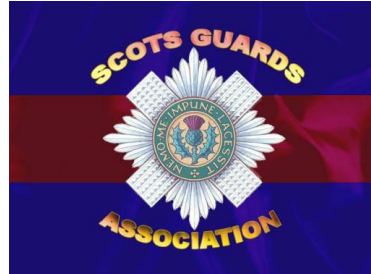


# SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



**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**

**March 2023  
Volume 24  
Issue 2**

**Email: [sga@scotsguards.org](mailto:sga@scotsguards.org)**

**Tel: 01383 – 721530**

### **Front Page Photographs:**

**While preparing for their flight to deploy on Exercise Akari Storm in Kenya, Lt Col TPY Radcliffe Commanding Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Scots Guards & newly appointed Regimental Sergeant Major, WO1 NS Heron had their photographs taken for the Newsletter.**

**Best wishes to WO1 Lee Paxton as his time as RSM 1SG came to an end and he returns to civilian life. The SGA certainly looks forward to seeing him as he returns to Fife.**

### **NEWS FROM 1<sup>st</sup> BATTALION SCOTS GUARDS**

The Battalion enjoyed a well-earned Christmas and New Year break and started 2023 ready to continue its work at the forefront of the nation's military efforts. In fact, four of our number were likely less well refreshed than the rest of us. The Atlantic Guardsmen team, after thirty-nine days of two hours on two hours off successfully crossed the Atlantic. There is still time to donate, visit [www.AtlanticGuardsmen.com](http://www.AtlanticGuardsmen.com) to help contribute to mental health charities.

With the turn of the New Year the Battalion is set to grasp a multitude of opportunities. C Company have deployed to the Falklands on Op FIRIC and have been getting to grips with their role out there. They are getting put through their paces on some of the world class live ranges out on the islands.

B Company are still in Estonia as part of the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence. They have recently been visited by the Secretary of State for Defence and the Chief of the General Staff. They were proud to show off their first of a kind dedicated anti-tank role which they have developed through training as well as lessons learned from Ukraine. They return to the UK soon as a fully-fledged and awesome cutting-edge capability

Another capability that is being developed with earnest is our Sniper Platoon. With a sniper concentration being conducted this is an area in which we are investing a huge amount of time and resources. It will no doubt play dividends later in the year in Oman when we exercise as a Battalion.

The remainder of the Battalion are preparing to fly out to Kenya, and indeed the advance party has already departed. The Scots Guards are providing the enemy forces for the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Coldstream Guards. We hope to provide a robust and challenging opposition for our Household Division brothers as well as enjoying the other opportunities that Kenya has to offer such as Adventure Training.

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

#### **Afghanistan**

31 March 2011 CSgt Allan Cameron 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. Died as a result of wounds received on 13 April 2010. CSgt Cameron received serious injuries when he was struck by an IED while on foot patrol north of Lashkar Gah.



**CSgt Allan Cameron**

## **REGIMENTAL WEEKEND LONDON 14 – 16 APRIL 2023**

### **Bullet Points**

#### **Fri 14 April Evening – 1830hrs**

- **WOs & Sgts Past & Present Association AGM. Sgts Mess, Wellington Barracks.**

#### **Sat 15 April - 1030hrs**

- **SGA AGM, Wellington Barracks 1030hrs. Information issued to SGA Branch Secretaries.**

#### **Sat 15 April - 1400hrs**

- **A memorial service to remember the life and service of the late Lieutenant Colonel (QM) Ian Beck MBE will take place in the Guards' Chapel.**

#### **Sun 16 April - 1100hrs**

- **Regimental Remembrance Sunday – Guards Chapel.**
- **Scots Guardsmen past and serving of all ranks are welcome & encouraged to attend**

Regimental Remembrance Sunday will follow its normal form. All Scots Guardsmen past & serving are very welcome to attend. OOD: Suit / Blazer, Bde Tie, Large medals. No head dress.

SGA Wreath Layers are: Gds Chapel Jim Simmonds Chairman / Secretary Berks, Bucks & Oxon, Guards Memorial Danny Minto Secretary Edinburgh & The Lothians Branch. Both are required for a rehearsal – Meet RQMS Jimmy Scott in the Guards Chapel at 1030hrs.

