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 May 2019 Volume 20 Issue 4

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FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS

Top:

SGA Preston led by Chairman Alf Clempson & Secretary Steve Hills donate £50.00 to North West Air Ambulance.

Tristram Carter (Light Cavalry, HAC) & Members of the Regt Band at the Guildhall for the Lord Mayor of London's Big Curry Lunch in aid of military charities. HRH Prince Henry of Wales was the Guest of Honour.

Bottom:

Drum Major Paul Blakelock (CG) from the Army School of Ceremonial, Catterick & Ronnie Corbett at the St James Park, War Memorial to Newcastle FC footballers killed in both World Wars. The Memorial lists 10493 Private John Findlay 1st Bn Scots Guards, KIA 18 September 1916. Son of Janet Findlay, 1068 Cathcart Road, Glasgow. Buried at Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension.

3 April – The 1st Battalion prepares to swop berets from the famous UN Blue, back to our own Regimental one on return from Op Tosca in Cyprus.

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND - LONDON 3 - 5 MAY 2019

The weekend will take place and be centred on Wellington Barracks and we look forward to a good attendance from across the Regimental family.

Fri 3 May – 1900hrs Scots Guards Warrant Officers & Sgts Past & Present Association, Annual General Meeting

London District Sgts Mess, Wellington Barracks at 1900hrs. If you are a member you are encouraged to

attend.

Sat 4 May – 1030hrs Scots Guards Association, Annual General Meeting

London District Sgts Mess, Wellington Barracks.

Sun 5 May – 1100hrs Scots Guards Regimental Remembrance Sunday

The Guards Museum will be open from 1000hrs for coffee, biscuits and use of their Toilets.

The service will take place in the Guards Chapel. A wreath will be laid by SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway Branch.

Scots Guardsmen Past & Present will form up after the service at approx 1215hrs and march to the Guards Memorial where a wreath will be laid by SGA London Branch.

After the parade is dismissed on return to Wellington Barracks complimentary drinks will be available in the Other Ranks Restaurant. Lunch will also be available on a Pay & Dine basis.

On Saturday & Sunday there will be limited parking available for those attending SGA AGM & Black Sunday on Wellington Barracks Square. Please let Headquarters Scots Guards know car details in advance.

REGIMENTAL GATHERING UPDATE

The Gathering will take place over the weekend 7 - 8 September 2019 in Fife.

Sat 7 Late Morning The Regimental Band & 1st Bn Pipes & Drums will play at Kirkcaldy Town Square.

Sat 7 Evening The Regimental Band & Pipers will play in Concert in Dunfermline Abbey. Afterward there will be a Buffet

Supper.

 $Sun\ 8\ 1200-1730 hrs\ Regimental\ Gathering-Fife\ Airport,\ Glenrothes.$

Full details will be circulated by mid June. The Band Concert, Buffet Supper & the Gathering will be ticketed events & information will include how to order tickets either via your local Association Branch or direct to Association Secretary.

The 3 main towns of Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes have a good selection of hotels & B&Bs including Premier Inn, Travelodge and Holiday Inn Express. The surrounding smaller towns and villages also provide accommodation options.

Anyone requiring information at this time email Neil Crockett sga@scotsguards.co.uk or telephone 01383 721530.

MAJOR MUNRO DAVIDSON

FAREWELL - HE's OFF TO TEE OFF

In May 2018 when Major Munro Davidson handed over as Secretary to Neil Crockett he was indisposed due to injury. Munro's much delayed farewell buffet took place at the Scots Guards Club on Saturday 13 April. SGA members from across the Branches came together to wish Munro and Pat all good wishes. SGA President, Brigadier Nickerson made the presentation of a golfing holiday for them both and a bouquet of flowers to Pat.

Enjoy the Golf - Good Luck and Best Wishes to you both from the whole Scots Guards Family.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Aberdeen

The Branch holds monthly meetings. They also go for a mid monthly meal out which is popular and a chance for a natter and a pint. On Friday 26 April the venue was The Gurkha Chef Restaurant when a good night was had by all.

