

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 PHOTOGRAPH

50 years on from Saturday 13 June 1970 Queen's Birthday Parade when the Colour of 2nd Battalion Scots Guards was trooped. The photograph shows RSM Ernie Marchant, Sgt Willie Fullerton, LCpl Peter Abernethy, LCpl Barry McKay. The Adjutant of the Parade was the then Captain AG Ross.

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire

Alan Hayter In Pensioner, Chelsea Hospital tested positive as having Covid 19, he was isolated in his room then moved into the Infirmary although not showing any symptoms. Alan has since been released from the Infirmary and is now settling back to Egyptian PT in his own room.

Fred Jones has been in hospital in Taunton, Somerset. He should now be home and being looked after by his wife Vivienne. Fred enlisted in 1947 just in time to serve with 2SG in Malaya.

We send them both our good wishes.

Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway

After 9 years Major Peter Johnston has retired as President of the Branch, we thank him for his service and the previous 26 years as Branch Chairman. Over the years the Branch was invited to numerous functions at his home including a Gathering. Thank you Major Johnston.

The SGA Secretary well remembers the Fife Branch coach getting bogged down at his home and the saga of having it towed out by a tractor to firm ground.

We welcome Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor as the new President of the Carlisle, Dumfries and Galloway Branch.

Scots Guards Association Pipes & Drums Scotland

Pipe Major Iain Lowther is hoping to put together a video montage of single pipers playing for the 38th anniversary of the Battle of Tumbledown. This has now attracted interest from the Army Media and Digital Teams would like to use or montage video front and centre of their Falklands War item. They are also looking at pushing out to the main broadcasters.

There is a cut off date of Thursday 11th June 2020 for the finished montage with Kevin Wylie compiling the video.

If any pipers would like to be involved or needs more information contact Iain immediately at email: iain-lowther68@outlook.com

CANCELLATION OF EVENTS

Due to the ongoing lockdown and uncertainty decisions have been made that the following events can't go ahead this year.

SGA Highlands & Islands Dinner – Inverness

Normally arranged for mid September the branch committee has taken an early decision to cancel the dinner in the capital of the Highlands for this year. The venue the branch has used over recent years has closed down and current circumstances make it difficult to recce possible alternatives.

Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association – Blackpool

Having taken advice from a number of agencies including the local council, the association committee have cancelled this year's reunion weekend in Blackpool. This includes a commemoration at the War Memorial when a plaque to remember the Scots Guards Falkland's war dead was to be unveiled.

This event will now take place over the weekend Friday 11 June – Monday 14 June 2021.

Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion Reunion – Oswestry

Always well supported by Scots Guardsmen this year's event is cancelled.

It will come back again in 2021 over the weekend 3 – 4 September at Oswestry.



VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY 75 – FRIDAY 8 MAY 2020

Despite the VE Day 75 commemorations being cancelled the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel wrote to our World War 2 veterans on behalf of us all to thank them for their service and contribution to victory. The letter went to all those who were serving in the Regiment on VE Day 8th May 1945 whether on active service, in support or in training.

Our World War 2 veterans are:

Third Guards Club:

Colonel Adrian Seymour

The Earl or Airlie

The Earl of Elgin

Major Ruairaidh Hilleary

Lieutenant JAH (Sandy) Gow

Lieutenant Andrew Wemyss

SGA London and SGA Dundee & Angus

SGA Fife.

SGA Highlands & Islands

SGA Ayrshire

SGA Fife

WOs & Sgt's Past and Present Association:

IP Alan Hayter

Dave Assenti

SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox and SGA Surrey

Guards Parachute Association

Eric Robertson

James Christie

Gordon Webster

John Graves

Roy Bishop.

Lachlan McBean

John Murdoch

Ted Davidson

Des Collett

SGA Glasgow

SGA Dundee & Angus

SGA Dundee & Angus

SGA Berks, Bucks & Ox

SGA Surrey

SGA Manchester

SGA Glasgow

SGA Preston

Honorary Member Grenadier Guards Assoc (Oxfordshire)



Captain Ben Wallace MP, Secretary of State for Defence & President of SGA Preston Branch lays a wreath at the Guards Memorial on VE Day 75. He said “Although we cannot celebrate that precious connection with our veterans on the scale we had planned, we should all pause and reflect on their inspirational achievement. As Churchill said ‘God bless you all, this is your victory’

Despite lockdown members of the Regimental family were able to take part in small local commemorations across the UK.



