



No 1054 - Volume CVIII Summer 2003

Regimental Gazette

London Scottish



London Scottish Regimental Gazette

The London Scottish
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Lord Robertson of Port Ellen

Regimental Colonel
Colonel S. H. Henwood, TD

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Commanding 'A' (The London Scottish) Company
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Summer 2003

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The CSM Tom Hallett "Getting his eye", Germany, 2002.

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From the Regimental Colonel

MY notes in the last *Gazette* were written as our Armed Forces prepared for a possible conflict in Iraq and members of the Company faced the possibility of mobilisation. As I write these notes, Coalition Forces face the challenge of “winning the peace”, two members of the Company, having been mobilised, are in Kuwait and a further six volunteers are serving in Bosnia mainly with 1 HIGHLANDERS.

I wrote in the last *Gazette* of the profound changes that have taken place in the Reserve Forces in recent years and I think that it is safe to say that after the events of the past few months things will never be the same again and I would like to reflect on that.

Firstly I should pay tribute to the achievements of our Armed Forces, and the Army in particular, of whom we can be justly proud. We should also be proud of LCpl Chitty and LCpl Wilden who having received the brown envelope on their doormat, did what thousands of London Scots have done before and responded to their country’s call at considerable personal sacrifice. We look forward to welcoming them home safely and thanking them and their families for what they have done.

The need for a compulsory mobilisation emphasises the importance of the Reserves but the way in which the call-up was managed does raise some questions that need to be answered. The call-up was essentially random for those with the appropriate qualifications and twice the number were apparently called-up as were required to ensure that the targets were met. Individual mobilisation in this way ignores the opportunity to take volunteers, of whom there were many in the London Regiment, ready, willing and able, and puts pressure on specific individuals who may at that point in time find mobilisation particularly difficult.

I hope that in the future the chain of command can be used so that a more efficient process can be followed.

The second issue that needs to be addressed is the utilisation of Reservists. It is clear that the age-old challenge of the Regular soldier understanding and respecting the particular skills (and limitations) of the Territorial have still not been fully overcome. Some of those called-up have

experienced discrimination and have been mis-employed. It must be accepted that in Operations there are jobs to be done that are tedious and boring. I believe, however that a Territorial soldier, having been called up has a right to be treated with respect and given tasks consistent with his training and capabilities. It is important to keep this issue in perspective and it is clear that in some cases the Territorials have brought particular experience that has been utilised to the full. When this happens it is clear that the residual barriers between the Regular and Territorial will soon fall away. If the issue is not addressed however the consequence will be that the returning Territorial will vote with his feet.

The experience of embodied units has proved to be rather different with very positive reports of their sense of value and achievement. It should surely be an objective to mobilise as units and sub-units whenever possible. This will not always be an option but it will be interesting to hear of the experiences of our soldiers in Bosnia in this context.

My final point is that of the effect on the Reserve Forces. Those in the Medical Services have known their importance for some considerable time. The scale and breadth of the call-up this time has made it clear that if you join the Reserves, you are making a commitment of more than your time. At the recent London Regimental Council the CO spoke of the energising effect and the focus that recent events have brought to training. The importance and relevance of our Reserve Forces has been reinforced by recent events. The Serving Company and the London Regiment has our support in meeting that challenge.

As I have reflected on the issues above, I re-read the Regimental history on the preparations for the First War and was struck by the many parallels. It is perhaps inevitable that these issues have to be addressed afresh. At a time when we should be immensely proud of the achievements of our Armed Forces I hope we can also ensure that we learn from our recent experiences.

Strike Sure
Stephen Henwood
Regimental Colonel

Officer Commanding’s Notes

OVER the last four months the Company has been the subject of a lot of activity. On top of the normal training calendar the unit has had individuals compulsory mobilised for Operations to Iraq, go on FTRS to Bosnia, supported Op Fresco, trained for CCRF and have started training in Peace Support Operations (PSO) the Battalion’s new training theme. As you would expect such challenges have been welcomed and this new found utility and deployability has

given the Serving Company a real sense of purpose and buzz.

For A Coy the reality of the war in Iraq manifested itself in the compulsory call up of two soldiers Cpls Chitty and Ross-Wilden. This is the first time since the Second World War that members of the London Scottish have been compulsory mobilised. Picture the situation, on a wet Saturday morning over breakfast, a brown envelope arrives



Dealing with a casualty.

saying you have been selected for operational duty for an indefinite period of time and for a role to be determined. The only definites are that you are a being mobilised as an individual, the rest of the unit has not been called up and you have two weeks to sort your life out before turning up for duty,

A daunting challenge especially as one of the soldiers had only been married six weeks beforehand. Providing welfare support is not something that a volunteer part time organisation is really geared up to give, fortunately Major Mark Ludlow, a veteran of the mobilisation process having done both S type and FTRS, was tasked by the CO as Battalion mobilisation officer; a task he has done with great effectiveness.

As well as our two boys in the Gulf we have now also got five soldiers in Bosnia with 1 HIGHLANDERS (Captain Shaw, Cpl Miller, Ptes Medina, Clark and Dawson) plus LCpl Wilde who has been in theatre since October and is currently serving with the Gurkhas. On top of this we also have at least two soldiers who are looking to go on FTRS this summer.

For the Company whose effective strength is c.70 strong, to have eight men on operational service (12% of the Company manpower) at any one time is a real achievement. This is currently the highest number in the London Regiment (another first for the London Scottish). As well as creating a healthy buzz in the JRC to go on operational

service, it has also created some interesting training issues especially as the majority of those who have volunteered/ been mobilised are also our instructors and regular attenders. With the Company learning new roles, commanders are becoming increasingly aware of focusing our reduced manpower resource where it matters. The concept of OC's Main Effort has done much to aid this as resource is not infinite and training is wasted if few men turn up.

At the end of Feb we had our first CCRF Exercise. This exercised both the call-out and development of soldiers and as well as providing a walk through of the various procedures and specialist kit requirements, it also introduced us to the other supporting TA units London, a vital formal and informal network of contacts that we need if a crisis occurs. The London Regiment is providing the majority of manpower for this 500 strong force (250 soldiers) and is responsible for providing the HQ and command and control functions. This was followed up with a London District Study Day where the principle guest speaker Major General Colt US Army Reserve was one of the senior commanders coordinating the rescue effort at Ground Zero on 9/11. This was a fascinating day, again not only because the London Regiment has got a real task alongside the Regular units in London but because one of my subalterns (Lt Geoffrey Strickland) got to take the mickey out of the Deputy Commander in a skit on the topic – I am just glad he saw the funny side!

With CCRF and PSO, commander's training has been the pre-dominant theme during the first half of the year. In February we also ran a Company Commanders Study Day at RHQ for all JNCOs and above.

This was well attended with about 30 NCOs and Officers. This gave me the opportunity to introduce the new training themes and how it translated onto the training calendar. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Jeremy Mooney TD also supported the event which by providing the absolute latest from Staff College on doctrine, tactics and weapon systems, making the day incredibly relevant. The programme was topped off with a Commander's Dinner, which allowed the JNCOs the opportunity to dine in the Mess and all ranks to socialise together. It also gave me the opportunity to lecture the troops on some Regimental History about the last time the London Scottish was in Iraq in 1943! (fortunately the only time outside of Halloween that the OC is allowed to give a speech!). By all accounts a successful event and something I hope to repeat next year. A similar event was also held at RHQ for the junior officers of the London Regiment in April, run by the CO and Trg Major this also provided an excellent opportunity for our new Company officers to meet their fellow counterparts in the other Companies. Pipe Major McLucas and Pte Parsons put together a splendid Piping Set at the dinner for which they justly received great praise – well done.

On the social front we have also been active having had a very successful Officers Mess Guest Night fielding 44 people including two Mayors and one DL. We also hosted the London Scottish Shooting Competition for the first time. This involved teams from across those organisations that we

Continued on page 38

Serving Company Photographs



Practising first aid on a Drill Night.



Dealing with a severe stomach wound.

have close relationships with (LS Rugby Club, Caledonian Society, LS Golf Club, 1SG, FANY, Caledonian Club, 1 Highlanders and London Regiment BHQ). Considering this was the first event of its kind the evening was very well supported and gave the Company an opportunity to talk to those organisations that support it outside of a formal dinner. First place went to the Caledonian Society whose President, Pipe Major Ian King, received the trophy. Best shot was a close run thing between the sniper pair – Capt Steel (Adj) and the SPSI WOII Brown, who even with un-zeroed weapons got some incredible scores. I am also glad to report that the Officers Mess managed to put together a demonstration eightsome reel at this years Caledonian Ball (thanks to Major Ed Murphy who organised the event as acting PMC). This is a high profile event and it is important that we continue to fly the flag. We had a very pleasant pre-dance dinner and practice with the officers and their ladies from 1SG and it was also good to see 1 A&S at the Ball.

Thanks must also go to a sizeable number of Pipers and

Drummers attending Band Practise that evening who provided some great background dinner music!

With Capt Richard Shaw now in Bosnia, Capt Callam Watts-Rehman has joined us as 2ic from a portfolio of units including 1BW and LIR! (his military CV makes him out to sound like a mercenary!) Lt Geoffrey Strickland having run 1 Platoon with great skill has moved down to Catford as OC 2 Platoon with Sgt Nathan. 2Lt Marcus Allchurch has joined us from Birmingham UOTC and joins Sgt Adams as OC 1 Platoon at HFR. 2Lt Chris Taylor ex-RM is OC RRTT based at Catford. After the recruitment activity at the beginning of the year this means that we nearly have a full compliment of Company officers. As far as soldier recruiting is concerned the good news is that 1 Platoon at RHQ is almost at full capacity. The rifle platoon at Catford is still a concern and is my main effort for recruiting.

STRIKE SURE
Major Marc Overton
Officer Commanding

Room at the Top

IT has been a busy time for the serving members of the Mess, which has not allowed the committee or me to concentrate on the organising of any functions. However this has changed and there is a date to put into your diary. The Sergeants Mess Dinner will be held on the 29th November.

It saddens me to inform you that we will be losing WO2 Mick Shephard as serving Mess Member as he has decided to leave the Jocks (who said Guards) after 17 years service. Still looking like that fresh-faced boy soldier I first met many many moons and a thousand odd beers ago. Mick has decided to join the IOWLA (Isle of Wight Liberation Army). They are currently fighting a war to give them independence from Britain, England and ultimately HAMPSHIRE (to be a farmers boy). He has taken up the post of propaganda minister after being the only plastic islander to have served in the smoke and of course the British Army. He will however, I am sure be infiltrating the mess at sometime during the future trying to recruit young men to his cause like Chris

Macpherson (every army needs a band) and talking about the time we did this, its not like the old days etc etc.

Many will miss his guitar playing at the Mess dinner and I for one will be sorry never to hear Sloop John B again EVER.

Mick we all wish you the best and of course look forward to when you and your cohorts might be planning to invade again.

I look forward to seeing you all on the first Tuesday of each month.

Strike Sure
Mess President



General Joseph Ralston presents the Anderson Trophy to WO2 Mick Shephard, Hallowe'en 2002.

