



RHQ SCOTS Newsletter

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February 2019

Sword of Honour



Congratulations goes to 2Lt Achibald Hamilton who was awarded the Sword of Honour from Prince William.

On finishing his training at Sandhurst 2Lt Hamilton will join the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (2 SCOTS)

1 SCOTS

1 SCOTS has found itself running hot over the last two months as they move towards the RiP between ROTO 2 and 3—a recurring theme, but inevitable with three Coys on different trajectories, FOEs and commitments.

Despite Christmas stand down, A Coy's training pipeline culminated. They recovered from Belize after a hugely successful MRX, and now have their eyes firmly set on their Spec Inf Deployments. They will hit the ground running, with all but three of their 61 strong Coy deploying during Feb/Mar. They have excelled throughout their training window, moving from strength to strength. A Coy are well set for a hugely successful Campaigning phase.

C Coy are on the opposite trajectory, as they begin to wind down on their tasks. Over the last eight months, teams have deployed to Iraq, Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia and Cameroon - all but 12 of them came home for Christmas. However, despite preparations to pass the responsibility of 1 SCOTS Campaigning Coy on 1 Feb to A Coy, most will remain deployed throughout Feb into Mar. On return, they will take their much deserved POTL before gearing back up to conduct any contingency tasks sent their way.

B Coy have started early on their Training Progression. They have a busy year ahead, the highlights being Advanced LFTT, the Spec Inf MRX in Kenya and assuming the lead for all operational commitments come 1 Oct 19. This will be the second time they have completed the Training Cycle and deployed into 1 SCOTS AOR. It will be interesting to see how the lessons learnt from the first time round are put into practice.

As always, their Firm Base continues to tick, ensuring that the deployable companies deploy in good order. Before Christmas, they ran a very successful Unit Health Fair, where veterans, celebrities and experts spoke to the Jocks. This period immediately prior to Christmas was also a good opportunity to get the whole Bn together, a sight not seen for a year.



Sgt Wood Training with the Jamaican Defence Force in Kingston during Ex MAYAN STORM.



Mobility Drills with Nigerian Army in Makurdi, Nigeria.



CO & RSM toasting the Jocks at the Christmas Lunch.

2 SCOTS



The Duke of York, Royal Colonel of 2 SCOTS, visited Glencorse in January to present Operational Service medals to members of 2 SCOTS.



During the ceremony, a French Officer was also awarded the Op SHADER medal - one of the first occasions since operations during the Second World War that a British campaign medal has been awarded to and subsequently worn by a French Officer.

In attendance, were; HM Vice Lord Lieutenant (Lieutenant Colonel Richard Callender OBE), Mr Emmanuel Cocher (French Consul General, Edinburgh), Deputy Colonel of the Regiment (Major General Nick Borton DSO MBE) and Commanding Officer 2 SCOTS (Lieutenant Colonel Campbell Close).

3 SCOTS

Since returning from a well-earned Christmas leave 3 SCOTS has not really 'taken its foot off the pedal'. In early January the Bn assumed the role of UKSB(N); ready to react to any situation the Government may request support for (and the weather doesn't look like it's going to be too kind...!).

In addition, B Coy have been preparing themselves to be the bad guys, we mean OPFOR. for 2 YORKS. They are being supported by A Coy Jocks, and a splattering of attached arms, snipers, recce, anti-tanks, mortars and machine guns; all prepared to bring a challenging environment for the YORKS. It will no doubt be a fun time for them, but operating as a company group will prepare B Coy and the wider Bn for its role as part of the JEF and VJTF NATO tasks now and later on in the year respectively.

On a lighter and more entertaining note, the Bn celebrated Red Hackle Day (the formal occasion the Black Watch were presented their Red Hackles by the monarch) first week back, with a Jocks v JNCOs and Officers vs SNCOS football match. The result of the second game isn't worth mentioning, but the Officers took the lead first, and once again later is all that matters. A thoroughly enjoyable day rounded off by the Jocks and JNCOs being served lunch by the Officers and SNCOS, and the SNCOS hosting the Officers for a games night.



Pte Reid entering into the spirit of red neck combat archery

4 SCOTS

4 SCOTS Nordic Ski team have thus far had a very successful year. They began their campaign with a weeks pre-season in Pirbright where they honed their physical fitness and shooting skills. Following this, they deployed to Sweden for a 3 week training camp with other Inf cap badges. This camp was for the benefit of 4 SCOTS experienced skiers and also their five novices - experiencing their first time on snow. The resort in Sweden has world-class facilities and the team made the most of their time there. During the camp there were several practice races - a great opportunity for novice skiers to put into practice their new skills and to experience a race.

