



No 1062 - Volume CXI

Summer 2005

# Regimental Gazette

# London Scottish



# London Scottish Regimental Gazette

## The London Scottish

Honorary Regimental Colonel  
Lord Robertson of Port Ellen  
KT GCMG, PC  
Regimental Colonel  
Colonel S. H. Henwood, TD

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## The London Regiment

Commanding 'A' (The London  
Scottish) Company  
Major C.S. Giles

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## Regimental Association

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Steve Lovelock

Hon Secretary  
David James

Hon Treasurer  
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VE Day 8 August, 1945. 1<sup>st</sup> Bn at the end of the speech by Prime Minister, Winston Churchill.

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

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

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## Colonel's Notes

Following the announcement on future Army Structures for the Regular Army, the future structure of the TA has been under review. This review takes place against the continuing involvement of Reservists in Iraq albeit with a lower level of involvement for the London Regiment.

The review is continuing but it is likely that there will be a reduction in TA Infantry with increases in logistics elements. For the London Regiment the prospect is a reduction in establishment but with the multi-cap badge approach maintained and the Regiment providing the TA reserve to the Foot Guards. The review is not yet complete and the CO, with the support of the Honorary Colonels, has made an input to the review seeking to build on the strength of the London Regiment and leave it more capable to undertake the tasks allocated to it.

Against this background it is a challenging time for the serving company as they go through the re-generation phase following the success of Op Telic 3 and 4. The acting OC, Captain Geoff Strickland, and the Company are to be congratulated and supported in the progress that they have made and it is good to see 20 recruits coming in to the Company. They will be taking part in Ex Eagles Strike with 16 Air Assault Brigade as their Annual Training Period and I very much look forward to visiting them on that exercise.

In early April I was honoured to be a guest of the Ancients at their Centenary lunch and a marvellous occasion it was. The Ancients represent so much of that which defines

Regimental spirit in their support for the Regiment and for each other. I was delighted to be there and to be joined by many other members of the Regimental family. I was also a guest of the Pipes and Drums at the Band Supper. Again a marvellous occasion with excellent hospitality. It was also a treat to hear the Hall at HQ filled with the sound of the pipes as the entertainment and enjoyment continued into the night.

I was delighted to hear that Major Mark Ludlow has been selected for promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel and will take up an appointment in the ARRC later in the year. Mark has had a remarkable TA career both in terms of the number of units that he has served in but particularly for the wide range of his operational service, most recently in Baghdad. His most recent service has been as a Fusilier but the majority of his time has been as a London Scot, including command of the Company. No doubt someone will correct me but I think Mark is the first London Scottish officer to reach this rank since 1967.

Looking forward, we have various events to mark the end of the Second World War which I hope will receive widespread support and the Regimental Association are arranging a trip to Loos which I am sure will be as successful as our visit to Messines last year.

Strike Sure

Stephen Henwood

Regimental Colonel

## Band Notes

At the start of the year I had begun to think that the band was about to embark on a quiet year. The diary had a few of the regular events pencilled in but little of the "... that sounds interesting ..." type of job that everyone enjoys. I am glad to say the situation has now dramatically changed with definite events in Gibraltar and France and a tantalising enquiry regarding a parade in Italy.

We look forward to a busy week of VE Day celebrations, which include the Regiment's own party on July 2nd, a cocktail party and a Tattoo in Dorset. A week doesn't pass without an enquiry about the band's availability. May I at this point thank all the wives, families and girlfriends for their continuing patience!

Our in house competition evening was very popular this year with around 20 competitors fighting it out for four different prizes. The MacDougal-Williams Trophy winner was Terrance Smith. Tommy Johnston won the Veteran's Competition and the MacLeod Medal was won by Andy Parsons (on his 9th attempt. Well done for persistence Andy!) I was really pleased to see the Attwool Trophy being contested for this year. This competition for solo drumming was last staged 10 years ago and is a good indicator of how much progress the band has made in building a credible drum corps over the last couple of years. The Trophy was won by Stephen Hill, who incidentally learned to play at the Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Perthshire. Prizes were presented by Colonel Douglas of the Toronto Scottish who, together with three other senior members of the regiment, was visiting UK to attend the Royal wedding. Our thanks to the competition judges P/Maj. Roger Huth and Cecil

## Officer Commanding Notes

There will not be any OC's Notes this quarter.

*Continued on page 178*

*Colonel Douglas, Toronto Scottish, presents the prizes at the Regimental Piping and Drumming Competition 7 April 2005*



*Piper Tommy Johnston receives the Veterans' Prize.*



*Piper Andrew Parsons receives the Macleod Medal.*



*Terrance Smith receives the Mac-Dougall-Williams Trophy.*



*Stephen Hill receives the Atwooll Trophy.*

McCready.

The Band Supper was held on 22nd of April with Drummer Dave Morris in the Chair. Around 80 sat down to a meal of haggis with the traditional trimmings followed by a very substantial sticky toffee pudding. Piper Russel King was kind enough to step in as duty piper for the evening and played a very enjoyable march, strathspey and reel on a steady set of pipes. The Chairman's speech was well received especially the greetings from bandsmen across the waters, Andy Parsons – Canada and Chris McTernan – Iraq.

We were pleased to welcome Colonel Henwood and Colonel Mooney to the supper. Also especially welcome were the contingent from our Celtic brothers (and sister) from London Irish Pipes and Drums. Special mention should go to our former Tenor Drummer Andy Abbess who flew down from Stirling especially for the occasion. Later in the evening Andy danced an excellent Fling (a feat he sorely regretted the following day). After supper I was proud to

lead a huge band in our traditional post-prandial Beating Retreat. I counted 22 pipers on parade, I tried to count the drummers but they kept moving around and in the end I gave up. Suffice to say lots. Drinking and playing went on into the early hours.

The Band Supper continues to be a highlight of the year, it provides not only a pleasant way of spending an evening but also a chance to meet up with old friends who have shared in the pipe band's past and maintain an interest in its future. At the moment the band looks particularly strong with a steady stream of new pipers and drummers joining the band and only a trickle leaving. Those who do leave tend to keep in close contact and turn out whenever possible even if it does involve flights from Scotland. I'm sure that there's more to it than the bar!

The band meets on Thursday evenings from 7.00. We look forward to meeting new players.

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## *A Patrol in Basra*

It started with a bright flash and then a horrendous bang. All I could see behind me was a wall of black smoke and dust. Time really did stand still for what seemed like minutes as my brain absorbed what had just happened. The reflexes kicked in and I punched Pte Turner on the arm to get him to put his foot down, probably with a few expletives thrown in. Looking behind my vehicle, the second vehicle and then the third appeared out of the wall of fury, to my relief.

What had just happened was that my patrol had been hit by an I.E.D. (improvised explosive device) or a roadside bomb that was hidden under the sand by the roadside. We were on our way to a mission in another hotspot north of Basra called Al Amarah.

I heard over my radio that the second vehicle was disabled and ground to a halt. I leapt out of my vehicle, checked to see if there was evidence of any more devices that were planted there to kill us and ran to the stricken land rover. The tyres were shredded; there were holes in the engine and broken glass everywhere. I saw with horror Pte Mark Brooker still standing up in the back, his face was white and bloodied. He was holding his neck with his head to one side. For a split second I thought that his head had come away from his neck.

He had taken a hit in the neck by a piece of white shrapnel travelling supersonic speed. Another, larger piece had gouged a chunk out of his helmet. His helmet saved his life; he surely would have been scalped.

Instinctively our training kicked in and Pte Dermot Hegarty was quick to start treatment as I tried to reassure Brooker with a joke about getting a bigger love bite off his little sister. At this stage we did not know that the shrapnel had hit his spine and nearly severed his windpipe.



*Pte Hegarty treats Pte Brooker after the blast.*

I now had a thousand things to think about. I scanned the area that we were in; we were in an exposed and precarious position, silhouetted on an embanked road with brick factories and peasant dwellings on one side and desert on the other. Scores of people including children watched us from afar. We had to hide our actions to preserve our tactics, I was also worried about the Brooker's condition and my men's morale. They remained switched on and professional, each man playing his part in the 12 man team. I thought that any minute now we would receive the remainder of this ambush and be showered in a hail of bullets. I wanted to get my team away and forget about the drills of setting up a cordon. But, first I had to maintain security and our own defence. We were heavily armed with machine guns and grenades, I spread my men and remaining vehicles out into defensive positions whilst we waited for the QRF (quick reaction force) from the nearest British Base to come to our aid.

Hegarty had himself been hit on the shoulder by shrapnel, thankfully it hit his body armour and badly bruised him. The fragment was the size of 10p coin but he described it as being hit by a hammer. So, my friends, never moan about wearing body armour on exercises.

As we set up our cordon and waited for the QRF to arrive, traffic had backed up for miles, so our next task was to get the public on the move, but preserve their safety by ensuring

that they did not pass by the point of attack in case there was a second device. LCpl O'Brien, Ptes Rowe, Medina and Miller took care of this. The prospect of a second device was a worrying concern, but I was ordered to stay put by higher command as the QRF were almost here and the bomb disposal experts and military police accompanied them. They wanted to be shown the site and gain possible evidence that would lead to who had carried out this attack. Someone out there was responsible for attempted murder.

Brooker was evacuated to the British Forces Hospital at Shibah by helicopter and then flown back to the UK as his condition had worsened.

After getting some grub and a cup of tea at the camp in Abu Najji, statements were given to the military police before returning to Basra with another convoy. I was so tired, but still had to keep alert the most stressful day in my life, mentally and physically.

On the way back, we passed the spot where the bomb had been detonated. Iraqi life appeared to have returned to normal as if nothing happened here.

I phoned forward to our camp to arrange a late meal for my blokes only to find that this didn't happen and we ended up eating at Pizza Hut, how bizarre.

Sgt Craig Nimmo  
I/c 3 Platoon

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*Sgt Nimmo directing his troops.*



# *Celtic Vandals – Captain R A Shaw*

The Mission: Locate and destroy the enemy rebro station.