The Toronto Scottish

WITH a metropolitan population in the neighbourhood of four million, the city of Toronto is North America's fifth largest and has one of the most rapid growth rates of all North American cities. From professional sports (can't forget the Toronto Maple Leafs) to Theatre and the Arts, this diverse city is known for much more than traffic and snow. In fact, it is home to the Toronto Scottish Regiment, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother's Own.

The Regiment has a short but very rich history in Canada, beginning with the 75th (Mississauga) Battalion, CEF, on 1 July 1915 and rooted within the 84th Battalion and 9th Mississauga Horse Regiment (9MHR), Earning various Battle Honours in both of the World Wars, most notably, Vimy Ridge, Passchendale and Dieppe, the Regiment continues today as a very reputable and highly respected organisation.

The Tor Scot R is currently commanded by LtCol Mike Trayner, with Maj David MacDonald acting as DCO and CWO Kevin Junor as RSM. Two companies comprise the Regiment, A Coy and Admin Coy led by Maj Justin Neil and Capt Marc Lindsay respectively. Upon his return from the Jamaican Staff College, Capt Fred Moore will assume his new role as Ops O.

So while the faces change and the numbers grow to reflect a peacetime army, the commitment of the membership remains strong. With a total of 141 serving members, including 16 officers, the primary rationale of the Toronto Scottish remains readiness training.

With this focus in mind, Tor Scots have trained with a myriad of other combat arms and units, including of course, our sister Regiment, the London Scottish Regiment. In fact, our first major Ex of 2002, Northern Exposure, was highlighted by the participation of soldiers from the London Regiment. With the exception of some uncooperative weather, the soldiers successfully trained in the art of winter

warfare. In September, the Tor Scot R proudly sent a contingent of soldiers led by Maj Duane Hobbs to Germany for the London Regiment's annual training Ex. Once again, the training was excellent and equally important, our soldiers and units further strengthened their already solid bond.

Back home, the Tor Scot R had a strong showing during the annual Bde Exercise held in August. Returning from a summer's worth of training, our soldiers once again demonstrated their skills and performed admirably. In fact Tor Scots of all ranks continue to attract attention. Whether on training courses, competitions or, most importantly, on overseas service such as the Golan Heights and Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tor Scot soldiers are known for their level of skill and commitment to their duties and their unit.

The training year has started well and we look forward to the continued success of our soldiers in all their endeavours. As such, we are proud to see Capt Andrew Duncan deploy on Rotation 12 of OPERATION PALLADIUM in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Maj Duane Hobbs will deploy on Rotation 13 as Commander of the first ever all reserve company. Good luck to you both. To our sister Regiment, good luck as well to Marc Overton on becoming OC A and to Maj Rupert Clements who has moved into the role of 2ic, PWRR.

The experience these individuals bring to the Regiment along with the experience of those having already served in various capacities is invaluable. With an exceptional crop of new recruits, not to mention a strong group of several new young officers, the future looks especially bright; we are poised to meet and conquer the new challenges of the day. True to form, as in the past, the Toronto Scottish Regiment will CARRY ON and STRIKE SURE!

Breton, J. F.
2 Lt

CSM's Notes

THE Company is getting ready for and building up for ATP at Oakhampton which will give everybody a chance to get on the ground and do some good soldiering.

This starts with Ex First Strike on the 09-10th May. It seems like eons since we went into the field and did some good hard green stuff. So all in all things are looking up.

We are moving towards field firing preparation at the end of June and will be on joint exercise with D Coy (the Irish) at the end of May.

Attendance is on the increase but there is dead wood that needs to be cut away.

We saw several Jocks go off on S Types with the Highlanders last month, so no doubt there will be war

stories galore on their return. At going to press Cpl's Chitty and Ross Wilden are still on Op Telic and I am sure we will see their safe return soon.

We could be saying good by to WO2 Shephard who having become an islander (Isle of Wight) feels it is time to hang up his boots, and campaign for their independence from Hampshire. I believe he has already enrolled a retired Colonel into the campaign (are you local).

So looking ahead we are out with the old (sorry Shep) and in with the new blood to keep the Jocks going forward.

Strike Sure
WO2 Hallett

Pipes and Drums May 2003

A NUMBER of weeks ago one of the serving pipers signed out his ID card as he was about to go on a course. A Sergeant, upon seeing this suggested helpfully: "You lot don't want ID cards, you want Equity cards." And I thought; "What a splendid idea." But then I realised that he was being facetious.

Whether we are "artists" or no, there is no doubt that we have been busy and the schedule is even busier for the coming months. On 16th March we fielded two entries in the Cranford Quartettes. One team came fifth out of 21 and the other finished in mid-table. Piper Chris MacTernan won a silver medal in the amateur March Strathspey and Reel. Well done to all who practised, perspired and played.

At the end of March P/M McLucas and Piper Parsons attended the TA Pipes and Drums Cadre at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh under the direction of Capt Bruce Hitchings, HIGHLANDERS. Upon arrival the Pipe Major was surprised to be told that he was one of the course instructors. If having Hodden Grey kilts on the course was good PR then having our P/M teaching a course was even better advertising. Also on the course were former London Jocks Sapper Andy Abbess, now bass drummer with 71 Engineer Regt and LCpl Davy Moir now a piper with 71 Engineers. While at Redford we renewed friendships with the various Scottish TA bands, recruited incessantly with the OTC bands and forged links with new hierarchy of TA piping and drumming.

Captain Hitchings, formerly the senior Pipe Major at the Army School of Piping and Highland Drumming (ASP&HD), has recently been given responsibility for piping and drumming in the Territorial Army and the Army Cadet Force. We have renewed the relationship with Scotland and our Pipes and Drums and look forward to participating in many more TA-wide events like this one.

Before we leave the topic of Cadet piping and drumming our own Drummer John Conlon was Bass and Tenor instructor at the Scottish ACF P&D cadre held in April at Cameron Barracks, Inverness. This was the fourth consecutive year that John volunteered to teach the Cadets.

On 03 April, the annual MacLeod Medal was held at RHQ. Piper Chris MacTernan won MSR for the second time in three years. In the veterans competition Len Rose won 6/8 March and in the novice march category, Piper David Stewart won the MacDougall-Williams Trophy. Afterwards Sandy Gibb gave a brief recital. A dozen pipers played in the various divisions and P/M Roger Huth, late Scots Guards, once again judged the event.

A week later on 11 April sixty people sat down to the Band Supper. Piper Haydn Cottam was in the chair and a good time was had by all. A presentation was made to D/M Mickey Powell in thanks for his ten years as Drum Major of the London Scottish. Mickey is now tasked with raising and instructing a drum corps at "B (PWRR) Coy" Londons at Edgware.

In the next couple of months, jobs are coming thick and fast. On 17 May, the band will play at the Regimental open day at St.John's Hill during the day and then swiftly repair to



P/M Roger Hoth, late Scots Guards presents the MacLeod Medal to the winner, Piper Chris MacTernan.

Horseferry for the Kilted Caper in the evening. The following weekend, 24 and 25 May, we will be in Edinburgh attending a TA competition and concentration which will go a long way to improve playing, drill and discipline as well as our links with the other Bands in Scotland. This will prepare us for the big effort in this half of the year, which is the trip to Gibraltar at the end of June. On the evening of 12 June the band will play in Covent Garden to help the Royal Scottish Corporation celebrate their 400th anniversary. Don't forget about the Cowal Games on 30 August. We are still practising for this event and fully intend to go with as big a band as possible to the premier pipe band competition in Scotland. Keep checking with RHQ for updates and further details.

And still in June, Isla St.Clair will be staging three concerts in aid of a number of charities. She will be accompanied by The Gunn Band from Wick and the Pipers and Drummers of the London Scottish. She will be

Continued at foot of page 43

COME AND ENJOY A GREAT MUSICAL EVENING IN AID OF
MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE & THE LONDON SCOTTISH BENEVOLENT FUND

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Thursday June 19th at 7:30 pm

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Reserve NOW from The London Scottish
Or call Highland Classics 020 8455 6723
Or email: isla@highlandclassics.com

Band Supper Thursday, 10th April 2002



Gordon Skilling shows Len Rose how to play the pipes!



A musical end to the evening.

Background to First Aid Nursing Yeomanry



(PRINCESS ROYAL'S VOLUNTEER CORPS)

The longest-established
Uniformed Voluntary Organisation for Women

THE FANY was founded in 1907 by Captain E C Baker, a former cavalry Sergeant-Major. The experience of being wounded in the Sudan with the Kitchener expedition led him to create a small unit of nurses on horseback. They were to provide the link between the fighting units at the Front and the Field hospitals. At the outbreak of the First World War the services of the Corps were turned down by the War Office, but were quickly accepted by both the Belgian and the French armies. The first FANY reported for duty in Antwerp in September 1914.

During the War the FANYs ran Field hospitals, drove ambulances, set up soup kitchens and troop canteens, always under appalling conditions, often in great danger. By the end of the War, FANYs had received French, Belgian and British decorations, including 17 Military Medals, one Legion d'Honneur, 27 Croix de Guerre, one Ordre de la Couronne and two Ordre Leopold Chevalier, as well as 11 Mentions in Despatches.

Between the Wars, the emphasis in training shifted from nursing to motorised transport and the Corps became known as the Women's Transport Service (FANY) in response to the Army Council's recognition of it as a 'voluntary reserve transport unit ... for service in any national emergency'. It was this specialisation which enabled the Corps to provide 3,000 or so driver-mechanics who formed the nucleus of the newly formed Motor Driver Companies of the ATS.

However, the FANY spirit of independence burned on, and it was this spirit of independence which led many members of the Corps down another path - that of SOE, Special Operations

Executive. FANYs were not forbidden to carry or use small arms, as were the ATS and the other women's services. Most of the female agents sent by the SOE to France were FANYs. Thirteen of them died in concentration camps. Three of these women agents won the George Cross, two of which were awarded posthumously. Some two thousand other FANYs provided the backbone of SOE, working in ciphers and signals, as agent-conducting officers, administering the Special Training Schools and, amongst others, with the Jedburgh teams and, latterly, with Massingham and Force 136 and 139. One section of the Corps was attached to the Polish Army for the duration of the War. Yet another, a small unit formed in Kenya in 1935, became the Women's Territorial Service (East Africa), a military unit of the African Colonial Forces. In all, the FANYs served in 44 countries.

The Corps, titled 'FANY (PRVC)' since 1999, with the agreement of HRH The Princess Royal, Commandant-in-Chief, is now based with the London Scottish, in Westminster. It is still an all-women volunteer organisation. FANYs now specialise in communications for the Army and City Police. Corps members are trained in Radio communications, first aid, map reading, navigation and orienteering, shooting, self defence and survival techniques, advanced driving and casualty bureau documentation. The Corps recruits women between 18 and 45.

F.A.N.Y. (PRVC), TA Centre, 95 Horseferry Rd,
London SW1P 2DY

(Tel: 020 7976 5459, Fax: 020 7630 8019)

www.fany.org.uk e-mail: hq@fany.org.uk

Pipes and Drums – continued

performing at RHQ on 19 June and for the other dates please refer to the advertisement in this issue.