Glasgow World War 2 Veterans Eric Robertson & John Murdoch each received a Crystal Whisky glass and a nip from their Branch to toast and commemorate VE Day. 75 years ago Eric ended the war in Germany with 2nd Bn, John was on guard with the Trg Bn when Victory in Europe was announced



Commemorations across the UK:

Left: Preston Branch Standard Bearer Steve Hills pays his respects at his front door.

Centre: Fife Branch member Kenny Lawson carries the Main SGA Standard at Leven War Memorial

Right: Dunfermline RBLS Pipes & Drums member Rab McIntyre gathered with 3 piper's at a social distance at the local WW2 War Memorial to play The Battle's O'r & the newly composed VE75.

THE REGIMENT & THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE

Since the HM The Queen ascended to the Throne 68 years ago in 1952 the Regiment has provided the Escort to the Colour on 13 occasions.

In normal times on the second Saturday in June a few of us would be watch the Birthday Parade from the stands at Horse Guards Parade. The majority of us would be sitting to attention on the sofa in the comfort of our own homes watching the TV with pride and with a well honed eye.

Listed below are the occasions when the Regiment has provided the Escort since 1952 along with a few points of QBP miscellany.

1947

HM The Queen then Princess Elizabeth first took part mounted as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards the first Birthday Parade after World War 2. Those on parade wore Battle Dress except the Massed Bands in Service Dress & those mounted who were in Blues.

1948 2nd Bn Scots Guards. RSM Donald Fraser - Cancelled due to rain.

The Bn was stationed at Chelsea Barracks, the Battalion was to provide the Escort, No2 & No3 Gds on the King's Birthday Parade. It was the first time after the war that home service clothing was to be worn. On the morning of parade there was heavy rain, HSC was in short supply and had to be protected. Shortly after it was cancelled the sun came out and it was dry for the remainder of the day. It was too late the Guards & Bands had been dismissed and could not be recalled. Not long after the Bn sailed to Malaya when a state of emergency was declared.

1952 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. Ensign 2Lt HCD Laing RSM Donald Fraser

After over 2 years in Malaya the Bn returned to UK and once more it was their turn to Troop their Colour. It was the first Birthday Parade of the new Queen Elizabeth II reign. She wore the Star of the Regiment presented to her by 3rd Guards Club. On her express command the Pipers moved to the front of the Massed Bands to play when the Escort and Number 2 Guards marched past in quick time and this custom continues to this day. For RSM Donald Fraser it was a second chance to be the RSM on the Parade

1955 1st Battalion Scots Guards. RSM Robert Thompson DCM – Cancelled due to a national rail strike.

HM The Queen has taken the salute every year of her reign except 1955.

1958 1st Battalion Scots Guards. Ensign 2Lt LR Gibb RSM Joe Hughes

Despite heavy rain the Birthday Parade took place. No sooner had the Adjutant of the Parade got back into RHQ when the press phoned and asked him how much tunics cost and how many had been ruined by the rain.

1959

Prior to World War 2 the QBP would take place on any day except Sunday. After WW2 the Parade was held on Thursdays until 1959 when it changed permanently to a Saturday.

1960

The SLR was carried for the first time. The size of the guards was reduced by 6 men to allow more space between men when in two ranks when carrying the SLR at the shoulder arms.

1961 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. Ensign 2Lt DH Saunders RSM Fred Adams

It was the first time the Parade was transmitted to USSR.

1963

At the end of the period of National Service and due to overseas commitments, for the first and only time the Mall was lined by Recruits from the Guards Depot.

1969 1st Battalion Scots Guards. Ensign 2Lt AJPM Ramsay RSM Frank Smith

HM The Queen rode Burmese on the Birthday Parade for the first of 18 successive Parades. In 1969 Gdsm Crockett and Gdsm Walker (later Major and RSM 1SG) were the centre men of the rear rank of the Escort.

