

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**

**Christmas 2020
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Email: sga@scotsguards.org

Tel: 01383 – 721530

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING JANUARY IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

2nd Battalion Scots Guards Malaya 1948 – 1951

16 January 1950 Gdsm Kenneth Holland (HQ Coy)

25 January 1951 Sgt Donald McMillan (G Company)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

At Christmas time I would ask all Branches and all individual members to make every attempt to keep in touch with other members by phone, email, letter or even a socially distanced knock at the door. Particularly to keep an eye on our vulnerable members.

Berks, Bucks & Oxford Branch



The Not Forgotten was founded in 1920 by an American Soprano singer named Marta Cunningham CBE. Having moved to Europe at the turn of the century, Marta devoted much of her time to charity work during WWI. A year after the Armistice, Marta heard that there were perhaps a handful of wounded soldiers under treatment at a nearby Ministry of Pensions hospital. She approached the Matron, asking if she had a few lonely patients who would like to come out for tea. The Matron looked surprised and revealed that she actually had 600 patients.

Marta soon set about mobilising her group of friends to host these lost young men for afternoon tea and entertainment. During one of these early invitations one soldier was heard to say, "we don't want no charity, Miss, we are forgotten by everybody and we'd better stop so." Thus, on 12th August 1920, The Not Forgotten was formed for the 'comfort, cheer and entertainment' of servicemen injured during the Great War. In its first year, the charity entertained some 10,000 men – a figure we still aim to maintain.

Branch Secretary Rab Ritchie with his wife Val attended The Not Forgotten "Jingle Bell Rock Drive-In" at Ascot

On the afternoon of 10 December from Midday until 14.30hrs for coffee/mulled wine, followed by lunch (Hog Roast) and entertainment. An interesting afternoon, full of Christmas cheer.

DEATHS

Third Guards Club

Lieutenant The Honourable Thomas Lindsay. Died peacefully at home on the 8th November, aged 83. Served during National Service, 1956 -57.

Not Members of the Association

Colonel Frederick Sheppard Died 8 November 2020, aged 95. Served SG during World War 2. Served in the Police in Palestine, Malaya & Aden.

24248075 Gdsm Ian Hamilton Died 10 December 2020. Served G Company, 2SG in early 1970's. Lived Saltcoats, Ayrshire.

LCpl Barry Boyd Died 11 December 2020. Served Left Flank, 1SG in Forkhill, South Armagh 1986, also served at the Guards Depot. Lived Co Durham. Barry never tired of telling the CSM LF the story of when he was in the Sanger on sentry when Forkhill based was mortared.

LSgt Stephen McKechnie Died 12 December 2012. Enlisted a Jnr Gdsm, served both Bn's in the Rabbits including C Coy 1SG South Armagh 1986. He was an instructor at the Gds Depot. Lived Edinburgh.

24000552 CSgt Eric "Dusty" Smith Died 13 December 2020. Served 2SG MT. Lived Stonehaven, Kincardineshire.

Gdsm Darren Matthews Died Mid December 2020. Served G Company, 2SG from 1984.

Corrections – December Edition

There were a couple of mistakes which I'm happy to put right:

The death of 2nd Lt Ian Rankin was reported and that he attended Eton College Officer Cadet School – He did in fact attend Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School, Chester where between 1946 – 1958 mainly Infantry National Service Officers were trained. Eaton Hall is the country house of the Duke of Westminster.

The death of Major RG (Bob) Campbell MBE was reported and that he was the 1st SSM of G Sqn 22 SAS. He was SSM of G Sqn SAS but not the first, that honour fell to SSM Smurthwaite of the Coldstream Guards.

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

An update from Major James Kelly, Regimental Adjutant

As this most extraordinary year draws to an end, I thought it would be appropriate for you all to receive an update on what the First Battalion, F Company and the Regimental Band have been doing over the last few Covid dominated months and what they are hoping to achieve in 2021. In addition, I include some key dates for next year's diary.

First Battalion. The Commanding Officer writes:

“2020 has seen a diverse array of Operational opportunities for the Battalion with some unpredictable changes. In the early part of the year the Battalion had Short Term Training Teams (STTT) in Kenya, Uganda and Ukraine; all in support of the host nation security forces. In March we heard news of Exercise WESSEX STORM (the Battle Group readiness exercise) being cancelled and the highly anticipated move to Catterick postponed by 12 months. With news of COVID-19 spreading we reshaped our footprint and became deployable for Operation RESCRIPT; the Army's part in all Military Aid to Civilian Authorities (MACA) taskings. We swiftly became the vanguard for all MACA tasks in the South East working on several projects which would include mobile testing sites, provision of emergency drivers, medical support, and the reconstitution of a hospital on the Isle of Wight.

