncliffe and in Cyprus during the final tour before amalgamation with the HLI in January 1959. Morton was a founder member of The Royal Highland Fusiliers and served with the Battalion during the first hectic year in Edinburgh followed by the year in Aden and two years in Malta. During that period he was Signals Officer.

In 1962 Morton volunteered for parachuting and subsequently transferred to the Parachute Regiment with whom he served for the remainder of his service. He served in virtually every appointment within a Parachute Battalion and had three Operational tours in Northern Ireland and trained with his Battalion in both the Middle and Far East. He was posted to Glasgow as Adjutant of 15 (Scottish) Battalion The Parachute Regiment TA and at the end of his service he returned to Glasgow to command that Battalion.

Morton attended both the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham and The Royal Air Force Staff College at Bracknell leading to general staff appointments at HQ 16 Parachute Brigade and at the MOD.

In 1978 Morton left the Army and for the next 10 years was employed in the Defence Industry in Product and Business Management and Sales and Marketing which gave him the opportunity to enjoy world-wide travel meeting National Armies of countries as diverse as Japan, China, Peru and Colombia. For the last 12 years before his final retirement in 2000, Morton was a Government Investigating Officer, a job which gave him huge satisfaction due to the variety and breadth of interests of those who he had to interview and vet.

Morton lived life to the full. He was a keen sportsman playing rugby with total commitment and considerable danger to opponents. In his younger days he played both Rugby and Cricket for Ayr first teams and later for Dover 1st XV.

He also played rugby at Regimental and Command level and played cricket and boxed for Combined Services. As a keen golfer he played with the Army Officers' Golf Society and for almost 20 years was a member of The Highgate Golf Club including the position of President 2001-2003. He took up SCUBA Diving in his sixties and became a PADI Advanced Open Water Diver. Two hip replacements and the onset of lymphoma slowed him down, but he continued to play golf using a buggy and enjoyed his fly-fishing. He also maintained his image by driving a racy open topped sports car. He was a regular attendee at the RHF Founders' Reunions held at Wormington Grange, the home of Mike and Susan Evetts and in 2005 despite his problems, he day tripped from London to Kilmarnock via Prestwick to attend the RSF Malaya Reunion 50 years on.

No tribute to Morton would be complete without emphasising his devotion to his family and without acknowledging with great gratitude the selfless devotion and care that his beloved Ann gave to him. Morton met Ann on the troop ship taking 1 RHF from Aden to Malta. She was travelling with her husband, an RAF fighter pilot, on an Indulgence Passage from Cyprus to Aden and return. Tragically he was killed in an air crash leaving her with two little girls. Morton met up with her a little later and they married. For 44 years theirs was a marriage of deep love and mutual support.

Ann's two daughters became Morton's daughters and the family was completed by their daughter Debbie. Morton was hugely proud of his family, his girls and of course his six grandchildren.

Perhaps the final tribute should be to his indomitable courage and tenacity throughout his illness. He was determined to carry on and indeed up until shortly before the end it was hard to tell from his appearance and bearing that he was very seriously ill.

To Ann and the family go our deepest sympathy coupled with the knowledge for them that those of us who were fortunate enough to serve with and to know Morton are united in our admiration for him and proud that we could count him as a true friend.

A J B A

LIEUTENANT FRANCIS ALLEN HLI

The ordinary Deaths Column of *The Daily Telegraph* of 22 March 2006 included an announcement of the death on 17 March of His Honour Francis Andrew Allen, after a long struggle against progressive supra-nuclear palsy, which it was said he had borne with stoicism, patience and his usual dignity.

Francis Allen was a National Service Officer in The Highland Light Infantry and was already with 1 HLI at Alma Barracks in Luneburg when I joined the Battalion there in early February 1958. In the celebrated group photograph taken on 28 March of that year, when HRH Princess Margaret visited for the last HLI Trooping of the Assaye Colour, 2Lt F A Allen stands fourth from the left in the rear row. The photograph is notable for its remarkable line up of regimental moustaches. (He was also notable for his earlier, and most punctilious, conduct of the



young Miss Julia Brinton to the Scottish Country Dancing evenings carried out in anticipation of HRH's visit. Miss Brinton won through to be a member of HRH's Set in the Eightsome; Francis didn't achieve the same recognition.)

Francis Allen was Intelligence Officer. Already a Barrister-at-Law, he was not infrequently asked to act as Defending Officer by regimental miscreants of the time facing trial by District Court Martial. He was also a member of the Rugby XV run by Norman White, another of the eight NS Officers. When, that summer, the time came for him to leave for home at the end of his two years, I succeeded Francis as Intelligence Officer, inheriting a happy, able and amusing section whose Corporal was later to achieve Warrant Officer rank in 1 RHF.

Many years later, I noted that Francis Allen had been appointed a Judge of the High Court. Those who share my memory of him as an agreeable and competent fellow-subaltern will doubtless be sad, as I was, to learn of his death.

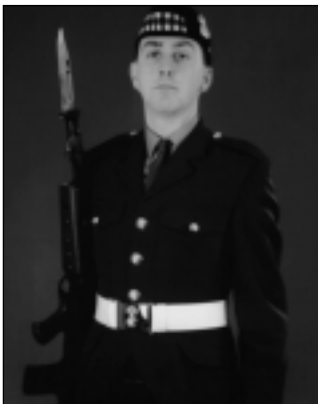
A S R

MR ALFRED BAILEY HLI

Alfred Bailey, who was born on the eleventh day of the eleventh month 1921 passed away on 21st June 2006. He was a member of the 1st Battalion HLI, the Regimental Bass Drummer in the Band, and served in Normandy 1944 to Hamburg 1945 and then on to Palestine until 1946. (I believe he may have been the last surviving member of the Battalion that went the whole distance from Normandy to Hamburg).

He went to a few reunions and went with some of his ex-comrades to Holland (Middlebeers) some years ago. At his funeral, which took place in Essex, a piper played. Among the tunes piped that day were *Flowers of the Forest* and *Highland Cathedral*. It is hoped that these gave him an appropriate "send off".

LANCE-CORPORAL CHARLES McBLAIN RHF



Charles 'Chic' McBlain was born in Irvine on the 8th July 1983 to Charles and Mary McBlain. Following the tragic loss of his mother at a very young age, Chic was raised primarily by his father. He was an only child but grew up alongside his uncle's family, becoming particularly close to his cousins.

Chic attended Saltcoats

Primary School and Auchenharvie Academy, after which he and his cousin Bob went on to work together in their local slaughterhouse. Though he soon realised his calling was to join the Army and travel the world, one of Chic's

most impressive skills was something he picked up in the slaughterhouse, the masterful ability to carve up a fresh hog, which proved invaluable at the jungle barbeque in Belize.

Chic and Bob enlisted together, training at ITC Catterick, before passing out into the 1st Battalion The Royal Highland Fusiliers. The two young Jocks, more like brothers than cousins, were clearly inseparable. They joined the Battalion in Episkopi, Cyprus where Chic went into 4 Platoon B Company. His potential was apparent from an early stage, allowing him to be appointed as a section second-in-command on exercise once he had found his feet.

From Cyprus Chic deployed to Iraq three times, as part of the TELIC Reserve Battalion for the Middle East. On OP TELIC 4 he was stationed in Baghdad, in the notorious Green Zone, where his professional performance in this high-intensity operational climate was exemplary and clearly underlined his potential to become a Junior Non-Commissioned Officer. People still talk of his bravery under fire whilst in top cover.

Chic went on to pass a JNCO cadre and shortly after the Battalion's move to Glencorse Barracks in Edinburgh received his well earned promotion. With this promotion he became one of the first newly promoted Lance-Corporals of the new Royal Regiment of Scotland. He remained in B Company, moving across to 6 Platoon. He had a natural and laid back style of leadership, which inspired young Fusiliers to follow him without hesitation or any requirement for raised voices. As a baptism by fire into his new rank he was thrown into the Belizean jungle on Exercise TROPICAL STORM, where he adapted particularly well to the gruelling conditions. It was here that his influence on those around him really shone through; when feet were sore, clothes were rotting off backs and all creatures great and small seemed to be biting, Chic's fantastic humour and contagious smile were a blessing for his whole platoon.

D B

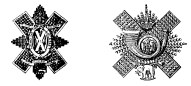
Chic McBlain tragically lost his life at the age of twenty-three, following a fatal assault on New Year's Day 2007. He will be remembered by all for his great qualities, his utmost respect for others, his impressive ability as a soldier and of course his humour and his charm. Though we so often look upon the departed with fond memories, the kind words of respect and affection being spoken around the Battalion are neither unduly flattering nor unwarranted. Chic was genuinely liked and respect by all who were fortunate enough to know him and he will be dearly missed.

MR NORMAN BOLLAND

Mr Norman Bolland died at Erskine on 25th February 2006. Mr Bolland served with the HLI from 1940 - 1946. His Service Number was 143502.

M F G

We have also to report the deaths of Major P T (Pat) Steptoe MC (HLI and RHF) and Mr Henry Hallewell, a World War II veteran of 1 HLI.)



Regimental Miscellany

REGIMENTAL DINNER AND LUNCHEON

The 2006 Dinner took place in The New Club, Edinburgh on the 29th of September. The Colonel of The Regiment (now The Representative Colonel of The Royal Highland Fusiliers and ALSO The Colonel Commandant of The Royal Regiment of Scotland) spoke and told us much (but NOT at length).

He talked of Iraq and Afghanistan, of the Balkans and Northern Ireland, which now have over a quarter of the Army committed to operations, and even of Cyprus – how B Coy's deployment from there to Iraq had them aboard the 'plane in only nine and a half hours after the CO was telephoned!

He spoke of Glencorse too, the Battalion's very new barracks, but in the same breath reminded us that after only five weeks of getting there the Battalion was off to Belize – where Fusilier Freeburn was snake-bitten twice and A Coy made a most rapid river crossing, there being a crocodile in close attendance.

Pipe Major Hall and Drum Major McDougall were then praised for their performances in the Edinburgh Tattoo – and for the Pipes and Drums' Beating of Retreat at Balmoral in August. The Colonel also mentioned that there's more fun to come for all of them (and the rest of the Battalion too). There will be a New Colours Parade in July 2007 – and then the Middle East again.

He told too of the many "excursions" that the Highland Fusiliers would soon have under the guise of "Sport and Adventurous Training", to Canada, the Alps and Fiji, and also of the huge number of *our* Corporals selected for promotion to Sergeant. [Might this result in *our* eventually having control of most of the Royal Regiment of Scotland?]

The successes of 6 Scots (The 52nd Lowland Regiment) were also praised, and also were the Old and Bold – particularly for the Ayrshire Mafia's entertainment of the Colonel at an Ayr Burns Night this year.

Nor did the Colonel forget our Canadian cousins. He hoped that The Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada would also be represented at the Award of New Colours to the Battalion.

Next was recruiting. As usual the RRT (now B(attalion)RT) were doing more than well but when Brigadier Davey Kirk takes over for all Scotland's recruiting we might have even more Royal Highland Fusiliers [many of the new intakes subtly steered into wearing the White Hackle?]. [The Colonel didn't quite imply this.]

Then came the Colonel's praise of "Home Headquarters" and the benevolence engineered by Major Mike Knox [via Major A D Kenyon]. Also welcomed was Colonel Bobby Steele as Regimental Secretary – especially because the

latter is an Ayrshire native but also because he has so many irons in the fire.

