

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



That some no longer serve with the colours does not matter,
What does matter is that we are all of us Scots Guardsmen.
Bound together in the Queen's service until we die by a chain,
the links of which are invisible but which are as strong as steel:
Constantly striving, in all that we do, to maintain the high traditions
of loyalty and devotion to duty upon which the Scots Guards are founded

General Sir Michael Gow GCB

Palace of Holyrood 1965

Neil Crockett
Secretary & Editor

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Email: sga@scotsguards.org

Tel: 01383 – 721530

VE DAY 80

On 8 May 1945 a long, hard war came to an end. Most of us have parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents who lived through the 2nd World War. At this time we remember their sacrifice and service and give them our enduring thanks.

In 2025 we now have 4 known living Scots Guardsmen with service during WW2

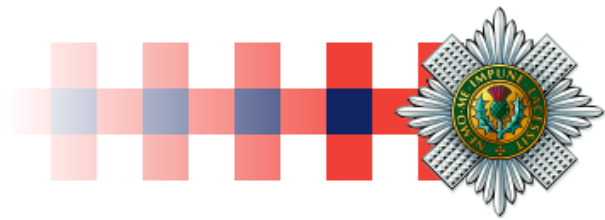
They are:

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine – Living near Dunfermline. Served 3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards. Wounded at Caumont, Normandy in July 1944.

Mr Andrew Wemyss – Living in West Fife. As at VE Day he was serving with Scots Guards Training Battalion, Pirbright.

Walter Foster – Lives Cardiff. As at VE Day he was serving with 3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards.

John Murdoch – Lives Kilmarnock. On VE Day John was on Guard at Pirbright Camp. He was in training with the Guards Armoured Training Wing. Had the war continued he'd undoubtedly have joined 3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards in NW Europe. Later John served with 1SG in Trieste until 1947 where there was a Border dispute with Yugoslavia. He also played football for Kilmarnock FC.



SCOTS GUARDS IN WORLD WAR 2

1st BATTALION

Based at Chelsea Barracks, London in September 1939. Apart from a short campaign in Norway from April to June 1940 the Battalion remained in London and SE England until March 1943. Thereafter it landed in Algeria and fought in the final stages of the war in North Africa in April 1943.

Landing in Italy at Anzio and enduring 6 weeks of tough fighting in January 1944 the Bn fought some difficult battles moving northwards and ended the war in Northern Italy. It then took on security duties in Trieste an area in dispute with Yugoslavia. It returned to UK in October 1947.

2nd BATTALION

When the 2nd World War began in September 1939 this Battalion had already been in Egypt since 1938 on what was expected to be a routine 2 year tour of duty. It entered the desert in April 1941 and fought some hard battles until the end of the North African campaign in April 1943. The Battalion landed in Italy at Salerno in September 1943 again taking part in hard fighting.

In March 1944 the 1st & 2nd Bn's gathered at Sorrento, Italy to reorganise. Those who had joined the Battalion as replacements and served the shortest time were transferred to the 1st Battalion to remain in Italy. A reduced 2nd Battalion returned to UK. After leave they gathered at Stobs Camp, Hawick in the Scottish Borders to be brought up to strength. Those who returned to UK had served abroad for years and some were from the original 2nd Battalion who arrived in Egypt in 1938. Half the 2nd Battalion strength remained in Italy to fight with 1st Battalion. They retrained to join the final months of fighting in North West Europe.

In February 1945 the 2nd Battalion crossed the English Channel to Holland replacing a Welsh Guards Battalion in Guards Armed Division and joined the final stages of the war in Germany. The Battalion returned to Victoria Barracks, Windsor in December 1946.

3rd BATTALION

This Battalion was formed in October 1940, in May 1941 it was announced that the Battalion would convert to armour to fight in tanks as part of a newly formed Guards Armoured Division. This came as a surprise and there was concern that the tall Guardsmen wouldn't be suited to tank warfare. The Battalion trained until mid 1944 when it landed in Normandy in July, fighting across France, Belgium, Holland and into North Germany by the end of the war in May 1945. They quickly lost their tanks in June 1945 and disbanded in February 1946. Bn manpower was already depleted by demobilisation and those remaining were posted to either 1st Bn in Trieste or 2nd Bn still in Germany.