As Left Flank were removed from Operation CABRIT in support of the Royal Dragoon Guards to Ukraine, initial disappointment to was quickly abated when the 'white space' was filled with some extremely exciting opportunities for all ranks. They will have a group deploying to Kosovo on Operation ELGIN and another group heading to Ukraine on Operation CABRIT. Furthermore Lieutenant Ivo Weale has taken his platoon to the Falkland Islands with the Grenadier Guards on Operation FIRIC. Our largest perceived commitment, Operation SHADER 12 (to Iraq), was reduced from a Battalion sized deployment spread between Erbil, Baghdad, Kuwait and Cyprus, to a reduced Company size. At the time of writing Major Charlie Turner is holding the fort in Erbil with the rest of the Company engaged in a continuation of Mission Specific Training in the UK looking to deploy in the New Year.

More recently, the Battalion completed Exercise SHADER TEMPEST – this Iraq Mission Ready Exercise (MRX) in Norfolk. An exciting and challenging 5 weeks designed around the ever changing environment of our mission. We finished with high training standards achieved across the board and this would not have been possible without the hard work and unique Scots Guards approach to training. It is also worth mentioning that under the eagle eye of Major Neil McClelland (the Battalion Quartermaster) Somme Barracks in Catterick, has been taken over with about fifteen families already in situ.

The next 6 to 12 months show no signs of slowing. Our soldiers will either deploy, or remain deployed, in Ukraine, the Falklands, Iraq, Kuwait, Cyprus, Kosovo, and in California on Ex DIAMOND BACK. Concurrent to this we will grow C Company back up to its full strength with a deployment to Germany in the Spring.

In April C Company and Left Flank move en masse to Somme Barracks with the remainder of Battalion following on in June and July. The next big ticket item past the Battalion move (although sometimes it is difficult to see past this point!) will be a Battalion run out to Ex MAYAN STRIKE in the Brunei jungle.

Our manning and key appointments are going from strength to strength. The Scots Guards have 540 personnel on the books with a further 112 forecasted to arrive in the 2020/2021 Training Year. This includes new Guardsmen, re-joiners, and transfers in. In February 2021 we will grow by a further 30 from training alone, with the same sort of numbers coming through in Summer 2021. This is an extremely positive turn of events.

Staying on the positive note, Warrant Officer Class 1 (Regimental Sergeant Major) Kirkwood has been selected as the next Academy Sergeant Major at Sandhurst and promoted to Captain. His replacement is Warrant Officer Class 2 (Regiment Quartermaster Sergeant Major) Paxton, currently working with Quartermaster SHADER in Cyprus. Warrant Officer Class 1 Gibson has also been selected as the new Garrison Sergeant Major in Edinburgh Castle. Lastly, replacements for the Battalion Second-in-Command, Major Ben Jesty Grenadier Guards and the Officer Commanding Left Flank Major Will Tulloch, will be nominated shortly as they both move on to other Army appointments.”

F Company:

For the last six months there have been no ceremonial Royal Guard mounts and F Coy have been sharing the non-ceremonial Royal Guards mounts on a 7 days on duty period, followed by time off to continue worthwhile military training. They found this November's military contingent on the Cenotaph Parade and the Major General has personally complimented them for an immaculate turn-out.

The Company is fully manned and preparing for next year's Trooping the Colour where the Second Battalion's Colour will be Trooped. Their Major's General's inspection in Wellington Barracks will be on 25 February.

The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel has made a point of congratulating F Company on their behavior and conduct over the difficult Lockdown periods.

The Regimental Band:

The Regimental Band is currently 1 Officer and 46 Bandsmen, fully up to strength. There has been a Covid silver lining in that Musicians have found it very difficult to perform in the Nation as a whole and those applying to join The Corps of Army Music (CAMUS) have gone up massively. Similarly, very few members of any Guards Band are applying to leave! In the past few months many of the Bandsmen have been involved in Operation RESCRIPT and the assisting with mobile Covid-19 testing units, which they have enjoyed doing and morale is high. The next six months largely involves preparing for the 2021 Queen's Birthday Parade which will have a good influence of Scottish music. It is expected that twenty pipers from the First Battalion will be on parade with the Massed Bands.

