



No 1059 - Volume CX Autumn 2004

## Regimental Gazette

# London Scottish



# London Scottish Regimental Gazette

## The London Scottish

*Honorary Regimental Colonel*  
Lord Robertson of Port Ellen  
LGCMG, PC.

*Regimental Colonel*  
Colonel S. H. Henwood, TD

---

## The London Regiment

*Commanding 'A' (The London Scottish) Company*  
Major M. A. J. Overton

---

## Regimental Association

*Chairman*  
Steve Lovelock

*Hon Secretary*  
David James

*Hon Treasurer*  
Charles Dobney

---

*Editor of the Gazette*  
Clem Webb

*Hon Regimental Librarian*  
John Wren

*Regimental Secretary*  
R. W. (Bob) Harman

*G Company Website*  
[www.gcompany.org.uk](http://www.gcompany.org.uk)

*Published at Headquarters*  
95 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 2DX  
Tel: 020-7630 1639  
Fax: 020-7233 7909  
[www.londonsscottishregt.org](http://www.londonsscottishregt.org)

No 1059 – Volume CX

Autumn 2004

## CONTENTS

Page

### Frontispiece

90 Years ago the 1st Bn London Scottish went to France in the “*Winifredian*”, on 14th September 1914.

### Serving Members Activities

From the Regimental Colonel	63
Officer Commanding's Notes	64
Pipes and Drums Notes	65
London Scottish (Expeditionary) Platoon, Iraq 2004	68

### Canteen Chat

70

### Regimental Association

Notes Autumn, 2004	73
Regimental Library	73
The Ancients	73
Glasgow Branch	74
1939-45, 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn 1947-1967 Reunion	75

### Features

Exercise African Hackle II	76
Rest in Peace at last	78
Anzio 1973	79
Isla St Clair and John “Wayne” Spoor	80
“From Across the Pond”	80
90 Years ago and 60 Years ago	80

### Correspondence

82

### Obituary

84

---

The opinions expressed in the articles of the *London Scottish Regimental Gazette* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise, of the Regiment or the MOD.

The *Gazette* contains official information which should be treated with discretion by the reader.

---

© Crown Copyright



Member of the Association of Service Newspapers

Printed by Print Wright Ltd, 6 Boss Hall Business Park, Ipswich IP1 5BN.  
Tel: (01473) 240897, Fax: (01473) 241307

## SERVING MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

### *From the Regimental Colonel*

The last quarter has been an eventful one with the return of Cambrai Company and the deployment of Messines Company to Basrah. The parade to welcome back Cambrai Company took place at Horseferry Road at the end of May and it was a moving occasion. The balconies were full of families and friends and the reception as the Company marched in to the sound of the Pipes and Drums was very emotional. After short and very appropriate speeches each soldier was presented with a memento of his service from the London Regiment in anticipation of the later presentation of medals. I was particularly impressed when the Company was dismissed by the clear sense of unity and comradeship across the whole unit. It seems to me that this epitomised the strength of the London Regiment – the ability to combine the traditions of the constituent elements with the united purpose of being an effective operation unit with all that this entails.

The reports of the performance of Cambrai Company and more recently of Messines Company are something we can take great pride in. The operational tours have been very busy in a difficult and dangerous environment of which you can read more elsewhere in this *Gazette*. Talking to the individuals involved I have been really impressed by their commitment and professionalism in what they have done and are doing. I have been particularly struck by the attitude of our soldiers who have been wounded. They have accepted the risks in what they were doing, endured the consequences and are all positive in their response to it. I could not ask for better ambassadors for the Regiment and we will ensure that the Regiment will provide whatever support is needed for them in the future.

At Hallowe'en last year I spoke of the need to ensure that the soldiers on operations and their families at home feel part of the wider Regiment. I thank those of you who have made this a reality. We must continue that support for Messines Company and for Cambrai Company as they restore domestic priorities and consider their future TA involvement. The Company is working hard to recruit but we must recognise the challenge faced by the Company, having met the needs of Op Telic 3 and 4, to ensure that the Company is at full and trained strength.

The recent announcements by the Defence Secretary will have profound implications for the infantry of the Regular Army and may in turn affect the TA. At this stage it is difficult to judge what the outcome may be. There are some very positive aspects to the announcement in that the importance of the Reserve Forces and as embodied units is recognised. This, I believe, reflects the quality of the contribution made by the Londons, among others in Iraq. Whatever the future holds we start from a position of strength and success and with ability to have an influence on any changes if these are planned.

Finally I should finish by noting the passing of Colonel

Derek Penman. There are others who knew Colonel Penman better than me and a full obituary will appear in due course. We should however recognise the contribution he made both as a serving member of the Regiment and then as Regimental Colonel and Chairman of the Headquarters Trustees. The relocation from Buckingham Gate to Horseferry Road was achieved by a very effective team but he had a key role in the move and our Headquarters stands as a very tangible testament to his contribution to the Regiment. I hope to see many of you at his Memorial Service at St Columba's in September.

Strike Sure  
Stephen Henwood  
Regimental Colonel

### **COLONEL D.V. PENMAN OBE TD**

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR  
COLONEL DEREK  
WILL BE AT  
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
PONT STREET SW1  
ON  
THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
AT 1200 HOURS  
AND AFTERWARDS  
AT REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

## *Officer Commanding's Notes*

The last four months has been as busy as ever for those both training or deployed on operations and those back in barracks.

The major event has been the return of CAMBRAI Company from Iraq and handover of Basra International Airport to MESSINES Company in May. For nearly two weeks we had 34 members of the London Scottish in Iraq, a record number and quite an achievement for a single TA Infantry Company. Officially the handover was 'seamless' and MESSINES Company has quickly settled into the operational routine (I am sure our own CSM WOII Tom Hallett had a key role in this success!). However even within the last six weeks the environmental, operational and tactical circumstances have changed. For a start the temperature has steadily increased. A couple of days ago it reached 55 degrees on the ranges and it is now regularly in the high 40's, making any form of work very demanding (in the UK a hot summer is anything over 32 degrees!). Secondly, with the Iraqi Interim Government now in post, the Iraqi security forces are taking the strain (and casualties) which is obviously changing the way the British forces are working; apparently one of the benefits is they do not have to pay Iraqi taxes anymore as well! Finally with the airport in the process of being re-opened to the public, the UK military are currently withdrawing into smaller enclaves which is effecting the way in which our soldiers go about their daily business.

The routine seems to split between the security of the Divisional HQ; now located at the airport hotel (three out of nine days) which although it involves checking staff officers passes etc is very high profile. The other six days are spent as the divisional escort company which involves escorting contractors, civilians and military personnel in and around Basra, down to Kuwait and up to al-'Amarah. It is on this tasking up the now infamous 'Route 6' that the Company has seen most action. Pte Mark Brooker was the first casualty when an IED went off close to the vehicle he was providing top cover for. Apart from whiplash he thought he was initially unscathed. It later transpired that a piece of shrapnel had gone into his throat and was dangerously close to his windpipe and a number of other vital organs. As the photographs show, his helmet was written off and he is very lucky to be alive. He was immediately casevac'd back to the UK where he is now convalescing. Along with Major Rupert Ladds the Cambrai Company welfare officer, both the Honorary Colonel and I have been to visit him in his home town of Hexham, Northumberland and we are glad to report that he is in excellent spirits and keen to get back to London. I was especially impressed by the strength and kindness demonstrated by Mr and Mrs Brooker. In 5 Platoon (RGJ) they also had a mine-strike which left one soldier with a broken foot – again very lucky no one was badly hurt. Finally our own 4 Platoon was involved in an incident whereby it got caught on an open road in bandit country protecting a broken down oil tanker carrying 300,000l of aviation fuel! While waiting four hours in the heat for the Danish LAD to turn up they were engaged by 40-50 rounds. Although the rounds were splashing 20-30m away and

overhead, none were effective and as they could not identify the targets they did not return fire – a textbook example of fire-control and an excellent example of restraint, well done. On top of this, the airport has also been bombarded by 107mm rockets.

In conclusion it is fair to say that MESSINES Company has had a real taste of the reality in Iraq and has been well and truly 'blooded'. As Lt Panton, the London Scottish OC of 4 Platoon (which includes 13 London Scots) reported back:

"Everybody has handled it all very well and I'm pleased that the training and now the operations has forged a very effective team. I'm sure their professionalism and conduct has avoided a number of other potential incidents – that we will never know".

With MESSINES Company deployed the Regiment geared itself up to a series of welcome home parades for CAMBRAI Company. The main parade happened at Horseferry Road with Brigadier Vine our Deputy Commander taking the parade and with family members and representatives from across the Regiment to welcome them home. By all accounts this was an excellent affair and was subsequently followed up by welcoming home the rear party at Davies Street in early July.

One of the challenges we will continue to face is the personal morale and support for those soldiers who have been injured on operations (L/Cpl Dawson is currently undergoing operations to fit a prosthetic eye having lost his left eye in an IED attack in March 2004, Pte Jolley who was in the same incident, received shrapnel wounds and now Pte Brooker). With 10% of the London Scottish soldiers getting injured even with the excellent work of the welfare officers Major Linda Dominguez and Major Rupert Ladds, it is clear that unlike the Regular Army the TA is not scaled for ongoing welfare support. In this situation the Regimental family comes into its own and will play an increasingly important role.

In the London Scottish we are incredibly fortunate to have a strong family support structure and the support shown by the Regimental Association to those soldiers on and having returned from operations has been exemplary and must be applauded.

With the soldiers now back from Iraq the challenge once they finish their Post Operational Tour Leave (at the end of July) is to re-engage them back into the unit. The ideal opportunity for this will be our five yearly trip to Messines over the weekend 3-5 September. The Regimental Trust have been very generous in paying for serving soldiers to attend this event and I would urge all those reading this to make an effort to do so. As well as marching, socialising and telling lots of war stories, the main focus will then be on designing exciting training that keep the interest of those soldiers who have recently experienced demanding operations. As the CO put it 'these soldiers may not get the same buzz from being in lane 7 of an APWT!'

Back at home while this has been happening, B Coy ran

the ATP at STANTA Called EX FIGHTING TIGER. By all accounts this was a good section and platoon level exercise focusing on basic warfighting skills and field firing. With a UK camp this year, the focus for ATP 2005 is on a Partnership for Peace exercise overseas, hopefully an opportunity for exciting and interesting training.

It is obvious that the commitment to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan will continue to utilise the TA. The LONDONS could easily be tasked to send soldiers to support Op TELIC 6 (mobilising Feb 2005), Op TELIC 7 (mobilising Aug 2005) and maybe contribute to an up-manned Op FINGAL in Afghanistan. With this in mind it is absolutely vital that we recruit and regenerate the Regiment. The CO's main effort is centred around the major LONDIST recruiting event over the weekend 1-3 October with a major recruiting drive two weeks before pushing prospects into this event. This will involve all of us and will dominate activities in September.

