

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**

Email: sga@scotsguards.org

**February 2020
Volume 21 Issue 1**

Tel: 01383 – 721530

FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPH

Atlantic Guardsmen indeed - Jubilant scenes and a quote on behalf of the team who took on the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge by Captain John Ford **"We've only gone and done it"**. Do it they did, in 39 days, 15 hours & 31 minutes. Over 120k raised for the Scots Guards Charity. Massive congratulations from the Scots Guards Association and all members of the Regimental Family. If you haven't made a donation yet, please think about it there is still time.

CHANGES TO RHQ EMAIL ADDRESSES

Major James Kelly – Regimental Adjutant

adjutant@scotsguards.org

Major Mark Cape - Welfare & Finance Officer

finance@scotsguards.org

LSgt J Platt – Archives Clerk

archives@scotsguards.org

Miss Karen Johnstone – Admin Clerk

adminclerk@scotsguards.org

Please note that as SGA Secretary my email address also changes to sga@scotsguards.org

WELL DONE TO THE REGIMENTAL SUPPORT TEAM

A PRE CHRISTMAS SCHOOL VISIT TO DRUM PARK SCHOOL - COATBRIDGE



Mini Guardsman



Salute to the front

CALISLE, DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY BRANCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Branch sat down to their annual Christmas Dinner at the Hundith Hill Hotel, in Cockermouth on the 15th December 2019. It was a fantastic afternoon, all 57 members that attended had an enjoyable afternoon. Our thanks go to Donald Potter who organised the lunch and also to Phyllis Smith and Brenda Potter for running an excellent raffle which raised £159.



Treasurer volunteers to be Santa Xmas 2020



Brenda Potter, Joe & Phyllis Smith enjoying the day they helped to organise



Willie Findlay checking for his winning raffle ticket with Carol Forbes and Shelia Fyfe

VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY 8 MAY 1945 ~~ VE DAY 75 ~~ FRIDAY 8 MAY 2020

On the 8 May 2020 we commemorate the 75 anniversary since the end of World War 2. There are plans being made across the UK with input by The Royal British Legion and The Royal British Legion Scotland. These plans hope to include those surviving veterans who fought in World War 2.

In the past 6 weeks two of Scots Guards veterans who served in World War 2 have been highlighted. Read about Des Collett and Ted Davison in the following pages.

14592635 GUARDSMAN DESMOND COLLETT – 1st Bn SCOTS GUARDS, ANZIO 1944

By Rab Ritchie – Secretary SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox Branch.

I had the honour to visit a couple of "Old Soldiers" yesterday (30th December 2019) firstly 14592635 Gdsm Desmond Albert Collett who served in the Scots Guards between 1943 and 1946 and took part in the Anzio Landings in 1944 and was taken prisoner (by tank crews) at Anzio Railway Station finishing up as a Prisoner of War (POW) in Germany until his release.

He will celebrate his 96th birthday in March 2020. It is believed is the only surviving Scots Guardsman living in Oxfordshire who took part in the Anzio Landings. Desmond, Des for sure, is very proud of his time served in the Scots Guards. Following his service he had a full career in the Oxfordshire Police Force (later Thames Valley Police) where he served as a Dog Handler. He married Betty in Milton, Oxfordshire in 1950.

On my way home from visiting Des, I popped into Blenheim Palace and paid a visit to Branch Member and former CSM Paul Duffie (10 years Des's junior) who had just returned from a walk with his dog Roxy (see photo below). I enjoyed a coffee and some much needed sustenance with Paul (I forgot to take my haversack rations with me when I set off yesterday) and then we put the world to rights.

Now that Paul knows about Des and the fact that he is only twenty minutes up the road Paul might be able to pay him a visit early in the New Year. Des doesn't seem short of visitors though. Peter Cook a former Grenadier was also visiting him yesterday, he served in the Police with Des and he was also a Member of the Oxford Grenadier Association where Des was an Associate Member as Des wasn't aware of the Berks, Bucks & Oxon. Branch of the Scots Guards Association at the time.