For information on Branch activities contact Secretary Graeme Thompson Tel: 01224 317738 Email: gthompson246@btinternet.com

Fife

The 2nd meeting of the year will take place at the CISWO, Glenrothes on Sunday 12 May 2019 at 1330hrs.

The Branch Annual Golf Competition will take place at Thornton GC on Friday 28 June 2019. Branch golfers and guests are welcome to take part.

For More information contact Neil Crockett Tel: 01383 721530 or email: neil.crockett@btopenworld.com

Merseyside

Show Himself Properly Shaven - But Not Until May 2019

Branch Secretary Jimmy Horne has volunteered to grow a beard until May and is looking for sponsorship in aid of Alder Hey Hospital, Children's Cancer Ward, Liverpool. To pledge money call or email Jimmy Tel: 0151 520 0229 Email: james horne@btinternet.com

The good news is the beard is coming off in early May.

Preston

On 24th March the Branch Annual Charity Race Day raised £500.00 for St Catherines Hospice, Lostock Hall, Preston.

The Branch will host a Vets Fest on 9 June at Lostock Hall Conservative Club in aid of St Catherines Hospice & SGA Preston. Live music, quiz, raffle, Hotpot.

To find out more about what the Branch is up to contact Secretary Steve Hills Tel: 07971 043876 Email: shills72@yahoo.co.uk

Surrey

A number of Branch members were able to attend 1st Battalion UN Medal Parade at Mons Barracks, Aldershot.

The Branch annual dinner will take place on Friday 10 May at Clandon Regus GC near Guildford.

For details contact Secretary: David O'Connell Tel: 01485 233223 Email: dandm.oc@talktalk.net

DEATHS

Dundee & Angus

LSgt George Connor, died 5 April 2019 Served mid 60s to mid 70s 2SG & Regt Rct Team.

Not Members of the Association

23969074 LSgt John Davidson died 10 April 2019 Served mid 60s to mid 70s 2SG & F Company Att 1IG (Hong Kong).

Ppr Lawrie Gillespie died early April 2019 Served mid 50s to early 60s 1SG P&Ds.

25188947 Gdsm Martin Lile died 10 April 2019 Aged 38. Served 1SG April 2004 to 2011.

SCOTS GUARDS - PRESIDENCY OF THE HOUSEHOLD DIVISION RIDING MASTERS, DIRECTORS OF MUSIC AND QUARTERMASTERS' ASSOCIATION by CAPTAIN RONNIE PATERSON

This prestigious Dining Club has, for several years, held its annual dinner in April at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly. On such occasions, it has been the custom for Scots Guards members to meet at the bar of the Athenaeum Hotel, also in Piccadilly, to raise a glass to the memory of fallen Scots Guards Quartermasters of yesteryear. This year the dinner was attended by the Chief of Staff, London District, Colonel C A Lockhart, MBE and the Brigade Major Lieutenant Colonel G C G R Stone. Colonel Lockhart gave a very interesting talk and update on The Household Division of today.

On Friday, 5th April, the association also celebrated having been presided over by two successive Scots Guardsmen. The year 2017-18, Ronnie Wilkie was President, and he had the huge pleasure of handing over the Presidency to Ronnie Paterson for the period 2018-19. We believe that this is unique in our regimental history and the 110 years upon which the dinner has been held. Interesting to note that on its year of formation the Prime Minister was Herbert Henry Asquith, 1st Earl of Oxford and Asquith, KG, PC, KC, FRS.

'The Two Ronnies,' as they were known when serving, first met on the 23.00 hours train from Glasgow Central Station to Liverpool, on 20th June 1961. They were heading off to Oswestry to become Infantry Junior Leaders. At the end of their long train journey, they were met at Oswestry by Sergeant Frank Lawrie, Scots Guards their first Platoon Sergeant. He was to leave the regiment as Major (QM) Frank Lawrie MBE.