For Sale: We now have some very attractive coffee mugs with the now famous "Piping Lion" motif. The high quality mugs are white with the design in blue and can be yours for a paltry £5.00, yes folks, for only a Lady Godiva you can walk away with a collector's item.

In the Court and Social, congratulations to Piper Stuart MacMillan who married Sandra on 10 May in Gourrock. Several of his fellow band members travelled north and played at the wedding.

We can also be found on the WEB at www.londonscottishregt.org, which now has been finally linked by the RSPBA site. Practise is still on Thursday night between 7:00 and 10:00, the bar is still open and the beer is still cheap. New players are coming through the door and more are welcome, especially drummers. See you at practise.

Piper Andrew Parsons

Diary of Events for 2003

| | |
|---|---|
| Gordon Highlanders London Association Lunch | Saturday, 7th June |
| Isla St Clair Musical Evening Association | Thursday, 19th June |
| Gibraltar Trip Annual Camp Association | Saturday, 28th June 6th-21st September |
| Holland WW2 Trip HALLOWE'EN DINNER | 19th-22nd September Friday, 31st October |
| Westminster Abbey Garden of Remembrance | Thursday, 6th November |

Canteen Chat

WE were pleased to welcome in March the First Aid Nursery and Yeomanry to their new home here at '95'. Previously they had been at the Duke of York's for 30 years. We will tell you a little about them elsewhere in this issue.

IN June our remaining WWI Veteran Jasper Hankinson will have reached the amazing age of 107. Needless to say we will be sending him a birthday card with our best wishes.

WE were saddened to see that Andy Gilchrist the Militant Fire Brigade union leader has been saying several insulting things about the Queen Mother, amongst these was "Her and her old man were both raging Nazis". Nothing could be further from the truth. Firemen should by now realise what type of man is representing them!

WE were sorry to hear that George A. Scott had not been too well over Christmas and the New Year and had to spend some time in hospital.

VETERANS of the WW2 Arctic Convoys have been awarded medals by the Russians but our Ministry of Defence will not be giving any.

A fine proposed memorial to Battle of Britain Pilots was unveiled at the RAF Club in London on February 24th. A national memorial already exists on the Cliffs at Capel, Dover.

IN March the medals of New Zealand born Fighter Ace Al Deere were sold at auction for £138,000. They were purchased by the RAF Museum, Hendon.

WE are sorry to advise that Norman Lea MC has had to go into a nursing home following a stroke.

THE Prince of Wales had the misfortune to have to recover from a hernia operation on the anniversary of the Queen Mother's death.

CAPTAIN Norman Fox at the age of 55 has become the oldest person to win the Green Beret after a gruelling eight week Commando Course. A remarkable achievement – no doubt his previous 30 years in the Parachute Regiment gave him the backbone for this outstanding performance.

A COUNTY Fire Brigade is refusing to recruit members of the TA in case they get called-up!

NO doubt 1st Bn WW2 veterans have been following the Iraq war with great interest, in view of their visit to Baghdad and Kirkuk 60 years ago.

WE were sorry to hear that Charles Dobney our Association Hon. Treasurer had broken his hip after a fall. We hope he gets better soon.

IT is sad that the Commonwealth Cemetery at Etaples was spoiled by anti Iraq war graffiti. There are 11,000 soldiers buried there, including 28 London Scots.

ON 17th July 1943 Lieutenant Colin Duff was seriously wounded and taken prisoner by the Germans. When he was treated by a doctor he was given an injection but a wounded German Private was not! Later Colin managed to escape.

ON 17th February the last Kiwi survivor from the Great War died at the age of 106. He served in the New Zealand Rifles and was wounded in 1917.

IN May we were pleased to have the visit of Joe Catarino from New Zealand.

ON examining the deaths of four soldiers at Deepcut a shocking statistic has come to light. Nearly 2000 servicemen have been killed over the last ten years in non-combat conditions.

A NEW 5.56mm machine-gun the Minimi has been tried out in the Gulf without any stoppages. This may be a possible replacement for the 7.62 mm GPMG.

"Compo" seeing double in the canteen.



Matter intended for publication in the September issue must reach the Editor by the first Tuesday of August 2003, and should be addressed to the Editor, at 95 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2DX.

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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.

MEMBERS of the P&D's over the past 25 years will know that the Lady at St. Columba's would have the tea made when they arrived at Kirk on Remembrance Sunday. Elizabeth Poulson was the lady who provided it. She has now moved from Kensington to Scottish Corporation accommodation in SW London. We wish her well in her retirement and hope that she will be succeeded by one who has the same generous and considerate nature.

WE were pleased to hear that over 20,000 weapons were handed in during the recent Firearms Amnesty, but it is disturbing that in areas where gun crimes exist few weapons have been declared.

IT is thought that RQMS John Eagle of the RLC – the keen collector of London Scottish medals has obtained the George Medal awarded to London Scot Pte W. Crease. The citation read as follows:

G.M. London *Gazette* 15 September 1944: 'In Italy, on 4 May 1944, a bomber, which took off on an operational flight loaded with explosives, failed to gain height and crashed in flames. Private Crease was the first on the scene and, despite the fact that the petrol tanks and the whole aircraft were blazing, he, with the help of an Italian, and entirely regardless of his own safety, plunged into the wreckage to search for the captain and the crew who were in the aircraft and probably injured. He helped save the life of one of the crew who was injured and, in order to do this he and the Italian had to dig into wreckage with their bare hands, with the fire spreading. Private Crease's action called for a high degree of courage.'

PTE CREASE was on detachment from the 1st Bn and was something to do with the S.O.E. and during his service was wounded several times, and was discharged as unfit.

MIDDLESEX and North West London Army Cadet Force has won the Greater London Cadet Public Relations Award for the second year running. Field Marshal Sir John Chapple presented the trophy to 2Lt Michael Nolan, badged London Scottish at a ceremony held at the London Cadet HQ in Fulham.

JASPER HANKINSON – known as Cecil – was in the Sunday Express coloured supplement dated April 20 together with other remaining WWI veterans, these are now only about 40 in total.

REGIMENTAL BROOCHES: Bickerton Brooches offer 9ct yellow gold, three-dimensional, London Scottish Cap Badge Brooches for £150 including VAT. Illustrations of the Gordon and Cameron Cap badges are given below sizes 30mm x 30mm approx.



Gordon Hldrs 9ct



Cameron Hldrs capbadge 9ct

If you are interested in buying a brooch please let the Regimental Secretary know. However, to achieve the £150 price the manufacturers require a minimum order of five.

AMONG those sighted at HQ this quarter were: Regimental Colonel, Chris Adams, Jim Barnard, Ted Beattie, Bob Blackledge, Peter Brodie-Fraser, David Burden, Alex Callender, Joe Caterino (New Zealand), Ron Catlin, "Compo", Charles Dobney, Murdo Durrant, Bill Edmundson, Stephen Fay, Martin Felstead, Liz Foulis, Nobby Foulis, Brian Goddard, Roger Glancefield, Bob Harman, David Henderson, John Hudson, Les Hunt, David James, Bob Jones, Graham Kellas, Jack Laird, Steve Lovelock, Michael Lynch, Anne and Alex McBride, Bryan Milburn, John Miller, Alan Morris, Betty and Peter Naldrett, Tom Nicholls, Mark Ormiston, Stewart Petty, Cyril Phelps, Ernie Pooley, Charles Redman, David Roberts, D. Roper, Len Rose, John Ruddock, Bob Scott, Doug Shand, Ted Silvester, John Spooore, Robert S. Taylor, Eric Thomson, George Tidey, "Tomo" Tomlins, Clem Webb, Brian Welsh, Ron Younger.

Burn's Night Supper *31 January 2003*

THIS Association function organised by the Regimental Lodge was again a successful evening. Charles Dobney, Association Treasurer, presided over 56 members and their guests. Les Anderson and his helpers served up ample portions of traditional fayre.

David James addressed the Haggis, suitably garbed, Charles Redman gave the Immortal Memory of the Bard, whilst Chris MacTernan provided excellent piping throughout the evening.

A charitable raffle realised over £200, which was divided

equally between the Benevolent Fund and the Pipes and Drums. In all, a good night all round.

Charles Redman

The Ancients

THE Ancients held their February meeting in the Library at RHQ on Monday, 10th February. Mine Ancient Bryan Alderson was in the Chair.

A routine business meeting with no matters of any great moment was swiftly and efficiently conducted by Mine Ancient, who then took us in to dinner.

Our next meeting will be on 12th May.

H. J. W.

Regimental Association Notes – Summer 2003

THE two principle reunion get togethers of the year have both taken place since the issue of the last *Gazette* namely the 39/45 and Post-war Battalion reunion lunch and the G Company reunion dinner. Both were well attended and hugely enjoyable. Colonel John Clemence was in the chair for the former and I was afforded the great honour of being asked to chair the latter. Whilst strictly speaking neither are Regimental Association organised events I shall take the liberty of mentioning them here as the supporters of each event are almost exclusively members of the Association. I say almost exclusively for a straw poll taken at the G Company dinner identified a few who were not. This was soon rectified as Mark Ormiston, the dinner's organiser par excellence, had thoughtfully brought some application forms with him. A welcome therefore to Steve Hirlehey and Bob Walker. Others who have joined in the last quarter are Richard Nunneley, Ian Roberts, David Hay and R. H. Henwood, good to have you as members. Still on the subject of the G Coy dinner Mark also obtained, he assures me legitimately, a Sterling Sub Machine gun which was presented on behalf of the Association to the Regimental Secretary for display in the museum.

By the time this edition has gone to print the 3rd Kilted Caper will have been held and we are hoping for another successful and enjoyable evening. Whilst supported by the Association this year's event is being organised by Drum Major Nobby Foulis on behalf of the Pipes and Drums.

Nobby has persuaded Westminster City Council to grant the Regimental Trust charitable status thus enabling raffle tickets to be sold publicly, a fact that will not have escaped anyone visiting 95 recently. Hopefully this approach will help support many fund raising opportunities in the future.

The Association AGM had to move from its usual April slot due to the .22 shot organised by the Serving Company, so the meeting was held on the revised date of the 6th May. Those present stood to order in memory of those members who had passed away over the last year. Honorary Treasurer Charles Dobney presented the audited accounts, the President, Colonel Henwood presented his report, as did the Chairman, Steve Lovelock, who gave an account of the Association's participation in the year's many memorable events – including Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee Parade, the Kilted Caper, the trip to Longueval and Italy, the Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication at St. Columba's and the military lecture on the Boer War, before outlining the forthcoming events to be supported this year. Also, the OC Major Marc Overton gave a report on the activities of the Serving Company. The officers were then duly elected for the coming year.

Finally, a reminder that the Association trip to Holland from the 19th to the 22nd September still has some places available. Names (and deposits) to Charlie Dobney please.

Steve Lovelock



Peter and Betty Naldrett present a Cameron Highlanders Regimental plaque to the Association Chairman, Steve Lovelock.



London Scottish and Scots Guards Eightsome Reel Teams at our HQ before departing for the Caledonian Ball on Thursday, 2nd May 2003.



