

# 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

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**Front Page Photographs:**

The boards list the Regimental Sergeant Majors of both the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (from 1945) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (from 1917). The 1<sup>st</sup> Bn board hangs in in the Sgts Mess. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn board is also held in the safe keeping of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Sgts Mess. Great men all, they certainly remind us of our high standards and a whole lot of Regimental history.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW REGIMENTAL LIEUTENANT COLONEL**

Fellow Scots Guardsmen,

By now most of you will be aware that last week I took over as the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel. Those of you who know me will appreciate just how much this means to me and my family. I have spent my life in the Regiment so this is a truly significant honour.

These are challenging times and it is extremely difficult to look beyond this wretched virus. However, we have much to look forward to. Let us hope that we are allowed to come together as a Regiment to commemorate Black Sunday in April. More realistically, the Queen's Birthday Parade in June, where F Company's Colour will be trooped, and the Regimental Gathering in Catterick Garrison in September, will provide an opportunity for us to meet, have a dram and make up for such a prolonged period of separation. Until then, as always, the Regimental Headquarters is stood by to help if there is anything you need.

Nemo Me Impune Lacesit

**JDL Leask MBE**

**Regimental Lieutenant Colonel, Scots Guards**

**From Major JR Kelly, Regimental Adjutant**

I reiterate that although Regimental Headquarters remains closed during this current Lockdown, all the staff members are accessible by email and here to help. Should any Third Guards Club member need any assistance while cooped up at home please let me know. The net of the Scots Guards Association branches and indeed of the entire Household Division Regimental branches covers every corner of the country, so do please ask if you would like any form of help.

**REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY GUARDS CHAPEL - 18 APRIL CANCELLED**

The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel and Regimental Adjutant have reluctantly made the decision to cancel this year's Black Sunday. Major Kelly will lay a wreath at the Guards' Memorial as last year with a piper and a drummer. It is hoped to make a short video to commemorate Black Sunday with appropriate musical accompaniment.

**SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY 17 APRIL CANCELLED**

The SGA AGM planned to take place in Wellington Barracks is cancelled. Plans are being made to hold 3 regional SGA meetings when it is possible to do so, hopefully by June or July. Details will be given to Branches in due course.

## NEW YEARS HONOURS & COMMENDATIONS

Congratulations to all those named:

### Meritorious Service Medal:



**Captain P. Tetlow (attached 1CG)**



**RSM AC Gibson**

**Chief of the General Staff Commendation: Major Proudfoot (attached to 1GG)**

**GOC 3 Div Commendation: WO2 Hunter**

**Bde Comd Commendation: SSgt Limbu      LSgt Gordon**

**Air Officer Commanding 22 Group (RAF) Commendation:**



**Squadron Leader TJ Carter**

Sqn Leader Carter served in Right Flank, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards until the late 1970s when he transferred to the RAF.

## WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING FEBRUARY IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

### Malaya Emergency

4 February 1949

Lance Sergeant A Ferguson 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

### Afghanistan

18 February 2010

Lance Sergeant David Walker Right Flank 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was fatally wounded while conducting a ground domination patrol which was engaged by insurgent fire during Operation Moshtarak.



**LSgt David Walker**

## **THE ASSOCIATION**

Scots Guardsmen and their families remain a part of the Regiment for life and this association helps serving and retired members to stay in touch, while coordinating support to our troops in the front line or members of the Regimental family in time of need.

Our Regiment takes great care in looking after our soldiers and their families, which costs an increasing amount of money every year from our Scots Guards Charity. We have been serving the Crown for over 375 years and we are immensely proud of our heritage and our ability to adapt to changing times both in the British Army and the country as a whole.

Please enjoy learning about our Association and if you are part of the family haven't done so already why not renew those ties and join your nearest regional Branch.

- Maintaining and supporting the network of past and serving members of the Regiment. To promote friendship and association amongst those now in civil life. Continue to uphold in civil life the high standard and character of the Regiment.
- To foster an Esprit de Corps and promote the best interests of the Regiment.
- To bring to the attention of Regimental Headquarters any case deserving of assistance from Regimental Funds, and to give particular assistance to any member, wife, widow or children who may be in distressed circumstances.
- When requested to provide local knowledge on employment to those leaving the Regiment.
- To provide encouragement when opportunity arises to potential recruits for the Regiment.
- To arrange meetings, social events and annual dinners.

## **ASSOCIATION NEWS**

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.

### **Aberdeen & NE Scotland Branch**

The Branch will complete its AGM by email on 4 February. This will allow the important business of passing the financial accounts and voting in of office bearers & committee.

Monthly Branch meetings remain cancelled at this time with important business being discussed as required by phone / email.

### **Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Branch**

The Branch will hold its AGM on Friday 26 March at Datchet Golf Club or if that isn't possible a pre planned email / postal votes.

