

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**

**April 2023
Volume 24
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Front Page Photograph:

The photograph is of the Charles Cuneo painting of Captain The Lord Lyell winning the Victoria Cross at Djebel Bou Aoukaz, Tunisia on 27 April 1943.



Captain The Lord Lyell VC

THE BATTLE OF DJEBEL BOU AOUKAZ ~ HONOURED ON OUR COLOURS.

In March 1943 the 1st Battalion Scots Guards sailed for North Africa and as a part of the 1st Division entered the line at Medjez-el-Bab in Tunisia on 20 March. At the end of April the Battalion took part 2 weeks of heavy fighting which ended the campaign in North Africa. During this period Captain the Lord Lyell won the Regiment's only Victoria Cross of World War 2, on the slopes of Djebel Bou Aoukaz on 27 April.

Lord Lyell's B Company had been advancing up the western slope of the ridge above the Bou when they came under heavy machine gun fire. Lord Lyell realised further movement was impossible until this post was wiped out and gathering the only men available, LSgt J Robertson, LCpl Lawrie, Gdsm Chisholm and Gdsm Porter he ran into the open. The post was much further away than they had expected and during this time LSgt Robertson was killed while LCpl Lawrie and the two Guardsmen were wounded. Undeterred, Lord Lyell attacked the machine gun emplacement with a grenade and then turned his attention to an 88mm gun which was holding up the rest of the Battalion. Although wounded Gdsm Chisholm was able to give covering fire while Lord Lyell raced into the gun crew killing several before he was shot down and the survivors trying to escape were killed by LCpl Lawrie. For this and other great acts of gallantry Lord Lyell was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, LCpl Lawrie & Gdsm Chisholm each received the Military Medal. LSgt Robertson and Gdsm Porter who had been killed during the action were posthumously mentioned in despatches.

Captain the Lord Lyell VC is buried at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery at Massicault, Tunisia and remembered on the War Memorial at Kirriemuir, Angus

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING APRIL IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945**1st Battalion Scots Guards Egypt 1951 – 1954.**

Easter Sunday 18 April 1954 22219738 Gdsm K Wallace Killed while on vehicle escort.

THE KING HAS GRACIOUSLY RECOGNISED THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER

This List recognises personnel for their contribution to the ceremonial element of the funeral for Her late Majesty The Queen. It includes The Bearer Parties of The Queen's Company Grenadier Guards (London), the Royal Regiment of Scotland (Edinburgh), Queen's Colour Sqn, RAF and a number of members of the King's Troop RHA all were awarded the RVM (Silver)

Scots Guardsmen were recognised as Members of The Victorian Order (MVO)

Many Congratulations from us all.

Captain Iain Forat

Warrant Officer Class 1 Anthony Gibson

Warrant Officer Class 1 Benjamin Townley

B Company have recently returned from Estonia

In Estonia the company was a part of NATO Battlegroup Estonia where they frequently trained and demonstrated their lethal capability as a dedicated Anti-Tank Company.

Well Done to B Company who followed on in the footsteps from Left Flank 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, a dedicated Anti-Tank Company of World War 2.

THE BATTLE OF MEDENINE - 6 MARCH 1943 ~ HONOURED ON OUR COLOURS

80 years ago

After the Battle of Rigel Ridge in June 1942 when the 2nd Battalion was over run with many men killed or taken prisoner, for a time the depleted Battalion had to amalgamate with 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards before the whole of 201st Guards Brigade was sent to Syria to rest and reform. In early 1943 the 2nd Battalion was back in action when after a 2000 mile approach in motor vehicles along the North African coast roads it arrived in Tunisia with every six pounder anti – tank gun intact, fit for action and in time to blast the tanks of their old enemies, the 21st Panzer Division in what became known as the battle of Medenine. Fought on 6 March 1943 was a classic anti - tank battle. The Battalion's position with a frontage of 2000 yards was held by 3 Companies, G on the left, F in the centre, and Right Flank on the right. There were 4 anti – tank guns attached to each company. The position was ideal for anti-tank actions, the ground rising to a ridge 300yards in front which prevented the Germans seeing the guns until they opened fire.

