



**THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND**  
**ASSOCIATION JOURNAL 2024**  
**VOLUME 21**

## CONTENTS

### Contributions

We welcome letters, articles and comments from our readers. If you have questions to ask or a story to tell that will be of interest to The Royal Regiment of Scotland, please contact the Regiment through our website [www.theroyalregimentofscotland.org](http://www.theroyalregimentofscotland.org)

All contributions are accepted at the editor's discretion and may be edited.

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### Next Edition

Units are asked to submit material for the next Journal, covering activities throughout the whole of 2025 by 31 January 2026. Further details will be provided nearer the time. Views expressed in this Journal, unless stated otherwise, are those of the author alone and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of The Regiment, The Army or the Ministry of Defence.

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# REGIMENTAL APPOINTMENTS



## REGIMENTAL APPOINTMENTS 2024

### Colonel-in-Chief

His Majesty The King

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### Deputy Colonel-in-Chief

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

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### Colonel of the Regiment

Major General RRE Lindsay CBE

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### Deputy Colonels of the Regiment

Major General AP Reilly OBE

Brigadier LJ Drummond MBE

Brigadier RSJ Hedderwick

Brigadier GC Wearmouth OBE

Brigadier N M Wight-Boycott OBE

---

### The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion,

#### The Royal Regiment of Scotland

**Commanding Officer:** Lieutenant Colonel J Dunn /

Lieutenant Colonel O Bridle

**Regimental Sergeant Major:** Warrant Officer Class One  
S Paterson

---

### The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion,

#### The Royal Regiment of Scotland

**Commanding Officer:** Lieutenant Colonel RA Smith

**Regimental Sergeant Major:** Warrant Officer Class One  
AC Ferrier / Warrant Officer Class One M Robb

---

### The Highlanders, 4th Battalion,

#### The Royal Regiment of Scotland

**Commanding Officer:** Lieutenant Colonel GW Muir MBE

**Regimental Sergeant Major:** Warrant Officer Class One  
GR Allison

---

### Balaklava Company 5th Battalion,

#### The Royal Regiment of Scotland

#### (The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders)

**Officer Commanding:** Maj RC Weir / Maj NK Cargill MVO

**Company Sergeant Major:** Warrant Officer Class Two  
S Cox MVO / Warrant Officer Class Two CR Marr

---

### 52nd Lowland, 6th Battalion,

#### The Royal Regiment of Scotland

**Honorary Colonel:** Major General AABR Bruce CB OBE VR DL

**Commanding Officer:** Lieutenant Colonel LJ Curson

**Regimental Sergeant Major:** Warrant Officer Class Two  
S McKnight / Warrant Office Class One A Welshman

---

### 51st Highland, 7th Battalion,

#### The Royal Regiment of Scotland

**Honorary Colonel:** Major General (Retired) PC Marriott  
CB CBE DL

**Commanding Officer:** Lieutenant Colonel DID Watson /  
Lieutenant Colonel DM Robertson

**Regimental Sergeant Major:** Warrant Officer Class One  
A Bright

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### Regimental Secretary

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) JD Tink

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## FOREWORD BY THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT



**Major General R R E Lindsay CBE**  
**Colonel of the Regiment**  
**The Royal Regiment of Scotland**  
Regimental Headquarters  
The Castle  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 2YT

*To the Regiment*

*SAH* February 2025

Our Regiment has once more had a period of high tempo activity at the heart of the Army's efforts. Each of our Battalions have been committed to key activity taking place across Defence, whether deployed on overseas operations or exercises, training members of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, held at NATO readiness, conducting the Royal Guard, or training to be the most effective and lethal infantry soldiers. Our forebears are famed for their fighting ethos of which we are the proud inheritors. Our Battalions remain some of the most deployed in the Army, which is testament to the commitment and professionalism of you as members of the Regiment.

We can be proud of what the members of the Regiment and our Battalions have achieved. Equally, as we approach another very busy period, we would all reflect that reaching the standards of professionalism that define us as a Regiment, takes humility, commitment, and sheer hard work. Our Battalions have programmes ahead packed with the opportunities to soldier and travel, which are the opportunities which attracted us to join the Army in the first place. These are also the activities we should aspire to as we seek to set the standard for others to follow – we should relish these opportunities to test ourselves professionally and personally.

As we approach our 20th anniversary in 2026 we can all reflect that we are a Regiment formed in the crucible of campaigning in Iraq and Afghanistan. Equally, we are a Regiment founded on the great service of our antecedents. We, as a Regiment, have written an important chapter in our history and this shapes our identity. So, whilst we take forward the heritage of our antecedents as flames rather than as dust, our strength is equally in the service, sacrifice, and utter professionalism that you and your predecessors in our SCOTS Battalions have consistently demonstrated.

Congratulations to those across the Regiment who continue to show us all how to be the standard for others to follow. Particular congratulations to all those who received honours and awards in the New Year's Honours list.

We enter now another year of commitments at home and abroad and I commend all of you to continue in your diligence, dedication and hard graft so that as a Regiment, we continue to be the standard for others to follow.

*Message*  
*Ben Lindsay*





## REGIMENTAL ROLL OF HONOUR

### OFFICERS

**BARRIE, Walter Reid**

24823176 Capt, b. Chryston, Lanarkshire.  
Killed in action Afghanistan 11/11/2012.  
1 SCOTS, formerly RHF.

**McDERMID, John**

561716 Capt, b. Glasgow. Killed in action  
Afghanistan 14/11/2007. Attached 2 YORKS,  
formerly RHF.





## SOLDIERS

### **BINNIE, Sean Conor**

25171259 A/Sgt, b. Dublin. Killed in action Afghanistan 7/5/2009. 3 SCOTS, formerly BW.

---

### **COLLINS, Stuart James**

30034943 Pte, b. Bellshill. Died of Wounds United Kingdom 2/9/2021. 1 SCOTS.

---

### **DEMPSEY, Barry**

25079101 Cpl, b. Ayrshire. Killed in action Afghanistan 18/8/2008. 2 SCOTS, formerly RHF.

---

### **ELLIOTT, Kevin Robert Alexander**

25136352 Pte, b. Dundee. Killed in action Afghanistan 31/8/2009. 3 SCOTS, formerly BW.

---

### **FLINT, Samuel Alexander**

30158273 Fus, b. Blackpool, Lancashire. Killed in action Afghanistan 30/4/2013. 2 SCOTS.

---

### **HERTHERINGTON, Robert Murray**

25232174 Pte, b. Houston, Texas, USA. Killed in action Afghanistan 30/4/2013. 7 SCOTS, attached 2 SCOTS.

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### **JOHNSON, James Bradley**

24958609 LCpl, b. Chatham, Kent. Killed in action Afghanistan 28/6/2008. 5 SCOTS, formerly A and SH.

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### **KENNEDY, Scott**

25164918 Pte, b. Dunfermline. Killed on operations against insurgents Iraq 28/6/2007. 3 SCOTS, formerly BW.

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### **KERR, Jamie William**

25208345 Pte, b. Dunfermline. Killed on operations against insurgents Iraq 28/6/2007. 3 SCOTS, formerly BW.

---

### **MASON, Thomas**

25202313 Cpl, b. Bellshill, Lanarkshire. Died of wounds United Kingdom 25/10/2009. 3 SCOTS, formerly BW.

---

### **MATHEWS, Jonathan William**

24937064 Sgt, b. Edinburgh. Killed in action Afghanistan 28/7/2008. 4 SCOTS, formerly RS.

---

### **McDONALD, Sean Gordon**

25110838 Pte, b. Toronto, Canada. Killed in action Afghanistan 7/2/2010. 1 SCOTS, formerly RS.

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### **McLAREN, Robert McLean**

30029105 Pte, b. Buckstone, Derbyshire. Killed in action Afghanistan 1/6/2009. 3 SCOTS, formerly RE.

---

### **McLAREN, Scott**

30105449 Pte, b. Edinburgh. Killed in action Afghanistan 4/7/2011. 4 SCOTS.

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### **MILLAR, Stuart Angus Finlayson**

24914269 Sgt, b. Clackmannan. Killed in action Afghanistan 31/8/2009. 3 SCOTS, formerly RHF.

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### **MOORE, Johnathan**

25183149 Cpl, b. Bellshill, Lanarkshire. Killed in action Afghanistan 7/2/2010. 1 SCOTS, formerly RS.

---

### **O'DONNELL, Craig**

25146937 Pte, b. Alexandria, Dunbartonshire. Killed in action Afghanistan 4/9/2006. 5 SCOTS, formerly A and SH.

---

### **PIKE, Michael John**

25141952 Cpl, b. Okehampton, Devon. Killed in action Afghanistan 3/6/2011. 4 SCOTS, formerly HLDERS.

---

### **POOL, Joseph McFarlane**

25175213 LCpl, b. Dumfries. Killed in action Afghanistan 5/9/2010. 1 SCOTS, formerly KOSB.

---

### **SAVAGE, William Thomas**

25170821 Cpl, b. Irvine, Scotland. Killed in action Afghanistan 30/4/2013. 2 SCOTS, formerly RHF.

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### **VATUBUA, Joseva Saqanagedau**

30065586 Pte, b. Fiji. Killed in action Afghanistan 1/1/2011. 5 SCOTS.

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# THE SCOTS ASSOCIATION

## **President:**

Major General (Retired) Bob Bruce  
CBE DSO

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## **Chairman:**

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)  
Jonathan Tink

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## **Secretary:**

Barry Wylie

---

Building on the success of previous years, 2024 was full of varied activity and well attended events. With many annual events fixed in the diary, this year followed a similar structure to 2023: SCOTS Rally weekend was held in March, the annual golf championship in June, followed by the race-day in September. Like many previous years, veterans again paraded at the Cenotaph in London for Remembrance Sunday.

## **Scots Rally**

The annual SCOTS Rally weekend was held on 22-24 March. The weekend commenced with the Black Hackle Dinner Night at the New Club, Edinburgh. It was at this occasion that we dined out our Colonel of the Regiment and with numbers at capacity for the venue it made for a great evening and a fitting send off for General Nick.

Saturday saw the SCOTS Association Dinner at Murrayfield Stadium, where special mention must be given to the 2 SCOTS mini Pipes and Drums and SCOTS Ceilidh Band for their spectacular performance.

The final day of the Rally weekend saw both veterans and serving Muster, March and Remember, on the Castle Esplanade. The mustered contingent then marched down The Royal Mile, with Pipes playing and Drums beating from 2 SCOTS with the support of the Band from 6 and 7 SCOTS, to our Regimental Kirk at Canongate for a church service, led by the Regimental Padre Neil Gardner. The Rally weekend continues to build and is firmly becoming the Regimental event in the annual calendar.

## **Golf Championship**

The annual SCOTS Association Golf Championship took place at the Strathmore Golf Centre on Thu 20 Jun. With a mixture of veterans and serving soldiers and officers in attendance, all were welcomed with tea, coffee and a bacon roll before the championship commenced in fine weather. After 18 holes, the best handicap was won by veteran Paul Stewart for the 3rd year running, and the runner up was Capt Malky Wilson. Best Scratch Score was won by Maj Paddy Marshall and runner up was Sgt Hugh Robertson. The wooden spoon was won by Lt Col (Retd) Jonathan Tink with a Score Stroke of 114.



*SCOTS Association Golf*



*General Lindsay presenting General Sir Nick with his pipe banner*



*SCOTS Association members enjoying race day*

### Raceday

The SCOTS Association Race Day took place on Sat 14 Sep at Musselburgh racecourse. The day was attended by serving and veterans, many of whom brought their partners. As with the previous year, SCOTS sponsored two races: The Royal Regiment of Scotland Trophy and the SCOTS Association Cup. The Colonel of the Regiment and RSM 1 RANGER presented the prizes to the winning trainers.



*Lt Col (Retd) Jonathan Tink planting crosses*

### Remembrance

In October the Chairman of the SCOTS Association, Lt Col (Retd) Jonathan Tink, laid the wreath on behalf of The Royal Regiment of Scotland at the opening of the Garden of Remembrance, Edinburgh. Despite the windy Scottish weather, the opening was well attended by veterans, families and members of the public. Following the official ceremony, the families of our fallen were invited to plant their own Poppy Crosses, in memory to the 23 SCOTS officers and soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Regimental Headquarters staff then hosted the families in a local café and enjoyed reminiscing over stories of their loved ones.

The largest SCOTS veterans contingent to date paraded at the Cenotaph, London, on Remembrance Sunday, with Maj Gen (Retd) Sir Nick Borton KCB DSO MBE leading. Following the Remembrance parade veterans gathered for lunch at the Coach House, with many bringing their families along too. Later in the afternoon some of BKA Coy joined the veterans, following their own Remembrance activities in London.



*The Royal Regiment of Scotland Veterans contingent after the Cenotaph parade*



*SCOTS Veterans marching*



*SCOTS Veterans catching up before the parade*



## REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS



*Regimental Headquarters Staff.*

*From left to right: Sharon Beck, Capt (Retd) Scott McFadden, Zoe Carmichael, Barry Wylie, Alison Spark, Lt Col (Retd) Jonathan Tink, Gillian Craik, Paul Hanlon and Jodi Beard*

The continued engagement of our Regiment in our regional and local communities was the focus for Regimental Headquarters in 2024, following a successful engagement programme in 2023. The Regiment was honoured to have been offered, and to accept, the Freedoms of four new Council areas: Aberdeenshire (4 SCOTS), Moray (5 SCOTS), North Lanarkshire (2 SCOTS), and the Western Isles (2 SCOTS). The Regimental Adjutant, Capt (Retd) Scotty McFadden, covered many road and air miles to plan and execute superb Freedom parades, for which the Regiment received much acclaim from the Councils and their residents.

Amidst the Freedom parades, 4 SCOTS deployed from Catterick for their Tour of the North to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the formation of The Highlanders in Craigellachie. Over the subsequent days, they paraded in Nairn, Forres, Buckie, and Huntly, and visited schools and youth organisations. Further engagement events throughout the year included sponsoring the Under 18 Piobaireachd prize at the Northern Meeting Piping competition, military stands at The Royal Highland Show, and our Pipes and Drums playing at Murrayfield Stadium ahead of the Scotland versus Australia rugby autumn international.

Zoe Carmichael, the Communications and Engagement Officer, along with our commercial media partner, Grayling, put together an impressive and dynamic communications plan to support these events. The Regiment was showcased on national and regional TV and received extensive coverage in newspapers and online. Zoe then downed tools and headed south to Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. Over the next ten weeks, Zoe completed her Accelerated Officer



Programme, commissioned into the Royal Naval Reserves, and was awarded the prize for the best Officer Cadet on the commissioning course.

In September, the RHQ team took the opportunity to visit the Infantry Training Centre at Catterick, the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and Headquarters Infantry. At these locations, we gained insight into the training our soldiers and officers undertake, as well as the challenges facing the Infantry. During our trip, we were fortunate enough to be invited to visit 3 SCOTS on Op INTERFLEX, the training of Armed Forces of Ukraine. We were briefed on 3 SCOTS' organisation and tasks, visited the troops under training, and were extremely well hosted throughout.

In November we welcomed our newly appointed Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Princess Royal, to Regimental Headquarters. The Princess Royal was met by the Colonel of the Regiment before being introduced to the Regimental Headquarters staff. Thereafter, she met with representatives from each of our Battalions, family members, our veterans, and the bereaved families of our Killed in Action.

The Remembrance events took place in Edinburgh and London. Barry Wylie, our Welfare and Veterans officer, managed to muster 17 SCOTS veterans to lead the Scottish Division contingents as we marched past the Cenotaph in London. Thereafter, Barry organised a very enjoyable lunch for the veterans and their families whilst watching the Scotland versus South Africa rugby match in a local tavern.

Regimental Headquarters continues to induct all Officers on completion of their RMAS and IBS training, prior to joining their battalions. Of note this

year were the pilot induction courses that Regimental Headquarters assisted in running for soldiers. It is hoped that the soldier induction course will become a permanent fixture, just as it is for our officers.

Jodi Beard, our Digital and Information Management lead, has continued the drive to improve our digital footprint and our electronic working practices, from websites, apps, subscriptions, polls, and forms. There has been a marked increase in the efficiency in the way we now conduct our business, which has benefited all in the Regimental family. Of note is the significant increase in subscriptions to the Service Day Pay Giving Scheme following the digitisation of the process and the ability to track and trace those paying in and not paying into the scheme.

The Regimental Headquarters remains financially sound thanks to the unrelenting diligence of Gillian Craik, our Business Support and Finance lead. The introduction of new accounting software over the last 18 months has meant we are able to correctly track and predict all income and expenditure. The software has enabled us to identify spending patterns, which has allowed us to forecast the next budget far more accurately. Paul Hanlon and Brenda Ross in our iHub have been integral in ensuring the Department Heads receive the support they need to achieve their objectives and keeping our serving soldiers, veterans, and families connected with all that is going on in the Regiment.

SO2 Heritage, Lt Col (Retd) Gordon Vevers, after much debate, discussion, and pension calculations, clicked the "resign" link and retired from the Civil Service in the spring of this year. Gordon's contribution during his nine

years in Regimental Headquarters was impressive. Gordon immersed himself in the heritage environment and set about making sure our Regiment's heritage would never be forgotten and would always play its part in shaping the Regiment's future. Gordon just loved a project, from producing our lineage charts, writing dress regulations, developing our SCOTS museum, applying for grants, and conducting property audits – he excelled. Gordon's "angels", as he liked to refer to Alli, our Museum Curator, and Sharon, our Education and Learning Officer, have expertly filled the void left by Gordon's departure while we await the recruitment of a new heritage officer.

Gordon has done much to shape the early years of our Regiment, and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his excellent work. Gordon has clearly settled well into retirement as we have not seen or heard from him except when we meet him on the golf course.

RHQ rolls into 2025 buoyed by a very productive and rewarding 2024, with professional and dedicated staff at the helm of each department. This, combined with their desire to continue to improve on what Regimental Headquarters delivers on behalf of the Regiment, ensures RHQ is well placed to deliver more of the same in the coming year.



## HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCESS ROYAL, VISIT

On 1st November Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, visited The Royal Regiment of Scotland, in her first visit as the recently appointed Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of SCOTS.

The Princess Royal was greeted by Major General Bob Bruce CBE DSO – Governor of Edinburgh Castle – and Major General Robin Lindsay CBE – Colonel of the Regiment. As the Colonel of the Regiment welcomed the Deputy Colonel-in-Chief to Headquarters, she met the RHQ staff before receiving a regimental update, and then met with representatives from each battalion to hear first-hand about their recent experiences.

Once The Princess Royal had been briefed by the Bns, she was then escorted to the Officers' Mess, where veterans, serving personnel's families, and families of the fallen then greeted HRH.



*HRH meeting with families*



# TO THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND



*Colonel of the Regiment greeting The Princess Royal*



*4 SCOTS giving their Battalion update*

Before departing from Regimental Headquarters, The Princess Royal unveiled a plaque which read: "To commemorate the visit of HRH The Princess Royal Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Regiment of Scotland to the Regimental Headquarters at Edinburgh Castle on 1 November 2024" and also signed the visitors' book.

Everyone involved was delighted with the visit and we look forward to welcoming our Deputy Colonel-in-Chief back to the Regiment, in the not-too-distant future.



*Deputy Colonel-in-Chief unveiling the plaque*



## ASSOCIATED STATUS OF THE CITY OF LONDON

The Royal Regiment of Scotland was granted Associated Status of the City of London on 9 Nov, during the Lord Mayor's Show. Associated Status is granted in formal recognition of the ties between the City Corporation and the Regiment. The status of an Associated Regiment may be conferred on military units by the City of London Corporation through the Court of Aldermen. It has been conferred in a variety of circumstances, with the common thread of there being a substantive connection with the City of London which the Court considers to be worthy of the status.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland had a prominent role in the events surrounding the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the subsequent

coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, both in Scotland and in London. Soldiers from the Regiment took part in the London processions at the State Funeral in 2022 and the Coronation in 2023.

Upon the granting of the Associated Status of the City of London Major General Robin Lindsay CBE – Colonel of the Regiment said: "The Royal Regiment of Scotland's association with the City of London has been well-established in the 18 years since our formation. Our association has been founded on the significant ceremonial operations we've had the privilege of being part of in recent years, bringing the skirl of the Pipes, the beat of the drum and a flash of tartan to London

itself. This association builds on the close ties our antecedent regiments had with the City, which includes the London Scottish, who were the territorial battalion of the Gordon Highlanders during World War II. It's an honour now to formalise our association in this way."

BJA Coy, 5 SCOTS received the Associated Status of the City of London on behalf of the Regiment as part of the Lord Mayor's Show when they provided the Colour Party and Guard of Honour and led the parade through the streets of London along with Band SCOTS, 4 SCOTS Pipes and Drums and Corporal Cruachan IV.



*The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alistair John Naisbitt King, greeting BKA Coy*



*Lt Donovan with the Regimental Colour*



*BKA Coy parading at the Lord Mayor's Show*



*Cpl Cruachan IV and Pony Major Stewart parading at the Lord Mayor's Show*



*4 SCOTS Pipes and Drums about to parade at the Lord Mayor's Show*



# SCOTS

[www.theroyalregimentofscotland.org](http://www.theroyalregimentofscotland.org)



**2 SCOTS**



## 2 SCOTS

### COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

*Lt Col John Dunn handed over to  
Lt Col Ollie Bridle in July 2024.*

I will skip the tawdry clichés about the pace of life. You will have read them in these pages too many times before and no doubt will again. I would simply report that this year has been characterised in the most part by dispersal. The Battalion has been deployed to the Falkland Islands, Iraq and within the UK training Ukrainian soldiers on Op INTERFLEX. Indeed, our Assaye Day parade in September was the first time that the Battalion had paraded together for ten months. Of course, our soldiers, NCOs and Officers rose once again to these challenges and did the Battalion proud. It is an immense privilege to serve with them and it is worth taking time to reflect on how lucky we are to have such people in our Regiment.

The Battalion was due to deploy on Operation SHADER 18 between Dec 23 – Jun 24. However, due to Visa delays, members of the Battalion deployed over a nine-month period to September. A and B (ISR) Company provided the bulk of personnel, although the Visa issues meant that the deployment was a mix of two companies over the entire period rather than two distinct tranches as planned. Despite all the difficulties and uncertainty that resulted from events beyond their control, our people performed fantastically and won plaudits from senior officers, allies, and diplomats alike!

Concurrently 2 SCOTS, supported by partners from Norway and the Netherlands, delivered Op INTERFLEX from 15 Dec 23 – 28 Jun 24. Around 2100 Ukrainian instructors and recruits were trained. Myriad challenges had to be overcome (not least communicable disease, failing infrastructure and a very wet winter), but, supported by the wider Op INTERFLEX mission, the training unit strove to implement positive change and enhance training. BHQ was in the unique position of having no UK subunits under command and we had to adapt our working practice to suit how our Norwegian and Dutch sub-units operated. Some very strong links have been established with our allies, with a fantastic trip to Norway having been completed and a reciprocal visit for Burns night scheduled next year. Charlie Company provided a leadership training subunit to the QRH led training unit. The commitment was all consuming with a busy programme and few opportunities to get home, but I was immensely proud of the dedication that our soldiers showed in providing high quality training to our Ukrainian allies. We all recognise that the burden they bear far outstrips any difficulties we face. It is fair to say that our soldiers learnt as much from them as they did from us. We wish them all well.

To complete the set, Fire Support Company deployed to the Falkland Islands between 27 Apr – 27 Jul. In between some fantastic engagement with the local community, they conducted some novel training concurrent to their operational role. This included a tri-service exercise working with RAF Typhoons and HMS Forth. The Mortar Platoon took part in Exercise SCOTS ARTILLERY alongside

16 RA, which was the first time in several years that they had used their equipment to detect live munitions. Additionally, it enabled the Platoon to test their counter battery drills. It is also worth noting that one of the Company's exercises involved a simulated attack onto Goose Green, the first time since the Falklands conflict that this land has been used for military training or operations. Overall, the deployment was a great success and provided Fire Support Company with some wonderful training and unique experiences.

These activities consumed the Battalion for the first nine months of the year, and it must be acknowledged that members of HQ Company such as our Medics, Chefs, Signallers, Motor Transport Platoon, and Quartermaster's staff worked tirelessly to make it all happen. They are often the unsung heroes of the Battalion with the highest amount of time away and longest working hours. Without them none of us could function. They have my most sincere thanks.

In September the Battalion came together to celebrate Assaye Day. It was our way of saying thank you to our families and loved ones. It must be acknowledged that all these fantastic achievements come at a price. The burden also falls on them. It was heartening to see numerous medals and commendations awarded by the Colonel of the Regiment at the parade, and I reflected that many of our soldiers and Junior NCOs received their third operational medal. No mean feat in the current context and a reflection of the Battalion's long term operational focus.



In the last part of the year we tried, and if we are honest often failed, to reduce the pace of life with a month-long festival of fitness that focused on mental as well as physical wellbeing, sport, and low-level training. A deployment as the UK Standby Battalion as well as several live firing packages in preparation for our validation pathway next year, added friction into the programme, but once again the soldiers rose to the challenge. During the former commitment they showed the Battalion and the Army in a hugely positive light to senior military and political figures. Additionally, the Pipe Band cemented their huge success across the competing season to be crowned Champions of Champions in the 4B category and achieved the unprecedented result for a military band of being promoted two grades for next year. Our Ex SUNDA PATROL team also performed excellently, winning a Gold Medal on the arduous jungle patrol competition.

Amongst all these achievements, it seems wrong to single people out – so I won't! I will simply offer my heartfelt thanks to all members of the Battalion and their loved ones for their hard work and support in allowing 2 SCOTS to flourish. It is the honour of my life to serve alongside you all.



*Lt Col Ollie Bridle*



## 2 SCOTS

### OTHER RANK PROMOTIONS

#### **Warrant Officer Class 2 to Warrant**

##### **Officer Class 1:**

McConachie

#### **Colour Sergeant to Warrant**

##### **Officer Class 2:**

Gemmell

Davidson

Alexander

Scott

Connelly

#### **Sergeant to Colour Sergeant:**

Davies

Watt

McAvoy

Miller

McGregor

Hayworth

Cave

#### **Corporal to Sergeant:**

Prime

Crawford

Stevenson

Craig

Sheerin

Finnigan

Anthony

Kiogora

Shrestha

#### **Lance Corporal to Corporal:**

Cannon

Dougal

Hodgins

Rai

Bohara

Barker

Webster

Lockhart

#### **Fusilier to Lance Corporal:**

Donaghy

Rodger

Tovoka

Huxter

Mackay

Matakiviti

Friery

Simpson

McDougall

Stewart

Thomson

Smith

Strain

Waddell



## OPERATION SHADER 18

### A and B(ISR) Companies

2024 saw a much-awaited return to the highlands of Kurdistan for troops from A, B(ISR) and HQ Companies on Op SHADER 18. The Battalion last deployed to Erbil in 2017/18, and although scheduled to take over from 1 ROYAL YORKS in Nov 23, the problems with the perennial Iraqi visa issue process meant the deployment felt a little like a game of snakes and ladders with many troops sat on bergens playing 'go/no go' from Nov 23 until eventually deploying in Mar 24. In the end, the visa lottery never quite played out as the Bn hoped, and 2 SCOTS were forced to create composite teams from across the lucky few who had visas issued. As it transpired, it led to a healthy split of A and B(ISR) Companies across two rotations, overseen by Maj Finlay Anderson/WO2 Donnell initially (March – June) and then Maj Donkin/WO2 Grant (June – September).



SCOTS 1 on patrol: CSgt McGuinness, LCpl Crawford, Fus Strain trying Kurdish chai

From an operational perspective, the SHADER mission has transitioned from the Peshmerga basic training mission of the previous tour and is now largely focused on providing force protection for the raft of staff advisors to the Peshmerga operational HQs. The real benefits to this change, was



ROTO 2 ISR Coy Group

that multiples were able to travel extensively around the Kurdish region and see far more of the country than on previous tours. The task saw the Jocks responsible for *fly to advise* or *drive to advise* tasks across the AO, as well as a small element deployed to Federal Iraq to provide base protection at Al Assad Airbase. The deployment spanned a fascinating time in regional politics, which resulted in periods of heightened threat in the region and several Unmanned Aerial System attacks onto coalition bases. As ever, the Jocks rose to the challenge, raising their performance and bringing the highest levels of professionalism and humour; essential qualities to building great rapport with the Kurds and, less a couple of heated tackles on the football pitch, building credibility with our advisory partners from the US, Estonia, and Finland.

Most of the troops were housed in Camp ZORBASH (translation: Camp Very Good). ZORBASH was home to around one hundred and fifty UK troops on Erbil Airbase of which the White Hackles were the largest contingent. Four meals a day, booming Wi-Fi and comfortable living accommodation allowed the troops to recover from the day's patrols and the 45 degree heat. Whilst at various points in the tour the threat level prevented any group activity and saw all troops in full body armour and helmet unless sleeping, exercising or at their desk. When it was allowed, football, volleyball and various physical challenges were

extremely popular. Quizzes were the greatest draw card for a crowd, whether it be Fus Ferguson's imaginative picture rounds or Lt Steven and Sgt Stevenson's 'answers according to me' quiz, Saturday nights were a great social highlight for all members of the camp.

A few special mentions to those who deployed for longer periods (up to 9 months) or for those who deployed at very short notice from ISR Coy with 1 weeks notice for 8 months – overall the Jocks did the Regiment hugely proud and can reflect on a positive contribution to the final stages of the mission to defeat ISIS in the region. Theatre dynamics clearly permitting, I am sure the Peshmerga would welcome the White Hackles back out at the drop of a TOS. Bravo Zulu, A Coy and ISR Coy. Job well done.



Kuwait Drive Team



## 2 SCOTS

### OP INTERFLEX

#### CHARLIE COY 2 SCOTS: JAN – JUN

Since autumn 2022, over 30 000 Ukrainian soldiers and officers have been trained by the British Army in the UK, on what is known as Op INTERFLEX. Multiple courses are delivered across the UK training estate; basic infantry, train the trainer for basic infantry training, section commanders battle course (SCBC), platoon sergeants battle course (PSBC) and platoon commanders battle course (PCBC). Charlie Coy delivered the battle courses and preparations for the Op, including a conceptual package of leadership training, an awareness of Russian threats and land doctrine and Ukrainian doctrine understanding. A priority was given to the JNCOs in terms of their development and understanding, they would be the real work horses of the courses and thus needed the time and space to learn and prepare for the Op.

Deploying south on a gloomy Sunday in January, morale was high and there was a level of excitement to start the role. There was some reticence in Coy HQ as we knew there was much work to do to set the training teams for success, this was due to having no one to take over from at the southern training area. And although these battle courses had been run before on the Op, they had not been delivered on the training area we had been allocated. However, this was a great opportunity to start from scratch and create a product that was based on lessons identified from previous units and add our own flavour to the courses. The initial weeks were busy with creating specific training programmes for our training areas, a real freedom that we enjoyed as we could empower the training teams to fully own their own courses and overlay their instructing style.

Although the Army provides almost all the UK training staff, instructors, and HQ staff for Op INTERFLEX, it is nothing without the Ukrainian command element and the interpreters. Most of the Ukrainian command element are commissioned officers (normally Capt – Lt Col) and are from the same unit or cap badge as the students at that specific UK training location. These commanders are deployed from Ukraine to assist with maintaining discipline, making tweaks to training delivery, advising the Op INTERFLEX commanders on Ukrainian doctrine and tactics and ensuring that there is always a Ukrainian voice in planning the training. They are critical to success, and we were lucky enough to have four different commanders during our time on the Op. Two from the National Guard and two from the Border Guard, all officers that both Coy HQ and the instructors had a great relationship with and fond memories that will last a lifetime after sharing many close-knit discussions and conversations.



*Time to go up...*

Each course had their own highlights, but one thing that struck Coy HQ on an almost daily basis was the relationship that our JNCOs built with the Ukrainian students, it was a genuine pleasure to watch, and we are certain it was pivotal to mission success. For our instructors, they spent five weeks of 12-14 hours a

day with the students, it will not be lost on anyone how close people will get during that time.

As the Op drew to a close in June, the full Company including our wider Brigade teams, Ukrainian commanders and interpreters enjoyed an excellent afternoon in a sunny local pub garden with some delicious pub snacks and a few cold beverages. Much fun was had, spinning our usual Army stories but also reminding ourselves of what we had achieved over the last six months, and a huge thank you to the interpreters who have given up so much to assist in the training. As Coy HQ, a reminder of how it was a real honour to have so many different units under our command delivering such a tangible purpose and output, we hope everyone left with a little part of our 2 SCOTS history and ethos.

As we were delivering the battle courses, these are NCO heavy, and due to the PCBC being 11 weeks, there was significant crossover of courses. We essentially needed five platoons, and as per most Infantry subunits, we only have three, this created the need to request backfill from our Brigade HQ. Throughout the near six-month deployment, we had assistance from all the Coys in 2 SCOTS and another eight cap badges from both the regular and Army Reserve.



*The extended Clansmen team*



## OP FIRIC

Falkland Islands  
Fire Support Company

Spring 2024 saw FSp Coy deploy to the Falkland Islands to take up the mantle of Falkland Island Roulement Infantry Coy (FIRIC) from the end of April to the end of July. It was an exciting prospect for the Coy to deploy as a formed body, as we had been operating as independent Platoons for some time. Reinforced with 8PI (the flaming 8s) from C Coy, we got to work preparing for the task.

We knew the terrain and weather would be demanding, so combatting this was the focus for our pre-deployment training. Sgt McGregor used the copious amounts of experience he has developed as a Royal Marines cold weather instructor to develop the Company's understanding of dealing with the harsh conditions.

On arrival in the Falklands the Platoons quickly got to grips with the regular weekly rotation of training/ranges, QRF and patrols. For the training week, the Platoons had the opportunity to base themselves at Onions ranges (93 square miles of training estate) and hone their combat skills through a number of challenging range packages.

It was the patrol week however that really allowed our Junior Commanders to come to the fore and test their leadership. The sections would be transported to far flung parts of the island in order to gain insight on the topography and support the local residents. This would really test their ingenuity as the tasks they would get involved with ranged from putting up satellites, to sheering sheep and everything in between. As with everywhere we go, I took great pride in the feedback I received from many of the landowners who were quick to



*The GAMB radar supporting a live mortar range*

praise the Jocks as some of the most helpful and friendly soldiers that they had seen in many years. Once again showing the rest of the infantry how it is done.

One of the highlights of FSp Company's time in the Falklands was the joint training the Mortar Platoon conducted with the Resident Sky Sabre Battery from 32 Bty of 16 Royal Artillery – Ex SCOTS ARTILLERY. Here they conducted some novel training with the use of the Battery's Mortar locating radar to develop tactics and procedures to improve the survivability of the Mortar lines. This was the first time the Radar had been employed in this way since its establishment in the Falklands and a brilliant way to join forces with the other Army cohort based on the Island.

Mount Pleasant complex can be described, in the same way as many RAF establishments in my experience, as a somewhat bizarre construct. If you require a swimming pool, bowling alley or even a Wetherspoon-esk bar,

it can accommodate. To try and drive some discipline and good order into our light blue counterparts, the Officers organised a Regimental themed dinner night where we successfully managed to both teach them our illustrious history whilst poking fun at theirs. Luckily, Capt Cartwright was on hand to make sure all parties went home happy with some well-disciplined and energetic reeling to end the night.

The culmination of our time in the Falklands was achieved with Ex CAPE BAYONET. This was a tri-service exercise planned primarily by the training officer, Capt Spence, that not only allowed our soldiers to hone the skills they had been developing but also expose them to some of the capabilities of the other services.

The exercise started with a bang with a Coy attack supported by three Typhoon fighter jets providing an hour of low-level simulated bombing runs. This really got the blood pumping, and the pilots clearly pushed their planes to the



## 2 SCOTS

### OP FIRIC *continued*

limit as detailed by one unnamed RAF flight lieutenant a week later, where he explained all of the rules he had broken to provide the Jocks with the best experience! (Good on him!) You know you are being spoiled when you hear the Company Sergeant Major use some choice expletives to explain his annoyance of being unable to hear casualty reports over the net because of all the noise the jets were making. Shortly after the attack the Company's axis switched to taking back the HMS FORTH from our would-be invader enemies. 8 Platoon artfully cleared through the ship before resetting for an overnight voyage to Port Stanley. Here we conducted some more Coy actions in some of the worst weather the Island had seen in years (or so we were told by the majority of the farmers!). But as always, the FSp Company Jocks are a tough bunch, and even in the wind, rain, hail, snow and -15°C temperature, not one went down (unlike some of the previous RICs, or so the rumour goes). The exercise finished with a Company attack onto the infamous town of Goose Green. Again, in demanding conditions, the team fought through the same valley as 2 PARA before finishing with a BBQ in the town hall where they shared stories with the people of the town.

In summary the Falklands provided a fantastic opportunity for Fire Support Company and our hard-working attachments to come together, train and deliver a tangible output and they did it with great enthusiasm and results. I could not have been prouder of their performance!



*Typhoons swoop low for some ECAS*



*The attack onto Goose Green ramps up*



## UNITED KINGDOM STANDBY BATTALION (UKSB) – JOCK FUZZ

*Second Lieutenant James McKell*

2 SCOTS took up the mantle of the UK Standby Battalion (UKSB) on 1 September. The role of the UKSB is to act as the military aid to civilian authorities in their respective regions. Prior to taking up this responsibility the Battalion embarked on a Herculean training program which included an introduction to flood defence and police guarding duties in the unlikely situation that they needed backfilled, as well as some tabletop planning exercises and the usual Sisyphean task of watching training videos.

There have been many previous instances where the UKSBs have been used by local authorities. Some may remember the sight of troops on guard outside Downing Street, or the image of troops filling sandbags to help flood defences. However, on the whole, being called up and used is somewhat of a rarity.

Thus, little imagining that we would be needed, the Battalion settled down for the four-week 'Festival of Fitness', a welcome period of recuperation after a busy period of operations. At the end of this the Battalion were treated to a week-long much deserved stand-down period. Until 1800hrs on a cold Oct evening, a phone call came through from the OC; *"Stand to – tell the troops to cancel all plans – they are to head straight to Glencorse – further orders to follow – One Zero Alpha Out"*. Throughout the night, by plane, train and car, members of 2 SCOTS embarked on individual Odyssean journeys back to Glencorse. Impressively, nearly every member of the Battalion managed to return within the 12-hour period ready to embark on task.

Having returned to camp there was some frantic last-minute activity to get ready. Headcounts, final kit inspections, and vehicle packing underway, there was a healthy buzz of activity as people tried to work out what the tasking was and what they would need – did they really need to pack their GSR, and would they need their gaiters?

The next morning at 0600hrs the Battalion embarked onto the coaches with A Coy Swans leading the charge: we were heading south. We arrived at a discreet training facility late on the Friday evening and settled into our transit accommodation alongside a company from 1 LANCS.

On the Saturday morning, following a long night of work from BHQ, the troops received a series of briefs from Standing Joint Command and the situation was laid out to us. We were to prepare to assist the Met Police with a potentially sensitive task. Having been updated on the situation awaiting us, we quickly set about developing a training plan suitable for the possible taskings, aided greatly by the experienced Met Police training team.

The Jocks took to the quick pace and lessons like a duck to water, relishing the opportunity to learn some new procedures, but also with determination and a seriousness at the realisation that within days they could be operating alongside the Police. The first lesson was hands on, looking at how to integrate soldiers with the taser-equipped Police, and from there how to restrain suspects. The Jocks particularly enjoyed seeing the capability of the taser and learning about its effect and use.

Training of this ilk continued, with additional zeroing and CQB shoots over the course of Monday and Tuesday, before being stood down from the task and returning to Glencorse barracks, where we resumed readiness in case we were tasked again.

Being called on at late notice and the training received was all good value, and a useful opportunity for the Battalion to test their ability to deploy on mass. The high-profile nature of the tasking also meant that we were visited by the Minister for the Armed Forces and the Chief of the Defence Staff, who both took time to talk to and thank the Jocks: they were quick to point out the professionalism and spirit with which we set about the job.

Having now returned to camp, people still talk about their time serving in the Met and being in a police vehicle, this time in the front seat! It is also revealing that now instead of Saving Private Ryan, the Officers' Mess are often found watching Hot Fuzz in their free time. Although now gearing up for Exercise WESSEX STORM and Forward Land Forces readiness, 2 SCOTS still stand ready to be on the Beat.



## 2 SCOTS

### BRUNEI JUNGLE WARFARE SKILLS MEET

In November a team of eight from 2 SCOTS deployed from Glencorse to Sittang Camp, Brunei, to take part in the 2024 Brunei Jungle Warfare Skills Meet (previously called Ex Sunda Patrol). This was a patrol competition similar to Cambrian Patrol taking part in the jungle of Brunei with sixteen teams from across the British Army and international allies. The second iteration of the competition this year came with greater international participation, allowing the team to interact with soldiers from Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, and the USA. The first part of the competition comprised of a comprehensive familiarisation package delivered by Sp Company 1 RGR, with fifteen days of acclimatisation to the sweltering heat and humidity and jungle training delivered by 1 RGR's Jungle Warfare Instructors.

During the familiarisation package, each morning started early with acclimatisation physical training at dawn, to complete it before the heat of the sun became too powerful. For the competition the Physical Training Instructors from British Forces Brunei alongside, a doctor from the Institute of Naval Medicine, were implementing a trial acclimatisation package involving more arduous PT earlier on, as well as more loaded marching to enable greater adaptation to the tropical heat and humidity. After physical training we moved into lessons and jungle training to prepare the teams for operating in the close country environment. The varied lessons delivered by the 1 RGR Jungle Warfare Instructors included a survival day learning about traps, shelter, and fire as well as the opportunity to taste some of the interesting "food" foraged in the jungle by the instructors. On another day we had the opportunity to experience our first night in the jungle with a day of



*2 SCOTS patrol after finishing the competition*

navigation training followed by a non-tactical harbour. This afforded the team an excellent opportunity to get to grips with the fiddly hammocks before using them in anger on the competition. The familiarisation package finished with a very hot day practicing break contact drills before concentrating on battle prep for the competition phase.

With oppressive humidity and heavy bergens (none more so than the radio operator with the high frequency radio) and after a rigorous kit check, the 2 SCOTS team were ready to step off on the competition. Much like other patrolling competitions, BJWSM comprised of a series of stands or checkpoints that had to be navigated between with a challenge to be conducted on each stand. After a short first leg the first stand was a bridge building command task which, with the help of some acrobatic rope climbing by LCpls Harrigan and Foot, was accomplished without too many difficulties. The second leg proved to be more challenging as the team were confronted with a navigational section involving a dreaded 500m cross-grain, which involved moving through the dense undergrowth in the low ground. After successfully completing the leg, the patrol was tasked with identifying unnatural objects in an observation lane and radioing the results up to the HQ, before going into a short halt

for lunch. Another hard cross-grain followed before day one ended early with a casualty in another patrol, meaning we went into our harbour for the night. Day two started with a tough break contact lane before a med scenario and a reconnaissance on a jungle camp. The day finished with an extended period of biblical rain, turning the forest tracks into treacherous slip and slides. We were greeted with a return of the powerful sun on day three and with just a river crossing and a short hop to the reconnaissance back brief stand to go the end was in sight. The river crossing over the Kargu Dam gave a blissful fifteen minutes in the cool water. After a model build and a back brief on the reconnaissance that had been conducted the night before, the patrol was on trucks back to camp. To round it all off we finished with another kit check on the integrity of our waterproofing efforts on the river crossing and a quiz on the pre patrol orders and patrol events.

After an excellent three weeks being hosted by Brunei Garrison and 1 RGR Support Company, and due to the hard work by all on the patrol and the familiarisation package, the 2 SCOTS patrol were awarded a gold medal for their efforts, the highest award available, and were able to celebrate with some well-earned cans of Tiger Beer in the cookhouse at Sittang Camp.



## ASSAYE PARADE

*Warrant Officer Class 1 S Paterson – RSM*

Following the success from the Battalion's deployments on Op SHADER, FIRIC and Op INTERFLEX, the Assaye Parade was a moment to corral the whole Battalion back together. It wasn't lost on me that B Company had just returned from Iraq a few days before and time for rehearsals were minimal. However, after a few days "on the heel" the Battalion was set to commemorate the battle of Assaye but this year there would be a twist. It was also an opportunity to recognise our soldiers and officers with medallic recognition presented by the Colonel of the Regiment. These included King's Coronation Medals, Op SHADER Medals and a few Long Service and Good Conduct medals too. 2 SCOTS used this opportunity to invite families, as well as association members, to support the Battalion on such an important day.

I must mention Maj Colquhoun, the previous Battalion 2ic, sent me a message following the parade which puts Battalion life into perspective: he said "I arrived as Bn 2ic after Assaye Parade 2022, and it was probably the last time you could get the whole Battalion on the square in their kilts looking the part". It is an indication of the current tempo and reminds us of how important these days are to mark deep rooted history, provide Regimental education to the young Fusiliers, as well as give back to the families that support us.

Well done to all that took part with minimal rehearsals, proving that the Jocks can adapt and overcome.



*The Battalion formed up*



*General Lindsay presents Cpl Wiseman with his LSGC*



## 2 SCOTS

### BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

**Battalion Second in Command:**

Major Rob Colquhoun /  
Major Hamish Waring

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**Adjutant:**

Captain James McWilliams

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**Operations Officer:**

Captain Andy Oliver /  
Captain Luke Allwood

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**Operations Warrant Officer:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 John Haveron

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**Regimental Signals Officer:**

Captain Chris Smyth

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**Regimental Signals Warrant Officer:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 Paul Walker

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**Intelligence Officer:**

Captain Seumas O'Duffin /  
Captain Finbarr Holland

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**Assistant Intelligence Officer:**

Colour Sergeant Robert Ellis

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The year of 2024 saw significant change in the Battalion Headquarters. We said farewell to Maj Colquhoun and welcomed Maj Waring as the new Battalion 2nd in Command, as well as losing Capt Oliver as the Operations Officer. The four years that Capt Oliver spent as the 2 SCOTS Ops Officer set a record for the longest time in post, and he is glad that his thrashing is over. Fortunately, he has been chosen to work in the Land Operations Centre so will get a bit of a well earned rest! In his place Capt Allwood now bears the cross of capturing the complexities of the Battalion's movements in a myriad of spreadsheets. He frequently reminds everyone that he used to be OC Anti-Tanks, and some days wishes that he still was. Capt McWilliams, Capt O'Duffin, and Capt Smyth all managed to deploy on OP SHADER in various roles during the Battalion's time on tour, and by all accounts represented the Battalion very well. Closer to home, the Intelligence Cell were successful in their endeavours to receive Gold Accreditation in the Field Army Empowerment Program for the Battalion. Capt O'Duffin and Capt Holland were responsible for completing the longest mandated handover in the Army as they exchanged the role of ADC to General Officer Scotland and Intelligence Officer with each other. We are pleased to report that the handover was completed in style, and that both Scotland and the Intelligence Cell are safe and secure.



## A COMPANY

*Lieutenant Finn Macpherson*

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### **Officer Commanding:**

Major F Anderson  
Major C Wilkinson

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### **Company Second in Command:**

Captain J Gillespie  
Lieutenant F Macpherson

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### **Company Sergeant Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 M Donnell

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### **Company Quartermaster Sergeant:**

Colour Sergeant M Carroll

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### **1 Platoon Commander:**

Lieutenant G Gray  
Second Lieutenant H Bever

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### **1 Platoon Sergeant:**

Sergeant S Boyle

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### **2 Platoon Commander:**

Lieutenant S Steven

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### **2 Platoon Sergeant:**

Sergeant M Murphy

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### **3 Platoon Commander:**

Lieutenant F Macpherson  
Second Lieutenant J McKell

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### **3 Platoon Sergeant:**

Sergeant G Hamilton  
Sergeant M Anderson

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*Brigadier Wearmouth visits A Coy on Op SHADER*

A Company, like the wider Battalion, has had another exceptionally busy year. Though delays affected the start date for 2 SCOTS deployment on Op SHADER 18, our eventual relief of 1 YORKS was warmly welcomed by the beleaguered incumbents, as well as the A Company soldiers itching to get to Iraq. A Company, who led 2 SCOTS rotation of the operation, dealt with the ever-changing situation with all the professionalism and good humour you would expect from a SCOTS outfit. After a memorable stint, the A Coy majority left Iraq in June 2024, safe in the knowledge that Maj Donkin's ISR Coy would continue the good work alongside our numerous partner forces out there.

The churn of Company staff is an ever-present feature of Regimental duty, and the latter half of 2024 has been particularly turbulent, with almost everyone from Pl Sgt to OC having handed over.

Maj Finlay Anderson and Capt James Gillespie both finished their time with A Company in tandem with the end of their time on Op SHADER. James moves over to ISR Coy to take the reins as OC Recce Platoon and Maj Anderson has called time on his career as a regular serving soldier – just don't ask him which reserve battalion he's joined! Maj Craig Wilkinson has taken over as Company Commander and wasted no time in whipping the troops back into shape after an enjoyable period of post-operational leave, with one eye always looking forward to an immensely busy 2025.

Lt George Gray has relinquished command of 1 Pl (*The Fighting Men*) to 2Lt Harvey Bever after the former was summoned to Catterick to train the next generation of infantry soldiers. Harvey has joined the battalion full of ideas – some of them good – and is ably supported by Sgt Boyle, now an A Company stalwart and the senior Sgt in the Company.



## 2 SCOTS

### A COMPANY *continued*

In 2 Pl, we bade farewell to Sgt Murphy, who has decided to leave the Army after 13 years of excellent service. Lt Stewart Steven, who joined following a short stint with Sniper Platoon, began his time with the Company in emphatic style having spent six months on tour with his platoon, and is working especially closely with his JNCOs in the absence of his Pl Sgt.

3 Pl were no strangers to change either with Lt Finn Macpherson and Sgt Hamilton both moving on after having an enjoyable and auspicious 18 months commanding the prestigious 'Men at Work'. Fortunately for Finn, he will remain in the finest Coy in the Bn as its 2IC, with Sgt Hamilton moving to ATK Platoon for an exciting change of role. 2Lt James McKell and the newly promoted Sgt Anderson are already making the platoon their own, apparently undaunted by the enormous shoes they have been tasked with filling.

With all this tumult, we are fortunate that the tireless WO2 Donnell and CSgt Carroll remain in post as CSM and CQMS for another year, ensuring continuity as the beating heart of the Company. A keen runner and formerly the undisputed fastest in the Coy, the CSM has enjoyed the challenge to the status quo that the new OC brings, a stark contrast to the more *gladiatorial* style of fitness preferred by Maj Anderson.



*Freedom of the Western Isles, A Coy post parade at Stornoway harbour*

UKSB, undertaken soon after returning from post-operational leave and summer leave, was advertised as a period of relative calm though has been anything but! As the Company grafted to achieve and maintain readiness for an unending list of potential call-up criteria. Ranges at the back end of 2024 have been smartly executed and the Jocks seem to be relishing the return to more conventional soldiering after the very different requirements of Op SHADER, which guided our training through 2023.

The steady stream of new Jocks joining from Catterick and other SCOTS battalions is both constant and necessary, offsetting the losses as soldiers transition to support companies or promote into roles elsewhere. Throughout all of this, the Jocks continue to work extremely hard, seemingly unfazed by the relentless pace of life in the Battalion. In October, four Fusiliers from A Coy passed the Divisional PNCO cadre allowing them to promote to LCpl, and in January we are sending another two to Brunei, where they will undertake a PNCO cadre run by 1 RGR – a truly unique opportunity and one that everyone is extremely



*Lt Bever delivers a Lesson in 13A*

envious of. It is a testament not only to the competence of Fusiliers Eltom and Fowler, but also the confidence that their chain of command has in them.

A Company, though hugely changed from only six months ago, has once again formed a very tangible identity under the unifying insignia of its mascot, the Black Swan. As we move into 2025, which heralds yet another increase in Company and Battalion activity, the Jocks can and should be extremely proud of the work they have accomplished and the way they continue to carry themselves.



## BRAVO (ISR) COY

### **Officer Commanding:**

Major James Donkin

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### **Company Sergeant Major /**

### **Company Second in Command:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 Peter Grant

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### **Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**

Colour Sergeant Warren Grant,  
Colour Sergeant Gio Brown

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ISR Company has had another exceptional year, continuing to demonstrate its vital role in supporting the Battalion's wide-ranging operational commitments throughout 2024. As detailed in the following articles, the Company has maintained a prominent presence across nearly every facet of the Battalion's output this year. Key achievements include significant contributions to Op SHADER 18 and Op INTERFLEX, alongside the successful planning and execution of specialist platoon cadres and Battalion Collective Training. Notable exercises included Ex WESSEX STORM preparation and Ex SUNDA PATROL support in Brunei, further reinforcing ISR Company's flexibility and operational reach.

A significant number of professional milestones were also achieved within the Company, with several personnel completing career courses at CAMS, the Union Division PJNCO Cadre, and IBS. This year has also seen another notable turnover of personnel at platoon level, with many SNCOs and Officers transitioning in and out of the Company. This period of change has been marked by the continued effort to cultivate and develop the next generation of the Battalion's specialist operators. This year alone eleven new Gunners, Snipers, and Recce Patrolmen have joined the ranks, with four of these individuals successfully completing the Anti-Tank

Cadre and obtaining their hard-earned specialist badges.

The Company concluded the year with a strong finish, securing victory at the 2 SCOTS Inter-Company Sports Competition, where they were crowned overall champions. Notable wins in both football and rugby showcased the camaraderie and competitive spirit of the Company.

The year ahead holds great promise, and ISR Company is well-prepared to continue its excellence in support of the Battalion's objectives.

### **ANTI-TANK PLATOON**

#### **Officer Commanding:**

Captain Nathan McCrae,  
Captain Luke Allwood

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#### **Second in Command:**

Colour Sergeant Chad Simon

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#### **Platoon Sergeants:**

Sergeant Andy Dunsmore,  
Sergeant Pete Mawhinney,  
Sergeant Jo Nayacakalou,  
Sergeant Jemal Anthony

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The past year has been a busy, albeit somewhat disjointed, period for the Anti-Tank Platoon, with troops engaging in a wide range of operational and training activities. The platoon played a key role in supporting C Company's efforts on Op INTERFLEX, providing instructors and demonstration troops. Additionally, the platoon deployed on Op SHADER 18 where personnel served in various roles, including commanders, drivers, dismounts at multiple headquarters across the Combined Joint Area of Operations. A detachment from the platoon also played a pivotal role at the Cyprus Reception Centre under QM SHADER, delivering decompression activities

and serving as vital representatives of 2 SCOTS in the logistical support element of the operation.

Following the conclusion of Op SHADER, the Anti-Tank Platoon was able to reassemble and benefit from a well-deserved period of Post Operational Tour Leave. Upon return, the platoon immediately transitioned into an extensive Live Fire Tactical Training package at Barry Buddon. During this training, troops demonstrated proficiency as formed Anti-Tank Sections, reaffirming that, despite being a support weapons platoon, mastery of basic skills remains essential.

After completing the LFTT, the platoon's focus shifted to a comprehensive Gunner Skills Cadre, which incorporated training with the Javelin Weapon System. This cadre was particularly valuable, as it provided the opportunity for platoon members to work closely with the reconnaissance team, enhancing their understanding and integration of the javelin system into their operational practices. The experience proved to be a crucial bonding exercise, strengthening the platoon's cohesion, and reinforcing the shared commitment to the task at hand. New members of the platoon were warmly welcomed into the Panzerjager Clan, where they quickly adapted to the unique dynamics of heavy equipment operations and the tactical deployment of anti-armour assets.

Looking ahead upcoming exercises will offer further opportunities to refine the platoon's anti-armour capabilities, as they continue to lead 2 SCOTS Battlegroup's efforts in defeating armoured threats and contributing to the wider strategic objectives of the Regiment.



2 SCOTS

## **BRAVO (ISR) COY** *continued*



*Carrying heavy things...*

### **SNIPER PLATOON**

#### **Officer Commanding:**

Lieutenant Stewart Steven,  
Colour Sergeant James Coxon

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#### **Second in Command:**

Sergeant Gordy Smart

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Over the past few months 2 SCOTS Sniper Platoon has maintained a rigorous operational tempo, notably supporting OP SHADER 18 and OP INTERFLEX. On Op SHADER the platoon provided vital force protection for international counterparts, ensuring the security of key personnel and assets. Following a well-deserved period of Post Operational Tour Leave, the platoon returned to focused training, with members attending Sniper Commanders and the Platoon Sergeants Battle Course in Brecon.



*Col of the Regt with the successful students on the back of the Gunner Cadre*

In preparation for upcoming commitments, the platoon is also working diligently towards the 2025 training year. Training has focused on core sniper skills, including stalking, and progressing through to section ambush tactics. A highlight of the period was a week at Barry Buddon, where the platoon conducted the Annual Combat Marksmanship Test alongside advanced shooting drills. Fus Strain excelled in this event, earning recognition as the "Best Shot of the Week" by achieving a flawless performance, hitting all ten targets in just 4 minutes and 14 seconds, ranging from 400m to 1000m. Fus Strain also attended the Union Division PJNCO Cadre and was crowned top student, subsequently promoting to LCpl on the course pass-out parade.



*New boys getting put through their paces on the Sniper Operators Cadre*



*Thermal threat stalk*



*Another pair on task...*

The period also served as an excellent opportunity to develop new talent within the platoon. Newly promoted LCpl Raivou will join Fus Boulton and Brown on the Basic Sniper Course early next year. The platoon wishes them success in their forthcoming training year. Additionally, we bid farewell to Lt Steven, who has moved on to A Coy, and wish him the best of luck in his new role.

## RECCE PLATOON

### Officer Commanding:

Captain Jamie Bamford,  
Captain James Gillespie

### Second in Command:

Colour Sergeant Gerry McGuinness

### Platoon Sergeants:

Sergeant Matt Drysdale,  
Sergeant Tony Iliffe,  
Sergeant Kevin McAvoy,  
Sergeant Kyle Crawford,  
Sergeant Craig Manders

The year 2024 saw the Reconnaissance Platoon engaging in numerous operations and training activities. At the start of the year, the platoon split its personnel, with the majority deploying on operations at short notice to support the 1 R YORKS Company. The remaining personnel were assigned to Op INTERFLEX, where they trained Ukrainian forces under Charlie Company.

Upon completion of these operations, the platoon returned to the UK and enjoyed some well-deserved Post Operational Tour Leave (POTL). However, the respite was short-lived as they quickly resumed training in preparation for Ex WESSEX STORM and the Battalion's transition to the Forward Land Forces (FLF) role. The platoon collaborated for some anti-tank training, joining the first week of the Javelin Cadre to acquire specialised skills.

The year concluded with a one-week Reconnaissance-specific battlecraft syllabus. Both seasoned and new soldiers to the platoon practiced critical recce skills through navigation exercises, target reporting and recording, communications, and an endurance march over the Pentlands training area and adjacent private farmlands.

Through these rigorous activities, the Reconnaissance Platoon maintained its high standards and commitment to excellence, ensuring that all members are well-prepared for future challenges.



*Recon in the re-org*



*Taskforce MAVERICK in AAAB*



*Recce Platoon on the pan*



## 2 SCOTS

### CHARLIE COMPANY (THE CLANSMEN)

**Officer Commanding:**

Major S Wright

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**Company Second in Command:**

Captain T Purslow

Captain T Oakes

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**Company Sergeant Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 J Haveron

Warrant Officer Class 2 W Galloway

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**Company Quartermaster Sergeant:**

Colour Sergeant R Cook

---

**7 Platoon Commander:**

Lieutenant H Bolton

Second Lieutenant A Brophy

---

**7 Platoon Sergeant:**

Sergeant D Mathieson

Sergeant K Stevenson

---

**8 Platoon Commander:**

Lieutenant A Thompson

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**8 Platoon Sergeant:**

Sergeant A Craig

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**9 Platoon Commander:**

Lieutenant A Calder

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**9 Platoon Sergeant:**

Sergeant King

Sergeant Santosh Shrestha

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*Clansmen on Parade*

As is synonymous with the Army's forecast of events, 2024 was another varied, busy, and fulfilling year for the Clansmen. The focal point of the year was the Clansmen's contribution to Op INTERFLEX, training junior commanders from the Ukrainian Border Guard, National Guard and Special Police. The courses mirroring those delivered at Infantry Battle School, Brecon meaning our instructors were well-versed in the training delivery. The Coy instructed on all aspects of command and leadership training, preparing them to return to command troops in Ukraine to fight the Russian invasion.

From April – July 8 Platoon deployed alongside troops from Fire Support Coy as the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (Op FIRIC). Whilst in the Falklands, the 'Flaming Eights' conducted section patrols to remote areas of the Islands as well as high quality live fire tactical training including opportunities to interact with our partners in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force on the final training exercise, Ex CAPE BAYONET.

With Operations coming to an end prior to summer leave, it was time to bid farewell to several of the Clansmen. The stalwart of the Coy, Company Sergeant Major John Haveron moved on to greener pastures in Battalion HQ as the Operations Warrant Officer.

His professionalism, humour, and advice will be truly missed, and all the Clansmen wish him the best in his new role. Another key part of Coy HQ, the Company Second in Command, Capt Tom Purslow also left for Battalion HQ as the training officer. We are sure he will make best of the additional gym time afforded from the role. Sgt Davey Mathieson, who has spent over 8 years in the Coy moves to the Reconnaissance Platoon with ambitions to becoming a Sandhurst instructor, an ambition we all know he will fulfil. Sgt Steven King moves to the training wing, and albeit a short stint his positive impact was felt by all. The Clansmen also said goodbye to the three Platoon Commanders, Lt Harry Bolton moving to the newly formed remote Pilot Aerial Systems Platoon, Lt Angus Calder to train infantry recruits at the Infantry Training Centre and Lt Hayden Thompson to Company Second in Command of Fire Support Company. All of whom have left their mark on the Clansmen in their own personal way.

With so many departing the Coy, so too the Clansmen welcomed their replacements. Company Sergeant Major William Galloway changes his caubeen for a Tam O'Shanter with his move from the Royal Irish Regiment. Capt Tom Oakes takes the position of Company Second in Command after his time as the Training officer.



Congratulations were in order for the three newly promoted Sergeants: Sgt Stevenson, Sgt Craig and Sgt Shrestha, all excellent additions to the Sgts' and WOs' mess. Last, we welcomed 2Lt Alex Brophy to command 7 Platoon. A new team, but all with the desire and drive to get stuck into the work with the Clansmen.

Following some well-earned summer leave the Clansmen returned to Glencorse for a more varied end to the year. A month-long festival of fitness gave the Coy an excellent opportunity to play sports and concentrate on health and fitness. Alongside the festival, the annual festivities of Assaye Day and Families Day allowed the Coy to let of some steam after the parade. From September onwards the Clansmen entered a period of high readiness as part of the Battalion's UK Standby Battalion commitment including a short notice deployment. The Junior Commanders and Jocks of the Clansmen absolutely nailed the brief they were given when working with Police counterparts and it was a joy to watch them in their element.