The London Scottish 1939/45 & Postwar Battalion Lunch

THE annual 1939/45 and 1st Bn 1947/67 Reunion Lunch took place on Saturday 26th April. Colonel John Clemence took the chair. Colonel and Mrs Henwood and Steve Lovelock (Chairman of the Regimental Association) were the official guests. Numbers attending were 33 with 21 guests, including ladies. As usual Ron Younger made himself available to dispense suitable refreshment for those who required pre-brandial libation. A well schooled and highly experienced team who would prefer to remain nameless had arranged a magnificent display of Regimental Silver. Likewise a thoughtfully devised seating plan, left us with no quandaries as to where we were to sit. The scene was set.

Promptly at 1300 hours David Henderson (who else) asked us to take our seats to receive the Chairman and Official Guests piped in by John Spooore. We faced the 1939/45 War Memorial where Colonel Clemence laid the wreath handed to him by Angus Bee, who had probably travelled the farthest to attend the lunch.

Letters of apology were read by David Henderson 1st Bn. Roy Hall 3rd Bn and Alan Morris 1st Bn 1947/67. The Selkirk Grace heralded the start to the meal. This year it was Mrs Physick who nearly didn't receive any Parma ham. Readers may remember that last year it was John Physick. Much wine was taken with the Chairman, notably those who

had been at the opening of the Present Drill 15 years ago, those who were in Baghdad in 1943 (4), those who served in 1939/45 (Harry Slade confirmed the rumour that he did) those who had served in the Seaforth Highlanders (Chairman's National Service Regiment), the ladies (not many but the quality was there!) any who had not taken wine and finally Ron Younger.

After the Loyal Toast, the Chairman welcomed the guests and conveyed our thanks to Colonel Henwood for the time and effort he gave for the good of the Regiment. He commended the forthcoming activities of the Kilted Caper and Isla St. Clair Concert and drew our attention to the display of Scottish Clans gifted to us by the Caledonian Schools. Colonel Henwood replied by thanking us for the hospitality, and giving us a run down of the involvement of the Serving Company, which had us reaching for our carbines and steel helmets.

John Spooore gave an excellent rendering of marches, reels and strathspeys. The lunch concluded with a spirited rendering of Auld Lang Syne, led off by Bob and Meg Harman in an excellent manner with all the verses in the right order.

We should be grateful to Peter Brodie-Fraser for his organisational skills in arranging this lunch.

David James

Firestep: The Magazine of the London Branch of the WFA

MANY readers of this journal know of the Western Front Association and are familiar with its publications at the national level. They are probably not familiar with *Firestep*, which is the magazine of the WFA's London Branch. *Firestep* appears in an annual volume of two numbers, the first in May and the second in November of each year. It carries a selection of the results of study and research which the WFA exists to encourage and promote, with a preference for short articles of sound, up-to-the-moment scholarship accompanied by illustrations of good quality. Intended mainly for distribution by post, it is produced in A5 format and runs to more than sixty pages. It contains articles by both amateur and professional historians.

All are welcome to submit articles for possible publication on any topic with relevance to the Great War. Those with a London connection will be very welcome, but not exclusively. Only in exceptional circumstances will articles for republication be accepted since the emphasis is on the publication of original, hitherto unseen material. Contributors of articles, which appear in the magazine, will

be credited with the annual subscription for the volume published in the next calendar year.

A particular aim is to achieve publication for the first time of the authentic, personal records of WW1 service people. Anyone who has such records (especially of Londoners) and who wishes to see them in print is invited to discuss them with the editor. Help will be offered if required in their preparation for publication. It is hoped that with agreement results may be deposited in the IWM's Document Collection.

Firestep is published in only a limited edition and subscribers are sought to complete the list of recipients. The annual subscription for the two issues of Volume Three (May and November 2002) has been set at £4.00 (including postage) simply to cover costs. If you wish to purchase this volume of *Firestep*, please send a cheque for £4.00 made payable to the WFA London Branch to the editor, **Arthur Potton 42 Glenalla Road, Ruislip HA4 8DL**. You will receive immediately both copies of Volume Three and a subscription form for Volume Four (2003).



The Queen Mother, the then Queen with 2nd Bn Officers at Rottingdean May 29, 1941.

Photo lent by Major John Nivian

The twins, Doug and Gordon Clarke, centre rank.



Bosnia Calling

Captain R. A. Shaw – Come in London, this is Banja Luka calling

London Jocks Mobilise

FOR the last month the largest number of London Scottish soldiers on operations with the Regular Army for some time have been mobilised. Capt Shaw, Cpl Miller, Ptes Clark, Medina and Dawson all survived the horrors of Chilwell to complete the two week mobilisation course and three day OPTAG. The former consisted of documentation, medical and dental, pay, kit issue and the full suite of ITDs in which we acquitted ourselves well, Capt Shaw and Cpl Miller scoring the joint highest on the APWT and Pte Clark fourth in the BPFA out of a course of 53. Although this phase was generally revision at best and tedious at worst, the OPTAG (Operational Training specific to theatre) was an extremely relevant and interesting package including language training, working with interpreters, Rules of Engagement and incident management.

MFO boxes were packed, sealed, weighed and sent on their way; this was a reality check that very soon we would be heading off to the Balkans too (but actually arriving three weeks before the MFO boxes!).

The flight out was by Hercules from RAF Lyneham and took three and a half hours with comfy seats (of the webbing variety) complementary cordon blue meal (nosebag) and glamorous trolley-dollies (in coveralls) rounded off by a bouncing slap on landing from the pilot.

A 20 minute drive from the airport led us to the Banja Luka Metal Factory. Upon arrival we were put through initial documentation – SFOR ID card, ration card – billeted in the infamous cramped Cor-I-Mecs and introduced to the personalities of D Coy 1 Highlanders with whom we would be serving. As BLOC (Banja Luka Ops Coy) our responsibility includes a huge chunk of the NW of the country from Banja Luka, the capital of Republica Serbska, up to Prijedor and the border with Croatia.

First full day in theatre and straight in at the deep end, the Jocks went out on patrol to the nightclub area of Banja Luka to familiarise them with the city and give pleasantries to the local hoodlums. Within the first week we had averaged at least one patrol per day and one meaty find of over six tonnes of ammunition.

Why We Are There (A Potted History)

British troops have served with United Nations and NATO forced in Bosnia since the United Nations Protection Force was first deployed there in autumn 1992. The British presence – Operation Oculus (formerly Op Palatine) – has been considerably reduced recently but there are still nearly 1400 British soldiers serving with what has developed into the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in this land of slivovitz, vendettas and mountains, trying to win hearts and minds while keeping the peace in an area whose history reeks of blood and hatred.

At present the British contingent is made up of 1 Highlanders, a squadron of 9/12 Lancers, supported by elements of RLC, RAMC, REME, RE and RAF with the new Merlin helicopters. Given the Armed Forces

commitments in fighting the war in Iraq and other duties elsewhere in the world, there remains a large number of trained soldiers seemingly sidelined in the Balkans, especially when we have no ties of blood or empire to a people who sometimes show little gratitude for our efforts to help them. So, why are we there?

The quick answer is that, along with contingents from 29 other countries and some individuals from Australia and New Zealand, we are there to help stop the Bosnians, the Croats and the Serbs cutting each other's throats and to help put the country together again after the last bout of Balkan blood-letting. In NATO-speak –

'SFOR will deter the hostilities and stabilise the peace, contribute to a secure environment by providing a continued presence in the Area of Responsibility, target and coordinate SFOR support to key areas including primary civil implementation organisations, and progress towards a lasting consolidation of peace, without further need for NATO-led forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina.'

Murder in Sarajevo

However to begin really to make sense of our presence in Bosnia we must go back to a sunny early summer's day in 1914. Sarajevo, the sleepy capital of Bosnia was celebrating. It was the anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo, the Serbs' national day and the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Hapsberg heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was to visit the city. It was a fatal misjudgement. Bosnia and Herzegovina, annexed in 1908 from the crumbling Ottoman empire, were seething with resentment against the Hapsbergs, so that when the visit was announced, Sarajevo's coffee shops filled with wild young men talking of assassination and winning independence for the South Slav peoples from the Austro-Hungarians.

The assassins positioned themselves along the route. The first, Cabronovic, threw his bomb at the Archduke's open-topped limousine as it passed, it hit the car but bounced off before exploding, injuring bystanders, the Archduke was unhurt but furious. Failing in his mission Cabronovic swallowed cyanide and jumped into the river, but the cyanide was old and the river shallow; he was pulled out and arrested. Later in his visit the Archduke's driver took a wrong turn on the way to visiting a hospital. By the grossest of coincidences he drew up alongside another assassin, Princip, who, unable to believe his luck, drew his pistol and fired twice hitting the Archduke in the throat and his wife in the body. Both were mortally wounded.

The Austro-Hungarians, determined to teach the Serbs a lesson, issued an ultimatum that the Serbian Government could not accept. Germany, spoiling for a fight, sided with the Austro-Hungarians. The Russians went to the aid of their Serbian allies, the French sided with their Russian allies. Britain stood by its treaty with Belgium to go to its aid, which meant standing side by side with France. The world slid into madness in a welter of alliances. Princip, too young to be executed was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and died almost unnoticed from tuberculosis in April 1918, just

seven months before the end of the war he had caused. He said that 'he could not believe that his tiny match put the world in flames'.

Dreadful Results

It did more than that. The war he caused with two pistol shots led to the Russian Revolution and the rise of Communism. It led to Hitler and the Second World War and by the way of the Balfour Declaration of 1917 which promised the establishment of a Jewish National home in Palestine – a promise designed to secure Jewish support for the Allied war effort – its effects can be felt today in the turmoil of the Middle East and the War on Terrorism. Kings were toppled, empires destroyed, and the United States emerged to become the world's only superpower.

In one way Princip and his fellow assassins achieved their objective. At the end of the war, the destruction of the Austro-Hungarian Empire led to the formation of the independent 'Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes' under the Serbian King Peter I, which united for the first time the bulk of the southern Slav lands. It led to a perilous existence from the start. The ailing King Peter handed rule to his son, Alexander, as Regent. Bulgaria, Hungary and Italy demanded chunks of the new country, and the Croats demanded more autonomy from the Serbs. Macedonian nationalists wanted greater freedom. The communists stirred up trouble in the streets and in 1928 the Croat leader Stephen Radic was mortally wounded in the parliament by a Montenegrin MP.

The following year, Alexander, succeeding his father as King, proclaimed a dictatorship and changed the name of the country to Yugoslavia. In 1934, undertaking a good will visit to France, he landed in Marseilles and as he drove from the dock in an open limousine with the French Foreign Minister, a young man shot them both dead.

Awful Resemblance

The assassin was a Macedonian trained by the Croats in Hungary. The stark similarity to the murder of Archduke Ferdinand 25 years earlier in Sarajevo made the world catch its breath. Stern notes were exchanged between Yugoslavia and Hungary and for a moment it seemed that history might repeat itself, a Balkan quarrel dragging the world into war. But conciliation by France and Britain prevailed.

The Second World War brought no relief. When the Germans and Italians invaded Yugoslavia in April 1941 the country fell apart into puppet states. The Croatian Ustache party worked with the Germans to inflict a ghastly slaughter on the Serbs, which still eats away at the Serb soul today. Royalist Chetnik forces under General Mikjailovich retreated to the mountains to wage a guerrilla war against the Germans. At first they were supported by the Special Operations Executive, ordered by Churchill to 'set Europe ablaze'. However when the Communist agent Tito organised his Army of National Liberation in Bosnia in 1942 and it appeared to be making a better job of fighting the Germans, SOE's support was switched.