Please be aware that **Regimental Headquarters** has now sold out of all of this year's Regimental Christmas cards (5500!) so please do not try and order any more. There are a few 2021 Regimental Diaries available should anyone wish to order one. (Please ring the clerks' office on 0207 414 3324). Please also inform the clerks' office if you have not received a copy of this year's Regimental magazine.

The following **2021 dates** may be useful for next year's diaries when we all hope we are back to some sort of near normal:

- Regimental Remembrance Sunday (Black Sunday), Sunday 18th April, the Guards' Chapel.
- The Major General's Review, Saturday 29 May, Horse Guards.
- The Colonel's Review (HRH The Colonel), Saturday 5 June, Horse Guards.
- The Queen's Birthday Parade, Saturday 12 June, Horse Guards.
- The Third Guards' Club annual dinner, Thursday 17 June, the Cavalry and Guards' Club.
- The Regimental Gathering Weekend - Saturday 11 September, Beating Retreat at Richmond Castle.
- The Regimental Gathering - Sunday 12 September, Somme Barracks, Catterick.
- The Third Guards' Club members' and Associate members' ladies' drinks party, Thursday 11 November, the Cavalry and Guards' Club.

RHQ Christmas Closure – Details Regimental Headquarters will be closed for two weeks over Christmas and New Year from Friday 18 December until Tuesday 5 January, but a duty non-commissioned officer will regularly visit the building and the Regimental Adjutant will continue to monitor emails on adjutant@scotsguards.org

All members of Regimental Headquarters wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.



Congratulations to the 8 Guardsmen who passed out of training on 11 December and to Gdsm Park who received the award for Best in PT.



Planned since he took over Regimental Sergeant Major Kirkwood instituted three awards for excellence..

He wanted a way to recognise our SNCO's and JNCO's and create a set of awards chosen by the 'Sergeant Major' annually in December.

The Sergeant Major's award for best Sergeant was won by:

- 2019 Sgt L Masters
- 2020 Sgt D McHugh

The Sergeant Major award for best Lance Sergeant was won by:

- 2019 LSgt R Nelson (now Sgt)
- 2020 LSgt F Muir

The 'LCpl Stephen Monkhouse MC award' for best LCpl:

- 2019 LCpl L Pirie (now LSgt)
- 2020 LCpl Adams

The LCpl will be invited to the Sgts Mess Xmas ball (next ball due to Covid) with their partner and sit with members of their Company.

CHRISTMAS PAST



Regimental Christmas Card 1945
General HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG, Colonel.



Regimental Christmas Card 1947
2nd Battalion Marches along Princes Street, Edinburgh.

2SG Christmas 1944 Stobs Camp, Hawick

On 13h December the mobilisation order was received . By midnight on the 3rd/4th January 1945 the Battalion had returned from embarkation leave. On the 6th Jan 1945 the Sergeants' Mess had their Christmas Dinner and Smoker, at which Jan. 6 "the whisky was plentiful, but the beer had to be thawed in the barrels". In January 1945 the Bn left Stobs Camp to return to the fray in Holland and Germany in 3 groups, during the previous night the thermometer had showed more than thirty degrees of frost,

3 SG Christmas 1944 Holland

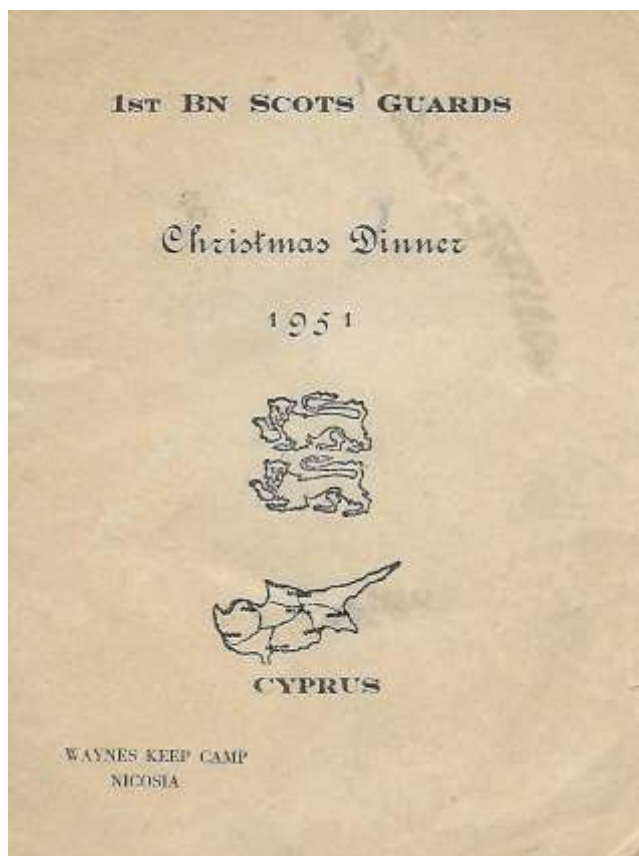
Around Valkenburg, where the Battalion found billets, the inhabitants treated them as guests. One, a baron with an excellent cellar of port, on whom Lord Cathcart and his Squadron Headquarters billeted themselves, claimed that a Sir Alan Cathcart had also billeted himself there in 1415 whilst in command of a Scots Brigade. This friendly atmosphere, combined with a spell of fine frosty weather, enabled the Battalion to enjoy a splendid Christmas and later a very successful Hogmanay. "The Dutch," we need not be surprised to learn, "were much astonished by the playing of what they called the 'doodlesack' in the early hours of the morning."

