

## Territorial Army Photographs

By Malcolm Lobban. (ex-WO2, Argyll & Suth. Hldrs. Ser. No. 22352073: circa 1953 to 1971).

Harry and Bryan,

I offer these photographs which might come in handy when you get to writing the history of the 'Terriers' in Dunbartonshire. Unfortunately there are not many action shots among them; we didn't have newsmen following us over the hills and across the glens ~ probably just as well!



This is my late uncle John Lobban, (bn circa 1905 Dumbarton).

He was a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Argylls at Latta Street. However, he left to join the International Brigade against Franco in Spain and was killed at the Battle of Ebro (1938 ?)



POWs in Stalag VIII B, Lamsdorf, Prussia (?) captured from BEF circa 1940. Centre, front row is my father Malcolm Lobban (b. 1909 Dumbarton), next but one on his left is Jim Callaghan, Bonhill (ex-BSD worker); Immediately behind Jim is a Valeman (name not known); next on his left (middle row) is Alex Munro (Argyll Street); and on Alex's left is Len Fraser, Bonhill. My father was a Reserve regular soldier (A & S.H. ) who went to France with the 6<sup>th</sup> A & S.H. (TA) Renfrewshire mob, which became a Machine Gun Battalion with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, British Expeditionary Force (BEF). He was captured with the fall of Holland. I think the other Valemen were with the same uni



“S” (Support) Company, 8<sup>th</sup> (Argyllshire) Battalion A & S. H. (TA) circa 1960s. The Renton lads. Taken during an Annual Camp at Barry/Buddon, near Carnoustie. Those seated are L to R. C/Sgt Dougie Brechin; Lt. (?); Lt. Thomson (Mortar Platoon); Major Munro (OC); Capt. Wedgewood; Lt. McTaggart; CSM Tom Dennett (ex-2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. A.&S.H. and POW with the Japanese). I could at one time name every man, but not now, although a few stalwarts stand out. Back row extreme right is Sgt Andy Henderson (later CSM at Latta Street) ~ I am on his right.

Every infantry battalion in the British Army had a Support Company in those days in which were four platoons namely: 3-inch Mortars; MMG machine guns; Anti-Tank; and Pioneers. Although the 8<sup>th</sup> Argylls were based in Argyllshire (HQ Dunoon) ‘S’ Coy Renton was the only element in Dunbartonshire. The other Rifle Companies were spread across Argyll at Campbeltown, Oban, Ballachoulish, Islay, Lochgilphead and other noted teuchter sites!

The Renton lads held their own against all of them, although B Coy generally beat everyone at shooting ~ well most of them were either poachers or gamies! The battalion introduced an inter-company competition called the ‘Silver Bugle’ and throughout each year points were scored on all aspects of military training and sports and at Annual Camp the winning company would be announced. This entitled the winning Jocks to wear a silk lanyard of battalion colours, for the ensuing year. It goes without saying that the Renton men were the first to win it!

When I came to S Coy from Manchester (1953) during the period when compulsory TA service was still going as a part of National Service, the company was so large that when formed up in three ranks it stretched the full length of the Renton Drill Hall and out into the street. Usually a special train was used to take us to camp from Renton Station ~ the real trick was to get the buggers out of the Renton pubs and onto the train! But we never lost a man at any time! Most of the men then were ex-NS men who had served in Korea, Malaya, the Middle East, and other foreign postings. There were also a fair number of WWII veterans.



Warrant Officers & Sergeants, 8<sup>th</sup> Argylls TA at Camp somewhere in England during late 1950s pose with the CO, Lieut-Colonel H. L. R. Macneal TD (front row centre). This camp was during a period when the TA took up a secondary role along with Civil Defence Rescue. Most of us learned a great deal about First-Aid. Pipe-Major Ronald MacCallum (the Duke of Argyll's personal piper) is on the extreme left and Pipe-Sergeant Jock Leach at other end.



Self and Joe Quinn (Bonhill) at Barry/Buddon July 1961, having been kitted out with No.1 Dress for the forthcoming Colours presentation at Stirling Castle. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalions were presented with new Colours by the Queen on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Needless to say, it pissed down on the great day, when trails of white blanco could be seen at very soldier's feet, and the white on the belt merged with the green of the tartan ~ but the parade went on regardless!

