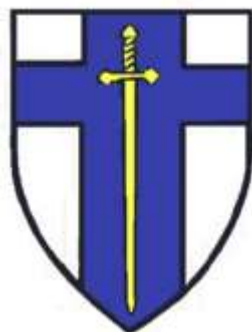


SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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STAY HOME ~~~~~ PROTECT THE NHS ~~~~~ SAVE LIVES

The words below that we know well were spoken by the late General Sir Michael Gow when he was Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion at the Presentation of New Colours by HM The Queen at the Palace of Holyrood in 1965. The General joined the Regiment as a Guardsman in August 1942 and was commissioned in 1943. He served in the 3rd (Tank) Battalion in World War 2.

**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

FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS

Throughout World War 2 individual Scots Guardsmen wore on their Battle Dress almost every formation badge in the British Army. Formation badges worn by Battalions or Independent Companies of the Regiment were few and as shown:

Top: The Guards Armoured Division

Worn at different stages of the war by, 2nd Battalion, 3rd (Tank) Battalion, 4th Battalion, X Company (when attached to 3rd Bn Irish Gds then later 1st Bn Welsh Gds.

Note that the 2nd Battalion didn't wear a formation badge until it joined Gds Armd Div in February 1945.

Middle Row L – R: 24th Guards Brigade, 1st Division (not shown), 6th South African Armoured Division, 56th (London Division). Worn at different stages by 1st Battalion. **6th Armoured Division** – Worn by S Company who also wore the red numerals II of 2nd Bn Coldstream Guards which it was attached to.

Bottom Row L - R: 15th Scottish Division, 2nd Army, 6th Gds Tank Brigade. At different times by 3rd (Tank) Battalion. **32nd Guards Brigade.** Worn by the 4th Battalion.

A MESSAGE FROM HRH THE COLONEL – 9 APRIL 2020

The following is a message from Nicholas Turnbull, the Private Secretary to His Royal Highness:-

“The Duke of Kent has asked me to convey to you and all ranks of The Scots Guards and their families, his best wishes during this extraordinarily challenging crisis. His Royal Highness is acutely aware of the burden this is placing on you and other Guardsmen. The Duke remains keen to hear your news but, more importantly, looks forward to meeting you again once the crisis has eased.”

REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 19 APRIL 2020



Regt Adjt lays a wreath at the Guards Memorial.



A Regt Poppy wreath laid in the Guards Chapel.

A message from Major James Kelly, Regimental Adjutant to all members of the Regiment serving in the First Battalion, in F Company, in the Regimental Band or who are extra-Regimentally employed, to all Third Guards Club members and Associate members, to all members of the Past and Present Association, all members of the Scots Guards Association and any other member of the Regimental family,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today should have been Regimental Remembrance Sunday or Black Sunday, when hundreds of you would have attended a service in the Guards' Chapel and then would have formed up in six ranks to march behind the Regimental Band and the Pipes and Drums of the First battalion to observe the laying of the Regimental wreath at the Guards Memorial overlooking Horse Guards. The current national lockdown has obviously prevented this from taking place.

What did take place at 11 0'clock this morning was a tiny act of Remembrance to make up for the cancelled event. The Reverend John Vincent, Senior Chaplain to the Household Division, generously lit a candle and laid a Regimental wreath at the Scots Guards altar on the right wall of the Guards' Chapel. He also kindly included the Scots Guards collect in his podcast broadcasted today in lieu of the service.

He did not come up to the Guards Memorial for fear of contravening the direction that currently no one should congregate together for an act of worship with a church minister and this was fully recognised and understood.

With the blessing of the Brigade Major, on all your behalf, as Regimental Adjutant, I was able to lay the wreath in its appropriate place alongside the other Regimental wreaths in front of the Guards Memorial at 11 0'clock precisely.

L/Sgt Richard Pemberton of the Regimental Band followed me across Horse Guards, keeping the required distance on 2 metres apart, and once the wreath had been placed down, he played the Last Post, followed by a two minutes of silence in a very quiet London, followed by Reveille. Poignantly it was his twentieth consecutive and final Regimental Remembrance Sunday as he is shortly due to leave the Regimental Band.

We then dispersed keeping our distance.

The members of Regimental Headquarters hope that you all remain fit, safe and well in these difficult times.

His Royal Highness the Colonel has graciously written a letter to all members of the Regimental Family on Black Sunday.

H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, K.G.



AS FROM - ST. JAMES'S PALACE
LONDON SW1A 1BQ

Black Sunday is a solemn day of remembrance. As your Colonel, I join you wherever you are, in pausing, reflecting, and honouring all Scots Guardsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice in past conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

The current global coronavirus crisis will inevitably have inhibited how we might have marked Black Sunday, but this will not dampen our spirit or our determination to remember our fallen brethren.

