

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**

**May 2023
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Front Page Photograph: On the steps of the Guards Chapel after the service to celebrate the life of the late Lt Col Ian Beck MBE on Saturday 15 April. It includes Rab Ritchie, Major Iain Dalziel Job, IP Colin Paterson, Neil Crockett and Jim Simmonds. The Gdsm from F Company acted as ushers in the Guards Chapel. looking smart and we had a good natter with them. Well done lads.

WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING MAY IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

2nd Battalion Scots Guards Malaya Emergency 1948 – 1951

19 May 1949 2704864 LSgt Harvey Lea, Age 21

19 May 1949 2Lt PWB Graham – Watson

2nd Battalion Scots Guards Northern Ireland

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



LSgt Graham Stewart

SAVE THE DATE

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

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**

Information about tickets for the Gathering will come out by mid June.

DEATHS

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Berks, Bucks & Oxon / Third Guards Club

447288 Lieutenant David EG Prain. Died 4 April 2023. Age 86. He enlisted at the Gdsm Depot in 1955 as a National Serviceman and served entirely in 2nd Battalion in BAOR and later at Chelsea Barracks.

Dundee & Angus

2701111 Gdsm James Christie. Died 7 April 2023. Age 99. Served 1SG during World War 2 in North Africa, wounded in Italy, lived Dundee.

NON ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

William Campbell Morrison. Died 10 April 2023. Age 86 served 2SG Windsor & BAOR. Lived Cambuslang.

Thomas Loudon. Died 21 April 2023. Served 1SG 1973 to late 70's in C Company & MT 1SG.

Lieutenant John Blair Woodman. Died 6 February 2023. Served 1956 – 57. Lived East Lothian

24076943 LSgt John Bainbridge. Died 22 April 2023. Served from 1967 and in Gds Para Coy from 1969, Lived Auckland. New Zealand.

Gdsm Trevor Moore. Died 15 April 2023. Served from mid 1960's to mid 1970's 2SG & 1SG, from Preston, lived Pitlessie, Fife.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Highlands & Islands Branch

The Branch Held its AGM on 3 April 2023.

The officials are:	President:	AMDM Hilleary
	Chairman:	Brian (Maxi) MacDonald
	Secretary:	Harry Obern
	Treasurer:	Roddy Davidson

Major Cammy Proudfoot is the Branch Vice President.

A Branch recruiting push by putting an advert in the Ross-shire Journal caught the eye of George Sharp (Alness), Hamish McDougall (Muir of Ord) and Harry Davidson (Thurso) and they have joined.

Ayrshire Branch

Their AGM was 12 April 2023.

Their officials are:	President:	Major PTA Clapton
	Chairman:	Jim Dickie
	Vice Chairman:	Willie Houston
	Secretary:	Jim Fraser
	Treasurer:	Tom Robertson

Edinburgh & The Lothians Branch.

The Branch held its Annual Dinner at the ever popular Scots Guards Club on Friday 21 April 2023. The Guest of Honour was Major (Retd) David Dickson Royal Scots, all his many Scots Guards friends got a mention. the Regimental Officer was Lt Roland Walker (F Company) who gave a great insight of what the serving Regiment was up to.



L- R: WO2 Gallagher, Tam Laidlaw, Eck Barclay, Jim McPherson, Gordon Smith, Bill Doull.



L-R: LSgt Mark Macrae, Major Andrew Bell, Donnie Macleod, Danny McDermid, Danny Minto



L-R: Captain Neil Gow, Major Iain Dalziel, George Smith, Ted Middlemass, John Rae.

FORECAST OF EVENTS FOR YOUR SCOTS GUARDS DIARY 2023

May

Sat 6 Coronation Day.

June

Sat 3 Major General's Review King's Birthday Parade.

Sat 3 Dundee Combined Veterans Parade form up City Square 1200hrs.

Sat 10 Colonel's Review King's Birthday Parade.

Sat 17 King's Birthday Parade - 1st Battalion Welsh Guards.

Sat 17 SGA Glasgow, Garden Party, Kilbryde Castle, Dunblane.

Sat 24 National Armed Forces Day.