The Friendly Forces: rag-tag remnants of the Old London Regiment, operating behind the lines in enemy territory, as an independent platoon.

The Location: the wilds of Longmoor.

Notwithstanding the prospect of a wary FTX as the first weekend training after Messines Coy leave, the mighty heroes of Iraq returned in their numbers – well, more than the other London Regiment companies anyway!

Exercise Celtic Vandal was a great opportunity to get back to basics and practice general warfare infantry skills – namely patrolling and attacks. London Jocks joined forces with the Irish, the Fighting Tigers (Grrrr!) and a section from the Fusiliers ... correction, they were all on a stag weekend, but not a Jacket in sight. The RV at the DZ Huts brought together this motley crew as each company gradually arrived and prepared for war. And so all that remained was to wait for the arrival of the Platoon Commander ... and wait ... and wait ...

... for Lt Dan Porsa on his first field weekend as a recently-qualified Platoon Commander (having just returned from the Welsh place) fully qualified in the skills of modern armed pugilism. This course is now so intensive that it is impossible to cram everything in. Obviously in Lt Porsa's case it was the navigation that suffered! So the platoon set off – without him.

Launching into the Hampshire night on a cold, blustery weekend in February the boys established a hasty platoon harbour and settled in for an uncomfortable night. Saturday brought a series of battle lessons in patrolling, actions on, and an insight into Ops. Clearly the London Irish are trying to recruit for their Recce Platoon.

In driving rain, the platoon established a proper triangular harbour and set about the work routine. Now Cpl 'Heli Drills' Wilde, the most experienced of the Section Commanders, in the field, decided that it would be entirely unfair to have all the fun and so injured himself again in order to let the younger warriors have a go. So Cpl 'Oh no my TA career's over' Wilde sat it out on the sidelines with the wheezy boys and half-time oranges – still, 8 months to recover before the next Platoon Sgt's course, eh. Stepping up to the plate boldly strode Pte 'DZ Huts' Rowe and landed himself not only with managing the work routine, but also with a set of patrol orders, lucky chap. The Cockney Jocks cut about and were noticeably the most squared away of the sections.

So, scene set, three recce patrols are sent out to hunt for the enemy. All credit to Acting Section Commander 'DZ Huts' Rowe on the brave set of orders and perfectly executed recce on, (you've guessed it), the DZ Huts. Shame that wasn't the target he was given!

How difficult can it be to find a Headquarters position with an 8-metre antenna, CP vehicles and all the trimmings. Well, nobody else found it either. Unperturbed and with some DS SIGINT on its likely position, Lt Porsa hatched a cunning plan – a dawn attack through the woods. The

platoon snaked up to the FUP and shook out, hoping to catch the enemy asleep. However it was not to be, and what's more, the enemy had been reinforced overnight so our brave boys had to mount a series of suppressive and flanking moves to destroy the position in its entirety. Ever-the-willing to get stuck in, LCpl Dawson, operating as the platoon signaller, responded to cries of "the enemy are just to our left" by double-tapping LCpl Turner at 10 paces. PXR point: 'X-ray Friend-or-Foe Recognition Eye' into the armourer for re-calibration.

So with the enemy rebro station destroyed, back in time for breakfast and medals, and away seconds before it started to snow ... hard!

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## *Diary of Events for 2005*

Gordon Highlanders London Association Lunch	Saturday, 18th June
1939/45 & Post War Battalion Lunch	Saturday, 25th June
Regimental Party 60th Anniversary End of WWII	Saturday, 2nd July
Loos Visit 90th Anniversary Battle of Loos	Weekend 23rd-25th September
HALLOWE'EN Dinner	Monday, 31st October
CHURCH PARADE	Sunday, 13th November
Sergeants' Mess Dinner	Saturday, 19th November

## Canteen Chat

WE were sorry to hear that Colonel Clemence has not been too well but were pleased that he was able to attend the Officer's Dinner Club in May.

WE have heard that George Tidey has been in hospital recently for an operation. We hope George that this will have overcome your problems.

OUR belated congratulations go to the Clarke twins – Doug and Gordon who were 80 in December.

MARTIN WILSON sends his regards from America to all who knew him.

IN April members of the Toronto Scottish attended the Blessing of Prince Charles and Camilla at St. George's Chapel Windsor.

THERE are claims that there has been bullying of army recruits at a barracks in Scotland.

WE were sorry to hear that Lt Col R.A. Corby's wife died earlier this year. London Scots extend their sympathy to Bill on his great loss.

FORMER London Scottish CSgt Andy Hunter moved to Murcia in Southern Spain in December. He has discovered that living just down the road is former Gordon Highlander CSgt Ron Norton, who was a contemporary PSI. Both are said to be fit and well and causing havoc.

IT is perhaps fitting that RQMS John Eagle of the Royal Logistics Corp, that avid collector of London Scottish medals, has himself earned 10 during his Army service. There cannot be many serving soldiers with that amount of medals! His medals are as follows. (in the order they are mounted) South Atlantic Medal with rosette. CSM 1962 Clasp Northern Ireland. United Nations Medal for Cyprus. NATO medal clasp Former Yugoslavia. NATO medal KOSOVO. Operation Service Medal clasp Afghanistan, Iraq Medal. Queens Golden Jubilee Medal. Accumulated Campaign Service Medal. Army Long Service & Good Conduct Medal.



JESSICA the daughter of the late Film Star Claude Rains has been in touch with your Editor/Archivist. She heard we had a photo of her father in London Scottish kilt and in exchange she gave us a photo of him when he was commissioned in the Bedfordshire Regiment. This is now on display in our Museum.



*2/Lt Claude Rains on being commissioned in the Bedfordshire Regt in 1917 after serving in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn London Scottish. Later to become a famous film star.*

OVER 1550 American soldiers have now been killed since the beginning of the War in Iraq.

A piece of Admiral Nelson's flag flown on H.M.S. Victory has turned up in a Sea Cadets H.Q.

OUR Congratulations go to Ron Maclean who will be 90 on the 1st June.

**Matter intended for publication in the September issue must reach the Editor by the first Tuesday of August 2005, and should be addressed to the Editor, at 95 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2DX.**

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

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

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

THE Pentagon are offering six-figure bonuses to members of their elite forces to stay on – as they have been leaving for better paid jobs as civilian mercenaries.

GAY and lesbian personnel will be allowed to live in family quarters provided their relationships are registered under the new Civil Partnership Act!

SENIOR Army Officers are being made redundant even though there is a shortage of trained officers.

A COACH driver used a Veteran's coach trip as a cover for Cocaine smuggling.

BAE Systems has won a contract to supply the United States Army with five hundred 155mm lightweight howitzers.

A MEMORIAL to the 16,000 servicemen who have died since the end of World War Two is to be created at Lichfield, Staffs.

COLONEL John Clemence was dining in a restaurant when by chance he bumped into Pat the widow of Hooky Walker. She was invited to pay us a visit at HQ.

BILL MURDOCH (ex SPSI) his wife Dorothy and family had amazing escapes after being battered in the Asian tsunami last year – after being separated they all managed to survive. We must not forget that 150 Britons died in this disaster.

IS the Hunting Ban yet another attempt to destroy our traditions?

THE Trooper who was found not guilty of wilfully killing an Iraqi civilian by Army Courts has now been found not guilty by a Court in England. What a waste of time and money!

OUR thanks go to Major Bill Tedford for his kind donation of a London Scottish sporran. He left the London Scottish in 1940 for a commission in the Camerons.

ACCORDING to a report in *Soldier* magazine any TA soldier would only be called-up once in 5 years.

IT is reported that after the General Election 5,000 extra British troops will be sent to Afghanistan.

YOUR Editor/Archivist has been offered by MOD Hayes two enlistment books of London Scots for the period of 1920 – 1931. We will be very pleased to receive these as we are rather short of information for that period.

THE last surviving German soldier from the Great War died in April aged 108. He came from the disputed Territory of Alsace-Lorraine – so was a Frenchman in W.W.2.

IT was good news to hear that Pte Beharry of the P.W.R.R. who was born in Grenada has been awarded the VC for bravery in Iraq. We hope he will recover from his wounds and that he will be able to stay in the Army. In this connection his Regiment received the most awards for bravery in Iraq. Sadly since his experiences in Iraq he and his wife have decided to separate.

SAS helicopters costing £260 million are unfit to fly as MOD tried to fit its own systems to save money and it was found that essential items were left out. It is said that they

have stood idle for five years!

THE number of soldiers going AWOL since 2001 have increased fivefold! In one year alone they doubled!

60 YEARS ON after Colin Duff was wounded by 'friendly fire' a recent X-Ray has revealed fragments of bullets in his foot. It is hoped that these are not causing too much pain.

THE Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall attended a service on 24th April in the gardens of the Gordon Highlanders Regimental Museum. This commemorated those members of the Regiment who died between 1945 and 1994. The Prince was their last Colonel-in-Chief. Ex RSM Les Dunn and his wife Barbara, together with Lt Col Van der Noot and his wife Lilliana represented the Gordon Highlanders London Association.

AFTER attending the above, the Prince of Wales flew to Turkey to attend ceremonies to mark the 90th Anniversary of the disastrous Gallipoli Landings. Had it succeeded it would have considerably shortened the Great War.

THE SAS are moving their parachute training to the States as they feel that the Royal Air Force no longer has the skills to train its soldiers.

VETERANS will have been puzzled that the Queen was not invited to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph during the 60th Anniversary of VE-Day.

TOM Graham 14432160 ex 1st & 2nd Bn has the intention to visit N.E. Italy – specifically the Sennio, the Argenta Gap, River Po and on to Venice and Opacchiasella, and wonders whether any old soldiers might be interested? He mentions HEROES RETURN and perhaps he should also contact the Royal British Legion. He remembers some of his old comrades Big Jock Lee from Nottingham, F. Bovo an Italian Scot from Glasgow, J. Venters MM from Leeds.