Access to Barracks: Must be via the main Guardroom at Petty France from 0930hrs onwards. Please carry ID: Example MOD 90 / SGA Membership

There is limited Car Parking in Barracks entrance via Petty France and follow instructions from Guardroom & SG parking guides. You are asked not to arrive by car if possible.

Before the service there will be coffee available in the Guards Museum.  
The service in the Gds Chapel will begin at 1100hrs.

After the service the parade will form up on the Barrack Square in 6s on instruction from RQMS Scott. The Regimental Lieutenant Colonel will command the parade to the Guards Memorial where there will be a short service/ wreath laying, marching back to Barracks, a salute will be taken just before re-entering Barracks. The parade will be dismissed.

There will be refreshments in the Other Ranks Dining Room and for those who want lunch it will be available on payment on the 'Pay to Dine System'.

Afterwards the Warrant Officers & Sgts Mess will be open.

**All Scots Guardsmen past or serving are very welcome to attend.**

## **ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **Aberdeen & North East Scotland Branch**

The Branch held its AGM on 2 February 2023

The Branch Office Bearers are:

President: Captain The Honourable JA Fraser

Chairman: Brian Harrison

Secretary & Treasurer: Graeme Thompson

To get in touch with Graeme email: [gthompson246@btinternet.com](mailto:gthompson246@btinternet.com) Tel: 01224 317738

### **Ayrshire Branch**

The next Branch Meeting will be held at Ex – Services Club, Wednesday 8 March 1930hrs

The Branch will hold a Burns Supper on Friday 24 March at 1830 – 1900hrs @ Prestwick Masonic Club – Tickets £20 ea.

Branch Secretary is Jimmy Fraser Email: [jamesfraser279@gmail.com](mailto:jamesfraser279@gmail.com) Tel: 07765 490477.

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

The Branch held it's AGM and the Office Bearers are:

President: Major The Honourable GCW Grimston

Chairman; Jim Simmonds  
& Secretary

Treasurer: Ron Booth

Friday 24th March 2023 Branch Monthly Meeting 1900hrs for 1930hrs ~ Datchet Golf Club.

### **Borders Branch**

The Branch give notice of their 61st Anniversary Dinner which will take place at Hawick Rugby Club on Saturday 11 March 2023. Scots Guardsmen in the Borders and beyond are invited to attend.

For details contact Branch Secretary Eck Barclay email: [eck01uk@yahoo.com](mailto:eck01uk@yahoo.com) Tel: 07802 4422878

### **Durham & Yorkshire Branch**

Scots Guards Association - Durham & Yorkshire Branch AGM. Date: Wednesday 8 March @ 1930hrs.

Venue: Newton Aycliffe Working Mens Club

President: Captain John Craib QM (T) 1SG hopes to welcome members old & new to the Branch.

WO2 Mark Wall who is the Welfare WO of 1SG in Catterick has taken over as our Branch Secretary and we welcome him with his connection to the serving Regiment.

Email: [Mark.Wall442@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Wall442@mod.gov.uk)

### **Glasgow Branch**

Secretary: Colin Downie Tel: 07956 526283 Email: [cdownie1@icloud.com](mailto:cdownie1@icloud.com)

### **Highlands & Islands Branch**

Branch Meeting, Monday 6 March @ Inverness Legion Club 1900 for 1930hrs

Branch AGM, Monday 3 April @ Inverness Legion Club 1900 for 1930hrs.

Contact Secretary Harry Oborn Email: [hobc862@gmail.com](mailto:hobc862@gmail.com) Tel: 01463 717002



### **Edinburgh & The Lothians Branch**

The Branch will hold its Annual Dinner at the Scots Guards Club on Friday 21 April 2023.

For more details about the dinner and other events contact Branch Secretary Danny Minto [e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk)  
Tel: 07758 193362.

### **Fife Branch**

The Branch AGM is arranged for Sunday 12 March 2023 at the CISWO, Glenrothes @ 1300hrs.

Contact Secretary: Neil Crockett Email: [neil.crockett@btopenworld.com](mailto:neil.crockett@btopenworld.com)

Tel: 01383 721530

### **DEATHS**

#### **ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**

##### **Aberdeen & North East Scotland Branch**

22120869 Tom McIntosh. Died 3 February 2023. Age 92. Served the Life Guards.

##### **Dundee & Angus Branch**

23819012 LSgt Bob Laing. Died 6 February 2023. Age 83. Served 1SG, 1962 – 1978 inc Malaya & Borneo. Lived Dundee.  
Funeral 1030hrs 2 March @ Dundee Crematorium.