I write this at a time when the Defence Secretary addresses parliament detailing out his proposed changes to the Armed Forces. Aligned to this the force structures of the TA and how they can support the Regular Army are also under review. It is worth pointing out that these changes will fundamentally change the way the Infantry is organised. We will not know the outcome of these changes until the end of the year, so it will be at least six months until we know about the impact, if any on the TA Infantry, in particular the

LONDONS and the London Scottish. That said with the recent contribution of 200 soldiers to operations over the last year I think the LONDONS has certainly proven its utility, which has certainly not gone unnoticed.

Finally on the personality front I would like to single out the recruiting team lead by 2Lt Wallace and Cpl Bessel for working hard to generate new recruits and track them through the system. We now have 26 on the books and we also have about four other soldiers joining us direct from other units. With Lt Strickland back from Iraq he has taken over as 2ic and Sgt Nathan will take over as CQMS after Messines. Captain Shaw is now back from two tours in Bosnia and is helping cast an expert eye over Company recruiting and marketing. I would like to thank Sgt Tredigo for his efforts in getting as many soldiers kitted out in No 2 kit for Messines – at last count we should have 40 soldiers on parade – which if we achieve it will be impressive. I would also like to congratulate the Band President Major Young, the Pipe Major and Drum Major on an excellent trip to Gibraltar where the Pipes and Drums excelled themselves in representing the unit at a number of high profile events.

Strike Sure  
Major Marc Overton  
Officer Commanding

*NOTE: IED – Improvised Explosive Device  
ATP – Annual Training Period*

---

## *Pipes and Drums Notes*

Our major effort for the last quarter was the recent tour of Gibraltar. While that was high profile, we also continued with a busy schedule of other engagements, social events and regular weekly practices.

The work put into preparing for Gibraltar and the practices we had for ten days out there will pay dividends for the future in terms of improved musicianship and drill. We will build on this experience and continue to raise the game.

### *Engagements*

While the trip to Gibraltar dominated our calendar, it was by no means our only engagement. In the last three months we sent pipers on no less than 25 solo, or duet jobs and fulfilled at least five full band or mini-band engagements.

On 20 May, His Grace the Duke of Gloucester unveiled the collection of Clan Crests at HQ, of which there is more in this issue. The full band beat retreat, which certainly seemed to be appreciated by the assembled crowd. We then shamelessly marketed our new Compact Disc, 400 of which arrived in the mail that morning. And then, to prove that we are nothing if not adaptable, the band sped off in taxis to an art gallery in East London to play for the opening of Piper Haydn Cottam's latest showing of portraiture and landscapes. This demonstrates that if you miss a band performance, we will come and find you.

On 30 May, a combined London Regiment band played at the reception to welcome home the boys of Cambrai Coy from Basra. We must say a special welcome home to our very own tenor drummer, Pte Gary Dillon, who served as Coy Medic out in Iraq. Please do not forget the Londons Messines Coy, who replaced the Cambrai. Letters, packages and e-blueys are all welcome and the address can be found in the serving company section of the *Gazette*.

On 22 July we beat retreat at the Royal Chelsea Hospital in conjunction with the Highland band of the Scottish Division. It was good to work with them again and play with what is now the only kilted military band in the regular Army. There was even a little impromptu piping in the bar for the pensioners after the performance, which we certainly enjoyed as much as they did.

Finally on 31 July a mini-band played a short display at St John's Hill. The occasion was the wedding of RSM (WO1) McGee (Highlanders). There were many Highlanders and Gordons in attendance including our former PSI WO2 Liam O'Brien and current PSI C/Sgt O'Hara. Congratulations to the RSM and Mrs McGee.

### *The Recording*

As mentioned in this column and in previous *Gazettes*, the Band and Pat King (late G Coy and tenor drummer)

embarked on a project to record a CD of mostly regimental tunes for sale to the general public. It was recorded in two days in March upstairs in the Officers' Mess dining room.

There is a selection of full band numbers with pipes and full drum corps, some solo piping and even a sample of the Pipe Major's small pipes. All your favourites are on this recording including, of course, Hei'land Laddie, The Black Bear, Cock of the North and Lord Lovat's Lament. The booklet accompanying the CD is an excellent document of archival photographs, regimental history and the story behind the tunes. CD's are available either at the bar at HQ or through the Regimental Secretary at £10.00 each.

### **Recruiting**

Membership in the band is increasing slowly. On paper we have fifteen pipers and ten drummers. We welcome drummers Nick Gair, Joe MacMahon and Jason Newman who had their first performances in Hodden Grey in Gibraltar.

We currently have four recruits from the serving coy, taking drumming lessons and we are always trying to bolster the serving element of the band. Like any organisation, football team or even rifle platoon, you can never get 100% of your paper strength out on the ground at any one time so we continue to recruit mercilessly. We practice Thursday nights between 7.00 and 10.00. The bar is cheap and the door is always open.

### **Gibraltar**

For the second year running, the Pipes and Drums of the London Scottish were invited to play for ceremonial events in Gibraltar. Nineteen Pipers and Drummers as well as the band president, Major Stuart Young TD, represented The Regiment. This year was significant as it is the tercentenary of British sovereignty in the colony. To mark this, the band spent ten days rehearsing, and performing at a number of different events. Once again we were supported by a dedicated number of the Regimental Association.

The major effort was the Trooping of the Colour, of course, on 10 June, the Queen's Birthday. This parade took place in the local stadium and consisted of almost 100 musicians from The London Scottish, The Clive Band of the Prince of Wales Division, The Royal Gibraltar Regiment and the corps of drums of both the Royal Gibraltar Regiment and 1 Royal Anglians. On the parade itself there were four guards, one each from The Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Marines and Royal Gibraltar Regiment with an escort to the colour from R.Gib.R. It was a big parade in every sense.

Necessarily, for a job of this magnitude, all the musicians were kept very busy with rehearsals. I am very pleased to say that even on the official time off, the pipers and drummers of the London Scottish insisted on extra practices out of hours. Some of our fellow inhabitants of the Barracks were not so pleased when we held morning rehearsals.

A Sergeant of the Clive band was most complimentary on our tone and playing. He was somewhat less complimentary about some of our drill. We are grateful to the kind gentlemen of the Clive Band who gave up their free time and (I hope the CSM is sitting down) gave us a few hours of remedial drill. And again, oddly, the Ps and Ds clamoured for more.

The first official function was a Cocktail Party for the Governor on 09 June where P/M McLucas and Piper Parsons supported a concert party of the Clive Band. The main Parade took place on 10 June and was well supported by the members of the association. The photo on the front page of the local newspaper shows the colours being paraded with the Pipes and Drums in the background and keen eyes could make out a number of kilted figures in the audience from the Association. The parade was a most impressive sight complete with a "feu de joie" (ie. lots of small arms fire) and a fly past of just about every military aircraft in the area.

On 11 June, we had the afternoon off after a rehearsal for the guard mount the next day. We were kindly invited to lunch at the Royal Gibraltar Regiment Association and we would like to thank the membership for their hospitality. A number of interesting things happened there. Piper McTernan took it upon himself to be duty piper for the day and played on demand throughout the afternoon. Ron Younger distinguished himself by managing to have forty winks in the club despite the piping. Dougie Gardiner distinguished himself by single-handedly flogging all of our CD's. Stuart Hume will always be remembered for solving a 60-year-old mystery. On the wall of the club was a WW2 Japanese flag covered in Japanese writing. Since it had been brought back from the Far East at the end of the war nobody knew what the writing meant. Up stepped our fluent Mandarin speaker from Edinburgh who deciphered the writing (the characters are similar in both languages) and translated the flag. I am no longer surprised by anything this band does.

Ron Younger deserves a special mention. He did yeoman service in providing water to the troops and acting as store man and i/c baggage throughout the trip. We did manage to convince the staff of one pub on the first day that he was actually Uncle Albert from television's "Only Fools and Horses" but he is more fondly known to the rest of us as either Osama bin Younger or Ron bin Laden in recognition of his fine whiskers. Across the corridor from us in the barracks were the Royal Marines. They were somewhat bewildered by Ron's presence with the band. It was explained that it was regimental traditional that the Pipes and Drums took their bar tender with them everywhere they went.

I am not sure whose idea it was, or if, indeed, it was a good idea but we decided to play in the town square in civvies dress that evening. The Band President, working hard on our behalf ensured that each pub we played outside of coughed up a band round. There are a few pubs in Casements Square. On that night it was very good to see our former Band President, Major Gareth Blyth TD who was in Gibraltar in his capacity as an events organiser, putting together a big concert the following week to observe the tercentenary. By the end of the week we seemed to accumulate a following of members of other units who thought it was more fun to socialise with the pipes and drums including the D/M of the Clive Band, a couple of RA officers and not a few of the corps of drums.

*Continued at top of page 68*



*The Pipes and Drums take part in the Queen's Birthday Parade in Gibraltar on 10th June 2004 - part of their 300th Anniversary Celebrations*

## *The London Scottish (Expeditionary) Platoon, Iraq 2004*

Ok, my data card will apparently not work here which obviously causes problems! Have a good doc, which was meaning to send with photos and all. Real pain. Didn't want to rush off a half-cut piece but suppose will have to – here goes:

It's now been over two months since Messines Company of the London Regiment took over from Cambrai Company in Basrah. Some would say it seems like a lifetime while others feel it has flown by. All would agree that it has been hot, hard work though at the height of the Iraqi summer. Temperatures are regularly reaching 48c in the shade and thus when you are out and about on a task in Basrah in full CBA and helmet it gets a little uncomfortable to say the least. It's a surprise there is any water left in the middle east at all given the rate we have to drink it! That said everybody is surprisingly well acclimatised and nobody in 4 Platoon has yet been unable to operate under these harsh conditions. Quite the contrary in fact as everybody has continued to uphold the high standards set by the London Regiment on Telic 3 and constantly receive praise from all angles for their high standards of professionalism on every task. We have continued to build on the work that Cambrai started and further refined techniques on the ranges and out on the ground, and though the tour has not been without incident, everything that has been thrown at them has been handled exceedingly well under difficult circumstances. In an

incident I was involved with we were escorting 300,000L of RAF fuel up the notorious route 6 to Al Amarah when one of the tankers broke down. We took sporadic incoming fire from a large built up area 250m away for two hours but given the nature of the escort task, the high number of civilians in the area and that we could not fully pinpoint the firing point everybody followed the rules of engagement and scanned their arcs for targets but did not return fire. That's quite a difficult thing to do and required discipline, but all the guys handled themselves brilliantly until the recovery could be completed and after four hours and the task completed. In another incident unfortunately one of the London Scottish lads, Pte Brooker was hit by shrapnel from an explosive device. Again under Sgt Nimmo, the training kicked in and a cordon was set up, first aid administered and Brooker evacuated. Given that it had really only been a matter of a couple of months since everybody was a civilian this was a reality check, but one that showed the guys from the London Scottish to be more than ready for the task we have been sent to do, and will continue to do for the next four months.