BIRTH – Archie Robert John Clemence. Born 2nd May 2005 Edinburgh to Jonathan and Nicky Clemence.

THERE will be a National Service Day Memorial and Reunion on Sunday 26 June 2005 at 1400hrs at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire. To mark this special occasion those who are attending wear your National Service medal with pride.

AMONG those sighted at HQ this quarter were the Regimental Colonel, Chris Adams, Bryan Alderson, Jim Barnard, Joe Byrne, Alex Callender, Doug Clarke, Jim Cleary, John Clemence, "Compo", Ted Coogan, Geoff Dickman, Charles Dobney, Murdo Durrant, Bill Edmundson, Stephen Fay, David and Margaret Franklin, J.W. Frith, Nobby Foulis, Roger Glancefield, Bob Harman, David Henderson, Richard Holliday, John Hudson, Les Hunt, David James, Bob Jones, Peter Jones, Graham Kellas, Steve Kempster, Jack Laird, Mike Leighton, Steve Lovelock, Chris Macpherson, Alexander McBride, Bryan Milburn, John Miller, Alan Morris, Alan Neale, Tom Nicholls, Mark Ormiston, Marc Overton, Paul Phelps, Charles Redman, Bill Rennie, David Roberts, Iain Robertson, Dennis Roper, Len Rose, Bob Scott, Doug Shand, Ted Silvester, John Spooore, Jim Thoirs, George Tidey, Clem Webb, Brian Welsh, Ron Younger.

## *Regimental Association Notes*

The AGM was held on the first Tuesday in April. Association members turned out in strength and from my vantage point at the front I noted that almost every seat laid out was occupied. The traditional agenda was followed save for the fact that Colonel Stephen was unable to attend so at very short notice the acting OC, Capt Geoff Strickland, was informed he would be required to give an account of the Regiment on behalf of the President. Not even being in possession of the proverbial fag packet (back of) he impressed all with an unscripted account of A Company enriched with his personal account of Cambrai Company's tour of Basrah. His account was extremely well received. The election of officers unanimously returned the following:

Steve Lovelock – Chairman  
 Charlie Dobney – Treasurer  
 David James – Secretary  
 Graham Kellas – Auditor  
 Nobby Foulis  
 Clem Webb  
 Murdo Durrant  
 Mark Ormiston  
 Brian Welsh

My sincerest thanks to the treasurer, secretary, auditor and the committee for their support and assistance throughout this year. It is our intention, as always, to repay your trust and confidence in us.

Those present would have heard me set out our programme of events for the year. Since then details have been developed and I can now expand further. The celeidh to mark the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War 2 will now definitely be held at 95 on Saturday 2nd July, from 7pm till late. This is a significant date as it marks the beginning of the week set aside for national commemoration of victory in Europe and celebration of 60 years of peace. We will mark the evening in true Scottish style beginning with a programme of traditional Scottish country and highland dancing. We will then have a set from the Pipes and Drums followed by a live band playing a variety of popular music for all ages late into the evening. A hot and cold buffet will be included in the price. We are keen for a bumper turn out to commemorate the debt we owe. So you can't say costs is the reason for not attending I have secured a subsidy for the evening which means we can offer tickets at the princely sum of just five (yes five) pounds each. They will be available behind the bar from the 1st Tuesday in May. I really would urge you to support this special event.

There is as they say good news and bad news. The bad news is due to lack of numbers we have had to cancel the proposed trip to Italy. The good news is we now hope to

organise a visit for Association members wishing to accompany the serving company and Ps and Ds as they take part in official events to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the battle of Loos. As I go to print we are still making arrangements but would hope to offer a two night stay from Friday 23rd September to Sunday 25th September. The official events take place on the Sunday and we plan to take our own battlefield tour guide who will arrange a London Scottish orientated itinerary for the Saturday. The price including travel and bed and breakfast will probably be in the region of £100 - £120. We must be able to fill the coach to make this worthwhile otherwise it will share the fate of the Italy trip. Those interested should contact either myself at [steve.lovelock@met.police.uk](mailto:steve.lovelock@met.police.uk) or Charlie Dobney on 020 8560 4303. Details will be displayed at 95 when finalised.

An advance party of Murdo, Brian Welsh and yours truly will be travelling to the Somme region in June to identify an appropriate itinerary for next year's proposed visit to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of that historic battle. We will give you early notification of the dates as soon as we have made arrangements. As interest in that anniversary will be considerable we will have to finalise arrangements this year.

Your support for these events is essential.

Finally a plea to all holders of medals awarded since 1959. You will all be familiar with the showcase of miniature medals on the stairway at 95 which stops at 1959. We now want to bring it up to date with medals awarded to London Scots since then. Our research will be made much easier if you could drop me a line care of the Regimental Secretary informing us of any medals you may have been awarded or know have been awarded to London Scots.

Steve Lovelock

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## *The Ancients*

THE AGM of The Ancients was held in the Library at RHQ on Monday, 14th February at 7pm. Mine Ancient Brother Neil McTavish, led us at a canter through a great deal of business. Besides several usual items, we elected our Officers for the coming year, Brother Roger Carlile as Mine Ancient and Brother Charlie Dobney as Vice Mine Ancient and Brother Mark Randall as Scrivener. Then we settled the programme for our Centenary Day on April 9th. Exhausted by these labours we then went to Dinner where we were refreshed by one of the nicest steak and kidney pies I can remember eating these many years.

H.J.W.

## The Library

I have had in my library at home for about ten years the book: *CASSINO – The Hollow Victory*, by John Ellis, and I decided that it was about time I read it, and on completion donate it to the Library.

This book must have taken many years of labour to compile and is 450 pages long. It is a must for WW2 'buffs'. It describes the awful conditions and the courage of the soldiers of various nationalities; the conflicts between their generals, and plans which did not appear to have been carefully thought out. Perhaps, the French General Juin was the most successful with his Arab troops, commanded by French Officers. The Poles were reckless, and exposed themselves unnecessarily in defiance to the Germans, who as we know were in a commanding position. There is a brief mention of the London Scottish.

We have in the Library for some time now *D-Day Dodger* by J.M. Lee-Harvey, a London Scot – which is about the activities of the 3rd Bn in W.W.2. This should also be read as it covers some of our involvement at Cassino.

Martin Wilson has drawn our attention to a book published in America; *Mimi and Toutou's Big Adventure* by Giles Foden; published by Alfred A Knopf. This describes the transportation of two 40ft boats through dense jungle from Cape Town to Lake Tanganyika, a total of 2500 miles – to defeat German gun-boats.

Two London Scots who had been wounded at Messines were on this expedition, and needless to say, that when this book becomes available in the UK in July, we shall purchase it for the Library.

The National Museum of Scotland has recently published the book *The Thin Red Line, Empire and Visions of Scotland*, by Stuart Allan and Allan Carswell.

Over centuries, war and military service have shaped the way the world sees and the way the Scots see themselves. Inspired by the collections of the National Museum of Scotland, the authors uncover the historical forces behind this phenomenon, exploring the impact of war on generations of Scots. Through union, world war and modern global politics the resilience and utility of the Scottish military tradition is revealed. The book is available in hardback from booksellers at the price of £12.99 under ISBN 1 901663 87 6. A copy is now available in our Library.

To all London Scots – don't forget that the Library is there for you to use, and I am sure you will find something there that you will enjoy. Happy reading.

Clem Webb  
Acting Librarian

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## The Museum

AS a result of the many enquiries received by your Editor/Archivist, on London Scots who served in the Great War he has used this to our advantage by requesting photographs, and we are continually adding to our collection. Some of these are on display on the board outside the canteen, and we will try and change each month.

In connection with the above we had a request from Jessica, the daughter of the late film star Claude Rains, for a photo of him when he served in the London Scottish. In return we received a fine photo of him when he was commissioned in the Bedfordshire Regiment. In view of this we have updated the photos of our film stars on the Museum balcony.

Following our display of WWI veterans Jasper Hankinson memorabilia, we now have one on Thomas M Davidson who was wounded in May 1917, and later transferred to the Labour Corps as unfit for front-line service. The display includes his medals, photographs, much documentation, including his Field Medical Card when he was wounded. This is on the top balcony.

Alan Morris



2/Lt Mark Brodie whose name was shown on the Basrah Memorial in our last Gazette.

# *The London Scottish Ancients (Founded 1905)*

**A Luncheon to commemorate the Centenary of the Brotherhood held on Saturday, 9th April 2005 – Chairman Mine Ancient Neil McTavish.**

AFTER a great deal of planning and preparation by the Centenary Committee, comprising the following brothers: Neil McTavish, Roger Carlile, 'Split' Waterman, Graham Kellas and Murdo Durrant. It was decided that Saturday 9th April was to be the day. Special thanks should be given to Brother 'Split' Waterman and Brother Graham Kellas, on whose shoulders most of the work fell upon. Perhaps I should also mention, and he will hate me for saying this, but Brother Alan Morris was a great help behind the scenes.

The Great Day dawned, however even then, many able bodies were required in the 'setting up' prior to the event itself. At 0900 hours or thereabouts, there were in attendance, sleeves rolled up, raring to go, Alan Morris, Brian Welsh, Murdo Durrant, Colin Granger, Graham Kellas, Roger Carlile, Adrian Cornell, Bryan Alderson, and Neil McTavish. So very many thanks, should I have missed anybody, my apologies.

At this juncture, it would seem appropriate to give a brief outline of how the 'Ancients' were instigated. Should anybody be lucky enough to have a copy of the London Scottish Regimental Gazette for May 1905 – page 105, there is a full write-up given.

The whole reason for the 'Ancients' being formed was so that once you had finished your service, you did not just leave the Sergeants' Mess and fade away, but that you met together at certain times of the year and more importantly, were there for each others funeral, thus giving a proper transition through to the 'after life'. It could also be called an exclusive burial club.

