

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**

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Front Page Photographs

Top: SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire parade at Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Windsor on Remembrance Sunday

Bottom: Scots Guardsmen form up on Whitehall, London before marching past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

NOTE: There will be a short Christmas edition of the newsletter out in mid December. The 1st edition in 2020 will be published on 31 January.

ACTS OF REMBRANCE NOVEMBER 2019



Glasgow : Danny McDermid
& Coldstreamer



Blackpool: Ronnie Bell all
polished up and ready to go.



Queensland, Australia. Peter Boorman gets on
parade.



Haymarket, Edinburgh:
John Mitchell



Kinross: Stephen Hynds



**Pals from SGA Preston commemorate Accrington Pals
Shane Nieuivenhuizen, Micky Nutter & Jason Bray**

NOVEMBER BRANCH DINNERS



Ayrshire Branch Friday 1 November – Top Table, Officer Bearers & Serving Guests



**Fife Branch Friday 8 November - Photo 1 : Tom Robertson (Ayr), Gordon Dickson, Neil Crockett & Les Brown.
Photo 2 : Mark McKay, Rab Nicol, Stephen Hynds**

Manchester Branch held its dinner on Friday 8 November when the Guest of Honour was Lt Col James Leask MBE – Comd Off ISG.



Preston Branch Friday 15 November.

Photo 1 : Shane Nieuwenhuizen goes to the top and asks Captain Ben Wallace MP (Branch President) & Minister of State for Defence if he can re-enlist. **Photo 2 :** Sean Doyle, Iann Skillander & Alan Howarth

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

London Branch

The Branch holds its annual St Andrews Dinner at Regents Park Barracks on Saturday 30 November.

Major Tom Ormiston has stood down as Secretary with the thanks and best wishes of the Branch. Mark (Spot) Whatmough has taken over as Secretary.

Aberdeen & North East Branch

The Branch has held events on two consecutive functions on Thursday's 21 & 28 November at The Cocket Hat, Aberdeen. A Ladies Night and the Seniors Lunch.

Fife Branch

The Branch holds its Veterans Lunch at the Topsy Nipper, Fife Airport, Glenrothes on Thursday 5 December.

Durham & Yorkshire Branch

The Branch laid wreaths over the Remembrance weekend at 4 locations across the region including at Ripley Castle.

Members were invited to join the local Branch of the Grenadiers Guards Association for Sunday Lunch at Swinton Park Hotel.

Members have been invited to attend Passing Out Parades at Guards Company, ITC Catterick on 29 November, 13 December and another date to be confirmed.

The Branch plans to hold a Christmas Dinner on Saturday 7 December at the Burntree a venue well known to members.

The final meeting of the year will be held at Newton Aycliffe Working Mens Club on Wednesday 11 December at 1945hrs.

Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire Branch / Surrey Branch

Members of both the Berks, Bucks & Oxon. Branch and the Surrey Branch were able to join the 1st Battalion Scots Guards Officers, Sergeants Mess Members and all other ranks even some with their young families in attendance early on; in the Officers Mess initially and then to the Sergeants Mess for their joint St. Andrews Celebrations. Plenty liquid refreshment and a lovely curry supper. It was really good to chat with all ranks and to feel part of this great family Regiment of ours once again, many of whom are currently deployed around the world.



**1st Battalion St Andrew's Day Celebrations
Major Jon Bull OC HQ Company & Rab Ritchie**



Berk, Bucks and Ox members & their ladies

SGMBVA/NINER's LUNCH

By Captain Ronnie Paterson - Treasurer

On Saturday 23rd of November we met up with former colleagues of 9 Coy Irish Guards to celebrate our comradery during 1SG's tour of Malaysia and Borneo from 1964-1967. Twenty-nine veterans and their ladies gathered at The Union Jack Club, London and enjoyed a delicious 3 course lunch with refreshments in a convivial afternoon. Also present from the Irish Guards was former Guardsman Michael Tuffley who was a member of the 1SG Boxing Team, and had the experience as a professional boxer in London sparring with Mohammad Ali.

The entire day's conversations were filled with stories of yesteryear, given that none were under 70 years of age. Suffice to report that tales from the past abounded until very late on in the evening. To use the vernacular a wonderfully reunion was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

The Treasurer announced that the 2020 Reunion will be held at the Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy, Fife on 8th & 9th of May 2020. The details of which will be distributed to members in December.