Ok, money about to run out – few bits would like to add later – will do if have chance.

Lt Chris Panton

---

### *Pipes and Drums continued from Page 66*

On Saturday 12 June the massed bands and pipes and drums performed for the changing of the guard at the convent before H.E., the Governor. Again, the pavements were packed with people and London Scottish ties were prominent within the crowd. Finally, on the penultimate day of the trip, we enjoyed a well-deserved afternoon at the beach.

On the final day, we were up bright and early for a Church Parade to help the local Church of Scotland Kirk celebrate their 150th Anniversary. It has to be said that some of the boys were a little fragile at that hour of the morning, and it is to their credit that they were on parade and voluntarily supported the Kirk. The band provided the music for the service and Norman Lennie and Gordon Skilling read the lessons. Charlie Dobney presented a Regimental plaque to the Minister at a coffee reception after the service.

This trip would not have been made possible without the support of the Regimental Trust and we are especially grateful to Liz Foulis and Charlie Dobney who organised the logistical side of things. We also appreciate the support of all the members of the Association who came out with us. I must thank the boys themselves who took annual leave and time out of their jobs etc to represent the Regiment with their music.

Piper Andrew Parsons

## **CHURCH PARADE**

**Sunday,  
14th November**

**We look forward to seeing  
you all there**

## *Some Photos from Iraq*



*Pte Mark Brooker after being dangerously wounded in the neck by shrapnel*



*The helmet which probably saved his life.*

## *Canteen Chat*

**WE** are sorry to hear of the death of Colonel Derek Penman OBE TD one of leading members of the Regiment who saw action in Sicily and Italy during the war. A full obituary will follow in the next *Gazette*.

**BILL** Conolly has been confined to Barracks for a few weeks now following a fall in which he fractured his hip. He is on the mend and we all hope to see him again soon.

**THE** general in charge of the notorious Camp X Ray Prison at Guantanamo Bay has been sent to supervise the prisons in Iraq in view of alleged torture and mistreatment of prisoners there. He hardly seems a good choice in view of the TV pictures we have seen of Camp X Ray!

**ABOUT** 34,000 officers resigned early from the Russian Military last year!

**SEVEN** British Veterans who took part in the D-Day landing have been awarded the Legion D'Honneur by the French.

**IN** discussions on the Defence Cuts the Defence Secretary has said the defence review was not about cuts but "rebalancing and modernisation" and "improving military capabilities". Few in the Armed Forces seem totally convinced.

**A** Royal Marine Commando Officer has had his badly injured leg – which was not healing – amputated so that he could stay in the Marines. With his artificial leg he is able to pass the annual fitness test, which involves an 8-mile run with full kit, including 25 kgs in his Bergen, below the two hours time permitted for this distance. He has even taken part in a 24-hour canoe race - over 125 miles. What a man! He should inspire the recruits he is now training.

**IN** May the 1st Battalion of the Royal Gurkha Rifles who are stationed at Shorncliffe Camp were given the Freedom of Folkestone. A parade was held on the Leas led by the Gurkha Pipes and Drums. Amongst those present were Brig David Santa-Olalla and the CO of the 1st RGR Lt Col Craig Lawrence. The Freedom of Folkestone is the highest privilege that the local authority can give.

**JOCK WILSON** aged 100, who served in the 51st Highland Division the oldest veteran of the D-Day landings, received the French Legion d'Honneur on 1st June in London.

**WHEN** Victor Silvester OBE the popular bandleader and London Scot died in 1978 he was cremated at Golders

Green. A plaque is there in his memory. Victor joined the Scottish in 1914 aged 14 years and 9 months. When it was discovered how young he was he was discharged. Undaunted he joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and again it was discovered that he was still too young – so he ended up serving in the Red Cross where he was awarded the Italian Cross of Valour in 1917.

**THERE** appeared to be a shortage of bus drivers in Wales – so retiring Army Gurkhas have been filling the vacancies.

**THE** Royal British Legion has backed an independent enquiry into the 1991 Gulf War Syndrome. Officially this has been denied to exist – but the truth will out in due course.

**THE** Army has been banned for six months from recruiting front-line soldiers for battalions who are short of men – ostensibly to save money. However one observer feels that this is a 'back-door' way of giving an excuse to chop certain units.

**IT** is estimated that there are now 10,000 British bodyguards in Iraq costing the taxpayer £15 million. It is believed that because of the attractive pay many soldiers are leaving the army. Before the war only 40 Military Police were needed to guard embassies now 40 are needed in Iraq alone!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to ex 'G' Company Colour Sergeant Mark Ormiston on his appointment as President of Twickenham Rowing Club.

**VIC MASTERS** 88 is now in Mayday Hospital, Croydon. Graham Kellas found him to be as cheerful as ever and he recalls his time with the Scottish in Iraq in W.W.2. From pictures he sees on TV it hasn't changed at all – "still miles and miles of sweet ....!" He still does not know what is wrong with him but has chest pains.

**THE** Pistol used by Serbian student Gavrilo Princip 90 years ago to assassinate Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand has come to light in a Jesuit community house in Austria. The killing in 1914 sparked the crisis, which led to W.W.1. The Browning pistol will be on display in the Vienna Museum of Military in time for the 90th anniversary of the assassination.

**COUNCILLOR** and London Scot Steve Broomfield has been in the news recently – he had an outburst heard over the loud speakers at a carnival – this upset the parents of children present.

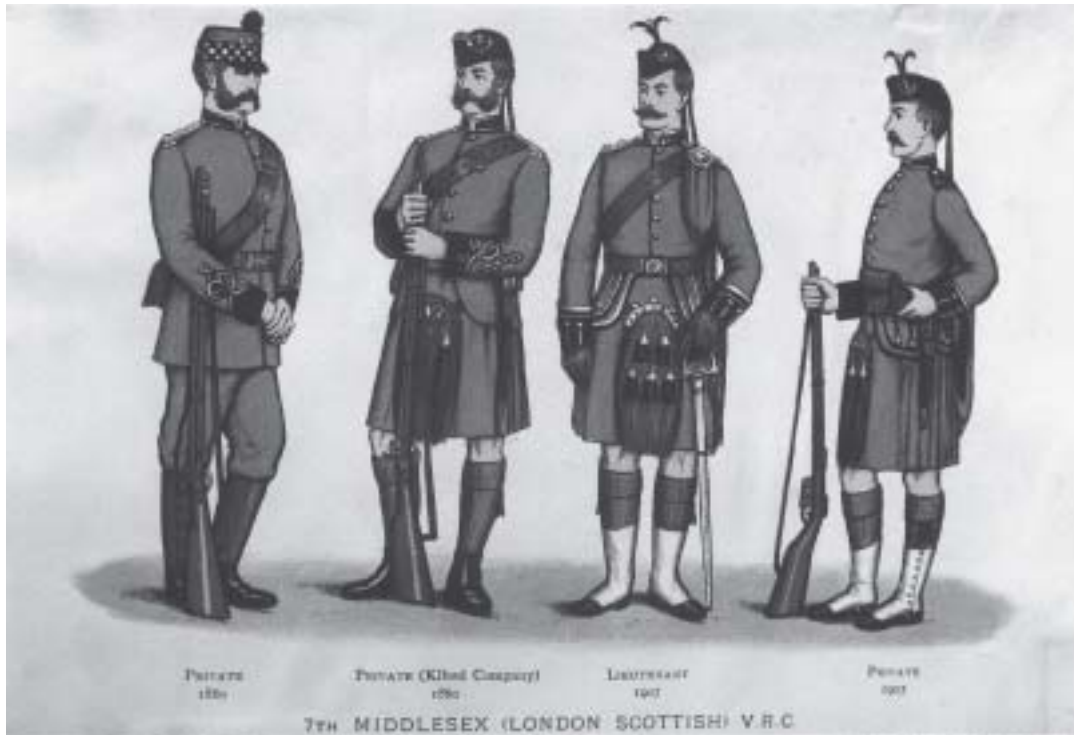
---

**Matter intended for publication in the December issue must reach the Editor by the first Tuesday of November 2004, and should be addressed to the Editor, at 95 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2DX.**

Publication dates are March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1.

The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION to the 'GAZETTE' from 1st November, 1990 is for UK members, £10.00 and for overseas members, £12.00. (**Payment should be made in Sterling – British Pounds**).

ORDERS for copies and communications regarding Advertisements or managerial matters should be addressed to the Manager. Cheques and other remittances to be addressed to the Hon Treasurer.



*The Christmas Card this year at 50p each, p & p available in November.*

**JASPER CECIL HANKINSON** has had his obituary published in the *Western Front Magazine* and also in the *Hereford Times* as he originally came from Leominster. Jasper was the second oldest survivor from World War One.

**50 YEARS AGO** the United States launched the first nuclear submarine, which must have contributed towards ending the Cold War.

**OUR** belated Many Congratulations go to John and Eileen Physick who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 28th May.

**WE** were very sorry to hear that Harry Skelton had to go into hospital as he is not too well these days. We are thinking of you Harry.

**WHAT** a splendid sight it was to see the Grenadier Guards leading the parade down the Champ d'Elysee on Bastille Day. We better not remind the French the Guards defeated Napoleon's Old Guard at Waterloo.

**ACCORDING** to *The Daily Telegraph* 1700 members of the Armed Forces were down-graded after service in Iraq last year – this included 83 who were pregnant!

**THE** Enquiry into the death of the six Redcaps who were murdered last year has been handed over to the Iraqis. This seems as if the Defence Secretary is shirking his responsibilities?

**LT GEN** Sir John Kiszley Inspector General TA has been writing in the papers regarding the supposed low opinion of

the TA by Regulars. He states that there is now better integration of Reservists into Regular Army units. In a questionnaire completed by reservists 85% found their service worthwhile.

**SNIFFER** rats are being used to locate land mines in Mozambique. They alert their handlers by sitting on the mines and in view of their lightweight they do not create explosions. Furthermore they are much speedier than humans locating these devices.

**NATO** is struggling to find extra troops to maintain security in Afghanistan prior to their presidential elections.

**SEVEN** Reservists have had to take their employers to tribunal after failing to get their jobs back after returning from service in Iraq.

**THE** Chief of General Staff has said that the Prime Minister has not ruled out sending a brigade of 5,000 troops to Sudan!

**IN** Connection with the severe Defence Cuts which decimated the Armed Forces, part of a letter in a leading paper by an ex regular officer states: "The Government is willing to abuse the trust of the Armed Forces by deploying them to fight their numerous domestic and international fires before stabbing them in the back. Geoff Hoon's statement showed a complete disregard for the morale, well being and effectiveness of the Armed Forces".

**ADMIRAL** the Lord Boyce the former Chief of Defence staff, an outspoken defender of the Armed Forces who criticised the Defence Secretary and who retired early, has

become the new Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports two years after the death of the Queen Mother the previous holder of the post.