The very first 'Ancients' Annual Supper was held on Friday 7th April 1905, when 14 members sat down. To be an 'Ancient' you had to have served a good number of years and held the rank of Sergeant. Members at the time had an average length of service of 25.5 years. Drill sergeant Thomas Hodgson was complimented on the formation of the 'Ancients', he being the originator. There is also a caption for the photograph at the time stating "For the photograph of Colonel Greig, Major Malcolm and of "Ancient Lights" we are indebted to the courtesy of A.G. Taylor". Thus the name of Ancient was adopted, there being a sign above them "Ancient Lights".

Those younger and newer members of the Regiment, may be interested to know that even today, to be an 'Ancient' not only do you need a good number of years service – anything from 15 years upwards (some have many more), served as a Sergeant, be a Mess Member and then if you are lucky enough to be proposed, the decision of agreement by the Brotherhood must be unanimous, otherwise somebody else will be selected.

The programme of the day more or less followed a set pattern, beginning at 1100 hrs, when the bar in the Sergeants' Mess opened. All of the 'Ancients' congregated there in order to meet and welcome the guests comprising:

The Regimental Colonel, Regimental Secretary and all Serving Sergeants. A barrel of beer was donated by a well known Ancient, who would rather remain anonymous, but if I said he has a beard and glasses in his 40's, most will know who I mean, so on behalf of us all – a big thank you.

1130 hrs – All 'Ancients' assemble in the Drill Hall to have their photographs taken – three in all. Unfortunately three Brothers were unable to be present, namely, Bro George Scott, Bro Peter Brodie-Fraser and Bro Mark Randall; the former being incapacitated and the other two on pre-arranged holidays. Their passport size photos will be added to the main group photo.

1200 hrs – A meeting was held in the Canteen of all Ancients and guests to explain our function and history. Mine Ancient Neil McTavish welcomed everybody to the auspicious occasion and thanked the committee for all their hard work. Then prior to the formal side of the meeting, our Scrivener Bro 'Split' Waterman gave an account of what the 'Ancients' was all about ie. Length of service, keeping in touch with each other, the Regiment as a whole, attending funeral and/or sending letters of condolence. This was followed by Bro Mark Ormiston giving dissipation on our newly elected member Bro Carl Fairman who joined in 1980 and was now attending his first meeting. We all made him most welcome and in turn, he gave a short speech which is expected at the induction when one becomes an 'Ancient'. He ended by saying there was a sum of money behind the bar for everybody to have a drink on him, which of course was much appreciated by all assembled. The meeting closed and everybody adjourned to the Mess bar. 24 Ancients and 14 guests (mainly serving Sgts).

1300 hrs – Everybody filed into the Officers and Sergeants Dining Room to find their allocated named place at the table, numbering 38 places. The menu comprised: Haggis, steak and kidney pie, creamed potatoes and green peas, fruit salad and ice cream, cheese and biscuits.

During the meal our Chairman Neil McTavish proposed various toasts as follows: 1), All of us present, 2) The members of the Anti-Tank Platoon, 3) All Serving/ex Gordon Highlanders, 4) Liverpool Scottish (benefit of Col. Stephen Henwood), 5) The Serving Jocks who were in Iraq, 6) To all those who had eased, pulled and tapped (to do with Vickers Machine-Gun), 7) All Signallers, 8) Those follicular challenged (bald).

After a short interval, there was a series of main toasts, commencing with the Queen, followed by the Honorary Colonel, The Lord Robertson of Port Ellen – each being proposed by our Chairman, Neil McTavish. Next our Scrivener, Bro 'Split' Waterman read out the long roll – all 124 names which of course included those present at the table. As our name was called, we responded with "Here" as is the tradition. The Chairman then proposed the Silent Toast (The long roll) to absent friends.

Shortly afterwards the Chairman was pleased on behalf of all the 'Ancients' to present a Sgian Dhu to the new Sergeants' Mess President, CSgt Justin Tredigo – a custom

*Continued on page 187*

# March

# The Centenary

John Spoor RVM

2nd time 2nd part

1st time 2nd part

1st time 4th part

2nd time 4th part

1st time 2nd time

February 2005

"The Centenary", a march composed to commemorate the Centenary of "The Ancients", which is an association within The London Scottish Regiment. In the early days of The Regiment, raised in 1859, it frequently happened that on the death of highly respected London Scots, friends and comrades of the deceased, through lack of information, were prevented from paying their last respects. Several long serving members of The London Scottish Sergeants Mess decided to form an association to rectify this. Thus in February 1905, "The Ancients" (arguably the most exclusive burial club in Britain, if not the world) came into being. Upon their installation into The Ancients, all bretheren undertake the obligation to attend if at all possible, the obsequies of Brother Ancients. So exclusive is the fraternity, that from it's formation in 1905 until it's centenary in February 2005, only 124 London Scots have been installed as "Ancients".

John Spoor R.V.M.  
(Ancient No. 104)

*This was played for the first time at Centenary Celebration Lunch on 9th April.*

that carries on from year to year with each new President.

A further toast to the Regiment was then proposed by the Chairman. Later Bro David Henderson proposed a toast to all our guests, one of whom Col Stephen Henwood replied, by proposing a toast to the 'Ancients'.

Now that the formal toasts were over, it was time for all of us to sit back, relax and listen to the Pipe programme especially prepared by Bro John Spoore RVM, our Honorary Piper, which was as follows:

MARCH	The Centenary March	John Spoore
STRATHSPEY	Stumpie	Trad
REEL	The Ale is Dear	Trad
MARCHES	Strike Sure	John Spoore
	Cockney Jocks	John Haynes
SLOW MARCH	The Ancients	R. Gibbons

Having played all the tunes, Bro John Spoore was rewarded in the best-known tradition – the golden liquid being given by our Chairman. I would also like on behalf of us all to congratulate Bro John on personally composing the music for the Centenary March and arranging for us all to have a personal copy of the music with a brief write-up on how the Ancients were inaugurated. Each copy was rolled in the form of a scroll with a Regimental Ribbon around it. On

this note I should add that everybody received a commemorative glass to take home.

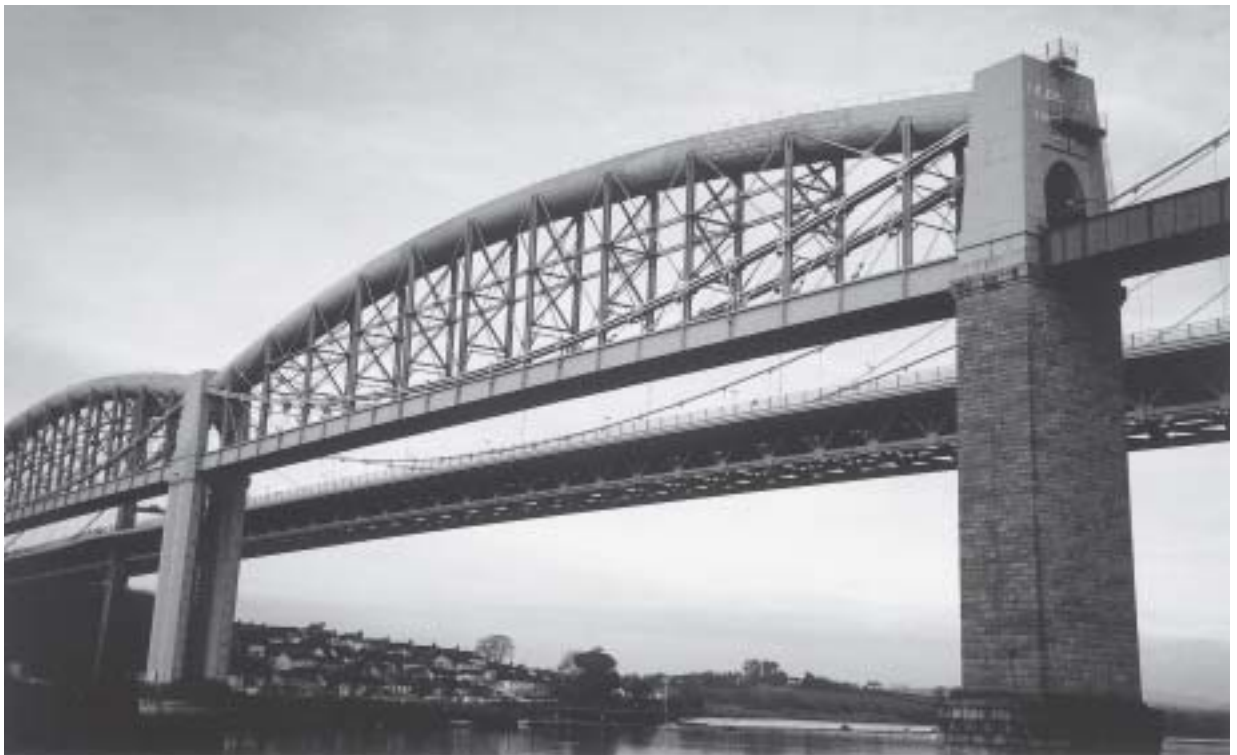
Eventually the luncheon came to a close sometime mid afternoon culminating in the Evening Hymn, each verse being sung as follows: verse 1 Bro David Henderson, verse 2 Adrian Cornell, verse 3 The Scrivener, verse 4 Vice Mine Ancient, verse 5 Mine Ancient, verse 6 All.

Although a formal occasion, the luncheon has been very cordial and relaxed, our guests all being very impressed with the proceedings. By now the bat was open with most of us finding our way back to it, conversation flowed, reminiscing went on for some time, although by 1700 hrs or thereabouts most people were thinking of making their way home or whatever.

I can only finish by saying that I can vouch for the fact that each and everyone of us thoroughly enjoyed the Centenary Luncheon and perhaps a few of us will still be around in 2030 for the 125th Anniversary – who knows!

Finally may I personally congratulate and thank Mine Ancient Neil McTavish with whom I served with, in the Anti-Tank role, for chairing a very successful function.