Finally came "a few words of praise and thanks to Willie Shaw". The two most pre-eminent paired words in the Colonel's address were "selfless commitment" and "selfless contribution" and this was followed by "[his] first interest was the Regiment, never himself". The last of the Colonel's words were from Brigadier John Drummond's testimonial to Major Willie Shaw – and some of this was read out in full.

Let's end with some of what was quoted by the Colonel from Brigadier Drummond's testimonial: "[Major Willie Shaw MBE] has been the outstanding Regimental character and servant of his generation. We owe him a great deal of gratitude."

Once the Colonel had stopped speaking he presented Major Shaw with a piece of silver from all of us. The applause was tumultuous.

The Luncheon was the next day, the 30th of September, and was held in the Officers' Mess in the Battalion's new barracks at Glencorse. Luckily, there was just enough room – luckily both because we were very, very well looked after by the Mess Staff and because the food and wine more than matched the superb standard of that afforded by The New Club the night before.

There was more to the day than just the excellent meal we enjoyed. Earlier, after coffee in the Mess, we had been conducted round the Barracks – with even a guided glimpse into a typical (and very well-endowed) set of living and sleeping quarters for half a dozen Fusiliers – and then we toured a number of stands. These displayed the weapons and equipment employed by the Battalion and were manned and explained by a host of very enthusiastic and competent Fusiliers and Junior Ranks. The stands were very impressive. Lieutenant Colonel Harkness is to be congratulated on the spirit and excellence of the men who set them up and showed them off.

ARMY PIPING AND DRUMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006



Fusilier Allen being presented with his award by Major General Andrew Graham.



Being very short of space (and very little of victory) we report very little. In the Novice Competition Fusilier Allen was a very creditable 3rd – “a real thrill against such strong opposition.”

Sergeant Weir made the final of the Strathspey and Reel event and was unlucky not to make the prize list.

MORE FRAGMENTS

From *The Sergeant's Pocket Book* we turn to *Small Arms Training*, Volume I, 1931. This even offers: “Holidays in London” – with The Berkeley Court Hotel at “Terms from 3 guineas” and there is also “Make the most of your leave – ride a RIGID – RAPID – RELIABLE **RALEIGH** ...”

Among its other contents are :
“Since men under instruction grasp more readily what they see carried out than what they hear, teaching should be by the medium of the eye” (p. 5)

“... the correct cleaning and care of rifles
Boiling water is an effective method of removing fouling. ... This method should always be used when possible.” (p. 51)

“*Method of engaging moving targets.*—
..... ii. *Horsemen, horsed or mechanical vehicles.*
(a) Sights will be set at 600 yards.
Other Mechanical Vehicles :--
The best point of aim is the driver.” (p. 87)

“Firing Instruction
... 7. Any tendency to shoot from the left shoulder will be discouraged.” (p. 93)

“*Methods of judging distance.*—
... 5. *Standards of judging*--
i. Recruits and trained soldiers will be taught to judge distances up to 800 yards.
ii. Officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and selected soldiers will be taught to judge distances up to 1,400 yards.” (p. 207)

“Range Table for all Short Rifles Firing S.A.A. .303-inch
.....
The extreme range of the rifle may be taken as approximately 3,450 yards.” (p. 260)
[Maximum range shown in the Table: 2,800 yards.]

PAST TIMES (Has anything changed?)

100 years ago:

From: 2nd Battalion News,
HLI Chronicle January 1907, p. 9
We paraded at 7.30am on the morning of the 22nd November to march down to the Waverley Station to entrain for Fort George.

The Fort is about a mile and three-quarters from the station, and we finally marched through the gates at 3.15, everyone feeling glad to have reached our destination.

The luggage and kit-bags were brought up shortly after we arrived, but it was nearly dark by that time, and it was very amusing watching everyone vainly endeavouring to read the name on each bit of luggage by the light of a march, which always blew out at the critical moment.

50 years ago:

From: 1st BATTALION NOTES,
RSF Journal January 1957, p. 4

During the last six months the battalion has been engaged in neutralising and eliminating the armed work force cells in our own area. These cells exist in the populated and cultivated areas, and we have been operating therefore less and less in the jungle.

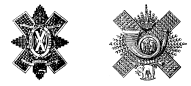
25 years ago:

From: 'C' COMPANY Notes,
RHF Journal Summer 1982, p. 22

1.
“Any problems ‘C’ Company?”

The Major twirled his Walther round an O.M.D. 75 stained finger and quickly translated his thoughts from their native Arabic into English.
“In ‘C’ Company, Sir, there are no problems only solutions.”

2.
..... There was a short pause while Boylan took another large bite at his lunch, before he grunted something unrecognisable. A moment later a furious Sergeant leapt on Boylan.
“How dare you eat an apple while talking to a Senior Officer!”
“I wasn’t,” said Boylan. “It was a pear.”



Associations and Clubs

RHF OCA BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2006

This, under the guidance of Major Willie Shaw MBE, set off on Wednesday the 10th of May for Hull, crossed the North Sea to Rotterdam Euro Port and reached Rheindalen (and Cassels House) late on the afternoon of the 11th. Friday's target was Walkenburg for the usual shopping and sightseeing, the latter usually from the windows of the nearest pub (or from the tables outside it), and Saturday saw us again in Leisel and Asten for our customary ceremony and also a visit to Asten Town Fair. Sunday was a relaxing trip to Cocham and Monday was spent at Arnhem and a visit to the War Cemetery. Next, on the Tuesday, was a visit to Overloon and its Museum and our final day was in Monchengladbach. On our way home on the Thursday we stopped, as before, for lunch in Volendam and we were back in Glasgow on the 19th – with the usual load of liquor for Home HQ.

Despite our having no less than *three* pipers with us, and therefore lots of *good* music, there was also *lots* of singing in the bar most nights. We are therefore grateful to Major Shaw for not only for the excellent tour but also his part in each evening's entertainment. Major Shaw's vocal contributions were more tuneful than most.

The next Tour will be 16th to 25th of May 2007. This will embrace Dusseldorf and Dortmund as well as Leisel, Asten and Arnhem and will also include "a Mystery Tour". Major Shaw will again conduct it – under the guidance of a very brave Colonel Bobby Steele.

We have also to report that Henry Hallewell (1 HLI) died in December.

RSF VETERANS REUNION

Thursday 7th September 2006 saw the second Reunion for Royal Scots Fusilier Veterans who served in Malaya during 1954-57. This was (again) held in the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock from 1300 – 1700 hours.

The venue was chosen for its size and location as the bus station is situated on the opposite side of the street from the hall, which was ideal for those travelling by coach – especially if they had passes.

On arrival, everyone received an information leaflet and free raffle ticket for a prize draw. A bar was arranged for the troops and the ladies who attended received tea, coffee and biscuits.

Approximately 180 persons attended the event, which filled the hall. This number included wives and widows of some of our friends. Among those furthest travelled were Major A G D Gordon (MTO HQ Coy) from Cape Town and Alex Lawson (Sp Coy MMG PI) from Florida. In addition, a

number of people travelled from England including Major G Wilmot (88) (D COY), who was kindly driven to and from the event by Lt Col J M R Fleming.

The bar closed at 1400 hours and with everyone seated at their company table, the Regimental Secretary Col R L Steele gave a fine speech to the attentive audience followed briefly by Major A G D Gordon. The final speech was delivered by myself after which, I spoke of the two officers and six other ranks who sadly did not return home. A minute's silence was then observed for all our departed friends during which the piper, Pipe Major David Moir, played the lament.

Thereafter everyone shook hands, showed photographs and related stories. In addition, everyone made efforts to identify others whom they had not seen in 50 years or more.

There were others from Home HQ (as RHQ is now called) who supported the event – Maureen, who looks after the Regimental Shop, Sandy Leishman, who worked in the 'background' helping the day to run smoothly and Liz who works in the office and deals with administration issues.

We were delighted to have Mr Allan Nelson from Edinburgh, the Blenheim Platoon's Training Sergeant during the 1950s at Churchill Barracks, Ayr, attend the reunion. Mr Nelson was a well-respected and likeable NCO and is looking well for his 80 years.

It appears that everyone who was able to attend this second reunion enjoyed the occasion and many complimented the efforts of those who made the day possible.

We all look forward in anticipation to our next reunion on Thursday 6th September 2007 at Ayr Town Hall.

A B Blackley

THE HLI REUNION 2006

The annual reunion this year was on the 6th of May and again in RHQ (which is now Home Headquarters The Royal Highland Fusiliers). Some fifty-odd members and guests were expected but in the end only 39 made it. Both David Pithie (2 HLI) and James Smith (1 HLI) (via his son-in-law Roland Leaf) had telephoned to let us know they'd be absent and we were disappointed that Major Willie Bowie (formerly 2IC 1 HLI), Major John Rutherford (1 GLAS H), Major Bill Stobie (1 HLI) Charles Brannan (1 RHF) and Laurence Hill (1 HLI) weren't there either – but we were very grateful that they had subscribed. The Common Good (or "good use") Fund was strengthened enough for a *little* lavish expenditure.



Among those also unable to come were Robert Chisholm, Lt Col Richard Cross, Richard Earnshaw and Henry Hallewell (all 1 HLI), Thomas Burns (5 HLI) and George Lamont and James Main (both 1 GLAS H). However, they didn't just send their apologies; between them they subscribed over £100 – which money was also put to good use.

Booking in was conducted by David McMaster – who also oversaw a number of HLI photograph albums left out in the Museum for members to examine – and the party mustered in Building 3 from about 1100 hrs for conversation, drink and later lunch (both drinks and lunch furnished by Sandy Leishman). At 1200 hrs the members were addressed by their secretary to be welcomed and informed of recent deaths – and also told that at least some of the “good use” money was going to finance a free round.

Major Willie Shaw then spoke to introduce the new Home Headquarters Secretary Colonel Bobby Steele. The latter, who was our host and organiser, welcomed all again and then gave a masterly explanation of the Royal Regiment of Scotland and its Battalions. Next was the free round of drinks but these were not immediately consumed. Leonard Henson played *The Flowers* in memory of Our Absent Friends and the Toast was given – to William Bryson, Harry Forbes, Robert Jardine, Joe Moran, John Sillars and Major John Taylor (all ex-1 HLI) and Major John Donald and Charles Keenan (both 1 GLAS H).

A second Toast followed – to the donors of the “good use money” – and Leonard went on to give us more music. As there was a small but close knit 10th HLI group with us, this of course included *The 10th HLI Crossing The Rhine* – it was a beautiful rendering of this very fine march.

Either before or after Leonard's additional piping (our memory is hazy) was of course lunch and then an HLI multiple-choice test. Because there were a number of contenders for the first place in this, a second test followed to decide on the ultimate winners. These were Marilyn Mooney (First), Ronnie Johnstone (Second) and Major Alan Robertson (Third). (Third after a handicap was applied, it was felt that Alan's Intelligence Corps sojourn gave him what the Reunion Secretary called “an unfair advantage”). (Major Robertson did not (audibly) object.)

The prizes (paid for by yet more of the “good use money”) were then presented and the gathering got down to serious drinking. Serious it may have been but the building was cleared within half an hour of the bar being closed at 1530 hrs and there were no visible disasters. It was a fine reunion.

(The next will be on the 5th of May 2007, again at Home Headquarters.)

At the Reunion yet another account was given of the origin of *The Tenth HLI Crossing The Rhine*. At least its air and some of its parts were composed by the Pipe Major of 13 HLI, Sgt Jimmy Moore. It was first played in 1943 as *Captain Johnnie Law*. (Sgt Moore, whose name we have heard in similar contexts, later joined 10 HLI).

