

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**

**December 2024
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Front Page Photographs ~ November 2024 ~ A time of Remembrance

Top Left – Right: Two from SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon Jim Simmonds (Secretary) at Windsor Garrison Church and Iain Rodgers at Datchet War Memorial.

Two from SGA Borders, at Jedburgh Mrs Christine Rae, mother of Guardsman Craig Rae (C Coy 1SG) age 18 who died when struck by a Warrior armed vehicle when on pre Iraq training on 21 September 2007. Also Colin Brown laying a wreath at Jedburgh.

Bottom Left – Right: Members of SGA Dundee & Angus at the opening of Dundee Garden of Remembrance. Simon Roberts, Gunney Low, Ken Duffy (Chairman), Lord Provost, Ian Hall, Iain Bryson (Secretary).



While on a cruise to Norwegian Fjords Ken Duffy (Chairman SGA Dundee & Angus) paid his respects in Alesund at the World War 2 ~ Shetland Bus Memorial.



CSgt Thorley laid a wreath at the Remembrance Parade at Edinburgh City Chambers.

The Shetland Bus was the nickname of a clandestine special operations group that made a permanent link between Mainland Shetland, Scotland and German occupied Norway from 1941 until the surrender of Nazi Germany on 8 May 1945. This link transferred agents in and out of Norway and provided them with weapons, radios and other supplies. From mid-1942, the group's official name was the Norwegian Naval Independent Unit (NNIU). In October 1943, it became an official part of the Royal Norwegian Navy and was renamed the Royal Norwegian Naval Special Unit (RNNSU). The unit was operated initially by a large number of small fishing boats and later augmented by three fast and well-armed submarine chasers.

Crossings were mostly made during the winter under the cover of darkness. This meant the crews and passengers had to endure very heavy North Sea conditions, with no lights and constant risk of discovery by German aircraft or patrol boats. There was also the possibility of being captured whilst carrying out the mission on the Norwegian coast. Early on it was decided that camouflage was the best defence, and the boats were disguised as working fishing boats.

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING DECEMBER & JANUARY IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

2nd Battalion Malaya Emergency 1948 – 1951

29 December 1950 22215374 Guardsman Eric Duffell, Age 18.

16 January 1950 22215040 Guardsman Kenneth Holland, Age 19.

25 January 1951 1439050 Sergeant Donald MacMillan, Age 28.

2nd Battalion Northern Ireland 1972

19 December 1972 24022903 LCpl Colin Harker (REME) Age 24.

Died of wounds from shooting in Londonderry Sept 1972.

2nd Battalion Northern Ireland 1973

31 December 1973 24141230 Guardsman Alan Daughtery Age 23. Killed Belfast (Off Falls Road).

1st Battalion Iraq 2007

13 December 2007 25065292 Guardsman Stephen Ferguson Age 31. South East Iraq.

1st BATTALION SCOTS GUARDS ON EXERCISE HARAKIA STORM ~ KENYA 2024



Scots Guards Battlegroup - Task Force HANNIBAL



Task Force HANNIBAL came together on Remembrance Sunday to pay their respects.



As it says on the flag



**A 3 day hike up the 2nd highest point in Africa
Mt Kenya, Point Lenana 4985m (16355ft)**

SCOTS GUARDS ARMY CADET FORCE



Cadets from 5 Scots Guards ACF have been out every week supporting Poppy Scotland at locations around Lanark and at Remembrance Services in Lanark, Forth, Braehead and Haywood.

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DEATHS

Association

Third Guards Club & SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway

Sir Henry Neville Lindley Keswick Died 5 November 2024. Age 86, served National Service from April 1957.

SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon / SGA Durham & Yorkshire

23908873 Ian Fisher Died 12 October 2024 served 1SG 1963 – 1966

SGA Dundee & Angus

23908083 LSgt Fred Austin Died 29 October 2024, served 1SG & RHQ 1962 – 1975. Lived NE England.

Non Association

Willie McMaster Died 25 November 2024, served 2SG Falkland Islands. Lived Ayrshire.
Funeral Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreghorn, Ayrshire, KA11 4EF.

Vincent Cruickshank Died late November 2024, served Sept 1981 – 1995 2SG, PTI, lived Darlington.



