

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

Neil Crockett
Secretary & Editor

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FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS

Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association Reunion Weekend – Sunday 16 June, Blackpool War Memorial

After a weekend to renew friendships, the Association paraded at Blackpool War Memorial to remember Fallen Comrades.

Pangbourne Falklands Chapel Memorial Service – Sunday 16 June

Major General Iain Mackay – Dick, Jim Gillanders, Billy Rumney, Brigadier Charles Page, Kenny McGovern, Major General Mike Scott, Trevor Elliot, Les Swaney.

MOUNT TUMBLEDOWN REMEMBERED 2019



Bill McDowall Secretary TV&FA lays wreaths to remember Sgt John Simeon, Gdsm Derek Denholm & Gdsm Archie Stirling



SGA Aberdeen & Dundee Branches come together at Laurencekirk with Mrs Theresa Davudson to remember LSgt Clark Mitchell



John Bradley pays his respects in Ayrshire to Gdsm James Reynolds DCM & Gdsm David Malcolmson



Mrs Shenia Wight, Piper John Fraser, Major Iain Dalziel, John Mitchell & Graham Thom gather at Mortonhall, Edinburgh to remember DSgt Danny Wight. Trevor Elliot joined veterans of 9 Para Sqn RE to lay a TV&FA wreath for LCpl John Pashley at Aldershot Military Cemetery.



REGIMENTAL GATHERING NEWS – SATURDAY 7 & SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

If you want to attend please apply to your local SGA Branch Secretary - But if you cannot do that please contact Neil Crockett by Email: sga@scotsguards.co.uk or Tel: 01383 – 721530 for details.

It is now time to think about the Gathering which takes place on 7th & 8th September 2019.

Saturday 7 September

Late Morning – The Regimental Band & 1st Battalion Scots Guards Pipes & Drums will play at Kirkcaldy Town Square.

Evening - The Band Concert will be in Dunfermline Abbey which will be ticketed but free. A collection will be taken at the end and all monies collected will go to Dunfermline Abbey Funds & The Scots Guards Charity.

There are lots of car parks in Dunfermline, the closest is a 2 minutes walk to the Abbey.

A cold buffet supper will be held afterwards at The King Malcolm Hotel, Dunfermline about 10 minutes by car from the Abbey. Entry to this will be by pre booked ticket and the cost of supper this year will be £10.00 per person. **Numbers are limited to the capacity of the hotel.**

Sunday 8 September

The Gathering will be held at Fife Airport, Glenrothes.

Entry into the Gathering will be by ticket which will cost £2.00. Each adult will require a ticket and it is asked that that tickets are purchased through Branches prior to arrival at Fife Airport. Children under 14 will be free.

Programmes will be available on the day.

Car Parking is no problem for either cars or coaches. I will produce passes for all vehicles including those disabled.

NOTE: For security and control you need tickets to get into Gathering events, Please order them early. Cheques should be made payable to the “Scots Guards Association”.



CONGRATULATIONS

The Following received awards on (or in conjunction with) the Queen's Birthday Honours List

Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG)

Captain (Retd) Alex Younger, Head of MI6

MBE

Major JH Dunn

Meritorious Service Medal

WO1 (Pipe Major) Ross McCrindle

WO1 Craig Lindsay

CFA Commendation

WO2 Lloyd

CSgt Ryder

GOC Commendation

Lieutenant Charles Russell – Pavier

LSgt Austin

LCpl Hollows

LCpl 'Donnell

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Aberdeen

Members of the Branch attended The Big Curry Lunch in aid of Armed Forces Day on Friday 28 June at Aberdeen Town House.

Find out when the Branch holds its regular monthly meetings Secretary: Graeme Thompson Email: gthompson246@btinternet.com or Tel: 01224 317738.

Berks, Bucks & Oxford

The Branch will hold a picnic at the Guards Polo Club on Sunday 14 July starting at 1330hrs. There will be polo matches taking place as part of the Inter Regimental Polo Competition.

The Branch Dinner will take place on Saturday 28 September 2019 at Datchet Golf Club.

Contact Secretary Rab Ritchie for full information of Branch events. Email: rab.ritchie@icloud.com Tel: 07776 411120.

Durham & Yorkshire

The Branch held a Spring Golf Competition on 10 May at Woodham Golf Club, Winner was Colin Richardson, 2nd Graham McDonald & 3rd Adrian Latcham. Plans are afoot for an Autumn Handicap with the date to be confirmed in late September or early October.

