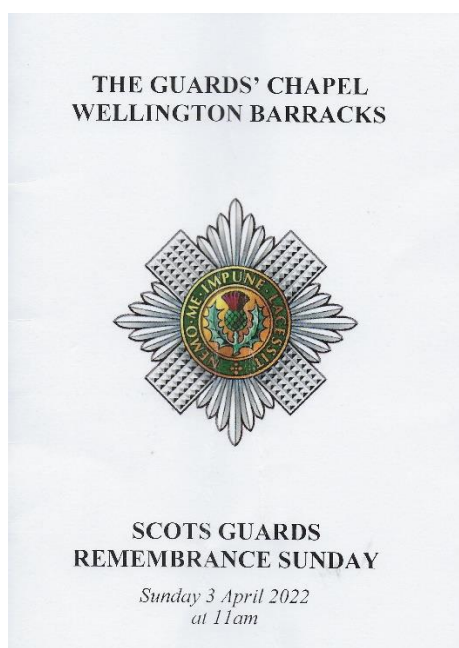


SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



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Front Page Photographs: Regimental Remembrance Sunday 2022

After a pause for 2 years Black Sunday returned with a very successful “BANG” on a bright if chilly Spring day in London.

150 members of the 1st Battalion travelled down from Catterick to take part including the Pipes & Drums. The dismounting Queen's Guard from F Company immediately formed up as part of the parade to march up Birdcage Walk led by the Regimental Band. Left onto Horse Guards Road, halt and the parade turned left to face the Guards Memorial. The march back to Barracks and the salute taken by the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel.

Regimental Wreaths were laid in the Guards Chapel by Ian Lorimer SGA Corby Eastern & Central England Branch. Ian served in 2SG on Operation Motorman 50 years ago in 1972.

Willie Urban of the Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association laid the wreath at the Guards Memorial in the 40th Anniversary year of the Falklands War in 1982.

After the parade was dismissed there was lunch and drinks in the Other Ranks Dining Room with a chance to meet up with friends. Finally into the Sergeants Mess with a good mix of Scots Guardsmen past & serving.

**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

Regimental Remembrance Sunday was part of a weekend which included the Warrant Officers & Sergeants Past & Present Association Annual General Meeting & The Scots Guards Association Annual General Meeting.

Scots Guards Association – Annual General Meeting

Regimental Gathering 23 – 24 September 2023 Announced

Amongst lots of positive news that was discussed at the SGA AGM it was announced that the next Regimental Gathering will take place at Broomhall Estate home of former Fife Branch President Lord Elgin just south of the Rosyth to Kincardine Bridge Road on Sunday 24 September 2023. There will also be Regimental Band events on Saturday 23 September.

Very early days in the Gathering planning process, but one big plus for those travelling is the good transport routes from north, south, east & west. A good array of accommodation is available as well.

It was reported at the SGA AGM

REGIMENTAL WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

MA Cape Major (retired)

Regimental Welfare and Finance Officer

Introduction. It has been 3 years since I last stood here before you and delivered a Welfare Report, and now 5 years since I assumed the appointment of Regimental Welfare and Finance Officer. Since then, my position has evolved, mainly due to the changes with the Charity status and Governance guidelines that develop constantly.

My Role. There are 3 parts to my role and not 2 as the title of Welfare and Finance Officer suggests, the below percentages represent the time allocation spent on each subject:

- **40% - The Scots Guards Charity.**
- **30% - Welfare.**
- **30% - Finance.**

Dealing with Welfare. I would like you to remind to you all, specifically the SGA welfare officers that when a welfare case is brought to the attention of your Branch and is beyond a listening approach then you are encouraged the individual concerned to approach SSAFA, TRBL or Poppy Scotland for assistance. They have fully trained and qualified voluntary case workers who are best placed to provide the subject knowledge required. They are also in touch with other organisations such as debt councillors, the DSS, the CAB etc who may also be able to assist.

Once the case has been investigated and a genuine need is recognised a detailed file will be produced and forwarded to me highlighting pertinent points of the case for the Regiments consideration. This allows me as required to invite the larger military charities to assist such as: The ABF Soldiers Charity, Poppy Scotland, TRBL. Between us all the needs, where possible, are normally met. Using this tried and trusted procedure we then know that each case is being handled within the current governance guidelines. In the vast majority of cases the outcome is positive, and assistance is given. Those that are found not to have a genuine need (“wants” not “needs”) are rejected.