He now has a copy this year's Scots Guards Magazine, a Scots Guards tie pin and lapel badge which he will proudly wear when he is up and about and some Scottish biscuits and a wee dram for Hogmanay tonight. (I confirmed that he is allowed a wee dram first). Hopefully Des will feature in the 2020 Scots Guards Magazine when I get his story together. I have also made contact with Des's Nephew Trevor



Rab Ritchie visits Des Collett in his Care Home in Chipping Norton



Paul Duffie & Roxy

Editors Note:

Des was in the same squad at the Guards Depot with the late 14581450 LSgt Bill Silcock (3SG) who was a much respected Merseyside Branch Chairman, and also the late Major Jim Grant.

TED DAVIDSON PRESENTED WITH FRENCH LEGION d' HONNEUR

On Saturday 18 January at Towneley Hall, Burnley, 94 year old Ted was presented with the French Legion d' Honneur wached by family, members of the Preston Branch, serving Scots Guardsmen from the Regt Support Team and other veterans from East Lancashire. Local singer Grace O'Malley was also there, she met Ted some years ago at Remembrance Sunday and hearing that he has no family she adopted him. Grace now calls Ted "Grandad" and he replays the compliment by calling her Granddaughter.

Ted Served in 3rd (Tank) Bn Scots Guards in Normandy then until the end of the war as this famous Battalion fought across North West Europe.



L – R: Jason Bray, Bill Barlow, Shane Nieuwenhuizen, Norman Birkett, Mickey Nutter, Ted Davidson, Jimmy Laird, Stan Jones 2x Members of RST. Well done all for taking time to support Ted



L-R Stan Jones, Ted Davidson, Micky Nutter



Ted & Grace O'Mally

A TIME OF RABBIE BURNS

At this time of year branches take time to celebrate the birth of the Bard by holding a Burns Supper.



Glasgow – A new venture by the Branch with members and guests age range 9 – 94. Ronnie Cook addresses the haggis – Piper Keith Bowes watches on.



Glasgow – John Campbell struts his stuff on his horse!



Berks, Bucks & Ox @ Datchet Golf Club

1) Colin Paterson, John McCullin, Rab Ritchie 2) P/M Graham Waller, Ronnie Paterson, Ted Bates



London @ Regents Park Barracks, Sgts Mess

1) Eddie McKay ‘Holy Willie’s Prayer’ he also gave the Address to the Haggis.

2) LSgt Damian Light from 1SG entertained the Burns Supper well and brought the night to a close with “Auld Lang Syne”

Durham & Yorkshire@ Woodham Golf Club, Newton Aycliffe

Despite some call offs due to winter flu bugs Branch and guests from the local Royal Signals Association came together for a great Burns Supper.

Amongst the other Branches to holding Burns Suppers were Surrey, Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Highlands & Islands

The Branch will hold its monthly meeting on Monday 3 February 2020 at 1930hrs @ The British Legion Club, Inverness. Members and any other Scots Guardsmen in the Highlands and Islands area are invited to attend.

Glasgow

Monthly Meeting @ The Hallmark Hotel, Glasgow on Monday 3 February.

Berks, Bucks & Ox

Monthly Meeting Friday 28 February @ Datchet Golf Club 1930 for 2000hrs.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2020

FEBRUARY

Sat 15 Rabbits Breakfast, Scots Guards Club.

Fri 21* SGA Fife Burns Supper.

Sun 23 SGA Fife AGM. CISWO, Glenrothes.

MARCH

Sat 7 Swally Ho, SG Club.

Fri 13 SGA Borders Dinner, Hawick Rugby Club.

Fri 20 SGA Glasgow Dinner, Loks Bar & Kitchen, Glasgow G43 2XU.

Fri 27 SGA Berks, Bucks and Ox AGM, Datchet GC.

APRIL

Fri 17 SG WOs & Sgts P and P Assoc AGM, Wellington Bks, London.