A monthly Branch meeting is held, normally at the Working Men's Club, Newton Aycliffe. Regular Sunday Lunches are held at venues across the region. The Annual Dinner takes place on Friday 27 September at Woodham Golf Club,

For more details on all events call Secretary Peter Wheadon Email: wheadonp3014@aol.co.uk Tel: 01325 319125

Fife

The Branch will hold its Annual Bowls Competition & Grand Draw at Markinch BC on Sunday 18 August (Note change of date).

For more information Secretary: Neil Crockett Email: neil.crockett@btopenworld.com Tel: 01383 – 721530

Sick Parade

I have been informed that David Niven former Secretary of SGA Central Branch is in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Glasgow. He is to have a leg amputated. It is expected that he will move quite soon after the operation to Forth Valley Hospital, Larbert which is closer to his home. Further information will be circulated to Branch Secretaries near by and hopefully SGA members will be able to visit him.

Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association Reunion Weekend 14 – 17 June 2019, Blackpool

By Mark McKay

Another year past, time has flown by - 37 years since we took Tumbledown. The migration of families for some started on Thursday to get to Blackpool for the TV&FA Gathering. We arrived from the north unpacked and raced down to the Strand Hotel. Some chatter could be heard as we crossed the threshold smiling, all of us to be greeted with many firm handshakes and a hug. Let the party begin! The late afternoon wore on, more of the troops arrived and the war stories, one liners and the general frivolity started and continued into the wee small hours.

Saturday back to the hotel for the AGM which began with a minute's silence for the fallen. Minutes passed, accounts read and approved. A small Buffet afterwards and downstairs for light refreshments.

At 1930hrs we returned for the Saturday night function where a mini pipe band and a small brass section from 103 Battery Royal Artillery (V) were present to keep us entertained. What a great job they did - Drum Salute, Highland Cathedral, Game of Thrones are just a few that I can remember. Once again we had an auction and a great raffle - well done to everybody that contributed, you always come up with the goods. The party once again continued and most departed by 0230hrs.

Sunday was at the Cenotaph for 1200hrs. This year will really be remembered as the year we were donated a plaque carved in black granite and 24 ct gold to "Our Fallen" which we now have permission to erect at the Cenotaph. A special thanks to Willie Carr (Horacio) for all his hard work. At 1230hrs, Major Mark Cape and Major Colin Coull arrived and a very nice poignant service took place. Afterwards we were fallen out and gathered for a wee drink.

On Sunday evening we came together at the Strand and proceeded to organise a karaoke. What a great night!

The weather had turned on us and we reverted to the wet weather plan to pay our respects to our brothers in arms. We formed a family huddle in the Hotel. Bess Urban had special candle holders made for each of our brothers. "The Craggs" was read and then silence, the names called out, a candle lighted to burn brightly for each them. Not many dry eyes remained – Friends gone but never forgotten.

To everyone who was at the weekend, to the committee, you all played your part well done. Thank you all, we'll see you in 2020, in 363 days time.

DEATHS

Australia Branch

Gdsm John (Murray) Clarkson Died 11 June 2019, Served 2SG & 1SG in 60s inc Malaysia / Borneo. Transferred to Australian Army (SAS) & completed 2 tours in Vietnam.

Fife Branch

23229350 LCpl Alex Gilchrist Died 24 June 2019. Served 1SG Late 1950s as a Tradesman Pioneer at Windsor. Funeral Kirkcaldy Crematorium Thursday 4 July at 1100hrs.

Durham & Yorkshire Branch

24021386 LCpl Peter Harrison Died 25 June 2019. Served 2SG to 1970's. Funeral St Claire's Church, Newton Aycliffe 9 July at 1130hrs.

Non Association Member

23576779 Gdsm Iain (Sam) Sinclair Died 19 June 2019. Served 2SG & 1SG Early 60's to early 70's including Malaysia, Sharjah. Resided Crieff, Perthshire.

James Keddle. Died 29 June 2019. Served 1945 – 1960 (approx) 1SG P&Ds including Trieste. Lived Fort Francis, Canada.

Mrs Pat Davidson

It is with great sadness to report Pat Davidson wife of Major Munro Davidson passed away on 3 June 2019. Pat supported Munro over many years and especially when he was Secretary of the Scots Guards Association.