Mindfulness. Everyone is stressed. Everyone has pressures. And it is hard to slow down in this fast-paced world. Put very simply, Mindfulness helps you to focus on the present, rather than focussing on the past. It is not about trying to clear your mind but allowing thoughts and emotions to come and go. It enables you to have mind and body in the same place, at the same time, which helps you become calm and see what is happening around you with greater clarity. A specialised skill in mental awareness, attention, and acceptance, and associated with many health benefits, Mindfulness can help with self-regulation and difficulty managing emotions and can help to improve concentration.

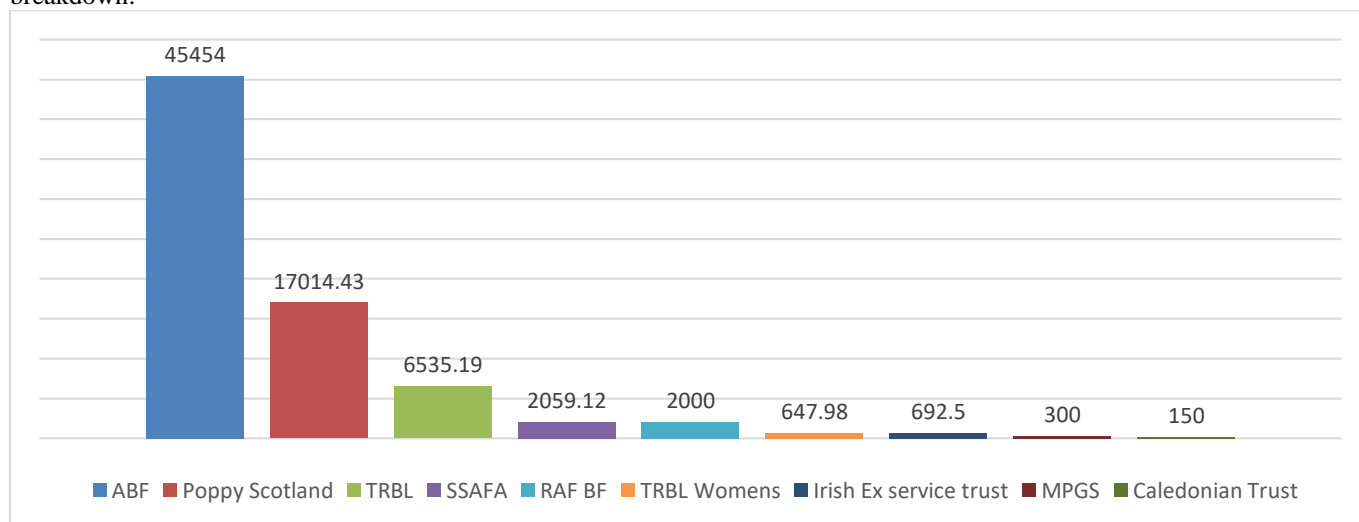
Mindfulness is a specialised skill in mental awareness, attention, and acceptance that is associated with numerous health benefits. Mindfulness training allows practitioners to develop a deeper understanding of the mind, and a more accepting and compassionate relationship to their internal and external experiences.

Follow this link to the [Scots Guards Charity](#) website for those that wish to investigate Mindfulness further half way down the page just below the video with LSgt Ritchie you will find the following:

- NHS 5 Questions to develop your mind plan
- 7-week mindfulness course

Key Welfare facts from this reporting period

This year the Scots Guards has provided benevolence to 72 Scots Guardsmen and their families totalling £110,979.91 this is a slight decline from the previous year where we provided benevolence to 78 veterans and their families. The charity has given grants to the sum of £36,126.79 and sought assistance from 9 other charities who generously gave £74,832.22 in grants. See below for charity breakdown:



The tables below list the breakdown of grants by time served and the geographical area that they were received:

Table 1. Breakdown of categories by time in service and shows the swing towards the younger generation receiving support, this year no grants have been awarded to anyone who served pre-1945:

Table 2. The geographical breakdown shows that most grants given, remain north of the border:

Category	Time served	Grants
1	Pre 1945	0
2	1946 - 1970	4
3	1971 - 1995	36
4	1996 - 2022	27
5	Still Serving	5
Total:		72

Geographical Area	Cases
Scotland	37
England	30
Other	5
Total:	72

Summary. The number of cases that we have received over the last 3 years are all slightly down on pre covid numbers. There was an expectation that there would be a spike of cases as we returned to normal jogging post the pandemic, this has not yet been seen. I'm sure that you may have noticed that not all of your members have returned to normal routine and understandably remain wary, therefore it is incumbent on us all to play our part in looking out for each other by continuing the excellent work that the Scots Guards Association do on a daily basis, and I thank you for your continued support.