The HLI Appearance at The Dedication of the Cowie War Memorial Sunday 24th September 2006

Having been invited to send a small contingent to this ceremony we put out letters to all the Glasgow Members of the HLI OCA requesting volunteers – and received only six replies. This didn't distress us too much; the organisers, who were from 7 Scots, had asked for no more than just that number.

Transport was laid on from the RRT (*our* Regimental Recruiting Team) and we assembled on the morning of the 24th at RHF Home Headquarters to be collected. We were, all *three* of us. (Two of the volunteers had dropped out and one, Ronnie Johnstone, would make his own way to Cowie.) We were collected, in a rather luxurious hire-car, by Corporal Stuart Ritchie of the RRT. The latter was so obliging that we didn't *pressure* him (it was raining cats and dogs when we got to Cowie) to pad out our puny ranks on the parade; we simply *asked* him. Cpl Ritchie immediately agreed! (Result: not only his rather well-cut suit got sodden but also the shirt under it.)

After a little toing-and-froing (during which Cpl Ritchie kept on moving the car to catch up with us) we *eventually* formed up – to find that, despite our having been labelled “RHF” rather than “HLI”, we had been placed *behind* both the Black Watch and the Argylls. As “HLI” we didn't mind having the BW in front – but the A&SH? We pointed this out to the (A&SH) Parade RSM (WO1 (RSM) A G McAlaney, 7 Scots) – but very quickly said that we didn't want to make a song and dance about it.

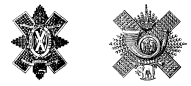
So all four of us, plus Cpl Ritchie, formed up behind the (numerous) A&SH – and looked around. (We had plenty of time; after the forming-up in the pelting rain it was a good half-hour before we stepped off (in the still-pelting rain).) There, looking rather spare, was Corporal Donald Turner of The Royal Logistics Corps, so we enlisted him too. We now had *two ranks of three!* (no blank file!)

(Cpl Turner was home on pre-Bosnia leave. Despite the rain, he had also felt like attending the ceremony.)

Then the Regimental Secretary arrived. As he was kilted and looking very decorative, we suggested that he should command our now-very-balanced contingent. Alas, Colonel Steele preferred to decorate his old buddies' contingent, the A&SH in front of us.

We then got to the Memorial (with only *once* changing step!). There, however, the (rather lengthy) ceremony was not only invisible (the Paras *and* the crowd were in our line of sight) but also *very* inaudible, the latter so much so that we didn't notice the minute's Silence – nor the Last Post and Lament before it nor the Reveille afterwards. Nor did we hear even the “Fall Out”.

However, we streamed downhill with the rest of the fallen-out parade – only to be stopped by our very percipient Colonel. “Refreshments,” said he, “*are back there!*”



So we reversed (or some of us did; Cpl Ritchie went on to rescue the over-forward elements) and found, in the Cowie Community Centre, not only an adequate buffet luncheon but also someone carrying a boxful of whisky miniatures (alas, just one each).

There Ronnie Johnstone (1 HLI) also managed to parade himself in front of a camera with not only John Brunton Kirk (1 HLI), John Lamont (6 HLI) and (we hope) Cpl Ritchie but also The Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk! (Mrs Marjory McLachlan.) (See the last of the Colour pages) (The anonymous writer of this article was outside at this time, smoking a roll-up.)

Then we were driven home. Cpl Ritchie not only dropped all three of us at our doorsteps but also arrested this procedure long enough in Byres Road to let the writer replenish his liquor supplies. (Result: he has *just* written this report.)

On the rather fine Memorial is

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE MEN FROM COWIE
AND DISTRICT
WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN THE TWO
WORLD WARS
1914-1918 1939-1945
THEY GAVE ALL THEIR TOMORROWS FOR OUR TODAY
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Amid a host of names are
25.09.1915 Private John McGhee
Highland Light Infantry
13.07.1916 Private George Dennis
Royal Scots Fusiliers
11.06.1917 Private Thomas Dryburgh
Royal Scots Fusiliers
31.07.1917 Lance Corporal William Junnier
Highland Light Infantry
23.08.1917 Private George Steven
Highland Light Infantry
08.02.1945 Private James Mein
Highland Light Infantry

We are grateful to The Cowie Memorial Research Group, William Stevenson Esquire and Major Robert Eliot, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

ARMISTICE 2006

It didn't rain, it wasn't too cold, and there wasn't too much chatter as we stood in the Square. The example of the *silent* Scots Greys in front of us eventually shut even Cpl Weaver up.

It was a good turnout. There were about forty of us on parade – including a few *young* faces – and we also marched in step! This wasn't too difficult. The Royal Marine Band beat a good rhythm and whenever we were out of earshot of the latter a familiar “LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT,” would boom out from our rear. Major Willie Shaw had either used his 'bus pass or soaked Hanna's

housekeeping to buy enough petrol. How glad we were to see him!

It was a great pity he didn't take command. We had hoped that Colonel Bobby Steele would be there but he was away Deputy Lieutenanting somewhere and we had to make do (as usual) with the *Journal's* Editor. Luckily he had earlier discussed with Colonel Steele as to on which foot one shouts out the “RIGHT” of “EYES RIGHT”. This time he got it right (left).

We were a fair mixture. Royal Highland Fusiliers were there in strength and we also had HLI in our ranks, including Glasgow Highlanders. Even so, we marched in step – or dared not do otherwise (see above). It was one of our better parades.

Then followed the usual hospitality in the City Chambers, after which some of us drifted off to Hotspur Street. There The 52nd Lowland Regiment (6 Scots) made us very welcome!

We do need the “younger” generation nowadays. The only Tenth HLI Crossing The Rhine veteran among us was Cpl (very briefly Lance-Sergeant!) Willie Nixon. A year ago we had at least three of that famous Battalion on parade – and three years ago five! (All five “drifted off” to Hotspur Street on that occasion – and were welcomed there by the GOC Scotland!)

THE TENTH HLI CONTINUATION CLUB

This is a bit thin on the ground now – and yet it now meets *twice* a week. On Tuesdays we meet in the 'Bus Station, get to Bobby McLachlan's house to enjoy a mid-morning snack (laid on by his eldest son Jack) and then return to the Station Bar. On Thursdays (again meeting in the 'Bus Station) our goal is Eddie Traynor's – for cold beer and a lot of whisky. We are very well entertained by both Bobby and Eddie. Both are now virtually house-bound but are at least free or almost free of hospitals. Bobby (a young Private in 1943 and soon No 1 on Willie Nixon's Bren Gun) is as charming a gentleman as ever and Eddie (who ended up as an HQ Coy Corporal) looked, when last we saw him, supremely fit – and also remembered to pour out another dram or two. (Rumour has it that Eddie's physiotherapy exercises are carried out on the way to the (nearest) pub.) Alas, the two of them and Willie Nixon (Bobby's *kindly* Section Commander) are almost the sum total of our original members. John Ross (a pre-War volunteer who was almost immediately told by Captain Foulds, “You're for the Signals.”) is seldom out of doors nowadays. We miss John – and sympathise with his wife Mary.

AND: Eddie Traynor was telephoned on the 30th of December by a newspaper to be told that his name is in The New Year's Honours List! Eddie will be awarded an MBE – for “Services to the Community” in Easterhouse. We cannot think of a better-earned award. (Eddie's comment, however, was “If only I had a million to give to the Labour Party. They'd have made me a Sir!”)



The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Second Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

It is hard, when penning an annual retrospective, to avoid saying how busy the Battalion has been. But there are few who have served in the Battalion for several years who can deny that the outgoing year has been busier than any before.

As the last notes were written, the prolonged period of being held as the TELIC Reserve Battalion had just ended and we had welcomed B Company Group back from deployment in the Basrah area. Already, the Pre Advance Party was en route for Scotland and the Advance Party was preparing to go. Between Christmas 2005 and Easter 2006 the Battalion withdrew from Cyprus, moved to Glencorse, snatched some leave and prepared for Belize.

In the midst of this maelstrom, 1RHF ceased to be and 2 SCOTS was born as part of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Perhaps a tear or two were shed but all ranks have seized the opportunities offered under our new, large Regiment with commendable spirit. The White Hackle is still worn with pride and the history that we all know and love is alive and well, adorning walls, Colours, uniforms and memories, as it should. We have welcomed numerous officers and soldiers from other Battalions of the old Scottish Division, and continue to do so, exactly as the new Regiment promised. We have developed a good working relationship with our near neighbours at Dreghorn, the Royal Scots Borderers, 1 SCOTS, and have recently welcomed another tranche of ex 1 SCOTS soldiers into our midst.

All those who deployed on Exercise Tropical Storm are agreed that it was one of the best-concerted periods of training in which they had participated. The Jocks showed themselves to be at their absolute best, impressing all who saw them with their approach, humour and sheer hard work. We left Belize on a training and morale high, having shown that we are up to the mark where it really matters.

With nary a pause, the Battalion conducted pre-deployment training for the Spearhead Land Element (SLE) role and, following only two weeks' summer holiday, ticked the last boxes to stand-up as the UK's only land-based Strategic Reserve for the next few months. It cannot be said that SLE has been a bed of roses. Despite hanging on every word of the daily news programmes, Company intelligence briefs and good old rumour control, we still, at the time of writing, have not been deployed anywhere. Instead, we have been embroiled in the tiresome but necessary business of supporting training throughout the UK under the Regular Army Assistance Table (RAAT). Knowing that others simply have to be trained and that it takes other units to provide the necessary training support is no consolation to a highly-trained Battalion straining at the leash to deploy on its own account.

The hard work and variety of the last few years continues to pay off with a more than healthy dose of promotions

across the rank structure and excellent postings for many. Our quality continues to shine through and be rewarded for it. During 2007, two of our newly promoted WO1s will fill RSM appointments in the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The new barracks is settling down and we much enjoy it. Nearly all of the families live in the new patch at Milton Bridge with the rest only yards away in older but decently revamped quarters. The Community Centre is a real boon, heavily used by our families, all age groups and all ranks. It has rapidly become the hub of community life. The Battalion is settling into the area, with many of us joining and playing for local sports clubs. The Penicuik schools are popular and of a really good standard. Already some families have made the decision to buy property locally and are setting down the enduring roots that the Future Army Structure promised.

There have been many changes of faces in the last year and even more the next. Career opportunities for LE officers have opened more widely than in the past and we will dispatch three to good E postings or ICSC(L) during 2007, replaced by three new faces from other SCOTS Battalions. The coming year looks set, by any standard, to be as busy as last. There is a hint of a deployment late in 2007 but to where, we do not yet know for sure. All that is certain is further change and probably a dose of the quite unexpected.

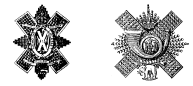
A COMPANY

OC: Maj A Douglas CSM: WO2 M Green

The year has been busy for A Coy; no sooner had we departed Cyprus then we were jetting off to Belize leaving behind the new Glencorse Barracks. Our jungle build-up package had begun in Cyprus and the Coy hit the ground running. The challenging 4-week exercise tested all ranks and by the end A Company truly were a force to be reckoned with. The exercise wasn't without its casualties;



(Jungle School) "Has anyone done the homework?"



"You get desks in a real school!"

Fus Freeburn was the unfortunate recipient of a snake bite, twice! Capt Munnich also succumbed to the bite of a viper. Cpl Houston was captured during a Close Target Recce and proceeded to fraternise with the enemy, eating fresh food, enjoying the fire and refusing to run for it!

