Duncan had a very interesting time in the army including hiding from the Iraqis following the invasion of Kuwait and it should give an interesting insight into some of the conflict areas of the last forty years:

Duncan joined the British Army and was commissioned into the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment. Born with a taste for adventure and travel and with a natural curiosity, he was drawn to explore the challenges and opportunities offered by overseas loan service secondments. So, as a 23-year old lieutenant, he found himself on his way to Brunei in 1964 to join the Brunei Malay Regiment at a time when Indonesia was engaged in a campaign to destabilise the country. As a young acting captain, Duncan was given temporary command of B Company, the first Bruneian troops to deploy on active service, before being appointed as aide de camp to the Sultan of Brunei. What then followed was an extraordinary career encompassing secondments to Sudan, Nigeria, Oman, and Kuwait, and a final assignment as Defence Attache in Jordan.

During his secondment to Kuwait and after the unanticipated and brutal Iraqi invasion on 2 August 1990, Duncan and family hid in their house and avoided detection by Iraqi patrols by living in the dark, making as little noise as possible, communicating only in whispers. Duncan's wife and daughters were eventually allowed to leave Kuwait, while he and his sons remained in hiding. Later, former UK Prime Minister Edward Heath secured the release of Duncan's two sons.