

# THE LONDON SCOTTISH REGIMENTAL GAZETTE



SPRING 2010 [WWW.LONDONSCOTTISHREG.ORG](http://WWW.LONDONSCOTTISHREG.ORG)



LONDON JOCKS OF AMIENS COMPANY  
Ready for Afghanistan

# THE LONDON SCOTTISH

## **Honorary Regimental Colonel**

Lord Robertson of Port Ellen



## **Regimental Colonel**

Colonel D. Rankin-Hunt  
LVO MBE TD



## **Officer Commanding**

“A” (London Scottish) Coy  
Major D. Carter



## **Company Sergeant Major**

“A” (London Scottish) Coy  
C/Sgt Justin Tredigo



## **Regimental Secretary**

London Scottish Regiment  
Major S. Young TD



## **Editor/Production of the Gazette**

Rob Blackledge

## **Editor-in-chief**

Major Stuart Young

Submissions to the Gazette via email:

**lsgazette@yahoo.co.uk**



Member of the Association  
of Service Newspapers.

# REGIMENTAL FAMILY



The Gordons



The Highlanders



The Highlanders  
(4 Scots)



Toronto Scottish



The London  
Regiment

G Company  
1/51 Highland  
Volunteers becomes  
A Company, in  
1992 as part of  
the newly formed  
London Regiment.

*The Gordons merge with the  
Queens Own Highlanders  
to form The Highlanders  
under the SDR of 1994.*

*The Highlanders become the  
4th Bn Royal Regiment of  
Scotland (4 Scots) and wear  
the new cap badge worn by  
all the Scottish Regiments.*

## AFFILIATIONS



Scots Guards

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

*Published at Headquarters*

95 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 2DX

Tel: 020 7630 1639

Fax: 020 7233 7909

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*Front Cover: Members of Amiens coy.*

# REGIMENTAL APPOINTMENTS

**Colonel Lord Robertson of Port Ellen.**

KT GCMG FRSE PC  
Honorary Regimental Colonel

**Colonel David Rankin-Hunt LVO MBE TD**

Regimental Colonel

**Lieutenant Colonel Marc Overton TD**

SO1 TA Horse Guards  
CO The London Regiment 28th March 2010.

**Major Stuart Young TD**

Regimental Secretary

**Major Gareth Blyth TD**

Regimental Adjutant  
The London Regiment

**Major Rupert Clemence TD**

SO2 Command and Staff Trainer  
(UK Operations)  
Command Staff & Tactical Training Group,  
Warminster

**Major Rupert Wirgman TD**

SO2 TA (J) JOTD - Junior Officers Tactics  
Division  
Land Warfare School, Warminster

**Major Conrad Giles TD**

Regimental Officer Recruiting  
BHQ The London Regiment

**Major Rolf Kurth**

Second in Command  
Cambridge University OTC

**Major Milan Torbica MBE TD**

SO2 TA  
Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

**Major Martin Linaker**

Liaison Officer/Watchkeeper  
2(SE) Brigade Reinforcement Team

**Major Richard Shaw**

Puma Force GLO

**Major David LI Carter**

Officer Commanding  
A(The London Scottish) Coy  
The London Regiment

**Major Travis Vincent**

BN HQ The London Regiment

**Captain Andy Haines**

Permanent Senior Administration Officer  
A(The London Scottish) Coy  
The London Regiment

**Captain Geoffrey Strickland**

SO3 Training  
LRTC - London Regional Training Centre.

**Captain Rob Hill**

Regimental Operations Support Officer  
BN HQ The London Regiment

**Captain Ed Millington**

Un Posted List

**Captain Mark Goodman**

CVHQ RA,  
Pool of LOs & Watchkeepers

**Captain Tom Hallett**

Second in Command  
AMIENS COMPANY  
The London Regiment  
Kadabar

**Lieutenant Anthony Ball**

Second in Command  
A(The London Scottish) Coy  
The London Regiment

**Lieutenant Piers Wickman**

UOTC Liaison Officer  
HQ Coy  
The London Regiment

**Lieutenant Charlie Gilmour**

1 Platoon Commander  
A(The London Scottish) Coy  
The London Regiment

**Second Lieutenant Tomo Williams**

London University OTC

**Second Lieutenant James Duffus**

OIC Recruit Training and Recruiting  
A(The London Scottish) Coy  
The London Regiment

**Second Lieutenant Jamie Barklem**

Platoon Commander  
East Midlands Universities OTC,  
Beeston TA centre, Nottingham.

**WO2 CSM Alan Nathan**

HQ Coy  
The London Regiment

**WO2 RQMS (T) Nick Tuckey**

JCTTAT-SPD  
Islamabad

**WO2 RSWO Adrian Cornell**

HQ Coy  
The London Regiment

**WO2 Geoffrey Hetherington**

Un-posted awaiting discharge

**C/Sgt Justin Tregidgo**

Acting Company Sergeant Major  
A(The London Scottish) Coy  
The London Regiment

**C/Sgt James Dixon**

CQMS  
A(The London Scottish) Coy  
The London Regiment

**C/Sgt Craig Nimmo**

Recruiting Office  
A(The London Scottish) Coy  
The London Regiment  
Catford TAC

**Sgt Robert Speer**

Recruiting SNCO  
A(The London Scottish) Coy  
The London Regiment

**Sgt Noel Wilde**

Recruiting SNCO  
HQ Coy  
The London Regiment

London Scottish Army Cadet Force

**Captain Michael Nolan**

Public Relations Officer  
Middlesex & NW London ACF  
HQ Hammersmith

**Lt Kim Merritt**

Officer Commanding  
95 Cadet Company  
9 (Yeomanry) Regiment  
SE London ACF

**Lt Stephen Ronner**

Officer Commanding  
235 (Westminster)  
London Scottish Corps  
Middlesex & NW London ACF

**C/Sgt Peter Taggart**

Officer Commanding  
102 Cadet Company  
The London Scottish  
10 (Kent) Regiment  
SE London ACF

**C/Sgt Stuart Norris**

95 Cadet Company  
9 (Yeomanry) Regiment  
SE London ACF

**Sgt Ken Thornton**

95 Cadet Company  
9 (Yeomanry) Regiment  
SE London ACF

**The New Year is a time to reflect on events passed but also an opportunity to consider the challenges that lie ahead.**

The 150th Anniversary provided us all with a metaphoric 'rallying' point, an opportunity for a little self indulgence. It also allowed us to savour our unique traditions and values.

Notwithstanding this vitally important aspect of regimental life, there are a number of 'thought provoking' issues to be considered by the regiment within the next year. First and foremost is the safety and welfare of all those serving with Amiens Company. Their training has prepared them for the rigours of Afghanistan but they will need to be reassured that the regiment and its extended family are fully behind them. I know I speak for you all when I say how proud we are of their commitment.

They may all be assured that they and their families have our full and unremitting support. They will be in our thoughts and prayers for the duration of their deployment and whilst we acknowledge the dangers inherent in operational service, I hope all will derive a positive life changing experience from serving in Afghanistan.

The second issue to be considered is the post election Defence review. Its outcome is really in the 'lap of the gods' and as a result it would be futile to speculate for too long about its outcome. Much will depend on the sanctity of the existing 34.5 billion Defence budget. More importantly perhaps and certainly more immediate is the ongoing Defence Estates Review.

It is likely that financial pressure will force the MOD into making quite radical changes to the London Estate. It is the duty of the Regimental Trustees to prepare themselves for this and to make concessions where necessary. Our remit is simple: to maintain as much of the existing regimental structure as possible.

This may result in some difficult choices being made. Looking back, we all know that The London Scottish is no stranger to change and as before we will embrace change and make it work for us.

On a lighter note, The London Regiment has a new Regimental badge. In order to pre-empt a sack full of mail, please be assured that this new badge is not a surreptitious attempt to sideline individual company identities. The badge is simply for writing paper and signage. Its provenance can be traced back



**The new London Regiment badge**

to mid 2009 when The London Regiment Council passed it for consideration. It was later approved by Garter King of Arms, on behalf of The Queen, in December 2009. I had the distinction of authenticating the warrant painting in January 2010. I hope you will agree that it has a certain aesthetic merit and that, for the purpose intended, will provide a suitable and appropriate unifying symbol for the London regiment in which we all have a stake.

Finally I wish to highlight the imminent

appointment of Mark Overton as Commanding Officer. Most of you will know him. His drive, energy and innate ability has projected him into this appointment. I am immensely proud of him and wish him the very best of good fortune during the next 2 ½ years.

To all London Scots, I send the same message and given the uncertainty ahead emphasise the words 'Strike Sure'.

**Colonel D. Rankin-Hunt**

# OFFICER COMMANDING NOTES

**As I write these notes A Company is just starting to emerge from a cold winter into the first few days of spring.**

On 26 January at the Company Burns Night Supper, after 11 years at A Company (and 42 years under the Colours) we said farewell to Capt Keith Brudenell our Permanent Staff Administration Officer. Capt Brudenell has now handed over to Capt Andy Haines. We wish Keith and Margaret well for what promises to be an action-packed retirement and welcome Capt Haines for a long and rewarding time with the Company. We also welcome as Company Second-in-Command Lt Anthony Ball, a role into which he moves from 2 Platoon Commander. He is already making a difference co-ordinating the Company training and we wish him well. CSgt Tregidgo takes over as 2 Platoon Commander at Catford. In other moves, Lt Piers Wickman has moved across to a role at Battalion Headquarters as the Officer Training Corps Liaison Officer providing an opportunity for us to welcome in Lt Charles Gilmore from the Honourable Artillery Corps as 1 Platoon Commander.

Since I last wrote we have mobilised 13 members of the Company for deployment to Afghanistan in March 2010. The majority of troops will go with AMIENS Company either training Afghan National Army Non-Commissioned Officers, providing protection to Counter-IED teams or deploying with the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. In addition, Company Sergeant Major Nick Tuckey is deploying separately as part of the British Army contribution to the effort in Afghanistan.

We wish them all the very best and I have no doubt each London Jock will acquit himself in the outstanding way his forebears always have. We look forward to sending our troops off when they come into Horseferry Road next Tuesday evening.

Since October the serving Company has been implementing the revised retention plan. MOD, The Army, London District and the London Regiment have all had to reduce activity due to severely reduced budgets. This has affected the pay of each trained soldier to the point where he has only been able to earn a quarter of a training day for one training evening per month, a number of career courses have had to be conducted without pay and several key instructional courses have simply been cancelled. Nevertheless all the while we have been conducting fitness, weapon handling lessons and completing the mandatory training tests on Tuesday and Wednesday training evenings as well as recruiting more troops.

This is not the first threat the London Scottish have faced, nor likely to be the last and I am delighted to say the serving soldiers have responded to the challenge with great resolve and soldiered through the financial crisis.



**Lt Ball (A Coy 2IC) and the Company Commander contemplate jumping off Pen-Y-Fan.**

Training has gone on almost unchecked and is a testimony to the goodwill and volunteer ethos shared by our troops. No-one in a decision-making capacity over future budgets should take lightly the fragility of our troops' goodwill and if we are expected to maintain the tempo we know we can, troops need properly to be rewarded.

I am indebted to all the support the serving Company has received to help us through this difficult time. The London Scottish Regimental Trustees have been extremely generous and funded my retention plan, whilst other Regimental friends have also directly supported the troops.

We had a wonderful evening to start the year when John Wren our museum curator told us of the life of Pte George Mitchell and all troops and Association members present were honoured to be able to handle his Victoria Cross. We are also indebted to Rod Lynch the President of the London Scottish FC who provided free entry, a barrel of beer and feeding for 48 of our troops, Pipes and Drums for the local derby match against Esher on 16 January. Regrettably we did not win, but the support shown to us was more than reciprocated.

A Company troops also deployed in February to Pen-Y-Fan and later went on to watch the Wales v Scotland match at the Millennium Stadium. On Tue 9 March we are off to the crime museum at New Scotland Yard for a visit and a Dinner. Each of these events has benefited A

Company troops by virtue of the generosity of our Regimental family. I am so very grateful to all those who have contributed.

From today until 7 June the Company will be focussing on two key areas:

- continued growth through recruiting; and
- training troops to deploy with First Battalion Irish Guards to Afghanistan with YPRES Platoon

The eight members of A Company who are training to be able to deploy face a significant challenge to achieve the higher standards and tighter training schedule, but we will do everything to match the commitment of our troops to get to the training and operational standard necessary to deploy to Afghanistan. An excellent Fit For Mobilisation Training package is in place. On 5 March we will dine out the Commanding Officer Lt Col Brian Fahy at Horseferry Road and on 14 April he will handover to Lt Col Marc Overton. It has been a demanding time for the Territorial Army and for the London Regiment with financial cuts allied to an increased tempo. With the promise of spring and a new financial year we should look back at an extremely difficult period in our history and take pride that the Company is strong, with morale high and combat effective.