Charlie Coy on Ex DOLOMITE FUSILIER



The Clansmen on the Assaye Day parade

Whilst not deployed the Clansmen spent the remaining time before Christmas leave conducting training in preparation for the Battalion's exercise in early 2025. The Jocks enjoyed the opportunity to conduct individual training on medical skills and navigation and spent some time at Barry Buddon and Kircudbright completing their live fire preparation from static shoots up to platoon attacks at night. In November a team of eight, travelled to Brunei to take part in the Brunei Jungle Warfare Skills Meet, a jungle patrolling competition, achieving a gold medal after three weeks of very hard work.



A Clansman section commander briefs his section 2IC during a live Section Attack

To round off a busy year some skiing on Ex SNOWY HAGGIS and four weeks of Christmas leave set the Coy for success on what will be another interesting year in 2025, offering plenty of opportunity for arduous but fun challenges.



2 SCOTS

## FIRE SUPPORT COMPANY

### **Officer Commanding:**

Major Edward Shepherd

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### **Company Second in Command:**

Captain Alastair Turner  
Captain Tom Hamilton-Cox

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### **Company Sergeant Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 Chris Andrews

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### **Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**

Colour Sergeant Richie Muir

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### **Officer Commanding Mortars:**

Captain Alex Cartwright

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### **Second in Command Mortars:**

Warrant Office Class 2 Samuel  
Donnachie

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### **Officer Commanding Machine Guns:**

Captain Peter Dewhurst  
Captain Luke Carver

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### **Second in Command Machine Guns:**

Colour Sergeant Hayworth

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### **Pipe Major:**

Colour Sergeant Lilbahadur Gurung  
Colour Sergeant Joe Davies

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### **Drum Major:**

Sergeant Thomas McKay

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Fire Support Company has once again embarked on another dynamic and challenging year. Often segregated from Battalion, the Company has showcased its independence as well its unwavering commitment to excellence. From rigorous exercises in the Falklands to numerous ceremonial duties engaging with the public. Collaborative efforts with other Services have strengthened overall operational capability, whilst individual achievements within the



*FSp Coy in the Falklands*

company highlight personal resolve. With a busy 2025 ahead, Fire Support Company continues to uphold its reputation for versatility, readiness and confidence. This year's accomplishments underscore their role within Battalion.

Fire Support Company's deployment on Op FIRIC is covered in a separate article and was a large part of 2 SCOTS output this year. Fire Support Company, joined by 8 Platoon Charlie Company, travelled down to the cold and windswept Falkland Islands for a three-month tour. Tasked with reinforcing the British South Atlantic Islands, the company adapted to the unique challenges of the remote and rugged environment, whilst also entertaining the local penguins. Focused on maintaining operational readiness, they conducted joint exercises with the RAF and Navy, enhancing interoperability and strengthen regional security. Patrols across the terrain allowed interaction with the local population with which the SCOTS are always warmly received.

Fire Support Company has proudly participated in a series of ceremonial parades this year. Boldly showcasing their discipline, precision, and dedication to tradition. From Assaye day to acting as the Royal Guard in Holyrood Palace for His Majesty the King. The Pipes and Drums have had an exceptionally busy year, competing in various competitions to being

stretched across the globe conducting Remembrance Day tributes, playing as key features from Qatar to Nigeria. The Company's ceremonial commitments provided an opportunity to engage with communities, strengthen our esprit de corps and as ever represent the Regiment with distinction.

As 2025 unfolds, Fire Support Company stands ready to face new challenges with determination and vigour. The first half of the year plans to be particularly demanding, with a series of high intensity conventional exercises designed to sharpen our warfighting skills and operational readiness. As ever the company will look to rise to these challenges and remain a formidable asset on the battlefield, it will be viewed as an opportunity to grow stronger, setting the stage for another year of exceptional achievements and service to Regiment and Country.



*The Mortar Platoon live firing from Cellini village in Brecon*



## HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

### Officer Commanding:

Major Antony Ronaldson

### Company Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class 2 Lee Gemmell

### Company Quartermaster Sergeant:

Colour Sergeant Semi Vakaru

### Padre:

Major Andrew Thompson

### RDS:

Sergeant Robert McLean /  
Lance Corporal Adrian Wallace

In the past year HQ Coy has demonstrated unwavering adaptability and professionalism as we balanced multiple operational commitments both at home and abroad. From training partner nations forces to supporting international operations, our soldiers have shown steadfast dedication to their roles and responsibilities.

One of our primary focuses has been Op INTERFLEX where we played a pivotal role in training the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Working alongside our Norwegian and Dutch counterparts, our team designed and delivered comprehensive training programmes to enhance the lethality, survivability and offensive spirit of Ukrainian soldiers. This included everything from basic infantry tactics to fieldcraft and leadership development. In addition to training soldiers, we ran train the trainer courses to enable the Ukrainians to train their own personnel effectively, fostering a self-sustaining approach to capability building. Op INTERFLEX allowed us not only to strengthen professional ties with our NATO allies but also highlighted the collective commitment to supporting Ukraine during periods of global instability.



*CSgt McGregor, LCpl Allen and LCpl Crawford beneath the Baghdad Swords*

Simultaneously, elements of HQ Coy deployed on Op SHADER, contributing to the multinational efforts to ensure stability in the region. The detachment from HQ Coy supported the wider 2 SCOTS mission by providing key enablers across the staff branches. Our soldiers integrated seamlessly with coalition partners, showcasing the professionalism and expertise that define The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Despite these significant operational commitments, we maintained a Rear Operations Group at Glencorse Barracks to ensure the usual business activity and support all Coys within the Bn during their own operational deployments. The ROG was responsible for managing administrative duties, preparing personnel for deployment, and maintaining a state of readiness for Op TEMPERER. This often-overlooked element of operations was vital in ensuring the seamless coordination of our activities, both at home and abroad.

Balancing these diverse tasks has undoubtedly tested the resilience and adaptability of the Coy but our soldiers have risen to the challenge. As we reflect on our achievements, we remain proud of our contributions to Op INTERFLEX, Op SHADER, Op TEMPERER and all other activities conducted across 2 SCOTS.

Looking ahead to the next year, HQ Coy will yet again be the key enablers for all 2 SCOTS tasks. All elements of HQ Coy will be tested as we drop the 'Real Life Support' term and work towards an enduring warfighting approach; A1 and A2 Echelons will be robustly challenged as they provide support to the Rifle Coys. This training will see HQ Coy ready to be part of the 2 SCOTS Battle Group.



## 2 SCOTS

### PIPES, DRUMS & BUGLES PLATOON

#### **Pipe President:**

Major Antony Ronaldson  
Major Edward Shepherd

#### **Pipe Major:**

Colour Sergeant Lilbahadur Gurung  
Colour Sergeant Joe Davies

#### **Drum Major:**

Sergeant Thomas McKay

#### **“Pipe Band Holiday”!**

2024 has proven to be a frenetic, but enjoyable and ultimately successful year for The Band.

The main focus for the first half of the year was our first foray for some years into the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Competition Season. We were assessed at the beginning of the year and graded into Grade 4B. This gave us the aiming mark to prepare for and twice daily rehearsals became commonplace for the band, with Pipe Major Gurung and Pipe Major (Designate) Davies constructing a set list and driving the practice sessions.

A special mention must go to the Drummie, Drum Major Tam McKay, who was the pivotal figure in the organisation of the entire season. He engaged with the RSPBA, paid entry fees, organised transport, submitted grant applications, and prepared band equipment. He was the driver behind the entire competing season and his selfless commitment to the success of the band was superb.

That success manifested into winning competitions. Currently, we are the Grade 4B Scottish, British, European and Champion of Champions. We were also assessed as Best Turnout, Best Drill and Best Drum Corps throughout the entire season.



*The Band March on at Holyrood*

Another special mention must go to Mr Martin Huxter (Ex-A&SH/2 SCOTS) and Mr Andrew Kerray (Ex-QO Hldrs/Hldrs). Both gave up their own time to join the band for the competing season and having a former P/Maj of Marty's calibre alongside the superb drumming that Andy consistently produced, lifted the entire band and our eternal thanks go to both of them for being part of our team. Also Major Jesse Burnette, from the United States Army, played with and supported the band whenever he was available. He has been posted back to Washington DC, and we will maintain that link and friendship.



*Cpl Crawford on TV*

A final thank you must go to WO2 John Harvey. He is the Senior Pipe Instructor at the ASBM & HD, and he has been an integral part of the band throughout the entire year.

During Op INTERFLEX, the band donned their combats and dug out their Assault Pioneer equipment, assisting the Ukrainian Armed Forces recruits in the Russian Trench construction in support of TDU 3. The expertise and currency from both cohorts ensured that a fantastic training facility was created and will be used by hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers now and in the future.

As usual, we took part in various ceremonial commitments in amongst the competition season, most notably playing at His Majesty the King's arrival parade at The Palace of Holyrood. We also came first in the Medley Competition at the Army Championships held at the ASBM & HD.



Cpls Mark McWhinnie, Ryan Steel and Paul McEntee are currently assigned to the ASBM & HD as Pipe or Drum instructors and have set the standard for others to follow. Cpl McEntee has recently returned to the platoon and we are glad to have him back. The following personnel successfully passed various courses over the course of the year. Well done to all.

**Asslt Pnr Basic** – LCpl Susil Rai and Ppr Gordon

**Asslt Pnr Comd** – LCpl Foley

**Plant Operator** – LCpl Nugent

**Class 3 Ppr** – Ppr Gordon

**Class 2 Dmr** – Dmr Laurie

**Pipe Major** – LCpl Foley



*The Band meets the HM the King*

The Remembrance period saw members of the band deploy throughout the UK and overseas in support of the various commemorations held at High Commissions or Commonwealth Cemeteries.

The Pipe Band of any Scottish Battalion is the beating heart of that unit, and this year The Pipes, Drums & Bugles of the 2nd Battalion has displayed that this year. It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Pipe President, and as I hand over this role to Maj Ed Shepherd, I know that under his management alongside that of the band's chain of command that they will go from strength to strength in 2025.



*The Army Pipe and Drums Championship*



2 SCOTS

## QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT

### Quartermaster:

Major IA MacLachlan

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### Quartermaster Technical:

Captain A Campbell

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### Regimental Quartermaster

#### Maintenance:

Warrant Officer Class 2  
S Whitehead MC

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### Regimental Quartermaster Technical:

Warrant Officer Class 2 D Devine

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This has been another challenging year for the Quartermaster's Department, with major contributions in supporting A and B Coy's deployment to Op SHADER, Fire Support Company Coy to the Falklands and the six month deployment of the QM's Dept on Op INTERFLEX from Dec 23 until Jul 24, whilst still managing the home base in Glencorse Barracks.

As ever Assaye Day involved the QM's Dept leading the way with the preparation; the chefs produced another outstanding barbeque along with the cultural stands from the Nepalese and Fijian community, which was a real hit with the crowd. Although a smaller celebration, it was a welcome event as it allowed the Bn to be in one place together and able to socialise for the first time this year!



*The Pipes and Drums showing us all why they are the champions!*



*The Colours on parade*

On completion of these tasks we thought we would have a little bit of a quieter time over the summer and into November, but the UK Standby Battalion activation kicked in and off we went again at very short notice, showing all the qualities of the Battalion and demonstrating our effectiveness to react and to support the UK. The deployment was short, but the QM's Dept worked all day (and night actually) to procure mission critical kit for the Battalion.

The team have worked extremely hard as always and it is good to see their hard work recognised when they are promoted. CSgt Alan Duncan (G1098 SNCO) promoted to WO2 and has moved to the MT as the MTWO. WO2 Bright promoted to WO1 and has taken up post as 7 SCOTS RSM and I have heard that he now wears slippers in the office! SSgt Hay (Half a day Hay) promoted to WO2 and moved back

down South but is disappointed that they work a full week. He was replaced by SSgt Whitwham who had to hit the ground running and has set about continuing the improvement of our accounts and processes. We welcomed a new Clothing Store NCO, Cpl Donnelly, and she constantly ensures that the place is always neat and tidy. LCpl Johns has also promoted and will move in December to 2 Bn REME on promotion to Cpl. Pte Kerr (Chef) promoted to LCpl and will move later in the year. His poor banter will be sadly missed along with his happy face passing by my door! These promotions clearly show that their work is recognised not only in the Battalion but with their cap badges, and they are top performers. Most importantly this shows the rest of the Battalion that there are opportunities to promote within the QM's Dept.



## ADJUTANT GENERAL'S CORPS (AGC) (STAFF AND PERSONNEL SUPPORT) DETACHMENT

**Regimental Administrative Officer:**  
Major JAB Willden

**Detachment Commander:**  
Second Lieutenant SC Brunyee

**Regimental Administrative  
Warrant Officer:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2  
Stephanie Sanderson

**Financial Systems Accountant:**  
Staff Sergeant A Cleave (assigned  
out Sep 24), Staff Sergeant E Lewis  
(assigned in Jan 25)

**Staff Support Supervisor:**  
Sergeant BJ Charles

**Personnel Support Supervisor:**  
Sergeant L Tsenkos

This has been an incredibly busy year for the SPS Detachment, with every member playing a crucial role to support multiple operations including Op INTERFLEX, Op FIRIC, Op SHADER, Op LAZURITE, Op TEMPERER and UKSB, as well as looking after those remaining in the Rear Operations Group. The Detachment has been spread across the globe with every member working tirelessly to ensure a high standard of administration is upheld so that the Battalion can remain at Extremely High Readiness.

For the first half of the year, multiple members of the Detachment deployed in support of Op INTERFLEX, administering Ukrainian soldiers throughout their training in the UK. Over the summer period, Pte O'Brien deployed as the sole MPA on Op FIRIC, looking after all SP in location – a fantastic achievement at such an early stage of her career.



*Pte O'Brien with the penguins on FIRIC*

On Op SHADER, LCpl Doherty and Pte Chalkley were responsible for the administration of over 400 personnel from all different services, corps, and civilian contractors. They had the opportunity to deploy out on the ground with the Jocks, take part in ranges and advanced medical training, and even K9 bite-suit training.

Additionally, whilst deployed Pte Chalkley was able to join the '100 Miles in May' charity challenge with other deployed SP, where they managed to raise over £8000 for the charity, Combat Stress. Back in camp during this time, Cpl Weatherston was able to conduct her own charity event, a 2-day hike around the Pentlands to raise money to support 'Ukraine Charity'.

Members of the detachment have also been able to take part in various sports events throughout the year. Cpl McColl took part in the AGC Badminton Championships where she achieved second and third place for her events. Pte Chalkley also re-joined the AGC team to take part in the AGC Swimming Championships at the end of the year.

This year we also welcomed several new members to the Detachment, with our gapped positions of RAO, Det Commander, PSS and iHub now being filled by Maj Willden, 2Lt Brunyee, Sgt Tsenkos and LCpl Flint respectively. They have all settled into their positions well and are a welcomed addition to the team. We look forward to SSgt Lewis joining us as the new FSA in the new year. Sadly we said goodbye to SSgt Cleave, Cpl Lorandi and Pte Mugford as they moved onto their new positions. We wish them all the best for the future! For promotions this year, Sgt Charles was successfully selected for promotion to SSgt and Pte Chalkley was selected for promotion to LCpl.

We were fortunate enough to conduct several exciting 'Det Dos' this year including top golf, visiting the Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum and an Escape Room. The Detachment have been able to take a much-needed break from the busy workload to bond and explore the local areas.

The Detachment were back together just before Christmas leave and look forward to supporting the Battalion as best we can in 2025!



*The detachment taking part in Top Golf*



## MOTOR TRANSPORT

### Motor Transport Officer:

Captain SL McNally

### Motor Transport Warrant Officer:

Warrant Officer Class 2 M Hutchison

Warrant Officer Class 2 Duncan

### Motor Transport Sergeant:

Sergeant MD Miller

The last 12 months saw the Motor Transport Department morph into a more agile, lightweight concentration of MOD Transport enthusiasts. Whilst operating with reduced horsepower (pun intended), the MT section continued to deliver against a plethora of Battalion commitments. From the Op FIRIC to Op SHADER, with as many pit-stops in between as you can manage, the wheels keep turning.

As ever, the baton of responsibility continues to pass as we say farewell to some of our most experienced operators. WO2 Hutchison departs at the end of his Colour Service with firm plans to conquer the waterways of Northern England. Cpl Wood has left to seek fresh opportunities within the QM's Dept – apparently, he could not bring himself to work for a MTO that did not share his passion for the Glasgow Rangers. The exodus continued with Cpl Smith and LCpl Lochrie, both setting their compasses South in search of a new adventure. Collectively, they all depart with our thanks and best wishes for the future.



MTWO HOTO

One notable addition to the team is WO2 Alan Duncan (MTWO), arriving in Oct as the Bn resets ahead of the multiple deployments scheduled for 2025. Mr Duncan is an old campaigner in the 2 SCOTS MT world, having previously served as the MT Sgt and 2ic. Coming back as MTWO allows him to effectively complete the motor transport game and we could not have found a better man for the job.

Driver training has dictated the beat of the drum for the vast majority of this year. Cpl Bezuidenhout and Cpl Burton have both worked miracles with the sheer number of troops they have managed to qualify across all vehicle variants. If something had a fuel tank and a set of keys, the Driver Training Wing qualified someone to drive it. The overall numbers have been staggering with the MTO surrendering the count around Easter when he ran out of toes!

Prior to the Christmas week standdown, Capt McNally deployed his annual party trick by organising Winter Driving Awareness training, this time in late November! Bringing it forward in the calendar was his idea of keeping things 'fresh'. When the opportunity presented itself, Sgt Miller led the charge to discover what lay inside the fire appliance, truck for the uninformed...who knew? With the sirens and horn blaring, only the threat of extra Christmas duties proved enough to get the A Coy Jocks out of the vehicle. Fus Lynn was taking advantage of a well-deserved day off, so the MTWO decide it was Fus Blyth's turn for a toenail trim using the 'Jaws of Life'. It is rapidly becoming a MT tradition.



LCpl Walker Instructing GS Cadre



Winter Driving Awareness Training



## PHYSICAL TRAINING WING

### Senior Staff Instructor:

Staff Sergeant John Fleming RAPTIC

### Staff Instructor:

Sergeant T Turner RAPTIC

This year the gymnasium staff have been involved with many events, including a British Army Warrior Fitness (BAWF) competition, Inter Company Sports competitions (won by ISR Company), a visit from Rangers FC Youth Academy, a visit from Edinburgh Rugby Team, and the King's Highland Ultra Marathon. The unit also bid farewell to SSgt (SSI) J Craft – an incredible RAPTIC, and LCpl Kerr – a talented AAPTIC, both being assigned overseas to Episkopi, Cyprus. As a replacement, the ERI role was welcomedly filled by Sgt (SI) T Turner, previously assigned to Kinloss.

During an exceptionally busy forecast, 2 SCOTS gymnasium hosted an Army in Scotland (AiS) BAWF Event. This saw various units from across Scotland attend and compete in the fierce team series competition. Our very own 2 SCOTS BAWF team, led by Maj Anderson, managed to qualify for the series final event held in ATR Winchester, where the team competed against the top BAWF athletes within the Army.

2 SCOTS Gymnasium had the privilege of hosting Rangers Football Club in their pre-season preparations. The Professional Development Phase players, comprising the B Team and Under-18s, visited Glencorse Barracks in Edinburgh where they were pushed to their physical and mental limits by the 2 SCOTS gym staff. The youngsters were given the full treatment and were tested on their fitness, mental stamina, problem solving and communication skills in high pressure situations. The



*A Coy completing log PT at the local beach*

gymnasium was also presented with a Rangers jersey signed by all B Team and Under-18s players, while the boys were invited to ask questions about the experiences of those in The Royal Regiment of Scotland and the Army. A highlight for the 2 SCOTS gym staff especially with some being lifelong Rangers FC supporters, this was a privilege and great opportunity for the regimental to show another large organisation what we are all about.

The 2 SCOTS Gymnasium team recently led an outstanding month-long initiative dedicated to enhancing the health, fitness performance, and sports capabilities of the Battalion. Over the course of the month, the team implemented a dynamic program aimed at improving physical readiness, fostering overall well-being, and increasing athletic performance across the unit. The program included a diverse range of activities, from strength and conditioning sessions to sport-specific training, tailored to meet the varied needs of soldiers. Key

focus areas were health, behaviours, nutrition, strength development, and injury prevention. The team emphasised the importance of proper nutrition and recovery strategies to maintain peak performance throughout the rigorous schedule.

By the end of the month, soldiers reported notable improvements in fitness levels, teamwork, and morale, with many expressing appreciations for the structured approach and clear results. The 2 SCOTS Gymnasium team's initiative not only contributed to the Battalion's readiness but also reinforced the value of continuous physical development within military life.

SSgt (SSI) Craft RAPTIC also delivered two highly successful four-week intense PT/Rehabilitation courses, aimed toward injured SP, with the goal to enhance their rehabilitation and become fully upgraded by the end of the concentrated course, which was the case for 70% of SP who attended the courses in 2024.



2 SCOTS

## REGIMENTAL AID POST

### Regimental Medical Officer:

Major GM Milne

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### Regimental Aid Post Sergeant:

Sergeant D Baker

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### Regimental Nursing Sergeant:

Sergeant J Jones

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### Combat Medical Technicians:

Corporal J Lyons

Lance Corporal D Aldus

Lance Corporal A Poyser

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2024 has been a year of two halves, with the RAP split to support two different operations, in two different continents working alongside many different nationalities.

In January, Sgt Jones, Sgt Baker, and Cpl Lyons from the RAP deployed on Op INTERFLEX tasked with providing Role 1 healthcare and management of force health protection. The first job was to review and update the clinical procedures and put in place an arrivals and departure system for trainees and medics who would be joining us to support from both the Light Dragoons and 3 Medical Regiment. From the first arrival of Ukrainian soldiers, the team delivered first class Role 1 medical and dental care to some very sick, very tired trainees, many of whom struggled with the mental load of what was facing them on return home. While the work from the remainder of 2 SCOTS was hugely important, it felt to us that the Battalion was supporting the Medical Team during the deployment, rather than Med supporting the Battalion. The workload, tempo and stress continued to increase as time went on, we were faced with multiple infectious disease outbreaks. For six months, the RAP made a positive difference in assisting the effort for the war in Ukraine.



*RAP on Op INTERFLEX, multinational Role 1*

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, LCpl D Aldus and LCpl A Poyser deployed on Op FIRIC (Falkland Island Roulement Infantry Company), supporting Fire Support Company. During this time, they assisted with daily sick parades and maintaining the health of the deployed troops, as well as maintaining Force Health Protection with audios and vaccines through the medical centre. The two CMTs were also split between medical cover for the weekly platoon ranges and deploying out on patrols with sections across the Falkland Islands. The main injuries encountered were cold related injuries and MSKIs due to the arduous training the Company was conducting on Onion range. Whilst on patrols the CMTs were deployed due to the medical timeline and risk being high. The CMTs also deployed on Ex CAPE BAYONET with one being an in-role dismounted medic and the other providing RLS support. Throughout the time on OP FIRIC the CMTs also managed to improve the medical knowledge and capability of the deployed troops by teaching in

depth medical lessons and running team medic courses, giving some individuals a medical competency which will last them three years.

The team came back together for the second half of 2024 to start preparing towards next year's activities, which will include collective validation and overseas deployments.



## OFFICERS' MESS

### President of the Mess Committee:

Major James Donkin

### Mess Secretary:

Captain Nathan McCrae

A mostly 'dry-January' was extended until the summer for most of the Mess members in 2024, due to the Op SHADER and Op INTERFLEX deployments running from January to September. That said, in July once the first elements of the Bn returned from Op INTERFLEX some were able to enjoy our first function of the year to bid farewell to Lt Col John, just prior to his handover with Lt Col Ollie. Due to the PMC being deployed, this served as a great opportunity for OC HQ Company to relive his RSM days as Acting PMC. The Mess members and partners had a great evening including an introduction to bucket reeling for a few.

In November, a small contingent of officers attended the final RHF Officers' Association Dinner at Old Greys' Inn Court, London. A fine event with the support of our Pipes, Drums and Bugles and a great opportunity to strengthen the golden thread. The Colours and some favoured regimental silver were escorted down to allow former members of the regiment to remember their past careers in a familiar setting. In true RHF fashion we returned with more silver than we deployed with (apologies to the Cartwright family!); but the blame must fall on the delicious wine that accompanied the meal for our poor arithmetic at the end of the night!

St Andrews' Dinner marked the first occasion of the year where most of the Mess, less some last-minute trawls to Kenya, were in barracks and able to gather for a dinner night. We were lucky to host our Estonian Partners from Op



*A farewell to Col John and Georgie*



*Mess members and guests at St Andrews Dinner Night*



*Harriet beasting the Mess Sec for his ridiculous plans to put the wives on Battle PT...*

SHADER 18 and hope that their fast and loose introduction to Athol Brose may be reciprocated with some Tannavalin later next year if we find ourselves in cold Estonian woodblocks on FLF. Lt Bolton and Lt Thompson did a sterling job of producing this year's batch of brose; one can never go wrong with 'just a little more whisky...'

Later that month, Mess Members attended the St Andrew's Reels Ball in Edinburgh. Prior to the ball the livers-in, under the Mess Secretary, put on a few activities for the partners which included some 25m range time with SA80s, a DCCT judgemental shoot (poor pass rate, but high accuracy all round) and some reels in the anteroom. Fortunately, the Mess Secretary was convinced to scrap his idea of a 'honking' battle PT session for the partners and instead Mess members and partners combined to

score a respectable 14/20 on the Times Daily Quiz. The ball that followed was fantastic, despite the 4 SCOTS Padre rigging the raffle and walking away with all the prizes!

In Christmas week, the livers-in took the opportunity to sing some carols around the married quarters and were well rewarded with a fine spread of food and drink at each stop. OC HQ Coy took the opportunity to reward the livers-in with a rocket-fuelled Chatham Artillery punch – apparently famed for putting hairs on one's chest but clearly having the opposite impact on OC HQ Coy's head!

A great year, albeit short from a festivity perspective. Many thanks must go to the Mess committee for their hard work in keeping the Mess going. Till next year!



2 SCOTS

## THE WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

### Presiding Member:

Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM)  
Steven Paterson

### President of the Mess Committee:

Warrant Officer Class 2 Chris Andrews

2024 has been a somewhat challenging yet successful year for the WOs' and Sgts' Mess (WOSM). With operational deployments to Op SHADER, Op FIRIC, Op INTERFLEX and of course trawls to Kenya dominating the first eight months of the calendar year; the WOSM still managed to squeeze in some fantastic functions and gatherings across 2024. The PMC WO2 Chris Andrews ran a low-key Christmas function in the Mess at the end of 2023 and opened the WOSM 2024 account as Chief Cronie for Burns. An excellent function which saw Direct Entry Officers and partnered guests from Norway attend for the first time. We also saw the first ever officer partake in the Bothy; Capt Ally Turner volunteered himself to be a 'Cronie' and was absolutely superb in his rendition of 'address of Beelzebub'. A rather stagnant 7-months ensued due to Operations globally; however, upon return the Mess soon found its feet and was up and running once more. Sgt Davie Mathieson organised the annual Walter Barrie Cup, which of course was retained by the WOSM. The WOSM may be a little longer in the tooth, but they will never tire of educating the Officers on the field of play. A special mention must go to Capt Tom Purslow who was nothing short of inspirational in goal for the Officers, conceding just the 10 goals. A thoroughly deserved 'most valuable player' as it should have been 20 – absolutely nothing to do with CSgt Stuart McGregor's poor finishing. In October the Mess welcomed the new Commanding Officer with a formal



2 SCOTS Warrant Officers – COs Dine-In 2024

dine-in and WO2 Steph Sanderson organised a Halloween party which was well received by all who attended. In November, WO2 Peter Grant organised a sports competition against the Officers; naturally another good run out for the WOSM followed by a social gathering in the Mess. A great way for the brains and the brawn of the Battalion to forget about G1 for an evening and enjoy a dram in each other's company.

The year was rounded off by a fantastic Christmas Ball organised and executed in its entirety by WO2 'Mash Donny' Donnell. It was a Peaky Blinders themed evening which had all the trimmings, from Peaky Blinders bottle openers to a themed casino, which really brought out the competitive side of the Mess – monopoly money of course. A great way to see out a very busy 2024.

The 2 SCOTS WOSM is a truly special place and continues to be the absolute heartbeat of the Battalion. 2024 was

highly successful and has shown yet again, that we not only continue to serve and fight for our soldiers to the best of our ability, but we continue to look after one another as we wade through the never-ending list of tasks. We also continue to invite our Officers to join in on the fun, developing the young officers and enhancing the relations with the old sweats. Anyone worth their salt understands how crucial these relations are and within the 2 SCOTS WOSM we lead the way in ensuring that those above and below are looked after – this is what SNCOs were made for.



2 SCOTS CSMs and OPSWO at the Christmas Ball



## THE CORPORALS' MESS

### President of the Mess Committee:

Sergeant Alasdair Craig /  
Corporal Jack Livingstone

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Throughout 2024 the Corporals' Mess underwent a full revamp. This included securing a new and improved bar area, new couches, TVs, pool tables, sound systems and a new array of drink selections and wall art. Sports and Wi-Fi setups were also introduced, bringing the Mess into the modern era.

Most of the improvements were carried out by Mess members in their spare time, cleaning, organising, and sampling the bar stock(!) to ensure it was up to standard for their fellow members. These efforts often resulted in a few late nights and sore heads. With the support of Tara and the QM on the financial side, everything started to gain momentum, and the improvements fell into place.

Once the Mess was fully up and running, an opening event was held for all members, which was a resounding success. The night featured sports, karaoke, and a few pub games. Following this, a "Bring a Boss" night was organised, with special guests from the WOs' and Sgts' Mess, as well as the Offrs' Mess, to experience how the other half live. A highlight of the evening was the Offrs' Mess sampling the Cpls' Mess signature wine, 'Buckfast' which was surprisingly well received.

The karaoke added even more excitement to the night—although Maj Ronaldson's rendition of Wagon Wheel was unfortunately cut short due to technical difficulties and Lt Thompson's performance of Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! earned thunderous applause. Meanwhile, CSgt Coxon from the Snipers shocked the crowd with an electrifying performance of Fatman Scoop, leaving jaws dropped and socks blown off. The lively crowd bounced and danced on the furniture, which may have disrupted the Sgts that were sleeping above!

The success of the Mess continued under the leadership of Cpl Livingston, who made significant strides in organising the first Christmas Ball in two years, following disruptions caused by operations and other commitments. Held at the Corn Exchange, the event was a massive success, with members winning prizes including televisions, cash, and golfing trips. Of course, a few hangovers were also handed out!

Cpl Livingston's efforts have set the Mess up for a quieter 2025, due to upcoming deployments and commitments. However, the Cpls' Mess is definitely back to its rocking and rolling days of old!



# SCOTS

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**3 SCOTS**



## 3 SCOTS

### COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

*Lieutenant Colonel Rob Smith*

I thought I might start the foreword by suggesting it has been a relatively quiet year, with not much going on, just to check that the reader has not been put to sleep by the previous chapters. Alas, it will come as no surprise to any of you when I say that 2024 was another busy, varied and demanding year for 3 SCOTS. And equally little surprise when I add that the Jocks have risen to every occasion and acquitted themselves in fine style throughout. The reader will be pleased to know that the stock of the 3 SCOTS, the red hackle and those privileged to wear it, is flying high across the Army and broader Defence.

#### **So, what has the Battalion been up to:**

The focus for 2024 has undoubtedly been Operation INTERFLEX. I will avoid repeating what the Battalion Second in Command will cover later but will offer a short overview. Many of you will have no doubt seen much on TV and various media outlets, but for the uninitiated, Operation INTERFLEX is the UK Ministry of Defence's contribution as part of the international response to Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. It is quite a sobering thought that very few predicated that we would once again see a state-on-state land war in Europe as we reach halfway through the second decade of the twenty-first century. For the Battalion, this response began in late-June and has seen approx. 75% of the Battalion deployed – primarily delivering training to members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The Jocks – as part of a multinational group that included six other nations of: Australia, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Kosovo and Romanian have delivered training across a range of courses – from brand new recruits through to not-so-fresh-faced platoon commanders. Over the six-



*Lt Col Smith*

month period, the Battalion trained well over 3,000 soldiers including approximately 700 JNCOs and 900 platoon commanders. Put another way, this represents over a brigade's worth of junior leaders – a substantial contribution to the balance of the fight. All of this while operating 600 miles behind enemy lines – in deepest England. It has been both humbling to see the Armed Force of Ukraine and their dedication, and similarly the professionalism and humility that the Jocks have shown in return. Having finished Operation INTERFLEX and then departed on Christmas leave, thus closing the curtain on 2024, it is appropriate to reflect on what else has been achieved in the last 12 months. Beyond preparing and deploying on Operation INTERFLEX, 2024 has been defined by change and reorientation. Much has changed politically and strategically in the last 12 months – both in Europe with Ukraine – and so too in Defence terms and strategic choices to be made. In line with CFA's direction, there is now a clear and single purpose

for the British Army. It is one which will be familiar to many senior audiences: a clear-eyed understanding of the threat from Russia and the requirement for a laser-like focus on one task – to be ready to fight (and win) a land war in Europe as part of a NATO response. 3 SCOTS have therefore moved out of 1st (UK) Division to the newly formed Land Special Operations Command (LSOC). A small, highly trained and highly mobile body ready to be part of the Advance Force – as part of a sovereign or NATO response to territorial aggression. This Advance Force will essentially act as the vanguard for a larger alliance (NATO) formation – not that dissimilar from 24 Air Mobile Brigade for those that can recall the 'fly-dig-die' unofficial motto! Though I'm not so keen on the last bit! As ever, mastery of the core competency of fighting as an infantry battalion remains central for 3 SCOTS. We will therefore train collectively through 2025, honing our warfighting credentials as part of a Battlegroup validation exercise over two months in Kenya and likely further



exercises with our NATO partners in Europe into the Autumn. With further opportunities to be unveiled thereafter. So, not only does 2025 present an exciting period with the Battalion at the forefront of change and development in the Field Army, but as I remarked to the RSM just yesterday, it is the first time in a long time, that I can think of, where we can show the Jocks with a high degree of certainty what the next 12 months entails. Hopefully I haven't now gone on jinxed things!!

However, as part of the reorientation required to enable the warfighting focus, there was a need to step away from the Battalion's previous role as a Security Force Assistance Battalion (SFAB). But such change has been gradual. As such, Alpha (Grenadier) Coy deployed as part of a US training and partnering contingent to the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Centre in Hawaii – I know – Hawaii!! And earlier in 2024, Bravo and Delta (Light) companies deployed to Kenya testing their core warfighting abilities, with Charlie Company doing similar alongside a US Brigade in Louisiana. Meanwhile, closer to home elements of the Rear Operations Group (ROG) supported the regimental effort to reintern 8 Scottish soldiers of the First World War at Loos in France – a poignant and thought-provoking moment for all involved. As well as sustain the moral component of the Battalion throughout Operation INTERFLEX. So, as I said at the start, not too much going on!

With such a fulsome 2024, it is appropriate to recognise individual success. Congratulations go to those named in the King's Birthday Honours List, 2024: Maj Tim Towler to be made an MBE from his time as OC Alpha (Grenadier) Company, as well as CFA Commendations for SSgt (now WO2) Havery, Capt Danny Hillan – RAO, Miss

Wendy Young – the cornerstone of the QM's Department, and LCpl Whittington RAMC. Finally, WO1 (RSM) – now Captain Alan Ferrier – for his award of an MSM. Superb achievements. And New Year Honours List, 2025 was equally successful with Capt Andy Nicol, Sgt (now CSgt) Tudor awarded a CFA Commendation, as well as Corporal Martin receiving a GOC 1st (UK) Division Commendation, and Sgt Ashford and Pipe Major Muir receiving Brigade Commander Commendations. The promotion front was equally successful with the appointment of WO1 (RSM) Robb, and WO2 (RQMS) Young be selected for WO1 and RSM at the Infantry Training Centre. Capt Andy Nicol also saw his name in lights again – this time for promotion to Major on the Beige List. All thoroughly deserved, and all a reflection of the professionalism and dedication of those individuals and the wider 3 SCOTS team. And on the sport and AT front, Delta (Light) Coy led a superb Battalion AT package in the Highlands that saw c.75% conduct some form of AT, and sport is still high on the agenda – with a team of seven recently returning from the 'arduous' Ex FROSTED BLADE in Val d'Isere, France. No matter the challenge, the Battalion and red hackle will continue to drive forwards – watch out for 2025!



## 3 SCOTS

### OTHER RANKS PROMOTIONS

**Warrant Officer Class 2 to****Warrant Officer Class 1:**

Robb  
RQMS Young

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**Colour Sergeant to****Warrant Officer Class 2:**

McFadden  
McFarlane  
Watt  
Mackie  
Kyle

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**Sergeant to Colour Sergeant:**

Tudor  
Hague  
Salter  
Roath  
Purce  
Dougall  
Ross  
Mcternan

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**Corporal to Sergeant:**

Dean  
Forysth  
Calderwood  
Jose  
Verrall

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**Lance Corporal to Corporal:**

Mullan  
Little- BKA Coy  
Mackie – BKA Coy  
Byars

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**Private to Lance Corporal:**

Beattie  
Buchan  
Byars  
Gray  
McDonald  
McCabe  
Thomson  
Miller 2005  
McMaster  
McCarthy

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## OPERATION INTERFLEX

The Battalion deployed on Op INTERFLEX in late June 2024, taking over the responsibility of Training Delivery Unit 1 from 1 R ANGLIAN. Whilst nearly all readers will have had their own experience of Op INTERFLEX by now (we were tranche 5), the experience of 3 SCOTS given our level of commitment (80% of our deployable workforce) and the dislocation from our home base made the experience arguably unique. It was more akin to a 6-month deployment than a UK based Op.

Whilst this obviously posed several challenges, Op INTERFLEX has provided a significant opportunity for 3 SCOTS. 3 SCOTS have been able to contribute to Defence's main effort (support to Ukraine) and develop professionally as an 11X light infantry battalion as part of the newly created Land Special Operations Force. Heading up a multinational force of seven different nations (Annex A), Training Delivery Unit 1 (TDU1) has trained 3274 members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) across 48 courses, supported by up to 178 contracted linguists. For most 3 SCOTS soldiers, Op INTERFLEX has constituted a six-month deployment. Whilst the pace and tempo of activity has been consistently high throughout, it has been met with a professional and determined approach ensuring we deliver against the three core outputs of Op INTERFLEX, namely enhancing AFU: Lethality, Survivability and Will to Fight.

Given teamwork 25s focus on Fighting Power and the moral component it is perhaps worth dwelling on will to fight for a little while longer. Operation INTERFLEX exposed our soldiers to the lived reality of large-scale conflict, for many this proved an extraordinary experience as they sought to understand and support a training audience who only weeks before in the case of some of the leadership courses had been engaged on the front line. While the battle-hardened stories and lived experience of many of those under training was indeed humbling, the battalion and its Jocks were equally clear on the value they added by being members of a professional army. An aspect on continues display in the team's relentless pursuit of excellence in training delivery and improving the tooth to tail experience for all.

In this regard it is worth taking time to recognise the considerable individual effort within the wider teams' outputs. The focus of the G7 team (Capt Marty Gray and WO2 Blake) provided on continues improvement and development of key serials was impressive. From enhancing the provision of OPFOR through the deliberate integration of Russian tactics, and development of a task force Hannibal style team (led by Capt Rebecca Strawbridge), through to the development of an improved battle inoculation range – they led the way across the force and truly were the standard for others to follow not only within the TDU but also across the entire Operation.

Similarly, the efforts on the G1/4 flanks were equally herculean as the battalion sought to make the camp suitable for long term occupation and training delivery. As ever the QM dept led by Maj Mikey Fairweather were superb in their efforts, from improving the winterisation of key camps and training areas through the provision of improved troop shelters through to the implementation of a rigorous equipment care policy that ensured a consistent availability of safe equipment for the training Coys – with a particular focus on the ARM 9F rifles now so beloved by our tireless armourers team. Not to be outdone the RAO (Capt Danny Hillan) and UWO (Capt Ian Carlisle) did sterling work in getting through over £30000 of welfare funds in support of the deployed force and their families. With efforts in camp including the provision of improved welfare facilities and the popular addition of a BFBS CINILINK to provide access to the latest blockbusters; whilst on the home front the families enjoyed a series of excursions ranging from a monthly pizza night to dolphin watching.

Ultimately It was with a heavy heart that 3 SCOTS departed after six months deployed on Tranche 5. The sense of purpose that Op INTERFLEX generated was palpable; the TDSU end of course ceremonies combined with relationships garnered are but two obvious examples of this reflecting across both the physical and moral components of the Battalion.



## 3 SCOTS

### EXERCISE RATTLESNAKE

Joint Readiness Training Centre (JRTC),  
Fort Johnson, Louisiana, U.S.A.  
*Major Ash Pendlebury*

**Officer Commanding:**  
Major Ash Pendlebury

**Company Sergeant Major:**  
Warrant Officer Class Two (CSM)  
Alasdair Lavery

**Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**  
Sergeant John Cameron

**Military Personnel Administrator:**  
Lance Corporal Marjorie Saukila

**OC Recce Platoon:**  
Captain Stu Smith

**2IC Recce Platoon:**  
Corporal Alex Verrall

**OC STRIKE Platoon:**  
Lieutenant Sam Mooney

**2IC STRIKE Platoon:**  
Corporal Jack Campbell

**OC Sniper Platoon:**  
Sergeant Nico Russell

**Sniper PI Sergeant:**  
Corporal Ross Duthie

#### **Background to the deployment**

In April Charlie Company, and five Jocks from Alpha (Grenadier) Company, were fortunate enough to be granted the opportunity to deploy to America on Exercise RATTLESNAKE. Exercise RATTLESNAKE is hosted by the Joint Readiness Training Centre (JRTC), based in Fort Johnson, Louisiana, southern United States. We were joined by Number 2 Company, First Battalion, The Irish Guards and together both companies would form part of the recce forces for the First Brigade Combat Team (1 BTC) of the 10th Mountain Division, U.S. Army. Exercise RATTLESNAKE would be part of the validation for the 1/10 before they would deploy to Iraq in Syria later in 2024.

The Louisiana training area is notorious famously and is known and referred to as 'The Box'. Once you're in, there's no way out! The Box is fairly flat, music to our ears you say! But where the terrain lacks dominating high features, it makes up for with jungle and swamps. The Box is famous for being the primary location for where the US Army trained its soldiers during the Vietnam War.

Getting Charlie company to the United States was no mean feat and credit must go to the CQMS, CSgt Billy Kyle, his team, and the QM's department. The CQMS's team worked tirelessly to get all the freight equipment and personal belongings ready for the RAF flight over to Louisiana. Unfortunately, CSgt Kyle could not deploy due to an unforeseen eye injury (the excuses people make to avoid The Box!) and so the Recce PI Sgt, Sgt John Cameron, stepped up to be the CQMS for the entire eight-week deployment and performed admirably throughout that time.

#### **Preparing for 'The Box'**

When Charlie Company arrived in America, we were straight into acclimatisation to ensure the company would be able to tackle the 35° plus temperatures whilst exercising in The Box. During this acclimatisation, the Platoon Commanders put together solid training programmes to ensure their Jocks were ready. Jocks being Jocks, we were able to sweet talk our way onto the training area for some valuable PI and Coy level runouts and thus conduct some low-level training to adjust the SOPs to the Louisiana training area. During this acclimatisation, huge credit must be given to Lance Corporal Ryan Robertson who stuck to the book and ensured that Charlie company conducted excellent acclimatisation as guided by JSP 375.

#### **Lightening Lockdown!**

It soon became apparent that Charlie Company was not only battling with the extreme heat of Louisiana, but for the first time in many of our soldiers' lives sirens could be heard warning the local population for extreme weather warnings. Lightning lockdowns and extreme storms are routine in Louisiana in the spring, and residents and soldiers on base are told to stay indoors whilst the extreme rain and thunderstorms pass over. The Louisiana locals who worked on base were not afraid to tell stories to the Jocks of how in particularly heavy storms it was not uncommon for alligators to find their way into the irrigation ditches and drainage systems on the camp we were staying in.



*Lt Mooney (PI Comd) and Sgt Russell (Sniper PI Comd), plan with Capt Gurung (4 RA) and a PI Comd from 1-87 Infantry Battalion, 1/10*

### Our Mission against GERONIMO

As the 1/10 BTC began to arrive in Louisiana the missions and tasks that Charlie company would face became clear. Our initial mission was to deploy as part of a divisional recce screen, deploying 48 hours ahead of the Brigade main body, to FIND and FIX the enemy. Our enemy, GERONIMO, are as famous as The Box itself. GERONIMO never lose, or so we were told...! They are formed of a regular infantry battalion who have a two-year posting to take on this role and they are finely tuned in playing a concise and accurate enemy for all of the Brigades that come through JRTC, and for our RATTLESNAKE this was no different. We painted a simple battle picture to explain the situation to the Company; we were going to play a game of hide and seek against GERONIMO, where we would hide through the day, report their movements, can call in fires if possible. By night we would move and make our advances through The Box to set the conditions for the oncoming Battalions behind us. For 12-days straight, Charlie Company was able to dominate the ground in which GERONIMO were meant to be so prolific and on only two occasions in those 12-days were Charlie Company soldiers positively identified by GERONIMO. During that time the snipers and the recce soldiers

of Charlie Company were able to call in numerous offensive support strikes onto enemy armour, enemy dismounts, and other enemy locations.

Charlie Company GERONIMO Kill Chart:

- Dismounts = 45.
- BRDM = 15.
- Technical vehicles = 3.
- BMP = 4.

Charlie Company Casualties: 1.

The tenacity and guile of the Charlie company soldiers was absolutely astounding. The praise and credit that they all received from their American counterparts was hugely humbling and a great honour to here. For many of the Charlie company soldiers this was the first time they had been on an overseas training exercise and for nearly all of the company certainly the first time they had been to such an environment as found in the box in Louisiana. The extremely high level of professionalism in low level skills and drills was fantastic to see, and huge credit must go to

the junior commanders who ensured that this happened. Corporals Verrall, Duthie and Campbell all stepped up to be Platoon Sergeants and performed excellently during this deployment. Over the 12-days Charlie Company were able to forge over 25 kilometres of territory on foot into the enemy's area of operations. Highlights have to include the sniper platoon who got within two metres of 75th Ranger Regiment GERONIMO enemy and were able to call in accurate fire and destroy them.

Credit must also go to Captain Stu Smith in his Recce PI for some of the excellent positions that his teams got themselves into in enabling them to call accurate fire onto known routes and locations of GERONIMO. And a final chuck-up must go to Sergeant John Cameron who stepped in as a CQMS at late notice for the eight weeks, he and his team probably had the busiest exercise out of all of the Charlie Company troops regularly being engaged with small arms fire and enemy offensive support whilst



*Lcpl 'Sinead' O'Connor, describe the model before OC's Orders*



## 3 SCOTS

### EXERCISE RATTLESNAKE *continued*

constantly trying to resupply and support the dismounted forward troops. For Charlie company the exercise concluded with platoon level live firing. The opportunity to live fire on an American training area was excellent, with range buildings and infrastructure allowing soldiers 360° arcs of which to fire as they cleared their enemy positions. After being deployed in the box for two full weeks Charlie company returned to base in order to conduct post exercise admin and prepare for some well-earned rest.

#### Exercise ALAMO HACKLE

San Antonio, Texas

Lt Mooney and Capt Smith planned a short cultural exercise allowing the soldiers to take in the sights of the Houston Space Centre and San Antonio. This included a guided tour of The Alamo before the whole company descended on an all you can eat grill and steakhouse for a well-earned team meal. Travelling to locations such as San Antonio, Texas, are a once in a lifetime opportunity for many Jocks and it was great to take advantage of the time we had after the exercise to do this.

Exercise RATTLESNAKE is one of those opportunities that at the end of someone's service that they'll look back on with fond memories and talk about for years to come. Yes, it was incredibly hot, and the weight we were carrying was incredibly heavy, but the performance of the Jocks, the camaraderie and the stories to be told will stay with Charlie company and the savages for decades to come.



*Cpl Alex Verrall, Pte James Bruce, LCpl 'Dinger/Taco' Bell, Cpl Jack Campbell and Cpl Ross Duthie all receiving Brigade Commander Coins from Colonel Daniel P. Kearney*



*Ptes Smith 63, Campbell 564, Prentice, Appleby and LCpl Bryce at the Houston Space Centre*



*Charlie Company at The Alamo for their guided tour*



## JOINT PACIFIC MULTINATIONAL READINESS CENTRE (JPMRC)

Hawaii

WO2 *Andy Ritchie*

3 SCOTS deployed to the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Centre (JPMRC) in Hawaii from 21 September to 21 October 2024. This deployment, part of the JPMRC 25-01 exercise, was a crucial opportunity for 3 SCOTS to enhance their operational readiness and interoperability with allied forces.

16 service personnel from 3 SCOTS were deployed to augment the 5th (US) Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) in a signature warfighting exercise in the Indo-Pacific region. JPMRC 25-01 integrated 12 partner forces with the aim of validating the 2nd (US) Light Brigade Combat Team (LBCT) through a series of challenging exercise scenarios. The role of the 5th (US) SFAB was crucial in integrating partners into US manoeuvre elements within a divisional context. 3 SCOTS conducted Military Assistance (MA) with both Indonesian (IDN) and Maldivian (MDV) force elements, focusing on developing, mentoring, and enabling partners to ensure their smooth integration into US manoeuvre formations and enhancing lethality in a warfighting context.

The deployment was broken down into different phases, both prior to and during the exercise. Pre-deployment training (PDT) packages were conducted to enhance current skills and switch to jungle environment tactics. Upon arrival, (ROSI) package and the Opposing Force (OPFOR) Academy provided a battle picture and brief on enemy tactics, kit, and equipment. The Task org was split into 2 teams, Lt Mooney and his team were working with the Indonesians and Cpl McGregor and his team were working with the Maldivians.

After completing a 14-day acclimation physical training (PT) program, the teams deployed to the training area in KTA, north of the island. By this time, the teams had already merged and integrated with the Indonesian and Maldivian forces. Once estimates and orders were delivered by the commanders, everyone understood their mission and intent. The exercise was divided into three battle periods, each requiring offensive and defensive actions. After the exercise phase, an after-action review was conducted to discuss achievements and lessons learned.

The deployment to JPMRC presented several challenges for 3 SCOTS but also highlighted their strengths and achievements. From an organisational perspective we demonstrated our ability to effectively communicate and co-ordinate with international partners, seamlessly working alongside NATO members and other partners to enhance operational effectiveness of the force. The task also added to our operational readiness with the rigorous training at JPMRC ensuring that 3 SCOTS are well-prepared for future deployments. At the individual level, the team demonstrated its ability to adapt to new environment with ease. Training in Hawaii's diverse terrain, from dense jungles to urban areas, required soldiers to adapt quickly, a crucial skill for modern military operations. It also provided valuable leadership development opportunities, with junior leaders taking on significant responsibilities and making critical decisions under pressure, essential for building strong leadership at the lowest levels.

The deployment of 3 SCOTS to the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Centre was a significant milestone in their ongoing efforts to enhance combat readiness and interoperability with allied forces. The training activities and challenges faced during the exercise provided valuable experience and lessons that will benefit the battalion in future operations. By participating in multinational exercises like JPMRC 25-01, 3 SCOTS continue to strengthen their capabilities and contribute to the collective security of the Indo-Pacific region. The suntan and exceptional travel was an added bonus...



*The 3 SCOTS JPMRC contingent, the 'unlucky' few selected for JPMRC...!*



*The 3 SCOTS JPMRC contingent*



## 3 SCOTS

### EXERCISE HARAKA SPEAR – THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE

Kenya  
*Major McRobbie*

In February, the two top dogs of the Battalion set off for a showdown in the sun. Delta Company deployed as Task Force Hannibal, the professional free-thinking enemy that would do its level best to be the scourge of the 3 RIFLES battlegroup, whilst Bravo Company faced a conundrum: let Delta Company beat them or help a RIFLES unit succeed...

#### **The shake out**

Delta Company arrived in Africa late on 10th February to the heat and scorching sun. While the old and the bold had experienced Kenya's heat before, many of those arriving for the first time were in for a shock. Despite long sweaty days acclimatising with Mount Kenya looming over the camp, Delta Company quickly settled in. Through urban training and platoon attacks on a uniquely African inspired training village, and clearing through bush, huts, and tunnels, the newly formed Company hit the ground running. It wasn't long before Delta Company had their first encounter with one of the big 5. While receiving the exercise area, the team came face to face with an elephant. The convoy was quick to reverse from the confrontation (after taking an insta worthy photo) and news quickly spread around the company of the great feat. For the elephant it was a Tuesday, and he nonchalantly carried on his business.

Delta Company deployed to the bush on the 15th of February. Learning survival skills from the locals before the exercise began and having done so remarkably well during their urban training, we started big, rolling straight onto platoon attacks. Of course, Delta Company prevailed as always, although the main enemy seemed to be the heat,

which provided a tough challenge to the Jocks and the CoC. Having moved across the training area to Ol Doinyo Lemboro, the Company received some tracker training from Sgt Bruce. Combining the old ways with access to SUAS the teams started to form TTPs and at the section level, provided a system for our teams to enhance their find, fix and strike capability in an already harsh and testing environment. The Company were now ready to deploy as Task Force Hannibal, a dynamic, aggressive and free-thinking enemy for 3 RIFLES, things we all know Delta 'light' Company has in spades.

Across the Training area Bravo Company were seconded to support the Irish Guards in delivering Ex JUSTIFIED ACCORD in their palatial tents and mobile phone access. Training African partners was taking its toll and keen to ensure they were ready for the fight, CSM Arnold started his physical development program. Unassuming and with little bravado they set about their business while keeping an ear to the ground for Delta's 'big' moves.

#### **The First Encounter**

Delta Company deployed into defensive positions around the small village of Makuti, located in a depression this would be our first encounter with our enemy. In the early hours of the next morning our partners, a 4-man team provided by the Irish Guards, stumbled across the 3 Rifles battle group's FUP, initiating a confused firefight. Soon after 3 RIFLES descended into the depression, stumbling across the thick mud as they were targeted from the flanks as Delta Company slowly withdrew deeper into the village. Maintaining offensive action, LCpl Skirving recognised the opportunity to strike and through the thick scrub launched a counterattack onto the advancing riflemen fixated by mud and

suppressing fire coming from the village. Maj McRobbie (OC Bravo Company) would later state it was the "best counterattack he had ever seen". Despite the heroics, Delta Company's position was untenable and a withdrawal to a new defence position was ordered.

Bravo Company formed a local partner force within the 3 RIFLES battlegroup under Capt Duff. Unfortunately, Delta Company's Psyops campaign was effective, convincing the 3 RIFLES BG that the Partner Force may compromise OPSEC and share secrets through the 'Jock net', the Company was held in reserve for the break into the Makuti. Watching as the RIFLE BG methodically moved into position the Company remained poised to strike. A fleeting engagement with the IG was fought off while the RIFLES commenced the break in. The terrain was challenging, and Delta Company provided a stern test, so stern that following a local counterattack Bravo Company were called forward to finish the job. In the face of overwhelming mass, targeted aggression and momentum Delta Company had no choice but to withdraw from the fight.

#### **Keep your enemies close!**

Over the next couple of days Delta Company prepared their position under the watchful command of 2Lt Rowsell. Eager to stay in the fight, a raid "behind" enemy lines was launched to keep the RIFLES guessing. Striking the 3 Rifles' positions around Makuti but also accidentally raiding a Ravenwood command tent; confusion reigned as 3 RIFLES attempted to locate their attackers. As the fighting withdrawal played out over days a final stand was drawn in the mock town of Joka. As night fell the 3 RIFLES Battle group attacked. While heavy casualties were sustained a forward position under

## 3 SCOTS



*Delta Company photo with Mt Kenya in the background after finishing FTX*



*The elephant we stumbled across while conducting a recce of the area*



*Lt Blackhall modelling his Partner-force attire*

the command of LCpl Langhorne ambushed the enemy's recce platoon before surrendering only on account of running out of ammunition. The main attack onto the village commenced with 3 RIFLES advancing along a wide frontage. CSM 'Killer' McClurg gained 27 kills across the night, faltering the advance of the lead company. On the horizon we could see Bravo Company being called forward and the close fight commenced. The first break in was stalled by the roaming fire teams on the perimeter but a team had established a foothold, and reinforcements quickly advanced to. Attention wasn't drawn to any coincidence between the break in being where OC B happened to be OM'ing and under the command of Capt Duff, Bravo pushed their way into the village, ending the battle and the exercise early in the morning.

Delta Company proved to be a formidable foe, striking the Recce screen and decimating the lead RIFLES SU as they attempted to break into the final objective. CO 3 RIFLES pulled forward his echelon force and provided a rather robust set of QBOs to Lt Barrie – break in at all costs! There was effective suppression from the roofs of the village taking people down on the downward slope of the open ground onto the objective. The lead

team moved quickly to meet up with the RIFLES SU on the road but quickly realised they had become a large target and pushed through. They fire manoeuvred their way onto the edge of the village sustaining significant losses. The Jocks kept moving forward, forming new teams with each bound as another fell, it was to be the day of the Jock as a rag tag team or junior soldiers managed to break into and hold a building. From there it was a methodical sweep as re-enforcements moved through the position and slowly flushed Delta Company out. By sunrise the battle had been won but not without a bloody nose.

Kenya presented a true challenge for both Bravo and Delta Company but one which was thoroughly enjoyable and memorable. Returning from the bush, both Companies set about refitting for the next challenge and investing in some personal development with most enjoying an AT package down the rapids or some took advantage of the nearby safari lodges to go see the local wildlife. The more philanthropic soldiers helped construct a much-needed fence line for the local all-girls school – a project which was crucial to the safety and well-being of those students. While there will be much debate as to who 'the one' SU was, what can be agreed is that they wore a red hackle.



*Maj McRobbie "Chooses" to swim much to the delight of Ptes Mortimer and Pow*



## 3 SCOTS

### ALPHA (GRENADEIER) COMPANY

UK, Jordan, Hawaii  
*Major McRobbie*

**Officer Commanding:**  
Captain Gray / Major McRobbie

**Company Second in Command:**  
Captain Lindsay

**Company Sergeant Major:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2 Ritchie

**Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**  
Colour Sergeant White

**1 Senior Highland Platoon:**  
Lieutenant Gillespie & Sergeant Dagleish

**Machine Guns:**  
Captain Strawbridge

**Pipes and Drums:**  
Pipe Major Muir & Drum Major Muir

The Grenadiers have been at the forefront of the Battalions activity throughout 2024, ensuring the Battalion was best placed to deliver Op INTERFLEX to then deploy and deliver excellence on task, maximising the opportunities to enhance our Ukrainian partners lethality, survivability and will to fight while also taking the opportunities to better ourselves.

The Grenadiers leapt into the year with a passion for soldiering and professional excellence. Having re-orbatted for the tasks ahead, the Company quickly set about visiting old haunts (professionally and socially) while the rest of the Battalion took their turn deploying away from home. The Pipes & Drums led the charge swapping the rat-a-tat-tat of the snare with the equally lovable sound of the



*MG Cadre, Tain AWR*

GPMG in the SF role; music to the new Commanding Officers ears. 1 (Senior Highland) responded in kind and began the process of preparing themselves for Op INTERFLEX. Notably they did all this without Sgt Dagleish and LCpl Burr whose deep knowledge and exceptional training delivery acumen meant they 'had to' deploy to Jordan for a STTT task. The long hours and rigours of their hotel could not possibly be shared in such a publication, though Sgt Dagleish did have to endure 24hrs of travel with the OC B (to LANPAC in Hawaii) as recompense – selfless commitment epitomised.

Following Easter leave the Company switched its beaten zone onto supporting the PDT of the entire Battalion, attempting to impart the Grenadier standard Capt Gray had re-fostered and would come to expect from all on his assumption of Training Officer for Op INTERFLEX. Faced with the challenges of delivering trench warfare without a trench system, the Assault Pioneers got involved in some

re-decorating of Area 3 under Lt Thornton-Kemsley and Sgt Jose. Alas, permission wasn't granted to go past digging so Capt Strawbridge and Cpl McLoughlin led the urban charge in Kinloss while Lt Calder and Sgt Muir enjoyed the 'simplicity' of FIWAF. Not to be outdone the CQMS demonstrated his childhood gaming skills with the SUAS system to make sure the Battalion was set for our new drones. On completion the Company merged with Bravo Company to generate TDSU(E) in May and deployed in June, providing some much-needed quality and depth of experience in developing our Ukrainian partners. Generating three of the six training teams within the TDSU, 1SH were selected to deliver the PI Sgts Course while the P&Ds supported the delivery of the slightly large Junior Command course. The rotations were demanding, with each course and cadre within it generating very different command and leadership challenges which our soldiers and junior leaders rose to. All Grenadier Company teams delivered



## 3 SCOTS



*MG Cadre, Fort George*

8 courses throughout their deployment, supporting some 600 members of the AFU.

In the background of training delivery, the Grenadiers also exploited opportunities. Under Capt Strawbridge they generated an enhanced Task Force Hannibal as a conduit for junior soldier development, the benefits of which being realised instantly with Pte Dye delivering a strong performance on the JNCO Cadre and a marked increase in the lethality of TF Hannibal in the after action reviews, and confidence of junior commanders to act within intent. This was the pre-cursor to the Warfare Development Team (it was the best legitimate title available) who would also become responsible for delivering concurrent sovereign training under Lt Gillespie, inculcating what we learned from our partners as they learned from us.

In the margins of this high tempo operating environment and adversity enduring memories and friendships

forged, even the 'fun size' ones on the golf course. The Grenadiers owned the Grand Prix and maintained a detailed understanding of the local social environment throughout, all in the interests of maintaining readiness.

As the Grenadiers reflect on 2024, they owe considerable thanks to those who move on to pastures new. Capt Gray moved up to the Ivory Tower of BHQ, while Lts Lindsay and Johnstone continued their bromance over with Delta (Light) Company. Further afield CSgt Lowe went all the way to St Andrews to join the AUOTR, Sandhurst should brace itself for an influx! Once a Grenadier, always a Grenadier, and we look forward to seeing you flourish in your future endeavours as you share the Grenadier way. Looking forward, the Grenadiers are placed once more at the centre of the Battalion's plans under the new Land Special Operations Force role, a challenge that we will rise to meet.