Terrible Revenge

With victory won, the Communist partisans exacted a terrible revenge on the mainly Serbian Chetniks and the Croatian Ustache. The settling of wartime scores became so violent even Tito was shocked and ordered it to end. One of

the last acts in this bloody drama was the execution of Mikjailovich, found guilty of treason at a show trial and shot by firing squad.

Tito's repressive Communist rule brought a façade of peace to Yugoslavia. He did his best to maintain a form of peace from Moscow but would allow no display of disaffection within the country. Nevertheless the old hatreds bubbled below the surface. The Roman Catholic Croats, the Orthodox Serbs, and the Muslim Bosnian Serbs – whose forefathers had converted under the Ottoman rule – sharpened their daggers and waited.

Balkan Hellhole

Tito died in 1980 and his political heirs could not sustain his iron rule as labour unrest swept the country. In 1987 the Serbian nationalist Slobodan Milosovic came to power and the other Yugoslav republics became increasingly alarmed by his attempts to dominate them. Soviet Communism collapsed in 1991 and Yugoslavia split apart. First Slovenia and then Croatia declared independence. In 1992 Bosnian Muslims and Croats also voted for independence.

The Balkans descended into the hellhole of massacres, sieges and ethnic cleansing which has proved so difficult to bring under control. Even after international forces had imposed peace, Slobodan Milosovic, now on trial for war crimes, had a crack at Kosovo and had to be bombed into submission.

Today there is a sort of weary peace in the region as people try to put their lives together again. The winning of hearts and minds is one of those tasks at which the British Army excels and it is living up to its reputation in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Some time before Princip shot the Archduke, Germany's Iron Chancellor Otto von Bismarck prophesied that the next European war be set off by 'some damn foolish thing in the Balkans'. He was right. Above all we are here to make sure he is not right again.

Banja Luka, Out.

Pipe Tune Competition

**The London Scottish Regiment's
Welcome to F.A.N.Y.**

Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps

Five entries were received and were judged by
P/Maj Jim Mc Lucas, London Scottish and
P/Maj Roger Huth, President,
Scottish Piping Society of London.

The prize of £100 for the winning tune goes to
Piper Sandy Gibbs

Who will have played his composition at the
Regimental Reception for the F.A.N.Y.'s
on 28th May

Some 1901 South Africa War photographs

These belonged to London Scot Norman Robertson who served as a Gordon Highlander



A blockhouse.



Norman Robertson in Glengarry.

80 Year Wait Ends For Village

SOME 80 years after the end of the First World War, the village of Ackworth, West Yorkshire will finally get its war memorial thanks to the dedication and efforts of a small group of local people.

On Sunday 5th September 1999, the Ackworth War and Millennium Memorial was dedicated in the presence of the Dowager Lady St. Oswald.

Towns and villages throughout the county erected memorials after the Armistice in 1919 but for some reason, Ackworth missed out. Whilst the names of those who gave their lives were recorded inside the parish church, there was no real focal point for the village.

As a young child, Pauline Wigglesworth vowed that the village would one day have a memorial. Her father died at the age of 24 whilst being transported to a Japanese labour camp. With the new millennium approaching, she and like minded villagers decided that this was probably their best and last chance to get things done.

The *Old Ackworth in Pictures Publication Group* was established to lead an innovative way of raising funds – producing a series of three books depicting village life in pictures and words. The group joined with The Royal British Legion to form the *Ackworth Memorial Committee*.

Chairman of the Memorial Committee Malcolm Lodge, said “We wanted to give the village something which both commemorates the men and women who gave their lives in the cause of freedom and celebrates the dawn of a new millennium. You could say that the village may be the last to get a memorial but we are the first to celebrate the millennium”.

The memorial has received significant support from the National Lotteries Charities Board. In addition to local people and businesses, donations have been received from Regimental Associations, organisations and individuals throughout the UK.

“The generosity of people has been overwhelming” added Malcolm Lodge. “As well as financial support, we are amazed how everyone wanted to help. To give you an example, a telephone pole was obstructing the front of the memorial – no problem. The council contacted BT and within days the pole was moved. It is impossible to personally thank everyone who bought a book, made a donation, gave their time etc. I hope when they see the memorial they will feel proud to have been involved.”

- Ackworth is one of the longest villages in England – many villagers argue that it is the longest
- The village is south of Pontefract and some 19 miles from Leeds
- Famed for its Quaker School, the village population is 6,525 (1991 Census)
- The memorial was built by a local stonemason using Ackworth stone
- Standing over 14 foot tall, its bears the names of 123 men and women who gave their lives in two world wars
- It is sited adjacent to the roundabout connecting the A628 and the A638

- The Dowager Lady St. Oswald is the widow of Derek Edward Anthony Winn 5th Baron St.Oswald
- Lord St.Oswald (1919-1999) was President of the Ackworth Branch of The Royal British Legion and an ardent supporter of the War and Millennium Memorial
- Seven Turton brothers family served in the 1914-18 war
- Military Medals were awarded to several villagers including
 - Tommy Jewitt who rescued an officer
 - Percy Pycock
 - Albert Sylvester
 - Albert Murgatroyd
 - Matthew M. Smith
 - Ernest Beckett (postmaster)
- A DSO awarded to Wulstan Joseph Tempest who shot down a Zeppelin in October 1916 over London. An Avenue in Potters Bar is named after him
- Two Cutt brothers were killed on the same day almost at the same time but fighting in different battles
- John Ellis was killed in World War I and his son George was killed in World War II

London Scot 14424113 Pte John (Jack) Hague's name is on this war memorial. He was in the 1st Bn and lost his life at ANZIO on 26th February 1944. He was 19 years old and had only been in the Scottish for six weeks.

The Regiment made a donation towards the cost of the memorial.

The Ackworth Memorial.



The Ackworth Soldier By W. Crooks

It was only a paper photo
On front cover of The Yorkshire Post,
He gazed upon the poppies red,
His memories were a host.
Eighty changing years had passed,
Since the young villagers went away,
One or two in time returned,
Others no choice but stay.
No village stone memorial,
No familiar name on show,
Only a cross in a far off field,
A gentle tear to flow.
Eighty changing years had passed,
When the village folk returned,
In name, upon a local stone,
Erected as many had yearned.
Tom Leadbeater with beret and badge,
Leaned with a stick to wonder,

Villagers in silence stood,
With many thoughts to ponder.
Wishes fulfilled, a memorial stone
To commemorate two great wars,
When young folk left a village
To fight a country's cause.
People had their memories
Of tragedies home and abroad.
British Legion stood with lowered flags
While prayers heavenward soared.
They stood as one to pay respect
In uniform, shoulder to shoulder
And gazing at those poppies red,
Was the ageing Ackworth soldier.

W. Crooks.

10th September 1999

Based on an article in *The Yorkshire Post* 6.9.99

CORRESPONDENCE



GOLD AT LAST

Bob Aitken, whilst Captaining the Great Britain Target Rifle Team struck GOLD in the New Zealand Rifle Championships at Trentham, Wellington in January of this by winning the NZ National Veterans Medal and at the same time added an NRA Silver Medal, two cups and was placed 30th overall in an entry of some 200 including a number of Commonwealth Games and National Champions. This was his best Individual Tour placing since his first tour to Canada in 1976. He is the first past member of the Regimental Family to Captain a Great Britain Target Rifle Team since the late Lt Col David Horton-Smith MBE in the seventies who was instrumental in introducing Bob both to the London Scottish Regiment and the sport of target rifle shooting which he has enjoyed since 1968 with varying levels of success.

Bob learned his basic marksmanship skills as a Seaforth Highlander under the then Sergeants Colin Keil and Dusty Miller in 1954 and later as a recruit Instructor at Fort George. Leaving just before amalgamation into Queens Own Highlanders he then enjoyed some 25 years as a Volunteer with first the 4/5th Camerons, then the Gordons, then the London Scottish and finally the Argylls. He represented all his Regiments and the British TA in competitive shooting before gaining his first target shooting cap for Scotland in 1974. He has been a member of the Scottish National Squad every year since earning some 50 caps for Scotland. To date he has toured with Scottish and/or

Major Bob Aitken with his trophies.

“ EAST WIND WEST WIND”

GB Teams to America, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Tasmania and Zimbabwe.

I am, and always will be proud of my Regimental background without which I could not have enjoyed so much in so many countries. Having also been involved in five Commonwealth Games Championships I have become well known around the Commonwealth and take every opportunity both to wear the kilt and promote my Scottish and Regimental heritage. However even I was somewhat surprised to find a Major Aitken Drive in Christchurch, NZ but unfortunately unable to trace any connections!

Immediate future plans include Championship events in Ireland, Jersey, England, India and further forward in Australia, Tasmania and hopefully an official position at the next Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006.

Strike Sure (at 300;500;600;800;900; and 1000 yards!)

Yours in Sport

Bob Aitken

Maj Robert J. Aitken TD

5 Swanston Drive

Fairmilehead

Edinburgh EH10 7BL

Dear Clem

To introduce myself, I am the kilted Carrier Platoon officer on page 10 of the photographic Tribute to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. I enclose a copy of my memoirs. By a strange coincidence the *Gazette* of Spring 2003 carries an Obituary of Pte Edgar who was my batman and who is in the same picture as driver of the Bren Carrier. I have mentioned him more than once in my book.

My story starts in China and goes all over the place but as quite a proportion of it is to do with the Scottish I felt you might be interested in looking through it. If you are in the way of writing about ex London Scots do please include mention of my tale or use excerpts for the general readership, which I hope will stir some memories of early years in the Scottish and be of interest.

I have been selling copies through the British Wheel of Yoga who have a quarterly magazine and catalogue bookshops. Obviously a whole different community but if any *Gazette* readers want a copy please ask them to contact me and to add £1.50 post and packing to the price of £6.00 and I'd be glad to supply.

I don't plan to depart in a hurry but at 84 I'm inclined to read Obituary first

and this could be material for your archives for the future!

With best regards,

Yours Sincerely

John Davis, Danehill, Park Lane,

Milford on Sea, Lymington,

Hants SO4 0PN

Tel: 01590 642051

Email: Danehill@compuserve.com

THE GAZETTE

Dear Mr Harman

On looking through the Spring Magazine, I was delighted to see a photograph of Rowland, my husband. We were married in August 1942 on embarkation leave – one week!

The lad beside Rowland was Charlie Darrock from Glasgow. The Sergeant beside Ron Miles was called “Big Pat”, I believe from Kent. He was killed in Italy; his father and sister visited us after the war. Rowland was badly wounded in Sicily, and as you know died a few years ago. I thought you would enjoy hearing about the photograph.

Perhaps I will see you at the Glasgow Branch luncheon next month.

Sincerely

Margaret Hannah

6 Sommerville Place

Helensburgh

Dunbartonshire G84 7AS

THE WAR IN IRAQ

Dear Clem,

Another excellent *Gazette* this spring, but I was so reluctant to use the form for the Reunion Lunch on 26 April and ruin the excellent photo on the back page of the Scottish in Cambridge in 1909, that I made a photocopy to send to Peter Brodie Fraser. Is it too expensive to include a separate application form as an insert in the *Gazette*?