4th BATTALION

Formed on 28 September 1941 at Wanstead by Chigwell. Due to manning requirements of the 3 Battalions above it was always realised that 4th Battalion would not fight as a complete unit but would provide reinforcements to the other Battalions. In June 1943 the first of many drafts, 4 officers and 270 men were sent to 1st Battalion. Eventually only X Company was left and the 4th Battalion was disbanded in October 1943.

5th BATTALION

It was formed in early 1940 as a Ski Battalion to fight a Russian invasion of Finland. The majority were not Scots Guardsmen but as expert skiers they became part of the Regiment. Finland capitulated to the Russians and the Battalion was disbanded by mid-March 1940.

TRAINING BATTALION

The Training Battalion was formed on 1 September 1939 at Pirbright, Surrey to train civilians to become Guardsmen and thereafter provide reinforcements to the operational fighting Battalions. Hard and realistic training for active service was provided at a Battalion Battle Camp near Caernarvon, North Wales. The Training Battalion was disbanded in July 1946.

HOLDING BATTALION

This Battalion was formed at end April 1940 at the Tower of London. They carried out guards on London's palaces and other important buildings. Other tasks included manning fire hoses in the blitz, it guarded Hess for 3 days before he was secured elsewhere and also provide the firing party to execute a German spy. Its main duty was to provide reinforcements to the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Battalions. From October 1942 the Battalion shrank smaller and smaller and disbanded in August 1943. The small number of men remaining formed a Scots Guards Company within the Westminster Garrison Battalion at Wellington Barracks.

S COMPANY

Formed 18 March 1944 from Scots Guardsmen at the Infantry Reinforcement Depot at Rotondi, Italy. It retained its own Regimental identity and fought in a number of fierce battles as part of 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards. Forming a part of this Coldstream Battalion was always to be a temporary arrangement to help them resolve their manning difficulties. In March 1945 the Company was withdrawn from the Coldstream and in entirety became B Company, 1st Battalion Scots Guards for the final battles in Italy.

X COMPANY

The only surviving company of 4th Battalion it was the first Scots Guards unit to land in France in June 1944. It was attached to 3rd Battalion Irish Guards then later 1st Battalion Welsh Guards as an infantry element of Guards Armed Division. X Company was disbanded in Germany on 18 March 1945 just before the end of the war and the Guardsmen reinforced the 2nd Battalion.

CASUALTIES

The Scots Guards casualties during the period of World War 2 were:

Officers:	98 Killed
	150 Wounded
	27 Prisoners of War

Other Ranks:	943 Killed
	2099 Wounded
	750 Prisoners of War

AT WAR END

Regular soldiers continued their service.

Hostilities Only Soldiers:

Most servicemen were to be released according to their 'age-and-service number', which, as its name suggests, was calculated from their age and the months they had served in uniform. A small number of so-called 'key men' whose occupational skills were vital to postwar reconstruction were to be released ahead of their turn.

The release process began about six weeks after VE Day. Decommissioned soldiers received a one-time grant of £83 each, the promise of a right to return to their old jobs, and a set of civilian clothing. The so called demob suit which included shirts, under-clothes, raincoats, hat, and shoes.

At the end of 1945, demobilised soldiers reached 750,000 and this number doubled two months later after Japan's surrender. By 1947, about 4.3 million men and women returned to 'Civvy Street' to rebuild the country & get on with their lives.



