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

Neil Crockett Secretary & Editor Palace of Holyrood 1965

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Front Page Photograph: 100th HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Many Congratulations ~ Desmond Collett hits the Bullseye with his 100th Birthday on 3 March 2024.

Left: Major Hugh Cantlie of SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon visited Des Collett at his care home at Chipping Norton, Oxon on his birthday.

Right: 14592635 Gdsm Desmond Collett after World War 2. Des enlisted on 15 April 1943. On passing out of the Guards Depot he then moved to the Scots Guards Training Bn before joining 1SG in Tunisia. The Battalion embarked for Italy by sea, landing in late January. Des was taken POW at Anzio on 10 February 1944 during 2 months of hard fighting.

After the war Des Collett was a police dog handler.

On 8 May 2020 on 75th Anniversary of VE Day Des received a letter of thanks for his service to the Regiment from Brigadier Nickerson (then Regt Lt Col).

On 3 March 2024 Des received a 100th Birthday Card from HM The King.

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.

DEATHS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Third Guards Club

Major David Walter. Died 27 February 2024. Age 90. Served RMAS May 1952 – Feb 1954. 1SG Egypt & Windsor. 2SG London & Kenya to Sept 1964. He was a former President of SGA Central Branch.

Captain Francis Spencer. Died 18 March 2024. Age 83. Served from March 1959. Served 1SG & 2SG Kenya, 1SG Invalided out Apl 1965. Lived South Africa.

2Lt Keith McFarlane Carmichael. Died 21 March 2024. Age 90. Served as a National Service officer from Oct 1952 to March 1955 with 1SG in Egypt.

SGA Dundee & Angus

23229729 L/Sgt Bruce Kelly. Died 19 March 2024. Served G Coy, 2SG late 1950s. He was a Dundee Council official and a Past Secretary of the Branch until 2002. The funeral will take place at 1430hrs on Wednesday 3rd of April 2024 at Dundee Crematorium.

NON ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

23517509 Gdsm Frank Powell. Died 25 February 2024. Age 87. Served 2SG MT Pltn, Sept 1958 – Jan 1961. Lived West Lothian.

Andrew Naismith. Died 3 March 2024. Served from 1971 2SG including Falkland Islands 1982. Lived Sleaford, Lincolnshire.

- 24670233 L/Cpl Scott Salthouse Died 29 February 2024. Aged 57. Served C Coy 1SG, Enlisted Aug 1984 to Jan 1993. Also served RAMC TA. Funeral 3 April 2024 1415hrs Grimsby Crematorium, North East Lincolnshire.
- 24021280 Dmr William Alexander Died 12 March 2024. Enlisted 1965 Served 1SG 1969 -1977 as a Drummer in the Pipes & Drums. Former member SGA Aberdeen & North East Scotland.

WORLD WAR 2 GUARDSMAN

2702293 Gdsm James Douglas Barrie. Died 11 March 2024. Aged 99. Served from approx 1942 with 3rd (Tank) Bn Scots Guards, in Normandy & NW Europe from July 1944. Lived Callander.

Funeral Of Eddie McKay

Eddie's funeral takes place on Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 1200hrs at All Saints Church, New Road, Hackbridge, CR4 4JN. Please note that it will be family members only at the Crematorium.

There will be a wake afterwards at The Grange, Beddington Park, London Road, Wallington, SM6 7BT.

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND LONDON 12 – 14 APRIL 2024

WOs & Sgts Past & Present Association AGM ~ Sgts Mess, Wellington Barracks

- Fri 12 April Evening Bar Open 1800hrs ~ Meeting starts 1830hrs.
- Maximum numbers requested to attend.

SGA AGM ~ Sgts Mess, Wellington Barracks

- Sat 13 April 1030hrs
- SGA Members should check with their Branch Secretary for details

Regimental Remembrance Sunday – Guards Chapel.

• Sun 14 April - The service starts at 1100hrs

All Scots Guardsmen of all ranks past and serving are encouraged to attend and are very welcome.

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 ~ Kenny Lawson (Fife Branch)

Guards Memorial ~ Major Colin Coull RVM (Preston Branch)

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

Note: The Kings Guard will form up on Wellington Barracks Square at 1030hrs.

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

Tea & Coffee will be available in the Guards Museum before the service.

After the service the parade will form up on the Barrack Square in 6s. The Regt Band & P&Ds 1SG will attend. F Company will lead the parade in HSC, a detachment from 1SG will take part & we look forward to seeing maximum numbers of Regt Veterans both SGA and otherwise.

The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel will command the parade to the Guards Memorial where there will be a short service of wreath laying, marching back to Barracks. **HRH The Colonel will take the salute on Birdcage Walk.**

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.



ASSOCIATION NEWS

SGA Dundee & Angus

The Annual General Meeting of the Dundee & Angus Branch of the Scots Guards Association is to take place at 1200hrs on Saturday, 6 April, 2024 in the St Davids, Veterans Club, 86 Nethergate, Dundee. We welcome as many Branch members as possible and any non-member serving or veteran Scots Guardsmen from the area, to attend. Don't be a stranger!