On return to Glencorse Barracks the Battalion assumed the Spearhead Land Element role and A Company began as the first Lead Company Group. The Company gives a warm welcome to Maj Douglas who assumed command in July 06 and wishes Maj Borton MBE all the best for the future. Shortly we were joined by a clutch of young Fusiliers from Catterick and others from 1 SCOTS. The Company also welcomes 2Lt McVey and Sgt McGuire who take the reins of 3 Platoon. Sgt Anderson and Sgt Devlin moved on and we wish them all the best. Capt Munnich has also moved on to train future Pl Comds at PCBC and we wish him all the best.

The annual Rowallan Targe Competition was a closely-fought contest in the Galloway Forest and Cpl (now Sgt) McCormick led his team to a respectable second place. Many of the team sustained various sores on route and special mention must go to Fus Selwyn who walked like John Wayne most of the way and Fus Chisholm who had feet on his blisters!

A Coy beat off stiff competition to win the Battalion Rugby 10s tournament; with Fusilier Hill being awarded the 'Man of the Match' prize. This was a hard-fought contest and B Coy looked to be the favourites with many playing for the Battalion team. Under the guiding hand of Capt Munnich a win was orchestrated much to the dismay of the B Coy Officers; perhaps another day!

This years Inter-Company Boxing began with A Coy the defending Champions. The Coy ended up with a total of seven boxers; Fusiliers Starrs, Doran, Hill, Currie, Crawford, Buist and Boothe. With three boxers in the final it was clear A Company had a slim chance of winning the competition; from there on in it was all about self pride. Fus Buist won his bout in which he displayed tremendous skill and ability in a closely-fought contest. Fus Hill and Fus Starrs are to be complimented on displaying

tremendous courage in the face of a superior opponent. All of the team are to be congratulated on a sterling effort which summarises the spirit of soldiering.

As part of our commitment the Company continues to support various RAAT and we have supported PSBC LFTT and conducted the ranges for 19 Bde's PDT.

The future? The Coy looks forward to some well-earned leave, some demanding soldiering in the New Year and the prospect of an operational tour in the Autumn of 07.

B COMPANY

OC: Maj T H C De R Channer

CSM: WO2 M J McNally

CQMS: CSgt C Trousdale

The B Company locomotive rumbles on, yet to slow since settling in Glencorse. Our exercise in Belize clearly demonstrated our ability to conduct offensive operations no matter what was thrown at us. The lads put their heads down and thoroughly enjoyed thrashing themselves through one of the best ever live-firing packages run by OC FSp Coy Vincent and an SASC Warrant Officer clearly maddened by the intense humidity. It was an opportunity to re-jig the ORBAT back to a more conventional style following years of working in multiples in Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Iraq. The reports that B Company received for its efforts was a true reflection of the hard work, robustness and dedication shown by all of its members in an extremely demanding six weeks. Anyone who thought that life would get easier on return to Glencorse and SLE was sorely mistaken.

We may not have deployed as part of the Spearhead but we have still suffered plenty of time away from our families. Ever the workhorse, B Company has represented the Battalion on no fewer than six weeks of RAAT tasks in the last 18. Another 6 weeks was spent on guards and duties. We also managed a week on exercise on Castlelaw, a week's live firing on the ranges, a MATT training week and a week's public order training complete with diesel bomb inoculation and a 1000 round, table-top, baton-gun range. The Company positively shone in the bad weather of the annual Rowallan Targe, with very few soldiers falling out proving that we have what it takes in endurance and robustness.

With C Company waiting anxiously for action in Africa, it was left to B Company to lead the way on arguably the best RAAT task so far. Without having to kill you we can't divulge exactly what we got up to in Wales on Exercise PILGRIMS' PROGRESS, suffice to say that it was a big lesson in whole fleet management for WO2 Middlemiss who has proven that he would be ideally suited to a role in the MT Platoon in the future.

Which brings us on nicely to driver training. There were rumours that the MT Platoon was keen to get as many soldiers as possible converted to Cat C licences yet there weren't enough emails from the MTO to back this up. Now "the drive" is on. Every soldier in the Company is in the process of getting a new licence. Those who can't drive



will get Cat B while those that already have them will get Cat C. This will push us back to the level of capability that we had in Northern Ireland but which slowly slipped away during our busy period in Cyprus.

With so much going on it is no wonder that we are still adapting to our new home. When reporters from the *Edinburgh Evening News* came along to do a follow-up article to find out how things had changed for the men of B Company in the six months that they had been in the barracks, they were surprised to find that many of the rooms were still only half decorated. They did however have some time to take cheesy photos of the Jocks enjoying the comforts of their new single rooms; it is very clear that our new home is a prized possession and all visitors have been very impressed.

Welcome to new arrivals: Maj Channer (OC), Capt Keating (2ic), WO2 McNally (CSM), CSgt Trousdale (CQMS), Sgt Devlin (6 Pl), Sgt Lowe (5 Pl), Cpl Muncie (6 Pl) and all our new Fusiliers.

C COMPANY

OC: Maj E A Fenton
CSM: WO2 S J Drever
CQMS: CSgt J M Burke

This has been a great year for C Company, with a tremendous amount of hard work and effort by the boys and NCOs paying dividends. After completing, in Belize, what was probably the most arduous and testing field exercise any of us had undertaken the Company prepared for Spearhead in good order and then settled down to life in Glencorse with no small measure of anticipation for a jaunt abroad. We are yet to get the jaunt – but nonetheless have been fully engaged in training and support to the dreaded RAAT (Regular Army Assistance Table) commitments. To the real credit of the boys however, and despite heavy tasking, we still managed to enter and win the Bn football, boxing and Rowallan Targe. The Company won the Rowallan Targe overall, with Cpl McCormack's boys of 7 Platoon taking the honours as best section. CSgt Burke coached the football team to victory in what must have been the longest running Newlove Cup ever, (18 months to complete – says a lot about the nature of Bn commitments recently!) and Sgt Kyle (supported by Cpl McCormack) inspired the boxers to victory in the Inter-Company Boxing finals held on 16 November. A special mention must be made to LCpl Lindsay, the only man in the Company to be a member of all three winning teams.

With a short OBUA and live-firing exercise before Christmas and 2 weeks playing at being the Taliban in January for 12 Brigade, the last 2 months of Spearhead will fly by, but one wonders if we will be writing of more exciting things this time next year or lamenting what could have been! Glencorse may be a first-class home, but one must not forget whilst you can never take Scotland out of the Scot, he likes nothing better than to be taken out of Scotland for a while so he can miss the place and then enjoy the homecoming celebration! Here's hoping.

FSp COMPANY

OC: Maj T D Vincent
CSM: WO2 K J M Galloway
CQMS: CSgt S McIndoe

The great theme that pervades the period has been one of rebuilding. The previous six months have been akin to the death and rebirth of the Phoenix. I would rather hope we have now managed to build a solid foundation in all our capabilities and that we now move onward and upward. As usual, the ramparts continue to be manned by the Children of Nyx but they have been reformed and fashioned into a ruthlessly efficient fighting force. The Pipes and Drums have now settled into their new home and, through ingenious job creation schemes, we have managed to increase the numbers in the Javelin Platoon. The Mortars are as strong as ever; the Recce have grown and flourished and we are clandestinely training snipers who will act as sleepers in the Rifle Coys until such time as the political landscape is just and they can come together into their own Platoon.

The troops have worked hard since they landed in Glencorse and are now enjoying the plentiful harvest of life back in Scotland. The natural order of SLE has ensured the troops have tasted the bitter monotony of Rifle Coy life, hence their renewed enthusiasm for the Utopianism of Fire Support Company. We trained hard for SLE and we are still waiting like coiled springs to be unleashed upon an unsuspecting foe, although the end of SLE is drawing ever closer and short of creating a little mischief ourselves, we may never deploy in this role. The future will bring new challenges and we shall then focus all our attention and efforts into playing our part in expeditionary foreign policy or indeed calculate our own 'Arithmetic on the Frontier'.

There have been many postings in and out, a few promotions, a few demotions but the common thread throughout remains the impressive manner in which the troops absorb all the tasks levelled against them and continue to produce work of an impressive standard. My time in FSp Coy is near its end and I thank all ranks for their hard work and toil over the period of my tenure; I am sure the troops will continue to produce excellent results in their own inimitable style.

Postings In:

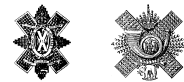
A warm welcome to: CSgt McIndoe (CQMS), CSgt Temple (2ic Mor Pl), Sgt Hughes (JAVELIN Pl Trg Sgt), Sgt Muir (JAVELIN Pl Sgt), Cpls Gilbert and MacIntyre (Coy Clerks), LCpl Grace (Stmn), Fus Coleman and McCracken (Recce Pl), Fus Watson, O'Donnell, Steel and Henderson (Mor Pl).

Postings Out:

Farewell to: Capt Rodger (HQ 20 Armd Bde), CSgt Lynn (Warminster) and Sgt Watt (BHQ Ops Sgt), Sgt Owens (AYT), LCpl Hillhouse (BHQ) and LCpl Bell and Fus Clark who return to their roots in civilian life.

Promotions:

The Company extends congratulations to: Cpls Gray and Millar promoted Sgt, Fus Mullen and Dougall promoted



LCpl. Fus Gillies, Dravakula, Vana and Roko all successfully passed a JNCO Cadre so we look forward to more promotions in due course.

Weddings:

Congratulations to Cpl Gunn on his recent marriage to Debbie.

Births:

Congratulations to Mrs and Fus Christie on the birth of their son Scott.

HQ COMPANY

OC: Maj C Kerr CSM: WO2 G Law
CQMS: CSgt A Turner

Since our last entry in the new Royal Regiment of Scotland Journal the pace of life and training has began to speed up in all departments within Headquarter Company. August started within the Quartermasters' Department with the first Board of Officers in our new duty station. This was carried out by teams selected from across the Battalion to ensure the new barracks was in good order and we had the correct equipment to enable us to deploy on operations. The G4 teams in the QM Dept are to be congratulated for their selfless commitment in ensuring we are at the highest standards of administration for our role in barracks and during SLE.

The Regimental Sergeant Major organised the annual Rowallan Targe competition from 25-29 Sep 06 in the hills and forests of Dumfries and Galloway. The 5-day event put our section commanders through their paces. HQ Coy's single team was led by Cpl McDonald (Int Cell) and gained a credible 4th position out of 15 teams entered. The Regular Army Assistance Table (RAAT) was our next challenge and to our surprise it is amazing just how many Army units require assistance to carry out their training. The range of support was from drivers, signallers and chefs to complete companies for OPFOR. To our credit we have managed to fulfil every commitment to date, but only just. The largest input from HQ Coy was for the Cambrian Patrol which involved the whole Signal Platoon. They are to be commended for their efforts in ensuring the communications plan worked throughout the competition.

Training within the Company has also been successful due to the hard work and support from all departments. We have been able to achieve a 95% pass rate with our MATTs (the new version of annual individual training tests) and the fitness levels within the Coy have improved steadily. The MT Platoon, as ever, has been at the forefront of driver training and has worked long and hard to increase the number of qualified drivers within the Battalion. [Photo from 2 SCOTS disc, HQCoyNotes etc] Caption: "At least one of the MT is happy." "Sport For All", once a week, is a huge success with members of the Coy. They have been able to participate in golf, fly fishing, hockey, football and rugby. Glencorse provides an ideal opportunity to continue to support a wide variety of sports and work towards entering teams at Army level in several.

Lastly, congratulations go to the following members of HQ Coy on promotion to Major in July 2007: A/Maj Jim Kerr, Capt Jock McGown and Capt Tris Winfield; and to Lt Col in March 2007, Maj David Steel. Whatever we do next year (TELIC, HERRICK or RAAT and public duties), HQ Coy stands ready to support whatever is asked of them.



