



The 2002 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 20th Anniversary

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is an annual series of military tattoos performed by a British Armed Forces, Commonwealth and international military bands, and artistic performance teams on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle in the capital of Scotland. The event is held each August as one of the Edinburgh Festivals.

The term *tattoo* derives from a 17th-century Dutch phrase *doe den tap toe* ("turn off the tap") a signal to tavern owners each night, played by a regiment's Corps of Drums, to turn off the taps of their ale kegs so that the soldiers would retire to their billeted lodgings at a reasonable hour. With the establishment of modern barracks and full military bands later in the 18th century, the term "tattoo" was used to describe the last duty call of the day, as well as a ceremonial form of evening entertainment performed by military musicians.

Origins

The first public military tattoo in Edinburgh was entitled "Something About a Soldier" and took place in 1949 at the Ross Bandstand in the Princes Street Gardens. The first official Edinburgh Military Tattoo, with eight items in the programme, was held in 1950. It drew some 6,000 spectators seated in simple bench and scaffold structures around the north, south, and east sides of the Edinburgh Castle esplanade. In 2018, the stands were able to accommodate a nightly audience of 8,800, allowing 220,000 to watch the multiple live performance.

Seating expansion

Since the 1970s on average, just over 220,000 people see the Tattoo live on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle each year (8,800 each evening). Before the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 editions due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Tattoo had sold out for 22 consecutive seasons beginning in 1998. According to a submission by the Tattoo to the Scottish Parliament's Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, 2020 ticket sales indicated that 30% of the audience were from Scotland and 32% from the rest of the United Kingdom. The remaining 38% were international visitors from 69 countries.

The temporary grandstands on the castle esplanade, used in 2018, had a capacity of 8,800. New £16 million spectator stands and corporate hospitality boxes came into use in 2011. The new temporary stands reduced the time taken to erect and dismantle them from the original two months to one month, allowing the esplanade to host events at other times of the year.

This Special Edition "Sitrep, Over!" commemorates the work behind the scenes and appearance of the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR at the 2002 Edinburgh Queens Jubilee Military Tattoo. Please enjoy.

"Sitrep, Over!" SPECIAL EDITION AUGUST 2002 - 2022

Patron Major General Neil Wilson AM RFD

Editor David Laing 0407 791 822

This Special August Edition Newsletter marks the 20th Anniversary of the performance by the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment, at the 2002 Edinburgh Military Tattoo, to celebrate the 50th year of Queen Elizabeth 2 as Monarch.

Many hurdles were jumped and many more bridges were crossed before the band of volunteer soldiers from Adelaide could even think about going. Their story is told, in no certain order, by the following contributors.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Rijken

Paul Rijken was Commanding Officer of 10th/27th Battalion RSAR at the time of this event and had the say whether the band went to Edinburgh or not. Of course he agreed on this idea and went all out to assist the other members to get the job done.

Major Leigh Newton

Leigh Newton was tasked with being the contingent commander after the original commander had to withdraw due to work commitments.

Major Don Hawking OAM (Retd)

Don was instrumental during the planning stage and travelled to Canberra and interstate for talks with Chief of Army and other high ranking officials. He then went on to pave the way in the UK for the Band's visit.

Major Denis (Tex) Ranger OAM (Retd)

Tex was involved primarily with the planning and high level fundraising which assisted the Band get the funds necessary to make the long trip to the UK and back.

Warrant Officer Class 2 David Portakiewicz & Corporal Julie Sneider

David is the current serving Bandmaster of the 10th/27th Battalion Band, and was a LCPL back in 2001 when the idea was first mooted for the Band to perform in Edinburgh. Julie still serves with the 10/27 Band.

Staff Sergeant Grant James

Grant was probably the most experienced soldier/musician in the Battalion at the time and not only assisted in the extensive planning but led the band during its performances at the month long Edinburgh Tattoo. It is said that Grant's involvement and planning support was critical towards the Band's performance, and we thank Grant for his commitment and service to his country.

20th Anniversary of 2002 Edinburgh Tattoo

"Sitrep, Over!"



Official Journal of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

SPECIAL EDITION 2022



In 2002 the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR became the first Australian Army Band to perform at the prestigious Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Scotland UK.

This special edition we include some of the stories of events that led to the successful tour by our now-world famous band. Some of the proud contributors to this edition are SSGT Grant James, Don Hawking and current Bandmaster WO2 David Portakiewicz, who was a LCPL during the tour.

Former Hon Colonel Don Hawking remembers:

On that first night, as the Band strode through the Castle gate and on to the Tattoo parade ground, Regimental history marched with them. They were the first ever Australian Army Band, Reserve or Regular, to appear at the Edinburgh Tattoo; their brass drums in the good hands of Sgt Dave Muller, had been presented by the Adelaide City Council in 1936, the Drum Major's staff was a gift from our affiliated unit the Manchester Regiment in 1938 and the Drum Major's sash, which was donated by the Band Association and was proudly worn by Staff Sergeant Grant James, carried the Battle Honours of our Regiment dating back to the South African