**Strike Sure**

**Major DL CARTER**

**OC A (London Scottish) Company**

**The London Regiment**

# COMPANY SERGEANT MAJOR'S NOTES

**These are definitely my last notes as CSM, although I was mobilised in November I have been holding the reigns until the appointment of a successor, by the time you read this a new A Company CSM should have been appointed.**

The last few months have been quite busy for me personally. I attended RMTC Chilwell as part of my mobilisation and was joined there by LCpl Miller. The mobilisation process is quite drawn out and the time does not exactly fly by!

The first couple of days are taken up with medicals, dental and physical, administration and the issuing of kit. Because of the dates of my deployment I was issued both "summer and winter" equipment. This included the new combat boot and rather a smart pair of "Lowa" desert boot. After 3 days of "admin" you start going through all of your MATT tests. (Bounty tests for the old and bold). This takes the best part of the next 7 days. Once complete you are "fit for roll" and sent off to your receiving unit. LCpl Miller passed everything and was sent off to AMIENS for his OPTAG training and subsequently has gone off to 1 Scots Guards along with 4 other A Coy Mobilisers to work with their Mortar Platoon.

I went off to Folkestone to JCTTAT for my

pre deployment training. This took the form of learning 2 new weapons systems (long HK and short SIG). Once I had mastered these and passed the various "classification" shoots I proceeded to learn some evasive driving techniques (stock car racing) and complete the various theatre briefs. All very interesting but intense. As a WO from the PARAs said to his wife

"If anything happens to me don't tell the press I was poorly trained as I have never trained so intensively in my life".

A Company has, again, been left thin on the ground due to the mobilisation. We have provided in the region of 23 troops for AMIENS and almost all of our JNCOs. This reflects well on the Company and the quality of our JNCOs. I have it on good authority that Cpls Wates and Ryan are doing a first class job and that LCpls Briggs and Staunton performed very well before their departure to 1 Lincs and 1 Scots Guards respectively. The rest of the guys have been doing really well with their training as well. You can be proud that the name and reputation of the Company is being upheld and furthered.

YPRES Company is preparing to form for Afghanistan deployment and again the men are A Company are to the fore with Ptes Gray, Jacobs, Porritt and Nadar already

stepping up to the plate and volunteering. Well done and keep it up.

The remainder of the Company has been turning up, not only to the 1 paid night but also to the other drill nights. In December John Wren gave an interesting talk on first Tuesday and followed this up on first Tuesday in January with a very informative lecture on George Mitchell VC, which was very well received. On the 26th of Jan we had the Company Burns Night, which was very well attended with 60 or so serving members and guests. A good time was had by all, possibly a little too much so by some including RQMS Denman.

Although I am attached to JCTATT until May, I will still be around and about until deployment and hope to see many of you. There is some cracking Adventure Training being organised and training will continue. I am looking forward to the 150th Anniversary Open Piping Competition at HFR on the 13th March and hope to see some of you there.

**It has been a real honour and I thank you for your support and hope it will long continue.**

**Bydand and Strike Sure  
Nick Tuckey**

## INTRODUCING LT CHARLES GILMORE



**As the new commander of 1 Platoon I feel I should introduce myself to the wider London Scottish community.**

I began my military 'career' at London Officer Training Corps. I went to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in July 2003 and commissioned on August 3rd, the same time as Lt Wickman. I returned to the OTC to command a recruit's platoon for the following academic year. Having left university I then transferred to B Squadron, The Royal Wessex Yeomanry and spent 3 years as a troop leader. I enjoyed the challenge of leading soldiers as opposed to students and spent many a weekend driving around The Plain in a cloud of dust or river of mud.

I once again transferred regiment as a 3 hour round trip to Salisbury and a hectic work life were not compatible! I moved

to The Honourable Artillery Company based in London and had to resign my commission. Starting again as a Trooper was a shock to the system but allowed me to return to some green soldiering. Having completed my Bowman signalling course I deployed with 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery to Musa Qal'ah, Afghanistan in October 2008 and returned 6 months later. It was a tour I am very proud to have completed and I would definitely return as a platoon commander. I am delighted to have the opportunity to command a rifle platoon and look forward to meeting as many members of the Regiment as possible in the very near future.

**Strike sure  
Lt Gilmore**

# COMPANY RECRUITING

Over the winter period recruiting has really gone up a gear. Despite the fact that the Main Effort for the Regiment has changed from recruiting to recruit training, leaving us with a limited budget, we have still kept up momentum and are doing as well as ever.

The recruiting team has had a slight shake up with myself taking the lead for recruiting and recruit training for the Company accompanied by Piper Parsons as recruiting staff for Horseferry Road and C/Sgt Nimmo continuing recruiting for Catford.

We have kept ourselves busy over the last few months with a number of recruiting events organised. A day of recruiting was organised at the London Scottish Rugby Club on the day of the top of the table clash between London Scottish and Esher.

Despite the adverse weather conditions and disappointment of London Scottish losing, it was a successful day of spreading the word about the London Scottish Regiment, collecting money for the London Regiment Benevolent Fund and maintaining our good links with the London Scottish Rugby Club. We also held a successful open evening at Catford.

With the help of the Army Recruiting Team we had a number of different hand-on stands for potential recruits to play around with. We invited a couple of our own London Scottish Cadet Units and the Regimental Association in order to keep up good relations within the wider Regiment. There was also a Burns supper to be enjoyed by all in the bar afterwards.

There have also been a number of interesting events over the last few months which have provided an opportunity to invite potential recruits to provide an insight into the London Scottish. These have included Pte Mitchell's Victoria Cross presentation, rugby at LSRFC and a Burns dinner at Horseferry Road.

A lot of hard work has recently been put into getting potential recruits through the recruiting pipeline and even with a number of disruptions with cancelled selection courses due to the inclement weather, we have managed to do our best and the results of this can be seen.

We have a number of new soldiers to welcome into the Regiment. These are Ptes Wade, Ross, Allen, Churcher, Rickus and Hazell. We also have new transfers into the Regiment. We welcome into the



**Pte. Anderson and 2nd Lt Duffus with the Mascot of London Scottish Rugby Club**

Regiment Pte Keyser an ex-regular soldier who has transferred from HQ Company, Pte Thornhill from 7 Rifles, Pte Silvarrey from 4 PARA and Pte Smith from the University of London Officer Training Corps (ULOTC). With the financial situation looking better and more of the budget being allocated to the Regiment, we will be able to continue with our active recruiting. We will be holding another recruiting open evening at Catford on 31 March 2010 and something similar at Horseferry Road in the near future.

Recruit training is also going well with soldiers under training at various stages within the pipeline. Ptes Sidonio and Reid have completed their Phase 1 training and will be attending their Combat Infantry Course at the end of March.

The upcoming months look promising too. We have a few potential recruits with upcoming medicals and TA Recruit Selection (TARS) courses. We are witnessing the benefit of our hard work with recent recruiting events and regular potential recruits walking through the door maintaining momentum with recruiting. I am proud of what we have been able to achieve considering the difficult circumstances we have come under and a great spirit has been shown within the Company to carry on with the task at hand no matter what is thrown in our way.

**Yours aye  
2nd Lt Duffus  
OIC RRTT**



# AMIENS COY – PRE-TOUR TRAINING

**So....Here we are several months down the line after mobilising in early November, and only a few weeks to go until hopping on the plane at Brize Norton to start our six months free package tour kindly supplied by our government! I was expecting Goa, but never mind!**

Back in early November, after a lot of preparation which included what seemed like endless emails, text messages, phone calls, chasing the guys; A Coy's willing volunteers gathered at Horseferry Road, ready to make the journey up to the mobilisation centre in Chilwell, Notts where we would be processed factory style for two weeks, and then (hopefully) be allowed to start our pre-tour training. Not forgetting of course that we had already seen the mobilisation a few months earlier of Cpl Jamie Ryan, Ptes Matt Mellis and Jan Ross for the purposes of laying the groundwork for when the rest of the main body of Amiens Coy were mobilised en-masse. They had been busy going on courses and doing a lot of the G4 so that we would benefit from this once we had completed Chilwell.

The two weeks up at Chilwell starts in the auditorium with what seems like countless mandatory briefs, some good old fashioned "death by PowerPoint" on the main screen, and then being split into two large groups to go through the two weeks in. Luckily, all the Londons were kept together in one of these groups, however unluckily for me, as the senior of the NCOs, I was given the onerous task as Acting Platoon Sergeant of shepherding a "platoon" of some 45 officers and other ranks, who were cleverly accommodated at different ends of the base! After waiting a day for the officers to orbat the men (put everyone into sections, appoint Section Commanders etc.) I decided to make things easier by doing this myself given that I had pretty much worked with most of them and knew all of the lads quite well, a portion of whom I had trained as recruits! We now had a platoon of 40 made up of 4 Sections of approx 10 men each. Far easier to manage!

The two weeks flew by with us racing through all the annual training that we do to qualify for our efficiency bounty each year, or MATTS training, plus mandatory theatre specific training on a low level. We also had very thorough dentist checkups and medicals \*cough\* followed by appointments with the J1 Clerks to agree individually what we would be paid whilst mobilised. That was all nothing compared to arriving at the QM's and finding out just how much kit we were going to be issued

with!! Having done my first Operational Tour on Telic 4 for Iraq, and going through a much quicker processing at Chilwell back in 2004 (2 days,) there was no comparison in not just volume of kit, but quality! Also included was the latest ballistic goggles and sunnies, with interchangeable lenses, as opposed to the leopard print sunglasses that we were issued back in 2004 which would have not been out of place in a 1970s porn film.....apparently! We were given our first weekend off halfway through Chilwell after only 5 days at the "grindstone" so wasted no time in utilising the hospitality of Nottingham and its nightlife and fabled 10:1 women to men ratio!

Given that all the Officers popped smoke and extracted for the weekend back to London, it was up to me again to keep the guys in order and I can state categorically that not a drop of alcohol passed my lips. \*cough\*

At the end of those two weeks, we then left by coaches to ATC Pirbright to start the main bulk of our training in preparation for the tour ahead, minus a few people who had still issues to resolve or decided that this wasn't right for them, two of whom I am sad to say were Jocks. However, better to find out now than later during the tour when things are harder to resolve so far from home.

After some platoon level training at Pirbright, we were then reorbated to integrate the 6-Scots and 4-Lancs lads that had joined us, and this made for better camaraderie so was a sensible move. We then all hopped on a coach to Wretham in Norfolk, to conduct our Otag training. Those of your familiar with STANTA, will remember how flat and windswept it is and during the height of the winter, was appreciated by all! The first week was both classroom and field based and covered all the necessary SOPs for surviving all current enemy tactics especially the increased IED threat. The second week was where we got the chance to put it all into practice on the CALFEX where we were deployed to a FOB (Forward Operating Base) as a company, and conducted our business in real time, rotating through different tasks on our respective platoons.

Given the cold and damp conditions at the FOB, it was great morale to see that the London Regiment had organised non-mobilised soldiers to come and run the field kitchen for us so we always had hot scran. Our first task, was each to roll through "The Green Zone" area of the training ground which was in the vicinity of the new all singing, all dancing Afghan village that has

been purpose built by the MOD at no small cost. We were to go on a foot patrol in the area to investigate enemy activity.

My platoon under Lt Kelly from C-Coy went through first, and despite the temperature being a bit different from the last time I was in the real green zone, I couldn't help feeling that familiar twinge of excitement that I felt back on Herrick 6 when I was last in Afghanistan. As we plodded on cautiously, we got our first view of the river. I can remember a few groans from the lads as we saw it was running fast and looked deep enough to submerge every man's crown jewels. Luckily, we pushed on further, and where Cpl Ryan's section had gone firm to cover our crossing, it wasn't as deep, but either way, it was going to be cold and wet, and my lads would be going in first! So across we went, and wasted no time in clambering out at the other side like drowned rats. The patrol continued on, where we gathered intelligence from locals using our basic Pashtu, came under contact then engaged various enemy positions, calling in IDF (indirect fire) to destroy them, and dealt with simulated casualties which involved clearing, and setting up a HLS (helicopter landing site.)

