



## **THE KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS ASSOCIATION**

### **MINDEN DAY 2021**

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Despite all that we had hoped, it has proved impossible - for the second year in succession - to all gather together at The Barracks in Berwick to commemorate what would have been the 262<sup>ND</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Minden on 1 August 1759. As everyone has experienced, Covid-19 has taken hold of many aspects of our lives over the past 18 months, and we are but one of countless organisations from all parts of the community to once again be denied our chance to meet collectively. It is my earnest hope that 2022 will be 'business as usual'.

It has been two years since we have met together to remember those momentous events of 1759, when the British Infantry earned immortal glory on the field of Minden, and I hope that you can refresh your memories of the battle by reading the account which is attached. We remember our forebears and their courage that day with immense pride, and wear the red rose in our hats in recognition of their valour – I hope that you have all dug out your glengarries and adorned them with a rose; please send photos from wherever you are today, to Spike Thornton, our Executive Officer, who will create a montage.

It would be easy to think that Covid-19 and the restrictions that it has placed on us all in so many ways have meant that little has been going on in Association terms. Nothing could be further from the truth, although much of it has been under the radar. Our Executive Officer has been working 'above and beyond' in the past 18 months to keep things on track and I thank him and all the Association HQ staff and volunteers for all that they do on our behalf.

Our benevolence towards those of our number in need or want continues, and in the year to March 2021 we provided financial assistance to nearly 40 Borderers, and assisted others in a variety of ways to make their lives better; the work of our Trustees, our Treasurer and our Executive Officer, in conjunction with RHQ SCOTS, has been invaluable in this regard, and I thank them all for their input to this, the most important of our functions.

Our heritage is also fundamental to what we do, and our Museum Committee and volunteers have worked extremely hard to maintain and improve our collection and its display during lockdown, and I am delighted that the Museum is now open once again, although perhaps not yet in the same manner as before. I welcome Gerry O'Neill as the new

Assistant Officer (Museum), and he brings both regimental passion and considerable knowledge to bear in his role, building on the legacy of his long-serving predecessor, Ian Martin. I pay tribute to the selfless work of the volunteers who keep the doors open every weekend, and if you feel that you can help out, please let Spike Thornton know.

This year sees a number of important Regimental anniversaries, including:

- The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the murder of three Borderers killed by the IRA in Ireland in 1921;
- The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion's deployment to Korea in 1951 – and, of course, the same anniversary of Bill Speakman's VC at the Guy Fawkes battle on 4/5 November that year. Willie Purves, who won a DSO in that same battle (not forgetting that the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn won every gallantry award then available in the course of their deployment, from VC to MiD), is 90 this year, and we send him and all other Korean veterans our warmest wishes.
- The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion's deployment to Iraq on Operation GRANBY.
- The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the presentation of the final set of Colours to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion at Dreghorn Barracks on 27 July 1996 (and who can ever forget the Dog & Bonnet almost symbolically falling off the 'old' Queen's Colour just prior to it being marched off parade for the last time!)

Very sadly, we have also lost a number of our own since the turn of the year who, despite their rank or length of service, are equal in our eyes as Borderers, and I name them here:

WO1 GEORGE SMYTH	08 JAN 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1946-1969
CPL GEORGE PEARSON	05 JAN 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1970s-80s
CPL BILLY BARACLOUGH	21 JAN 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1976-1980s
DENNIS CROCKETT	05 JAN 21	7 <sup>TH</sup> BN 1943-45
PTE JAMES SPALDING MM	03 FEB 21	6 <sup>TH</sup> BN 1942-46
CPL WILLIAM McNAUGHT	07 FEB 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1957-66
DONALD JOHN DINGWALL	09 FEB 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1965-91
MAJ RALPH ALISTAIR BROOKS MC JAMES ROBERTSON	17 FEB 21 01 MAR 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1950-52 WW2
BILL JACKSON	08 MAR 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN MALAYA
ARNOLD COLIN SUMMERS	13 MAR 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN MALAYA
2LT LINDSAY WILLIAMSON	24 MAR 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1955-57
CLIFFORD MCGLAUGHLIN	APR 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN KOREA
MAJ JOHN ARTHUR PULLMAN	02 APR 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1967-96
PTE EDWARD GRANT	APR 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1976-81
CPL FREDRICK GEORGE REED	25 APR 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1960-79
JOHN MURRAY CUMMING	10 MAY 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1957-58
JAMES DOCHERTY	26 APR 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1991-96
PTE DARREN KAY	12 MAY 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1990-98
LT NIGEL ROWLAND HUGHES	20 MAY 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1960-62
D/MAJ THOMAS BLACK	08 JUN 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1950s
PTE TOMMY RODDICK	19 JUN 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN KOREA
MR BERT HOUSTON	21 JUN 21	Dumfries Journalist and great friend of the Regiment
PTE KEITH GOVAN	05 JUL 21	1 <sup>ST</sup> BN 1980s

Their service stretches from World War 2 through to Northern Ireland and the Gulf, and we pay testament to their loyal service both to the Crown and to the Regiment.

Talking of the Regiment, many of you will be aware of the plan for 1 SCOTS to re-role to be a 'Ranger' Battalion in a newly-formed Ranger Regiment in an equally new Army Special Operations Brigade. The full plan, timetable and associated factors are yet to be made known; I will endeavour to keep you all up to date with developments as they become clearer, but our emphasis must be to support the Commanding Officer and all ranks of 1 SCOTS through this transition – their third, including amalgamation, since 2006 - and preserve as much of the Golden Thread as is possible.

As to the future for the Association, there is a much to look forward to. We hope very much to be able to return to a normal Regimental calendar later this year, with Remembrance events both in Scotland, Northern Ireland in at the Cenotaph (and here I pay tribute to the late Major John Pullman, our tour de force behind our attendance at the Cenotaph Remembrance, and who very sadly died earlier this year following a long and courageous battle of his own). Thereafter, we have the Cruickshank Dinner in November, and then into what we hope is a full programme of events in 2022. At this range, Minden Day looks to be on Saturday 30 July 2022, and I look forward very much indeed to welcoming you and your families to our Regimental Day, as we will have much catching up to do.

Meantime, though we are once again not together to swap war stories and rekindle old friendships, let's always remember

**'Once a Borderer Always a Borderer'**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus Loudon". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Colonel Angus Loudon MBE

President, The King's Own Scottish Borderers Association