The crisis will be touching all of us in ways we cannot have imagined, but as we honour our past we also stand ready for our future and all the challenges that lie ahead, whatever they might be. As your Colonel, I take great pride in the Scots Guards and I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY 75 – FRIDAY 8 MAY 2020

Commemorations due to take place across the UK on Friday 8 May the 75th anniversary of VE Day have been postponed although the occasion will still be marked. It is hoped that the major commemorations planned will be rearranged when it is safe to do so. Below are photographs and names of our World War 2 Scots Guardsmen who are hale & hearty and continue to do us proud in 2020.



Des Collett fought with 1SG at Anzio, Italy 1944 where he was taken POW. Des is now resident in a carehome in Oxfordshire.



Ted Davidson served 3SG in Normandy to Germany



Chelsea Pensioner Alan Hayter Enlisted May 1944, ending the war in UK before joining 1SG in Trieste.



Lord Elgin was wounded serving with 3SG at Caumont



**John Murdoch
(See details below)**



Eric Robertson served with 2SG

Lieutenant JAH (Sandy) Gow, commissioned and joined 3rd (Tank) Bn just prior to disbandment. 1SG to 1947.

James Christie 1st Bn who served in Tunisia, Anzio and was wounded and evacuated from Monte Cassino.

Gordon Webster 2nd Bn, North West Europe. Served 1944 – 1947.

Dave Assenti. Enlisted October 1944, Served with 1st Bn in Trieste from late 1945 and later served with the Guards Parachute Bn.

John Graves. Served with the 3rd (Tank) Battalion in the Recce Troop.

Roy Bishop. Enlisted July 1943 age 17. Served UK including Z1 Company in North Wales. After WW2 he was Orderly to Field Marshal Sir William Slim.

Lachlan McBean Enlisted completed Gds Depot & Training Bn including Z1 Company in North Wales.

John Murdoch (as per photo above). Enlisted July 1944. After Gds Depot & Training Bn volunteered for Guards Armoured Training Wing. Qualified as a Gunner / Operator on Churchill Tanks April 1945. Returned to Training Bn and was on Guard when Victory in Europe was announced. Posted to 1SG Trieste August 1946. Demobbed January 1948. Played for Kilmarnock FC from March 1948.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Normal activities within Branches have closed down. All Branches are doing everything that they can to keep in contact with their members.

Australia

Members of the branch commemorated ANZAC day this year under lockdown. ANZAC Day marches were cancelled and instead Australians gathered at their letterboxes, front doors and living rooms. A service is held annually on the anniversary of the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1916. The timing of the dawn service is based on the time that the ANZAC forces started the landing on the Gallipoli peninsula,



Major Tom Mooney (former Sgt SG) with his wife Diane commemorate with a photograph from the past. He now serves in the Royal Australian Signals. Peter McKay stands in his driveway in candlelit commemoration & Peter Boorman on parade at his gateway.

Glasgow

The branch is hoping to rearrange their postponed annual dinner from March to later in the year.