Fred Austin



Willie McMaster

Presentations of The Colonel's Certificates for Outstanding Contribution to the Regiment and the Association



Left: Jimmy Fraser ~ Ayrshire Secretary

Centre: Andy Cruickshank ~ Ayrshire Long Serving Contribution to the Branch.

Left: Kenny Lawson ~ Fife Branch & SGA National Standard Bearer

WELL DONE TO THEM ALL

NOVEMBER 2024 ~ A MONTH OF SGA BRANCH DINNERS
Ayrshire ~ 100th Anniversary **Fife ~ 70th Anniversary**



SGA Ayrshire 100th Anniversary Dinner

Left: Top Table Front: Sheriff Iona McDonald, Lord Lieutenant Ayrshire & Arran, Major PTA Clapton (President), Lieutenant RW Elmhirst (Regt Rep). Rear: Neil Crockett, Mr Clapton, Provost Iain Campbell (South Ayrshire Council) Jim Fraser (Secretary), LSgt Macrae, CSgt Thorley. **Right:** Ayrshire ~ David Mansell & Colin Inglis.

Preston ~ 77th Anniversary



Left: Ayrshire ~ Stevie Mathieson (a member of Crockett's 10 Pltn LF 1SG) & Andy Kelly.

Right: Ayrshire ~ Graham Miller & Rab Cummings



Left: Fife ~ Andrew Beveridge, Rab Nicol, Stephen Hynds.

Right: Fife ~ Ted Middlemass, Jimmy Farmer, Colin Hollomby (A Fifer ~ travelled up from Devon to attend)



Left: Fife ~ The Ritchie family & friends Neil Roney, Fraser Ritchie, Jock Ritchie (Dad), John Ritchie Jnr, Andy Adam Jnr, John Adam

Right: Fife Top Table: Rear ~ LSgt Macrae, Sgt Milne, LSgt Alexander, CSgt Thorley.

Front~ Mark Mathewson, Rev'd Angus Smith, Capt Hew Balfour (GOH), Angus Cheape, Captain S Hamilton (Regt Officer), Major TMO Hutchison.





Left: Fife ~ 1SG Sigs Pltn 1969 – early 70s Tam Paterson, Alan Howarth, Jock Ritchie, Allan Whitton.

Right: Preston ~ Top Table & office bearers Including LSgt Macrae, Mick Nutter (Secretary), Alf Clemson (Chairman), Steve Hills (Treasurer), Captain Sir Ben Wallace (President), 2Lt S Cox (Regt Officer).



Preston ~ Mick Gregson (Carlisle) & Steve Hills.



Preston ~ Veteran Member, Eric Burgess,
Served 2SG Malaya 1948 - 51



Th

Preston ~ The Dream Team

Graham White, Jim Batty, Alf Clempson, Tony Carter, Charlie McKeown



Ayrshire:
Plus 1 & Paul Gilmartin



Fife:
Gordon Dickson & Dan Newton



Preston:
Pete McEwan & Micky Nutter (Secretary)

DECEMBER DATES

- Thu 5** SGA Fife ~ Lunch With A Taste of Christmas, Pinkertons, Glenrothes. £13.50 per head.
- Wed 11** SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon, Datchet Golf Club. 1230 – 1300hrs £30.00 per head (partners included) ~ Cut off date Wed 27 November. Dress: Christmas Jumpers.

NEXT SGA NEWSLETTER

There will be a short Christmas SGA Newsletter shared as widely as possible around 20 December 2024. The first Newsletter of the New Year will 31 January 2025.

2025 ~ A NEW YEAR ~ START PLANNING ~ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

JANUARY

- Sat 18** SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon Burns Night ~ Datchet Golf Club.
- Sat 25** SGA Glasgow Burns Supper ~ Glasgow Arts Club, 185 Bath Street.
- Sat 25** SGA Highlands & Islands Annual Dinner & Burns Supper ~ Inverness Legion Scotland Club.

FEBRUARY

- Sat 15** Rabbits Breakfast ~ Bar Opens 0800hrs ~ B'Fast 1000hrs ~ SG Club, Edinburgh.

MARCH

- Sat 1** Swalle Ho 2024 ~ SG Club Edinburgh. Organiser: Neil Roney
- Sat 8** SGA Borders Annual Dinner ~ Hawick Rugby Club.