Cpl McMahon asleep on the job.



With all this kit you'll have to walk there.



At least one of the MT's is happy.



NEW OFFICERS

SECOND LIEUTENANT D J W MORGAN

2Lt David Morgan was commissioned from Sandhurst on the 12th of April 2006. Prior to attending Sandhurst he went to Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh where he studied Mechanical Engineering. After finishing university he stayed in Edinburgh and joined the Civil Service. His main interests include Squash, Cross Country Running and Rock Climbing. He looks forward to developing his qualifications in outdoor pursuits.

NEW RECRUITS AND OTHER NEW ARRIVALS

A COMPANY

1 PLATOON

25218345 FUS KILNA

Fus Kilna, 18, was born in Glasgow and attended Arden Primary School then Hillpark Secondary School. Beyond school, Fus Kilna worked for a year at a well-known fast food chain, a job he found to be mundane. He felt that he needed a challenge so joined the Army. Fus Kilna enjoys playing football and socialising.



25104777 LCPL BALEWAI

LCpl Balewai, 26, was born in Fiji's capital city where he attended both primary and secondary schools. On leaving school, LCpl Balewai decided to join the British Army. After the Combat Infantryman's Course, he joined The Royal Scots where he has spent the last eight years. He has completed tours of Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Iraq. On the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, LCpl Balewai was posted to 2 SCOTS. His hobbies include rugby and almost any other sport.



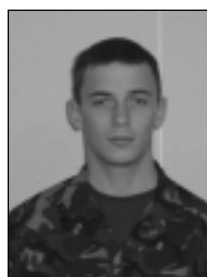
25184048 FUS BUIST

Fus Buist, 18, was born in Livingstone where he attended Dedridge Primary School then James Young High School. On leaving school, Fus Buist joined the Army in March 2004, fulfilling a lifetime's ambition. On the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, Fus Buist was posted to 2 SCOTS and has enjoyed settling in. His hobbies include basketball but he has set his heart on the boxing ring.



25221144 FUS WARD

Fus Ward was born in Glasgow but has moved from place to place, as his family followed his father, a Scots Guardsman. He has attended many service schools but has particularly good memories of King's International College. After school, Fus Ward lived in Munster, Germany. Fus Ward joined the Army in April 2006

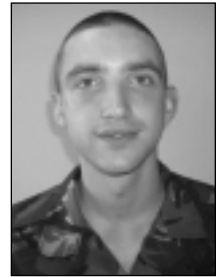


because he believes it to be the best of careers. He joined 2 SCOTS in November 2006. His hobbies include football.

2 PLATOON

25209963 FUS CHISHOLM

Fusilier Chisholm, 21, was born and brought up in Kilmarnock but spent five years of his life in Kettering, England. On leaving school he tried his hand at a variety of civilian jobs, but eventually decided to join the Army, looking for variety and career opportunities. After passing out of ITC Catterick he joined the Battalion in April 2006 and is looking forward to life in A Company. His is keen to become a PTI.



25205447 FUS FREEBURN

Fus Freeburn, 18, comes from Ayr where he was educated at Prestwick Academy. He joined the Army at 16 and, on completion of the Combat Infantryman's Course, joined the Battalion Recruiting Team and then joined the Advance Party at Glencorse in February 2006. His interests are canoeing, scuba-diving and ice skating but not snakes – he was bitten, on two separate occasions during the exercise in Belize. Remarkably, he suffered no ill effects other than surprise!



25218346 FUS BOOTH

Fus Booth, 17, hails from Castlemilk in Glasgow and was educated at Castlemilk High School. On leaving school he joined the Army straight away and completed his basic training at ITC Catterick. He joined A Company in September 2006 and is settling in during the busy Spearhead period. His interests are golf and football and he hopes to represent the Battalion Teams in one or both.



25145883 FUS O'ROURKE

Fus O'Rourke, 21, was educated at his local school, St. Kent's in Blackburn. On leaving school he joined the Army in January 2002. He completed Phase One training at ATR Bassingbourne before moving to ITC Catterick to complete Phase Two. He served first with C Company of The Royal Scots with whom he deployed on Op TELIC 3 and 7. He transferred to 2 SCOTS in September 2006. His interests are skiing and cycling.



25219413 FUS NASH

Fus Nash, 20, was born and brought up in Queensland, Australia. He was educated at Fraser Coast Anglican College in Harvey Bay. After leaving school he worked in a variety of jobs and then travelled through South East Asia and Europe. After completion of his training at ITC Catterick, he was posted to A Company in October 2006. His interests are triathlon, skiing and hockey.





3 PLATOON

25208213 FUS STARRS

Fus Starrs, 20, hails from Parkhead in Glasgow. He studied at St Mungo's Academy High School, leaving at the age of 16 and working initially in a warehouse. He joined the Army in September 2005, seeking a greater challenge in life and to see more of the world. After completing training at ITC Catterick he joined the Battalion in Glencorse in March 2006, in time to deploy with A Coy on Ex Tropical Storm in Belize. He enjoys participating in many sports, particularly football, snooker and boxing.



25206911 FUS DORAN

Fus Doran, 19, comes from Riddrie in Glasgow and attended Smithycroft Secondary School, leaving aged 16. He was then employed as a double-glazing fitter. Fus Doran subsequently joined the Army having been attracted by the potential job prospects and variety offered. Following the Combat Infantryman's Course, he joined A Coy in February 2006 in time to deploy to Belize on Ex Tropical Storm.



25205898 FUS CRAWFORD

Fus Crawford, 20, was born in Glasgow. He attended Boclair Academy then a painting and decorating course before gaining employment as an apprentice painter and decorator. He began his training at ITC Catterick in July 2005, before joining the Battalion in Cyprus. A keen footballer, he has played for many years and now competes in a Sunday league, and is keen to play further with the Battalion.



25210060 FUS BELL

Fus Bell, 19, comes from Glasgow where he attended St Roch's Secondary School. Fus Bell joined the Army seeking excitement and challenge. He joined in September 2005, completed the Combat Infantryman's Course and joined the Battalion just in time to deploy to Belize on Exercise Tropical Storm. He is a keen footballer and has already represented A Company.



C COMPANY

7 PLATOON

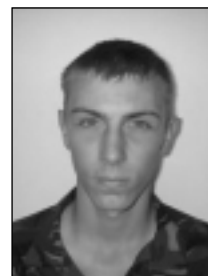
25221591 FUS MARSHALL

AGE: 18
Fus Marshall attended Cumnock Academy before joining the Army. He enjoyed school, especially the fitness aspect, and is a keen basketball player. He joined the Battalion in November and is looking forward to a long and enjoyable career.



25213396 FUS McGEACHY

AGE: 18
Fus McGeachy is from Rutherglen and joined the Battalion in July 06. He is a keen football player and has already represented the Coy and Battalion teams. He is currently deployed on Ex GRAND PRIX, playing OPFOR with 1 SCOTS.



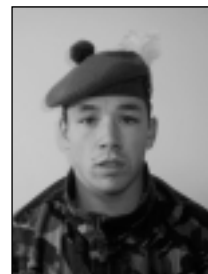
25217683 FUS MULLEN

AGE: 20
Fus Mullen attended Cumnock Academy before working in retail where he worked his way up to assistant manager of a frozen foods store. He completed training achieving the prize for Best Shot in his intake. He joined the Battalion in August and enjoys playing football having already played a game for the Company.



25180402 FUS WHITELAW

AGE: 22
Fus Whitelaw joined the Battalion from 1 SCOTS in which he had spent two years and had deployed on an operational tour of Iraq. He originates from Bo'ness and his interests include rugby and football.



25204779 FUS PARK

AGE: 18
Fus Park comes from Livingston and attended Inveralmond Community High School where his interests included football and business management. He started his military training at Harrogate Foundation College before completing his training at ITC (C) and joining the Battalion in November.



8 PLATOON

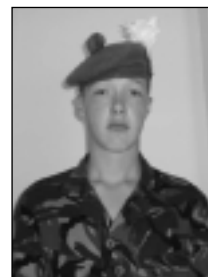
FUS LONGWELL

Fus Longwell is from Glasgow and has a family connection within the Army. He first attended ATR Bassingbourne before completing his training at ITC Catterick. He subsequently joined the Battalion in April 06. Fus Longwell is a keen footballer and enjoys socialising. Since joining 2 SCOTS he has deployed on exercise "Tropical Storm" to Belize and Ex "Grand Prix" to Kenya. He has also completed a placement with the Battalion Recruiting Team.



FUS MASON

Fus Mason originally hails from Kilmanock. He completed his training at ITC Catterick and gained some useful academic qualifications along the way. He joined the Battalion in July where he has competed various exercises including playing hunter force for an escape and

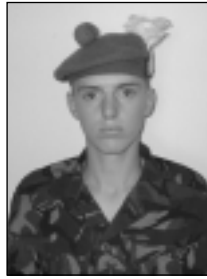




evasion course. Fus Mason passed a Ream Medic Cadre and also gained a Cat B driving licence. He is a keen sportsman and enjoys football.

FUS MCCORMICK

Fus McCormick originally comes from Drumchapel. He attended Drumchapel High School after which he obtained a job working as a kitchen porter. Having always wanted to join the Army he completed his training at ITC Catterick and joined 2 SCOTS on 6th June this year. Fus McCormick is a keen footballer and enjoys playing tennis. He recently joined the boxing team and represented C Company where he won his weight division. He is looking forward to having the opportunity to representing the Battalion at a later date. He is enjoying army life.



9 PLATOON

25180414 FUSILIER M V KAITANI

Fusilier Kaitani transferred from 1 SCOTS in June 2006. Originally from Nadi in Fiji he joined the British Army in October 2003 for a life of travel and adventure. Since joining the Army he has represented his Regiment and the Army on the Rugby pitch.



25163044 FUSILIER P M A REID

Fusilier Reid transferred from 1 SCOTS in June 2006. Born in Edinburgh, he attended Wester Hailes Education Centre before turning his hand to scaffolding. He joined the Army in January 2003 for a more varied life and a more structured career. Since joining the Army Fusilier Reid has served in Northern Ireland and Iraq. His interests include football and pool. He looks forward new challenges within the Second Battalion.



25200244 FUSILIER J THOMSON

Fusilier Thomson was born in Glasgow, where he attended Lochend Community High School. Straight from school, Fusilier Thomson joined the Army for an adventurous job that allowed him to travel. He joined the Battalion in August 06 after completing his training at ITC Catterick. His interests include football.



25216736 FUSILIER M TUTTY

Fusilier Tutty was born in Glasgow. After attending St Thomas Aquinas and attaining eight Standard Grades, he joined the Army. Fusilier Tutty attended ITC Catterick in Jan 06 and joined the Battalion in Jul 06. He boxed for the Company in the recent Inter Company boxing competition; he also plays football for his Company. He chose 2 SCOTS because it was his local regiment and his older brother was also a soldier in the



Battalion. He looks forward to a challenging career. His interests include boxing and football

25126736 FUSILIER T WHYTE

Fusilier Whyte was born in Ayr, where he attended St Michael's Academy and attained eight standard grades. He left school and became a milk boy. He joined the Army in January 06 and joined the Battalion in July 2006. Since he joined the Battalion he has completed Pre-Deployment Training and conducted duties within Glencorse Barracks. He also represented his company in the Inter Company boxing competition. His interests include football, modifying cars and socialising.