Brother Roger W Carlile  
Vice Mine Ancient No. 123



*A fine bridge built by the great engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel near Plymouth in 1859; the same year as the L.S.P.V. were formed. The bridge seems as if it was only built yesterday.*

# *Up and Under, Rough and Tumble*

Because of Telic, the Company Rugby team hadn't walked onto a pitch since 16th October 2003 when we narrowly lost against the London Scottish FC Extra B Side 104 – nil!

We were back ...

The annual London District Reserve Forces Rugby 7s Competition at Trailfinders Ground in leafy Ealing took place on Sunday 24th April.

It was good to be back, mixing with sides that can draw from a whole regiment or battalion whilst we only draw from a company, much depleted by the after effects of Telic and the Saturday night drinking!

Not much time to blood our new players, Ptes Speer and Ilsley took Ptes Medina, Tippett, Miller and Garricks and our Messines Company comrade LCpl Frankie 'Chicken Bone' Aidoo from B Coy through their paces, whilst Sgt Nimmo nursed a dead leg given to him by Pte Puttock after a tackling demo. Pte Speers' mate ex-drop short Lee Sandy provided the team with much needed banana kicks in the absence of LCpl Hedley who was away practicing hand cuffing young girls.

LCpl 'Team Bitch' Turner provided the inspiration, driving, fags, sponge, and oranges for the day who also kept our female supporters amazed by his exploits as an assassin and kocher floor layer!!

Our first match was against the HAC. A seasoned bunch of players who have played against many times and alongside in the London Division side. The first scrum down with Puttock, Nimmo and Speers as the front 3, saw Speers aggravate a neck injury, but amazingly he carried on playing in a deeper role encouraging and organising the new players which allowed Sgt Nimmo and Pte Puttock to try and have a crack at taking out one of the fast running HAC punters. His first game of rugby ever, Frank Aidoo, put some tough tackles in, which made him look like a seasoned player. Pte Ilsley puffed and buzzed round the team picking up any loose ball and off loading it to our runners, who sadly had a banana skin in each sweaty palm.

Result: HAC 37, London Scottish 0

The next game was against the hard-nosed players from 144 Paramedics. In his first piece of action young Dusty Miller tripped up their widest and ugliest player, who then took quite a shine to Dusty with his fists, only for Sgt Nimmo to come barging in with his shoulder to cool things down. Aidoo moved to hooker as Nimmo moved to loose head. Medina was starting to find his feet at centre and put some big tackles in and really got involved. John Wayne Tippett replaced him at centre and ran around as if he had mustard on his bottom trying to get the ball and do some running. Lee Sandy was working his socks off and combined well with Ilsley in midfield with the kicking and decision-making. Nimmo showed that he can kick too, kicking for touch, but no longer has the legs for dashing after the ball. The punches from 144 were wading in whilst the more experienced players from the Jocks gave some back with big hits and crafty digs in the mauls. The Paramedics were having trouble getting through the Jocks

defence which Speers, Puttock and Aidoo kept together until Puttock had his hand crushed late in the second half.

Result: 144 Paramedics 27, London Scottish 0

The last game was by far our best and the new players were getting stuck in and enjoying the days rugby. Nimmo came off in the middle of the first half with a hamstring problem after a long chase and tackle of an ULOTC wing wiz and Speers took over from Ilsley at scrum-half after a bash on the bonce. Garricks, Miller, Tippett, Medina and Aidoo were all on in the second half and were showing the OTC that we could play, even though most of them were a lot younger than us and fitter of course. Garricks had a taste at prop and showed no fear, with Tippett full of running, Medina and Aidoo with their tackling and Miller for being in the middle of everything; we have some players for the future, who, with a bit of training could give sides a real run for the money. The result flattered the OTC and we came close to scoring on several occasions.

Result: ULOTC 26, London Scottish 0

As Captain, I felt very proud of the players and LCpl Turner for turning up and representing the Company at this important event. It keeps the London Scottish in the public eye, gives soldiers a different opportunity in playing a sport and forging bonds between the 2 TACs.

There is more to come, a game against the London Scottish at Richmond in September or October, matches against the Royal Naval Reserve next season, plus nights out at some of London's most hideous cantinas.

If you are interested in representing your Company or just coming along to support, contact Sgt Nimmo on 07958 491476.

Sgt Nimmo Captain and Chairman



*The Rugby Team: Pte Puttock, Pte Garricks, Sgt Nimmo (Capt), Pte Medina, Pte Speer, Mr Sandy, Pte Tippett, Pte Miller, LCpl Aidoo (B Coy), Pte Ilsley.*

## *My London Marathon by LCpl Dawson*

It all started one wet cold day last October 2004 when CSgt Monger said "why don't we do the London Marathon next year", so I agreed and I had something to aim for in my Rehabilitation of getting fit again after my accident last year?

So there I was phoning round to get a team together, which I did. There was myself, LCpl Dawson, CSgt Monger, Former LCpl Chitty, Pte Speer.

There we was all started training for the big day. When the first casualty LCpl Chitty phones me to say he has got shin splints?

Well the London Scottish Marathon Team was getting smaller already? The next casualty was Pte Speer who had a rugby accident and hurt his neck!

Then everything was fine until five weeks before I went down with the flu, and CSgt Monger pulled a muscle in his leg. I recovered just in time, so there I was the only representative of the Regiment.

Two days before I went to the Excel Centre to collect my number and spent a fortune on rubbish?

So then it was the big day and I turned up at Greenwich Park for the start, I took all my warm kit and put my bag in the lorry to be taken to the finish. God I thought I need to go for a pee, I join the big queue for 15 mins just for a wee! Then over the loud speaker everybody was asked to get to their own start lines, in which I was with the 10 mins a mile group. All I can say was the sun was shining and lots of nervous people about!

The start happened and it took 7 mins to get to the start line and we all started running, great I thought this is good, a nice easy pace. Then 400 metres later had really bad bladder pain so along with a couple of thousand other runners over to the bushes on Blackheath and did the pee?

So I started again and caught the sight of the hula girls in grass skirts, 6 miles into the race. Still feeling really good not breathing heavily, legs ok, great I thought, round the Cutty Sark feel brilliant's lots of people about making everybody feel good!

Got to the 11 mile part of the race and my left leg starts to hurt, not to worry its only the pounding on the road, it will be ok, carry on not to worry, over Tower Bridge legs really hurting now but never mind, everybody must be feeling the same. Got to half way and got a small stone in my left shoe could not believe it will have to get it out. No problem 2 hours 10 mins for half marathon well on target. Got stone out, put my shoe back on, then my legs went to me your not running anymore, could not believe it, so for the next 4-5 miles it was just run walk, run walk. Going through Canary Wharf I was having a really bad time, then I heard a shout from the crowd and saw Mr Mark Kiely so I went over and had breather which made me feel 10 times better, so I carried on with a new lease of life, I think I went off a bit too hard and 500 metres later I came to a grinding halt. Damn I thought this is getting too much now, and there I was reduced to a very slow walk now, and having lots of runners passing me?

The bit that really took the biscuit, was when the third rhino passed me walking quicker than me, sod it I thought, I would get to the finish no matter what. So there I am getting slower and slower, 2 miles to go I could see people starting to run again 400 metres in front of me, and there were the photographers taking pictures: oh my God I'm going to have to start running so they can take a picture, good got past them and started walking again like every other runner there. Past Westminster not far now I thought into Bird Cage Walk and this was starting to really hurt now, past the parade square at Wellington Barracks and turned right towards the Palace and The Mall, 400 metres to go, have to start running my God it was painful, cannot embarrass myself now by walking! There I was having trouble trying to raise my speed for the finish, nearly 50 metres to go and I couldn't resist to put my hands up in the air as if I had won, the crowd was cheering, then there it was the finish couldn't believe it, crossed the line in 5 hours 42 mins and 56 seconds, just a little bit slower than I wanted but who cares I've done it and got my medal and goody bag, and went home thinking to myself that I'm going to have to do it next year, and do some proper training without being ill before hand. Already had some of A Coy saying they will do it next year, can't wait.

LCPL Dawson

## *London Scottish Regimental Association*

### **Proudly Presents**

An evening of music and dancing  
to commemorate and celebrate  
the end of World War II

@ '95'

*Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2005*

*7.30pm till late*

Dancing to  
Dalcassian Country Dance Band  
Muvvers Ruin  
London Scottish Pipes and Drums

Hot and Cold Buffet

Tickets £5 (yes just £5 so no excuses)  
*On sale behind the bar now – all welcome*

## Sixty Years Ago

The general situation was wildly obscure, but there was evidence of a great victory all along the front. On April 25 B Company tried by daylight to make their way across the Po, but considerable fire from snipers on the other side caused the attempt to be abandoned. That night the Queen's Brigade crossed in "Fantails" and continued the advance without meeting serious opposition. On April 28 the Scottish moved to Madrimago, but by now the leading troops were a long way ahead. By the end of the month the Battalion was just south of the River Adige and on May 1 moved to the Dolo-Mira area near Venice. They were not, however, destined to stay long, and on May 3, with the Division in 5th Corps (Lieut.-General C.F. Keightly) reserve, the Battalion moved to Gorizia with the double task of keeping open communications from Italy up to Austria and of making a show of force against the Yugoslavs, who were now starting a domestic war of their own between the Chetniks and Tito's Partisans.

The Battalion had scarcely settled into comfortable billets round Gorizia when they were ordered to make way for troops of the 91st U.S. Division and moved out into the fields near Opacchiasella. The 56th (London) Division now changed from 5th Corps to 13th Corps (Lieut.-General Sir John Harding).

In the last phase of the campaign, which opened on April 5, the Scottish had lost 3 officers (Lieuts. A. B. Ingram, R.A. Lawson and S.R. Pirie) and 27 other ranks killed, and 3 officers (Lieuts. D.S. Carnachan, F.A. McAweeny, and C.C. Prust) and 85 other ranks wounded, of whom 9 died of wounds. On April 29, 1945, Field Marshal Alexander accepted the unconditional surrender of all German forces south of the Alps and by May 2 all fighting in Italy had ceased. It was not unfitting that the first complete large-scale defeat of German arms in Europe should have been brought about by an Allied Army, many of whose formations and units had borne the brunt of battle, not only in Italy, but in Sicily and North Africa, since the early days of the war.