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING MAY IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

2nd Battalion Scots Guards Malaya Emergency 1948 – 1951

19 May 1950 2704864 LSgt Harvey Lea, Age 21

2nd Battalion Scots Guards Northern Ireland

5 May 1990 24586352 LSgt Graham Stewart, Age 25 Killed South Armagh.



LSgt Graham Stewart

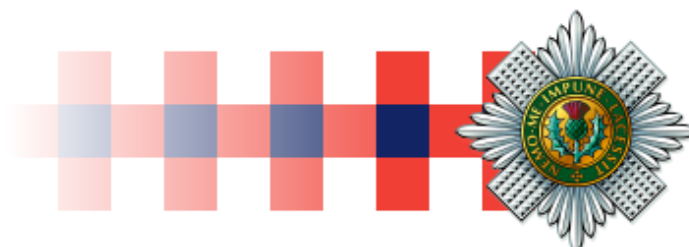
Remembering LSgt Graham Stewart – Saturday 7 May 2022 @ Wellshill Cemetery, Perth, PH1 2BU

Friends will come together for the weekend including a short ceremony at Graham's grave which commences at 1230hrs.

Wreaths will be laid and a memorial bench will be unveiled near Graham's grave. Afterwards there will be a lunch at Station Hotel, Perth @1500hrs. Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Gascoigne will attend.

Anyone wanting more information should contact Neil Smith ASAP.

Email: neil.smith@willmott-dixon.co.uk



ASSOCIATION NEWS

Dundee & Angus Branch

The Branch AGM was held on 23 April. Gordon Peebles handed over as Chairman after 5 years in post with the thanks of the Branch for his work on their behalf.

The Office Bearers are now:

President: The Earl of Dalhousie

Chairman: Kenny Duffy

Secretary &

Treasurer: Iain Bryson Tel: 07447 700536 Email: iainpiper@hotmail.com

Corby, Central and Eastern Branch

The Branch having an informal night out on Saturday 7 May at The Old Joint Stack Pub & Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Birmingham.

The Branch will hold its Annual Dinner on Friday 21 October. Location and other details to be announced.

Want more details, contact Secretary Scott Morton Tel: 07786 067878

Email: piper.scott.morton@btinternet.com

Edinburgh & The Lothians Branch

The Branch Annual Dinner is at the Scots Guards Club on Saturday 30 April 2022.

What else is happening? Contact Secretary Danny Minto Tel: 07758 193362 Email: e.lsga@yahoo.co.uk

Manchester Branch

At the Branch AGM Secretary John Roache handed over with the very best wishes of all members.

Current Office Bearers:

President: Brigadier Kim Ross

Chairman &
Acting Secretary: Ian Watson

Treasurer: Lachlan McBean

Contact Ian Watson Email: watson9194@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thu 2 June	Queen's Birthday Parade. 1 st Bn Irish Guards.
2 – 5 June	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend.
Sat 4 June	Drums Company 2 nd Battalion Scots Guards Reunion, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh. (Read More)
10 – 13 June	40 th Anniversary Commemoration & Reunion, Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association, Blackpool. (Read More)
Tue 14 June	Falklands Commemoration, National Arboretum, Staffordshire.
Sat 18 June	Falklands Commemoration, Edinburgh.
Sat 25 June	Armed Forces Day Events – Including Edinburgh.
5 / 6 / 7 July	Household Division – Military Musical Spectacular, House Guards Parade – Tkts from £20.
Sat 30 July	50 th Anniversary Op Motorman Reunion, Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh. (More Details Coming Soon)

DEATHS

THIRD GUARDS CLUB

Captain Sir Michael Hodson Bt, Died 7 April 2022. Served 1952 – 1960 Mainly 2SG.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Berks, Bucks & Oxon

24000523 Sgt Carl Stephens Died 6 April 2022. Served 1965 – 1987 2SG, S Coy, Recruiting. Lived Wantage, Oxon.

Michael Morris Died 18 April 2022. Formerly Life Guards & Branch Chairman 2004 – 2006.