Early in the morning reports were received of enemy tanks moving up and at 0500hrs they were heard. The rumbling they made was terrific and suddenly 3 tanks appeared peering over the ridge. Every gun in Lt Waldron's Pltn opened up and within 10 seconds all 3 were on fire. There was a platoon of 4 guns were in reserve and 2 were moved to where the next attack was expected. And they did excellent work. The Battalion was under extremely heavy shell fire which was largely ignored by the anti -tank guns which were scoring hits all over. By midday the attack was over and 12 Panzers lay burnt out and abandoned. Three others were badly damaged having been dragged back over the ridge.

The 2nd Battalion Anti – Tank gunners were nearly all veterans of the Desert, their accuracy and training had won the fight.



Left: Sgt Vic Mutch MM & Sgt Joe Stevenson MM examine a knocked out a German Mark IV after the battle. They were founder members of the SGA Carlisle Branch and remained friends until their death.



Right: A Junior Leader from the Guards Company, Oswestry in the 1960s remembers the battle of Medenine.

DEATHS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Third Guards Club

Major Douglas Christopher Prior. Age 94. Commissioned 1948. Served in Malaya, Egypt, Kenya and Uganda. Commanded the Guards Independent Parachute Company, subsequently was Adjutant of 2SG and instructor at the School of Infantry.

24096824 LCpl Barry McKay Died 24 March 2023. Served 2SG 1967 – 1970 Munster/Windsor. Also served in the City of London Police and as a Detective Chief Inspector in the West Midlands Police.

NON ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Donald Palfrey. Died 26 February 2023. Served in Regimental Band 1956 – 1972. Served Australian Army 1973 – 1993. Lived Australia.

LCpl William (Lefty) Wright. Died 12 March 2023. Served 1975 as a Junior Gdsm. Joined 1SG 1976 to 1988

WO2 Harry Scott. Died 24 March 2023. Age 90. Enlisted as a National Serviceman, served to 1977 in both Bns, CQMS IJLB, WO2 on Army Youth Teams Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Funeral 1000hrs Friday 14 March 2023 at St Mungo's Church, Penicuik, EH26 8HS and burial at nearby cemetery.

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND LONDON 14 – 16 APRIL 2023

Bullet Points

Fri 14 April Evening – 1830hrs

- **WOs & Sgts Past & Present Association AGM. Sgts Mess, Wellington Barracks.**

Sat 15 April - 1030hrs

- **SGA AGM, Wellington Barracks 1030hrs. Information issued to SGA Branch Secretaries.**

Sat 15 April - 1400hrs

- **A memorial service to remember the life and service of the late Lieutenant Colonel (QM) Ian Beck MBE will take place in the Guards' Chapel.**

Sun 16 April - 1100hrs

- **Regimental Remembrance Sunday – Guards Chapel.**
- **Scots Guardsmen past and serving of all ranks are welcome & encouraged to attend**

Regimental Remembrance Sunday will follow its normal form. All Scots Guardsmen past & serving are very welcome to attend. OOD: Suit / Blazer, Bde Tie, Large medals. No head dress.

SGA Wreath Layers are: Gds Chapel Jim Simmonds Chairman / Secretary Berks, Bucks & Oxon, Guards Memorial Danny Minto Secretary Edinburgh & The Lothians Branch. Both are required for a rehearsal – Meet RQMS Jimmy Scott in the Guards Chapel at 1030hrs.

Access to Barracks: Must be via the main Guardroom at Petty France from 0930hrs onwards. Please carry ID: Example MOD 90 / SGA Membership

There is limited Car Parking in Barracks. Entrance via Petty France and follow instructions from Guardroom & SG parking guides. You are asked not to arrive by car if possible.