Sat 18 SGA AGM, Wellington Barracks, London.

Sun 19 SG Remembrance Sunday (Black Sunday).

Wed 29 Installation of the New Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

MAY

Fri 1 SGA Edinburgh & Lothian Dinner, SG Club.

Fri 1 SGA Surrey, Clandon Regus Golf Club, near Guildford.

Fri 8 75th Anniversary End of World War 2(VE Day). UK wide events.

Sat 9 SGMBVA Reunion, Dean Park, Hotel, Kirkcaldy.

Sat 16 Operation Motorman Reunion, SG Club.

Sat 30 QBP (Major General's Review). London.

JUNE

Sat 6 QBP (Colonel's Review), London.

Fri 11 – Sun 14 Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association Reunion, Blackpool.

Inc Memorial Service and unveiling of 2SG Falklands Plaque.

Sat 13 QBP Horse Guards Parade, London. 1st Bn Welsh Guards.

Fri 26* SGA Fife Branch Golf Competition "The Chairman's Trophy"

Sat 27 Armed Forces Day. Parades & Events in most Towns & Cities.

AUGUST

Fri 7 – Sat 29 Royal Edinburgh Tattoo.

Sun 8* SGA Fife Bowls & Grand Draw.

SEPTEMBER

Fri TBC SGA Highlands & Islands Dinner, Inverness.

Sat 26 SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox, Datchet Golf Club.

OCTOBER

Sat 10 SGA Dundee & Angus Dinner, Invercarse Hotel.

Sat 17 SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway Dinner, Shepherds Inn.

Fri 30 SGA Aberdeen & North East Scotland, Althens Hotel.

NOVEMBER

Fri 6* SGA Fife Dinner, Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy.

Note: Events marked * are provisional and To Be Confirmed. More dates to be added.

If you want more details on any event contact your local Branch Secretary (contact details on last page) or Neil Crockett at sga@scotsguards.org or 01383 721530

DEATHS

Third Guards Club

2nd Lieutenant RAS Hulse Died 31 December 2019, Aged 83. Served 2SG June 1954 to June 1956 on National Service.

Association Members

London Branch

22215378 WO1 (Superintending Clerk) Bill Muir MBE, BEM Died 20 Dec 2019 Aged 88. Enlisted 1950 to June 1986 Served at Clerking duties mostly at RHQ & HQ London District.

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Branch

Vic Toner (RAF) Honorary Member, Died 1 Jan 2020, Aged 79.

Durham & Yorkshire Branch

23908935 Gdsm Michael Dixon. Died 11 Jan 2020. Served 1SG Malaya, Edinburgh, Chelsea. Funeral Wed 7 Feb 1330hrs at Wear Valley Crematorium, DL148NR

Non Association Members

24076923 Gdsm John Shearer Died 12 Dec 2019. Served 2SG 1967 – 1975.

23517073 Sgt Henry Hicklin Died 4 Jan 2020 Aged 79. Served Jan 1958 - Jan 1961. Re-enlisted Jan 1967 – June 1986. Served as a Regimental Cook in 2SG.

23703040 Gdsm Malcolm McPherson Died 21 Dec 2019 Lived Edinburgh. Enlisted Dec 1959 – 1961.

SCOTS GUARDS CLUB NEWS

The year is off to a flying start with a busy bar and function room. On Sunday 26 January we have the third of our first heat piping knockout events with Angus McColl and Calum Wynd competing for a place in the semi final. These have been well attended again this year and we hope to see many of our regulars along with some new faces to cheer on these hugely talented pipers. Start 4pm as usual. Tickets £5 on the door with pies on sale at half time.

On 8 February, Murrayfield hosts the Scotland v England rugby game and both bars will be very busy either side of the match. The next international home game is Scotland v France on 8 March.

Scots Guardsmen will know that the legendary Rabbits Breakfast takes place on Saturday 15 February when again, the Club will be very busy.