July

Sun 2 SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway, Garden Party, Boreland House, Lockerbie.

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND 15 – 16 APRIL 2023

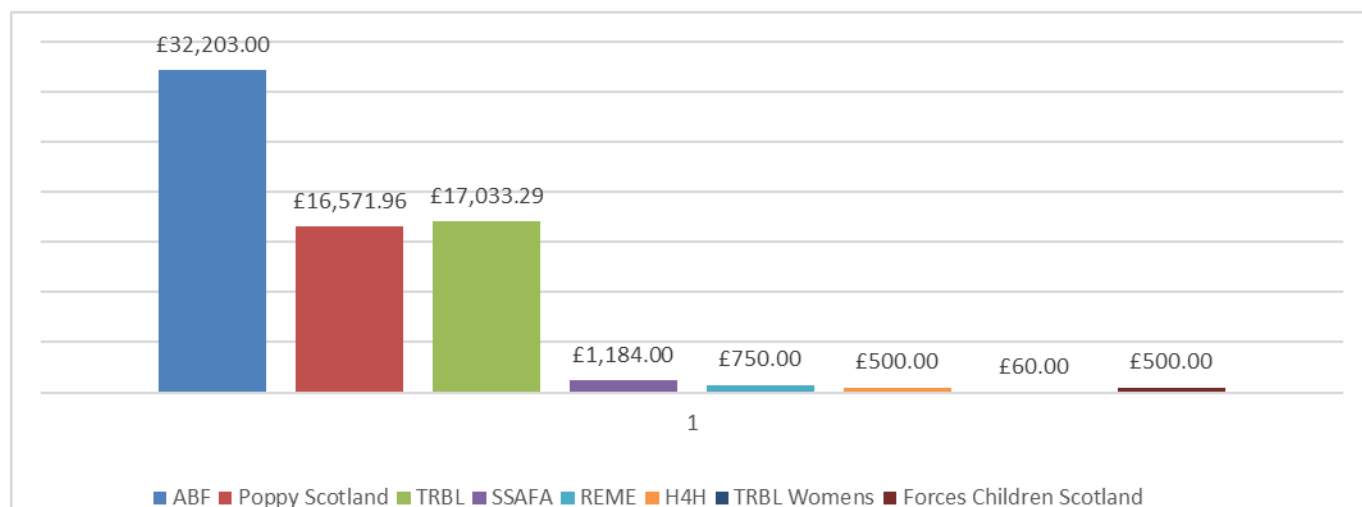
A successful weekend which included a service to celebrate the life of Lieutenant Colonel Ian Beck MBE and Black Sunday. The Scots Guards Association Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday 15 April.

At the AGM Major Mark Cape Regimental Welfare and Finance Officer gave the Welfare Report for the year ending 31 March 2023

Key Welfare facts from this reporting period

This year the Scots Guards have provided benevolence grants to 145 Scots Guardsmen and their families totalling £138,219.32 this is a significant increase from previous years, last year there was 72 welfare grants awarded. This was due to the cost-of-living crisis and the increased fuel and energy costs placed upon our Married Junior ranks, therefore the Trustees agreed to provide winter fuel grants to all our Married LCpls and Gdsm.

Where did the £138,219.32 come from. The Scots Guards have given grants to the sum of £69,417.07 and I sought assistance from 8 other charities who generously gave £68,802.25 in grants. See below for charity breakdown:



Where did the £69,417.07 go. The distribution of grants towards 145 applications was as follows:

Purpose of grants awarded	Totals
Household Goods	£10,440.71
Funeral Costs	£4,700.00
General needs	£3,531.46
Respite	£1,419.01
Rent	£1,703.00
Mobility	£3,339.00
Home Refurb /Décor	£500.00
Trg/Cse Costs	£2,922.00
Travel Costs	£1,112.00
Essential Goods	£200.00
Clothing	£87.00
Medical Equipment	£1,000.00
Priority Debt	£15,381.89
Winter Fuel Grant	£21,900.00
Removals	£1,181.00
SGC Total:	£69,417.07
Other Donations received	£68,802.25
Combined total:	£138,219.32