Before the service there will be coffee available in the Guards Museum. The service in the Gds Chapel will begin at 1100hrs.

After the service the parade will form up on the Barrack Square in 6s on instruction from RQMS Scott. The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel will command the parade to the Guards Memorial where there will be a short service / wreath laying, marching back to Barracks, a salute will be taken just before re-entering Barracks. The parade will be dismissed.

There will be refreshments in the Other Ranks Dining Room and for those who want lunch it will be available on payment on the 'Pay to Dine System'.

Afterwards the Warrant Officers & Sgts Mess will be open.

All Scots Guardsmen past or serving are very welcome to attend.

SAVE THE DATE

The Regimental Gathering will take place in Fife over the weekend 22 – 24 September 2023

Saturday 23 Sept 1100hrs Central Edinburgh ~ The Regimental Band will play.

Saturday 23 Sept Day / Eve The Scots Guards Club will be open.

Saturday 23 Sept 1900hrs The Regimental Band & Pipers will play in Concert at Dunfermline Abbey.

Saturday 23 Sept 2045hrs A Buffet Supper in Dunfermline Legion Scotland Club.

Sunday 24 Sept 1200hrs – 1630hrs **Regimental Gathering @ Broomhall House, Dunfermline, Fife**

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Fife Branch

It was the Branch AGM at the CISWO, Glenrothes on Sunday 12 March. The Office Bearers are:

President: Sir Robert Spencer-Nairn

Chairman & Treasurer: Gordon Dickson

Secretary: Neil Crockett

Email: neil.crockett@btopenworld.com

Tel: 01383 721530

Ayrshire Branch

The Branch held a Burns Supper on Friday 24 March @ Prestwick Masonic Club.

Branch Secretary is Jimmy Fraser Email: jamesfraser279@gmail.com Tel: 07765 490477.

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Branch

Friday 28th April Branch Monthly Meeting 1900hrs for 1930hrs ~ Datchet Golf Club.

Chairman & Secretary is Jim Simmonds Email: jimsimmonds6729@gmail.com

Durham & Yorkshire Branch

It was the Branch AGM on 8 March at Newton Aycliffe Working Mens Club

The Branch Officials are:

President: Captain John Craib QM (T) 1SG

Chairman: Stuart Webb

Secretary: WO2 Mark Wall, Welfare WO 1SG

Treasurer: John Findlay

Email: Mark.Wall442@mod.gov.uk

Tel: 07535 029061

Glasgow Branch

The Branch AGM took place on 3 March at Glasgow Arts Club.

Officials:

President Captain Sir James Campbell

Chairman: Captain Eddie Edmonstone

Secretary: Colin Downie

Treasurer: Ronnie Cook

After 20+ years Jim McArthur stood down as Treasurer with the sincere thanks of the Branch.

Secretary: Colin Downie Tel: 07956 526283 Email: cdownie1@icloud.com

Borders Branch

Branch Secretary Eck Barclay email: eck01uk@yahoo.com Tel: 07802 4422878

The Branch held their 61st Anniversary Dinner at Hawick Rugby Club on Saturday 11 March



2Lt Will Jack from F Company gives the Regimental update.



WO2 James Gallagher with Mick Robertson (Household Cavalry) & Davie Richardson



LSgt Mark Macrae



Branch Member Colin Spence shows off his Falkland Islands waistcoat

Highlands & Islands Branch

Branch AGM, Monday 3 April @ Inverness Legion Club 1900 for 1930hrs.

Contact Secretary Harry Obern Email: hobc862@gmail.com Tel: 01463 717002

Edinburgh & The Lothians Branch

The Branch AGM took place at the Scots Guards Club on 1 March. Officials are:

President: Major Randall Nicol

Chairman: Jim McPherson

Secretary &
Treasurer: Danny Minto

The Branch will hold its Annual Dinner at the Scots Guards Club on Friday 21 April.