Aberdeen

23229250 Piper James Taylor Died 6 April 2022. Served 2SG 1956 – 1959. Lived New Pitsligo.

Guards Para Association

23969075 Harry Laing. Died 11 April 2022. Enlisted 1964 Jnr Gdsm, Served 2SG Gds Para Coy to 1975.

NON ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

23703045 Alan Wight. Died late March/early April 2022. Served 1SG & 2SG 1959 – 1962. Lived Preston.

Gerry O'Rourke. Died early April 2022. Aged 83. Served 1SG late 1950s. Lived Isle of Wight.

Anthony Price. Died 5 April 2022. Served 2SG/1SG & 2nd Bn Parachute Regt. Lived Consett.

Tom Hush. Died 22 April 2022. Served 2SG Sigs & 1SG MT.

Gdsm Steve Ross. Sadly notification just received - Died 22 November 2018.
Served Right Flank 1SG Hong Kong & Pirbright. Lived Dundee.



BITS & PIECES

Cateran Yomp – 3 -5 June 2022 – Volunteers Needed To Help – ABF The Soldiers Charity

The Cateran Yomp is the biggest, toughest event of its kind. Taking place on the 4/5th June 2022 in the foothills of the Cairngorm Mountains in Scotland, teams battle through 54 miles (gold) in 24 hours across the rugged terrain of the Scottish wilderness.

The Army's national charity holds on of its biggest events in the Perthshire countryside annually – the Cateran Yomp. To ensure this national event is successful we require volunteers to assist throughout all or part of the event.

Volunteering means manning Check Points and similar support tasks.

Get in touch with the Scotland Office scotland@soldierscharity.org or Tel: **0131 376 4008**. Leave your contact details & they will be in touch.

It's worthwhile to volunteer – think about it!

Congratulations to SGA Preston Branch Secretary

Michael Nutter has been appointed as Chairman of the newly named Central Lancashire Armed Forces Veterans Association (CLanAFVA). Previously known as Preston and District Veterans Council the name change is to more accurately to describe the area covered and to better reflect the organisation's work. Good luck to Micky in this new appointment.

SAMA Ride Of Respect – UK Tour Of Falkland War Graves 2022

As part of the SAMA Ride of Respect the Riders will visit 2nd Battalion Scots Guards gravesites as follows:

Day 1 Mon 2 May	1545hrs	DSgt Danny Wight	Mortonhall Cemetery, Edinburgh, EH16 6TX
Day 2 Tue 3 May	1345hrs	LSgt Clark Mitchell	Laurencekirk Cemetery, AB30 1HF
Day 4 Thu 5 May	1130hrs	Sgt John Simeon	North Dalnotter Cemetery, Glasgow, G81 4SL
	1310hrs	Gdsm Archibald Stirling	Cardonald Cemetery, Glasgow, G52 1SB
	1410hrs	Gdsm Derek Denholm	Sandymount Cemetery, Glasgow, G32 0HW
	1640hrs	Gdsm David Malcolmson	Knagerhill Cemetery, Irvine, Ayrshire, KA12 0YE
	1640hrs	Gdsm James Reynolds DCM	Knagerhill Cemetery, Irvine, Ayrshire, KA12 0YE
Day 6 Sat 7 May	0815hrs	Gdsm Ronald Tanbini	Kirkdale Cemetery, Aintree, Liverpool, L9 9EN
Day 13 Sat 14 May	1730hrs	LCpl John Pashley 9 Para RE	Ecklington War Memorial, S21 4BH

Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association – Wreath Laying at 2nd Battalion Scots Guards Gravesites

The TV&FA will also be arranging for wreaths to be laid at our gravesites as above – Dates & times will be notified when confirmed.

Tumbledown Veterans & Families Association Commemoration & Reunion

Friday 10 June 2022

Meet and Greet at the Bedford Hotel @ 1600hrs.

Saturday 11 June 2022

AGM at 1300hrs at the Bedford Hotel

Followed by the un-veiling of our Affiliation Plaque at the front door of the Bedford Hotel.

