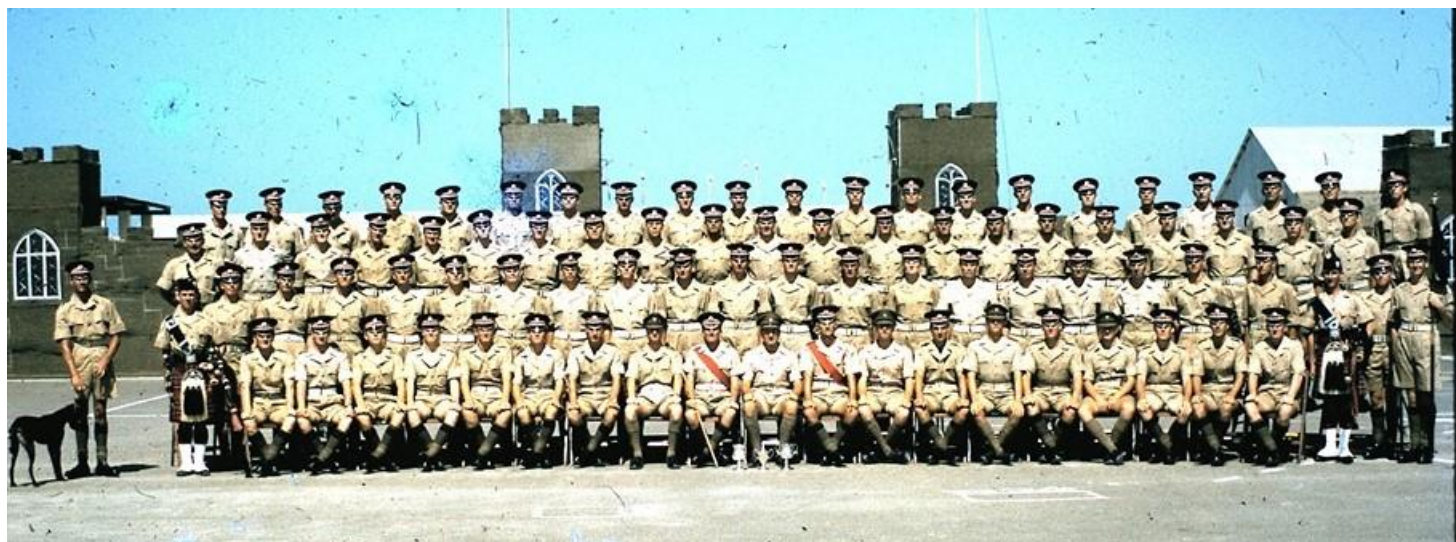
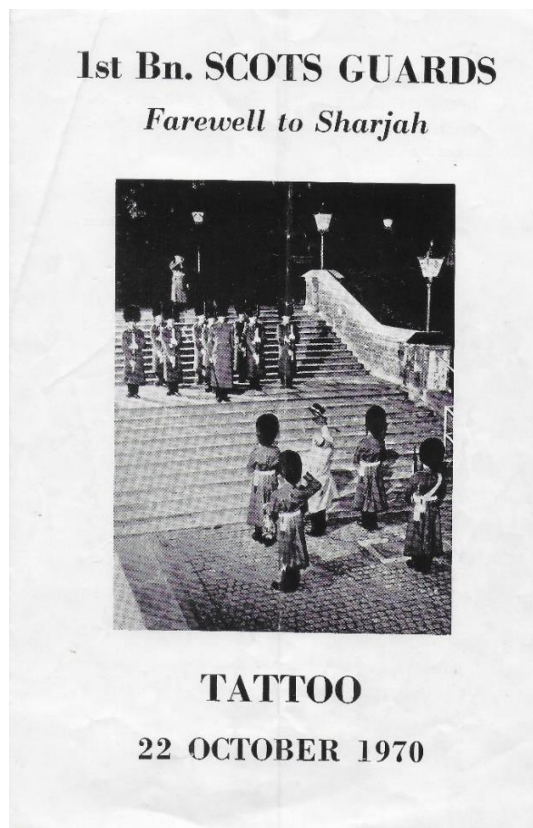


SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION

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

August 2022
Volume 23 Issue 7

Email: sga@scotsguards.org

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Front Page Photographs ~ The record temperatures & sunshine of July and thoughts for the Guardsmen on sentry on Royal Guards in London and Windsor reminded me of the Tattoo which took place in Sharjah a near neighbour to Dubai. It was arranged as a thank you & farewell before the 1st Bn Scots Guards returned to UK. There were lots of acts from across the Bn and other units but included the Regimental Band under then Director of Music Major Jimmy Howe. Pipes & Drums from 1st Bn Scots Guards, 2nd Bn Royal Irish Rangers, The Trucial Oman Scouts and The Abu Dhabi Defence Force all under Pipe Major Angus McDonald.

The second picture is of Right Flank who made best use of the castle for their Company photograph.

The Castle was built by 53 (Gulf) Field Sqn (A) Royal Engineers as the backdrop to the Tattoo. As the photograph of the Tattoo programme suggests one of the 'Acts' was The Ceremony of the Keys. Yeoman Warder Hartley was flown out from the real Tower of London and with him came Home Service Clothing for the Guardsmen involved. A young Gdsm Crockett (LF) took part. Gdsm John (Neepo) Thompson (RF) gave the challenge & the Tower of London Guard was under command of the then Captain HM Snow, otherwise I can't remember the others involved.

For rehearsals in the heat of the day we wore the camp working dress of regulation PT kit, drill boots, socks rolled down with Bearskin. The many minor units who we shared the camp with were bemused by this and there was some sniggering by them until they were gripped by the Sgt Major and his Drill Sgts and sent on their way with a flea in their ear!

We must have been the best rehearsed Tower Guard ever and we performed well on the Tattoo. It goes without saying we shed buckets of sweat dressed in Home Service Clothing even at night in the Arabian Gulf.

So, we give a pat on the back to the Regimental Band & F Company for their sterling work during a very hot and sunny period of Royal Guards in July 2022.

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND – LONDON 2023 SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 15 April 2023 Scots Guards Association AGM, Wellington Barracks - 1030hrs.

Sunday 16 April 2023 Regimental Remembrance Sunday, Guards Chapel & Wreath Laying at Guards Memorial.

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING AUGUST IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

Afghanistan

1 August 2010 25081839 LSgt Dale McCallum age 31. B Company 1st Bn Scots Guards, Killed Checkpoint Said Abdul.



Northern Ireland

11 August 1978 24312328 LCpl Alan Swift age 25. Killed Bogside, Londonderry.

2 August 1992 24754493 Gdsm Damian Shackleton age 24 Right Flank 1st Battalion Scots Guards,; Killed New Lodge, Belfast.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Durham & Yorkshire Branch

Annual Dinner is taking place on Saturday 20 August at Woodham Golf Club, Newton Aycliffe.

To book your place contact Treasurer John Findlay Email: johnwfindlayrbl@aol.co.uk

Glasgow Branch

The Annual Dinner will take place on Saturday 3 September at Lok Bar & Kitchen, Shawlands, Glasgow

Want to meet up with old friends - Contact Branch Secretary: Colin Downie Email: cdownie1@icloud.com Tel: 07956 526283

Highlands & Islands Branch

The Dinner will take place at Chieftain Hotel, Inverness on Friday 23 September.

The Guest of Honour will be Major Iain Dalzel Job supported by son Major Malcolm Dalzel Job. To enjoy good Highlands hospitality – Contact Branch Secretary: Harry Obern Email: hobc862@gmail.com Tel: 01463 717002

The next Branch meeting is on Monday 1 August at the Legion Inverness.

North America Branch

The Branch & members are looking forward to coming together on Saturday 24 September at Cobourg Inn, Ontario

Branch Secretary is David Rennie. Email: drummie2ca@gmail.com Tel: 001 613 680 4306

Surrey Branch

We will have a meeting at Clandon Royal British Legion on Thursday 4 August at 1900hrs. If you live close by come along and meet some old friends. Dress Casual.