Breakdown of grants provided Geographically and time of service:

Table 1. Breakdown of categories by time in service shows an increase of grants to the younger generation, this year no grants have been awarded to those who served pre-1945:

Category	Time served	Grants
1	Pre 1945	0
2	1946 - 1970	9
3	1971 - 1995	36
4	1996 - 2023	28
5	Still Serving	72
Total:		145

Table 2. The geographical breakdown has changed and there were more grants given, south of the border:

Geographical Area	Cases
Scotland	32
England	41
Other	3
Total:	76

Summary. The Regiment remain in a good position to support Scots Guardsmen and their families in need with benevolence grants, this is due to the excellent work with fundraising and donations received within this financial year.

Your assistance has been instrumental in identifying Scots Guardsmen in need by communicating and signposting them to me or case workers such as Soldiers, SSAFA, TRBL and Poppy Scotland.

This has been a difficult year for us all due to the cost-of-living crisis and we haven't seen the full damage this has done, especially to those on low incomes. We have demonstrated the requirement to provide benevolence in a changing environment, at short notice, and we will continue to remain vigilant and react where the need exists.

It is incumbent on us all to play our part by looking out for each other and identify Scots Guardsmen who are in need, and I thank you all for your continued support in doing this.

MA Cape
Major (retired)
Regimental Welfare and Finance Officer

E Mail – finance@scotsguards.org

CORONATION DAY – SATURDAY 6 MAY 2023

It's set to be a momentous day. The Regiment will be playing a prominent part with the 1st Battalion providing a Marching Detachment & Pipes and Drums. F Company are streetlining and the Regimental Band are on parade. No doubt there will be other members of the Regiment taking part in The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen of Arms and The King's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard. Keep an eye out for them all!

Meantime a look back to the Coronation of 1953.



CORONATION DAY 2 JUNE 1953

Just under 70 years ago on 2 June 1953 the Coronation of Her Late Majesty The Queen took place and our Regiment took a leading part in the ceremonial. For most of the day it poured down with rain and everyone was soaked. The crowds in central London were enormous and no Guardsman who took part could forget the party atmosphere from the enthusiastic crowd which the wet weather completely failed to dampen. The detachments forever remembered the large distance they marched.

Combined Services Guard of Honour

The 2nd Battalion stationed in Victoria Barracks, Windsor found the Army detachment of the Combined Services Guard of Honour outside Westminster Abbey. Colonel CIH Dunbar CBE, DSO then Lieutenant Colonel Commanding the Regiment commanded the GOH. The Captain of the detachment was Major ADG Llewellyn MC, Subaltern Lieutenant FMC Bowes-Lyon and the Ensign 2nd Lieutenant HHT Dawson who displayed great strength to manoeuvre the very wet State Colour.

Marching Detachments

In the procession marched representative detachments from both Battalions, each of 5 officers and 96 men. The detachment from the 1st Battalion had been flown home from Egypt to take part and it was commanded by Major AJC Seymour

At some point a voice announced that the procession took 45 minutes to pass any given point. Few on parade forgot the smart and colourful contingents in their national uniform from all over the Commonwealth who marched on Coronation Day.

Amongst the visiting royalty were the colourful dressed rulers from east escorted by mounted Military Police. A special cheer was reserved for Queen Salote of Tonga.

Streetlining

The remainder of 2SG not involved in the Guard of Honour were on streetlining duties around the Victoria Monument and in the Mall.

The Bands played throughout the day and the crowd, saturated were hungry for more and on the Commanding Officer's signal the Pipe Major led the Pipes & Drums to the centre of the Mall. Cheered on by the crowd of thousands and despite the pouring rain they played undaunted.

Also streetlining were L Company (Scots Guards) at the Guards Training Battalion Pirbright.

The Regimental Band

The Band played all day at the steps of the Duke of York's Statue.

1st Battalion Celebrated Coronation Day In Egypt

The 1st Battalion in Egypt marked the day by taking part in a Combined Services Parade with detachments from the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Royal Marines taking part. The Battalion mark fired a ceremonial 'feu-de-joi' and treating the men to a special dinner.