*Op INTERFLEX Trench Training PDT*



*Op INTERFLEX Trench Training PDT*



## 3 SCOTS

### BRAVO COMPANY

UK, Kenya  
*Major McRobbie*

**Officer Commanding:**  
Major McRobbie

**Company Second in Command:**  
Captain Duff

**Company Sergeant Major:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2 Arnold /  
McFadden

**Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**  
Colour Sergeant Mackie / McTernan

**Team 5:**  
Lieutenant Blackhall / Lieutenant  
Rowse & Sergeant Cameron /  
Creighton

**Team 6:**  
Lieutenant Barrie / 2nd Lieutenant  
Tamlyn & Sergeant Livingstone

**Anti Tanks:**  
Captain Broad & Colour  
Sergeant Gordon



*Pte Pow Delivering Lessons on Ex JUSTIFIED ACCORD*

If not us, who? Battalion Bravo Company have again demonstrated their ability to adapt to emerging needs with humour, humility and professionalism as the backbone of the Battalion. Wherever 3 SCOTS have turned their focus, from Security Force Assistance with US colleagues, to training for warfighting with 3 RIFLES, leading TDSU(E) on Op INTERFLEX, developing the Warfighting Development Team or driving the Battalion's initial training delivery for success in 2025; Bravo Company were leading the charge.

Fresh from their successful exploits in the Indo-Pacific in 2023, Bravo Company switched to supporting the Irish Guards on Ex JUSTIFIED ACCORD, a multinational training support task lead by the Massachusetts National Guard. Over two weeks the Company trained 231 soldiers from Somali, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Djibouti, alongside 4 Coy Irish Guards in Citso Trg Camp. The opportunity to work with the Irish Guards was insightful and provided an opportunity to share best

practice within the Brigade, though it did make the Scotland v Ireland fixture rather unenjoyable to watch. It was also an opportunity for CSM Arnold to enjoy the freedom of operating with the Company independently of the OC and 2IC, who deployed late on account of the OCs wedding. It was also our first deployment with the Anti-Tank platoon within the Company and they quickly demonstrated the value of a mature cohort, as CSgt Gordon took advantage of the rather austere conditions to encourage some physical development challenges. Pull up bars and running routes soon sprung up around the training area, shortly followed by some overly confident wagers, though it was a notably valiant effort by LCpl McDonald in his attempt to outrun the CSM. With our African partners trained and returning home, Bravo Company moved west to join 3 RIFLES on Ex HARAKA SPEAR, providing the critical mass required to overcome the tenacious Delta (Light) Company.



*Pte Pte Cortez diving into work*

Upon recovery from Kenya, the Company switched its focus onto preparing for Op INTERFLEX with a priority on developing our soldiers and junior commanders basic soldiering competence and training delivery confidence, to ensure our Ukrainian partners received current and relevant training they believed in. In May old rivalries were temporarily put aside as the Grenadiers marched across the parade square to merge with the Company and form TDSU(E) who would form just under half of the deployable force. The six deployed teams delivered Section Commander, Platoon Sgt and Platoon Commander courses throughout the deployment and while the course content didn't change, the ability for the training teams to adapt the level of complexity and maintain the Ukrainian will to train even in the most demanding of climates is a testament to their determination and ability to forge bonds with partners and our linguists.

The arrival of Charlie Company in September to re-enforce the task freed up a cohort to formalise the Warfare Development Team who were tasked with professionalising the enemy force under the watchful eye of the training officer while concurrently supporting the Bns warfighting competence by taking current lessons from Ukraine and understanding how they would shape the Bns warfighting in the LSOE role. Latterly the WDT would deliver the Bn's Sovereign Training package qualifying the entire fighting echelon in their core skills and range shoots, so they were best prepared to carry on our return to the Fort. Notable performances included 2Lt Tamlyn on securing the Golden Compass, the unfortunate member of BHQ who dropped just one shot on their ACMT, but at 50 meters precluded them from the illustrious marksman badge and Capt Duff, who again found the opportunity to galivant into the distance though this time for 6 months without his mobile phone.

The year would not have been as successful nor enjoyable without the valued contributions of numerous individuals. WO2 Arnold departs the Company and crosses the Irish Sea to work with our RANGER partners, whilst WO2 Mackie heads south to get the Battalion lots of new tech to train with. The officer churn witnessed Lts Blackhall and Barrie depart for training establishments, whilst Sgt Cameron did the unthinkable and crossed the parade square to Charlie Company. We wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavours and look forward to welcoming them back in due course.



## 3 SCOTS

### CHARLIE COMPANY

UK, Louisiana, Hawaii  
*Major Ash Pendlebury*

**Officer Commanding:**  
Major Ash Pendlebury

**Second in Command:**  
Captain Marty Gray /  
Captain Malky Wilson

**Company Sergeant Major:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2 Alasdair Lavery

**Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**  
Colour Sergeant Billy Kyle /  
Colour Sergeant Tam Salter

**Military Personnel Administrator:**  
Lance Corporal Marjorie Saukila

**Officer Commanding Recce Platoon:**  
Captain Stu Smith

**Second in Command Recce Platoon:**  
Colour Sergeant Sean McLaren /  
Colour Sergeant Mo Morrison

**Officer Commanding 10 Platoon:**  
Lieutenant Sam Mooney

**Second in Command 10 Platoon:**  
Sergeant John Cameron /  
Sergeant Alex Verrall

**Officer Commanding Sniper Platoon:**  
Colour Sergeant Tony Brownless /  
Colour Sergeant Jamie Dougall

**Sniper Platoon Sergeant:**  
Sergeant Jimmy Roath and  
Sergeant Nico Russell



*LCpl O'Connor (near) briefs LCpl Regan during a section attack on LFTT*

2024 began for C Coy with a re-orbat, along with the rest of the Battalion. C Coy slimmed down from its Support Company role, with the Machine Guns/Pipes and Drums moving to A Coy, Anti-Tank PI to B Coy and Mortar PI to D Coy. C Coy has thus remained the proud home for the Recce and Sniper PIs.

C Coy did not waste time in early 2024 and the Coy deployed to the East Coast, setting up camp in Barry Budden for two weeks in early February on Exercise SAVAGE START. The Sniper PI successfully completed the 'badging' of Pte Green and began their dry-training annual training objectives. Pushing all members of the PI back outside their comfort zones, whilst focused on the core basics that make our snipers so lethal. The Recce Platoon were equally busy, using Barry Budden as the launch pad for the 2024 Recce Cadre, with their focus being on the introductory lessons and fitness. The Company delivered Op TEAMWORK on a frosty February morning and achieved live firing up to Section attack level during the rest

of the exercise. March saw the Recce Cadre continue in Edinburgh and on the Cawdor Estate, whilst the Sniper PI conducted their annual live firing in Tain.



*Cpl Verrall withdrawing from contact during LFTT*



A huge well done should go to Ptes Bruce, Prentice, and Stockdale for passing the Recce Cadre. Pte Green also completed his Sniper Badging assessment during Ex SAVAGE START, an excellent achievement.

Spring saw the Company begin to focus on to deploying to the Joint Readiness Training Centre (JRTC), Louisiana, USA, for two months. In summary, the Savages performed excellently within the US Army Brigade, they supported and were a great credit to SCOTS and the British Army whilst deployed. Away from Ex RATTLESNAKE, LCpl Byars put in a shift on the Section Commanders Battle Course (SCBC), coming away with a top third pass and an instructor's commendation.

Once the Coy returned from the US, focus was immediately on to the Pre-Deployment Training (PDT) Pathway for Operation INTERFLEX 5. The Jocks of C Coy worked hard to catch-up on PDT that the remainder of the Battalion had started whilst we were in the US. C Coy would initially provide backfill to fill any gaps within the remaining Companies. What was initially meant to be a three-month deployment for the majority of C Coy, saw a large proportion of the Company deploy for four/five months. A huge credit must be paid to the flexibility and self-sacrifice that the Jocks showed in volunteering to deploy for longer when the call came in for replacement at short notice.

Of note, Cpl Vunibobo deployed for four months at one weeks-notice to fill an All-Arms Storeman gap within the QM's team due to unforeseen circumstances. LCpl O'Connor also deployed a short notice to support Delta (Light) Coy as a Section Commander on their Platoon Commanders Battle Course. And even the Company Sergeant Major



*PI attack on an urban objective during Op INTERFLEX PDT*

himself had to pack his bergen and black grip at short notice to deploy to support the effort. The Savages of C Coy all performed exceptionally well on OP INTERFLEX. Their humility and professionalism towards the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) students, the civilian linguists and staff in the three camps in was commendable.

Away from Op INTERFLEX, Lt Mooney deployed again to the jungles of the US. He deployed as the Platoon Commander to the Joint Pacific Mounting Readiness Centre (JPMRC), Hawaii, and led a Platoon of Jock's from A and B Coys. Sgt Russell received an Instructor Recommendation as he passed the Sniper Platoon Commanders Course. And Private Bruce attended and passed the Union Division's Junior Non-Commissioned Officer (JNCO) Cadre and is qualified to promote to LCpl when the next opportunity arrives.

The year saw C Coy deliver, and deliver exceptionally well. The Jock's should be proud of their achievements and take great confidence into 2025.



*LCpl Timms assesses the corridor during a PI attack on an urban objective during Op INTERFLEX PDT*

#### **Farewells:**

- Capt Gray, Coy 2IC, posts to become the IO/Trg Offr, 3 SCOTS.
- Lt Damiani, PI Comd/Coy 2IC, posts to become AMA to RMAS Comd.
- CSgt Billy Kyle, CQMS, posts on promotion to WO2 to CSM HQ Coy, 1 R WELSH.
- CSgt Tony Brownless, Sniper PI Comd, posts to become an instructor at the Sniper Division, CAMS.
- CSgt Sean McLaren, 2IC Recce PI, retires from regular service and joins the Army Reserve and the business consultancy sector.
- Sgt Jimmy Roath post back to 1 R IRISH on promote to CSgt to assume Sniper PI Comd.
- Sgt John Cameron, PI Sgt, Recce PI, retries from regular service and joins the renewable energy sector.
- Cpl Jack Campbell, posts to ITC as a Section Comd.
- LCpl Gary Jones moves to MT after 12-years service in C Coy.
- LCpl Ryan Robertson, posts on promotion to AFC Harrogate as a PTI.



## 3 SCOTS

### DELTA (LIGHT) COMPANY

Kenya, UK  
*Major James Farrall*

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**Officer Commanding:**

Major David Hamilton,  
Major James Farrall

**Second-in-Command:**

Captain Ben Dodson,  
Lieutenant Angus Lindsay

**Company Sergeant Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 Rob McClurg,  
Warrant Office Class 2 Kenneth  
MacFarlane

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**Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**

Colour Sergeant Craig Sloan,  
Colour Sergeant Grant Lilley

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**Mortar Platoon:**

Captain Will Dakin & Colour Sergeant  
Jamie Rushfirth

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**13 Platoon:**

Lieutenant Toby Johnstone &  
Sgt Alistair Brown

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**15 Platoon:**

Lieutenant Tom Beale & Sgt Kyle Bruce

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Uncertainty and change dominated 2024. It is only when one pauses to reflect, that one appreciates the amount that the Jocks achieved despite the challenges, changes, and chaos. Fresh off the heels of the Company's Indo-Pacific adventure to the land of the rising sun, the Battalion's focus at the start of 2024 was a full re-ORBAT.

Until this point, the mighty Mortar Platoon had been in their long-established home of C (Fire Support) Company – *The Savages*. 3 SCOTS relatively short period as a Security Force Assistance battalion lead to a reduction in workforce to around 300 and the mortar platoon made the long trek to the other side of the parade square to D (Light) Company – this hit the mortars hard, even though the new lines were almost 100m closer to the NAAFI. Having previously been structured to have six sergeants and six corporals, the new and “improved” mortar platoon now has the mammoth task of doubling lethality with a single sergeant and just two corporals.

Moving forward, unburdened by what has been, the mortar platoon now sees the 2IC doubling up his responsibilities as both a 2IC and a section commander – not an easy task, but light work for “The Scarborough Knock” equipped with his boyish charm and perfect hairline. This allows a mobile team of an MFC A and MFC B to cut about the battlespace wherever they are needed to deliver fireplans and adjust fire at the point of need.

With ten mortarmen, the platoon can sustain three barrels and deploy five dispersed barrels in extremis, for short periods of time – somewhat of an undertaking for the G4 team. As we all know, however, G4 just happens.

In Spring 24 the mortar platoon commander exiled to the jungles (an air-conditioned office) of the far east, the mortar platoon accompanied the rest of D Company to Kenya to play enemy for one of the innumerable RIFLES units. Kenya's arid landscape may have been a far cry from Scotland's dreich moors, but the job was the same: don't fire any mortars, fall back, rinse and repeat. No doubt, the mortars were the best “bad guys” the exercise has ever seen. The tactical retreats were nothing short of magnificent – LCpl Skirving led “the best local counterattack that Maj McRobbie (OC B) had ever seen”. The mortars did what mortars do — made life noisy and made things explode, even when relieved of our barrels and bombs. Playing the enemy has never felt so right even deprived of their “sleeper agent” in command.

Whilst in Kenya on Ex HARAKA SPEAR, utilising more traditional methods of finding the enemy, Sgt Bruce taught the Jocks a number of operational tracking techniques. These helped us avoid some of the larger members of the wildlife community, whilst actually locating the enemy. Additionally, this was the company's first solo exposure to drone operations.

With the Battalion determined to live up to the Army's erstwhile motto, 3 SCOTS ran Op INTERFLEX pre-deployment training to make sure we were well prepared to “Be the Best” at providing critical leadership training to our partners in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. This presented the opportunity to get D Company's heads back into the mindset of fighting a conventional war – and also how to teach it.



With this, the battalion was now ready to leave the sun-kissed beaches of Ardersier and the phenomenal phone service of Fort George. In its place the Jock's enjoyed the privacy of six-eight-man rooms, free WiFi and food. These luxuries were offset by a number of qualified private soldiers being awarded local rank of Lance Corporal to meet the demanding NCO requirements of Op INTERFLEX. Every one of these individuals stepped up to this role exceptionally well. From D Company, Ptes Morman, Marler, and Dawson all excelled in wielding their newfound rank – a testament to the inimitable character of the Jocks – substantial recognition is owed to these individuals, without whom Op INTERFLEX would not have been successful. There has been a palpable sense of pride throughout the deployment. While much of our job has focused on controlling the chaos, training those on the frontlines for a very real and very serious conflict has been a sobering yet rewarding experience. The soldiers of Delta Company have learned many things during our time on Op INTERFLEX, relationship building, other nations' ways of doing business, a few Ukrainian or Romanian words, physical and mental resilience, but above all, the critical ability to maintain a sense of humour throughout challenging times!

Tragically, the battalion's foray in the Indo-Pacific was abruptly ended, with the focus now shifting back to the European theatre. This change was not unexpected with war on the doorstep, the entire Army's focus has rightly been refined. Towards the back end of Op INTERFLEX, the company headquarters looked ahead to how the Light Company (with two rifle teams and a mortar team) would organise and operate.

For the rifle teams, this looked like a full return to conventional warfighting, but with a different structure; the *how* will have to change.

Looking forward to next year, the Officers and Jocks of *The Golden Don* are in for another busy period (as is the whole Battalion). Support and Rifle Platoon cadres, overseas deployments, a complete new set of platoon commanders, I am confident all will step up to the plate of every challenge thrown at them.



## 3 SCOTS

### HEADQUARTER COMPANY AND REAR OPERATIONS GROUP FOR OPERATION INTERFLEX

Fort George

*Major Paddy Marshall*

**Officer Commanding:**

Major Paddy Marshall

**Company Sergeant Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 Andy Reid

**Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**

Colour Sergeant Jacky Gray

The Company (Coy) focus for the year was firmly Operation INTERFLEX, from preparing the force and real-life support, to execution and subsequent recovery. The journey began in February. This preparatory work included getting the Coy up to the required start standard, including correct training levels and fitness to deploy. As we neared the deployment window, we had prepared 90 per cent of the Coy to deploy immediately or act as rolling replacement to cover operational absence if required. The remaining 10 per cent would form the nucleus of the Rear Operations Group (ROG) and literally hold the Fort.

**Pte Gemmel Burial 15 May**

On the 15 May 2024, the Coy was tasked with supporting the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Cell (JCCC) Commemorations Team and the burial of 3800 Private David Valentine Gemmell 1st Battalion, the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) in Woburn Abbey Cemetery in France. The remains were discovered in the early winter of 2019, in the late afternoon, when a farmer was ploughing his fields on the eastern side of a small village named Cuinchy. Two sets of human remains were recovered. Artefacts found alongside the casualties indicated they were Scottish and further research, along with previous recoveries from this

location, suggested the casualties were killed during January 1915. From these remains Pte Gemmel was identified through DNA from his Great Grandson David. He was present at the funeral, along with five other members of the family who had not met previously despite living in Scotland approximately 60 miles apart.



*Burial Party and Family members*



*Bearer Party driven by WO2 (CSM) Andy Reid*

On the 03 Jun 2024, The ROG assumed its role in Fort George. We immediately set to task in securing the rear and implementing the Guards and Duties rotation. At this stage the other Coys had transferred all those not deploying on the operation to the ROG for management. Throughout the operation the total numbers of people fluctuated between 75 and 100 personnel, with varying degrees of capabilities that could add value to the force. Eight months is a long time to be solely focused on routine duties. To keep the force occupied we had

been allocated some worthwhile tasks and events, some voluntary, some not. These events would see the ROG firmly engaged in the local community and assisting the JCCC in France once again.

**The Global Charge 24**

1st (UK) Division (1XX) set a task for each Unit to get involved in a conservation or sustainability event in support of the Global Charge Dinner 2024. 3 SCOTS supported the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) Culloden Battlefield in a two-phase operation: phase one was cleaning up the 10km Jacobite Trail in Culloden Woods near Inverness on the 27 May.



*Lt Sam Mooney with the 3 SCOTS path repair team*

Phase 2 – the main event – was held on the 12 Jul. The criteria for the event was to raise awareness of sustainability or conservation projects within the local community and the positive impact the Army can have on society. Secondly, the unit was encouraged to host a feeding event or dinner. In this instance we held a fundraising BBQ at the Culloden Battlefield. Thirdly, but not mandated, the unit was encouraged to raise funds for a charitable organisation in the process. The ROG provided a workforce of 30 soldiers with the edition of some family members including children. The task was to redo one of the footpaths and cap some of the enclosures, whilst the children were hosted by the NTS team and set challenges to discover



## 3 SCOTS

and record the natural environment around the site. The day culminated in a BBQ which raised £300 for the NTS Fighting Fund.



*LCpl Bacogacoga soft capping the enclosure*



*Cpl Peebles and the team moving 5 ton of gravel for the path repairs*

### Return to France - September

On the 26 September the ROG would once again be called upon to execute a burial of World War One soldiers discovered during the building of a new hospital near Loos, France. This was a significant task as it also included the official opening of the extension of the Loos Cemetery. This was the first time a new burial ground had been opened since the early 1960s. It would also be attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, the Princess Royal. The workforce required was double that needed in May, and numbered 27 people. The ROG could not furnish this alone; we called upon our sister battalion 2 SCOTS who provided the complete Firing Party under the command of Sgt Steven

King, accompanied by six firers. Due to operational commitments we also had to replace Padre Geoff Berry with the 51 Brigade Senior Padre, Reverend David Anderson. Fortunately, Padre David was known to us as he was the Battalion Padre for Operation HERRICK 10. The event was attended by some notable VIPs including the Colonel of the Regiment in his capacity as General Officer Commanding Scotland, His Majesties Ambassador to France and the Mayor of Loos. In all there was over 1500 people present. The two soldiers being interred had not been identified; however, they had been identified as Scottish Soldiers through the accoutrements recovered with their remains. The event also made national news in the UK and France. Whilst both JCCC tasks are poignant and important from a moral component perspective, they offer an opportunity for team bonding and a meaningful task that reinforces the promise of a nations Army to its soldiers, that no matter where you fall, or the length of time served, you will be shown the utmost respect and dignity.



*Muster of the Burial Party*



*The Bearer Party marching on to the coffins of the unknown soldiers*



*The Bearer Party lowering the coffins*

### Conclusion

From September to January the ROG maintained the routine in Fort George. There was a period where we stood to but not used for Op TEMPERER, deployed 50 ROG personnel for the Battalion Training package and hosted the Jocks Christmas Lunch, as well as covering all duties for the Christmas and New Year Leave period. The ROG was OC HQ Coy's final act before moving on after 15.5 years with 3 SCOTS. He has been appointed as Executive Officer 7 SCOTS. WO2 (CSM) Reid has also been appointed as the Sovereigns Piper and will assume the role in the Summer 2025.



## 3 SCOTS

### PIPES AND DRUMS

**Pipe Major (Machine Gun Platoon Commander):**

Colour Sergeant James Muir

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**Drum Major (Machine Gun Platoon Sergeant):**

Sergeant Peter Muir

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**Pipe Sergeant:**

Corporal Jake Noble

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The last 12 months have been a hive of activity for 3 SCOTS Pipes and Drums, most notably on the soldiering side of life. 2024 being a year to almost rest our instruments and regain our focus elsewhere.

The first quarter of the year saw the Pipes and Drums conduct their annual Machine Gun Cadre. This was taught over a 4-week period, focusing on the role mechanics, classroom-based lessons and TEWTS, before moving onto the sustained fire role, cumulating in the SF ACMT and live ambush in Tain, where an impressive bit of shooting saw us average 25,000 rounds a day down range. Truly highlighting the stopping power of the Machine Gun role. This skill was put to the test immediately on Pre-Deployment Training (PDT), an A Coy led full PDT package.

In early May the platoon switched fire from Machine Guns back to our role as infantry soldiers. This time gearing up to be part of the biggest current led operation on UK soil, Op INTERFLEX. A multinational partnership with the focus on helping the Ukrainians further develop their will to fight. The band split down into 6 separate training teams alongside soldiers from Alpha and Bravo company to allow us, where possible, to come together for Pipe Band jobs.

The summer started well and before we knew it had already completed one SCBC course. Alongside the combat training, the Pipes and Drums played for the initial pass off parade for the Ukrainians, some having never been exposed to bagpipes.

Alongside UK Operations there was time for music. As a band, our highlight this year was being able to play at the multinational training team highland games. This was used as a chance to hold a mini beating of the retreat, complete with full highland dancing. Pipes & Drums Cpl Noble and Pte Taylor travelled to France under the watchful eyes of members of the Royal Family to open a new extension to the WW1 war graves and bury a fellow Black Watch soldier from 1915.

This year the Pipes & Drums welcomed five new members into their ranks, Ptes Gammie, Manson, Donnachie, Pow & Breen. Ptes Manson and Gammie currently on their class 3 drumming course. Pte Taylor also qualified as a full class 2 piper.

2025 looks to be a fantastic year to be a member of the Pipes & Drums. Full scale exercises and the Edinburgh Tattoo. Soldiering and music, the beating heart of Scottish Regiments.



## 3 SCOTS

### QUARTERMASTERS DEPARTMENT

United Kingdom – Fort George  
Major (QM) Mikey Fairweather

#### QM's Platoon

The department's main focus has been Op INTERFLEX, which saw the QM – Maj Mikey Fairweather, RQMS(T) – WO2 Bryan Young, LRS SNCO – Sgt Bradley Hartland, Ammunition Stores JNCO – Cpl Justin Hawkes, and LST JNCO – initially LCpl G Lungu and later Cpl Vinnie Vunibobo, deployed in June 2024. The rest of the team stayed at Fort George to ensure all required outputs were delivered as expected. The deployed team received much-needed support from CSgt McTernan, Sgt Chadburn, and Cpl Carpenter, who were attached as Real Life Support (RLS) to manage administration and day-to-day housekeeping across the three sites we were managing: West Tofts, Wretham, and Bodney.

The intention was always for those deployed forward to remain for the duration, which was key in building relationships with other agencies we worked closely with, including DIO, LandMarc, and ESS. From the start, it was clear that much of the infrastructure was old and creaking from near-constant use, often at full capacity, and needed much care and attention to turn these sites into homes. The Help Desk had never experienced such a volume of work requests before, but with their assistance, we made much-needed improvements, allowing us a higher degree of comfort for both operating and living.



*A bit of down time at the go-karting. L-R – Cpl Hawkes, Sgt Chadburn, WO2 (RQMS) Young and Sgt Hartland*

Cpl Hawkes was the only isolated member of the team, as the ammunition bunker was located elsewhere. This task required him to operate at unsociable hours, overcome language barriers with foreign partner forces, and deal solely with extraordinary amounts of munitions. For his efforts, he was awarded a Colonel of the Regiment (CoR) coin.

The ROG were also kept on their toes, ensuring the running of the Fort was maintained as if the whole unit were there. In addition to increased duties for the smaller team, the Fort presented structural issues such as power failures, burst water pipes, and ongoing heating faults, which were managed to the expected degree by this experienced and skilled team. It was a truly herculean effort from all, whether deployed forward or rear.

#### Catering Platoon

There was a shift in personnel within the catering platoon as SSgt Rona Smith departed for The Royal Lancers, and Sgt Colin Ashford took over as Unit Catering Manager. Sgt Ashford was deployed forward on Op INTERFLEX for the duration, where he led and managed a large catering team of approximately 36 staff across four dining facilities. This was accomplished while navigating cultural differences and language barriers within the multi-national delivery unit and audience.

Those who remained on ROG faced the usual demands for this skill set, but the required sustenance for the entire unit never faltered. The saying that an army marches on its stomach was clearly evident.



## 3 SCOTS

### CIS PLATOON

CIS Platoon  
*Captain Greene*

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As a key enabling platoon, the Communication and Information Systems (CIS) platoon's 2024 has, like the wider battalion, been defined by the preparation for and execution of Op INTERFLEX. However, much has been achieved in the margins.

April saw the PI deliver the first iteration of our new Advisor Communicator Course, which had been developed by the PI to address the changing CIS needs of the Bn in our former Security Force Assistance (SFA) role. While we have moved on from this role as part of our re-subordination to Land Special Operations Force (LSOF), there is significant overlap in terms of CIS, and many of these lessons will be carried over. The primary focus was long range communications and greater situational awareness using emerging technology, such as ruggedised smartphones to enable real-time battle-tracking.

Op INTERFLEX, the UK's support to the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) was the primary focus of 2024. The primary responsibility for the CIS PI was deploying and maintaining an Operations Room for the six-month duration of our deployment. This allowed for accurate tracking of troops on the ground and provided a robust communications plan to enable safe training to be delivered by 3 SCOTS soldiers to the AFU.

In order to provide this capability, significant training occurred pre-Op INTERFLEX to ensure Signallers were qualified. This was part of the battalions training concentration, our pre-deployment training, which was responsible for getting our troops to the highest level of readiness. It also required forward-loading personnel on career courses to ensure the deployment did not impact the professional development of our soldiers.

Upon returning from Op INTERFLEX, the focus has immediately switched to the next challenge, which we will be well set to deliver on a challenging and demanding exercise.



## MOTOR TRANSPORT PLATOON

Fort George & UK  
Captain James 'Loon' McCarthy

**Motor Transport Officer:**  
Captain McCarthy

### Overview

The MT has been extremely busy throughout 2024, with the emphasis being on the deployability and availability of both platforms and personnel across the Battalion, initially regarding Op INTERFLEX Tranche 5.

### Driver Training

The driver training statistics for 2024 are truly impressive and absolutely highlight how hard the team, especially the driver training cell, have worked this year with the key points listed below:

- **41** theory tests passed (6 x Cat B, 17 x Cat C, 18 x Cat D).
- **53** new licenses awarded (10 x Cat B, 9 x Cat C, 13 x Cat C+E, 21 x Cat D).
- **1,281** white fleet conversions conducted.
- **345** green fleet conversions conducted.

A similar period of driver training in 2025 is planned in preparation for upcoming Battalion deployments.

### Op INTERFLEX

The advance elements of the team deployed on Op INTERFLEX approx. 2 weeks prior to the rest of the team and Battalion. This allowed for a more in-depth handover between 1 ANGLIAN and 3 SCOTS, especially in relation to vehicle platforms with Pte Clunie managing the white fleet (c.230 hire vehicles) and Pte Jones initially managing the green fleet (15 platforms). Despite the handover and flag change passing without much



*The MTO's car following a poor roll of the dice with the RQ(T)*

issue, there was a period of much work to be done to ensure the whole team were fully conversant with their roles on the mission.

Sgt Morrison ensured that all policy and processes directed by INTERFLEX HQ were implemented and completed to a high standard. This meant a lot of late nights to make sure all was in order, completing this quickly through liaison with INTERFLEX HQ setting a thorough baseline going forward.

The GF was managed by Cpl Kanyenda who, working closely with the LAD, managed to ensure that despite a questionable start state, the fleet was soon task worthy. It was found that having the LAD co-located in the MT building enabled ES fusion and ensured the GF was properly managed. This highlighted the need for good working relationships, especially when aided by regular doses of dynamic team cohesion (aka pranking) between the MT and LAD, to keep morale up.

What was immediately apparent was the vital nature of the daily coach tasking, without which the AFU soldiers would not be able to get out of camp. Pte Jones took up the role of IC Coaches having deployed on a trawl as a coach driver at the start of the 2024, and therefore best placed to run with this. This role however didn't lower his chances of lung cancer any, given the amount of time spent at the smoking area!

The high regard and hard work of the MT team was noted in INTERFLEX HQ, through almost weekly correspondence during our tenure as TDU 1, as well as the standard of our handover to the IRISH GUARDS before heading back to Fort George and a well-deserved period of Christmas Leave.



# 3 SCOTS

## REGIMENTAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

**Regimental Administration Officer:**  
Captain D Hillan

**Detachment Commander:**  
Captain C Robertson

**Regimental Administration Warrant Officer:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2 V Armstrong

**Financial Systems Administrator:**  
Staff Sergeant P Clemerson

**Staff Support Supervisor:**  
Sergeant A Habia

### The Detachment

This year saw several changes in personnel within the Detachment as we adapt to our new model under the Future Soldier Structure. This saw the departure of Sgt Savu on end of colour service, Sgt Rai on Assignment, and Cpls Martin and Serukalou on promotion. We welcomed Cpl Masi from 6 Regt RLC and Ptes Denyer, Raidre, and Gyasi-Mensah from Worthy Down on completion of their initial trade training.

With so many changes in personnel throughout the year it was essential we continued to organise events which focussed on our 'As One' ethos. The Jnr members of the Detachment organised an excellent cultural event celebrating the different cultural backgrounds within our small team.

The focus of the Detachment in 2024 was the continued delivery of credible Pers Admin both in Barracks and on Operations.

### Charity and Community Engagement

The Detachment took part in several charitable and community engagement events throughout the year. The Detachment took the lead in organising 3 SCOTS Longest Day Golf event for Prostate Cancer UK. Cpl Martin organised the most successful event of the year which saw the Detachment set up its stall in Nairn and cycle 1000km raising £2016 for Erskine Trust. The RAWO raised money for the Army Benevolent Fund through completion of the Cateran Yomp.

Throughout the year members of the Detachment were also involved in the clean-up of the Culloden Battlefield and surrounding Woods amongst other low level community engagement events.

### Operations

The Detachments soldier first ethos sees us self-sufficient when training for either routine ITRs, trade specific training, and PDT for Operations. This was essential as 2024 saw 3 SCOTS continuing to push SFA activity in the Indo Pacific and deploying on Op INTERFLEX. The Det even managed to enter a team into the annual Triple Crown event in Worthy Down where we excelled in the march and shoot competition.

A special mention must go to LCpl Saukila who was recognised for her individual excellence during C Coy's deployment on Ex RATTLESNAKE.

Op INTERFLEX provided the opportunity for the Detachment to deploy on mass supporting what felt like a newly established operation. The team worked tirelessly as a whole to ensure 3 SCOTS were G1 ready to deploy and remained supported throughout the nuances of a UK based operation. The Det took the lead on Deployed Welfare spending c£25,000 upgrading the

facilities. The ROG provided no rest for those who remained who prepared and executed an excellent G1A.

The Detachments focus as we enter 2025 is training and warfighting as we continue to develop our part in the battle space.



*The Det get together for a cultural social*



*LCpl Harvey, Cpl McKenzie, Pte Cortex and Sgt Habia preparing for the Cateran Yomp*



*Detachment set up its stall in Nairn and cycle 1000km raising £2016 for Erskine Trust*



## MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Fort George, UK  
*Staff Sergeant Rai*

The medical department's deployment on Operation INTERFLEX Tranche 5, alongside 3 SCOTS, was critical to the success of this UK-led initiative to train Ukrainian soldiers. Our mission was to provide comprehensive medical care in both defence primary roles and emergency hospital settings. Beyond direct healthcare, we ran the Joint Team Medic Course, delivered real-life support to all personnel, and focused on morale through team bonding activities. This article reflects on the department's multifaceted role, challenges faced, and key achievements during this pivotal operation.

Central to our deployment was ensuring the health and well-being of all personnel, including Ukrainian soldiers undergoing training and the UK and multi-national training staff. In our defence primary care role, we handled a variety of routine medical issues, such as minor injuries, musculoskeletal strains, and illnesses also multiple outbreaks by flu symptoms. Our focus on preventative measures, including hydration monitoring, environmental health checks, and injury prevention, reduced downtime and enabled personnel to remain fully engaged in their duties.

Emergency medical care was another vital responsibility. We maintained a fully equipped emergency hospital capability to respond to critical incidents. The team drilled regularly to ensure seamless coordination during real-life emergencies, allowing us to provide rapid stabilisation and, where necessary, organise effective casualty evacuation. These efforts not only safeguarded the health of those involved but also ensured operational continuity. One of the most impactful contributions of the medical department during Op INTERFLEX was the delivery of the Joint Team Medic Course. Designed to prepare Ukrainian soldiers and support staff with basic lifesaving skills, the course focused on essential battlefield medicine, including haemorrhage control, airway management, and casualty evacuation.

Our medics adopted a hands-on approach, using realistic training scenarios to build confidence and competence among participants. By the end of the programme, trainees were equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to manage casualties in high-pressure situations. The success of the course was evident in the feedback from participants and their improved performance during medical drills. Beyond clinical and training duties, the medical department provided essential real-life support across Op INTERFLEX. We worked closely with logistics teams to ensure the availability of critical medical supplies, maintained high standards of hygiene, and offered advice on nutrition to optimise physical and mental performance.

A key element of our real-life support was mental health care. Recognising the psychological challenges of intensive training and preparation for conflict, our team made mental health support a priority. We provided a safe and confidential environment for personnel to discuss concerns, as well as practical advice on stress management and resilience. This holistic approach to care underscored our commitment to the well-being of everyone involved in the operation. Understanding that morale is vital to operational success, the medical department played an active role in fostering camaraderie among personnel. We organised team bonding activities that encouraged collaboration and strengthened relationships, both within the medical team and across the wider 3 SCOTS contingent and international soldiers.

These activities ranged from informal social gatherings to structured events, such as fitness challenges and team-building exercises. For the medical department, these moments of connection provided opportunities to reflect on shared achievements and reinforce our collective purpose. For the broader team, they helped to cultivate a positive atmosphere that contributed to high levels of motivation and engagement throughout Tranche 5. Operating in the unique environment of Op INTERFLEX posed a range of challenges for the medical department. Language barriers with Ukrainian soldiers required us to adapt our communication methods, often relying on interpreters (linguistic), visual aids, and practical demonstrations to ensure effective understanding during medical training and consultations.



## 3 SCOTS

### **MEDICAL DETACHMENT** *continued*

Resource management was another significant challenge, particularly when balancing limited supplies with the needs of a large and diverse group of personnel. Through meticulous planning, efficient resource allocation, and teamwork, we maintained high standards of care throughout the deployment. The unpredictable nature of medical emergencies also demanded flexibility and quick thinking. Regular scenario-based training ensured that our team was prepared for any eventuality, allowing us to deliver consistent and effective care under pressure.

The medical department's contributions to Op INTERFLEX Tranche 5 left a lasting impact including conducting a comprehensive handover-takeover with the incoming medical team for the positive outcomes. We ensured the health and readiness of all personnel, enabling them to focus on their mission with confidence. The successful delivery of the Joint Team Medic Course enhanced the medical capabilities of Ukrainian soldiers, equipping them with essential skills that will save lives on the battlefield.

Additionally, our holistic approach to care encompassing physical, mental, and emotional well-being fostered a supportive and cohesive environment. By prioritising morale through team bonding initiatives, we contributed to a culture of unity and resilience that will continue to benefit future operations.

The deployment of the medical department on Op INTERFLEX Tranche 5 exemplified the vital role of comprehensive medical support in military operations. From providing primary care and emergency services to delivering lifesaving training and promoting wellbeing, our contributions were instrumental in the success of the mission. As we reflect on this deployment, we are proud of the professionalism, adaptability, and dedication demonstrated by our team.

Our efforts ensured that Ukrainian trainees, multi-national soldiers and 3 SCOTS personnel were equipped both physically and mentally to meet the challenges ahead and make the mission successful. Our contributions not only ensured the immediate success of Tranche 5 but also laid a strong foundation for the ongoing support of Ukrainian soldiers and training staff in future operations.



## UNIT WELFARE OFFICE

Inverness

*Captain Ian Carlisle*

### **Unit Welfare Officer:**

Captain Ian Carlisle

### **Assistant Unit Welfare Officer:**

Colour Sergeant John Faye

The Unit Welfare team has had a busy period supporting families during the OP INTERFLEX deployment. Every penny of the deployment welfare budget was used to organise trips, visits, and entertainment for all the families. Scenic cruises on the Moray Firth, visits to Landmark Adventure Park, and trips to Aberdeen were enjoyed by all. We had multiple adventurous activities, including e-biking and paddleboarding around some of the stunning scenery that the Highlands has to offer. The children got to test their skills on the ten-pin bowling, trampolines, the new inoflate, and crazy golf, but no Tiger Woods in the making just yet.

Within the Welfare Centre, the team worked hard to organise several events to attract all ages. A visit from exotic animals filled the hall with snakes, insects, and spiders. While the children were not scared, the UWO was nowhere to be seen. Our Psychic Night was well attended, and we enjoyed several karaoke nights—who said Inverness doesn't have talent?

In October, we had the privilege to host Fiji Day. Even with many of the soldiers deployed, the Fijian families pulled out all the stops to put on a very enjoyable event. The food was amazing, and it was great to see the children performing traditional dances and wearing traditional clothing as we got to experience the culture and hospitality of the Fijian families.

Behind the scenes, we have invested time improving the welfare facilities. New garden furniture has been purchased to revamp the garden, the bar has been refurbished, and new TVs have been installed to replace the old projectors. Sports nights have really improved, particularly the 6 Nations. The Welfare Centre now hosts the Coffee Pot, where a group of wives run a café five days a week. We have recently had our very own personal trainer run fitness classes, which continue to gain popularity.

The AWS Community Development worker, Charlene, has been working by our side, supporting families with parent and toddler drop-in sessions, and running some successful residential courses for the children. The youth club has been well attended, and we are now in the planning phase for the coming year, building on recent successes.

Over the last six months, the welfare team has been staggered by the level of support from the families. During the deployment period, many people gave their time to help run and support the bigger events. This really made a difference.

It's clear that the deployment has made a significant impact on the community. The variety of activities and events, from adventurous outings to cultural celebrations, has provided something for everyone. The improvements to the Welfare Centre facilities and the introduction of new programs like the Coffee Pot and fitness classes have further enhanced the support available to families. The collaboration with the AWS has also been instrumental in providing additional resources and activities for families and children.

We look forward to the coming year, we aim to build on the successes and lessons we have experienced.



## 3 SCOTS

### REME LIGHT AID DETACHMENT (LAD)

Fort George, UK, Poland,  
*Warrant Officer Class 2 G Horsburgh*

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**Artificer Quartermaster Sergeant:**  
*Warrant Officer Class 2 G Horsburgh*

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2024 has been extremely busy for 3 SCOTS LAD. There have been opportunities for personnel to deploy on various missions and tasks whilst maintaining a stronghold at Fort George to support Bn activities.

The priority has been the deployment on Op INTERFLEX where most of the LAD have had some involvement. SSgt Armstrong and Sgt MacPhail took the lead for this and were extremely proficient and excelled by ensuring ES requirements were met. Without their stalwart enthusiasm to achieve, there would have been a negative impact on mission essential training. The focus being on weapon systems checks and inspections. This, along with the continued maintenance and inspection of the Fort George BUF has seen our Armourers extremely stretched. Staff Armstrong and his team must be commended for their efforts and continued high ES output.

Further to this the LAD has managed to continue the drive for personal and professional development of our SP. Cpl Walker has spent over 6 months at the AT Wing in Inverness, assisting with course training whilst also developing his own AT qualifications. LCpl McAdam has been busy back at school successfully completing his class 1 VM upgraders course and our newest member Cfn Mateer has been getting put through her paces on her CI3-2 training.

We have had some great, well-deserved, success on promotion boards with Cpl's McMahon and Barber both successful to Sgt and LCpl McAdam promoted to Cpl. Clearly this will mean impending changes to LAD personnel; we wish the lads all the best on their next career step.

The second half of the year I have been deployed in support of Op ORBITAL based in Rzeszow, Poland. As the Remote Maintenance and Distribution Cell – Ukraine (RDC-U) ASM, it has been an extremely challenging deployment in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU). Working in a multi-national environment with our US colleagues, both military SP and civilian contractors, in addition to other NATO and Ukrainian partners. We have provided ES support including technical advice and the supply and provision of ES Mat to support the high volume of Granted in Kind (GiK) equipment.

Overall, a very successful and busy year for the LAD, with more challenges expected as the Bn transition into a Tactical Recce Strike Bn. Another busy FOE will once again be reliant on the exceptional ES provided by the LAD, as always 'keeping the punch in the Army's fist'.



## 3 SCOTS

### THE OFFICERS' MESS

The Officers' Mess  
*Major Toffer McRobbie*

**President of the Mess Committee:**  
Major Toffer McRobbie

**Secretary:**  
Captain Andy Duff

Red Hackle Day set the tone for 2024, a mixed performance at the Officers v Sgts Mess football was quickly forgotten in what was a very entertaining Red Hackle games night. Having been schooled in December the subbies studied the competition and unleashed a targeted volley of mess games that perplexed our SNCOs and even found an opportunity to get some Pitch Perfect comedy back into the mess.

With our ladies enduring a significant burden of solitude during Indo Pacific adventures, and the livers out realising they hadn't made any valentines dinner plans, a ladies dinner night was held in the Fort. Reeling at the lack of 'thought' our ladies exploited a gap in the wire – the lack of a summer ball plan and their collective voice – to generate their own plan for summer. So began the psyops campaign of spring 24 and the quickest mess vote for a summer function theme this author has ever witnessed.

It was back to the 80s for the Officers' Mess, led by Capt Gibson and his wife Lee-Ann who demonstrated that a little cash could go a long way (much to the praise of his fellow LE community). No one could imagine the rapid transformation the mess would go through, nor the popularity of the Karaoke machine or fish bowls; the later leaving a slightly sour taste when the mess bills landed the month after.

Following summer leave the Bn deployed on Op INTERFLEX and whilst



*OC HQ Coy showing the young team how it's done*

operationally focused, the mess still exploited opportunity to enjoy itself. There was a newfound interest in fishing (nothing to do with the associated G4 support such an event received) and the mess quickly established its new 'locals.' Spread across the area (though within the travel bubble) the mess did its best to maintain morale and integrate with our International Partners, some more successfully than others. Closer to camp some found solace in 'The Way' aka running a lot and a Friday takeaway.

Diving for the line the mess committed to Christmas Carols and the Black Watch Ball; that so many mess members chose to remain in Inverness is either testament to the close bonds currently within the mess or the popularity of Johnny Foxes...

The Commanding Officer made it clear that the Officers Mess was the shop window for all visitors to the Battalion and so, in the margins of our core business, a concerted effort has been made to refresh it and re-establish some

of our customs to ensure the history we are writing is properly recorded. Under Capt Smith, Broad and Johnston, the mess subbies have rallied and proven even the dourest members of the mess that there is little that can stop a band of determined subbies. There is a new shiny scrap book (at complete odds to the PMC's drive for digitisation which made it even more fun) alongside a new mess painting and there is even, after years of talk, a marquee being delivered (and available to hire at a very reasonable rate!)

Rounding up the year the mess passes on its congratulations to Capt Nicol, Maj McRobbie and Capt Thorpe on convincing someone to marry them. We also wish all those who have departed to recharge their batteries in the Field Army the best of luck in their black hackles and look forward to seeing them all when they come back home.



# SCOTS

[www.theroyalregimentofscotland.org](http://www.theroyalregimentofscotland.org)



**4 SCOTS**



## 4 SCOTS

### COMMANDING OFFICER FOREWORD

*Lieutenant Colonel Gordon Muir MBE*

#### **First to the Fight**

This year was marked by our role as the lead battlegroup for the Allied Reaction Force. Since June, the Battalion focused on a single aim: to be ready within 48 hours to deploy on SACEUR's orders into Europe and its periphery. The clear purpose was welcomed, but equally demanded much of our Jocks.

The culmination of ranges, continual individual training and significant vehicle maintenance was Exercise HECTORS STORM in late August. This was our opportunity as a Battlegroup to prove to ourselves and to our higher commanders that 4 SCOTS was capable of being first to the fight – able to deploy rapidly and, critically, being able to fight once there. We covered 1000 miles, conducted five different operations in four different terrains and exercised every element of the Battlegroup. This was a great showcase of all the hard work the Battalion put in over numerous months.

We also spent significant time in Scotland, reconnecting with some of our roots, but most importantly, imbuing our current generation with our heritage and why it is important for them now, and in the future. Freedom Parades in Aberdeenshire in May were followed by the re-enactment of the formation of The Highlanders in September, marking 30 years since the famous parade on Craigellachie Bridge. Our Companies travelled North on multiple occasions to further consolidate relationships throughout the rest of the year and of course our Pipes and Drums remained central to all we do, maintaining their excellent reputation across Defence and internationally.



*CO 4 SCOTS, Lt Col Gordon Muir MBE alongside RSM 4 SCOTS, WO1 George Allison*

Battalion life continued in the background, and we conducted the full gambit of inter-company competitions, all based on our role as the Allied Reaction Force. The Duke of Rothesay's Dirk patrols competition in Kielder Forest, the Charles Morpeth cross-country and Bruce Flett driving competition were all held and the Moray Shield for the best company was ultimately won by D Company. We also held inter-company boxing for the first time in several years which was a great success and one we hope to build on next year.

Our Jocks grasped the myriad of opportunities available in the Army throughout the year. We participated – and won – the Para 10 race in Catterick, achieved highly credible individual results at Spean Bridge Commando March, and over 90 soldiers from the Battalion took part in long distance, challenging physical events, such as the Original Mountain Marathon. All

supported by Regimental contributions and represented great examples of how the Regiment supported 4 SCOTS during the year.

These were but a few highlights of 2024 for 4 SCOTS. Our focus on readiness will endure into 2025 before our unit move to Cyprus in the Summer of 2025. Another great opportunity for 4 SCOTS and the Regiment presenting a host of new and exciting challenges.

This year's successes would not have been possible without the support of our wider Regimental family and of course the generous provision of funds to allow our soldiers to seize opportunities throughout the year. I am immensely grateful for the support which allowed my Jocks to maximise their time in the Battalion and Army in 2024.



## OTHER RANKS PROMOTIONS

### Warrant Officer Class 2 to Warrant Officer Class 1:

Parker  
Ritchie

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### Colour Sergeant to Warrant Officer Class 2:

Alexander  
Cook  
Gracie  
Marr

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### Sergeant to Colour Sergeant:

Dick  
Grant  
Higgins  
Rennie  
Revill

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### Corporal to Sergeant:

Crawford  
Davis  
Hauley  
Martin  
Mason  
Minto  
Van Der Walt  
Wood

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### Lance Corporal to Corporal:

Devlin-May  
Gyimah  
Macaulay  
Mutch  
Shepherd  
Tuilekutu  
Wheelton  
Williams

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### Highlander to Lance Corporal:

Barclay  
Cassidy  
Coupland-Morris  
Crawley  
Erasito  
Faulds  
Foy  
Mccallum  
Michie  
Munn  
Nixon  
Pow  
Rabuka  
Rasukura  
Rose  
Shrestha  
Taylor  
Verekauta  
Watson

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From all ranks within 4 SCOTS, congratulations to all the individuals mentioned, you all thoroughly deserve it.



## 4 SCOTS

### ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Peterhead, Craigellachie, Fochabers, Nairn, Forres, Buckie, Huntly  
*Major Jamie Graham*

Our Regimental Charter describes how we use our history and heritage as the foundation upon which our present and future actions stand. As a Battalion that values its origins and is proud of its web of connections across the Highlands of Scotland, but significantly is based in North Yorkshire, engagement must be a deliberate action. This is increasingly important as we become more diverse in our makeup, both across the UK and the Commonwealth. In that light, 2024 has been a hugely effective demonstration of what can be achieved, both for those serving within the Battalion, and the communities from which it hails. Throughout the year, the Battalion was actively engaging across Scotland on an almost monthly basis. From Freedom Parades in Peterhead, Alford, and Laurencekirk, through Remembrance Parades, to the "Tour of the North" and the anniversary celebrations of the formation of The Highlanders, the Battalion has been active across our traditional heartland. Not stopping there, the Battalion has been engaged across the UK including the D-Day 80 commemorations, State Banquet, and Durham Remembrance Parade. The goal; to ensure we remain in the public eye and that our soldiers, regardless of background, gain an understanding of where we come from and what we represent.



*Maj Burnett barks his orders*

#### Freedom Parades

In May, Alpha (Grenadier) and Delta (The Clan) Companies headed to Boddam Camp near Peterhead. Laps of the camp, under the watchful eye of RSM WO1 George Allison, fettled two half companies into marching order. Immaculately turned out in No 1 dress, the companies received the Freedom of Aberdeenshire in Peterhead, on behalf on the Regiment, before exercising the new Freedom in Alford, and Laurencekirk. There was a fantastic turnout in each location and community support for the Regiment was clear to see. The Freedom Parades are an important tradition and allow the Regiment to connect with local communities, whilst showcasing their discipline and pride. These parades are not just ceremonial; they reinforce the bond between the military and the public, reminding everyone of the Regiment's historical and ongoing contributions.



*Alpha (Grenadier) and Delta (The Clan) Coys exercising the Freedom of Peterhead*

#### Tour of the North

On 14th September 1994, the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) and Gordon Highlanders met on the Craigellachie bridge to mark their future as The Highlanders, which would be formalised on 17th September 1994 at Dreghorn Barracks. The bridge over the Spey was chosen as it marked the boundary between the respective Regiments' recruiting areas. Thirty years later, in celebration of the anniversary of the event, 4 SCOTS returned. Brought together almost single handedly by Maj Freddie Macnair, the Battalion Second in Command, soldiers from Delta and SP Coy returned to laps of Boddam, this time unencumbered by No 1 dress and instead supported by Foxhounds and quadbike mounted snipers, ready to remind everyone of the Battalion's critical role as the Vanguard Battlegroup for NATO's Allied Response Force. Although for some this was a return to Peterhead after a short hiatus, for many this was a new and rewarding experience.

The 30th anniversary commemorations mimicked the original parade format. The current CO, Lt Col Gordon Muir MBE, marched to the centre of the bridge to meet Brigadier Hughie Monro (Retd.), the last CO of the Queen's Own Highlanders, the first CO of The Highlanders and as such the man who led them as they stepped off together for the first time in 1994. Following a "liberal" quaich shared with the youngest Jock (Hldr Cairns), the CO marched the Battalion forward into Craigellachie. Following Highlanders Day celebrations, the Tour of the North began in earnest. A Visit to the Highlanders Memorial in Fochabers, where the Warrant Officers brought home the realities of service to our junior soldiers, was followed by



*COs past and present share a dram with Hldr Cairns*

parades through Nairn, Forres, Buckie and Huntly over two days. Throughout, the crowds were out in force and the support received was palpable. With Cruachan leading the way, and as always the centre of great attention, this was truly a Regimental event.

### **Routine engagement and Challenge activity**

In addition to the milestone events of the Freedom Parades and the Tour of the North, 4 SCOTS continued to maintain a steady drumbeat of activity. In October, Alpha Coy supported the 1st Bn, The Highlanders ACF drill nights at Dingwall, Tain, and Alness, all in the margins of Ex HIGHLAND GRENADIER. They also seized the opportunity to build on their involvement in 2022 and 2023 by taking part in the Nairn Remembrance Parade. On top of that, members of the Battalion participated in numerous Challenge events and Ultra Marathons across the country to demonstrate the opportunities available in the Army and to raise the

public profile of the Regiment. This included the Glen Lyon Ultra in June, the Original Mountain Marathon in October, and the John Muir Nocturnal Ultra in November. None of the above would have been possible without strong support from the Regimental Trust. These activities not only highlight the physical prowess and endurance of our soldiers but also serve as a platform to engage with the public and showcase the diverse opportunities within the Army. Participation in such events fosters camaraderie and a sense of achievement among the soldiers, while also promoting a positive image of the Regiment.

### **Other engagement**

As well as investing heavily in engagement in the North of Scotland, the Battalion was fortunate to have played a part in local and national events throughout 2024. B Coy led a contingent down to Portsmouth for the D-day 80 commemorations. An unforgettable, poignant, and certainly once in a lifetime event. The Pipes and Drums were in high demand throughout the year, crowning it with a performance at the State Banquet at the beginning of December, and to help maintain strong local connections, Delta Coy contributed a marching contingent to the Durham Remembrance parade, bringing some style and panache to proceedings. These engagements are crucial for maintaining the Regiment's visibility and fostering a sense of pride and belonging. They also provide valuable opportunities to honour those who served before us, ensuring their legacy continues to inspire future generations.



*Alpha (Grenadier) supporting the Remembrance Parade in Nairn*



## 4 SCOTS

### BATTALION COMPETITIONS

*Major James Fish*

2024 saw a real push for the 4th Battalion to reconnect with its Highland traditions and ethos, whilst ensuring its operational capability as it stands ready as the Vanguard Battlegroup for NATO. And there is no better way to do that than through the crucible of competition!

Battalion competitions commenced with the Duke of Rothsay's Dirk (DORD) patrol competition in mid-April. This saw platoon teams start in Otterburn camp and just to ease them in, the first stand was a 2-miler! The following patrol route saw teams cover around 45kms (depending on how navigationaly challenged they became) with stands testing different soldiering skills. The teams showed a great amount of grit and determination, including WO2 Lees, who jumped into a B Coy patrol at the 11th hour. Each team took around 24 hours to complete the event. After some questionable score tallying by Delta Company, 14 Platoon (of Delta Company) emerged victorious, with Lieutenant F Ritchie proudly wearing the DORD for this year.

The next event of the year in May was the Caber Fiedh shooting competition. Again, with the aim of tying our history to current operational credibility, the week commenced with the march and shoot competition – a 2-miler and a falling plate assessment. The remaining shoots over the next three days saw the inclusion of ACMTs of rifles and pistols, as well as some of the OSP competition shoots; all of which are designed to simulate various types of engagements on a gallery range. The final day saw Company teams go head-to-head in a falling plate assessment. After some very fair, stringent and open scoring, B Company emerged victorious!

Following a frantic summer that saw the majority of the battalion deployed in support of Exercise WESSEX STORM and then HECTORS STORM, competition recommenced in August with the Bruce Flett driving competition. This saw all aspects of operating a military vehicle tested – from crew's knowledge of standing orders to vehicle cam & concealment, there wasn't a strand of Foxhound or Jackal operation left un-tested by the MT platoon! After the culminating event (CO's PT – a race to pull a FHD round the camp at Bourlon Barracks), Support Company were awarded the trophy for their exceptional overall performance.

The next competition of the year was the Highland Games. Held on a very changeable day in Catterick Garrison, the local community (including local schools) gathered to cheer on the officers and soldiers of the battalion in the traditional competitions. The event was expertly organised by Major Al Cunningham and his team in HQ Company. Across many different disciplines that included caber-tossing, atlas stones, keg tossing and the traditional chain-of-command race, HQ Company emerged victorious!

The penultimate competition of the year saw the Companies clash in the boxing ring. Each bout showed the dedication, skill and discipline that each of the fighters, and their coaching teams, had poured into the six-week preparation camp. Hldr Crawford (B Coy) emerged as the bravest boxer and Hldr Hughes-Kelly (B Coy) was selected by the Brigade Commander (a former boxer and coach himself) as the most skilled. The night was expertly overseen by A Company, and in a semi-break from the tradition that has emerged this year, A Company tied with D Company for the champion sub-unit!

The final competition of the year was the very chilly Charles Morpeth Cross-Country race, held in Christmas week. A Company had once again taken the lead in organisation of the event and despite Hldr Zakeer of B Company being the fastest jock, the sheer quality of A Company's NCOs and Officers won through. Major Burnett (OC A) was victorious round the arduous 6-mile course – that somehow saw the battalion's runners summit the infamous snake hill, not once but twice!



## ALPHA COMPANY (GRENADIER)

### Officer Commanding:

Major G Burnett

### Company Second in Command:

Captain E Honeyman / Captain K Boyle

### Company Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class 2 C Grant

### Company Quarter Master Sergeant:

Colour Sergeant C Marr /  
Colour Sergeant J Cumming /  
Colour Sergeant A Tavaga

### 1 Platoon:

Lieutenant Shankland /  
2nd Lieutenant Whitfield  
Sergeant Ashmore

### 2 Platoon:

Lieutenant Price  
Sergeant Digman

### MG Platoon:

Captain Sandiford /  
Lieutenant Robertson-Davies  
Colour Sergeant Cumming  
Sergeant McDonald

Before writing my second entry as OC Alpha, I flicked through photos to remind myself of the past 12 months – I still couldn't comprehend the sheer variety. I'd loved every minute. Reflection is powerful, and I couldn't be prouder of what the Company achieved in 12 months.

VJTF(L) and ARF High readiness were defining themes – the UK's primary land force contribution to NATO. All activity was set against the backdrop of training for, and maintaining, this readiness which by 1 Jun 2025 will have seen the Company and Bn at Very High Readiness for 17 months – including 12 months @R1 (48 hours notice move). With clear purpose our people achieved much though, and the past year saw our projection and warfighting focus sharpen.



CSM bossing it

No sooner had we entered Jan 2024 and the Company deployed immediately to SPTA to test and train alongside elements of 16 AABCT on Ex WINGED SERPENT. The first key milestone on our readiness pathway, this activation rehearsal of MARCH and Force-on-Force package with 2 RGR tested our ability to respond at pace in support of 4 SCOTS readiness profile. Working closely with 16 Med Regt we were certainly much richer for the cross-1XX engagement, and the lessons learnt from care under fire to Medevac paid dividends through other 2024 deployments.

The Company then moved swiftly to Otterburn. Live firing played a significant role this year. Deploying on five separate live fire packages, including two Bn Battle Camps (Ex HECTORS MARAUDER 1 and 2), it was about being comfortable with Platoon and Company black night attacks. An often-under-utilised training mechanism, this was a deliberate plan to make soldiers more accurate and effective by increasing the frequency of live training. This will continue into 2025 with a focus on incorporating more physical and mental stressors to shoots to better replicate battlefield challenges.



OC and CSM during Ex HECTORS MARAUDER 2 at Warcop



## 4 SCOTS

### ALPHA COMPANY (GRENADIER) *continued*



*HECTORS MARAUDER 2 – A Coy at Warcop*



*Coy at Whinny Hill during Ex GRENADIER WHINNY*



*Coy and Pl HQ at Otterburn –  
Ex HECTORS MARAUDER 1*

A conceptual development week in Feb set the conditions for Ex GRENADIER WHINNY in March, providing progression from Ex WINGED SERPENT. Sessions delivered by 11 MI Company and LWC (URBCEN) on pacing threats, Urban Ops and deception were invaluable, and a series of tabletop exercises and discussion groups helped consolidate and codify how we would operate. Leveraging a spectrum of capabilities the Company bridged to Ex GRENADIER WHINNY to rehearse and practice in a force-on-force package on Catterick Training Area. Bolstered with Platoons from Bravo and Delta Coy, Aviation from 28 Sqn (RAF), Military Working Dogs, and RPAS and ATAK from 16 AABCT it provided a real opportunity to enhance our ability to operate in urban and rural environments with a focus on survivability, finding and understanding. A day trip to 636 Bty (4 RA) then provided a great opportunity to broaden individual and collective skillsets for both career courses and the contemporary operating environment through Arty Target training and Danger Close demonstrations.



*Ex GRENADIER WHINNY Break In*



*Ex GRENADIER WHINNY Avn Assault*

The hard work and continual fighting ethos of the Jocks and Juniors continued into the 4 SCOTS Training Level Delta Ex HECTORS STORM in Aug. Another key milestone on our readiness pathway, this activation and Force-on-Force package again tested our ability to project over 1000 miles and respond at pace. A series of Company Mechanised Mindset weeks helped set the conditions and the Ex provided an ideal platform to test and adjust two mechanised survivability themes the Company had developed through 2024 – '5th Foxhound Playbook' and 'Sustainable Austerity'. On the fighting front, the Company lived up to its name (Grenadier) and for the final Battlegroup Raid it was



selected as Break-In Company – Grenadier Company being renowned as elite assault and shock troops and at the heart of siege warfare.



*CHQ and PI HQ ROC drill – Ex HECTORS STORM*



*Ex URBAN DRAGON tabletop Ex*



*A Coy Pentland gate to gate run*



*Group run up Mount Battock during Freedom Parades – Sgt Ashmore and OC*

The professional dialogue with other BCT Units and the wider Very High Readiness Community throughout the year was invaluable and highlights the sheer breadth of the Company's activity. As 4 SCOTS Urban lead, we harnessed our experience and recent CQBI and CQBO qualifications to deliver urban packages for 4 RA and 6 RLC in Jun and Oct. Ex URBAN GRENADEER in Oct also provided a platform to refine how we operated in the urban (conceptually and physically) at all levels within the Company. Company HQ, along with C Coy 1 R YORKS and C Coy 40 Cdo also took part in the first ever Company level Ex URBAN DRAGON delivered by URBCEN and LWC, which provided an interesting insight on how the Royal Marines do business. Then, with 47 Cdo, members of the Company completed the IAF course (formally trained on landing craft) before being rolled into a 47 Cdo Ex doing ship to shore (littoral) attacks.

Alpha Company had several excuses to dress up, with ceremonial activities that included leading 4 SCOTS Freedom Parades in Aberdeenshire (May), supporting the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (GACoS) (May) and the Remembrance Parade in Nairn (Nov) for the third consecutive year. It remains a truly rewarding and humbling experience to represent 4 SCOTS in the North of Scotland where its heritage lies. The margins of GACoS allowed the Company to reap the benefits of being in Edinburgh, completing a best effort 'gate to gate' across the Pentlands, visiting Edinburgh Castle and the SCOTS Museum, and unleashing a scavenger hunt around Edinburgh.



*CSM and OC exchange gifts with Seaforth Club in Nairn Remembrance Sunday*

Other activities this past year linked specifically to maximising individual human performance, and the Company led the way on several 'Highlander Optimisation' initiatives – the idea being that enhancing individual performance enhances lethality, making our soldiers more capable than our adversaries. The headline event was an immersive week at Kinlochleven lodge, focusing on building mental and physical resilience while increasing both understanding and ownership of the Human Optimisation pillars. Delivery was supported by several external guests, including the All Blacks 7's Assistant Head Coach and the co-founder of Head Up Charity, who subsequently posted on social media that "this is by far the best thing I have seen any Regt do within the Army, to help strengthen their soldiers' mindsets". As well as exposing soldiers to a 25km best effort race along the West Highland Way, stress testing that mental resilience, it offered further access and exposure to Highlands – which for many was a first.