**CAPTAIN THE LORD LYELL B COMPANY 1st BATTALION SCOTS GUARDS WINNING HIS VICTORIA CROSS
ON 27th APRIL 1943 AT DJEBEL BOU AOUKAZ**

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING MAY IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

2nd Battalion Scots Guards Malaya Emergency 1948 – 1951

19 May 1949 2704864 LSgt Harvey Lea, Age 21

19 May 1949 2Lt PWB Graham – Watson

2nd Battalion Scots Guards Northern Ireland

5 May 1990 24586352 LSgt Graham Stewart, Age 25 Killed South Armagh.

DEATHS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Third Guards Club & SGA London Branch

Major General Sir Christopher Airy KCVO CBE. Died 8 April 2025, Aged 91. He was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards and posted to their 3rd Battalion on 22 February 1954. In January 1966 he attended Staff College. He was Brigade Major in 4th Guards Armoured Brigade from June 1971. May 1974, he transferred into the Scots Guards to become Commanding Officer of 1SG. In January 1979 as Brigadier he commanded 5 Field Force Headquarters and Signal Sqn

Promoted Major General in December 1983 and was Senior Army Member at the Royal College of Defence Studies. He became General Officer Commanding London District and The Major General Commanding the Household Division from February 1986 to June 1989.

SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway Branch

23703046 Gdsm Donald (Tiny) Potter, Died 10 April 2025. Served 1959 to 1965 2SG in Kenya and 1SG in Malaysia. Active in the Carlisle Branch as the Welfare Officer & organiser of many enjoyable lunches.

The funeral service will be held on the 1 May 2025 at 1315hrs at Distington Hall Crematorium, Workington, CA14 4QY

NON ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

LCpl Stuart Goodall Died 29 March 2025. Served 1SG 1976 – Pirbright 1986 in RF & COP. Lived Kirkcaldy, Fife.

Malcolm Aitken Died 18 April 2025. Served 1SG / 2SG G Coy & A/Ts 1989 – 1995.

24021272 Edward Burney Died 18 April 2025. Served Corps of Drums 1SG 1967 – 76. Lived Bexhill.

23969017 Sgt Thomas Christlow Died April 2025. Served 1SG, 2SG & Gds Depot. Early 1960s to 1970s

Dmr Jimmy McLean Died 24 April 2025. Served Jnr Gdsm Coy, 1SG P&Ds and Corps of Drums, 1976 to 1987.



Paying Respects at Kenny Lawson's Funeral

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

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STALWART ECK HONOURED



Scots Guards Association Hawick branch secretary Eck Barclay, right, is presented with a long-service certificate from Regimental Lieutenant Colonel James Leask at a ceremony in London on Sunday

■ FULL STORY ON PAGE 5

Scots Guards accolade for Eck

By JAKE COLTMAN

news@thehawickpaper.co.uk

After almost 30 years of service as secretary of the Border branch of the Scots Guards Association, Eck Barclay was recognised at the regiment's parade in London on Sunday.

The 70-year-old was in the capital to attend the Scots Guards Remembrance Sunday service in the Guards Chapel,

followed by a wreath-laying at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

Prior to the parade being dismissed at Wellington Barracks, Eck was called out to receive his service certificate.

Also well known in the town as one of the halberdiers, he told the paper: "I was surprised and humbled by the award which I will treasure for the rest of my days."

Joining the Scots Guards in 1972, he served seven years,

including three of them in Germany, as well as two tours in Northern Ireland in 1973 and 1975.

Eck was part of the regiment's Spearhead Battalion that accompanied the late Queen Elizabeth to Northern Ireland as part of the monarch's silver jubilee celebrations in 1977.

He was also one of the bearskin-headed guardsmen in The Mall for the Trooping the Colour Parade that year.

It was good to see a big contingent of the 1st Battalion at Black Sunday. An early start from Catterick and a return journey late afternoon



After Parade

Left: John O'Hanlon & SGA Aberdeen Secretary Brian Harrison enlisted together as Junior Leaders in September 1975, serving in 1SG in Chelsea, Aldergrove, Hong Kong & Pirbright. Meeting together nearly 50 years on!

Right: Gordon Peebles & Rab Connelly (both SGA Dundee & Angus) zone in on Tam Steele (SGA Corby, Eastern & Central)

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION ~ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 5 APRIL 2025

The meeting took place in Wellington Barracks Sgts Mess.