The rest of the week was spent on either guard duty at the FOB, patrols, QRF or on rest with various situations being thrown at us. Some of the patrols took us into the Afghan village and through the Bazaar, which was populated by real Afghans who now lived in this country and put our cultural and language lessons to the test. In summary, the company performed well in some quite arduous conditions but we were all glad to return to Pirbright in time for our Christmas leave, and just narrowly escaping the heavy snow which started while we were waiting for the coaches!!

## **London Jocks deploying on Op Herrick 12 :**

**Capt Tom Hallett**  
**Cpl Tim Wates**  
**Cpl Jamie Ryan**  
**Cpl Paul Turton**  
**LCpl Flemming**  
**LCpl Greg Staunton**  
**LCpl George Anderson**  
**LCpl Russell "Dusty" Miller**  
**LCpl Chris "Brigglet" Briggs**  
**Pte Matt Mellis**  
**Pte Jan Ross**  
**Pte Andrew Warsap**  
**Pte Andy Summerscales**  
**Pte Dave Wilkie**  
**Pte Oliver Denne**  
**Pte Jason Robertson**  
**Pte Quarty**

# RECRUIT TRAINING

## London District TA Recruit Selection Weekend (TARS) 5-6 Feb 10

I chaperoned PRs Rickus, Churcher and Hazell down to Army Development and Selection Centre Pirbright for the TA Recruit Selection.

We arrived Friday evening where the guys were issued their coveralls and numbered bibs and were then sat down and briefed on Army Discipline. Straight after, they were presented with a lesson on grenades which they had to learn and retain key facts about its characteristics.

Reveille was at 5.45 where the guys showered and shaved before I gave them a quick lesson on basic drill so that we could move them from A to B smartly rather than a rabble. I was quite impressed with the speed of the uptake as I marched them to the cookhouse for breakfast.

After breakfast and an inspection by the CSM where Rickus had to re-shave, the potential recruits had to give a 3 minute 'ice breaker' talk on themselves. Hazell was a bit

shy in revealing his previous past as a double agent for Dairylea and Ambrosia in the West Country!

Onto the physical tests. They guys had to do as many heaves as they could, followed by static and dynamic lifts, back extensions and the 150m 2 x 20 litre jerry can carry. This was followed by the 1.5 mile best effort run of which all our boys completed well under the 14 minutes with Churcher finishing in the top 5 five with a very good time below the 11 minute mark. Sadly, 4 potential recruits failed the run including a guy who was happy running in only what can be described as slippers, he managed a good 100m in these sporty yet comfy dip-daps!

The recruits then had to take the British Army Recruit Battery (BARB) test which contains a series of five intelligence tests which is timed. There was some very high scores from our 3 potential recruits (PRs) including Rickus who received a score of 90! Then to maintain the momentum, came along the test on what they had retained

about the grenade from the night before.

In the afternoon, it was time to get a bit muddy in the grenade range and see how the PRs could handle a bit of aggression before moving onto the command tasks.

Our boys did well in contributing to the team's tasks involving the usual concoction of swamps, crocodiles, planks and barrels.

Finally, after a nervous wait our boys were interviewed by the PSOs (Personal Selection Officers) and I am glad to say that they all passed. I believe that they were strong, solid and capable candidates who were prepared physically and mentally, I was embarrassed to see some units not doing this for their candidates. Some were simply not fit enough or had even seen a BARB booklet.

On behalf of the Regiment and the Company, I welcome you to the fraternity and hope that your TA career is a long and successful one.

**Yours aye**  
**C/Sgt Nimmo RRTT**



Hazell completing the BARB test.



I am now a number! No.11 Churcher falls in with his syndicate.



Rickus getting tyred on his command task!



No.13 Hazell about to walk the plank!

# 1 PLATOON NOTES

**It falls to me to report the happenings in 1 Platoon over the last few months. Having only recently taken over the platoon (transfer process still not completed at time of writing) I will do my best to recount the activities of the platoon.**

As well as my appointment the platoon has a new platoon sergeant, Cpl Ilsley. Cpl Ilsley has managed to get to grips with the platoon although I am not sure how they feel about having British Military Fitness instructors in both command appointments!

The platoon also says some goodbyes. We bid farewell to Lt Wickman and to Cpl Veitch, we wish them well in their new posts.

The focus of the platoon remains Operation Herrick. With 8 members of the platoon mobilised and 6 having volunteered for Herrick 13 we are all

working towards a common goal. Well done to Ptes Jacobs, Silvarrey, Gray, Thornhill, Keyzer and Dingley for putting themselves forward. Reports from the receiving units on Herrick 12 speak highly of their London Jocks. We are delighted with their achievements and wish them well on their imminent deployment.

As we are all aware budgets have been tight over the recent months and this has had an impact on training. We have endeavoured to ensure that training remains relevant and interesting, so fitness, weapon handling and first aid have come to the fore. We are grateful to Cpl Dawson for his assistance in all areas.

The highlights of recent months have been clay pigeon shooting and the Burn's Night supper.

The clay pigeon shooting has been covered by Pte Dingley's article but we

should thank Cpl Veitch for organising a very enjoyable event and Pte Mansfield for showing off his shotgun skills!

Everyone had a great time at the Burn's Night supper, or at least we think we did, we can't remember. Mention should be made of my decidedly mediocre reading and of Cpl Ilsley soulful rendition of 'My love is like a red, red rose'. Very moving!

The next big dates in the diary are the 2 rugby trips, firstly to Cardiff to see Wales Vs Scotland and then on to Edinburgh for the Calcutta Cup. We hope to see as many London Jocks there as possible.

We hope that 2010 will bring about a change in the financial fortunes of the TA and allows us to conduct more varied training and to train more often.

**Strike Sure  
Lt C Gilmore**

# 2 PLATOON NOTES

**Welcome back to 2 Platoon to Pte Newland who's mobilisation at RTMC Chillwell didn't go to well, so he is going to make more of an effort now to get fitter for the future, he is looking forward to deploying on Herrick 13 now.**

As I said in the last issue a Warm welcome to Pte Porritt to the Platoon, we have 2 more recruits who have been attested in to the company which are Pte Ross, and Pte Rickus, we wish them good luck in there Recruit Phase, hoping they don't pick up any injuries on the way.

Down at catford now we have 23 Personal on the book's of which Pte Ross, Pte Rickus, Pte Massey, Pte Probert, Pte Wynne, Pte Cole, and Pte Sidonio who will be going on to CIC in March, hopefully to get top Student at Catterick, Pte Sidonio got 2nd best Recruit at his Phase 1 Training.

We are wishing the other troops who got moberlised Pte Deane, Pte Mellis, Pte Ross, and LCpl Miller all the best and keep safe and come back well.

CSgt Tregidgo has now moved into the Platoon Commanders slot after Lt Ball has become the Company 2ic we wish him good luck in the new job of running the Company.

As you know in my last article for the Gazette I was going onto a PTI course which I went on and Passed. I can't really believe Myself a PTI at least if any of the troops upset me now they will be doing lots of press-ups and going for a long run, so lads watch out you know who I am so keep it quiet and we will get on well.

After my PTI Course myself and SPSI Joe Crook went on a mountain bike instructor course in Wales for two days, in the company now we have to mountain bike leaders and guides which is good now for adventure training.

Christmas came and the Platoon went out on their Xmas Drink up, not to many turned up but the 6 of us that did went for a Curry then went down to The Venue for more drinks, Mind you don't remember much after 2 in the morning.

We had a Recruiting Evening on the 26th Jan and I would like to give a big thank you for the Association members that Turned up on the night. We had some Haggis after the event cooked by Cpl(finger nails) Anderson which went down well. The London Scottish cadets turned up and they enjoyed the introduction to mortar's lesson but didn't look impressed with their first experience of haggis!!

Hopefully we will get more troops in through the door especially now that we are getting paid again for training night's and all the Training weekend's that are being put on for the Troops in the coming months. It's all hands on deck now for decent training with two lesson's a night. Lets hope we have some good stories to come from the troops now that they have some decent Soilidering to do.

**Strike Sure  
Cpl Dawson  
Act 2 Platoon Sgt**

# EXERCISE CELTIC CROSS

PXR – Ex Celtic Cross was destined to be a resounding success from the word go.

All the key ingredients were available: an ageing borrowed minibus, Brecon in February, cold weather, navigation by officers.....we decided to add our own twist: rugby tickets acquired from questionable sources, a beer or two, and Cardiff City centre on a Saturday night.

As part of the OC's plan to maintain cohesion within the Company and to engage in Adventure training of 'some' military benefit, 6 Jocks heading down to Cardiff on the 12th Feb to tackle Pen-Y-Fan, watch Scotland and Wales play rugby and engage in a 'cultural exchange' in various pubs, well, that was the plan....

Leaving Horseferry road on Friday night we arrived at our borrowed accommodation at Maindy Barracks in Cardiff, the headquarters of the Royal Welsh Regiment (and also Home to Major Carter in the 90's). For good orders sake a recce patrol was sent out into town, with members of 1 platoon setting up an OP in 'Revolution Bar'. No hostilities were encountered and the OP was closed down shortly before 0200.

At first light on Saturday we set off to Brecon to meet Ken Pudney (a London Scottish Association member and old Jock) who kindly organised tickets to the Rugby for some of the guys.

The weather had closed in slightly and shortly after setting off from the Storey Arms Park we were deep in the fog. We pressed on and within an hour had reached the Obelisk, where we took a bearing onto Corn Du. Upon reaching the rocky top of Corn Du (873m), we crossed to Pen Y Fan (886m) via the Saddle for a photo opportunity. At this stage Major Carter began to regret his choice of hiking attire as the wind really picked, the hoden grey Tartan did it's earnest to keep the weather at bay, but it was time to descend and get stuck into the burger van in the car park. We hiked back using a different route, passing the source of the river Taff. We then took the Beacons Way track to take us back to the van and onto our spoils.

With much haste we headed back to Maindy barracks to change and for a replenish, before heading off to the Millennium Stadium for the main event, Wales v. Scotland. A home game in Cardiff guarantees an electric atmosphere and this game was no exception. The crowd did their thing and in the dying moments of the game Wales grabbed the lead from a tired



**Maj Carter, Lt Ball, 2Lt Dufus, Ptes Mansfield, Humphrys and Ross**



**The Welsh contingent**

looking Scotland, the crowd went wild, the games was over, 31-24 to Wales. Cardiff city centre braced itself for the mayhem.

.....fast forward to noon Sunday, we all packed our kit and headed back to Horseferry road. It was an

excellent weekend, with the opportunity to do some adventure training and to follow the Jocks in the rugby; we look forward to the next trip, the Calcutta Cup on the 13 March.

**Pte. Mansfield**

# WHO KILLED BAMBI?

It all started on the 31st October 2009 during our regimental dinner at HFR when it was announced that myself (Cpl Ian Dawson) and LCpl Dave Lee, were given the task to go Deer Stalking with Mr Simon

Peter's up on his land in the great cold Snowy north of Scotland, round about 35 miles from John O' Groats.

It was about the middle of November when we got told we was going up at the end of November, but everything fell through so we didn't end up going, which was a good thing at the time as myself and L/Cpl Lee were snowed under with work. Christmas came and we got to Inverness deplaned and couldn't believe how cold it was, got into the hire car and Simon couldn't figure out how to make the heating work, so we stopped at the last TESCO'S in Scotland. (no kidding) to find out.

The drive up from Inverness took nearly two and half hours, being cold until about ten miles from Simons Dad's Cottage when we pressed a button on the dashboard, and the heat come through. It was pitch black outside couldn't see anything and as Simon was driving like a Rally driver, we thought we were in safe hands.

We came to a sudden stop, turned right into a driveway on to a skidpan of ICE. We had arrived at the cottage, unpacked, got the spotlight working, and went out to find some deer while it was still dark. Driving down the driveway Simon was telling us how his Mum ended up in the field at Xmas,

when suddenly we slide sideways into the other side of the road and got stuck in the snow. 15 mins later we had dug ourselves out of the snowdrift and myself and LCpl Lee were nice and warm and very sweaty. We turned on the spotlight and looked out onto the hill. Simon spotted a couple of deer so we were happy that they would be some sport for the following day.

We had dinner at the local pub, which was very warm and welcoming

Up nice and early and into our stalking gear, had breakfast and talked about the gale force winds that had been bashing the Cottage all-night. Out onto the range and the Wind was coming in from behind us which made the test firing easier with a tail wind. I went first with two good shots followed by L/Cpl Lee with another two good shots.

We were now ready to move out onto the ground. We loaded up the Land Rover, put the Bobcat onto the trailer, and drove to the car park near the cesspit and de-bussed for the upcoming stalk.