This great victory was accomplished in face of very real difficulties. With the invasion of Normandy in June 1944, followed a little later by landings in Southern France, Italy came to be regarded as a secondary theatre of operations. It was not only starved of equipment and reinforcements – unavoidably no doubt – but was also deprived of some of its finest formations, including the famous 50th (Northumbrian) and 51st (Highland) Divisions. Later, in the early spring of 1945, other formations were also transferred from the Mediterranean theatre to the 21st Army Group in North-West Europe.

In these events the 1st Battalion The London Scottish played a worthy part. The peculiar circumstances of the war had kept the Battalion in England during the early years of hostilities. This had been followed by a sea and land journey involving almost the complete encirclement of the African continent – with service in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East. When in July 1943 they finally went into battle in Sicily they were destined to spend the next twenty-two months – except for a short spell in Egypt for rest and



*Our good friend Dr Diego Cancelli, President of Aprilia '44' (Cultural Group) for Historical Researches, Italy – dressed as a London Scottish Major at the 61st Anniversary of Anzio – see other photographs marking the occasion.*

reorganisation – in almost continuous contact with the enemy. They took part in fighting which demanded the highest standards of skill, discipline, courage and stamina, and suffered casualties which on more than one occasion reduced the effective Battalion strength to little more than a company. In all these activities the Scottish nobly maintained their great traditions. Whatever the difficulties, and whatever the losses, they were always successful in the end.



*Brigadier J.Scott-Elliott DSO; decorating Cpl D. Hoy "D" Company 1st Bn. LONDON SCOTTISH with the Military Medal at Pola on 25th June, 1945. See Obituary page 199.*

## *61st Anniversary of Anzio*



*Italians dressed as British Troops.*



*Italians dressed as German Troops.*

# *Tunes of Glory and This is Your Life*

The death of Sir John Mills reminded me of a Pipe Band anecdote from 1960 when I was a young drummer with the 1st Bn. The London Scottish. Headquarters was at 59 Buckingham Gate. The Pipe Band President was Captain Alan Niekirk.

The band had been engaged to take part in the film *Tunes of Glory* starring Alec Guinness, John Mills and a host of well known actors. It was a Sunday that we travelled to Shepperton Studios. Stirling Castle had been reproduced in boarding and plaster complete with artificial snow. The set was amazing it was just as if we were in Stirling Castle itself.

The band did the scene with Alec Guinness and John Mills. We had to march up and down playing as if the band were practising. The new Colonel, John Mills noticed a couple of the pipers had mixed dress and instructed the Pipe Major, played by Duncan McCray to take their names, much to the annoyance of the old wartime Colonel played by Alec Guinness.

Pipe Sergeant Bill Ferguson (ex. Gordon Highlander who had been taken prisoner at St. Valery) was the solo piper. Drummer Mike Crowley (ex Kings Own Scottish Borderers, who was badly wounded in Korea) was the Bugler. Alan Morris (a champion Highland dancer, later RQMS 1/51st Highland Volunteers and finally Regimental Secretary) not only taught Alec Guinness and the other officers to do the Eightsome Reel. He supplied all the dancers including Captain Harry Slade from the London Scottish Reel Club as well as dancers from his own Reel Club. These danced in the officers' mess scene when John Mills blew his top. You could be forgiven for thinking the London Scottish were the stars, and that Alec Guinness and John Mills had a supporting role!! However, it was amazing to see Alec Guinness one minute being himself, then somebody would snap their fingers and he would become the arrogant Colonel Jock Sinclair. A truly brilliant actor.

The band was then required to play at the premier, which was at the Odeon Leicester Square in the presence of The Princess Margaret. Having played we then lined the foyer for the Princess entrance. I noticed not only was she very beautiful she was also very petite. We all towered above her. Following this there were many appearances by the Band and solo Pipers at local cinemas.

Then came John Mills *This Is Your Life*. The band was engaged to march onto the stage playing the Black Bear, bringing the programme to a close once Eammon Andrews had said "From your latest film *Tunes of Glory* The Pipes and Drums of The London Scottish. John Mills *This Is Your Life*".

Rehearsals complete the Pipe Major Leslie DeLaspee, (ex K.O.S.B. and the Piper in the film *The Longest Day*) Drum Major Ted Owen (A mounted Police Officer, ex Mountain Artillery, (Screwguns), had served all his time in India) and the rest of the pipers and drummers headed for the pub. The late piper Alan Withey (ex RAF who had served in India and after the war in Japan) and I went to the BBC self service canteen, in uniform. We had just got our meals, when a

female manager crept up and whispered, "Are you in *This is Your Life*". We said "yes". She said, "but there is a meal laid on for you. Put that food back and follow me". We did as we were told, a bit bewildered, as a meal had never been mentioned. We were soon to learn why.

We were ushered into the BBC banqueting suite where there was a very long table all laid out, seated at which were the Mills family, the Director General, VIP guests and the rest of the *This Is Your Life* production executives. Strangely, there were two empty chairs, but clearly not reserved for the Piper and Drummer who were about to fill them.

Alan and I sat there a little out of place. I was conscious of Mrs. Mills observing us with suspicion and apprehension from the far end of the table, as if to say, if you are the strip-o-grams please boys no flashing or mooning in front of the children. But needless to say we enjoyed the free meal. As all the diners left filing past us we received polite nods, the sort normally given to the gatecrasher who has just thrown up over the host's cat. After everyone had left the waitresses could not believe that two squaddies could walk in, sit down with all the VIPs, eat a good meal and nobody said a word. The show was a great success. At the end we stood for photographs.

Some twenty years later I was by now an Inspector in the Royal Parks Constabulary. I was on duty at a big function at Hampton Court Palace at the end of which all the guests were on the West Front awaiting their cars. I was standing behind Sir John Mills and Mary Hayley Bell. Mrs. Mills was chatting to me. I said "Do you remember Sir John's *This Is Your Life*." She said, "Yes." I said "Do you remember the two uninvented guests at dinner". She said "The two Scotsman". I then explained the circumstances and that it had been a mistake not of our making. She said "Oh don't worry about it I thought you were a couple of old 'winos' who had wandered in from the street". I said, "No, you are wrong we were already in there!!!" Sir John said, "I hope you enjoyed the meal". I said, "Very much so, it was free". They then drove off.

I am saddened as I look at the photograph from *This Is Your Life*. We were a very smart band most of us were ex. Army. But alas the majority of my old chums are now playing in the Devils own Pipe Band with Idi Amin taking the salute, complete with His Argyll's Glengarry. The frightener is that there is a vacancy for a Bass Drummer.

Bryan Alderson B.E.M.

3rd May 2005

*On the photograph left to right, Lord Fraser, Sir Frederick Wells, Hayley Mills, Sheila Sim, Zelia Raye, Roma Beaumont, Louise Brown, Tyrone Guthrie, John Mills, Mary Hayley Bell Mills, Jonathan Mills and Hamlet.*

*Pipers and Drummers, Fred Sweetman, Jim Conner, Bob Hay, Dave Milner, Clive Atkinson, Bryan Alderson, Charlie Wicks, Ted Owen, not known, not known, Junior Riddle, John Gilligan, Martin Maslin, Alan Withey, Mike Crowley.*

# Belsen – I Was Also There

Dr. MacAuslan's account in the Spring *Gazette* of his experiences of Belsen Camp in April 1945 revived vivid memories for me – I too was there.

On the 13th April the German Army asked for a truce in the area. They had lost complete control of the concentration camp and typhus was rampant.

I was Staff Captain of a special unit which had been set up just before D-Day to take over towns and areas as soon as they were captured. We had to try and sort out the chaos of battle and get the civilian authorities to function again. We then handed over to a Town Mayor and continued "leap frogging" behind the Army. We organised Amiens, Beauvais, Brussels, Nijmegen, spent the winter in Holland and then carried on doing the same job in German towns.

In mid-April I was just outside Bremen waiting for its capture when I got a message to rejoin my Unit at Belsen Camp. At that time it meant nothing special to me.

On the 18th April my Unit, HQ 10 Garrison took over control of the Camp.

I remember going round the Camp with my C.O. and Kramer the German Camp Commandant chained to my jeep. It was horrendous with piles of bodies everywhere and the smell – I called it the "Belsen smell" which pursued me for a long time afterwards.

The German Army had left 500 odd members of the Wehrmacht, some six S.S. and 2,000 Hungarian soldiers. The 500 Wehrmacht were sent back to the German lines and the S.S. were used to clear the bodies lying around and putting them in the "Pit of Belsen". They did this at the double all day with British soldiers with fixed bayonets keeping them going.

Brigadier Glyn Hughes was the senior Medical Officer and he and the medics evacuated those from the Camp to a hospital which had been established in the Barrack area – those whom they thought had a chance of recovering.



I accompanied the medics on more than one occasion. It was pitiful to see the look on the faces of those poor people as the selection of those to be moved was made.

The 2,000 Hungarians were employed on clearing up the Camp. On a lighter note, I remember one day a detail of 200 men for a particular job had not turned up. The C.O. of the Hungarians was sent for and through an interpreter, was told to find out where they were. A little later the C.O. returned and reported that the Officer who was responsible had been found and asked when we wanted him shot!

My Unit handed over to a military Government detachment on the 29th April and we continued with our "leap frogging" which for me ended in Hamburg.

There have been two re-unions of those involved in the liberation of Belsen – one in 1985. This was at the invitation of Rev. Dr. Isaac Levy at the Hampstead Synagogue where some 200 ex-Service personnel attended. At this meeting I met two people who had been at Belsen. One a Sergeant of the Intelligence Corps, and the other a woman – a survivor from the Camp. They had subsequently married.