**THE** Contracts with UK suppliers of combat uniforms have been cancelled and are now to be supplied from China. What happens if there is a diplomatic incident?

**STEVE** Lovelock was invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in July and noted that Lord Robertson was also in attendance.

**KEITH** Spooner has written a book of poems *Looking Backwards – War Retrospective 1951-2002*, available from Keith at 24 Dennis Road, Liskeard, Cornwall, PL14 3NS for £6 including p&p.

**OUR** Pte Nigel Isley a business development manager by profession, expressed some of his thoughts about ‘call-up’ for Iraq in the May/June *Royal British Legion Magazine*.

**BIRTHS: CAITLIN LUCY** born 15th June 2004 to James and Anne Clemence, sister for Harry and cousin for Wilfred and Holly.

**RON YOUNGER’S** son George’s (ex LS Cadets) wife Joanne has given birth to twin boys, George and Henry.

**AMONG** those sighted at HQ this quarter were the Regimental Colonel, Chris Adams, Bryan Alderson, Jim Barnard, Alex Callender, Jim Cleary, John Clemence, “Compo”, Geoff Dickman, Charles Dobney, Stephen Fay, David Franklin, J.W. Frith, Nobby Foulis, Roger Glancefield, Bob Harman, David Henderson, John Hudson, Les Hunt, David James, Bob Jones, Graham Kellas, Steve



*RHQ staff at Geminis celebrating at their combined Birthday Party - total ages 203! Clem Webb, Bob Harman and Ron Younger*

Kempster, Jack Laird, Pat Lovelock, Steve Lovelock, Chris Macpherson, Bryan Milburn, John Miller, Alan Morris, Alan Neale, Tom Nicholls, Charles Redman, Bill Rennie, David Roberts, Iain Robertson, Dennis Roper, Bob Scott, Doug Shand, Ted Silvester, John Spoore, Robert S Taylor, George Tiday, Clem Webb, Brian Welsh, Ron Younger.

**REMINDER:** Gazette Subs are due by 1st November. No Subs – No Gazette.

The families of Dr Bolaji and Mojisola Olowu and  
Mr and Mrs Paul Oyalegan

Request the pleasure of your company

as our children  
Temilope Olabisi  
and  
Olasope Phillip

exchange marriage vows before God on Saturday, the twenty-third  
of October Two Thousand and Four at one o'clock at Our Lady of  
Angel (OLA) Bexley Road (junction with Carlton Road), Erith,  
Kent, DA8 1DN

Reception follows immediately at River of life Centre  
12-38 Hatcham Road, London, SE15 1TW

RSVP  
Biyi Pariola 07956312513  
Susan Eruohwo 07813 449658

Temi and Ola

## *Diary of Events for 2004*

Hallowe'en	Monday, 1st November
Colonel D.V. Penman OBE TD Memorial Service St. Columba's	Thursday, 16th September
Kilted Caper IV	Saturday, 9th October
Church Parade	Sunday, 14th November

Phillip Oyalegan is a serving soldier. He is based with A company HQ as a signaller. He has been in for over 6 years.

## *Regimental Association Notes – Autumn 2004*

The past quarter saw two significant annual dinners in the Regimental calendar. The first was the 1939/45 and Post-war Battalion lunch, which I was unfortunately unable to attend due to conflicting parental duties. The second was the Glasgow branch lunch, which this year I was able to attend. Accounts of both lunches should appear elsewhere in this edition.

This was my first Glasgow lunch and a most enjoyable occasion it was. Due to the regrettable but wholly understandable absence of the Regimental Colonel I was privileged to give not just an account of the Association but also of the Regiment which included, courtesy of information supplied by the OC, an up to date account of Op Telic. The lunch coincided with the return of Cambrai Company, the news of their safe return being very well received. Those present were most generous in contributing to a creature comforts collection for Messines Coy.

It was very good to put faces to names known only to me through the pages of the *Gazette* and I hope very much to return. Bob's travelling shop did a brisk business not least in selling the new Regimental Pipes and Drums CD 'Strike Sure'. The CD is now available from the canteen and I

strongly commend it to all association members. This is now my essential in car listening – guaranteed to combat road rage.

Also appearing elsewhere in this edition should be an account of the P&D's return to Gibraltar to participate in the Tricentennial celebrations. A party of Association members accompanied the trip and had a quite excellent time.

Our thoughts now move to the Regimental trip to Messines in September. Bob has worked very hard behind the scenes in ensuring the arrangements for the Association party are up to the usual. This will be a very special trip in the 90th Anniversary year of the battle. The serving company party will contain many just returned from Iraq and our thoughts will be with those currently on active service as we remember the gallant exploits and supreme sacrifices made by their Regimental forebears.

Finally I would like to pay my own respects through this column to the late David 'Tommo' Tomlins. He will be greatly missed on 1st Tuesday's and at all Regimental events which he so loyally supported.

Strike Sure  
Steve Lovelock

## *Regimental Library*

### **BOOK OF THE MONTH**

*The Vintage Book of War Stories*, edited by Sebastian Faulks and Jorg Hensgen.

The editors have cleverly taken excerpts from many well-known and not so well known works of fiction and woven them into a most interesting tapestry, covering most of the wars of the 20th century. Amongst the authors included are Ernest Hemingway (*Going Back*), Siegfried Sassoon (*My Own Little Show*), and Pat Barker (*Finished with War*). The poignant story of 'Hiroshima Joe' – a British officer taken prisoner of war by the Japanese who is held in Hiroshima in 1945 – carried a very strong anti-war message.

*Military Errors of World War Two*, by Kenneth Macksey.

I bet you thought there were no military errors in World War Two ..... Well, Mr Macksey has produced some old and new candidates for the title, "The Weakest Link", and doesn't pull his punches in analysing the events at Arnhem, the Coral Sea, the Atlantic Convoys and several more. Historians such as Mr Macksey run the risk of being accused of '20/20 hindsight' but perhaps sufficient time has now elapsed to permit such not so flattering analyses of war.

'Tommy', by Professor Richard Holmes.

In my humble opinion, any work by Richard Holmes is worthy of attention and I would say that 'Tommy' is the most scholarly and best researched book he has yet produced. Not surprisingly, it concerns itself with the

eponymous 'Tommy' of World War 1 but such is the detailed description of how an infantry soldier – surely the most basic unit in any army – functions that its message could be applied to any war of the last 100 years. If you have the slightest interest in things military I would urge you to read this book; with over 600 pages it requires application but there is hardly a facet of warfare that is not covered.

John Wren

P.S. In 'Tommy' Richard Holmes makes several references to the London Scottish, at one point including it amongst the 'Foremost London clubs before the War' (page 131) and then writing at length of Stuart Dolden (page 146) and Harold Dolden ... brothers? (page 386). He mentions the *Lon Scot Gazette* as having a 'bald title' whereas *The Gasper* (a public schools journal) is described as humorous.

## *The Ancients*

The May meeting of the Ancients and the AGM was held in the Library at R.H.Q. on Monday 10th May at 1900 hrs.

After rapidly completing usual business, we spent some time discussing the arrangements for our Centenary next year, and whether we had enough money to pay for them – lap dancers are so expensive these days!

Our next meeting is on Monday 11th October.

## *Glasgow Branch, Annual Reunion Lunch – May 2004*

MAKING a welcome return to the Glasgow Branch, Colonel Richard Holliday joined 32 members and guests for the 68th Reunion Lunch at the Ramada Jarvis Glasgow hotel.

The guests included Colonel Richard's wife Gillian; Linda Lewis, who was representing her father Eric Leach; and Alistair Gemmell's father Angus, standing in for his daughter-in-law Sara.

Thanks to a very generous donation from the Regimental Trust, the members and guests were able to meet in a reception room before the excellent lunch and for the comfort break. This also provided a better sales point for the Regimental Whisky, ties, badges etc, brought up by Bob Harman.

The Very Rev. Dr John McIndoe's Grace reflected on the Regiment and its Association, absent friends and the current role of the Serving Company.

After the interval the assembled company raised their glasses in the Loyal Toast and to absent friends in the Silent Toast when they remembered the sad loss of Dallas Allardyce last year.

John MacKay spoke highly of the ladies in his address and recalled his pleasure in their company. Marie Galbraith graciously replied and exchanged some light-hearted banter with John about the correct spelling of his surname.

Following the Toast to the Regiment, Steve Lovelock, who was making his first visit to the Branch, gave a comprehensive report on a range of activities at 95 and, more importantly, the much-praised accomplishments of members of the Serving Company in various trouble spots including Iraq. Although this was at a cost of serious injury to several soldiers.

To Marie's great surprise, Colonel Richard presented her with a beautiful Regimental brooch on behalf of the

Regimental Trust for her loyal service over many years and her crucial role in the well-being of the Glasgow Branch.

In drawing the reunion to a close, the chairman thanked those who had made it a success – John McIndoe, John MacKay and Sandie Baigrie, who had piped the company from the reception to their places and livened proceedings with a set of familiar tunes. He gave special thanks to Marie after which the lunch ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Marie read out letters apologising for their absence from Colonel Stephen Henwood and Lord Robertson and listed similar apologies from Jack Cameron, Mary Cleland, Bill Crowe and Ken Duncan (on duty with the Atholl Highlanders), Margaret Duncan, Colin Gregory (on TA duties), Margaret Hannah, Colin Hutcheson, Alastair Kinloch, Eric Leach, David McArthur (serving in Iraq), Jimmy and Betty McCabe, Alan and Zena Neale, and Hamish Sutherland.

Those attending were: Pat Allardyce, Mairead Anderson, Sandy Baigrie, Eric Bee, Bob Drylie, Marie Galbraith and Anna Thompson, Alistair and Angus Gemmell, Bob and Meg Harman, Richard and Gillian Holliday, Helen Kinloch, Gwen Leach and Linda Lewis, Steve Lovelock, Dorothy Lyman, the Very Rev. Dr John and Eve McIndoe, John and Eric MacKay, Omar Macdonald and Sally Rutherford-Young, Eric and Irene Ostman, Alex Rennie, Hector Robertson, Ian Sylvia Scott, Harry Gordon Slade and Graham Thompson.

Since the lunch the Branch has received grateful thanks from Major Marc Overton for a donation of £284 towards a 'comfort fund' for our soldiers in Iraq. The collection was organised by Marie and supported by Branch Members and others. Also Marie has booked the hotel for next year's lunch, to be held on 21st May 2005.

Eric Bee



*Clem Webb - light suit - attends a meeting of Service Editors at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, sometime last year. Photo taken by Major General Sir Peter Downard. KCVO CB DSO DFC.*

## *1939-1945 and 1st Bn 1947-1967 Reunion Lunch*

*Saturday 8th May 2004*



*Charles Dobney, Rosie Crivelli, Derek Wallace, Mrs Scotland, Andy Scotland, Mrs Kester, Eric Kester*



*Norman Jackson, Bryn Clayton-Poulter, ? ? ? ?*

## *Exercise African Hackle II (for whom the bell tolls) Or African Hackle revisited.*

Having moved up to the veteran class last year in dirt bike racing, I decided that realistically I should look around for a sport or pastime to replace it. Sailing I thought, now that's a much gentler affair, let's give that a go.