January saw a very well attended Club AGM. It was heartening to see so many people come along to that meeting and even more heartening to note that the business side of the Club is in excellent health. Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships in recent times and welcome to new members.

There are two planned programmes of work in the first half of this year. The downstairs bar is in the process of being upgraded and this will be completed by the end of January. In early Spring, work will begin on reupholstering the upstairs seating along with a new carpet which will ensure that the Scots Guards Club is a real contender when considering a quality venue for your function. Remember, we have live music every Sunday afternoon and Thursday evening with Kit Locke and friends. Both slots have their regular followers but if you haven't been along to one of these before and fancy some music in a warm, friendly environment, then we will find you a spare seat! All the best from all the Team.

RABBITS BREAKFAST 2020

The Rabbits Breakfast will take place at the Scots Guards Club at 1000hrs on Saturday 15 February 2020. Phone the club in advance to register your attendance. Tel: 0131 337 1002

SWALLY HO

Organised by Neil Roney @ the Scots Guards Club it will take place on Saturday 7 March – Need more details check with the club Tel: 0131 337 1002.

TUMBLEDOWN VETERANS & FAMILIES ASSOCIATION – REUNION WEEKEND 12 – 14 JUNE 2020

All Scots Guards Association members and families are invited to join the TVFA at Blackpool Cenotaph for the un-veiling of the Tumbledown Plaque. It has taken two years of negotiations with Blackpool Council to gain permission to install a plaque at the cenotaph.

This is something the TV&FA 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, whichever 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 President Hotel, Blackpool. **Note Change of Venue**
- Saturday 13/6/20 = AGM @ 1300hrs in The President 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 President Hotel.. At 2200hrs we will be holding our Remembrance Candle Lighting.

SGMBVA BI-ANNUAL REUNION DINNER - SATURDAY 9th MAY 2020

The Scots Guards Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association will be holding their bi-annual reunion at the Dean Park Hotel, Kirkcaldy, Fife. This also happens to be the UK Wide Bank Holiday to celebrate Victory in Europe weekend.

Please contact the Treasurer, Ronnie Paterson if you wish to attend, rongill4547@hotmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The contract between The Scots Guards Charity and Findmypast [DC Thomson Family History] continues to progress and Findmypast are about to issue the following publicity announcement:

"Over 2,000 new Scots Guards service records have just been added. These include records of Scots Guards officers, available exclusively on Findmypast and never before published, who were commissioned into this prestigious regiment of Foot Guards between 1642 and 1939."

Findmypast [DC Thomson Family History] now publish 85,134 separate entries from the Scots Guards, in addition to the records they have already published in other series (such as the former War Office records held by The National Archives in series WO 97, WO 363/4 etc.).

This link will access the entire online collection:

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/search/results?datasetname=british+army+service+records&databasetitle=scots+guards+enlistment+registers%2c+1799-1939%7escots+guards+officer+enlistment+registers%2c+1642-1939%7escots+guards+service+records+1799-1939>

There is now only one final batch of soldiers' records from the 1930s to be completed, currently being scanned by Findmypast. It is expected that everything possible will have been published online by the autumn this year.

This project, while involving considerable input from the Regimental Historical Committee and the Archives Clerk at RHQ, has been entirely free of financial cost to the Regiment.

MEDAL MOUNTING

It's time to Spring Clean & Remount your medals. Why not use the services of either of these 2 fine Scots Guardsmen:

Medal Supply / Mounting Tony Stevens email: ts2453@gmail.com Tel: 07789324621 Tony served for a short time in 2SG, then the 1st Battalion in Aldergrove, Hong Kong, Pirbright and Hohne. His hobby is medals and his business medal supply & mounting.

Kilt Making / Medal Mounting George McKay email: George@mckayskilts.com Tel: 01207 509674 George served for 25 years and was Master Tailor of 1st Battalion for 10 years.