A light lunch of Gurkha Curry or Pies & Beans and refreshments will be provided on the day at the conclusion of the AGM. The Bi-Monthly branch meeting will take place after the AGM. For any further information, please contact either Chairman Kenny Duffy or Treasurer Gordon Peebles.

SGA Highlands & Islands

SGA Highlands & Islands Branch next monthly meeting will be in the Inverness Legion at 1900hrs on Thurs 4th April. It'll be our formal Annual General meeting. Be great to see as many members as possible there.

Need to know more contact Branch Secretary Harry Obern ~ Tel: 01463 717022

SGA Glasgow

The AGM of the Glasgow Branch of the SGA will take place on Friday 5 April at 1930hrs in the Glasgow Art Club. Any member that would like an issue or question raised, please let Secretary Colin Downie know 07956 526283 A curry and a beverage will be served after the meeting a good attendance is requested. Any Scots Guardsmen serving or retired is welcome to attend.

AGM's Completed SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon The AGM was held on Thursday 28 March at Datchet Golf Club

The branch officials are:

President: Major The Honourable GCW Grimston

Chairman: Trevor Elliot

Secretary: Jim Simmonds

Treasurer: Ron Booth

Mrs Christine McCullins has taken on the role as Branch Almoner.

SGA Fife

Branch AGM took place at The CISWO, Glenrothes on Sunday 24 March.

The branch officials are:

President: Sir Robert Spencer Nairn

Chairman: Gordon Dickson & Treasurer

Secretary: Neil Crockett Email: <u>neil.crockett@btopenworld.com</u> Tel: 01383 721530

SGA Edinburgh & The Lothians

The Branch held its AGM on 13 February in the Scots Guards Club, Jim McPherson stood down as Chairman after sterling service to the branch. Ted Middlemass was voted in to become Chairman. The branch officials are:

President: Major (Retd) R Nichol

Chairman: Ted Middlemass

Secretary : Danny Minto & Treasurer

The Branch Annual Dinner will take place at the Scots Guards Club on Friday 26 April 202

SGA BORDERS DINNER & SGA SURREY LUNCH



SGA Borders Dinner @ Hawick Rugby Club ~ Saturday 9 March : Left: Danny Minto, Mark McKay, Craig Dickson (Son), Gordon Dickson (Dad), LSgt Mark Macrae. Tam Laidlaw.

Right: Including Davie Richardson, Alastair McCarthy, 2x Borders Household Cavalry, Peter McFarlane (SGA Corby, Central & Eastern).



SGA Borders: Left: Major Iain Dalzel Job (President) & LSgt Macrae.

Right: Top Table Including Major Andrew Bell, Rev'd John Murdoch, Margaret Crockett, CQMS Ducie (Regt Rep)



SGA Surrey Lunch @ The Cricketers, Horsell ~ Saturday 23 March. Left: David O'Connell, Mrs Jo Clarkson, Mrs Mhari O'Connell, Gavin & Mrs Kath Ives (daughter & son in law of Jo Clarkson). Right: Mrs Pippa Warren, Mrs Faye Coffield & Major Jeremy Warren (President).

	EVENTS UNTIL JUNE 2024
APRIL Fri 26	SGA Edinburgh & The Lothians Dinner ~ SGA Club. 1900 – 1930hrs.
JUNE Sat 1	Major General's Review for King's Birthday Parade.
Thu 6	D - Day 80th Anniversary Concert, Usher Hall, Edinburgh.
Sat 8	The Colonel's Review for King's Birthday Parade.
Sat 15	King's Birthday Parade ~ 9 Company Irish Guards.
Sat 15	SGA Glasgow Garden Party / Summer BBQ ~ Windyhills, Kilmacolm.
W/E 14 – 17	Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association ~ Blackpool Weekend.
Sat 22	Armed Forces Day, Edinburgh, St Andrew's Square.
Sat 29	National Armed Forces Day ~ Most Regions

BITS & PIECES

CSGT WILLIAM McGREGOR ~ 1ST **BATTALION SCOTS FUSILIER GUARDS** Last month I reported on CSgt William McGregor, his photograph from after the Crimea War in 1856 which had been copied recently in a painting by Jan Timmer in Holland.

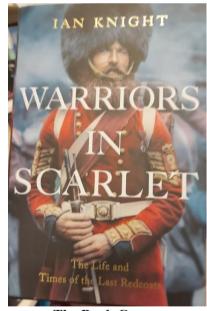
Early March I spotted the same photograph on a book cover in Waterstones. By Ian Knight, called "Warriors in Scarlet" it's about the life & times of the last redcoats.



Original B&W photograph



Jan Timmer's Painting



The Book Cover

The sharp eyed will notice that on the book cover CSgt McGregor only wears the Medjidie Turkish Medal but in the original B&W photograph he wears 2 medals.