##### **Glasgow Branch**

2701917 Gdsm Eric Robertson. Died 8 February 2023. Served 2SG Holland & Germany WW2.  
Funeral at Linn Crematorium, Glasgow on Friday 3 March at 1.45pm.

Eric was a member of the Glasgow Branch & one of the few remaining Scots Guardsmen who served in WW2, he had no immediate family and therefore it's passed to his Scots Guards family to give a fitting send off.

##### **Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association**

24141203 LSgt Ian Miller. Died 31 January 2023. Age 75. Served 2SG 1969 to 1982 inc Falkland Islands & Warminster to 1995. Funeral will take place on 1145hrs Friday 17th March at West Wiltshire Crematorium in Semington, BA14 6HL

#### **NON ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**

Captain DA Cuthill. Died 9 February 2023. Aged 81. Served 2SG, Superintending Clerk RHQ 1977 – 80, Lived West London. Funeral on Friday 3 March 2023 at 1230 hours at: Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 7SJ.

22215128 Gdsm George Folly Served 2SG Malaya and London early 1950s. Lived Sussex.

LSgt Ralph Dawson. Died 9 January 2023. Served 1SG, Hong Kong, Pirbright, Hohne. Lived Jedburgh.

Walter Hodge. Died 16 January 2023. Served 2SG & 1SG inc Malaya / Borneo 1964 – 67. Brother of John & Bill Hodge.

LSgt Peter McDonald. Died 8 February 2023. Served 1SG Corps of Drums & Guard Depot 1978 - mid 1980s.



Eric Robertson served in North West Europe with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards he was awarded the French Legion d'honneur.

**Rabbits Out In Force ~ For Breakfast**  
**Scots Guards Club ~ Saturday 25 January 2023**



Rabbits On Parade



Left: Major Iain Dalzel Job (OC Rabbits), Ted Middlemass, Paddy Welsh

Right: Rabbits Committee: Charlie McKeown, Tony Carter, Bruce Henderson, Alf Clempson. Tommy 'Tankie' Tallen carries G Company Colour.



Left: Colin (CJ) Duff, John McLaren, John Mitchell, Major Mark Cape, Rab Carney, Mark McKay.

Right: C Company Rabbits~ Ronnie Cook, Davie Milligan, Neil Crockett, Jimmy Baines.



## 1st Battalion Welsh Guards in the Falklands - The Galahad Disaster

On 28 February Crispin Black's book "TOO THIN FOR A SHROUD" will be published by Gibson Square. It will be available in bookshops, through Amazon, on Kindle and elsewhere. I have read an advance copy and strongly draw your attention to what Crispin writes. He was a platoon commander on Galahad when the bombing took place on 8 June 1982, continued in the Army subsequently and retired as a lieutenant colonel.

In the first place, this is the story of that day and its personal aftermath which he tells as he and six other junior officers experienced it and as they have remembered over the years. There are also expressions of opinion about their impressions of their Battalion's tour of duty in the Falklands.

In the second place, he has carried out research in detail on the events which led to Galahad being where it was that day, when and for how long, quite apart from the presence of half of the Battalion on board. This has been made possible by the recent release of hitherto closed documents at The National Archives. What he has set out is significant. While not central to his experiences, he does also draw attention to the transporting of 2SG on Intrepid, the subsequent journey by assault boats to Bluff Cove and the very narrow margin by which HMS Cardiff did not open fire on those boats, of whose presence the crew of HMS Cardiff were wholly unaware.

In the third place, he has carried out research in detail on the subsequent official investigations into the disaster and the report which resulted. This too has been made possible by the recent release of hitherto closed material at The National Archives. Again, what he has set out is significant.

As will be seen, Crispin Black has found that in looking at these official documents at the National Archives there are some annexes to them still closed and only due to be released in 41 years' time.

16 February 2023

Randall Nicol

## Scots Guardsmen Out & About



**Left:** Former Scots Guardsman Martin Hill now Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, led the Guard of Honour and the Bearer Party at the funeral of Firefighter Barry Martin who tragically died in the Jenners fire incident. Edinburgh Garrison Sergeant Major Tony Gibson was on hand to support the funeral preparations.