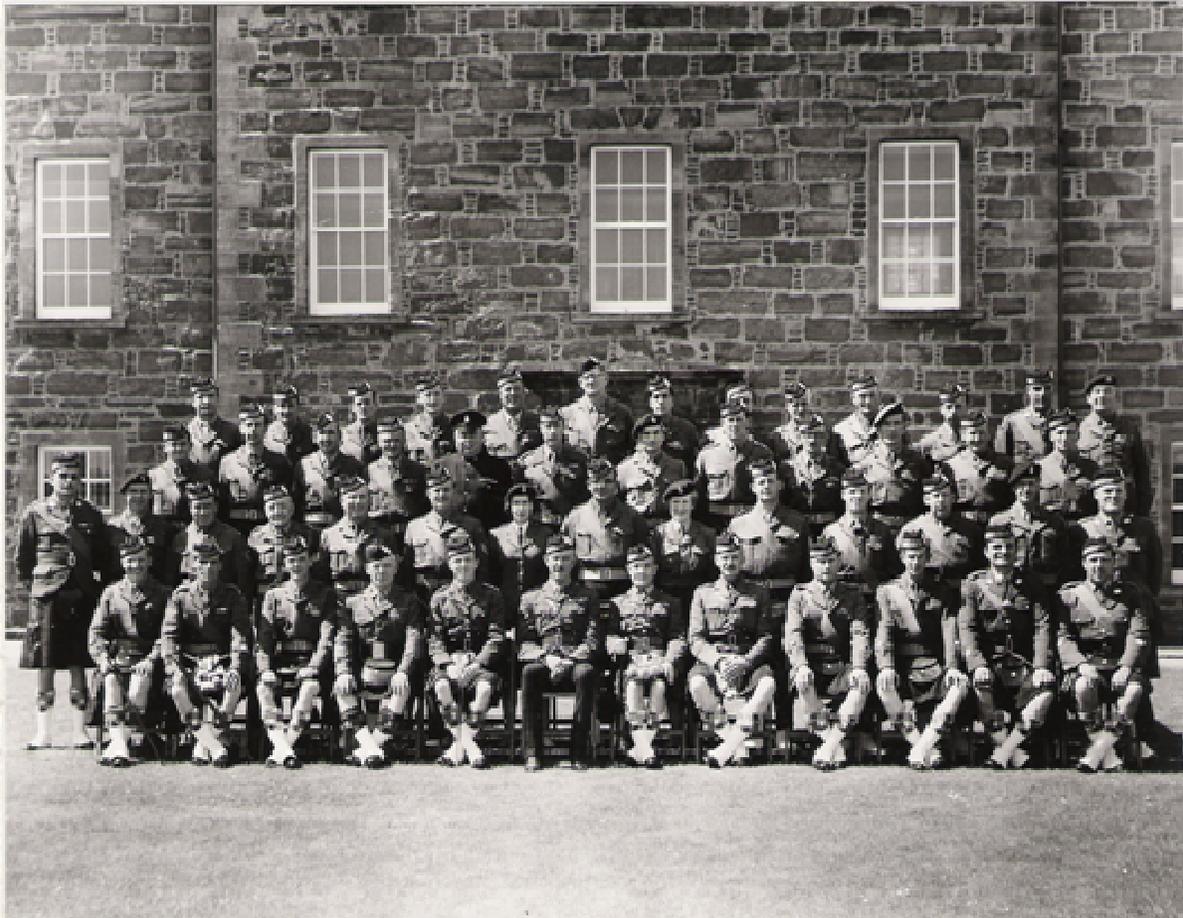


The entire 8<sup>th</sup> (Argyllshire) Bn. A. & S.H. (TA), 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1961 at Stirling. The battalion was kitted out in No.1 Dress during a rehearsal parade for the presentation of new Colours next day along with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, by the Queen at Stirling Castle. The rehearsal went great in lovely sunshine, but the main event took place in heavy rain. There are other colour photographs on display at the Regimental Museum in Stirling Castle.



This was probably the final parade of the 8<sup>th</sup> (Argyllshire) A & SH. It was the Guard of Honour paraded at Inveraray Castle for the laying up of the Colours at the demise of the battalion 1967. I am 4<sup>th</sup> in the front rank, followed by Andy Henderson. Right marker was CSM Tucker (ex-'R' Battery, RA, and Latta Street)

*WO's & Sgts 8th (Argyllshire) Bn., The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders  
FORT GEORGE 1966*



