

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae (1872-1918)

"THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM."



**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**

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AN EXTRACT FROM THE SCOTS GUARDS MAGAZINE OF 1972

On 21st April, 1972, the newly reformed 2nd Battalion marched, in tunics, led by the Pipes and Drums, from the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle to St. Giles' Cathedral.

The sermon was preached by the Reverend "Hutch" Whiteford, who had been Padre of the 2nd Battalion from the closing days of World War 2 until 1953. His sermon was outstanding and really came from the heart.

"From 1642 to 1972 is a long time . It is 300 years. When the Irish Rebellion of 1642 broke out, news of it was conveyed to King Charles as he played golf on Leith Links. He ordered the first forebears of the Scots Guards, then known as Argyle's Regiment, to proceed to Ireland.

You may think as you come to this service today that the wheel of history has indeed come round again full circle. 300 years is a long time . But it is only over a long period of time that tradition, especially Regimental tradition, is formed, forged, improved, added to, and handed on through the generations.

As we come together then, to this ancient High Kirk of Edinburgh, the very stones of which tell out the story of Scotland over a far longer period than 300 years, let us remember first with great pride the Guardsmen who have served in this Regiment in the years before our own. With certain exceptions nearly all are practically unknown to us — but their Battle Honours are written in gold on the Colours which you brought with you to Church today. These Battle Honours tell us of far away places, of strange lands, of campaigns, the rights and wrongs of which are now the subject largely of dusty, historical debate . But today, as we bring the Colours to Church, the Battle Honours speak to us very clearly in human terms.

They speak to us about men who served this Regiment well, who fought valiantly, and who endured courageously for the things in which they believed. And who have handed on to us a living tradition. Tradition is not a dead thing . It is a very live thing . It makes us today what we are. It has survived the years. It has been put to the test, time and time again, at Magersfontein, at Medenine, at Talavera, at Hougomont Farm, at Bonninghardt, in the jungles of Malaya — and in many other dangerous, difficult, perilous, blasted places — this tradition has been put to the test . And it has not failed.

Twenty years and more ago, when the Battalion was stationed in Chelsea Barracks, I used to watch the King's Guard being formed up on the Barrack Square (with a very amateurish eye), and then I used to dash out of the back gates ahead of the Guard and watch them marching along Buckingham Palace Road to the Palace and try to work out whether Right Flank was smarter than Left Flank or F Company better turned out than G Company — as the case might be.

Always, as the Guard was played through the busy London streets, every now and then you would see a younger man on his way to work hold himself erect as the Colour went past. Or an older man, grey-haired, stand quietly but deliberately to attention . These men heard what none of the people pushing around them on the pavement heard, they heard the voice of tradition ; the call again to them of that silent voice, just for a moment, in a shaft of sunlight, amid a muddle of martial music and taxi engines, but more real to them by far, than the chattering crowd, and the pigeons wheeling overhead and the orange peel in the gutter at their feet.

It ended:

The traditions of this Regiment mark you, and mould you, and stay with you, and never let you go. But as each man must know himself and be true to himself, so each generation must know its own times, and face up to the demands of its own times. The issues men faced in days before our own are not precisely or exactly the same issues which we face now. Their day was their day. Our day is our day. What they have handed on to us is an example and a tradition. What we do with it is our responsibility. No one else's. It is immediately ours.

In the nearly 50 years since that service at St Giles Cathedral, things have moved on but our tradition renews and continues.



WE REMEMBER THOSE KILLED DURING NOVEMBER IN CONFLICTS SINCE 1945

1st Battalion Scots Guards, Belfast

4 November 1971 Gdsm Stephen Maguire Age 19 Left Flank. Wounded Ballymurphy, Belfast, died in hospital 7 weeks later. From Hamilton.



27 November 1971 Gdsm Paul Nicholl Age 18 G Company, 1st Battalion. Killed St James Crescent, Belfast.

Gdsm Paul Nicholl enlisted in the Junior Guardsman's Company at the Guards Depot, he was promoted to Jnr Sgt. On becoming an adult recruit he passed out from K Company and joined the 1st Bn in Windsor in 1971. He was in G Company but until his 18th birthday he was too young to go with them when the Battalion initially deployed to Belfast in August. He is remembered on Halkirk War Memorial, Caithness.