Main Function will be held in the Royal Suite at The Grand Hotel (formerly known as The Hilton). This suite has two bars and seating for 400 people.

The function will start at 2000hrs. The order of dress will be suits and ties (No Medals) for the gentlemen and cocktail dresses for the ladies. A hot buffet will be served and entertainment provided. Disco, Pipe Band, Auction & Raffle.

Sunday 12 June 2022

We will march from St. John the Evangelist Church, Blackpool to the Cenotaph on Blackpool Promenade where a service will be held to honour "The Fallen". Wreaths will be laid and Pictured Crosses will be laid at Our Plaque. The parade will march passed the Town Hall. A VIP will take the salute with the Mayor of Blackpool. The parade is to be formed up at 1200hrs at the church. The parade will be lead by the Pipe Band.

Order of dress suits, ties with medals in wear. After the parade a buffet will be laid on at the Bedford Hotel.

In the evening we will be at the Bedford Hotel for drinks. At 2200hrs, Candles will be lit to remember "Our Fallen".

If you wish to attend this function the cost is;
£25 per person, fully paid up members. £35 per person, non-members.



DRUMS COMPANY 2ND BATTALION SCOTS' GUARDS - SATURDAY 4 JUNE - REUNION 2022

Good day all,

Here we are, it's approximately one month out from the 2nd Bn Scots Guards Drums Company reunion.

The reunion will take place at the Scots Guards Club in Haymarket in Edinburgh on Saturday 4th June 2022, commencing at 1300 hrs till late, the club is booked. There will be food available at a cost per person.

Kevin Wyllie has said that he will take photographs of our event, this is important for many reasons, I plan to have a group photograph at the beginning before the beer and war stories flow.

Numbers for attendance are great but I know there are still some out there who have not yet decided, if you have already confirmed your attendance within the past month thank you. For those who have still to let me know please just drop me a quick e mail at the following address:

Drummie2ca@gmail.com

The idea and concept of the reunion was for all Drums Company Members 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, both Corps of Drums and Pipes & Drums. This is also opened this up to guys from the 1st Bn Drums Company. We all know the Regiment no longer has a Corps of Drums which is a sad reality indeed, and it would be great to get together again after all; we are all Scots Guards.

All the very best for now, see you in June.

David B. Rennie

613-981-9762

drummie2ca@gmail.com

Remembrance Sunday – Cenotaph Tickets ~ Message from Major Tom Ormiston – London Branch

Hello all. I know it seems early but I have already bid for our tickets for the Cenotaph this year. If you would like to march with us, please email me with the usual details; number, rank, name, dates of service, campaign medals held, place and date of birth, address, Tel no, email address. Bids by end of May so no rush.

As always, those who regularly march will be given priority with excess tickets then put in a ballot. My email is t.ormiston@ntlworld.com.

Catching Up With Old Friends

It is always a great pleasure to hear from old friends for a while – when you just continue as though you last spoke yesterday!

Wille Pitt (Frae Edinburgh) was in the same Recruit Platoon as Crockett going through the Guards Depot in January / February 1969. We both then joined 10 Platoon, Left Flank, 1SG at Chelsea Barracks in March 1969, Sharjah 1970 & back to Elizabeth Barracks early 1971. Although we both served on, we went on to different things. This April, after 51 years, Willie appeared on Facebook, what a pleasure to find he lives in Carlisle. Fair to say we had a good natter on the phone.

Dougie Dack (we both live in Dunfermline) - Not having seen Dougie for about + three years it was good to bump into him around the town. Dougie has retired since I last saw him, he is looking good!

Hamish More (now from Cowdenbeath) – Well known in 1SG Signals Pltn in the 1970s – 80s. Looking well & good to see him.

TRANSCRIPT OF GUARDSMAN ROYSTON WITHERS' LETTER, 1943

COPY OF A LETTER RECEIVED BY LIEUTENANT AND QUARTERMASTER
L.C. ARCHER, M.B.E., M.M., TRAINING BATTALION SCOTS GUARDS
ON WEDNESDAY 10th NOVEMBER, 1943.

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No:2696503 Gdsn. Withers. R.,
"B" Company,
1st Battalion Scots Guards,
A.P.O. 4660,
B.N.A.F.
Friday 15th October, 1943.