Borders

2697120 Guardsman Fred Webb by Eck Barclay

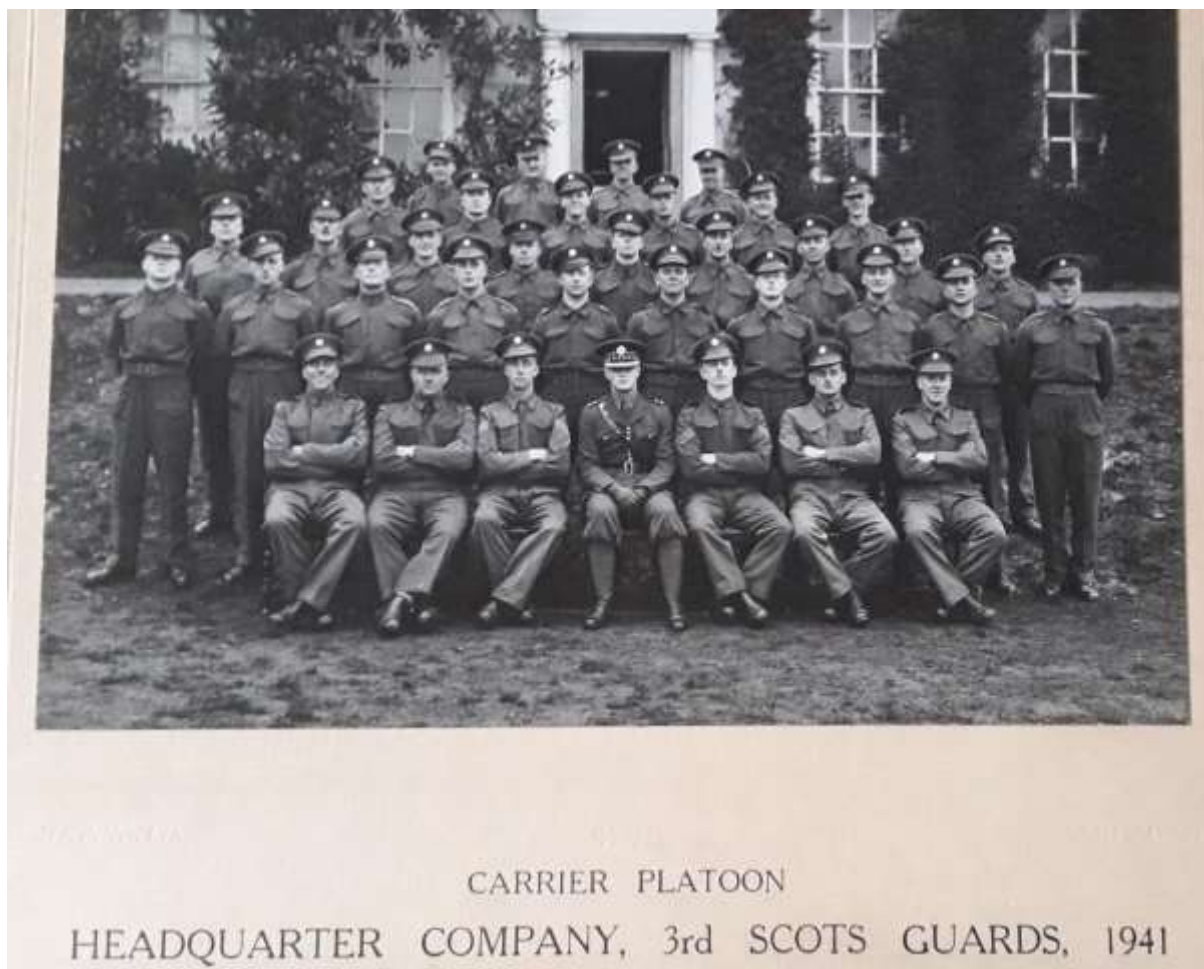
In the photo on the next page Fred Webb is 5th from the left in the second row the one with the squint cap. The photo above was sent to me by Catherine Gray the daughter of the late Fred Webb who was secretary of the Border Branch until his death on the 19th August 1996 aged 76. Fred served from the 29th December 1939 to 30th May 1946 with all of his service being with the 3rd Battalion Scots Guards. Fred was initially with Left Flank and then S Squadron and during his service was orderly to Major Charles Farrell and drove a water truck from Normandy to the Baltic where he made many friends.

On Demobilisation Fred was a butler for the Marquess of Bute and, after service with the Earl of Minto moved to Hawick and became a bus driver and drove buses for the SMT for thirty-four years. I remember as a boy Fred taking us to annual picnics and one trip that sticks in my mind was a trip to Whitley Bay which was a great day.

Fred was secretary for as long as I can remember and at Annual Dinner's I always admired the way Fred had everything running like clockwork never thinking that one day I would become Secretary. I was humbled to become Secretary in 1996 after Fred's death and I have held the post since then.

Fred was a gentleman and someone it was a pleasure to have known.

Note: Eck's late father, Gdsm Alexander Barclay joined the 1st Bn in 1945, served in Trieste and being discharged in March 1948.



Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire

The branch in lockdown conducted its AGM letter & email with a series of proposals voted on. The Office Bearers for the coming year are:

President: Major The Hon GCW Grimston,

Chairman: Mr Harry Slessor (Re – elected)

Vice Chairman: Mr Jim Simmonds (Elected)

Secretary: Mr Rab Ritchie (Re – elected)

Treasurer: Mr James Nash (Elected)

Trevor Elliot stands down from the Treasurer's post with the thanks of the branch for his diligence & service.

Ayrshire

The branch AGM has not been able to take place and a decision has been made that office bearers will remain in post until 2021.