REGIMENTAL PIPERS SWEEP THE BOARD AT THE ARMY SCHOOL OF BAGPIPE MUSIC & HIGHLAND DRUMMING @ INCHDREWER HOUSE, EDINBURGH



This photo has been seen widely of Regimental Social Media, but it's worth sharing again to those who perhaps missed it. Hard work pays off and Pipers have done themselves proud. 9 Scots Guards Pipers passed off the course and between them they won 7 prizes. Best Intermediate Piper - Piper Lang, Best Dressed Student - LSgt Alison, Best Elementary Piper - Piper Scott Most improved Piper - Piper Bremner, Best Piper & Best Highland Dancer (2 awards) - Piper Mowett, Best Dressed Class 3 Student - Piper Benson. The Adjutant, Regimental Sergeant Major & Pipe Major joined them for the prize giving.

LSgt Bell also recently completed his Pipe Major's Course. A great result all around for Scots Guards piping.

SGA BORDERS DINNER / PROMOTIONS TO WARRANT OFFICER CLASS II

At the SGA Borders Dinner in early March I had the pleasure to sit next to CQMS Stewart Ducie of Right Flank 1st Bn Scots Guards. It was interesting to catch up on 'Q' matters, myself also being a past CQMS Right Flank. Then I worked it out and it was just 40 years before! He attended with LSgt Andrew Brown from the Mortar Platoon and they both spoke to give a report on what the Regiment was up to.

I was pleased to read in the past week that CQMS Ducie along with CSgt Anderson, CSgt Callahan, CSgt Masters, CSgt McCutcheon and CSgt McGahan have promoted to WOII. Congratulations to them all.



CQMS Stewart Ducie



LSgt Andrew Brown

Regimental News @ the SGA Borders/ Dinner

80th ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF CAUMONT

Captain (Retd) Hew Balfour

There are plans to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Caumont during the last weekend of July 2024

Colin Foster who is the principal authority on the battle, continues to liaise with the French locals, whose idea it was to erect a Scots Guards memorial on Hill 226 and who plan to mark the 80th Anniversary on hills 226 and 309 (the Grenadier memorial). The following outline programme is proposed:



3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards Memorial on Hill 226

Saturday 27 July

- **1400hrs** Meet at Hottot-Les- Bagues Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery for tour of Scots Guards graves of those killed at Caumont.
- Tour of Caumont battlefield starting at Caumont and finishing on Hill 226 and the Scots Guards Memorial erected in 2019 (approx. 1-1.5 hours) led by Colin Foster

Sunday 28 July

- 1030 Meet at the Scots Guards Memorial south west of the village of Les Loges
- **1100** Service of Remembrance and wreath laying
- 1145 Picnic near Museum of St Martin des Besaces
- **1330-1630** Tour of battlefields south of Caumont where 6th Guards Tank Brigade and 3 SG fought follow up actions 1-5 August 1944, led by Colin Foster

The programme above is entirely subject to the response to this letter and will be subject to confirmation by Colin Foster and his French counterparts at Les Loges and St Martin des Besaces. No accommodation has been centrally booked and individual arrangements should be made if you and your family to want to attend these events. I can strongly recommend the Hotel Le Lion d'Or (<u>https://liondor-bayeux.fr</u>) in Bayeux, where we stayed for the 75th Anniversary which is comfortable and convenient. If there was sufficient interest this would be the likely site of any drinks party on Saturday night. Early contact is recommended as that weekend marks the start of the French summer holidays. Depending on response it may be possible to book a small bus for the battlefield tours of 27 and 28 July

If you would like to attend or participate in the programme above please reply both to Hew Balfour (<u>hewbalfour@cpdsolutions.co.uk</u>) and to Colin Foster (<u>colin@menintheshed.com</u>) by 31 March 2024, answering the following questions, deleting those that don't apply and filling in the likely numbers in your party for each event:

- 1. I plan to attend the Commonwealth War Graves visit on Sat 27 July 2024 (my party will be in number)
- 2. I would like to undertake the Tour of Caumont on the afternoon of Sat 27 July (my party will be in number)
- 3. I would be interested in coming to a descendants drinks party on the evening of Sat 27 July (my party will be in number)
- 4. I plan to attend the service of Remembrance on Sun 28 July (my party will be in number)
- 5. I would attend a picnic after the Service and will bring a picnic for all those in my party
- 6. I would be interested in attending a Tour of battlefields south of Caumont where 6th Guards Tank Brigade and 3 SG fought follow up actions 1-10 August 1944, led by Colin Foster (my party will be in number)
- 7. I have booked accommodation at the following hotel.....

Name Mobile tel number..... email.....

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO 99 YEAR OLD GUARDSMAN WALTER FOSTER 3SG

On Wednesday 13 March I was able to wish Walter happy 99th birthday from you all.

Walter previously came to our attention in 2022 when it was his 97^{th} birthday. His grandaughter mentioned it on a Facebook group which researches the history of 6^{th} Guards Tank Brigade. Walter lives in South Wales.



Gdsm Walter Foster

"Do you have a copy of SURVIVE TO FIGHT by the MOD? Oh. You do? wonderful"



Yellow Pages ~ JR Hartley

REGIMENTAL BATTLE HONOURS THE COLOURS ARE DECKED WITH LAUREL

27 APRIL ~ DJEBEL BOU AOUKAZ, 1943, I



Trained Soldier @ The Guards Depot