1970 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. Ensign Lt AJ Bacchus RSM Ernie Marchant

The Battalion Trooped its Colour before being placed into Suspended Animation. See front page photograph.

1972

The QBP took place shortly after the death of HRH The Duke of Windsor (formerly King Edward VIII). There was an act of Remembrance after HM The Queen arrived on Parade. A roll of drums, a minute's silence, a roll of drums followed by the pipers playing a lament, thereafter the parade continued as normal. 1SG provided 6 & 7 Guards and 2SG Company based in Edinburgh provided 8 Guard.

1977 1st Battalion Scots Guards. Ensign 2nd Lt The Hon TA Fitzherbert RSM John Knight

The 25th (Silver Jubilee) Anniversary of HM The Queen's reign. LSgt Crockett and LSgt Spence (Later Major and RSM 2SG & 1SG) were centre men of the front rank of the Escort.

1979 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. Ensign 2Lt RA Scott RSM Jim Bunton

1981

As the Royal procession approached the junction of The Mall and the Approach Road, a young man produced a pistol and fired shots at HM The Queen. LCpl Alec Galloway, Left Flank, 2nd Battalion was street lining at that location. The crowd pushed the man forward, with great presence of mind LCpl Galloway grabbed him by the hair and pulled him into The Mall. Having handed him over to the police Alec resumed his position. The gun was later found to be a starting pistol and the shots were blanks.

1982

The QBP was on 11 June, For only the 2nd time a minute's silence was included during which the thoughts of those on parade and the crowds were for all members of the Armed Forces and Merchant Navy in the South Atlantic. 3 days later the 2nd Bn assaulted Mount Tumbledown.

1986 1st Battalion Scots Guards. Ensign 2nd Lt JD Prior RSM Graham Fowler
This was the last year HM The Queen was mounted, afterwards her trusted horse Burmese was retired.

1987 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. Ensign WHC Swinton RSM Ronnie Clemison
This was the first time The Queen used a carriage and watched the parade from a dais.

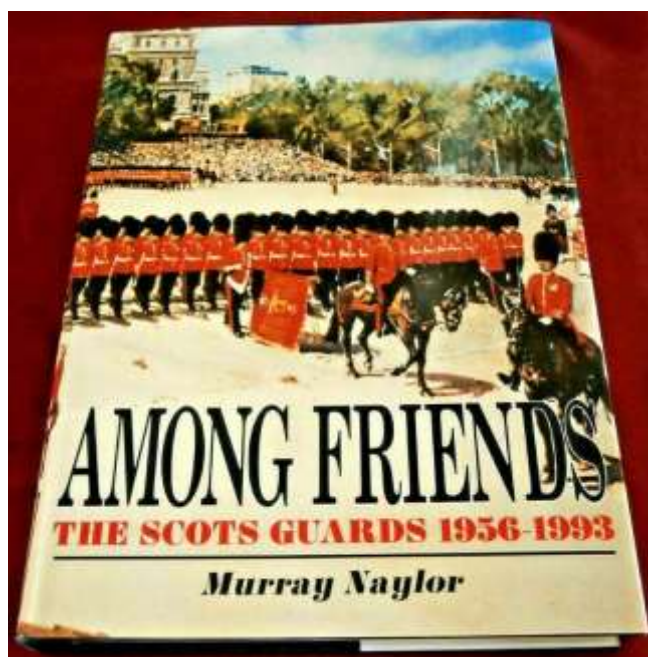
1988
SA80 was carried for the first time.

1995 1st Battalion Scots Guards. Ensign 2Lt IJV Lindsay – Germain RSM Alan Crawford

1997 F Company (2nd Battalion Colour). Ensign Lt CJ Bell RSM Ian Gwynne (1SG)

2002 1st Battalion Scots Guards. Ensign 2Lt TM Parsons RSM Stuart Crosby

2011 1st Battalion Scots Guards, Ensign 2Lt TAW Ogilvy RSM Ali MacKenzie
The parade took place not long after the Bn returned from Afghanistan.