**Centre:** In Pensioner Colin Paterson contemplates a new job!



**Right:** At the start of February Colin Coull was on holiday in New Zealand. Via Facebook he made plans to meet some former members of the Regiment living there. Colin reported: Some of you may remember Darren Morrison, he was the only Scots Guardsmen I was able to meet in NZ. The circumstances of the tour schedule and the NZ government's advice not to travel due the weather situation made it difficult to meet others.

## Piper Davie Ross



Left: Pictured here aged 20-, now 84-year-old Piper David Ross on his wedding in 1958 in Holy Trinity, Elgin. His wife Agnes' bridesmaid was her sister Hettie, and Dave's best man was Piper Jim Christie, who lives in Ballater.



Right: Dave lives in Lossiemouth with his son and carer, also Dave, and they made the 86-mile round trip to Inverness to attend our reunion dinner and burn's supper on 27<sup>th</sup> March, he's pictured here chatting to SGA Highlands & Islands President, Alasdair Hilleary.



Dave is a member of the Highlands & Islands Branch and, like Jim, also the Piper's Branch. He joined as a boy 1953, based in Lydd, Kent. A storeman there, Antony Wilson, helped Dave with his piping and he met Jim in 1956 just before they took part in the Paris tour which was the late Queen's first official there. They subsequently toured the USA and Canada, and performed at the Edinburgh tattoo, in 1958.

After Lydd they were posted to Wellington Barracks and Victoria Barracks, Windsor. Jim's other claim to fame is appearing in the opening scene of the 1960 film 'The day they robbed the Bank of England'.

Dave's father preceded him in the Scots Guards, joining in 1898. He fought in the Boer War and became a Sergeant.

Branches have recently to asked to advise of members involved in the Queen's Coronation Parade – well, being of a young age at the time, Dave and other younger guardsmen were at Windsor peeling potatoes, does that count?

On demob, Dave joined Singers as a machinist and Jim joined the Grampian Police in Aberdeen. Dave's health hasn't been great recently, but he's as proud today as he was 60+ years ago of his time on the Scots Guards. Dave is still in contact with Jim, who isn't in great health either.



## Swallae Ho ~ Reunion @ The Scots Guards Club

From 1200hrs Saturday 4 March 2023



## Cateran Yomp – Volunteers Needed 2 – 4 June 2023



## The Guards Veterans Mountaineering & Climbing Group



I have been asked to share information by the group leader who served in the Life Guards. He says “I run a guards veterans mountaineering team which promotes the mental health benefits of hiking climbing and mountaineering to the wider veteran s community. I would like to offer Scots Guards veterans the opportunity to join our team alongside the other Regiments of the Household Division veterans community. Our team is sponsored by the Household Cavalry foundation charity”.

Interested? You can find out more about the group on Facebook or check out its website <https://www.guardsmountaineering.com> or you can email: [Guardsmountaineering@gmail.com](mailto:Guardsmountaineering@gmail.com)

## SSAFA Caseworkers – Davie Ball & Rod “Digger” McAlpine



Passing Out Parade day for young Rct Rod McAlpine. Davie Ball reports: “I issued him with an initial brief of the case on Friday night. Have to say a near perfect performance (would not have expected anything less)! It turned out to be not the normal asking for a cooker, Rod coped very well and the client was very pleased with the advice that was given. I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending Rod to our boss that he is ready to go solo. Rod will be a much valued caseworker to the Edinburgh and Lothians Branch of SSAFA”.

Interested in taking on the role as a SSAFA Caseworker, go to their website [https:// www.ssafa.org.uk](https://www.ssafa.org.uk) search for volunteers on the Taskbar to get involved.

## And Finally

### Scots Guards Gathering 2023



**The Roads ~ The Trains  
~ They Lead to Fife ~**

**The Regimental Gathering will take place in Fife over the weekend 22 – 24 September 2023**

Plans are in process:

Saturday 23 Sept 1100hrs	Central Edinburgh ~ The Regimental Band will play.
Saturday 23 Sept Day / Eve	The Scots Guards Club will be open.
Saturday 23 Sept 1900hrs	The Regimental Band & Pipers will play in Concert at Dunfermline Abbey.
Saturday 23 Sept 2045hrs	A Buffet Supper in Dunfermline Legion Scotland Club.
Sunday 24 Sept 1200hrs – 1630hrs	

**Regimental Gathering @ Broomhall House, Dunfermline, Fife**

**Save the Date ~ More information soon**