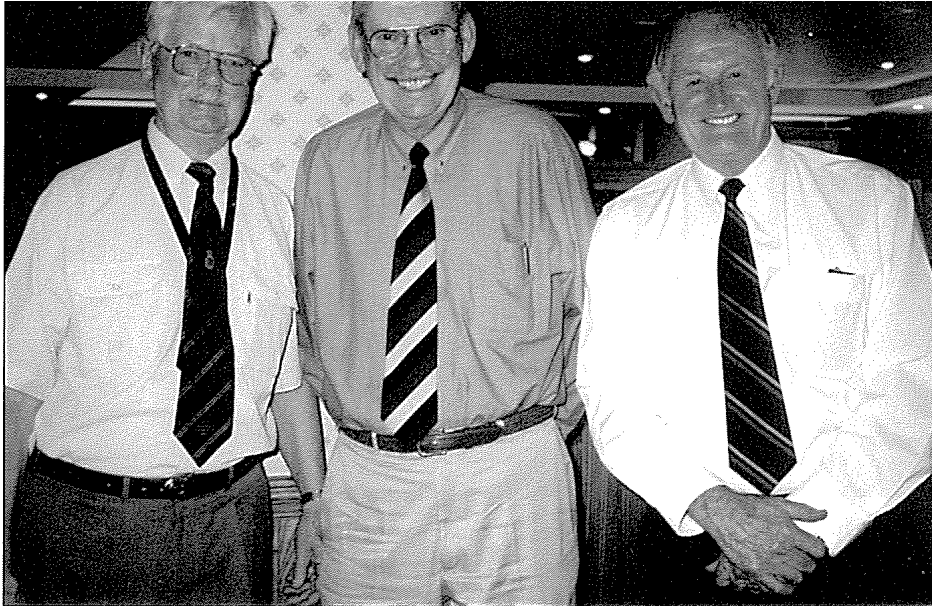
War; WW1 and the Regiment's WW2 service in the Middle East, New Guinea and the Pacific.

Staff Sergeant Grant James continues:

START:

The CO of the unit, LTCOL Paul Rijken was up in Scotland and dropped off a CD called "The Fighting Band" to the Tattoo Manager. Brigadier Mel Jameson now Sir Mel Jameson.

A phone call was made in Scotland by Sir Mel and the ball started rolling. He intimated that he would like to inspect the band whilst completing an inspection of the SAPOL Band at Thebarton Barracks.



Senior members of the Regiment were able to support the Band in Edinburgh during the Tattoo, August 2002. Colonels Jeff Chittleborough, Gratton Wheaton and Don Hawking all seem happy with proceedings.

TASK:

I was to put together a presentation for him which would last around 15 minutes. He was heading down to Australia during our winter period so I had to source a wet weather plan. I managed to secure the Adelaide Showgrounds Centennial Hall for a princely sum of \$150.00, and that was for the security guard to open and close the hall. AUR Pipes and Drums was also informed of his intent. There were rumours that this could be a combined effort either with Army Band Adelaide or Adelaide University Regiment Pies & Drums. I sought the COs opinion on this matter and he stated quite clearly that it was only the Battalion band to be auditioned. And not combined bands.

BANDMASTER EXITS:

While this was occurring the Bandmaster decided to retire, so I was the only senior member apart from SGT Dave Muller who was admin and logistics. Dave and I got together and organised a rotating team for conducting and reviewing. It was a shame that the bandmaster did leave at such an awkward time understanding that we had a such big gig.

The Brigadier did arrive in the winter period and he was impressed with our performance. That night he suggested that he and us should go for coffee and have a chat. So we ventured off to café Paradiso with CO, senior ranks and RSM WO1 Mol in tow. We had a chat about the performance and he asked me "Drummy, would one like to go to the Edinburgh Tattoo?" My response was "yes Sir," and "when would you like the band over there?". He said he would like to come back the following year in our summer time and inspect the band with another performance around 10 minutes all up.

COMMAND:

The CO organised a committee meeting and appointments of officers were made. I was then put to task to ensure we had the numbers and logistic arrangements were made and uniforms etc., were to be up dated or replaced. Things started to roll along and time flew by and we were into the New Year. It was in the month of March that the Brigadier came over from Scotland and we completed another display, and

he was happy with what he saw. We then went to the Town Hall and he Lord Mayor Alfred Huang hosted some drinks with the hierarchy, and myself. He wanted to show case the battalion's history. He was trying to work what year and what theme. It was decided after a few months that we would go as a combined act with Tonga, New Zealand and South Australia's 10/27 RSAR called "The Boys From Down Under.". This was to occur in 2002 at the Queens Golden Jubilee and we had no time spare. He was happy with the numbers and we were the second band on with our act. The OC of Army Band New Zealand was to control the production and select the appropriate theme for the act.



ACTIONS:

The Brigadier later on in the year presented himself to Canberra where suitable arrangements were made to engage with parliament to seek permission for the band to go to Scotland in 2002. The Divisional commander of 2 Div was briefed and was waiting for the process to start. The process was slow from 9 BDE and the 2 Div Commander was quite anxious, and with a few threats coming in to be further investigated the BDE acting clerk did finally release the information and we were on track.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND CORPS:

So once we got the all clear from the chief of staff AABC put their nose in and started to vet us. This was to be in the form of an inspection they were coming down to look at our performance, but I rejected the proposal based on that time of the year. The COL of AABC did later inspect us and all uniform adjustments were made.

FINANCE:

Army were prepared to pay our ARTS but not our air fares. It was decided that we individually would lay a deposit on our airfares. The largest task was to pay for the freight which was in the thousands of dollars. The Regimental committee set up a programme for fund raising from selling wine, ties, concerts, and industry donations under the McKenna Foundation.

FINAL INSPECTION:

Early the next year which was 2002 which was the Tattoo year for us, the Brigadier did one final inspection. He was happy with the production and plans were set to go. He wanted us to go wide on the esplanade for the display.