Left: The book cover shows a painting commissioned by officers of the 1st Bn. Painted by famous military artist Terence Cuneo with his signature mouse slightly behind the Ensign. The painting is of the Escort from 1977. The Regimental history 1956 - 1993 written by Major General DM Naylor and the title "Amongst Friends" is forever true.

Right: 1986 RSM Graham Fowler hands the Colour to 2nd Lt JD Prior



HM The Queen rode Burmese on 18 Successive Queen's Birthday Parade's



Left: RSM D Fraser & DSgt's A Ward & J Rioch outside the Sgt's Mess Chelsea Barracks before the Birthday Parade in 1952
Right: 50 years later the Escort Marches Past HM The Queen in 2002.



Left: 1979 Sgt D McCrae, Sgt B Pitcaithly, 2Lt RA Scott, Sgt M Allum March Past in Quick Time to the rear of the Escort.
Right: 2011 2Lt TAW Ogilvy & RSM Ali MacKenzie

DEATHS

Association Members

Glasgow

22551226 George Jenkinson. Died 10 May. Age 83 Served 2SG, 1SG 1953 – 1960's, including Egypt. Lived Greenock.

Not Members of the Association

23229252 LSgt William Bryson Died 3 April. Served from late 1950s inc 2SG Kenya, RF 1SG 1964 – 71. Lived Spain.

Archie Harris Died 25 April. Aged 82 Lived Kelty Fife.

24213110 WO2 Alan (Lofty) Baker Died 15 May. Aged 68 Served Early 70's – 93, mostly 1SG Sigs Pltn. Lived Glasgow.

CSgt Tam Lindsay Died 18 May. Age 88. Served early 50's to late 1970's Both Bn's & Gds Depot. Lived Irvine.

21065672 LSgt Douglas Smith Died 27 May. Served 1951 – 1955 1SG Cyprus, Egypt, London. Lived Cambridgeshire.

MILITARY PENSIONS INFORMATION

From Captain Graham Fowler, SSAFA Caseworker - Please read this notice, it is worth it.

May I remind those members who have reached 60 this year or are about to reach 60 that if you are not in receipt of a 22 year pension you may be entitled to a pension for your service.

It is possible that you have earned a preserved pension payable at age 60. The Armed Forces Pension Scheme 75 pension benefits are based on rank and length of service. All personnel serving between 6 April 1975 and 6 April 2005 will have served under the AFPS 75 scheme.

Prior to 06 April 1975 there was no provision for a preservation of pension benefits and service personnel who left the Armed Forces had to complete 16 years from aged 21 (Officers) or 22 years from age 18 (Other ranks). Those who left before that date without completing the above criteria, lost all pension entitlement.

The rules changed on 6 April 1975 to provide for pensions to be preserved for payment at age 60 for all those discharged over the age of 26 with a minimum of 5 years service.

On 31 March 1978 the age criteria was dropped. On 6 April 1988, the qualifying period was reduced from 5 to 2 years. Preserved pensions have to be claimed at age 60. However, you can claim your preserved pension sooner if you become permanently incapacitated. The 2014 Armed Forces pension scheme newsletter.

As from the 1 Apr 2014 SPVA and Defence Business Service have merged and the veterans support function of DBS will be known as Veterans UK.

Veterans UK Telephone Enquiry Service Tele no. UK 0800-085-3600 and Overseas 0044-141224-3600
A fairly new thing to help ex Service personal with Problems pensions included, They will route you to the correct Business Areas

Open Monday to Friday from 7 am to PM
Forces No. and National Insurance No. needed.

E-Mail: pensionshelp@spva.mod.uk

Postal Address: Veterans UK,
Pensions Division,
Mail Point 480 Kentigern House,
65 Brown Street, Glasgow,
G2 8EX.

When writing to them ensure that you give them Number, Rank, Name, Regiment and Date of birth, this will help them to find you
On the database. **Good Luck.**

Don't forget when you are about to hit 60 you have to apply to them, they will not let you know.