Notes:

Until early 1971 navy blue berets were worn by the Regiment when khaki berets came into use. It wasn't until the summer of 1989 that the BRB patch came into wear behind the Cap Star.

When the 2nd Battalion went into Suspended Animation in March 1971, G Company became the 3rd Rifle Company of the 1st Battalion. At that time C Company was the Bn Command Company. When the 2nd Battalion reformed in Edinburgh in the spring of 1972, G Company name went back to it and C Company reverted to be the 3rd Rifle Company of the 1st Battalion.



REMEMBRANCE

It is obvious that restrictions will affect all Remembrance events big and small throughout the UK. The UK's main Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London will take place, but the great march past of veterans detachments including from the SGA London Branch will not take place. Only a very small number of veterans will be able to attend.

All SGA Branches will need to consider carefully how they will pay their respects at Remembrance time this year.



ASSOCIATION NEWS

Cancelled Dinners 2020

The following Dinners have been declared as cancelled:

November

SGA Fife
SGA Ayrshire
SGA Manchester
SGA Preston
SGA London

I would urge all Branches and all individual members to make every attempt to keep in touch with other members by phone, email, letter or even a socially distanced knock at the door. Particularly to keep an eye on our vulnerable members.

Fife

Branch Secretary, Neil Crockett was able to deliver a copy of the new Scots Guards magazine to 92 year old member Dave Young BEM. Dave was a CSgt Recruiter in Kirkcaldy 1964 -75 and he held key Branch posts. He was in good form and good humour.

The Branch intends to lay a Poppy Wreath at Kinglassie War Memorial, which remembers the grandfather of P/M Jimmy Banks and one other Scots Guardsman. The wreath will be laid by Jimmy. Final arrangements are being made.

SCOTS GUARDS ASSOCIATION – CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH.

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SGA Pipes & Drums (Scotland)	Iain Lowther	iain-lowther68@outlook.com	07484 637188

FORECAST OF EVENTS JANUARY – JUNE 2021

All Branches are beginning to plan for next year's events which will proceed Covid restrictions willing.

JANUARY

Sat 23 SGA Durham & Yorkshire Burns Supper / Annual Dinner - **Cancelled**
Sat 23 SGA London Burns Super.
Sat 30 SGA Berks, Buck & Ox Burns Supper, Datchet GC.

FEBRUARY

Sat TBC Rabbits Breakfast. Scots Guards Club.

MARCH

Sat 6 Swallie Ho, Scots Guards Club.
Sat 13 SGA Borders Dinner, Hawick Rugby Club.

APRIL

Fri 9 SGA London, Visit to Imperial War Museum.
Fri 16 Scots Guards WOs & Sgts Past & Present Association AGM. Wellington Barracks, London.
Sat 17 SGA AGM. Wellington Barracks, London.
Sun 18 Regimental Remembrance Sunday, The Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London.

MAY

Sat 29 Major General's Review, QBP, London

JUNE

Sat 5 Colonel's Review, QBP, London.
Sat 12 Queen's Birthday Parade, London by F Company Scots Guards.
Fri 11 – Mon 14 Tumbledown Veterans & Fam's Assoc Reunion, Blackpool.
Sat 26 June London Branch BBQ, Sgts Mess Regents Park Barracks.

A STATEMENT BY JIMMY BANKS – CHAIRMAN OF THE SCOTS GUARDS CLUB, EDINBURGH

Amidst the gloom of Covid restrictions, I wanted to share with you the good news story of the Club over recent years and how, with everything that is happening at the moment, we still have much to celebrate and much to look forward to.