SGMBVA & Niners making waves!

TUMBLEDOWN VETERANS & FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

By Wayne Hanson – Vice Chairman

I am writing to warmly invite all Scots Guards Association members and families to join the TVFA at Blackpool Cenotaph for the un-veiling of the Tumbledown Plaque. (See attachment). It has taken two years of negotiations with Blackpool Council to gain permission to install a plaque at the cenotaph.

This is something we are very proud of and would like to share this occasion with all of the Scots Guards family, past and present.

Our invitation is for the whole weekend or the Un-veiling of the Plaque, which ever suits you. You are ALL most welcome. We, the TVFA would be proud to have your company at this auspicious occasion.

The itinerary for the week-end is as follows;

- Friday 12/6/20 = 1600hrs, Meet and Greet at The Strand Hotel in Blackpool.
- Saturday 13/6/20 = AGM @ 1300hrs in The Strand Hotel.
- Saturday 13/6/20 = At 1930hrs Function in the President Hotel.
- Sunday 14/6/20 = 1200hrs The Unveiling of the Plaque at the Blackpool Cenotaph. The annual Memorial Service will take place followed by the Cross Laying after the Plaque has been un-veiled. We will all retire to an establishment for refreshments and buffet
- Sunday 14/6/20 = 1900hrs evening in The Strand. At 2200hrs we will be holding our Remembrance Candle Lighting.



Memorial Plaque to be unveiled at Blackpool War Memorial

BILL McDOWELL - IT MANAGER ERSKINE HOSPITAL

Anyone living in Scotland over the Remembrance period if they watched the TV will have seen the advert for Erskine Hospital. It featured Bill McDowell who moved to Erskine Hospital in his hard times. Once there Bill re-found his place in life and in 1998 he took on the role of IT Manager, Erskine Hospital which he continues to be to this day. So if you were wondering who it was, it's Bill McDowell, Scots Guardsman, Erskine Veteran,



Bill McDowell, Scots Guardsman, Erskine Veteran

SCOTS GUARDS CLUB – MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The date for the Seniors' Christmas Lunch and Party is set for Monday 16 December and we will start to take names for this from early November. Once again, this is a free event for members and qualifying criteria are vague but in general, if you can pass for being over sixty, then you're in! There will be a limited number of guest spaces available at £10.

RABBITS BREAKFAST 2020

The Rabbits Breakfast will take place at the Scots Guards Club will take place at the Scots Guards Club on Saturday 15 February 2020.

DEATHS

Third Guards Club

Lieutenant TJ Benn Died 19 October 2019. Served September 1955 – September 1957. Served as a Pltn Comd L Coy.

Dundee & Angus Branch

24021312 Sgt Mick Hunter Died 15 November 2019. Served mid 60s to 1979. Served mostly G Coy 2SG & C Coy 1SG at the very end of his service.

Fife Branch

23703223 LCpl Robert Nicolson Died 29 November 2019. Served Early – mid 60's with 2SG Kenya including as Comd Off Dvr.

Glasgow Branch

Tommy Hunter. Died November 2019. Funeral Wednesday 4 December 2019. Daldowie 1045hrs.

WOs & Sgts Past and Present Association

G Deuchars Died 5 November 2016, Life Member.

Not Members of the Association

LSgt Alastair Thompson Died 17 November 2019. Served until 2014 in Right Flank, QMs Store & RHQ Store.

Sgt Brian Griffin Died 23 November 2019. Served until 2013 in 1SG QM Dept & Welfare Office. Funeral Fri 6 December 2019 at 1230hrs, South Shields Crematorium, John Reid Road, NE34 9DT.

Near The Motorways - 12th Edition

This time last year I included information of a book which would make a good Christmas Stocking filler. Written by 3rd Guards Club Member Major Hugh Cantlie. It describes good tea / coffee stops just off the motorways and having character different from the standard service stations. Hugh Cantlie has updated his book and has very kindly said that half the proceeds of sales will go to the Scots Guards Charity.

The latest edition has 162 changes from the earliest edition, it costs £10.00 + £2.00 P&P Contact Cheviot Books on 01993 832 218 or email info@cheviotbooks.co.uk to buy a copy.