Back Row (l to r) Sgts. Sallie, Anderson, Denniston, Mitchell, King, Leitch, Taylor, Houston, C/Sgt. Borchin, Sgts. McIntosh  
Lobban, CSM Simpson, Sgt Kilcullen, RAPC  
Third Row (l to r) Sgts. Campbell, McSwain, McQueen, McArthur, Eyles, RAMC, Ball, Holt, ACC, Newlands, Russell, Duncan  
McSparran, Menzies  
Second Row (l to r) CSM Ireland, Sgt Dalgaty RENE, C/Sgt Alcorn, S-Sgt Agnew, C/Sgt Gallies, C/Sgt McMer, Sgt McCallum WRAC  
C Sgt Robertson, Sgt Stevenson WRAC, C/Sgt Fryer, S/Sgt McQuintan, C/Sgt Richardson, WOII MacLeod ACC, CSM McChayne  
Front Row (l to r) CSM Henderson A., CSM Harrison, WOII Henderson, P/M McCallum, Capt (Adj) J. S. D. Robertson, Brig L. M.  
Campbell VC, DSO, TD, RSM R. B. Harris, Lt Col G. P. Wood MC, RQMS Grabb, CSM McVicar, CSM Hamilton W., CSM Hill

This one speaks for itself. Taken At Fort George, Inverness with the Colonel of the Regiment.



L to R: L/Cpl. Murray, CSM Lobban; and L/Cpl Mailey. This picture was taken at Otterburn Camp, England 1970 by Ronnie Jeffrey (Craig M. Jeffrey, Ltd, Helensburgh) brother of Craig. Ronnie was a good friend to the TA lads and attended several training periods locally and elsewhere. In 1970 he went to Annual Camp with the Latta Street lads and was issued with combat gear so as not to appear out of place. He took several photographs and this shot later appeared in the then *County Reporter* (and possibly *Helensburgh Advertiser*) as part of a recruiting advert. At this time, we were 3<sup>rd</sup> A. & S. H. Company (51 Highland Volunteers) TAVR (I am still confused over all these bloody titles!). It will be noted that our cap badge was 'St Andrews Cross and Stags Head' frequently called by the Jocks "The crucified nanny goat!"

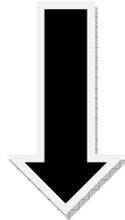


This was another photo by Ronnie Jeffrey taken at Otterburn. L to R; L/Cpl Lawrie Murray; C/Sgt Chris Denniston and CSM Malky Lobban. Chris, being Coy Quartermaster Sgt. was always responsible for 'grub' and ammunition supplies. Seen here opening a can of beans!



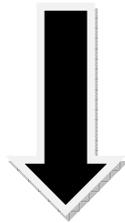
A bit out of focus this one. In May 1970 the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders were given the Freedom of Tobermory, Mull. However the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was otherwise engaged overseas and a composite Freedom Guard was formed from TAVR companies. The parade included Stirlingshire men along with 3<sup>rd</sup> Company A&SH, Latta Street. I am right marker (reasonably in focus!). This wasn't one of Ronnie Jeffrey's best pictures. The Guard was inspected by the town Provost Bobby MacLeod (of dancing fame) and Major-General F.C.C. Graham, Colonel of the Regiment. There are a couple of funny incidents to be told about this parade (noted elsewhere). The *Glasgow Herald* (May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1970) has a good front page photo.

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The above picture might be described as non-military, the occasion being entirely civil. It taken at the Central Hotel, Glasgow (circa late 1960s). C/Sgt Chris Denniston and I (then a Sgt.) were asked to attend as escort to the Scottish Flag (the Saltire) at a formal dinner organized by the Scottish-American Society (not sure about the title). Also escorting the American Flag were two US Marines, then stationed at Holy Loch, Argyll. The two pipers belong to Singers Pipe Band. Anyhow, we received a hearty meal and a dram for our effort!





Finally, a picture taken at Latta Street 1972 during a 51 Highland Volunteers' Dinner. Back row is C/Sgt Chris Denniston; PSI McLean; PSI Grant; Sgt Eddy Taylor. Seated: CSM Peter Docherty and ex-CSM Malcolm Lobban. Peter took over from me a Coy Sgt-Major.

Note: PSI is Permanent Staff Instructor (not actually an Army Rank). Throughout the days of the old TA and later TAVR the regular army always provided a senior NCO to each drill hall in Britain whose job it was to guide and instruct the TA Officers and NCOs on all aspects of training. Thus, the TA has always been seen as a useful avenue through which regular soldiers could gain promotion. Some regulars were often quick to criticize week-end soldiers unfairly ~ but I was forever bloody quick to remind them that, whereas a regular soldier had to be fed and clothed 52 weeks in a year, a week-end Jock was generally a productive worker and tax-payer six days a week, and a soldier on the seventh day, which made him, in my estimation, a greater asset to the nation! Moreover few wars were ever won by the regular army alone; they always needed support from the general public.