We loaded the rifles and went stalking, within Half an hour later we saw a Hind (that's a girl deer for those of you who don't know) LCpl Lee went first and got into Position after five minutes. Unfortunately the deer saw him and walked off without a care in the world! He had to crawl back down from his position as he couldn't get a shot in. Simon managed to shot some Deer with the Camera, well he must be

experienced at it.

We had to go back down the hill and around and back up into another position, for the second but it was another false alarm. Hard to believe it had been one and half hour's out with two attempts and no shots or hits, but as Simon said that it's the norm so myself and Dave were relieved.

We moved onto another position and another no shot, but this time I'm carrying everything as Simon and Dave were crawling up and down to try to get into positions. Another one and half hours, so that's three hours in and 6 failed attempts. Frustrating!

Then Simon went up the hill a bit further and got the Rifle into position he called Dave up. This was the last attempt for Dave, lunch and then my turn, there I am looking out into the beautiful countryside and then I heard it

Bang! ONE SHOT - ONE KILL, thank God for that, after three hours of waiting about in the cold. Then out of the blue Dave calls me to come up in cover and keep quiet I got 20 yards from the firing position I'd roped the kit on my back and had to crawl up, me a Big Bad Soldier having to crawl up the hill on my belt buckle, and got into position, It was tough going and I was blowing hard.

Simon tells me the Deer will hear you. He looked through his sight and tells me to take the shoot, ok take control of the breathing remember the marksmanship principles:--



Myself and LCpl Lee



**Myself and LCpl Lee with our Kills**

**No1**  
THE POSITION AND HOLD MUST BE FIRM ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE WEAPON.

**No2**  
THE WEAPON MUST POINT NATURALLY AT THE TARGET WITHOUT ANY UNDUE PHYSICAL EFFORT.

**No3**  
SIGHT ALIGNMENT AND AIMING MUST BE CORRECT.

**No4**  
THE SHOT MUST BE RELEASED AND FOLLOWED THROUGH WITHOUT ANY UNDUE DISTURBANCE TO THE POSITION.

There she was looking at me laughing at me saying you haven't got the bottle.

I was thinking the same to myself as she was looking at me, then she looked away and a blink of an eye later I squeezed the trigger and bang, a perfect hit straight through the heart and lungs where we were told to aim, straight through her and ping as the bullet ricochet of the Rock's behind her She jumped, took a couple of steps then fell over behind some rocks. Simon was pleased

with the second shot (TWO SHOTS TWO KILLS). Well what can I say LCpl Lee 3 hours to take one shot, Myself 30 seconds. Let's just say you've got it, or you ain't! Ha Ha Ha! We went up to the first deer laying there, Simon got his knife out and bleed her, and then did the same second deer.

I shot the deer up the top so I said I will take her down to the other one and gut them in same place. Simon showed us how to gut a deer and then Dave gutted the one he shot, As Simon said well done as we had got Mother and Daughter. We had lunch on the hill looking at the kills then it was the long walk back down the hill.

I know what you're thinking now, who killed who? Was it myself or Dave Lee who killed Bambi!!!!

We'll come to that later, we plodded of down the hill while Simon went for the transport to pick us up, we loaded the vehicles up then went back to the cottage to butcher the meat. This is where all the fun started, With rubber gloves on, first the legs off then the head, the heart and lungs, poor old Dave had to saw her ribs in half. All the heart and lungs were taken out and then she was hung up to dry out and then to be picked up by the butcher.

Then we come to Bambi, a little bit trickier as she was a lot smaller then her Mum. Heart and lungs out, then we skinned her cut her up into little bits of meat. Simon then tells us we were having her for dinner tonight as the meat tastes better because its young good meat.

Well there we go. We cleaned the shed up and went in to the Cottage to prepare the meat, I think Simon had done this a lot as he was quick about it, left the bits out to cook and the rest went in the freezer.

With a few beers and Bambi for dinner we talked about the whole weekend as a whole, I'd recommend stalking to anybody who wants to go, just do it. I bet everybody is now wondering who shot who up on the hill? As my partner keeps saying to me "How can you sleep at night after killing BAMBI!"

The answer is, quite easy just like I do every night. Both L/Cpl Lee and myself would like to thank Simon Peters and his family for such a fantastic time, although it was hard work it was also very enjoyable, and we wouldn't have missed it for the world.

**STRIKE SURE**  
**Cpl Ian Dawson**

# COCKNEY JOCKS & TWO SMOKING BARRELS

**Last year was a lean one for the Territorial Army as a whole and will no doubt be recorded in the history books of the organisation as a significant one.**

For A Company's serving soldiers however, it has continued to be a busy time. That is due of course to ongoing mobilisation, but also - for those of us not part of Amiens Company - to a programme of events organised to run alongside (but not in place of) training in green kit. These have included social, sporting and ceremonial events and all have kept enthusiasm, attendance and morale high during an uncertain time of budget cuts.

A recent highlight (I write this just after our Burns Night Supper and so cannot say 'most recent highlight' as that was in all honesty the Company Sergeant Major's address to the haggis) was a very successful day of clay pigeon shooting in Bramley, organised by Corporal Ian Veitch. Having

never fired a shotgun despite a childhood spent in Devon, I put my name down early on. With the marksmanship principles long committed to memory, how hard could it be? Of course, as the 'why do pipers march when they play' joke goes, a moving target is harder to hit...

Timings had us at Horseferry Road for 09.00 on Sunday 17th January where Cpl Veitch had secured the use of a C Company minibus for transport to the training area shooting club. Dress code was textbook country squire by the look of the flat caps and Barbours on show. A few potential attendees had cancelled (not, I must add, because word had got out that this was not an APWT with bounty ramifications) which consequently meant we would not be sitting the shotgun skills qualification lessons as expected, and the day would be a more relaxed introduction to shooting. That was lost on Pte Mansfield who, though downplaying his aptitude with double-

barrels, had brought his very own 100-year-old side-by-side English game 'shooter'. Our group numbered eight, a mix of experienced and complete novice shotgun-users, as we set off in our borrowed wagon for Bramley, where I'd previously been on a few field weekends. On this journey though, we were able to enjoy the last remnants of the January snow and the pheasants taking flight all about the place (watch and shoot, targets will fall when hit? Apparently clay pigeons weren't always clay - but live shoots were outlawed in 1921; the internet is a wonderful thing for the lazy writer).

The shooting club is run by the Army for young soldiers to be able to participate free of charge in a sport which, until recently, had been overlooked in favour of target shooting. Clay pigeon shooting however has apparently experienced a surge of interest in recent years, due largely to operational shooting requirements (the movement adding an extra dimension to a falling plate shoot). The



Pte Mansfield lining up to miss a clay.



## A HIT & MISS ACCOUNT OF CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

club consists of temporary buildings acting as a classroom and a cookhouse, with a series of some seven stands peppered about the vicinity featuring different types of shooting challenges. We were given a briefing on safe handling of the over-under shotguns, how to pick up and carry them, load and unload, and general good conduct on the area. Then we broke down into two groups (myself, Cpl Oyalegan, Pte Humphreys and Pte Mansfield in one lot, Lt Duffus, Lt Gilmore, Cpl Veitch and Pte Fawdry in the other) and having 'bombed up' by filling our pockets with fifty cartridges each, struggled across the frozen ground to the first of our stands.

I will not bore you with details of each stand – most readers will be familiar with the cry "Pull!" and the glorious sight of a clay 'bird', not much bigger than the diameter of a coffee mug, exploding in the sky. Suffice to say, the little sods move very fast and fly off at the most unexpected angles (including 'rabbits' which bounce along

the ground). All par for the course (to mix sporting metaphors) for our top-scoring shot, Pte Mansfield, who hardly missed a target all day and who'll never go hungry while poaching is an option. As for myself and young Pte Fawdry, let's just say the clays weren't too worried. In seriousness, the biggest difference that a shooter trained on the ranges with an SA80 will notice is that the aiming technique is totally different to a rifle with either SUSAT or iron sight. One needs to get into the habit of keeping the gun moving fluidly when firing; also, to bear in mind the need for tracking ahead of the target when releasing the shot. What a satisfying feeling it is though when you do get a 'hit'.

After a lunch of tea and bacon rolls we each took a further 25 cartridges to shoot an ABT, or Automatic Ball Trap, which believe it or not was even more painful than its sounds. I struggled to hit a single clay out of my 25 attempts in a shoot which involves

each firer taking a single shot before moving to his right in a sort of ripple fire method which I think even our more experienced members found a challenge. During a final debrief, our instructor explained some of the opportunities for us to do more shooting and a series of courses which progress all the way up to instructor qualifications.

An excellent day which got members of the company together, gave us a good opportunity to meet our new Platoon Commander, and exercised our weapons handling and shooting skills in a different context. Huge thanks must go to Cpl Veitch for organising the day, despite having already started new commitments with his national unit, and also to the Regimental Trust who ensured that the whole experience cost nothing for the eight of us who attended.

**Strike Sure**  
**Private Dingley**  
**1 Platoon**



(Left to right) 2 Lt Duffus, Cpl Veitch, Pte Fawdry, Pte Mansfield, Lt Gilmore, Pte Dingley, Pte Humphreys, Cpl Oyalegan.

# PIPES & DRUMS NOTES

**1860. The Pipes and Drums of the London Scottish Regiment was founded a hundred and fifty years ago in 1860.**

According to Robson's Uniforms of the London Scottish, a pipe band was formed consisting of a Pipe Major, five pipers and an instructor from 2nd Bn. Scots Guards. The following year Lady Elcho presented the Pipes and Drums with six sets of pipes and a cheque on behalf of a number of Scottish Ladies resident in London. One of those sets of pipes and the programme from the presentation ceremony at Westminster Hall can be seen in the Regimental Museum at Horseferry Road. These may be the oldest artefacts in the museum dating from the creation of the Regiment.

Without a doubt, we are one of the world's oldest pipe bands. Can we claim to be the oldest continuous pipe band without change of name and/or uniform? The phenomenon of pipers and drummers playing together came out of the Crimean

War (1854-56) but it wasn't until they returned home that the War Office authorised an establishment for a Pipe Major and five pipers for the two Battalions of the Scots Fusilier Guards (as the Scots Guards were known until 1877). Similarly, the 42nd The Royal Highlanders were in the Crimea with pipers and drummers. The Cardwell Reforms of the 1880s made slight changes of name and the most recent defence cuts have rendered the Black Watch as 3rd Bn. Royal Regiment of Scotland. Perhaps the same could be said of the London Scottish Regiment following the reduction to company strength and service with 1/51 Highland Volunteers and The London Regiment. I maintain that through our 150 years at least the Pipes and Drums have remained constant. I am being deliberately contentious and I would welcome correspondence through the Gazette on this matter.

To mark the anniversary we have a year full of events. The drill hall was full for the

first hoolie of the year on 6th February, the Pipe Band's "Winter Warmer". We would like to thank Rob Blackledge (and family) for organising a very successful evening of "horse racing", music and not a little charity fundraising. The Royal Hospital Chelsea, Help for Heroes and The London Regiment Benevolent and Welfare Fund were the chosen charities.

Looking ahead in the near future: the MacLeod Medal is on 4th March, the 150th Anniversary Competition is on 13th March and the big blow-out Band Supper is on 27th March. Our in-house solo competitions are on Thursday evening 4th March from 1900 onwards at HQ. There is the MacLeod Medal for March, Strathspey and Reel. The Attwool Trophy is for solo drumming accompanied by a piper. The MacDougal-Williams Prize is for Novices and the requirement for this is 4 parts of March. The MacPherson Quaich for Veterans (55 years of age or over and having once been a London Scottish Piper)



The band beat retreat at St. James's Palace for Princess Anne.



**Her Royal Highness gives permission to march off.**

is judged on eight parts of 6/8 march.

A special one-off solo competition will be held at HQ on Saturday 13th March. This is an open competition with an “open” or “professional” class and an “amateur” class. The open grade will be judged by Mr. Tom Speirs, gold medallist, a senior piping adjudicator and son of 3rd Battalion London Scottish (WW2) Pipe Major Jock Speirs. The amateur grade will be judged by Mr. Lewis Barclay, former P/M The Highlanders and SPSI here at A Coy. Special anniversary medals have been minted for the winners and we are expecting some top talent and keen competition. The hall will be open from 0900 and spectators are very welcome.

The Band supper promises to be one to remember. In a slight departure from previous years the chairman is not a current piper or drummer but a guest. For the second time in a month Tom Speirs will come down to London to be our guest of honour and to provide some continuity with the history of the Regiment and with the piping world in general. Rumour has it that gold medallist Iain Speirs (son) will also attend with pipes. It promises to be the biggest and best assembly of pipers

and drummers in our Regimental tie in living memory. There will be a keepsake of the evening for those who may not remember the whole thing. Tickets are £15.00, cheques can be made to the London Scottish band fund and can be obtained from the Drum Major c/o HQ or from the bar on a Thursday night. Many other events are planned for the rest of the year so watch this space in future editions of the Gazette.