Munro Davidson would like to thank the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel Brigadier Harry Nickerson, Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor and Lady MacGregor, and all members of the Scots Guards Association who came and paid their respects at the funeral service in a celebration of Pat's life.

A Regimental Connection - Italy

Franco Zefferelli died Saturday 15 June 2019 aged 96. A world renown film director. During World War 2 he fought with the Partisans against the Germans. Late met up with the 1st Battalion and worked closely with the Int Section as an interpreter. He became a friend of the late Jim Riddell (Fife Branch). They remained friends until Jim passed away.

BITS & PIECES

Op Banner 50

The Royal British Legion will host a commemorative event on Wednesday 14 August 2019 to mark the 50th Anniversary of UK Armed Forces deployment on operations in Northern Ireland – the longest continuous campaign in British military history. The event will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Note: Op Banner 50 is a closed accredited event, not open to the general public. Check www.britishlegion.org.uk for eligibility and full details.

Remembrance Sunday 10 November 2019

Information from Major Tom Ormiston Secretary London Branch

He is starting to pull in details of those who want to attend Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph in November. Email me with your full name, DOB, address, place of birth, rest number, and any campaign medals held. I have been allocated 25 places. Priority will, as always, go to those who have marched with us over the years and any tickets left will go into a ballot. The Legion have told me that priority is to be given to veterans first then to widows of the fallen.

Email: t.ormiston@ntlworld.com

Tel: 01480 460727

HAWICK COMMON RIDING - ANOTHER KIND OF PUBLIC DUTY

Eck Barclay Secretary SGA Borders Branch & Hawick Halberdier

A Halberd is a weapon with an axe-head and steel spike on a long pole, traditionally used in the 15th & 16th centuries to combat fighters on horseback. A Halberdier being the man who carried the Halberd. Over the centuries Halberdiers have had changing roles, they were anything from Bellmen to drummers, lamplighters, Burgh Officers or just officers. Eck Barclay is listed amongst Hawick's longest serving men in the role from 2009 until present.

The Burgh Officer was a traditional employee of the town, responsible for delivering official messages, announcing deaths and other events, as well as assisting the Sheriff Officer maintaining law & order. There has 'aye been' two of them, each assigned to a specific bailie.

The post of Halberdier (Burgh Officer) remained an official one until the local government reorganisation in 1996. The post is now an Honorary one.

The Hawick Common-Riding is the first of the Border Common Ridings and celebrates both the capture of an English Flag in 1514 by the youth of Hawick at a place called Hornshole and the ancient custom of riding the marches or boundaries of the common land.

The Cornet for the year is elected at the beginning of May, well in advance of the Common Riding proper in early June. The Provost's Council, on the recommendation of the two previous Cornets (called the Right and Left-Hand Men) invites a young man to act as Cornet. The Halberdier, accompanied by the Drum and Fife Band, carries an official letter of invitation to the nominated Cornet. Invitation accepted, the Officer is rewarded with a new "shilling" and asked to carry the Cornet's letter of acceptance back to the waiting Council. Afterwards the Cornet with his two predecessors walk round the older parts of the town before attending a congratulatory Smoker. From then until the festival is over the Cornet is an honoured figure in Hawick.



Fellow Halberdier & Eck Barclay ready for duty

The blue & gold ribbon on the heads of the Halberd are traditional and symbolic of the days when as a sign of affection the ladies bedecked their loved ones before they set off to battle.



Fife Branch Golf Competition (Chairman's Trophy) Prize & Guest Winners- 28 June: Scratch Winner Jimmy Banks. Runner Up Major Ron Clemison, Handicap Winner Vince Parrott, Runner Up Lt Col David Price. Also George Cameron & Paddy Welsh (Dundee & Angus).



The Berks, Bucks & Oxfordshire Branch hosted a SG Veterans Competition which included guests from Datchet Golf Club. Rab Ritchie, Willie McIntosh, Jim McLaughlin, Ned Kelly & Harry Slessor



Preston Armed Forces Day – City Parade Marshall Micky Nutter - Pin Up Boy to advertise the parade in the Lancashire Post.



