

# 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 2021  
Volume 22 Issue 12

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## **Front Page Photograph**

**Alan Hayter & Colin Paterson, In Pensioners at Royal Hospital Chelsea share a memory & festive coffee from 2020.**

## **WE REMEMBER SCOTS GUARDSMEN KILLED IN CONFLICTS DURING JANUARY SINCE 1945**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Malaya Emergency 1948 – 1951**

16 January 1950 22215040 Guardsman Kenneth Holland, Age 19.

25 January 1951 1439050 Sergeant Donald MacMillan. Age 28.

## **A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE REGIMENTAL LIEUTENANT COLONEL**

As 2021 draws to a close, I want to thank you all for everything you have done to support me, and the Regiment, over the past twelve months. I will not try to capture every achievement, but I do want to highlight a couple of notable successes and give you a feel for what lies in store in the year ahead. Most importantly, I want to reassure you all that the Regiment is in good health and has an exciting outlook.

Looking back, for me one of the proudest moments of my career was watching F Company Trooping the Colour of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in front of Her Majesty and our Colonel in the quadrangle of Windsor Castle. With the Battalion no longer rotating through London District, we are usually the supporting act and seldom take centre stage. Moreover, after a year without any major ceremonial events, the Queen's Birthday Parade felt extra special and I am delighted that F Company, the Regimental Band, and the Pipes and Drums, rose to the occasion. What the media coverage did not show were the sacrifices the Guardsmen had to make to avoid becoming infected with COVID-19 and ensure they were fit and healthy for the parade. The level of individual discipline and leadership was outstanding and, I hope, a source of immense pride for the Regiment.

While F Coy were demonstrating our quality on the forecourt, the Battalion was spread to the four winds with elements of Right Flank, B Coy and HQ Coy in Iraq, Left Flank in the Balkans, and small bands of determined men in the Ukraine, Estonia, Poland and the Falkland Islands. Concurrently, the Rabbits were busy reforming and regrowing back home in Catterick Garrison before deploying to the Belizean jungle. At the time of writing, our numbers continue to swell, and we are now the largest of the five Foot Guards Regiments. Given the negative publicity our manning has drawn over the past five years and the hard work that has gone into turning the Regiment around, it is fantastic to see full platoons and full companies making their mark around the world.

The final highlight of the past twelve months was the Regimental Gathering. With COVID-19 still prevalent in most parts of the country, it would have been very easy to cancel the event this year or not attend. I am extremely grateful to Neil Crockett, John Bull, John Craib, and the Regimental Band for overcoming all the challenges posed by the pandemic and making the event such a success. John Bull deserves particular recognition. He has been in the Army for almost as long as I have been alive, and he is one of the most passionate and loyal Scots Guardsmen. When he leaves the Army next year, he will be sorely missed.

When the Gathering came to a close in September, I promised all those standing on the windswept parade square in Somme Barracks that I would explain how the latest quinquennial review of defence and security had impacted the Regiment. While there are a few details that are yet to be finalised, I am now in a position to provide the headlines. Critically, I think the Regiment has fared very well and has an outstanding future. To paraphrase the words of the Secretary of State for Defence, my only wish is that I could start my career in the Army again.

The Battalion will remain in Catterick until 2027 but convert from Heavy Mechanised Infantry (currently Mastiff) to Light Mechanised Infantry (Foxhound). Foxhound units have been heavily committed to operations over the past decade, so this new role is a positive change. When the Battalion converts to Foxhound, we will be similar in size and structure to that of a traditional light role infantry battalion. Critically, and for the first time in nearly a decade, the Scots Guards will be fully manned. At times, this is not something that I ever thought I would be able to write.

Looking further ahead, the next move for the Battalion will be to Cyprus in 2027 for a two year stint as the Regional Standby Battalion. Given how much the Battalion enjoyed the deployment to Cyprus in 2019, and the operational importance of the role, I am certain that this will be welcome news.