I am sure you will appreciate the added interest of ex 1st Bn members to the war in Iraq. We endured two brief visits to Baghdad and spent some months 10 miles north of Kirkuk in the winter of 1942 in tented accommodation. And did it rain! Our purpose was to defend the oil fields against any German incursion, which in fact never came to pass and time was spent in training and deterring any thieving Kurds.

The main attraction in Kirkuk was the Victory Cafe which served lashings of eggs and chips at very reasonable prices to satisfy the voracious appetites of the unruly young officers.

At my age, 83, I enjoy many good memories of the war years (and many not so good). On the first day of the war in 1939 when we were in Chelsea Barracks with the Scots Guards, we were on parade (D Company) when the air raid sirens sounded off and we hurriedly descended to the basement of our barrack block. Shortly afterwards there was a shout of “GAS!” and we all donned gas masks and waited in stoney silence for what seemed an interminable time. At long last the order for removal of masks was made as it had been ascertained that the gas was man made and caused by someone who had

enjoyed a substantial intake of bitter the previous evening.

In conclusion – my wife and I have just returned from a visit to Durham Cathedral. The very moving memorials inside and out to the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) with whom we fought in 50 Div in Sicily brought back stirring yet sad memories of their great heroism around Primosole Bridge where we were first blooded.

Yours aye

Colin Duff

15 Holmesdale Park

Coopers Hill Road

Nutfield

Surrey RH1 4NW

Colin, having the proforma as part of the Gazette is certainly cheaper as it avoids having to insert a seperate loose page – Ed

CAPTAIN KINLOCH DECEASED

Dear Clem

How's your French? But don't worry; just turn to pages 12/14 hereof where you will find something that you will assuredly understand!

You will though wonder how on earth an extract from your *Gazette* got into a Belgian publication and an African one at that? Well, it came about thus:

After I had completed a Staff College course in 1943 having served since 1939 with the Black Watch, I was posted to the Middle East and there eventually fetched up as the OC of a Liaison Unit to a Belgian Brigade Group of some 10,000 all ranks and all arms except armour. My unit numbered some 50 with about a dozen officers; but to it I had added a Training Team of two more officers one of whom was a Captain Kinloch of the London Scottish. We were all together in the ME for the better part of two years but went our separate ways when the Brigade was returned to the Congo from whence it had come.

After the War I kept in touch with some of my 'officers' on the HQ staff of the Brigade and from those contacts I was last year invited to become a member of a Belgian Old Comrades Association of those whom had served in Africa.

I naturally accepted that invitation and was promptly asked by the Secretary to let him have an account of my service with them and also any photos and papers related to it that I might still have. In fact I had kept a lot of both, copies of which I sent him and which were duly published in the *Fraternelle Magazine*. Almost there was a photo of the two Training Team officers (copy enclosed) which led to an enquiry by one of the Belgians who had worked with Kinloch at the Brigade's battle school as to what had happened to him; there was a rumour that he had later been killed in Normandy. I certainly hadn't heard that so I wrote to the London Scottish asking if they could help; and you kindly published my enquiry in the *Gazette*. In the event the only information that was forthcoming was that there was no record of him having been killed either with the LS or with any other unit; apart from that nothing seemed to be known about him. I passed this negative information that you also published in the *Gazette*, along to the enquirer together with my copy of the *Gazette*

that contained it and that is what gave rise to what I am now sending you. Rene Petre, the Secretary of the Association, is a most enthusiastic one as well as being very keen on pipe music to which he was introduced during the war at the Battle School so I have sent him a number of CDs of pipe band performances.

Kinloch was held in high regard by those Belgians with whom he had worked and I too found him a very agreeable colleague although his senior officer was the Major Francis shown in the photo. He, Francis, finished the war commanding a battalion of the Rifle Brigade; in civilian life he was a Lloyds Underwriter, but now dead. The third man in the photo, Major Janssens, was OC of one of the Brigade's infantry battalions and was the most 'hawkish' of all the Belgian officers. His great wish was to form a commando from the white officers and NCOs and take it to the Italian front, but he wasn't allowed to do so. On his return to the Congo with the Brigade he was promoted General and ended up as Governor and C-in-C of the Congo; he too is now dead.

In pursuit of Kinloch I have at the Army Museum searched through the Wartime Army Lists but was rather hampered by not remembering his initials. There were however two Kinlochs listed as having received emergency commissions in the Gordon Highlanders, one being a WS lieutenant

in 8 May 1943 and a temporary captain on 8 August 1941 would fit. I didn't have enough time to search further, so I am not much the wiser. I must admit though to being greatly surprised that the Regiment seems to have no record of him as too were the Belgians when I told them that.

However that's the story of how the London Scottish got its picture and a mention in a Belgian military African journal. I shall in due course be writing to Andre Petre to thank him for them and I will of course send him whatever, if anything you may care to say about all this in the next issue of the *Gazette*.

With my very best wishes and congratulations on your excellent editorship of the *Gazette*.

James A. Blair

One-time LCpl (unpaid!) of
D Company

1st Battalion 1931-1934

(only one then)

Lastly Major PSC The Black Watch
(RHR)

Struie Cottage

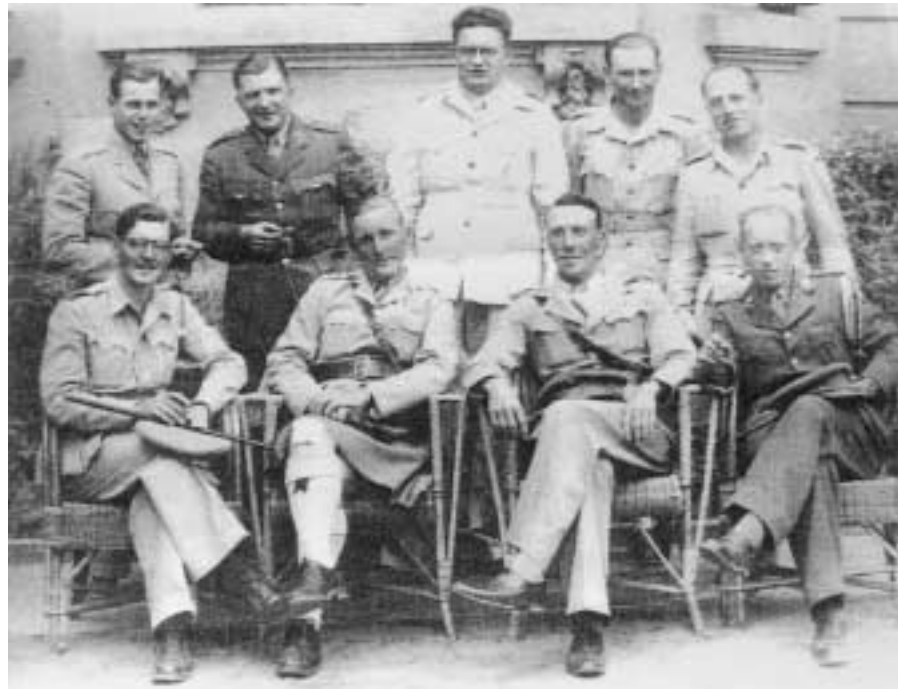
Ardgay

Sutherland IV24 3DH

Scotland

The Belgian Army Colonial Magazine had pictures included from our last year Gazettes: The 1897 Queen Victoria Jubilee Parade, Longueval Piper Statue and P and Ds and LS who lined route for the Queen's Jubilee Parade.

Captain Kinloch with his Belgian Colleagues and others at the Belgian Middle East Battle School in WW2.



LETTER SENT

Letter sent to 2884821 Pte R. D. Jones (Bob) ex WW2 1st Bn London Scottish, to attend to 5/6 Gordon Highlanders at Perth, as a 'Z' Reservist from 16th to 30th June 1951

Infantry Record Office, Perth, Scotland,
21 February 1951

Enclosed with this letter is an official notice warning you that you have been selected as one of the Reservists to be called up for 15 days training during the coming summer.

You may wonder why you are being called up while many others amongst your friends and neighbours are not.

As the Prime Minister pointed out in

Parliament, this has to be a selective call up. Only a certain number of men are required. Therefore some men rather than others were bound to be called. For our whole purpose is to select those officers and men whose qualifications and experience in their rank, trade or arm of the Service fit then best to fill the gaps in the units to which they are being sent.

This is why we have to call on some of the older and more experienced men, but subject to this and as far as possible we are keeping to the principle of "last out first back".

The selected officers and men, of whom you are one, will receive later a formal call up notice. If the attached form does not specify the place and

date of joining, you will receive these with the formal notice. As much notice will be given you and it is hoped that the period between your receiving these further instructions and being required to attend will be some two months.

If there is any valid reason why it will be quite impossible for you to carry out training on the dates given, or at all, you should report the facts together with evidence in support of your statement, to the War Office Branch (in the case of officers) or to the Record Office (in the case of other ranks) who sent you this letter.

J. K. Gordon-Smith
Colonel,
Officer in Charge Records

OBITUARY

JOHN DOUGLAS (ROGER) WILLIAMS

WE regret to report that John Douglas Williams – known as Roger – died at home on 18th March, with his wife Rosemarie by his side.

He was born on 13th October 1921, the only son of Daniel John and Jane Ester Williams of Mitcham. He was educated at Streatham Grammar Senior School. In 1934 the family moved to Wallington, and in 1938 Roger won the school athletics Victor Ludorum at Hearne Hill Sports Centre.

In April 1939 he joined the Home Fire Department of the Alliance Assurance Company, Bartholomew Lane, London. In the same month he gained permission to join the 2nd Bn London Scottish, and was in A Coy under 2nd Lt W. Corby. In September 1939 he remained at H.O. when firm was evacuated and he had the job sandbagging the office building.

Call up papers arrived just before war was declared. He went home collected his kit and went to Buckingham Gate with his friends Bob Chatham and Peter Corfield. Roger was made Cpl, acting unpaid LSgt. Then the 2nd Bn guarded various London Docks. In late 1942 he applied for a commission and went to 163 OCTU in November. In March

1943 he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd Bn Royal Fusiliers.

From March to July 1943 he was with their 17th Bn at Osgby, Lincolnshire. Then from July 1943 he was posted to 2nd Bn in North Africa. Then in September he was transferred to the 1st Bn York and Lancaster Regiment in Sicily. Seeing action in Italy as OC Battalion battle patrol. Then sent to Palestine.

In 1945 Roger was shipped to France, train to Belgium; Netherlands and into Germany; saw action. Finished the war near the Baltic. June 1945 he was posted to HQ 15th Infantry Brigade in Wolfenbuttel. On 6th June he was demobilised there.

He then returned to his old job at Alliance and in December married Rosemarie Gertrud Brandt at Wallington. In June 1952 he was called-up as a Z Reservist at Stanmore. He resigned from the TA in March 1953.

In 1981 Roger joined the Howard de Walden Estate, but retired in 1986 due to ill health. In 1996 he suffered a major stroke with little chance of survival, made a recovery, but was very unsteady on his feet. Moved into a flat in Epsom.