25041015 FUSILIER A MCWHIRTER

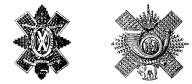
Fusilier McWhirter joined the Platoon from 1 SCOTS in June 2006. He joined the Army in August 1998 and served with 1 KOSB. He has a fiancée who has just given birth to his first son, Rome. Fusilier McWhirter transferred to 2 SCOTS to continue his varied Army career. His interests include rugby, football, scuba-diving and water skiing.



25050697 LANCE CORPORAL S HENRY

Lance Corporal Henry transferred from 1 SCOTS in June 06. Having attended Deans Community High School he went to work for Mitsubishi before joining the Army in March 1996. Since joining the Army Lance Corporal Henry has served in Northern Ireland and Iraq. He looks forward to the new in 2 SCOTS. His interests include music and movies.





The Royal Highland Fusiliers Battalion – 2 SCOTS

Bn HQ



Some of the new Quarters at Glencorse.

A Company



CSM Green at home.



We've been here before (Belize).



"The 'bus is just coming." (A Coy's favourite way of redeploying)



The Officers are still a Mess.



*"Let's black the other half. **THIS** is what we joined for."*



The CO has just been captured!



"This beats walking!"



C Company



Sgt Curran passes orders during an attack (Belize).



Major Fenton and Sgt Curran during the attack on the Vaca Fire-base (Belize).



Fus Cameron on the Line of Departure, Vaca Fire-base (Belize).

FSp Company



*"It's so long a way down you can hardly see him".
(abseiling to **RECCE**?)*



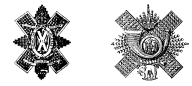
*"We're somewhere **near** here" (Mortar Aural **Master Class**).*



*"I think the GPMG's sulking... but **IF** we reload it, it might stop stopping."*



CSgt Temple and Captain Bridle prefer plotting to shaving.



HQ Company



The pressure's off.



Even the OPs Officer thinks so.



RSM: "Promotions, Sir?" CO: "You mean **UP** to Sergeant?" Adjutant: "**THREE** stripes seldom do harm, Sir." CO and RSM: "You're not serious?" Adjutant: "I seldom am."



*Even HQ can fire blanks (- but we **count** the cases).*



A Battalion Group IS big.



After the Dedication of the Currie Memorial: left to right are: Ronnie Johnstone (1HLI), Mrs Marjory McLachlan (The Lord Lieutenant, Stirling and Falkirk), John Kirk (1 HLI) and John Lamont (6 HLI).



Our Representative Colonel (AND Colonel Commandant, The Royal Regiment of Scotland) at the 2006 Luncheon.



Major Willie Shaw in the course of his rounds at the 2006 Luncheon (but not standing a round).



Alone in the jungle (not even invited to the Luncheon).



This is going to replace the MT Platoon.



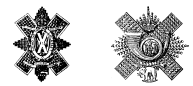
We KNOW the PRI has just made a profit!



*The **GOODS** – or we board!*



Hand-Out Time?



52nd Lowland, Sixth Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Commanding Officer: Lt Col S W Burns TD
Second in Command: Maj A M Williams TD
Adjutant: Capt A D Watson
Training Major: Maj G A Irvine-Fortescue
Quartermaster: Maj J Frew
Regimental Sergeant Major: WO1 (RSM) S G Cochrane

2006 has been a very busy but equally rewarding year for everyone in 52nd Lowland, 6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Ex LOWLAND POPPY 4, this year's Tactical Doctrine Exercise, took a coach-load of Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs to France for the long weekend Thursday 23rd – Sunday 26th March to study the fighting at Arras in 1940 and the BEF's withdrawal to Dunkirk. TDEs are now a regular event for us and Maj Adrian Williams, the Battalion's 2IC, has become somewhat of an expert in running them, with the able assistance of Capt Andy Blair, C Company's PSAO.

Having said farewell to WO1 (RSM) Watty Hunter, who was posted to 2 SCOTS as their RSM, we welcomed WO1 (RSM) Stewart Cochrane to the Battalion but ... the main event of the year for everyone was the formation of the Royal Regiment of Scotland on Tuesday 28th March. The Battalion marked this with parades and receptions in Ayr, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Galashiels, and Glasgow. The assembled parading soldiers removed their Glengarries with old Regimental badges for the last time and replaced them with Tam O' Shanter's adorned with a new cap badge and hackle, presented to them by local Deputy Lord Lieutenants. It was a poignant moment for some of the old and bold but also an exciting step forward for founding members of a new Regiment.

The Battalion then embarked on a busy summer. Sgt Docherty (C Coy) is off to Afghanistan (and we shall be providing a composite Company for Op TELIC next year). The DIVSAAM took place at Barrybuddon Camp on the 6th and 7th April and the Battalion fielded four teams, which made both the Battalion and the Regiment the best represented in 2 Division. Capt Don Donald went on to make the top 10 in the individual competition.

At the end of June, the Battalion joined 7 SCOTS as part of Scotland's Civil Contingency Reaction Force on Ex STAG HOUND. The participants were faced with a flood that civil authorities required assistance with and the coincidental crashing of a hijacked passenger jet.

July and August saw nearly 40 of us as staff and instructors for Ex SUMMER CHALLENGE 06, 51 (Scottish) Brigade's initiative to take 250 young men and women and turn them into trained TA soldiers with seven weeks. This was planned and manned entirely by Territorials. 6 SCOTS were to the fore, with Capt Stuart Grace and WO2s Anne Russell and

Arthur Neil more than filling our 30 allocated places for recruits. (At the end of the course 38 newly-trained soldiers joined the Battalion, almost 10% of our established strength.)

Next, 6 SCOTS were up in Cameron Barracks for their ATD annual camp, which focussed this year on personal skills and qualifications. Courses included a mortar cadre, driving cadre, Battlefield Casualty Drills Trainer cadre, chef cadre run by the RCWO and an RRU cadre run by the Signal Platoon. There were also physical activities - inter-Company sports, daily PT and adventurous training. (The author spent a great morning falling out of kayaks and an even better afternoon accepting that he'll never, ever be able to windsurf.)

The big weekend in October was a support weapons demo exercise in Otterburn where Battalion members at all levels got the chance to see close up and, in most cases, fire the 81mm Mortars and GPMGs.

Then was the big event of our calendar, Remembrance Weekend. It is an especially poignant time for 6 SCOTS as it not only remembers those that went before us into armed conflict but also continues to remember Fus Russell Beeston and Pte Jason Smith, the two members of the Battalion killed on Op TELIC 2 in Iraq.

Next was Ex CHRISTMAS PUDDING on the weekend of 1st – 3rd Dec. And now we say farewell to the 2IC, Maj Adrian Williams. He is replaced by Maj Aleks Tomczyk, currently commanding A Company in Edinburgh.

B COMPANY

OC: Maj J M T Allan
2IC: Capt J C H Donald
PSAO: Capt H M McAulay
PSI: WO 2 A Ross
CSM: WO 2 J Maitland
OC Mortar Pl: WO 2 K D Telfer
Recruit Trg WO/OC 3 Pl: CSgt R S M Hogg
OC 4 Pl: CSgt D McFarlane
CQMS: CSgt G Wylie
NRPS: CSgt R C Ramage
PSI Mortar Pl: CSgt C W Scott, then CSgt Montgomery

The highlight at the end of the last Training Year must be the Formation Day Parades. At Ayr the Company was honoured to host the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, Major Richard Henderson TD HML, who presented the 27 members of the Company on Parade that night with their tailored Tam O' Shanter's with the new Regimental cap badges and white hackles. At Dumfries a similar Parade was held for the Mortar Platoon, where Major Charles Milroy presented the Platoon with their tailored TOSs and recently-delivered black hackles! At Ayr the OC, Major Allan, gave a



CSgt Gordon Montgomery, Mortar Platoon PSI, oversees visiting Officer Cadets from Scottish UOTCs as they fire a mortar round during Ex BIGGEST BANG, 6 SCOTS support weapons demo weekend in October.

presentation on behalf of the Company to WO2 Drever who returned to 2 SCOTS.

After Easter the Company continued their preparations for the challenges ahead. This included DIVSAAM (N) 05 - 07 May at Barry Buddon and Company's Exercise RAMPANT LION in the Garelochhead Training Area. At DIVSAAM 6 SCOTS submitted four teams - in line with the Commanding Officer's intent to improve the standard and profile of shooting within the Battalion. B Company was well represented. Although the teams did not win any of the Matches there were a number of encouraging individual results including a good result for Captain Donald who gained a place in the prestigious top 30 firers at the Meet.

Later in May elements of the Company deployed Ex RAMPANT LION. Despite the inclement weather this exercise provided valuable experience and revision for Jocks and JNCOs alike. In June B Company ran Ex BORDER REIVER for the Battalion which had B and C Companies base themselves at Dumfries TAC, 'Chateau Nunfield', while A Company concentrated at their Gala Detachment TAC in Galashiels before deploying to Wathgill ranges. As part of the concurrent activities Cpl Robertson ran the Section Battle Drills lesson and Cpl Laurie, assisted by Pte Gibson, ran a Battlefield Casualties Drills lesson.

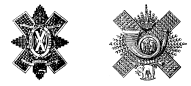
On Exercise SUMMER CHALLENGE 2006 the Company prepared six new recruits for this seven-week training package. By its end a recruit would pass out as a trained soldier - with a Category B driving licence. Congratulations must go to Fusiliers Lucas, McGregor and McMaster and Pte Dodds from the Mortar Platoon.

The Company also contributed to the success of this Recruit Training initiative by providing personnel to assist with training - WO2 Ross, Fusilier Lydon, Cpl Muirhead and Pte Barr.

Annual Training Deployment 06 at Cameron Barracks, Inverness: The Company deployed a sizeable contingent which included Major Allan; Capt Donald; WO2 Maitland and CSgt Wylie.

B Company's Mortar Platoon under WO2 'Bear' Telfer ran a successful Mortar Cadre during Annual Camp with assistance from CSgt Montgomery and Sgt Rafferty.

This Cadre was an excellent opportunity for the less experienced members of the Mortar Platoon - and for the Officer Cadets on the Cadre it was viewed as the most enjoyable of all. Later B Company ran Ex MARQUIS OF



MONTROSE in the Garelochhead Training Area - patrolling and navigation lessons by day, followed by Reconnaissance Patrols - each under the watchful eye of their accompanying DS.

The Remembrance Sunday Parade weekend was relatively well attended. The Company participated at both Ayr and Dumfries - and CSgt MacFarlane laid a wreath at Prestwick.

B Company's progress in this year's TA Scottish Challenge Cup unfortunately ended abruptly on a wet and windy afternoon in November despite the efforts of Cpl McCulloch. The Company team lost 7-0, but it could have been worse if it had not been for the efforts of our goalkeeper, Fus McGerty.

The Company welcomed back LCpl Carey who returned from his second tour on Op TELIC 7 and part of 8. Pte Scott (Mortar Platoon) who incurred a knee injury on Op TELIC 4 was posted back to us - and hopefully will be declared fully fit in the New Year.

The Company has had an upsurge in Recruiting - and the Dumfries establishment has been increased to Platoon status with two Mortar sections. LCpl Carey and Fus McGerty have successfully passed their career courses on SCTC and PJNCO respectively while Sgt Nelson, Cpl Flett, LCpl Armstrong and LCpl Collie have all been promoted.