G Company 2SG Malaya – 1950

At Hogmanay there was the normal amount of confusion and noise associated with the Scots Guards at this time. CQMS Brown crashed (the vehicle steering gave way) on his way back from Batu Arang (Bn HQ) with Christmas Goodies. Most of the precious cargo was saved, and he was heard panting to CSM Whyte on arrival at KKB (Kuala Kubu Bharu) "The whisky is safe, not a bottle broken".

2 SG Malaya 1950 - Major (QM) A Greenwood.

The final Malayan Christmas had to be celebrated in relays. Not long before the feast the Quartermaster, at this time of year by far the most influential member of any battalion, ran into a bandit party who were burning a bus on the main road, but the expenditure of twelve magazines from the twin Vickers K guns mounted on the top of his scout car and a barrage of blistering invective preserved him from massacre. The site of this memorable outrage was christened "Greenwood's Gulch".

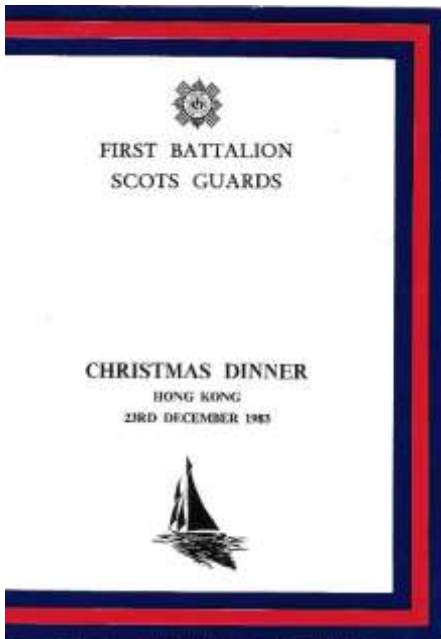


1st Battalion Junior Ranks Christmas Dinners 1951 & 1952

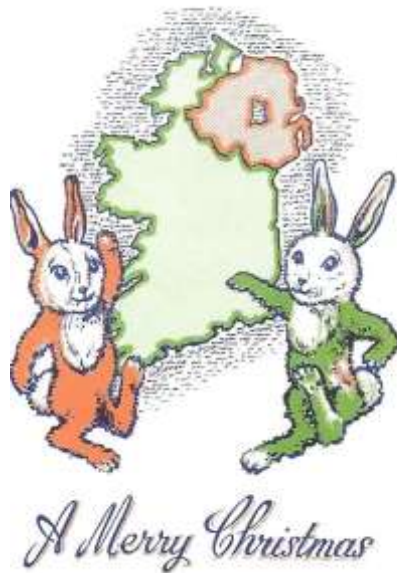
1SG – Arrive Home from Egypt December 1954.

The main body of the Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel T. F. R. Bulkeley, M.B.E., embarked at Port Said in the Georgic on the 11th December, arriving at Liverpool on the 19th, in time to spend Christmas and Hogmanay at home for the first time in four years.





**1st Bn Christmas Dinner 1983
Lt Col AG Ross OBE Comd Off
RSM J MacFarlane BEM**



**G Company, 1SG, Christmas Card
Royal Victoria Hospital Annex 1971
Broadway, West Belfast**



**Left Flank, 1SG Christmas Card
Forkhill, South Armagh.**

BITS & PIECES

SGA Newsletter

The next edition will be published at the end of January 2021.