The photograph shows the, 'Two Ronnie's,' shaking hands on 5th April 2019, it reflected on the fact that they had been regimental brothers and the best of friends for fifty-seven years, nine months, fourteen days, nineteen hours and fifteen minutes. Another amazing statistic behind the photograph is that those in it had clocked up a combined military service of two hundred and twenty-four years and one day. Dougie Laden insisted that his extra day be counted.

The evening dinner was a spectacular success. Major-General MIE Scott was Guest of Honour. Lieutenant-Colonel the Reverend Angus Smith, former Padre to the 2ndBattalion, said Grace and proposed the toast to 'Fallen Comrades.' For the first time, Pipe Major Duffy and members of the Scots Guards Association, South, Pipe Band, entertained the diners with two excellent piping sets and in honour of the Guest of Honour, 'Crags of Tumbledown Mountain,' commemorating the successful final battle of the Falklands conflict was included in the piping.

Over the last two years, membership of the Association and attendees at the dinner have increased by 20%. This was very satisfying. Also, it was wonderful to see a large number of current serving LE Officers plus Lieutenant Colonel D Wolfendale, OC Household Division, Regimental Bands and also present Major P Norley, Major I Johnson, Major D Barringer, Captain C Bywater all current serving Directors of Music.

In summary, a wonderful evening celebrated 110 years of the Association.



Left to Right: Major Dougie Laden, Captain Graham Fowler, Captain Ronnie Paterson, Major Ron Clemison MBE, Captain Ronnie Wilkie LVO, Major Ray Walker MBE.

ALF CLEMPSON, CHAIRMAN SGA PRESTON - ARMED FORCES CHAMPION, LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

I have had the honour of being the Armed Forces Champion, representing Lancashire County Council (LCC) for just over two years now. It is a role I take extremely seriously and I hope and believe that I have developed it and as a result, a real impact is being made with regards to the Armed Forces Community.

Lancashire as a county has a high number of Veterans from all services. We also host regular and part time units as well as cadet organisations. This all contributes to a very active and large Armed Forces Community. My role is to ensure LCC forfils its pledge to uphold the Armed Forces Covenant here in Lancashire and to represent the community ensuring fair play for those who have served especially those who carry the physical or mental scars of service.

It is an extremely varied role which involves traveling around the county of Lancashire visiting military units, cadet organisations, military charities and organisations, regimental associations, veterans and all involved with the Armed Forces Community including the fourteen local authorities. I have a small champion's fund which I use to support groups and charities who in turn support veterans. The fund has made a real difference and supported local RBLs, Military Heritage groups, local groups and churches to erect military memorials, cadet organisations, regimental associations to name just a few.

Recently, I have been supporting a local Community Interest Company who support Veterans through organising social events, as well as delivering activities to promote health and well-being. It is run by an ex-Physical Training Instructor who is working closely with GP surgeries. At the moment this is a trial but I hope this can be rolled out throughout Lancashire and beyond.

LCC run an extremely successful peer mentor scheme in schools. The programme started in January 2013, since then we have had a cohort of veterans from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air force—participate in the programme and worked with 46 Secondary Schools across every District of Lancashire. The Authority aims to recruit between 10-12 veterans every year. This scheme offers training and qualifications to veterans and the outcomes for young people has been amazing. This is an outstanding scheme that makes a real difference to young people and the ex-service Mentors alike. Having travelled around some of the schools involved, the feedback is extremely positive. Many of the Mentors go on to find employment as a direct result of the scheme, with some training to teach and many being employed in education in one form or another.

Lancashire takes its commitment to veterans extremely seriously and I am delighted that as a County and working with the NHS, University of Central Lancashire and HQ North West, Lancashire County Council has been able to secure over £150K from the Covenant fund to set up a Lancashire Military Hub. We now have a manager in place and the hub helps with employment, health, housing, education and training as well as the welfare of veterans.