The last re-union in 1995 at the Imperial War Museum was chaired, I think, by Lord Runcie who had been a Tank Commander in 8 Corps, and had passed through the Belsen area during the last stages of the War.

Let us hope that man's inhumanity to man will never descend to such depths as those they sank to in World War II.

1st Bn 1934-38

Gordon Sanderson

L.S. Cadet Coy 1956-1961

## PIPE TUNE COMPETITION

The competition announced last year has been re-scheduled to this year, due to the disruption caused by the Op Telic III and IV mobilisations.

Entries are invited for a competition to select a new pipe tune to be called,

### "The London Scottish Sergeants' Mess"

The tune should be a March in two parts in a 2/4 or 6/8 time signature.

Scores, which will preferably be accompanied by a tape, should be delivered to the London Scottish Sergeants' Mess President by Tuesday, 2nd August 2005.

The compositions will be voted on by Sgts' Mess members on Tuesday 6th September 2005, under the guidance of Roger Huth, President of the Scottish Piping Society of London. Technical queries may be directed to the Pipe-Major at Regimental Headquarters.

Entries submitted last year will be carried forward.

**Prize for the winning entry £100.**



*Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal with Cadet Ensign Carpenter (with FANY arm-band) I/C MT Stand, Ensigns Hamilton & Trayler watch a FANY reversing Landrover & trailer into a confined space.*

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TO: ALL BRANCHES, QUEENS OWN HIGHLANDERS  
REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION. LONDON SCOTTISH  
REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

FROM: COLIN HUGHES, SECRETARY, LIVERPOOL  
SCOTTISH REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION.

**RE: 75TH ANNUAL REUNION AND DINNER**

The Liverpool, Scottish Regimental Association are pleased to announce that their Annual Dinner and Reunion will be held in the presence of His Grace, The Duke of Westminster, on Friday 21st October at The Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. The Pipes and Drums of The Liverpool Scottish Regimental Association will Beat Retreat at 1900h and the meal will commence at 2000h price £20 per head. Arrangements have been made for rooms to be made available at a reduced rate on a first come, first served basis.

We would be pleased to see ex-members from The Lovat

Scouts, Seaforth Highlanders, Cameron Highlanders, Queens Own Highlanders, and London Scottish and in particular ex PSIs who have had involvement with The Liverpool Scottish in the past.

We would be grateful if Branch Secretaries would inform as many of their members as possible of this event and we look forward to seeing as many of our Regimental Family as possible at The Adelphi.

All enquiries to be addressed to The Regimental Association Secretary, address as below.

Yours Aye,  
CP Hughes  
134 Stamford Road  
Southport  
Merseyside  
PR8 4EX

# *London Battlefield Specialist Training Team Battlefield Tour to Rome, Anzio, & Monte Cassino*

LDSTT is looking for some veterans of the Battle for Rome to accompany them on their battlefield tour on the coming August Bank Holiday.

We are wondering if any London Scots might be interested in going out with team to give some views from the sharp end.

The current outline programme is as follows:

23rd Tuesday

Evening Handel Street

26th Friday

Handel Street and overnight

27th Saturday

AM Depart Stansted Airport to Rome,  
Ryan Air, 0830 arrive 1205  
PM Ground orientation and battle one  
Overnight Monte Cassino

28th Sunday

AM Battle two  
PM Battle three  
Overnight Monte Cassino

29th Monday

AM Battle four  
PM Anzio  
Move to Rome  
Overnight Rome

30th Tuesday

AM Rome

PM Return to UK 1630

Ryan Air to Stansted arrives 1810.

A considerable amount of expenditure is involved, but this should not exceed £300 at this moment in time.

Should this be of interest contact should be made with the LDSTT on 020 7833 3910.

**Today** the costs per person are approximately:

- a. Flight £120 (because it is the bank holiday) and non-refundable once booked. However, being a low cost airline this figure will go up as the date approaches.
- b. Accommodation, In Cassino about £25 half board per night, in Rome about £40 B&B (evening meal in Rome own arrangements)
- c. Vehicle hire and fuel, about £450 per eight seater therefore if 16 attended about £30 each, 12 would make it more expensive.
- d. Add about £50 pp for lunches / sundries, makes the headline cost not more than £300.

*In order for this exercise to go ahead at the costs stated we need early returns. Please e-mail the team with your intentions and I can book some flights and hotels.*

James Kirkbride  
Capt  
For CI LDSTT

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## *David Henderson Retires from the Benevolent Fund*

End of an era, or to be precise, end of 26 years. For all this time David Henderson has been on the Committee of the Benevolent Fund – 16 years as Secretary and 5 years as Chairman. He has become a master of the art of persuading, cajoling, shaming the relevant authorities to provide a ramp here, a bed there, a cooker, a fire alarm, or whatever for those London Scots who have fallen on hard times in their later years.

He and the late Harry Skelton, as the Treasurer, have guided the Committee and advised on how best to use our funds. David has retired this year and will be sorely missed by those now in office – Colonel Richard Holliday (Chairman), Geoff Dickman (Secretary), and Graham Kellas (Treasurer).



*FRONT ROW: Gil Holliday, Sheila Henderson, David Henderson, Ruth Spooore, Zena Neale – others: Bob Harman, Hugh Myers, Rupert Wirgman, Martin Felstead, Geoff Dickman, Richard Holliday, Ron Younger, Charles Dobney, Alan Morris, John Spooore, Steve Kempster, Graham Kellas, Alan Neale.*

A VISIT TO '59'

JACK CHEFFINS

Dear Clem,

A short note of thanks for your guidance around '95' and its treasures last week. Although I have seen some of the exhibits before it was so very interesting to see them all again, and have such a knowledgeable 'bloke' taking us around.

Alan asks me to give his personal thanks for seeing something he never knew existed.

We had an interesting five minutes as we walked down Horseferry Road. A young lady pointed a camera at us and asked if she could take our photos. She was obviously a Continental and asked what we were doing in London. I told her that we had just visited my old Regimental HQ, and I was a Scot. She then said "I am German", took another photo and went her way!

We went back to Liverpool Street on a No.11, something we neither of us have done for years.

We were safely back in Frinton at 5.30pm.

Thank Bob too please, for the dram – most acceptable.

Excuse the writing which I find rather difficult.

Regards and best wishes  
Yours aye  
Gordon Sanderson  
4 St Mary's Mews  
Frinton on Sea  
CO13 9AW

*Gordon and Alan are both aged 90 and made their own way here – a splendid effort.*

Dear Clem,

So many thanks for your note dated 3rd March 2005, together with a London Scottish *Gazette*, and the very sad news that Jack Cheffins had died in 2003.

As youngsters we were such good friends. Jack must have joined the Scottish, when he left school or just after when he was 18. In the same way I joined the Artists Rifles when I left school, when I was 18 also, following four other relatives in the Artists from 1915 to 1937. Then on to the Worcestershire Regt.

Would it be possible to let me have Jack's wife address (Joyce). I would like to write to her about Jack's early days at East Sheen, and perhaps send her a photograph. She could be interested. On the other hand I would not like to upset her.

Once again I am most grateful to you for all your help. In the Artists we always thought so very well of the Scottish, and we used to go to camp together. How well I recognise the Scottish Tie.

I was at school with Paul Lowe (King's College School, Wimbledon) and I am sure he and his brother were in the London Scottish.

Please excuse my scribble, the legacy of two strokes.

Yours sincerely  
Jack Stiles  
Ex Major Worcs Regt.

Does anybody know the address of Jack Cheffin's widow, Joyce?

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FAX FROM: Col Donald Ramsay OAM (Retd)

121 Edgecliff Road  
Woolahra  
NSW 2025  
Australia

Tel: Int 61 (0) 2 9389 8130  
Fax: Int 61 (0) 2 9389 3293  
Email: e\_ramsay@bigpond.net.au

To: RW HARMAN  
London Scottish RHQ

Fax: 0015 44 2072337909  
Date: 17 Mar 05

Dear Bob,

ANNUAL CAMP 1949

I enjoyed reading "Tug" Wilson's account in the latest *Gazette*.

One of my amusing recollections of our time at this camp was the visit of the famous Pipe Major JB Robertson, a huge man who played at a guest night. As time went on between the late and early he fell "asleep". It took four of us to lay him gingerly on his fragile camp bed within his tent – happy days!

At that time I was the mortar pl comd with Dougie Leitch the pl sgt. Not long after I took over C Coy from Jimmie Cameron on his retirement.

With best wishes  
Donald  
Sydney

G.H. Dickman  
Hon. Secretary  
London Scottish Benevolent Fund

#### RETIREMENT LUNCH

Dear Geoff,

Sheila and I would like to thank all those who arranged my retirement lunch and who contributed to the handsome cheque, which will be banked in our 'cruising' account.

We both enjoyed our day. I have always thought that the

fund was one of the most important facets of our Regimental life, being there to help London Scots through hard times. I know that the present team will continue in the same way, but with the benefit of modern communications.

Yours aye  
David Henderson

40 Squires Close  
Crawley Down  
West Sussex RH10 4JQ

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#### BERT ROSE – A FOOTNOTE

Dear Clem,

I very much enjoyed the tributes to Bert Rose in the December *Gazette* and had meant to send these extra thoughts to the March edition, but as usual sloth got the better of me.

I had known that Bert was an NCO in the Western Desert, and been fairly sure that part of his time was spent with the Long-Range Desert Group or a similar unit. But it was only when talking to his local Ingatestone friends in the pub after the funeral, that I realised that he had been captured at one stage. Incidentally he told his friends that the Afrika Korps had treated him well, and he had a respect for them.

Thinking over this in the following weeks, it struck me that the experience of being a part at some stage in the war shared by the splendid trio who guided our destinies briefly – and two of them for much longer – in Support Coy in the 1950s. They were Archie Hills as OC, Ian Bulpin as CSM, and Bert Rose as CQMS.

It left me wondering whether this was one of the many factors contributing to the remarkable humanity of each of them. Perhaps also to a certain flexibility in their attitude to authority – their own and that of others. This was most flamboyant in Archie, and most restrained in Ian, but present in them all.