F Coy will continue to be based in Wellington Barracks and will also be slightly smaller. Critically, the company will continue to take part in the full spectrum of Public Duties and State Ceremonial commitments. I am also hopeful that we will not have to wait too long before we see the Colour of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion being trooped again on Horse Guards parade.

Once again, thank you very much indeed for all your support over the past year. The Regiment has navigated its way through a turbulent period but the future is bright. As I said at the London Branch dinner in November, the success we are now realising is down to the loyalty and commitment of all those that have persevered despite the challenges. I cannot thank you enough, and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

**Nemo Me Impune Lacessit**

**Lieutenant Colonel JDL Leask MBE**

**Regimental Lieutenant Colonel**

### **FAIR FA' YOUR HONEST SONSIE FACE, IT'S NEAR TIME TO JOIN THE PUDDIN RACE**

Pull on your tartan kilts & trews,  
Enjoy the fun, the poems, the haggis & a nip or 3 of highland booze.  
Come along, dress up be on your uppers,  
Join in Association Burns Suppers,

**Fri 21 January SGA Glasgow @ Lok Bar & Kitchen, 16 Newlandsfield Road, Shawlands, Glasgow, G43 2XU**



**Early December saw the Glasgow Branch able to hold a meeting for the first time in many months. Those attending were well fed with a delicious Chicken Curry & 2 pints of beer**

High on the agenda were plans for the Burns Supper on 21 January organised by Ronnie Cook costing £20 per person. Get your name down & the tartan in wear.

Contact Ronnie Cook on Facebook Messenger or Branch Secretary Keith Norwood on email [keith.norwood@hotmail.com](mailto:keith.norwood@hotmail.com)



**High Jinks at the Glasgow Burns Supper 2019**

**Fri 21 January SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway**

The Branch will hold its first meeting of 2022 at Carlisle Ex-servicemen's Club immediately followed by a Burns Supper.

**Fri 21 January SGA Durham & Yorkshire Branch**

Burns Night, Woodham Golf Club, Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4PN. Cost of the evening will be £25 per head. More details soon. If you are attending let Secretary Joe Lee by Email at [joe.lee6287@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.lee6287@hotmail.com)

**Sat 29 January SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon Branch**

Datchet Golf Club. Currently fully booked, check [rab.ritchie@icloud.com](mailto:rab.ritchie@icloud.com) in case of cancellations.

**Sat 5 February SGA London**

Burns Supper, Esher Rugby Union Club. 369 Mosely Road, Hersham, Surrey, KT12 3PF  
Contact Secretary Iain Blair email: [blair605@btinternet.com](mailto:blair605@btinternet.com) Tel: 07843 477772

**ASSOCIATION NEWS**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022 ~ EARLY DATES TO SAVE IN YOUR DIARY**

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Sat 19 February | The Rabbits Breakfast, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.   |
| Sat 5 March     | Swallae Ho, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.  |
| Sat 2 April     | SGA AGM, Wellington Barracks.  |
| Sun 3 April     | Regimental Remembrance Sunday, Guards Chapel.  |
| Thu 2 June      | Queen's Birthday Parade.   |
| 2 – 5 June      | Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend.   |
| Sat 4 June      | Drums Company 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards Reunion, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.                  |
| 10 – 13 June    | 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration & Reunion, Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association, Blackpool. |
| 30 July (TBC)   | 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Op Motorman Reunion, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh.                              |

**Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Branch**

At Datchet Golf Club:

Friday 25th February 2022: Branch Monthly Meeting 1930hrs for 2000hrs.

Friday 25th March 2022: **Branch AGM** 1930hrs for 2000hrs.

Branch Secretary: Rab Ritchie email: [rab.ritchie@icloud.com](mailto:rab.ritchie@icloud.com) Tel: 07776 411120

**Borders Branch**

The Branch give early notice of their Diamond (60<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary Dinner which will take place at Hawick Rugby Club on Saturday 12 March 2022. Scots Guardsmen in the Borders and beyond are invited to attend.