After completing my competent crew course in May this year, which incidentally was the first time I had ever set foot aboard a yacht, I was informed that a place was still available on the last leg of exercise African Hackle.

Having taken part in the first exercise African Hackle back in 1988, which was a 3-month Trans-African trip by vehicle (basically nine men in two Land-rovers crossing 13 countries and 7000 miles from west coast to the east coast of Africa). How could I refuse the chance of a second bite of the apple. After accepting the challenge I was somewhat disturbed to find that African Hackle II was a Trans-Atlantic (Baltimore to Gosport) voyage aboard a Challenger 67 and nothing to do whatsoever with Africa! And so it was that on the 17th May I found myself at Gatwick skulking around the departure lounge looking for the other 13 members of the crew, any of whom I had yet to meet. After accosting any member of the public who happened to be wearing deck shoes and looking like they had just got back from the Fastnet I finally made contact with the crew, and an unlikely looking lot they were.

The flight across was uneventful, but long enough to make me realise the enormity of the challenge I had accepted and with the words of my wife still reverberating in my ears (some of which were: it's very deep you know) much of the journey was spent deep in thought.

An afternoon's train journey from Newark down to Baltimore and then a taxi to Annapolis, the US Navy's officer training college. We then found ourselves at the quay looking across at *Adventurer*, the 67-foot yacht that was to be home for the next few weeks. After meeting the skipper and a glass of wine or two it was time to get our kit aboard and stowed.

The programme was to be a few days work up training and then set sail for Gosport via Bermuda and the Azores. I could see the biggest problem was going to be sunburn, so with stocks of factor 25 laid in, my confidence was building. It was during the work up training that things started to go awry. One of the crew became ill which put our departure back a few days, repairs were required to be made to the boat which also set us back even more time. So it was a bit late but still with a few days in hand we slipped Annapolis mid morning on 22 May. With food aboard for three weeks and an extra 800 litres of diesel lashed to the deck in four drums we were full of confidence and looking forward to a run ashore in Bermuda.

In the 24-hour run through Chesapeake Bay to the open sea we started to work the watch system, we had three watches of four. The routine for the next few weeks was as follows: two days (48 hours) on watch, which meant four hours on four off. The four hours on you sail the boat, on the four off you eat, sleep and do the hundred and one things

that I will not bore you with here. After the two days on watch you then switch a day on mother watch when you are responsible for all the cooking, cleaning and maintenance on board, this also brings the chance of a night's sleep.

At long last, the open sea! This brought on a bout of seasickness, which lasted for nearly seven days. 140 miles out the generator engine packed up, which meant no electrical power, but more importantly no fresh water maker! We put about and into the US naval base at Norfolk Virginia for repairs. A day later we were on our way again but this time not south to Bermuda but north to cold grey waters of the North Atlantic, we were now behind time, "it's a short cut" I was told!

We now had six days or so tracking up the coast of North America, although some 200 or 300 miles off shore, as we did so it grew steadily colder. The sea state also changed to what you would expect of the North Atlantic, but by now the seasickness had abated somewhat only to be replaced by a stomach upset. I never really got over the seasickness and always had a problem being in the galley. It was around this time that I first heard talk amongst the crew of the Grand Banks and how we should avoid them. Most of the conversation now centred about food, weather and the "Banks".

The problem with the Banks is that the depth of water changes from 4km deep to just 40 meters in just a mile or so. This means a big sea turns to an enormous sea in a very short time indeed.

Crossing the Atlantic by sail is basically looking for bad weather; i.e. low weather systems and using the wind from these systems to get you across, but of course a lot of rain also goes with the system. The deeper the low the stronger the wind and the worse the weather. Needless to say we tracked too far north and found a very deep low far too close to the Grand Banks!

I was woken 0340 on the 1st May as part of sunshine watch as we had now become known, and it was plain to all that weather had deteriorated a great deal in the last few hours. The violence with which we were getting thrown around while trying to get in our wet weather kit was quite frightening, but in no way prepared us for what awaited us up on deck! I first heard a bell ringing at this stage but as no one else seemed to notice it I paid little attention.

Once on deck I was immediately wet through, and although clipped on just staying on my feet was a real effort. I was on the helm for the first part of the watch and as it started to become light I realised just how big the seas were, and they were still building with the wind also steadily increasing. Sliding a 67 foot, 55 ton yacht down the huge troughs in the sea, watching it bury its bow deep underwater was almost as exciting as it was frightening, the only thing more frightening was glancing back to see the wall of water behind! Things were bad; they were just about to get worse!

*Continued on page 78*



The skipper shouted to drop the fore sail and hoist the storm jib, this required two of the watch to get to the bow and another to get to the mast. At over 50 now I decided to play the age card and went for the mast, the two other male members of the watch went to the bow where they would disappear under water every minute or so. When all the watch were ready and with the yacht now heading into wind, I waited for the bow to come up before dropping the sail. However the line crossed on the winch, the fore sail was now stuck fast and would now neither go up or down. It was getting lighter all the time and I was able now to see our plight in full colour, and still I could hear that bell. We were now beam onto the weather and it was only a matter of time, seconds later we were hit by a large wave which put the boat over, the noise of the mast (to which I was now clung to) hitting the water was terrible. But still I could hear the bell.

In a force 9, in huge seas, hundreds of miles from land, up to my waist in water clinging to the mast of a yacht on its side, it became clear for whom that bell was tolling.

It was at this perilous moment that the first mate clambered up on deck, Ewen the mate, a man of some size, a commander in the RN. Best described as the archetype dour Scotsman who I guess has rarely heard the word “no”, without hesitation and a size 11 stamped his authority on the situation.

Somehow the yacht righted itself; the foresail was hauled down and storm jib set and the main reefed in. In no time at all we were back in the cockpit. After a few hours the worst was past, though the bad weather lasted for days.

The rest of the voyage went well though still with a few moments, but nothing compared to the night on the “Banks”. Except maybe the first run ashore which took place in Dartmouth, fighting, drinking, police involvement, womanising (by the younger members of the crew of course) and the guard being turned out by the naval college, fabulous! It was like being a 20-year-old fusilier again!

Another amusing moment was when we arrived a few

miles off the Scilly Islands, when the boat reverberated with fourteen different mobile phone ringing tones. It was the first time we had coverage in nearly three weeks, Vodafone came in first, but I was really not interested in the fate of last month’s work tickets.

African Hackle II was adventure training at its best, taking part were members of all three services including TA. Although I try to do some form of adventure training each year, every now and then its good to go for the big one, push the boat out (excuse the pun) and try something really different.

If you think you can hear the wailing of old sea shanties when you are wandering about the drill hall, don’t worry it’s only the QPSI down in the basement.

Finally thanks must go the Regimental Trust for their financial contribution, which I must look on as a loan and not a grant.

#### **Postscript**

I was of the opinion when I stepped off *Adventurer* in Gosport that I would never venture out ocean sailing again, outstanding though it was I thought I’d had my fill. However last weekend in Cowes a Challenger 72 moored up next to us, and I knew that was real sailing. The very next day I found myself negotiating the possibility of a leg from Cape Town to Sydney, via Cape Horn and the Southern Ocean! Maybe I’ll get to use that factor 25 after all, but then maybe not.

The very next day after arriving back in UK I had my dirt bike event, I rode to my best ever place, second in class (veterans of course) so maybe there are a few years left in the old sea dog yet.

Oh yes, the bell, it was a spanner on a lanyard striking a gas bottle, so it wasn’t for me the bell tolled, well not this time any way.

John Monger

---

## *Rest in Peace at Last*

Those of you who had the pleasure of attending in April Andy Robertshaw’s presentation regarding Wilfred Owen’s trench on the Somme will, I think, be pleased to know that the German soldier exhumed at Serre Road has now been identified.

The fibres from his uniform identified him as being from the Landwehr (the German TA) and the buttons on his cuffs meant that he was a Wurtemberger. This was reinforced when the lid of a small tin from a retailer in Stuttgart (the capital of Badem-Wurtemberg) was found near the remains. This, of course, only indicated where he was from and not who he was and with the dog-tag almost eroded that was going to be a difficult – if not impossible – task.

However, the dog-tag was sent to University College London who picked out the first three letters of the soldier’s surname, i.e. HON. Further help was then given by the

archivists in Stuttgart who discovered that there was just one family in the local phone directory with that prefix and they were the Honus family. Imagine everyone’s surprise and delight when the 93-year old son of Private Johannes Honus confirmed that his father had been posted Missing, in 1915, and what a relief it was to know that the exhumed remains would now receive a proper burial.

Sadly, the 93-year-old passed away within weeks of receiving this news but his family said he died most peacefully in the full knowledge of his father’s demise.

Andy will be leading a similar archeological team to Theipval Woods in the Autumn and that will come to our TV screens as part of the ‘Ancestors’ series.

John Wren – Hon. Librarian.

## Anzio 1973

IN the spring of 1973 members of W.W.2. 168 Brigade of 56th (London) Division made the first of three successive visits to the old battlegrounds and Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries in Italy. The Brigade comprised 1st London Scottish, 1st London Irish Rifles and 10th Berkshire Regiments – which earned the nickname: “The International Brigade”.

Anzio was a priority. At that time there was no War Museum there, but we were welcomed to a reception by the Tourist Board and royally entertained. Colonel Torrance Law made a presentation to the Tourist Board of a pottery statuette of three soldiers of 168 Brigade, standing back to back in battle dress, but each wearing their own distinctive headdress. This had been designed by John Ford, ex “I” Sgt of our 1st Battalion, and cast by a friend of his. This memento of the 168 Bde visit has now been “lost” and is not part of the Anzio Landings Museum collection.

For several years I had been trying to trace it without success, but another possible avenue has recently opened. On our first visit to Anzio we went to locate a memorial to the 6th Gordons who had been supported by the London Scottish in a difficult situation. This Memorial was in a neglected state and surrounded by a new housing complex. I took photographs which Colonel Law sent with a report to the Gordon Highlanders HQ with the result that it was moved to its present position facing Peter Beach where the 6th Gordons landed.

Three years ago Major Willie McHardie who was with the 6th Gordons at Anzio and also a post-war 1st Gordons Officer, had visited the Memorial and decided that it required some restoration. I met him in Banchory and gave him some of my 1973 photographs of the Memorial in its original position as he was preparing a history of the Regiment for the Gordon Highlanders Museum.

Major McHardie subsequently led a group visit to Anzio for a rededication Ceremony of the Memorial with great co-operation and assistance from the Local Authorities and the Landings Museum in particular, even to the extent of appointing a local lady linguist, Giuliana, to accompany them. A cousin of mine in Aberdeen had become involved with some of the preliminaries of the project, took part in this visit armed with my 1973 photographs, a copy of the *Gazette* article, on a mission to try to follow up on the missing statuette.