If we go back around 20 years, the Club was not going well. It was badly maintained, poorly attended and struggling for money. Around that time, a new management team was installed and a large amount of money was borrowed to carry out essential refurbishment. We survived for a few years after an initial upturn in business but it became apparent that the Club was again struggling. Scots Guards wise, it wasn't a place we could be particularly proud of, membership numbers were poor and there was no money in the bank. The Club came very near to closure and were it not for some financial underpinning from our President, Major Iain Dalzel Job, then the door would have indeed closed for good.

I did however promise you a good news story! Some four year or so ago we experienced a real turnaround in fortunes and since then the Club has gone from strength to strength. At that time, we secured the services of our General Manager, John Rae, a former Chief Inspector with the police who had previously served for some years with the Scots Guards. John very quickly grasped what the challenges were and has worked tirelessly since then to turn our Club around. He remains very modest about his contribution but I pay tribute here to what he has done.

The appointment of Pauline Arundel as the Bar and Functions Manager has been very successful and she now leads a superb team of bar staff who provide a warm welcome to our members and guests.

Through the support of our members and sound business management we find ourselves in a strong financial position which has allowed us to carry out significant upgrades to the building and equipment. In the past year alone, we have replaced all our wooden sash and case windows at the front of the building, completely replaced all cellar equipment, rewired the entire top floor and reupholstered all of the seating in the function room along with numerous other upgrades.

As Chairman and a proud Scots Guardsman I am so pleased that our club is once again something the Regiment can take pride in and the number of Scots Guardsmen using the club grows all the time, both for organised events and informal socialising. The Club is also used by many groups and Associations from other branches of the armed services as well many other non-military groups. We host many functions along with musical and entertainment events and serve as a real hub of bagpipe music within Edinburgh. All combined, I am proud that the Club is able to showcase the Scots Guards in such a positive light which is something the founding members of 1924 would surely approve of.

I don't often issue such statements and wouldn't routinely go into such candid detail but I felt it appropriate to share the good news of recent years and let everyone know how well the Club is now doing thanks to the support of our members. These are pretty rotten times for all and challenging circumstances for every licensed premises but be assured that we will come bouncing right back when circumstances allow!

Jimmy Banks, MBE, Chairman

DEATHS

Not Association Members

24313528 LSgt Brian Curran Died 5 October 2020. Served 1st Battalion 1973 to early 90s, mostly C Coy & MT.
Lived Southend, Essex.

23026040 Gdsm Thomas Baker Died 6 October 2020. Age 85 Served 1st Battalion 1954 – 1957. Lived Sunderland

23517178 Gdsm Robert Smith Died 8 October 2020. Enlisted 17 March 1958. Lived Preston

Gdsm Sam Robinson. Died 21 October 2020. Age 94 Served 1944 – 1947. Lived Bridge of Allan.

Third Guards Club, SGA Carlisle, Dumfries & Galloway, SGA Durham & Yorkshire

It is with very much regret that Regimental Headquarters announced the death of Third Guards Club member Captain Ernest (Ernie) Hedley Marchant on 23 October 2020. He was 88 years old.

Ernie was well known to a vast range of members of the Regimental family, not least as a well-respected Senior Non-Commissioned Officer both in the Regiment and at RMA Sandhurst, as a Commissioned Officer and as the long-time Secretary of the Scots Guards Association after he retired.

Ernie enlisted into the Scots Guards on 7th September 1950 and subsequently served as Regimental Police Sergeant of the 1st Battalion in Egypt in 1954 and CQMS when the Battalion was in Windsor in 1958.

He held a variety of other appointments including Company Sergeant Major of Left Flank and B Company, as Drill Sergeant and as an instructor at Sandhurst. He was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of the Second Battalion on 13 June 1967.

He was commissioned on 1st April 1971 and became the Mechanised Transport Officer of the First Battalion.

Captain Marchant returned to the Second Battalion in February 1972 as Quartermaster and was responsible for the movement of the Battalion to Northern Ireland on three operational tours.

Ernie retired from the Army on 14 January 1975 after twenty-five years of exceptional service when he became a member of the Third Guards Club.