42 Serving & Association members came together for positive & friendly discussions.

The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel & Major Sir Malcolm Macgregor (SGA Chairman) welcomed members to the AGM.

At the meeting there was a short silence for the 90 former members of the Regiment who have passed away between Apr 2024 & Apr 2025.

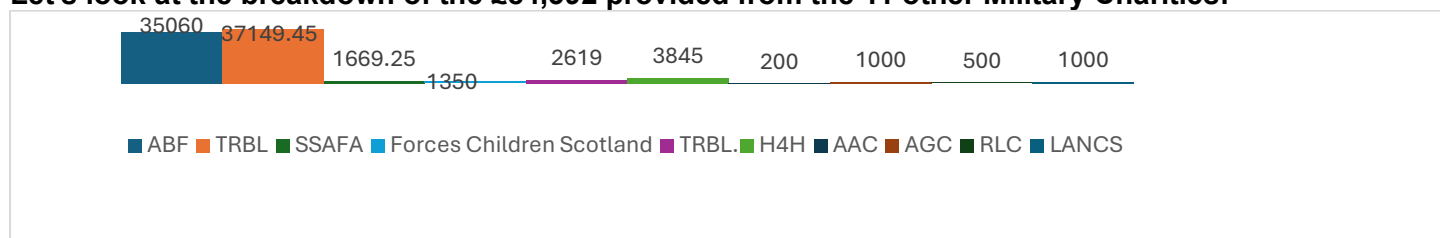
It was highlighted that the Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh, provides comfortable and welcoming surroundings for regimental groups to come to come together for reunions big & small ~ Think about it!

The agenda included the intention to hold a Regimental Gathering during the summer of 2026.

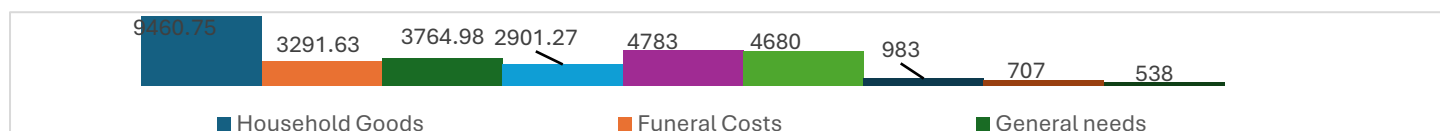
WELFARE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025

This year we have provided benevolence grants to 63 Scots Guardsmen and their families totalling £115,502. The Regiment has given grants to the sum of £31,109 and I have sought assistance from 11 other charities who generously gave £84,392 in grants.

Let's look at the breakdown of the £84,392 provided from the 11 other Military Charities:



Now we will focus on where the Regiments £31,109 was allocated:



Breakdown of grants to time of service:

Table 1. Breakdown of categories by time in service and shows the swing towards the younger generation receiving support, this year no grants have been awarded to anyone who served pre-1945:

Category	Time served	Grants
1	Pre 1945	0
2	1946 - 1970	12
3	1971 - 1995	25
4	1996 - 2024	22
5	Still Serving	4
Total:		63

Table 2. The geographical breakdown has changed and there were more grants given, north of the border:

Geographical Area	Cases
Scotland	33
England	27
Other	3
Total:	63

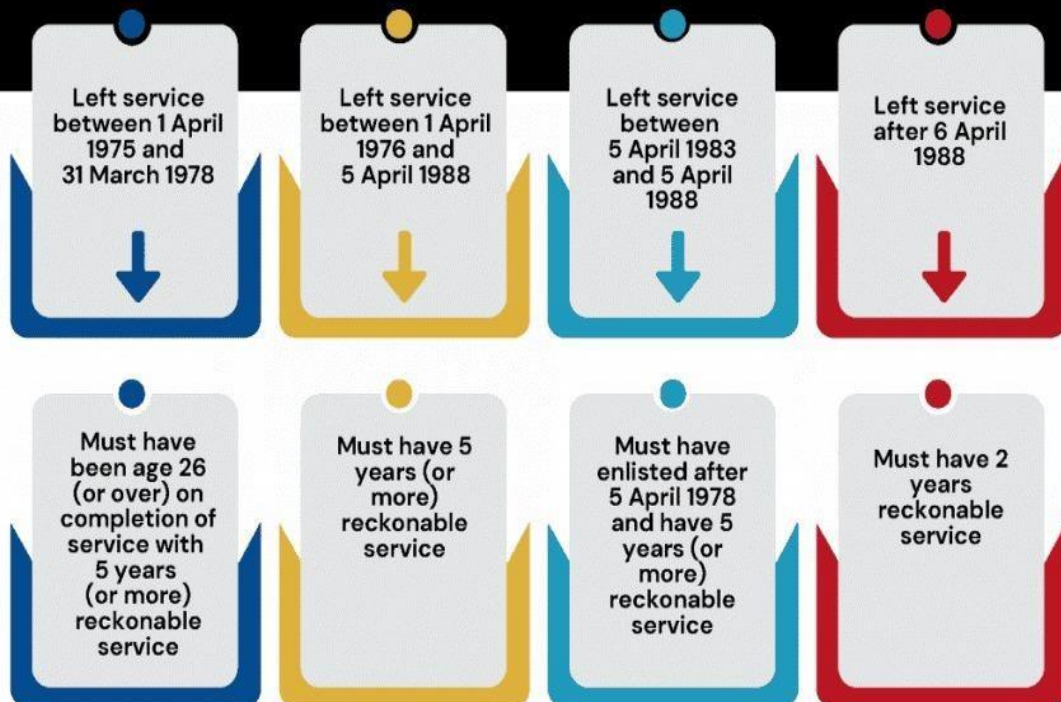
UNCLAIMED ARMED FORCES PENSIONS

We have been made aware that every year some 2,000 deferred Armed Forces pensions go unclaimed and the sums involved can be significant. The latest MoD report states at least 14,800 pension benefits remain unclaimed.

The pension is **NOT** paid automatically – Veterans must apply to Veterans UK using **AFPS Form 8** or call **0800 085 3600** for further information. <https://forcespensionsociety.org/unclaimedpensions/>

Neil Crockett (Sec SGA) has advertised the information regarding pensions in the newsletter and this information will be provided in the minutes of this meeting.

ARMED FORCES PENSION SCHEME '75 Preserved Pension Eligibility



Summary. The Scots Guards remain in a good position to support Scots Guardsmen and their families in need with benevolence grants, this is due to the excellent work with fundraising, donations received and the Payroll Giving Scheme (formally known as the ODPS) received from all those still serving.

Your assistance has been instrumental in identifying Scots Guardsmen in need by communicating and signposting them to me or case workers such as Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Families association, TRBL and Poppy Scotland.

It is incumbent on us all to play our part by looking out for each other and identify Scots Guardsmen who are in need, and I thank you all for your continued support in doing this.

Major (retired) M A Cape
Regimental Welfare and Finance Officer

E Mail – finance@scotsguards.org

Mobile 0300 154 0159

ASSOCIATION NEWS

SGA DUNDEE & ANGUS



Left: The Old Branch Standard is laid up at the Congregational Church, Dundee.
Right: Simon Roberts carries the Old Standard.



Laying up the Standard is thirsty work – Dundee Branch members gather for a drink ~ Kenny Duffy (Chairman) to the fore.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2025

MAY

- Sat 17 Operation Motorman Reunion ~ Scots Guards Club.
- Fri 30 SGA Edinburgh & The Lothians Annual Dinner ~ Scots Guards Club.
Contact: Danny Minto Secretary ~ Email: e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07758 193362
- Sat 31 SGA Glasgow ~ Trip to Inveraray.
Contact: Colin Downie Secretary ~ Email: cdownie1@icloud.com Tel: 07956 526283

JUNE

- Sat 14 King's Birthday Parade ~ 7 Company Coldstream Guards.
- Sat 14 Rededication of Gdsm Jim Reynolds DCM Cairn, Sallachy House Estate.
Contact: Rod Davidson Secretary ~ Email: roderick.davidson@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07532 089535
- W/E 13 – 16 Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association ~ 43rd Reunion Blackpool Weekend.
- Sat 21 SGA Surrey Annual Dinner ~ West Byfleet Golf Club.
Contact: Andy McKeand Secretary ~ Email: amckeand@virginmedia.com Tel: 07544 727019
- Sat 28 Edinburgh Armed Forces Day ~ Princes Street Gardens West. Further details to follow.