APRIL

W/E 4 – 6 **Regimental Weekend ~ Wellington Barracks, London.**

- Fri 4** Scots Guards WOs & Sgts Past and Present Association AGM ~ Evening ~ Sgts Mess.
- Sat 5** SGA AGM ~ 1030hrs ~ Sgts Mess.
- Sun 6** Regimental Remembrance Sunday Service ~ The Guards Chapel ~ 1100hrs.
- Parade & Wreath Laying ~ Guards Memorial, Horse Guards Parade ~ 1200hrs.
- Lunch ~ Other Ranks Restaurant ~ 1300hrs.

All Scots Guardsmen are encouraged to attend.

MAY

- Thu 8** VE Day - 80th Anniversary. Expected to be a Bank Holiday.
- Fri 30** SGA Edinburgh & The Lothians 32nd Annual Dinner ~ Scots Guards Club

JUNE

- Sat 14** King's Birthday Parade
- W/E 13 – 16** Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association ~ Blackpool Weekend.



REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ~ CHRISTMAS CLOSING

Regimental Headquarters will close down for Xmas from last parade on 12th December 2024 and resume daily routine at first parade 6th January 2025.

Regimental Headquarters will be unmanned during this period.

Any orders to the PRI shop made after 1200hrs 11 December 2024 will not be posted until 1200hrs 6 January 2025. There will be an automated notice on the PRI website,

SCOTS GUARDS MAGAZINE 2023 / 24 ~ NOW ON SALE

The latest BUMPER edition of the Regimental Magazine has begun to land through letterboxes to those members of Third Guards Club, Scots Guards Warrant Officers & Sergeants Past and Present Association and those who subscribe annually direct to RHQ on the mailing list.

The magazine this year costs £12.00p + postage

If you are ordering for delivery abroad please check postal charges with RHQ.

If you are ordering a magazine for the 1st time you should email: adminclerk@scotsguards.org or telephone 0207 414 3324

Scots Guards Christmas Card 2024



Greeting
*Best Wishes for Christmas
and the New Year*

Front Cover:
Gold embossed Capstar,
blue red, blue ribbon.

This year's Regimental
Christmas Card depicts
'Return to Barracks'
by *Sean Bolan*

All proceeds from the
sale of this card will go to
'The Scots Guards Charity'

£ 2.40 per Card

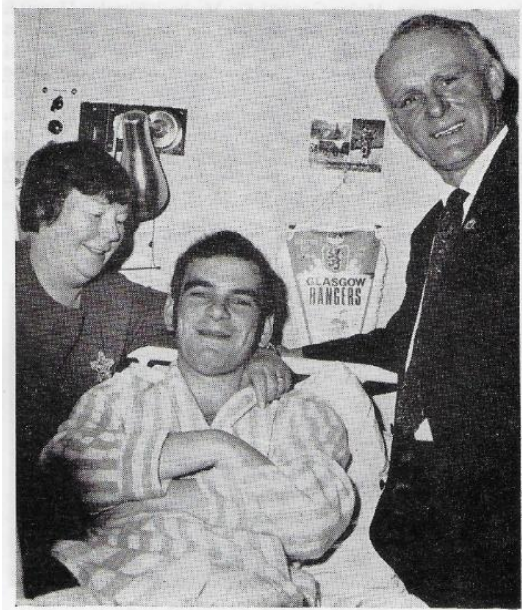
To purchase the 2024 Scots Guards Christmas
card please visit our website -
Scotsguards.org/shop