Reminiscences

Lt CPA Bertie SGA Berks, Bucks & Oxon "I was in the 1st Battalion Marching Detachment".

Major Hugh Cantlie of SGA BBO / SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway reports that as an Ensign he carried 2SG Queen's Colour outside St James Palace on the Mall. "2Lt Keith Miller was with me carrying the Regimental Colour. We were in position as various Royal members passed by on the way to the Abbey. A police horse deposited his breakfast in front of me as Princess Margaret's carriage passed. A salute was required so I lowered the Colour and swept it along the ground through the horse's droppings covering it. It was a 'damp' day but we could not cape up until we marched back to Chelsea Barracks"

Sir Robert Spencer Nairn President of SGA Fife "I was a 2nd Lieutenant in G Company, my half company was streetlining around the Victoria Monument and I was below a lamppost which is still there. I had a great position not quite looking down the Mall and towards Green Park which was hidden by an enormous stand for spectators and commentators. I could hardly speak by the end of the day". He also remembers Major David Walters, then an Officer Cadet in RMA Sandhurst detachment in the procession which stopped by his position, they were able to exchange a word or two.

Gdsm James (Hamish) Purdie, SGA Glasgow / SGA Edinburgh "Enlisted September 1952, I was in Left Flank 2SG streetlining. I was close to St James Palace, by the Battalion Colours and remember they had to cross the road so they were on the near side to passing coaches in the procession"

22215797 John Donaldson, South Africa was then a 19 year old Lance Corporal in G Company, "I was on the Mall at the Victoria Monument, I served from 1951- 1956 finishing my service as a Sergeant" He was probably in the same half company commanded by Sir Robert Spencer Nairn.

Streetlining with L Company were Colonel IA Ferguson, then 2Lieutenant, also Lieutenant Timothy Boyd – Wilson SGA North America and 19 year old LCpl John (Ian) Miller SGA Glasgow.

Other streetliners from G Company were 22215408 Gdsm Gerry Smith SGA North America, 22215067 Gdsm Eric Burgess SGA Preston, 22215267 LSgt Brian Wallace SGA Glasgow, 22551215 John Hodge SGA Dundee & Angus.

22551330 Boy Piper Davie Ross SGA Highlands & Islands aged 15 had an important if unseen job.~ peeling potatoes to feed the many troops.

RETURN TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS



Trevor Elliot returns to Tumbledown Mountain – The 2nd Battalion Cross shows behind.

41 years on from the Battle of Tumbledown Trevor Elliot of SGA Berks, Bucks and Oxon Branch recently returned to the Falkland Islands taking his wife Yvonne. His trip coincided with C Company's tour of duty as Falkland Islands Roulement Infantry Company. Contact was made with CSM Little of C Company who spoke with his Company Commander, Major Teasdale and it was agreed they could escort Trevor and Yvonne on their trip up Tumbledown.

Trevor wanted to walk the route Goat Ridge to the top of Mount Tumbledown with Yvonne. He gave to C Company invaluable details about his part in the battle. 8 Platoon led by Lieutenant Rory Horsington, Royal Marines and LSgt Woodhouse were Trevor and Yvonne's guides for the day. Guardsmen Anderson and Shadforth were to hand with words of close support.

41 years after the battle the experience of returning was valuable to both Trevor and to Yvonne. They were grateful for the specific support given by 8 Platoon with the wider support from C Company. It was agreed C Company also gained an invaluable insight of the battle which they will remember as a memorable part of 'The Rabbits' tour of duty on the Falkland Islands. **WELL DONE THE RABBITS!**

1953 CORONATION MEMORIES



Captain Hew Balfour

I got into uniform for the occasion but not selected for Duty despite my father being Regimental Adjutant at the time! He borrowed HRH The Duke of Connaught's uniform from the Guards Museum for me for the day and photographed me in the garden of our flat in Mount St (previous afternoon when it wasn't raining) before going to take part in the Coronation Parade the next day. The Duke of Connaught became Colonel of the Regiment when he was 5 years old and I was only two at the time of the Coronation so he must have been a bit short!