The Scots Guards Memorial Project

Michael Campbell-Lamerton as part of his Scots Guards Memorials project sent me this which he uncovered which will be of interest to you. 2nd Lieutenant Hillyar Hill-Trevor, 1SG died on 21st December 1914 at Givenchy-Lez-La Bassee, Aged 18. He has no known grave and is commemorated at Le Touret Memorial, however there is an individual memorial to him in Givenchy-Lez-La Bassee, the only one of its kind to a Scots Guardsmen on the Western Front. He was also the 2nd youngest Scots Guards Officer to die in the Great War.



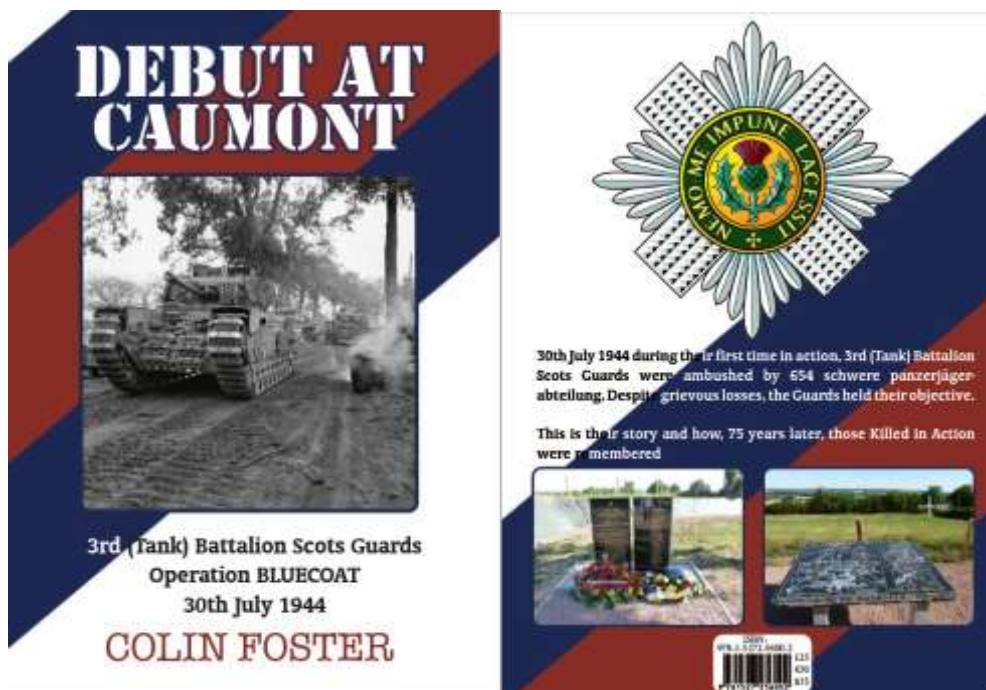
18 Year Old 2Lt Hillyar Hill – Trevor



The Memorial to 2Lt Hill – Trevor at Givenchy-Lez-La Bassee

Why not do some searching on the internet for Scots Guards Memorials in UK or abroad. Or check out war memorials closer to home with names of Scots Guardsmen on them. Please email any memorials you find to Michael@hallestate.co.uk with a photograph and where the picture was taken.

REPRINT – DEBUT AT CAUMONT

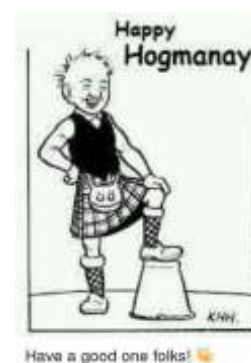


If you missed it first time round, here's another chance to buy – **DEBUT AT CAUMONT**

The knowledgeable Colin Foster tells the story of 3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards and their first action in Normandy during Operation Bluecoat on Hill 226 at the Battle of Caumont. The book also describes the memorial to remember 3SG and those killed. The memorial was unveiled 75 years later overlooking the battle site on 28 July 2019.

The book costs £25 plus £5 postage and package.

To order or for more information email colin@menintheshed.com



**SO HERE IT IS, MERRY CHRISTMAS - EVERYBODY HAVE SOME FUN
LOOK TO THE FUTURE NOW – IT'S ONLY JUST BEGUN**

ALL THE VERY BEST FOR 2021