# 4 SCOTS

## ALPHA COMPANY (GRENADIER) *continued*

Throughout the year Highlander Optimisation provided a real opportunity for our soldiers and NCOs to learn and develop on several fronts. Cooking lessons were delivered by chefs, standard learning credits were used for mental health first aid and nutrition courses, and 2 Platoon planned and completed a 52-mile and 890m of ascent across Uist with 10Kg in 23hr 19 min. The Company was well represented in every 4 SCOTS challenge activity and, when combined with the focus on human performance, results became noteworthy. All four members of 4 SCOTS winning team at the PARA'S 10 in Sep were Alpha Company, and the Charles Morpeth (4 SCOTS cross country competition) in Dec was a catastrophic success for Alpha – testament to our soldiers will to endure and win.



*Human Optimisation Week PT*



*Human Optimisation Week*

It wasn't just about fitness and mental grit. Ex HIGHLAND GRENADIER, again in the Highlands, provided a platform to conduct a weeklong 'Top Jock' competition in November testing navigation, military knowledge and skills, and communications – with Hldr Murray winning. JNCO Development days and weeks were also meshed through the FoE to help develop individual skillsets ahead of career courses – with Hldr Nixon and Hldr Headley finishing 8th and 11th respectively on the two Union Div PJNCO cadres during 2024, and top 4 SCOTS soldiers.

The year also saw Alpha Company at the forefront of 4 SCOTS outreach activity. Influence was far reaching in support of regimental recruiting – from delivering a Section Attack demo day at AFC Harrogate to over 150 recruits and monthly support to the ASC Glencorse, through look at life days at 4 SCOTS to over 120 recruits from AFC Harrogate and ITC, to supporting Army Cadet Force nights at Tain and Dingwall.



*Heads Up Charity Workshop Kinlochleven*



*Machine Gun Pl best blanket winners at Jock's Lunch*



## B COMPANY (BRAITHREAN)

*Major James Fish*

### **Officer Commanding:**

Major J Fish

### **Company Sergeant Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 G Lees /  
Warrant Officer Class 2 S Alexander

### **Second-in-Command:**

Captain F Harley / Captain G Sandiford

Where has the last year gone? A question I was pondering with a fellow OC just the other week. As I wrote in the introduction to last year's Regimental journal, the Braithrean of B Company have been busy – but the key difference between this year and last, is that we have spent a significant amount of time standing ready as part of the Vanguard Battlegroup in the NATO Alliance. This has seen significant demand placed upon the Jocks to be the first to the fight. That has meant ensuring we are ready to go – be it to trenches in Eastern Europe, fighting in forests or simply making sure everyone can remember where they put their passports for safe keeping!



*Braithrean-Company*

### **OPERATION LINOTYPER**

#### **Poland**

#### **Lieutenant Alexander Lambert**

In keeping with the theme of First to the Fight, it came as no surprise when the call came through that elements of B Coy would deploy on Op LINOTYPER – a major component of the larger NATO exercise STEADFAST DEFENDER 24, with only a few days' notice. 5 Platoon deployed to Eastern Poland as part of the Land component of NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force. For six weeks we were attached to the Second Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and worked alongside units from other NATO members, including Spain, Poland, France and Albania.

The deployment saw us drive nearly 700km across Poland from the Western border to the Eastern Border, near the Suwalki Gap. This meant crossing the mighty Vistula River, nearly 400 meters wide, using a combination of British, German and Polish amphibious bridging vehicles. This was a televised event which drew international audiences and media, and the Jocks made sure to get in as many pictures as humanly possible! The platoon demonstrated exemplary skills + drills and the typical quiet professionalism that has come to be expected by The Royal Regiment of Scotland. The deployment has set the conditions for our next deployment, with lessons shared from Op LINOTYPER to the rest of the Battalion, I am confident that the deployment will be a resounding success.

Sadly, I will not be in a Foxhound or on the Range as a Platoon Commander for this deployment, as my time with the 'Fighting Five' has come to an end. I would like to extend my thanks to all those who have made the experience so enjoyable and exciting, and to those who have supported me and the Platoon throughout. It will perhaps

come as no great surprise that I end this paragraph with a piece of poetry from Edgar Guest; it speaks to my time in the Company and the Jocks that I have had the privilege to work with, and serves as sound advice for all that follow:

"Figure it out for yourself, my lad,  
You've all that the greatest of men  
have had,  
Two arms, two hands, two legs,  
two eyes,  
And a brain to use if you would  
be wise."



*Pl deployed on Op LINOTYPER*

### **EXERCISE BRAITHREAN ARCHITECT**

#### **Tregantle Fort, Plymouth**

#### **Lieutenant Ben Richardson**

In February 2024, Braithrean Company joined 42 Commando Royal Marines for a close quarter combat training week at Tregantle Fort. The week-long exercise transformed theoretical knowledge into practical skills as part of maintaining our capability for NATO's ARF.

For three days, the Fort became an urban combat training theatre where the company meticulously developed and refined their SOPs – 42 Cdo are the Royal Navy's boarding specialists and therefore CQB experts. Armed with simunition and determination, the Jocks honed their skills to surgical precision. One of B Company's sections gave a perfect demo of a section attack to our marine counterparts.



## 4 SCOTS

### **B COMPANY (BRAITHREAN) *continued***

The week culminated in a challenging night attack on Scraesden Fort, located 5 kilometres from the main operating base. Under the cover of darkness, Braithrean Company and the Marines infiltrated and then executed a meticulously planned assault that showcased the skills the Jocks had spent the week honing.

While military prowess was the primary focus, an unexpected highlight emerged in the form of the Tregantle Tuck Shop. Run by the CQMS, this makeshift souk became a hub of entrepreneurship. With prices that would rival upscale city cafés, and negotiation tactics that would put a wall street banker to shame, CSgt Smith managed to extract hundreds of pounds of revenue from his fellow soldiers; all in the name of company funds of course!

The exercise was an unequivocal success, providing the Jocks with more than just urban warfare techniques, it proved B Company can work with a partner force, this time Kilo Company from 42 Commando. Working with a partner force is a key skill when it comes to being part of the NATO alliance.



*Stand-By-Stand-By*

#### **URBAN TRAINING FACILITY 16 Air Assault Bde, Colchester Captain Gregor Sandiford**

In June, B Coy deployed to Colchester to develop the skills used on Ex BRAITHREAN ARCHITECT. The Urban Training Facility (UTF) in Colchester is a million-pound converted hangar that creates a challenging and changing environment. It is equipped with surround sound and internal infrastructure that can be constantly altered to give the Jocks a new challenge at every corner!

Sgt Cook and Cpl Butcher led the way with expert planning and delivery of training. It allowed the Jocks to hone

their skills to an unmatched level.

The continuous change in lighting and sound created new atmospherics that tested the Jocks, particularly when Lt Clarke asked for the nightclub setting! The training was enhanced by briefs from the Pathfinders, targets that shot back and more ammunition than a three-week range package meant that the Jocks had a thoroughly enjoyable time and gained a lot from the week.

To round out the excellent training, a surprise visit from GOC 1XX, with numerous Bde Commanders in tow, had the 2IC & CSM on edge but naturally B Coy stood up to the test.



*Urban training facility*



## 4 SCOTS

### **EXERCISE HECTORS STORM Sennybridge & Galloway Forest Second Lieutenant Simon Owtram**

First arriving at Bourlon Barracks I witnessed the massing of the entirety of 4 SCOTS ready to deploy on their biggest exercise for some years, Ex HECTORS STORM. I was introduced to 5 Platoon as well as the Foxhound; both of which were to be tested through phases of road moves, defence, resupply, and mounted and dismounted offensive actions in two of the more challenging training areas, Sennybridge and Galloway Forest – Hldr White wasted no time in politely explaining the high standards 5 Pl expected of me.

We journeyed some 828 miles across the country, fighting in urban and rural environments with trenches dug and rooms cleared. Breakdown drills were executed and at one stage we feared Cpl Shepherd may have transferred to the REME. As a fresh-faced platoon commander, I was exposed to the intricacy of a battlegroup in combat and saw B Coy overcome each obstacle with collaboration and the ability to step up – including Hldr Bovington's 3 minutes as Platoon Sergeant. Having tested both officers and soldiers of all ranks as well as their vehicles and tactics, Ex HECTORS STORM proved a worthwhile and memorable endeavour for each member of B Company including their new 2 Lt!



*Coy conducting STAP on Ex HECTORS STORM*



*Cpls Butcher & Clarkson take the FIWAF fight to the enemy on Ex HECTORS STORM*



*Cpl Feenan called into top cover action*

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Major James Fish**

And there we have it – a whistle stop tour of all the Company has been up to over the last 12 months. Once again, I have been impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the Braithrean. It remains a privilege to command the Company. There is no doubt that should the call come to defend NATO's interests, and at a moment's notice, we are ready and will be the first to the fight.



## 4 SCOTS

### D COMPANY (THE CLAN)



*The Clan gathers for a photo following the end of the BCS Week*

*Lieutenant T Stephens*

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**Officer Commanding:**

Major F Stark / Major J Graham

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**Company Second in Command:**

Captain M Serpell RM

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**Company Sergeant Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 E Buntine

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**Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**

Colour Sergeant D Charles /

Colour Sergeant G Tora

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**13 Platoon:**

Lieutenant A Robertson-Davies /

Second Lieutenant D Coutts &

Sergeant N Crawford

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**14 Platoon:**

Lieutenant F Ritchie & Sgt D Wilson /

Sergeant C Bearman

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**15 Platoon:**

Lieutenant T Stephens &

Sergeant P Ellis

The predominant focus for The Clan throughout 2024 was its contribution to the Battalion's NATO readiness commitments and as such, we enjoyed a fast paced and exciting year doing everything possible to ensure we were ready to deploy if called upon. This began with a directing staff role on the Union Division Pre-Non-Commissioned Officer Cadre and members of the Company spent January to March in a less than sunny Otterburn developing the next generation of Lance Corporals across the Division. In typical Jock fashion, Delta Company brought an excellent humour and a high standard of teaching to the course and did much to set the standards high for all the course's participants. In the meantime, the rest of the company took the opportunity to hit the ground running with a Basic Combat Skills week, culminating in a lengthy final attack, and challenging casualty evacuation serial.

Not having had enough of Otterburn, The Clan rolled straight into Ex HECTORS MARAUDER, the Battalion's first live fire package of the year.

A hugely beneficial week for all, refreshing and improving individual skills with personal weapon systems, particularly for the Company 2IC, who managed to break away from his combat terminal and lead The Clan on its final Company attack of the week. The highlight of The Clan's time spent in Otterburn during the first half of the Year however was its first and second place triumphs in the Duke of Rothesay's Dirk patrol competition, much to the delight of all Clansmen, particularly Lt Ritchie and Sgt Crawford who led the winning team. The competition consisted of an initial kit check and navigation theory test, followed by a 2-Miler that led straight into the patrol. Jocks, Junior and Senior NCOs and Platoon Commanders were all tested on their soldiering skills at multiple stands around the 45km course. Despite the physical and mental toll of the DORD, all members of the Clan showed great spirit and drive throughout and the two podium positions taken by the Company was the icing on the cake. The Company's motto "Clan First" was certainly heard more than usual across Bournon Barracks in the weeks following.



*LCpl Ranking moving to the FUP,  
Ex HECTORS STORM*



*The Clan leaguer, Cottesmore,  
Ex HECTORS STORM*

Ever flexible, Delta Coy transitioned in May from cam cream and webbing to bulled brogues and spats and journeyed Northwards to receive the Freedom of Aberdeenshire on behalf of the regiment. A sterling time was had by all as the Battalion marched with colours flying and bayonets fixed through Peterhead, Laurencekirk and Aford, with the Jocks being extremely well received by the locals who turned out on mass to support the Battalion as they marched. Charitable efforts were made prior to some stand down with a 6-man team from the Clan taking part in the Army Benevolent Fund's Cateran Yomp Event, a 55-mile tab in under 24 hours in the Cairngorms to raise money for the cause that does much to promote and support the welfare of service personnel and families in the UK. A nice change from a typical tab, Delta Coy's team enjoyed beautiful scenery, a plethora of weather systems and particularly the haggis, neeps and tatties stand that the ABF had set up halfway around the course. This did much to fuel them on to the finish and the Clansmen came in under the 24hr cut off time, winning the coveted gold medal distinction standard.

Returning from summer stand down, the Company was thrust into the next challenge of the year – Ex HECTORS STORM – the Battalion's exercise designed to test our readiness for NATO's Allied Response Force. For 2 weeks, the Clansmen and their foxhounds took to the Roads of the UK, travelling to Cottesmore, Caerwent, Brecon, Ripon and the Galloway Forest. The Company benefitted greatly from a challenging and large-scale exercise with the Jocks' good humour and high soldiering skills doing much to pull them through. The exercise provided a great proof of concept for the Company and highlighted its ability to be able to rapidly deploy, project force and integrate a number of different assets, including Royal Artillery Fire Support Teams, Royal Engineers, and small UAS. The end of the exercise saw Delta Company return once again to the realm of drill and take part in the Battalion's Tour of the North, marching through the recruiting heartlands of the antecedent Highland Regiments. As earlier in the year, the Jocks were extremely well received by the locals, particularly in Craigellachie, where the Company were involved in

re-creating the meeting of the Gordon's and Queen's Own Highlanders on Craigellachie Bridge upon their amalgamation in 1994. Fine September weather followed the Company throughout the week and the parades conducted in Forres, Nairn, Huntly and Buckie were a resounding successes.

The end of the year was seized upon by the Company to get in some invaluable cohesion events with Sgt Wilson leading on Ex CLAN SANDS, spending a day down on the beach playing sports and taking in some Regimental history by drawing out and mapping the Battle of Assaye. Although there were some disputes with the bias of Cpl Harold's refereeing of the volleyball competition, a great day of sports and history was had by The Clan. Prior to Christmas leave, members of The Clan also made a quick trip to the Ninja Warrior adventure centre, providing further cohesion, physical challenge and a great number of laughs at the expense of those who lost their balance on the course more than others. Overall, 2024 was a fantastic year for the Clan and 2025 looks to match it. Clan First!



## 4 SCOTS

### SUPPORT COMPANY

**Officer Commanding:**

Major D Dunlop

---

**Company Second in Command:**

Captain J Calder

---

**Company Sergeant Major:**

Warrant Officer class 2 S Boyle

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**Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**

Colour Sergeant H Cairns

---

**Sniper Platoon:**

Colour Sergeant Tagica  
Sergeant McBlain

---

**Recce Platoon:**

Captain Hand  
Colour Sergeant Charles

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**Anti-Tank Platoon:**

Captain Watson  
Colour Sergeant Grant

---

**Mortar Platoon:**

Captain Jenkins  
Colour Sergeant Dick

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**Assault Pioneer Platoon:**

Pipe Major Roberts  
Drum Major Minto

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2024 has been another busy year for Support Company who have been involved in all major Battalion activity and crucially enabling much of it. This has been balanced with the delivery of Platoon Cadres, various trawls, adventures, and the journey of learning and developing in the LMI role. Unique and resolute in adversity, Support Company has fought through the challenges of managing the largest and most diverse fleet in the Battalion, ensuring their readiness as ARF. The Platoon Cadres have seen the Company spread across the UK developing their skills and bringing new soldiers into the fold; and a host of additional tasks, including delivering Battalion LFTT, support to CTG and 1 R YORKS on Ex WESSEX STORM and 7 LMI BCT on Ex CERBERUS, have kept us all busy throughout the last twelve months.

The Mortar Platoon started off the year holding its annual cadre, split between Strensall and Salisbury Plain, where a number of fresh-faced newcomers were exposed to skills of mortaring for the first time. Utilising a strong cohort of NCOs for instruction throughout, the platoon were put through their paces for two weeks in Strensall camp prior to deploying on a self-sustained dry exercise and live firing package in Salisbury Plain. Salisbury Plain saw the platoon taking part in testing dry serials and the dreaded 'heavy carry' (complete with the essential BBQ afterwards), we then moved onto a comprehensive live fire package with emphasis placed on speed and efficiency of our mortar skills. At the end of the cadre, Hldr Watts was deemed the top individual on the mortarman cadre and LCpl Lund awarded top individual on the executives cadre.



*Mortar illum fire in Otterburn*

Summer post-cadre activities saw the platoon put an emphasis onto use of vehicles and qualifying as many people as possible on the HMTV vehicle platform in preparation for deploying on Ex HECTORS STORM (and all the driving hours that exercise would entail). But with the hope of an Indian summer not materialising, much of the rest of the year comprised of further dismounted ranges, individuals on further career and driving courses, compiled with Army and Infantry representation in a range of sports.

The Anti-Tank Platoon similarly started the year with their Gunner Cadre which took place over three locations of varying nature. Initially, the platoon pitched at Halton Camp for the theory and weapons handling phases. A stone throw from the historic castle town of Lancaster and a mere 10-minute drive from the coastal paradise of Morecombe; this small camp was the ideal getaway for the preliminary weeks of the cadre. Unlike for the Mortar Platoon, Anti-Tanks enjoyed an early English summer with the sun basking down on the platoon as Cpls Rai, Sayers, and Beattie hosted outdoor lessons in a heat that can only be compared to the centre of a Lancashire hot pot. Capt Watson lead the charge on PT with some back pocket sessions – perfecting his “stand-by...GO!” as the weeks progressed.



The cadre then moved to Otterburn focussing on tactical application and TEWTS for the Hldrs; culminating in a conventional Anti-Tank fieldcraft exercise with the platoon performing Anti-Armour Ambushes, Raids, Screens, and Hasty Ops. Unsurprisingly it rained throughout. The tactical phase of the cadre was a resounding success with the implementation of contemporary tactics, new lessons taken directly from CAMS, and the integration of forward drone reconnaissance into platoon planning and execution. By the time the platoon was deployed on the Coy ISTAR FTX in Spadeadam, they were well drilled and highly effective from Gunner through to OC.



*LCpl Smith firing the HMG with LCpl Welsh working his arms holding the belt*

The Assault Pioneer Platoon have been a prime example of Support Company's involvement across the whole spectrum of Battalion activity over the last year. Balancing their Pipes and Drums commitments, they have been heavily involved in providing battle simulations (BATSIMS) for the Battalion's live fire ranges, which has offered an invaluable opportunity for the platoon to hone their tactical skills whilst also delivering battle-noise inoculation for the Battalion, preparing everyone for real-world scenarios. The platoon also deployed on Exercise HECTORS STORM, where they showcased their capabilities in demolitions and fortifications in different phases of the exercise.

upskilling has been a real benefit to the platoon and the Battalion.



*LCpl Kilhorn with Drmr Carabula and Piper Rennie with the Assault Pioneer Flag*

A highlight of the year has been LCpl Killorn's completion of the Section Commanders course. This accomplishment is a testament to his dedication and leadership potential, which will greatly benefit the platoon moving forward. The platoon also saw the arrival of Piper Rennie, Piper Wright, and Drummer Carabula who have also completed their Basic Pioneering course and Boat Operators course. Their rapid

The Sniper Platoon's year has been characterised with a lot of individual augmentee tasks and individual development. In February, Hldr Erasito represented the platoon in Switzerland with the Army Skeleton skiing team, earning the nickname 'The Flying Fijian' for his impressive performance. Concurrently, LCpls Lutu and Mutch attended and successfully completed

the Section Commanders Battle Course and there were strong performances on SRR selection. CSgt Tagica and Cpl Mario were both selected to be OMs for 1 R YORKS on Ex WESSEX STORM; and CSgt Tagica demonstrated his love for other people's exercises so much, he found himself also deployed on Ex CERBERUS as part of 7 LMI BCT HQ.

Unfortunately, due to battalion commitments the platoon sniper skills cadre was conducted in five-weeks, instead of the standard eight-week program. Nevertheless, the platoon concentrated on low level sniper fieldcraft skills and a range package in Dundee to keep the soldiers motivated and competent moving forward. The cadre concluded with the Platoon linking-up with the rest of the Company in Spadeadam for the final exercise testing the skills learnt. This set the platoon in excellent stead for Ex HECTORS STORM, where they were particularly grateful for the transition to Jackals as no one wanted to ride the traditional snipers quadbike for over 500-miles up and down the country.



## 4 SCOTS

### SUPPORT COMPANY *continued*



*Hldr Barrow briefing the model to the CO on Ex HECTORS STORM*

The Recce Platoon underwent a renaissance in 2024, marked by significant changes across all ranks and an ambitious year of training. Following the highly successful Recce Cadre, the Platoon embarked on the inaugural Recce Platoon Highland Fling, a week-long Highland Heritage week based out of Elgin ARC. The week immersed the Platoon in 4 SCOTS Highland heritage, including a guided battlefield tour of Culloden, a visit to the Highlanders Museum in Fort George, a climb up Ben Macdui and a bracing swim in Loch Morlich. Naturally, no trip to Speyside would be complete without a visit to a distillery.



*LCpl Muir practicing his camera skills*



*LCpls Muir, Smith and Bailey mountain biking in the Cairngorms*

The Platoon then embarked on a 6-week Recce Platoon Cadre. An intensive course designed to assess and develop suitability for both aspiring and existing recce soldiers within the Platoon. The first two weeks emulated the initial phase of Recce Commanders by assessing students on their fitness, map reading and military knowledge, before progressing to the theory and practical skills required to be an effective Recce soldier. The course benefitted significantly from loaned equipment from CAMS, enabling students to use Nikon D7000 cameras, drones and a number of next generation C-ISR sheeting and anti-thermal cloaks. Progressive yet challenging navigation exercises led by Cpl Cakaunivere and Sgt Manders saw students navigating the Yorkshire Dales by day and night. The exercise phase consisted of two two-week deployments in Sennybridge: a rural exercise and a rural-to-urban exercise concluding with a raid on Cielini Village. The final phase of the course saw a three-day contact drill LFTT package in Otterburn which was expertly run by Sgt Boyle. This reinforced earlier dry contact drill lessons and emerged as a standout highlight for all students.

The Platoon has also enjoyed AT and sporting success, tackling the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, with the added incentive of a day off for those completing the 26 miles in under 6 hours. In true Recce spirit, all soldiers rose to the occasion and were suitably rewarded. The Platoon has also supported the Sp Coy boxing team, with LCpls Herbert and Hancock committing to 5am sessions and countless hours of training throughout the autumn. A standout moment was LCpl Herbert's heroic bout, securing a fantastic win for the Recce Platoon.

The Recce Platoon remains as strong and dynamic as ever heading into 2025 with talks of a Platoon Hyrox event and a battlefield study to Dublin in the pipeline.

It has been a strong year for Support Company, and we are looking forward to Ex STEADFAST DART. Looking back however, though all have worked tirelessly on the HMTV fleet over the last year, there will be few who will miss driving a JACKLE or COYOTE down the M1 dressed in the issued Michelin-man suits for warmth. We eagerly await handing over the fleet and putting the cold road-moves in the rearview mirror (a feature HMTV open architecture does not have).



## PIPES AND DRUMS, 4 SCOTS

*Pipe Major G Roberts*

*Drum Major J Minto*

4 SCOTS Pipes and Drums have had a busy and successful year throughout 2024, showcasing their talent at prestigious events, competitions, and performances across the UK. From their involvement in major military events to regional tours, the band has continued to represent the 4 SCOTS with pride and excellence.

The Band started the year by performing the Beating Retreat at Bourlon Barracks. This ceremonial event showed the professionalism and skill of the Pipes and Drums to the wider Battalion. The band's performance, which involves intricate marches and musical traditions, was a remarkable success, reinvigorating the traditions of the Battalion and giving junior soldiers the opportunity to experience some heritage of 4 SCOTS.

Another highlight was 4 SCOTS Tour of the North. This weeklong event saw the Pipes and Drums march through Highlander territory. This tour brought the music of the regiment to local communities and was incredibly well received. It was especially gratifying that many local schools attended, allowing the children to see ceremonial activity and hear the music of the SCOTS. The tour was greeted with real enthusiasm, strengthening the connection between 4 SCOTS and the communities they serve.

To ensure that the band stayed at the top of its game and to prepare for upcoming competitions, the Pipes and Drums Cadre was held in Elgin; and proved to be a vital aspect of 4 SCOTS musical achievements this year. The



*Pipe Major Minto leads the Pipes and Drums over the Craigallachie Bridge at the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the amalgamation of the Gordon Highlanders and the Queen's Own Highlanders*

cadre allowed young and aspiring pipers and drummers to develop their skills under the guidance of senior members of the Platoon. This not only set the band up for competing success, but also helped ensure the future of the Pipes and Drums.

The William Dickie Memorial competition hasn't run since 2019 due to operational commitments but was a notable event in the Pipes and Drums calendar, 2024 saw the return of this competition. LCpl Gillies impressed judges and peers alike, winning the overall Piper award, while Drummer Volavola claimed the title of Overall Drummer. Piper Beckett won the Novice Piping and Drummer Kane won Novice Drumming. Their dedication and hard work were evident in their performances. Also of note were individual achievements such as Civilian Solo Competitions. LCpl Gillies had a very impressive year competing around

the country picking up prizes and showcasing the talent in Army Piping and Drumming.



*Army Championship winners, (Left to Right) Maj Roberts, LCpl Seivwright, Cpl Hall, LCpl Faulds, Drmr Grant, Drmr Michie, Lt Clarke*



## 4 SCOTS

### PIPES AND DRUMS, 4 SCOTS *continued*

This was all good preparation for the Army Pipe Band Championships. In this highly competitive event 4 SCOTS finished an impressive second overall, and first in Piping. Competing against the best pipe bands in the Army, the band's performance was a testament to their exceptional talent and hard work, balancing an intense programme of musical and operation commitments. Their success in this prestigious event further cemented their reputation as one of the finest bands in the Army.

As a result of their quality and success, the Pipes and Drums were invited to perform at the Lord Mayor's Show in London. Playing at this renowned event was a great honour, representing both SCOTS and Scotland on a global stage. The music resonated with the crowds, showcasing the spirit and tradition of the 4 SCOTS.

4 SCOTS also had the honour of performing at the State Banquet for their Majesties the King and Queen, honouring the State visit of the Emir of Qatar. The banquet held on the first day for the Emir's visit to the UK was attended by dignitaries from across the world and was a remarkable opportunity for the band to show the best of British and Scottish culture and traditions. The Pipes and Drums provided great entertainment to the evening, enjoyed by all, and as a result the band are due to return to the Palace in 2025.

No year would be complete however without a performance at Edinburgh Murrayfield. The band were invited to play in the massed Pipes and Drums for the Scottish Rugby Union Autumn International Series, Scotland v Australia. The Pipes and Drums played an integral role in creating the perfect atmosphere for the game and Piper Stirton had the privilege to be the lone piper for the



*Pipe Major Roberts and 4 SCOTS Pipers at the Lord Mayors Show*

national anthem. Without the Band's support the Scotland team would not have been able to achieve their historic 27-13 victory over the Australians!

The year 2024 has undoubtedly been a memorable one for the Pipes and Drums, with their performances

and achievements leaving a lasting impression on audiences across the UK and beyond. We now look forward to next year playing at the Basel Tattoo, Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and our Battalion move to Cyprus that will open new opportunities to show our ability as a band.



*4 SCOTS Pipers at Buckingham Palace – hoping the Drummers don't find out about the photo*



## CIS PLATOON

*Captain Joe Heywood*

On a cold but beautiful Scottish day, the CIS PI made its way to the International Climbing Centre in Edinburgh. After a few anxious minutes of wondering if we would be allowed in, the CIS PI crossed the threshold into the centre.



*The Climbing centre from the top*

Apprehension and nerves were felt as everyone went to register, especially those who may or may not have forgotten how to tie a rope properly (Capt Heywood). However, once they were being tested on their rope work all passed with flying colours, and once the RSO had forked up the money, the team were good to go on the walls.

The first port of call for the team was the bouldering wall, this was to be the warm-up and introduction for the team. Despite the warnings from the more experienced members of the team that climbing is a marathon not a sprint, the team attacked the bouldering wall for 2 hours with gusto and vigour.



*The team started off small to learn the basics*

After a quick pit stop and break for lunch, the team moved to indoor walls with ropes. Here with all harnesses now correctly put on, the team put themselves to work trying to conquer as many of the climbs as possible in as short a time as possible (despite the warnings). It turns out the CIS PI do sprints, not marathons.

Towards the end of the day fatigue set in and climbs that were once easy and scaled in no time, became Everest for some. LCpl Young particularly took to trying to get the most attempts on the wall this day.

Positive vibes turned to tired arms, the CIS PI called stumps for the day, with many leaving and eyeing up the climbs they are sure they will conquer the following day. For some, dreams will be made, for others the nightmare will continue...

The second day saw the CIS PI rise with not as much vigour and to be fair, we are surprised some rose at all, due to the fact not many could feel their arms. However, with brave faces and a rather to enthusiastic Boss, we left our accommodation and moved back to the climbing centre. The morning started off with most of the group passing the rope tying tests and becoming members of the climbing wall, meaning they could come climbing anytime they wanted and by themselves. A good success for our instructor.



*Passing the knot tying test allowed us to climb greater heights*

The rest of the morning was spent warming up and trying to remember how to grip with our hands. The arms and fingers, sore from the day before, eventually warmed up and the day was off. With frequent breaks, a lot of good climbing was done and for many of the group, demons were conquered, and dreams realised. For some however (Capt Heywood) some routes just remained out of reach (literally), and he had to make do with the knowledge he will be coming back the next day, fresh and good to go.

The CIS PI wearily retreated from the climbing centre, knowing that tomorrow is their last chance to take on the wall.

The final day saw the PI arrive at the climbing centre with a mix of weariness from tired arms and a want to make the most out of the final day. The day started well for most, with CSgt Hague, Sgt Hanlin, Sgt Kemp and Cpl McBride all smashing routes that two days before they wouldn't even have dared to attempt.



## 4 SCOTS

### CIS PLATOON *continued*

The rest of the Pl were in high spirits and confidence was felt throughout the whole team. This confidence continued up until lunch time, where for some that was when the real fatigue hit, and their arm strength limit was reached. For others however, after a long lunch break and re-fuelled, the rest of the afternoon was spent at trying to climb as many routes as possible. Cpl McBride attempted and was tantalisingly close to climbing the highest climb in the centre (30m). However, fatigue set in, and he just couldn't quite make it. LCpl John and Cpl Devlin-May spent the day hitting the smaller routes and completing as many as they could.



*Cpl McBride attempting the highest climb in the centre*

Hldrs Gitonga, Agyekum and Primus were the first to call it a day and were quickly followed by many more. LCpl Young and Cpl McBride were determined to use the last of their strength and were practically dragged away (thankfully they had no grip strength to hold on with) by the rest of the group towards the end of the afternoon.

The CIS Pl started the week with 4 people who had climbed before and 3 who could safely tie themselves into a harness. After 3 intense days of climbing, we had a group of 14 climbers who would all do it again and who can now safely tie themselves and others in. For a few this was an experience they may just keep and not take forward; however, for the majority this is an activity they would love to keep up. This endeavour has allowed members with a perceived fear of heights to conquer that fear. Perseverance, resilience, discipline, and trust were all tested funneling into a tighter team cohesive bond on a personal level.

Thank you to the AFMF fund for allowing us to have this fantastic opportunity and to show that climbing is an accessible sport. For many of the team this was not a onetime experience, and they will be taking this sport up!



*Hldr Primus Climbing the high walls successfully*



*The RSWO having a fun time before his arms gave in*



## ADJUTANT GENERAL CORPS DETACHMENT

**Regimental Administrative Officer:**  
Captain A R McGurk

**Regimental Administrative  
Warrant Officer:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2 V Vavaitamana

The Detachment has enjoyed another busy period throughout 2024, full of various deployments, sporting/fitness, and soldiering events.

Cpl Murray, LCpl Witton, Pte Hopkins, Pte Boyd and Pte Langton all deployed to Peterborough, Wales, Galloway Forrest on Ex HECTORS STORM in various roles: from Ptes Boyd, Hopkins and Langton being Rifleman within a Section; LCpl Witton as deployed IHUB and Cpl Murray assisting the safety team. This allowed the Detachment to display our ability to be used in a dual role whilst conducting a Battalion-level exercise. It was a rewarding experience and gave members of the Detachment an opportunity to better integrate with their respective Coys.

Prior to deployment on Ex HECTORS STORM the Detachment conducted a Readiness Administrative Check (RAC) led by Sgt Peters. This enabled the Detachment to find and rectify any G1 issues for SP prior to deploying on Ex HECTORS STORM.

Pte Boyd, D Coy's MPA, deployed with members of 4 SCOTS to Germany on Ex CERBERUS, a Bde level Exercise working alongside different nationalities from 03 Oct – 27 Oct 24. She deployed as part of the Bde HQ staff in the iHUB. Pte Boyd received Bde Comd's Coin for her hard work and dedication during Exercise CERBERUS.

Across the Companies members of the SPS Detachment were involved in different activities held by the Battalion and 1 Div. Cpl Murray, LCpl Witton, Pte Langton, and Pte Hopkins participated in the annual 1 Div BISMARCK challenge, an arduous military competition held in the local training area which saw over 50, four person teams compete against each other in a 4X4km relay.

Cpl Murray and Pte Hopkins also represented HQ Coy by taking part in the annual Caber Feidh shooting competition. For the last 6 months of 2024 the Detachment has had more time for personal and professional development with Cpl Murray, Pte Cartwright and Pte Hopkins enrolling on the MLAT followed by the six month long basic Arabic course. The whole Detachment had the opportunity to complete the Team Medic course and LCpl Witton even managed to get her TRIM course completed.

Even though the Detachment has had a busy year it has helped us prepare for the challenges that lay ahead inside the coming 6 months of 2024 with the battalion still on ARF and is about to relocate to Cyprus during the summertime. We look forward to further deployments/sporting events and the unit move abroad wherein we can show our versatility as soldiers.



*Cpl Murray and Pte Hopkins with the remainder of the HQ Coy Team*



*Sports day Gaza Barracks*



*North Yorkshire Water Park*



*Christmas Function 2024*



*Beating The Retreat 2024*



## 4 SCOTS

### CATERING DEPARTMENT

*Staff Sergeant Anthony Carr (UCM)*

The 4 SCOTS Catering Department has had an exceptionally busy year, marked by their unwavering commitment to supporting troops during various operations and exercises. From the bustling kitchens back at camp to the field, they have played an essential role in ensuring that soldiers are well-fed and ready for the challenges ahead.

Throughout the year, the catering team has deployed on numerous significant operations and exercises, each requiring meticulous planning and execution. Among these were:

- **Op LINOTYPER:** A vital operation that demanded the catering staff to provide sustenance to troops engaged in critical missions, ensuring they remained fuelled and focused.
- **D-Day Celebration:** A commemorative event that not only honoured the sacrifices of the past but also required the catering department to deliver a memorable dining experience.
- **Ex HIGHLAND GRENADIER:** A challenging exercise that tested the soldiers' endurance, where the catering team rose to the occasion, delivering nutritious meals that supported their physical demands.
- **TOUR OF THE NORTH (Formation of the Highlanders):** This deployment required the catering department to adapt to varying conditions and locations, providing consistent meals that kept morale high.

#### **Education and Nutrition**

Recognising the importance of nutrition, Cpl King took the initiative to educate the soldiers, affectionately known as the Jocks, on producing healthy meals both in the field and back at camp. His sessions focused on teaching practical cooking skills, meal planning, and the nutritional value of food. By empowering the soldiers with this knowledge, Cpl King helped ensure that they could both maintain their health and support their comrades effectively.

As the year ends, the 4 SCOTS Catering Department reflects on their achievements and the challenges they have overcome. Their dedication to serving the soldiers, whether in the heat of operations or the routine of camp life, has been nothing short of commendable. As they look forward to the new year, they remain committed to enhancing their skills and continuing to provide exceptional service to the troops.



## WELFARE DEPARTMENT

### Unit Welfare Officer:

Captain A R McLellan

### Welfare SNCO:

Sergeant L Oliver

### Welfare JNCO:

Corporal O Simeon

### Welfare Clerk:

Mrs Samantha Simpson

As the year began and the Battalion geared up for readiness, assuming its role on VJTF(L), the welfare department was looking further ahead and into the Battalions unit move to Cyprus in 2025. Capt Malky Wilson conducting the units first recce to Dhekelia in Cyprus to visit 1 RIFLES, arming himself with information for 4 SCOTS families back in the UK and for the first families brief of the year on the unit move.

Captain Malky Wilson moved on in the spring to a new role at 3 SCOTS, with Capt Andy McLellan moving from MTO to the welfare department as UWO. Later in the year, the welfare department had a large role in the delivery of the Battalions Highland Games, providing games and activities for children visiting from across all the garrison schools. Other stands included The Thistle Club (Wives & Partners of 4 SCOTS) providing cakes and refreshments for all and raising funds for their end of year party and alongside the welfare stands, soldiers from across the battalion set up a variety of cultural stands, celebrating the cultural diversity of the unit and providing educational displays and food from their homelands.



*Cpl Joubert displaying some South African Culture at the Highland Games*



*The RSM soaking up some culture at the Highland Games Cultural Stands*

On the Battalion's "Tour of the North" the Welfare Officer took the opportunity to get into combats and conduct some community engagement and some

"Welfare Forward" and join the battalion in its parades and celebrations in marking the 30-year anniversary of the formation of The Highlanders.



*Highlanders and 4 SCOTS RSMs New and Old (Some Older) at Craigellachie Bridge as the Battalion Celebrates Highlanders Day*



## 4 SCOTS

### WELFARE DEPARTMENT *continued*

As the year moved into the Autumn, the team geared up for the annual Halloween Party, collaborating with the AWS Community Support Team and other units across the Garrison, everyone pulling their resources and creating a fantastic night of sweets, frights and fun. The team all dressing up and making the effort to give the kids as spooky a show as possible.



*The Welfare Team First to the "Fright" on Halloween*

The focus then swiftly switched back to Cyprus, with our second set of briefs delivered to our families and kicking off the first phase of families preparations and administration for the unit move.

As a high activity year wound down to the festive period, The Thistle Club had their annual Christmas party, with the RSM kindly opened up the Sgts' Mess. The wives and partners organised a fantastic evening that would put some mess functions to shame.

The annual kids Christmas party was held in the blue hackle welfare, with the usual festive fun and games, sweets and dancing. Santa even paid the children a visit, the padre was curiously missing in action though!

As we move into 2025 the department are preparing for an acceleration in activity and a ramping up in its support to our soldiers, officers, and their families. An overseas exercise and a unit move filling most of the FOE. We look forward to a year of variety and maybe a few kids parties at the beach.



*Santa Claus at our Kids Xmas Party*



*4 SCOTS Wives and Partners Xmas Party*



## 4 SCOTS

### OFFICERS' MESS

*Major Burnett –  
President of the Mess Committee*

The Officers' Mess has been in the finest social spirit in recent times, with regular mid-week and weekend events and both domestic and international trips away. The Mess began the year by descending in mass on the 'Scots in the South' Dinner in the Inns of Court in London, ending with the Adjutant leading the post-reels soiree to Stockwell.



*SCOTS in the south*

The Mess' quiz abilities have been steadily improving, with several first-place finishes at the Garrison-wide Hungry Horse quiz – a routine fixture. The addition of Lt Stephens has also proven invaluable, serving as our resident 1970-1990s film and music specialist during Times Daily Quiz attempts as we edge closer to the unfathomable 15/15.

The infamous Mess Wensleydale Heifer fish and chip challenge has continued to test all corners with a mix of triumphant passes and dismal failures as a growing list succumbed to the fish's clutches. With all previous victors having to restrain themselves from claiming the new generation has gone weak, Capt Weatherley's challenge was nothing short of a leviathan that got the better of our IO. Mention in dispatches went to 2Lt Owtram who displayed nothing short of a Herculean effort in his most recent attempt but was time-barred by the pub turfing us out for close-down. Unfortunately, due

to spiralling costs, the Wensleydale Heifer has ceased production of the legendary t-shirt, but 2Lt Coutts has already earned his keep by managing to replicate production and keep the tradition going.

Capt Jenkins' return saw him take up semi-residency in the Rutting Stag due to his enthusiastic 'landlord duties' and Lt Lambert, author of the 'Stag and Spade Mess gardens' newsletter, continued to add depth to his remit of Gardens Member by achieving an Instructors Recommendation on the All Arms Beekeeping Course.



*Bat capture*



## 4 SCOTS

### OFFICERS' MESS *continued*

The Spring Ball, 'Fall of the Berlin Wall', proved to be one of the greats, with Capt Watson in his festival element, meticulously planning the event atmospherics, crowd control and spending a week of work crafting the Berlin Wall whilst listening to Reggae – 'the offer'. Capt Whelan also added considerable value to the fabric of the Mess, and the party, drawing the sword from the stone, by being the only OC LAD able to resurrect the fabled Mess mini moto. This has now materialised into a Top Gear-esque challenge around the outside of the Mess.



*Fall of the Berlin Wall*

With several star players missing, including the CO, Adjt and a decent goalkeeper, chances of securing the annual Assaye Day Football match against the Sgts' Mess for another year looked slim. After a humiliating first half and some questionable refereeing, the Offrs held their own in the second, but the damage was done. A few temper tantrums and yellow cards later both messes came together in the Offrs' mess for a curry and the handing over of the Assaye Cup.



*Assaye Football trophy handed to RSM from 2IC*

Further afield, a mass trip to Edinburgh for the Black Hackle dinner night was a highlight, as was Capt Hand's 'mystery tour' where he somehow kept the destination a secret despite relentless questioning. The snatch and grab of Bucharest proved unforgettable, with Lt Shanklands and Capt Serpell RM forming a dynamic duo that saw their first morning charming anti-fraud teams back home. Capt Boyle's last-minute dash to the airport provided nail-biting entertainment until the final flight's call. Revelry continued with a Mess weekend at the Edinburgh Fringe and an excellent St Andrew's Dinner Night, culminating in a full-scale invasion of Fingers Piano Bar in Mess Dress. Though the move may have proved too much for some with Capt Main temporarily misplacing telecommunications equipment somewhere in Scotland. The inter-company boxing night capped off the year with two thrilling bouts for the Offrs' Mess. Lt 'Right Hook' Richardson and 2Lt 'Jock Slayer' Coutts displayed the finest Officer Corps steel, securing emphatic victories in the closing fights

of the night. Whilst not fighting, 2Lt Whitfield still serves as a wildcard in the Mess following his sin-binning on the Public Order Course – one to watch.



*Romania*

Capt McLellan has truly embraced his LE remit as Whisky Member by procuring 4 SCOTS branded bottles of 12 year old Balmenach Single Malt Whisky that will undoubtedly be enjoyed by all in the months ahead. Maj Main, meanwhile, has defied his 'deep pockets, short arms' stereotype by spearheading a much-needed Mess revamp, replacing the beloved peeling wallpaper and precariously hanging tiles in the showers that created a shabby chic aesthetic found only in an Offrs' Mess.

An exciting year beckons, as we say farewell to Bourlon Barracks after 10 years.



## WARRANT OFFICER AND SGTS' MESS

**Warrant Officer and Sgts' Mess**  
**Warrant Officer Class 2 Scott Boyle:**  
 Support Company CSM

Assaye Day Football (Battle of Assaye)  
 The Highlanders, specifically the 74th Regiment of foot, played a significant role in the Battle of Assaye (1803), a decisive confrontation during the second Anglo-Maratha War. Under the command of Major General Arthur Wellesley (later the Duke of Wellington), the 74th was part of the British force that faced the Maratha army. Known for their disciplined and aggressive tactics, the Highlanders were pivotal in holding the British line and charging against the Maratha forces, despite challenging conditions. Their courage and steadfastness contributed to the British victory, cementing the Highlanders' reputation for resilience and valour in battle.

To remember the battle of Assaye the Sgts' Mess play the Officers mess in a football match. The match was an intense clash that captivated fans from start to finish and for distinct reasons such as the lack of ability from the Officers Mess, not all but certainly the majority. From the first whistle both teams displayed high energy, With the Sgts' Mess controlling possession early on. Their midfields worked tirelessly to orchestrate attacks, and after a brief time they broke the deadlock with a well-placed shot from WO2 Scotty Boyle (Sp Coy CSM) and a disastrous fumble from the Officers Mess goalkeeper Capt Adriaan Van Neikerk (MTO). The Officers' Mess quickly tried to respond with some top-class individual effort from Capt Stevie Main (QM T) and Capt Kristopher Boyle (A Coy 2iC) however the Sgts' Mess were far too strong for them to breakthrough. As the match progressed the Sgts' Mess created chance after chance for CSgt Greg

Watson (Mor Pl 2iC) who could not find a way to execute the chances. After c.10 sitters CSgt Watson finally put one in the net shortly followed by another. Credit to the Officers Mess at this stage they did not lack any determination to keep battling even when they were peppered with shots and total possession from the Sgts' Mess. It was a great atmosphere throughout, and the Sgts' Mess walked away victorious with a 11-0 as the final score.

The match was a testament to both teams' determination, and all the goal scoring from the Sgts' Mess left the crowd in good spirits. The Sgt's Mess are now back on the winning streak after losing a few years ago.

### Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (1XX GOC)

4 SCOTS Sgts' Mess had the pleasure of hosting Maj Gen Reeve MC (1XX GOC). Maj Gen Reeve MC addressed the Sgts' Mess before awarding LS&GC medals. Receiving an honour is both humbling and gratifying experience, often marking the culmination of years of dedication, hard work, and passion. It serves as recognition for one's efforts. Receiving the LS&GC is a personal milestone, and it represents a meaningful acknowledgement of one's contribution to the service. The GOC awarded LS&GC medals the following SP:

- CSgt Watson
- SSgt Barugh (RLC)
- Sgt Jones (AGC)
- Sgt Peters (AGC)
- Sgt Barker
- Sgt Wilson





## 4 SCOTS

### BBC D-DAY 80: THE ALLIES PREPARE – THE JOCKS REMEMBER

Portsmouth  
*Major James Fish*

**Captain of the Guard of Honour:**  
Major James Fish (B Company)

**Second-in-Command:**  
Captain Gregor Sandiford (B Company)

**Guard of Honour Sergeant Major:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2 Connor Grant (A Company)

In the cold light of the early summer morning on 05 June, the Army contingent gathered outside a transit block in Longmoor. We assembled, with representatives from the real-life-support group (the excellent Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment), and our sister contingents from the Royal Navy and the RAF for the traditional un-furling of the Colours. On the many rehearsal trips we had made from the

camp into the BBC assembled stage on the Portsmouth Coast, where 80 years before the Allies assembled prior to embarking on their attempt to establish a foothold in Nazi-Occupied France, there was a sign advertising the modern day event. It read "D-Day – the day that changed the world".

As I looked around the gathered soldiers, sailors and airmen, I realised I disagreed. D-Day didn't change the world, it had saved it. And it was men and women just like us, 80 years ago, who answered their countries' call and stood ready to punch into Europe, to liberate it. The parallels of then and now were not lost on us.

After toasting both the Colours and those that had given their lives 80 years ago, we boarded the bus from Longmoor, to take us to the enormous complex the BBC had built on the waterfront in Portsmouth. It was surrounded by several layers of security; Their Majesties, The King

and Queen, alongside Prince William, The Prime Minister and the Chief of Defence Staff were just a few of the VVIPs scheduled to attend. Nerves were mounting to say the least – but when you remembered the journeys our forebears were making 80 years ago, the nerves somewhat faded.

When it came time to form up backstage, the Jocks took full advantage of their natural quick wit and humorous nature to snap the most opportune of selfies with the likes of Dame Helen Mirren! Finally, the queue was given and it was with immense pride we marched out onto the stage in front of not just the audience in the arena, but the world's assembled media to open the D-Day 80 commemorations. The time flew-by with not just the Army contingent, but the rest of the tri-service guard of honour hitting each of their marks – the long hours of preparation and rehearsals under the expert eye of the London Garrison



*4 SCOTS lead the D-Day 80 Parade on BBC One*



*CSgts Charles and Smith with singer Zak Abel*

Command Sergeant Major had paid off. In the run up to the final segments, the Guard of Honour returned to the stage. This was to provide a guard for D-Day naval veteran, Eric Bateman. This brought with it perhaps the most poignant moment. As the words of command were issued, loud and clear for both the Guard and the audience, Eric, looking at the 4 SCOTS soldiers flanking his exit from the stage, said very quietly, so only we could hear; "Thank you Gentlemen" and it struck me all that we owed him and his generation. I had said to the media, in the build up to the parade, how proud the country should be of the ordinary people, 80 years ago, that stood ready to do extraordinary things for their country. History has a knack of repeating itself, and as 4 SCOTS soldiers took centre stage in leading the Country in thanking those who have gone before, another, very stark realisation hit home. 80 years ago, an alliance of nations stood ready to



*CSM Grant, CSgt Smith and Dame Helen Mirren*

punch into mainland Europe to try and free it from tyranny. And the soldiers, the Jocks, chosen to lead such an event, are also on readiness, as part of NATO's ARF, standing ready to answer the same call.



# SCOTS

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**5 SCOTS**



## 5 SCOTS

### OFFICER COMMANDING'S FOREWORD

*Major N K Cargill MVO*

**Officer Commanding:**

Major R Weir  
Major N Cargill MVO

**Second-in-Command:**

Captain E Smith

**Quartermaster:**

Captain N Diciacca

**Company Sergeant Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 S Cox MVO  
Warrant Officer Class 2 C Marr

**Company Quartermaster Sergeant:**

Colour Sergeant C Morrison  
Colour Sergeant L Gurung

**1 Platoon:**

Lieutenant A Calder /  
Lieutenant L Donovan /  
2nd Lieutenant C Samoily's Sergeant  
Robertson / Sergeant Vakaloloma

**2 Platoon:**

Lieutenant S Damiani /  
Lieutenant L Turnbull /  
2nd Lieutenant H Sutton Sergeant  
Nayadravuki / Sergeant Sheerin

**3 Platoon:**

Sergeant Barclay / Sergeant Finnigan

**Balaklava Company:**

**A Year of Ceremonial Excellence,  
Hard Graft, and a Few Good Reels!**

As we look back on 2024, Balaklava Company (BKA Coy) can reflect on a year packed with success, challenge, and a fair few unforgettable moments. Whether standing proudly on parade, braving the Scottish elements on exercise, or trying to remember the

steps at the Ghillies Ball, BKA Coy has once again delivered across all fronts. June 2024, Maj Rob Weir handed over the 'premier' company to me. Under his leadership, BKA Coy reinforced its reputation for delivering excellence in both Ceremonial Operations (CerOps) and military training. The transition of command was seamless, and BKA Coy remains at the forefront of Regimental representation, upholding the proud traditions of The Royal Regiment of Scotland and training hard for warfighting. From the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle to the live-fire ranges of Barry Buddon, we have shown time and again that we are just as comfortable in our kilt as we are in full Combat Equipment Fighting Order (CEFO).

That said, we don't do it alone. While BKA Coy often finds itself in the public eye, we are only as strong as the fine Regiment behind us. The continued support from the wider SCOTS Battalions has been crucial in ensuring we deliver CerOps at the scale and standard expected. To all those who have joined us in ceremonial duties, whether in front of Mansion House or in the gardens of the Palace of Holyroodhouse in the presence of our Sovereign, your efforts are truly appreciated, and we take immense pride in sharing these prestigious moments with you.

Of course, life in BKA Coy is not just about drill and saluting. Few other infantry sub-units can say they have spent a morning hauling HM The King's stag off a rugged Highland hill, an evening spinning around a ballroom at the Donside Ball, then to be able to pivot swiftly to live-fire training at Barry Buddon, all before heading off to enjoy the slopes of Les Arcs for Adventure Training!

The variety of opportunities within BKA Coy keeps things fresh, keeps us sharp, and ensures there is never a dull moment. It is this unique variety that fosters the strong team ethos that defines us.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are set for another busy year. The joint NATO Exercise will put our operational skills to the test, while additional London CerOps will keep us firmly in the national spotlight. No doubt there will be unexpected challenges along the way, but if there is one thing BKA Coy has in abundance, it's adaptability! Whether it's on parade, on exercise, or on the dancefloor, we will meet whatever comes our way with the professionalism and good humour which is our hallmark.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to every soldier in BKA Coy. Your motivation, professionalism, and self-discipline are what make this company so special. Together, we've built a strong, capable, and close-knit team that I am immensely proud to have led.

I also want to thank our families and partners. Your support and patience whether through long hours, time away, or endless boot polish stains do not go unnoticed. We could not do what we do without you.

Lastly, I wish to express my gratitude to the 'old' Argylls, and our strong network of friends for keeping us sane. This has been a truly rewarding year, and one I'll look back on with great fondness and pride.

**Sláinte an Rìgh, Sláinte dhuibh uile gu léir. "Ne Obliviscaris, Sans Peur"**



# 5 SCOTS



Major N Cargill MVO



## 5 SCOTS

### OTHER RANKS PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following personnel of BKA Coy who, through their hard work and professionalism, have been promoted in the past year:

**Corporal to Sergeant:**

Kelly  
Prime  
Sheerin

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**Lance Corporal to Corporal:**

Little

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**Private to Lance Corporal:**

McCabe  
Mcauley  
Thompson

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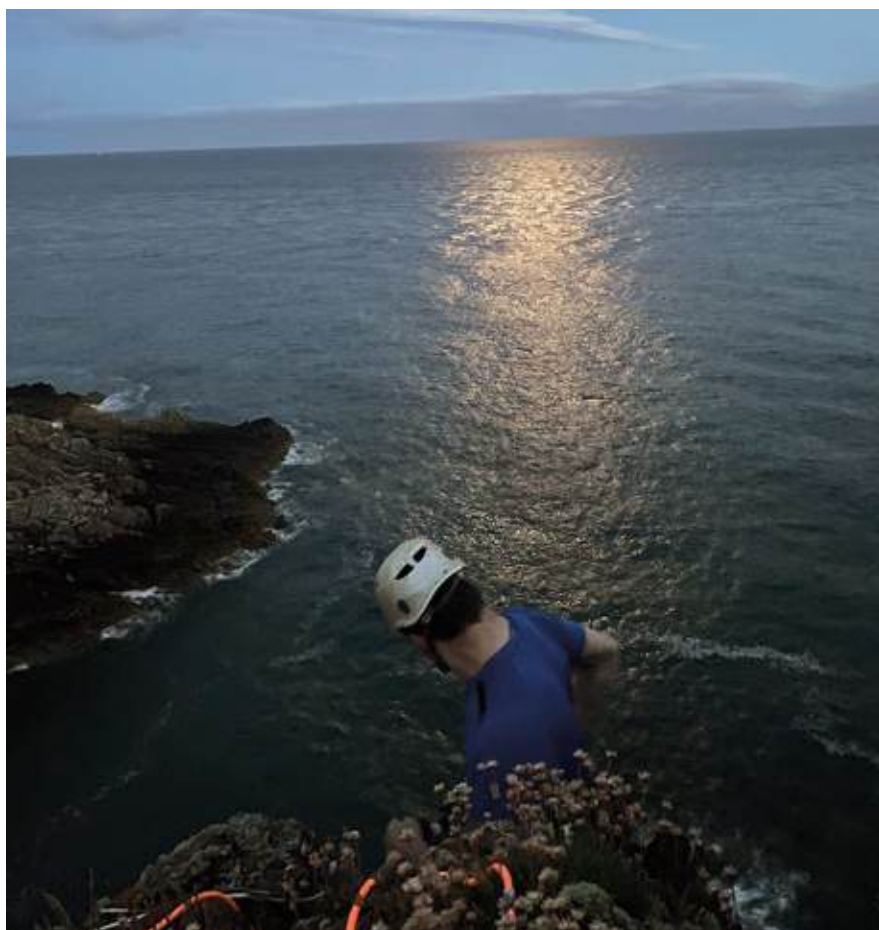
For those that have posted to other SCOTS Battalions, we wish them all the best for the next step in their careers and hope we can welcome them back in the future.



## LIVE FIRING TACTICAL TRAINING (LFTT) CAMP

Kirkcudbright Training Centre  
*Lieutenant L Turnbull*

BKA Coy deployed to Kirkcudbright between 17-21 June to complete a Live Fire Tactical Training (LFTT) package. The Coy spent the week developing soldiering skills and tactical awareness through completing challenging attack lanes. LFTT demonstrates the versatility of BKA Coy soldiers who can carry out public and ceremonial duties to a high standard whilst maintaining their operational effectiveness, ready to deploy when required.



*The 2iC managed to find time for some climbing - this photo taken at midnight!*



*June in Galloway not providing ideal night firing conditions!*



*Sgt Robertson mans the flanking fire gun*

The LFTT package was conducted by Sgt Barclay and his team who made full use of assets available to enhance the realism of the attack lanes. A mixture of Flanking Fire and Overhead Fire from GPMGs as well as the use of HE grenades enabled battle inoculation which provides extra training value for the soldiers to experience. The attack lanes used a mixture of close and long contacts which required Section Commanders to react quickly and make good use of ground to achieve the objective. Throughout the week there was opportunity for soldiers to operate a rank up, providing invaluable experience for Privates and Lance Corporals to demonstrate their potential.

Throughout the week, all opportunities were taken to conduct background training including BCD, individual skills, and tactical theory. The aim of this LFTT package was to operate up to section level during both day and night with no illumination. This was achieved through previous attainment of TLFTT and will now allow the company to conduct LFTT up to Platoon level. This package forms a complimentary part of our training, with a range package delivered in November, with a focus on basic marksmanship across all individual weapon systems.



## 5 SCOTS

### BKA COY AND THE RETURN FROM BALLATER

Ballater, Aberdeenshire.  
*Lieutenant L Donovan.*

During the summer months, BKA Coy provided His Majesty The King's Royal Guard at Balmoral, where the Sovereign holds Summer Court. This tradition is not only a highlight of the royal calendar but also a significant period for SCOTS, showcasing our ceremonial duties against the stunning backdrop of the Scottish Highlands.

From the months of August to October, BKA Coy re-orbat into General Duties Platoon (GD PI) and Security Platoon. GD PI spend six weeks training with the ponies on the Balmoral Estate to get them ready for the stalking season to begin. On completion of their training, they are tasked with walking the hills, loading stags on to the ponies and bringing them to the larder for butchering – a privileged job that only a lucky few are given each year. Security PI work closely with the Metropolitan Police Service, Royalty and Specialist Protection (RaSP) Services, and Police Scotland to assist in the safeguarding of the Royal Family during their stay in Aberdeenshire.



*HM The King inspects the Guard of Honour on his arrival at Balmoral Castle, escorted by Maj N Cargill MVO, the Guard Commander*

The Coy seeks to make the most of our time in Ballater, and 2024 was no different. With less funding available to conduct engagement activity, we sought to make use of the bands which kindly support us for HM's arrival parade at Balmoral. This saw Band SCOTS and the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Corps of Signals provide a fantastic 'Bands on the Green' which was enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. The OC received General Gwyn Jenkins, Commandant of the Corps of Royal Marines, during his visit to HM The King, and the Coy were subsequently hosted in very generous style at the RM Scotland tent at the Braemar Gathering. What goes around comes around! The Guard were delighted when towards the end of our time in Ballater, HM The King visited Victoria Barracks to congratulate all ranks on another year well done. Such personal visits are remembered by all.



*The Jocks hard at work on a beautiful day in the Highlands. Who had the good idea to use grey ponies to take stags off the hill?*

During down time, BKA Coy have enjoyed making the most of the local area; attending the Highland Games at Aboyne, Ballater, Lonach and Braemar; shooting clays on the estate and at the Royal Marine's Charity Shoot; Go-Karting in the nearby town of Banchory; swimming in the river Dee and attending the famous Ghillies' Ball. In addition, the Officers and CSM were also invited to attend the Donside and Aboyne Balls.

The Royal Guard's duties at Balmoral will continue to symbolise the enduring relationship between the British Royal Family, the Regiment and Scotland. Through their ceremonial roles, SP from BKA Coy embody the spirit of tradition, service, and pride, ensuring that the Royal Guard is a memorable and culturally significant occasion. Our thanks must be extended to all members of the Regiment, and others, who supported our deployment this year, including Lts F Ritchie, F MacPherson and C Price.



*The Clay Pigeon Club goes from strength to strength, with Lt Turnbull coaching*



## 5 SCOTS

# THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW AND NATIONAL ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

City of London.

*Lieutenant L Donovan*

BKA Coy routinely contributes towards Acts of Remembrance across the UK. This year was no different, with a detachment of the Coy forming the Army contingent of the Remembrance Sunday parade on the Royal Mile. For 2024, however, a large portion of the Company upped sticks and deployed to London for the Remembrance period. Over Remembrance Weekend itself, BKA Coy led the military contingent of the Lord Mayor's Show through the City of London, celebrating the appointment of the 696th Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Alastair King of the Queenhithe Ward.

The parade is famous for being the oldest, longest and least-rehearsed civic procession in the world with around 7000 people, 250 horses and 150 decorated floats. Company Sergeant Major Marr ensured that ample time for Balaklava to rehearse was factored in however, with a busy week on the parade square of Woolwich Barracks before the big day. One broken pace stick later and the company immaculately represented SCOTS on a televised viewing of the parade.

In true Regimental fashion, the regimental mascot Cpl Cruachan IV was front and centre of the three mile long procession and was a fan favourite amongst the thousands of people lining the streets.

In the days to follow, Lt Turnbull and Lt Donovan marched their platoons from Wellington Barracks to Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral to attend Remembrance ceremonies before attending a lunch with Regimental Headquarters and veterans of both the Royal Regiment of Scotland and our antecedents. Soldiers also enjoyed a special visit to the Tower of London for the prestigious Ceremony of the Keys.

The week was filled with a series of quick changes, early mornings, and a significant amount of marching, to deliver a very successful representation of SCOTS.



*Lt Turnbull with an obliging Cpl Cruachan IV*



*Lt Turnbull and 2 Pl enjoying the Tower after the Ceremony of the Keys*



*BKA Coy parading in London*



**SCOTS**

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**6 SCOTS**



## 6 SCOTS

### COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

*Lt Col LJ Curson*

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It seems an appropriate time to author my first foreword now with 12 months of experience as CO of 6 SCOTS. Before reflecting on an excellent year for the Battalion I would like to thank Bob Stuart, and those who have left the Battalion throughout the year, for the effort and energy they contributed. Upon my arrival into command it was evident there was significant momentum on many lines of effort and the work undertaken has ensured this has been maintained throughout the past 12 months with little difficulty.

2024 has been an exciting and rewarding year to be in the Army Reserve and 6 SCOTS were able to exploit many of the opportunities offered to Army Reservists at both the individual and unit level. The presence and influence of personnel from 6 SCOTS has been felt widely across the UK but also beyond our traditional areas of effect, reaching as far as the Falkland Islands, Africa, Cyprus and mainland Europe, where we have been consistently engaged on an operational profile as well as undertaking numerous high quality training evolutions available to us.