Captain Graham Fowler

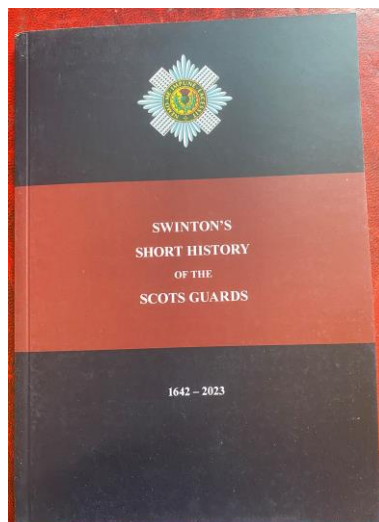
All dressed up for his Coronation Street Party. His father was Scots Guards and he had relatives in the Irish Guards, but Graham had an early eye on a career as a State Trumpeter!

BRINGING OUR HISTORY RIGHT UP TO DATE

The First Edition of The Short History was produced and edited by Majory John Swinton during his tour as Regimental Adjutant on 1st September 1962. The Second Edition was brought up to date by then Major General Sir John Swinton KCVO OBE on 21 December 1982.

Again on 16th January 2008 a Third Edition was updated by the original author Major General Sir John Swinton KCVO OBE. It is very appropriate that the brand new and updated Fourth Edition remembers the original author by including his name within the title.

SWINTON'S SHORT HISTORY OF THE SCOTS GUARDS 1642 – 2023



It's on sale for £10.00 from RHQ Shop ~ Check out the Regimental website

LIEUTENANT COLONEL IAN BECK MBE ~ A MEMORY

A photograph appeared on Facebook this week raising a memory. The photograph was of 10 Platoon Headquarters, Left Flank, 1st Battalion Scots Guards in Kenya in November / December 1979. The Platoon Commander was 2Lt Euan Kelway Bamber (KB), later Adjutant 1SG and a Company Commander in 2SG. Neil Crockett was Pltn Sgt.



**Back: L-R: 2Lt Euan Kelway Bamber, Gdsm Neil Gray, Sgt Neil Crockett
Gdsm "Combat" Smith, Gdsm Alex Burns, Gdsm Andrew Pepe**

At the Memorial Service for Lieutenant Colonel Ian Beck MBE I met Euan Kelway Bamber for the first time since Pirbright 1986. Other than the pleasure of seeing him, the photograph reminded me of a story of the sharp humour of Ian Beck (as RSM 1SG) when we were in Kenya in 1979. The final training was the Battalion Inter – Platoon Test Exercise "Jabberwock".

10 Platoon were taking part in Jabberwock, we went into a defence position, the ground so hard we had to build rock sangers. KB was tasked to take a recce patrol out and I was left in the position to supervise the defence routine "Encouraging" the platoon in building sangers.

Suddenly, like magic, **as they do**, the Sergeant Major appeared and I set about with ENTHUSIASM to show him the platoon was working hard. "Sgt Crockett" says he "What's your rear sentry doing sitting on that big hill for all to see on the skyline" I glanced up quickly and saw Gdsm "Big Al" Tweedie who was attached for the exercise from the Officers Mess, sitting looking inwards into the platoon position. I looked for the nearest NCO to get a grip of "Sgt (Aba) Morris go and sort Tweedie out". 10 seconds later the Sgt Major burst into laughter. "Gotcha" says he!

Looking at the rear sentry again I saw not Tweedie ~ but a **BABOON!!**

His job done the Sergeant Major disappeared chuckling to himself. 10 Platoon were "**WINNERS**" of the Jabberwock Competition with a Coldstream Guards Pltn attached for the exercise coming 2nd.

It also reminded me that the current 1st Battalion was finishing an exercise acting as enemy to 1st Bn Coldstream Guards in Kenya. Then straight back to UK and rehearsals for their part on the Coronation Parade of HM King Charles III.

Ian Beck as Sergeant Major 1SG in Chelsea, Kenya, Aldergrove. As MTO & TQM in Hong Kong, Pirbright was a great man with a sharp and mischievous sense of humour.