Branch Secretary is Eck Barclay email: [eck01uk@yahoo.com](mailto:eck01uk@yahoo.com) Tel: 07802 4422878

**Fife Branch**

Veterans Lunch at Pinkertons, Glenrothes on Thursday 9 December.



**Joe Sime, Dave Goddard, Neil Crockett, Jimmy Pratt.**



**George Ponton, George Cameron & Major Ray Walker**



**Jim Pratt and old friend Captain Syd Carnegie**



## Durham & Yorkshire Branch



**Christmas Sunday Lunch @ Blue Ball Pub, Malton on 5 December**

### **Front to back:**

**Table Left side-Jim Woods, Gerry Dalaney, Jill Low, Sandy Low, Lt Col Julian Crowe, John Findlay, Margaret & Don McKinnon.**

**Right side- Mrs Woods, Kim Lee, Santa, Stewart Webb, Snowman, Bill Blake**

## **Highlands & Islands Branch**

If you live in the Branch catchment area join our Facebook Group.

President : Alasdair Hilleary

Chairman: Maxi MacDonald

Treasurer: George Davidson

Secretary: Harry Obern (assisted by Rod Davidson)

Email: [hobc862@gmail.com](mailto:hobc862@gmail.com) Tel: 01463 717002

After being pretty much out of touch with each other during lockdown and meeting restrictions, following the arrival of a couple of new members and the re-emergence of a couple more, the branch is going through a bit of an uplift. We have had a couple of unofficial zoom meetings (1 very successful). We also had a bit of a get together on 1st of November which I believe was successful from the point of introductions and ideas to raise the branch profile (I was isolating for that one).

Our 1st official meeting of 2022 is scheduled for 7th February when we look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

We have recently opened a branch Facebook page (SGA Highlands and Islands Branch) which we hope will enable a bit more communication around the Branch members, particularly those in rural locations who can't attend meetings. Please have a look and pass on details to any Scots Guardsmen in our catchment area, veterans or serving. This progression is very much the work of Rod Davidson who has recently moved back to the area.(Great to have someone on board with a bit more I.T. savvy than Harry Obern). We are currently working with another branch member (Alasdair Allen) who has re-emerged, with a talent for photography to sort out a banner for the FB page which we hope to have complete soon.



**Congratulations to Branch Treasurer George Davidson on being made a Life Member of British Legion Club (Inverness) Ltd.**

**Preston Branch**



**Left: Congratulations to Vice Chairman & Secretary Michael Nutter on his award As 'Hero' Employee of the Year of North Lancs Training Group for his work with veterans in North West communities.**



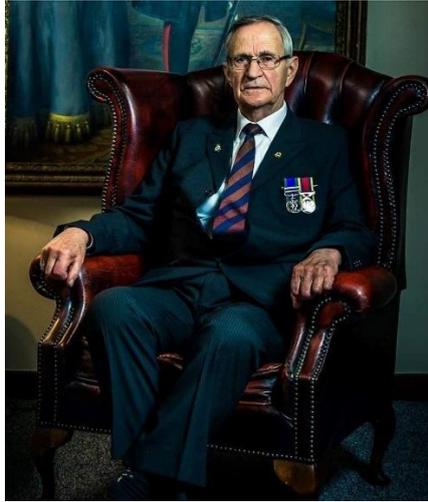
**Right: Michael Nutter "Entertains" at a Charity Night arranged by the Preston Branch in aid of the Rainbow Hub for Disabled Children.**

## DEATHS

### Association Members

#### Dundee & Angus / Fife

23908042 Sgt Dave Cuthill Died 14 December 2021. Served 1SG 1959 – 1971 Notably Malaya / Borneo & Sharjah. Vice President & former Chairman of Dundee & Angus Branch. Lived Arbroath.



Among the many messages of condolence were the few words which say it all “A good man and good soldier”

#### Fife

23167740 Gdsm Bob Ross Died 14 December 2021. Served 2SG July 55 – July 57. Lived Leven. Former Glasgow Policeman.

#### Highlands & Islands

23229985 Gdsm William J Fraser Died 12 November 2021. Served 2SG 1957 – 1960. Lived Inverness. Former Chief Inspector, Northern Constabulary including Skye, Stornoway & Alness.