PIPING SERVICES "ON PARADE & PICKLED" 2 good Pipers offering their services:

Piper: Dougie Watson email: enquiries@piperonparade.co.uk Tel: 01463 870244 or 07515 263716.

Piper: John Rae email: enquiries@thepickledpiper.co.uk Tel: 0131 663 1863 or 07831 426752

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

Recce Platoon Since mid January the Battalion has been running a cadre to find men who are motivated, fit and qualified to fill the much sought after vacancies within the Recce Platoon.

Left Flank The Company have been taking part in a Gunnery Camp @ Lulworth.

Congratulations To Sgt Miller on winning the silver medal at the European, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Championships.

Skiing The Battalion Nordic Skiing Team have given a strong performance in the Infantry Championship with every member of the team racing a total on 40 Kms over 4 races in sub zero temperatures.

Regimental Band & Pipers from 1st Battalion Scots Guard On Saturday 25 January the Regimental Band and Pipers from the Battalion played in concert in the Guards Chapel to celebrate the life, poems & music of Rabbie Burns.

Army Community Rugby Premiership Plate Semi-Final – 29 January 2020

1st Bn Scots Guards vs The Royal Welsh at Basingstoke Rugby Club,

Game won!! Last kick of the game!! 19-17 Scots Guards are in the final.

1st try - Sgt McMillan, 2nd try - Sgt McMillan converted by LCpl O'Toole, 3rd try - LSgt Boginisoko converted by LCpl O'Toole

They now progress to the Army Community Rugby Premiership Plate Final – Wednesday 18 March 2020

1st Bn Scots Guards – v – RMA Sandhurst

Venue - Army Rugby Stadium, Aldershot.

Be there to cheer them on if you can.

BRANCH	SECRETARY	EMAIL	TELEPHONE
SGA Secretary	Neil Crockett	sga@scotsguards.org	01383 721530
Asst SGA Secretary	RQMS Steven Smith	steven.smith963@mod.gov.uk	0207 414 3334
Australian	John Linn	john.linn@arasec.com	00 61 (0)9438 6026
North American	David Rennie	drummie2ca@gmail.com	001 613 680 4306
Aberdeen & NE of Scotland	Graeme Thompson	gthompson246@btinternet.com	01224 317738
Ayrshire	Jim Fraser	jamesfraser279@gmail.com	01294 211319
Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire	Rab Ritchie	rab.ritchie@icloud.com	07776 411120
Borders	Alex Barclay	eck01uk@yahoo.com	01450 370413
Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway	Tony Mason	eamasons@aol.com	07980 103804
Corby, Central & Eastern England	Scott Morton	piper.scott.morton@btinternet.com	07786 067878
Dundee & Angus	Iain Bryson	iainpiper@hotmail.com	07447 700536
Durham & Yorkshire	Stewart Webb	webb174@btinternet.com	01765 640517
Edinburgh & The Lothians	Danny Minto	e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk	07758 193362
Fife	Neil Crockett	neil.crockett@btopenworld.com	01383 721530
Glasgow	Keith Norwood	keith.norwood@hotmail.com	0141 577 6946
Highlands & Islands	Harry Obern	hobc862@gmail.com	01463 717002
London	Mark Whatmough	Spot-Whatmough@outlook.com	07565 589978
Manchester	John Roache	johnroache@live.co.uk	07577 992900
Merseyside	Jimmy Horne	james_horne@btinternet.com	0151 520 0229
Pipers	Dougie Watson	sgpipersbranchsecy@gmail.com	07515 263716
Preston	Steve Hills	shills72@yahoo.co.uk	07971 043876
Surrey	David O'Connell	dandm.oc@talktalk.net	01483 233223
Tumbledown Veterans & Fams Assoc	Bill McDowall	billmcdowall@live.co.uk	07860 401434
Malaya & Borneo Veterans Assoc	Sandy Low	sandy.low57@gmail.com	01723 892049
SGA Pipes & Drums (Scotland)	Iain Lowther	iain-lowther68@outlook.com	07484 637188