President: Major PTA Clapton

Chairman: Mr Jim Dickie

Vice Chairman: Mr Willie Houston

Secretary: Mr Jim Fraser

Treasurer: Mr Tom Robertson

Preston

By Michael Nutter – Vice Chairman



The commemoration to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day that has had to be postponed due to Covid 19, alongside another veteran I wanted to do something that showed that the fallen will still be in our thoughts. At the same time to keep our local Cenotaph in Lostock Hall along with two other War Memorials looking worthy of the men and women who gave their lives for us. Today during my one hour of exercise, myself and Dave Moore (Ex RM) removed, tidied and re-set the wreaths from Lostock Hall Cenotaph and generally tidied it up, alongside the two other War Memorials not only as a positive way of utilising the hour outdoors but as a mark of respect to the fallen.

I confirm that we both adhered to strict guidelines that are in place. We wore PPE and social distancing was maintained at all times. Our chosen three chosen War Memorials are in an extremely close vicinity.

Could you do the same during your daily exercise

If you do decide to tidy the area of a War Memorial during your hour of exercise, working on one area is enough, please just do as much as you are able. Straighten one wreath or remove a piece of rubbish is enough and the motivation is remembering the fallen and not finishing everything in an hour, you can always go back.

Is there a local monument or area of remembrance that you could tidy in your area whilst adhering to government guidelines for Covid 19. I cannot stress this enough, if there is an area of remembrance that can be tidied and it is safe to do so, you MUST ADHERE TO GOVERNMENT COVID 19 GUIDELINES. WE WORE PPE AND MOVED AROUND THE AREA WHILST SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ALL TIMES. This is NOT a social gathering suggestion, I know you all understand that but I thought it was a good alternative suggestion for your ONE HOUR of exercise one day, that would give time to reflect and remember. We may not see each other in May but we will look at our local memorials with pride at this difficult time.

Editor Comment:

An article about Michael Nutter carrying out his swabbing task at Preston War Memorials appeared in 25 April edition of the Lancashire Post.

His uncle Jeff Nutter served in the late 1960s to 1974 in 1SG in Left Flank, Mortars and MT. Also at the Gds Depot finishing his service with 2SG at Elizabeth Barracks.

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DEATHS

Third Guards Club

Major OW Priaulx Died 13 April. Aged 93 Enlisted 1944, Commissioned May 1945, served GTB, 1SG Trieste, 2SG Malaya, BAOR, Kenya.

Major Priaulx was Best man to the parents of the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire / WOs & Sgts Past and Present Association

22215385 CSM Paul Duffie. Died 3 April. Served 2SG, 1SG, Gds Depot to 1971 include on HM The Queen's Coronation 1953, Gds Depot Superintending Sgt & CSM in Sharjah 1970. Lived Oxfordshire.

Durham & Yorkshire

23703014 LCpl Peter Wheadon Died 13 April. Served 1SG Pirbright, Malaysia & Borneo, Edinburgh 1962 – 1968. Long time Secretary of the branch. Lived Newton Aycliffe, Durham.

Merseyside

23517184 Tom McGuinness Died 6 April. Served 1SG & Gds Para Coy 1950s – 60s. Lived The Wirral.

Not Members of the Association

24036169 LCpl Sandy Christie Died 4 April. Served 1SG Edinburgh, Chelsea, Sharjah, Windsor. Approx 1967 – 1972 Lived Fife.

WO2 Jack Finnie Died early April. Aged 90. Served 2SG inc Malaya 1949, RMAS, 1SG, Kuwait Liaison Team to 1964. Lived Orkney Isles.

Ian Gardiner Died early April. Aged 83. Lived Ashford, Kent.

23517259 WO2 Bill Fleming Died 7 April. Aged 81. Served Inc 2SG Kenya 1962 – 64, 1SG 1969, 1974 – 77, CSMIM Gds Depot to 1979. Lived Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

LCpl Archie Spiers Died 28 April. Served 1SG mostly Sigs Pltn Chelsea, Aldergrove, Hong Kong, Pirbright. 1976 – 85. Lived Greenock.

GDSM WILLIAM COATES, C COMPANY, 1st BN SCOTS GUARDS, EGYPT- 1953/54

Bill now lives in Australia, he completed his National Service with 1SG in Egypt. He emailed John Rae from the Scots Guards Club in the hope of locating a copy of a photograph taken of the whole Battalion in Egypt. In turn John Rae referred Bill on to me. I wonder if anyone else who served in Egypt at that time remembers the photograph being taken. If you do remember and have a copy would you please contact Neil Crockett by telephone or email as per the front page of the newsletter. Bill lost his copy of the photograph and would be very grateful for assistance to make a replacement copy.

KENNY LAWSON 50 YEARS SINCE THE GUARDS DEPOT – 1970/71

Kenny Lawson is calling on anyone who passed through the Guards Depot as a Recruit in 1970 – 1971. Kenny is hoping that a 50 year anniversary reunion can be arranged in 2021. If this covers your service and you would be interested in attending contact Neil Crockett email: sga@scotsguards.org in the first instance

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.