Leaving the Army was not the end of the link with the Regiment, he was a hugely valued member of both the Carlisle, Dumfries and Galloway Branch and the Durham & Yorkshire Branch of the Association. He was a very hard-working Secretary of the Scots Guards Association for 10 years. He was responsible for amongst other things, helping to organise the Regimental Gatherings and numerous golfing events.

Captain Ernie Marchant's funeral will be held on 5 November 2020.

Due to restrictions there will be a small Regimental representation alongside family.



As we move into the period of Remembrance you may wish to make a donation on this JustGiving page in aid of Poppy Scotland set up by Captain Ernie Marchant's son to remember his father. Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. They will send the money direct to Poppy Scotland.

You can donate to Neil Marchant's JustGiving page by going to the link shown here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ernie-marchant...>

NEWS FROM THE SERVING REGIMENT

During October the Battalion has been very busy on Pre Deployment Training from Salisbury Plain to Castlemartin to Thetford, Norfolk in preparation for the operational tour in Iraq.



Congratulations to WO1 (RSM) Kirkwood on being selected for a commission



Congratulations to Gdsm Easton & LSgt Austin who have passed P Company and will be joining Guards Parachute Platoon



The Recce Pltn head out for the night in preparation for a company attack.



The Machine Gun Pltn conduct Battle Preparation before providing fire support for a company attack on Imber Village.



LF in Mastiffs conducting mounted live firing on Castlemartin Ranges.



The Mortars hone their skills, part of their Mission Ready Training.

OLD SOLDIERS



Major Neil McClelland (QM 1SG) & Major Jon Bull (OC HQ Coy 1SG) set the world on fire – acting as enemy for Battalion training.

YOUNG SOLDIERS



16 October - 7 Guardsmen Pass Out from Gds Coy, ITC Catterick



30 October - 3 Guardsmen Pass Out.

NEW VEHICLE



A chance for the Bn to check out Boxer at Mons Barracks, Aldershot



MEMORIALS TO SCOTS GUARDSMEN

Many of you will remember the Scots Guards Memorial Project set up some years ago. After a period of collating the information held, Captain (Retd) Michael Campbell – Lamerton is ready to receive the new fruits of your new searches.

During this unusual period of Remembrance please take a quiet moment a visit to your local War Memorials to check if any Scots Guardsmen are remembered on them.

See Mikie Campbell Lamerton's message to you all below:

I am a member of our Regiment's Historical Committee. I took on the responsibility last year, from Neil Crockett, to manage the project that we have to keep a record of any memorials to Scots Guardsmen. This can be any memorial, even if it has disappeared or is recorded in a book or publication, for us any memorial will do.

I am therefore asking if you happen to come across a memorial (not in a Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries or Memorials) to a member of our Regiment, either visually or online I would be grateful if you could perhaps take a picture or send me a web link.

I am sure you have plenty of time at present to do some hunting on the internet, until the weather improves next year and we are indeed all allowed to go out uninhibited ! Example would be a Scots Guardsmen listed on a village war memorial or on a plaque in a church. Please email me Michael@hallestate.co.uk a photograph and where the picture was taken.

The plan in the future is to add a section on memorials in the Scots Guards website. I would be grateful for anything that you can send to me, thank you.

Mikie Campbell-Lamerton

SCOTS GUARDS MAGAZINE

The new magazine has now been published with stocks held for sale at Regimental Headquarters. If you want to buy your copy email adminclerk@scotsguards.org or telephone 0207 414 3324 to order one.



BITS & PIECES



Many congratulations to Major (retd) Colin Coull on his promotion to Divisional Sgt Major (DSM) in the The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard.

TRI – SERVICE PACE STICKING COMPETITION, 13 OCTOBER 2020 – SANDHURST

8 Teams took part in the competition including the Grenadier Guards, the RAF, several teams from RMAS and from The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Despite travel restrictions there was a team from the Pakistan Military Academy who won the International Prize, Dare I report that the Grenadier Guards were overall winners. RSM A Reid was on the judging team.



3 Scots Guardsmen on parade a few days before the Tri Service Pace Sticking Competition at Sandhurst - RSM A Reid (The London Regiment), In Pensioner Colin Paterson (RHC) & RSM A Gibson (All Arms Drill Wing).