Then in 1997 he had a stomach ulcer, followed by a broken hip in June 2000.

Roger died on 18th February 2003 and the Celebration of His Life was held at Randals Park Crematorium, Leatherhead. Bob Harman piped in the coffin and Roger's son Nick made the following eulogy:

Celebration – Roger would have approved of that. He was an individual. A character with a zest for life. And in this increasingly grey world that is something to celebrate.

Joining the Army in 1939 gave him real independence for the first time. I think he regarded this as a great opportunity to get away from home and a somewhat overprotective mother. A chance to have some fun and enjoy himself. And he did. There were uncomfortable times – a bitter winter guarding the London docks during the Blitz was not only miserable, but also dangerous. But compensated by great camaraderie and a growing enthusiasm for Scotch with his comrades. Great stories – he could see the funny side of most situations.

In 1943 he was commissioned into the Royal Fusiliers: he was very proud of joining his father's old regiment,

but shortly after arriving in North Africa – hot, dusty and miserable was his comment – he was drafted to the 1st Battalion York and Lancaster's in Sicily.

The advice when leaving home from his father, Dan, had been straightforward: "Well son. If you've got to die, die clean." Roger had no intention of dying. As he put it, "It was important that his precious body was as far away from the enemy as possible." In Italy, he was eternally grateful to be on a signals course when his regiment was badly smashed up. But on returning was put in charge of the extremely hazardous regimental battle patrol: right at the point of those arrows you see on war maps. This was not to his liking, but I think he was pretty good at it.

Mind you he always had a healthy respect for the German paratroopers he was fighting. Then through Germany in 1945 and the end of the war. He and his friends had a great time: again endless stories of pranks, of hilarious situations, of skiing and of riding. They had fought hard and now they played hard. And that was typical of Roger. Mentally, he never really left the Army, and in later life his interests returned to it. And, of course he had met Rosemarie. Her comment about them was that they were so full of fun as well as compassion. And all completely mad. Well, it resulted in a remarkably happy marriage.

He was pretty competitive. A good sportsman in his youth. Roger won the athletics Victor Ludorum at Streatham Grammar School in 1938. As a very small boy, I remember him playing rugby for his firm, rushing around and making tackle after tackle, and afterwards asking why he spent all the game lying on the floor. As children we had endless games of beach and garden cricket which he really enjoyed. Poor old mum would be dragged in as a fielder: even grandma occasionally.

Roger enjoyed his life. He had a wealth of jokes and stories, and could see the funny side of most situations. This led him into amateur dramatics with the Wallington Scottish Association: again memories of

trying to avoid having to hear him read his lines; of helping cart scenery and props down to Carshalton Hall; of the dining room being transformed into a set for a farce that he had written; of all these people thoroughly enjoying themselves. Their plays were for the players, and there were few inhibitions: a great time was had by them all involved. And then sometimes the party afterwards: Roger was always hospitable.

Education: Roger regarded education and learning very highly indeed. He felt that he had been lucky to go to a good grammar school. And he was determined that I and my brothers would also go to good schools, and then go on with our learning. He felt everyone needed opportunities: it was up to them to grasp them. He was always pleased to hear of progress made by members of the family. He was no mean historian: a remarkable knowledge of Britain and Europe. A lifetime working in the City of London – he was proud of belonging to the Alliance Assurance Company – ensured a depth of knowledge few acquire. Obscure courtyards, Roman mosaics, Memorials: all were of interest and fascination. Also the pubs. He seemed to know just about every one in the City. And he knew them quite well. In 1981 he joined the Howard de Walden Estate as insurance advisor: what a job. He got the 6.30 train up to London, did his work before lunch, and could then go out with the surveyors to poke around various Georgian buildings, and pubs. Lunches were, I understand, extended and sometimes epic. An ideal way to finish your working career.

What else: Gardens. To say that he had green fingers is an understatement. He grew prodigious amounts of fruit and vegetables. Apples, pears, plums, berries, potatoes, beans. We hardly bought anything from the greengrocer. He was never happier than working down the garden with a smoking bonfire, pipe clenched in his teeth.

Pubs: I've mentioned them, but he did like them. This was probably his

biggest weakness. Mind, he claimed that Scotch killed all known germs, and he was rarely ill for most of his life. But he probably overdid it.

Appearance: He had two rigs: his garden clothing of battered Army boots, greatcoat and German hat, and elsewhere, always smart, with the best polished shoes you ever saw.

Right and wrong: Strong sense of right and wrong. And not frightened to say so. This no doubt brought him into conflict at times. He certainly had a pixyish enjoyment of writing acerbic letters to institutions that annoyed him with their cold calling or lack of precision. He had a pretty quick temper, but would always do what he thought was right. You got an earful of what he thought about you or what you had done, and then he would go out of his way to fix the problem. As I said earlier, he had a lot of compassion.

Service: Roger was prepared to spend a lot of time involved in organising things. When we were at school, he helped with fund raising; he was Chairman of the Conservative Association for a while; he organised his York and Lancaster Reunions, and later their lunches. These gave pleasure to many, and show his selflessness.

Last years: Suffered a major stroke in 1996 – given a three percent chance of survival. Typically he was bloody minded enough to prove the doctors and clergy wrong. This amused him. But he was very frustrated with some paralysis and he battled against it. He was knocked back by a duodenal ulcer and then a fall that broke his hip: in a pub garden. I think he probably had some more minor strokes, and he became very fed up. Though he still managed to entertain his carers. He was still full of stories about his Army days. The words of the head of the respite home where he spent a couple of weeks are, I think fitting: "Your father. He can be awkward, but he knows his own mind. He's quite a character, and he's really funny. We'll miss him".

That's not a bad epitaph.

We extend our sympathy to Roger's wife Rosemarie, and to their son Nick on their great loss.

IT was with great sadness we learned that William Van Praagh, M.M. had passed away on 19th February 2003 at Whipps Cross Hospital, where he had been a patient for a while.

Billy was born in Whitechapel on 10th March 1915 and lived in Stepney for many years. In his early days whilst with Godfrey Phillips, Tobacco Manufacturers, he excelled in athletics, winning the 100yd sprint two years in succession. He joined the St. John Ambulance Brigade and served as a First Aid Worker in a Casualty Station.

He joined the 3rd Battalion at Shirley Park in July 1940, then on to Dartford Heath where he was appointed Medical Orderly to 298 Battery, a post which he held with distinction until late '44 when the 3rd Battalion was disbanded, and William continued his work with C. Battery. During his time with 298 Battery, William served in N. Africa, Sicily and Italy and was awarded the Military Medal at Cassino. (see citation)

Upon demob he returned to East London at Forest Park where he became a Chiropodist until retirement. He was happily married to Ethel for 60 years, and had two sons and a daughter. Sadly his elder son and his wife predeceased him. His son David has donated his father's medals and glengarry to the Regiment.

The funeral on 3rd March was conducted by a Rabbi at City of London Crematorium assisted by William's local British Legion, of which he was a staunch member. Billy's request to

WILLIAM VAN PRAAGH, MM

George Simner a B. L. Volunteer, for a military send-off, resulted in a procession of piper, standard bearers and retinue, a fitting tribute. Our thanks to George and others for arranging this.

William was a regular attender at Reunions, a true London Scot, and a great friend.

We will miss you Billy Boy.

N. L. J.

Here is the official citation:

"Has acted in the capacity of Medical Orderly to his Battery for nearly four years. At Mignano, near Cassino, Italy on night 8/9 May, '44, the Gun Position to which he was attached was heavily shelled, wounding severely two other ranks. He immediately went to their assistance, dressed their wounds, and stayed with them until the arrival of the ambulance. Again on the night 11/12 May, '44, the Gun Position was subjected to very heavy shelling which resulted in killing two other ranks, and severely wounding two others. On hearing the cries of the wounded, Gnr. Van Praagh, without hesitation left his own cover and, still under heavy shell fire, went to their aid. He dressed the wounds and stayed with the men until the arrival of a doctor. On 18 May, '44, when a Matador was blown up by a mine he successfully rendered first aid to three wounded men. On numerous other occasions he rendered assistance to casualties of nearby Units. He has always displayed a great coolness and ability in the execution of his duties.



Bill van Pragh, MM presents the Dartford Civic plaque to David Henderson, the then Association Chairman, July 1999.

Bill van Pragh MM's medals which he kindly bequeathed to our museum. They are held by N. Jackson after the funeral.



LAWRENCE COCHRANE

ERIC Leach has drawn our attention to an obituary to the above in the *Scottish Legion News* February/March issue for the above:

One of Irvine's true characters, Lawrence Cochrane, died at home after a short illness, just doors away from where he was born 80 years ago.

Lawrence attended Bank Street Primary School and Irvine Royal Academy. As a teenager he had an avid interest in keep-fit and was a champion gymnast.

On the outbreak of war he served with the Armed Forces and is believed to have served in the London Scottish

before being commissioned in another regiment. He served with the Armed Forces throughout his working life until his retirement in 1986. During the conflict he saw service for several years in Northern Ireland. He was awarded the Imperial Service Medal in 1980.

Lawrence was a private person and seldom spoke of his Army Service despite being awarded several commendations and medals. He is survived by a sister and two brothers and was buried at Knadgerhill Cemetery after a service at the Old Parish Church of Irvine.

MARTIN MASLIN

MARTIN had been a member of the Pipes and Drums for some fifteen years from shortly after the time he left school, an active member during much of the 1960's and 1970's. He went to St. Paul's School, Westminster and at that time had piping lessons from the legendary J. B. Robertson, ex Pipe Major of 2nd Bn Scots Guards. The crispness of Martin's playing and his clear finger work were a delight to listen to and an obvious result of his excellent teaching.

An accountant, Martin married Sheena in 1972 but after some five years began a long battle against illness which in time he resolutely overcame. Rebuilding his life over many difficult years he studied hard and gained a degree in science from the Open University but still continued as an accountant working in West London. Following his illness he changed from the Highland Pipes to the Border Pipes but always maintained his interest in the Highland Pipes and frequently picked up his practice chanter. From a young man he had been a member of the



Martin Maslin piping at a wedding – date unknown.

Scottish Piping Society of London and a frequent visitor to its annual competition. In his latter years he would be seen at the band supper and loved meeting his old friends there.

Three years ago he developed cancer behind the nose. Typically, he fought it bravely and reported that his doctors were pleased with the results of his treatment. He felt so much better, well enough to help at this January's Children's Party and it was a shock to us all to hear that only a few days later he had died of a massive heart attack, on 5th February, aged 64.

At his funeral the Regiment was represented by Alan Morris, Bryan Alderson, Charles Redman and Chris Oldroyd. The church was packed and it was an honour to have played the ground and first variation of a fitting pibroch for a good piper: "His Father's Lament for Donald MacKenzie" who in 1863, like Martin, died after a long battle against illness. Martin's character was perfectly summed up by Suzanne and Kathleen his daughters: "He had a great sense of humour and fun; he was honest, trustworthy, gentle, brave and kind." All of us who knew him send our condolences to his family, and agree heartily with Suzanne and Kathleen.