Bert once told me in passing, towards the end of his time in the Scottish, that he felt a certain responsibility to see to the welfare of the younger soldiers. As he put it, old soldiers usually had enough experience to come in out of the rain – he actually cited Maurice Cantellow who was the oldest NCO in my own platoon – but that the youngest soldiers might need a bit of help.

One small note on Bert's early days in the Scottish. At my first camp he was one of two corporals, along with Dick Main, in a very small MT platoon or section. I think they were not unduly impressed by a famous commissioned gent – who was briefly MT Sergeant. This must have been a short phase before Bert's longer time as Mortar Sgt, and very long service as CQMS.

Yours aye

Hugh Myers  
60 Aberdare Gardens  
London NW6 3QD

#### DAVID ALLAN – AGE 16

Dear Mr Webb,

Thank you so much for sending me details of my uncle David Allan; killed in action at the age of 16. I am very grateful indeed since it has helped me to complete a chapter in my family's history of which I was almost wholly unaware.

I knew that my late father had been very distressed about his younger brother's death, but he almost never spoke about the war or much of his own experiences and so it was all a bit of a taboo subject during his life.

My father was eighteen years older than his young brother, they being 30 and 12 respectively at the outbreak of war. My father was an army chaplain attached to the Gunners. I think that he was more aggressively involved in the conflict than one would expect a chaplain to be, and he was captured at Tobruk in June 1942 and imprisoned in the north of Italy. He escaped twice – the second time (about March 1943) successfully – and for nine months worked with the anti-fascists Italians organising escape routes for allied servicemen. As the Germans moved north, he himself finally entered Switzerland at the end of December 1943 and was repatriated in September 1944. It was not until then that he learned that his young brother, whom he remembered as a twelve-year-old, had been killed fighting in Italy while he himself had been in an Italian POW camp. A very sad story indeed.

I would very much like to be able to visit Minturno myself one day. I don't think that my father ever did, or whether he even knew of his brother's last resting place.

Thank you again for your kindness in sending me the details of the London Scottish action in the early days of 1944 – a notable chapter in the regimental history. I note with interest that Pte George Mitchell VC's middle name was "Allan" – now I wonder if there is a remote family connection there!!

Yours very sincerely

Scott Allan  
Monkmains Cottage  
Haddington  
EH41 4LA

## LT COL ALAN ORMOND MACLEAN OBE

We have been advised that Lt Col Alan Ormond Maclean OBE TD FCA of Aboyne, died on 26th April, aged 91.

Colonel Maclean was born on 19th August 1913, of Scottish parents in Derbyshire. After a few years at prep school in North Wales, he passed on to Sedburgh 1927-30. He was fond of all games and won his House Colours for Rugby and Cricket. He was Cpl in the O.T.C., a first class shot and obtained his Cert "A".

When he left school he came to London in 1931 and qualified as a chartered Accountant in 1937. Soon after he came to London he became a Territorial, joining 'B' Battery, The H.A.C in September 1931, serving with them until commissioned to the (H.A.C) H.A.A. Regiment R.A. He went to camp with them in July 1939 and did not return to civy street until the end of the hostilities.

During the London Blitz he served as a Troop Commander on a North London gun position. He was promoted Major in 1941 and Second-in-Command in 1942.

In August 1942 he took over command of the 3rd Battalion London Scottish, 97th H.A.A. Regt. Our Regimental History states it was no easy task for a non-London Scottish officer, but being a Scotsman he was half-way there. The whole Regiment knew within a few days that they were fortunate to have such a young, tough and direct CO. The Battalion soon took to him and gave him their respect and loyalty.

Soon there came a difficult period for a new CO as there were orders to mobilise for Overseas Service, but the Bn came through with flying colours under his leadership.

He was an expert gunner and expected every man to give the correct answer. For his work as A.A.D.C Beaches at Reggio on D-Day, September 3, 1943, he was awarded a Mention in Despatches as an A.A.D.C Cassino he was appointed a O.B.E.

Although not a good performer of games, he took a keen interest in the Battalion's sport and assisted in its training, and took part when needed.

His drive was immense and the

knowledge that everything he did was for the well being and honour of his Regiment, won him the respect of his officers and men.

Captain Brian Beswick who served under him, remembers a little episode which shows what type of man the Colonel was: On one occasion he brought a general up to see us. We had just moved our guns forward with difficulty and over terribly rough and muddy terrain, to a new position and had no time to clean them. The general reprimanded me for their dirty condition and stalked away. Colonel Maclean quietly gave me a sympathetic look and told me not to take it to heart!

Diana the wife of Brian remembers the Colonel when he was in the H.A.C and C.O. of a gun site of 4.5's near

Chingford in Essex. He was a quiet, general man who I believe was well respected. I think he was Major at the time.

Colonel Maclean commanded the Battalion until it was disbanded in December 1945, and we believe he was demobilised at the same time. He had told us that he regarded it as a great honour to command a London Scottish Battalion, and will always remember the happy years he spent with the Regiment.

Whilst he did not appear to attend any Regimental Functions after the war, he was a member of the Regimental Association and regularly received the *Gazette*.

We extend our sympathy to his daughters, Ruth, Susan and Kirstie, on their great loss.



MIDDLE: Lt Col A.O. Maclean C.O. 3rd Bn London Scottish, December 1942. (Also in photo Capt. Brian Beswick - top left).

## ALEXANDER FRASER

We regret to record the death of Alexander Fraser on 16th January, 2005 at the age of 83, following a stroke. He was born in Huntly, Aberdeenshire and joined the 1st Battalion as a volunteer on 6th March 1940.

Sandy, as he was generally known, was an accomplished Piper having learned his skill from 11 years old with the local Boys brigade, and he became a stalwart of the 1st Bn. Pipes and Drums, serving throughout W.W.2.

When the Battalion was stationed in the Sudbury area of Suffolk prior to going overseas in 1942, he met a local lass, Joan Tuffin. They were married in October 1945 and settled in Sudbury where Sandy established his own business. Their marriage had lasted for 59 years!

In 1978 members of the 1st Battalion who had taken part in visits to the battlefields and cemeteries of Sicily and Italy, held a reunion in Sudbury when Sandy again met up with some of his old Comrades, including two 1st Bn. Pipers, and he kept in touch through the *Gazette*.

His funeral was attended by Piper Chris Blenkinsop of the London Scottish and the family much appreciated the presence of the Hodden Grey.

Sandy leaves his wife, Joan, a son, two daughters and 10 grandchildren to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

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## RON BARDON

WE have been informed that Ron Bardon died in January, aged 75.

He did not appear to have kept in touch with the Regiment.

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## C J BISHOP

WE have been advised that C J Bishop a former member of the 3rd Battalion, died early April, aged 89.

He was not a member of the Regimental Association and did not appear to have kept in touch with us.



*Sandy Fraser piping post-war in Sudbury.*

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## MAJOR JAMES A BLAIR

WE have heard that Major James A Blair of Ardgay, died in February this year.

James joined 'D' Company the London Scottish in 1931 and served until 1934, reaching the rank of L/Cpl (unpaid).

On the outbreak of war he was commissioned in the Black Watch. In 1943 he attended a Staff College course and later in 1943 was posted to the Middle East, where he became OC of British Liaison Unit to a Belgian Brigade Group of 10,000 men. His actual unit numbered 50 men, one of whom was a Captain Kinloch of the London Scottish in the Training Team.

James kept in touch with some of the Belgians, and in his later years became a member of a Belgian Old Comrades Association whose soldiers had served in Africa. Their secretary was keen on pipe music, and James sent him several records over the years.

We extend our sympathy to his wife and family.

## DAVID HOY M.M.

WE have been advised by his son, that David – known as 'Davie' Hoy M.M. died early February, aged 85.

'Davie' was in the 8th Battalion Royal Scots, before he joined the 1st Battalion at Higham in July 1942. He took part in all the actions in Sicily and Italy. The citation for his Military Medal was as follows:

3060184 A/CORPORAL DAVID HOY  
1ST BN THE LONDON SCOTTISH

On 7 Apr, Cpl HOY commanded a section in D Coy, 1st Bn The London Scottish, when that coy was engaged in an attack on enemy positions on the North bank of the River RENO. The particular enemy position was sited on a bulge in the flood bank and had been defended with great determination by the enemy, despite four separate attacks by D Coy. Cpl HOY's section was ordered to take part in a fifth attack on this posn which had already caused numerous casualties to the company.

Although under mortar, bazooka, and small arms fire this NCO led his section without hesitation along the foot of the flood bank, until being grenaded both from the enemy posns and from the flood bank on the left flank. With complete contempt for danger and disregard for himself, that was an inspiration to all, Cpl HOY continued the advance alone and into the enemy posns where he attacked the dugouts with TMC fire and grenades.

It was no doubt through the personal example and leadership of this NCO that the remainder of the section followed up the steep bank of the river, taking the position and also 30 PW.

"Davie" was born in Kilmarnock, and in his time was a keen sportsman, playing in his Company Football Team, and was a fine performer in Highland Athletics events. He only joined the Regimental Association in the last couple of years.

We extend our sympathy to his family.

*See photograph, page 190.*



***The Ancients attending the Centenary Lunch held on 9th April 2005.***

*Standing Row: A. Cornell, D. James, C. Granger, C. Dobney, M. Ormiston, P. Hammond, J. Spoor, B. Welsh, G. Kellas, M. Durrant, B. Alderson.  
Sitting Row: C. Fairman, N. Rutherford-Young, A. Morris, D. Franklin, R. Carlisle (Vice Mine Ancient) N. McTavish (Mine Ancient) H. Waterman (Scrivener) J. Williams,  
D. Henderson, J. Physick, H. Myers,  
Unable to attend: P. Brodie-Fraser, G. Scott, D. Hillman, J. Byrne, M. Randall.*

*Photo courtesy of H. Tempest Ltd*