The Inf Championships in Bessans, France was a challenging week with four consecutive days of racing. This saw 4 SCOTS win the 15km classic race, win the 10 individual biathlon and come 2nd in both the classic relay and the biathlon relay. Unfortunately, the team missed out on being crowned infantry champions by the smallest of margins. A special mention must go to LCpl Wishart of A Coy who was crowned best skier overall.

The team then moved to Serre Chevalier, France for the Div Championships - competing against teams from across the Army. Always a very tough competition and the lack of snow did not help matters. Despite this, the team excelled by coming 4th and saw 4 SCOTS highest position in the overall standings for several years. The biathlon relay race must get a mention in which the boys excellent shooting was instrumental in the very strong performance. This was the first time the team have competed in a military patrol race this year, which involves a 20km race with 40kg of kit over arduous terrain. To finish 6th in this race was a massive improvement on previous years and is testament to the hard work that the team has put in thus far. The teams performance has seen them qualify for the Army Championships in Ruhpolding, Germany. Only the best teams will be there, and the Jocks relish the challenge ahead.



5 SCOTS - BKA Coy

2018 closed with BKA Coy split between Kenya, Sweden and Edinburgh. 1 PI deployed on a force protection task to BATUK, the Nordic Ski team trained in Sweden whilst the remainder of the Coy prepared for our next deployment to Kuwait.

Members of the Coy delivered gifts for those children currently under care at Royal Hospital for Sick Children over Christmas, all donated by the Jocks.



Ex DESERT WARRIOR.

Only two weeks after Christmas and BKA Coy now finds itself in Kuwait. As usual, the G4 team deployed early and were gone by the time the rest of the Coy returned from leave. The Coy squeezed in a GPMG cadre overseen by Sgt Mark Prentice prior to deploying.

The Coy also welcomed Capt Gerry McQuade, Lt Alex Twoomey and Sgt McGuinness from 2 SCOTS, along with their platoon. Lt Guy Baxter also joins the Coy for 2019. BKA Coy will be in Kuwait until the beginning of March delivering basic infantry training to the Kuwaiti 6th Liberation Bde as part of a defence engagement OTX. The Coy will also complete its own LFTT package alongside joint training.

The exercise has started well as the Coy looks forward to an urban package to be delivered by the CSM as part of the final phase.



7 SCOTS

Pipes and Drums in Kuwait

Four members of the 7 SCOTS Pipes and Drums travelled to Kuwait this month to perform at the 120-year celebration of the relationship between the UK and Kuwait. As guests of the British Embassy Kuwait, they enjoyed playing at several events as well as meeting members of the Kuwait Government and senior British Army Officers working in the region. Even appearing on national television and radio, they became well known during their trip and promoted the British Army and The Royal Regiment of Scotland to all in a very positive manner. We are very proud as a Battalion, some excellent playing and great representation from Pte Christie, LCpl Faulds, LCpl Hay and LCpl Park!



Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Dummie

The latter part on 2018 was extremely busy for The Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming - with teaching, short term training teams and various remembrance parades throughout the world.

Cpl Faulkner and LSgt Megarity spent 3 weeks in PNG, then moved to Australia for Armistice day where Cpl Faulkner performed at the parliament building for Armistice 100. Cpl Thomson spent the 11th in Algeria performing at the war graves in Algiers, where he was hosted by the British Ambassador.

Cpl Davies was tasked on a short term training team to Columbia teaching the Columbian Navy School of cadets. On the 11th Cpl Davies played at the British Embassy in Columbia to commemorate 100 years since the signing of the armistice held at Jose Maria Cordova Military school in Bogota.

While Cpl Black and Cpl Peden assisted the Scottish Parliament with their Armistice centenary event. Cpl Black played a lament every 2 hours from 1800hrs until midnight and Cpl Peden closed the event at midnight with the last post on the bugle. They were also joined by a Member of the Scottish Parliament, Stuart McMillan, who also played a lament for the event.

Finally, Pipe Major Macgregor was in Washington DC, over Armistice day, where he performed at the National Cathedral for the 100 year anniversary of WW1.



Sgt Faulkner performing in Australia



Cpl Davies performing in Columbia



Cpl Thomson performing in Algeria



Cpl Peden & Cpl Black at Scottish parliament

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