Chris Oldroyd

"JOHNNIE" Cheffins died suddenly on 20th March, 2003 at his home in Walmer, Kent following a heart attack.

He was born in Richmond, Surrey, on December 7, 1918, his mother being Scottish. He learnt his piping and dancing skills at the Royal Caledonian School, Bushey and as a juvenile won many prizes.

On leaving school, like many of his contemporaries he joined the London Scottish band in September 1936. He was always well placed in the Regimental piping and dancing competitions.

He was mobilised in September 1939, promoted LCpl in 1940 and Pipe Sgt in 1941. In the same year he went to the Army School of Piping in Edinburgh, where his playing of the Piobaireachd impressed his tutor.

He went overseas with the 1st Battalion in 1942, and with the exception of a short time in hospital in 1944, he remained with them throughout the war. When the Bn was sailing to Iraq, Pipe Major Turnbull and

PIPE-MAJOR NOEL JOHN CHEFFINS

Johnnie conducted Highland dancing classes, which was well attended by the nurses on board, much to the disgust of the Scottish "batchelor's club".

When Pipe Major Charlie Turnbull – who had joined the Battalion in April 1940 from the 2nd Gordon Highlanders – left in 1945, Johnnie was promoted Pipe Major in July, and at the time was our youngest Pipe Major ever. The Pipes and Drums were in great demand at the end of hostilities; playing at a searchlight tattoo in Trieste, together with the Scots Guards and the London Irish. Probably the most notable was their performance in St. Mark's Square in Venice.

Unfortunately, Johnnie did not keep up his association with the Regiment, although he was in touch with his old piping pals. In civilian life he was with the London Brick Company and at one time he instructed in piping at the Royal Marine Depot there.

A quiet, self-effacing man, Johnnie was a popular figure and well remembered in the annals of the 1st Bn.

He will be sadly missed. The funeral was private so the Regiment were not represented.

We extend our sympathy to his wife Joyce.

Note: see photograph on rear outside cover.



**PIPE MAJOR DAVID DUNCAN
MBE, RVM**

DAVE Duncan, Pipe Major of the Pipes and Drums for seventeen years, died on 6th March, 2003 at the age of 73.

Dave was born in Alva, Clackmananshire and brought up in the mining town of Kelty in Fife where at nine years old he joined the local band. The first few years of his working life were spent with the Admiralty. Seeking a change he moved to London at the age of 30, joined Handley Page as an air frame fitter and immediately enlisted in the London Scottish as a piper. It was love at first sight when he was introduced by a friend to Elizabeth and they married in Kinross in 1960.

Dave did his National Service in the RAF and spent most of his working life in the aircraft industry, working for the then BEA after Handley Page and later with Hawkers working on Harriers. He returned to British Airways based at Heathrow until his retirement in 1994.

His reputation as a reliable and regular band member was well known and one of the highlights in his memory was his visit to the Toronto Scottish with PM Leslie deLaspee as they both accompanied the Queen Mother on her visit to the regiment. He became Pipe Major of the London Scottish Pipes and Drums in 1968 and held the position of piper to HM The Queen Mother for eight years. Dave took his responsibilities as Pipe Major very seriously, as he did all things in life, and began to go to PM Alex MacDonald, formerly the Queen's piper, for pibroch lessons. It is a tremendous credit to him that during this time, through dogged hard work he learned no less than 34 pibrochs. He took overall responsibility for the 1/51 Highland band and was awarded the MBE in 1983. As well as



The Queen Mother decorating PM David Duncan with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver), 4 June 1985.

the Long Service medal and bar this was followed in 1985 by the RVM for service to the Royal Household.

Dave retired from the regiment in 1985 but continued an active piping career, teaching most days at Eton College, building up a college band and establishing annual piping competitions amongst his pupils there. Helping them maintain their pipes and dealing with parents' queries was almost a full-time job itself! Concurrently with his teaching at Eton he taught regularly at Wellington and for other schools, and in the little remaining spare time he had made plastic practice chanter reeds. He always enjoyed a visit to talk of tunes, reeds and the progress of his pupils.

For many years piper to the Royal Scottish Corporation his last official function was to play at St. Andrew's

night in 2001. Last year he started to complain of head pains and was later diagnosed with a tumour on the brain. It was removed, we thought and hoped successfully, but despite radio therapy his condition worsened. He was admitted to Abbey Chase Nursing Home in Chertsey where seven months later he died.

The regiment was represented at his funeral by several members of the band of Dave's time, many of whom travelled long distances to pay their final respects. Our sympathies go to Elizabeth, to their two daughters Louise and Ann and their families.

In Martin and Dave we have lost two great characters who helped make the band of the 1960's to 1980's the great band it was. "We shall remember them."

Chris Oldroyd

P. A. PADDISON

(Known as JOHN or JOHNNY)

JOHN Paddison was a pre-war member of A Coy the 1st Battalion. He joined the Transport Section at Broome Park and was posted to C Coy. Served with them for the remainder of the war, as Company Commander driver, until he was demobbed in 1946 (March/April I think).

He passed away December 2002, aged 83.

Ian Winn

F. S. D. STRATHERN

WE have been advised by the New Zealand Post Office that F. S. D. Strathern has died.

He joined the 1st Bn London Scottish on 18th August 1940, and was then later commissioned in another regiment.

We have no further information except that he was a member of the Regimental Association.

"TOPPER" BROWN

FURTHER to our obituary in last quarters *Gazette*, Captain Hector Robertson recalls: I knew him well latterly in C Company and he was a particular asset as a Sgt when I was cut off with 34 men on the last day of our defence of Croce Ridge.

THOMAS A. MACDONALD

WE have been advised by his wife that Thomas A. Macdonald died on 16th March.

Sport dominated Tom's life. Brought up in the Highlands, he had a love of outdoor pursuits – fly fishing and hill walking – were encouraged. His school days introduced him to football and cricket and fostered team spirit. He was apprenticed to the Bank of Scotland and in due course was sent to their London City Office.

On the outbreak of war he joined the London Scottish and was in the 3rd Battalion, seeing service in Sicily and Italy, and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was awarded the T.E.M. in

1946 and took part in the Victory March in the same year.

After the war he returned to the Bank of Scotland and was transferred to their West End branch. He loved London, and loved the opportunity to visit the Oval and Lords. Also many other places of great interest. He was a keen supporter of Tottenham Hotspur, being introduced to them by a fellow London Scot.

Upon retirement he returned to Inverness, Scotland and again to his fishing and hill walking. He was an avid reader, of very Catholic tastes; mountains fascinated him, so holidays invariably incorporated an excuse to see a particular mountain in

Switzerland or Austria and, with luck reached the summit, albeit by rack railway or cable car. Some holidays were spent in Italy in response to pressing invitations from contacts made in the war and which had blossomed to firm friendships over the years. Having so many interests coupled with a great sense of humour he made good company.

His wife said they had a long and happy life together and she has such happy memories, and in recent weeks friends referred to Tom as a real Highland gentleman.

We extend our sympathy to his wife Ellen on her great loss.

The London Scottish in the Victory March, June 8, 1946



Back row: RQMS A. R. Boyd, CSM H. G. Dey. Second row: Sgt J. W. R. Cook, Cpl A. A. Dodd, Sgt W. Delley, Sgt G. V. Lord, CSM J. H. Dodd, CQMS J. McGlashan, SSgt T. MacDonald, CSM McElroy, MM, Cpl G. Bissett, MM, Sgt J. Johnstone, MM. First row: Capt R. G. Turnbull, Major H. R. R. Attwooll, MC, Col R. J. L. Ogilby, DSO, DL, JP, Major D. G. Hollebhone, MC, RSM W. M. Dermit.

ALBERT GHEKIERE

Een Grote Mijnheer Met Een Hart

ALBERT died near the end of February, and on March 1st his funeral was held in the church of St. Nicholas in Mesen (Messines). The pews and steps were overflowing with friends from many countries, all wishing to pay their last respects to a very special man. Any London Scot who has visited Messines in the last 30 years or so will either have met him or been aware of his achievement. His life's-work has been to produce a full carillon of 61 bells in the belfry of St. Nicholas Church, as a world symbol of peace and reconciliation.

He was a very kind and welcoming man. I first met Albert when, with a carload of friends, I visited the London Scottish Messines War Memorial in the early '80's. A car drew up and a complete stranger to me got out and introduced himself in good, if somewhat unusual, English. It was soon clear that he knew much more of our local history than we did. He took us to the Museum, his home and his heart. On every visit since then I have been warmly welcomed by him and his wife, Marie-Claire, with open arms, coffee, biscuits etc. By the time of his death (68) he had managed to persuade dignitaries and communities throughout the world to provide 58 bells. I hope, most sincerely, that others will ensure the last three will be provided ere long.

We London Scots have lost a great friend. Our sympathy goes to Marie-Claire, their two daughters and their families.

Alan Morris

JOHN BENNET

WE are sorry to report that John Bennet died on the 17th January, after a long illness.

John is believed to have done his National Service in the Black Watch from 1951-1953. After this he joined the London Scottish in 1953. It is thought that he spent most of his time in 'S' Company and was an Anti-tank Corporal in 1963. Somebody recalls that he was a "bright young sergeant".

After John lost his wife Margaret his health deteriorated and he seemed to have lost his enjoyment for life.



Albert Ghekier gives the Queen Mother a miniature bell at the Official of '95' in 1988.

W. R. M. MAXWELL

WE regret to advise the death of W. R. M. Maxwell – known as "Maxie" or Ronald – on 18th January following a heart attack, aged 87.

Ronald was born in 1916 and educated at Radley School in 1930. He was a solicitor by profession; and believed to be a distant cousin of Colonel Gordon Maxwell.

He joined the London Scottish on 1st February 1940 and was in the 2nd Bn for a short time, before being transferred to the 1st Bn – seeing service in Sicily and Italy.

After the war he joined the Regimental Association and was a keen attender at Reunions, Hallowe'en and Church Parade.

Ronald took a keen interest in his family history, and was a genealogist according to his sister, in view of the records she has discovered. He was particularly interested in his grandfather Admiral William Henry Maxwell, whose 24 journals of his naval career have been bequeathed to The National Maritime Museum.

He was also a keen and active supporter of Rosslyn Park Football Club, and a member of The Hurlingham Club for 67 years.

His sister enjoyed with Ronald, inviting children to our London Scottish parties, from time to time.

We extend our sympathy to his sister Mrs Grizel Snell on her great loss.

MAJOR BENJAMIN WALTER ROY BAKER MC

WE have been advised that Major Benjamin Walter Roy Baker MC died on 14th August 2002, aged 87.

He joined the London Scottish in 1936, but was commissioned in The Manchester Regiment during the war. He was in the 2nd Bn, the Vickers machine-gun battalion which went to India in May 1942, later he was wounded in action fighting against the Japanese in Burma in November 1944,

and was awarded an immediate Military Cross for his leadership and gallantry whilst commanding A Platoon of D Company. He was undoubtedly one of the Regiment's most battle-experienced officers of the Second World War.

After the war he became Editor of *The Manchester Regiment Journal*. Sadly he did not keep in touch with the Scottish.



1st Bn London Scottish P & D's led by PM John Cheffins in St. Mark's Square. Venice May 1945.