The Landings Museum had no previous knowledge of the statuette; showed immediate interest and a desire to have it back for display. A good start was made when one of the Museum officials identified his brother-in-law in a photo of Col Law presenting the Statuette to the Tourist Board. This set off a chain of enquiry but, so far without result, although there is a suspicion that it may still be found in the area! Giuliana has been most helpful and active in this, and unbeknown to me, has included a photo of the Statuette and an extract from the *Gazette* report on its original presentation by Col Law, in an album on the 6th Gordons, which she has assembled for the Landings Museum. Through her interest she has become firm friends with my

cousin, and will be visiting here in Aberdeen in August. I hope then to get an up-to-date progress report.

Hector Robertson

---

**John Graham kindly sent us ‘A Short History of Scottish Regiments’ which included the following amusing item on the London Scottish.**

RECRUITED from Managing Directors, heads of departments, and ticket of leave men in London. Were amongst first Infantry Territorials to be sent to France, since most of them had season tickets to Paris, so Government got rebate from the Railway Companies. Were called the “Bargain Fighters” because on the day they made their first two attacks they went over at 3 and 11. Were inspected by Mademoiselle of Armentieres in 1914, who said:- “Tres bon, mais les jambes’ll be affa cauld.”

BATTLE HONOURS – Madame Tassauds, Barker’s Bite, ‘Oly Smoke, and Scotland Yard.

MARCH PAST – “In London when the lights were low I walked out steady with crosseyed Flo.”

HEROES – The McTavish of McTavish. The Sultan of Turkey, the Last of the Mohicans, and President Kruschen the Un-movable.

---

*The 6<sup>th</sup> Gordons Memorial in Anzio*



## *Isla St Clair and John “Wayne” Spoores go West!*

Isla, sporting her Sinclair tartan and John in Gordon Highlanders uniform started their second US tour this year with a series of performances at Grand Father Mountain Scottish Games in North Carolina.

The three-day event is reputed to be the largest Games in the world, attracting 65,000 visitors. The following weekend they were performing at the Flagstaff Highland Games in Arizona. The highlight however, was a pilgrimage to Monument Valley in Navajo and Apache Indian territory, a location made famous in many John Wayne Westerns.

Scottish folk singers and pipers in the desert, whatever next?



---

## *“From Across the Pond”*

Dear Clem,

I was intrigued and indeed delighted to read your feature “From Across the Pond” in the Spring *Gazette*, because it indicated that Morgan Oswald is still alive and apparently going strong. Morgan was always a modest character, and so has refrained from boosting the unique feature of his service in the Regiment.

When he joined with two others, the brothers Alec and Tommy Dunnet, they were the only three ex-pupils of the Royal Caledonian Schools to enlist in the Regiment as pipers in the post-war period. Alec Dunnet had served a regular term in the Gordon Highlanders, and so had a playing standard and repertoire rather higher than that existing in our Band at that time: consequently, at the end of his four year engagement he transferred to the R.A.M.C. Pipes and Drums where, under Pipe Major Bob Hill (ex Scots Guards and Argylls), a more advanced level of performance appertained. I think that Tommy Dunnet left at

about the same time to become a publican, a secret ambition of many a piper. But Morgan Oswald soldiered on and, when he departed for Canada in 1964, had achieved the rank of Pipe Corporal under Pipe Major Leslie De Laspee. He can thus claim to be the last Caledonian Schools ex-pupil to have been a serving piper in the London Scottish, ending a source of pipers which commenced in the early 1920s when our then Pipe Major, “Dusty” Smith (ex Scots Guards), was also the Piping Instructor at the Schools.

Yours aye sincerely

17 Lakeside  
Wickham Road  
Beckenham  
Kent BR3 6LX

JS Williams  
Pipe and Derums  
1947-51

P.S. Morgan also had a delightful sister who was a fine Highland Dancer and a stalwart supporter of the Regimental Reel Club. Regretfully, I cannot recall her name.

---

## *90 Years Ago, 1st Bn 1914*

The first half of August was, as usual, the season for the Territorial training camps. It had been arranged that the London Scottish should go to Ludgershall Camp on Salisbury Plain. On July 29 the advance party had gone to Ludgershall to make ready. On Sunday morning, August 2, the Battalion, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Malcolm, entrained at Paddington. It marched into camp in the afternoon, bringing with it a budget of war rumours from London, a report that the 23rd London had been stopped at Reading and sent back, and a suggestion that the same order might soon reach the London Scottish. But the day went on with everyone busy in settling down into the rain-swept camp. When “Lights Out” sounded, nothing beyond the regular routine had happened.

A quarter of an hour later the bugles roused the camp. A

telegram had arrived from the War Office, with the order to return to London immediately. The Battalion fell in, was dismissed, fell in again, waited an hour, and at last marched off to the station, leaving a party to clear up and follow next day.

The men were dismissed on reaching London. There was hardly need to warn them that mobilisation might come at any moment. There were two days of waiting. On Monday, August 3, Sir Edward Grey made his statement in the House of Commons. There were already rumours that the Germans were over the Belgian frontier. That night brought definite news. On Tuesday the ultimatum was delivered to Berlin. At midnight, Berlin time, 11pm in London, on Tuesday, August 4, Britain was at war.

August 5 was the first day of mobilisation. From the early hours of the day the men came streaming into Headquarters, long before they could have received their mobilisation notices. With them came men of the Regimental Reserve and would-be recruits by the hundred. The large hall at Buckingham Gate was soon crowded. It might easily have become a scene of the wildest confusion. But mobilisation had not found the Battalion unprepared. Every detail had been worked out long in advance. As each officer arrived he found his company table in its allotted place, and settled down to work in accordance with the printed scheme before him. As each man reached the hall he was directed to his company table, where his name was taken and he was started off on the carefully prepared route that began with medical inspection, and ended with drawing rifle, ammunition, field dressing, identity disc, etc., until he found himself passed and equipped for active service. Everything worked out smoothly, but the Headquarters building was soon found to be too small, and Caxton Hall was requisitioned as an annexe.

---

## *1st Battalion 60 Years Ago*

September 9 was destined to be the last day the Scottish were to spend on the Palazzo ridge and it was a day filled with acts of determined gallantry among the diminishing numbers who survived the mounting toll of casualties. It is not untrue to say that the enemy counter-attacks continued throughout the hours of daylight. Major Bruce Robertson, who had been commanding the forward defences with conspicuous bravery, was killed when Coy HQ was flattened by a self-propelled high-velocity gun firing at point-blank range. Captain JG Watson (ex-Royal Artillery) was mortally wounded, and among the other casualties RSM Hope was wounded. At 05.30 hours, the Welch attacked and captured Casa Menghino, but two hours later the enemy put in a sharp counter-attack and regained the position. The forward troops of the Scottish were now completely cut off, but although surrounded they continued to resist all attempts to capture the position. Captain NFS Will now assumed command of the forward defences, and under his cool and determined leadership the survivors withstood all the assaults of the enemy, who had now approached to within hand-grenade range. The bitterest hand-to-hand fighting was taking place. For his part in this action Captain Will was subsequently awarded the DSO and CSM Thom, who had displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty, was awarded the DCM.

During this time Bn HQ was under continuous bombardment and great difficulty was experienced in keeping open communications. Major J Bannon, 65th Field Regt, RA, whose wireless set had been knocked out of action, particularly distinguished himself, repairing under fire his telephone line each time it was cut, and provided invaluable support. For this he was awarded the MC a tribute to the gunners, who had always given the Scottish such magnificent support. At 18.00 hrs after hard fighting the Welch recaptured Casa Menghino, and at 20.30 hrs the

Scottish were ordered to withdraw from the Palazzo ridge, bringing their last casualties with them. The survivors fought their way out – with their ammunition reduced to ten rounds per man.

The price had been high; for two days the Battalion had lain passive under continuous heavy shelling. For three more days, after their successful attack, unsupported on either flank, they had resisted all attempts by the enemy to drive them from their position. Casualties, in this short time, amounted to 11 officers and 220 other ranks. Against this, some three German officers and 80 other ranks had been captured and very many others killed and wounded. The holding of the Palazzo ridge had played a vital part in the bigger plan for the final breaking of the Gothic Line and the Commanding Officer received the following telegram from General Sir Oliver Leese, the Commander of the Eighth Army:

Topsec. Personal to Lt. Col. LAW Commanding 1 Lond Scot from LEESE. My congratulations to you and all ranks of your Battalion on your hard fighting at Palazzo. The Regiment may be proud of its part in a great and hard fought victory. With my thanks and best wishes to you all.

---

## *3rd Battalion 60 Years Ago*

Meanwhile 319 Battery was pushing forward in support of the Canadians towards their sector of the Gothic Line. On the 2nd they were firing airbursts on a nest of “nebel” and mortars on a scale of 10 rounds per gun per hour, and on the same day lent some support to the Polish by softening up machine-guns which were holding up the advance.

During the course of the battle their tasks included firing at motor transport, harassing fire, counter-battery and counter-mortar. On September 4 they received a congratulatory message from the C.C.R.A. on their excellent support and the effectiveness of their shooting, and on the same day were ordered to prepare to move to an area near Cattolica, which was to be captured on the 5th. The enemy, having been pushed back from the Gothic Line, were now putting up a stiffer and more determined resistance in the hills and valleys, which lay between Pesaro and the little republic of San Marino. On the 5th the Battery moved to just south of Cattolica, were in action 3000 yards from the enemy lines by 20.00 hrs, and fired harassing fire tasks both on the coast road and on the entrances to Rimini until 0600 hrs the following morning. On the 6th the programme included sweeping fire up and down Route 16 and the parallel coast road, and the whole of the target area was plastered with airbursts at rooftop heights. A “bombard” was also fired at a target which could not be engaged by any other guns in the Corps, and in the evening fire was called for in support of an infantry attack. On the 7th hostile batteries were engaged, harassing fire put down on roads and road junctions near Rimini, and tasks were fired in support of an attack by 5th Canadian Armoured Division.

The battery established an OP in conjunction with 32nd Heavy Regt, and on the 8th experienced considerable enemy shelling, but fortunately suffered no casualties. The Germans followed their usual tactics of ranging with airbursts and followed up with a “stonk”.

The special role for which 299 Battery had been taken out of the line had not materialised, and on September 8, they were called forward once more, this time in support of the Canadian Corps, and were firing close-target programmes the same evening.