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

All about those Big Right Flankers on exercise in Louisiana

Oct 31 Right Flank's deployment to Louisiana, USA started today. The freight has left with the advance party. The remainder of the Company will deploy next week for a one month exercise with 1-12 Infantry Red Warrior Battalion, 2 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division undertaking both live fire and force on force training. Additionally today Right Flank visited the platoon from F Coy, who will be joining us on this exercise. They completed their final preparatory training today with a gruelling casualty extraction.

Nov 6 The advance party is in America. Setup for the main body is well underway. The G4 team is smashing it already. The admin area is ready with banners up. They have made armoury stacking shelves out of pallets. They are even working out how to charge batteries off a Humvee. To top it off they have got a beast of a 4x4 to run about in!

12 Nov Ex Rattlesnake has begun. The company left for America on Armistice Day conducting its minutes silence in the air! Great flight by the RAF and the Company is now safely in Fort Polk Louisiana. Our Battle Group 1-12 Infantry Bn met us and have settled us into the accommodation. Jetlag is now setting in so time to get some rest before RSOI starts in earnest tomorrow.

14 Nov Ex Rattlesnake, USA update.....We have been on country two days.

1. Its cold. Minus 5 yesterday. We were not expecting that!!
2. Moved into accommodation. Its cosy but it's quickly becoming home.

3. Kit preparation is well underway and we have just received our simulation equipment (laser tag) to be ready for the Force on Force exercise.

4. Drivers are learning to drive Humvee and US trucks.

5. First set of orders received and given. Things are ramping up.

16 Nov It's ramping up in Fort Polk, Louisiana, USA. The Company Group spent yesterday conducting helicopter reconnaissance. Vast woodlands, swamps intermixed with some complex towns that we will have to fight in. The Company also conducted some helicopter familiarisation training, sighted their laser system and of course conducted some battle PT.

18 Nov Right Flank had the honour of parading and receiving their branded Red Warrior arrow head. Proudly standing along side our allies from the

2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division

4th Infantry Division

JRTC and Fort Polk

21 Nov Right Flank ready to deploy and take the fight to the enemy.



26 Nov Right Flank in Louisiana dealing with a public order situation before moving off to launch a night attack at a enemy village.

27 Nov A huge congratulations to LCpl Light who promoted to LSgt today, as the Comd Offr and RSM made a visit to Right Flank on EX RATTLESNAKE out in Louisiana.

As a section commander, he will now take command of an 8 man team and be in charge of their training in camp and on exercise.

Right Flank are through the first offensive phase of the exercise are now transitioning into defence!

28 Nov The Company in Louisiana here enjoying a welcome stand down for a Thanksgiving meal with the [#redwarrior](#) 1-12 Infantry JRTC Operations Group JRTC and Fort Polk. Happy Thanksgiving folks!



Thanksgiving Dinner – Alfresco Style

OTHER SERVING NEWS - BOXER

6 Nov The Scots Guards are getting Boxer! The MoD has just announced the funding of 500 Boxer mechanised infantry vehicles. They will be one of the first units to field these game changing vehicles. The 8 wheeled troop carrier, armed with remote weapons systems, state of the art communications, and rapid cross country capability, will enter service in the next few years. Fielding the Boxer vehicle puts the Scots Guards at the core of "Guards Strike," the Household Division's role at the heart of the Army's new Strike capability.



ATLANTIC GUARDSMAN

A message by Captain John Ford on behalf of his team who are now on their way to the start point at La Gomera, Canary Islands



Starting on Dec 11th I will be skippering a crew of four in a 26ft Ocean Rowing boat 3000miles across the Atlantic Ocean as part of the www.taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.co.uk

The details of this challenge have now been published in the Scots Guards Magazine and at the Gathering the Atlantic Guardsman was on display, therefore I hope that most of you are aware of the campaign.

The main aim of competing in this event is to have a challenge large and epic enough to warrant asking for the amounts of sponsorship required to sustain our fantastic Regimental charity. The growing need and rising associated costs places a large burden on the charity.

It is also the Battalions intent to retain the boat for future use in fund-raising, recruiting and retention positive adventure training type activities, indeed it is already the aspiration to enter the boat into the round the UK race in June 2020, this will be the first time this particular event has taken place since 2013.

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