Want to attend? Contact Branch Secretary Email: e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 07758 193362.

Preston Branch

Held its AGM on 3 March, the Branch Officials are:

President: Captain Ben Wallace MP

Chairman: Alf Clempson

Secretary / Vice Chairman: Michael Nutter

Treasurer: Steve Hills

Email: mn3943@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07976 909001

FORECAST OF EVENTS FOR YOUR SCOTS GUARDS DIARY 2023

April

Fri 21 SGA Edinburgh & The Lothians Annual Dinner, Scots Guards Club.

May

Sat 6 Coronation Day.

June

Sat 3 Major General's Review King's Birthday Parade.

Fri 9 – Mon 12 Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association Reunion, Blackpool.

Sat 10 Colonel's Review King's Birthday Parade.

Sat 17 King's Birthday Parade - 1st Battalion Welsh Guards.

Sat 17 SGA Glasgow, Garden Party, Kilbryde Castle, Dunblane.

Sat 24 National Armed Forces Day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HAPPY COUPLE



2nd Bn Scots Guards Malaya Veteran 1948 – 1951, streetliner on the Late Queen's Coronation in 1953 & SGA Preston Branch member Eric Burgess aged 92 and his bride Gill married recently. We all send them both our very best wishes for the future. A TOAST TO THE BRIDE & GROOM.

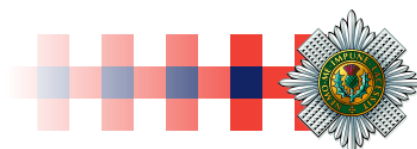
SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION

18 REGIONAL BRANCHES ACROSS THE UK

1 BRANCH IN AUSTRALIA - 1 BRANCH IN NORTH AMERICA

BRANCH	SECRETARY	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
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Tumbledown Vets & Fams Assoc	Heather McGrath	Jmhmcgrath72@gmail.com	07522 500365
Malaya & Borneo Veterans	Sandy Low	sandy.low57@gmail.com	01723 892049
SGA Pipes & Drums (Scotland)	Iain Lowther	iain-lowther68@outlook.com	07484 637188

GIVE YOUR CLOSEST BRANCH A CALL & ASK ABOUT JOINING IN WITH BRANCH ACTIVITIES. MEET FRIENDS FROM YOUR SERVICE & MAKE NEW FRIENDS FROM ACROSS THE REGIMENTAL FAMILY.



Scots Guards Club – Spring Newsletter



Traditionally, the 21st March is celebrated as the first day of Spring and yesterday, the 20th, was the Spring Equinox, so it is with some science that we that confidently call this our 'Spring' Newsletter.

Firstly, a big thank you to our regular weekend members for their forbearance and patience over the past few weekends with events causing the Club to be extremely busy. Regimental gatherings, rugby internationals and a football cup game meant a very full bar on several Saturdays. As we always say, we are 'Club' not a 'Pub' and outwith these big days in the first three months of the year, we always try to manage numbers so that our valued members have the space to enjoy their own Club. They do make a big difference financially however and allow us to maintain our very low year round prices Thanks again to everyone and normal Saturday service has now resumed.

All being well, the end of April will see a new kitchen being installed which will allow us to promote our food offerings still further. As many know, we already offer great value home cooked food to our members and the planned work will allow us to promote this offering still further. The work will involve a complete strip out of our existing kitchen with new floors, ceiling, fans and units being installed. As far as possible, noise will be restricted to mornings when we are closed and the whole job will take two to three weeks to complete.

The Piping knockout final takes place this coming Sunday 26 March between John Dew and Angus J McColl starting at 4pm as usual. £5 on the door with our legendary half time pies on sale!

Research has already begun on a publication to mark our Centenary next year and as much information as possible is required to properly capture one hundred years of history. If anyone has any historical information, items, photos, names, anecdotes etc that you feel might add to this project then please let us know.