CENOTAPH PARADE ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2020

Message from Tom Ormiston, Treasurer SGA London Branch

I am starting to collect names for this year's Cenotaph Parade on Sunday 8 November.

If you would like to march with us, please send me an email with the following details: Full name, DOB, Place of birth, Full address, Regt No and any medals held. Even if you have marched before, please send me these details to refresh my database. My email is: t.ormiston@ntlworld.com

Priority will be given to those who have marched before and any left over will be put into a ballot. Please note, however, that tickets will once again be very limited so please apply early to avoid disappointment.

SCOTS GUARDS GOLFERS - FRIDAY 28 - MONDAY 31 AUGUST 2020

Veteran golfers are coming together for a weekend of 4 rounds of golf at Peebles MacDonald Cardrona Golf Resort organised by Harry Slessor & Alan Fotheringham. If you are interested in taking part please touch base with Neil Crockett by email sga@scotsguards.org for Alan or Harry's contact details.

WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER ~~~ WATCH OUT FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS ~~~ WATCH OUT FOR YOURSELF

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

This month the 1st Battalion has been able to get on with practising their basic skills all keeping the required distance.

Pipes & Drums

After a tough few months manning mobile testing stations the Pipes & Drums grabbed the chance to practise their shooting skills ahead of a live firing exercise.

Anti Tank Platoon

A selection course has been taking place with those successful joining the Anti Tank Platoon.

Signals Platoon

Members of the platoon have been practising the art of erecting radio antennas.

REME Light Aid Detachment

Members of the Battalion have been integrated in to the LAD, this will help them understand the workings of the detachment.

Motor Transport

Drivers cross the Bn have been taking the opportunity to practise on a wide range of vehicles including the Battalion coach.

UPDATE REPORT FROM THE SERVING ELEMENTS OF THE REGIMENT

The Regimental Adjutant published the report below on 1 May and many of you will have seen it. Quite a number of you may not have been able to read it & it's worth sharing again.

Report by Major James Kelly:

It has been well over a month since the Coronavirus Lockdown and I thought it would be interesting for those of you who have retired from Regular service, or who are family members of those who once served, to understand a little of what the serving elements of the Scots Guards have been doing during this crisis;

First Battalion Scots Guards: The Battalion has been very busy in support of the Government's response to COVID-19. With over half of the Battalion held at readiness for the entirety of Easter Leave, elements of both Left Flank and Right Flank have been, and remain deployed across the South of England. A platoon from Left Flank was sent to support St Mary's Hospital on the Isle of Wight for two weeks in order to increase the critical care capacity. The platoon worked tirelessly in all weather conditions and left the island ensuring the hospital was in a better position to deal with the worst case scenario. Over the last 10 days, the focus has shifted to testing. Teams have deployed to sites in Kent, Hampshire and Oxfordshire. The Regimental family can be incredibly proud of the hard work and selfless commitment of the Guardsmen who are supporting the Government's response to the pandemic.

F Company Scots Guards: During the Global pandemic of COVID-19, F Company has continued to play its role within London Central Garrison (LCG). They have continued to provide both ceremonial duties and a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) at all of the Royal Palaces in the London area - Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, The Tower of London and Windsor Castle. The duration of each Guard has changed, with each lasting 7 days rather than the usual 24/48hr rotations that we are used too. Whilst the ceremonial Changing the Guard has been replaced by administrative mounts. Members of F Company are still manning their sentry posts as normal. This helps to reinforce the old adage that 'The Guards are on the line – all is well!'. However, to facilitate the government's guide lines on social distancing, every effort has been made to spread the Guardsmen out in all guard rooms when resting – even requiring some to return to Wellington Barracks to sleep when not on QRF or sentry. This is to ensure that all possible safety precautions are taken to protect the Guardsmen from COVID-19. F Company, along with the other Public Duties Incremental Companies (PDICs) have also maintained the 850 year-old Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London, albeit with the rigid standards of social distancing enacted for the nightly ritual. Although manning each guard for 7 days is clearly a significant extension to the norm, and takes a greater toll on the Guardsmen, the men of F Company have taken to the task well. The three PDICs are now working on a three week rotation of guards; Queens Guard, Windsor Guard and a rest week. During the rest week or if one is not on guard, they are then dispersed to their homes so as to avoid the chance of spreading COVID-19 through the Company and Wellington Barracks. When on dispersal, regular contact is maintained by the Platoons, making sure that everyone is healthy, as well as physical training and military training are still being administered. Training has been pushed down to Section level using the power of technology: video conference calls and online lessons. A piquet is also being manned by F Company at Horse Guards guardroom, two teams consisting of one Lance Sergeant and two Guardsmen, this is to support the manning at Headquarters London District (LONDIST). Finally, the Company is maintaining their normal commitment to Op TEMPERER, their support to the Civil Authorities, and have the potential to aid Op RESCRIPT, support to the Government's response to the Coronavirus crisis, when called upon.

