



RHQ SCOTS Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

August 2018

1 SCOTS

July was another extremely busy month for 1 SCOTS. The month marked the first time they had a Coy officially on each of the ORM phases; C Coy taking on campaigns, A Coy gaining momentum in their training phase and B Coy moving to other commitments. It also meant that 1 SCOTS, for the first time, would be conducting a full Relief in Place (RIP) of their two enduring tasks in Somalia and Nigeria.

The RIP has been extremely smooth, B Coy set the conditions, with detailed RSOI packages and handovers conducted. C Coy deployed Team 11 and Team 12 to Nigeria and Somalia respectively. Team 9 are preparing to deploy to Iraq and Team 10 will soon deploy to Cameroon.

Although 1 SCOTS have been conducting individual and collective training since March, A Coy have now officially started their eight-month training package. The first serial was the 'Back to Basics' exercise held at Magilligan Training Area - utilizing the extensive real estate, simunition and 5 Army Air Corps with their Wildcats.

B Coy have moved into uncharted territory, after having members of the Coy deployed since Aug 17. They will fulfil tasks as they arise, attend career courses, take leave, manage the turnover of troops and welcome new Spec Inf Soldiers.



Team 8 conducting final lessons with the Somali National Army in Baidoa



Team 12 with the Somali National Army on morning PT

Sergeant Bill Speakman VC

The first of the tasks fulfilled by B Coy was supporting the funeral of Sgt Bill Speakman VC, who died on 20 Jun at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. A hero of the Regiment, Bill Speakman was awarded his VC whilst serving with the KOSB in Korea. Although he was awarded this honour by King George VI, he was the first recipient to be invested by Queen Elizabeth II. The funeral, held in the Wren Chapel, had over 300 attendees, some of whom were in attendance from outside the UK; a mark of the influence Bill Speakman had. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family



1 SCOTS OPSWO leads the bearer part at Sgt Bill Speakman's VC funeral.

2 SCOTS

Over the last 6 months 2 SCOTS have been deployed on three different Operations and are now all safely home.

The Rear Operations Group (ROG) have maintained their busy training packages which has been inclusive of supporting the Javelin Division on their FTX in Salisbury Plain. They were put through their paces in operations ranging from delays to urban Ops.



2 SCOTS Rear Ops Group



2 SCOTS Rear Ops Group

Congratulations to LCpl Nayacavou of 2 SCOTS and Scotland 7s on finishing seventh at the Rugby Sevens World Cup in San Francisco. It is Scotland' highest finish at a Sevens World Cup since 2005, beating France in their final game.



LCpl Nayacavou



3 SCOTS

3 SCOTS Sy Force Coy group have handed over to the US Army 3rd Cavalry Regiment and with that the large logistical challenge of drawing down the UK presence at Al-Asad began. The last month has seen the security company gradually withdraw from tasks to enable a seamless transition to a US led force. It was no easy task. For the past three years the UK contribution to security at Al-Asad Air Base has been front and foremost, from the largest manpower contributor, to the equipment on posts and the core of the C2 structure - manpower and equipment. With the handover complete, the soldiers focused on preparing the equipment for transit back to Cyprus, the UK and elsewhere.



CO 3 SCOTS hands over to the new DCom Security.



The Stars and Strips are raised.



3 SCOTS march on.

Back in the UK the ROG prepared and recovered the Trg Coy as it returned to the Fort. It then began preparing for the main body mid-July. The Bn has spread out it's summer leave and the majority of returning Op SHADER personnel have now gone on post-tour leave. The Bn will complete a full-scale re-orbat last week in August with the focus being on 'back to basics', battle craft syllabus and support weapons cadres; all in preparation for a busy training year in 2019 for NATO high readiness in 2020.

4 SCOTS

This has been a busy few months for 4 SCOTS. After they said farewell to Germany, the Bn was quickly stood too as part of Op LIGHT FACE - assisting the Fire Brigade on Saddleback Moor. A Coy took the lead under Maj Phil Morgan and the Jocks departed for Manchester at short notice. Whilst there they assisted with extinguishing fires as well as preparing trenches and attempting to cordon off certain areas. The task was made extremely difficult by the heatwave that lasted the duration. In the end, the commitment lasted for more than a week and saw over a hundred 4 SCOTS personnel deployed.



A mention must go to D Coy 4 SCOTS for organizing the final event prior to summer leave - the Duke of Rothesay's Dirk (DORD) inter-platoon patrol competition. This saw the Bn deploy onto Salisbury Plain as platoons for a period of 24 hours - patrolling between various checkpoints. Each checkpoint introduced a different challenge - including a platoon attack live range, engaging with civilian populations and conducting FIWAF. A huge congratulations to 14 Platoon, D Coy who won overall.