BANDMASTER:

Understanding that we had a short fall we had to source a Warrant Officer as there was a previous SGT in the Band who decided to go for greener grass, so I approached the promotions committee APA and we decided to invite him back to the band as the bandmaster. Returning to the band on promotion, WO2 Alwin Kidney, took the posting of bandmaster.

It was originally suggested to take AABA Bandmaster, the good captain, but that was not allowed as he was Australian Regular Army.

PREPARATION:

The Brigadier from Scotland insisted that I produce a 10 minute performance, and this was negotiated with the assistance of the AABA bandmaster. All music was to be learnt off by heart. This involved months of practice both band and personal. The band room was open from 0800 to 2100 most days of the week. The method for the display was first a recording. Then music in hand on the parade ground going through bar by bar. The following week was instrument with music walking through the drill movements. Once this was completed we

started to practice on the parade ground at Keswick every Sunday. AIRN requirements had to be met, passports issued and medicals to be completed, along with AIDS testing and injections for various diseases.

Don Hawking takes up the commentary:

The first Australian Army Military Band (as opposed to Pipes & Drums), Reserve or Regular, to be invited to appear at the Tattoo.

Key Personnel. HE Sir Eric Neal Governor of SA, Honorary Colonel RSAR 1996-2001, Brig Mel Jamieson Producer of Tattoo, Lt Col Paul Rijken CO 10/27 1999-2001, Lt Col Paul Jones 2001-2002, WO1 Alex Moll, WO2 Mike Noyce Bandmaster, Sgt (Later WO2) Al Kidney, LCPL Phil Boyce Historian, S/Sgt Grant James Drum Major, Maj Nick Dobson Original Contingent Commander, Maj Leigh Newton Replacement Contingent Commander, Musician Sally Rounsevell, Councillor Bert Taylor ACC, Mayor Alfred Huang ACC 2000-2003, Former Mayor Jane Lomax Smith 1999, HE Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Honorary Colonel RSAR .



Regimental Council and Supporters. Regt Colonel Don Hawking, Members of Regimental Council, former Regt Colonels Gratton Wheaton and Geoff Chittleborough, 10th Bn AIF Association President Roger Cundell, Major General Neil Wilson. Maj Barry Mitchell Treasurer, Capt Alan Hook Secretary, Maj Denis Ranger (TTD Car Park), RSAR Association, Robin Kidney President RSAR Band Association, RSAR Association Mt Gambier.

Significant Dates. 25/4/2000. Brigadier Jamieson reviews band on ANZAC Day.

31/5/2000 Escorted Brigadier Jamieson to meet Governor as Honorary Colonel.

9/3/2001 Band appointment with Producer.

30/4/2001 Begin regular monthly meetings with Edinburgh committee.

11/9/2001 Me to Sydney to meet General Abigail Land Command.

27/9/2001 Me to Canberra to meet General Cosgrove CDF.

31/10/2001 Review of band in Adelaide by Lt Col Howard Ward Director of Army Music.

11/11/2001, Band Concert fund raiser Government House, it rained.

21/7/2002, Band flew out from Adelaide to Edinburgh.

2/8/2002, First Performance at Edinburgh Tattoo.

5/8/2002, First ever visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2 as reigning Monarch.

10/27 RSAR BAND APPEARANCE EDINBURGH TATTOO 2002

In 1999 I was greatly honoured to receive a four year appointment as Regimental Colonel of the Royal South Australia Regiment. A highlight of this period was the historical appearance of the 10/27 RSAR Band at the prestigious Edinburgh Tattoo **when the Band became the first ever Australian Army Band (as opposed to Pipes & Drums), Regular or Reserve**, to be invited to become part of what is recognised as the world class premier Military Music event and to perform both as a solo item and as part of the massed bands displays.

The night of the 2nd of August 2022 will mark the 20th Anniversary of the 2002 appearance of the Band as they marched through misty rain from the gates of Edinburgh Castle on to the Tattoo parade ground for the opening performance. The event became doubly significant as on the night of August 5th, Her Majesty the Queen attended the Tattoo for the first time during Her reign, and also marked Her golden anniversary of fifty years as our Sovereign.

The Band performed extraordinarily well on this world stage and they received well deserved praise from many directions, however the Road to Edinburgh proved to be a bumpy trip and would not have succeeded to the same degree without massive efforts from many helpers.

Background. Early in 2001 the Regimental Council was informed that the Producer of the Edinburgh Tattoo, Brigadier Mel Jamieson, having heard a CD produced by the Band, advised the CO Lt Col

Paul Rijken that he would like to discuss including the Band in the 2002 Tattoo as he would be in Adelaide for Anzac Day 2001 as part of his "talent spotting tour". The State Governor at the time, Sir Eric Neal, was our Honorary Colonel and he was extremely supportive of our efforts to be selected. The Band's performance on Anzac Day impressed Brig Jameson and things began to get serious as two things became immediately apparent; firstly, that we could expect no financial assistance from Army and secondly, that the cost to fly the Band and equipment to Edinburgh and return would be to the order of some \$100,000.00



Making it Happen. The Regimental Council immediately formed a Tattoo committee charged with raising funds although it was apparent from the start that members of the Band would also have to make a contribution towards the cost of their air fares.