The anniversary hasn't kept us from our regular engagements. The Lord Mayors Parade wasn't quite as wet as the previous year but it did rain and this time we had waterproof rain capes. While they may cover up the full glory of the uniform I can assure you that they were worth every penny as they protected the hundreds of pounds worth of kit underneath. I suspect the parade marshal gave up the will to live at the half time break as we offered him a variety of malts from various hip flasks (medicinal use only) and then the P/M led us all in an impromptu all singing all dancing rendition of “Singing in the Rain”.

We would like to congratulate Piper David Stewart who married the former Miss Claire Moran at the Fennes near Braintree on 5th December. The groom was

killed and given that Davy was otherwise occupied, Parsons provided the piping. In the evening the whole band congregated and played some sets. In his excitement, either at being made P/M for the night or having just been married, Davy struck up and immediately knocked his top Bass section off going through the door as we began to play (he never did that when he was single).

On 14th January a number of us had the sad duty of playing at the funeral of Rifleman James Brown (3 Rifles) in Bromley. This was the first full military funeral in London in the last twenty years. At the request of the family, three drummers and four pipers played at the cemetery as this 18 year old soldier was laid to rest. Rifleman Brown, along with Corporal David Kirkness and two Afghan National Army soldiers were killed by a suicide bomber. Their actions saved 1500 people in Sangin, Helmand Province in the process. Rifleman Brown was killed on 15th December 2009 having been in front line duty for only four days. His girlfriend, Hayley Morris, is the daughter of Drummer Dave Morris.

On 17th January we congregated again

at the London Scottish Rugby Club in Richmond to support their top-of-the-table clash with Esher and to support the Regiment's Recruiting effort. Sadly the Scottish come off second best on the field but the rain held off and the pipers and drummers had good day out playing occasionally, socialising a lot and being very visible (and audible) for the crowd of 3000 plus.

In amongst all the Burns jobs the band paraded on 20th January at St.James' Palace to beat retreat for the charity, The London Youth Trust. It was held in the presence of HRH the Princess Royal who is the patron of the charity.

It was suggested after the performance that The London Scottish Pipes and Drums might just be the thing for the opening of the 2012 London Olympics.

We cannot close this edition of the band notes without drawing attention to "The man who saved Strathclyde Police Pipe Band". Could it be true that a London Jock saves the legendary world champion "Polis Pipe Band"? On the Piping Times Website, College of Piping Director and editor Rab Wallace refers in his blog of 28th January to "MSP Stuart McMillan, the man who did so much to save the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band." (pteditorblogspot.com) Stuart,



**The London Scottish pipers and drummers at the funeral of Rifleman James Brown**

before he got elected to Holyrood, played for several years with us as a piper. With his natural interest in all things piping Stuart campaigned (with the College of Piping) by writing letters, raising the matter in the Scottish Parliament and by presenting a petition along with Rab Wallace.

The campaign appears to have borne fruit as the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band are

back together and are competing again this season. That story alone has got to be worth a pint of heavy in the beer tent.

**We welcome pipers and drummers every Thursday night at 95 Horseferry Road between 7:00 and 10:00. The door is always open and the beer is cheap.**



**Piper Parsons piping in a helicopter at RAF Benson**

# 150 YEARS AT WIMBLEDON

**For 150 years, London Scots have been seen at various times on Wimbledon Common enjoying numerous activities including shooting, military training, golfing and socialising.**

The long history owes itself originally to a letter written to The Times by Lord Elcho in 1859 in which he wrote "What the bow was in former times, the rifle should now be. Competition is the life and soul of our national sports. How long would cricket flourish without Lords or horse-racing without The Derby? We want then to encourage the Army Volunteers and rifle shooting in Great Britain by establishing an annual Rifle Derby."

Three months after the formation of the Volunteer Rifle Corps in May 1859, to counter the perceived threat of invasion from France, The National Rifle Association was founded.

The eyes of all shooting men were turned to find a suitable spot for the first Rifle Shooting Derby. Woolwich, Aldershot, Epsom and Chobham were all considered

but they lacked all the required conditions of great space, safety, accessibility and vicinity to the Metropolis, combined if possible with an attractive charming situation. Finally, Lord Spencer being one of the founders of the NRA offered some of his land on Wimbledon Common.

On 2nd July 1860, Queen Victoria, with much pomp and ceremony opened the first Prize Meeting. The Queen pulled a silken cord attached to the trigger of a tripod mounted Whitworth rifle and the bullet hit the target 400 yards away within a ¼ inch of the centre. 400 yards being the reputed distance a longbow archer could achieve.

The high earth bank behind the first target has been levelled over the years to become the 17th tee on the London Scottish golf course. On maps it is still called "Queen's Butt"

In 1862 the first Rifle Volunteers' camp was established on the Common and marks the beginning of the social side of shooting.

By sheer coincidence, Lord Elcho, a close friend of Lord Spencer, found the best spot for his London Scottish tent overlooking

the picturesque vale known as Glen Albyn. The area became almost by prescriptive right, the property of the London Scottish. Subsequently, a permanent structure was built to replace the tent and became known as The Iron House.

Lord Elcho was by all accounts a very passionate gentleman whose main causes were his Country, his Regiment, shooting and golf. It is no surprise that when camped on the Common and not shooting he would want to play golf. The London Scottish Golf Club was formally founded on 5th November 1865 as a regimental club initially only for his soldiers.

The London Scottish often used the Common for training exercises. Many times the order would be given to charge the crest of the hill between the windmill and the red roofed house. How poignant that at Messines exactly the same order was given.

**Stewart Petty, Past Captain  
London Scottish Golf Club**



An illustration from the late 1800s showing The London Scottish at a camp in Wimbledon

# LONDON SCOTTISH RIFLES LODGE

The 484th Regular Meeting of the Regimental Lodge was held at the London Masonic Centre, Clerkenwell Green, London, on Thursday 28th January 2010.

The Master, Worshipful Brother Gary Anderson, opened the meeting. The members and visitors then attended to the usual Masonic business during which Bro. Jason Harryman was ceremonially processed through the Second Degree.

WBro. Norman Rowe of the Old Hamptonians Lodge then presented WBro. Anderson with a sword thought to be made around 1906. The sword is heavily engraved and in excellent condition, and bears the words 'London Scottish Rifles' but its full history is not known. After being recently refurbished by WBro. Ron Saunders, the archivist of Middlesex Provincial Grand Lodge, it was the wish of Bro. Norman and other members of the Old Hamptonian Lodge that the sword should be returned to its rightful home. The Worshipful Master thanked Bro. Norman most sincerely on behalf of the Lodge and stated that the Regimental Lodge was extremely honoured and grateful to receive the sword.

WBro. Paul Allen then delivered his Lodge Charity report. He informed the Brethren that, due to their generosity, the Lodge was able to donate £1,500 to one of the Master's chosen charities. WBro. Anderson then presented a cheque for £1,500 to WBro. Captain Keith Brudenell to be donated to the London Regiment Welfare and Benevolent Fund. WBro. Brudenell thanked the Worshipful Master and, on behalf of the London Regiment, expressed their gratitude to the members of the Lodge for their very kind donation.

The meeting then closed to enable members of the Lodge and their Masonic visitors to meet up with their non-Masonic guests who had been invited on this occasion to attend a special 'White Table' Burns Night Festive Board. After partaking of liquid refreshment those present were called to dinner by the sound of the pipes. There were about 60 members and their Masonic visitors present at the Masonic Meeting itself plus an additional 15 non-Masonic guests at the dinner making about 75 in all.

Bro. Robert Blackledge, the acting Lodge piper, opened proceedings by piping in the Worshipful Master to the Top Table. The



**The London Scottish sword donated by WBro. Norman Rowe of Old Hamptonians Lodge**

Lodge Chaplain, WBro. Bill Edmundson, then delivered the 'Selkirk Grace', after which soup was served. That consumed, Bro. Robert piped in The Haggis procession with the Chef carrying the famous fare and a kilted Bro. Phil Ross bringing up the rear rolling two bottles of Hodden Grey whisky in the traditional manner. WBro. Bill Ferguson then addressed The Haggis in an excellent manner. After the downing of the traditional drams, the Haggis was piped out before serving.

After an excellent dinner of Cock-a-leekie soup; Haggis, Neeps and Tatties served with a dram of Whisky; Steak and Kidney Pie; Cheese and Biscuits, all served with copious measures of wine, those present settled down to enjoy the rest of the evening.

The formal toasts completed, WBro. Gary Anderson announced, in a very emotional manner, that there would be a special raffle with the proceeds being donated to the Help For Heroes Charity in the name of Rifleman James BROWN, 3 Rifles, who was killed in Afghanistan on 15th December along with L/Cpl. David Kirkness. James's girlfriend Hayley is the daughter of an Association member and Pipe Band Drummer Dave Morris. Consequently seven Pipe Band members played at the funeral. WBro. Anderson later announced that the raffle had

produced a marvellous sum of more than £500.

We were then entertained by some excellent piping from WBro. Bill Ferguson and Bro. Robert Blackledge who, on completion, forced themselves to consume the obligatory drams. They sat down to thunderous applause.

WBro. Bill Ferguson proposed the toast to the Worshipful Master. Bro. Gary responded by thanking all the members and guests for being there and for helping to make it such a special evening. He mentioned that he had been a guest a few days before at the A Company Burns Supper at 95 and was very pleased to see the OC, Major Carter, present here tonight. He hoped that this would help to reinforce the close relationship between the Regiment and the Lodge, as well as the wider Regimental family. The WM made reference to Masonic Charities and stated that Freemasonry was the 3rd largest contributor to Charities in this country after the National Lottery and Children in Need.

Bro. Alex McBride then delivered the traditional tribute to WBro. Robert Burns in an excellent and informative manner. In carrying out the Immortal Memory, Bro. Alex supplemented his rendition with his usual brand of humour that was very well received.

For the benefit of the non-Masonic guests, WBro. Norman Rowe gave a brief talk about the sword presented to the Lodge earlier in the afternoon and WBro. Anderson re-presented the cheque for £1,500 to WBro. Captain Keith Brudenell.

The Worshipful Master proposed the toast to the Regiment. This was followed by the usual rendering of 'The Hodden Grey' with great enthusiasm and dramatic effect by those selected to sing the various verses; but why does WBro Pat Lovelock always get to sing verse 6?

WBro. Steve Lovelock proposed the toast to the 43 visitors present. He commented that this was the largest number of visitors that he could recall and, between them, the Masonic guests represented no fewer than 18 different Lodges. This was however a special evening as non-Masonic guests were also present. Many were from the London Scottish Regiment and special mention

was made of Major Stuart Young, the Regimental Secretary; Major David Carter, Commanding Officer A Coy; Captain Keith Brudenell, PSAO and WO2 Joe Crook, SPSP, as well as Mark Ormiston of the Regimental Association Executive Committee. He then mentioned Ted Sylvester, one of the few remaining WW2 veterans, who was then applauded by all those present. Bro. Steve then stated that the Regiment and the Regimental Lodge had co-existed for the past 120 years, the Lodge having been formed just 30 years after the Regiment and the links between the two remained as strong as ever. He then invited all members of the Lodge to drink a toast to the visitors.

In responding to the toast to the visitors, WBro. Fred Ridley of The Liberal Arts Lodge thanked Bro. Steve for the way he proposed the toast and the brethren for the way they received it. He thanked and congratulated the Worshipful Master and

the Officers of the Lodge for the excellent way the earlier ceremony was carried out. He made particular reference to all the hard effort and teamwork that goes on behind the scenes to achieve such an outstanding performance. He finished by thanking the members of the Lodge for their kind hospitality and excellent Festive Board on behalf of all the visitors.

The formal festivities being ended, the Festive Board was closed with a special Masonic toast and the traditional rendering of Auld Lang Syne. As we adjourned to the bar, or left to catch trains, all agreed that we had enjoyed yet another great and memorable Burns Night celebration that we hope made a big impression on our non-Masonic guests.

**Ken Phillips**

# THE LONDON SCOTTISH REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CEILIDH

5 JUNE 2010  
TICKETS £15

- CEILIDH BAND
- RAFFLE
- HOT & COLD BUFFET
- PIPES AND DRUMS

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM BEHIND THE BAR AT HQ

# SERGEANTS MESS

Fellow Mess Members it has been a while since the Mess President has wrote some notes for the gazette. Hopefully as the New appointed mess President for a second time we will have an article in each gazette during my term in post.