C COMPANY

OC: Capt J Combes
PSAO (NRPS): Capt A Blair
CSM: WO2 J Maitland
PSI: WO2 C McCormack
CQMS (NRPS): CSgt V Lees

C Company main at Hotspur Street in Glasgow has been reduced from two Rifle Platoons to one, but the Assault Pioneer Platoon in Motherwell has been strengthened to a Platoon plus in strength. Company HQ elements have seen no change Fus Miller attended Ex SUMMER CHALLENGE and was awarded best student on the CIC. Then, within weeks, he became best student on the Regular Radio Users' Cadre at camp. Watch out for this rising star.... As well as students, C Company supplied training and administrative staff at various points over the seven weeks. Cpl Smith has also been helping 7 SCOTS with their pre-deployment training package for Op TELIC.

The Assault Pioneer Platoon have been much employed - from demolitions to field fortifications, water supply to watermanship and much else, including an excellent demonstration of the capabilities of plastic explosives at Otterburn in October. Nor have we forgotten Sgt Aitchison on his Regimental Signals Command Vehicle Sergeant's Course and Cpl Chalmers on his All Arms Unit Custody Staff Course. In addition LCpl Coyne gained top student on his Advanced Assault Pioneer Course, LCpl Ferguson attended the All Arms Storemans' Course and Cpl Smith went for the hat trick, attending three courses in the one year. Last but not least are Fus Young and Pte Watts, who attended a Potential JNCO's Course.

The OC, Maj Tookey will be sorely missed, but the Company is in safe hands, those of Capt Combes. Finally, a big welcome back to Sgt "Doc, that's with two gongs!!" Docherty, after a successful tour and safe return from Op HERRIC in Afghanistan.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

OC/QM(V): Capt A McInally
RSO: Capt T Corkerton
CSM: W2 G Macintosh
RQMS (NRPS): WO2 R Fraser
RQMS(V): WO2 S Steel
MTWO (NRPS): WO2 R Black
RSWO: CSgt A Collins
PSI: Sgt T Young

The last few months have been a period of relative sanity for HQ Company, considering that whatever is going on in the Battalion, HQ is virtually always involved in some way. Even when we're doing our own thing, we're invariably representing the Battalion and the Regiment.

The Pipes and Drums, under the direction of Pipe Maj Gordon Walker and D/Maj Colin Walker, are still competing in grade 2. They have had a number of new members to bring up to speed this year but have still held their own and we look forward to them doing even better next year. Sgt Alan Duncan of the MT Platoon, is also still representing us through his driving in BAFMA Landrover trialling events around Britain and being placed well in his class.

We have a few new faces to greet on parade on Tuesday nights since the Company inherited a complete REME LAD from 105 Regt RA(V), so we welcome them wholeheartedly. Not only are they invaluable to us but they were able to put their skills to good use for the 1st Bn Royal Irish at Fort George while we were in Cameron Barracks in Inverness on our Annual Camp.

As always happens, a number of changes have occurred in HQ Company's ORBAT over the last few months. The Signal Platoon PSI, Sgt Gary Worrall, has returned to 2 SCOTS, to be replaced by another Fusilier, Sgt Terry Young. WO2 Arthur Neil was posted to the Battalion Recruiting team as 'shepherd' to look after new recruits going through their basic training and WO2 (RQMS) Stevie Steel has replaced him.

WO2 Steel has had a few highs and lows since taking over as RQMS - The Battalion's Beating of Retreat at George Square in Glasgow simply would not have happened if he hadn't run it single-handedly on his first weekend in the job and the 4-tonner he ran out of fuel on the way to Annual Camp in Inverness was very easily recovered...

Finally, we bid farewell to our Quartermaster, Maj Jocky Frew, who will be replaced in the New Year by Maj John Stevenson from 3 SCOTS. We are very sad to be losing someone of such charm, wit and amazing all-round ability as Jocky, but at least someone else will be benefiting since he is going on to become a PSAO for a Sqn of 71 Engr Regt (V) in Elgin. Good luck - they're going to need it!



Home Headquarters The Royal Highland Fusiliers

Regimental Secretary: Colonel (Retd) R L Steele TD DL
Assistant Regimental Secretary: Captain (Retd) K Gurung MBE
Journal Editor: Major (Retd) A L Mack

Home Headquarters continues to be a hive of activity despite our change in title and 'status' with effect last April. Indeed very little seems to have changed. As the new boy I am still on a learning curve but am gradually getting to know everyone in the far-flung reaches of our empire. Needless to say I've been greatly assisted by Kamal, Liz, Sandy, Maureen and Major Ken Kenyon here at Home Headquarters who between them seem to have all the answers. I mustn't forget to mention the excellent handover by Major Willie Shaw at the end of March last year and he continues to advise me in his inimitable courteous and gentlemanly way.

The corporate hospitality 'operation' at Home Headquarters continues to thrive and this year we have catered for Alan Glen's, several staff parties from Kentigern House as well as our own Officers' Luncheon Club and several OCA events. There is room for expansion here and provided the price is right we'll consider every request. Over the year ex-members have continued to drop into see us when in Glasgow. We are always delighted to see you and everyone is assured of a warm welcome. Some recent visitors to Home Headquarters were Grant and Marilyn Wilson From Sydney in Australia, who were delighted to view their Great-Uncle Pte George Wilson's Victoria Cross. They also left with several accounts of its winning gleaned from the HLI Chronicles. HHQ was also able to put them in touch with a whole branch of the family they knew nothing about.

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of my year was a visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea where I met our two in-pensioners, Eddie Duffy and George Murray – both were in very good heart and enjoying life in the historic and relaxed atmosphere of the Royal Hospital.

The other, was the annual visit to Erskine where Ken Kenyon and I were well hosted by Colin and Carol in Recreation and introduced to our Regimental Residents. George Boyes, Jimmy Brogan, George Brown and Tommy Smith of the RSF (the last also RHF) and Bill Clarke, Alex Harris, Tommy McCrystal, Hugh McKeenan and Jock Steen of the HLI. Henry Hansom (RHF) and John Rennie (HLI), Frank Brogan, Gordon McCord and George Mack of the RHF, John Griffin (RSF), Stephen Ferguson (HLI) and Donald Mack (RSF/RHF) were all elsewhere. Everyone we met was in very good heart and all continue to be very well cared for.

It is now more important than ever to maintain a strong Old Comrades Association and already the calendar of events is filling up. In particular we have re-instated the monthly gathering here at 518 Sauchiehall Street and I am indebted to ex-Sgt Major Alex McDivitt for taking on the organising of this event and many others.

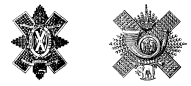
To keep the OCA strong we need volunteers to help run things and I am particularly keen to hear from ex-Officers, WOs and Sgts who would be prepared to get involved. Needless to say there is never a shortage of ex-Jocks. They continue to be the mainstay of our OCA events.

I am also keen to increase the visitor numbers to the Museum and to open at weekends. We need a pool of volunteers to achieve this and once again I am looking to ex-members of the Regiment who would be prepared to give of their time.

Anyone wishing to be involved in the OCA or the Museum please give me a shout.

I ask everyone to keep an eye on our website and support as many of our events as possible throughout the year. It's an ideal opportunity to meet old friends and swap war stories.

Finally, wherever you are best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year from all at Home Headquarters.



Articles

TO THESE MEN WE OWE SO MUCH

Craftsman Eric Mullender REME

In 1954–56 the Royal Scots Fusiliers had the daunting task of patrolling the dense and difficult terrain found in the jungles of Perak and Kerdar, Northern Malaya - or “Up Country” as it was referred to. I must make it absolutely clear that my duties as an REME craftsman didn’t involve me in what, in the main, these young National Servicemen had to endure and cope with almost daily during their tour of duty. During their two-week stay, between their attending their First Aid Course and spending the evenings in our small NAAFI sampling the local “Tiger Beer” (this occasionally involved an argument, followed by a few punches thrown), I would talk to some of my fellow National Servicemen from the RSF asking for and listening to their experiences whilst on patrol in the Jungle. The following is a record of what I learned from our conversations and is also, if indirectly, a tribute not only to these brave Royal Scots Fusiliers but to all the many other personnel from other Regiments who all served with great courage and fortitude during the 1948–60 Malayan Emergency (War).

A typical Jungle Patrol would consist of about 8–12 men, invariably led by an officer and an NCO. When and where these patrols went depended on information relating to bandit sightings. This vital information might come from local Malay Police, local Rubber Tappers, or perhaps from the Sakia (Malay Aborigines), or Dyaks (Native Aborigines from Borneo). The evening prior to moving out, the officer in charge would parade the group to make a detailed inspection of their kit. Usually five days of food would be carried. (After five days an Air-Food drop would be asked for.) Other items necessary would be a spare Jungle Green suit, a Poncho Cape, spare socks, rubber-soled Jungle Boots, a tin to keep cigarettes and matches dry, Paludrine and water sterilising tablets and of course a mess tin and spoon. Other necessities would be anti-typhus tick dressing and anti-mosquito cream. Perhaps, last but not least, their rifles and ammunition. In order to keep as low a profile as possible the patrols would leave camp just before first light - approximately 5.00am. Lorries would then transfer them to an agreed location, roughly in an area where Bandit activity had been reported.

On entering the Jungle the task would be to find a track. These would be very hard to see - only the Sakia or Dyak would spot these tracks. Tiny clues, such as a broken twig at shoulder height (thus not broken by an animal) would be looked for. Progress would be slow and tiring, talking would be in whispers. There would be a constant need to be alert to the dangers of ambush. Careful watch was needed to be aware of ‘booby traps’ across the track. A terrorist ploy was to set trip-flares - a single wire was almost impossible to see in such dense undergrowth. On these patrols, arguably the most unenviable job was that of

Wireless Operator. Carrying 30 pounds of Wireless Set in the humid heat and difficult terrain was certainly no fun. In addition, patrols often took place during the monsoon season with its torrential rains. River crossings could be hazardous; whilst a shallow river helped for faster progress a patrol would often have to cross a deep and fast-flowing river. This could be very dangerous - and also being soaked to the waist must have been, to say the least, extremely uncomfortable.



Being soaked to the waist must have been extremely uncomfortable.

In the course of any Regiment’s “Tour of Duty” - and there must have been a dozen or so different Regiments that were called out to Malaya during the twelve years of the “Emergency” - there must have been hundreds of patrols sent out into the Jungle. In a vast number of occasions no contact would be made with the Bandits. Whilst lots of hard hazardous slog appeared to come to nothing, these countless patrols often forced the terrorists to up-root their camp and move on, often leaving food and sometimes arms and ammunition behind them.

When an encounter took place and there was a resulting fatality the body had to be recovered for identification. If the width of the Jungle path permitted, a stretcher would be made from bamboo and perhaps a poncho cape so that the body could be brought in. On occasions when the dense Jungle wouldn’t permit a stretcher the terrorist’s body would be bound to a single bamboo pole. [Use WARTIME PICTURES CD, M5. Caption: The terrorist’s body would be bound to a single bamboo pole.]

During the period 1948–60, statistics shown in the book *God’s Little Acre*, compiled by R Thambipillay of the Perak Planters Association, show.... 6,700 Terrorists killed; 519 Military Forces killed; 511 Malay Police killed; 2,473 Civilian lost their lives - all so unnecessary



The terrorist's body would be bound to a single bamboo pole.

I write these memoirs in remembrance, not only to those young National Servicemen and regulars with the Royal Scots Fusiliers but to all of the thousands of National

Servicemen and regular soldiers, who served in other Regiments in this now forgotten conflict. Very few were volunteers; at this time National Service was compulsory. Regardless of one's wishes, at the age of 18 or in the case of those studying or wishing to complete their apprenticeships at 21, "Call Up" arrived and had to be answered. What these conscripts endured, particularly those courageous young men, who had the unenviable task of patrolling in these tropical rainforests with their clammy and exhausting hothouse atmosphere, may be regarded as beyond reason (particularly after a fruitless patrol).