Secretary: George Rance Email: thebigscotsgeeza@gmail.com

Tel: 07507 901892

Scots Guards Association Pipes & Drums (Scotland)

The band were on parade for a Passing Out Parade of 300 new Police Scotland Constables who had completed their training at Training Centre, Tulliallan Castle. Playing with the band were 3 Scots Guardsmen & former Policemen, Dougie Watson (Northern Constabulary, John Fraser (Edinburgh & Lothians) & Rab Russell (Central Scotland). I understand at least one of them broke into a cold sweat driving through the Castle Gates!



Pipers at work & as you can read in the Fife Branch notes Pipers at play -Always on top of their game!

Fife Branch

3 Pipe Major's called the tune at the Branch Chairman's (Golf) Trophy on Friday 22 July at Thornton Golf Club.



Fife Branch Golf Prize Winners 2022: L- R: Jim Farmer, P/M Iain Lowther, Gordon Dickson (Chairman), P/M Jimmy Banks, P/M Stuart McKenzie (Branch Guest), George Welsh (Branch Guest). Insert Lt Col Johnny Stewart

Fife Golf Winners:

The Chairman's Trophy (Scratch Winner) - Jimmy Banks

Scratch Runner Up – Lt Col Johnny Stewart

George Stenhouse Claret Jug (Handicap Winner) – Iain Lowther

Handicap Runner Up – Jim Farmer

Sydney Stewart Claret Jug (Guest Winner) - Stuart McKenzie

Guest Runner Up – Paul Allred

Nearest The Pin – Stuart McKenzie

Longest Drive – George Welsh (Guest)



Paddy Welsh, Jim Farmer



**Paul Allred (Guest), Ally Ross (Guest)
Kevin Coyle**



**George Cameron, Iain (Dan) Newton
Stuart McKenzie**

London Branch

The Branch held a BBQ at Esher Rugby Club on Saturday 2 July



Ian Blair (Chairman & Secretary SGA London) & Willie Coffield (Chairman SGA Surrey) in Right Flank 1SG Belfast 1975 and more relaxed at the London Branch BBQ 2022



Ronnie Paterson & Bill McHugh meet LSgt Domonkbau “Domo” & children at London Branch BBQ

The Branch will this year hold a Lunch at the Masonic Lodge, Twickenham on Saturday 10 September. Please support the this new venture.

Contact Branch Chairman / Secretary: Ian Blair Email: blair605@btinternet.com Tel: 07843 477772

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Scots Guards Warrant Officers Sergeants Past & Present Association Dinner – Friday 23 September 2022 - Edinburgh

The Scots Guards Warrant Officers and Sergeants Past & Present Association Dinner will be held in The Scotsman Hotel, Edinburgh on Friday 23 Sept. The price is £55 for members and £60 for guests. Also there will be a 15% discount for anyone who wishes to book a room that night. **To book your ticket please contact RQMS Scott at RHQ**

email james.scott534@mod.gov.uk or Karen Johnstone email admin@scotsguards.org Tel: 0207 414 3324

Scots Guards Association Dinners October – November 2022

Sat 8 Oct	Dundee & Angus	Invercarse Hotel
Sat 8 Oct	Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway	Carlisle Golf Club
Sat 15 Oct	Berks, Bucks & Oxon,	Datchet Golf Club.
Fri 21 Oct	Corby, Central & Eastern	Hilton Hotel, Leicester.
Fri 28 Oct	Aberdeen & NE Scotland	Althens Hotel, Aberdeen
Sat 29 Oct	Australia	TBC The Gold Coast
Oct TBC	Manchester (Lunch)	Loc TBC
Fri 4 Nov	Ayrshire	RAFA Club, Prestwick
Fri 11 Nov	Fife	Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy.
Fri 18 Nov	Preston	Masonic Hall, Preston.

DEATHS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Glasgow Branch

George Clark Coldstream Guards. Died 26 June 2022.