Members of the Battalion have been deployed on many operational commitments and the early part of the year saw the completion and subsequent recovery from Op INTERFLEX 6 where, within a 19 Light Brigade Task Force construct, members of 6 SCOTS supported the effort of training members of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. We have also supported commitments on Op FIRIC, Op LAZURITE and Op INTERLINK as well as Defence Engagement tasks in Kenya.

For those who have not been operationally committed, a full and demanding training programme has ensured we have remained busy throughout. The highlight of the year was, alongside four other units from 19 Light Brigade, the deployment to Germany on Ex RHINO HEART as part of the largest commitment of Army Reservists to mainland Europe since the 1980s. A more detailed report in our journal submission this year is included. A two-week cadre camp in Otterburn was superbly delivered under the guidance and management of Maj Dougie Douglas and WO2 McKnight. This combined driver training, drone operating, communications and range management cadres. We have also used the excellent training infrastructure across the Lowlands of Scotland to undertake many weekend exercises, and when the better weather and longer nights have been kind to us, also using Tuesday training nights to get away from the Reserve Centres to undertake high quality training.

Away from Battalion, delivered activity the trickle of personnel through recruit and initial training courses alongside the commitment to other professional courses has been consistent. It is hugely rewarding to see at least one individual from 6 SCOTS pass every promotion qualifying course throughout the year. Notable mention must go to Ptes Donnachie, Downie, Hunter and Matheson upon passing the JNCO cadre and to Maj Liam Herbert for being nominated as top student on ICSC (L).

The qualities of the Battalion extend also beyond the traditional military outputs. The Battalion football team has had a superb year and were crowned the Army Reserve Cup Champions in May, and we also provide a number of players to the Infantry and Army squads. The Battalion golf team undertook a very successful tour to the south of England and have been well represented in many other fixtures and we have talented individuals from the Battalion represented across many other sports – notably Pte Cranston who, as an Army Hockey development squad player, was shortlisted for the Army's young sports person of the year, and 2Lt Todd who has been selected for the Army Sports Higher Performance Pathway through his Rugby officiating talents.

Moving into 2025 it is clear that the Army Reserve has a role to play in Defence, with the previous 12 months demonstrating how 6 SCOTS contribute to the protection of the nation and providing a capability that is able to fight and win its battles on land. The programme for 2025 is yet again busy but has been designed to ensure it attracts and retains those individuals who want to be part of the Army Reserve and the Regiment. I am wholly confident our personal and collective successes will continue, and 6 SCOTS remain ready to face the challenges ahead of us.

# 6 SCOTS



*LT Col LJ Curson*



## 6 SCOTS

### OTHER RANKS PROMOTIONS

#### Colour Sergeant to Warrant Officer

##### Class 2:

Boyd

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#### Sergeant to Colour Sergeant:

Duncan

Cleland

Allison

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#### Corporal to Sergeant:

Macleod

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#### Private to Lance Corporal:

Downie

Matheson

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### EX RHINO HEART

Germany

*2nd Lieutenant Lord*

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The 6th Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland embarked on Exercise RHINO HEART as part of 19th Light Brigade from the 07th – 23rd June. Deploying alongside many other reserve units and the US National Guard, this was the largest deployment of reserve personnel in a generation. The destination was the rolling hills and dense forests of Germany, more specifically Sennelager Training Area. While in Germany, 6 SCOTS combined with 7 SCOTS and the US National Guard to provide a light-role infantry company, with staff augmenting a combined 6 and 7 SCOTS Battlegroup headquarters as well as providing observer mentors to deliver various training objectives.

The exercise spanned two weeks, immersing participants in a series of complex scenarios designed to hone warfighting capabilities and strengthen interoperability with NATO allies. It was composed of three main phases: a sub-unit training phase, cultural activities, and finally a battle group level exercise. The scale of the exercise was immediately apparent with the number of vehicles and troops exercising and in supporting roles.

The sub-unit training phase was the first opportunity to get out onto the expansive and varied Sennelager training area. The training consisted of four 24-hour rotations, which were: a raid, advance to contact, urban operations, and defensive operations. This training provided the exercising troops with Company level battle lessons and battle exercises. On completion of each phase, the attached observer mentors gave valuable insight into the performance and



## 6 SCOTS



*Alpha Company*

areas of improvement. The Company began with fighting in urban areas exercise, building up to a dawn attack on the full-scale village located within the Sennelager training area. The defensive phase was perhaps the most challenging, providing the exercising troops with an opportunity to work from dug-in trenches with support from the Light Cavalry. The Company defended against a superior force before conducting a fighting withdrawal. 6 SCOTS directing staff were supported by the Bundeswehr Reserve – the reserve component of the German Army. This provided an opportunity for our troops to learn about the Bundeswehr weapons platforms and how they differed from our own.

The 6 SCOTS Platoon was often on the Company main effort throughout the exercise, providing the break-in on urban operations and a recce platoon for the raid. These opportunities provided invaluable experience for the troops, especially the junior leaders, building on what they had learned on courses and in training periods. Many of our soldiers were operating '1 up' in a role above their standard responsibilities. It was impressive to see how quickly they settled into the roles,

but it was clear to see they were well supported by their peers.

Before the final exercise, an opportunity was afforded for participating troops to explore and experience the local area. The cultural weekend was planned and delivered by OC HQ Coy 6 SCOTS and was a great success. After the high tempo start to the exercise the troops were delighted to be able to watch the opening game of Euro 24, where the Germans (and maybe some of the English units) were delighted with the 5-1 win, while the SCOTS suffered with the harsh reality of football. Unlike the football, the rest of the weekend was very enjoyable, including a visit to Wewelsburg Castle (the 'spiritual home of the SS') and the Möhne reservoir (the location of one the successful dam buster raid). There was also a successful inter-unit football competition. The 6 SCOTS team took a while to come alive but got well and truly firing with some crucial goalkeeping and defensive work. There were star performances from Sgt Paterson (7 SCOTS) and a hattrick apiece from CSgt Meighan and 2Lt Lord in the final game, safe to say the Scots were having more success here than elsewhere in Germany...

On Sunday, BGHQ sweated over the OSW to deliver orders for the final exercise. The battlegroup deployed straight into an urban assault. The SCOTS Battlegroup were tasked with providing the recce, establishing security of key terrain and forming up points for the subsequent assault. Despite minor setbacks, the mission was completed successfully, and a complex attack worked well; with troops echeloning through to take the last houses within the village. The battlegroup moved into a defensive posture and prepared for the main offensive action the following day. The SCOTS Coy was broken down into two elements, with 6 SCOTS mainly supporting the 2 Royal Irish contingent in taking two key objectives through company-level deliberate attacks. The remainder of A Coy worked to the flank, advancing to clear an area of vital ground.

6 SCOTS return to Scotland with valuable experience, confidence developed, new friendships made and a renewed commitment to excellence in art of being infantrymen.



## 6 SCOTS

### A COMPANY

Edinburgh, Galashiels  
*Major R Baggott La Velle*

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**Officer Commanding:**  
Major R Baggott La Velle

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**Company Second in Command:**  
Captain J Beale

---

**Company Sergeant Major:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2 B Ewart

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**Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**  
Colour Sergeant S Boyd (FTRS) Colour  
Sergeant D Jackson

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**Senior Permanent Staff Instructor:**  
Colour Sergeant B Macintosh

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**Permanent Staff Instructor:**  
Sergeant P Patterson / Sergeant D Kelly

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The past year has been a resounding success for A Company, marked by a commendable level of commitment from our dedicated people, some excellent training and a welcome influx of enthusiastic new recruits.

The Company has maintained its focus on sharpening individual infantry skills and progressing to section-level proficiency. Thanks to the fortunate proximity of outstanding training facilities such as Castlelaw and Dreghorn Training Area, the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer and the 25m barrack range both at Dreghorn Barracks, the Edinburgh Detachment has been able to engage in rigorous and effective training. Castlelaw and Dreghorn's challenging terrain has proven ideal for navigation and tactical exercises. The Dismounted Close Combat Trainer in Dreghorn barracks has allowed soldiers to refine their marksmanship and decision-making in realistic simulation scenarios, and the 25m barrack range gives the

Company the opportunity to hone marksmanship skills in a live fire environment. A Company owes a debt of gratitude to the dedication of our Senior Permanent Staff Instructor, Colour Sergeant Barry Macintosh. His unwavering commitment and expert guidance have been a cornerstone of the Company's progress and tactical proficiency. This year, the Company also welcomed Sergeant Kelly, who joined as the Permanent Staff Instructor for the Galashiels detachment, bringing with him fresh energy and expertise.

The Company organised a battalion Adventurous training weekend of dry slope down-hill skiing at Hillend Edinburgh, and kayaking along the Union Canal. A Company also had a strong showing in the BISMARCK CHALLENGE, a 1XX arduous military training event that tested both mental and physical resilience, in a four-person weighted relay race.



*Auld Reekie AT weekend*



The Company's momentum has been bolstered by the unwavering efforts of Sergeant Harris, whose prowess in recruitment continues to be nothing short of exceptional. Sgt Harris' knack for identifying top-notch candidates has ensured that our ranks are filled with individuals who are not only capable but also ready to embrace the ethos of A Company with vigour and pride.

Notable achievements by members of A Company: Pte Gillies passed the Physical Training Instructor course (no small achievement in itself) but he was also awarded the 6 SCOTS employee of the year, with his dedication, enthusiasm and fresh thinking. LCpl Johnston and Pte Elphick deployed on Ex IBERIAN STAR with 6 Rifles and LCpl Downie also deployed with 6 Rifles on their Mortar Cadre. All were commended for the impact they made, their enthusiasm as well as the professionalism they brought. 2Lt Todd represented 6 SCOTS at the NATO affiliated Reserve Officer Conference in Estonia, deployed to Australia as a travelling referee with Army Rugby, and has now mobilised to serve on Op TOSCA with 5 RRF.

While we celebrated many achievements, we also bid farewell to one of our own, Lt Jack Lord. Joining A Company in 2022 from Edinburgh UOTC, Lt Lord quickly established himself as a steadfast and capable officer with immense potential. His departure to commence regular service and attend the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter. Having completed Platoon Commanders Battle Course (Reserve) he now relishes a new challenge and aspires to join the Army Air Corps or Royal Engineers. There is no doubt that he will excel in whichever path he chooses. His presence will be missed, but we take pride in knowing he is set to make a significant impact in

his future career and A Company is that much stronger having benefit from his leadership and energy.

In April, Maj Rob Baggott la Velle



*A Company says goodbye to Lt Jack 'Blue Steel' Lord*

assumed command of the Company, taking over from Maj Chris Jetuah, who has since moved on to serve as the Battalion Second-in-Command. Maj Baggott la Velle is a former regular officer with The Rifles.

The Company welcomed two new platoon commanders this year. 2nd Lt James Robertson joined us from his civilian role with the Royal Military Tattoo, bringing a unique perspective and a wealth of experience. Officer Cadet (soon to be 2nd Lt) David Smith, a police officer with Police Scotland, has also joined our ranks. Both officers have already demonstrated their commitment and enthusiasm, and we look forward to seeing their contributions in the years to come. As we reflect on the past year,

it is evident that the strength of A Company lies in its people. The company is extremely lucky to have a set of seasoned and highly experienced reservists in its set of non-commissioned officers. The Company celebrated CSgt (soon to be Warrant Officer Class Two) Gray as the Company Sergeant Major. CSgt Gray has shown exceptional dedication to A Company for many years, mobilising to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, CSgt Gray has been a servant to the company from Pte Soldier to CSgt he leads by example and will bring fresh energy and determination, in this pivotal role. We say farewell to WO2 Ewart, safe in the knowledge he is not going far, moving over to C Company to be their Company Sergeant Major. A huge thank you to WO2 Ewart for all he has done to elevate the Company with his strong focus on training excellence.

The Company has a strong cohort of officers and non-commissioned officers supported by a dedicated set of instructors and permanent staff; A Company is well-positioned to build on the successes of this year. As we look ahead, we do so with confidence, ready to tackle new challenges and continue our proud tradition of excellence.



# 6 SCOTS

## B COMPANY

Ayr, Dumfries  
Major A Guzowski

**Officer Commanding:**  
Major A Guzowski

**Second in Command:**  
Captain J Richardson

**Permanent Staff Administrative Officer (PSAO):**  
Captain M Green

**Company Sergeant Major:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2 B Lynn

**Company Quarter Master Sergeant (CQMS):**  
Colour Sergeant J Cleland (FTRS) and Colour C Knox

**Senior Permanent Staff Instructor (SPSI):**  
Colour Sergeant G McCann

**Permanent Staff Instructor (PSI):**  
Sergeant P Breen

**Recruitment Engagement Mentoring Support Officer (ReMSO):**  
Sergeant B Stuart

It is with no small deal of pride that I write this year's summary for B Company. Reflecting over the last 12 months, I remain amazed as to the sheer variety of activity B Company members have been involved in. Overall, this year has proven to be a transitional yet busy year for B Company. Firstly, this marks my first in role as Officer Commanding, as Maj Mark (Dougie) Douglas moved to CEUOTC after 3 incredible years in command. Dougie's contribution and commitment over this time have

been vast. Most notably, guiding the Company through the final challenges of COVID-19 and returning to normal training, as well as delivering – almost single handedly – 2 cadres. He will be sorely missed by both the Battalion and B Company.



*Transfer of Authority from Maj Douglas to his old 2IC (Apr 2024)*

We bid farewell to a few members who move on to new pastures. CSgt McGinley who has been a regular within the Company, literally, first as the SPSI then turned Reservist as part of the Dumfries Platoon. He secured an FTRS role and leaves us on promotion to WO2 within the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. Also, after 12 years CSgt McClung, has decided it was time for a fresh challenge and moved to the other side of Seafield House to work with the Army Cadets. Fortunately, he was convinced to remain on the books as a reservist. We look forward to welcoming him back in once he has found his feet in the new role. All members of the Company would like to thank them for their professionalism and hard work during both of their significant tenures.

It has also been a busy year for CSM, WO2 Barry Lynn, who continues to demonstrate what you can get out of the Army Reserves. With a passion for unmanned aerial systems, WO2 Lynn completed both the Drone Operators and Supervisors course early in 2024. Thereafter, integrating these skills into company training events both on training weekends and whilst on ADE in Germany. Furthermore, WO2 Lynn led the B Company contingent during the successful preparation, deployment and recovery of those who deployed on Ex RHINO HEART. It was then a quick turnaround before mobilising on Op INTERLINK over the summer. Making an instant impact, WO2 Lynn was awarded a commander's commination for his contribution to the operation. He now also leaves B Company after POTL, to apply this recent operational experience, as well as a vast reserve of training background, to the role of 6 SCOTS Trg WO.



*WO2 Barry Lynn, in his element!*



B Company has also welcomed in few new faces too. CSgt Cleland transfers from HQ Company upon promotion to assume the role of FTRS CQMS and Sgt Breen came from 2 SCOTS to bring much needed stability to the gapped Dumfries PSI role. It is great to have them on board and a warm welcome to all of them. It has also been a pleasure to witness the career progress of B Company members, and this year is no exception. It is a delight to announce that CSgt Knox was selected for promotion and will assume CSM B Company in 2025. Recently promoted CSgt Allison will then assume the CQMS B Company role. A/Cpl Mathews produced a strong performance on ALDP and substantiated to Cpl. Congratulations also to our junior members progressing through their initial training pipeline, with Privates Wilson and Kilpatrick completing their trade specific courses and joining our ranks as trained soldiers.

It certainly has been a busy and engaging year. The initial focus was on enabling action. Firstly, an 8-member patrol made the journey to Edinburgh to participate in Pre-Bn Patrol Competition training weekend. This involved a 11km self-navigated tab battling the winter winds blowing through the Pentland Hills to reach various (OP, signals and first aid) stands. Thereafter, the B Company team returned the following month to grab bronze at the competition. Well done to Cpl Matthews and LCpl Bruce as Patrol Commander and Patrol 2IC respectively, in their efforts leading the successful patrol!

With the weather warming, B Company led the 2-week Bn Cadre Camp in Otterburn in March. These are essential for the development and sustainment of key skills within the unit including CIS, Land Rover GS, UAS operators

course, range qualifications and GMPG LF. All of which B Company members have subsequently employed in their roles thereafter. Upon return from Otterburn, the training shifted focus to offensive and urban operations over the spring into summer.

Ex LOWLAND ATTACK in Barry Budden provided many lessons; chiefly the application of DEET as the midges were out in force! That aside, this exercise was a great opportunity for sections to operate within a platoon context. Furthermore, B Company collaborated with 215 Multi-Role Medical Regiment who were also on the area to exploit each other's strengths. Indeed, B Company benefited with greater medical care under fire training than originally planned. This exercise also provided an excellent platform to empower JNCOs with the time and space to mould their sections and dynamically adjust the training to respond to their feedback.

Ex URBAN ATTACK, Garelochhead, then built on these foundations. This provided the opportunity to immerse ourselves within the urban setting. After conducting CQB lessons, the Company operated both in offence and defence. This then culminated in attacking, clearing the multi-storey skills house, which applied all the lessons learnt in particular room clearance, vulnerable areas, MEDAVAC and QBOS.

It has not been all green training; this has been balanced with other duties as well as significant efforts to both attract and retain our talent. B Company has supported a multitude of engagement events throughout the Area of Responsibility (AoR), including supporting the highly successful and popular International Airshow in Ayr. Also, special mention to CSgt Cleland for managing to complete the kit

issue of No2s to the Company, whilst conducting his handover! It was great to get B Company back into ceremonial dress for Remembrance after many years wearing MTP. Congratulations must also go to Capt Richardson, who ran a great Adventurous Training (AT) day mountain biking around Dalbeattie 7 Staines then into a BBQ at Nunfield House to capitalise on the great weather.



*AT package delivered by Captain Richardson at the 7 Staines, Dalbeattie*

I would like to express my thanks to every member of B Company for their hard work, loyalty, and ongoing commitment throughout the year. The training has not been easy. Also there have been challenges and set back, especially with the Ayr building. That said, people have adapted and overcome exceptionally well; there is an immense amount to be proud of. Looking forward to 2025, I believe that the Company is in a good place to face the next challenges and opportunities in store. Early 2025, will see B Company further capitalise and develop its urban infantry skills. As well as really concentrate on marksmanship in preparation for the LFTT package on the summer ADE, which is set to surpass any range package the Bn has organised in many years!



## 6 SCOTS

### C COMPANY

Glasgow and Motherwell  
*Major Herbert*

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**Officer Commanding:**  
Major LJ Herbert

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**Company Sergeant Major:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2 G Simpson

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**Permanent Staff Administrative Officer (PSAO):**  
Captain A Blair

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**Company Quarter Master Sergeant:**  
Colour Sergeant R Hamilton (FTRS),  
CSgt J Henderson

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**Senior Permanent Staff Instructor:**  
Colour Sergeant T Meighan

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**Permanent Staff Instructor:**  
Sergeant R Morton

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Charlie Company has gone from strength to strength in 2024 with positive trends in overall numbers, trained strength and regular attendance. The year has also brought a number of changes in staff. We said farewell to WO2 Glen Simpson as Company Sergeant Major, he will be replaced by WO2 Bruce Ewart, joining from A Coy in early 2025. Lt Rich Dunbar left the Battalion to attend the regular commissioning course at RMAS and we wish him well for his future regular service. We welcomed CSgt James Henderson as CQMS on joining the Reserves, having left 1 RANGER earlier in the year, and on the permanent staff we welcomed Sgt Richie Morton, replacing Sgt Jamie Dougall as PSI at our Motherwell location.

There has been a number of achievements to celebrate this year and the Coy has been as active as ever across the range of tasks required by reserves. Operationally, we have Pte Finnie deployed to the Cypriot Buffer Zone on Op TOSCA and Pte Hunter deployed with 2 SCOTS to the Falkland Island on Op FIRIC. Ceremonially, C Coy provided substantial troop numbers to support the Glasgow Remembrance Parade, with a number of our NCOs taking part in the parade itself. In support of collective training, we deployed LCpl Creedican for a year to support BATUK in his capacity as a PTI and have had numerous instructors support training activity with ATU and OTC colleagues.

On drill nights, the focus has continued to be on developing the core infantry skills of "move, shoot, communicate and medicate", whilst giving our Jocks greater ownership of developing their skillset and enabling them to have direct input to aspects of the training program. The mass of key exercise activity took place in Europe with both Ex SAVA STAR in Croatia and Ex RHINO HEART in Germany, providing annual deployment exercise opportunities for our soldiers. The latter saw C Coy soldiers working with colleagues from across the Battalion and 7 SCOTS to conduct operations at Company scale. This remains the aiming point for our exercise program and subsequently C Coy led the Battalion's Ex URBAN AVENGER weekend in the Whinny Hill urban training area, deploying a Rifle Company with support from 5 SCOTS and attachments from 1 RMP. This allowed not only our soldiers to test themselves in challenging urban scenarios but for the Coy HQ and command post to be tested, alongside the Company Aid Post and our CASEVAC chain. The remainder of Training Year 24/25 will see the

C Coy led Battalion Patrols competition, with Motherwell seeking to retain the trophy for another year, and the commencement of Battalion Shooting Team activity under the keen eye of SPSI CSgt Meighan.

Performances on courses were strong in throughout, with soldiers successfully completing the battle camp syllabus and a number of strong passes on the Combat Infantryman course from the Company. Pte Hunter successfully completed his PJNCO cadre, being promoted at Christmas to LCpl. Sgt MacLeod performed expertly on the Platoon Sergeants Battle Course, gaining promotion and topping off the year with the award of a Lord Lieutenant's certificate for his exemplary service. Maj Liam Herbert was also awarded top student on the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (LR).

The Company heads into 2025 with great momentum and a number of our soldiers preparing for operations and arduous professional courses.



*Med lessons with LCpls Morley and Currie-McLean*



## HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Glasgow  
*Officer Commanding –  
 Major W Hunter MBE*

**Company Second in Command:**  
 Captain G Rattray

**Permanent Staff Administrative  
 Officer (PSAO):**  
 Captain G Law

**Company Sergeant Major:**  
 Warrant Officer Class 2 J Seery

**Senior Permanent Staff Instructor:**  
 Warrant Officer Class 2 G McLay

**Company Quarter Master Sergeant  
 (CQMS):**  
 Staff Sergeant C Ward

The training year 24/25 has seen many challenges and several changes to the HQ Coy laydown. We said farewell to WO1 Brian Moody who left his post as PSAO for a new role with the SNIY in Ayr, we also said farewell to Sgt Halliday on his retirement from service, and Sgt Cleland who assumed a new role as CQMS FTRS B Coy. We welcomed Capt Gordon Law to the Company as the new PSAO, following his retirement from Regular Service, and as the 6 SCOTS XO in his last post. Sgt Smith arrived in the post of RAPTC PT, and we welcomed back Pte Barr and Cpl Rogerson who both attended higher education courses to qualify as a police officer and a nurse respectively.

On the 5th of Oct HQ Coy celebrated receiving the HM the King's Coronation Medal by organising a training day, which included a sit-down lunch in the Officers' mess. Before lunch the company took part in an OP TEAMWORK session covering a wide

range of topics including; the conflict in Gaza, moral decision making and command dilemma training. After the training both SSgt Lawrence and Sgt MacAllister provided a superb feast before the CO presented the troops with their medals. A fantastic day was had by everyone who attended the training day, and they left with an open mind, full belly and a medal on their chest... what's not to like?



*Sgt Halliday receives his Kings Coronation Medal on his retirement from Service*



*SSgt Lawrence receives the Kings Coronation Medal from the CO*

HQ Coy once again delivered the traditional Christmas lunch for the Battalion on 7th Dec. The main event was the food and entertainment. Our two chefs worked tirelessly for days before the event in the kitchen, the hard work and preparation paid off as they produced an outstanding menu which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The decoration of the drill hall was the responsibility of the newly promoted

CSgt Duncan; who worked hard to transform the drill hall into a winter wonderland. The master of ceremonies was WO2 Seery who had the troops in stitches with the wacky games, crazy banter and fun atmosphere. Once again HQ Coy has shown that a small group of hard-working individuals can deliver big results.

HQ Coy have demonstrated our capability, by deploying troops on a range of activities in support of the wider Battalion and Army. Sgt Bob Stoker deployed as a Watchkeeper with HQ Task Force LAZURITE in Jul 24 and will return to the Coy in Jun 25 having made an important contribution to that activity. Sgt Smith is deployed on Op TOSCA 42, Cyprus, in the role of the RAPTCI with 5 RRF. SSgt Lawrence has deployed for over 4 months to the Army Reserve School of Catering as an instructor where she was a key enabler in the training and mentoring of the future Army Chefs. HQ Coy staff are always ready to deliver within 6 SCOTS and across the wider Army.

At the start of 2025 we are already looking ahead to a busy programme. We will deploy WO2 Seery, WO2 Watt and Sgt MacAllister to support the Bn Skiing AT exercise in January. We have already started the groundwork and planning for the ADE 2025, where again HQ coy will be at the forefront of the planning and delivery of the event. Training year 24/25 has been a busy and sometimes frustrating period for the HQ Coy staff, but our professional approach and good-humoured troops have dug deep and worked as a cohesive team to deliver to the highest standard on every task given. Well-done to all the team and we go again!



## 6 SCOTS

### OFFICERS' MESS

*Major CK Jetuah*

After a few of years with limited mess activity the 6 SCOTS mess was back in full swing, welcoming family and friends to a number of mess events in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The year started with the much-postponed mess cocktail party, held in the wonderful surroundings of the library of the Royal Scots club. This was a chance for mess members and their families to get together and enjoy each other's company. Entertainment was provided by a magician who had children big and small, including many adults, absolutely captivated by his wonderful variety of tricks and conjuring. Musical accompaniment was provided by a harpist who managed to include some modern favourites into her repertoire, which was no

mean feat. It was fantastic to have our families attend the event and thank those who our reserve service takes us away from on occasion.

The main event of the year was the St Andrew's dinner night in November. This was our first event hosted in the mess in Hotspur Street in many years. The evening was organised by Capt Macintosh and adeptly supported by Capt Hainey, and Maj McGrory who as ever allowed us to maximise our budget and put on a fantastic event. Entertainment was provided by the Lowland band who put on a magnificent show with the musical accompaniment. SSgt Lawrence prepared food to her usual high standards with support from her team, who delivered an extremely professional dining service in a kitchen that poses many challenges for fine dining.

This year there was significant turnover in the mess. We bid farewell to Maj Coppard, Maj Douglas and Capt Duncan who go onto other reserve roles. We also said goodbye to Lt Lord and Lt Dunbar as they commence their regular career with the commissioning course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. We wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavours.

However, this year we also welcomed 2Lt David Smith and 2Lt James Robertson, I am told both are eagerly awaiting their mess appointments!!!

The mess is now back into the habit of organising events and has a team with the capability to put on fun events. In 2025 we look forward to building on 2024 and welcoming our friends and family to a number of exciting events we have planned.



*The St Andrew's Dinner Night*



## WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

*President of the Mess Committee WO2  
Gazz McLay*

The year started with a trip down south to Torquay where mess members played on 6 of England's finest golf courses over 5 days. Graced with blue skies, palm trees, deep bunkers, and 6 SCOTS very own Tiger Woods in the form of Sgt Cleland swept to victory. The trip was an excellent way to take a break from the hectic pace of life and enjoy the company of good friends.

Throughout the training year the mess supported the various exercises that took us as far and wide as Kirkcudbright, Otterburn, and Garelohead. We also sent several mess members on the 19 Light Brigade Exercise RHINO HEART in Sennelager, Germany. It should be noted however, that it was not all work throughout the year, as we certainly got plenty of opportunities to socialise as a mess. The first major function was the Summer Ball under the watchful eye of WO2 Gazz McLay. All those in attendance were quoted as saying that this was probably the best night that they have had in the mess, which was mainly down to the famous Glaswegian comedian Des Maclean. Next on the mess calendar was a whisky tasting night where the Officers' mess were invited to enjoy the night provided by Saltire distillery. As always Sgt McAllaster proved her worth behind the scenes making sure all was in order.

The mess not only caters for present members but whole heartedly welcomes those from the past.

The mess would like to say farewell to WO2 McKnight who was posted to 2 YORKS as the RCMO and Sgt Dougall to 3 SCOTS as the Sniper Platoon Commander.

We would also like to welcome: WO1 (RSM) Welshman, WO2 Cox as the Training Warrant Officer, Sgt Kelly as PSI A Coy, Sgt Breen as PSI B Coy and Sgt Morton as PSI C Coy. All have made an immediate and long last impact on the standard and quality of training.



*The Summer Ball*



## 6 SCOTS

### LOWLAND BAND

*LCpl Stirton*

Another busy but exciting time for The Lowland Band, with our first overseas camp since before Covid, to many musicians passing important career qualifications. The pace of life has been high, but our talented musicians have delivered with aplomb.

The band held their Annual Deployment Exercise (ADE) in two parts, 4 days in Rosyth and 12 days in Holland supporting the Nijmegen Marches. For both parts we were joined by our colleagues from the Highland Band, for a period of musical training and then engagements.

During our time in Rosyth, we were able to support two engagements in other parts of Scotland. Firstly, we supported a Pass off Parade at Redford Barracks for new recruits who had completed their Phase 1 training. This was followed by the band playing the National Anthem at the Scotland v England woman's 6 nations match alongside our colleagues from 4 SCOTS Pipes and Drums, in what

can only be described as challenging weather conditions!

During our 4-day camp in Rosyth a board was held for Career Employment Qualifications (CEQs). The band would like to congratulate Musicians Doran and Goldie who successfully passed their CEQ 3 and Musicians Chute, Martin, MacDonald and Pow who passed their CEQ 2. Members of the band were also presented with their Coronation Medals to recognise their contribution to the HM The King's in both Edinburgh and London in May 2023.

After many ADEs based in Scotland, the band were excited to be supporting the Nijmegen Marches in Holland in July. Having previously supported the Marches in 2017 the band looked forward to returning and were delighted to be asked back. We were responsible for providing support and entertainment to the walkers, a mixture of military and civilian personnel completing 30-50km a day march over 4 consecutive days.

This was an extremely busy camp with many engagements and early starts, but it was enjoyed by all. Prior to the first day of the Marches, we took part in the flag parade, a short march through the town for the opening ceremony where we played the famous "Vierdaagse Mars" for the first time. This march was composed especially for the event, and we played it numerous times a day to very enthusiastic crowds. Day 1 was our first early start; we provided musical support at Kamp Heumensoord for the walkers beginning their day at 0400. Spirits were high as the walkers marched out of camp. We then put on a short concert at a local care home in a nearby village, this gave an opportunity for our ceilidh group as well as our full band to perform. Day 2 we provided musical support on route for the walkers as they passed the halfway point of the march that day, we then raced back to Kamp Heumensoord to play at the entrance for the walkers returning. Day 3 saw another early start to play for the walkers followed by an evening concert in Cuijk for the erection of a pontoon bridge, to be used by the walkers on the final day. There was a great atmosphere in Cuijk and the local businesses provided great hospitality. We were able to extend our camaraderie and join forces with a local band to provide further entertainment. On day 4 us SCOTS were delighted to see some sunshine; however, the rising temperature provided an additional challenge to the walkers and the band on the final day, which saw the band lead a contingent down what is known as "Via Gladiola" the last 5km to the finish line. The atmosphere and support from the locals helped encourage everyone along and the occasional Haribo or soak from a water gun was welcomed by all. After a busy week we were ready to return home for a well-earned rest.



*Remembrance Parade Edinburgh*



The band were honoured to be invited to take part in 'Scotland's Salute' at The Usher Hall to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-day. Alongside our colleagues from RM Band Scotland, Band SCOTS and the Highland Band, seeing the various military bands in Scotland perform together for the first time was an absolute thrill. This poignant event paid tribute to those brave men and women who were integral to the success of the Allied D-Day landings. It was great to rehearse and perform alongside our regular colleagues as part of the main band, but also for some of our musicians as part of the fanfare team.

The band has had a busy year of engagements, showcasing their many smaller ensembles at a variety of different events. We have supported many dinner nights from the EUOTC – Haldane dinner where we provided a small ensemble. Events at the Royal Scots Club which was supported by groups such as our brass quintet, woodwind group, folk group and saxophone quartet. As a full band we enjoyed parading for Armed Forces Day in Glasgow and leading the Diwali Parade through Edinburgh. We were fortunate enough to perform two beating retreats this year, one at The Royal Scots Club and another in Parliament Square to support the Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry, both gigs had a large crowd, and we enjoyed performing a marching display for them. The band were honoured this year to provide musical support to the Edinburgh Remembrance Parade on the Royal Mile, this is the first time the band have been invited to take part in this event and it was a great honour to do so. We also had three members of the band venture to Huddersfield to represent The Lowland Band at the 19th Light Brigade Festival of Remembrance, providing us with the



*LCpl Marshall supported by her children at Armed Forces Day*

opportunity to meet reservists from other bands.

We continue to strengthen our ranks and this year we welcome Musicians Ballantyne on clarinet, Bedwell on cornet and Rae on trombone. We are also pleased to welcome Musician Eggleton on flute who joins us from the Band SCOTS and welcome back Musician Chandler after a period in an FTRS role. Retention is important to the band, and we congratulate

Musicians Bowyer and Pow on receiving their long service medals for 10 years reserve commitment.



**SCOTS**

[www.theroyalregimentofscotland.org](http://www.theroyalregimentofscotland.org)



**7 SCOTS**



## 7 SCOTS

### COMMANDING OFFICER'S FOREWORD

*Lieutenant Colonel  
David M Robertson*

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Few more daunting challenges can be presented to a new Commanding Officer than attempting to do justice to the Battalion's achievements over the preceding twelve months, whilst under his predecessor's tenure. 'A busy year' no longer surprises anyone and has become the baseline for the soldiers and officers of 7 SCOTS. I'd like to start by thanking Colonel Doug Watson for his achievements in-post, and for setting the Battalion firmly on course within 19th Light Brigade (19 Bde). As my first Company Second-in-Command in 4 SCOTS when I commissioned, there is a certain completeness to my succession from Doug 17 years later; one that I think demonstrates the strength of the network our wider Regimental family brings; and, I hope, gives confidence in command continuity. 7 SCOTS also bids farewell to WO1(RSM) Bradley Warwick, on retirement, and WO2 Dean Devine (Training Warrant Officer), on assignment as RQMS (Tech) at 2 SCOTS. As the Battalion thanks them for all they have brought to the roles it is also privileged to welcome WO1(RSM) Andy Bright and WO2 Darran Pasifull as their successors. Also departing from Battalion Headquarters (BHQ) are Capt 'Cammie' Dickie, transferring to 6 SCOTS, and LCpl Michael McRobbie, on assignment as a Physical Training Instructor at the Army Foundation College (Harrogate). We wish them both the best for their future assignments. Captains Andrew Collister and Grant Linklater also depart BHQ but remain within the Battalion upon selection (and subsequent promotions) as Company Commanders for Headquarters and Alpha Companies respectively.

In my first opportunity to speak to the Battalion in person last month, I asked our soldiers and officers not to underestimate the importance of their role, and in particular the considerable achievements of the deployment to Germany on Exercise RHINO HEART over the Summer of 2024. The colour and detail of the exercise will be provided in depth later, but I felt it worth emphasising to them the strategic message sent by the delivery of the Army Reserve's biggest overseas deployment in a generation. Whatever else motivates our soldiers to serve, they can be proud to be part of an institution that contributes directly to Defence outputs, matters to our nation, and that has proven itself to be credible, capable, and deployable.

Whilst attention will naturally reflect the tactical training outputs of the deployed troops, I cannot praise highly enough the work of the personnel administration (G1) team under the Regimental Administration Officer, Maj Phil Ward; the Quartermaster's Department (G4), under Maj Malky Morrison; and the Battalion's four Permanent Staff Administration Officers (PSAOs) – Capts Robert Graham, Pete Marshall, Stevie Rae, and Mike 'Tich' Robb – to enable and deliver the deployment. Both G1 and G4 functions provide a mammoth challenge to deliver in a Regular unit in a single barracks with a 'captive' full-time workforce, but the accomplishment across the vast 7 SCOTS footprint, deploying and recovering a volunteer battalion overseas in good order should not be underestimated. This relies on the skill, experience, and dedication of all our Regular, Reserve and Civil Service enabling staff, without whom our soldiers simply cannot train – all coordinated and cohered under the steady hand of the Battalion's Executive Officer, Maj Paul Colville.

Operational outputs over the last four years have demonstrated the utility of the Army Reserve to support operations largely (but not exclusively) in the UK, but our focus going forward must be on the Army's warfighting role. Our new two-year training cycle within 19 Bde will offer more certainty for our soldiers: a biennial brigade-level deployment provides an aiming point against which they can manage the considerable challenges of balancing the needs of their families, civilian careers, and Reserve commitments. It also allows us to plan and build in the right mix of progressive and engaging training, whilst also finding the time for sport, adventure training, battlefield study and, crucially, fun – which I believe the rest of our journal entries capture. If 'busy' is the Battalion's routine, it is underpinned by a drumbeat of our monthly training weekends, annual competitions, high profile musical engagements, and opportunities to participate in competitive sport – 7 SCOTS personnel regularly compete at Infantry and Army level in Ice Hockey (Pte Farquharson) and Rugby Union (Lt Henry Lapslie).

The achievements of 7 SCOTS personnel over the last year are as varied and inspiring as one would expect. The Battalion has continued to feed operational deployments on an individual basis, including Cpl McFarlane to Cyprus on the enduring UN mission, Op TOSCA; Pte MacDougall south of the border to support the UK's training delivery for the Ukrainian Army on Op INTERFLEX; and Lt Angus Lapslie to the Falkland Islands with 2 SCOTS on Op FIRIC. Capt Luke Bloodworth is currently working for six months at the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) Headquarters, and our soldiers continue to support other Army Reserve unit exercises. Pte (now LCpl) Hall deserves particular recognition for his support

## 7 SCOTS



as a Combat Medical Technician (CMT) deployed with 6 RIFLES on Exercise SAVA STAR in Spain this Autumn – for which he received a 6 RIFLES Commanding Officer's Coin. He was subsequently presented a Brigade Commander's Commendation and a new plastic mug by the 19 Bde Commander, Brigadier Lisa Brooks, when she visited in January (mortified to discover she had broken his by accident whilst borrowing his webbing).

At this stage it is worth highlighting the considerable impact our Unit Aid Post (UAP), under command of Maj Andrew Gilmour, has had throughout the year. Not only does it underpin our licence to operate and train safely, including its conspicuous success on Ex RHINO HEART, it has set the standard for other Reserve UAPs to follow – Maj Gilmour literally writing the policy towards which they should all be aiming to meet. Equally important to me, it is clear to see transformational effect this is having on the UAP staff: the considerable personal growth of all the team members, both in terms of medical skill but also self-confidence and self-belief.

Whilst not everyone's personal and professional circumstances may permit formal mobilisation or extended periods away, the personal development such experiences deliver, and the experience brought back to the unit by these individuals is priceless. They also sow the seeds for others who can see the benefits and hopefully develop the confidence that they are as well-prepared as anyone to volunteer for opportunities outside of the Battalion. I commend all of our soldiers and officers to consider such opportunities when they arise: the training team will prepare everyone to the standard required and they should not be daunted by the chances on offer.

We should aspire to be the best and must advertise the wider 'offer' the Army Reserve has. Few platforms for measuring ability exist than the annual Cambrian Patrol Competition. Again, this will be covered in depth later, but it would be remiss of me not to highlight the significance of this year's 7 SCOTS entry into one of the world's toughest military patrol events. The Cambrian Patrol attracts a myriad of international team entries keen to measure themselves, and anyone who has entered recounts how tough it is; completing the patrol is an achievement in itself. This year's team, led by Captain Seb Adkin, had prepared rigorously for months, only to be confronted with last-minute medical dropouts set to derail any team. Never one to accept defeat, Maj Harry Hood selflessly volunteered to fill the breach, 'accompanied' by his son Declan – a Section Commander at the Infantry Training Centre. No-one was more relieved to hear of the team's success than the Medical Officer at Leuchars who had approved Harry's Medical Risk Assessment (aged 55 years, with considerable mileage on the knees). Their Bronze Medal award was an outstanding achievement by the team as a whole, but it was the father-and-son story which initially attracted national media coverage. Whilst Harry would be the last to seek the limelight on any occasion, unsurprisingly crediting Capt Adkin's leadership and the wider team's grit on the hills in Wales, the 23,000+ X (formerly Twitter) hits and 10,000+ Facebook forwards reflected a social media coup which Army Media was quick to capitalise on. 'Engage to Recruit' is the new tag line for Army recruiting activity within our Main Target Audience, underpinned by 'Engage to Inspire' beyond that. I think that the Battalion would be hard-pressed to find a more inspirational story (and character) this year, so it is

only right that I showcase it here – no apologies, but no expectation of a repeat performance by Hood Snr. either.

Looking ahead to the next training year fills me with anticipation, fuelled by confidence in the team around me. As a Battalion we are steeped in proud history but have rarely looked forward with such expectancy for what the Army Reserve is to be asked to deliver. The Defence Review to be published later this year will no doubt contain some surprises, but everything thus far suggests the nation is going to ask for a larger and more ready Reserve component. 7 SCOTS will have our part to play in it; must embrace the challenges laid down to us; and must adapt and innovate to meet the demands of the rapidly evolving threats on the battlefield. We must strive to retain the wealth of talent, diversity of thought, and considerable experience we hold within the Battalion, whilst doing everything we can to recruit more into the ranks.



*Lt Col Robertson*



## 7 SCOTS

### **OTHER RANKS PROMOTIONS**

**Sergeant to Colour Sergeant:**

Hall  
Naughton

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**Corporal to Sergeant:**

Foxcroft  
Hall

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**Lance Corporal to Corporal:**

Palmer  
Wangoo

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**Private to Lance Corporal:**

Hall  
McKay  
Reid

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## OPERATION INTERFLEX

United Kingdom  
Warrant Officer Class 1 Penrice

### CSM, TRIDENT COMPANY

In December 2023 I was mobilised to attend OP INTERFLEX & in the June of 2024 I was privileged to be the Company Sergeant Major of Trident Company, based along with 2 Companies from 2 Rifles. We were a group of 74 Service personnel (SP) (all reservists) from units across the UK, 7 SCOTS provided a contingent of 15 SP. We also had 24 linguists & 200 recruits per course.

Before the tasking I, along with most of the Company, was mobilised to conduct various courses. This was a great opportunity for reserve soldiers to undertake courses such as Skill at Arms & range quals, including the A Qual which is a predominantly regular course. We then spent several weeks conducting more courses and training including, trench warfare, urban warfare & various range packages.

### Background and Objectives

Once we arrived at Camp the Jocks wasted no time in making themselves at home. Making their accommodation a home from home, with all their furnishings and of course a few saltire flags hanging from the windows. Everyone knew where 7 SCOTS troops were located for sure.

Once on task our primary objective was to provide comprehensive military training to Ukrainian recruits, focusing on foundation infantry skills, battlefield tactics and medical support. Our program was to prepare Ukrainian soldiers for various combat scenarios, thereby strengthening Ukraine's forces.



Trench warfare Trg

### Training Modules and Implementation

Our Training program encompassed several key modules:

**Basic Infantry Skills:** recruits received instruction on marksmanship, navigation, and survival skills, essential for frontline operations.

**Urban warfare:** given the likelihood of urban combat, soldiers were trained in close-quarters battle, building clearance.

**Medical training:** combat medics were provided training in first aid and trauma care, ensuring that soldiers can administer life-saving measures on the battlefield.

**Trench warfare:** with purpose-built trenches our instructors were able to put the recruits through many different training scenarios.

### Impact and Outcomes

By the end of the task in Dec, we had trained over 1200 Ukrainian soldiers, significantly bolstering the AFU's operational capabilities, to which I have no doubt put them in a better place to continue their war against

Russia. The program not only improved individual soldier proficiency but also enhanced unit cohesion and overall military effectiveness.

I think the training Company gained a lot of skills & also taught us resilience, empathy, and the importance of human connection. Despite hardships I am convinced we made a difference. I witnessed courage, compassion, and sacrifice from both the Jocks and the Ukrainian Soldiers.

Op INTERFLEX brought together a group of 74 Reserve soldiers, most having never worked together. We all left our work and families to complete a task to the best of our ability, which the company did in spades. The company adapted their instructional techniques to suite all situations including language barriers. The 7 SCOTS contingent shone with their attitude, flexibility and willingness to get the job done with a good sense of humour. I am extremely proud of what Company completed & they should be gratified. I would say they all returned to 7 SCOTS better soldiers and indeed individuals, having taking part in this enduring task.



## 7 SCOTS

### OPERATION FIRIC

Falkland Islands  
*Lieutenant Angus Lapslie*

In April, FSp Coy 2 SCOTS deployed to the Falkland Islands to assume British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI) land defence responsibility as the Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company (FIRIC), for which I was mobilised in command of the Machine Gun Pl. Whilst not wishing to steal any thunder from the, no doubt excellent, 2 SCOTS article, I will focus here on my personal experiences of the deployment and the rare opportunity to deploy as a Reservist in command of Regular soldiers.

Having survived the pain of the mobilisation administration, I met my platoon at Brize Norton, ready to embark on the flight to the South Atlantic. These tight timelines meant that I had to spend the first few weeks of the deployment getting to know my soldiers, on top of the entire Coy's attempts to get to grips with the hectic FIRIC schedule and unique BFSAI (or maybe it is just the RAF...) approach to working. Having had a couple of days to find our feet and adjust to the time difference, MG Pl was straight into providing the theatre's land QRF, with Pl HQ and one of the sections sitting at 30-minutes NTM. This, coupled with having a week to plan a live-firing MG cadre on the vast expanse of Onion Range, meant I felt like there had been a real baptism of fire.

The highlight of the deployment was Ex CAPE BAYONET, the RIC's major quarterly exercise, designed to demonstrate the credibility of BFSAI and deter any threat to the Falkland Islands. It was a unique opportunity to experience soldiering in a joint environment, with an "engines-running" insertion and close air support provided



*OC FSp Coy 2 SCOTS, and former 7 SCOTS Adjutant, Maj Ed Shepherd (behind second gun), joining MG Pl firing the HMG on Onion Range*



*MG Pl having just completed Ex MOUNTAIN GOAT, the culmination of their MG Cadre, on the rugged East Falkland hills*

by the RAF, and two nights embarked on board HMS FORTH. Despite the exercise being cleverly designed to coincide with the coldest weather since records began in 1982, the entirety of MG Pl grafted hard, lugging their heavy loads into remote fire-support positions to support the rifle platoon onto the objectives. The exercise concluded with an attack on to Goose Green in deep snow, demonstrating just how challenging the real thing would have been 42 years ago.

Mobilisation opportunities can be nerve-wracking, particularly in the combat arms and in command appointments. The lack of familiarity and the perceived skills gap can push many volunteers away. Whilst I was

apprehensive as I took over my platoon, my fears were annulled by a hugely supportive group of NCOs and fellow officers. I found that humbleness, a willingness to learn but, most importantly, confidence in my ability and training, all created an environment where I was able to add value and do my job as a capable platoon commander, as well as using the opportunities available to learn from those more experienced. Despite some occasional ribbing (the infantry, after all, survives on dark humour), I found that I was able to fit into my platoon and the wider company with little effort, and I had a wonderful time working with an outstanding group of Jocks.



## EXERCISE RHINO HEART



*The 7 SCOTS Team*

Sennelager, Germany  
*Major A G Collister*

As a concept it was demanding. As a reality, it was littered with friction. In hindsight, it was an unparalleled opportunity for Army Reservists from 19 Brigade to come together and experience some of the harsh challenges and realities should we need to generate mass at pace for one eventuality or another.

Ex RHINO HEART was the nominated ADE for 7 SCOTS in 2024. It consisted of deploying half of 19 Brigade's units to Sennelager, Germany, for a sustained, two-week period of Company and Battle Group actions. The timing was curious, almost as an added sales pitch – it overlapped perfectly with the Euros taking place in Germany but to the dismay of many, the opportunity to get to a game came and went in the blink of an exercise MEL.

The “crawl” and “walk” phases were completed as best as possible during training nights and weekends which led to the Battalion jumping straight into the “run” phase of training and as ever, Reservists from across the country stepped up to the unenviable challenge.

Members of 7 SCOTS took on a range of roles; the BHQ team led one of the two Battle Group Headquarters being exercised, some joined A1 echelon whilst the majority formed up to be ‘2 Platoon’ of SCOTS Company, joining a 6 SCOTS platoon and a platoon the Montana branch of the US National Guard. A special thanks now to 2Lt Will Hall for the excellent media captured during the exercise, some of which is displayed in this article.



## 7 SCOTS

### EXERCISE RHINO HEART *continued*

#### SCOTS Company

For those in SCOTS Company, life was rarely dull. Each day brought a new company action and increased sense of teamwork and refinement to TTPs as people from many backgrounds came together with very little time to share best practice and experience before stepping off on the first Company action. The display of agility from Reservists was second to none. Within 48 hours of downing tools on day jobs in the UK, the same people had travelled, prepared, and deployed into the field and were in the final rehearsals for a Company attack. The pace did not ease and in true testament to the Jocks and their adopted American brothers and sisters, they did everything that was ever asked and more.

Over the course of the initial five-day exercise, the Company rolled through four stands, with the opportunity to conduct an urban attack, raid, advance to contact and Company areas defence. The breadth of actions covered provided a solid base from which to adapt for future activity. For many, this was the first time in a fire trench and in defence, just one way of highlighting the meaningful nature of this training.

It was a privilege to work alongside the US National Guard and was definitely one of the highlights. Working so closely with another nation taught us all a lesson or two – you can always rely on the Americans for their weight of fire!



*Incorporating the 3D battle with drones*



*Morale*



## Battle Group Headquarters (BGHQ)

Life in BGHQ was no less easy. Planning cycle after planning cycle, the team in BGHQ learned, adapted, and tweaked their process to hone in on best practice ahead of a roll out with the Companies the following week. The HQ benefitted from input from the team in CAST Germany, the first such external support. The learning curve was steep throughout, and the culmination of the hard work was to jump straight into the exercise with a BG attack into the urban environment – pretty staggering given the team had never met the Companies until the day before the action.

As ever, the plan didn't play out as expected but the various CONPLANS were enacted, people adapted to the situation and the team in Tac made the right calls to keep up momentum. Exercising at Company level in the Army Reserve is rare. Rolling out a BGHQ with three rifle companies and a light recce sqn is unheard of and the 7 SCOTS team certainly made the most of the opportunity.

Whilst the majority of the staff in the headquarters came from 7 SCOTS, there was definitely a realistic composite nature to the team with exceptionally capable support from our sister Battalion 6 SCOTS, 71 Engr Regiment (BGE), and 5 MI with an IO and AIO. It would be remiss of us not to thank the various attachments for their exceptional contribution.



*SCOTS Company including the Montana US National Guard Platoon*



*The BGHQ Machine*



*The BG Urban Attack well underway*



## 7 SCOTS

### EXERCISE CAMBRIAN PATROL

**CALLSIGN:**

H30B

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**Patrol Commander:**

Captain Adkin

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**Patrol Second in Command:**

Corporal Hood

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**Patrol Signaller:**

Lance Corporal Stewart

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Major Hood

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Private McLean

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Private Mitchell

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Private Murray

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Private Walker

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7 SCOTS entered a team, commanded by Captain Seb Adkin, into Exercise CAMBRIAN PATROL. Conducted over 48 hours in South Wales and covering 60km in the shadow of the Black Mountains, Brecon Beacons, and Sennybridge Training Area (SENTA), it is widely regarded as the toughest and most demanding patrolling event in NATO.

Having assembled in Queens Barracks Perth and conducted final kit issue and checks, the team began the long journey under the guidance of CSgt Naughton and Cpl Gough, the admin team, to Maindy Barracks in Cardiff where the team was able to get some much-needed rest prior to moving to the Exercise Assembly Area near Crickhowell at 0300.

After a thorough kit check, the team conducted battle procedure to ensure Captain Adkin could formulate his plan



*Team picture*

and deliver patrol orders. Following a comprehensive set of orders, which earned praise from the DS, the patrol moved by vehicle to a drop off point and began the gruelling task of patrolling across the wet, undulating terrain carrying up to 35kg each. The next 24 hours saw the patrol complete a CBRN stand, where Cpl Hood was able to show off his knowledge, an 80m wet gap crossing which was a personal achievement for Private Walker who passed his Military Swimming Test only a week before, and a complex medical scenario involving a crashed helicopter and multiple casualties ranging from catastrophic bleeding, amputation and battle shock.

The second phase of the patrol was conducted on SENTA and having backloaded bergens, the patrol moved into the recce phase where activity around a farm complex had to be observed for 2 hours. Although the weight carried dropped to around 20kg each LCpl Stewart, patrol signaller, still had the radio to contend with,

a task he completed in style. After the recce, the next challenge was to establish a safe lane through a minefield and Pte Mitchell took the lead to successfully identify 3 sub-surface and well camouflaged mines. As darkness fell the patrol moved to Cellini Village to complete the patrol report from the earlier tasking as well as AFV recognition, conducted by Pte Mclean and Artillery Target Indication. The final phase was a long 15km patrol to conduct a deliberate attack against an enemy observation post which was successfully engaged and destroyed. Pte Murray was commended for his handling and conditioning of the enemy C-Pers during the REGROUP. The final task was to conduct a debrief on the entire patrol and it was with a great sense of achievement and relief to finally hear the words ENDEX.

The team achieved a BRONZE medal overall but more importantly gained in experience and having completed a round trip of just under 1,000 miles to participate, highlighted the capability of 7 SCOTS and ARes as a whole.



# 7 SCOTS

## URBAN TRAINING FACILITY

Dundee – Oliver Barracks  
*Sergeant M Tulley (PSI)*

With the introduction of the urban ITR in 2023 and lessons learnt from conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, the way we trained as a reserve unit shifted. It was realised that there was a lack of dedicated urban facilities in Scotland for us to use so 7 SCOTS took the initiative and created one. On the handover of infrastructure in Oliver Barracks, Dundee (where A Coy 7 SCOTS are located) from 225 Med Regt to 7 SCOTS, an opportunity arose to convert one of the buildings into an Urban Training Facility. The project was handed to D Coy with the SPSP, CSgt Docherty, taking the lead supported by myself.

Since its inception, the facility has been licensed as a field training area to fire MRTS. We have also added furniture, atmospheric effects such as strobes, PA systems and smoke machines. All of this combined creates a more realistic training environment for our soldiers and indeed visiting units, who can book the facility using the online booking system on 7 SCOTS homepage. The facility will always be a work in progress due to the ever-changing nature of conflict. The modular design of the facility combined with aspirations to purchase additional items should enable us to adapt to what is current and enhance the training experience of our soldiers.

Since it was officially opened, both 5 SCOTS BKA Coy and 7 SCOTS have trained in the facility using MRTS with good feedback. Various units and civilian emergency services have expressed interest in using it, so we look forward to welcoming them to Oliver Barracks to train over 2025 and into the future.



*SCOTS conducting dry drills before moving onto exercise scenarios in the Urban Facility*



*Commander visiting training in new facility*



*Capability demonstration prior to training in Oliver Barracks*



## 7 SCOTS

### GREEN FINGERS PROJECT

Elgin, Moray  
*Captain Scott Shaw (Regimental  
Operations Support Officer (ROSO))*

Green Fingers is an initiative to use spare space in 7 SCOTS Army Reserve Centres (ARCs) for enduring purposes, specifically generating a space that is environmentally friendly and involves not only the reserves but everyone who uses the ARC, this includes the tri-service cadet footprint in the local area.

The project came around from 1st UK Divisions Green Rhino projects. This saw many units across the UK take part in beach clean ups and so forth. All very good but not enduring. 7 SCOTS took it upon themselves to attract funding from the Lived Experience Innovation Fund (LEIF) to generate a safe space that would encourage individuals to take part in self-sustaining activity and also aid in mental health, by providing the opportunity to get out in the fresh air.

This approach has resulted in Elgin ARC converting spare space into an allotment. The plan was a year in the making and will be open from Summer 2025 for Reservists and Cadets in the first instance, and once up and running will open to veterans and local educational providers.

A third effect of the project is education, teaching those who have never grown their own produce to do so and hopefully pass on what they have learnt. The sea cadets have shown great interest in the project thus far.

At the time of writing, the project is nearly 80% complete with fruit trees planted, vegetable plots built and ready for planting. All that is left to do is for the plastic wrap to be put around the poly tunnel and install the automatic watering system.



*The green fingers project thus far, due for completion and ready to start growing NLT Mid Feb*



*Captain Scott Shaw in the rain construction the allotment pre-Christmas*



## HQ COMPANY

Queen's Barracks, Perth  
Major A Collister

### Officer Commanding:

Major Brian Cooper /  
Major Andrew Collister

### Company Second in Command:

Captain Mike Dunnigan

### Personnel Support Admin Officer:

Captain Stevie Rae

### Company Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class 2 Sammy Woods

### Senior Permanent Staff Instructor:

Warrant Officer Class 2 Hiagi

### Company Quartermaster Sergeant:

Colour Sergeant Jon Twine

### Company Quartermaster Sergeant (Reserve):

Colour Sergeant Kevin Bradford



*HQ Coy troops on exercise at Barry Buddon*

For many, it is easy for these articles to blur in the mind year on year but for the individuals involved the experiences, events and activities undertaken can be poignant and a significant mark in life. The source of many a future dit. The Army has been busy, 7 SCOTS have been busy. Our people have made 2024 happen and this is an ample opportunity to reflect on the excellent achievements of those individuals.

### Leavers

The first of these people is Maj (happily retired) Brian Cooper who departed HQ Company in March after 42 years of service through The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), 3 SCOTS, and latterly 7 SCOTS in his last Regular post (QM) and first Army Reserve post (OC HQ Coy). An incredible commitment from someone who has just about seen it all. We wish you and Yvonne well in retirement from the Army. If you are (un)lucky you might see him out and about in Perthshire supporting the Perth Council "Civil Contingencies" team (who also double hat as the Parking Enforcement team). You've been warned!

Other notable departures include Cpl Prowse who joined 7 SCOTS after a full career with the RIFLES, joining 7 SCOTS and departing on retirement after a fantastic contribution over the years. Sgt Philip and Sgt Doolan also depart the Army Reserve after supporting the Med detachment for significant periods and we wish them all the very best for the future.



*Promotion for Cpl Wangoo*



## 7 SCOTS

### HQ COMPANY *continued*

#### The Year in Summary

For HQ Company 2024 was a year of newly defined focus with changes to the structure, bringing a Machine Gun section to the Company alongside the more traditional HQ Company roles. We are lucky to have an enthusiastic and committed team of junior instructors who have really captured the training audience. Tuesday nights in Perth are a step change to days gone by with lots of practical, engaging and relevant training building into consolidation in training weekends and ADEs. From urban walkthroughs to hands on sessions with the GPMG, the company has taken strides forward, supported by this new tactical focus.

Much of this tactical development has been in part as a result of the commitment of a number of HQ Company soldiers who were mobilised to instruct on and support Op INTERFLEX, bring many lessons, observations and a wealth of instructional experience back to 7 SCOTS. Alongside Op INTERFLEX, a number of people have volunteered for mobilisation or deployment with the Regular Army, whether it be Op TOSCA or further afield.

Whilst taking steps forwards, we haven't lost sight of some of the more traditional HQ Coy roles. The Signals Detachment led by HQ Coy SPSI continues to provide the Battalion with its G6 capability from running various cadres for soldiers, right through to providing a Battle Group Main and Tac through the ADE, Exercise RHINO HEART. Whilst small, we are fortunate to have a technically competent and dedicated team.



*Advancing down the IBSR during the Bn LFTT Package*

One of the inevitable challenges in HQ Company is keeping those in the outposts together. It's worth highlighting the excellent work by the RMO, Maj Andrew Gilmour who has brought the med team together and achieved Role 1 Validation. This is a unique capability in the Army Reserve and one that has enabled so much

activity in recent years and the ADE was the ultimate test; the provision of RLS medical support to over 500 exercising troops is a significant challenge at the best of times, made even harder with less experienced soldiers in unfamiliar territory operating at a scale far larger than most are used to.

Building collective capability is underpinned by individuals and we are fortunate to have been able to continue growing our people; LCpl O'Mahoney-Magee successfully navigated the bogs of Brecon to pass the Section Commanders Battle Course, LCpl Stewart acclimatised to the classroom to complete Skill at Arms and many of our recruits started out on their journey passing Phase One Battle Camp and CIC Reserve. Our inflow of new soldiers is steady but the nurturing approach in HQ Company supports the conversion for which Capt Mike Dunnigan is entirely responsible. This work included getting out to a number of events across Scotland to highlight the opportunities available in the Army Reserve and directly supports our engagement efforts.



*Navex on Kinnoull Hill*

# 7 SCOTS



And then there are the Jocks who are as eager and keen as ever, grasping every opportunity whether it be the chance to get to grips with the NLAW on ADE, getting involved in Adventurous Training, mobilising in support of wider Army activity or to drive the "Jocks Bar" with a load of social activity. HQ company is thriving. The Jocks social committee has been a particular success – as a team they have organised half a dozen events through the course of the year which has created a first-class environment for the people of HQ Company.

Finally, it's worth mentioning the effort from the team who keep the train on the track. Capt Stevie Rae as the PSAO is truly in the engine room and makes sure time after time, that the Company is ready to deploy whether on individual courses or as a collective. SPSI WO2 Hiagi has led the G7 charge and had been indispensable and then there is CSgt Twine who stoically holds the G4 together... we need more paper clips.

There is a lot of opportunity in 2025 for HQ Company. Continuing the current trajectory is the ambition: recruiting and training new soldiers, progressing careers through demanding training and courses to continue building collective capability.



*Pte Smith on the ASM*



*HQ Company at Remembrance in Perth*



# 7 SCOTS

## A COMPANY

Aberdeen – Dundee – Kirkcaldy

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**Officer Commanding:**

Major David Hood /  
Major Grant Linklater

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**Company Second-in-Command:**

Captain Lucas Hawke /  
Captain Jonathan Nicol

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**Personnel Support Administration  
Officer (PSAO):**

Captain Robert Graham

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**Regimental Mentoring Sergeant:**

Sergeant Hugh Robertson

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**Dundee Platoon Commander:**

Second Lieutenant Peter Walker

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**Company Quartermaster Sergeant  
(CQMS):**

Colour Sergeant Scott McGregor

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**Company Quartermaster Sergeant  
(CQMS) (Reserve):**

Colour Sergeant Andrew Naughton

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**Senior Permanent Staff Instructor  
(SPSI):**

Colour Sergeant David McGregor

Building on the solid foundations established in 2023, A Company moved from strength to strength throughout 2024. The year saw significant development, both in terms of individual skills and collective achievements. While routine training remained a core focus, many personnel completed specialised support weapons cadres and contributed to the wider activities of the Battalion. These efforts not only refined A Company's operational capabilities but also highlighted its adaptability and commitment to excellence.