At times the effects must have been dispiriting and morale at a low ebb. Certainly when the Royal Scottish Fusiliers came to 19th Field Ambulance they invariably looked haggard and drawn. Their skin was often pale and they looked fatigued. We must not forget their courage and the bravery of all who fought the Communist insurgents in Malaya at this time – we owe them a great deal.

THE FIGHT AGAINST EOKA

Corporal A B Cameron The Highland Light Infantry

The actions in Cyprus were never active service in the real sense. Unlike in other small wars like Korea, The Gulf War and the Falklands we never came face to face with the enemy, although I am quite sure we would have been up to the job. Instead we fought a guerrilla war where you fought an invisible enemy, well trained in stealth, cunning and sudden hidden attacks – helped at times by a civilian back-up. **[Editor: Pte Furey of C Coy came face to face with one of the enemy in 1956 sufficiently close enough to shoot him. In the same year a Section from an A Coy platoon was fired on in the hills and the Section Commander viewed the enemy face to face – through his gun-sights as he returned fire. (Unfortunately his weapon was a Sten Gun and the range "A good three hundred yards, Sir.")]**

The answer was to disrupt their movement by constant patrolling to try to keep them constantly on the move, by village searches and by total vigilance and by trying not to set too many routine patterns in our movements. It was the latter which could cause the problems. At times I am sure the patrols felt they were chasing their own tails yet it was this constant action and harassment that helped to curtail the incidents.

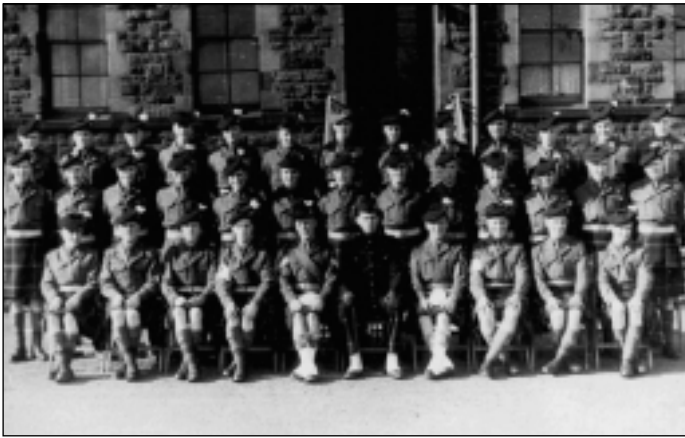
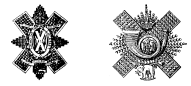
I became a fully paid-up member of the hey jimmies at 8am on the 3rd of January 1955 when I reported to Maryhill Barracks along with a motley crew of some 100 conscripts, regulars, re-enlistments, and a few who had been persuaded by some Baillie that three years in the Army was better than three years in Borstal. We were mainly made up of tradesmen, clerks, semi-skilled and unskilled young men. We even had three potential officers Chris Helm, Chic Orr and Doc Cunningham who were destined for Eaton Hall OTS but would join us later at Bulford.



Shots of Maryhill.



After being documented, sheared and issued with our kit, which fitted where it touched, we were then introduced to our living quarters and instructors for the next twelve weeks. Ahead of us lay 6am reveille, cold water shaves every day and one bucket of coal to heat a large barrack room at night as we bulled our boots. I think we may have become the great unwashed (if we had been allowed to) until we moved into newly-converted blocks four weeks later.



Assaye Platoon.

There was no choice of menu, just take it or leave it food which on the whole was good and just sufficient (after a day or two there wasn't much left on any plate). I think the biggest shock to the system came on Pay Day where we were made aware that as National Servicemen we were entitled to no more than 15 old shillings per week, 7/6 of which was sent to our mothers. To tradesmen like myself who had been earning in the region of 10 pounds per week this was penury. The next 12 weeks were spent under the watchful eyes of the Company Commander Major F J Hawley, together with Lt C A F McKenzie, Lt Smith, Sgt Blackwood, and various corporals. We formation marched until we were reasonable and then moved on to army drill. We also became proficient with the Lee-Enfield, the Bren and Sten guns, the 2-inch mortar and hand grenades, with regular visits to the ranges at Dechmont.

For Kit Inspection every Saturday morning we bulled our boots, buffed the floor, squared off our kit, dusted every visible place and slept on the floor (if we slept at all) so as not to disturb anything. All to no avail, nothing was ever satisfactory. Lt (Dusty) Smith could have found dust in a chemical plant's clean room and Sgt Blackwood certainly knew how to unmake a bed kit layout. The only thing it did do was bond us into a unit. We finished our training with five days field training at Greenfield Camp above Garelochhead, five days in the worst blizzard to hit the west of Scotland in 79 years and big CAF had us running about in the snow to see how cold and wet we could get whilst the sheep sheltered behind the drystone dykes. The last day we marched as a unit from Greenfield through Glen Fruin to Balloch (via Cameron House, the home of Major Telfer-Smollet - the former Depot Commander (who later stood unsuccessfully for Parliament) then on to Drymen, some 22 miles. We suffered because most of our kit was still wet and if it hadn't been for the new pals we made all keeping one another going I don't think a lot of us would have made it.

In twelve weeks big CAF, Lt Smith and Sgt Blackwood had knocked us into a reasonable shape and into a functional unit. I always felt, however, that the person most responsible was Sgt Jimmy Blackwood. Next a long weekend at home then off to the Battalion at Bulford Barracks, near Salisbury.

We left Maryhill with a mixture of excitement and trepidation as to what lay ahead of us. At Bulford, four

weeks' further training while we were assessed as to which Company we would go. Finally we were assigned, to HQ Coy, A, B or C Rifle Companies or Support Coy's medium machine guns. Some including myself went to Signals Platoon with HQ Coy. Others, mainly tradesmen, went to the Pioneer Platoon, also HQ Coy. Some with hotel experience were off to the Officers' Mess as waiters or batmen, and a few trained as cooks. The remainder went to the rifle companies and Support Company.

Training continued at Bulford but in a more slightly relaxed manner. Small arms training, guard duties, regular exercises on Salisbury Plan, both regimental and divisional, and our first real taste of military discipline. People served various terms of CB, which was difficult because they did the fatigues and answered the bugle calls, which made it hard to keep their kit up to standard, which could lengthen the CB. So, unless you were disliked, your kit would be kept up by your mates doing a little bit each for you.

Discipline also had its funny side. I remember George McGovern, who I grew up with, threatening to murder the boy soldier who had reported him to the Orderly Officer to taking an extra slice of swiss roll at dinner. George got fourteen days detention for stealing another man's rations. On the subject of food, a whole cheese for some reason was left outside the cookhouse one night, mysteriously it disappeared. Although every locker was searched, no trace of it was ever found. It was rumoured that it was eaten by a bunch of 10-12 stone mice.

Signals training was interesting under Captain Oates and Sgt Wallace, low key morse as field radios were improving, although by today's standards they were antiquated. There were battery backpack radios that were good up to 3 miles max and battery-operated stationary or vehicle-mounted radios, which might get you up to 10 miles on a good day but were totally useless at night. We also got cable laying, jointing and telephone maintenance repair. I know at least two ex-signallers who worked with the Post Office after demob.

Battalion formation marching increased to almost five days a week as we were to be presented with new colours by Princess Margaret. Full dress rehearsals, lots of extra bulling of kit for the big occasion, nobody excused. WO2 Stobie, the Battalion's Drill Sergeant Major, was in charge of this. [Editor: *Bill Stobie had just returned from a Guards drill course. Despite his having passed out top, he was very gentle with even the less competent Officers when he taught Sword Drill before breakfast almost every morning.*] He used to round up any ranks of other units or corps who were unaware they were supposed to stop and stand to attention when a regiment and band were parading and march them with us back to the barracks. These guys would end up going a couple of miles in the wrong direction.

Fortunately all went to plan. More fun after the presentation: the Signals Platoon had been given the job of supplying the waiters for the visit of the Princess to the Sergeants' Mess. There were two Chelsea Pensioners brought up for the occasion and we were told to give them whatever they wanted. Every order was recorded and the Mess Sergeant discovered the next day that the pensioners



Presentation of Colours.

had drunk 38 whiskies. Fortunately he had not noticed the waiters staggering about at the end of the night. One NCO I vividly remember was the Provost Sergeant,

Sergeant Moodie. He was one of the hardest men I have ever run across. When he went into shirt order I swore it wasn't hair growing out of his chest but barbed wire.

Salisbury was a typical garrison town of that time. Not a lot to do but we were in scrumpy land and believe me that was a new experience. 9d (nine old pence) a pint and lethal, most of us were 2-pint bandits. It was a good job we were still suffering from drastic shortage of funds or some may have finished up blind the stuff was so potent. One of the highlights of our stay should have been the opening of a new NAAFI building by Princess Alexandra. She officially opened it at 12 noon and by 5pm we were barred. I never saw the inside of it. There was nothing new about that as we were already barred from the Glasgow NAAFI.

By this time I was the Signals Platoon Clerk with the perk of 1 stripe and 5 stars; my finances were a bit better. *(To be continued.)*

LIFE AT THE INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE

Lieutenant A G Lipowski

Life at ITC Catterick remains as busy as always, with approximately 3,000 recruits passing out into the field army every year. The majority of those reading this article will be familiar with the structure of ITC Catterick and the role of the Training Teams, either from attending training here or as an instructor. However, you may not be familiar with Somme Company, the Company in which the author of this article is employed as a Platoon Commander.

At the time of writing, Somme Company is part of the 2nd Battalion ITC, along with the SCOTS and KINGS Div Companies. Following the restructuring of ITC, it will be part of the 2nd Infantry Training Battalion (2ITB) alongside the Para, Guards and Gurkha Companies. The training teams are made up of a variety of infantry cap badges.

Somme Company focuses on training the short courses. The main courses are Phase 2 training for ADC Bassingbourne and AFC Harrogate. These courses are 14 and 9 weeks respectively and prior to attending, the recruits will have done 20 weeks at Bassingbourne or 44 weeks at Harrogate. All these recruits are 16 to 18. Those on these courses are a different breed from those on the 6-month Combat Infantryman's Course, as they already have a bit of experience in the Army. This makes it a different job for the instructor. They are not getting

someone straight off the street, but someone who has already been moulded.

We also deal with training the Territorial Army. We run their Phase 2 training which is a 2-week course, consisting of a range week and a week on exercise. Once again, the TA soldiers are a very different breed. You get everything ranging from the unemployed to lawyers, all with a variety of different life and military experience. The age of these recruits ranges from as young as 17 to as old as 40! We also run the TA JNCO Cadre, an enjoyable course as you focus more on the leadership aspect.

Finally, Somme also deal with The All Arms Infantry Skills Course. This is a course for non-infanteers who aspire to attend UKSF selection. Once again, a different breed of individual from the Bassingbourne, Harrogate and TA recruit. This course is highly desirable to run as a Platoon Commander, and many instructors consider it to be the best thing they have done while at ITC.

As a Platoon Commander in Somme Company, there is a lot of variety in the job. One month you are commanding a Platoon of 17-year-olds from Harrogate and the next you've got a Platoon made up of teachers, firemen and various other occupations. It is very important to be flexible in command approach and adjust your style accordingly. Personally, I also enjoy working with the variety of cap badges. My training team consists of a Yorkshire man, a Northern Irishman and a Cockney, so there's quite a mix.

Outside Back Cover: Cpl Rodger(C Coy) calls in helicopter CASEVAC after an attack (Belize).