The Club will be open and the television on for the King's Coronation on 6 May with details on how we can further mark the day to follow. There will also be an open house from 1000hrs on 17 June for the King's Birthday Parade. Again, more details to follow.

That's it for now folks and as ever..... all the best from all the Team!

The Guards Veterans Mountaineering & Climbing Group



I have been asked to share information by the group leader who served in the Life Guards. He says "I run a guards veterans mountaineering team which promotes the mental health benefits of hiking climbing and mountaineering to the wider veterans community. I would like to offer Scots Guards veterans the opportunity to join our team alongside the other Regiments of the Household Division veterans community. Our team is sponsored by the Household Cavalry foundation charity".

Interested? You can find out more about the group on Facebook or check out its website <https://www.guardsmountaineering.com> or you can email: Guardsmountaineering@gmail.com

HOT OFF THE PRESS

BRINGING OUR HISTORY RIGHT UP TO DATE

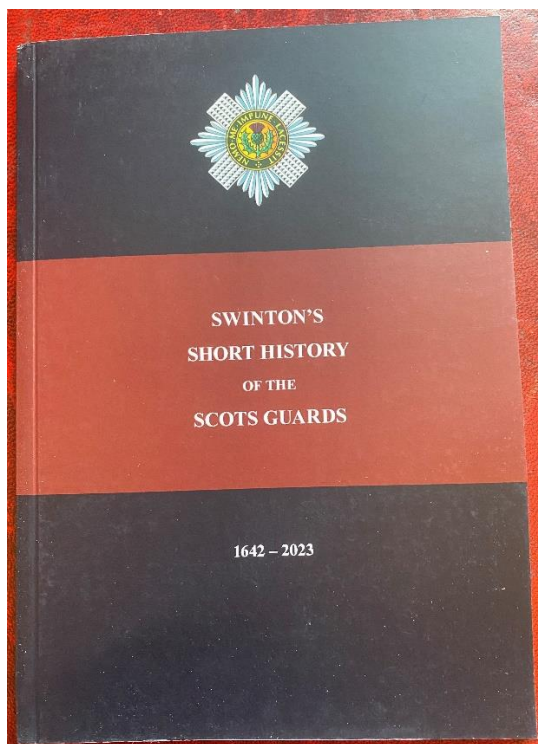
The First Edition of The Short History was produced and edited by Major John Swinton during his tour as Regimental Adjutant on 1st September 1962.

The Second Edition was brought up to date by then Major General Sir John Swinton KCVO OBE on 21 December 1982.

Again on 16th January 2008 a Third Edition was updated by the original author Major General Sir John Swinton KCVO OBE.

It is very appropriate that the brand new and updated Fourth Edition remembers the original author by including his name within the title.

SWINTON'S SHORT HISTORY OF THE SCOTS GUARDS 1642 – 2023



It's on sale for £10.00 from RHQ Shop

Online search for the Regimental Website <https://scotsguards.org>

Search "Shop" and add the item to the basket

Or contact LSgt Davidson email benjamin.davidson447@mod.gov.uk

Or telephone him 0300 169 3375 (Skype) or via the admin clerks 0207 414 3324



LATE NEWS – JUST BEFORE GOING TO PRESS

Barry McKay Funeral

I have heard from Bob Chapman that Barry's funeral will take place at 1500hrs Tuesday 25 April at Robin Hood Cemetery/Crematorium, Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, B90 3NL. No Flowers please.

Afterwards to Shirley Social Club, Marshall Lake Road, Solihull, B90 4RB.

DEATH

NON ASSOCIATION

Micheal Phillipson Died 30 March 2023. Lived Preston, Served C Company 1SG 1971 – 1977.



C Company 1SG Pre Northern Ireland Training – March 1973 Sennelager

Rear: LCpl Neil Crockett, Gdsm Jimmy Barclay, LSgt Ian Grindlay.

Front: Gdsm Stephen, Gdsm Ronnie Cook, Gdsm Michael Phillipson