I would firstly like to welcome back to the fold C/SGT Craig Nimmo to the mess who takes the post of assistant Mess President. CQMS Jim Dixon as the mess treasurer and WO2 Alan Nathan as the mess secretary.

I would like to welcome our new Sergeant Major (RSM) Brian Cannon of the Scots Guards to the London Regiment and say a farewell to Sergeant Major (RSM) Maine.

We still have our two resident permanent staff in post with Company, Company Sergeant Major SPSI Joe Crook Scots Guards at Horseferry road and Colour Sergeant Mark Roberts Welsh Guards in post as the mortars PSI at catford.

I would also like to say a farewell to Sergeant Ben Davis who has left A company to join F Company Scots Guards at Wellington barracks as a Lance Sergeant. He hasn't moved far so we should still see him at the mess in Horseferry.

It's beginning to be a busy year already with London Scottish troops deploying to Afghanistan on Op Herrick 12 and Op Herrick 13 later in the year. We wish you well and a safe return. Our very own CSM Nick Tuckey will be deploying on Herrick 12 this year and know doubt we will hear his war stories in the mess on his return and the Afghans will hear them



**New Mess President C/SGT Justin Tregidgo**

on his arrival! Good luck Nick and keep your head down and feet up! I know how dangerous it can be in the stores in Afghanistan!

This year we will hopefully have a few more events planned for the mess including a ladies night and we will try to get Wappenshaw up and running again. The annual dinner date has been moved mid year as we were not getting enough members turning up due to it being to soon after Halloween and near to st Andrews

day. Hopefully the new date will allow for more members to make this year dinner. The proformas for the annual dinner have been sent out and hopefully all of you have received one?

Unfortunately the proformas need to be recalled as the annual dinner date has had to be changed due to the regiment's current operational commitments which wouldn't allow for the serving members to attend. The new date is going to be Saturday 10th July 2010. New proformas will be sent out ASAP.

If you haven't received a proforma please drop the mess secretary a line on NATH6579@hotmail.com and he will happily send you a copy.

Another date for your diaries is the Sergeants Mess Annual general meeting (AGM) which will be held on the first Tuesday December 9th at 1930 sharp in the mess. The date has changed this year so as to allow people to recover from Halloween Dinner without having to drag themselves two days on the trot to Horseferry within days. It will also be a chance for us to get together for a Christmas drink.

Lastly I would like to congratulate sergeant Rob Speer and Claire on the birth of their Son and old comrade Jason Harryman and Natalie on the birth of their son too.

**Yours Aye  
C/SGT Justin Tregidgo  
Mess President**

## 1939-1945 AND 1ST BN 1947-1967 REUNION LUNCH

SATURDAY 10TH JULY 2010 AT RHQ  
95 HORSEFERRY ROAD, WESTMINSTER, LONDON

12 NOON FOR 1PM  
PRICE £24 PER PERSON

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO WIDOWS OF FORMER MEMBERS  
AND MEMBERS' LADY GUESTS

To book please complete and post the form enclosed in this edition of the Gazette



# REGIMENTAL RUGBY CLUB NEWS

This season's AGM was held on the 24th November 2009 at 95 and was chaired by Vice Captain Stuart Hedley. C/Sgt Nimmo was re-elected Captain and Chair for an 8th Season with Stuart Hedley re-elected as Vice Captain. WO2 Hetherington continues in the role of Secretary with 2Lt Duffers being elected and welcomed in the Club as Fixtures Secretary with Cpl Dawson newly elected as Social Secretary. Raymond Gray continues as Treasurer. It was decided by the members to reintroduce a membership fee of £10 and £3 match subs.

It has been a slow season so far with few games planned and played because of Op Herrick commitments and the withdrawal of Government funding by the TA.

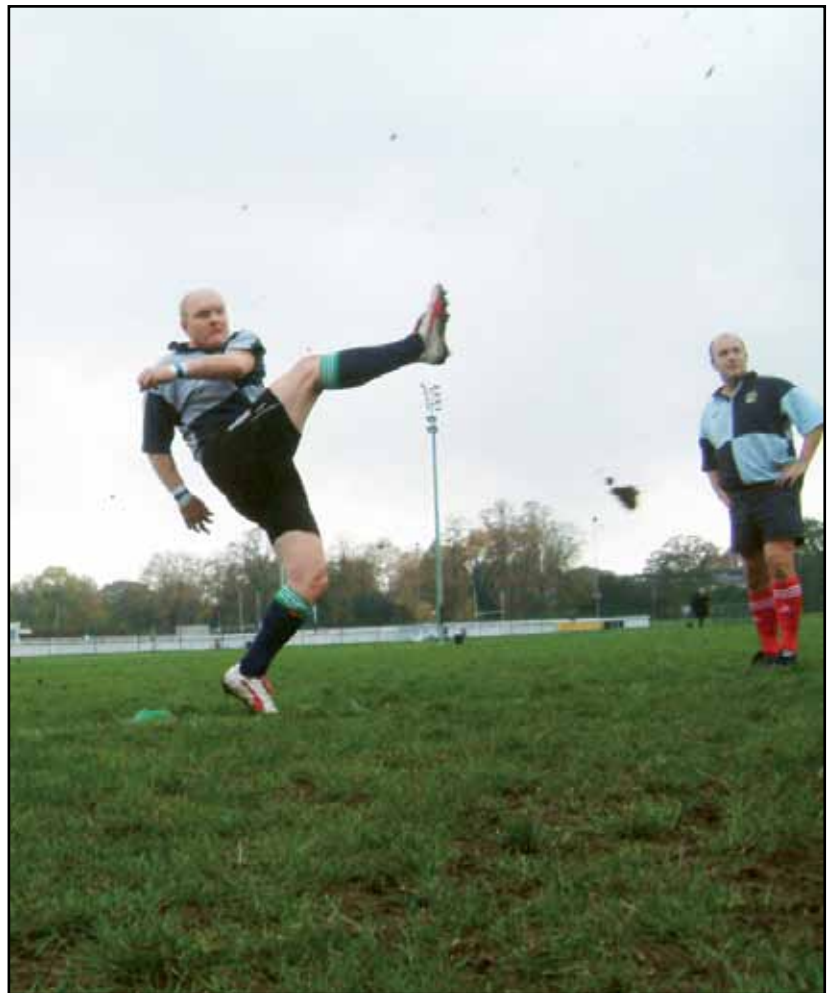
It is planned to have a re-match against 7 Rifles on the 20th March followed by a long awaited return against LSFC Vs with a hint of the re-emergence of 21 SAS and the annual London District 7s Competition on April 25th.

The social side of the Cub is pretty busy with trips arranged by the OC to see Wales v Scotland at the Millennium Stadium on the 13th February and Scotland v England at Murrayfield on the 13th March.

As this goes to press, quotes are being sort for the new skin tight strip in the same colours to replace the heavy traditional jersey as before and I'd like to thank both the OC and the Regimental Association for their support in this matter.

As ever, we welcome new players especially from recruits and our brothers in the Association, regardless if you have never played before.

Yours aye  
C/Sgt Nimmo  
Captain and Chair



Cpl. Dawson scores a conversion under the watchful eye of Stuart Hedley

# REGIMENTAL GOLF

**The first meeting of the year will take place at the London Scottish Golf Club on Friday the 23rd of April 0800 for 0830.**

I have currently received subs from Ian Dawson, Steve Lovelock, Brian Welch, Neil McTavish and Russell King (from the pipe band). Membership is £20.00 per annum and is open to all serving

and past members of the London Scottish and London Regiment. We meet 3 times a year April, July and October. Guests are welcome but cannot compete for the trophies. The cost of golf with breakfast, lunch and dinner is £35.00 for 36 holes of golf which is really good value. If you wish to join please let me or Ian Dawson know.

The Captain for the year is Brian Welch.....less another shot....maybe!

Happy new year

Nick Tuckey

# CANTEEN CHAT

**The Union jack from HMS spartiale, the last to survive the Battle of Trafalgar fetched an incredible £384,000 at auction**

Poland is ready to commit more troops to Afghanistan and their foreign minister has said "Poland wants to be seen as a nation that stands by it's allies"

**The piper commando Bill Mullin who piped our soldiers ashore on D-Day is to be honoured by the French by having a statue made of him. The Germans thought he was mad so they did not shoot him. In the film The Longest Day he was played by London Scottish Pipe major Leslie deLaspee, who was also the Queen Mother's official piper.**

Beer from the Hindenburg airship disaster is said to become the world's most expensive, even though undrinkable. It is expected to reach £5,000 for the fire damaged bottle.

**A law is being passed to ensure that our wounded soldiers coming back from Afghanistan are given priority on the NHS. The law would not have been needed if we had proper military hospitals.**

MOD Civil servants who are working in Afghanistan are paid five times more than the troops.

**We were pleased to see on ITV in December, pictures of the London Regiment training at Thetford for their deployment to Afghanistan in March. Amongst the individuals shown was our own L/cpl Anderson**

Commandos are commemorating a raid carried out in Norway in 1943 by doing a 700 mile trek on skis. London Scot Reginald Makenham took part in the original raid, was wounded and captured by the Germans. He was imprisoned in Colditz Castle and then executed by the Germans on the instructions of Hitler.

**In January we were pleased to have a visit from Pete Newman one of our ex Gordon Highlander P.S.I.s. He is still flying helicopters in the middle east.**

A Victoria cross and medals awarded to A second world War bomber pilot have fetch an incredible £340,000 at auction.

It was an impressive sight seeing the 2nd Bn The rifles marching through Croydon on their return from Afghanistan and the welcoming reception from the public.

**The Band of the Coldstream Guards have produced a cd called "Heores" and it was top of the Classic FM charts.**

L/Cpl Katrina Hodge has been labelled "combat Barbie" after being crowned miss England. She has been given leave to take part in the Miss World contest held in Johannesburg in December

**The MoD has said that in six months ten service women have become pregnant while serving in Afghanistan and have been sent back to the UK!**

It has been discovered that we still have a survivor who served in the great War, a lady who is now 107. She enlisted at the age of 17 in the women's RAF in 1918 and served as a waitress in the officer's mess at RAF Marham.

**Sadly it has been reported the 1in 10 of our soldiers are unfit for the front line, this partly due to injuries received in Afghanistan.**

Divers have found 2 incredible super Japanese submarines from WW2. The subs were three times the size of their contemporaries and carried three airplanes which were to be launched by catapult. They were sunk by the US Navy as the Russians showed an interest in them at the beginning of the cold war.

**The 19 year old who urinated on the Sheffield War memorial has been sentenced to 250 hours of community service. It is reported that 1 memorial a week is being desecrated in Britain.**

A commonwealth war grave Cemetery has been built at Fromelles and the first of the soldiers removed from a mass grave from WW1 was given an individual burial on the 30th January

**Macleod Highland Supplies are finding new grounds as business declines on home ground have supplied kit to pipe bands in Israeli occupied Palestine.**

In mid December the long-awaited A400 Military Airbus made it's first flight. With its peculiar shaped eight bladeed propellers it is said to be 30 percent faster than previous types at 420 mile per hour cruising speed.

Defence cuts are not only affecting the TA and cadets, but could also ground the Battle of Britain flight! The Defence Secretary has said that training exercises that were 'not relevant' to the war in Afghanistan will be axed

**The war diaries of W.W.1. poet Sigfried Sassoon have been saved for the nation and have been taken into the archives of Cambridge University Library.**

**Readers of The Daily Telegraph would have seen an interesting obituary to Czech Major-General Miloslav Kaspar. It appears that at one stage he was an interpreter to The London Scottish. Is there anyone who remembers him?**

On the 10th of December soldiers of The Black Watch visited their Regimental War Memorial in Aberfeldy.

**Our soldiers in Afghanistan are having to be provided with more powerful rifles as the SA80A2 using 5.56 ammunition appears to have a limited range of up to 300 yards and they are being out-gunned by the Taliban using AK-47 rounds, which appear to be effective up to 900 yards.**

The death certificate of The Red Baron, The famous German flying ace Baron Manfred von Richthofen has been found in the archives of the polish town of Ostrow Wielkopolski. He was W.W.1. most succesful fighter pilot with 80 kills.

The charity Combat Stress founded in 1919 who help victims of post-traumatic stress disorder is now dealing with 1,200 new cases a year. At the moment they say they are dealing with around 4,000 ex servicemen and women.