On the nights of the 9th and 10th, after a heavy day of field shooting, both batteries found themselves fully engaged dealing with enemy aircraft which flew in to attack forward areas, machine-gunning, cannon-firing and dropping anti-personnel bombs. A claim for enemy aircraft destroyed was submitted by 319 Battery, and a congratulatory message was received from the Commander of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division on the excellent ground shooting carried out in addition to the A.A. role.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### COLONEL DEREK PENMAN

Dear Clem,

What shall I say of Colonel Penman, for whom I had unbounded admiration? I first encountered him – from a respectful distance – at Broome Park early in that extraordinary year of 1940. He, a subaltern then, wore Hodden Grey trews and looked haughty and aristocratic, hence his nickname The Duke. The next encounter was at Aldington in 1941, when he awarded me CB for some military misdemeanour or other. Eventually came Sicily and battle. The late Jim Rennie and I were sent to Don Company as signallers. We knew that The Duke was Company Commander, and were not much impressed, thinking that his apparent aloofness and sardonic tongue would not inspire much confidence. How wrong we were! Derek Penman was inspirational in battle. He was totally unflappable and showed considerable compassion and concern for the Jocks under his command; truly a leader men would follow anywhere. A great miscarriage of justice, in my opinion, was that for his war service the only award was a Mention in Despatches. The odd rapport that developed between we humble signallers and Major Penman as he was then, persisted throughout the war and after. I remember a night in Manchester soon after demob when Jim Rennie and I, both well advanced in our cups, decided to ring Derek. We went to a call box, found we had no change, and so reversed the charges. He accepted this effrontery with genuine amusement. That was the man! I met him on many occasions after the war, at Buckingham Gate, Norfolk, Horseferry Road and Cornwall, and am proud to have earned his friendship. He was an exemplar, one of the mainstays of the 1st Battalion during the Second World War. A man to be honoured, and mourned. And our gratitude and condolences must go to Jennifer.

Yours aye,

Keith Spooner

24, Dennis Road,  
Liskeard,  
Cornwall, PL14 3NS.

### TOUR OF DRILL HALL

Dear Clem,

Just a short, rather belated note, to say thank you very much for the opportunity to visit last Tuesday. Thank you also for taking the time to dig out the information on my Grandfather and the very informative guided tour of the Drill Hall and your Regimental Museum. I found it all most fascinating!

I was particularly impressed with the Drill Hall and the amount of time, cost, effort, lobbying etc that must have gone on to preserve such an important part of your Regimental history and a fine example of an early Militia/Territorial Army facility. In my current job I am only too well aware of the pressures placed on the MOD estate to rationalise, modernise and simply cast off some of our very important historical properties.

I shall be seeing my father this coming weekend to celebrate my parent's Golden Wedding anniversary so shall pass on all the information you so kindly passed on. Please pass on my thanks to all other members of Regimental Headquarters that I met and who made my time with you so pleasant and productive.

Thank You!

Yours aye

Allan

From Lieutenant Colonel A P Dennis RE

Headquarters 4th Division

ALDERSHOT

GU11 2DP

---

NAME: GRAHAM LAURISTON

EMAIL: CORINNAF@INTERNODE.ON.NET

Comments:

Thank you for a very informative website, I have had no end on searching through as my Father, (deceased) was a LONDON SCOTTISH Man serving from 1939-1945, taken prisoner at ANZIO. I now march proudly in remembrance of him and all his comrades, at our ANZAC DAY parade here in South Australia on the 25th of April each year wearing his medals and STRIKE SURE badge.

Once again “WELL DONE”

FROM COMMODORE DSH WHITE, OBE ROYAL  
NAVY

Commander British Forces  
The Tower  
Gibraltar  
British Forces Post Office 52

Tel: 00 350 55002 Fax: 00 350 55217

HQBF 525/6

Lieutenant Colonel J P Mooney TD  
Commanding Officer  
The London Regiment  
Territorial Army Centre  
27 St John's Hill  
Clapham Junction  
London  
SW11 1TT

16 June 04

Dear Colonel Mooney

I was impressed by the splendid turnout and performance of representatives from your regiment during the Queen's Birthday Parade on 10th June in Gibraltar. Please would you pass on my thanks to all those who took part.

Yours sincerely  
David White

Please pass to OC A COY  
Congratulations to the LSP&D  
A credit to the Regiment

Jeremy Mooney CO

Pipe Major/Drum Major  
Excellent effort OC

---

POEMS – 'LOOKING BACKWARDS' WAR  
RETROSPECTIONS 1951-2002

Dear Sir

Once again I write in praise of our author and poet Keith Spooner who wrote that wonderful book of his experiences with the 1st London Scottish Signals in their struggle through Sicily and Italy – simply called 'The Battalion'. If there are any London Jocks out there, young or old, who have not yet read it, do so now – you will and maybe shed the odd tear, and if you are under 65 learn something too!

I now have Keith's 2004 publication of his poems 'Looking Backwards' War Retrospections 1951-2002. I find this little edition absorbing, very profound and poignant yet with the common touch and at times hard hitting. All of us that were effected by war's crude hand understand his every word – but how many of us can put our thoughts on paper?

Keith Spooner will leave The London Scottish a wonderful legacy of the 2nd World War, and the generation that fought it, and in my opinion ranks with the war poets of the past – buy his little book and support Keith and his brave wife Barbara.

Yours aye  
Doug Clarke

Flat 2 Windsor Court  
1 Windsor Road  
Poole BH14 8SE

Dear Colonel Henwood

UNVEILING OF CRESTS OF SCOTTISH CLAN  
CHIEFS

The Duke of Gloucester has asked me to write to say how delighted His Royal Highness was to be able to unveil The Royal Caledonian Schools Trust collection of Crests of the Scottish Clan Chiefs, at the Headquarters of the London Scottish Regiment on Thursday, 20th May, 2004 and to thank you once again for the Regiment's generous co-hosting of the evening.

It is a most splendid location for this impressive collection and the evening was a fitting occasion for the collection's official unveiling in its new 'home'. The Duke of Gloucester much enjoyed meeting those members of the London Scottish Regiment attending as well as the Pipes and Drums whose Beat Retreat was a lively and enjoyable addition to the evening's programme.

His Royal Highness would be grateful if you would pass on thanks to everyone from the London Scottish Regiment who was involved in the organisation of this visit; the warmth of the welcome was truly appreciated. The Duke of Gloucester also asks you to send best wishes to all members of the Regiment who have returned from, or who are about to be involved in, operational tours of duty.

Yours sincerely

Squadron Leader Lyn Johnson, MVO  
Private Secretary to  
The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester

KENSINGTON PALACE  
LONDON, W8 4PU

## COLONEL DEREK VICTOR PENMAN OBE TD

WE regret to advise that Colonel Derek Victor Penman OBE TD died on 3rd July, after a long and distinguished military career.

An obituary on his full life will follow in the December issue of the Gazette. A memorial service will be held at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, London, SW1 on Thursday, September 16th at 1200 hrs.

---

## MAJOR JOHN PERCIVAL VIVIAN

MAJOR John Percival Vivian died peacefully on Monday 7th June, aged 89. The only notification he wanted us to have on his death was as follows:

'Major J.P. Vivian 2nd Battalion. 1934-1938 and 1940-1946'

John Vivian first joined the London Scottish in 1934, but resigned in 1938. He rejoined in 1940 and became a 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd Bn and the Signals Officer's deputy. In May 1941 he was appointed Adjutant of the first divisional Battle School opened at Chelwood Gate in Ashdown Forest. Later he became Adjutant at the School of Infantry and some of his experiences were published in a 1998 *Gazette*.

After the war John Vivian joined ICI and was initially with the decorative paints business – the start of Dulux – on the sales side and then moved into personnel. Towards the end of his career with ICI, he moved to Millbank HQ as personnel manager.

After his retirement he chaired a range of Civil Service appointment panels for a number of years and he and his wife moved to Sussex where they enjoyed many happy years in a County they loved. His hobbies included walking, history and particularly events surrounding the First and Second World Wars, and of course his grandchildren.

We extend our sympathy to his son Andrew and family.

## BRIGADIER HENRY HOPE MILLWARD MARSTON MC TD

MILES Marston, who died on 8th November 2003 aged 83, enjoyed an unusually colourful career which included a span of over 40 years service to the Crown. It started with the London Scottish followed by the Gurkhas. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, The Tanganyika Rifles, The Warwickshire Fusiliers, many staff appointments and finally as Commandant of the Queen Victoria School at Dunblane.

Miles was born in London in 1920 and was educated at Haileybury but had to leave at the age of 15 when his father died in 1935. Miles obtained an office boy's job in the city and joined the London Scottish (TA) as soon as he was old enough in 1938. Miles had set his heart on an Army career.

He was called up at the outbreak of World War 2 and commissioned into The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, although it was to be another 8 years before he actually experienced any service with the Regiment.

Meanwhile, as there seemed little prospect of any immediate action, Miles decided to force the pace and applied to transfer to either the Gurkhas or the RAF. While he awaited the results of these requests he experienced some adventures. He started training as a machine gun platoon commander with a Vickers platoon in defence of an airfield in Hampshire. As this was a Fleet Air Arm station he seized the opportunity to be useful and managed to fly several sorties as an observer in a Swordfish as they were short of trained personnel. After several other jobs Miles became ADC to the GOC Hampshire Division for 6 months. The Gurkhas accepted him before the RAF.

The 2/7th Gurkha Rifles formed part of the 4th Indian Infantry Brigade, in turn part of the famous 4th India Division. Most of the battalion had been put in the bag at Tobruk in June 1942 and so when Miles arrived in the Middle East he found himself training the reformed battalion in the shadow of the pyramids. He was appointed a company commander and soon found himself in action, first in the desert and then in

Italy.

In February 1942 2/7th Gurkha Rifles were holding the ridge at Cassino. The weather was atrocious with blinding sleet. The plan was for two divisions, the 2nd New Zealand and the 4th Indian, to attack the town from the North. Fighting was fierce and continuous and one of the two leading companies of the 2/7th Gurkha Rifles was apparently overrun. Miles, with additional help from men from the 4/16th Punjabis, was ordered to restore the situation. It turned out that some of the Gurkhas from the supposed overrun company were stiff in position. Even so fighting was still fierce and Miles was wounded in the neck. He was subsequently awarded the Military Cross. When 2/7th Gurkha Rifles was withdrawn from Italy the battalion was sent to Greece where again Miles was in action during which he was Mentioned in Despatches.

2/7th Gurkhas Rifles returned to India in 1946 and was posted to the Punjab Boundary Force HQ, at the time India was gaining independence and there was a new boundary with the newly created Pakistan. The force did its best to minimise the inevitable slaughter but it would have needed armies, not just a few brigades, to prevent the huge loss of life.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who had been holding a vacancy for him, demanded a decision. Miles chose the Argylls and was granted a regular commission in the Regiment on the 13th February 1946 back dated for seniority to 3rd January 1942.