The role of Armed Forces and Veterans Champion in Lancashire is a busy one but I never forget my regimental background and as you can imagine the fact that I served 24 years in our fine Regiment helps me greatly. As a Regimental Association we are extremely well represented here in Lancashire with both Mick Nutter and Steve Hills taking leading roles in veteran's matters throughout the county. Indeed we are a small association that punch well above our weight with each and every active member making a contribution. As an association we have supported local charities and attended many community events. The regiment are also very supportive and regularly attend events in support of my role and that of the SGA. Indeed, I have been accused of having a "Scots Guards bodyguard" attending many local events which may infuriate other regiments. It is a great honour to be Chairman of the Scots Guards Association, Preston Branch which makes a real difference within the Armed Forces Community and leads from the front which in turn helps me in my role as the Armed Forces Champion.



Alf Clempson makes a presentation to Ed Nash of St Anne's NAAFI Café



Lancashire County Council Armed Forces Champion with the local community at 2018 World War 1 Commmemoration event at Poulton – le – Fylde. Piper is Frank McQuade.

3RD (TANK) BATTALION SCOTS GUARDS MEMORIAL IN NORMANDY APPEAL DETAILS AND UPDATE FROM CAPTAIN HEW BALFOUR

This year sees the 75th anniversary of the Battalion's first battle after landing in Normandy, when as part of 6th Guards Tank Brigade, it assaulted and captured HILL 226 near Les Loges, due south of Bayeux. The battle known as Caumont, was in effect the "blooding" of the Battalion. It incurred more casualties in this action than in any subsequent ones in the remainder of the war

The Battalion was formed by my Grandfather Colonel Bill Balfour, Lieutenant Colonel Commanding Scots Guards 1939 - 1943. My father, Peter Balfour served in it from its formation until, he was wounded in February 1945 and then again after the war, until it was disbanded.

The idea of erecting a memorial to members of the Battalion came from Colin Foster a military historian, the late Muir Findlay, the gunner of Skye Tank in 8 Troop, S Squadron, commanded by Willie Whitelaw, and 3 French people involved with local museums. A memorial to 4th (Tank) Battalion Coldstream Guards was erected on HILL 309 in 1994 on 50th anniversary of the battle. The French have suggested that there should be a matching memorial to the Scots Guards on HILL 226 to be completed.

In the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's eleven sons of 3SG officers served in the Regiment including myself and we are all enthusiastically embraced the idea of a memorial as have 25 other families whose fathers served in the Battalion. We are expecting more will emerge, especially the descendants of Non Commissioned Officers and Guardsmen who by definition are harder to locate.

It is proposed to unveil the memorial on Sunday 28 July, to which all would be welcome, subject to it being completed by then.

The style of the memorial will emulate that of the 4th (Tank) Battalion Coldstream Guards with a Roll of Honour of men killed in the battle on the rear. This will be approved by the local French Mayor and would include an Orientation Table which will explain the battle.

Fund raising is now going on and the project includes that it will allow:

- Publication of Colin Foster's 110 page book on the action.
- Engraving and erection of brass plaques in the Guards Chapel & the Scots Guards Club, to be unveiled in the autumn if possible by one or more survivors of the Battle.

If you would like to donate to these memorials to all Scots Guardsmen who served in the 3rd (Tank) Battalion 1943 – 45 please could you send a cheque made payable to **The Scots Guards Charity**. To Major Mark Cape, Regimental Welfare & Finance Officer, Scots Guards, The Castle, Edinburgh, EH1 2YT. Please put in a covering letter and reference 3SG Memorial. Or you can pay by Bank Transfer to **The Scots Guards Charity** Account Number 31658068, Sort Code 30-11-75 and reference Name/3SG.

3SG was especially renowned for the close friendships formed between its officers and soldiers, the more descendants that we can locate, the happier our fathers would be. **Please spread the word far and wide** - If you know of any member of the 3^{rd} (Tank) Battalion 1943 - 1945 including those joining after Caumont and still living, or relatives whose husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles served in the Bn please ask them to email Hew Balfour.

Email: hewbalfour@cpdsolutions.co.uk

Within the past few weeks:

Neil Crockett has been contacted by the neighbour of 14698579 Ted Davidson who served in the 3rd Battalion. Ted originates from Edinburgh, now lives in Birmingham and is a member of SGA Manchester Branch. At the start of June the neighbour is accompanying Ted (as his carer) to Normandy on the Royal British Legion 75th Commemorations by ferry to the D Day landing beaches.