The date of the Branch Dinner is changed to Saturday 18 September at Datchet Golf Club. Other events are being planned for the summer and will take place if allowed.

### **Borders Branch**

Its with great disappointment that the Branch have cancelled their 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner due to be held on 13 March at Hawick Rugby Club. The 60<sup>th</sup> Dinner will now take place in March 2022.

Branch members in need of assistance should give a call to Eck Barclay Tel: 01450 370413.

### **Fife Branch**

The Branch will complete its AGM by email / letter on Sunday 28 February. This will allow the financial accounts to be passed and the voting in of office bearers and committee members.

Initial plans are being made for summer events when they are allowed.

## **London Branch**

The London Branch held a zoom meeting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 18.30 where six of us logged on and we covered a lot of ground.

It is our intention to have our ultra informal BBQ on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June, more than likely in the Sergeants' Mess, Regent's Park Barracks; however other venues are being explored. As has been well documented this is a loud shirt, Bermuda shorts and flip flops event with a winner for the worst shirt worn on the day! The previous winner was Ronnie Paterson. As this comes at the end of a very long year and a half we are hoping that former colleagues, old and new, dust off their hideous clothing and come and join the fun and start reuniting again face to face – something that we haven't been allowed to do for a while.

We have decided against having a Ladies' Night this year and concentrate on having a really good St Andrew's Dinner, again venues are being explored, and I'm hoping to be able to give you more information after our March meeting. We have several ideas for Guests of Honour which I hope, if we are successful in obtaining one, would be wonderful for the London Branch. Watch this space.....

Between us we are keeping an eye on colleagues who are not well and ring them, if possible, every month trying to lift spirits. There's not much else we can do in the current climate.

Our events:

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021: informal BBQ (Venue to be decided)

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021: St Andrew's Dinner (Venue to be decided)

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022: Burn's Supper (Venue to be decided)

We will fit in our visit to the Imperial War Museum when things have calmed down and we can find a suitable date for our members.

All of the above will be decided by this wretched pandemic - That's about it from London - Stay safe, stay well, stay in touch.

Aye

Ian Blair

Chairman, Secretary and Entertainments Officer

London Branch

## **Preston Branch**



**Still Serving**

Branch started 2021 with a new initiative. Branch members, their families and friends have rallied together in support of a local food bank in Lostock Hall, Preston. Food has been delivered to The New Day Church who deliver food to those in our local communities that need a helping hand during these difficult and uncertain times. It is the branch members "intent" to visit and support other food banks in and around the Preston areas to show our support in due course. Supporting our communities is just one way we are "still serving". If anyone wishes to suggest which food bank our branch could support next please inform me. Either me or James Killeen will be happy to collect your donations or alternatively they can be dropped off by yourselves to either of us.

Michael Nutter

SGA Preston Secretary

## **SGA Pipes & Drums (Scotland)**

Pipe Major Iain Lowther is making plans to hold band practises via ZOOM as they prepare for the summer and particularly taking part at the Regimental Gathering in September.

## Scots Guards Club ~ Membership

We are now open for membership renewals. If you live locally and usually renew in person, then it is quite all right to wait until the doors are open again, at which time you can do so in the usual way.

If you prefer to renew online, you can do this now by making BACS payment to Sort Code 82 62 30 Account Number 60496650 . Use your name as a reference and email us at [enquiries@scotsguardsclub.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@scotsguardsclub.co.uk) with your name and address and we'll get your membership card posted out to you. £20 or £15 if over 65.

Thank you in advance for continuing to support the Club and we very much look forward to seeing you later in the year.

Best wishes from all the Team.

## DEATHS

### WORLD WAR 2 VETERANS

Sadly in the past 6 weeks three of our Regimental World War 2 veterans have passed away.

#### Berks, Bucks & Ox Branch

2701957 Gdsm John Graves Died 14 January 2021, Age 95. Served Recce Troop, 3<sup>rd</sup> (Tank) Bn.

#### Dundee & Angus Branch

2702646 Gdsm Gordon Webster. Died 23 December 2020. Served 2SG NW Holland & Germany. 1944 – 1947

#### London Branch

2703975 Robert Robertson LVO OBE QPM. Died November 2020. Served 1945 Lived Canberra, Australia.



John Graves



The Dundee Branch were able to present replacement WW2 medals to Gordon Webster in 2020.

## ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

### Durham & Yorkshire Branch

24164237 Gdsm Ian Moody. Died 2 January 2021 Served LF, 1SG 1972 – 78. Lived Co Durham.

23703132 Peter Weigold JP. Died 9 January 2021. Served RF & MT. Lived Co Durham.

### London Branch

22551563 Patrick Lovelace. Died 18 January 2021.

### Former Central Branch

23229038 Alistair Peddie. Died 16 December 2020. Lived Perth.

## NON ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

LCpl Alex Duffy. Died 27 December 2020. Served 2SG (well known Bn boxer), Mid 1960s – early 70s. Lived Fife.