The year kicked off in February with the Battalion Skill at Arms meet, a key training event where several members of A Company distinguished themselves. Following the meet, a select group of soldiers from the Company were chosen to represent the Battalion in the 1st UK Divisional Shooting Competition. Ptes Thomson, McLean, and Watson, under the leadership of Maj Hood, participated in a range of challenging shooting events. These varied from traditional falling plate targets to more complex TLFTT scenarios, including pistol drills and Close-Quarters Battle (CQB) lanes. Their efforts were a resounding success, with the team finishing in a commendable seventh place. This result qualified them for the Army Service Rifle Championship at Bisley, a significant achievement and testament to the team's skill and determination.

The summer months brought significant changes across all three locations of the Company: in August, Major Hood handed over command to Major Linklater, who brought a wealth of experience from his previous role in the Royal Engineers. Maj Linklater's leadership was immediately felt, and his transition into command set the stage for further success. Similarly, Capt Hawke handed over to Capt Nicol as Second-in-Command, continuing the smooth leadership transition.

We wish Maj Hood well over the road in D Company in Dumbarton, and Major Hawke well at Aberdeen and Tayforth Officer Training Regiment (ATOTR). CSgt McNiven and Cpl Ross, having completed postings to ATOTR, brought back with them fresh skills and a renewed energy to the Company, enriching the team's knowledge and expertise. A Company also welcomed CSgt McGregor from 2 SCOTS as the new SPSI and 2Lt Walker joined as the Dundee/Kirkcaldy Platoon Commander after completing CCS at RMAS.

Pte Mitchell enjoyed success at Ex MUDMASTER, the RLC off-road driving competition, and LCpl Edwards qualified as a drone operator on his sUAS course, bringing a unique capability to the Company. October was primarily dedicated to tactics and operational training, with Maj Linklater setting the example by attending the Platoon Commanders Battle Course. Having served as a Royal Engineer in the regular Army, he embraced the opportunity to immerse himself fully in the course's demanding activities, appointing himself 2 Section GPMG gunner for the duration of course. In parallel Capt Adkin, who has recently transitioned into the Reserve after serving in 3 SCOTS, supported PCBC (R) as a guest instructor.



*Mud Master*



*Mud Master, downhill Dvr*

The Company's focus on soldiering excellence was demonstrated in the Battalion's participation in the Cambrian Patrol. A Company formed the bulk of the Battalion's team, with Ptes Mitchell, Maclean, and Murray taking on the physically demanding Welsh mountains alongside Capt Adkin. This rigorous event tested their physical endurance, tactical skills, and leadership under extreme conditions. Simultaneously, Pte Watson was selected to attend the Army Reserve PJNCO course at Otterburn. This two week-long course provided intensive classroom-based lessons and a challenging exercise phase that tested both leadership and technical skills.

In November, A Company participated in nationwide commemorations to honour the Fallen. Personnel from Aberdeen and Kirkcaldy joined their respective town parades, while the Dundee platoon returned to the Black Watch Memorial at Powrie Brae for the first time in several years. A poignant moment came when Pte Thomson, the most junior member of the Company, was selected to lay the wreath on behalf

of A Company. Beyond Remembrance events, November was a month rich in professional development. CSgt McGregor, drawing on his extensive background as a Royal Marine Commando, was called upon to instruct NATO's enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) units in Cold Weather and Arctic warfare. Meanwhile CSgt McNiven, along with Pte Watson, travelled to Dartmoor for a mortar cadre.

The five-day training focused on the 81mm mortar system, culminating in a live-fire exercise. This opportunity came at a crucial time as A Company had recently re-emphasised its focus on support weapons, and the experience provided key individuals with essential skills to enhance operational readiness. LCpl Edwards also completed the Skill at Arms Instructor Course, a significant qualification that would allow him to pass on his expertise, especially in the southern locations of the Company. This new capability has further strengthened the Company and ensures that personnel across the region could receive high-quality weapons training.



*Mortar night fire*

As the year drew to a close, A Company gathered for a final training weekend in December. A perfect opportunity to reflect on the achievements and lessons learned throughout the year. One of the highlights of the weekend was a visit to the Gordon Highlanders Museum. The historical significance of the museum, particularly the replica First World War trench system, sparked interest and inspired many of the Jocks who were keen to explore and engage with the past. The hands-on opportunity to interact with historic weapons added a unique educational aspect to the visit. Ptes McChesney and Middleton wrapped up the weekend by organising an engaging pub quiz, ensuring that even during downtime, camaraderie and esprit de corps remained strong. The quiz was a fun and light-hearted end to a year of hard work, and Ptes McChesney and Middleton ensured solid SJARs by letting the OC win.



*Mortar night fire again*



# 7 SCOTS

## C COMPANY

### **Officer Commanding:**

Major Dougie McCutcheon

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### **Company Second in Command:**

Captain Luke Bloodworth

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### **Personnel Support**

#### **Administrative Officer:**

Captain Pete Marshall

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### **Company Sergeant Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 Nick Dearden

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### **Permanent Staff Instructor**

#### **(Inverness):**

Sergeant Kris Hart

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### **Permanent Staff Instructor (Elgin):**

Sergeant Donnie Campbell

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The year got off to a flying start with one of the Company recruits being awarded the Best Recruit prize during the second part of his Phase 1 training – Battle Camp. Pte Ben Anderson-Millington from Aviemore attended Battle Camp at the Army Training Unit, Grantham. After an outstanding performance during training Pte Anderson-Millington was assessed on attitude, teamwork, fieldcraft and shooting he was rewarded with the prize for Best Recruit.

Back north the Company hosted a shooting weekend at Fort George Ranges. A chilly but enjoyable weekend with the troops focussing on their rifle and pistol marksmanship.

February saw the Company take part in the Battalion ran Battlefield Simulation Training – Interim Combined Arms Virtual Simulation (Deployable). The aim of the weekend was to rehearse platoon and company-level actions in a conventional warfighting environment.

Moving into March the company focus continued the preparation for ADE. Section Attacks, Annual Combat Marksmanship Test and Battlefield Casualty Drills Training kept the company busy.

In April the company lost one of its longest serving and most popular soldiers. Sgt Donnie Campbell sadly passed away after a long battle with cancer. Donnie had served in the Queens Own Highlanders before joining the Territorial Army which subsequently became the Army Reserve. Rising to the rank of WO2, Donnie had a long and distinguished career finishing as the Recruit, Mentoring Support Officer for the company. He was a trusted and loyal member of the company who will be greatly missed.

### **Donnie Campbell 13/02/1967 to 19/04/2024 GBNF CFGB**

May saw continued preparation for ADE, the Coy deployed down to Barry Buddon to conduct the following training, Section Attacks, Conduct Counter-Explosive Ordnance (CEO) Drills, Conduct Section Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC), Conduct Captured Persons (CPERS) handling and Implement Combat Identification (ID).

Ex RHINO HEART the 19X Super ADE was the biggest deployment of Reservists in almost quarter of a century. Personnel from C Company deployed from their home Reserve Centres to join the rest of the Battalion in Perth before travelling by road to Germany.

The Black Isle Show Charity Tractor Push is an annual event which takes place the evening before the main Black Isle Show. This is made up of teams of five, one driver and four pushers. C Company 7 SCOTS were invited by the event organisers to enter a team.

In a very competitive final they finished third, the driver did slow them down slightly after putting their foot on the brake. A great result from a team of reservists made up of an outdoor survival instructor, plumbing tutor, wind farm engineer, biomass plant manager and the C Company 7 SCOTS Recruiting Sergeant.

Earning a third place the team won a prize to be donated to a charity of their choosing, the team has chosen to donate this to the SCOTS Trust.

Throughout the summer the company planned the hosting and delivery of the Highlanders Reunion. Along with 4 SCOTS, 7 SCOTS hosted The Highlanders Reunion at The Highlanders Memorial and Elgin Army Reserve Centre. The Reunion was the culmination of 4 SCOTS Tour of the North celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the formation of The Highlanders. Padre Alcock let an excellent service paying respect to those who had fallen while serving with The Highlanders and all those past and present who had served with the Battalion, 4 SCOTS and the respective Territorial and Reserve Battalions. Commanding Officers from 4 SCOTS and 7 SCOTS laid wreaths with the 4 SCOTS RSM reading out the list of the fallen.

The Reunion then moved to the Elgin Army Reserve Centre where lunch was provided by 4 SCOTS Chefs, with may beers being enjoyed by those in attendance. 4 SCOTS Pipes and Drums treated the assembled guests to a fantastic Beating Retreat. A fantastic day was had by all who attended, from Generals to Jocks it was a great occasion with many stories being told and old friendships rekindled. Special thanks must go to RHQ SCOTS and The Highlanders Trust for their donations in support of the Reunion.



As autumn rushed in members of the Company deployed across Europe and the UK on various exercise and courses.

Capt Luke Bloodworth the Company Second in Command deployed to Croatia with 8 RIFLES on Exercise SAVA STAR. Capt Bloodworth was thrown in at the deep end, asked at the airport if he would take over as the Officer Commanding for the exercising company, it was a challenge he relished. He earned high praise from CO 8 RIFLES who said of Capt Bloodworth *"He drew on the experience around him whilst maintaining control and was not afraid to bring others in on planning when he felt his tactical experience was being put to the test. He worked hard for his Company and took extra time to nurture some junior Pl Comds and support our Croatian Armed Forces (CAF) partners. His orders were well developed, he spent wise time on rehearsals and overall, he delivered well. He was thrown in at the deep end owing to a last minute G1 on our allocated OC. He did admirably - I'd love to have a Captain like him on our team."*

The company also had Pte Jamie Hall deploy to Spain with 6 RIFLES Exercise IBERIAN STAR in role as CMT 1. Pte Hall earned great praise from 6 RIFLES with the following comments being passed on.

Pte Hall who was awarded the CO's coin for an exemplary performance whilst attached to 6 RIFLES on Exercise Iberian Star.

From RMO 6 RIFLES  
*"Pte Hall saw nearly two dozen injured or ill patients including several brass burns; an admission with a severe pneumonia; a mild hypothermia; a diarrhoea; and a host of MSK injuries. On each occasion, his history taking, examination and documentation would have rivalled that of a medical student/junior doctor, he*

*read around these topics in his downtime. Without prompting, I found him repeating observations on two patients overnight.*

*When not undertaking clinical duties, Pte Hall volunteered for radio sentry and staggng on vehicles overnight. He also insisted on joining the platoons to clean their weapons at every opportunity.*

*It would not be an exaggeration to describe Pte Hall as possibly the most popular SP on the exercise."*

Two members of the company travelled to the Infantry Battle School in Brecon to take part on their respective Battle Courses. 2 Lt Will Hall attended the Platoon Commanders Battle Course and LCpl Mike Lowe attended the section Commanders Battle Course. Both did exceptionally well, a special mention must go to LCpl Lowe who at 48 years old has shown you are never too old to give Brecon a bash.

October saw the CQMS, CSgt Andy Braid celebrated his marriage to Kirsten. The couple were married in the Fort George Chapel in front of family and friends. A fantastic day was had, the Company would like to congratulate Andy and Kirsten on their marriage and wish them the very best for their future lives together.

In November the Company focused on Remembrance activities. The Company had people parading the length and breadth of the country. From Caithness to Exeter personnel paraded at their local Remembrance event with larger contingents attending Inverness and Stornoway.

The final training weekend of the year the company deployed to Kinloss Barracks on Ex WINTER STRIKE. This was an excellent weekend with the troops getting an introduction to

simunition allowing them to complete urban drills inside building within Kinloss Barracks. They also managed further simulation training shooting on the DCCT before moving to a survival skills lesson with 2Lt Will Hall. 2Lt Hall is an outdoor survival instructor gave a short lesson on fire making which the troops thoroughly enjoyed.

2024 has been a year where the company has welcomed many new people, amongst these are the new Company Commander, Maj Dougie McCutcheon ex regular SCOTS officer, new 2IC, Capt Luke Bloodworth ex regular RLC officer. Sgt Hope Brownless the new ReMSO, ex regular RAMC Med Sgt. New recruits, Pte Murray, Pte Ullman-Campbell, Pte Walford, Pte Pearson all very welcome additions to the company.

We also said farewell to Maj Malcolm Dalzel-Job who mobilised on an overseas post. Capt Hector Cowie on transfer.

The following received promotions, CSgt Nick Dearden to WO2 now C Company CSM, Sgts Peter Ball and Craig Marsden promoted to CSgt. Cpl Dave Hall to Sgt and LCpl Stevie Palmer promoted to Full Cpl. Congratulations to them all.



# 7 SCOTS

## D COMPANY

**Officer Commanding:**

Major D Hood

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**Company Second in Command:**

Captain A Cross

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**Permanent Staff Administrative Officer:**

Captain MSP Robb

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**Platoon Commander:**

Second Lieutenant H Lapslie

---

**Company Sergeant-Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 Kelly

---

**Company Quartermaster Sergeant FTRS:**

Colour Sergeant McDowell

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**Company Quartermaster Sergeant (Reserve):**

Colour Sergeant Cameron

---

**Platoon SNCO (Stirling):**

Colour Sergeant Blair

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**Platoon SNCO (Dumbarton):**

Sergeant Brown

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**Regimental Mentoring Support Officer:**

Sergeant Simpson

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**Permanent Staff Instructor (Stirling):**

Sergeant Tulley

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**Permanent Staff Instructor (Dumbarton):**

Colour Sergeant Docherty /  
Colour Sergeant Sloan

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**Administrative Officer:**

Miss A Hall

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I am typing these journal notes on deadline day for submission, not to put myself under pressure or frustrate the editor but to do justice to Exercise URBAN ARGYLL which concluded at the new URBAN training range at Oliver Barracks, Dundee less than 24 hours ago. Utilising a vacant storage unit following the departure of 225 Medical Regiment, members of D Coy, headed by CSgt Docherty, Sgt Tulley, and Cpl Gordon set about planning and co-ordinating the transformation of the building into an all-purpose training facility which also allows for indoor live firing with Marker Round Training System (MRTS) to add realism to training serials. The use of MRTS highlighted the importance of controlled aggression, coupled with accurate fire to engage the enemy at close quarters. Sgt Brown and Cpl Gordon, ably supported by CSgt Sloan and Sgt Tulley, laid on an excellent package of day serials which then moved into a no light scenario and the use of night sights and observation devices. Another level of complexity was added with the use of a smoke

generator to fully test the troops observational and command and control skills.

7 SCOTS Annual Deployment Exercise (ADE) saw D Coy personnel deploy to Germany on Ex RHINO HEART, the largest Army Reserve deployment in over 40 years as part of a formed 19 Light Brigade. This provided an excellent opportunity for the troops to experience operating and working with NATO partners from Germany and USA. The pace of the exercise was demanding from the start, and the troops were fully tested through a series of insertion marches and long hours on task. As always, the "GALLUS JOCK" shone through and once the troops got used to the rigours and demands they showed their mettle and more than held their own amongst other units in the Brigade. The opportunity to deploy overseas can only be a retention positive factor and an essential component for gaining experience for every rank within the Coy.



*Dry run through entry drills*



# 7 SCOTS



*Ex Rhino Heart*

Sergeant Simpson continues to mentor, encourage, and guide the next generation of recruits through the elongated, and at times frustrating, recruit training pathway. Travelling hundreds of miles, and working long hours, he ensures the life and future of the Coy is secure through his sterling efforts. His unwavering dedication was highlighted by his support to the Stirling Highland Games which enabled a gold award from the Defence Engagement Recognition Scheme for Stirling Council.

As always, it is fitting to recognise individual achievements within the Coy and congratulations are in order for CSgt Blair and LCpl Reid on their recent promotions, and Sgt Brown on his well-deserved award of 19 Brigade Commanders Commendation for Meritorious Service.

At the other end of the spectrum, as these notes go to print, the Company will bid farewell to Captain Cross who moves to Bn HQ to continue his Staff Officer progression, and CSgt Docherty who completes his 24-year Regular Career and begins his civilian adventure. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Operationally, Cpl McFarlane deployed with 4 PARA to Cyprus as part of the United Nations force on Op TOSCA and received a glowing report for his performance. Pte McDougall has deployed on Op INTERFLEX as part of a training mission, which will undoubtedly prove to be a beneficial and enjoyable experience for his career development.



*Attestation*



*LCpl Reid promotion and medal presentation*



*D Company, Image5 Capt Cross presentation*



## 7 SCOTS

### THE HIGHLAND BAND

**Bandmaster:**

Warrant Officer Class 1 R K Brill

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**Band Sergeant Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 G Blamey

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**Band Permanent Staff Instructor:**

Colour Sergeant A Pratt

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'Perhaps the greatest strength of music, is its capacity to communicate beyond the spoken or written word; it can cross barriers of language, culture and age.'<sup>1</sup> Throughout its long history, The British Army has utilised music as a unique soft power. 2024 had many highlights for the Highland Band, where music once more was a binding force facilitating a sense of community, national pride and belonging across diverse cultures. From the cradle to the grave, music reflects how we feel: in war, work, ceremonies, religion, and commemoration – music is an intrinsic part of the foundation of our being.

After returning from a deserved festive break the focus for the early part of 2024 was ensuring that the band was fully prepared for the many varied tasks undertaken during the year ahead. In 2024 The Royal Corps of Army Music celebrated its 30th Anniversary. By way of celebration, a series of concerts were performed across the UK. Members of the band were fortunate to support The Royal Regiment of Scotland Band in a concert held at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh. The concert was a terrific opportunity to perform repertoire which would normally be inaccessible. Of note was Edward Elgar's masterpiece, Variations on an Enigma.

In April, the Highland Band along with Lowland Band undertook a 4-day concentrated training exercise at HMS Caledonia, rehearsing and refining mission specific training. The exercise culminated with the combined bands delivering musical support to the Scottish Rugby Union for the Women's Six Nations game between Scotland and England. Sadly, the day will be remembered for the torrential downpour during the playing of the respective anthems and not the result, a 46-0 resounding win for England!!

Throughout 2024 the band supported many events dedicated to commemoration and celebration. Poppy Scotland and Legion Scotland have been at the forefront of ensuring that our veterans are not forgotten, raising funds to provide life changing support to our Armed Forces community. In June, the band along with the Royal Marines Band Scotland, The Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, and The Lowland Band were privileged to take part in a spectacular concert at the iconic Usher Hall in Edinburgh to remember and celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the D Day offensive.



*VE Day Concert Usher Hall, Edinburgh*

Since the First World War, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission have honoured and cared for the men and women of the Commonwealth Forces who died in both world wars, commemorating them in a manner befitting their sacrifice by providing a final resting place of those originally listed as missing. The Bandmaster was honoured to travel to Italy in conjunction with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Joint Casualty & Compassionate Centre to perform the Last Post at several Rededication Services, including that of Private George Alister Walker Ewan of the Argyll & Southern Highlanders. Pte Ewing was wounded in action late in June 1944 was presumed to have died of his wounds in the days after. Having been buried in a civilian cemetery he was moved as an unknown British soldier to Bolsena with nothing more than his Argyll & Southern Highlanders cap badge to go on. Following extensive research, it was possible to finally identify and rededicate the last resting place of Pte Ewing in the presence of family members; a profoundly moving experience.

For the first time for several years the Annual Deployment Exercise took place overseas. Along with the Lowland Band, and several bands from across Europe, the band travelled to Holland to provide musical support to the Nijmegen Marches. The event is the world's largest walking event with over 45,000 participants with more than seventy different nationalities walking between 30 and 50 kilometres a day for 4 days. Throughout the event the band were kept extremely busy providing music as the teams set off, which meant an early start, playing enroute entertaining the participants and vast crowds offering their support, or playing the teams back into camp at the end of their arduous

<sup>1</sup>Robin Newton, Menuhin's Dream, Music Teacher, Sep 2003, pp 46-47

## 7 SCOTS



*The band's new mascot*

day of walking. The final day of the event culminated with a 4km march through the streets of Nijmegen. The band also found time to visit a local retirement home to provide some welcome respite and entertainment for its residents and staff.

After a short summer break the band were back preparing for an Army Music Technical Compliance audit/inspection. This involved a visit from the inspector from Headquarters the Royal Corps of Army Music who are responsible for technical assurance within Army Music, which spans Regular Army Bands, Army Reserve Bands, and other Regimental Groups. The purpose of the audit is to assess all technical functions to ensure that the band are fit for role. The band worked incredibly hard to guarantee that they were fully prepared for all elements, both musical and non-musical, of the audit. The band received an excellent audit and were congratulated on their approach to the inspection. The band performed to a high standard and were commended for their standard of musicianship.

They were praised for the positive approach taken in the choice of music repertoire, showing what can be achieved with a small high-quality ensemble of skilled players.

The band's busy schedule continued, delivering bespoke ensembles for unit events, affiliated service charities and the celebration of the Diwali Festival of Lights. However, the focus was that of Remembrance Sunday. As the nation fell silent, the band, combined with the Lowland Band and the Royal Air Force Central Scotland Pipes & Drums, provided musical support to the National Day of Remembrance in Edinburgh as members of the armed forces who gave their lives across conflicts were remembered and honoured.

As the year came to a close, the band provided musical support to the Royal British Legion, in their hugely popular nine lessons and carol service at the Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh. A terrific way to end the year.

And Finally:

Away from the band's routine business, the band's principal trumpet player Cpl Stuart Pollock enjoyed a successful season as a member of the 6 SCOTS Army Reserve Football, culminating with him being part of the team that won the Army Reserve Cup. Sgt Lesley Bell successfully completed her Sergeant Army Leadership Development Programme Military Education. Musician Rachel Curry and Musician Amy Wood achieved highly commendable distinction passes in their Career Employment Qualification Level 2.



*Cpl Pollock with the Army Reserve Football winners trophy*

Music continues to be a valuable and flexible asset to the broader effectiveness of defence. The Highland Band very much looks forward to further using its collective specialist skills as a source of soft power to achieve the best possible effect as a component of influence.



## 7 SCOTS

### QUARTERMASTER LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT

**QM:**  
Major Malky Morrison

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**VM:**  
Colin Bruce

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**RQMS:**  
Warrant Officer Class Two (RQMS)  
Steven Lawrence  
Warrant Officer Class Two (RQMS R)  
Colin Smith

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**QM Clerk:**  
Lindsey Sutton

---

**ES MTWO:**  
Warrant Officer Class Two  
Rab Gilmour

---

**MT:**  
Lance Corporal Michael McRobbie

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**Armourer:**  
Staff Sergeant Alex McKenzie

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**CIS RSWO:**  
Warrant Officer Class Two Hiagi

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The past year has been increasingly busy for the logistical support branch of 7 SCOTS. Like all other Battalions, 7 SCOTS conduct the same level of assurance activity that takes a massive amount of time and effort, especially as reserve units have fewer workforce to facilitate. The team have done exceptionally well in this area, along with driving the initiative to gain the 1XX Gold Award for energy efficiency and carbon neutrality.

The team consists of civil servants, FTRS, reserve and regular SP within the department. There has not been any change over the last year, which is unusual, although we are currently recruiting for another VM which has been a tough fight for funding, so fingers crossed our team grows this year, ever so slightly.

The main event of the year was the Annual Training Deployment (ADE) that saw the Bn deploy to Sennelager Germany, which was a reserve led Brigade exercise. The logistic team assumed the task of driving from Perth all the way to Sennelager, using 'Green Fleet', no mean feat! With only a few vehicle casualties on the way, the team proved that with detailed planning, road moves through Europe is very much achievable, although some FFR drivers may disagree – especially our RSWO WO2 Hiagi (Hags).

The RQMS R, WO2 Colin Smith (Smudge), played a pivotal role assisting the 'Freedom of the Western Isles' parade to be so successful. His local knowledge, planning and foresight ensured 2 SCOTS were able to conduct the parade in excellent order, a real win for SCOTS.

As the QM, I would thoroughly like to thank the 7 SCOTS logistic team for their support during this busy period as we now plan another ADE to Europe, and prepare to deliver the JNCO Cadre for the brigade...



## UNIT AID POST (UAP)

**Regimental Medical Officer:**  
Major AA Gilmour RAMS

**Medical Sergeant:**  
Sergeant H Brownless RAMS /  
Sergeant N Foxcroft RAMS

In keeping with previous years, 2024 was another very busy twelve months for the Unit Aid Post, seeing us support activity at Coy, Battalion and, for the first time, Brigade level. We continue to be healthily staffed, benefiting from an encouraging number of recruits looking to join the Bn as medics, alongside interest from both Regular and Reserve CMTs seeking to transfer across. We are also steadily building up our stores of medical equipment allowing us to be as self-reliant as possible at this extremely busy time for the Armed Forces. This year saw two promotions for the UAP's members as reward for their hard work and dedication: Sgt Foxcroft has picked up his third stripe and with it the role of Bn Med Sgt, and LCpl Hall has taken his first step onto the NCO ladder.

The main activity for the UAP this year was training for and deploying on Ex RHINO HEART to Sennelager, the inaugural 19 (Light) Brigade Annual Deployment Exercise in June. Although to outsiders an ARes Annual Camp may seem like a simple 16 day training period, in reality getting a Reserve UAP to level of currency and competence where it can provide RLS medical cover to over 600 multinational exercising troops was the culmination of six months training and preparation, starting immediately after our return from Ex SAVA STAR 23. We are one of the few deployable ARes UAPs who have not been reliant on the higher AMS to get to this stage, benefiting instead from hard work, clinical placements with our sister SCOTS Battalions, and

assistance from the Med Branches at both 19X and 1(UK) Div.



*UAP on ADE, Ex Rhino Heart, Germany*

Whilst all UAP members have performed exceptionally this year, juggling their clinical and military training with family life and civilian careers, special mention must go to LCpl Hall. Since joining the ARes 3 years ago, he has passed both the Reserve CMT class 3 and 2 courses and successfully attended and passed the Regular CMT 1 course in April. In addition to this he supported the 4 SCOTS UAP on Op INTERFLEX, was the only autonomous CMT1 on Ex RHINO HEART, and stepped up at the last minute to support 6 RIFLES



*Staff from UAP enjoying some down time*

ADE with medical cover. This clearly demonstrates the utility the ARes brings to the Army's medical capability when we invest in our soldiers.

2025 looks as if it will bring a new set of challenges to the UAP: training and mentoring a new cohort of Reserve CMTs to the stage where they can contribute to RLS patient care; supporting our Bn ADE in September by providing RLS Primary care, Pre-Hospital Emergency Care and Team Medic Courses; and creating a state of the art Clinical Trainer and Medical Store in Inverness ARC. We remain reactive to what the future will bring for 7 SCOTS, and as with last year we are immensely thankful for the support of the Battalion, 19 Brigade and the wider SCOTS family for supporting our efforts to drive ARes medical care forward.



*Bde Comd commendation and promotion for UAP member*



## 7 SCOTS

### REGIMENTAL RECRUIT MENTORING TEAM (RRMT)

#### Regimental Operations

##### Support Officer:

Captain Scott Shaw

##### Officer Commanding:

Captain Mike Dunnigan (Perth)

#### Regimental Engagement + Monitoring Support Officer A Company:

Sergeant Shug Robertson

#### Regimental Engagement + Monitoring Support Officer C Company:

Sergeant Hope Brownless

#### Regimental Engagement + Monitoring Support Officer D Company:

Sergeant Gary Simpson

Not many people out with the Reserves understands that as a reserve Battalion we recruit and load phase one and phase two training internally. To achieve this 7 SCOTS, have a dedicated team who recruit and mentor candidates looking to join The Royal Regiment of Scotland as a reservist.

Each Company has a dedicated Regimental Mentoring SNCO (ReMSO). Their main task is to look after our candidates as they look to load into the complexity of joining the reserve and then mentor them through the training pipeline.

In order to achieve this they also conduct recruiting activity to attract and engage, thus being persistently present in their area of responsibility. Over and above this, they also conduct key enabling activity to ensure their sub-units can operate.

The team involve themselves in many events, from arranging open nights, attending key events in the local areas, attending rugby fixtures, gala days and energy festivals.

They are trained recruiters within the reserve area of operations and are a font of knowledge for the sub-unit chain of command and wider community.

This is busy space, with a fair bit of weekend work as can be seen below with the D Company team attending West Fest in Dundee.



West Fest

All this work without any play can make for a hard-working environment, so after a hard planning session we took the opportunity for a bit of down time. This turn of the handle saw us take up racing against each other at the Inverness indoor carting centre. Sgt Shug Robertson thinks he won but in real terms the winners were all who had the chance to take part.



Teamwork

# SCOTS

## The Royal Regiment of Scotland



## A digital place where the SCOTS family connect...

The SCOTS App is a digital platform that showcases the Regiment and connects the SCOTS community. Enabling all SCOTS to have a digital gateway to connect, engage, support and be supported by a safe and trusted community.

Thinking about joining, currently serving, or left some time ago, the SCOTS App has been designed with you in mind.

**Give it a try. Download today.**





## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### CHALLENGE ACTIVITY – 4 SCOTS

*Major Burnett*

People are our point of difference. Improving overall mental robustness and physical resilience has been at the core of the 4 SCOTS Highlander Optimisation initiative. Ultimately, it is about operational effectiveness and building fighting power, testing our soldiers' ability to deal with adversity and strengthening that capacity to endure and win. It has also been about investment; offering opportunity and promoting the military in civilian environments. Challenge activity has been at the heart of this Highlander Optimisation.

The reach was significant, with over 90 different soldiers from across the Battalion participating in 9 separate civilian and military events between March and December. The competitiveness through individual performance, and depth through team results were equally impressive and a testament to the Highlander mindset.

Individual placings from several hundred competitors at the Commando Speed March (4th), Highland King Ultra (3rd and 4th), Glen Lyon Ultra (1st and 2nd), Grand Tour of Skiddaw Ultra (3rd), Para's 10 (4th) and John Muir Ultra (3rd) were noteworthy. With the team performances at the Commando Speed March (8th from 25), Highland Kings (1st from 6) and Para's 10 (1st from 30 Chip timing) speaking volumes.

#### Commando Speed March – Mar 24

It all started with the Company Sergeant Major. A great weekend around Fort William with our top five runners being scoring members (8th from 25 teams) over the hilly 7-mile route with 16.5kg, and top non 3CdoX and 16X team. From the 250 competitors:

- Maj Burnett 4th (48 min) – A Coy
- Hldr Headley 30th (52 min) – A Coy
- Lt Shankland 60th (54 min) – A Coy
- LCpl King 90th (57 min) – A Coy
- Lt Ritchie 112th (58 min) – D Coy
- Lt Price 161st (62 min) – A Coy
- LCpl Rankin 165th (63min) – D Coy
- LCpl Anderson 187th (65 min) – A Coy
- Hldr James 188th (66 min) – D Coy
- WO2 Grant 201st (67 min) – A Coy

Several members made the most of being north. Post race they squeezed in 21km and 900m of ascent around Loch Leven (Glas Bheinn). Great weather rounded of a great weekend.



*CSM team*



*CSM Anderson and James*



*CSM Glas Bheinn run*



*Glas Bheinn hill run views*



## Highland Kings (HK) Ultra – Apr 24

Next up, HK Ultra. 8 soldiers, together with teams from 2 and 3 SCOTS, battled relentless rain and wind through Glencoe over the 50km and 2300m of ascent and decent – including the Munro Beinn Fhionnlaidh. As well as finishing top team, comfortably beating the Royal Marines, 3 SCOTS and 2 SCOTS, Sgt Ashmore (A Coy) finished 2nd overall, one minute ahead of Maj Burnett (4th):

- 2nd – Sgt Ashmore – 5:58 (A Coy)
- 4th – Maj Burnett – 5:59 (A Coy)
- 6th – Lt Shankland – 6:27 (A Coy)
- 7th – WO2 Dunnachie – 7:01 (HQ Coy)
- 8th – Lt Ritchie – 7:11 (D Coy)
- 19th – LCpl Whyte – 8:02 (D Coy)
- 26th – LCpl Rankin – 8:50 (slight detour 38 miles) (D Coy)
- 31st – LCpl Gynne – 9:30 (D Coy)



*Sgt Ashmore and Maj Burnett*



*Highland Kings 4 SCOTS team*



## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### CHALLENGE ACTIVITY – 4 SCOTS *continued*

#### Glen Lyon Ultra – Jun 24

Following the HK Ultra win, 4 SCOTS pursuit of challenge activity continued post leave and Freedom Parades. Seeking to again push the boundaries of our soldiers' mental robustness and physical resilience, a 4 SCOTS team competed in the Glen Lyon Ultra. A civilian run, 50km best effort across rolling terrain and with over 1000m of ascent in Perthshire – made even more difficult by the sweltering temperatures. Again, the quality, determination and will to win shone through, with Cpl Nic Oyuga winning the event (4:23) closely followed by Sgt Ashmore in 2nd place (4:30) and WO2 Dean Dunnachie's 6th place (4:50). Had it not been for several injuries in the lead up to and during the event, the Bn were in high anticipation of sweeping up all the top 5 places – made even more impressive given the 90 civilian competitors. Lt Shanklands 19th place (5:45) and Lt Ritchies 27th place (6:02) were strong placings, despite the several other non-finishes.

#### Uist Speed March – Jun 24

Challenge activity became positively infectious through the summer, with platoons and companies co-ordinating their own events. Under Lieutenant Price, 8 members of 2 platoon planned and completed the 52 miles and 890m of ascent across Uist with 10Kg in 23hr 19 min – another demonstration of our soldiers' capacity to endure. For all this was also their first trip to the Outer Hebrides.



2PI Uist Speed March



2PI Uist Speed March Calling for a lift



## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### West Highland Way 25km Challenge – Jul 24

Alpha Coy then took full advantage of being in the Highlands during their Human Optimisation Immersive Week at Kinlochleven Lodge. On the final day the company held a 25km best effort race along the West Highland Way, the idea being to stress test the mental resilience work conducted through the week. Everyone completed the race, even more impressive given the 300m incline over the 2km that was designed to break morale.



4 SCOTS runners

### Grand tour of Skiddaw Ultra – Aug 24

Next, the Grand Tour of Skiddaw Ultra! Four soldiers decided to up the stakes over a 46-mile mountain marathon in the Lake District course. WO2 Dunnachie established himself as a force to be reckoned with over the longer distances, finishing 3rd from over 100 competitors. Likewise, Lt Shankland, LCpl King and Hldr Shaw made a good account of themselves. The event was also used as a conduit to raise money for The Royal Regiment of Scotland Trust and help support soldiers, veterans and their families. Thanks to the efforts of Lt Oli Shankland the team raised £345.



Winning team (Ashmore, Shankland, Burnett, Headly)

### Para's 10 – Sep 24

It was now about showing what 4 SCOTS could do in a military setting over a renowned arduous course – the challenge to beat the elusive time of sub 1hr 50min required to pass the PARA standard. Eight soldiers (two teams of four) participated against 600 other competitors. Over the 10-mile route with 16.5kg and 400m of ascent the team took in sights such as 'Nod', 'Pussy Hill' and several water features. Harnessing the 'first to the fight' mentality 4 SCOTS won, beating 2 RGR on 'chip' timing by 2 Secs:

- 4th – Maj Burnett 1:22:49
- 7th – Sgt Ashmore 1:24:34
- 8th – Lt Shankland 1:24:44
- 18th – Hldr Headly 1:33:13
- 20th – Cpl Morgan 1:35:11
- 68th – Hldr Reedman 1:48:24
- 71st – WO2 Grant 1:48:34
- 213th- Hldr James 2:13:47

### Original Mountain Marathon (OMM) – Oct 24

The OMM was another opportunity to harness military skills. A team orienteering competition (pairs), unsupported and over 48 hours – testing soldiers navigation, mountain craft, administration, endurance and mental robustness in an extreme racing environment. Three 4 SCOTS teams took part in a cold and rainy Glen Artney. Capt Rory Hand and Jack Fullerton finished 15th, with Lt Oli Shankland and Sgt Rory Ashmore 46th from 151 teams on the Long Course. More impressive was Hldrs Murray and Reedman's 120th from 200 on the Medium Course. Seriously impressive – no signs of discomfort, solid mettle and a very good account of themselves. Noteworthy for two Hldrs given how brutal the OMM can be, frequently catching out experienced Offrs and SNCOs with navigation, fitness, sustainment and administration.

### John Muir Way Nocturnal Ultra – Nov 24

As if running an ultra wasn't challenging enough, WO2 Dean Dunnachie led 8 soldiers on a 6 hour ultra in the dark, during winter, and around the same 5km route. Strong performances saw WO2 Dunnachie finish 3rd, with Hldr Murray 6th and LCpl King 18th from 158 competitors.



## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### 2 SCOTS SPORT

*Major Craig Wilkinson*

The operational tempo of the Battalion in 2024 has been unrelenting. Yet, the 2 SCOTS Sports leads have done an incredible job in relentlessly pursuing opportunity and capitalising on any rare snippet of white space.

The Battalion's Festival of Fitness featured two afternoons of sport each week during the month of September. Every soldier in 2 SCOTS signed up, many trying a new sport for the first time. Aided by some uncharacteristically sunny September afternoons, the body and soul of participants were cleansed and the Battalion's sports teams meaningfully revived. September also saw witness to the Walter Barrie and William Savage memorial football matches. The memorial matches offered important periods for reflection but also served to boost team cohesion: the Barrie and Savage Cups fostering healthy competition between officers and sergeants, and Jocks and JNCOs respectively.

An inter-company sports competition was held at Glencorse in December during the final week before Christmas leave. The companies battled it out across six sports, with A and ISR Coys neck-and-neck with one sport left to declare. Some suspect referring on the Rugby pitch led ISR Coy to clinch overall victory, much to the dismay of the A Company Swans.

The 2 SCOTS Golf Team demonstrated their skill at *The King's Trophy*, a four-person Texas scramble competition held at Ballater Golf Club in Sep 24. Represented by WO2 Whitehead, CSgt Bhim Gurung, Sgt Murdoch, and Cpl Min Gurung, the team performed admirably, finishing in second place. A commendable achievement that highlights some purposeful training activity must have been taking on those long Wednesday afternoons spent on the fairways.



*WO2 Whitehead, CSgt Bhim Gurung, Sgt Murdoch, and Cpl Min Gurung secure second place in the *The King's Trophy* at Ballater Golf Club*

The Battalion Fly Fishing Team capitalised on the Festival of Fitness to attract new members, introducing the sport to soldiers with no prior experience. Guided by seasoned anglers Cpl Williams and Cpl McCallion, an average of 12 personnel participated in bi-weekly trips to local fisheries. Favourable weather and productive waters ensured that most participants landed a catch on each outing. With renewed enthusiasm, fresh talent, and when the Arctic temperatures of the Pentland Hills retreat in the Spring, the team is poised to compete in the 2025 Army Championships.



*Practical instruction on the reservoir*

In cycling, Cpl Kerr represented 2 SCOTS with distinction in the Army Road Race Series (May-Aug) and the UCI Grand Fondo Race in Cyprus, where he also completed a pre-race training camp. His selection for the infantry team and subsequent posting to Cyprus as a PTI reflects his dedication to the sport. Additionally members of 2 SCOTS, including the Operations Officer and the RSM, participated in civilian events such as the Tour o' the Borders and the Aberfeldy Middle Distance Triathlon, further showcasing the Team's versatility and longevity.



*Cpl Kerr represents 2 SCOTS in the UCI Grand Fondo Race*



## REGIMENTAL SPORT

The 23/24 British Army Warrior Fitness (BAWF) season saw outstanding performances from 2 SCOTS. Performing well in the Scottish regional events, the male team earned a place in the Team Series Final at ATR Winchester. The newly formed female team delivered an impressive debut finalist appearance delivering a performance marked by resilience and sporting prowess. Individual excellence shone through in Cpl Couper, who secured second place in the Masters category, setting high expectations for future competitions. Throughout the season, all participants exhibited remarkable discipline, balancing the intense demands of the sport with the busy and unpredictable schedules of life within the Battalion.



*Podium position for the female BAWF team*

After an 18-month hiatus (due to operational commitments), the 2 SCOTS football team returned to the pitch under the leadership of WO2 Andrews, quickly regaining their competitive edge. They reached both the Infantry Cup Final and the Scottish Cup Final in the 23/24 season, narrowly missing out on titles to formidable opponents. Losing in extra-time to 1 MERCIAN in the Infantry Cup Final was a particularly tough conclusion to the season. However, with three consecutive cup final appearances, the team is looking promising and a strong showing in the Army Challenge Cup 2025 (currently in the third round) is anticipated – watch this space!



*A comprehensive victory over the Grenadier Guards in a rugby friendly fixture*

The Festival of Fitness served to widen the pool of Rugby playing Jocks, from the Borders to the Western Isles, with some highly enjoyable touch-rugby sessions. A friendly match was played against the Grenadier Guards in late Nov 24 concluding in a comprehensive victory for 2 SCOTS – a reassuring nod to re-establishing a competitive First XV when the Battalion FoE allows.

Finally, on cross-country running, a core group within the Battalion continue to compete in races up and down the country from endurance events to 10kms. Taking a short break from ranges at Barry Buddon in late Oct, a team of five crossed the Tay to compete in Event 1 of the British Army in Scotland Cross-Country League at Tentsmuir Forest, hosted by 2 FS Battalion REME. The team looks

forward to the continuation of the League in the new year. As the Battalion looks towards an all-consuming training progression in early 2025, followed by two overseas exercises, the Sports Leads will continue to seek out those illusive training opportunities, keeping the enduring benefits of competitive sport alive, and endeavouring to keep the Battalion's trophy cabinet well stocked.



## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### INFANTRY AND ARMY ICE HOCKEY

Sheffield/Swindon  
*Private Farquharson – 7 SCOTS*

As a regular soldier, I'd had no idea that it was possible to play ice hockey with the Army. By the time I rejoined as a reservist years later I'd heard there was a hockey team but assumed I'd not be eligible to play alongside the regulars. I was wrong. When I arrived in Sheffield for my first training session with the infantry team I discovered that not only was the standard extremely high, but that there were several reservists on the team.

#### Tri-Service Ice Hockey Championships

The annual UK Armed Forces (UKAF) Tri-Service Ice Hockey Championship (aka The Tris) is the highlight of the ice hockey season for forces personnel and brings together the entire UKAF ice hockey community.

Despite going into the tournament with high expectations and performing well in the group stages against teams from across the services, the infantry were unable to continue this form into the playoffs and left empty-handed. This was disappointing considering we had earned silver medals the previous year. However, success came in another form as I was among five players from our regiment selected to represent the Army during the Inter Service Championships.

#### Inter-Service Ice Hockey Championships and the Army Blades

While the Tri-Service Championship takes place during the day, what one might call the 'main event' happens in the evenings. The showpiece Inter-Service Championship (ISC) sees the best players from the Army, Royal Navy, and RAF, face each other across three evenings. These games are open to the public and exhibit the best hockey our services have to offer.



*The 2024 Army Blades*

The Army Blades started our campaign with a narrow win against the Royal Navy Destroyers, having to rely on a penalty shootout to settle things. However, we ultimately fell short in our bid to defend the ISC trophy as we were defeated 7-9 in a tense final against the RAF Aces.

The ISC games bring with them a level of intensity that some might shy away from but it's something I enjoy and I'm very keen to experience more of. Luckily for me, four months later I got another taste of playing with the Blades at the Whittaker Cup.



*Fighting for position in front of the net*

#### Whittaker (Army) Cup

The beginning of a new season brings with it the Whittaker Cup, more commonly known as 'The Army Cup'. As the name suggests, this competition is the Army's in-house ice hockey tournament and was the infantry's first opportunity to right the wrongs of the previous season and make a statement of intent for the coming year.

After our failure to gain silverware at the tris, the infantry team were determined to give a far better account of ourselves this time around. This is exactly what we achieved, coming second to an extremely strong REME 'A' team. I was also lucky enough to be able to play with the Army Blades for a third time in our 3-0 win against the Royal Navy in an exhibition game.

Whatever your level of experience, the Army provides fantastic opportunities to take part in sport and I'd encourage everyone to get involved in any capacity they can.



## INFANTRY RUGBY

*Major James Fish*

**President:**

Brigadier R Hedderwick (Late SCOTS)

**Director of Rugby:**

Major J Fish (4 SCOTS)

**Head Coach:**

Pte J Bulumakau (3 SCOTS)

Despite being a Corps team, The Royal Regiment of Scotland is a cornerstone of Infantry Rugby Union. Having assumed the role of Director of Rugby in 2021, we have had some testing times, but after the recruitment of Pte Junior Bulumakau (3 SCOTS) as the Head Coach, I am pleased to report that 2023/2024 was our strongest season yet.

Summer 2023 saw the Corps tour for the first time, in a very long time, to the US. We had caught the eye of the RugbyTown Sevens team selectors. It's an international televised tournament and despite some stiff competition from the likes of the USA U23s, the team did some wonderful Defence Engagement – a particular highlight was the shirt exchange with the US Army in front of a stadium full of about 2,000 people. The standout player from SCOTS was LCpl Raivou (2 SCOTS).

This calendar year began with the end of the 23/24 season, and it saw the Corps extend its winning run in the regular season to set up a promotion final with the Royal Signals in March. The teams squared up at the Army



*The SCOTS team members of Infantry Rugby lifting the cup. From left to right – Hldr Sevakasiga (4 SCOTS), Pte Muritoki (3 SCOTS), Pte Bulumakau (3 SCOTS), Maj Fish (4 SCOTS), Hldr Vula (4 SCOTS), Hldr Iritu (4 SCOTS)*

Stadium in Aldershot. It was a nail-biting encounter with numerous tries and numerous yellow cards a piece! Despite spending a significant amount of time in the second half with, at most, 14 players on the pitch, the Infantry emerged victorious. Final score 24-16, meaning not only a cup, but promotion from the second division to the first. SCOTS player of the season was Pte Muritoki (3 SCOTS).

At the time of writing, Infantry Rugby is halfway through the 24/25 season. The Corps fixtures kick off with the Corps festival, again, in Aldershot. For the last four seasons, the rugby juggernaut that is the Royal Engineers have claimed victory. Not this time – the Infantry wrestled the cup from their hands in a nerve-jangling final that went to a drop-goal shoot-out. From there, we have played each of the Corps teams

once. We have emerged victorious from our encounters with the RA and the RLC, and were only just piped away at the reigning champions, the RE. The break-out player of the season so far is LCpl Korojadi (4 SCOTS). Infantry Rugby is available to follow on Instagram and Facebook if you'd like to follow our exploits as the season progresses.

A key part of the success of the team has been the support of the Jocks. You can always gauge a likely performance based on how many Jocks have signed up for the squad. I am incredibly grateful to each of the Units that have released players over the last few seasons – but especially as the Regiment is committed to Operations and Extremely High Readiness.



## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### FOOTBALL

#### *Sergeant Gould*

6 SCOTS football team capped an impressive season showcasing their skill and determination in the Army Reserve Cup. In the quarter-final, they faced off against 4 Lancs, where we delivered a commanding performance, securing a decisive victory with a score of 4-1. This win propelled us into the semi-final, where the team encountered 162 RLC Regiment. In this match, 6 SCOTS continued their strong form, dominating a hard fought away game, and emerging victorious with a remarkable scoreline of 5-0.

Advancing to the final, 6 SCOTS went head-to-head with 3 Royal Welsh in a thrilling encounter that extended into extra time. The match was fiercely contested, but 6 SCOTS demonstrated our resilience and tactical prowess, ultimately clinching the championship title with a narrow 2-1 victory. This triumph crowned us as the Army Reserve Cup Champions, the team were elated at overcoming such stiff opposition and testing themselves against some well drilled and skilful teams, who pushed the team all the way. The victory in the tournament demonstrated our dedication and teamwork throughout the competition.



*The victorious Army Reserve Cup champions*

The season was not without its challenges. In the Army Super Cup final, which brought together the winners of the Army Reserve Cup and the winners of the Army Major Units competition. 6 SCOTS faced a tough opponent in the form of 1 Mercian. Despite the team's earlier successes, we were unable to replicate our winning form and suffered a defeat, finishing the match with a score of 4-1 to 1 Mercian. This loss served as a reminder of the competitive nature of the league and the need for continuous improvement as we look to build on our achievements in future seasons.

Throughout this extended season, several players have proudly represented both the army and infantry. Their commitment to football has been evident as they balance their responsibilities off the field while competing at the army level.

The players are eager to maintain their hold on to the Army Reserve Cup and are equally determined to go one step further in the Army Super Cup next year. The team's ambition and drive reflect a strong desire to excel and achieve success in these prestigious competitions.



## ARMY RUGBY OPPORTUNITIES

United Kingdom  
 2nd Lieutenant H Lapslie – 7 SCOTS

After a successful U23 Army Rugby Inter Services Campaign in 2023, I was invited to play for the U23 UK Armed Forces (UKAF) Rugby Team in a preparation game against Hartpury University. For the U23 Inter Services, I had started both games at fly half, helping the team to a 19-9 win over the Royal Air Force (RAF). Unfortunately, during our game against the Royal Navy, I was forced off after 30 minutes with a knee injury, and sadly we lost 15-10. However, we were still able to retain the U23 Inter Services crown, as the RAF beat the Royal Navy.

The UKAF U23 camp was eye-opening, as it was my first real experience of the other services. We lost to Hartpury 38-12; however, we played exceptionally, especially given we had only been training together for two days.

My personal rugby highlight of 2024 was captaining the Army in Scotland Rugby Team in our Scottish Inter Services Campaign, beating the RAF 21-7 and the Navy 53-7. The Scottish Inter Services give a unique opportunity for individuals serving in Scotland to display their rugby ability. Having achieved success with the Army in Scotland, I was selected for an Army Senior Development Fixture in 2025, with the hope of being selected for the Senior Squad this year.



*Army U23 celebrating their win vs the RAF*



*Army in Scotland celebrating their Scottish Inter Services victory.  
 Photo by Bryan Robertson Photography*



## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### 4 SCOTS BOXING NIGHT

For the first time in five years 4 SCOTS committed to an Inter-Company Boxing Night in Dec, despite the high readiness commitments. With 26 boxers competing across prelims and fight night, the dedication and commitment from both participants and coaches was unwavering. The quality of the boxing was praised by the officials, noteworthy given this was the baptism of fire in the ring for most, and is testament to the mentorship of CSgt Dick, Cpl Monaghan, Cpl Menzies and Cpl Williams. Such was the level of mental robustness and physical resilience that 7 bouts resulted in split decisions. Special mention for Hldr Hughes-Kelly (B Coy) who, despite two prelim matches, won the light heavy weight, 'Best Boxer' and 'Best Bout' – LCpl Nixon (D Coy) also involved in 'Best Bout.' Most Courageous boxer was Hldr Crawford (B Coy) with A Coy and D Coy sharing 'Best Coy'.





## 4 SCOTS JOHN MUIR NOCTURNAL ULTRA

10 soldiers from 4 SCOTS took on the gruelling challenge of the John Muir Way Nocturnal Ultra, a demanding endurance event that sees runners attempt as many 5 Km loops as possible in a 6-hr time limit. This ultra-marathon pushes participants to their limits in darkness, testing their stamina, determination, and resilience.

The soldiers delivered exceptional performances, showcasing their fitness and mental resilience. Leading the team was WO2 Dunnachie, who completed 12 loops and achieved an outstanding 3rd place finish. His result highlighted his experience and competitive spirit, setting a high standard for the rest of the team.

Hldr Murray followed closely behind completing 11 loops with a remarkable 6th place finish, placing him among the top runners out of the 158 competitors. Even more impressive is the fact this was Murray's first Ultra Marathon! His performance was characterised by steady pacing and sheer determination, reflecting the hard work and preparation that went into his training.

Another standout performance came from LCpl King, who ran an incredible race, demonstrating great endurance and tenacity. While he may not have secured a podium finish, his effort was inspirational, showcasing his ability to overcome the mental and physical demands of the course.

The remaining team members also put in commendable efforts, supporting each other throughout the ultra and embodying the challenge mindset in 4 SCOTS. Their collective participation highlighted the Battalion's commitment to pushing boundaries and excelling in both individual and team endeavours.



The achievements at the John Muir Way Nocturnal Ultra are a source of pride for 4 SCOTS, demonstrating not only their physical capability but also their determination and grit in the face of adversity.



## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### 4 SCOTS TAKE ON THE 55TH ORIGINAL MOUNTAIN MARATHON

Glen Artney  
*Captain Rory Hand*

For 55 years, the Original Mountain Marathon (OMM) has been producing some of the toughest mountain races the UK has to offer. Held every year during the last weekend of October, the OMM asks teams of two to navigate and race self-sufficiently for two days across unfamiliar and austere terrain in search of orienteering checkpoints.

The race itself is split into two formats, the 'line' course, which requires teams to navigate across a predetermined sequence of checkpoints to the wild camp site on the Saturday. This is then repeated on a different route on the Sunday back to the finish. The other format is the 'score' course which resembles a more traditional orienteering format: a number of checkpoints across the area with different points allocated dependent on their difficulty. Find as many as you can within the allotted time, winner takes all. Each have their quirks and nuances but both feature a collective wild camp on the Saturday night which further tests the mettle of teams. With teams self-sufficient and carrying only what they deem necessary to endure a night in typically awful conditions, the balance of weight versus comfort is tricky to find. The mandated kit list is as vague as it is minimal which asks competitors to decide what is necessary and what is a luxury. At the elite end of the race, which featured the likes of Finlay Wild, Jasmin Paris and Damian Hall, they will be foregoing roll mats, spare socks and other niceties in their bid to win the Elite category.

This year the event was held in Glen Artney, Perthshire, on the southern bank of Lochearn. Three teams from 4 SCOTS entered the legendary race: two of the experienced teams entered





## REGIMENTAL SPORT

the long course and faced 7hrs and 6hrs on the Saturday and Sunday, whilst two young Highlanders from A Coy teamed up and chucked their hat into the ring on the medium course. Nonetheless, they still faced a lengthy 6hrs and 5hrs on the Saturday and Sunday respectively.

The day before kick-off, all teams converged to St Fillians, the event HQ, and were met with a festival-like atmosphere. Hundreds of teams were piling into the event marquee to register, attach trackers and catch up with friends. Some were pouring over maps from last year trying to understand the Harvey 1:40k symbols, some were having last minute pasta to carb load, whilst the kit pests were viewing the full range of discounted OMM branded kit, purchasing items they had forgotten. After the last few bits of advice to the teams from Capt Hand, all three teams retired to erect their tents for their final sleep before the competition.

On the Saturday morning, alarm bells were going off. The fog was frightfully close in, providing visibility up to 50m. A sense of things to come? Luckily the morning fog broke away and the mountains were in full sight. After a quick coffee on the jet-boil and a bowl of instant porridge, the teams packed up their homes and were good to go. Capt Hand's team, and Lt Shankland and Sgt Ashmore were setting off at 09:30 whilst Hldr Reedman and Murray had a luxurious 10:15 step off. The first climb on the race was an absolute mud bath but with the gift of a mine-tapped route to chaperone teams to the top. At the first hill, teams then fled in all directions in the search of the first checkpoint 'boulder'. The orienteering skills required during the competition is no joke. There are no woodblocks, path junctions and other

easily navigable features to work off. Instead, teams would rely on good old fashioned pacings, bearings and reading contours in their bid to find checkpoints described merely as "re-entrant, halfway up", "stream junction", "N crag, 15m down" and "50m off NE spur". The day was characterised by run-walking through heather and bracken, whilst simultaneously trying to avoid drowning in peat bogs and falling down rabbit holes. Teams were also quickly alerted to the fact that the area was held on the Drummond Deer Estate, with herds of stags galloping in the distance and at times too close for comfort. The Saturday provided very fortunate weather for teams which was a blessing compared to the all too typical white out and horizontal rain customary of previous OMMs. However, as the last few teams made their way in for the overnight camp, the rain turned on. Teams scurried under cover as tents were quickly erected. For the rest of the night teams braved heading out the comfort of their tents only for three reasons: portaloos, gathering water or crowding round the result boards like animals at a watering hole. Capt Hand's team had managed to hold onto 10th place in a stacked field with Lt Shankland and Sgt Ashmore mid table. Hldr Reedman and Murray were incredibly well placed for their first mountain marathon and were similarly mid tabled.

None of the 4 SCOTS teams had elected to bring a roll matt but what we had saved on weight, we certainly felt in comfort. Indeed, the summer-rated jungle sleeping bags proved to be testing with conditions emulating that of being on exercise in Brecon during winter. The only warmth afforded was that of the jet boil heating up our dehydrated rations, or the use of emergency shelter blankets as a ground sheet liner. Nothing was put

to waste and even our day one map was giving marginal gains of thermal protection from the ground.

After a long and turbulent night, all teams were awoken by the sound of bagpipes around the wild campsite. Whilst not the mighty 4 SCOTS Pipe Band, the sound of Highland Laddie and Black Bear from the local piper revived us back online to face another day of running. Having to put our wet and muddy socks and shoes back on, it felt all a bit familiar with being on exercise. Yet, the sun was shining and spirits were high. The teams managed another fine day of running and before we knew it, the countdown for our respective times was ticking fast. All teams were suddenly descending from all corners of the hill back to the finish point to prevent the vicious time penalties for running late. All teams were checked back in, under time and in fine fettle. Captain Hand's team finished 15th on the Long Course having beaten all other Infantry teams. Lt Shankland and Sgt Ashmore placed a solid middle of the field on the Long Course and Hldr Reedman and Murray a highly commendable mid-pack finish also on the Medium Course. After passing the final kit check and stories exchanged, the teams were able to enjoy a well earned brew and meal before parting ways back to Catterick.

Another fine performance from 4 SCOTS. The ultra running scene in the Battalion has gone from strength to strength in 2024 and will only get stronger with wider participation from across the Battalion.



## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### STABLEFORD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

*LCpl Matthews*

LCpl Matthews, from B Company 4 SCOTS, had the opportunity to compete in the Army Stableford Golf Championship, hosted by the Army Golf Association. The competition was held at Whittington Heath Golf Club from the 5th until the 7th of August and comprised of four 18-hole rounds; playing two rounds per day, with a practice round on the Monday of the competition. The funds from SCOTS Regimental Fund helped kindly covered the entry fee for the competition and allowed me to represent the Bn and Regt in the competition. Without this I wouldn't have played the 4 rounds. I managed to place 8th through the third round, finishing after the 25th out of 74 competitors overall. This opportunity allowed me to immerse myself in wider Army sport while also improving my personal standard of Golf. Looking ahead I would like to keep playing competitive Golf, representing not only the Battalion but the wider Regiment at Army events.





## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### 4 SCOTS HIGHLAND GAMES

*Major AH Cunningham*

The annual 4 SCOTS Highland Games were held in Catterick Garrison on the 11 September. Maj Cunningham planned and delivered a fantastic games which saw teams from across the Garrison compete. We continued our partnership with the Wounded Highlanders and were joined once again by Mr Jim Holburn, who assisted in judging the events. We were also joined this by 6 local schools from Catterick Garrison, who took advantage of the many activities on offer including bouncy castles, assault courses and free ice cream, as well as enjoying watching all the events.

The Games kicked off with an opening brief from Maj Cunningham followed by a flag ceremony, similar to the Olympic games, aided by 4 SCOTS Pipe Band. The ceremony was used to promote our rich and diverse culture within 4 SCOTS and a flag for every country represented in the Battalion was on display. It was then over to Sgt Hanlin who was Master of Ceremony for the day to introduce the events.



This year the events included Caber Toss, Throw the Stone, Keg Toss, Hammer Throw, a 4x400 CoC race and the main event – The Tug 'O' War! As the games progressed, some people discovered they had a hidden talent! Cpl Howard from LAD for instance, discovered that he was extremely good at the hammer throw and won the event by a large margin. The weather played its part with sporadic down pours which included hail stones, it's a good job that the CSM and his team had put some tents up for shelter. It was a competitive games, a highlight being the 4 x 400m CoC Race where A Coy managed to win it on the final lap, Maj

Burnett overtaking the Commanding Officer in a hotly contested final 100m. The main event – Tug 'O' War – saw the reigning champions (Support Company) win again in a final against HQ Coy. As well as the traditional Highland Games, this year we included a strongman competition superbly ran by CSgt Grant.

Overall winners of the 2024 4 SCOTS Highland Games went to HQ Company who accumulated the most points overall. The day was a great success, a wonderful community engaging event and memorable sporting day on the 4 SCOTS calendar.





## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### OP BULLSEYE

*Cpl McMahon*

The defence dart community held its biggest military darting event with the inaugural Operation Bullseye, on Thursday 11th July at the Grand Hotel, Blackpool.

Currently, darts is not classified as an official military sport but the event organisers and founders of the defence dart community, WO2 Lee Fox and Cpl Zara Durrant, with a small team of us from across defence are striving to ensure darts will be a recognised sport across the military. Darts is fast becoming one of the most popular sports in the UK and hopefully with the success and proven interest from Op BULLSEYE, this is something that will be achieved in the not so distant future.

The event was a pairs tournament, where 16 professional players from the world of darts generously gave up their time to participate in the event: including Masters Champion Chris

Dobey, Premier League Champion Glen Durrant, 2004 World Matchplay winner Colin Lloyd and Aussie Damon Heta the 2022 World Cup of Darts winner just to name a few. Also on hand for the event was the voice of the darts, Russ Bray and PDC Master of Ceremonies John McDonald, who is also an Army veteran (1 Para).

Military competitors took part in qualifying events over months of intense action all over the country. The first place was awarded to paralympic skier and Army veteran, Scott Meenagh. The remaining 15 places were hard fought out in qualifiers up and down the country where the winner from each qualifier would go forward and participate in the main event of Op BULLSEYE. The qualifying tournaments were open to all serving personnel in the military and veterans of all 3 services. Over 650 applicants took time to travel and attend these events.

The winners of Op BULLSEYE that lifted the coveted trophy for the first time were veteran Vince Tipple and former PDC World Youth champion Keegan Brown (who were 6 darts into a 9 darter in 1 leg) who came up against some tough opposition, WO2 Ben Peel and James Richardson, who undoubtedly received the recognition for the best walk and had the whole venue on their feet singing along to Vidaroo, which created an electric atmosphere going into the final.

In the process a total of £13500 was raised for SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity. This has been divided and distributed to several in service committees across the country where the donations will help serving personnel.

Op BULLSEYE 25, WE GO AGAIN





# REGIMENTAL SPORT

## INFANTRY GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

The Infantry Championship took place at an amazing venue at York Golf Club, with a challenging course that is very well maintained. There were 72 players in the field, over a 2-day period, 18 holes played per day, with a combined score over the days was crowned the infantry champion. LCpl Stevenson was defending the title as the current Infantry Champion. The infantry championship saw many players from SCOTS, with some class golfers showing their talents. Golf in the army is growing and it is a great opportunity for soldiers to showcase their talent, meet new people and be rewarded for working hard in their day-to-day jobs. In the end two players had to play in a playoff for the title, showing how competitive and close this competition is.



*Infantry Golf championship*



*Infantry Golf championship*

## ARMY MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 SAUNTON

The 2024 Matchplay championship took place in Saunton on 12th May. This event had competitors across the Army with a field of 68 Players. It is a single scratch play event that saw the top players from across the army competing. There were numerous players from across SCOTS taking part, including the current infantry champion LCpl Stevenson. Cpl prime and LCpl Stevenson have competed in numerous army and infantry matches throughout their careers. They have also played in events for the Regiment, maximising their potential. The first three days was a single event for individual competition. Unfortunately, Cpl prime lost his first day match, losing 3-2 to a strong competitor.