Major Barry Mitchell was volunteered to act as Treasurer and Captain Alan Hook took the secretarial role with equal enthusiasm; both were outstanding and uncomplaining about the increasingly heavy work loads. The RSAR Association, including the South East branch in Mt Gambier, as well as the Band Association all became active in fundraising and the Band Master WO2 Mike Noyce formed a small ensemble with Isaac Bridle, Stan Warrilow and Sally Rounsevell on flute and Vocals. This group was tireless and played whenever and wherever they could at concerts, RSL clubs etc and raised a lot of money. Sadly neither Isaac, Stan, Mike or Sally were able to go to Edinburgh due to civilian commitments.

Fund raising became an obsession and took many forms, including a unique approach by Major Denis "Tex" Ranger who observed that the parade ground at TTD was being refurbished and "obtained" sections of the old bitumen surface which he had cut up, mounted on wooden blocks, then flogged off as paper weights at \$10.00 a time for "your piece of parade ground history". Recognising our potential shortfall in funding, in late September 2001, I packed the begging bowl and visited the Land Commander in Sydney and later the CDF in Canberra and in both instances received a very good hearing and hearty good wishes for success but no cheques were forthcoming.

The Band began a programme of serious musical practise and later, parade ground drill rehearsals under the guidance of WO1 Alex Moll who was tireless with his support. It was around this time that WO Noyce had a change of civilian employment and reluctantly advised that he would be unable to go to Edinburgh.

The flexibility of the Army Reserve rose to the challenge and the unit was able to obtain the services of S/Sgt Grant James who had a unique level of experience, having been involved with a number of Highland Pipe Bands in SA and Victoria including the Adelaide University Regiment Pipe Band. More importantly, he had been involved with a number of Tattoo performances in these State. It is also fair to say that S/Sgt James had a *presence* on the parade ground; he looked the part as he led the way through parade ground rehearsals and ultimately, the performances.

The Editor was approached in early 2021 by Don Hawking about the idea of producing a Special Edition of "Sitrep, Over!" to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the 10th/27th Battalion Band's appearance at the prestigious Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2002. I was keen to work on the subject, and after speaking with SSGT Grant James, I was bombarded with information.

I put the feelers out to a number of key personnel, including current Band members who were on the tour. One LCPL David Portakiewicz was an original member of that band and is now the very accomplished Band Master and Warrant Officer Class 2.

Any visit to Google or Wikipedia will tell you all about the Edinburgh Tattoo, and who has performed there over the years, but not many know of the effort involved to organise an Army Reserve Band to perform overseas. The stories on these pages tell it all, from the high ranking people who "stepped up to the plate" to help, and those who didn't. Of course most of those who performed with the band at the 2002 Tattoo are no longer in the military system, so if you know of any of those who are on Page 5 of the Nominal Roll, please feel free to pass this edition on to them.

For those who haven't seen the 2002 Edinburgh Tattoo in person, you can watch it on your PC or home TV by going to YouTube. If not, click on the link below and it will take you straight there. At 21 minutes and 28 seconds is when the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion has their moment of glory, proudly led by SSGT Grant James.

Please enjoy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuQ7JpL2eCc>

(If that doesn't bring a tear to your eye, nothing will!)



David Laing Secretary / Editor

Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

This Edition is dedicated to the memory of the late Lorraine Hawking, wife of Don, who sadly passed away as this journal was in it's inception.

Our sincere condolences to Don & family

Lest We Forget.



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Acc. 1616 585 88

Cheques etc can be mailed to

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The long road to Edinburgh

COL DON HAWKING

THE ANNUAL Edinburgh Military Tattoo is recognised as the most prestigious gathering of military musicians in the world.

The Tattoo has been held since 1950 and not a single performance has ever been cancelled, particularly not because of inclement weather. The Scots and their visitors are a hardy lot

as the seating in the stands is open to the elements.

Since its inception, some ten million people have attended whilst it is estimated that 100 million viewers world wide watch the Tattoo on television each year.

Appearance at the Tattoo is by invitation only and the band from

10/27 RSAR made history by being the first ever military band (as opposed to pipes and drums) from the Australian Army, Regular or Reserves, to play at the Tattoo.

They also made history by being the only Australian Army band ever to play before Her Majesty The Queen at an Edinburgh Tattoo, when she attended the special performance to celebrate the 50th year of Her reign.

The appearance at the Tattoo was the culmination of two years of planning, disappointments and feverish fund raising to meet the cost of the air fares and freight to and from Edinburgh.

In May 2000, the band was advised that it had been invited to appear at the Tattoo in 2002, and this was the signal for the start of an intensive period of training and fund raising.

The musical training was in the experienced hands of WO2 Mike Noyce and his dedication set the pattern for the standards which the band needed to achieve.

It was most regrettable that WO2 Noyce was unable to go to Edinburgh due to a change in his civilian employment.

Drum major S/Sgt Grant James had



HM The Queen at the Tattoo. (Picture courtesy of Edinburgh Tattoo organisation.)

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Still, the income remained seriously low until a White Knight rode to our rescue.