A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK ARMY CADET PIPE MAJOR CALLUM LOWTHER

The Army Cadets have been conducting an online piping course honing their skills for a online Solo Piping Competition. 4 cadets have been promoted virtually including Callum Lowther to Sgt and appointed Pipe Major of the Black Watch Bn ACF.

Pictured here is the National Pipes and Drums Training Officer, Captain Iain Lowther (Callum's Dad - no need for social distancing), presenting Callum Lowther with his PM's rank slide. Well Done to all the cadets



**Iain Lowther is also Pipe Major
Scots Guards Association Pipes & Drums (Scotland)**

NEWLY ANNOUNCED VETERANS RAIL CARD

**We are very pleased to announce our new
Veterans Railcard is now on sale!**

To be eligible you need to have served for **at least one day in HM Armed Forces** (Regular or Reserve) or have been a **Merchant Mariner** and seen duty on legally defined military operations. We will ask for proof of eligibility as part of the application process.

Veterans Railcard benefits:

- ✓ **For you** - 1/3 off most rail fares
- ✓ **An additional companion** - 1/3 off most rail fares when travelling together
- ✓ **Up to 4 children** - 60% off most rail fares when travelling with you
- ✓ **Introductory price of just £21** - for a whole year of savings

The Railcard is **valid for travel from 5th November 2020** and is on sale now at an **introductory price of just £21, saving you £9** on the original retail price until 31 March 2021.

From 1 April 2021 it will then retail for £30 a year. In addition there is a 3 year option available for just £61 until 31 March 2021, which will then retail at £70 from 1 April 2021.

Minimum fare applies before 10am Monday to Friday. For full terms and conditions visit veterans-railcard.co.uk.

SCOTS GUARDS REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARD 2020



Details:

Greeting
Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Front Cover
 Gold Capstar
 and Blue Red
 Blue Ribbon

Photograph
 The late Pipe
 Major Selwood
 playing as it
 snows

Please return form to :-
 HQ Scots Guards – Admin Office
 (Christmas Card Orders)
 Wellington Barracks
 Birdcage Walk
 London SW1E 6HQ

Cost:
 Per Christmas Card = £1.60
 Postage & Packing 2nd Class
 10-20 Cards = £2.95 (Small parcel)
 30-40 Cards = £5.05 (Medium parcel)

Payment: Please tick relevant option below and enter in the quantity you require.

For orders of 40 cards and over please contact HQ Scots Guards 0207 414 3324 or email: adminclerk@scotsguards.org

I enclose a cheque made payable to
 "The Scots Guards Charity"
 or

I have paid via bank transfer to:
 "The Scots Guards Charity"
 Sort Code: 30-11-75
 Account number: 31658068
 Use your name and XMAS as the reference.
 eg: SMITH-XMAS
 or

I will 'Pay over the phone'
 Tel 0207 414 3324 / 3334, or

I will 'Pay in person'
 at HQ Scots Guards by card or cash.

Your Details

Name.....

 Address.....

 Tel No:.....
 E-Mail.....

Quantity
 Required

It is preferred that
 Christmas Cards are
 purchased in multiples
 of ten

The following credit/debit cards may be used:



In person: Normal Chip and Pin or contactless. **By phone to the Admin Office on (00-44) 0207 414 3324):** Please give: card type; card number; valid from date, expiry date or issue number (depending on type of card); and security number (last three digits on the back of the card and address where cards are to be sent.

Any queries please contact the Admin Office - Tel: (00-44) 0207 414 3324):



Scots Guards Diary 2021

Scots Guards 2021 Diary

£6.00

2020 Christmas Cards

£1.60



**RHQ PRI Shop Hrs-0830hrs-1600hrs
(Monday-Friday)**

Scots Guards

Wellington Barracks | SW1E6HQ |

To order please call 0207 414 3324 or email: adminclerk@scotsguards.org

Payment methods

Cheque payable to 'The Scots Guards Charity'.

BACS payments: Sort Code 30-11-75 Account Number 31658068