LCpl Stevenson won his first match in the morning then lost his afternoon match. Therefore, both were out the individual event. Preparations started for the inter core championship where Cpl prime and LCpl Stevenson were selected to represent the Infantry A team. Infantry A team won their first match, then when they faced the PT Core in the afternoon they lost a tight battle.

Having two players that play golf at a level where they can compete and win is an enormous positive for SCOTS and this level of sport not only showcases the talent of our soldiers but allows individual and team development for the greater good of the Army's output. A critical area to showcase and maximise talent for others to follow.



*Infantry Golf championship*



## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING ASSOCIATION INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

*BKA Coy, 5 SCOTS*

Having taken up the Gentlemanly pursuit of Clay Pidgeon Shooting whilst at Staff Collage, I have attended courses at a rate in line with an enthusiastic beginner. Shotgun Level one and two, Range Safety Officer, Deer Stalking Level one (nothing to do with clays but might as well branch out) to name but a few. As with all Army sports there is a continued drive to get instructors and so having built up my low-level qualification's and, maintaining my position as a very average shot, I headed down to the home of Army Shooting, Bisley, where the Army Rifle Association run the majority of their courses.

Before attending the instructor qualification, a three day course with a high attrition rate, you must first achieve a 'recommend' at the Instructor Development Workshop. This teaches and tests a variety of theory and practical skills over one day. This allows the Clay Pidgeon Shooting Association (CPSA) to assess your proficiency at clay shooting and, more importantly, your ability to teach others.

The day started with a huge amount of theory. The instructor qualification is civilian accredited, there is a great focus on how to deal with a 'client' who has no experience of shotgun shooting. This included assessing eye dominance and gun fit as well as briefing gun safety and essentially conducting a

weapon handling test. The second half of the day was on the range where you were expected to hit six out of eight clays using the CPSA 'Method'. For the majority of students the challenge was not hitting the clay, which most did with no issue, it was ensuring that you went back to basics and used the correct technique.

The final test was centred around bringing a 'client' onto a target, essentially coaching. Again, this was made more complex as the instructor would purposely miss using one of two shooting methods. You had to assess if he had given the clay to much lead or not enough then state which method he had been using. Amongst the students there was much conversation regarding if this was more of an art than a science; however, given my woeful aptitude for eye dominance, I was pleased that the coaching came quite naturally to me. Must have been the amount of time I have been coached by exasperated JNCOs on a range, "stop snatching Sir!".

A very worthwhile day which has given me plenty to work on prior to the instructor course but cemented those aspects that I am good at. I also feel as though I have become a better shot as a result, although only time will tell if that's the case. I would like to thank the Regimental Association for contributing some funding so that I could attend.



*Major Weir proving his shooting credentials to a watchful chief instructor*



*Whilst this may look very dangerous, this is the method of proving gun fit and eye dominance*



## REGIMENTAL SPORT

### POPPY SCOTLAND GOLF CHARITY DAY

As stalwarts of the Ballater community every summer it was no surprise to be invited to the Ballater Golf Club Poppy Scotland Charity Match organised by the local legion. Having achieved success in a number of competitions on that course, we knew that we could assemble a crack team which would certainly compete for the top prizes.... as well as conduct a wee bit of local engagement, which of course was the point (according to the OC)! So, led by CSgt Morrison abetted by two Army Golfers, Cpl Prime and LCpl Stevenson, with Cpl Toman in tow, the team set off to the highlands.



*LCpl Stevenson attempting a substantial put on the 14th, which he succeeded in*

The competition comprised of eighteen teams playing a shotgun start. The format saw each team of 4 players all playing their shots with the best shot being selected. This would continue until the team made their hole. Various rules also ensured that the best golfer in the team could not continually have his shot used, each member had to meet a quota. As with previous competitions Balaklava Company came out on top winning by a margin of 0.5 and claiming the £200 prize money. This is the fourth golf team event the company has won and highlights the strong talent pool within the company and opens the doors to bigger team competitions taking place throughout the army.



*L-R Cpl Toman, LCpl Stevenson, Cpl Prime and CSgt Morrison representing the regiment on a stunning spring morning*



*Cpl Prime and the team are unable to turn around less the delights of the '19th hole' distract them*

Our thanks to the Local Legion and the Ballater Golf Club for putting on a splendid competition. It was a very welcoming day. We would also like to thank the SCOTS regimental association for assisting with our entry fee.



*The winning team, Cpl Toman, LCpl Stevenson, CSgt Morrison, Cpl Prime*



# ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

## EXERCISE HECTORS CUILLIN

Cuillin Ridge

*Lieutenant Euan Clarke*

Mid-September saw 6 members of 4 SCOTS travel to the Isle of Skye to tackle the Cuillin Ridge. Widely considered the most difficult and demanding mountainous region within the UK, it is not one for the faint hearted. With an alpine-like experience, the Cuillin ridge offers something unique to the rest of Britain.

Surviving the long drive from Catterick to Skye, doubts arose when the weather on the island took an unexpected ugly turn. Strong winds and clag battered the not-so-subtle 12x12. Our warmup hike to the summit of Bla Bheinn sadly wasn't spared from the weather. Despite not getting the incredible views onto the Cuillin ridge and Outer Hebrides, the Jocks morale never wavered and thankfully nor did my navigation skills!

Returning to the campsite, we were blessed with perfect sunshine and a fantastic view onto the beginning of the ridge – Sgurr nan Gillean. After meeting the guides and prepping our kit, it was an early night ready for a 0400 "H-Hour".

Waking up to a perfect sky and a positive 48-hour forecast, the walk began. Hitting the saddle between Sgurr nan Gillean and Am Basteir at sunrise felt like a just reward for the early start and steady incline. Conditions could not have been any better. As the Jocks donned their helmets and harnesses, we pushed along on what was a fantastic and challenging day for all. Despite being unfamiliar with the terrain of the Cuillins, the Jocks managed to notch up a commendable 7 of the 11 Munros (in one day).

After a 17-hour day out in the Cuillins, the following day was gratefully met with a gentler walk up to the Old Man of Storr and Hartaval. The weather still held and remained kind enough for us to make a well-earned trip to the beach.

Overall, a hugely successful and rewarding Unit AT Exped which has set the conditions well for another trip next year – this time with the aim of completing the ridge in under 7 hours! A huge thank you goes out to our guides, Robin Thomas, Donald King & Simon Brocklebank for their support and expert guidance along the technically demanding conditions of the Cuillin ridge.



*A very early morning on the ridge*



## ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

### EXERCISE HIGHLAND EXPRESS + EXERCISE NORTHER BOOMERANG

3 SCOTS participated in two Sailing Expeds: first being the Infantry Sailing Association's Ex Norther Boomerang Bayonet (ISA Ex NBB). Hampered by battering winds and big swells, the crew gallantly sailed the 'Bayonet' from Conwy Marina to Holyhead and back. The trip was fraught with some minor mechanical issues and a failing Genoa headsail, which saw WO2 Lavery and Pte Wilson wrestle the sail back onboard out of the drink, to later conduct repairs in the marina.



3 SCOTS were the leg lead on the Joint Services Adventurous Sailing Training Centre (JSASTC) Gosport Ex Highland Express (HE). The Aim was to get the maximum number of 3 SCOTS SP sailing during our leg of the exercise. The exercise gave our crew an opportunity to develop their knowledge and skill set whilst sailing from Dunstaffnage, to the Outer Hebrides before handing the yacht over to its next crew at Dunstaffnage. Ex HE was also a valuable "mile builder" for the RYA logbook, enabling our crews to further progress through the RYA Qualification Scheme.



The second outing took the form of JSASTC Ex Highland Express (Ex HE). This found the crew navigate the Inner Hebrides. Departing Dunstaffnage Marina, we sailed 280 nautical miles in the late summer sun visiting Craohb Haven, Islay, Jura, Iona and Tobermory to name a few of the destinations.

2024 is shaping up to be a busy year for 3 SCOTS; however, where possible we will focus on developing our crew, by increasing our RYA Comp Crew qualified SP and progressing those who already hold this ticket onto RYA Day Skipper. This will increase our capacity and potential to conduct future unit led expeds or for individuals to take part in JSASTC sponsored expeds.





## ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

### DIVING DEEP IN MALTA: MY JOURNEY TO BECOMING AN ADVANCED OCEAN DIVER

*Colour Sergeant Balzaretti*

In August I had the incredible opportunity to participate in a military adventure training trip in the stunning waters of Malta. Known for its crystal-clear blue seas, rugged coastline, and rich marine life, Malta provided the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable experience. What made this trip even more special for me was not just the beauty of the Mediterranean, but the achievement of gaining a new qualification: Advanced Ocean Diver.

#### Exploring the Depths of Malta

From the moment we arrived, it was clear that Malta was an ideal location for both adventure and learning. The island is home to several remarkable dive sites, including shipwrecks, underwater caves, and vibrant reefs teeming with life. For someone passionate about scuba diving, this was a dream come true.



Over the course of several days, we engaged in a series of training dives that progressively tested our skills. The waters off Malta are known for their visibility, sometimes reaching up to 30 meters, which made it easier to focus on refining techniques while also enjoying the breathtaking underwater views.

#### Achieving My Advanced Ocean Diver Qualification

This trip wasn't just about the adventure, though—it was about growth. The Advanced Ocean Diver qualification marks a significant step up from my previous diving certification. It required mastering a range of new skills, including deeper dives, underwater navigation, and performing rescue techniques. Each training dive was designed to build confidence in deeper waters, ensure I was comfortable with more advanced equipment, and enhance my decision-making under pressure.

Completing this qualification is a proud achievement, and I now feel even more prepared for challenging diving scenarios in the future. The knowledge and experience gained will no doubt be valuable for both military and personal endeavours.

#### The Impact of Adventure Training

Adventure training trips like this one in Malta go far beyond just recreation. They're about pushing boundaries, enhancing teamwork, and developing resilience. Scuba diving in particular requires focus, communication, and trust in both yourself and your dive partners. When you're 30 meters below the surface, you learn quickly that teamwork is non-negotiable.

These experiences build not only technical skills but also the confidence to face new challenges, no matter how daunting they may seem. The same qualities that are necessary to dive into the depths of the ocean—calmness, quick thinking, and adaptability—are equally valuable in military operations.

#### A Look Ahead

With my new qualification in hand, I'm excited about the next phase of my diving journey. Malta's waters have left a lasting impression on me, and I look forward to continuing to explore the world's oceans, both personally and professionally.

This trip has reinforced my belief that adventure training is an essential part of military life, providing valuable skills and unforgettable experiences. Whether it's exploring underwater wrecks or navigating the challenges of deep-sea diving, adventure training sharpens both the body and mind.

Until the next dive!





# ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

## EX AULD REEKIE

In September troops from 6 SCOTS A Coy took part in adventure training that aimed to build team cohesion and mutual trust. Additionally, the activities were chosen to give members of the Company new experiences and push them out of their comfort zone to build personal confidence. Whilst there were some more experienced people amongst the group, the activities were aimed at novice. The team set off from East Claremont Street for a full day of activities on Ex Auld Reekie, covering an introduction to skiing then guided kayaking along the union canal. The day provided some valuable training for novices and more experienced members alike, with the severely limited visibility making for entertaining runs down Hillend dry ski slopes, as well as exposure to different kayak variants and rowing techniques, resulting in some unintended Eskimo Rolls and recovery from the water. The skiing started with basics, aimed at those who have never touched skis before, being shown the correct techniques for transitioning across and up the slopes as well as the correct positioning over the bindings and the important technique of stopping. The team swiftly progressed onto the larger slopes progressively working their way closer to the top with a few successfully taking on the jumps before the end of the session, while the more advanced members of the team practiced their parallel turns from the top runs, resulting in great value for the whole team.

Following lunch we transitioned over to *Bridge 8*, a charity run by local volunteers supporting local children, where we were familiarised on the two variants of the kayak we would be taking to the water and the planned route towards Ratho from our starting point in Wester Hailes. The group was split into two halves, with the first

group heading out in the agile flat bottomed "Piranha" and the other half in the longer touring kayak. When heading Westwards towards Ratho, the group were instructed on increasingly challenging strokes and techniques before changing at the half way point, ensuring all troops to spend time in both types of kayak.

Ex Auld Reekie had provided a good foundation for development in both skiing and kayaking for all of whom attended, with multiple attendees looking to follow up with advanced kayaking lessons in the winter. A valuable experience for all those who partook and for building the cohesion of the Company.





## SCOTS AT ERE

### JOINT MODERNISATION COMMAND

Fort Bliss, Texas  
*Lieutenant Colonel Callum Lane*

*"What we do directly impacts. We transform the Army to ensure war-winning future readiness."*  
– GENERAL Rainey address to Joint Modernization Command, December 2024

In this past year, whilst working in Joint Modernisation Command, I have participated in Project Convergence Capstone 4, in California, and will shortly deploy on Capstone 5. I have also deployed to Germany for Exercise Avenger Triad 2024, to assess operational warfighting concepts and capabilities (and gaps). I have witnessed the expansion of battlespace at every level from section to corps, while at the same time commanders face the tyranny of a contraction in decision space and time. We have preached mission command for decades; the modern battlespace demands mission command in minutes. Previously I commanded platoons of three sections and a platoon HQ, a company of three platoons and a company HQ. The platoons I see now have three Assault teams and a Support team with UAS, C-UAS and breach capabilities built in. The units are morphing from the three Rifle Company staple configuration of the past 100 years to two Close Combat teams, a Weapons Company, and a Recce Strike Group. They are equipped with more firepower than is polite, but no more than is necessary and can sense and touch out to 40km.



*US Joint Modernization Command-Grafenwohr*

I have glimpsed the future. As Roy Batty said in Blade Runner: *"I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion. I've watched C-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhauser gate. All those moments will be lost in time, like tears in rain. Time to die."* It may not be time for me to die, but it is time for me to fade away. In all that I have seen, in all the change that has been and is yet to be, one thing has been constant – the quality

of the Jock. I have worked with Jocks, commissioned and non-commissioned, in every event I have participated in. They have noticeably set the standard for others to follow – standard set in the past, maintained in the present and essential for the future. The future is in good hands.



## NATO DEFENCE COLLEGE, SENIOR COURSE

Rome

*Lieutenant Colonel J Bailey*

From February to July 2024, Lieutenant Colonel John Bailey attended Senior Course 144 (SC 144) at the NATO Defence College in Rome. In this article, he shares insights into the course and encourages fellow SCOTS officers interested in Defence Engagement or NATO relations to consider applying.

The Senior Course is designed to prepare officers at the OF5/4 level and equivalent civilian officials from NATO and partner nations—including the Euro-Atlantic area, Mediterranean Dialogue, Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, and Selected Contact countries—for senior roles within NATO and multinational staff, as well as NATO-related responsibilities in their home capitals. Central to the College’s curriculum is the principle of consensus-building, which reflects NATO’s operational model. Decisions made within NATO represent the collective will of its sovereign member states, a process that underpins both the Alliance’s strength and credibility.

A typical day at the College includes a one-hour French lesson, followed by core lectures and syndicate discussions or exercises. College-based teaching is interspersed with three overseas field studies. The locations of these field studies vary from course to course.

Field Study 1 focuses on the ‘Transatlantic Link’ and NATO structures with SC 144 visiting key institutions such as the European Commission, NATO Headquarters, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, the Pentagon, the United States House of Representatives, the United Nations Headquarters, NATO Allied Command Transformation, and Joint Force Command Norfolk. Field Study 2 provides insights into



*Lieutenant Colonel Bailey in front of the Temple of the Peace Bell, Joint Security Area, Panmunjom, South Korea*

European perspectives with SC 144 being hosted by Defence ministries and higher headquarters in Lisbon, Paris, London, and Berlin. Field Study 3 explores European and other regional perspectives. SC 144’s study comprised visits to Istanbul, Ankara, Seoul, and Tokyo. The Turkish leg included a ceremony at Atatürk’s mausoleum while the South Korean stage incorporated a visit to the Joint Security Area where students were able to see North Korean border defences. The investment in these Field Studies is not to be taken lightly and for many Course Members they are seen as a career highlight.

In addition to formal instruction, the College offers a full social and cultural programme, granting Course Members privileged access to Rome’s historic landmarks and the opportunity to attend a papal audience. SC 144 also visited the European Space Agency and conducted a battlefield study at Monte Cassino. Aside from students’ daily experience of Italy’s *dolce vita*,

the course uniquely fosters interaction among a diverse cohort of students from NATO countries and beyond, leading to rich and varied discussions. Notable SC 144 participants included a French submarine captain, a Pakistani test pilot, a Slovenian Olympic silver medallist, a Mauritanian desert warfare expert, an American astronaut candidate, and a former Berlin detective. Many Course Members forge lasting friendships, cultivating a global network that enhances the UK’s engagement with the Alliance. The thriving alumni programme extends open invitations to former participants for academic seminars and social events at the College.

To conclude, participation in NATO’s Senior Course is a unique and enriching experience. Few professional military education programmes provide such a diverse and engaging learning environment. Apply through your career manager now!



## SCOTS AT ERE

### ÉCOLE MILITAIRE

Paris  
*Major Scott McCauley*

In the summer of 2024, on the opening day of the Paris Olympics, I took the well-trodden SCOTS path and headed to the École Militaire. My family and I quickly settled into life in Paris as my course at the École Militaire started, which is situated in the centre of Paris (it sold its gardens to the City of Paris so that the Eiffel Tower could be built) started. The École de guerre-Terre, "Army War College" is a French military academy that trains senior army officers and is the equivalent of ICSC(L) and continues directly into the French equivalent of ACSC. The stagiaires (students) are recruited mainly after succeeding at competitive examinations, right after the first part of their military career.

As one of fourteen international students – many of whom are from Francophone Africa and certain other allied nations – and amongst a cohort of forty French Officers and twenty individuals from the French State and Industry, it has been an excellent opportunity to see how a peer Army operates and to appreciate the "French way of war". The course started on Exercise in the Pyrenees with daily runs through the mountains with the French Foreign Legion and mountain troops, which was a brilliant way to shake the cobwebs off before ten days of divisional planning cycles. Foreign trips to Belgium to study the German Blitzkrieg and Ardennes Offensive were book-ended by a very interesting Battlefield Study to Monte Cassino where our antecedents performed so heroically.



Another highlight, if not a slightly nerve-wracking, moment was representing the British Army live on the French version of Sky News, fielding questions for two hours whilst the PM and President Macron laid wreaths at the Arc de Triumph to commemorate our war dead on Armistice Day. This moment was one of many that highlighted the close bonds between our two nations and particularly our Armed Forces. The SCOTS reputation is well known and appreciated by our French counterparts, especially those that have served alongside us on Operations and Exercises. Galloway Forest was one of most popular topics of conversation amongst the French Officers and especially our resilience to midges!



All in all, I would thoroughly recommend the EdG and service in France to any of the Regimental family and will be more than happy to answer any questions about our time in, France. I now spend the next seven months as the Assistant Military Attaché in the British Embassy Paris before returning to my battalion as OC A Company, 4 SCOTS.





## SCOTS LOAN SERVICE – ROYAL ARMY OF OMAN

Oman

*Captain Kenny Nichol*

The UK has been involved in Oman since the mid-1600s, selecting the UK as its partner of choice after successful expulsion of the Portuguese. Treaties of friendship latterly signed in 1798 and 1800 are significant in comparison to similar treaties signed at the time due to the equality yielded by both nations. Fast forward a couple more treaties, tribal unrest in the mountains, communist guerrilla warfare in the south and the peaceful transfer of power to the late HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said in the 1970s, the UK and Oman remain close, strategic partners. Since before HM Sultan Qaboos' accession, there have been British Loan Service Officers and Warrant Officers serving in Oman. Although the numbers may have dropped, under the current leadership of HM Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, the UK maintains its close relationship with Oman with over 70 Loan Service personnel still serving across all 3 services.

The UK has Loan Service personnel serving in over 10 different countries across the globe however the largest cohort, making up over 30%, can be found in the Sultanate of Oman. The roles within the land component vary across rank and trade; however, I currently find myself 6 months into a 2 year post (3 years if I can get the wife to agree to the extension!) as the Training Advisor to 23rd Infantry Brigade of the Royal Army of Oman. As is the case with all Loan Service roles in the land component, our roles are strictly advisory. We don't take command or responsibility of any Omani soldiers, however that does allow me to be involved in a much wider array of activities. As the only British personnel working in an all-Omani Bde HQ, my working day rarely



*Capt K Nichol, Oman*

looks the same. Always starting with some Omani *qahwa* and *tamar* (coffee and soft, sweet dates), my day could see: visits to training of one of the Bde's 7 battalions; visiting one of the many annual competitions ranging from various military skills to a multitude of sports; attending planning co-ords to facilitate future training; or currently, developing courses to be delivered this year aimed at NCO development and the forming of a new course for Bn Training Officers. All tasks vary significantly in their experiences but also in their demands for input. As my Arabic continues to improve and my relationship with Omani chain of command develops, my input and assistance is required more and more. This has resulting in the request to lead on the development of a new course to be delivered to all Bn Training Officers.

Having a small amount of experience in Defence Engagement roles in the past (short stints in: the British Embassy Dubai as the LO between the British Defence Staff (Gulf) and 1 UK Div; SO3 within the Land Regional Co-ord Cell (IndoPacific)) Loan Service within the middle east was a highly attractive role. With additional experience in various training roles, I was lucky enough to be

given the opportunity to work with the Royal Army of Oman. Not only is the job different and hugely interesting but the country is also beautiful. With its vast, paradise like coastlines, infinite pristine deserts, stunning mountain ranges and impressive Wadis there is so much to get out and explore. And if the country isn't beautiful enough, the people are some of the friendliest and most hospitable I have had the pleasure of meeting. Having spent every free weekend out exploring the country for the last 6 months, I look forward with enthusiasm as there is still so much more to see and experience.



## SCOTS AT ERE

### HEADQUARTERS MULTINATIONAL CORPS NORTHEAST

Szczecin, Poland  
*Lieutenant Colonel Christie*  
*M.B. Broadbent*

#### **“Jak to się wymawia?!” (How do you pronounce it?!)”**

**Introduction.** Having studied Central and Eastern European history, served in Eastern Europe and having some Polish ancestry, when the opportunity presented itself to apply for an assignment in Poland, I immediately submitted my PPP. In early 2023 I received an email from APC Glasgow informing me that I had been successful on the Board and that I would be receiving my Assignment Order to deploy to Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast based in Szczecin, Poland for the summer of that year. I would be assuming the role of a planner in the J5 Division of the Headquarters and would be one of only three GBR officers there. At the end of July, I walked through the gates and duly announced „Dzien Dobry!” to my new NATO colleagues and friends. I am now approximately halfway through my three year assignment and have learned a lot about being a minor contributing nation, the ways of this particular multinational headquarters, the Polish perspective and living and working in Central Europe set against the backdrop of Russia’s illegal war with Ukraine, Belarus, activity in the Baltic, and a changed political regime in Washington and Poland and imminent change elsewhere. So, I thought it may be of interest to readers to outline a little about where my family and I are now living, what the Corps does, what I do within that and what is on offer out here. Perhaps though, it is worth starting more simply with how you pronounce Szczecin?

**Setting the scene.** Firstly, Szczecin is pronounced phonetically as “Shet-shin”, unless you are German in which case it is “stet-in”. More on why shortly. My assignment at HQ MNCE NE is in the Polish city of Szczecin which is situated in the Northwest corner of Poland. It sits on the banks of the River Oder and South of the Szczecin Lagoon which empties into the Baltic Sea. It is only 14 Km East of the Polish-German border and only a couple of hours drive from Berlin. Despite being famous for Pasztecik (pronounced “Pash-TEH-chik”), Paprykarz Szczeciński’ (ground fish, rice, tomato paste and vegetable oil, seasoned with onion, salt and spices) and Śledz Po Szczecinsku (Szczecin-style Herring) as well as being home to the world’s oldest continuously running cinema (Kino Pionier 1907), the tallest cathedral in Poland, Europe’s third largest Necropolis and Poland’s only railway swing bridge, Szczecin is not somewhere that immediately comes to mind when thinking of European destinations. Yet dig deeper and this city and region has a rich, complex history and has had many forms of its name over the centuries.



**A (very) brief history of the City and Region.** There is evidence of habitation within this city reaching back as early as the 8th Century by Lechitic Pomeranians before this part of the Baltic region had been Christianised. By the 10th Century, the very early Polish State was enveloping the city and region which would subsequently

change hands frequently between these Poles and the Germans of the Holy Roman Empire over the next two centuries. It was with the founding of the Duchy of Pomerania in 1121 and the establishment of the ruling Dukes from the “House of Griffin” that the region became increasingly under Germanic control and the city would then be known as “Stettin”. Their influence was so great that to this day, their coat of arms is synonymous with this city and region.

Following Danish incursions into the Holy Roman Empire and their subsequent control of the city and region into the 13th century, Szczecin/Stettin also became known as “Burstaborg”. Moving forward, it was in the 14th Century that the city due to its location and artisan and fish trade, that it was incorporated into the trading bloc known as the Hanseatic League. Lutheranism was introduced across Pomerania in the 16th Century and during the late 17th century and specifically the 30 Year’s War, Sweden (fighting for regional dominance against the Polish – Lithuanian Commonwealth) took peaceful control of Pomerania under the Treaty of Stettin in 1630 allowing Stettin to be fortified as the capital of Swedish Pomeria.





With the Rise of the Kingdom of Prussia from the mid-17th century and decline of the Swedish Empire in the early 18th century, the city and region was absorbed by Prussia by 1720. So began the next phase of Szczecin/Stettin's history. Despite the tumultuous events taking place such as the partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (this was completed in 1795 by the Russian, Prussian and Austrian Empires and effectively removed Poland as a state from the map for over 123 years only being formed as a country again in 1918), and the occupation of the city by Napoleon's advancing forces between 1806 and 1813 as they went East, it remained Prussian/German until the end of WW2. Such stability and its location on the River Oder would see huge development and economic prosperity for the city, and with that, other investment would flow such as urban planning, architecture, railway development and port infrastructure; so much so that by the time of German Unification in 1871, Szczecin/Stettin was the German Empire's major port on the Baltic.



Despite not being directly affected by military operations in the Great War, the interwar period did see it suffer the same direct and indirect effects as the rest of Germany, losing its economic importance but remained part of the Duchy of Prussia within the German Weimar Republic. Ahead of and during WW2, the infrastructure and economy was orientated towards weapons and

ammunition manufacturing, alternative fuel development, supporting the wider German war effort and of course, the port was the main supplier to Berlin and for moving items/material to and from the sea. Consequently, the city was heavily targeted and bombed by both Allied and Soviet forces, and by 1944 it is estimated that approximately 65% of the city was destroyed. Soviet troops entered the city in March 1945.



Following the Potsdam Conference and the redrawing of the Polish-German borders, Szczecin/Stettin and the surrounding region whilst originally to remain within (East) Germany, was then given to the new Polish People's Republic as compensation for losing land in the East. An aggressive programme of removing German presence ensued through the 1950's seeing street names, landmarks etc removed or renamed. Nearly 8 million tonnes of debris were removed by 1958. The population was almost entirely replaced with the forced removal of people of German origin westwards, and the „planting“ of Poles and others from Eastern territories where the borders had been moved West. From this point Szczecin/Stettin was officially Szczecin.

In the post war era, Szczecin was developed as an industrial centre for ship building and trade and equalled the port of Gdansk. During the 1970's and 1980's with the rise of resistance

and Poland's Solidarity movement, Szczecin would also be at the front seeking political change within the country, which was eventually achieved with the fall of Communism within Poland in 1989 and across the bloc, by 1991. The city and region had lacked investment for many decades and there was a view that given the changes in regime, the region may have been returned to Germany. This was not the case and we are now well into the 21st Century. Poland has become increasingly confident and secure as a nation, with Szczecin and the region of West Pomerania seeing significant growth, investment in industries and new technologies, high living standards, a highly educated population, ambitious infrastructure projects, tourism, cultural and recreational opportunities, a modern and competitive economy and much more. Indeed, it has embarked upon an ambitious vision for development into the future as part of the „Szczecin Floating garden 2050 project“. It is now one of the fastest growing regions within the country and Szczecin has all that one would expect from a modern European city.

### **A Brief History of HQ MNC NE.**

Against this background, many factors contributed to the selection of Szczecin and the establishment of a NATO multinational headquarters here in 1999. Not with-standing its history and geographic location, it was also of course, a political statement of Polish intent and a catalyst to significantly accelerate the integration of the Polish Armed Forces (PAF) and other NATO partner states into the Multinational structure. From the fall of Communism across Central and Eastern Europe in the late 1980's and early 1990's, Germany, Poland and Denmark were keen to develop cooperation across many domains



## SCOTS AT ERE

### HEADQUARTERS MULTINATIONAL CORPS NORTHEAST *continued*

and in 1995 there was increasingly close trilateral military cooperation. It was the 1997 NATO summit in Madrid where the decision was taken to invite the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland to become full members of NATO and from this, in the town of Omulew, Poland, the Defence Ministers of Poland, Germany and Denmark agreed to establish a new "Danish-German-Polish Corps" which was to be Headquartered in the city of Szczecin. In March 1998, more formal agreements followed clarifying the Corps Mission and tasks, and in the autumn of 1998, the Corps Convention was signed forming a common Corps HQ with the three founding nations being referred to as the three 'Framework' nations. On 18 September 1998, the three national flags, NATO Flag and the flag of the Corps were raised firmly establishing HQ MNC NE at Baltic Barracks, in Szczecin.

The first additional NATO nations to formally join the Corps were Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 2004 and national representation has grown ever since. As of the time of writing Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, United Kingdom, United States and Türkiye are all represented in the HQ. The three framework Nations provide the Commander and Chief of Staff (who will be either Polish or German but never the same) and the Deputy Commander will always be Danish. As always, the staff provide the horsepower and currently totals approximately 400 officers, non-commissioned officers and civilian employees.

In 2007, Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast deployed on operations for the first time, serving as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. HQ MNC NE soldiers served two further tours in Kabul in 2010 and 2014. Today, in order to stay at high readiness and strengthen and develop operational capability, the Corps regularly participates in NATO and other multinational exercises, conducted in Poland, the Baltic States and wider. By these means, the Headquarters confirms its readiness to rapidly respond to and command large land operations. In October 2024, the Headquarters marked a significant milestone, commemorating its 25th anniversary.



For awareness, the blue background of Multinational Corps Northeast's emblem indicates a fundamental connection to Szczecin and to NATO. Whilst blue is the colour of the Alliance's flag. The three waves refer to the Baltic Sea connecting the founding Framework nations (Denmark, Germany and Poland). The Armed Forces are represented by three swords, which symbolise the shared responsibility for the security of the eastern flank and its people. The griffin, derived from Szczecin's history and official coat of arms, indicates the Corps' connection to the region and the city's garrison.

#### **So what does MNC NE actually do?**

Primarily, HQ MNC NE is NATO's warfighting headquarters responsible for security within the Land domain of the Baltic region. Since June 2017, it has been operating as a High-Readiness Force Headquarters, in charge of allocated NATO ground troops already deployed on the eastern flank of the Alliance. The Corps' allocated Area of Operations (AO) is in North East Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. If need be, it is ready to take over immediate command of NATO rapid reaction forces and take responsibility for the conduct of all Alliance ground operations in the north-east of Europe. Over the past 25 years, the Corps has significantly strengthened NATO's rapid response capability, and today the HQ regards itself as the 'guardians' of peace in this region of Europe.

Noting the Corps AO, it finds itself at the forefront of key geo-political events within the region. In 2014, following the Russian invasion of eastern Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea, Alliance leaders decided to enlarge Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast significantly and assign it a specific region of responsibility, namely the Baltic Sea region. The purpose was to make it easier for the Alliance to command ground troops in Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland. For this reason, in 2017, the Corps' combat readiness was upgraded from low to high. As Russia's aggressive actions continued, culminating in its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, NATO systematically strengthened its deterrence and defence posture in the Baltic Sea region, and the Corps' specialisation progressed. Today, it serves as part of the NATO Force Structure as a Regionally Aligned NATO Response Corps and is fully prepared



to take over the war fighting functions and responsibility of conducting NATO land operations on the eastern flank as needed.

Due to its AO and enhanced role, MNC NE has several subordinated formations under command in Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. In broad outline, these consist of three divisions (Multinational Division North East (MND NE) based in Elbląg, Poland, Multinational Division North (MND N) based in Ādaži, Latvia and a Division of the Estonian Army based in Tallinn, Estonia); the Command Support Brigade (CSB) based in Stargard, Poland (this enables the Corps HQ to function on a daily basis – whether in Baltic Barracks, during exercises outside Szczecin and even outside Poland by providing key services such as communication, transport, medical support and messing) and the multinational battlegroups. (the divisions coordinate the activities of the enhanced Forward Presence (now Forward Land Forces (FLF)) battlegroups in peacetime and, if need be, they will carry out collective defence operations).

The UK has three posts within HQ MNC NE – a two-year assignment for an OF-3 within the Plans team of the J7 (Training) Division, and two, three-year assignments for an OF-4 running the Joint Operations Centre (JOC) within the J3 (Current Ops) Division and an OF-4 within the Future Plans Team of the J5 (Future Plans) Division. It is this role I am currently fulfilling. In terms of the content of what I am involved in on a daily basis, suffice to say that whilst there are several of the team working on live planning for the region, there are also a significant number of other exercise plans which are also needed to develop and executed to ensure the HQ remains

able to conduct its primary functions as outlined above. We are fortunate to have a significant multinational spread within the J5 Division which brings with it significant experiences, many different military cultures, a huge number of perspectives and inevitable frustrations. As one might expect within the NATO and multinational environments, patience, collaboration, and diplomacy are crucial to being able to achieve our daily work and key tasks. More broadly within the HQ, there is a vibrant Allied Officers' Club, and Spouses' Club and a regular drum beat of events to really maximise the multinational flavour of the HQ. I personally have hosted two sell out whisky tasting events and along with my Royal Canadian Navy colleague, have designed a tartan for the HQ in recognition of the 25th Anniversary which is now registered with the Scottish Tartan Authority.

### **The lived experience in Poland.**

Family life in Szczecin is a very positive experience. Whilst there have been many frustrations to setting up home and establishing ourselves again not only in a foreign country but in what has been designated an Isolated Detachment, and rebalancing family dynamics that have seen pressures we would not even have considered before, this is a hugely rewarding assignment and there is a huge amount to see and do within the city, surrounding area and country. With the cost of living slightly (but not hugely) better than the UK, there is no shortage of pursuits accessible ranging from museums, art galleries, the opera, a philharmonic through to every flavour of bar, club, café or restaurant and shopping experience. There is a huge selection of sporting opportunities that we would all recognise e.g. football

(Pogon Szczecin) and basketball (Wilkie Morskie Szczecin), swimming and water parks, tennis, cycling, sailing, shooting and fishing etc which are easily accessible to watch or participate in; as well as opportunities to undertake sports and activities you might not normally such as ice hockey, Nordic walking, wake boarding, SUP or polar plunging. Schooling for children is available with a couple of MoD endorsed international schools (SIS and SAIL – the former following the IB and the latter the Cambridge programme) and a vibrant group of multinational children.

The opportunity to travel around Poland and/or explore central and eastern Europe as well as Scandinavia is exceptional. Whether it is a short flight or high-speed train to Warsaw, a drive to Berlin, Dresden, Poznan or the Baltic coast and white sand beaches, or travelling further afield in Poland or surrounding countries on long weekends or leave is easily achievable and come the Spring and Summer, there is a huge amount to explore from medieval towns through to getting out into nature. Come the Autumn, the opportunities are there to get to the South and Polish Highlands and enjoy the exceptional scenery. In the winter season, we are spoilt for choice for Christmas markets and if the weather conditions are right, the options to go skiing (affordably) in Poland are excellent but generally in the Carpathians or Tatra Mountain regions. Personal highlights have been exploring military history sites (such as Stalag Luft III), absorbing the history of Gdansk, taking in the sights of the Mazury region (Poland's equivalent of the lake district), Malborg Castle, Karkow, winter swimming, skating, the museums of Warsaw, Christmas markets and much



## SCOTS AT ERE

### HEADQUARTERS MULTINATIONAL CORPS NORTHEAST *continued*

more – we still have so much more to explore and I still have to explore my own family history here.

**Final thoughts.** Overall, the opportunities to serve abroad are hugely rewarding and to do so within a NATO Corps HQ at this point in the history of Poland and NATO is unique. Whilst the administrative burden of making the move is significant and should not be underestimated, the positive professional, family and life experiences make up for this. I have learned many things since starting this assignment, but the main one is that Poland (and the Polish) has so much to offer if you are willing to dive on in. If any readers are interested in learning more, I can be contacted through Modnet, Signal or via RHQ.

Lt. Col. Christie Broadbent attended RMA Sandhurst in 2000 and was commissioned into the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) in 2001. Since the formation of The Royal Regiment of Scotland in 2006, he has served in 3 SCOTS, 4 SCOTS and in a range of staff appointments. He has undertaken a number of operational tours in Bosnia (reserve service) Iraq, Northern Ireland, Estonia, Afghanistan and Eastern Europe. He is married to Kate and has two children, Charlotte and Elliot.



*Lt Col Broadbent – HQ MNCNE*



## OP VOGUL

South Sudan  
*Captain Angus Bullen*

Op VOGUL is the UK Op in support of the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, UNMISS. South Sudan fought a protracted and bloody war of independence and was finally recognised as an independent state in 2011, the youngest country in the world. The South Sudanese are proud of this fact, and regularly share the other national fact they know – South Sudan is home to the largest land mammal migration in the world.

It is also home to repeated conflict, both at a national scale in 2011, 2013-2018, and with regional and seasonal ethnic violence or widespread low-level crime. Scorching dry seasons, torrential flooding, disease, food insecurity, refugees, internally displaced people, land grabbing, low literacy and a soaring economic crisis (98% of the economy is oil revenues, sold years in advance but the Sudan War cut the pipeline from Mar-Dec 2024) add to the difficult situation. The veterans of the independence struggle gained the lions share of power, enabling strongman politics, deep corruption and an important patronage system that ensures all the connected 'feed'. Identity is important in South Sudan, and your name, build, face and skin advertise to all who you are (Bullen is also a name from near Juba). Ethnic violence has reduced the trend for tribal scarification among the young, as it marks you easily for the next attack. As one South Sudanese put it, "We are very friendly and welcoming to all foreigners. It is just each other we hate." The Dinka fight each other, the Nuer fight the Dinka, cattle keepers raid each other or destroy farmers crops and everyone hates the Murle for their history of child abduction. In a mission awash with acronyms, I have coined my

own; CRV. I will apologise for grossly simplifying a complex situation in the above summary. Another quotation may illustrate a little more about the people; "South Sudanese don't run from guns. We run from rape."



Unlike its neighbours of DRC and Sudan, at time of writing in Jan 2025, South Sudan is not riven with open conflict, but tensions bubble high from uncertainty about presidential succession (Salva Kiir is sick), twice delayed elections, over a year of unpaid government salaries, rampant inflation (In 2011 \$1=7 SS pounds, today it is 5300SSP), and the government's flailing attempts to maintain control over the major opposition faction (armed splitters) and other political groups (splitters).

Op VOGUL is now based in the main UN Compound in the capital city of Juba, South Sudan. PDT is much the same as the other high-threat environments, though the additional reams of registration, medical, mandatory e-learning and miscellaneous forms for the UN give insight to the dogmatically bureaucratic environment one joins on deployment. Tour lengths are 9 months (though I extended to 12) in contrast to most international military colleagues

who serve a year or longer. The team consists of just four; the Senior National Representative (Lt Col, Deputy Chief of the JOC), a RM Maj (U3 staff officer), an Int Corp Capt (Joint Mission Analysis Centre Analyst) and an E2 Capt in the G3 FuOps role in Sector Juba.

Sector Juba is responsible for securing the UN and delivering Protection of Civilians in crisis in Juba city and surrounding counties. We wrestle with arcane procedures for authorisation to move (in violation of the agreements with UN), differing military cultures, and decent to abysmal roads. In my HQ of 35, 20 nationalities are represented. This makes for an interesting multinational team, with frequent invitations to dine or celebrate national events. Where else can a British Officer sit with a Chinese battalion and demand more dumplings? A high social battery ensures few nights are spent feeding oneself. A healthy approach to scavenging and DIY ensures additional comforts over those provided by the UN.

In reality, the work hours become longer as your capacity becomes clear, idlers shirk tasks and the growing to-do list increases. Cultural clashes are unwinnable, so a cool head and fresh start each day are vital, along with suitably timed humility. If you want to be on the main effort in a high-functioning NATO context, this is not the tour for you. If you want autonomy, some freedom and initiative on the fringes of UK interests with a pistol and Landcruiser, I recommend it. Every day there is something new to see in Juba.



## SCOTS AT ERE

### BRITISH ARMY TRAINING UNIT KENYA

Kenya

*Lieutenant Colonel John House*

BATUK has continued to fluctuate in the numbers of SCOTS personnel assigned here. Maj Gary Wallace recently departed BATUK having served as the QM (but remains in sunny climes in Belize), Maj Will Wright left after three years for the Army Personnel Centre, and WO2 Craig Duncan moved to the British Military Advisory and Training Team (Czech Republic).

We have been joined by WO2 Duncan Bruce and Capt Luke Bloodworth (an Army Reservist from 7 SCOTS).

BATUK continues to be a professionally fulfilling and dynamic place to work. In training delivery, we are working hard to ensure visiting battle groups are put through their paces against the contemporary threats – and continue to deliver an exceptionally demanding exercise. Routinely we have two to three large scale exercises each year, which now include a longer period of unit self-delivery training under the new Land Training System design. It is hugely rewarding to be mentoring units to achieve their full potential and leave Kenya at a better standard than they arrived.



*Elephant on Eastern Laikipia Training Area*



*WO2 Duncan Bruce (second from right, back row) after delivering cultural training to visiting units*

There is rarely a dull day in Kenya with floods, droughts, wild animals, and high-profile visitors all keeping us on our toes! Working hours at BATUK are very fluid depending on the training programme and exercises, but those who are assigned for 6 months as Temporary Duty Staff, or Permanent Staff very rarely do not enjoy their time with BATUK. Work hard, play hard, remains the BATUK approach, and Kenya offers a multitude of opportunities for sport, adventure training, community engagement and personal travel opportunities. It also remains an excellent overseas assignment for those with families. Whilst expectation of Amazon Prime delivery time needs managing...this is absolutely offset with local safari lodges, trips to the coast and children hand feeding giraffe/rhino.



*Lt Col John House during a (successful) climb of Point Batian, the highest peak of Mount Kenya*



*BATUK motorsport club conducting river crossing on Eastern Laikipia Training Area*





# TRAINING

## THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST

### RMAS Permanent Staff:

Major AM Campbell  
Captain A Turner

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### Cadre 23:

Colour Sergeant R McClelland

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### Cadre 24:

Colour Sergeant A Iliffe  
Colour Sergeant K Macmillan

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As was previewed in the last Journal, change continues apace within the Academy under Project STRATUS. This is the reorganisation of individual training across the Army and cohering this under one 2\* in the new Army Initial Training Command. By restructuring how we train across the soldier and officer space we can better cohere outputs and enable sharing of good practice from Pte to General, over a broad spectrum of topic. This encapsulates everything from basic soldier training to the Army Generalship Scheme. This has been achieved by creating three 1\* Op Groups that will sit within AITC: Soldier Academy, RMAS and the Leadership Education Development Group (containing the General Staff Centre, Centre for Army Leadership, and the NCO Academy) and the UOTCs as a single OF5 pillar. Whilst this is a significant undertaking, and the work remains unfinished at a structural level the Academy rumbles on, under the command of Brigadier Nick Wight-Boycott.



*Tempest Photography ©*

We have also restructured the Commissioning Course under Project ADAIR. The course now comprises of six modules each with a central theme, as well as three focus weeks – removing Adventurous Training from recess and giving the OCdts a greater exposure to both the Field Army and the direction that the Army is due to take in the future. However, while delivery has changed our output remains the same – to deliver combat ready leaders to the Field Army.

Attracting and securing the next generation of SCOTS Officers remains both a privilege and an immensely enjoyable challenge. Even with a smaller foot-print of staff we continue to punch above our weight recruiting high quality individuals to send into the Field Army. Welcomed into the Regiment over the last year: five from CC232 (2Lts Brophy, Owtram, Pruszewicz, Tamlyn and Whitfield), seven from CC233 (2Lts Johnston, Jolleys, Light, Perkins, Samoiys, Sands, Sutton), and three from CC241 (2Lts Morris, Setling and Rawcliffe).

We have a slightly smaller footprint this year as we have said farewell to Majs Callum Duncan and Mike Hill who have gone onto ICSC(L) on promotion, and CSgts Brown, Bannis, Lilley, Macfarlane and Tavaga who have all returned to their battalions after a job well done. We have been joined by Capt Turner and CSgts Iliffe and Macmillan bringing the 2 SCOTS footprint to five out of five, which rather extends a challenge to the rest of the Regiment!

RMAS remains a fast-paced and incredibly rewarding posting, surrounded by a team of high calibre individuals. With a new Sandhurst Instructor Aptitude Cadre about to begin with two SCOTS SNCOs loaded on, I must issue the challenge to all potential instructors out there: come and try the 'look at life' sessions and load onto SIAC. We can only recruit the best young officers to the Regiment if we inspire them with high quality role models. Our SNCOs have a reputation among staff and students alike at RMAS for being exemplars of leadership and soldiering – we remain the standard for others to follow.



## THE INFANTRY BATTLE SCHOOL

### *Developing the future leaders of the Infantry*

As 2024 ended SCOTS can look back on a successful year at the Infantry Battle School. With 39 students in total trained across the tac divs, the reputation of the Regiment throughout IBS is currently at a decade high. Overall students have upheld the fighting spirit and determination of all SCOTS battalions through strong performances at the battle school.

#### **Platoon Commanders Division:**

Colour Sergeant R Miller  
Colour Sergeant L Eager

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In 2024, 16 SCOTS students arrived from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to attend the Platoon Commanders Battle Course. The course is the Infantry Officers phase two training, focussing on platoon level tactics in the company context. The young Platoon Commanders spent 4 weeks mastering skills at section and basic platoon level before beginning the newly structured optimisation package. Students were taught, then formally tested on the new lethality, survivability and manoeuvre phases of the course before being put to their paces on an arduous 13 day FTX on Sennybridge.

Second Lieutenant Tamlin – Distinction, Bino's winner  
Second Lieutenant Perkins – Distinction

#### **Senior Division**

The Platoon Sergeants Battle Course is the Corporals' career course to become eligible for promotion to Sergeant. The course tests the students' ability to administrate a platoon during offensive and defensive actions, care for casualties under fire and plan and conduct safe evacuation. In conjunction with learning how to command, control



Course 2402

and look after a platoon, the students learnt how to plan and safely conduct life fire tactical training. This skill allows the Platoon Commanders and Sergeants the ability to train their platoon in the most realistic of scenarios.

Corporal Dunnet – Distinction

#### **Junior Division:**

Colour Sergeant G Watt  
Colour Sergeant S Oliver

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The Section Commanders Battle Course is the Lance Corporals' promotion qualifying course to become Section Commanders. An extremely tough course focussing on the section battle, to defeat the enemy through close combat. As the course progresses onto Ex COMBINED WARRIOR, the Section Commanders work closely under a student platoon commander and conduct a variety of complex operations for the summative phase of the course. Students combine with schools across the wider Army to enhance skills and techniques, focusing on combined arms manoeuvre.

Lance Corporal Byers – Instructors recommendation



CSgt Miller on the PCD Bayonet fighting lane



Course 2401



# TRAINING

## THE INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE

### HEADQUARTERS BATTALION

#### Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant Colonel PJ Morgan

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#### Officer Commanding Slim Company:

A/Major (now Maj) KW Nicholson

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#### Second-in-Command Slim Company:

Captain AC Ferrier

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#### Master Tailor:

Colour Sergeant GA Hannah /

Colour Sergeant N Revill

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#### Nurture SNCO:

Sergeant G Harkness

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#### Resources NCO G7:

Corporal M Burns

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#### All Arms PTI:

Corporal JT Campbell

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### 1ST INFANTRY TRAINING BATTALION

#### Officer Commanding A Company:

Major WF Garrick

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#### Operations Officer:

Captain RA Mounsey

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#### Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant:

Warrant Officer Class 2 (RQMS)

RG Ritchie

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#### CQMS, A Coy:

Colour Sergeant JT Neilson

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#### Platoon Commanders:

Captain HML Eaton

Lieutenant AWI Blackhall

Lieutenant AT Calder

Lieutenant O Shankland

Lieutenant HRV Thornton-Kemsley

---

#### Platoon Sergeants:

Sergeant P Dagleish

Sergeant ST Degei

Sergeant IF Foreman

Sergeant K Macdonald

Sergeant M Nayadravuki

Sergeant D Rogers

---

#### Section Commanders:

Corporal M Brebner

Corporal D Buntain

Corporal J Campbell

Corporal A Cockrell

Corporal A Devlin

Corporal K Gibson

Corporal C Gilmour

Corporal D Gough

Corporal C Gray

Corporal F Gray

Corporal D Hood

Corporal S Hyndman

Corporal C Keltie

Corporal J McKay

Corporal Z Robson

Corporal N Trotter

Corporal D Weir

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#### A Company Storemen:

Corporal D James

Corporal S Kedrayate

Corporal Lewavakula

Private I Scott

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### 2ND INFANTRY TRAINING BATTALION

#### Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant:

Warrant Officer Class 2 (RQMS) LJ

McConnachie

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#### Platoon Commander:

Lieutenant G Gray

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#### Platoon Sergeant:

Sergeant JM Granger

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#### Section Commanders:

Corporal G Bruce

Corporal D Lewis

Corporal T Martin

Corporal S McQueen

Corporal D Wynne

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As the staff list alone shows, SCOTS permeate into every corner of the Infantry Training Centre remaining, as they ever have been, a cornerstone of the institution.

The last year saw significant changes to ITC already, with even bigger ones to come. The first Royal Armoured Corps recruits were welcomed, to be trained in Common Military Syllabus (basic training) by joint infantry and RAC training teams. This integration has been a great success and created opportunities for a lot of shared learning. The formation of Slim Company, a centralised holdover and rehabilitation company, for both training battalions under Headquarters Battalion has led to greatly improved recovery pathways. Its success should come as no surprise though, given that both the OC and 2iC are 'greats' of the Regiment.

April will see ITC 25 become a reality. This is the largest programme of change in the ITC since its creation in 1995 and seeks to treat the issues of retention and wastage in training, along with raising the standard of infantry training while incorporating the RAC into basic training. The ITC will remain a centre of Infantry Excellence and will be better equipped to train soldiers for success in the Field Army. 1st Infantry Training Battalion will focus on the delivery of basic training to all combat recruits (Royal Armoured Corps and Infantry of all flavours, including Guards and Parachute Regiment, less the Gurkhas). Resultantly, 1ITB will become experts in delivery of the Common



Military Syllabus and in the specific challenges of turning civilians into soldiers. Section Commanders Battle Course will no longer be the required qualification to be an instructor in 1ITB. This opens the door to any Cpl who has completed the Infantry Instructors Training Cadre through IBS or CAMS, or others who hold the equivalent qualifications. 2nd Infantry Training Battalion will deliver initial trade training to infantry of all varieties, basic training and ITT to Gurkhas and deliver All Arms Pre-Parachute Selection (P Company). The efficiencies this new form creates will drive betterment, giving the freedom to ensure people are best placed to deliver training. For those aspiring to become an instructor at ITC, the restructure also provides an opportunity to create much greater predictability and stability in the course loading programme, guaranteeing Christmas and summer closedown periods that are ring-fenced and courses are built around.

The infantry's roles and structures have changed significantly in the 30 years that the ITC has existed in Catterick. ITC 25 is the opportunity to proactively adjust ITC's operating model to better support the field army and especially the infantry. It will deliver improved training and a higher standard of recruits as a result of better trained instructors, with greater resource and at a more sustainable tempo. It is an exciting change which makes ITC an exciting place to be an instructor. As the army professionalises its instructor career pathway, this will be a crucial first step on the ladder to IBS or RMAS in the future.

Outside of the delivery of training, and preparing for the large changes afoot, there has remained time for activities of a slightly different nature. SCOTS Instructors have supported wider



*Maj B Garrick, Sgt S Degei and the SCOTS Rcts of A8 Platoon at their headdress parade to mark the end of Basic Training. They will pass out from ITC on 4 Apr*

army inflow through Engage to Recruit activities across the country. They have represented at every level in a variety of sports, including participation in the bouldering Army championships, and snowsports, attending and achieving excellent results on career courses and generally representing the regiment in a positive light in every way imaginable.

Nurturing of potential SCOTS recruits remains a key activity and the responsibility of all SCOTS PS within the ITC. Having 4 SCOTS on the doorstep of ITC has been of great benefit to the recruits and staff. This year we have seen 4 SCOTS deliver interest lessons on the Foxhound and Jackal platforms to the injured SCOTS recruits in SLIM Coy, as well as all SCOTS recruits and PS being invited to the Highland Games. We also had the opportunity for our recruits to attend the 4 SCOTS Inter Company Boxing which was well received by all who attended. These events are key to keep the recruits engaged and motivated to complete training and reach their chosen Battalion. Internally the RQMS' put their significant G4 skills on show by organising a BBQ in October, for all SCOTS PS and recruits. Going forward the SCOTS PS at ITC will continue to

engage with the Battalions and seek opportunities for the recruits to visit and experience the wider regiment. Visits from Commanding Officers, RSMs and RCMOs are always welcomed, with willing hosts from across the permanent staff.

### **SCOTS PI Comd Voice of Experience Lt Alfie Blackhall**

Since commissioning, it has been a goal of mine to instruct, whether it be recruits, officer cadets or junior officers at Brecon. When the opportunity to Platoon Command at Catterick came my way I had no hesitation in accepting the offer.

My first day at Catterick was full of anticipation, being thrown into a new Company with capbadges from across the Infantry. Many had already fostered friendships and were comfortably embedded into their training teams. Not long after I was put into a Platoon and had to take over one of these training teams that had worked together for some time; naturally you question how you are going to fit into and lead a team that has experience delivering training together.



## TRAINING

### THE INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE *continued*



*Lt George Gray and CRIMEA Platoon, Pass-out*

As I made way to the Platoon office, I remember hearing from down the lines the distinct sound of a Jock pleasantly telling recruits what they needed to do prior to deploying on Exercise. As I came around the corner, I got my first interaction with my new Platoon Sergeant who was indeed a Jock. He broke off from his briefing, said "Awrite Boss," and proceeded back to the recruits. Immediately I had a huge sense of relief knowing my Platoon Sergeant was also SCOTS, almost as though a part of Fort George had followed me down to Catterick.

It was clear from this point onwards the Jocks have a strong influence at ITC Catterick and you're never too far from a friendly face, one that you can relate to and who is always keen for a chat and in many cases a catch up.

#### **SCOTS Sect Comd Voice of Experience Cpl Keltie**

As I approach the end of my time at ITC, I would like to share some insights from my experience of working within A Company, 1st Infantry Training Battalion, and more recently within SLIM Company.

Since arriving from 3 SCOTS I have delivered two full courses, delivering training at section and platoon level. Although challenging and immersive, one of the most rewarding aspects is seeing the change in the recruits from week 1 to the end product at week 24. The noticeable change in confidence and ability from what you have taught them is startling. As I near the end of my post I am now working with the injured recruits, using the tools I have developed to focus on their physical and mental resilience before they return to training.

The ability to plan and forecast is a real plus point, with locked in Christmas leave and summer leave with ITC 25. The stability allows personal development courses and family time to be planned which isn't always guaranteed at RD.

ITC has provided an opportunity to work with your peers from other capbadges and has made me a more rounded Section Commander, which will aide me on return to RD. I would recommend a post to ITC to any budding infantry instructor.



# TRAINING

## ARMY FOUNDATION COLLEGE HARROGATE

The Army Foundation College (AFC) Harrogate remains the British Army's premier Junior Entry Establishment, shaping 16 and 17-year-old recruits into disciplined, capable soldiers. Over 49 weeks, Junior Soldiers (JS) undergo intensive military training alongside academic and personal development, preparing them for life in the Army. For those aspiring to join The Royal Regiment of Scotland, this journey is both demanding and rewarding.

Having served at AFC Harrogate for over a year, Captain Clayden-Spence has seen first-hand the profound transformation in recruits. "Watching these young junior soldiers arrive as civilians and develop into confident, disciplined soldiers ready to take their place in the Army is immensely rewarding", he reflects. His experience highlights the College's role in shaping not just soldiers but individuals who embody resilience, teamwork, and leadership.

New intakes arrive twice a year, quickly adjusting to military life after swearing the Oath of Allegiance. They are placed into one of five training companies, where their days become a structured routine of physical training, fieldcraft, weapons handling, and drill – all while progressing academically in English, maths, and IT. The initial weeks are a culture shock for many, with JS Slater, aspiring to join 2 SCOTS, admitting that the intensity of training was a challenge. However, he remains motivated by the ultimate goal: reaching battalion and serving alongside other SCOTS soldiers.

As training progresses, so does the complexity of the tasks. By the Intermediate Term, JS have completed Platoon-level manoeuvres, night navigation, and CBRN training, further honing their skills. Sergeant Urquhart plays a crucial role in shaping their development, particularly those considering The Royal Regiment of Scotland. His mentorship and guidance have influenced several recruits to follow the SCOTS path, reinforcing the regiment's legacy within AFC Harrogate.

Beyond military training, JS are encouraged to challenge themselves in other areas. JS Fraser-Burton, aspiring to join 3 SCOTS, acknowledges the course's difficulty but embraces the challenge, noting that the experience has been tough but incredibly rewarding in terms of personal growth and preparation for battalion life.

The journey at AFC Harrogate is demanding, but for those destined for The Royal Regiment of Scotland, it is the perfect foundation. With the Graduation Parade approaching, the next generation of SCOTS soldiers can take immense pride in their achievements, knowing that their training has prepared them to uphold the regiment's proud traditions and serve with distinction.



*Capt Clayden-Spence (4 SCOTS) and Lt Barrie (3SCOTS) welcoming JS and their parents on arrival day*



*Capt Clayden-Spence (4 SCOTS) building a model pit for his Pl's first set of orders*



*Cpl Meechan, formerly 3 SCOTS, teaching SAA to his section*



# PIPE, DRUMS AND MUSIC

## THE ARMY SCHOOL OF BAGPIPE MUSIC AND HIGHLAND DRUMMING

### **Director Army Bagpipe Music (DABM):**

Major R McCrindle SG

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### **Second in Command:**

Captain K Douglas RRF

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### **Senior Pipe Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 1 Pipe Major  
C Simpson SCOTS

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### **Senior Drum Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 Drum Major  
R McCutcheon SG

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### **Pipe Major:**

Warrant Officer Class 2 School Pipe  
Major J Harvey SCOTS

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### **Pipe Sergeant:**

Sergeant R Rai QOGLR

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### **Piping Instructor:**

Corporal M McWhinnie SCOTS  
Corporal S McCaskill SCOTS  
Corporal R Steel SCOTS

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### **Drumming Instructor:**

Corporal N Tamang RGR  
Corporal M Dixon SCOTS

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### **Admin Officer:**

Carol Marshall

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### **Facilities Manager:**

Colin McCart

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### **Dancing Instructor:**

Cheryll Campbell

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### **Last 12 Months**

Over the past year, we have made remarkable strides in training and developing students from across the Field Army, including both regular and reserve personnel. This initiative is vital for ensuring the long-term sustainability and excellence of our unit Pipes and Drums, which are integral to our military traditions and ceremonial duties.

In September, we proudly celebrated the culmination of the AA Class 3 Course 2401 with a grand passing out parade at the 105 RA parade square. The event was honored by the presence of Maj Gen Bruce CBE DSO, Governor of Edinburgh Castle, who served as the inspecting officer. The weather was exceptionally favorable, with clear skies and mild temperatures, contributing to the parade's success and enhancing the spirits of the participants and spectators alike.

Throughout the past year, we have witnessed a significant increase in external piping and bugling engagements, a trend that reflects the increasing recognition of the importance of military music in fostering camaraderie and morale. Our instructors have been actively involved in supporting key events such as formal mess dinner nights, poignant Remembrance parades, and various STTTs, where music plays a crucial role in enhancing the ceremonial atmosphere. One of the year's highlights was the Capt John MacLellan Memorial Competition held in October, which drew some of the world's elite pipers across the civilian solo piping circuit. This award-winning event not only showcased exceptional talent but also provided a sense of community and competition among musicians, inspiring our students to strive for excellence.

Looking ahead, the AA Class 3 Course 2402 is set to pass out, and students are currently engaged in rigorous preparations for this significant parade. This critical phase of training emphasizes the importance of discipline, precision, and teamwork. Students are mastering essential skills such as marching with their instruments, understanding Drum Major's signals, and perfecting Pipe Band parade drill. The event will again be attended by Maj Gen Bruce CBE DSO, who will serve as the inspecting officer. The final parade will not only serve as a testament to their hard work and dedication over six months but also as a vital public demonstration of military tradition and pride.

In addition to the AA Class 3 course 2402, we are thrilled to announce the commencement of the AA Class 2 Elementary and Intermediate Pipers Course this January, which has attracted 15 enthusiastic students. These individuals will also participate in the upcoming passing out ceremony and will receive a PDQB SQA Level 4 certificate upon completion. This dual progression of courses is designed to create a robust pipeline of skilled musicians within our units, reinforcing our commitment to preserving and enhancing our military musical heritage.



## PIPE, DRUMS AND MUSIC



*AA Class 3 Pipers & Drummers 2401 final tune up before getting changed for their Pass Out Parade*



*Senior Pipe Major Simpson working hard on a STTT in Jordan getting the Jordanian Pipes and Drums ready to play for the wedding of Crown Prince of Jordan*

### **Army Piping and Drumming Championships**

On 3 October, the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming (ASBM&HD) proudly hosted the highly anticipated Championships, an annual event that unites pipers and drummers from across the Army's Pipes and Drums. This competition serves as an invaluable platform for musicians to showcase their skills, foster their development as individuals and as part of a pipe band, and prepare them for participation in higher-level competitions. The spirit of friendly rivalry permeates the event, as participants vie for the titles of best piper, best drummer, and best mini band of the day.

The Championships attracted a diverse array of competitors, including representatives from both regular and reserve Army Pipes and Drums, ASBM&HD instructors, and students from University Officer Training Corps (UOTC). It was particularly inspiring to witness the involvement of young officers who had previously honed their piping skills before their military service, demonstrating their ongoing passion for music and commitment to participation in the event.

Throughout the day, participants faced a series of challenging performances, judged by a panel of esteemed experts in the field. The event not only showcased the exceptional talent within the Army but also fostered a sense of camaraderie among competitors, reinforcing the shared passion for traditional music and the cultural heritage it represents.