The Regimental Band: All band members are being held at R5 (5 days' notice to move) for any requirement needed for Op RESCRIPT. They have had a number of personnel stood up who are, or have, taken part in the following duties: The Director of Music, Major Mark Aldridge, was stood-up and deployed to 160 Brigade in March. After training as a Military Liaison Officer in Brecon, he was embedded with the Welsh Government's Emergency Co-ordination Centre in Cardiff working with the Military Advisory Teams and Planners as part of the Tri-Service Covid Reaction Force. The Bandmaster, WO2 Barrett, has since taken over this role to allow the Director of Music to perform in the forthcoming Victory in Europe 75th Anniversary (VE75) Celebrations. Two other members of the Band have been stood-up to assist with Operations Room at Wellington Bks and at Horse Guards. An element of the Band have also been heavily involved in a pre-recording for the VE75 celebrations by the BBC. This has involved a Big Band and a small Marching Band from the Household Division which will be broadcast on May 8th. Some members of the Band were also involved with a short pre-recorded segment for ANZAC day, filmed by the Army Media Team outside the Guards' Chapel and placed on social media. In addition, The Band have also supplied buglers for: **Scots Guards Memorial Sunday:** L/Sgt Rich Pemberton sounded the last post at the Guards Memorial. **ANZAC Day:** C/Sgt Ray Plant sounded the last post at Hyde Park corner for ANZAC day. **The Queen's Birthday:** Sgt Rob Parry played Happy Birthday to HM The Queen on Horse Guards and a video recording was presented to Her Majesty on her birthday. All of the above were pre-recorded in line with current Covid 19 social distancing guidelines.

Recruiting: Although the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and the Infantry Training Depot at Catterick are currently closed, training and recruiting has still been continuing in truncated form. The middle and senior terms at Sandhurst are doing at home on line training as are the recruit platoons at Catterick who had already formed up. Their range training and exercises in the field will resume later. The process of recruiting potential officers and potential recruits continues and they will form a back log to start training once the training centres re-open. In addition, a number of Guardsmen who have recently left the Army have come back to the Regiment as re-joins.

Finally, a further reminder that the Third Guards Club, the Scots Guards Association and indeed numerous branches of Regimental Associations from other Household Division regiments, cover every corner of the United Kingdom. If anyone is in need of assistance, help with shopping or acquiring medicines or simply needing a friendly chat or home visit from a distance, Regimental Headquarters is able to organise a great number of types of help should they be requested.

Please keep fit, safe and well,



KEEP A SOCIAL DISTANCE

STOP PRESS

REQUEST FOR HELP - RESEARCH ON X COMPANY, SCOTS GUARDS WORLD WAR 2.

Max Fahler from Belgium is carrying out research for a book that he is writing about X Company in World War 2. X Company was originally part of the 4th Battalion Scots Guards. When that Battalion was disbanded X Company was the only one that remained intact and fought as part of the infantry element of the Guards Armoured Division with 3rd Bn Irish Guards & later 1st Bn Welsh Guards. In the final days of the war X Company was disbanded and the men incorporated into 2nd Bn Scots Guards.

Max is particularly interested in stories, anecdotes, photographs etc of men who served in X Company. If anyone could help or knows of those men's family Max would be greatly appreciate it. In the first instance please contact Neil Crockett email: sga@scotsguards.org