In Glenrothes shopping centre Neil bumped into Stewart Ross who served in Left Flank & MT, 2nd Battalion (Chelsea & BAOR) in the mid 1960s. Stopping to natter, Stewart mentioned that he'd seen the earlier SGA Newsletter information about the 3rd (Tank) Battalion Memorial and that his uncle (his mother's brother), 2701152 Guardsman Stewart Heron who was killed during the Battle of Caumont aged 20 and remembered on the memorial at Hottot – Les - Bagues CWGC Cemetery.

WARNING ORDER - OPERATION MOTORMAN REUNION SATURDAY 18 MAY 2019

Op Motorman was a large operation carried out in Northern Ireland which began in the early hours of 31 July 1972 with the aim of retaking the "no-go areas" that had been established in Belfast & Londonderry and other large towns. 2nd Battalion Scots Guards were involved.

On Saturday 18 May 2019 the 2SG veterans of Operation Motorman are having a reunion at the Scots Guards Club. It is not a private function and all Scots Guardsmen from both Battalions including those from before and after Operation Banner era are very welcome to attend. For more information contact Charles Knott on Facebook or email: cknott2424@aol.com

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

1st Battalion

On the 3 April on return from 6 months on Op Tosca, Cyprus the 1st Battalion paraded in front of families and guests at Mons Barracks, Aldershot.

During the parade the outgoing Regimental Sergeant Major Peter Tetlow handed over to Regimental Sergeant Major Colin Kirkwood. We wish them both well.

Families & guests enjoyed the parade. Old 1SG Mortarman Jimmy McCulloch and family attended to see nephew Gdsm Robert Lang (also Mortar Pltn) receive his medal.

Afterwards the Bn proceeded on a well earned leave. After leave there are sports trips to Canada, St Lucia & Fiji to look forward to.





Ready to March on Parade.

Brigadier CJ Bell OBE Presenting Medals

Army Foundation College, Harrogate

The future is bright, the future is Blue, Red, Blue. 102 Household Division junior solders are currently undergoing training at the college.

F Company

Taking a break from Public Duties the company deployed to Salisbury Plain to carry out field training. They practiced procedures for operations in built up areas which included moving into an urban environment, storming buildings and clearing enemy.

Well Done

To 1st Bn Sniper Platoon on coming 3rd in the pairs & 2nd in the individual in £ Division Sniper Competition on Salisbury Plain.

Infantry Rugby Team.

3 Rugby players from the 1st Battalion played in the Infantry team against the RAF Regiment. Score Infantry 52 – RAF Regt 13.

2nd Lieutenant W McCreadie

Just before midnight over Easter 2Lt Will McCreadie was launched into the Irish Sea in a tandem kayak to row to Holyhead on Anglesey. That completed they picked up bikes to ride to London and finished off by running in the London Marathon. All this to raise money for the "Get Exploring Trust" to help youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds keep out of trouble and to get out doors.

Regimental Band

The Band hosted an Open day in Wellington Barracks for those interested in a career in Army Music. Those attended watched Changing the Guard and took part in Rehearsals with the Band.

The Band performed at the National Concert Band Festival in Manchester.

SCOTS GUARDS CLUB NEWS

Spring has sprung and we are looking forward to once again getting out into the back garden and enjoying the fresh air. For any regulars who fancy lending a hand with watering and very light and basic tending of plants over the summer we will be having a wee get together in the Club at 3pm Saturday 4 May to plan our attack. No pressure and no big commitment but if you fancy it then do come along.

We have had some painting work done with walls and woodwork freshened up from the front door right through to the back, along with most of the downstairs lounge. The entrance area will continue to be upgraded over the year and we are in final talks with suppliers in relation to restoring the sash and case windows to the front of the building which should transform the look of the front facade.