SEPTEMBER

- Sat 6 SGA Durham & Yorkshire ~ Sgts Mess, 1st Battalion Scots Guards, Somme Barracks, Catterick
Contact: Mark Wall Secretary ~ Email: Markwall442@outlook.com Tel: 07535 029061

APRIL 2026

- Fri 17 – Sun 19 Regimental Weekend ~ London
- Sun 19 Regimental Remembrance Sunday

SCOTS GUARDS MEMORIAL PROJECT

A reminder that the Scots Guards Memorial Project is live on the Scots Guards website <https://scotsguards.org/history/the-memorial-project/#>, it is fairly easy to use. As part of the work of the Regimental Historical Committee the project was tasked with setting up a computer database to record memorials across the World that have been constructed to remember Scots Guardsmen in both war and peace. To date we currently have 380 Memorials listed and 927 Scots Guardsmen.

We are looking for:

- Large or small memorials to single Scots Guardsmen, detachments or Battalions, from times long past until the present day.
- The memorial could be anything from plaques to stained glass windows in churches, to trees of remembrance, in fact anything which in the respectful memory of our officers or Guardsmen.
- The names of Scots Guardsmen killed and listed on local town or village war memorials.
- Headstones of graves in UK or abroad which record service in the Scots Guards, but please not those men buried in Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemeteries because they are listed comprehensively by that organisation.

As a reminder please sent any information with photographs that you find to Michael Campbell-Lamerton
Michael@hallestate.co.uk Tel: 07920 725572



DO YOU KNOW OF UNWANTED REGIMENTAL MEMORABILIA?

The Regimental Archives are an invaluable collection of papers, documents, records, medals, objects, photographs and other material relating to events in which the Regiment and individual Scots Guardsmen have been involved. They are very actively managed by the Regimental Historical Committee led by Randall Nicol and a team of interested volunteers.

If you, members of your families, friends or other people have such materials and do not wish to keep them do please consider donating them to The Scots Guards Charity, which is responsible for the Archives. It is the constant purpose of the Trustees and of the Regimental Historical Committee to conserve, enhance and extend this collection.

Do not be deterred by the thought that something may not be important. Even though it may not appear to be significant, it will still be part of the story.

Should something be of a sensitive nature and therefore require to be held securely under time release restrictions then that can be arranged and will be complied with.

In the first instance, please contact Neil Crockett, Secretary, Scots Guards Association, on sga@scotsguards.org and he will report to the Regimental Historical Committee.

Brigadier GHFS Nickerson

Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Bt

Chairman The Scots Guards Charity

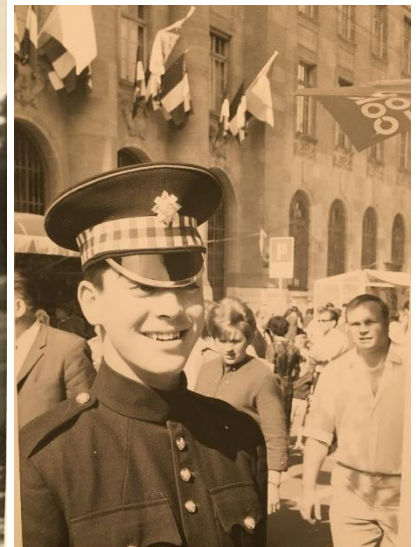
Chairman The Scots Guards Association

REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL COMMITTEE ~ BOX OF MYSTERIES

There is a box of photographs held by the Regimental Historical Committee that are of unknown origin. If you recognise the men, the date, the location and what is the occasion please let me know. Email sga@scotsguards.org with the information and photograph ID number. Thanks



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2



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