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

SCOTS GUARDS IN PENSIONERS – CHELSEA HOSPITAL

Colin Paterson an old friend from Left Flank, 1st Battalion days in Chelsea & Sharjah 1969 / 70 has just enlisted into the ranks of the In Pensioners of Chelsea Hospital. All of the In Pensioners they are in lockdown and they are social distancing. They do however have the wonderful grounds of Chelsea Hospital with a lot of space for daily exercise all in the heart of central London.



Left: IP Colin Paterson & IP Alan Hayter (see VE75 Photo.) Both are members of Berks, Bucks and Ox branch where Colin is the branch Padre & Alan is a Vice President. Alan is a member of the WOs & Sgts Past & Present Association, also the London and Surrey branches.

Right: Colin and IP Paul Heggie (2SG) chat at a social distance. Note: In Pensioners can change from uniform to civilian clothes after lunchtime.

VETERANS IDENTITY CARD

The Veterans' recognition scheme has a 2 phase rollout. Phase 1 is complete, with Service leavers receiving a recognition card as part of the discharge process. Phase 2 is to extend the scheme to existing veterans so that they can more quickly, easily and securely prove they served in the UK Armed Forces so they can access the services they need. Veterans UK had hoped to have this in place by the end of 2019, but due to the requirement to future-proof the scheme so that veterans can access a wider range of benefits, the need to safeguard against fraudulent use means, this process will take longer. Information on how to apply will be released closer to the launch date.



For more information check: <http://gov.uk/government/news/new-veterans-id-card> This will take you to an update as at 27 April.

BITS & PIECES

During the month I heard from or about many friends. Just to mention a few:

Jimmy McGowan – Known to many as a Regimental character, Jimmy phoned me. The last time I met him was about 25 year's ago. Jimmy's doing well and living the quiet life on the Isle of Bute. Jimmy's uncle Jack Finnie who passed away (as reported) this month.

Ian (Dan) Newton – Former Mortars 1SG, Hong Kong, Pirbright, Hohne. We met him and family in the passing at a social distance on our daily exercise in Dunfermline.

Ronnie Deakin – Well done for his hard work driving all over the UK to make important deliveries to businesses across the land.

Brian (Muscles) Braun – I received an email from Brian checking how we were doing in lockdown. He was our Best Man when I married Mrs C. Brian was seriously wounded serving with Right Flank, 1st Bn in Belfast 1971. After service in the Regiment Brian transferred to the Military Police and later served in Sussex Police both in uniform and as a civilian. A proud Aberdonian from Dyce, Brian's main pastime is fishing, would you believe for the English Police often against the Scottish Police. Brian lives in Sussex.

Peter Sullivan – Peter & his wife are keeping in phone contact with my sister – they live in the same road in Birkenhead.

Rab McIntyre – A quick catch up at a social distance as he drove into our road while making deliveries of prescriptions for the chemist he works for in Dunfermline.

John Monkhouse – I spoke to John by phone. Living in NW Lancashire, enlisted in September 1945, Joined 2SG, served as a PTI at the Guards Depot & Guards Training Battalion. Took part on the Queen's Birthday Parade of 1952 the first of HM The Queen's reign when she wore the uniform of the Scots Guards for the first time when the 2nd Battalion Trooped their Colour.

Graham Fowler / Willie Coffield – Complying with local restrictions it is expected that Graham & Willie will attend William (Bisley Bill) Fleming's funeral in Chichester on Tuesday 5 May where Graham will give the Eulogy.

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

Guards Company, Infantry Training Centre, Catterick.

Well done to 17 and 21 Platoon who passed out on 8 April from recruit training with 21 new Scot Guardsmen arriving in the Battalion after leave.

Recruiting – Rejoiners

The Battalion continue their drive to encourage men to rejoin the Regiment and is a leader across the Army in this endeavour..

Covid 19 Support

In early April the Bn provided men to assist St Mary's Hospital, Newport, Isle of Wight reconfigure the hospital to create space for 200 more beds.

Guardsmen from the Bn are manning locations to provide testing for Covid 19.

Regimental Band

Musicians from all Household Division Bands took part in a parade at a social distance on the steps of the Guards Chapel as part of the Commemorations to remember ANZAC Day.

F Company

The company continues to provide London & Windsor Castle duties in their turn. Administrative Guard Mounts are still taking place, that is without music or ceremony as per wet weather.

STAY HOME ~~~~~ PROTECT THE NHS ~~~~~ SAVE LIVES