Sgt McPhee, D Coy

5 SCOTS and Cruachan IV



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Inspected 5 SCOTS (Balaklava Coy), accompanied by Cruachan IV, on 6 August 2018 - the Guard of Honour at Balmoral



6 SCOTS

Atlantic Challenge

One of the squad making up the crew of the GB team taking part in the Atlantic Challenge in Antrim this year is one of 6 SCOTS very own. Private Cameron Hughes from Largs is serving with A Coy in Edinburgh whilst at university there. He originally enlisted with B Coy in Ayr which is near to Largs where he lives.

It has been a long road to get Cameron to Antrim to take part in the Atlantic Challenge GB crew as he had self-funded by raising monies himself. 6 SCOTS has helped with his funding as well as his club; Firth of Clyde Coastal Rowing Club.

Coastal rowing as a sport does not receive major coverage, the crew operate a replica of a 18th century captains gig, these vessels are normally 38 foot long powered either by wind with it's three masts or by ten oars. Although the challenge is conducted as races it also tests the crew's seamanship and navigational skills.

So far the young team have got off to a winning start with two wins out of two races.

Keep up to date with Atlantic Challenge GB via their Facebook and Twitter feeds.



Pte Cameron Hughes



SCOTS Band

In late June the SCOTS Band and 4 SCOTS Pipes and Drums flew to France to perform at the Paris International Military Music Festival. This high-profile event featured top military bands from seven nations performing in the shadow of Napoleon's enormous, gold-plated tomb.

The ceremonial season for the SCOTS Band reached its climax with Royal Week in the first week in July. This involved four high-profile engagements for HM

The Queen. The arrival ceremony took place on Monday and involved 4 SCOTS Pipes and Drums and a Guard of Honour from 5 SCOTS. On Wednesday the SCOTS Band spent the afternoon entertaining guests at the Garden Party in Holyrood Palace. The next day saw us at Leuchars Station for the presentation of a New Standard to the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Finally, on Friday the Band formed up at St Giles Cathedral to

perform for Her Majesty as she entered the cathedral for the annual Order of the Thistle service. It was a hard but rewarding week and the Band took a well-earned annual leave afterwards.



The Massed Bands of the Paris International Military Music Festival



The SCOTS Band at Holyrood Palace

7 SCOTS

Battalion Adventure Training Package

Members of 7 SCOTS took to Aviemore for an intensive Adventure Training Package broken down into two weekend packages and a five-day series of foundation courses. The courses on offer included Mountaineering, Rock Climbing, Mountain Biking and Canoeing, and aimed to challenge the individuals taking part to improve their resilience and mindset. Based out of the Norwegian Lodge, the groups were treated to a variety of terrains which improved their base skills and knowledge of working with difficult ground.

The courses focused on Action Centred Leadership: looking at the way in which these active skills can be used to develop leadership attributes. Each individual was challenged to look at how they can lead and contribute in a different setting to the average field exercise, and for many Reservists allowed a different set of challenges to their civilian jobs.



The Highland Band, The Royal Regiment of Scotland – Annual Training Deployment 2018

This month saw the Highland Band once again join forces with the Lowland Band to deploy to Sennelager, Germany, on a two-week Duty Band deployment. Joined by members of 150 Royal Logistics Corps Band from Hull, the trip comprised of several public appearances, as well as smaller functions, all providing valuable training and a unique experience for the Band members who were working.

With a mix of rehearsals, performances, fitness, MATTs and some Phase 2 training for the newest members of the bands, the camp gave a good all round foundation for every musician. Performances included a Brass Quintet at the Royal Air Force 100th Anniversary dinner in Hamburg, the Paderborn Schutzenfest, a concert for the community of Hövelhof, parading for 17 (Corunna) Battery (Royal Artillery) and providing a band for the Officers Mess at Normandy Barracks.

Playing at the Paderborn Schutzenfest was the major engagement of the trip, and proved a challenging but rewarding experience. The first morning involved a four-mile march to the Schutzenplatz, with over 30 bands performing. The combined bands were privileged to be third in the order of march, and even made the front page of the local newspaper! Following the parade the band performed several pieces inside the “Western Kompanie” tent, including Highland Cathedral, Rose of Kelvingrove and 79th Farewell to Gibraltar. Joined by the Pipe Major and Piper Christie (both 7 SCOTS), the band were well received and proved extremely popular.

Overall the ATD allowed the bands to be trained in all musical aspects of their expected roles, receive regular fitness sessions, cover MATTs and received further in-depth instruction. The bands proved a true credit to the Regiment, Army Music, and the Army Reserves. Being able to step up and take on a Regular tasking is no light job, and the Band proved their worth as musicians.



Notices:

- **Army@thefringe** - Details and tickets can be obtained via <http://armyatthefringe.org/>
- **Brexit** - Anyone serving in the Regiment who is married to an EU citizen who may not automatically have dual British/EU (original Country) citizenship is welcome to seek advice from Lt Col (Retd) Peter Hall on peter719hall@btinternet.com

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