Sir,

You may well wonder why I should write to you at this time, the truth is I was rather afraid you might take offence though when I come to think of it I can't see why, nobody can ever say you would not listen to them.

You most likely remember me as that naughty Drummer Boy who bothered you week after week with reports on deficiencies, I have changed, very little though, for the good I am glad to say, I still feel like a Boy but the Reports and Deficiencies have vanished into the blue.

I often wondered what you meant by 100 + 10%. I found out at Mejez-El-Bab when I watched Left Flank go into action. You, Sir, would have been as proud as I if you had been able to see what I saw. Most of the men that died I remembered from Firbright. They died as you said they would - taking all before them. Little wonder for they were truly 100 + 10% fit. You would be surprised how many times your name was mentioned.

I remember one day when the Tanks broke through a Sergeant shouted "Do what Freddie says - don't give an inch". Everybody stayed, the Loyals on our left broke and still we stayed, though I must admit I did not want to I can't say even now what made me.

And so, Sir, I thank you for three happy years of soldiering which I had under you and only wish you could be out here with us now. I say out here Sir because we do not wish to come home until we have finished the job you trained us for, and believe me Sir we shall not let you down.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. Withers. (Guardaman).

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY.

L. C. Archer
Lieutenant,
Quartermaster,
Training Battalion Scots Guards.

Frank Withers came from Fulham, West London, and was an orphan, aged fifteen, when, in June 1939, he enlisted as a Drummer in the Scots Guards. From September he was with the Training Battalion at Pirbright, but does not seem to have made the grade as a Drummer and was classed as a Guardsman once he was seventeen and a half.

A year later, in August 1942, he was posted to the 1st Battalion, then at Wanstead, Essex, and later in Ayrshire. They left the Clyde for North Africa on 26 February 1943. Although there had been contact with the enemy in Tunisia earlier, Guardsman Withers' reference to Medjez-el-Bab is to the divisional attack that the Battalion took part in on 23 April 1943. This was their first battle, in which Left Flank were conspicuous. The Germans, by then restricted to the northern part of Tunisia, were resisting strongly in the rocky hills there. The statement about the 1st Battalion The Loyal [North Lancashire] Regiment being pushed back by enemy tanks and infantry, later on in the same battle, was accurate. Once the Allied forces had forced their way through the hills there was nothing left for the Germans to defend on the coastal plain and they finally surrendered on 13 May.

The next operation, the invasion of Sicily, in which the Scots Guards were not involved, lasted till mid August. Guardsman Withers wrote the letter while the Battalion were in a camp at Hammamet, on the coast south of Tunis, preparing to move to Italy itself in December. They first went into action at the Anzio landings which began on 22 January 1944. The fighting was very severe and the casualties very heavy. Guardsman Withers was wounded on 29 January, apparently only slightly, though he was away from the Battalion for three months.

Following the capture of Monte Cassino and its associated defence line towards the end of May 1944, the Allies worked their way up Central Italy and the Germans fought rear guard actions as they withdrew. One of these was from a strongly held position on the high ground at Sarteano in Tuscany, which required a brigade attack beginning on 23 June 1944. The Battalion lost six dead, as well as several wounded. One of the six who died was Guardsman Withers, as the result of wounds, aged twenty. He is buried in CWGC Bolsena War Cemetery, which overlooks Lake Bolsena, north of Rome.

Leonard Costella "Freddie" Archer was born in Greenwich, the son of the Band Sergeant of the Regimental Band. He volunteered in June 1915, aged nineteen, giving his occupation as a fitter, and joined the 2nd Battalion on the Western Front. In August 1918, by then a Sergeant, he was wounded in the left leg and arm during the very hard battle at St Léger, south of Arras, soon after the Final Advance started. In the awards after the Armistice he received the Military Medal. Having left the Army in 1937 after twenty two years, he returned to become Regimental Sergeant Major of the Training Battalion on 1 September 1939. At Pirbright he had an inspirational effect on those who passed through and made a lasting impression on all. Commissioned as a Quartermaster in July 1942 he went out to Italy in July 1944, where he served as Assistant Paymaster of the Infantry Reinforcement Training Depot for the Foot Guards. He retired in 1945.

Company Sergeant Major Leonard Costella "Freddie" Archer MM in 1926