My good friend the late Councillor Bert Taylor was Deputy Mayor of the Adelaide City Council and had been a member, and a long time supporter, of the Regimental Council. Bert arranged permission with Lord Mayor Alfred Huang for a fund-raising dinner to be held in the Queen Adelaide Room at Adelaide

Town Hall and thoughtfully provided a detailed list of "Friends of the Adelaide City Council" to be approached for support. The function was a great success and was also honoured by the attendance of our newly appointed State Governor Marjorie Nelson Jackson, who had accepted the role of Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. During the function I was able to present Her Excellency with a miniature Regimental badge which had been made from gold prospected by the legendary former 2/10th Officer Roger Cundell. The Governor later hosted a fund-raising concert at Government House on Remembrance Day which was unfortunately rained out

As the date for departure loomed ever closer, the final donations were being tallied, however it became apparent that each band member would be required to contribute to the cost of their air fares. Q staff were a tower of strength in organising the shipping of the Band instruments and members' personal gear and things appeared to be coming together. Disaster struck some two weeks prior to the scheduled date of departure for Edinburgh when Major Nick Dobson was advised by Canberra that he could not accompany the Band. Nick had accepted the task of Contingent Commander in February 2002 and had worked very hard organising the preparations. He was at the time serving on Full Time Duty (FTD) and the Canberra logic was since he was FTD, he would ordinarily be entitled to certain overseas allowances whilst in

Edinburgh, however since there was no funding available through Army to assist our appearance, he could not receive allowances and therefore could not go. The Regimental Council was devastated however a call went out to all units for a replacement and Major Leigh Newton from A Coy Mt Gambier was able to get time off from his employment and agreed to step into the role. Leigh proved to be outstanding at "on the job" learning and quickly picked up the threads. His contribution to a successful outcome was significant. Canberra was to make one more effort to spike our progress by raising the requirement of the

Band Master to be a Warrant Officer and since WO Mike Noyce's duties had been taken over by Sgt Alwyn Kidney, this could be a big issue. At last the Gods smiled on us as we learned that Sgt Kidney had earlier passed the necessary exams and was qualified as a Warrant Officer (Infantry) which solved our problem. Finally, on 21/7/2002 the band left Adelaide to make military history. Ahead of them would be further trials and tribulations with poor accommodation, Scottish weather and a relentless training programme designed to blend them with the other performers and with members of the massed bands. Lorraine and I flew out on 25/7/2002 as I took the opportunity of arranging visits to our affiliated Regiments in the UK, where I presented plaques and Unit ties to my counterparts in the Kings Regiment (formerly the Manchesters), and the Highlanders. We were received with great friendship and hospitality and visits to their Regimental Museums were a real highlight.



Leigh Newton casts his mind back to the early days when he was first contacted about taking over as Contingent Commander.....

It was quite a surprise to receive the mid week phone call from LT COL Rijken in June 2002 asking if I was free to lead the band contingent to the Edinburgh Tattoo in approximately 6 weeks time..... there was a broad awareness across the Battalion of the bands pending involvement in the 2002 Edinburgh Tattoo but the intimate preparations had been with the Regimental Council, BHQ, Admin Company and the band – in the next few days I quickly learnt the breadth and depth of preparations and the enormity of the task at hand.

Nick Dobson was the true professional handing over the 'Tattoo folder' and updating me on matters at hand as well as helping me prepare for the trip in 6 weeks time which included the itinerary, performance scope, accommodation, logistics and reporting.

I was fortunate to know most of the band as I had worked with them over several years working within the battalion, (all the band members were cross trained in a range of employment categories from an infantry soldier, to a driver, medic, signaller etc as well as practicing, rehearsing and performing within the band), on ceremonial occasions and during social activities where they performed for the soldiers or community.



Glencorse Barracks

racks in Edinburgh) – and we had no transport.... Redford Barracks was home to the Highlander Battalion, it had a long history and it was 'well used'.....but.....Glencorse Barracks was a renovators delight – one could say 'rustic'.

The NZ Army Band contingent commander (MAJ David Clearwater) had flown in separately from the NZAB. He came directly out of operations in East Timor and we quickly connected with the Royal Band of Tonga leadership team to work out a strategy of sharing responsibilities for the Bands From Down Under artistic direction, administration, logistics and discipline. (Pleasingly, none of the contingents had to bother about the latter...).

Much has been written and said about the performances and experience in preparing and performing in Scotland. The band were so well prepared for this job; they worked tirelessly in Scotland through rehearsals, performances and adhoc activities requested on them by the Tattoo management. They worked long hours and suffered through challenging accommodation, difficult weather and unexpected changes throughout the trip – the trip of a lifetime.

Simply, they were truly magnificent and it was a privilege to be there with them.....



Reading out the letters of support from the Prime Minister, Premier and Minister for Defence in the international departure lounge at the Adelaide airport seemed surreal, all the preparation were done and the trip was on – what could go wrong?

At the arrival in Scotland we had luggage missing and some confusion on logistics and accommodation (the band was to go to Glencorse Barracks near Penicuik and I was accommodated with the NZ and Tongan officers some 10kms away at Redford Bar-



LTCOL Paul Rijken recalls:

I remember in 1999 having to fly to Sydney to meet Brigadier Jameson for lunch and discuss with him the 10/27 Bn RSAR band and our aspiration to perform at the tattoo. He was very impressed and promised to visit us the following year which he did. The band auditioned at Keswick. He was sold on the idea, it was interesting that we had a competitor with the SA Police Band and I think he was convinced of the idea of a SA contingent. Incidentally on the day I had lunch with the brigadier in Sydney I had to fly back that afternoon, rush back to get into my mess kit because I had to be at the OR's formal dinner that night. I saw the band perform on TV, and it gave me a chill up my spine, a great achievement and recognition for the band and the Bn.

I visited Edinburgh and the tattoo in 2018 finally and got a much better appreciation of the magnitude of the event.

Denis Rangers recollections of the event are....