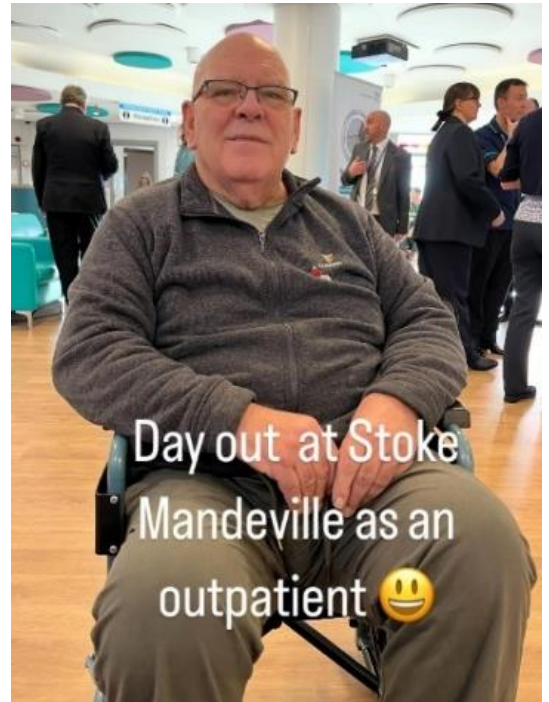
SURPRISE REGIMENTAL MEETING FOR MY BESTMAN & TRH THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH

In mid November Brian Braun an old friend, my bestman and a newcomer to the world of Regimental social media told me he'd had a good day at Stoke Mandeville. TRH The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh were on a visit while he was waiting for his appointment. He had on his Scots Guards poppy badge and The Colonel left the queue of people waiting to meet him and walked over. The Colonel spoke to Brian and his wife Sylvia for a few minutes and the Duchess moved across to join the conversation as well.

Brian is now in a wheelchair was at Stoke Mandeville for rehab for a spinal cord injury. His back was operated on and he can get around with help but currently can't stand unaided fingers crossed with some luck he will be able to one day.



*Gdsm. Brian Braun, Right Flank 1st Battalion from Aberdeen who was badly burned in the 240 Cupar Street explosion in Belfast pictured with his parents in Hospital at Millbank.
Photo: D. C. Thomson & Co. Ltd.*



From Dyce in Aberdeenshire Brian enlisted into the Regiment as a Junior Leader at Oswestry in 1967 joining the platoon Crockett was already in, Brian (nicknamed "Muscles") from Dyce in Aberdeenshire then joined Right Flank, 1SG in late 1969 just prior to 9 months in Sharjah. He was badly wounded on the Belfast tour on 4 October 1971 when Cupar Street OP was blown up killing Gdsm Brian Hall (from Dunfermline). Recovery time was slow and as he so he spent time at the Guards Depot and in 1SG as an orderly to a number of officers, including two current Presidents of SGA branches.

In March 1973 when a certain LCpl Crockett & Mrs C tied the knot, Muscles was a natural choice to be bestman.



Brian Braun, Neil & Margaret Crockett

Brian later transferred to the Royal Military Police including serving in the Lebanon. I also remember when on an early morning rehearsal for Guard Mounting from Horse Guards in 1985. Marching down Birdcage Walk then on to Horse Guards Parade surprised to see my old pal running around St James Park on his BFT, he was then in London District Provost Company.

Brian lives in Sussex where he was in the local police first as a serving policeman and later as a civilian. He is a keen angler and was in the English Police Fishing Team much to the disgust of his brother who was a policeman in Northern Scotland.

He's already catching up with old friends on the Scots Guards Association Facebook Group

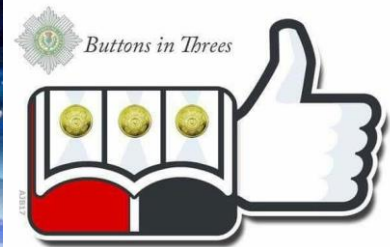
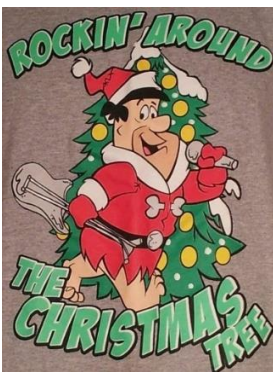


To All Scots Guardsmen Serving & Retired and to your families

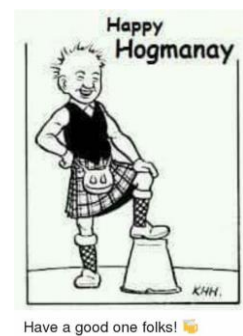
To those in the 1st Battalion, to F Company & The Regimental Band

To G (Messines) Company

To those on duty.



**A Very Happy Christmas
Good Luck & Good Health in the New Year**



**Here's looking forward to seeing you all
at
Regimental & Association Events in 2025**