Fife Branch

24021313 Stuart Robertson Died 13 July 2022. Served 2SG Mid – Late 1960s. Lived Glenrothes
Funeral 9 August 2022 1145hrs@Kirkcaldy Crem, KY2 6HQ

Durham & Yorkshire Branch

23517554 Mstr Tailor Terence Padgett Died 27 July 2022. Served 2SG & 1SG.

NON ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

WLR Thompson Died 7 June 2022. Age 94 Enlisted in SG 1946, & transferred to Guards Para Coy.

24449810 LSgt Dennis Brown Died 8 May 2022. Served 1SG Aldergrove, Hong Kong, Pirbright 1980 – 86.

LSgt John Belshaw BEM. Died 20 July 2022. 1SG Aldergrove, 2SG early 1990's.

Joseph Cuthbert Gemmell. Died 6 July 2022 Age 97, Served WW2 3rd (Tank) Bn Scots Guards, Lived New York

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT



24 Platoon Guards Company passed out of Infantry Training Centre, Catterick.

There were 8 Scots Guardsmen passing off with 4 winning individual prizes.

Best Drill - Gdsm Jamieson. Best PT - Gdsm Heslop, Best Nav - Gdsm Anderson, Best Endeavour- Gdsm Softly
Along with: Gdsm Mowatt, Gdsm Mallaby, Gdsm Canzini Roberts, Gdsm McQueen. Well done and best wishes as they move on to the next phase of their service in F Company and beyond.

BITS & PIECES

GUARDSMAN JOHN MITCHELL'S MILITARY MEDAL AND ITS MOST UNUSUAL CITATION

Usually gallantry medals are awarded for distinct events over a short space of time. Such was not the case when 2696593 Guardsman John Mitchell was awarded the Military Medal.

Guardsman Mitchell was serving in the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards in the Western Desert in 1942 when the Battle of Gazala began. Rommel swept round the southern flank of the British defensive system beyond Bir Hakeim on 27 May. The Scots Guards, further north, soon had contacts with the enemy around their brigade's defensive area, the Knightsbridge Box, Knightsbridge being a critical supply route junction near Tobruk. They were then ordered to prepare a position on Rigel Ridge, northwest of Knightsbridge. Given the shortage of time available to them, plus other factors, the Scots Guards were unable to make as much of the defence as they would have liked. Further, apart from eight South African 25 pounders and an anti-tank battery, there was no one supporting them. So, when they were attacked at 2pm on 13 June 1942 by tanks and armoured cars of the 21st Panzer Division, supported by lorried infantry, it was only a matter of time before they were overwhelmed. That the forward two companies, with three of the Battalion's own anti-tank platoons and the South Africans, held the assault for four hours and inflicted casualties enabled those further back to break clear. However, eight Scots Guards officers and some two hundred and fifty other ranks were taken prisoner, one of them being Guardsman Mitchell. The MM citation refers to his capture at El Adem, which, though not far east of Knightsbridge, is inaccurate.

Although most of the prisoners captured in North Africa were taken by the Germans, they handed them over to the Italians to guard in Libya and then in Italy. This was mostly very unpleasant and very unhealthy, often fatally. However, it had the consequence that on 8 September 1943 when news of the Italian armistice was published, the guards at most Italian POW camps opened the gates. Many prisoners took to the countryside before the Germans arrived. Guardsman Mitchell was at what was probably an agricultural working camp at Zevio, near the River Adige, some fourteen kilometres southeast of Verona. "Bosu", referred to in the citation, may be the small village of Bosco, south of Zevio.

The citation for his Military Medal reads verbatim as follows:

"Guardsman MITCHELL was captured at EL-ADEM on 13th June 1942 and subsequently imprisoned in various camps in Italy and Germany.

After the Italian capitulation in September, 1943, all men in ZEVIO-VERONA walked out of the camp. MITCHELL made for BOSU where he was sheltered by Italians for the next four months. During this time he decided to organise a Partisan band, and, in order to gain the confidence of the men, he posed as a Parachute Lieutenant-Colonel. He gathered together some 200 men all ex-soldiers with arms and ammunition. His idea was to keep the band together for an attempt at liberating political prisoners at a fort in VERONA. Whilst out on a reconnaissance of the fort he was approached by an S.S. man and arrested. MITCHELL spent the next four months in various forts in VERONA being interrogated continually and taken three times in front of a firing squad. At the end of this period he was recognised as a P/W and sent to STALAG VIIA.