**In December we were pleased to have a visit of Alison McAlpine from Canada whose Grandfather Private Proctor M.M. served in the 1st Bn. in W.W.2. Whilst he had been a surgeon before the war he served in the ranks as a sniper waging a private war against the Germans. His non-military appearance was tolerated by the higher-ups as he was such a good soldier.**

Seen at 95 on First Tuesday in Feb: Colonel David Rankin-Hunt, Colonel Stephen Henwood, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Ludlow, Lieutenant Colonel Marc Overton, Major Mark Randall, Major Conrad Giles, Mark Ormiston, Carl Fairman, Major Stuart Young, Alex Callender, Arthur Fenwick, Bill Parr, Bob Blackledge, Brian Sivyer, Brian Welsh, Bryan Alderson, Clem Webb, D Roper, David Franklin, David James, Jim Barnard, John Hudson, John Spoor, John McCormack, Mick Mulvaney, Mickey Powell, Nick Tuckey, Ron Olly, Rob Blackledge, Rod Brewster, Roger Glancefield, Ron Younger, Steve Lovelock, Ted Silvester, Ted Weldin.

The Ceremony of Christmas Cheeses at the Royal Hospital Chelsea saw Chelsea Pensioners standing shoulder-to-shoulder with troops bound for Afghanistan.

Among the Pensioners welcoming TA soldiers Lance Corporal George Anderson and Private Ben Gorrige to the hospital was 94-year-old World War II veteran Bill Moylon, who helped build the Bridge on the River Kwai while held a prisoner of war.

Every year British cheesemakers donate cheese to pensioners, a tradition that began in 1692 when the hospital asked a local cheesemonger to provide them with some as a Christmas treat.

This year, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Dairy Council supporting the ceremony, cheesemakers decided to pay tribute to the bravery of young men and women who continue to serve.



George Anderson, a 31-year-old estate agent with the London Scottish said:

*"It makes you feel very proud to be doing your bit for your country when standing alongside brave and dignified Chelsea*

*Pensioners, especially when you consider the conditions that they suffered and the length of their campaigns.*

*We are on tour for six months whilst they were away and uncontactable for years."*

## CANTEEN NOTICEBOARD

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

THURS 4 MARCH – MACLEOD MEDAL/ATWOOLL TROPHY COMPETITIONS

TUESDAY 6 APRIL – FIRST TUESDAY

SATURDAY 15 APRIL – 150TH ANNIVERSARY BAND SUPPER

TUESDAY 4 MAY – FIRST TUESDAY

THURSDAY 13 MAY – OFFICERS DINNER CLUB

TUESDAY 1 JUNE – FIRST TUESDAY

SATURDAY 5 JUNE – REGIMENTAL CEILIDH

SATURDAY 3 JULY – SGT'S MESS DINNER

TUESDAY 6 JULY – FIRST TUESDAY

SATURDAY 10 JULY – 39-45 & 1ST BN REUNION LUNCH

FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER – ASSOCIATION TRIP TO ARRAS

MONDAY 1 NOV – HALLOWE'EN DINNER

# THE MESSINES WINDMILL PART 2

Following from “The Messines Windmill” (Winter 2009 issue), Mr. John Wren, our Curator mentioned all too modestly his “Return to The Ridge” in September 2009. In fact John brought back a wealth of information and photographs, not only of the original millstone, but also of the mill’s actual concrete foundations (now part of a garden feature) and of some surviving metal work from the sweeps (sails), now built in as roof supports.

Far more of the Goemaere Mill (“Our Mill”) on The Ridge survives than I had ever imagined possible and all just a short distance from The London Scottish Memorial. We have marched past within a few yards of it’s site many times, without realising it.

Very detailed maps and prints of the Messines Ridge area prior to The Great War have also come to light from various sources and best of all, early photographs of both, “Our Mill” and “The Convent Mill”, seen in their working days. It is of interest to note that The Messines Oust Windmill (the Convent’s mill) was a grain producing mill, whilst The Goemaere Mill (the London Scottish mill), produced linseed and rape seed oil.

The actual site of The Halloweën 1914 windmill now at last firmly established, another related mystery was still to be solved. A few years ago my great friend and fellow Gordon Highlander, Ken Pickles living in Yorkshire, was browsing the stalls of his local village Boot Fair, when an item (see photograph) caught his eye.

The item is of Silver plate on copper, 5cm. in diameter and 3.5 cm. Deep and bears the Belgian arms and a scroll inscribed “Messines”. Ken, knowing a little of the history of The London Scottish, recognised it as an item that would be of very much interest to me and immediately bought it and passed it on to me.

I was intrigued and assumed it to be a serviette ring, but from where was it from and what was it doing on a market stall in a small village in Yorkshire?

Curiosity got the better of me and I sent a photograph of it to the Messines Museum for any clue that they may have as to it’s origin. By return post, I received a reply from Mr Johan Beun. Johan also assumed it to be a serviette ring and almost certainly to have come from The Royal Institution of Messines.

The Royal Institution had been destroyed



**Messines serviette ring**

in the Great War, so it is possible that the ring had been picked from the rubble by a soldier (possibly even a London Scot) as a keepsake.

My curiosity was now even more aroused. What is, or was The Royal Institution of Messines? Little is known about the small town of Messines prior to the 11th Century, although it seems likely that it’s name derived from Manechinos, a Germanic - Roman family believed to have lived beside the leading trade route close to where the town of Messines (Mesen) is today.

In 1057, Countess Adele, the daughter of King Robert “The Pious” of France, founded a convent and the church of St Nicholas and the town of Messines began to grow. Adele married twice and one of her daughters with her first husband the Count Baldwin V of Flanders, was named Matilda. Matilda was to later marry William The Conqueror and so ultimately became Queen of England.

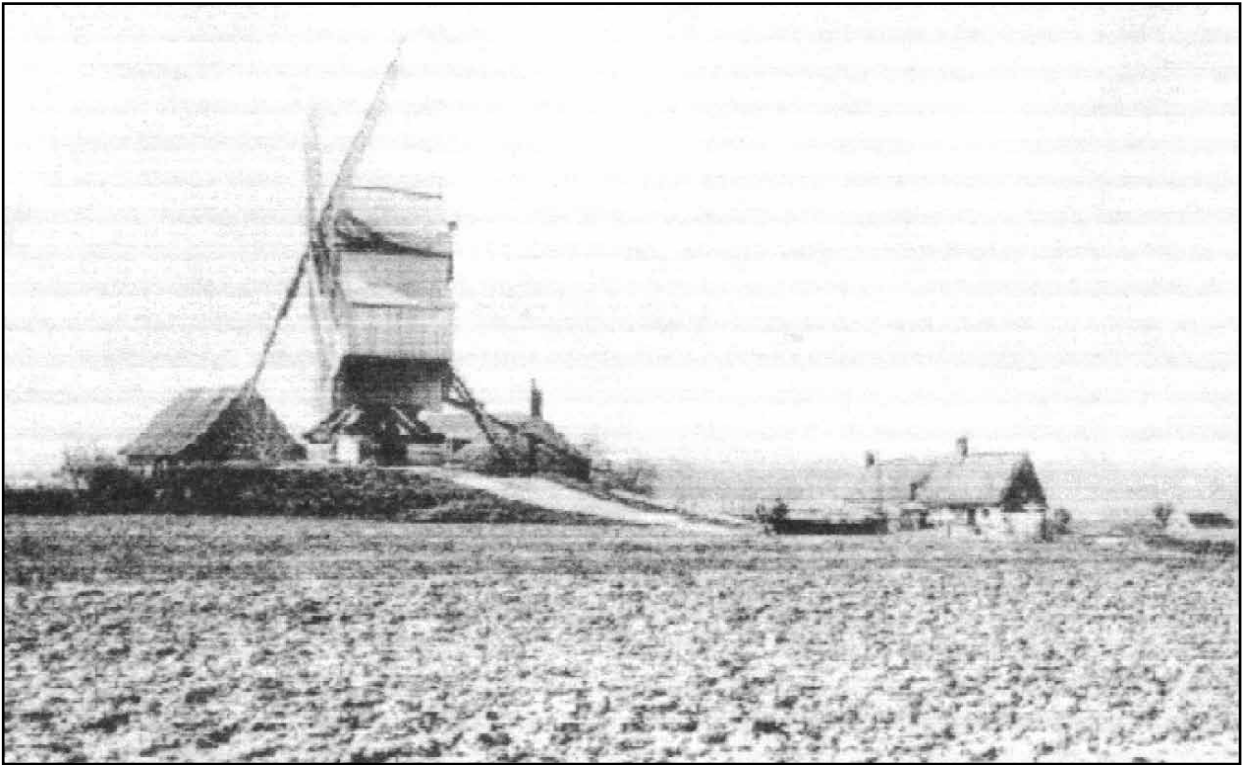
Adele died in 1079 and was buried in the crypt of the church of St Nicholas in Messines. (The current St Nicholas Church,

was rebuilt on the site of the original St Nicholas Church).

The convent continued to flourish and with many of the Abbesses and Nuns being from noble families, had no shortage of funding or of the rich arable land. The convent owned and worked its own windmill, which dated back to around 1445. In 1776, Empress Maria Therese of Austria converted the convent to a Royal Institution, an orphanage and school for the children of dead or wounded military officers. An hospice was also established. Thus the Institute Royal de Messines (Koninklijk Gesticht van Mesen) remained until the outbreak of The Great War.

The staff and pupils of The Institution were forced to flee to France. Returning after The Armistice they discovered that the war had taken it’s terrible toll and the buildings were now gone or were piles of rubble far beyond repair. They moved to Ledre in East Flanders, but retained the name - The Royal Institution of Messines.

The Belgian Government and The Royal Institution together, bought the property



MESSINES OUEST, Moulin Phillippe (or Convent Mill).

in Lede and continued the education of military orphans (but in French which was then the upper class language of Belgium). From 1944, children from civilian families

were also admitted. From 1952 however, the gradual partition of Belgium into what are today's Flemish and French speaking regions meant that French - speaking schools were in an increasingly precarious situation in Flanders, a situation which culminated in the withdrawal in 1963 of Government subsidies. At the same time there were fewer officer's children being enrolled, a welcome reflection of enduring peace.

In September 1969 the Government decided to close the school and sell the property. Proceeds would be invested and the income used to provide scholarships, vocational support and other assistance to children of officers killed in action, thereby continuing the wish of the founder, Empress Maria Therese.

By 1972 the process was complete and The Royal Institution began its new role as a foundation disbursing funds instead of running a school. In 1984 pieces from the Institution's preserved treasury were returned to Messines and can now be seen in the town's small museum.

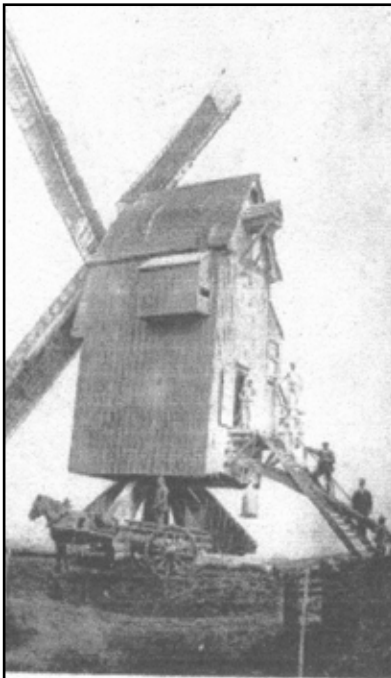
Now another thought arises; It has often been asked "Where are, or were the London Scots and others killed in action on The Messines Ridge, on Hallowe'en 1914 buried?". We know that they have no marked graves hence their listing on The

Menin Gate. It has been generally thought that they were initially interred in the grounds of a Monastery, but no record of a Monastery has been found in the Messines area. Could it be more probable that they had been initially buried in the grounds of the hospice of The Royal Institution, the one time Convent, not a Monastery.

The entire area was later swept from the landscape in the two Battles of Messines (1914 and 1917) and any graves and remains that there may have been were scattered and lost forever. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission later established The Messines Ridge British War Cemetery, on the site of The Royal Institution (at the area marked on the maps as 'Hospice') and erected The Cross of Sacrifice on the footprint of the former Convent's (1445 Messines Ouest) windmill. (Source, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission).

**Many thanks to Johan Beun and Marino Mahieu (Messines Museum) for their help and especially to our own Curator John Wren for his fieldwork and great patience. Various internet sites have been invaluable for the early history of Messines and of The Royal Institution.**

John Spoor RVM.