In 2000, the Director of the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo, 2002, Brig Brigadier Melville Jameson visited Australia seeking talent for the Tattoo; subsequently, the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion, The Royal South Australia Regiment was invited perform, the first Army Reserve Band in Australia to be accorded that honour.

Following the approval of the CO, 10/27 RSAR, LTCOL Paul Rijken and under the watchful eye of the RSM, WO1 Mol and under the direction of WO2 Mike Noyce Bandmaster and SSgt Grant James, frenetic activity of Band selection, drill, musical training and rehearsals began.

Concurrently, the Regimental Colonel, Col. Don Hawking formed a small committee (separate to the Regimental Council) to raise the funds to send the band. Capt. Alan Hook the secretary, Maj Barry Mitchell, treasurer, with Capt. Sally Turner and Maj. Denis Ranger set about the mammoth task of raising \$96,000



to achieve the mission.

A number of cabaret's were held, many Band performances, a Black Tie dinner at the Adelaide Town Hall (Assisted by Dep Lord Mayor Mr B Taylor) and which garnered magnificent financial support and donations and I'm told Sally Rounsevell sang her heart out.

A huge raffle was run, with many generous donors, raising valuable funds, add that to other novel ideas (Souvenir pieces of the Parade Ground sold off) and the rest, as they say is history. It is not unreasonable to say, that at that time, the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion was the best in Australia.



A couple of footnotes, the RSAR Association still has copies of the DVD of the rehearsals and the performance at the Tattoo that can be provided at a nominal sum, along with pieces of the Torrens Parade Ground.

The effort was a resounding success.

In 1999, a forerunner was undertaken, the Battalion sent three Bandsmen to the Beating of the Retreat of the Highland Division, at Horse Guards Parade Ground, Whitehall, London, SGT's Muller and Love and LCpl Ward were sent. The then Adjt and the Bn 2IC (Capt. Steve Brewer and Maj Denis Ranger) obtained three return airfares from Continental Airlines (including a stopover in New York, excuse me), ran a cabaret, gave them the money and off they went. That is on YouTube



The Combined Bands of the Royal New Zealand Army, the Tongan Defence Forces and the 10th/27th Battalion RSAR.

EDINBURGH TATTOO – 20 YEARS ON



It wasn't long after we joined the band that there was a buzz about the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The band received a letter from the Tattoo organisers inviting the band to participate in the 1997 Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Scotland. The letter detailed how they were keen to have members from military units with links to Scottish Regiments from around the world participate in the Tattoo. Our 27th Battalion had a long history of being associated with the Seaforth Highlanders, a 'Sister Regiment' which also wore the Mackenzie tartan.

The band was asked to provide numbers of members as well as our instrumentation. We replied very quickly, answering all their questions and explaining how the band would be honoured, humbled and very excited to participate. Unfortunately, the organisers had not realised that the 10th/27th Battalion Band was a concert band and not a full pipes and drums ensemble and at the time they sadly apologised that they had made a mistake and we missed out. The band replied although we were all disappointed, we would love to be considered for future Tattoo performances.

In early 2000, the Tattoo organisers lead by Brigadier (now Sir) Melville Jameson, had organised a trip to Adelaide to inspect the Band of the South Australia Police, who were to perform at the Tattoo that year. The 10th/27th Battalion Band had kept in contact with the organisers, mainly through our Drum Sergeant, Sergeant Dave Muller, and he was able to organise an audition for the band at the same time as the Band of the South Australia Police were having their inspection.

Over the next few months, the band went into top gear preparing a full marching band display. The display involved intricate choreography to well-known Australian tunes, showcasing the talents of the band's musicians, and more importantly, showing that the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion could mix it with the best military bands in the world. It was expected that all members from the band over this time were 100% committed to the performance, dedicating countless hours and most weekends to rehearsals.

Finally, the big day came and it was time for the band to 'step up to the plate'! The audition was held in the old Centennial Hall at the Wayville Showgrounds. The band performed extremely well and the Tattoo organisers were very impressed. After the performance - and the adrenaline had settled - Brigadier Jameson addressed the band and he spoke the words that we all wanted to hear, "How would you like to be part of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo?". It wasn't long before they were in touch again and the Band of 10th/27th Battalion was formally invited to perform as part of a Commonwealth display for the 2002 Tattoo—the Queen's Golden Jubilee year.

Although the band had received the invitation to perform, there was a lot of logistics and support required to get the band to Scotland. As the band went into overdrive preparing a new marching display and learning new music, so did the Battalion's Command, Operations and Logistics cells. Strongly supported by the Regimental Council - headed by the then Regimental Colonel, Don Hawking - the daunting task of getting 30 plus Reservists and equipment to Scotland and ready for the world stage began.

On Sunday 21st July 2002, a 34-strong contingent from the 10th/27th Battalion left from Adelaide for Scotland for six weeks. A great number of past members from the band, known as the 'Olds and Bolds' were there to meet the band at the Adelaide Airport and send us off. The Olds and Bolds were over 30-strong



The brilliant white jackets and white helmets made the band really stand out amongst all the other performers.



and performed a small concert for the band and entertained the entire airport terminal. This was truly a touching gesture that pulled at the heart strings of most the band.

The contingent was led by Major Ian Newton, Bandmaster Warrant Officer Class 2 Alwin Kidney, and Drum Major Staff Sergeant Grant James. It was an historical moment, not only in the band's history, but also Australian military history - as the band was to be the very first Australian Military band to perform at the Tattoo.