#### Berks, Bucks & Oxon

24041416 LCpl William McGregor Died 7 December 2021. Served 2SG from 1965 including Pltn att IIG in Aden Oct 1966 – Apl 1967. Funeral 30 Dec 1100hrs St Catherines Church, Wimbourne BH21 1LE, then Wimbourne Cemetery.

#### Aberdeen & NE Scotland

22229808 George Knowles Died 14 December 2021. Funeral 16 Dec at 1300hrs at Buchans Private Chapel, Fraserburgh AB43 9HB, Then to Longside Cemetery AB42 4XY. George’s wife passed away earlier in the month and their funerals will take place together.

#### Non Association Members

24343281 LCpl David Cromar Died 4 December 2021. Served 1SG / 2SG Munster 1974 – 1979.

James Wallace Died 30 November 2021. Served 2SG late World War 2. Lived West Lothian.



## **BITS & PIECES**

### **PROVISION OF INFORMATION FROM THE SCOTS GUARDS ARCHIVES WITH EFFECT FROM 29 NOVEMBER 2021**

#### **Introduction**

The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, with the concurrence of the Chairman of The Scots Guards Charity, has made the following direction, to take immediate effect, with regard to the provision of information from the Scots Guards Archives about individual officers and soldiers.

#### **Future arrangements for provision of information free of charge**

Subject to data protection regulations, information about individual members of the Regiment will be provided free of charge if the applicant is:

The individual concerned

Wife/Partner/Widow of the individual

Sibling of the individual

Father or mother of the individual

Son or daughter of the individual

Applicants are requested to provide the Archives NCO with as much information as they can about the individual concerned and to note that, in the event that they are unable to provide a soldier's regimental number, it may not be possible to provide any information. Provision of a regimental number is not applicable to officers.

#### **Future arrangements for provision of information in all other cases**

In all other cases, but subject to data protection regulations, information about individual members of the Regiment will be provided on payment by the applicant of a non-returnable £30 fee for each individual enquiry [i.e. for each file requested], to be paid to The Scots Guards Charity in advance.

Applicants are asked to note that all fees received are gratefully appreciated and applied to the conservation and enhancement of the Archives.

Applicants are requested to provide the Archives NCO with as much information as they can about the individual concerned and to note that, in the event that they are unable to provide a soldier's regimental number, it may not be possible to provide any information. Provision of a regimental number is not applicable to officers.

Before they apply on a paying basis the attention of prospective applicants is drawn to the availability on the Findmypast genealogy website of all available Scots Guards officers and soldiers records up to 1938 commissioning or enlistment. The main purposes of the contract between The Scots Guards Charity and Findmypast were to make this information readily available publicly and to reduce the handling of archive material. Under the contract Findmypast makes royalty payments to The Scots Guards Charity.

#### **Research**

While the Archives NCO is able to look out documents and carry out quick checks of contents, he is not in a position to carry out research either on individuals' records or in other Archive material.

#### **Reporting In**

Joe Farrell of the Guards Parachute Association reported in that he'd been on holiday in Spain, had caught Covid but he was on the mend. Joe also mentioned Jimmy McGowan a friend to many who lives on the Isle of Bute, Jimmy isn't keeping in the best of health but we all send him very best wishes.

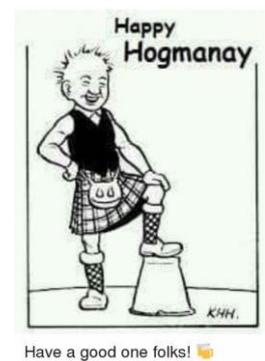
**To All Scots Guardsmen Serving or Retired  
and to your families**

**To those in the 1st Battalion. To members of  
F Company & The Regimental Band.**



**A Very Happy Christmas**

**Good Luck & Good Health in the New Year**



**Hope to see you at Regimental & Association  
Events in 2022**