In April 1944 he and a companion attempted an escape by being driven out of camp in a lorry. They hid underneath it but were observed by the guards.

Whilst on a working party at STALAG VIIA. Mitchell waited for an opportune moment and made his escape. He was helped by Russian slave workers in the area but was caught after 19 days, during a routine German search. MITCHELL was voted Camp Leader at STALAG VIIA and therefore unable to attempt to escape.

He was later moved to Camp 344 and after three days there, having collected civilian clothing, maps and a little food, he sawed through the bars of his window at night and escaped. Having taken a train to SWITTU on the Czecho-Slovak border, he travelled by foot and rail towards PRAGUE with a view to forming a Partisan Band. On the thirty-fourth day, when he was only forty miles from PRAGUE he was arrested by the Czech police and returned to Camp 344.

During October, 1944, MITCHELL made three further escapes from working parties but was captured each time within two or three days. As a result of these ventures he was sent to a punishment camp at SAGAN. When the camp was moved in February 1945 MITCHELL was appointed column leader and in this capacity was instrumental in helping a number of men to escape. His escape activities ceased on arrival at STALAG IXB, where he was British Man of Confidence.

MITCHELL was liberated at BAD-ORD on 2nd April 1945 by American forces."

Stalag VIIA was at Moosburg, in Bavaria, northeast of Munich, Camp 344 at Lamsdorf (now Lambinowice in western Poland), and the place he crossed the Czechoslovak border presumably Zittau. The punishment camp at Sagan, also in Silesia (now Zagan in western Poland), was Stalag VIIIIC and therefore close to Stalag Luft III, scene of The Great Escape. As the Russian Armies pushed on further the Germans evacuated the prisoner of war camps in their path and made the prisoners march westwards in mid winter. Guardsman Mitchell was therefore, under German escort, leading a large group of men over a very long distance in the worst possible conditions. Stalag IXB at Bad Orb, east of Frankfurt, is about five hundred kilometres from Sagan in a direct line.

Unfortunately, the cumulative effects of being a POW had very damaging consequences for his health and Guardsman Mitchell was discharged medically unfit soon after the War, suffering from chronic dyspepsia.

His story is one of outstanding courage, resolution, ingenuity and leadership.

© Randall Nicol 2022

References:

1. Soldier's Personal Record 2696593 Guardsman John Mitchell MM, Scots Guards Archives
2. War Diary 2nd Battalion Scots Guards 1939-1945, Scots Guards Archives copy
3. D Erskine, *The Scots Guards 1919-1955* (London: William Clowes and Sons, Limited 1956)

Scots Guards Memorial Project – Goes Live – Check Out Our Regimental Website

Captain Michael Campbell-Lamerton is very pleased to advise that the Memorial Project that he has been running over the past few years (taking over the reins from Neil Crockett) is now live on the Scots Guards website. To date we have 224 memorials listed naming 481 Scots Guardsmen.

It is fairly simple to use on this link <https://scotsguards.org/history/the-memorial-project/> then just type in either the country (NB United Kingdom is divided into the Home countries, so type in Scotland for example), or a location or a Memorial name and a list will appear.

Please do send in information on any other memorials that you come across with pictures so that we can grow this important historical record. During the summer when you are on trips out & about across the UK you take time to look out for memorials to Scots Guardsmen. This can be any memorial, even if it has disappeared or is recorded in a book or publication, for us any memorial will do. I am therefore asking if you happen to come across a memorial (not in a Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries or Memorials) to a member of our Regiment, either visually or online I would be grateful if you could perhaps take a picture or send me a web link.

An example would be a Scots Guardsmen listed on a village war memorial or on a plaque in a church. Please email me Michael@hallestate.co.uk a photograph and where the picture was taken. The plan in the future is to add a section on memorials in the Scots Guards website. I would be grateful for anything that you can send to me, thank you.