As many will have seen on the Facebook page, we are offering bagpipe and drumming tuition from the Club. Pipes and drums have always been a very important and proud part of the Scots Guards and we are delighted to have teamed up with former Scots Guards piper Keith Dawes to offer lessons to interested parties of any age. These can take the form of small group lessons as well as one to ones. Keith is hugely experienced and currently teaches in some primary schools in Edinburgh as well as tutoring a number of individual pupils. During his time in the Regiment he completed the demanding Pipe Major's course, was an instructor at the Army School of Piping and in his later career, he led the Lothian and Borders Police Pipe Band as Pipe Major. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Keith direct https://www.gracenotepiping.co.uk/ or drop us a message or email to the Club.

On the Regimental front we have the Motorman/Op Banner reunion on Saturday 18 May and the Big Guards Get-together on Saturday 7 September. Always great events.

The second semi final of our Knockout piping series took place on Sunday 28 April and we hope to see many of our piping enthusiasts there. The final will take place on Sunday 19 May.

Elvis will once again be in the building on Saturday 18 May when Andrew Carlin returns with his Elvis/Neil Diamond tribute night. This a hugely successful sell out event last time round so be sure to grab your tickets at £10. Pay at the bar or message us.

Thanks for supporting the Club and as ever, all the best from all the Team.

BITS & PIECES

Retiring Arthur Dykes - Poppy Factory News



On 25 April Danny Minto Factory Foreman reported that he and other workmates said farewell to Arthur Dykes who has retired from Lady Haig's Poppy Factory after 25 years. He has been the face of many Poppy Scotland photoshoots, an amazing tour guide for school trips and VIP factory visitors.

Arthur served in the 1st Battalion in Munster (1975), Chelsea Barracks (1976 – 77) and beyond. He was a neighbour of "The Crocketts" in quarters @ Empire House, Great Cambridge Road, Edmonton. Best wishes for a happy retirement to Arthur & Wilma.

John Findlay - Treasurer of the Durham & Yorkshire Branch, Volunteer - British Heart Foundation.

On joining Z (Recruit) Company at the Infantry Junior Leaders Bn in September 1966 I met John for the first time when we shared a bunk bed space. After Oswestry John joined 2SG in 1968 in Munster, after a short time he joined the Signals Platoon. John's brother Willie Findlay also joined IJLB, served in the 2nd Battalion and is a member of the Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway Branch.

In 1974 John transferred to the Royal Signals as a Radio Technician, thereafter he spent 3 years with 3 Inf Bde Signals Sqn in Northern Ireland and later served with the Signals Sqn at Army HQ, Craigiehall.

John now volunteers for the British Heart Foundation in Darlington and he is also involved with his local Royal British Legion. He wants to get the message across about the Veterans Gateway.

John says that in his day job as a volunteer with the British Heart Foundation he has for the past 6 years been doing pick ups from peoples homes for the British Heart Foundation in and around Darlington. He comes into contact with hundreds of veterans in all walks of life. To date he has handed out at least 1500 information cards to veterans. But says still today I came across 3 veterans, 1 WRAC, 1 RAF and 1 RN who did not have a clue about the Royal British Legion, the help which is available or even how to access it.

When he asks veterans the question, What does the Royal British Legion / Veterans Gateway mean you them, the usual response is either a blank stare, or "I'm not joining", or Nothing.

To get help you don't need to join. The qualifying criteria is have been paid more than 7 days military pay in their lifetime. Wives/partners/widows can also request help. You only need to remember one phone number for the Veterans Gateway.

Tel: 08088021212 and they will guide you to the military charity that suits your needs.

11 Platoon, Left Flank, 1st Battalion Scots Guards

Amongst the thousands of distinguished Scots Guardsmen who have served in the Platoon over the years here are a few who have. Pictured at Major Munro Davidson's farewell.



L-R Captain Syd Carnegie, Major Fred Hardie, Joe Sime, Jimmy Pratt, Sandy Low all members of Scots Guards Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association



SGA Aberdeen members at Gurkha Chef Restaurant

Bill Berry, Frank Farquhar, Haswell Rae, ian Ross, Graeme Thompson, Brain Calder, Mark Pirie, Mitchell Pyper Len Bain