GOEMAERE MILL (Our mill)

# REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

Despite the coldest January for the past umpteen years a good number of Association members attended 95 for the first Tuesday of the New Year. The added attraction was the invitation to join the serving company for an excellent lecture on Private George Mitchell VC and a related history of the Victoria Cross. I am sure the OC will cover the lecture in his notes in this edition for it was his event not the Association's. Following the lecture we were invited to witness the award of the cap badge to our latest successful recruits and then retire to the bar where a curry buffet had been provided for all. An excellent start to the Regimental year.

It was the first of a series of drill nights with a difference that the OC is arranging to ensure the interest levels of serving soldiers are maintained against a backdrop of training budget cuts and depleted numbers due to the deployment of Amiens Coy. I am delighted that the OC has sought fit to include the Association in his plans and if the Mitchell lecture is the benchmark there are some excellent evenings to come.

To further cement the links between the Serving Coy and the Association an

intrepid group of Association members ventured to our southern outpost at Catford to join the platoon there for their drill night on Wednesday 27th January. We sat in on a first class lecture delivered by Cpl Ian Dawson introducing us to the mortar, most informative and a far cry from my anti-tank days. Afterwards we were treated to Catford's finest hospitality in the bar and, being close to Burns Night, a haggis supper courtesy of Cpl Les Anderson. We were made to feel most welcome. It was immediately apparent that the Catford platoon has a real buzz about it and is in excellent hands. My thanks to C.Sgt Craig Nimmo for arranging the evening. We hope to arrange similar evenings in the future to allow Association members who only know 95 the opportunity to see our thriving platoon at Catford.

Now to future events. Due to the unavailability of the Ceilidh Band we have had to re-arrange the date for the Ceilidh. It will now be held at 95 on Saturday the 5th June 2010, 6.30pm for 7pm. Having now secured the services of the same Ceilidh band who have entertained us so well in recent years we also secured our own Pipes and Drums to really round off the bill. Prices have again been

pegged at £15 to include hot and cold buffet. Last year ticket sales were slow to get off the ground and only just got us to an acceptable number to make the evening financially viable. As all present said how much they enjoy the Ceilidh it would be a shame if we had to ever cease this annual link with our Scottish heritage. Tickets will be on sale at the AGM on 1st Tuesday in April and thereafter behind the bar. Please support the event this year and treat yourself to an excellent evening.

Our second big event of the year will be the battlefield tour now arranged for the last week in September. We will travel by coach and ferry to Arras leaving RHQ on Friday 24th September returning on Monday 27th September. We have yet to finalise the itinerary but will concentrate on London Scottish actions in the Arras area that we have not visited during recent trips. We also hope to visit Dainville and the Rue de London Scottish. We await final confirmation but hope to offer the trip to members for less than £300 per person. Details will be publicised shortly through the usual means.

**Yours aye**  
**Steve Lovelock - Chairman**

## Association membership fees.

Will members please note that the annual subscription for membership of the Association is £12 and NOT £10. This increase in subscriptions took effect on 1 November 2008.

We still have many members paying the old subscription rates, in fact too many to write to individually. In order to continue receive your copy of the Gazette we do need to receive your full subscription. Please check to ensure that you have instructed your bank to pay the increased rate and forward any outstanding balance to:

The Honorary Treasurer,  
London Scottish Regimental Association  
95 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 2DX

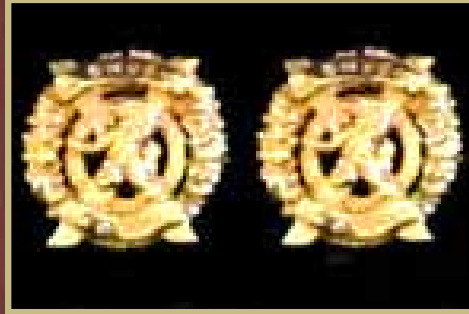
Thank You  
The Honorary Treasurer

# LONDON SCOTTISH REGIMENTAL SHOP

## 9ct Gold



4970: Regimental Brooch



4968: Cufflinks, Bar or Chain



4971: Tie Pin

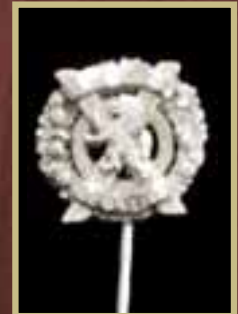
## Sterling Silver



4955: Regimental Lapel Badge



4968: Cufflinks, Bar or Chain



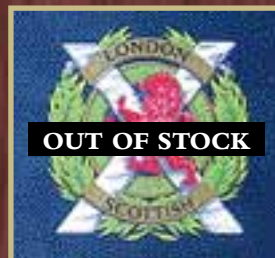
4971: Tie Pin



4933: Ice Bucket



4910: Blazer Badge



4966: Coasters x 6



4920: Hodden Grey Hose

# Regimental Ties



4931: Silk

4932: Polyester

4974: 51st Highland Volunteers



London Scottish Regimental Jumper



RSS: London Scottish Rugby Shirt



RGU: Regimental Umbrella



4950: Striped Socks



Braces





London Scottish Regimental Watch Strap



150th Anniversary Tankard



150th Anniversary Plate



Lord Robertson's Photography book



4950: Regimental Plaque



Tumbler

The Regimental shop has a display cabinet in the Queen Elizabeth Room and can be viewed online at <http://www.london-scottish-regt.org/shop>.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please send your letters to, The Editor, The London Scottish Gazette, Regimental Headquarters, 95, Horseferry road, Westminster, London. SW1P 2DX, or email to [lsgazette@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lsgazette@yahoo.co.uk) Only letters with Names and addresses will be printed.

Dear Editor  
TIME TO GO

I would like to thank all those who were kind enough to donate towards the present of a splendid statuette of a London Scottish Jerusalem Soldier, on my departure from R.H.Q, after having worked there for over 19 years. This gift will be a constant reminder of some happy times that I have had in the past. I have served under 4 Regimental Colonels and 3 Regimental Secretaries.

I feel that I still have more to contribute, so I will continue to do Canteen Chat and obituaries for the Gazette as I have done over the last 14 years, and will now be a volunteer as the Regimental Archivist.

I will now be diverting my surplus energy elsewhere, and a few of my activities will be as follows: Neighbourhood Watch, Local Conservatives, De Havilland Mosquito Aircraft Museum, Western Front Association, gardening, travel, and possibly helper to local hospital and the housebound.

My main interest will still be the London Scottish and some may like to know that a hobby I have at home is that I have created, 65 volumes of London Scottish photographs, covering 10 volumes on graves and memorials to London Scots in France and Belgium, and 51 volumes of London Scots, mainly before 1920. The above have been copied from every possible source – such as photos, postcards, book, photo albums, newspaper cuttings; you name it.

I will be seeing you,  
Clem Webb

Dear Sir,  
Charles William Train VC

*Charlie was a friend of mine for quite a few years, we worked together in Vancouver. In the past several years I have on November 11th visited his grave, and my own two minutes in respect of a gentleman and a good friend. Thought you might like to know and I include a couple of photos.*

Norman Brooks  
Vancouver



Dear Sir,

I am on your mailing list, would you be good enough to send me another copy of The Regimental Gazette of Oct 2009, in which on page 29 there is a painting of Hallowe'en 1914.

I gave my copy to friend in Torquay, whose name is Roger Petty. His Father was Pte. W.H. Petty and was at Messines on Hallowe'n 1914, my Father Cpl. H.J. Baker was also in The London Scottish at Messines.

Walter Petty became entangled in barbed wire and my Father was nearby, he disentangled him, for which he was very grateful.

After the War Walter Petty sent my Father a cigarette case in remembrance of the barbed wire at Messines, I enclose a photocopy.

For years I had no contact with Roger Petty but about ten years ago I spoke to either Clem Webb or Bob Harnman at the Regimental Headquarters and was given the address of Roger Petty near Totnes in Devon. He now lives about a mile from me in Torquay.

I enclose a photo of Roger and me at our local golf club. Our Dad's would have been interested to see it.

Yours sincerely  
Gordon Baker

Submissions for the Summer Gazette should be sent by no later than 29th May 2010 for inclusion.

Dear Editor,

In regard to the debate about which flag to fly over headquarters that has appeared in gazettes passim, I came across the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel James Paterson M.C., on page 121 of the June 1946 London Scottish Regiment Gazette. Written May 9th 1946 and titled The Flag of the King of Scotland, the letter reads:

*“In the days before the first (sic) World War someone in authority, with an undue flair for accuracy, questioned our right to fly the flag of the King of Scotland, and it was sought to put the question beyond doubt by obtaining the authority of King George V. He graciously sent answer that it was beyond his power to grant permission to us to fly it – because it was a personal blazon – but that he understood well that we flew it to demonstrate our loyalty, and that he would never intervene to lessen our ability to do that. So we fly it.”*

With this in mind, with precedent, and with Royal approval if not permission, I suggest that we should have no qualms about flying the Lion Rampant over 95.

Yours Aye

Duncan DeSilva

*Having done some research with the Deputy Inspector of Regimental Colours at the College of Arms on this matter, The Lion Rampant is the personal Banner of the Sovereign of Scotland and the current Royal Warrant specifically excludes its use in any other way. Whatever agreements or customs happened in the past, this is the current situation. The saltire or our current regimental banner is the correct flag to fly outside our Headquarters, unless, as with all personal banners, the Sovereign happens to be IN the building.*

Dear Editor,

I liked the cover for the recent Gazette, was this a painting and can one obtain a copy? Just on another note so to speak.

I have recently had back surgery and am currently not allowed to drive, so I walk to & from work about 3.5km each way. Recently finding that I was not stepping out briskly I put the Pipes & Drums on the ipod and now to the sounds of “Aunty Mary had a canary” and other well known marches I have chopped a couple of minutes off my time!

Thank you to the Ps & Ds. (However, I am glad that the London Scottish are heavy infantry & not Light, I am not sure that I am ready for a light infantry pace!)

Best Regards

Dr Iain Nicolson

*Dr Iain made a very generous donation to the serving company, which will help them enormously in these difficult times.*

## OBITUARIES

### JIM R.D.WATTS

We have been advised that Jim Watts died suddenly on the 1st December 2009, due to a heart attack.

Jim was in our 3rd Battalion, but unfortunately we do not know what date he joined. He was not a Regimental Association member, but had kept in touch with Joe Checkley, the 3rd Battalion Secretary. We extend our sympathy to his widow Joan.

Clem Webb

### CARMEN CARVER

*I was devastated to receive a telephone call from Jim Carver to tell us that his wife, Carmen, had died over the New Year. Carmen had been battling bravely for a while with several conditions, and on the 22nd December had finally been given the all clear, but cruelly suffered a relapse and went back into hospital over Christmas. Jim was one of my Jocks from our days at Bromley TAC, an excellent soldier and a stalwart member of the regiment. I knew that you would have wanted me to send condolences and everyone's best wishes to him. He is holding up well and we look forward to seeing him at RHQ soon.*

Major Stuart Young

### THE SECOND LORD HAIG OF BEMERSYDE

Dawyck Haig (George Alexander Eugene, the Second Earl Haig of Bemersyde), the son of our former Honorary Colonel, Field Marshall Lord Haig, died on the 9th July 2009, aged 91.

Dawyck Haig was born on the 15th March 1918, just before the Great German Spring Offensive in 1918; he was educated at Stowe School and then went to Christchurch, Oxford; and then chose to take up painting rather than joining the military.

However, in World War Two he served in the Royal Scots Greys, he was in the Western Desert when he was taken prisoner during Field Marshal Rommel's 1941 Spring Offensive. He was first a prisoner of the Italians, but later put in Colditz Castle as regarded as a possible hostage in view of his famous father. He left the Army in 1951 and returned to Bemersyde to lead the life of a country gentleman, and later he got involved on causes to vindicate his father's good name.

The members of the WFA remember him as a true gentleman, unflinchingly courteous and kind, a man who did his duty.

With acknowledgements to the WFA

### JOHN JAMES ALLEN

We have been advised by his wife Judy, that John James Allen died on the 21st November 2009.

John was originally in the New South Wales Scottish Regiment, but was attached to the London Scottish from 1951 to 1954. During that time he was a Lieutenant when he commanded the Anti-tank Platoon. He is in a group photograph taken at Barnard Castle in 1952. Later when he was back in Australia he was in the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

In retirement he paid a visit to the London Scottish Headquarters in September 1997, and he and his wife enjoyed it immensely, and at the same time he joined the Regimental Association.

He was so very proud to have been attached to the London Scottish, that he had our plaque on prominent display at home.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Judy

Clem Webb



# Good luck

from All members of The London Scottish  
to all ranks of AMIENS Coy,  
The London Regiment  
deploying on operations this year.