Edinburgh AFD – 1 family 3 Generations of Scots Guardsmen. Rod (Digger) McAlpine, son Craig McAlpine & grandson Gdsm McAlpine (serving with RF 1SG). Top row: Freddie Collins, Alan Tweedie, Tom Kerr & Jim Pratt.



Edinburgh AFD – Standard Bearers Rowand Fraser (Edinburgh), Kenny Lawson (carrying SGA Standard).



Pipe Major Reid instructs Scots Guards Army Cadets @ Kirkcudbright Camp



Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor (SGA Chairman), Lady MacGregor & Sammy Kirkpatrick meet Right Flank on training at Kirkcudbright Camp.



Enjoying Founders Day Parade at Chelsea Hospital
Trevor Elliot, Phil Hatton, Eric Hatton, Graham Fowler, Tristram Carter (Light Cavalry HAC – On Duty), Mrs Stephen, Ron Stephen. Father, George Hatton is a Chelsea Pensioner.

RETURN TO NORMANDY FOR D DAY 75 - 14698579 TED DAVIDSON, 3rd (TANK) Bn SCOTS GUARDS



Ted Davidson Veteran of 3rd (Tank) Battalion Scots Guards was able to visit Normandy for the 75th Anniversary Commemorations. Photograph 1 shows Ted Davidson (Right) aboard the ferry with a fellow 3SG man (name n/k). Photograph 2 Ted awaiting to lay Scots Guards Wreath alongside another Normandy veteran. Below: Jason Bray kindly supplied the wreath to Ted who lives in Birmingham and is a member of SGA Manchester.



NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

The month of June started with ceremonial duties with F Company providing Number 5 Guards on the Queen's Birthday Parade. The Regimental Band was also took part on a very good parade with all comments being most complimentary.

After a month of sport in May the 1st Battalion's focus during June turned to weapon and field training to hone their infantry skills.

Before the Bn Rugby team left Fiji they enjoyed a 24Km White Raft ride down the Upper Navua Gorge.

CSgt Ramsay & Sgt Callaghan deployed to Tanzania and Kenya providing a Household Division presence to the High Commission Dar es Salam.

Sgt Bennet of the Pipes & Drums read a extract which was shown on TV as part of the event to commemorate D Day 75. Members of C Company were also in Normandy to take part and support the same event.

During the month Major Stuart Rowe handed over as Quartermaster 1st Battalion Scots Guards to Major Darren Westlake Grenadier Guards.

Two members of the Bn Sniper Platoon found themselves competing at Sniper Fest 2019 in Lithuania against 80 teams from all around the world. They achieved some very creditable results: 17th as a pair. The top ranked British team. One of them finished 7th out of 160 individuals. **Very Well Done.**

The Mortar Platoon deployed to Otterburn Training Area for their annual Cadre. This included Exercise Heavy Carry which involved individuals carrying 50kg over 5 miles to set up a mortar line.

Left Flank have practised their theory & practical navigational skills. The Company will be training in Scotland based at Garelochhead from 27 June until 6 July.

Before deploying to Kirkcubright Training Camp for 10 days, Right Flank went back to basics to practise Camouflage & Concealment and patrol skills. At Kirkcubright they practised Fighting in Woods and Forests (FIWAF) which will be used when they deploy to Louisiana USA later in the year.

While at Kirkcubright Right Flank hosted 4 & 5 Platoon Scots Guards Army Cadet Force at a training day. The SGA also had an opportunity to attend. After 10 days training Right flank moved to Army Foundation College, Harrogate where alongside the Regt Support Team & Pipes & Drums they gave the junior soldiers an insight to the infantry & Scots Guards.

The Anti Tank Platoon have been at Otterburn to requalify on Javelin A/T system. This included conducting contact drills and getting to grips with the New Generation Light A/T Weapon (NLAW).

During this period the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major visited the Guards Training Company, Catterick to inspect and congratulate the latest platoon of Guards Recruits to Pass Out.

June has ended on a ceremonial high with F Company making the journey north to Edinburgh to provide a Large Guard of Honour at the Palace of Holyrood for HM The Queen's visit. On Saturday 29 June the Company provided Streetliners along the route Escort to the Scottish Crown in procession from Edinburgh Castle to the Scottish Parliament. On both of these parades F Company was supplemented by men from Right Flank and the Pipes & Drums of the 1st Battalion. F Company will provide the Guard at the Palace of Holyrood & Edinburgh Castle on alternate days until the 5 July.