Mikie Campbell-Lamerton

Atlantic Guardsmen



Atlantic Guardsmen!! The crew have been getting out on the water. Rowing the Atlantic requires a lot of training - both physical but also technical.

Members of the Scots Guards have cycled the width of the country raising funds. Please do donate at AtlanticGuardsmen.com



Johnny Mercer MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

MC2022/11500

14 July 2022

Dear veterans and their families,

Last week the Prime Minister appointed me to be the Minister for Veterans' Affairs - further delivering on a long term promise to the UK's veteran community to get the whole of Her Majesty's Government operating in the most effective way to support you and your families.

This Government has committed to making this country the best country to be a veteran in the world by 2028. It is my job to deliver on that commitment; I am determined to do so, and I will make myself accountable to you for doing so.

While veterans care has advanced significantly over the last fifteen years, I recognise that this has not been felt equally by everybody, or experienced equally across every community of the United Kingdom. Huge strides have been made to meet the increase in demand for support since 2003, and I pay tribute to the thousands of brilliant people who have worked incredibly hard - often as volunteers - to improve life after service for our veterans.

The vast majority of our veterans go on to live fulfilled and empowered lives after service. You all know that veterans make fantastic employees, go on to great careers, give back to their communities and hugely benefit from their time in military service. I am determined that we change the narrative around the UK's veteran population so that your service is recognised and your successes celebrated.

But some veterans do face deep struggles, which I will relentlessly strive to tackle. We will forge a path towards ensuring that every one of our community who needs help knows where to turn, and is met by good quality, evidence based care that will improve their lives.

The Office for Veterans' Affairs has achieved great things since its conception in 2019, and will continue to ensure that the Nation's debt to those who serve is honoured. We are already taking action to protect veterans from vexatious legal pursuit into old age. We are delivering England's first complete mental health care pathway for veterans in Op COURAGE. And we will be addressing the harm to our LGBT community from the years of the ban. The Government set out bold commitments in the Veterans' Strategy Action Plan 2022-24 in January this year to improve veteran healthcare, employment, access to digital services and more, and we will meet them all.

This is a significant moment of change. I hope that the Nation looks back in the years ahead with pride at what we achieve, and that this step change is felt by every one of you. I look forward to the challenge.

JOHNNY MERCER MP
MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS

WAYS THAT YOU CAN MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION DIRECT TO THE SCOTS GUARDS CHARITY

There have been some recent changes on how donations can be made, they are:

Invest My Community has replaced Virgin Money as a donation platform, donations can be made as follows:



1. Go to the [Scots Guards website](#).
2. Top right corner click donate button – then click the InvestMyCommunity donate button.
3. Enter the amount you wish to donate and tick the box if you wish this to be repeated.

Online Shopping. For those that shop online, you may wish to consider using Give as you Live or Amazon Smile who donate a % of your purchase direct into the Scots Guards Charity account with no additional cost to you:



Give as you Live. This is a user-friendly website that allows you to shop online and provides a varied % of your purchase as a donation to your chosen charity. This will differ between retailer's the range is between .5 and 7.5%. Compare the market will give £12.5 for each new car insurance policy:

1. Go to the [Give as you live](#) website and search for The Scots Guards Charity.
2. Register as a user.
3. When you next shop online with over 5,500 retail partners, the Regimental Charity receives a percentage of what you have spent. Stores include M&S, eBay, Tesco, John Lewis, Sainsburys (new customers receive 7.5%), Argos, Viking, Hotels.Com, Booking.com, asos, Trainline and many more.



Amazon Smile. Amazon have recently moved away from Give as you live and have created their own charity platform called amazon smile, they offer a flat .5% of your purchase to your chosen charity:

1. Go to [Amazon Smile](#) website.
2. Register as a customer.
3. Nominate The Scots Guards Charity as your chosen charity.
4. Shop online.

Please do not forget when making your donation you agree to "Gift Aid" then we can reclaim 25p for each £ you donate from tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

Maj (Retd) Mark Cape
Regimental Welfare & Finance Officer
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