The band was housed at Glencorse Barracks, located at Milton Bridge near the small town of Penicuik, approximately 14 kilometres from the Edinburgh Castle. On arrival in Edinburgh the band commenced intense rehearsals in preparation for a month long of performances, performing in up to eight shows per week. The band performed individually and then as a combined act with the New Zealand Army Band and the Tongan Defence Force Band - tagged the 'Bands from Down Under' - and then the band took centre position in the massed bands' finale.

The band's uniform of white jackets and white helmets helped us stand out more than any other band on parade in the finale. Each performance had a guest of honour and the band was fortunate and privileged to perform to her Majesty. This was also the first time that the Queen herself attended the Tattoo and we could all see her from the stage as she wore bright yellow that evening.

In addition to the Tattoo performances, the band had several other engagements whilst in Scotland, including street marches and mini-concerts in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Highlights included being part of the Opening Ceremony for the International Perth Highland Games, and holding a special memorial service on Long Tan Day at the Commando's Memorial in Spean Bridge, Lochaber.

There are many great memories from the performances and the trip, and keeping with true infantry battalion band tradition also many a prank was played as well - which I will not go in to detail as to avoid incrimination. The true highlight for most, however, was performing for her Majesty.

Now, 20 years on, the band is going very strong and is almost at 100% of its establishment strength. The band has not performed solely in a Tattoo since, although neither has any other single unit band from the Australian Army. International performances are now performed as contingents of the Australian Army, using members from bands across Australia. Members from the band have been privileged to support several of these contingents, including international performances in France, Switzerland, and Japan.

Many of the band members who performed at the Tattoo have now moved on - either to other units, or have discharged or retired. Of those who remain with the band, seven active members still serve - all of whom have many fond memories of the trip. These remaining members continue to share their many experiences with the next generation of musicians that make up the Band of the 10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australia Regiment.

Pro Patria

WO2 David Portakiewicz and CPL Julie Sniedze



Editors Note: The photos on these pages were provided by David Portakiewicz, Don Hawking, Grant James, Tex Ranger and other Band members. I thank you all, as these pictures make the impossible memory possible.



The Band during Dress Rehearsals at Edinburgh Castle prior to the 2002 Queens Jubilee Tattoo





TOP "In the Green Room" LCPL David Portakiewicz at Far Right.

BOTTOM: Practising in the Scottish drizzle.





Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee *Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2002*

MAJ IL NEWTON,
Contingent Commander

THE OPPORTUNITY to participate in an Edinburgh Tattoo comes once in a lifetime. To represent the Australian Army and perform as a feature act at an Edinburgh Military Tattoo which is celebrating a 50 year reign of the Monarch is unlikely to occur again.

I am quite certain this was not immediately apparent to many of the Band members of 10/27 RSAR who were to go to Edinburgh, Scotland in July 2002 when the concept was first mooted. Nor would have been apparent the extremely high regard that this Army Reserve Band from Adelaide would be held in by the Tattoo production team, the people in Edinburgh in particular and Scotland in general during and after the event.

The real enormity of the whole Tattoo trip began to become apparent when the Band was hosted by Her Excellency, Mrs Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, at Government House on Thursday July 18. The following Sunday all 34 were farewelled from Adelaide by the CO, RSM, OC Admin, family, friends and peers. Letters of support were read out from the Prime Minister, Premier and Minister of Defence. Suddenly we realised it was ON, and that, despite numerous hurdles, the band was finally off. Landing in Edinburgh after a very long and exhausting trip saw the excitement tempered by fatigue and the fact that some equipment was missing. After transferring to the accommodation at Glencorse Infantry Barracks near Penicuik (South of Edinburgh) and viewing the allotted accommodation the excitement soon evaporated due to the very basic and run down facilities provided.

The following day for the band was spent settling in and mixing with our partners in 'The Bands from Down Under' act, the New Zealand Army



The massed bands on parade.

Band and the Band of the Tongan Defence Services (who were not missing some but almost all of their luggage!). In the afternoon a collective brief was given by the three Contingent Commanders to the three Bands. Maj David Clearwater, (Director of Music, New Zealand Army Band) focused on the act and the rehearsal schedule.

The next day the producer of the Tattoo, Brig Mel Jameson, was to arrive and view the rehearsal progress. The 10/27 Band were confident in their individual act and were quite keen to get into it. But I think all were thinking of how they would stack up against two professional regular units. Well people, our Band banged it on! And left no doubt that they were in Scotland to represent the Battalion, the Army and Australia!

Four days of *Bands from Down Under* rehearsal ensued to choreograph the act, polish drill and musicianship as well as meet the allotted performance timings.

These rehearsals steadily drew an assembled crowd of staff from Glencorse, and many came up to me and complimented our soldiers not only for their skills but also for their eagerness and general behaviour.

Finally all the equipment arrived less Pte Magarey's trombone. After

issuing of Tattoo ID cards and a production brief full rehearsals were to begin in earnest the following day at Redford Barracks, some 25 minutes away. As the Band assembled on the Redford Cavalry Barracks parade ground at 8am on Monday 29 July, the enormity of the event became apparent again. Assembled were some 800 of the best musicians and talent anywhere in the world. Redford Barracks was like an ant colony and there was still 412 performers not present who would be in the finale of each show!

What followed was scheduled individual and collective performances, program adjustments and more



The multi talented Cpl Kristy Cattermole.

performances, all under the watchful eye of the Producer, Director, BBC production team, sound specialists, waiting acts and Tattoo staff.