## PIPE, DRUMS AND MUSIC

### THE ARMY SCHOOL OF BAGPIPE MUSIC AND HIGHLAND DRUMMING *continued*

The Championships serve as a vital component in the ongoing development of Army musicians, helping to cultivate their skills and prepare them for future endeavors within the competitive piping and drumming circuit. As we look forward to next year's event, the ASBM&HD remains committed to supporting and nurturing the next generation of pipers and drummers, ensuring that the rich traditions of Scottish music continue to thrive within the Army and beyond.

#### **Midlothian Schools Project**

This year marks the third phase of an ambitious five-year project aimed at providing tuition for school pupils from various schools across Midlothian, spearheaded by dedicated instructors from ASBM&HD. The initiative seeks to create weekly opportunities for young people in the region to access free tuition in Piping and Drumming, an opportunity that many may not have had otherwise. By removing financial barriers and providing expert guidance, the program opens doors to a world of musical expression that enriches the lives of participants.

The vision outlined at the project's inception is to establish a fully-fledged Pipes and Drums ensemble by the end of the five-year cycle. This goal not only emphasises the importance of skill development but also aims to foster a sense of community and belonging among the participants. The ensemble will serve as a platform for students to showcase their talents through performances at local events, competitions, and community gatherings, thereby enhancing their confidence and connection to their cultural heritage.

Throughout this journey, the project has proven to be a source of inspiration for many young people in Midlothian, encouraging them to engage with Piping, Drumming, and traditional music. The instructors have been instrumental in creating a supportive and inclusive environment, where students can explore their musical interests and develop their skills at their own pace.

As we continue through this pivotal year, we remain committed to nurturing the talents of young musicians in Midlothian, creating pathways for them to engage with their cultural heritage and develop lifelong skills. The success of this project thus far is a testament to the power of music education and its ability to inspire the next generation of pipers and drummers. We eagerly anticipate the growth and milestones that will unfold as we move closer to our goal of establishing a thriving Pipes and Drums ensemble by the project's conclusion.

#### **AA Pipe Major's Course**

The AA Pipe Major's Course is now entering its final couple of months, having provided an intensive training experience for four students from across the Field Army. Throughout this rigorous seven-month program, participants have been honing their skills in March, Strathspey & Reel (MSR), Hornpipes & Jigs, and Piobaireachd, while also delving into essential theory, music writing, and the rich history of piping. The course is structured to challenge students both musically and academically, with a new set of material introduced monthly and weekly theory exams to reinforce their learning. This comprehensive preparation is designed to equip these aspiring Pipe Majors with the expertise needed to maintain and elevate the high standard for which the Army's Pipes and Drums are renowned.

#### **Senior Drumming Courses**

In addition to the Piping Course, we have successfully trained a total of 22 students over the past 12 months through the Class 2 Elementary Drummers, Class 2 Intermediate Drummers, and Class 1 & Drum Majors' Course. These programs cater to a diverse range of skill levels and requirements. Some students are embarking on their musical journey, learning their very first March, Strathspey, and Reel (MSR), while more experienced drummers are engaged in the study and performance of advanced MSR sets, as well as Hornpipe and Jig arrangements. Notably, students completing these courses have also had the opportunity to earn civilian drumming qualifications, achieving assessments at PDQB Levels 4, 5, and 6, thereby enhancing their credentials and versatility as musicians.

Currently, the Class 1 & Drum Majors Course is nearing the completion of its Class 1 Drumming phase. Once their assessments are finalised, students will transition to the Drum Major phase, culminating in a significant assessment on parade. This parade will showcase a series of Highland Drum Major movements, performed under the keen observation of the Senior Drum Major and the Director of Army Piping. The event promises to be a highlight, with the Class 3 & 2 Course also in attendance to provide musical support.

# PIPE, DRUMS AND MUSIC



## THE BAND OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

Band SCOTS Abroad  
Worldwide  
*LCpl Bryony George*

**Officer Commanding:**  
Major Brenden Wheeler

**Band Sergeant Major:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2 John Govan

**Bandmaster:**  
Warrant Officer Class 2  
Christopher Brown

"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent" – Victor Hugo.

### January

Three small ensembles from the Band deployed to Cyprus, to provide musical support for Burns Night in RAF Akrotiri, Episkopi and Nicosia. The Brass Quintet performed at the British High Commissioners Burns Night Reception, at his official residence in Nicosia. RAF Akrotiri & Episkopi Garrison Officers Mess had our Ceilidh Band perform traditional dances with a caller to provide the ultimate immersive Scottish experience. The Saxophone Quartet and Brass Quintet also supported and provided music for the meal whilst renditions of Robert Burns Poems were recited throughout the evening.

### March

Marking the 30th anniversary of the Royal Corps of Army Music, a concert was held in St. Giles Cathedral. The highlight of the evening was Enigma Variations and in particular Nimrod, which featured LCpl Calef on Cello who delivered a poignant performance of the movement. The augmented band was supported by reserves & regulars from across the U.K. In attendance was the Lord Lyon, Maj Gen Alastair Bruce of Crionaich CB OBE DL VR and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh.



*Major Brenden Wheeler conducting at the NATO 75th Anniversary concert*

### April

To celebrate NATO's 75th anniversary a small group of musicians were invited to Naples, Italy, to perform alongside other musicians from NATO states in a one-off concert in the iconic Teatro San Carlo Opera House. In attendance was SACEUR General Christopher G. Cavoli (U.S.A. Army) and DSACEUR Admiral Sir Keith Edward Blout KCB OBE with 2500 guests from every NATO country and partner countries. 'Defend Every Inch' was a specially commissioned work to commemorate this historic milestone and was given its world premiere in Naples. Band SCOTS were privileged to be part of the concert and fly the flag for the U.K. As always, the kilt was a hit with other nations wanting photos with our members.

### May

Six band members deployed to Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support 'The Great Futures' campaign and to provide support to the British Embassy. This whistle-stop-tour saw the group land and immediately proceed directly

to a Saudi music facility to conduct a joint rehearsal with Saudi musicians until 0200. After a very late check in to the hotel and a short sleep, they moved to the convention centre for a sound check and the first performance, televised on Saudi national TV, with more performances following throughout the day. The next day, the ensemble returned to the convention centre for more performances including talks by Rio Ferdinand and Steven Gerrard discussing the development of Saudi football. The final day saw the group perform to a local Saudi International School with an inspiring Q&A at the end. The deployment was a great success, not only for the 'Great Futures campaign' but also for the relation between the Saudis and the British Embassy.

### June

The King's Birthday Parade was supported by the Brass Quintet who deployed to the Balkan States. They provided musical support to the British Embassies and visited Bosnia



## PIPE, DRUMS AND MUSIC

### THE BAND OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND *continued*

and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania. The Quintet performed several pop-up outdoor concerts, performing with local Military Bands. They had the opportunity to perform at a children's orphanage and a special needs school in Sarajevo, which proved to be the most rewarding and memorable event of the trip. Later in August, the band returned the favour and invited The Kosovo Security Force Band over to Edinburgh to perform a special concert, which included Karl Jenkins 'The Armed Man' dedicated to the victims of the Kosovan crisis.

#### August

Major Wheeler invited The Kosovo Security Force Band and the U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa Band over to Edinburgh to perform a joint concert at Craiglockhart campus, Napier University. This intimate venue was used as a hospital for Officers who suffered shell shock during WW1. The band performed Karl Jenkins 'The Armed Man' which is dedicated to the victims of the Kosovan crisis. This year marked the 25th anniversary since the end of the conflict. The Band also performed 'Defend Every Inch' and was honoured to have the composer Dr and Chief Musician Christopher Buchanan from the U.S. Navy Band to provide technical & musical advice.

#### December

The Band deployed to Sennelager in Germany, in support of several Anglo-German Carol Services. The first service was at Marktkirche in Paderborn for Christingle, which for many military families and children was their first experience of a Military Band. On the second day, the band performed in the Christmas Markets in Paderborn to all the shoppers. The Mayor of Paderborn, who was in attendance, publicly thanked the Band for a wonderful

performance emphasising the special relationship between Paderborn and UK soldiers serving in Germany. The final engagement was at the Hoher Dom zu Paderborn, a spectacular cathedral with standing room only available before the service began.

For many band members, this was their first opportunity to perform in Germany at Christmas time and this experience, alongside the hospitality of the German people, made it a memorable end to the year.



*Brass Quintet performing at the King's Birthday Parade in Montenegro*



*Fanfare Team in Hoher Dom zu Paderborn performing the fanfares to O Come All Ye Faithful and Hark the Herald Angels Sing*



# SCOTS SHOP ONLINE

THE OFFICIAL ONLINE SHOP OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

**FOR BULK OR CUSTOM ORDERS PLEASE  
EMAIL [ENQUIRIES@AMMOANDCO.CO.UK](mailto:ENQUIRIES@AMMOANDCO.CO.UK).**

**A PERCENTAGE OF EACH ORDER IS PAID  
BACK TO YOUR REGIMENT**

**UNIFORM & ON PARADE  
AT EASE  
CLOTHING  
PRESENTATION & GIFTWARE**

## WHY USE OUR PRI?

Profit share with the Regiment • MoD licence approved • Live chat & easy returns  
• Large choice of approved products • Fast & secure • Next day delivery

**£4,694 Returned to the Regiment to date**





## REGIMENTAL MASCOT

### CORPORAL CRUACHAN IV



*Cruachan and SRU Mascot*

2024 was a busy but interesting year for Cruachan and trustee companion, Nightcap, as we travelled all over the UK – from Stornoway to London and all the places in between.

We attended the Women's 6 Nations, Scotland V England match, and the Men's Autumn International, Scotland v Australia, at Murrayfield Stadium. On both occasions we greeted the teams upon their arrival. Cruachan also met with spectators in the fan village and the Scotland team Mascot.



*Receiving the Freedom of Aberdeenshire – Peterhead*



## REGIMENTAL MASCOT

The granting of four new Freedoms to the Regiment saw us travel across Scotland, including on a ferry to Stornoway for the first time, but hopefully not the last! Each parade attracted large crowds, who came to welcome us all and show their support.

Show wise, we unfortunately didn't place in the Royal Windsor Horse Show 2024; however, both Cruachan and Nightcap did extremely well at The North of Scotland Welsh Pony and Cob Association Show. Most notably the ponies' performance at the Turriff District Show was admirable and both boys came away with multiple ribbons, including Cruachan with a 1st for Gelding Any Age, and Nightcap with 1st for In Hand Diamond Veteran Ridden. Nightcap also qualified for the Veteran Horse Society Regional Finals! None of these shows would have been possible without the help and the fantastic company of the Clothie team as always!



*The Clothie Team*

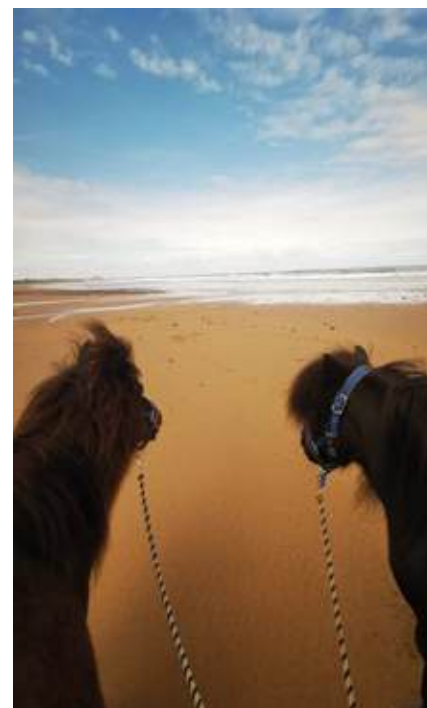


*Cruachan and Nighcap with Pegasus and Bruneval*

Once again, we participated in His Majesty The King's arrival parade at Balmoral alongside Balaklava Company. We also formed part of the Guard of Honour at the Lord Mayor's Show when the Regiment was granted the Associated Status of the City of London!

In between all these events, we managed to fit in some visits to the beach and a couple of visits from our friends Pegasus and Bruneval – The Parachute Regiment's Mascot and Companion.

We are looking forward to the next years events!



*Cruachan and Nighcap beach visit*



## MUSEUM

### MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND

#### Museum and Collection

The team began the year with an exciting 'first' for the Museum, as we hosted a temporary exhibition alongside our regular displays. 'The British Army and Ukraine' came to us on loan from the National Army Museum in Chelsea and was displayed in partnership with our neighbours at the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Museum. The display explored the historical context of the ongoing war in Ukraine and the ways in which the British Army is providing support, including through training provided by members of the Regiment as part of Op INTERFLEX. We were delighted to host a delegation from the Edinburgh Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB) to view the display towards the end of its run. It was incredibly powerful to hear stories of Ukrainians who have settled in Scotland – both permanently and temporarily – and learn about the strength of their community.



*The British Army and Ukraine' on display inside the Museum*

March saw the end of an era for the Museum with the retirement of Lt Col (Retd) Gordon Vevers from his post as SO2 Heritage. Gordon was an incredibly influential force in driving the Museum and our collection forward thanks to (or in spite of!) his reputation within the Regiment and the positive relationships maintained with our antecedent counterparts – and continues to be a great supporter of the team as he

enjoys his retirement! His farewell lunch provided a rare opportunity for the Museum team past and present to reunite, as former Curator Desmond Thomas travelled over from Amsterdam for the occasion.



*A reunion for the Museum Team*

A notable new acquisition in 2024 was the Union Flag flown over the last British Army base in Kabul. The flag was flown over Camp Qargha, the last British-owned base in Afghanistan, where the main compound served as a facility for the Afghan National Army's Officer Training Academy. Since opening in 2009 the base housed several British units including 2 SCOTS in 2015-16 and 4 SCOTS in 2020. The flag was removed and brought 'home' by a member of B Company 4 SCOTS following the completion of their Op TORAL 10 tour in November 2020. In a complex tour which spanned global restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic and a tumultuous political landscape, B Company was unexpectedly tasked with closing the base at Camp Qargha alongside their regular security duties. In the last few weeks of the tour an official closing ceremony was held which featured all members of B Company as well as dignitaries and ANA Officers. The two youngest members of the Company, Highlanders Dow and Cairns, had the privilege of lowering the flag. The flag is due to go on display in the Museum in 2025. Further acquisitions included

presentation items relating to the bestowal of Freedoms in the Western Isles, North Lanarkshire and Moray, correspondence from King Charles III and an example of the new PT kit issued to members of the Regiment.



*Highlanders Dow and Cairns lowering the union flag in Camp Qargha, November 2020*

The Museum was delighted to accept on long-term loan a memorial cross presented to the widow of Corporal William Savage following his death in April 2013. The metal crosses were crafted from used ammunition by service personnel in Afghanistan to be sent back home in memory of their fallen comrades. Stored carefully in a handmade box since arriving in Penicuik in 2013, this particular cross had remained unopened for over a decade, until November this year. Although it had perhaps adapted too well to its environment, a gentle polish by the Curator has returned it to its original gleam. The cross will be the newest addition to the Museum's display commemorating the lives of the 23 SCOTS killed in combat since 2006 when it is on display in early 2025.

The Museum is proud of its status as an Accredited Museum and part of a Nationally Recognised Collection in Scotland, although this demands a regular return of updated policies



# MUSEUM

and plans every five years. 2024 was the year Museums Galleries Scotland came calling for our return, so our Curator spent much of her summer undertaking the not-so-glamorous task of reviewing documents such as our Forward Plan, Collections Policy and Audience Development Plan. These all direct our priorities for the growth of our collection, the changes we want to make to our displays, and the events and activities we carry out outside of the Castle walls. Our return was submitted in early November, and we are confident we will pass with flying colours!

## Learning and Engagement

2024 proved to be another busy year for learning and engagement. We hosted 18 schools over the 2023-24 school year, many of which were returning to us from previous school years. This amounted to over 750 learners from Edinburgh, the Lothians and Falkirk – a record year for our learning programme!

One of the highlights of our year was the development and pilot of a new 'Defending the Nation' session for P2-P4 learners. 'Defending the Nation' encourages learners to explore the military use of defensive structures, such as our home in Edinburgh Castle, before being tasked with building their own from large coloured building bricks. It launched fully in February 2024 and is already proving to be an incredibly popular addition to our programming.

As we headed from spring into summer, we were able to kick our community engagement programming back into gear. We hosted visits from groups such as the Lauderdale Scouts and cadets from 3 Platoon (RSB) Newmains, who enjoyed guided tours of the Museum and RHQ SCOTS

and were able to get hands-on with our Regimental history during object discovery sessions. Our new SCOTS branded gazebo had its first outing during one of our regular visits to Scots Corner for the 2 SCOTS Family Day in June, where our young artists styled their own tartan Cruachans.



*Cadets from 3 Platoon (RSB) Newmains visiting RHQ SCOTS*

During the school holidays we continued to run drop-in craft sessions in the Museum. Families visiting the Castle stopped by the SCOTS Museum to craft their own unique souvenirs from their trip, including our now infamous paper Cruachan mascots. They are proving popular with young and old visitors alike, and even generating some modest donations to the Museum, which enables us to keep running these activities. We are looking forward to many more activities across 2025!

Our Learning and Engagement Volunteers have enjoyed a successful first year as part of our Museum team and continue to be an invaluable asset in delivering our various sessions and activities. We welcomed several new volunteers to the team in September, as a number of our original cohort have moved on to paid work and further study. Whilst we were sad to say goodbye, it has been testament to the value of the development opportunity our volunteering programme offers. The fresh wave of energy from our new

volunteers was channelled into two full-day training sessions in the Museum, where everyone was introduced to the activities we provide for schools and got a chance to take part themselves.



*Volunteers 're-enacting' the Battle of Nunshigum 1944 during a training session in the Royal Scots Museum*

Heading online, our Regimental Museums Learning Hub has been given a refresh with some new images and additions such as our 'Places of Interest' page. This is the first major change to the Learning Hub since its launch in 2021 as we are keen to make sure it stays relevant in our post-Covid world. The layout has been readjusted to improve navigation (in other words, make it easier for teachers to book into our excellent school sessions!), allowing us to add more content and generally increase the 'friendliness' of the website. To add to this, we have commissioned a set of character illustrations of members of the Regiment which will be added to the website and our digital resources in 2025.



# REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS' APPOINTMENTS



## COLONEL IN CHIEF

Mar 06 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II  
Aug 23 His Majesty King Charles III

## DEPUTY COLONEL IN CHIEF

Aug 23 Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

## COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

Mar 06 Maj Gen WEB Loudon CBE (Regimental Colonel Commandant)  
Mar 07 Lt Gen Sir AJN Graham CB CBE  
Mar 14 Maj Gen JMC Cowan CBE DSO  
Jul 16 Maj Gen RB Bruce CBE DSO  
Nov 19 Lt Gen Sir NRM Borton KCB DSO CBE  
Mar 24 Maj Gen RRE Lindsay CBE

## REGIMENTAL SECRETARY

Mar 06 Maj (Retd) CA Campbell  
Jan 18 Lt Col (Retd) KM Potts MBE  
Oct 20 Lt Col (Retd) JD Tink



# SCOTS COMMANDING OFFICERS

RANK	INITIALS	NAME	FROM MMY	TO MMY	REMARKS
<b>1 SCOTS</b>					
Lt Col	RB	Bruce MBE	Mar 06	Feb 08	
Lt Col	CLG	Herbert OBE	Feb 08	Oct 10	
Lt Col	BMA	Wrench	Oct 10	Jul 13	
Lt Col	ME	Munro	Jul 13	Aug 15	
Lt Col	NM	Wight-Boycott	Aug 15	Feb 18	
Lt Col	AD	Watson	Feb 18	Oct 20	
Lt Col	FS	Reeves MBE	Oct 20	Nov 21	Last CO
On 1 Dec 21, 1 SCOTS were re-designated 1 RANGER as part of the new Ranger Regiment					
<b>2 SCOTS</b>					
Lt Col	PK	Harkness MBE	Mar 06	Dec 07	
Lt Col	NRM	Borton DSO MBE	Dec 07	Jan 10	
Lt Col	DSG	Graham	Jan 10	Oct 11	
Lt Col	RRE	Lindsay	Oct 11	Jul 14	
Lt Col	GC	Wearmouth OBE	Jul 14	Jul 17	
Lt Col	DC	Close	Jul 17	Sep 19	
Lt Col	OPB	Dobson MBE	Sep 19	May 22	
Lt Col	J	Dunn	May 22	Jul 24	
Lt Col	O	Bridle	Jul 24		
<b>3 SCOTS</b>					
Lt Col	LR	MacDuff	Mar 06	Mar 08	
Lt Col	SJ	Cartwright	Mar 08	Mar 10	
Lt Col	EA	Fenton	Mar 10	Sep 12	
Lt Col	AP	Reilly OBE	Sep 12	Jan 15	
Lt Col	AFL	Steele	Jan 15	Oct 16	
Lt Col	RSJ	Hedderwick	Oct 16	Feb 19	
Lt Col	G	Sefton	Feb 19	May 21	
Lt Col	M	Hayton	May 21	Dec 23	
Lt Col	RA	Smith	Dec 23		
<b>4 SCOTS</b>					
Lt Col	JMR	Hopkinson OBE	Mar 06	Dec 06	
Lt Col	J	Campbell	Dec 06	Mar 09	
Lt Col	AJ	Aitken MBE	Mar 09	Dec 11	
Lt Col	JC	Roddie MBE	Dec 11	Jun 14	
Lt Col	LJ	Drummond MBE	Jun 14	Jul 16	
Lt Col	NKG	Tomlin	Jul 16	Feb 19	
Lt Col	TJJ	Draper	Feb 19	Jun 21	
Lt Col	AJL	Hempenstall	Jun 21	Aug 23	
Lt Col	GW	Muir MBE	Aug 23		



RANK	INITIALS	NAME	FROM MMY	TO MMY	REMARKS
<b>5 SCOTS/BKA COY</b>					
Lt Col	SR	West OBE	Mar 06	Nov 06	
Lt Col	DC	Richmond	Jan 07	Sep 09	
Lt Col	AWA	Griffiths MBE	Sep 09	Jul 11	
Lt Col	NA	Den-McKay MBE	Aug 11	Jun 13	
Maj	OPB	Dobson	Jun 13	Jul 14	
Maj	JA	French	Jul 14	Jun 16	
Maj	CM	Wood	Jun 16	May 18	
Maj	J	Thompson	May 18	Feb 20	
Maj	CK	Law	Feb 20	Jun 22	
Maj	RC	Weir	Jun 22	Jul 24	
Maj	NK	Cargill MVO	Jul 24		
<b>6 SCOTS</b>					
Lt Col	SW	Burns TD	Mar 06	Jul 08	
Lt Col	CA	Coull	Jul 08	Jun 09	
Lt Col	CE	Platt	Jun 09	Oct 11	
Lt Col	AJ	Fitzpatrick MBE	Oct 11	Jan 14	
Lt Col	DG	Stimpson TD	Jan 14	Jul 16	
Lt Col	J	McElhinney	Jul 16	Jan 18	
Lt Col	J	Anderson	Jan 18	Jun 21	
Lt Col	RJ	Stuart MBE	Jun 21	Dec 23	
Lt Col	LJ	Curson	Dec 23		
<b>7 SCOTS</b>					
Lt Col	CH	Campbell TD	Mar 06	Mar 08	
Lt Col	DW	Hay	Mar 08	Feb 10	
Lt Col	EC	The Viscount Chelsea	Feb 10	Aug 12	
Lt Col	PM	Little OBE	Aug 12	Jan 15	
Lt Col	PGB	Strudwick	Jan 15	Jul 17	
Lt Col	DM	Sheldrick	Jul 17	Jan 20	
Lt Col	DDJ	Mackinnon	Jan 20	Jun 22	
Lt Col	DID	Watson	Jun 22	Oct 24	
Lt Col	DM	Robertson	Oct 24		



# SCOTS REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJORS

RANK	INITIALS	NAME	FROM MMY	TO MMY	REMARKS
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## 1 SCOTS

WO1	RJ	Stuart	Jul 06	May 07	
WO1	WC	McAuley	May 07	Jun 08	
WO1	D	Tait	Jun 08	Jun 10	
WO1	P	Wood	Jun 10	Dec 12	
WO1	A	Falconer	Dec 12	Jul 14	
WO1	S	Boyle	Jul 14	Jan 16	
WO1	J	Corkill	Jan 16	Jun 16	
WO1	S	Burns	Jun 16	Apr 18	
WO1	CH	Docherty	Apr 18	Apr 20	
WO1	A	Duncan	Apr 20	Nov 21	Last RSM

On 1 Dec 21, 1 SCOTS were re-designated 1 RANGER as part of the new Ranger Regiment

## 2 SCOTS

WO1	JK	Law	Mar 06	Apr 06	
WO1	WGA	Hunter	Apr 06	Apr 07	
WO1	WR	Barrie	Apr 07	Apr 09	
WO1	MJ	McNally	Apr 09	Jun 11	
WO1	W	Garrick	Jun 11	Nov 13	
WO1	A	Russell	Nov 13	Sep 15	
WO1	M	Gallagher	Sep 15	Aug 17	
WO1	J	Fraser	Aug 17	Mar 19	
WO1	SL	McNally	Mar 19	Aug 21	
WO1	RD	O'Neill	Aug 21	Jun 23	
WO1	S	Paterson	Jun 23		

## 3 SCOTS

WO1	M	Robb	Mar 06	Jun 07	
WO1	LI	Campbell	Jul 07	Apr 08	
WO1	L	McDougall	Apr 08	May 10	
WO1	MG	Duffus	May 10	Sep 11	
WO1	S	Shaw	Sep 11	Jun 14	
WO1	P	Marshall	Jun 14	May 16	
WO1	KJ	Stacey	May 16	May 18	
WO1	KJ	Pedder	May 18	May 20	
WO1	M	Gray	May 20	May 22	
WO1	A	Ferrier	May 22	Apr 24	
WO1	M	Robb	Apr 24		

## 4 SCOTS

WO1	R	Smith	Mar 06	Apr 07	
WO1	H	Wilson	Apr 07	Apr 09	
WO1	A	Moore	Apr 09	Sep 09	
WO1	G	Law	Sep 09	Feb 11	
WO1	EG	Philbin	Feb 11	Nov 13	
WO1	S	McQuillin	Nov 13	May 15	
WO1	IG	Cordiner	May 15	Jul 16	
WO1	MG	MacLean	Jul 16	May 19	



RANK	INITIALS	NAME	FROM MMY	TO MMY	REMARKS
WO1	CS	Taylor	May 19	Aug 21	
WO1	AR	McLellan	Aug 21	Jul 23	
WO1	G	Allison	Jul 23		

### 5 SCOTS/BKA COY

WO1	S	Rae	Mar 06	Mar 08	
WO1	D	Campbell	Mar 08	Feb 10	
WO1	D	Park	Feb 10	Jul 12	
WO1	R	Louden	Jul 12	Jun 13	Last RSM
WO2	D	Carter	Jun 13	Mar 15	
WO2	KJ	Pedder	Mar 15	Jun 16	
WO2	N	Diciacca	Jun 16	Oct 17	
WO2	S	Gibson	Oct 17	May 19	
WO2	R	McCready	May 19	Nov 19	
WO2	GW	Wagh	Nov 19	Apr 20	
WO2	M	Robb	Apr 20	Mar 22	
WO2	S	Cox MVO	Mar 22	Jun 24	
WO2	CR	Marr	Jun 24		

### 6 SCOTS

WO1	SG	Cochrane	Mar 06	Jul 08	
WO1	M	James	Jul 08	May 10	
WO1	PC	Marshall	May 10	Jun 12	
WO1	PD	Colville	Jun 12	Jun 14	
WO1	G	Main	Jun 14	Apr 16	
WO1	M	Morrison	Apr 16	Sep 17	
WO1	S	Main	Sep 17	Jun 19	
WO1	SG	Parker	Jun 19	Jun 21	
WO1	J	Thompson	Jun 21	Apr 23	
WO2	S	McKnight	Apr 23	May 24	Acting RSM
WO1	A	Welshman	May 24		

### 7 SCOTS

WO1	A	Stewart	Mar 06	Jun 06	
WO1	AG	McAleney	Jun 06	Apr 07	
WO1	G	Wallace	Apr 07	Jun 09	
WO1	D	Yarrick	Jun 09	Jul 11	
WO1	SR	West	Jul 11	Sep 13	
WO1	JJ	Dickson	Sep 13	Jun 15	
WO1	MJ	Fairweather	Jun 15	Apr 17	
WO1	D	Carter	Apr 17	Aug 19	
WO1	IL	Carlisle	Aug 19	Aug 21	
WO1	J	Knox	Aug 21	May 22	
WO1	B	Warwick	May 22	Dec 23	
WO2	D	Devine	Dec 23	Oct 24	Acting RSM
WO1	A	Bright	Oct 24		



# OPERATIONAL TOURS

## THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND – OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENTS

Since its formation in 2006 The Royal Regiment of Scotland has been deployed on many operational deployments across the globe from warfighting to United Nations missions to Military Support to the UK Government. The Ministry of Defence use a codeword to describe each operational theatre or task and those to which the Regiment has been deployed are described and listed below.

Op BANNER	Northern Ireland Emergency which ended on 31 Jul 07
Op TELIC	Iraq
Op HERRICK	Afghanistan
Op TORAL	Successor to HERRICK – Kabul Protection Unit
Op TOSCA	Operations in Support of the United Nations (UN) in Cyprus
Op VOCATE	UK based Training Mission for Libya
Op ELGIN	Bosnia deployment as part of EUFOR
Op GRITROCK	Force Protection Mission to Sierra Leone
Op COMET	Military Support to the Commonwealth Games
Op SHADER	Regional Training Mission (Cyprus, Kuwait and Iraq)
Op TRENTON	Force Protection Mission in South Sudan
Op NEWCOMBE	United Nations Mission in Mali
Op INTERFLEX	UK based Training Mission for Ukraine
Op FIRIC	UK Infantry Coy support to The Falkland Islands

### 1 SCOTS

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Op BANNER	Mar 06 – Jul 06 (KOSB Bn/SCOTS)
Op TELIC 11	Nov 07 – May 08
Op HERRICK 10	Mar 10 – Sep 10 (Minden PI att to 3 SCOTS)
Op HERRICK 11	Sep 09 – Apr 10 (B Coy att to 3 RIFLES)
Op HERRICK 12	Mar 10 – Sep 10
Op TOSCA	Oct 12 – Apr 13 (PI Strength)
Op HERRICK 17	Sep 12 – Mar 13
Op ELGIN	Jun 14 – Aug 14 (A Coy)
Op GRITROCK	Oct 14 – Mar 15 (B Coy)
Op TOSCA	Sep 15 – Mar 16 (Bn (-))
Op TORAL	Apr 16 – Dec 16 (B Coy)

### 2 SCOTS

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Op HERRICK 8	Mar 08 – Oct 08
Op HERRICK 13	Oct 10 – Mar 11
Op HERRICK 18	Apr 13 – Sep 13
Op TORAL 2	Aug 15 – Apr 16 (Bn (-))
Op TOSCA	Sep 17 – Mar 18 (FSp Coy (+))
Op SHADER 6	Dec 17 – Jun 18 (Bn HQ, B and C Coys)
Op TRENTON 4	Jan 18 – Jul 18 (A Coy)
Op TORAL 11	Sep 20 – May 21
Op NEWCOMBE	Oct 22 – Mar 23 (C Coy)
Op SHADER	Dec 23 – May 24 (Bn (-))
Op INTERFLEX	Jan 24 – Jul 24 (Bn HQ and C Coy)
Op FIRIC	Apr 24 – May 24 (FSp Coy)



### 3 SCOTS

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Op BANNER	Mar 06 – 31 Jul 07
Op TELIC 9	Nov 06 – Apr 07 (A Coy)
Op TELIC 10	Apr 07 – Nov 07 (13 Pl att to 2 R WELSH)
Op HERRICK 10	Apr 09 – Nov 09
Op HERRICK 15	Sep 11 – Mar 12
Op COMET	Jul 14 – Aug 14 (Coy (-))
Op VOCATE	Jun 14 – Nov 14 (Bn (-))
Op TOSCA	Mar 14 – Oct 15 (Bn (-))
Op SHADER 6	Nov 17 – Jul 18 (Bn (-))
Op TORAL 12	Apr 21 – Jun 21
Op INTERFLEX	Jun – Nov 22 (A Coy)
Op INTERFLEX	Jul – Dec 24 (Bn)

### 4 SCOTS

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Op TELIC 7	Oct 05 – Apr 06
Op TELIC 12	Mar 08 – Oct 08
Op HERRICK 8	Mar 08 – Sep 08 (B Coy att to 5 SCOTS)
Op HERRICK 14	Mar 11 – Oct 1
Op HERRICK 19	Sep 13 – Jun 14
Op SHADER 4	Apr 17 – Jul 17 (Bn less FSp Coy)
Op ORBITAL	Jan 17 – Aug 17 (FSp Coy)
Op TORAL 10	Apr 20 – Sep 20 (Bn)
Op INTERFLEX	Jun – Oct 22 (Sp/B Coy)
Op INTERFLEX	Jun – Dec 23

### 5 SCOTS

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Op HERRICK 4	Jul 06 – Oct 06 (Coy and Recce Pl)
Op HERRICK 8	Apr 08 – Oct 08
Op HERRICK 13	Oct 10 – Mar 11

### BKA COY – (5 SCOTS REDUCED TO COY STRENGTH IN 2013)

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Op TORAL 2	Dec 15 – Apr 16
Op TORAL 12	Apr 21 – Jun 21 (Pl (-) att to 3 SCOTS)

### 6 SCOTS

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Officers and soldiers of 6 SCOTS have provided individual reinforcements to Regular Army Bns for most operational deployments.

### 7 SCOTS

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Officers and soldiers of 7 SCOTS have provided individual reinforcements to Regular Army Bns for most operational deployments and a formed Coy for an operational deployment listed below.

Op TELIC 9	Nov 06 – May 07 (Alamein Coy)
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# OPERATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

## 2006

RANK	INITIALS	NAME	AWARD	THEATRE
Lt Col	JM	Donovan	MBE	Iraq
Lt Col	JMR	Hopkinson OBE	QCVS	Iraq
Maj	RL	Coutts	MBE	Iraq
Maj	PGB	Strudwick	QCVS	Iraq
Lt	SD	Ford	MiD	Iraq
WO2	NM	Davis	QCVS	Northern Ireland

## 2008

Lt Col	NRM	Borton MBE	DSO	Afghanistan
A/Lt Col	AJ	Fitzpatrick	MBE	Afghanistan
Lt Col	CLG	Herbert	OBE	Iraq
Maj	JC	Roddis	QCVS	Afghanistan
WO2	PRJ	Dargavel	QCVS	Northern Ireland
ASgt	SW	McLeod	MiD	Iraq
Maj	NG	Calder	MC	Afghanistan
Maj	NA	Den-McKay	MiD	Afghanistan
Maj	TGS	Perkins	MBE	Iraq
Maj	AMcL	Rennie MBE	QCVS	Iraq
Capt	BA	O'Neill	QCVS	Afghanistan
Capt	DID	Watson	MiD	Afghanistan
Lt	JP	Adamson	MiD	Afghanistan
Lt	DMcL	Robertson	MiD	Afghanistan
2Lt	ABC	Barclay	MC	Afghanistan
2Lt	SAC	Du Boulay	MiD	Afghanistan
2Lt	CJ	Hesketh	MiD	Afghanistan
Cpl	DS	McMenamin	MiD	Afghanistan
Cpl	S	Whitehead	MC	Afghanistan
LCpl	JJ	Newlands	MiD	Afghanistan
Pte	AR	Irvine	MiD	Afghanistan
Pte	RS	MacLellan	MiD	Afghanistan
Pte	LD	Verity	MiD	Afghanistan

## 2009

Brig	GE	Lowder MBE	Bronze Star Medal	Afghanistan
Maj	EG	Jones	Bronze Star Medal	Iraq
Maj	CA	Ramsay	Bronze Star Medal	Iraq
Lt	JP	Adamson	MC	Afghanistan
WO2	AD	Ronaldson	MiD	Iraq
Sgt	CJ	Marshall	QCVS	Iraq

## 2010

RANK	INITIALS	NAME	AWARD	THEATRE
Brig	JM	Cowan OBE	DSO	Afghanistan
Lt Col	SJ	Cartwright	OBE	Afghanistan
Lt Col	RC	Cole-Mackintosh	Bronze Star Medal	Afghanistan
Lt Col	AJ	Halliday	MiD	Afghanistan
Lt Col	AD	MacGillivray	MC	Afghanistan
Maj	EJA	Murphy	Bronze Star Medal	Iraq
Maj	AFL	Steele	MiD	Afghanistan
Maj	GC	Wearmouth	QCVS	Afghanistan
Lt	AJ	Phillips	MC	Afghanistan
WO2	PD	Colville	MiD	Afghanistan
Sgt	TA	Lowe	MiD	Afghanistan
ACpl	SC	Binnie (awarded posthumously)	MiD	Afghanistan
Cpl	SN	Boila	MiD	Afghanistan
Cpl	R	Clark	MC	Afghanistan
Cpl	PD	Innes	MiD	Afghanistan
Cpl	CS	Reynolds	MC	Afghanistan
Cpl	DJ	Roy	MiD	Afghanistan
Cpl	R	Sharp	MC	Afghanistan
Pte	CJ	Brotherston	QGM	Afghanistan

## 2011

A/Col	CLG	Herbert OBE	QCVS	Afghanistan
Lt Col	DSG	Graham	QCVS	Afghanistan
Lt Col	AWA	Griffiths MBE	OBE	Afghanistan
Maj	AMcL	Rennie MBE	QCVS	Rest of World
Maj	PGB	Strudwick	QCVS	Afghanistan
Maj	N	Wight-Boycott	QCVS	Afghanistan
Capt	AJA	Akerman	QCVS	Afghanistan
Capt	IR	Curren	MC	Afghanistan
AWO2	CG	Muir	MiD	Afghanistan
ASgt	SJH	Cox	MiD	Afghanistan
Sgt	EW	Wilson	MiD	Afghanistan
Cpl	P	Buchanan	MiD	Afghanistan
Cpl	SIS	Gall	QCVS	Afghanistan
LCpl	CE	Burns	MiD	Afghanistan
LCpl	SH	Henderson	MiD	Afghanistan
LCpl	J	Raduva	MiD	Afghanistan
LCpl	DR	Skinner	QCB	Afghanistan
LCpl	CM	Sloan	MiD	Afghanistan
Pte	B	Johnson	MC	Afghanistan
Pte	JV	Tolutinikaono	MiD	Afghanistan



## 2012

RANK	INITIALS	NAME	AWARD	THEATRE
Col	AJ	Aitken MBE	OBE	Afghanistan
Lt Col	AM	MacNaughton	Bronze Star Medal	Afghanistan
Lt Col	EA	Fenton	DSO	Afghanistan
Lt Col	GC	Wilson	OBE	Afghanistan
Maj	NKG	Tomlin	QCVS	Afghanistan
Capt	BD	James	MiD	Afghanistan
A/CSgt	D	Buist	MiD	Afghanistan
CSgt	IB	Smith	MiD	Afghanistan
Sgt	S	Leslie	MiD	Afghanistan

## 2013

Brig	RB	Bruce	DSO	Afghanistan
Lt Col	ALS	Boswell	NATO MSM	Iraq
Lt Col	BMA	Wrench	NATO MSM	Iraq
Maj	RJ	Connolly	QCVS	Afghanistan
Maj	AV	Cooper	MBE	Afghanistan
Maj	AD	Lumley	QCVS	Afghanistan
WO2	RAK	Millar	NATO MSM	Iraq
Cpl	R	Cook	MiD	Afghanistan
Cpl	DR	Skinner	MiD	Afghanistan
Pte	R	Houston	MiD	Afghanistan

## 2014

Lt Col	DJS	Cochran	QCVS	Afghanistan
Lt Col	DR	Orr-Ewing	QCVS	Afghanistan
Lt Col	GC	Wearmouth	OBE	Somalia
A/Maj	RT	Boyd	MBE	Afghanistan
Maj	GR	Brocklehurst	MC	Afghanistan
Maj	SP	Dallard	MBE	Afghanistan
Maj	TJJ	Draper	QCVS	Afghanistan
Maj	GA	McGowan MBE	QCVS	Afghanistan
Cpl	CR	Grant	QCB	Afghanistan
Sgt	SN	Vono	QCB	Afghanistan

## 2015

Brig	BWO	Russell MBE	QCVS	Afghanistan
A/Col	NA	Den-McKay OBE	DSO	Operations
Col	JC	Roddis MBE	DSO	Afghanistan
Col	CP	Wallace	Bronze Star Medal	Afghanistan
Maj	JF	Giles	QCVS	Afghanistan
Maj	G	Tait MBE	QCVS	Afghanistan
Capt	EP	Challis	MBE	Afghanistan
Capt	BSE	Davey	NATO MSM	Afghanistan
Capt	MI	Pemberton	QCVS	Afghanistan
Lt	JE	Donkin	NATO MSM	Afghanistan
Cpl	C	Myers	QCVS	Afghanistan

## 2016

RANK	INITIALS	NAME	AWARD	THEATRE
Maj Gen	RB	Bruce DSO	CBE	Iraq
Maj	JC	MacLellan	Bronze Star Medal	Afghanistan
Capt	TJ	Towler	QCVS	Afghanistan
CSgt	IG	Gallagher	MID	Operations
CSgt	JE	Mckenzie	MC	Operations
Sgt	J	McKenna	MID	Iraq

## 2017

Cpl	KZ	Haig	QCVS	Operations
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## 2019

Lt Col	JM	Christie	OBE	Iraq
Lt Col	RSJ	Hedderwick	QCVS	Iraq
A/Maj	FM	Stark	QCVS	Iraq
Maj	DID	Watson	NATO MSM	Afghanistan

## 2020

Maj	RAG	Adamson	Bronze Star Medal	Operations
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## 2021

Maj	DA	Mead	MBE	Afghanistan
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# NON-OPERATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

## 2006

RANK	INITIALS	NAME	AWARD
Lt Col	SR	West	OBE
Maj	HIM	Clark	MBE
Maj	JA	Scott	MBE
Maj	GTH	Tweedie	MBE
Maj	PJ	White	MBE
Capt	JB	Henderson	MBE
Capt	JEB	Kerr	MBE
Capt	JD	McCallum	MBE

## 2007

Maj	D	Dobson	MBE
Capt	GA	McGowan	MBE
CSgt	E	Duff	MBE
WO2	SH	Dryburgh	MSM
WO2	ER	Stuart	MSM

## 2008

Lt Col	CE	Price	OBE
Maj	K	Campbell	MBE
Maj	JJ	Haughie	MBE
Maj	TAW	Ingram	MBE
Maj	WG	Lee TD	QVRM
Maj	AM	Rennie	MBE
Capt	T	Henderson McBride	MSM
Capt	WGA	Hunter	MSM
Capt	JK	Law	MSM
Capt	SD	Samson	MBE
Capt	RJ	Stuart	MBE
WO2	DJL	Bruce	MSM
CSgt	WS	McDougall	MSM

## 2009

Lt Col	BG	De La Haye	OBE
Lt Col	GC	Wilson	OBE
Maj	JC	Roddis	MBE

## 2010

Capt	S	Mackenzie	MSM
WO1	RG	Highet	MSM

## 2011

Col	AJN	Alderson MBE	OBE
Lt Col	JAJ	Calder	MBE
Lt Col	DR	Orr Ewing MBE	OBE
Maj	PA	Keetly	MBE

## 2012

RANK	INITIALS	NAME	AWARD
Col	DC	Richmond	CBE
Maj	A	Aitchison	MBE
Maj	DEJ	Kemmis-Betty	MBE
Maj	CRA	Miles	MBE
Maj	SG	Wemyss	MBE
WO2	S	McAlpine	MSM

## 2013

Maj Gen	JM	Cowan DSO OBE	CBE
Lt Col	PM	Little	OBE
Lt Col	BM	Ross	MBE
Maj	NDE	Arbam	MBE
Maj	LJ	Drummond	MBE
WO1	PD	Colville	MSM
WO1	C	Pirie	MBE
WO1	S	Shaw	MSM
CSgt	W	Bell	MSM

## 2014

Col	NA	Den-McKay MBE	OBE
Col	R	Jefferies	CBE
WO1	C	Pirie	MBE

## 2015

Lt Col	AP	Reilly	OBE
A/Maj	AM	Mack	MBE
Maj	N	Mackinnon	MBE
Capt	M	James	MBE
Capt	EG	Philbin	MBE
Sgt	P	Trickovic	MBE

## 2016

Lt Col	KM	Potts	MBE
Maj	AT	Grant	MBE
Capt	AG	McEwan	MBE
CSgt	CG	Graham	MBE

## 2017

Lt Col	TAW	Ingram MBE	OBE
Maj	FS	Reeves	MBE
Maj	SG	Small	MBE
WO2	A	McBroom	MSM



## 2018

RANK	INITIALS	NAME	AWARD
Brig	AJ	Aitken OBE	CBE
Col	NHDeR	Channer	OBE
A/Lt Col	OPB	Dobson	MBE
Lt Col	PGB	Strudwick	OBE
Maj	WG	Hunter	MBE

## 2019

Lt Col	NKG	Tomlin	OBE
Lt Col	NM	Wight-Boycott	OBE
Maj	NP	Colquhoun	MBE
Maj	RJ	Colquhoun	MBE
WO1	S	McFadden	MSM
Maj	GW	Muir	MBE

## 2020

Lt Col	AR	Forsyth	OBE
Lt Col	AFL	Steele VR	MBE
Lt Col	AV	Wilson MBE	OBE
A/Maj	PD	Colville	MBE
Capt	CG	McRobbie	MBE

## 2021

Brig	RRE	Lindsay	CBE
Lt Col	TJJ	Draper	OBE
Capt	JS	Corkill	MBE

## 2022

Lt Col	CAM	Lane	MBE
Maj	AD	Steele	MBE
WO2	D	Buist	MSM
WO2	RG	Robertson	MSM
CSgt	PM	Leith VR	MBE
Cpl	JK	Vakacokaivalu	MBE
Maj	TH	Blair	MBE
Maj	GM	Rowan	MBE

## 2023

Lt Gen	NRM	Borton DSO, MBE	KCB
Col	AD	Watson	OBE
Lt Col	J	Campbell	OBE
Lt Col	JF	Giles	MBE
Maj	WC	McAuley	MBE
Sgt	T	Couper	MBE

## 2024

RANK	INITIALS	NAME	AWARD
Maj	TJM	Towler	MBE
WO1	P	Burns	MSM
WO1	AC	Ferrier	MSM
WO1	KR	Tuach	MSM
WO1	RD	O'Neil	MSM



## SCOTS LAST POST

In memory of the officers and soldiers from The Royal Regiment of Scotland who died in 2024.

Drum Major Neil SLOAN	15th February
Highlander John SALMOND	23rd February
Highlander John Devine	5th March
Highlander Anthony LIVINGSTONE	10th March
Fusilier Steven CROMBIE	18th April
Sergeant Donald CAMPBELL	19th April
Captain Neil HOMEWOOD	16th June
Sergeant Paul ROGERS	23rd June
Corporal George CLYDE	1st December
Private William VERNON	30th December

# THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND – FREEDOMS



“A military ‘Freedom Right’ is normally granted by a Regional Council authority in recognition of the services of the Regiment, both in peace and war. Being granted a ‘Freedom Right’ is the highest civic honour that a Council can bestow on the Regiment.

In keeping with tradition dating back many years, a freedom award is normally the right to march through the streets with drums beating, bayonets fixed and colours flying. The parade gave the citizens of a region, city or town the chance to show their appreciation and high regard for the hard work undertaken by the Regiment and its soldiers. The parade also provides the Regiment the opportunity to show its gratitude for the support that it receives from the region and it’s communities.

Since 2006, a number of new freedom rights have been conferred on the Regiment and when invited to, the appropriate battalion will exercise these historically important links to the community in Scotland and elsewhere.”

## SCOTS FREEDOM RIGHTS GRANTED SINCE 2006

COUNCIL	DATE	LOCATION RECEIVED	ACCEPTED BY
Clackmannanshire	13-May-06	Alloa	5 SCOTS
City of Aberdeen	01-Jul-06	Aberdeen	4 SCOTS
Angus	15-Jul-06	Forfar	3 SCOTS
Fife	21-Oct-06	Kirkcaldy	3 SCOTS
Mid Lothian	24-Mar-07	Penicuik	1 and 2 SCOTS
Dumfries and Galloway	07-Jun-08	Dumfries	1 SCOTS
Canterbury City	07-Dec-08	Canterbury	5 SCOTS
Berwick	28-Feb-09	Berwick-Upon-Tweed	1 SCOTS
Perth and Kinross	08-May-10	Perth	7 SCOTS
West Lothian	28-May-11	Livingston	1 and 6 SCOTS
Scottish Borders	11-Jun-11	Melrose	1 and 6 SCOTS
Renfrewshire	20-Jun-11	Paisley	5 SCOTS
Stirling	10-Mar-12	Stirling	7 SCOTS
East Lothian	19-Apr-13	Haddington	1 SCOTS
City of Edinburgh	20-Apr-13	Edinburgh	1 SCOTS
South Ayrshire	13-Nov-13	Ayr	2 SCOTS
Highland	15-Oct-15	Inverness	3 and 4 SCOTS
South Lanarkshire	17-Jun-23	Hamilton	BAK COY
Aberdeenshire	11-May-24	Peterhead	4 SCOTS
Moray	08-Jun-24	Elgin	BAK COY
North Lanarkshire	13-Jul-24	Motherwell	2 SCOTS
Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	07-Sep-24	Stornoway	2 SCOTS

## SCOTS ASSOCIATED STATUS GRANTED SINCE 2006

COUNCIL	DATE	LOCATION RECEIVED	ACCEPTED BY
City of London	09-Nov-24	London	BAK COY



## REGIMENTAL ALLIANCES, AFFILIATIONS

On formation of the Regiment all the antecedent Affiliations, Alliances and Bonds of Friendship (BoF) were formally transferred to SCOTS ownership. These military associations were originally formed for the mutual benefit and to promote friendship between Regiments of the British Army and those of Commonwealth and foreign countries. The military associations can be defined as follows:

- Alliances are associations between British Regiments or Corps and those of Commonwealth countries (including British Dependent Territories) only.
- Affiliations are associations between Regiments and Corps within the British Army. In practice these are confined to links between Regiments of the Brigade of Gurkhas and other British Regiments.
- BoF are associations between British Regiments or Corps and those of non-Commonwealth countries. Bonds of Friendship may also be formed between British Regiments or Corps and HM Ships.

The Regiment is committed to retain these hard-fought military associations and to take them forward as a Regiment with assistance from each Battalion. The connection to the past is born from a united and shared heritage which all ranks should be fiercely proud of. There is a combined responsibility to promote and where necessary, re-energise these links and to make best use of professional opportunities that will come from a vibrant and mutually beneficial association.

Overall responsibility for maintaining these associations rests with Regimental Headquarters, but by the very nature of the associations, the links are best preserved at battalion level, with assistance and support coming from Regimental Headquarters. New associations can be proposed and the process for this is managed through Regimental Headquarters to the appropriate MOD department.



# AND BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP

## SCOTS ALLIANCES, AFFILIATIONS AND BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP

COUNTRY	UNIT	SCOTS BN	REMARKS
<b>Australia</b>			
	7th Bn The Royal Australian Regt	4 SCOTS	Reg INF
	25/49th Bn The Royal Queensland Regt	tbc	Res INF
	The Royal Queensland Regt	3 SCOTS	Res INF
	The Royal New South Wales Regt	3/5 SCOTS	Res INF
	The Royal South Australian Regt	4 SCOTS	Res INF
	16th Bn The Royal Western Australian Regt	4 SCOTS	Res INF
	5th/6th Bn The Royal Victorian Regt	4 SCOTS	Res INF
<b>Canada</b>			
	The Canadian Scottish Regt (Princes Mary's)	6 SCOTS	Res INF
	The Royal Newfoundland Regt	6 SCOTS	Res INF
	1st Bn The Royal New Brunswick Regt (Carelton and York)	6 SCOTS	Res INF
	The Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada	2 SCOTS	Res INF
	The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada	3 SCOTS	Res INF
	The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke of Edinburgh's Own)	4 SCOTS	Res INF
	48th Highlanders of Canada	4 SCOTS	Res INF
	The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada	4 SCOTS	Res INF
	The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada	4 SCOTS	Res INF
	The Toronto Scottish Regt	4 SCOTS	Res INF
	The A&SH Highlanders of Canada (Princes Louise's)	5 SCOTS	Res INF
	The Calgary Highlanders	5 SCOTS	Res INF
<b>Malaysia</b>			
	5th Bn The Royal Malay Regt	tbc	Reg INF
<b>New Zealand</b>			
	1st Bn Royal New Zealand Inf Regt	2 SCOTS	Reg INF
	2nd/4th Bn (Otago & Southland) Royal New Zealand Regt	4 SCOTS	Reg INF
	5th/7th Bn (Wellington (City of Wellington's Own) and Hawkes Bay) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regt	4 SCOTS	Reg INF
<b>Pakistan</b>			
	11th Bn The Baluch Regt	2 SCOTS	Reg INF
	1st Bn (SCINDE) The Frontier Force Regt	5 SCOTS	Reg INF
<b>South Africa</b>			
	Chief Maqoma Regiment (renamed in 2009)	2 SCOTS	Res INF
	Solomon Mahlangu Regiment (renamed in 2009)	3 SCOTS	Res INF
	The Cape Town Highlanders	4 SCOTS	Res INF
	Bambatha Rifles (renamed in 2009)	tbc	Res INF
<b>Affiliations</b>			
	2 RGR	4 SCOTS	2 RGR
<b>Bonds of Friendship with HM Ships</b>			
	HMS Sutherland	4 SCOTS	
	HMS Submarine Victorious	4 SCOTS	
	HMS Argyll	5 SCOTS	
	HMS Queen Elizabeth	tbc	
	HMS Montrose	3 SCOTS	
	HMS Gannet (Naval Air Stn)	6 SCOTS	
<b>Bonds of Friendship with Non Commonwealth Countries</b>			
<b>France</b>			
	1e Regiment d'Infanterie	3/4 SCOTS	Reg INF
	27e Bataillon de Chasseurs Alpins	2 SCOTS	Reg INF



## BOND OF FRIENDSHIP – HMS VICTORIOUS

### A YEAR IN REVIEW: HARD WORK AND HARD PLAY FOR THE CREW

2024 was a year of challenges, resilience, and camaraderie for the crew as we navigated the complexities of our Deep Maintenance Period (DMP) in Devonport. Arriving in May 2023, the Submarine began its maintenance journey in Devonport's No.5 Basin (the largest of Devonport Naval Base's non-tidal basins) due to the unavailability of No.9 Dry Dock, which required extensive repairs and upgrades following a prolonged maintenance period for our sister submarine, HMS Vanguard.

This maintenance phase differed significantly from previous ones on Vanguard Class Submarines, with much of the work carried out while afloat at the berth in the Basin instead of being in the dry dock. This included removing, overhauling, and refurbishing the Ship's systems, with the Submarine now resembling a building site and being an empty steel husk of itself on the inside.

While the crew faced the numerous challenges common across the Armed Forces, including reduced personnel numbers (from over 150 to about 90), the team remained steadfast. Those who stayed adopted a "work hard, play hard" ethos, balancing increased workloads with opportunities for professional development and adventurous training.

In January 2024, members of the Ship's Company participated in the Royal Navy Alpine Ski and Snowboard Championships, ranging from grassroots learners to seasoned competitors. Highlights included one of the crew representing the Navy in the skeleton sport. Over the summer, others participated in activities at the Naval Outdoor Centre Germany (NOCG) in Bavaria, tackling kayaking, climbing, and mountain biking. Meanwhile, a team member represented the Navy at an international e-sports event

—though the Army and RAF proved fierce competitors and beat us on this occasion! He was subsequently recognised for his achievements with an individual award at the Submarine Awards ceremony in October, along with our Commanding Officer, Cdr Bob Church MBE.

During the Summer we were fortunate to be allocated a couple of places at the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. One who attended was Leading Engineering Technician (Weapon Engineer – Submarines) Howard Jackson, who also got to spend time with the Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Tony Radakin.

By autumn, the focus shifted back to the task at hand: preparing for the move into No.9 Dock, which had been postponed to January due to delays with the dock upgrade programme. Despite this setback, the crew supported local and national Remembrance events, paying their respects before winding down for Christmas Leave.

January 2025 marked two significant milestones for HMS VICTORIOUS. Firstly with successfully relocating the Submarine into No.9 Dock. This delicate

operation, covering a mere 500m, took an impressive 18 hours to complete—no small feat compared to our usual 400km covered in the same time period at sea! Secondly, HMS VICTORIOUS celebrated her 30th Naval Birthday with a cake baked for the Crew by her catering department.

With docking operations underway and spirits high, the team looks forward to the following maintenance phase and the Naval Ski Championships at the end of January. Reflecting on the past year, it's clear that the crew has embodied the core values of determination, adaptability, and teamwork.



*HMS VICTORIOUS' arrival in Plymouth Sound in May 2023. HMNB Devonport, Plymouth, will be home for the Submarine and her crew for the next few years whilst conducting her planned Deep Maintenance Period*



*Members of HMS VICTORIOUS' Ship's Company learning to ski at Naval Outdoor Centre, Germany*



*An empty No 9 Dock in HM Naval Base Devonport – home for HMS VICTORIOUS for the next few years whilst conducting her Deep Maintenance Period*



*HMS VICTORIOUS was well represented at the Annual Submarine Awards in Glasgow. Cdr Bob Church MBE, Commanding Officer, and ET (WESM) Dan Sillery both receiving individual awards from Commander Submarine Flotilla, Commodore Paul Dunn*



*LET (WESM) Howard Jackson meets the Chief of Defence Staff in the gardens at Buckingham Palace*



*Two members of HMS VICTORIOUS Ship's Company kayaking on the River Tamar*



*HMS VICTORIOUS celebrates her Naval Birthday after 30 Years in Commission with a birthday cake baked by the chefs onboard*



## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MASONS

### THE MASON'S PRIZE

The Mason's Prize is awarded each year by The Worshipful Company of Masons in the City of London to a worthy Soldier or JNCO who has gone above and beyond for their battalion.

This year the Masons Prize winner was Cpl Varrell, 3 SCOTS, for his outstanding effort and performance beyond his rank to an international audience.

Cpl Varrell said "I attended the Mason's Awards Dinner in October. The dinner allowed me to engage with several people where we discussed the current commitments of the battalion and the British Army. Overall, it was a pleasant evening and I really enjoyed myself, especially the guest speeches and after dinner talks with everyone. I felt very welcome and everyone at the dinner was keen to start a conversation with me."

Cpl Varrell was accompanied by his Company Commander, Maj James Farrall, who said "it was a pleasure to join Cpl Verrall as he received his award. The Company were all very pleasant, genuinely interested in Cpl Verrall and his endeavours, as well as the battalion (and regiment as a whole). A very varied group of people, from all walks of life and different parts of industry. A thoroughly enjoyable evening, with excellent food, drink, and company!"



*Cpl Verrall and Maj Farrall at the Mason's Awards Dinner*

# SCOTS GALLERY





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# SCOTS

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# SCOTS 2024

## **The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (2 SCOTS)**

The 2nd Battalion spent much of the first half of 2024 dispersed on sub-unit tasks and operations. A & B Company deployed on Op SHADER in Iraq, providing training and equipment to Iraqi and Kurdish Security Forces. Concurrently the Battalion Headquarters and C Company deployed on Op INTERFLEX, training Ukrainian soldiers across two locations in England. Fire Support Company deployed over the summer to the Falkland Islands as the Roulement Infantry Company at Mount Pleasant. From August to November, the Battalion came back together and were the UK's Northern Standby Battalion held at Very-High Readiness. This commitment involved an activation on Op VERTU to support the Metropolitan Police. During the final part of the year, the Battalion began training as one of the Forward Land Forces Battlegroups to support NATO operations in Estonia from July 25.

## **The 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (3 SCOTS)**

Throughout 2024, 3 SCOTS underwent a Re-Orbat, and A, B, C and D Companies deployed overseas on key training activities prior to the whole battalion deploying on Operation INTERFLEX 5 for 6 months. Considering all of the demands placed upon our Jocks, they have delivered to an exceptional standard throughout. The battalion's stock is high as we head into 2025, and it is the Jocks' performances in previous months that have led to the battalion being on the Brigade, and indeed Commander Field Army's, Main Efforts for training in 2025. The Jocks and Officers of the battalion should feel proud of all they have achieved in 2024 and have confidence in delivering an even better 2025.

## **The 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 SCOTS)**

2024 saw 4 SCOTS as the lead battlegroup for the Allied Reaction Force – NATO's highest-readiness deployable Force. Throughout 2024 the battalion focused on ensuring 4 SCOTS would be 'First to the Fight'. To achieve this, extensive training was conducted across the UK to ensure 4 SCOTS were able to deploy at a moment's notice. 2024 also saw 4 SCOTS embrace inter-company competitions, which pushed our Soldiers and Officers to their limits in various environments and conditions. The battalion also conducted Freedom Parades, marching through towns and cities alike, to reconnect with our roots and engage with local communities. The battalion can look back at 2024 with pride, with 4 SCOTS confirming its reputation as a highly professional and capable Light-Mechanised Infantry unit.

## **Balaklava Company, The 5th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (BKA Coy, 5 SCOTS)**

Balaklava Company, 5 SCOTS, has continued to deliver the face of the Regiment through the execution of high-profile Public Duties. This has seen our Soldiers and Officers on parade from London to Balmoral Castle and we continue to be proud of our unique position as the Regiment's incremental company. Between the busy ceremonial commitments, the Company has still created the time to maintain our fighting edge – all ranks have worked to maintain their fighting edge and deliver on UK and overseas exercises.

## **The 6th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (6 SCOTS)**

A busy year for 6 SCOTS with reservists taking part in activities not only across the length and breadth of the Lowlands of Scotland, but also deploying on exercises across Europe. The battalion has been successful on a unit and on an individual level, with promotions across nearly all ranks, and our troops giving an excellent account of themselves on promotion courses. Away from military training, the battalion continues to punch above its weight with a successful campaign in the Army Reserve Cup. It has not been all work – our creative and resourceful teams have organised several exciting adventure training trips that challenged our people and provided a sense of achievement.

## **The 7th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (7 SCOTS)**

2024 saw 7 SCOTS soldiers deployed to France, Croatia, Kenya and Germany on operations, adventure training and exercises. A significant amount of battalion time was taken up with planning, preparation, and delivery of our soldiers to Exercise RHINO HEART as part of 19th Light Brigade. This exercise was the largest deployment of Army Reserve soldiers in 30 years and an excellent opportunity to test the reserve's ability to deploy at reach, conduct operations and work alongside troops from host and other NATO nations as well as Reservists from throughout the UK. The tempo that 7 SCOTS is now maintaining is testament to the capability, desire to train and commitment of the Reserve soldier. The battalion is proud of what our soldiers have achieved and now has our sights set on delivering on Army Reserve requirements going forward.

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