23879094 Samuel Edwardson. Died 18 January 2021. Aged 78. Served LF 2SG Kenya & RHQ 1962 – 76. Lived Daventry, Northamptonshire.

Gdsm Robert (Rab) Graham. Died 20 December 2020. Served 2SG Coy & RF 2SG from 1971 – approx 1978.

Gdsm Kenny (Joe) Hogg. Died 10 January 2021. Served 1SG 1970 – 76. Lived Stalybridge.

Tam Woods Died late January 2021. Served 2SG 22 years 1970s – 80s. lived Sanquhar.

## NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT



2Lt Seacombe and 2Lt Walker completed the year long course at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and joined the Scots Guards family. They will pick up their Platoon in 2021 after completing the Platoon Commanders Battle Course @infantrybattleschool.



Congratulations to LCpl Munro (1GG) and LCpl Harper on their promotions. Some great news before the Bn went on Christmas leave.



Gdsm Ross was promoted to LCpl by the Captain of the Queen's Company, 1GG aboard HMS Forth. A unique setting. Members of Left Flank are deployed to the Falkland Islands in support of the Grenadier Guards and joined forces with the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and the Falkland Islands Defence Force in Exercise Cape Bayonet



**Before Christmas leave Senior Non-Commissioned Officers took part in development training as they prepared for the RMAS Instructor Cadre Course in January.**



**25 December - Merry Christmas from Iraq - the takeover of responsibilities in the North was almost complete and the Bn team in Baghdad were settling into the routine. All they needed was some snow...!**

**With Christmas & New Year over - Right Flank are deployed as the United Kingdom Mobility Company in Iraq. In their spare time they have taken on the challenge to run 3000 miles - the distance to Mons Barracks. So far they have run 11.4% of the total!**

## **BITS AND PIECES**

### **Veterans Rail Card.**



The recently introduced Veterans Rail Card is now available at a special introductory price of £21 for 1 year or £61 for 3 years. The introductory offer runs until 31 March 2021. It will offer the Railcard holder and their companion 1/3 off most rail fares and 60% for up to 4 children aged 5 -15. For more information visit : [www.veterans-railcard.co.uk](http://www.veterans-railcard.co.uk)



## HISTORY OF THE RABBITS BREAKFAST

Normally at this time Rabbits young and young at heart would be looking forward to coming together at the Scots Guards Club for breakfast led by Sunray (Major Iain Dalzel Job) and Seagull (Eddie McKay) G Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. This year 2021 Covid dictates that the Breakfast cannot take place, instead Eddie McKay asked me to share to remind us what we are missing.

The origins of the Rabbits Breakfast had been lost in the mists of time but now that mist has cleared. Sgts Mess members of the other companies held lunches or dinners. Sometime in 1978 /79 CSM G Company then Bert Field arranged the first Rabbits Breakfast for his Sgts Mess members in Munster. Later Eddie McKay as new CSM G Company arranged a Rabbits Breakfast for Sgts Mess members to bid farewell to outgoing CSM Bert Field in Chelsea Barracks on 7 February 1981. The Breakfast was continued as a G Company Sgts Mess function when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion were in Cyprus.

About fifteen years ago G Company members resurrected the Breakfast and opened it to all former rabbits. It was held at the Scots Guards Club on the Saturday closest to the original 7 February date. In the first year around 16 attended but since it has grown and become more successful each year and now the club function room is packed with rabbits young, old and serving.

The eligibility for those who attend had widened. While it is still mainly members of G Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, rabbits from C Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion also attend, as do others from all Companies as long as they abide by the rules of the warren.

Most years the breakfast has been presided over by Major Iain Dalzel Job, with his former Seagull Eddie McKay who travels from London in support, All in all it's a great day and thoroughly enjoyed by rabbits of all ages.

On a historical note, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards was in Suspended Animation from March 1971 to April 1972 G Company became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Rifle Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion commanded by the then Major Anthony Leask. At that time C Company was designated Command Company which included the Signals, Recce & Int Section. Thankfully this was short lived and when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion reformed in the Spring of 1972 and G Company Rabbits returned to their home warren.

The photographs show that the Rabbits Breakfast 2020 was a great success and a reminder that it will be equally successful in the future.