Lunch was followed by more rehearsals, in either teeming rain or a mist of humid clammy weather. The bands returned to Glencorse for the evening meal and then had to RV again at Redford for the upwards of 35 coaches in convoy to Edinburgh Castle under police escort each and every night for the evening rehearsals which had to finish before midnight. The Castle was off limits during the day because the arena is used as a bus park for the thousands of tourists.

This pattern went on for the next four days and only once were rehearsals suspended due to torrential rain: normally, if it rained you got wet. Not only were the bands and acts rehearsed, but also the sound technicians, television crews, support staff and horses. The Producer addressed the three bands on 30 July, stating:

Congratulations to all. This act far exceeds my expectations. A very well done to all.

During these days the Band also had the brief opportunity to mix with other bands and contingents. There was a full dress rehearsal on Thursday 1 August in preparation of the first performance for the world's media later that evening.

The first full public performance went ahead in annoying rain on Friday 2 August before an excited and expectant 8,500 strong crowd. Initially all were quite nervous but when the Tongans marched off the 10/27 Band went out to rapturous applause. In total the band did 25 public performances, viewed by just under 250,000 people live, and an expected television audience of around 110 million.

The Band also marched in two street parades, one in Edinburgh which attracted over 170,000 people who cheered 'Aussie, Aussie, Aussie' and one through Glasgow where each band performing in the Tattoo gave a small performance in the Central Square. There was also two daytime perform-



Cpl AE Chaplain, Sgt D Muller, WO2 Kidney Bandmaster, LCpl J Newcombe.

ances for many hundreds of tourists at Edinburgh Castle where the Band joined with the Tasmanian Police Pipes and Drums and some highland dancers from Ozcot Dance. We also ventured to the regional city of Perth to play at their Highland games and to promote our State and our sponsor the SA Tourism commission. The Band's second day off was 18 August when we took up the offer of a free bus trip and did a twelve hour tour across to the west coast of Scotland, up past Loch Ness to Inverness and back down the A9.

The Band members worked extremely hard, not only in training and fundraising to get to Scotland, but also in the tiresome rehearsal and performance regime at Edinburgh. It was tough work with only two days off in five and a half weeks. But it was also extremely rewarding.

There were many highlights, including; performing in front of Her Majesty the Queen on 6 August; the street March through Edinburgh; the first public performance; our Aussie BBQ; the Boath wedding in the 11th Century St Margaret's Chapel at the Castle; the Lord Provost of Edinburgh's reception; our small Long Tan Ceremony at the Commando Memorial and many more. Some of us had the opportunity to meet with members of the 1st Battalion, The Highlanders (our allied unit which is based at Redford Infantry Barracks).

There are so many memories and so little time to tell.

Despite the difficulties in getting to Edinburgh, and the hardships of Glencorse each and every member performed tirelessly and represented their country with pride, passion and dignity. The Band achieved all its aims. They espoused the Army's guiding principles and values of Honour, Courage, Initiative and Teamwork. They received accolades from the audience, their peers and the Tattoo producer. He addressed the Band on the second to last night, summing up his address by saying:

... all of you can be justly proud of being possibly the finest part of the best act of the best Tattoo ever! Each and every Australian can be very proud of your efforts.

Finally there are a few people who need to be publicly acknowledged for their extraordinary efforts to get the Band to Scotland.

They include the Regimental Colonel Col Don Hawking, the OPSO Maj Nick Dobson, the QM and RQ. Thanks also to the fundraising committee, the McKinna Foundation, and by no means least the families and friends of the band for their valued support.

These all are to be truly thanked for their persistence and effort which allowed us to be a part of the most magnificent experience one could imagine – *Eh! Jimmy!*



The Band practising while wearing Polyester Uniforms, another item of differing uniform added to their luggage.



Editors Note: I thank David Portakiewicz for his valued assistance in proof reading and correcting the many mistakes made during the compilation of this edition. You're not prefect until someone else says you are!

Edinburgh Tattoo 2002 Nominal Roll 10/27 RSAR Band

Names in **RED** are Band Members still serving

MAJ	NEWTON I.L	416895
WO2	KIDNEY A.G	456141
SSGT	JAMES G	437081
SGT	BOATH. I	48952
SGT	MULLER D.L	424380
CPL	CATTERMOLE K.L	F4802653
CPL	CHAPLIN A.E	418355
CPL	KLIM A	4801347
CPL	LEIGHTON R.D	4100723
CPL	SAMUEL H.R	F4801002
CPL	SNIEDZE J.A	F4102774
LCPL	BOYS P.J	411949
LCPL	NEWCOMBE J.A	4101268
LCPL	PORTAKIEWICZ D.P	4801845
LCPL	WARD C.J	4101352
PTE	CHECKLEY T.R	4802917
PTE	DAWSON B.J	4801868
PTE	DAWSON T.J	4100113
PTE	HARFIELD C.	F4802011
PTE	MAGAREY A.W	4804992
PTE	McCAULEY S.	4805151
PTE	MARTIN F.G	F4102632
PTE	MOORE LH.	F4802237
PTE	ORMSBY D	434065
PTE	PEAKE D.W	4804765
PTE	PEARCE P.G	7800566
PTE	PORTAKIEWICZ A.M	4802817
PTE	PORTAKIEWICZ R.E	4101967
PTE	PUTNAM T.	4804836
PTE	HEWITT E.J	F4800906
PTE	SLATER I.C	4100082
PTE	STEINWAY D.S	4801984
PTE	SWIFT M.C	4802117
PTE	TUCKER A.M	4802992

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