In March 1949 Miles was promoted to major and given command of A Company. His impact on all ranks was instant, effective and very much for the better. After a few months the Battalion was posted to Hong Kong as part of the 40th Division with the task of guarding the border against the victorious Chinese Communist forces. The following year – and at very short notice – 1 A and SH was sent to Korea in an *ad hoc* 27 brigade with the Middlesex Regiment, part of the British

contribution to the UN Force. 1 A and SH embarked on HMS *Ceylon*. Miles was still commanding A Company – but not for much longer. News arrived that he had been selected for a vacancy at the Staff College at Camberley and so, he returned home. Amid all this Miles had met Jill, daughter of Sir Norman Smith CIE OBE of the Indian Police Service. Within five weeks they decided to get married. The wedding was postponed until Miles got home. The wedding photography was done by a little known but up and coming photographer, Anthony Armstrong Jones.

Miles proved a brilliant student and this was confirmed when, at the end of his course, he was posted as Brigade Major to the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade then stationed in the Canal Zone. He served under Ken Darling, a soldier he greatly admired. In 1954 Miles returned to the Battalion to Command B Company as 1 A and SH were on their way to Berlin. In Berlin, Miles' reputation for efficiency was enhanced and those officers and NCO's who served with him would freely admit – the best military training any young officer or NCO could possibly receive was to be under Miles' command. In the late summer of 1954 Miles was posted to RHQ and Training Depot at Stirling Castle as Commanding Officer.

In 1956 an edict from the War Office officially established Regimental Museums. Typically Miles set about the task of collating and presenting our regimental treasures. In fact it would be true to say that if our present Museum has a founder it was Miles. When Miles officially retired from Regimental and Staff duties in 1974 and was appointed commandant of The Queen Victoria School at Dunblane he again became interested in the museums affairs and served on the Committee for the next 20 years until 1994. No one has devoted more time and interest to our Museum.

Meanwhile the general regimental rumour at the time was that Miles would go off to a staff job on leaving Stirling Castle and then return to command the Battalion. He spent the next two years, from 1958 to 1960, at the MOD but returned to the Battalion in 1960 it was again to command a rifle company followed by being Second in Command. Eventually in 1962 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and spent nearly two years as GSO1 at the NATO HQ ALFSEA. And then, rather

unexpectedly, Miles received a signal: "You have been selected to command the 2nd Battalion of the Tanganyika Rifles at Tabora. Do you accept?" A few months later, wisely leaving Jill and his family behind, Miles left to take up his new command. At least he tried to but arrived to find the country in flames and his Battalion in a state of mutiny. The story is told that, in an attempt to seize back the initiative (always a good military principle). Miles went to the Guardroom, demanded and obtained the Armoury keys and sent for the Officers, Mess Sergeant and requested a gin and tonic! Order was thus restored. Miles returned to the staff as GSO1 in the MOD. Mutinies are not, on the whole, good for military careers and it therefore came as somewhat of a surprise when Miles was offered command of the 1st Battalion Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers – Monty's old Regiment.

It remains a mystery why Miles, having returned from Africa in January 1964, was not slotted to command 1 A and SH in Borneo in late summer when command changed. At the time there was some suggestion that Miles was too old for command. This was patently not true as he went on to command the Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers in January 1965 and took them to Borneo. Our loss was undoubtedly their gain. During his tenure of command they moved from an armoured infantry role to a jungle role. Miles' great experience would have stood him and them in good stead.

Miles' final service to the Crown was spent as Commandant of The Queen Victoria School at Dunblane. Miles was an inspired choice for the job and the job made best use of his huge talent for administration and organisation, his social skills much supported by Jill and his abiding interest in all things military. On leaving Dunblane, family pressures made it necessary for Miles and Jill to move South. Both their daughters had married and were living in England as was Miles' invalid brother.

Miles died after a long and brave struggle with cancer. Jill and their two daughters survive.

With acknowledgments to the *Thin Red Line* The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Magazine for use of part of their obituary.

## **CAPTAIN BRYN RHYS CLAYTON-POULTER MC**

WE are sorry to advise that Captain Bryn Rhys Clayton-Poulter MC died earlier in July.

Bryn Clayton-Poulter was originally brought to our Hallowe'en Dinners by the late Andrew McMillan, but following his death, Bryn seemed to form an attachment to the Scottish becoming an Association member and attended many of our functions. Even though he was passionate about his Parachute Regiment, Bryn was often to be seen when we marched off on our Church Parade and was in attendance last November.

Piper Tommy Johnston played at the funeral, which was held at St Peters Church, South Croydon. Bryn will be sorely missed by family and friends.

We extend our sympathy to his son Owen, daughter-in-law Linda, grandson Aaron and sister Doreen.

---

## **CHARLES ALFRED KEENE**

WE regret to advise that Charles Alfred Keene died on the 6th July, aged 87.

Charles joined 'B' Company the 1st Bn London Scottish in 1936 at the age of 17. During the war he served in Sicily and possibly in Italy. He was in the Mortar Platoon and was wounded on 28th July 1943 near Catania Sicily, during the 1st Battalion's first attack during the war.

In retirement he lived up north, occasionally meeting his old comrades at 59 Buckingham Gate. Later when his health deteriorated he moved with his wife Jean into a residential home in Southport.

---

## **GEORGE ALEXANDER GEDDES**

WE have been advised that George Alexander Geddes died on 26th May, aged 78.

George is believed to have served in our 2nd and 1st Bn's and then transferred on 10th February 1944 to A.M.P.C. – We are not aware what this stands for?

We extend our sympathy to his family.

## DAVID CHARLES TOMLINS

AS advised earlier, the well-known David Charles Tomlins – who we called “Tomo” died on 18th April, aged 65, after an eighteen-month battle with cancer.

“Tomo” joined the London Scottish after his son David had died in a tragic accident, and as David had shown a great interest in military matters, “Tomo” felt that by joining the Scottish he was creating a tribute to his son. He joined in 1975 and as he had an HGV Licence he was in demand. He served from June 1975 to July 1982 – having to retire due to a bad back. He was then a Cpl (Acting C/Sgt).

He was called-up for National Service in December 1955, but opted for a three-year term as this meant you got full pay rather than half pay. It is believed that he did not like the discipline and got into trouble on several occasions, but this was to change in later years when he joined the Scottish. In civilian life he was a lorry driver – and over the years was coalman, and drove for Alcan and finally for Bejams.

In his enforced retirement he maintained his interest in military matters being a keen member of our Regimental Association, attending most functions and went to the Cowal Games. He also belonged to Gordon Highlanders and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Association. For many years he endeavoured to get the names of local men who had died in two World Wars added to the War Memorial in Edgware High Street. His daughter Karen has appealed for somebody to carry on his campaign.

“Tomo” will be remembered for his interest in winners of the Victoria Cross, and his work in ensuring that graves, which were neglected or without headstones, were put in good order. Where there were no headstones, he ceaselessly contacted regiments and regimental associations to ensure that they were remembered. Sadly, perhaps because of his background he did not receive recognition from those who considered themselves to be at a superior level and sometimes he felt hurt when he was not invited to certain functions related to his personal efforts.

The funeral service was held at the Roman Catholic Church of



*“Tomo”, as we wish to remember him.*

Annunciation, Edgware. The magnificent coffin had ornate handles with a scene from the Last Supper on its sides. The entire top was covered with a beautiful white floral cross, crowned with lilies and a photograph of “Tomo” as we remember him was also on the coffin. The priest said many good things about him and how he was a devoted family man.

About 100 persons came to the funeral and in spite of the pouring rain, many attended the internment at Hendon Cemetery, where “Tomo” was laid to rest with his son David. There was an incredible display of flowers, which were fitting for a celebrity. London Scots who attended were: Alan Morris, Eric Thompson, Ron Younger, David Foulis, Len Rose, Doug Shand, Jim Thoirs, Chris Adams, “Compo”, Charles Dobney, Charles Redman, Ted Silvester, “Hookey” Walker, John Millar, Clem Webb, and members from the Black Watch and Argyll and Sutherland Association. Piper Ron Olley played the Lament.

“Tomo” was a loyal London Scot and such was his devotion to the Regiment that he is having the Regimental badge engraved on his headstone.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Patricia, daughter Karen and grandson Steven on their great loss.

Note: Patsy and family would like to thank all those who attended the funeral.

## MRS BRENDA WALLER

WE regret to advise that Mrs Brenda Waller the widow of Kenneth William Waller, died earlier this year.

She had spent her last few years in St Raphael’s Nursing Home, Danehurst, East Sussex.

We extend our sympathy to her family.

---

## MAJOR CEDRIC MORRIS COWAN

WE have been advised by the daughter – who worked at Christies – that her father Major Cedric Morris Cowan died in January, aged 90.

He was born in Glasgow in 1914 and joined the 2nd Bn London Scottish on 17th January 1940, before being commissioned in the Royal Artillery on 21st November 1941, seeing service in Burma. After the war he stayed on in the Army as a Regular. He retired in 1957 and became an underwriter with the Sun Alliance Insurance Company.

---

## TED (HOOKIE) WALKER LS TEM (BAR)



*“Hookie” Walker in his younger days.*

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing away of Hookie Walker, Corporal Piper and all round good mate.

He did his national service with the Gordon Highlanders, serving in Berlin and Egypt. After service with the

Gordons he joined the 1st Bn London Scottish Pipes and Drums.

Hookie had a great sense of humour, being in the company of such illustrious London Scots as Pipe Major de-Laspee Bill Ferguson and many more well known characters the banter was always there.

I once said to Hookie, "As a Corporal how come you have never been promoted to Sergeant?" He replied "Don't be daft, I'm amazed I got this far".

However, whether as bandsman or soldier Hookie did his duties to the utmost and was dedicated to his Regiment.

In 1967 he was transferred to G Coy 51 Highland and was very popular with many soldiers in the other companies all over the country.

On finishing with the Regiment, he became an active member of the 42nd Highlanders, a re-enactment association, still playing his pipes in the far-flung corners of Europe.

In civvy life he worked in the City as shipping clerk with Henry Gardner,

international metal merchants.

His hobbies were his aviary and making model soldiers, he also made leather products for many pipe bands.

Another hobby was Military History particularly the "Napoleonic Period".

But the love of his life was his devoted wife Pat and their family.

Hookie died in Barts hospital on 13th July aged 76. He will be remembered for his friendship, kindness and comradeship. The loss of a great mate.

Bill Rennie and Ted Coogan

---

#### **GEOFFREY BRAND**

WE regret to advise that Geoffrey Brand died on 28th May.

Geoffrey first served in our 1st Battalion before going into the Royal Army Service Corps on 29th October 1941.

We extend our sympathy to his family.

#### **HENRY JOHN THRIFT**

WE have been advised that Henry John Thrift died on the 6th June.

He joined the 75th L.A.A. (TA) in May 1939 and later transferred to the London Scottish in 1943 and served in Italy. He was a Sgt when he was demobbed on 27th March 1946.

We extend our sympathy to his family.

---

#### **MADELEINE JONES**

WE are sorry to have to advise that Bob Jones wife Madeleine died on 22nd June at home.

Madeleine will be remembered by us for helping at our Children's Parties, and especially by those who went on the memorable Pilgrimage to Italy in 1993.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bob on his great loss.



*1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, B Company, detraining at Ludgershall, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1914.*