**Left: A Big Scottish Breakfast and Beer for Bruce Henderson, Captain Paul Cody, John McLaren, Major Neil McLelland and Charlie McEwan (Breakfast Master of Ceremonies)**



**Right: The Rabbits have a "Group Hug" led by Seagull Eddie McKay and Sunray Major Iain Dalzel Job**



**Left: The Rabbits are all Ears Gary O'Hara, Tommy Tallen, Steven McConachie, Lee Sample, Paul Gilmartin, Ian Armstrong, Tom McMillan**



**Right: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Rabbits: Eddie Manners, Roderick Bissett, Johno Jackson, Mark Lang, Tony Carter**

## GENERAL MONTGOMERY MEETS SGT McDONALD Monty's Lesson (By Captain Lord Alastair Gordon)

This article appears in the Scots Guards Magazine 1966 and describes a meeting in the almost immediate aftermath of a famous WW2 Scots Guards battle.

The Battle of Medenine, described by Field Marshal Montgomery as the perfect one-day battle, was, as all Scots Guardsmen know, one of the best day's fighting, in terms of achievement, performed by the 2nd Battalion. I think it was about two days after the battle that General Montgomery, as he then was, visited us to see what we had done, for we were still occupying the positions in which we had knocked out fifteen German tanks. "F" Company, with my platoon of four 6 pdrs., occupied the centre position, and it was to Michael Crichton-Stuart's headquarters in an olive grove that we had to report to meet the General.

He arrived at about 10am in a Honey Tank, accompanied by a fleet of Tac HQ wireless trucks with aerials eighteen feet high. The Honey tank parked decently invisible in the olive grove, but the wireless trucks were strung out along the track on a forward slope. A tempting and inevitable target for the 88 mms. Sure enough, while Colonel Malcolm Erskine was explaining what had happened to Monty, we heard the whine of the first shell arriving. Since it sounded to be coming quite close a lot of us dropped to the ground and it exploded impeccably on range, but about fifty yards off the main target. "Hullo", piped Monty jumping onto his tank and pulling out his field-glasses (what did he expect to see?) "are they shooting at me?" "Yes" were our unspoken thoughts "and us too, and we live here". "Don't you think, sir", said Major-General Bobby Erskine, "that we had better go down there (pointing) out of sight?" "Driver, DRIVE ON", he commanded, as two more shells arrived. So we all trooped off to the dead ground where my guns were sited.



Sgt Vic Mutch MM & Sgt Joe Stephenson MM (both later members of the Carlisle Branch) after the battle.

I had been told that I was to take the General round my gun positions, and this I proceeded to do. Monty made a few nice remarks to each gun crew as they stood properly dressed in peaked caps in their gun pits, while each gun commander explained soberly what had happened. So far so good—a perfectly normal inspection—but we had yet to visit my forward gun, which was commanded by Sgt. "Tasher" McDonald. I didn't know what to expect, but it was bound to be out of the ordinary.

As we approached his position my heart sank. Sgt. McDonald was standing benevolently watching his gun crew, who were stripped to the waist and hacking away purposefully with pick and shovel, making improvements to a gun pit that needed no improving. There he stood, brasses gleaming, his great red moustache like a fire in the sunlight. Even his back view expressed the look of mischief I knew to be in his eyes.

Monty and the accompanying entourage of brass-hats, Colonels, Majors, and I arrived. Sgt. McDonald pretended to notice us for the first time and immediately thundered to attention; brought up the gun crew with a barked command, and pealed off a prodigious salute. "Well, Sergeant", asked Monty, "and what happened here during the battle?" "It was like this, sir . . .", began Sgt. McDonald. There followed a lurid and detailed description, in which there was indeed some fact buried in the welter of fancy. Suddenly he broke off with a superb gesture "Ah, it's nae good ye just standing there, sir, come doon here if ye will and I can explain better if ye'll just get behind the sights". Monty meekly complied, crouching down in the gun-layer's position, Sgt McDonald placing his hands paternally on Monty's shoulder. "Now, sir, if ye'll just traverse a wee bit to the left" (pushing him around), "There now, steady on that; ye see yon tankie on the ridge? Well, he came up ower the horizon for ae the world like a submarine coming oot the watter" (the accent was getting broader).

Everyone among the little knot of spectators was speechless as McDonald continued to instruct Monty in the niceties of knocking out every tank in sight. General Erskine turned to me and whispered, "This is terrific. I came round to see this man of your's yesterday and he told me a completely different story—but this one is even better!"

Poor Monty was getting restless. Sgt. McDonald's was twitching mirthfully as he warmed to the task of spinning out his fantasy. The gun crew stood immobile, respectful, registering nothing. But Monty had had enough. Somehow evading the hands that held him to the gun sights, he rose to his feet, dusting the sand off his knees. "Yes, yes, yes," he said, routed and retreating, "quite, quite, sergeant, I understand—thank you, thank you". Sgt. McDonald perceived he was losing his pupil, so once more the crew were snapped to attention, once more the prodigious salute.

He drew a breath and then came the climax. the punch line: **"THANK YOU VERRY MUCH FOR THE VISIT, SIR, AND DO COME AGAIN"**